

Cross Bearers

Crusade

*Asking our priests
to assist in recruiting*

By Ken Gardner (*alias Ohio Jones*)
State Membership Director

A new Ohio membership program, the Cross Bearers Crusade, was introduced at the January District Deputies' Meeting. It will be operational through March 31.

The crusade is designed to use the Cross Bearers of our faith – our pastors and chaplains – to help recruit eligible Catholic men into the Order. By soliciting a letter from the pastor encouraging men to consider joining the Knights of Columbus, and using it during a parish recruitment drive, councils can recruit men who are looking to get more out of their faith.

By now, all councils in Ohio should have received from their District Deputy a packet introducing the crusade. Everything you need to know about the program is in the packet, including sample letters for the Grand Knight to send to the pastor, and a sample letter for the pastor to write to his parishioners.

If your District Deputy has not given this packet to you yet, give him a call and ask him for it. You may also download the packet from the Ohio State Council's website (kofcohio.org). We are asking all councils in the state of Ohio to hold a Cross Bearers Crusade Membership Drive in early March and follow it up with First Degrees at the end of March.

This program has been used in other states with excellent results. There are several outstanding incentives that are part of this program, rewarding individual recruiters, membership directors, and

Continued on Page 7

Mission Possible

The 2012 Super Cash Bonus
Charity Campaign gets under way
in February with a goal of \$1
million in sales.

See Page 7

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CLEVELAND, OHIO
PERMIT NO. 229

Ohio State Council
Knights of Columbus
Buckeye Bulletin
32649 Surrey Lane
Avon Lake, OH 44012-1642



Ohio State Council

Buckeye Bulletin

Dave Helmstetter - State Deputy

2011-2013

January-February, 2012



Take Up
His Cross
For Charity • In Unity
• With Fraternity

State Deputy's Message

Order renews efforts supporting our council chaplains

By Dave Helmstetter

State Deputy

There is a renewed effort in our Order to involve and improve participation by chaplains at the local council level. Based on my experiences, an active and caring chaplain can only increase a council's effectiveness. He leads by example and enriches us spiritually.

Recalling a conversation with our council chaplain many years ago, I remember marveling at his dedication and knowledge of the Knights of Columbus. When I

asked him about this involvement, he replied that as a young seminarian the Knights were always supportive of him and his vocation, a time when he needed support socially and spiritually. Later as a pastor, he said he knew he could always count on the Knights to "get the job done" and serve as leaders in his parishes.

Upon his retirement, our council once asked him what he would like for his birthday. After not receiving a reply, the local Knights took their own initiative. The

Continued on Page 3



Ohio Knights are providing ultrasound machines to discourage women from having abortions

The Knights of Columbus is using high technology -- ultrasound machines -- to discourage women from having abortions.

And the proliferation of those ultrasound machines at women's pregnancy centers across the United States is being accomplished by chapters, councils and assemblies of the Knights of Columbus.

It began on Jan. 22, 2009, the 36th Anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion on demand, that the Knights of Columbus launched a new initiative aimed at providing women considering abortion a new way of viewing the life within them. On that day, Supreme Council began matching funds raised by Knights of Columbus assemblies and councils to acquire ultrasound machines for pregnancy care centers.

The Knights' decision to acquire



The Clinton County Women's Center thanked Wilmington Council 3369 for its contributions toward an ultrasound machine. Pictured are (from left), Katy Meeker, Women's Center nurse manager; Grand Knight Dave Ruther; Dr. J. Patrick Havey, Women's Center imaging director; Sherry Weller, Women's Center executive director; and Mark Bergen, Women's Center board president.

ultrasound machines is based on reports indicating that up to 90% of women considering an abortion choose to have

their baby after seeing an ultrasound image. They hear their baby's heartbeat, they see their baby's head and fingers. They know it is a child, not a choice.

The sophistication of today's medical technology provides a "window on the womb", said Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson. "Even from the early stages of pregnancy, a mother can see her developing child, hear the baby's heartbeat and to recognize the miracle of the new life within her."

Thus, the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative seeks to provide medically certified pro-life pregnancy centers with the modern technology to monitor the health of babies in utero, and to allow mothers to visually experience their development.

All Knights have a part in the process.

Continued on Page 3

Past State Deputy Robert Wilhelm dies at age 76

Robert W. Wilhelm was a dominant force in the workings of the Ohio Knights of Columbus for more than a quarter of a century. He was State Deputy in 1987-1989 and following that was a valued member of the K of C Ohio Charity Foundation. Wilhelm passed away on Jan. 6 in his hometown of Fairborn (Cincinnati Archdiocese). He was 76.

When he spoke, he spoke with authority. As Fr. Charles Lang, main celebrant at Wilhelm's funeral Mass, put it, "He was a man of integrity. He said what he meant and meant what he said."

State Deputy Dave Helmstetter led a gathering of State Officers, 10 Past State Deputies and other Knights at the funeral Mass on Tuesday, Jan. 10, at The Church of Mary, Help of Christians, in Fairborn.

Continued on Page 4



Wilhelm

MISSION POSSIBLE

Secret Agent #1,000,000 announces \$1 million goal for 2012 Super Cash Bonanza Charity Campaign

“Our mission is a mission of charity. Working together as a team we have the ability to raise over \$1 million for charitable purposes throughout the State of Ohio.”

Making that bold statement is Secret Agent #1,000,000 – State Treasurer Bob Collins, who is chairman of the 2012 Super Cash Bonanza Charity Campaign. And he firmly believes that with a united effort and good planning, Ohio Knights can once again reach \$1,000,000 in ticket sales.

Kickoff of the 14-week campaign will be at diocesan ticket distribution meetings during the weekend of Feb. 17, 18 and 19. It will end with the Final Drawing at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 25, at the Millennium Hotel in Cincinnati, where the 2012 Ohio State Knights of Columbus Convention will be getting under way with the traditional Friday Night Party.

“As Special Agent #1,000,000, my job is to prepare our local council special agents for the coming mission,” said Collins. “This mission of charity is to maximize all resources to raise every dollar possible for council and diocesan charity programs.”

There will be 25 cash prizes in this year’s campaign – an increase over the 20 prizes of previous years. Top prize once again is \$49,680 (payable \$414 per month for 10 years). Second and third prizes are \$18,780 and \$12,720, payable \$313 per month for five years and \$212 per month for five years, respectively. The rest of the prize list includes: 4th, \$4,000; 5th, \$3,000; 6th-9th, \$1,500; 10th-13th, \$1,250; 14th-17th, \$1,000; 18th-21st, \$750; 22nd-25th, \$500.

Collins is emphasizing the need for good planning on the part of local councils. His other emphasis is on **“Partnering”**, an approach that has been very successful at many local councils in previous campaigns.

