

# KNIGHT'S COMPASS

*Direction for Life in Faith*



April 2021

Solomon Juneau Council 2770

Vol 1 Issue 8

## The Council Compass—Invitation to Build Family

*Steve Hesprich, Grand Knight*

As we see the light at the end of the tunnel in regards to COVID being behind us, the importance of our family life in faith is increasingly front and center. We see the attacks on faith and liberty against our Catholic values regarding family, marriage, and sexuality. Many who have been away from their faith in as much as attendance at Mass and being together for parish and community events, are likely to stay away unless we make a concerted effort to overcome the complacency COVID has placed on our lives.

No organization is better positioned to help with the need for revival of our moral life, re-engagement, and supporting the build of our families in faith, than the Knights of Columbus.

Therefore, to all men in the parish, and asking too for family to encourage, consider joining the Knights of Columbus this month. Our State organization has offered us \$250, to be used for local charities, if two men join our Knights council by April 30th. Additionally, if those men join online and attend a 30-minute virtual ceremony, using the promotional code MCGIVNEY2020, their first year dues are free. The info in the box below tells you how to proceed.



In Fraternity with Christ,

**Steve**

Grand Knight Council 2770  
cell/text: 608-400-2638  
[Steve@Hesprich.com](mailto:Steve@Hesprich.com)

- Steps to Join:**
1. Go to [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus)
  2. When prompted enter council # 2770, and promo code MCGIVNEY2020
  3. Attend online virtual ceremony (30 min) & confirm completion

The next Knights meeting is informal and families welcome. Tuesday April 20th; drawing of Hunter's Raffle at 7pm will be livestreamed on parish Facebook page. Join us at 6:30pm for refreshments

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**NEXT ISSUE: May 2021**

The full newsletter is on our council web page on the parish web site:

<https://stpatricksmauston.com/parish/knights-of-columbus/>

## Christ's Compass— He is Risen

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

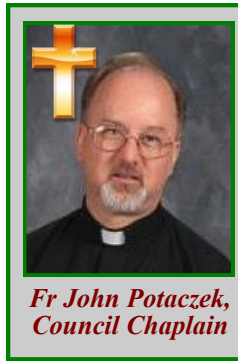
While Easter Sunday is behind us, we have Divine Mercy Sunday and we will be in the Easter Season until Pentecost. We didn't get a chance to have a proper liturgical experience of the Easter season last year. So it with new energy we see this Easter season as one with all kinds of possibilities. We too as a parish have some new things going on this Easter season. As announced and promulgated by Bishop Callahan, I have been named Parochial Administrator of St. Mary parish in Lyndon Station. That will allow for Fr. Clayton Elmhorst, their pastor, to focus on his rehabilitation so to fully recover. Along with that, we at St. Patrick have now welcomed a new international priest. His time here will allow him to become acquainted with American, diocesan, and parish life. Please welcome Fr. Chinnappan Pelavendran as he joined us April 8th.

Fr. Chinnappan Pelavendran is a priest of the Diocese of Vellore, India. He was ordained April 24, 2008. After two years as Associate he was assigned as Pastor of St. Lawrence Church, Kasthambady. He has also served as director of diocesan commissions for youth and regional Catholic television communications in the Tamil language. His last assignment before coming to the Diocese of La Crosse was as parish pastor and Secretary to Prison Ministry.

As we experience new opportunities may we trust in the Lord and all the gifts that He won for us on the Cross. In the Easter season may we always proclaim that "He is risen, risen indeed. Alleluia!!"

*Fr. John*

**Pastor & Council Chaplain**



*Fr John Potaczek,  
Council Chaplain*



*Fr. Chinnappan*

## Family Compass—March Family of the Month

*By Jon Field, Family Director*

The Solomon Juneau Knights of Columbus Council is proud to award the March 2021 Family of the Month to the Heath and Cassie Thayer family. The Thayer's are a family at St Patrick's that shine a light as one of the best examples of Catholic servitude, both inwardly to each other as a family and outwardly to the whole St Pat's community.

