



# Alabama Knight Life

Newsletter 10-20-2012

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## LETTER FROM THE ALABAMA STATE DEPUTY 2012 - 2013



**Stephen Koach**  
**Alabama State Deputy**

Brother Knights,

It is hard to believe that we have already completed the first quarter of the fraternal year – time flies when you are having fun! It has been a busy 3 months – your state officers and I attended the Supreme Convention in Anaheim California, and the Guadalupe Festival at the Los Angeles Coliseum, both great events that energized the attendees in their faith and instilled more confidence in the order. We dedicated a new ultra sound machine in the Shoals area, honored our clergy in the Birmingham Diocese with a well attended appreciation dinner, held our regional meetings and sadly said farewell to many brother knights who have gone to their final reward, including Past State Deputy Sam Simonetti. We also provided financial support to our brother Knights in Louisiana following the damage brought on by Hurricane Isaac – thank you for your generosity!

Our recruiting efforts have been slow; we have only recruited 101 new members thus far, well short of our goal of 528. ***We need your help!*** Help keep Alabama in the Circle of Honor – I know we can do it – everyone knows of at least one Catholic man in your parish that is not a Knight – seek him out! Remember the motto for this fraternal year – ***“One Member, Per Council, Per Month”!*** Conversely, we have dropped 84 brother knights since the start of the fraternal year – a sad note indeed. These men and their families have now lost their fraternal benefits and association with the best Catholic men’s organization in existence. We must strive to retain our brother Knights – get the members involved in programs, keep them active and they will stay viable members of your councils. Active members will also become your best recruiters.

Gentlemen, we are a team! We come to the aid of those in distress and fight for the causes we believe in – it is time for us to stand up and support our beloved order and our faith. Your vote in the upcoming election is critical to our future – make sure that you and everyone you know is registered and exercise your right at the ballot box and cast your vote on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Stand up for your rights and religious freedom!

God bless you all.

Vivat Jesus!

*Stephen F. Koach*

State Deputy



## Changing Seasons

As we experience the changes that Autumn brings to Alabama, we note too that this Fraternal Year has been one of Many Changes for the Alabama Knights of Columbus.

As we enter the Fall Season, we have already seen a change in State Council Officers as Steve Koach assumes the State Deputy's role and all of the sitting Officers advanced handily at the August Convention. We welcome Joe Flaherty who was democratically elected Warden to fill that vacancy and offer him congratulations.

In the Fourth Degree we have a New Master for the first time in four years. But, perhaps the bigger news is that Bishop Robert J. Baker (Bishop of Birmingham) has answered the call of serving as the Faithful Friar of our State and will provide the spiritual leadership for our Patriotic Degree alongside the new Master. There is no secret that Patriotism is and needs to be front and center in our Order today.

As a Nation, we are about to experience one of the most uniquely American experiences.....that of democratically electing our nation's leader, the President of the United States. That too may bring a change. In this edition of AKL you will be reminded of the importance to exercise your right to vote and to do so with dignity and the confidence that your vote counts. As our nation has changed so does the outlook for our future and that of our Faith and Families. So, as has been a Knights of Columbus tradition for decades, our Order will urge all citizens to register to vote and to vote their conscience.

We will note a Change in the Directors position with Skip Gentle PSD assuming duties of Membership Director and introducing the new "Power of One" recruitment initiative. We will note too that Eddie Lipscomb PSD is taking on the role of Program Director and that we now have two Past State Deputies leading the all important Membership and Programs segments so vital to our Order.

We will see an emphasis on reading the Catechism of the Catholic Church this year and a link that will send you daily readings that will allow you to complete the entire program in one year's time by simply reading a few paragraphs a day.

But, perhaps the biggest Changes that have taken place have occurred at the local District and Council levels where we now have 19 Districts with new DDs to serve Councils. And, we have seen Councils and Assemblies change leadership and we fraternally join in welcoming those new leaders and wishing them well in their new tasks.

Someone once reminded this editor how nice it would be to change the world and how many times that was the theme of public talks from Political Campaigns to Beauty Contests. The theme is generally to make the world a better place.

Not so coincidentally, if we think about it, we, as members of our honored Order of Knights have that opportunity every day. We have the programs in place that make lives better. We have insurance products available to improve our future. We have recruitment programs to invite Catholic Gentlemen to join our Order and learn for themselves how being a member of the Knights of Columbus will CHANGE them and make them a better Citizen, Brother, Son, Father, Husband, Citizen, and Catholic.