“No, I don’t expect councils to carry out this mission alone,” he said. “We need to locate resources in the community around us and attempt to utilize these resources to assist us in raising those charitable dollars. By that he means having another organization or group, perhaps at the local parish, sell tickets for the council and receive financial incentives from the council for doing so. Summing it up, Collins stresses that “We need to have a plan formulated so that when our mission officially begins these resources and organizations will maximize our efforts during the campaign”.

Each Super Cash Bonanza ticket sells for \$5.00, and \$2.40 of that is automatically retained by the council for use in its local charities. However, if the council’s sales exceed the campaign’s special rebate structure, the council will receive additional funds returned from each \$5.00 sale, up to a possible \$4.60 per ticket sold.

Complete campaign details, including the rebate schedule, will be explained at the February Diocesan Ticket Distribution Meetings. Following is a schedule of those meetings:

Cincinnati Diocese		
Sat., Feb. 18	10 a.m.	Fr. Aufderheide Council 12912 St. Christopher Church, 435 E. National Rd., Vandalia
Sat., Feb. 18	1 p.m.	St. Michael Council 1382 St. Michael Church, 11144 Spinner Ave., Sharonville
Cleveland Diocese		
Sat., Feb. 18	8:30 a.m. Breakfast; 10 a.m. Meeting	Garfield Council 4130, 10806 Granger Rd., Garfield
Columbus Diocese		
Sun., Feb. 19	2 p.m.	Seton Parish, 600 Hill Rd. N., Pickerington
Steubenville Diocese		
Sat., Feb. 18	10 a.m.	Msgr. Joseph Dooley Council 4361 Legion Dr., Mingo Junction
Mon., Feb. 20	7 p.m.	Marietta Council 478, 312 Franklin St., Marietta
Toledo Diocese		
Fri., Feb. 17	7 p.m.	Tiffin Council 608, 49 E. Perry St., Tiffin
Sat., Feb. 18	10 a.m.	Defiance Council 1039, 111 Elliott Rd., Defiance
Youngstown Diocese		
Sat., Feb. 18	10 a.m.	Girard Council 2935, 122 S. State St., Girard

2012 K of C bowling tourney slated for Columbus

The 94th Ohio Knights of Columbus Bowling Tournament will begin at the Columbus Square Bowling Palace, Columbus, on March 9 and continue through March 31, according to David Miller, State Bowling secretary. The host hotel will be the Double Tree in Worthington. For further information contact Miller at 187 Fairlawn Ave., Mansfield, OH 44903; tel: (419) 524-1183.



Special Agent #1,000,000 – State Treasurer Bob Collins, Super Cash Bonanza Charity Campaign chairman – and his wife, “Tickets Galore” Linda, were highlights of a skit performed at the January District Deputies’ Meeting to promote the 2012 Charity Campaign.

It’s time for councils to start planning for their 2012 Measure-Up Campaign

It’s not too early to start planning for the 2012 Ohio Measure-Up Campaign, according to this year’s chairman, State Warden Bob Byers. Collection dates will be April 26, 27 and 28, and May 3, 4 and 5.

Byers has set this year’s goal at \$600,000, hoping for 95% participation of Ohio’s councils.

“We can do it!” he exclaims.

“The ‘flagship’ charity of the Knights of Columbus has long been our support for our citizens with developmental disabilities,” he wrote in the packet of information distributed at the January District Deputies’ Meeting. “Here in Ohio our primary fundraiser for assisting those with developmental disabilities is our annual Measure-Up Campaign. District Deputies should be distributing the Measure-Up materials to Grand Knights of their councils.

Byers stresses that at this time of the year councils should select a chairman, and emphasis should be placed on the “Gimme Five” portion of the campaign, whereby local council members donate \$5.00 (or more), generally with payment of their annual dues.

He stresses, too, that planning is so important to successful collections. He suggests that councils contact area businesses in a general mailing campaign to solicit financial contributions; that councils plan a fundraiser activity that will add to the total council donation, and that local merchants be contacted to seek their permission to allow Knights to collect in front of their business.

The Buckeye Bulletin

State Chaplain Fr. Ron Williams 177 Siebenthaler Ave. Reading, OH 45215-3740 Tel: (513) 733-4950 Email: fr.ron@fuse.net	State Deputy Dave Helmstetter 5421 County Rd. 33A St. Marys, OH 45885-9658 Tel: (419) 394-1180 Email: dhelmstetter@woh.rr.com	State Secretary Ken Girt 6433 Lutz Ave. N.W. Massillon, OH 44646-9341 (330) 837-6670 girtken@ssnet.com
State Treasurer Robert Collins Jr. 10181 Tracy Trail Parma, OH 44130-5210 Tel: (440) 888-8909 Email: cllnsbbb@aol.com	State Advocate Kevin Miller 1101 Arbor Oaks Lane Galloway, OH 43119-8507 Tel: (614) 853-2642 Email: km8007@sbcglobal.net	State Warden Robert Byers 565 Indian Run Rd. Marietta, OH 45750-6693 Tel: (740) 373-7154 Email: robert_byers@hotmail.com
Immediate Past State Deputy Paul Upman 4838 Skipper Ct. Maumee, OH 43537 Tel: (419) 878-2477 Email: pupman@accesstoledo.com	Chief of Staff James Deime 5734 Shadow Oaks P. Kettering, OH 45440-2712 Tel: (937) 433-8595 Email: deimej@aol.com	Buckeye Bulletin Editor Harding Christ 32649 Surrey Lane Avon Lake, OH 44012-1642 Tel: (440) 933-8986 Email: harding.c@oh.rr.com
Editorial Content		
Forward all editorial content to Harding Christ, Editor, 32649 Surrey Lane, Avon Lake, OH 44012-1642.		
Subscription Status Address Change		
Forward all requests for new subscriptions, changes of address or cancellation to Harding Christ. New subscriptions must include the full 9-digit Zip Code.		

Ten Keys to Success for our council chaplains

Fr. John Grace, director of Supreme's Chaplain Program & Development, presented a new pamphlet called *10 Keys to Success for Chaplains* at a recent Supreme Council session for State Council chaplains. He said that if chaplains followed these points, there would be a growth in spiritual development within the Order, and many more men would be attracted to join. The 10 keys are:

1. **Nourish the special role of the Knights of Columbus** as a lay fraternal organization within the Church. Stress and support the fact that Knights take pride in working as the "strong right arm of the Church" and of the parish.
2. **Acquire a working knowledge of the Order's operations on all levels.** This includes being present at all state and local council meetings, reading *Columbia* magazine, which contains a monthly column by Supreme Chaplain Bishop William Lori, and consulting the monthly Chaplains Report and the Order's website.
3. **Involve council members in sacraments and prayer.** Promote the Eucharist and Mass attendance; instruct them in the faith to deepen their understanding; urge them to pray the rosary, and promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
4. **Promote devotion to Fr. Michael McGivney.** The founder of the Order, who was named "Venerable" in 2008, should be the model for all K of C chaplains. Join the Fr. McGivney Guild and have all council members join, to support beatification of Fr. McGivney. Read the biography, *Parish Priest*, which relates the life and times of Fr.

