

Save the Date!

4th Degree Exemplification Scheduled for Saturday March 2nd

Host Assembly: Frank A Barrett Assembly 1224

Casper Wyoming

Start planning to attend this Exemplification as our Supreme Master and our Vice Supreme Master will be in attendance.

This exemplification will also be done under the newly revised 4th Degree that has only been complete in a handful of locations. Plan on having your family join us as the revised degree is open to families as well.

More details to be sent out to Councils and Assemblies.

Please contact FN Bret Ladenburger for questions or additional information.

ladenburgerkofc@gmail.com



GILLETTE KNIGHTS IN ACTION

Gillette Council had a tremendous amount of help from brother Knights led by Buddy Cater in the annual tootsie roll drive. Pictured here is Grand Knight John Cosner with a check to Special Olympics received by son and father and Knights James and Phil Grabrick.



COUNCIL 7453 KNIGHTS IN ACTION

Council 7453 in Green river is on the move! We are kicking off the Lenten Season with a Superbowl Chili Feed on Superbowl Sunday. 10 Knights volunteered to make their favorite chili for the event. Proceeds are earmarked for new statues for ICC's outdoor Christmas Manger. We will follow that event with a "Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras Dinner" on February Feb.13. This event will include smoked sausage/chicken gumbo, rice, garlic bread, king cake and fruit drinks. Proceeds for this event will be used for the RSVP Program and "Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest". Following that we will begin our Lenten Friday Fish Frys on Feb 16 through the end of Lent. Proceeds from this event are used in our "Aaron Palm Scholarship Essay Contest" for graduating Seniors from the ICC Parish.

SUBMISSON INFORMATION

Please feel free to make any submissions to wyokcnews@gmail.com. I will do my best to put out an issue of The Cowboy Bulletin every month, but I need your help to know what's going on out there. Upcoming events, council projects, and sharing ideas that could benefit other councils are all things we as Knights are interested in hearing about. Remember that we are Brother Knights, united in one cause.

Vivat Jesus

Steve Grapes



CODY KNIGHTS IN ACTION

Knights of Columbus Council 4031 St. Anthony of Padua



I have some exciting news to share about Council #4031 in Cody at St. Anthony's of Padua. Today, I am pleased to announce the recipients of our 2023 Knight of the Year and Family of the Year awards.

Let's extend our congratulations to James Klessons, who has been recognized as our Knight of the Year for 2023. Paul and Marleen Sibley were selected as 2023's family of the year.

Lastly, I would like to draw your attention to one of our Council's most important fundraising events, the Buffalo Bill Birthday Ball. This annual event, hosted by the Cody Knights of Columbus Council #4031, is a significant source

of support for our local charities and service programs. The Ball will be taking place on February 24, 2024, at the

Cody Auditorium, located at 1240 Beck Ave. in Cody.

Tickets are available for advance purchase \$45 per person, or \$50 per person at the door. The doors will open at 5pm, and a delicious prime rib dinner will be served starting at 6pm. Following the meal, there will be live entertainment and a silent auction. The Buffalo Bill Birthday Ball promises an enjoyable evening of great food, live music, and dancing. This event is open to the entire community, and we invite everyone to join us for a memorable time.

As an additional way to raise funds, we will be hosting a raffle during the Ball. The lucky winner will walk away with a Henry Golden Boy .22 Magnum Rifle. Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$10 for one ticket or \$25 for three tickets.

We hope to see you at the Buffalo Bill Birthday Ball and appreciate your support for our Council and the important causes we strive to assist.

Best Regards,

KofC Council 4031

WORLAND KNIGHTS IN ACTION.

-- March For Life

Council 8635 organized a March For Life on Saturday, January 20th, and the march was well attended by approx. 40 people. The march was organized by Life Chair Travis White, Recorder Doug Clark, Grand Knight Rod Wittkop, and of course our Pastor, Father Robert Rodgers.

After the march everyone was invited to St. Mary Magdalen Church for a wonderful chili luncheon with chili made by Brothers Rod Wittkop and Dave Mislowski. Everyone had a wonderful time at both the march and the chili luncheon.