Cassie and Heath first met when working at the Place of Grace, a Catholic Worker House in La Crosse, while Cassie was attending Viterbo in 2002. In fact, Cassie phoned her mother that first night at school and told her she just met the man she was going to marry! That came true on November 18th, 2006 at Mary Mother of the Church in La Crosse. They have been blessed with three children, Elliott, 13, Avery, 11 and Cooper, 9.

Heath entered the Catholic faith and was baptized on the same day as Elliott at Saint Bridget's Catholic Church in River Falls, by Cassie's family priest Father Jerry Harris. Heath and Cassie have lived out service in their married life here at Saint Patrick's Parish.

Heath has served the parish during big events such as the Fall Festival and St Patrick's Dinner by washing dishes and helping out where needed. He has also enjoyed being a part of the clean-up crew at the Gala and helping to coach the Saint Pat's Track team.

Cassie has been our Director of Faith Formation since 2016. Prior to her current position, she taught religion and served as a teacher's aide at the school from 2008 to 2016. It is evident whenever someone is working with



*Heath & Cassie Thayer Family*

Cassie that she is outwardly projecting Jesus' love to you and genuinely cares about you. The whole family does that every time you see them. At church, at school or anywhere around Mauston, the Thayer family shows love to you with their children's beautiful smiles & Heath and Cassie's open hearts that listen to God's calling and testify to our parish community about deep faith in action every single day.

If you have suggestions for family of the month, please contact me with the name and reasons.

cell: 608-847-6421 / [jonfield21@gmail.com](mailto:jonfield21@gmail.com)

## Knights Membership—Why?

*Steve Hesprich*

Why would someone want to add to an already busy life by joining the Knights of Columbus? I dare say most would just stop there. But let's explore just a bit more. That question doesn't ask the more important question of what would be the benefits to my family and me, as well as what is required of my membership, to say nothing of the contributions you could make despite a busy schedule?

Now more than at any time in our lives we need to push back on a secular culture that wants to destroy life (abortion and euthanasia), attack marriage, confuse natural gender law, promote morally wrong lifestyles, endanger religious freedom and tell us life is about "me"? Before we even get to many other benefits of membership in the Knights know that the 2 million plus men and families of the Knights are one of the few organizations that stands up against all these very evil threats.

And then there are some of the very tangible benefits of membership. The highest rated insurance product by the financial rating services is a cornerstone of the Knights, with over \$113 billion of insurance in force and \$28 billion in assets. These products, exclusive to Knights of Columbus families, include life insurance, retirement annuities, long term care, and disability insurance.

The Knights are a brotherhood, a fraternity of strong relationships of men and families with the same value system of faith and family consistent with Catholic teaching. The strength of these relationships is why so many men, once they join, become lifetime members.

Consider joining today!



**Each of the first 2 men who join by 4/30 means our council will receive a \$125 donation for our charities.**

**Membership will be free the 1st year.**

**To Join the Knights online, go to the following link to join and watch the video teaching our principles (takes total of 35 minutes): [KofC.org/JoinUs](https://KofC.org/JoinUs)**

**Use the Promo code:**

**MCGIVNEY2020 and council 2770.**

**If you would like to speak more about the benefits to your family contact Steve Hesprich at: 608-400-2638 / [Steve@Hesprich.com](mailto:Steve@Hesprich.com)**

## Family Compass—February Family of the Month

By Jon Field, Family Director

The February 2021 Family of the Month is awarded to the Joe and Mary Buttner family. Joe and Mary have been active members of the St Pats community for a very long time and have spent countless hours volunteering their time and energy for the betterment of their parish.

Joe and Mary grew up in the Mauston area, both graduating from St Pats High School in the 1950's. They were high school sweethearts and were married on August 29th, 1953. Joe served active duty with the Navy from 1953-1955 and served in the Naval Reserves after that.

They were blessed with 8 kids, who now range in ages from 46-66. Joe and Mary have been very active with St Patrick's. Joe has been in charge of opening and closing the back gate for weekend masses ever since he can remember. They help with saying the rosary at church, at area nursing homes and at funerals of Knights of Columbus members. They both help with funerals, calling people to help cook and cooking themselves. Joe has helped with lawnmowing at the cemetery for the last 25 years.

