

# THE KNIGHTLY NEWS



**MOUNT ST. FRANCIS COUNCIL #12228**  
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO**  
*2022 December Edition*

## GRAND KNIGHT'S VIEWS

We didn't exactly tip-toe into 2023.

In track they call it "running through the tape." For the St. Francis Knights of Columbus, it was that final sprint that took us through December in a mad dash to finish 2022 strong. Real Strong. There was no coasting into the new year for this group of Knights. It was a head down, dive in the dirt kind of finish for our council to end a very good year.

We started the final month with a Santa Breakfast, and the jolly, white-bearded Knight from the North Pole took orders from more than 100 kiddos. We threw a Christmas party for Knights and their families. We helped set up the Hall for that next morning's Eucharistic Miracles Display and helped staff the exhibit for the next week. We signed up to staff the Nocturnal Eucharistic Adoration. We put up Christmas trees, lights, and decorations, took down tables and set up 250 chairs in the Hall for Christmas Eve Mass. We guided cars into the parking lot for the Christmas Eve Masses and watched in amazement as eight large fire trucks arrived just as the overflow Mass attendees were trying to get home and open some presents and break out the eggnog.

We started a new program called Outreach that's intended to help folks who need help. Just a moment to talk, or a shoulder to cry on. Or maybe just a ride...to church, to the store, to the dentist. We started with fixing a garbage disposal and it grew from there to something special.

We ended the year strongly on the first day of 2023 with the Knights sponsoring a Consecration to the Holy Family, a "Faith in Action for Families". It's a program that began on December 11 and coincides



with the Feast of the Holy Family. Knight Ben Davis worked with Father Erin to make this three-week program a fitting finish to the year.

We did all of this in the last month of 2022. And you should have seen the first 11 months where we ushered, sang in the choir, served as deacons, filled trucks with food and presents, donated to a large number of organizations that help people, cooked food for more than a thousand at the Marian House, served donuts and coffee to the parish on Sundays, cooked breakfasts and Lenten Dinners, helped our new pastor and council chaplain, used our backs and minds to do many more daily tasks that has established our council as one of the best in the world.

And this effort will set the stage for an amazing 2023 as we'll celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> year as a council at Mount St. Francis. We will continue to grow in a special brotherhood that shines like the star that guided us to Christmas and our Savior.

### *Keep CHRIST in Christmas*

So bright is the radiance of the Light which has come at Christmas, so awesome is the mystery we celebrate, that a single day's observance barely initiates us into the meaning of the feast. Nor does the Church consider stopping with one day's rejoicing as she celebrates the birth of the Savior. Although the commercial world is taking down its trees and tinsel on December 26 to make way for the January white sales, the Church is only beginning a full twelve days of "high feasting" which will reach their climax and zenith on January 6. Then, in the regal splendor of Epiphany, we see another facet of the Incarnation, a facet which completes the Christmas mystery: the tiny Baby born on Christmas night is in reality the King of the whole world. All the expressions of our Advent longing, our pleas for the King and Ruler, "God, the Mighty, Wonderful, the Prince of Peace," may seem extravagant if we keep only December 25 as a feast day and forget the Epiphany, the real fulfillment of Advent expectation for a royal and kingly Savior. – *Catholic.org*



## FAMILY OF THE MONTH

The November 2022 Family of the Month for the Mount St. Francis Knights of Columbus Council 12228 are **Steve and Judy Schwenk**.

For the last three years the Schwenks have managed the Thanksgiving Brown Bag project that has given meals to more than a thousand families and made Thanksgiving something special for each of them.

This year Steve and Judy helped fill more than 300 bags for families in a diocese-wide effort and raised more than \$2,500 in cash that families can use for gift cards to purchase turkeys.

They setup a table in the Narthex for two weeks, got some help from the youth in the Parish to pass out the bags and staff the tables, promoted the effort to the parish and filled up Room A on the bottom floor twice with the results of their efforts. And then they packed 'em all up and delivered them to St. Patrick's for distribution to Catholic Charities and Care and Share Foodbank that made that magic gift of a Thanksgiving meal to a lot of moms and dads, kids and families.