-Kitchen Organization & Shelving

Like many church kitchens, you accumulate lots of items over the years and sometimes the organization gets the best of everyone! Brothers Mark Reinig and Mark Kuykendall decided to build some new shelving in the dishwashing and storage area and do an overall straightening up of all the supplies and cooking supplies.









More..WORLAND KNIGHTS IN ACTION

-- Railing Installation

A safety railing was installed by the Knights at the front porch of the church rectory. A railing has been needed for a long time, and now you can safely climb the 3 steps up to the front door.



-- Water Line Modification

Brother Wes Baumstarck led a small crew to repair some water line issues that have plagued the kitchen area for quite some time. Wes used his plumbing skills to install backflow equipment and now hot and cold water runs just as it's supposed to everywhere in the church building.

Fraternally yours, Mark Kuykendall Worland Council #8635





Worthy Grand Knight and Program Chairmen,

The Fraternal year is proceeding as you have planned, I trust, and while the year is not over it is time to reflect and choose the activities you want to showcase. Our Wyoming Councils have been as active and vibrant this year as of any of the last 100 years that Wyoming has had Knight of Columbus Councils. It is truly exciting to be part of a Brotherhood in which we share common beliefs and excitement for our Faith. We do this through our Council activities based in our Faith in Action.

The Faith in Action program sections have given you a guide for using and demonstrating those time-honored gifts of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. First and foremost, the Council completed activities needs to be told in the reports you submit for the Columbian Awards Application (#SP-7). You will find that form and the others that I will reference throughout this letter listed below.

You now also have the opportunity to submit your Council's activities to the State for consideration for the State Awards. As you fill out those award forms, use the **FAITH IN ACTION guidebook** from the Supreme website as a guide. The **Fraternal Programs Report Form** will also help guide you through the process.

Once you have completed that process, please do us the honor of submitting your single best program or activity in each of the four (4) categories: **Faith, Family, Community, and Life** to the State Council for judging **before** the Wyoming State Convention being held in Cheyenne, April 26th through the 28th.

Award nominations are due to April 12th!

The Form State Council Service Program Awards Entry Form (#STSP) is the proper way to submit each of these entries for four categories. You are also encouraged to submit Wyoming State Family of the Year (form #10680) and the Wyoming State Knight of the Year (no form as it is a State Program). The links for the forms are listed below.

For the 2nd straight year the Knights are accepting the **State Blessed Michael McGivney Award** (form #SBMMA). A matter of courtesy and protocol it would probably be best to obtain the Priest's permission to nominate him.

We need to have the entries in early to judge the **Faith, Family, Community and Life** entries plus the **Wyoming State Family of the Year** and the **Wyoming State Knight of the Year**.

The Past State Deputies will conduct an on-line review and judging as we did last year. We found that the ability to see, read, and review the submissions with more time was beneficial. In the past when having to do these on an early Friday morning, many times we ran into and over some of the opening ceremonies at the Convention. Please note again the due date is April 12th.

There's more to know on the next page......







I am excited to see the entries that will be submitted. You must always remember that when you spread the word about what you do, it is an encouragement to others. We do many good works for Charity, Unity and Fraternity. Please celebrate and share that Columbianism.

Links referenced above:

Columbian Award link: https://www.kofc.org/en/forms/council/columbian awardap p.pdf

State Service Award link: https://www.kofc.org/en/forms/council/state_serviceaward_p.pdf

Fraternal Reports form link: https://www.kofc.org/en/for-members/resources/council-forms.html

State Blessed Michael McGivney Award: https://www.kofc.org/en/forms/council/state-blessed-michael-mcgivney -award.pdf

Family of the Year: https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-programs/family/family-of-the-month-year/10680-family-of-year-form.pdf

Tootsie Roll & Lifesaver report link: https://www.wyomingkc.org/forms.html

tootsie-roll-reporting-form.1.1 (wyomingkc.org)

2017-lifesaver-report.pdf (wyomingkc.org)

To ensure that the entries will be there to be judged for the awards please submit them to me, **PSD Bret Laden-burger by April 12**th. You can email them to me at ladenburgerkofc@gmail.com. Please make sure they are in PDF format. If you are mailing them allow enough time to have them delivered by April 12, 2024 to:

Bret Ladenburger 6638 Mustang Trail Evansville WY 82636

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Vivat Jesus.