Joe has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for 67 years! He has served as recorder on the council and was active in most every activity the Knights have ever put on in Mauston. Joe and Mary have always been super dependable in the St Patrick's parish and for the Knights and we are honored to recognize them as Family of the Month!



## Family Online Service Auction—Cancelled

By Steve Hesprich, Chairman

We have been talking at the last couple of council meetings and I as well have spoke to several groups within the parish about the idea of a family oriented service program. While I received universal agreement it was a good idea, I have not had anyone step forward to help. As I've dug deeper into what it would take to conduct this program, it became apparent I could not do it by myself. Therefore I've indicated to Fr. John that we will not be moving forward with this initiative at this time.

Despite the fund raising idea being cancelled, the idea of re-engaging families especially coming off the social and economic difficulties this past year because of Covid, may still be an idea to pursue. So we may still have some discussion about how we as a council, along with the parish, encourage re-engagement of families in our parish in particular, and in the greater community.

We would have some hope that by July 1st, Covid masks would, for the most part, be a thing of the past. If they are, there's going to be an extraordinary energy to get out and do things (and it will likely be significant even if there is still a mask dictate, if last summer is any indication of how much people were out and about).

We will discuss these ideas in more detail at our May 18th council meeting (there is no formal meeting in April).

## Council Elections—May Meeting

By Steve Hesprich, Grand Knight

We will be conducting council elections at our May 18th meeting. Our nominating committee consisting of our Trustees, Jon Field, Steve Powers and Harry Buttner, as well as myself as the chair, will be inviting 3rd degree members to be candidates for the various elected offices. Our current officers are noted on the back page of this newsletter. If you are not currently a 3rd degree member the on-demand exemplification that takes less than 30 minutes will advance you to the 3rd degree. If you are uncertain what degree you currently are, you can ask me or our Financial Secretary, Randy Boehm.

## The Knights' Principle of Patriotism

By James Tenpass, Eastern District Master

Men who have chosen to embrace the Order's fourth principle of patriotism are men who lead the efforts to reach out to our veterans and active military and to embody the fact that one can be a faithful Catholic and also be a faithful citizen. When the Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882., three principles united its members: charity, unity and fraternity.

### Consider becoming a 4th Degree Knight. Next opportunity to join virtually is Saturday May 15th from 1 to 3 pm.

Patriotism was added to the Order's principles in 1900, based on the idea that Knights are loyal to both God and country. Members who wish to live out patriotism together can join "the Fourth Degree".

Members of this degree have the special honor of holding the title "Sir Knight", participating in color and honor guards and organizing programs that promote Catholic citizenship. They also become part of a Fourth Degree Assembly in their area. Fourth Degree Assemblies encourage active Catholic citizenship and foster the spirit of patriotism in our members and community. The Serving Those Who Served program is a major initiative of the Fourth Degree supporting Veterans Affairs facilities. The Fourth Degree has also supported priests, in particular, those who go on to serve as military chaplains. Through a special scholarship program, the Knights helped fund the education of seminarians preparing to become Catholic chaplains in the U.S.

Armed Forces. Fourth Degree Assemblies help Knights to put their faith and their love of country into action.

The fourth principle 'Patriotism' commits our members to the preservation of our Church, our Order and to the many nations where Knights serve.

(Parts of the above is from "Who Are the Fourth Degree Knights? by Andrew Butler in 2019)



**May 15th will soon be upon us. It's time for 3rd degree members to advance to the 4th Degree. Some advanced paperwork is needed. To get started please contact me.**

James TenPas  
Eastern District Master  
[jamestenpas53@gmail.com](mailto:jamestenpas53@gmail.com)  
920 207-6007

## Last Chance—Hunter & State Raffle

We were to turn in our State Charity Raffle Tickets by April 9th. If you have not gotten those stubs/monies turned in, contact Steve Powers and let him know when you can. He has to get our council monies turned into State soon. We get approximately \$2 of every \$5 ticket back to our council for our charitable use.