Judy and Steve have been on the Giving and Receiving teams of Christ Renews His Parish. Both are Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers of Communion. Steve also assisted the Silver Rose Mass as a Lector when it came through Colorado Springs going from Canada to Mexico.

You can spot them both in the pews with grandkids, usually at the 10:30 morning Sunday Mass. They are a valuable pair for our parish.

For their passion in the Lord's work, we honor Steve and Judy Schwenk as the November Family of the Month for the Knights of Columbus Council 12228.

- **Bob Condron, Grand Knight**



## KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

Dick Eckenrode has been a Knight for 17 years. He goes to a few meetings, makes the Valentine's party with his daughters and her family. Knows a few of the more mature men in this council. But this honor is not about what he's done for the council. It's more about what he's done for his country.

Dick is probably the only guy in the room to help send a guy to the moon.

He worked on the Mercury project, then Gemini, then the Appollos. He was co-designer of the Gemini's instrument panel. He worked with the original seven astronauts and interfaced with the next 10 astronauts, including Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon.

Dick was a young engineer, having completed his degree at St. Louis University, earning his aeronautical engineering degree. After four years in the Air Force he landed a job at McDonnell Douglas and was assigned to the system engineering group along psychologists, psychiatrists and medical doctors, all combining efforts to train the astronauts and design their space craft's cockpits and control panels.

It must have worked. We made it to the moon.

After the moon projects, Dick worked at Dunlap and Associates in Stamford, Conn, mainly on military projects: tanks, Navy submarines, anti-ship and anti-submarine weapon systems. He wrote a report on all the weapon systems used against submarines for the Navy.

He was eventually recruited by the government after the Three-Mile Island nuclear accident and worked for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission where his job was reviewing the design of 104 nuclear power plant control rooms throughout the U.S.

After that, he did the design review of the reactor control panel of the Virginia Class submarines. Each sub built today relies on the same design.

Ten years ago, he said he'd had enough. Dick moved to Colorado Springs with his late wife Kate after he retired from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and found his way to St. Francis. On Christmas Eve Dick will turn 90. With a whole lot of memories.

For his efforts and contributions to American History we salute Dick Eckenrode for more than Knight of the Month for November 2022. We honor him for his life.

- **Bob Condron, Grand Knight**



## JANUARY NOVENAS

### St. Agnes Novena

Novena Starts: January 12<sup>th</sup> | Feast Day: January 21st  
Birth: ~290 AD

Patron saint of young girls, of purity, of rape survivors,  
of the Children of Mary

O glorious St. Agnes, by the living faith which animated thee from thy tender years and rendered thee so pleasing to God that thou didst merit a martyr's crown: obtain for us the grace to keep our holy faith pure within us and to profess ourselves Christians in both word and work. May our open confession of Jesus before men cause Him to bear a favorable witness to us before His eternal Father.

O invincible Martyr, St. Agnes, by thy confidence in God's help, when being condemned by the Roman prefect to see the lily of thy purity stained and trampled in the mud, thou didst not despair, still trusting firmly in God. We beseech thee by thine intercession to obtain for us from Almighty God the forgiveness of our sins and sure confidence that He will bestow upon us life everlasting and the means necessary to merit it.

O courageous maiden, St. Agnes most pure, by the burning love with which thy heart was on fire, and which preserved thee from harm in the midst of the flames of passion and of the stake with which the enemies of Christ sought to destroy thee. Obtain for us from Almighty God that every unclean flame may be extinguished in us and only the fire of Divine Love may burn within us. So that after spending a blameless life in practice of this virtue we may be worthy to have a share in the glory thou didst merit by the purity of thy heart and thy glorious martyrdom. Amen. St. Agnes, virgin, and martyr, pray for us.