Full, active and conscious participation is what is needed and sharing our values with the world will enhance the lives of all who are willing to come out of the shadows and boldly proclaim the good news of our Faith through the simple ministry of participation in the Knights of Columbus.

So, as the weather continues to Change and we and our Country undergo changes in the future, let us rededicate ourselves to the Principles of our Order and work diligently to renew our commitment to Faith, Family and Fraternity and invite others to join us.

Fraternally,

*Steve Griffin*

Editor – Alabama Knight Life

<http://www.kofc.org/common/wmv/powerofone-20120608.wmv> **Power of One Video**



Take the Time to watch this simple Video in the privacy of your home and see how easy Recruitment can be and how important it is to our Order, to our Country and to our Church

Simply press **Control Key** and **Click**

The production looks at a successful council and its efforts to work with other local councils to make a difference in the local parish and community.

Automated Honorary Life Members:

The Supreme Council office has automated the processing of Honorary/Honorary Life awards and the issuing of the appropriate cards for council/assembly members. This change includes the new Fourth Degree Honorary distinction.

A Knights of Columbus council can work wonders; in fact, with its many programs, it can help change the community, town, city or neighborhood in which you live. However, a successful Knights of Columbus program depends on people taking the initial idea, modifying it to suit specific situations and local needs, then implementing the program in the way it works.



If you ARE registered to vote, please exercise your right on November 6, 2012 and encourage others to do likewise!!

Deadline to Register in Alabama **Oct. 26**

For Decades K of C has been active in insuring that citizens eligible to vote are REGISTERED to do so. This year is no different as the Deadline approaches. Please see below the steps to take to register to vote. Voter Registration in Alabama closes 10 days prior to the election. If you or someone you know has not registered please go to:

<http://www.sos.alabama.gov/elections/VoterRegistrationInfo.aspx>

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## ***The Patriotic Degree of the Order***



### ***The Fourth Degree***

If you are a member of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree and are interested in promoting the Principle of Patriotism and insuring the future of our unborn children, you will want to consider advancing to the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus.

For most men who follow Jesus, there comes a time when duty extends beyond our own lives, beyond how we lead our families, and into how we serve our fellow man. That's what the Knights of Columbus is all about. The Patriotic Degree allows knights to take this one step further. "Sir Knight" is more than a title. It's an honor.

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**Catechism sign up contact: [rmarks@gmail.com](mailto:rmarks@gmail.com)**

The notice to sign up for the daily readings email was also sent by Jerry Brecher.



## The Silver Rose in Alabama

## Bishop Robert Baker

# One Life One Rose

*2012 - Our Lady of Guadalupe Silver Rose Run – One Life, One Rose*

Since April 29, 2012, four Silver Roses have been making their way across North America, from Canada to the United States to Mexico. The Roses began their journey on Dec. 12, 2012, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Monterrey, Mexico.

It is the 52nd year of the program which began in 1960 as a project of the Columbian Squires of North America to honor the Blessed Virgin under her title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. The program has continued since then as a project of Squires Circles, councils and Fourth Degree assemblies in several jurisdictions.



SD – Steve Koach Accepts  
Silver Rose from Florida



Silver Rose transferred from Assembly 2527 to Assembly 2302 during  
its journey through Alabama. **Scheduling for 2013 has begun.**

**For more photos of the Silver Rose as it traveled through our Great State of Alabama go to:**  
<https://picasaweb.google.com/sgrif172/SilverRose?authkey=Gv1sRgCNaHgeS8oYjcwWE>



Robert Baker – Bishop of  
Birmingham - Alabama



The 4<sup>th</sup> Degree of the Alabama Knights of Columbus is pleased to announce that Bishop Robert J. Baker S.T.D, has agreed to serve as **District Friar** for the State of Alabama beginning this fraternal year. District Master of Alabama, Steve Griffin made the announcement Oct. 14, 2012 as he noted how humbled the Alabama Knights were by the Bishop agreeing to serve alongside his Brother Knights of the Alabama Knights of Columbus.