McGivney.

5. **Provide catechesis on faith and morals.** Let members know what is demanded of them to be practicing Catholics in the 21st Century, when so much of the culture has turned secular.
6. **Lead by example and effective teaching.** Be a spiritual leader who calls Knights to a higher level of devotion and dedication to the Catholic faith.
7. **Tend to K of C families.** The Order is not only a men's organization. It is a family organization that was founded to care for wives and children. Be a friend, teacher and sanctifier of the family, showing up when called and being there in times of joy, sorrow and grief.
8. **Work in collaboration with local, state and supreme councils.** Use the resource materials provided and keep lines of communication open.
9. **Attend council meetings.** Don't look at council meetings as a chore to be endured, but as an exciting opportunity to instruct and sanctify the members and lead them in a life of faith in action.
10. **Reinforce pro-life activities.** Join the Order in building a Culture of Life and a Civilization of Love by supporting and enhancing a pro-life mentality, from conception to natural death.

Our Order renews efforts supporting our council chaplains

Continued from Page 1

Fourth Degree color corps (after receiving the pastor's permission, of course) provided our chaplain with a surprise honor guard during Mass celebrated on his birthday. After Mass, the Sir Knights escorted him to a reception in his honor at the council hall next to the parish. With Knights and parishioners filling the building, the announcement was made that a vocations fund for seminarians would be established in his name. It was truly the right gift, at the right time, for the right man.

Ten years later, contributions still come in from Knights and parishioners who were affected by this priest. Today, on an annual basis, three or four seminarians are routinely helped financially and spiritually thanks to this fund.

But the seed for this activity came from a priest, one who served our council with dedication as chaplain for many years. The gift of a vocations fund completed an amazing "cycle of K of C life" for him.

Over the last year, the role of Chaplain has come under considerably emphasis by the Knights of Columbus. The materials and programs are bountiful and well done. Search the Supreme Council website and you'll quickly find the materials.

In Ohio, we're very fortunate. We have a young, enthusiastic State Chaplain, Fr. Ron Williams. He takes his position very seriously and we're taking many steps in Ohio to work with local council chaplains. Fr. Ron is currently on a three-month sabbatical in Rome., and was expected to have an audience with the Pope during his stay. I'm sure that it will only inspire him further.

We are building our communications network to include chaplains. A recent survey we conducted among our District Deputies brought about 100 chaplain contacts into the Ohio State Council office. But, we need more addresses and emails so we can contact all of our chaplains. Feel free to pass this information along to your District Deputy or drop me a note.

Another initiative will take place at the Ohio State Council Convention in Cincinnati on Friday, May 25. We will hold our first state-wide training session for chaplains. We are working on the details, but we do know that Fr. John Grace, O.S.A., Director of Chaplain Programs and Development, will present the seminar. More information will come in your council's first convention mailing in mid-March.

But do us a favor – let your chaplain know about this program. We know they have a special place in the lives of our councils!

A change in council procedure

Section 125 of the Laws of the Order has been revised. The Chaplain's Message is designated as Item No.7 in the Order of Business, replacing the Chaplain's Report and preceding the Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

This allows the Chaplain to provide his message at the beginning of the meeting, or at any other time during the meeting that may best fit the Chaplain's schedule.



At the Heartbeat of Lima ultrasound dedication were Heartbeat co-directors (front) Linda McGregor and Patti Kennedy, with (rear, from left), Ron Pohlman, of Ottawa Council 1757; Leonard Kruse, of Columbus Grove Council 9788, State Deputy Dave Helmstetter, and Jerry Backus, of Delphos Council 1362.

Ohio Knights providing ultrasound machines

Continued from Page 1

That's because funds to match the fundraising of local units come from the Order's Culture of Life Fund, a \$2-per-member assessment that was approved by delegates to the 2009 Supreme Convention.

Since 2009, it has been reported that more than 160 ultrasound machines have been acquired by Knights of Columbus units for women's pregnancy centers in the continental United States. In Ohio, at least eight such machines have been ordered in the following locations:

- Clinton County Women's Center. Fr. O'Donoghue Council 3369, Wilmington (Cincinnati Diocese).
- Pregnancy Solutions, Akron. Quad County Chapter councils (Wayne, Summit, Medina, Ashland counties in the Cleveland Diocese) including Joseph Bender Assembly and the councils of Cuyahoga Falls 13517, St. Hilary 14551, St. Sebastian 14255, Akron 547, St. Martin of Tours 14769, Prince of Peace 14111, Orville 5566, Fr. Maruskin 10936, St. Vincent 14054, South Akron 3410, Our Lady of Victory 5613, Brunswick 4847, Fr. Carl Anthony 3213.
- Heartbeat of Lima. (Lima Loyalty 2661; Delphos Ray McKowen 1362; Van Wert 6034; Ottoville 2238; Kalida Michael Muehle 5669; Ottawa 1757; Columbus Grove St. Anthony of Padua 9788).

Continued on Page 5

State General Program Director

A check list for our Second Half activities

By Larry Droesch

State General Program Director

Here's to hoping that your New Year celebrations were fantastic and that your 2012 is brighter than the past year! Take a look at the items below from me and the reporting directors and then get started on the 2nd half of the program year:

1. We are now in the 2nd half of the Dynamic General Program. Remember: NOW is the time to start checking your status online and making sure that your council's stats match up with the director's Master Stat Sheet! If you want to be in the running for Top 10 councils, you also will want to check your Total Program Points. You will see the Top 10 in the State and Division as of the 6th day of the fourth reporting period by clicking on the icon on the home page of the State Website. If your stats don't add up and agree with the state's, please call the respective state director and find out where the differences are. Keep up the good work!
2. We still are finding some "double dipping" by a few councils. Double dips are only for ice cream cones. Your council can only report only ONE activity per Step number. You cannot use the same fundraiser, or activity, for two (Steps) reports.
3. Please check your council's Supreme standings on the state website. You can see if you turned in your Form 185, Form 365, Semiannual Audit 1295, Annual Survey 1728, and your Columbian Award SP-7 (when it is due in May). You also can see your Membership and Insurance Quota, Gains, Losses, Net, and Percent. And finally you can see if you paid your Supreme and State Tax. All these standings are updated monthly. You can find all this by following this online path: www.kofcoho.org > All Knights Login > your user name and password > click on the Grand Knights Review Center tab > Programs drop-down tab > Review Council Status tab > Blue Supreme tab (in the main part of the page).
4. It also is time to start laying the groundwork for choosing your Best of the Best. Please start the planning now. These nominations must be reported online and/or turned in by April 1:
 - Step #3 – Chaplain, or Religious, of the Year (not mandatory).
 - Step #11 – Volunteer of the Year (mandatory)
 - Step #13 – Blue Coat of the Year (not mandatory).
 - Step #21 – Knight of the Year (mandatory).
 - Step #31 – Family of the Year (mandatory).
 - Step #33 – Lady of the Year (not mandatory)
 - Step #51 – Youth of the Year (mandatory).