However our other raffle, the Hunter's Raffle is still underway. On the April 17/18 weekend Masses we will be putting baskets out with separate envelopes containing \$20 of raffle tickets for the Hunter's Raffle. We need your Hunters' Raffle tickets back not later than Tuesday April 20th 4pm—and if you are returning stubs/monies that day, best to drop those off in the parish office by that time.



**Mission MXB360 Crossbow  
Mossberg 30-06 Bolt Action Rifle  
Savage .243 Bolt Action Rifle**

## Our By-laws are a Compass

*By Steve Hesprih, Grand Knight*

The process to revise very outdated by-laws has been underway since September 2020. In March with Covid challenging our meeting attendance, and with guidance from the State Advocate, we went to a combination email and mail vote to change the bylaws. This was a complete replacement of the by-laws because identifying the individual changes was extensive since there had never been changes to the council by-laws since the original ones established April 5, 1937.

Supreme directly controls the language of by-laws now through automation on Member Management. The council can change certain parameters but cannot control the language of the by-laws.

Everyone received those parameters in March. Here were the more significant ones:

- 1) Dues will change beginning calendar year 2022 from \$20 to \$25. Honorary members continue to only have to pay per capita dues (state and supreme). Honorary Life members are not required to pay dues.
- 2) The Financial Secretary (FS) compensation is 8% of dues collected. This is the lowest percentage that Supreme allows. The FS can opt out of receiving the compensation if he chooses.
- 3) The quorum for a meeting so as to conduct official council business is 8 members. It was originally 15 members.

If there is no formal request for audit in writing by April 19, 2021, all the ballots will be destroyed. The new by-laws take effect April 20, 2021. All 86 members were sent a ballot. One was returned undeliverable. The final vote was 17 in favor, one opposed and the remainder abstained (by not returning a vote or by actually indicating abstaining). The margin required to change the by-laws was 2/3 vote of those who cast a vote.

## The Compass of Security - Insurance

*By Tim Nowak, General Agent*



Dear State Family and Brother Knights,

Hoping against hope, that your Easter season has found you looking toward spring with fresh eyes. I also love this time of year when leaves are coming on and the Lord has Risen.

Time has now begun to look to the last quarter of the fraternal year and as we continue to look for ways to serve the church and our fellow members of the Knights of Columbus, we plan to grow the order with each of you as partners in this effort. The insurance division of the Knights in Wisconsin and the UP are still looking to add more quality Men to our team. The opportunity to serve and provide protection is still our priority to every family in our jurisdiction. It is in the last quarter that doing more Fraternal Benefits Nights will allow for councils to engage all their parish families and get them to sign up to learn about the products and services we provide to members. In addition, it will help to add more Families to our ranks to put more manhours into all the charity and unity projects that went undone during 2020. I wish you all great success is getting good turnouts of people needing to hear our message.

Speaking of messages during lent, the second reading on the 5th Friday in Lent spoke to something that most of us have heard at least once or twice. That Abraham was not given the Father of Nations due to the law but due to the faith he had in God our Father. It is said that Faith is what gives him the hope against hope in the promise of God. I would ask you all to know that our Heavenly Father has just as much promise for each of us that he had for Abraham. The plan he has for us, is just a faith promised as it was for Abraham and knowing that will make all the difference going forward in how we change our communities and revive the church in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Each month we track how we're doing in bringing in new members to the Knights of Columbus. But we should also track how many new activities we do that focuses on the young Fathers and Mothers in our parishes. Family is the base to our communities and parishes and with the right focus we can make the charitable actives and the fraternal activities during this time so focused that we grow who we are and what is most important. Family was most important to Abraham and is should be for us as well.

Looking for projects that support our Priest during times of low attendance such as healing masses and month rosaries can make all the difference. Bring food to your Priest or sending a card of 'Thank You' can give them the boost that is always welcome. I received a couple of thank you cards in the last month from someone who lost the patriarch of their family and who was feeling blessed that the process of handling the paperwork went smoothly and, with our help, seamlessly. It really helps to hear good words of encouragement. So please know that I, thank both the young and old Brothers of Membership for the good works you do each week in your councils and parishes.