Bret Ladenburger, PSD

Wyoming State Awards Chairman

But ladaling

307-760-1003

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FEBRUARY 2024 MARKET INSIGHTS

By: <u>Tony Minopoli</u>, <u>President & CIO</u> of <u>Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors</u>

For the month of January, the stock market, as measured by the S&P 500, returned 1.7%. The equity market has been watching the Fed very closely for clues on when the Federal Reserve might want to start cutting the Federal Funds rate. The more recent inflation and wage data has not been as constructive for rate cuts so we will need to pay close attention to earnings to see if equities can propel higher from this level. Early earnings reports have shown some weakness thus the stock market strength since November has been significantly driven by expected rate cuts by the Fed.

The bond market, as measured by the Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index, returned -0.3% for the month1. It was an active month in fixed income. While the 10-year Treasury yield increased by 3 basis points, ending January at a yield of 3.91%, we saw a high of 4.18% and a low of 3.88%1. The 2-year Treasury declined by 4 basis points and ended the month at a yield of 4.21%1. The market has been very focused on the shape of the yield curve which at one point in 2023, saw the yield of the 2-year Treasury over 100 basis points higher than the 10-year Treasury. Historically, an inverted yield curve has portended a recession. More recently, the spread between 2-year and 10-year Treasury issues has increased by 7 basis points to about -30 basis points1. The 2-year to 10-year yield spread narrowed to a low of -17 basis points and was as wide as -42 basis

points1. Does the lessening of the yield curve inversion mean that a recession is off the table? We do not think that this is the case, but a movement to a flatter curve may lead to a less severe recession if one occurs.

As we look at other economic indicators, oil was up nearly \$5.50 per barrel during the month to \$75.85 and hit a high during the month of over \$781. The continued unrest in the Middle East due to the continued fighting in Gaza and the aggressive activities of the Houthi rebels are all adding into the upward pressure on the price of oil. Inflation continues to be an issue as headline inflation grew by 3.4% yearover-year and grew by 3.9% when food and energy are factored out of the equation1. Unemployment stood at 3.7% in January and hourly earnings are increasing at an annual rate of 4.5%1. Economic activity continues to show strength with Factory Orders increasing by 0.2%, Durable Goods flat month over month, Industrial Production up 0.1% from the previous month, and the S&P 500 manufacturing PMI was 50.7, indicating expansion in the manufacturing sector1. Finally, the Index of Leading Indicators was down 0.1%, continuing to indicate a coming slowdown in economic activity1.

What does all of this mean? When we look at the continued strength in the employment market and wages that are growing in excess of inflation, it may be difficult for the Fed to start cutting rates. The Fed has a mandate to control inflation and to keep the economy at maximum employment. By any measure, an unemployment rate of 3.7% illustrates very little slack in the labor market. This is certainly part of the explanation for wages growing at 4.5% over the trailing 12 months. We continue to believe that the Fed is most focused on slowing inflation so we could see the Fed either pause on the start of a rate cutting cycle and, in the extreme, be forced to tighten fiscal policy even further. We believe the next releases of inflation data will be key, particularly on the heels of the recent release of job creation and wage growth statistics.

Beyond our economic issues, we need to remain focused on the continued fighting in Ukraine. As we



have discussed previously, Putin wants Ukrainian territory to end fighting and Ukraine wants the Russians and their proxies out of Ukraine. It appears that the European Union may be ready to fund Ukraine for an additional 50 billion euros in military aid. Recent reports have indicated that Ukraine is in need of ammunition and other munitions to keep up their fight. Part of the mess is that Russia wants to claim territory that they only believe they are entitled to, and while the world is growing weary of funding this war, questions of corruption over all of the aid that has flowed into Ukraine since the start of the conflict are mounting.