If you want your nominee to be considered for the best in the state, you must fill out the paper form and include it with supporting PAPER documentation and pictures and send to the respective reporting director. He will then include it in the judging. The MORE you send the better the chance that your nominee will be chosen. All pictures and paper documents will be returned at the State Convention if requested.

5. A FRIENDLY REMINDER - please make sure to report the correct description with the correct Step number. Just be real careful and recheck what you put in the online report boxes before hitting the submit button.
6. This is a good time of the year to get the FAMILY involved in the State K of C Step #'s #31, #33, and #38.

U.S. bishops assail Obama health plan edict

Ohio's bishops have joined the protest of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops against the federal government's decision to require church-affiliated institutions to cover free birth control for employees.

The bishops called "literally unconscionable" a decision by the U.S. Health and Human Services that almost all -- including Catholic -- employers will be forced to offer their employees health coverage that includes sterilization, abortion-inducing drugs and contraceptions.

"To force American citizens to choose between violating their consciences and forgoing their healthcare is literally unconscionable," said Cardinal-designate Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York and president of the USCCB. "It is as much an attack on access to health care as on religious freedom."

In letters distributed to parishioners in January, at least three Ohio bishops -- Dennis Schnurr of Cincinnati, Richard Lennon of Cleveland and Leonard Blair of Toledo -- wrote that the decision runs counter to their beliefs and violates their religious freedom. They urge parishioners to pray or fast and to consider contacting lawmakers in Congress to push for legislation reversing the requirement.

Knights of Columbus Insurance

Tempus Fugit Memento Mori

By James Valent, General Agent

State Insurance Liaison

Tempus Fugit. Time flies. The older we get, the more that statement seems to ring true. Especially as we prepare to ring in another New Year. I pray that 2011 was a healthy and prosperous year for you and your family.

If you're like most people, you've made some resolutions for the New Year. If I may, I'd like to add to your list of resolutions by two.

First: Write them down. A resolution is really a **goal** for the year and, until you commit a **goal** to writing, it's nothing more than a **wish**.

So write your resolutions down. Whether they be to lose weight, contribute more time and money to charity, read more or watch less television, you're more likely to stick to them if you write them down.

Second: Schedule some time to visit with your professional Knights of Columbus Family Financial Representative. The "Financial Check-up" that we provide (free of charge, by the way!) will quickly identify any gaps in your family's Estate Planning program. And you'll want to correct those gaps now, not later. Because unlike many other products, you need more than money to obtain life insurance, long term care insurance or comprehensive disability insurance. You also need **good health**, and no one will ring a bell warning you when your health is about to change.

The Knights of Columbus offers something precious few other financial products can offer **GUARANTEES**. We call that "Peace of Mind", and that is (as they say in that credit card commercial) **Priceless**.

Past State Deputy Robert Wilhelm dies at age 76

Continued from Page 1

Wilhelm joined the Knights of Columbus Fairborn Council 3724 in 1966, and quickly rose in council offices. He was Grand Knight in 1968-1969, when Fairborn was a Star Council. He was a District Deputy in 1969-1971, instituting A.J. Schulte Council 6144, New Carlisle, during that tenure. He joined the Fourth Degree Msgr. Buckley Assembly, Springfield, in 1968.

Wilhelm began his Ohio State Council service in 1971 when he was appointed State Director of Program Coordinators, followed by a term as State Director of Program Consultants. In 1975-1977 he was State Membership Director, guiding Ohio to second place in the Order in membership intake, behind only Quebec, Canada. He was General Program Director in 1977-1979, and was elected State Warden in 1979.

When he ended his tenure as State Deputy at the State Convention in May, 1989, Wilhelm said the highlight of his K of C career was those two years heading the Ohio jurisdiction. Among his other proudest achievements, he said, was institution of the New Carlisle Council, leading the entire Order in membership, except for Quebec, and having two back-to-back \$1 million State Charity Campaigns as its chairman in 1983-1985.

Wilhelm always was a believer that the Knights of Columbus "can only progress through the cooperation of the parish priests and pastors.

"Christ's Sermon on the Mount should be the underlying values of all that we try to do -- feed the hungry, clothe the poor, give drink to the thirsty," he once wrote. "Extremely large, million-dollar projects have value, but too often they only bring publicity. It is the small, local projects that really bring support, be it through the Church of the community."

Wilhelm was president of Wagner Oils, Inc. (operating as Mobile Distributing Company in Fairborn). He was a member and past president of the Miami Valley Petroleum Club. He was a member of the Ohio Petroleum Marketers Association, Farm Bureau of Greene County, Fairborn Chamber of Commerce and the Order of the Honorary Kentucky Colonels. He served The Church of Mary, Help of Christians Church in many capacities. In recent years he volunteered at the Greene Memorial Hospital.

Wilhelm is survived by his wife, Anne; his children, Robert, David and Beth Anne Root, and his grandchildren, Michael Wilhelm, Hailee Wilhelm, Sarah Root and Maggie Root.

Wilhelm was born in Newark, New Jersey, and was graduated from St. Benedict's Preparatory College in Newark. He received a B.S. Degree in Industrial Management from the University of Dayton.

* * *

Brother Knight Edward Clemens, who served with PSD Wilhelm and was chief of staff during the administration of State Deputy Al Hickey (1999-2001), passed away Dec. 21 at Miami Valley Hospital, Dayton. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife of 54 years, Gracie, and family. Clemens was a past grand knight and former district deputy.