Vivat Jesu! *Tim Nowak*

## Compass Minutes—March Meeting

By Tom Jodarski, Council Recorder

The meeting began at 7 pm. After opening prayer and pledge the minutes of the February 16, 2021 meeting were approved as written. They were as previously emailed and shown in the March 2021 newsletter.



**Chaplain's Report:** Fr. John read from the "Knights to Christ" reading on Fraternity from the St. Patrick March 17th entry. He told us about all St. Patrick had to endure in his life, with prayer being a key reason for his survival. The entry is themed on the love of Christ and a portion of a prayer attributed to St. Patrick. The reflective question of that entry is "How can we emulate Saint Patrick's complete trust in God?" Fr. John invited members to attend Thursday March 25th Communal Penance Service. This Friday March 19th is the Solemnity of St. Joseph.

**Grand Knight Report:** Steve talked about the PAT (Parish Action Team) meeting held on Tuesday March 9th. He presented a proposal for a "service online action" to help the parish offset lower offertory this past year; perhaps more important that auction will consist primarily of family service for a variety of services such as lawn mowing, painting rooms, and perhaps an outing for the parish community. The outline of the auction and two sample ideas were given to members attending. The PAT meeting consists of the 18 groups and certain major fundraising efforts of the parish. Each group takes a few minutes to describe what they are doing. The meeting is held twice yearly, the other time being September.

The Supreme Council has introduced a video series called "KnightCast". It is designed to help Knights become better men, fathers, Catholics, etc. The first one was held Thursday February 25th. It appears it will be monthly. The state council conducted a virtual "State of the State" meeting attended by Steve. They talked about ideas for charitable programs and membership, including the Jan 1 - March 15 promotion. We needed to get one new member in that time period to have our next State per capita forgiven, in the amount of approximately \$250. We did not get a new member so therefore we still own April-September per capita. The call also suggested there might be a reduction on some Star Council requirements which indeed have now been announced. Supreme to reduce the membership quota because of Covid 20%. That means our council needs net 3 new members (we have 1 so far this year). Other reductions mean we have achieved 100% of all requirements, Programs -done,; administration - done, Membeship 33%, Insurance - done.

April 20th is the Hunter's Raffle drawing. We had thought about having a short business meeting after the drawing to vote on the new proposed bylaws. Instead, after checking with State Advocate Paul Lang, he has indicated we can do an email and letter vote and so we will proceed with that. And there will be no April business meeting. Had discussion about adding food to our April 20th, maybe a "Hunter's Chili". Steve Hesprih was asked to see if we can find someone to help with food. We would need a donation of venison - Dick Schwab may be able to donate some. If we do food - 5 - 6:30pm would be the time to do the dinner. We could bundle the food cost

with a raffle ticket. \$10 for meal plus \$10 for a ticket. What could be done for a family food/ticket package.

Randy Boehm and Steve Hesprih are the council delegates to the State Convention. We will be attending virtually from the St. Patrick School library from 9:30am to 4pm Saturday May 1st. Anyone who might want to just watch would need to contact Steve by phone when they arrive so we can let them in the school.

**Treasurer's Report:** We have \$1177 in the general fund; \$2127 in the Charity Fund.

**Membership Report:** We need two new members to reach Star Council. New members can join online, free through June 30, 2021 if they also then attend a virtual or live exemplification to receive their first through third degrees.

**Family Director Report:** The Joe Buttner Family is the Family of the Month for February.

**Community Report:** Raffles - we will have a table at the March 20-21 weekend Masses to have ticket packets available for parishioners. We will also do it again the weekend of April 17/18 for the Hunter's Raffle. The State Raffle tickets/monies need to be returned to the parish (or Steve Powers) no later than April 9th. The council discussed and voted on how LAST year's State Raffle money of \$1134 rounded to \$1200 would be distributed. The vote to do so was \$400 for each of Food pantry (paid last fall), St. Benedict Tuition Assistance Fund and Westside School Clothing Closet.

Here's the amounts each of the grades 5th through 8th grade received from our "No-bake" breakfast: \$569, \$570, \$564, and \$625 respectively. While this amount exceeds any of the actual breakfasts we've done in the past, the "priceless" piece missing this year was the community and service work an actual breakfast provides. We expect next Fall we should be able to return to in person breakfasts and perhaps we could do a "no-bake" for the Saturday 5pm Mass attendees.