The unrest in the Middle East is also a significant issue facing the world. After Hamas murdered innocent Israelis, Israel struck into Gaza with a goal of the eradication and destruction of Hamas. In the meantime, Hezbollah and Houthi rebels have been active. Hezbollah has fired rockets into Israel and the Houthis have been wreaking havoc by firing on cargo and oil vessels. The U.S. has been bombing Houthi weapon caches and the USS Carney has been actively intercepting a number of Houthi fired rockets. Iran has been posturing that they do not want war and the activity is solely the Houthis, however,

we view this as a pretty thin argument given that the Iranians are the financial supporter for the Houthis. The destabilizing impact of this fighting is the concern, particularly if the fighting grows to encompass the entire region and other countries.

Finally, the Presidential election season is fully upon us. The Republican side is really down to two viable candidates: Donald Trump and Nikki Haley. It is interesting that recent polls show that Trump and Biden are in a statistical dead heat, however, Nikki Haley leads Biden. Such is the state of play, as Haley might have a better chance of beating Biden in a national election across partisan and independent voters, but she may not be able to win her own party's nomination. We also think there could be a late switch for President Biden given widely accepted views on his cognitive decline. There are more miles to cover and more twists and turns before final nominations. The unsettled nature of this election may add to market volatility.

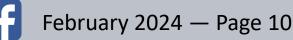
Other than all of this, there is not much going on! Until next month.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT A CAREER WITH THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Work You Can Believe In

Working for the Knights of Columbus, you won't need to check your principles at the door. You can carry them with you. Our field agents also work closely with our councils to help grow membership and increase charitable impact. In addition to helping safeguard the financial futures of Catholic families in your community, you will also make the world a better place by helping those in need. https://yourfaithinfinance.com/Careers/Find-Out-More







Knights of Columbus Unified Participation in the National Eucharistic Revival

The Eucharist is the source and summit in the life of a Knight. The more we devote ourselves to the Eucharist. the more we will understand what it means to be a Knight.

- Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly

The Bishops of the United States have invited all US Catholics to return to the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist. As Knights, we should respond to this call for a National Eucharistic Revival, which "...is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery... by helping us renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist" (eucharisticrevival.org).

We encourage all Knights to find ways to participate in this revival – individually, as a local council, and at the state level.

Below are some of our recommendations for this year as we prepare for the National Eucharistic Congress.

INDIVIDUAL KNIGHTS

- Sacrifice for Our Lord and the Revival: Abstain from meat on Fridays as a form of penance, prayer and devotion.
- Pray with Our Lady: Pray the Rosary the 12th of each month (in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe 12/12 and Blessed McGivney's birthday 8/12) for the success of the Revival and an increase in devotion to Christ in the Eucharist.
- Prepare your heart: Arrive 10-15 minutes early to each Mass to contemplate Jesus' gift of himself.
- Give thanks: Offer 5 minutes of prayerful praise after each Mass and pray the Anima Christi.
- Be with Our Lord: Spend 30 extra minutes every week outside of Mass sitting or kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament.
- Attend Daily Mass: On days you cannot, make an act of Spiritual Communion.
- Pray for the gift of the Spirit during the National Eucharistic Procession: Starting May 10, 2024, pray the Novena to Holy Spirit in preparation for Pentecost and start of National Eucharistic Procession (May 17th) Learn more about the National Eucharistic Procession at www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org.
- Unite with fellow Catholics: Register for the National Eucharistic Congress and encourage others to join you! (July 17 21, 2024, Indianapolis, Indiana.) Knights of Columbus members are eligible for a discounted registration by visiting www.eucharisticcongress.org and using the discount code: knights.