Ultrasound

Continued from Page 3

- Care Net Pregnancy Services of Knox County. Knox County councils (St. Lukes 910, Danville; Mt. Vernon 847 – Columbus Diocese).
- A.J. Schulte Council 6144, New Carlisle (Cincinnati Diocese).
- Heartbeat of Toledo. Toledo Chapter councils.
- Greater Columbus Chapter councils.
- Defiance Community Pregnancy Center. Bishop Rappe Assembly, Defiance Council 1039, Napoleon Council 1344, Edgereton Council 1494, Ottoville Council 2238, St. Joseph-Paulding Council 2584, Infant of Prague-Payne Council 3617, Fr. DeVeaux-Blakeslee Council 3883, Fr. Mulche-Kalida Council 5669, Wauseon Council 8829, Hicksville Council 10043.

Fundraising efforts are in the planning stages in other Ohio Knights of Columbus areas, such as West Central Cincinnati Diocese (Sidney), Licking County (Newark), Akron, Warren County, Fremont, Bowling Green.

State Deputy Dave Helmstetter attended an open house associated with the Heartbeat of Lima, where Knights from Putnam, Van Wert and Allen counties raised funds to purchase an ultrasound machine.

“It is particularly satisfying and gratifying as State Deputy to see such a dedicated effort by these councils,” he said. “I cannot express my appreciation, and my joy, at what the Knight of Columbus has been able to accomplish with this project. There can be no greater honor than to save a life.”

Helmstetter noted that the timing of the ultrasound machine’s arrival was remarkable. “Recently,” he said, another company, which the Heartbeat people believe is an organization funded by planned parenthood, opened an office in the same building. “The week of the open house, one of the Heartbeat volunteers counseled an individual who was considering an abortion, but when she took the ultrasound at Heartbeat she changed her mind,” he said.

Ultrasound machines are expensive. But, according to information from Supreme Council, almost all machines purchased under the K of C program reflect discounts negotiated with the vendors, some as much as 55%. In Ohio, *partnering* – councils, districts, assemblies and chapters working together -- is the operative word used to describe most efforts used to raise the necessary funds.

The Lima project was initiated by



The Urbancic family (from left), Ida, Suzanne, James, Frances, Benedict, Theresa, David, Veronica, John and Leo.

‘The image of that child in the womb has changed the hearts of many young women who are under considerable pressure to terminate their pregnancies’

The following was written by John Urbancic M.D., a Third Degree Knight for 25 years, a member of Geauga Council 3304, Chardon. He and his wife and nine children reside in Chardon (Cleveland Diocese). Dr. Urbancic has specialized in Family Practice since 1998.

My wife, Ida, is a very private person, and so it came as no surprise when she initially turned down an opportunity to bare her midriff and have her pregnant belly ultrasounded at a recent Life Teen event at our church. But she later reconsidered, and lo and behold, I watched in amazement a few weeks ago as my wife hopped up on a cafeteria folding table in the packed Life Teen room, got goo squirted on her belly, and allowed the image of our little Louise or Joseph to be put into the minds of the teens present. And that little one proclaimed the Gospel of Life at 13 weeks of gestation like no other -- almost constant movement of arms, legs, and repeated back arching was greeted with choruses of oohs and ahs like the fireworks on the Fourth of July. It seemed to go on for quite a while, and afterwards my wife was happy she had contributed to the pro-life night for the teens.

Not that my wife is a newcomer to the fight for life. She’s practically on a first name basis with the folks at Life Decisions International, the group that publishes the Boycott list, and she’s a regular protester outside our local abortion mills, and calls our local politicians often about life issues.

She suggested a few years ago that we support Fr. Pavone’s group, Priests for Life, and so we’ve done that with regular monetary contributions. We followed Fr. Pavone’s advice and obtained precious feet to pin to our lapels, and checks for our checkbook with a pro-life message on them. We chose a picture of an unborn baby. We also put bumper stickers on our vehicles that say things like “Abortion is mean” which, of course, it is, and much worse than that.

We didn’t start out so fervently pro-life. It was the culture of death we live in that began first to astound us and then it began to anger us. It started like this. When pregnant with our first child, Suzanne, we were sent for an ultrasound at the mother ship of one of the two major health systems in the city where we lived then. The baby looked almost fine, the maternal-fetal specialist doctor told us, but he would recommend an abortion since there was the slight chance of a defect in that there might be a small cyst in her brain, or it might just be normal development of her brain, or it might just be a blip on the ultrasound screen. He wasn’t sure which, but just to be safe, we’d better abort.

I did some research myself and found that if our daughter did have a small cyst, so

Continued on Page 6

Brother Knight Leonard Kruse, Grand Knight of St. Anthony of Padua Council 9788, Columbus Grove, who said representatives of seven K of C councils met with Heartbeat officials to discuss purchase of an ultrasound machine, and how to go about it.

“It was decided to ask parishioners of our Catholic churches to help,” he said.

Letters, with pre-addressed envelopes, were attached to church bulletins. K of C representatives spoke at each weekend Mass. On the following Sunday, a second collection was taken.” By mid-July, 2011, the goal was reached.

Kruse related that the original retail cost of the machine was \$56,000, but through discounts, it was purchased for \$26,500.

“That meant we had to raise \$13,250 because the Supreme Council would match the other half of what we needed,” he said.

The machine was ordered and delivered in early November. Volunteer nurses took training on how to use it.

“As word spread about the Knights of Columbus efforts, representatives at St. Rita Hospital in Lima said they would donate a used ultrasound machine. Our Heartbeat Center has two locations, so we now have a machine at each location,” Kruse added.

The Cincinnati Chapter was the first in Ohio to purchase an ultrasound machine, with several councils participating. The effort was headed by Bernie Karwisch, of Archbishop Purcell Council 2798, Cincinnati In Knox County, the councils held a golf outing to help raise funds The Quad County councils purchased their machine without the help of Supreme Council, as the Cleveland Diocese declined their request.

There are several steps that K of C units must take in the application process, the first being gaining approval from the diocesan pro-life director that the pregnancy care center selected may be included in the program. The application forms are available on the Supreme website, www.kofc.org/ultrasound.

There are a myriad of questions asked about the K of C initiative. Some are:

Q. If the pregnancy center is not Catholic, can it still participate in the program?

A. Yes, if it does not engage in anti-Catholic proselytism (i.e. it does not attempt to lead Catholic women away from the Catholic faith). A Statement of Faith must be included in the documents submitted to the Supreme Council office.

Q. Will the program pay for training the staff to use and maintain the ultrasound machine?

A. No. The program will only pay one-half the cost of the ultrasound machine itself. Shipping, installation, maintenance, training and insurance costs are to be handled by the pregnancy center.

Q. Q. If a council hasn’t raised its half of the cost but will have it by the time the request is approved, is that okay?

A. Half of the ultrasound’s cost must be raised before the application will be considered complete for submission.

Q. Q. How long will it take to receive the matching funds check?

A. Once an application is complete and it is submitted for matching funds, it usually takes approximately three weeks for approval.