**Fourth Degree Report:** There will be a 4th degree virtual exemplification on Saturday May 15, 2021, cost is \$50. A flyer was previously emailed.

**New business:** no new business.

Good of the Order: Prayer intentions - Fr. Clayton, pastor of St. Mary's in Lyndon Station is not doing well in his recovery from a auto accident; Past Grand Knight Bob Penscover who is now a member of the Baraboo council. He had lung surgery and there have been complications.

Meeting was adjourned 8:03pm

**Calendar** (can also be found in different format on our council web page (link is in the footer of this page))

| DATE                             | TIME          | EVENT   | HOST          | NOTES   |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---|---------------|---|
| Sunday April 11, 2021            |               | Divine Mercy Sunday   | Parish        |   |
| <b>Tuesday April 20, 2021</b>    | <b>7pm</b>    | <b>Hunter's Raffle drawing</b>                                    | <b>KC2770</b> | <b>Reardon Hall - public welcome; social</b>                                      |
| Tuesday April 20, 2021           | 7:15pm        | Council Meeting Reardon Hall; short meeting possible by-laws vote | KC2770        |   |
| Saturday May 1, 2021             | all day       | KC State Convention - Virtual for our Delegates                   | State KC      | School Library after 1st Saturday Mass 9am till 4pm                               |
| Sunday May 9, 2021               |               | Mother's Day  | Family        |   |
| Sunday May 16, 2021              |               | Ascension Sunday  | Parish        |   |
| Tuesday May 18, 2021             | 6:30pm        | Officers Meeting Reardon Hall                                     | KC2770        |   |
| Tuesday May 18, 2021             | 7pm           | Council Meeting Reardon Hall - Elections for 2021-2022            | KC2770        |   |
| Sunday May 23, 2021              |               | Pentecost   | Parish        |   |
| Sunday May 30, 2021              | 8am           | Mass Intention for the Knights (Trinity Sunday)                   | Parish        |   |
| Sunday June 6, 2021              | 10am Mass     | Corpus Christi  | Parish        | parade to Riverside Park pavilion after Mass with this and last year Communicants |
| Tuesday June 15, 2021            | 6:30pm        | Officers Meeting Reardon Hall                                     | KC2770        |   |
| Tuesday June 15, 2021            | 7pm           | Council Meeting Reardon Hall                                      | KC2770        |   |
| Tuesday July 20, 2021            | 6:30pm        | Officers Meeting Reardon Hall                                     | KC2770        |   |
| Tuesday July 20, 2021            | 7pm           | Council Meeting Reardon Hall                                      | KC2770        |   |
| <b>Tuesday, November 2, 2021</b> | <b>5:30pm</b> | <b>Memorial Mass for Deceased Knights St Patrick's Church</b>     | <b>KC2770</b> |   |

**Council Officers & Directors**

|                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Steve Hesprich    | Grand Knight            |
| Fr. John Potaczek | *Chaplain               |
| Bill Powers       | Deputy Grand Knight     |
| Donald Kratcha    | Chancellor              |
| Randy Boehm       | *Financial Secretary    |
| Jim Kolba         | Treasurer               |
| Brett Kudick      | Advocate                |
| Tom Jodarski      | Recorder                |
| open              | Warden                  |
| Matt Schwab       | Inside Guard            |
| Dick Schwab       | Outside Guard           |
| Stephen Powers    | Trustee for One Year    |
| Harry Buttner     | Trustee for Two Years   |
| Jon Field         | Trustee for Three Years |

\*Program Director Bill Powers  
 \*Family Director Jon Field  
 \*Community Dir Howard Boppart  
 \*Faith Director  
 \*Life Director  
 \*appointed, not elected



**Knights' Compass**

is a monthly publication of the Solomon Juneau Council 2770 in Mauston, WI  
 Questions and requests for copies may be directed to Steve@Hesprich.com / cell-Text: 608-400-2638.  
 The monthly council newsletter is published on our website.