LOCAL COUNCILS

- Pray together: Each month, invite members to pray the Rosary together on the 12th for the success of the Revival and an increase in devotion to Christ in the Eucharist.
- Adore and reconcile with Our Lord: Organize the Holy Hour Program with the Sacrament & Reconciliation.
 - **Encourage parish participation**: Share the Knights of Columbus Eucharistic Revival & Eucharistic Procession materials with your pastor/chaplain and offer to assist him in promoting Adoration and coordinating a Eucharistic Procession (www.kofc.org/eucharist).
- Unite at the Congress: Talk to your pastor to see if your parish will be represented at the National Eucharistic Congress. Register as a group from your parish/council for the National Eucharistic Congress (July 17 21, 2024, Indianapolis, Indiana). Knights of Columbus members are eligible for a discounted registration by visiting **www.eucharisticcongress.org** and using the discount code: **knights**.
 - Revival in your Council Meeting: Invite your council lecturer or another speaker to present on topics related to the Eucharist.

STATE COUNCILS

- Promote fraternal prayer: Send monthly reminders to pray the Rosary together on the 12th for the success of the Revival and an increase in devotion to Christ in the Eucharist.
- Provide encouragement: State deputies could encourage participation in the Holy Hour program lylocal councils.
- Organize diocesan or statewide devotion: Request, plan, and manage a diocesan or statewide Eucharistic Procession. Invite all Catholics through councils, parishes, and, when possible, diocesan offices. For Eucharistic Procession guides and resources visit kofc.org/eucharist
- Bring the Eucharist to the Nation: Participate in the National Eucharistic Procession by:

Learning more about the National Eucharistic Procession and explore resources on

www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org.

Partner with General Agents to offer assistance to dioceses as the Eucharist crosses through your state.

Provide maps and information about the Eucharistic Procession to local councils.

■ **Foster fraternity**: Encourage a group from each council to register for the National Eucharistic Congress (July 17 – 21, 2024, Indianapolis, Indiana). Knights of Columbus members are eligible for a discounted registration by visiting **www.eucharisticcongress.org** and using the discount code: **knights**.





For more information on the Eucharistic Revival,

please visit kofc.org/eucharist.



SUPREME CHAPLAIN'S MONTHLY CHALLENGE

FEBRUARY 2024

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; then from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." (Gospel for Feb. 25, Mk 9:7)

In last month's challenge, we talked about recognizing Jesus' presence and power in our lives. Here, at his baptism, we hear the voice of God instructing us very simply: "Listen to him." It is not enough to acknowledge Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. We must also be attentive to his teachings — communicated through sacred Scripture and sacred tradition — and respond by following him faithfully. This is the path of the true disciple who understands his own baptismal mission. May we follow this path faithfully throughout our lives.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to spend at least 10 minutes each day in prayerful silence, contemplating the presence of Jesus and listening for his voice.

Questions for Reflection:

How do you listen for the voice of Jesus? What steps can you take in your prayer life, your spiritual reading, your pious practices and your religious study to hear his voice more clearly? What dispositions and virtues should you foster within yourself in order to become more open and responsive to what Christ is telling you?

FAITH IN ACTION PROGRAMS

CONSECRATION TO HOLY FAMILY

Help strengthen families and revitalize our parishes.

A HIGHER PURPOSE

Revitalize our parishes by urging our parish families to devote themselves to the ideal model of familial love set by Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Invite each family in your parish to consecrate themselves to the Holy Family.

OVERVIEW

To help families live out the joy of Christ, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori has composed a prayer through which families will come together to consecrate themselves under the protection of the Holy Family. In this prayer, we ask for the aid or intercession of the perfect son Jesus Christ, Mary the perfect mother, and Joseph who is a model for every father. Councils will guide their parishes and community to understand and offer this prayer. Preparing for the Consecration to the Holy Family is not a single event. It is choosing a way of life for your family. Through this consecration, each participant is consciously choosing to be a beacon of God's love through His Church.