Ohio's diocesan religious education directors (from left), Bill Miller, Cleveland Diocese; Ken Gleason, Cincinnati Diocese; Dr. Barbara Romanello-Wichtman, Columbus Diocese; State Deputy Dave Helmstetter; Matching Funds Chairman Kevin Miller; David McCutcheon, Toledo Diocese; Paul Ward, Steubenville Diocese.

2011 was another record-setting year for Ohio's Matching Funds Campaign

It was another record-setting year for Matching Funds in 2011, with \$69,000 being distributed to diocesan directors of religious education in Ohio.

"A total of \$44,007 was raised (by councils, assemblies, chapters) to support the many agencies, programs and schools throughout Ohio that provide religious educational services to the parishes and schools of each diocese," 2011 Chairman Kevin Miller, state advocate, wrote in his final report. "We have demonstrated our continuing support of religious education."

In addition, the Knights' Ohio Charity Foundation matched the first \$25,000 contributed for a grand total of approximately \$69,000. Checks were presented to the religious education directors at the January District Deputies' Meeting according to the following schedule:

Cincinnati Diocese: \$12,717.88.
Cleveland Diocese: \$15,698.86.
Columbus Diocese: \$13,384.34.
Steubenville Diocese: \$3,080.87.
Toledo Diocese: \$14,206.33.
Youngstown Diocese: \$7,100.80.

Additionally, \$1,500 was presented to the Byzantine Eparchy of Parma.

Councils in the Cleveland Diocese once again led the way in contributions, with \$16,246. Second was the Toledo Diocese, with \$14,701, followed by Columbus and Cincinnati, with \$13,916 and \$13,347 respectively.

Cleveland Council 733 was tops in contributions with \$2,500, followed by St. Hilary Council 14551, Akron, with \$1,083.

Cleveland Council also had the highest amount contributed per member -- \$29.76.



The 2011 Soccer Challenge champions with State Deputy Dave Helmstetter (right).

2011 Ohio K of C Soccer Challenge champions crowned

The 2011 Ohio State Council Soccer Challenge Finals were held in November at Wilmington College, Wilmington (Cincinnati Diocese). Following are the winners:

Girls

Age 10: Hannah Tebbe, of Lebanon, sponsored by Francis DeSales Council 14408.
Age 11: Sabrina Bartholomew, of Struthers, sponsored by Campbell Marian Council 3813.
Age 12: Julie Davidson, of Geneva, sponsored by Jefferson Council 4212.
Age 13: Audra Puzio, of Jefferson, sponsored by Jefferson Council 4212.
Age 14: Emily Dylas, of Perrysburg, sponsored by Blessed John XXIII Council 14502,

Boys

Age 10: Joshua Romans, of Canton, sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes Council 4533.
Age 11: Connor Mendel, of Wadsworth, sponsored by Fr. Carl Anthony Council 3213.
Age 12: Kyle Simmonds, of Columbus, sponsored by St. Christopher Council 14342.
Age 13: Spencer Dufrense, of Beavercreek, sponsored by Beavercreek Council 7981.
Age 14: James Stroebel, of Wilmington, sponsored by Fr. O'Donohue Council 3369.

4th Degree to lead fundraising for Supreme's new military chaplain scholarship program

The Knights of Columbus has established a new scholarship program to help fund the education of seminarians preparing to become Catholic chaplains in the United States armed forces.

The program will distribute \$1 million in scholarship money to the Archdiocese of Military Services over a period of five years at a rate of \$200,000 per year. These funds, in turn, will help produce a new generation of Catholic chaplains to minister to U.S. military personnel and their families. Scholarship candidates agree that following ordination and three years of service at a parish, he will commit to serve as a military chaplain for a minimum of three to five years.

The Supreme Council Board of Directors has charged the Fourth Degree to lead the fundraising effort, with a goal to have each State Deputy and District Master work together to raise \$4,000 each year for five years in their jurisdiction -- from the state council, local councils, assemblies and individuals. Hennepin Province Vice Supreme Master George Dann, of Michigan, has been appointed coordinator of fundraising efforts in four jurisdictions, including Ohio.

"It is important that all councils and assemblies participate financially in this effort," said State Deputy Dave Helmstetter. "I encourage grand knights and faithful navigators to place the military scholarship fund on the next meeting's agenda and discuss with their members a donation to this important fund."

The Military Archdiocese estimates that it needs 800 priests to fully serve all of the Catholic men and women in uniform today, but it is only able to supply 280. Heading the archdiocese is Bishop Timothy Broglio, who is a native of Cleveland.

The image of that child in the womb

Continued from Page 5

might the doctor who recommended we have her killed! It was very common and of no significance. Yes, it was associated with Down's Syndrome and some other congenital syndromes, but so was having two eyes, two ears, two hands and two feet associated with those syndromes, as well as with all the rest of us!

Being in the business of medicine myself, I began to keep track of his recommendations for other women who had ultrasounds with him and who had been referred by me or my colleagues to him. Two years later he had racked up a 1.000 batting average: 29 ultrasounds and 29 recommendations to terminate. Then I left to start my own practice, but just recently, 17 years after his 1.000 batting average, I had a patient tell me he recommended termination to her. It makes me sick.

And Suzanne? She's a straight A student, virtuous, and a joy to be with. She's the jewel you'd like your son to marry. And to think she would have ended up in a biohazard bag had we taken the recommendation of that doctor. We were shocked. And then we started to get angry.

After becoming pregnant with our second child, Benedict, who would like to be a priest or an electrical engineer -- another great kid like Suzanne -- we skipped the ultrasound with the specialist, knowing the result that would follow. We also went to another institution for prenatal care and delivery.

After taking off a couple of days following his birth, I returned to work, and the division secretary, a very nice lady, said to me with a big smile on her face and with motherly affection, "You've had your boy! Congratulations! Now you can get your tubes tied!"

I looked at her incredulously, not knowing what to say, and then she said, "Well, you could have one more. Is that what you want?"

"Well, I'm not sure. We have to figure out what God wants," I answered.

"Oh," she said, and walked away.

I got angry. I'm angry that society would turn a nice lady like that into the baby police. And there were many others to follow as we went on to have several more children. The impassioned pleas grew more desperate as we had more children. "Aren't you done?" "You have too many already!" "You can't love all those children!"

Yes, we can, actually, and they're turning out well, aren't they?

The Knights of Columbus is angry, too, and so is the Holy Father. And so is God. That's why my wife, who is pregnant with our ninth child, and I applaud the efforts of the Knights of Columbus to purchase ultrasound machines for prenatal care of women who might consider abortion an option. The image of that child in the womb has changed the hearts of many young women who are under considerable pressure to terminate their pregnancies.