Knights of Columbus  
**INSURANCE**  
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

## A message from the Insurance Agency:

Any Field Agent worth his salt is a natural born recruiter. His name may not be on the form 100 as the proposer, but he points as many men as he can to the fraternal leaders for initiating the process of becoming a member. He will then follow up with the council and the candidate until ultimately attending the First Degree Ceremony, and welcoming the new Brother to our ranks. The reason he does all of this you ask, because the successful growth of OUR Beloved Order is the life blood of our Insurance Organization, which in turn funds on a multi-national level all of the great things the Knights of Columbus accomplish in making the world a better place in the eyes of a true Catholic.

New members are the most important asset to an agent. They are open to meeting and reviewing their finances, and literally looking for ways to making sense of why and how to use our products. Where else in the world can a family purchase financial products, and feel secure that they are not funding any of the non-Catholic agendas that plague our world today? I dare say nowhere. So when a new man joins our ranks, we have our most fertile chance to protect that man with one of our products, while continuing the Good of the Order on a global basis.

In closing, I have to mention what I consider the most pressing issue affecting the Order today. I refer to it as the Fraternal Gap. Even our active members that have insurance attribute to the issue. We continue to berate the less than active members. I am referring to those that don't make meetings, or seldom lift a hand in things that we consider Knights of Columbus business. Many of these men are good Catholics and support the church and her cause in many other ways. We kick them out, instead of reaching out. We agents meet these men all of the time, and they are no longer interested in our products or the Order. They feel outcast for one reason or another, and make statements that refer to us as cliquish, or only interested in our initiatives. The second degree of the Order is Unity, and it is often the most overlooked and misunderstood. They should feel that paying their dues and being an active Catholic is enough, unified in the cause of our Holy Mother Church, not simply in the initiatives of the local council. On Knights of Columbus Sunday, we should take pride when we see Knights serving in all facets of our religion. I often ask myself, why isn't every good Catholic man a Knights of Columbus?

I pray that you each find it in your heart to advance Father McGivney's dream of every Catholic man becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus, and allow that man to serve the Church in their own way. If simply coming to Mass with a Knights of Columbus pin on his lapel is the most he can do, welcome and encourage him. It is not Vivat K of C, it is Vivat Jesus.

Call me:

John H. Stice  
Knights of Columbus Insurance  
Alabama General Agency  
85 Hunter Ridge Lane  
Pell City, AL 35128

o- 205-338-0349  
f- 205-338-0311  
c- 205-908-1253

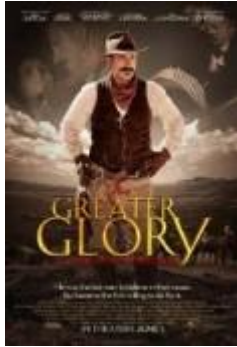
### Contact Us

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[sgrif172@gmail.com](mailto:sgrif172@gmail.com)

[stevegriffin@kofc-alabama.org](mailto:stevegriffin@kofc-alabama.org)

K of C Movie Time is an excellent time to exercise Faith, Family, and Fraternity. Use this marvelous film to bring together Catholics with common core values. This is an excellent recruitment tool, an excellent way to showcase programs and motivate members to stay engaged in the initiatives of our Order so that Retention is a snap. Your council might find how much they have in common over popcorn and a movie about Lost Liberty and the struggle to regain it.



*Check out the Executive Producers of the Film!!*

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**Remember: One Member per Council per Month**

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## PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Knights and Bishop Baker - A Rosary for Life and Vocations at Grotto in Hanceville



**Your Photo here:**

No  
Picture  
Available

➤ *Change this ...for next Issue .....*  
➤ Submit your Photo !!!!!

## ***Clergy/Religious Appreciation Dinner at Our Lady of the Valley – B'ham***



All of the pictures tell a story of a wonderful Celebration complete with a Rosary for Life and for Vocations. These are the types of events that need publishing. These are the stories that need telling. These are the pictures that need to be shown. We cannot do it without your input.

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## **New Masters of Bienville Province with VSM**



From L to R: Steve Griffin – DM Alabama; Russell Anzalone – DM Arkansas; Skip Gentle – Vice Supreme Master Bienville Province; Ron Fogarty – DM Louisiana; Bill O'Connor – DM – Miss.

**You are the Newsmakers....submit your stories and photos to [sgrif172@gmail.com](mailto:sgrif172@gmail.com) before the Winter Edition of Alabama Knight Life**