SEMINARIANS OF THE DIOCESE OF CHEYENNE

Lee Noel



Theology III
University of Saint Mary of the Lake

1000 E. Maple Ave. Mundelein, IL 60060

Home parish: Newman Center, Laramie email: Inoel@dcwy.org

Daniel Simon



Pre-Theology I University of Saint Mary of the Lake

1000 E. Maple Ave. Mundelein, IL 60060

Home parish: St. Mary's Cathedral, Cheyenne email: dsimon@dcwy.org

Dokken Malmberg



Propaedeutic Year
Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary

700 Terrace Heights, Box #808 Winona, MN 55987

Home parish: Holy Name, Sheridan email: dmalmberg@dcwy.org

Anthony Richter



Theology I University of Saint Mary of the Lake

1000 E. Maple Ave. Mundelein, IL 60060

Home Parish: St. Matthew's, Gillette email: arichter@dcwy.org



Wyoming Knights of Columbus—For the Good of the Order

Deceased Knights

- —Ray Haydel of Council 9917 in Casper passed away on January 15, 2023.
- —Jim Spaulding of Council 9917 in Casper passed away February 10, 2023.
- —Neal Forbes of Council 11291 in Saratoga passed away January 20, 2023.
- —<u>Bob Otero</u> of Council 6623 in Torrington passed away February 5, 2023.
- —<u>Carl Joe Welte</u> of Council 6623 in Torrington passed away March 10, 2023.
- —Rev Fr. Robert Fox of Council 6558 in Douglas passed away March 28, 2023.
- —Neil Obrigewitch of Council 6558 in Douglas passed away May 12, 2023.
- —Marty Connolly of Council 2578 in Thermopolis passed away March 1, 2023.
- -Alfirio "Al" Martinez of Council 1563 in Casper passed away July 7, 2023.
- —Dennis Eckhardt of Council 4031 in Cody, passed away June 8, 2023
- ---Ken Piazza of Council 4031 in Cody, passed away July 12, 2023
- -- Fr Tom Ogg, past Wyoming State Chaplain, passed away August 23, 2023.



-Mike Varney of Council 6623 in Torrington, passed away May 3, 2023

—Andrew Stropka of Council 2578 in Thermopolis, passed away June 4, 2023.



—<u>Cole Fitsimmons</u> of Council 6623 in Torrington, passed away December 23, 2023.



Gary Klispie of Council 8635 in Worland passed away January 6, 2024

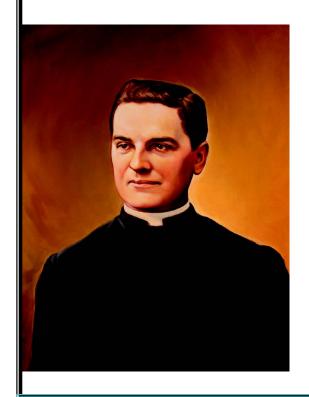
Please pray for our Brother Knights:

Please send any future prayer intentions to wyokcnews@gmail.com





Blessed Father Michael McGivney



Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

Founder of the Knights of Columbus

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please report all favors received: The Father McGivney Guild 1 Columbus Plaza New Haven, CT 06510-3326 • USA www.fathermcgivney.org

Painting by Chas Fagan © Knights of Columbus

A Prayer for Study

Lord, give us a mind that is humble, quiet, peaceable, patient and charitable, and a taste of your Holy Spirit in all our thoughts, words and deeds.

O Lord, give us a lively faith, a firm hope, a fervent charity, a love of You. Take from us all lukewarmness in meditation and all dullness in prayer. Give us fervor and delights in thinking of You, Your grace and Your tender compassion toward us.

Give us, good Lord, the grace to work for the things we pray for.

Saint Thomas More (1478-1535)

To aid blind or low vision members in your council or parish, direct them to <u>xavierso-cietyfortheblind.org</u> for audio and braille versions of many Catholic books and references.

If any member of the Knights of Columbus (or anyone else, for that matter) missed the beatification Mass of Father McGivney, you can still view it at www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMF2aOZBQ3M.

Join the Father McGivney Guild

As the sainthood process for Blessed Father Michael McGivney continues, it becomes ever more important to increase membership in the Father McGivney Guild. Membership stands at over 171,000, but only 464 listed to be from Wyoming. There are 2600 members shown in Wyoming.

Please encourage every Knight in your council, and their families, to join the McGivney Guild. Membership is open to everyone, not just Knights and families. It is easy to sign up at http://www.fathermcgivney.org/en/index.html. And please continue to pray the canonization prayer for Father McGivney.

Shawn Moody

Father McGivney Guild Chairman

esmmoody@gmail.com