The Knights support families, yours and ours. I think by supporting the decision to choose life, the Knights are showing their love of God and of neighbor, and it makes me proud to be a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Supreme introduces ‘Be Not Afraid’ Campaign

The Ohio State Council is not the only Knights of Columbus unit that rewards recruiters with special incentives. Supreme Council is conducting the “*Be Not Afraid!*” Membership Campaign in honor of the Beatification of Blessed John Paul II. Participating is easy: all a member has to do is recruit new members!

The membership campaign, which ends next June 29, includes the following incentives:

- Recruit at least 1 new member per month and receive a Blessed John Paul II Medallion for that month.
- Recruit a minimum of four new members and receive a large specially struck Blessed John Paul II Medallion with a stand for display.
- When a council recruits a minimum of six new members during the “*Be Not Afraid!*” Campaign, its Council Chaplain will receive a specially struck Blessed John Paul II Medallion with display stand.

Drawings held for DD membership incentive prizes

Drawings for the Second Quarter Incentive membership prizes regarding recruiting efforts from Oct. 1 through Dec. 31 were held at the January District Deputies’ Meeting.

- The names of 522 recruiters who brought in a new member during the Second Quarter were in a drawing for \$200.00. The winner was Michael Davala, a member of St. Andrew Council 11275, Upper Arlington (Columbus Diocese).
- Seventy-four councils that brought in at least three members during October-December were in a drawing for \$100.00. Winner was Ascension Council 4324, Johnstown (Columbus Diocese). Grand Knight is Tom Thompson.
- Twenty-nine District Deputies who had at least 50% of councils in his district bring in at least one new member during the October Blitz were in a drawing for \$200.00. Winner was DD-47 Keith Dunnigan (Columbus Diocese). Four of his five councils participated in the October Blitz.

Additional membership incentive awards also were presented at the District Deputies’ Meeting. DD-18 Michael Thomas, DD-49 Larry Campbell and DD-42 Christino Damo received the Quick Start Award for reaching 100% of their district membership quota by Dec. 31.

Ohio has three new councils

Three new councils have been instituted thus far this fraternal year:

- Holy Name of Jesus Council 15330, Trenton, Cincinnati Archdiocese (DD-18 Michael Thomas).
- Our Lady of Carroll County 15401, Carrollton, Steubenville Diocese (DD-49 Larry Campbell).
- St. Teresa Infant Jesus Council 15424, Covington, Cincinnati Archdiocese (DD-2 David Warner).

State basketball tourney set for April 14-15

The 2012 Ohio Knights of Columbus Basketball Tournament will be held on April 14-15 at the Worthington Community Center in Worthington (Columbus Diocese).

According to State Basketball Director Richard Siefker, entry forms were mailed to grand knights in January. Councils may form a district team or sponsor more than one team as long as entry requirements are met.

“Councils should use this activity to recruit younger members,” suggests Siefker, who can be contacted at 13768 Rd. K, Ottawa, OH 45875; Tel: (419) 538-6804.

Council	2011	2010	2009	Net	Percent of 2011	2010
Cincinnati	435	200	115	+85	19.5%	350
Cleveland	301	173	79	+94	34.2%	207
Columbus	262	219	118	+101	38.5%	161
Steubenville	74	74	17	+57	77.0%	17
Toledo	401	145	117	+28	7.0%	373
Youngstown	202	74	38	+36	17.8%	166
TOTALS	1,675	845	484	+481	23.9%	1,174

Cross Bearers Crusade membership campaign

Continued from Page 1

District Deputies. The incentives are:

- **Each member** who recruits a man in January, February, or March 2012, or during the “*Cross Bearers Crusade*” membership program and has the prospect attend a First Degree between January 1 and March 31, 2012 will be in a drawing for a state logo spring jacket with “Membership Crusader” embroidered on it. There will be three runner-up drawings for a state logo polo shirt with “Membership Crusader” embroidered on it. The new member must show up by the April 1 Supreme Council Membership Report and the recruiting member **must fill out the entry form** on the Incentives sheet to be entered in the contest.
- **Each council** that has an increase of **FIVE** new members during the period of January 1 to March 31, 2012 will be in a drawing for **\$150.00**. Councils that show a **total** increase of FIVE new members on the February 1, March 1, and April 1, 2012 Supreme Council Membership Reports, will automatically be entered in this drawing.
- **Each council** that hosts a First Degree between January 1 to March 31, 2012 will be in a drawing for **\$100.00**. In order for the council to be eligible for this drawing, a copy of the Form 450C must be submitted to State Membership Director Ken Gardner by April 15, 2012. The Form 450C will be the council’s entry into this drawing.
- **Each District Deputy** that promotes the Cross Bearers Crusade Membership Program to the councils in his district and submits the Cross Bearers Crusade District Deputy Reporting Form by April 15, 2012 will be in a drawing for a state logo spring jacket with “Membership Crusader” embroidered on it. There will be a runner-up drawing for two state logo polo shirt with “Membership Crusader” embroidered on it. No recruitment numbers need to be achieved in order for the District Deputy to be in this drawing, he needs only to submit the report form with information on each of the councils in his district. The report will be his entry in the drawing.

This program is virtually guaranteed to bring new members into councils that follow the plans laid out in the packet. If you have any question about how your councils can be successful using the Cross Bearers Crusade, feel free to contact State Membership Director Ken Gardner at kpgardner@fuse.net.

Keep passing those Pennies for Heaven jugs!

By Ken Girt, State Secretary

2012 Pennies for Heaven Chairman

Our 1st Phase Turn-in for the 2011-2012 *Pennies for Heaven* Campaign has been completed, with a total of more than \$32,440 received. The Ohio State Council appreciates those contribution, and I know our seminarians appreciate it even more. Your total campaign dollars will be used for a wide range of activities and financial support for our seminarians from all around Ohio.

Our campaign continues until April 1. Please continue to “pass the jug” at council meetings and programs. Your council may consider a special fundraising activity to raise your total *Pennies for Heaven* contribution. If your council conducts a fundraiser, you may be able to submit it as part of the Church Activities Program. Please refer to the State General Program for details.

We will continue the practice of recognizing councils that exceed \$1,000 for the campaign. There were a few councils that contributed \$1,000 or more for the 1st Phase.

On behalf of all the seminarians in our dioceses around Ohio, thank you for your contributions to *Pennies for Heaven*, for all your prayers for vocations and for the support you provide to all our bishops and priests. The seminarian you support today may be your pastor or council chaplain tomorrow!

Cincinnati Diocese			Cleveland Diocese		
Council	Location	Net	Council	Location	Net
Holy Name of Jesus 15330	Trenton	29	Gilman 310	Maryfield Hts.	13
Mgr. Vm. Kennel 15424	Covington	16	Genova 3384	Chardon	13
St. Michael's 3382	Cincinnati	7	North Olmsted 4731	N. Olmsted	13
Cardinal Bernardin 13139	Cincinnati	7	St. Hilary 14331	Alvan	13
Columbus Diocese			Steubenville Diocese		
Council	Location	Net	Council	Location	Net
St. Brigid of Kildare 10843	Dublin	14	Our Lady Carroll Co. 15401	Carrollton	23
St. Patrick 11207	Columbus	14	Bishop Watkinson 1485	Lebanon	13
Leicester 1016	Leicester	11	St. John of Beverly 4617	Beverly	9
Westerville 3774	Westerville	11			
Toledo Diocese			Youngstown Diocese		
Council	Location	Net	Council	Location	Net
Tiffin 608	Tiffin	14	Monaca 3786	Monaca	10
East Toledo 14344	Toledo	11	Lauterbach 1549	Lauterbach	7
Ray McEwen 1362	Delphos	9	Genova-Medison 3286	Genova	6

Ohio K of C Website: www.kofcOhio.org

The Spirit of Christmas

God sometimes works in mysterious ways

There still are people in this world doing God's work.

Chuck Large, of Sacred Hearts Council 14671, Cardington (Columbus Diocese), came to that conclusion following a Christmas season experience.

Chuck is Lecturer of Sacred Hearts Council, located at Sacred Hearts Parish, and chairman of its Christmas Food Baskets project, which in 2011 was in its second year providing food for needy persons of the area.

For the 2011 Christmas season, Chuck ordered 20 hams from a store in Marion, and on Dec. 18 he and his wife, Susie, went to the store's meat department, loaded the hams into a shopping car and took them to the checkout counter.

When Chuck placed the 20 hams on the conveyer, a man ahead of him turned and asked, "What are all the hams for?" I replied that I was from the Knights of Columbus and we were preparing food baskets for the needy from our area, explaining that this was our second year doing the project.

As the clerk was scanning each of the hams, the stranger again turned to Chuck and said "Would you let me pay for these?"

"You want to do what?" I replied.

"I want to pay for these hams," again was the answer. "I believe in helping out the less fortunate."

What could I say except "okay". The man swiped his credit card and paid the bill, which was more than \$300.

I stood there with tears in my eyes. The clerk also was in tears. All I could say was "God Bless you".

I asked his name. He said "I'm not from around here" and handed me his business card. He was from Jasper, Missouri. "If you ever need help call this number," was his parting remark.

All I could say to him was "God works in mysterious ways." He replied, "I know", and left without another word.

Ohio council focuses on Christmas with celebration called Posada

Information contained in the following story is taken from "Making Room at the Inn", published in the December, 2011, issue of *Columbia Magazine*.

Brother Knights from one of Ohio's newer Knights of Columbus councils – Fr. Charles Mentrup Council 14400, Franklin (Cincinnati Diocese) – help parishioners of St. Mary Church focus on the true meaning of Christmas through a celebration called *La Posada*.

In *Columbia*, the story, *Making Room at the Inn*, relates how Fr. Mentrup and another council from Florida use the Posada to open the Christmas season for parishioners of their churches.

According to *Columbia*, the Christmas *Posada*, which is celebrated in many Latin America countries, is a prayer, a play and a party all in one. The name means "inn" or "shelter" in Spanish and is generally celebrated with a novena from Dec. 16-24 in preparation for the birth of Christ. These nine days symbolize Mary's pregnancy, the journey of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, and their search for a place to stay – as recounted in Luke 2:1-7.

"Advent often gets overshadowed by the rush of Christmas preparation," Fr. Mentrup Council Brother Knight Matt Whiteley was quoted in the article. "In the midst of the rush the Posada gives us a chance to reflect on the journey toward Bethlehem; a journey toward the place where God revealed himself to the world as baby Jesus."

As the Hispanic population in North America has grown, the Posada celebration has spread. Initially introduced to areas highly populated by Hispanics, the tradition has since expanded to other parts of the United States and Canada, the story said.

Fr. Mentrup Council organized the Posada to coincide with the parish's Advent evening prayers. Two Knights carried images of Mary and Joseph, while the crowd began at the parish office to look for lodging. The participants stopped at different areas around the church, knocking and being refused entry. When they were not reciting prayers, they sang Christmas songs. And when they reached a grotto with an image of the Blessed Mother, they prayed a decade of the rosary.

The parishioners finally gained entrance at the Church, where they said the Advent evening prayers. The night culminated with a party at the parish center.



Medina Knights provide new crèche for their church

When Fr. Anthony Sejba became pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church in Medina in 2009, one of his goals was to replace a Nativity Scene that had been displayed during the Christmas Season in front of the church. That's when Knights of Columbus Medina Council 4168 responded to make his wish come true.

The council provided funding, Brother Knight Mike Hudgins, a St. Francis parishioner, did the designing and most of the construction. With several large donations and the pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters from parish children's Stewardship envelopes, new Holy Family statues were ordered from a studio in northern Italy, and on Dec. 11 Brother Knights gathered to assemble the new crèche and place it near the front doors of the Church.

Hudgins first considered whether any of the diocesan churches that were closed recently had an outdoor crèche that could be purchased, but none were available. He spent a year researching designs and lighting, and then went to work in a workshop outside his home. It was a labor of love for Hudgins that stemmed from his annual work with fellow Knights to set up and take down the church's original Nativity set each year.

Ohio's Ponder gets close look at Supreme HQ

"The trip enabled me to see the larger picture of what our Order is all about."

Ed Ponder, current State Ceremonials Director and Former District Deputy-8 (Cincinnati Archdiocese), had that assessment of his four-day trip to Supreme Headquarters in New Haven, Conn., last September. He was one of five Knights Order-wide (three grand knights and three district deputies) who had been selected in a random drawing from 1,078 grand knights and 494 district deputies who attained star status by meeting 100% or more of their membership and insurance quotas during the 2010-2011 fraternal year. One of the grand knights was unable to make the trip.

Ponder was cited for having five parish-based councils in the Dayton area during his tenure as a District Deputy.

Ponder, accompanied by his wife, Mary Ann, saw the immense workings of the Order at the Supreme Headquarters. The group was given guided tours of the Order's corporate headquarters, the



Knights of Columbus Museum and St. Mary's Church, where the remains of the Order's founder, Fr. Michael J. McGivney, are interred. They visited the office of Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson and sat with him at a special luncheon. And during spare time, Ponder and his wife visited the campus of Yale University.

"Visiting Supreme Headquarters is an experience every Knight would appreciate," said Ponder, who was impressed with the vastness of the operation.