### Respect Life Novena

Novena Starts: January 21<sup>st</sup> | Feast Day: January 30th  
For unborn babies

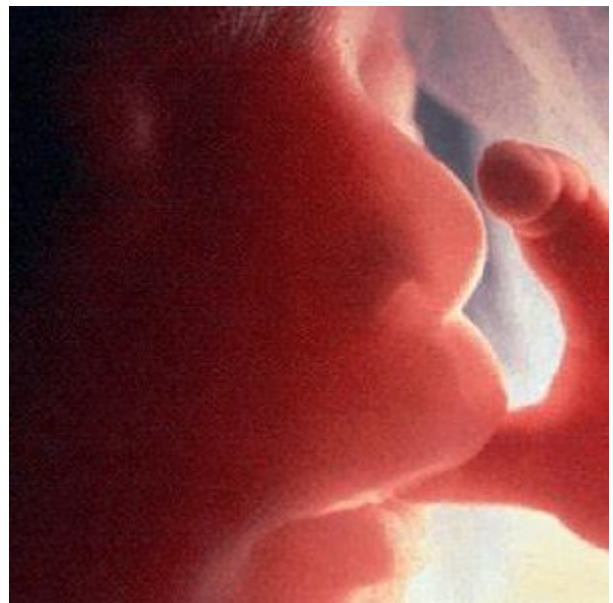
Father and maker of all, you adorn all creation with splendor and beauty, and fashion human lives in your image and likeness.

Awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of life.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen

#### **Concluding Prayers**

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be



## CULTURE OF LIFE EVENTS & NEWS



### Rocky Mountain March for Life

*Civil Rights Begin in the Womb*

**Monday, January 16, 2023**

**9 AM to 1 PM, MLK Day**

In January 2023, the center of focus for the Rocky Mountain pro-life movement will shift from the State Capitol to Colorado Springs. Respect Life Denver's decision to forego their annual January Celebrate Life March opens the door for pro-life witnesses to gather in Colorado Springs for the traditional MLK Rocky Mountain March for Life. The theme is '*Civil Rights Begin in the Womb*'.

The day begins with a Rally on the Sidewalk near Planned Parenthood at 9 AM. (For parking if you intend to join the march, plan to arrive at Corpus Christi Catholic Church at 2318 N Cascade Avenue between 8 and 8:30 and ride the shuttle up to the sidewalk.)

In addition to prayers, the rally will include remarks by Catherine Wheeler, M.D. who performed abortions during her years of medical practice but had a profound conversion of heart and now speaks out as an advocate for the sanctity of all human life.

The March for LIFE will commence at 10 AM and will conclude at Corpus Christi Church where we will share more prayer, Catholic Mass, a pizza lunch, and fellowship.



Fifty years ago, on January 22, 1973 the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision instantly shattered pro-life laws nation-wide, and gave parents the "right" to hire a doctor to kill their children prior to birth.

By June 2022, when *Roe* was finally overturned, more than 60 million children were dead and liberal politicians were poised to expand and radicalize state-level abortion laws by re-labeling newborn children as a woman's "products of labor."

Since 1984, the third Sunday of January has been designated National Sanctity of Human Life Day. As the fight to defend ALL Human Life continues, PPCFL intends to host an event recognizing the end of *Roe v Wade* and facilitating the conversation and strategy for moving forward. Watch for details on the January event as we stand...

***Together for Life***



- *Pikes Peak Citizens for Life – December 2022*

## 8 NEW YEAR'S SPIRITUAL RESOLUTIONS FOR CATHOLICS

### What is your resolution this year?

A better diet, consistent exercise, less sugar, more travel?

What about spiritual resolutions?

#### 1. Increase Your Marian Devotion

St. Louis de Montfort reminds us that Mary is "the easiest, the shortest, the most perfect means of approaching Jesus Christ." Our Lady wants us to love her Son, and she will lead us to Him in a deeper way this New Year!

#### 2. Make More Time For Spiritual Reading

If you want to make progress in your walk with God this year, spiritual reading should be high on your list. Your best bet is to stick to the Bible and classics written by saints known for their practical spiritual wisdom.

#### 3. Make Good Stewardship A Lifestyle

We live in a world of materialism and greed. Let's keep in mind that we are called to be good stewards of the gifts God has given us. Spend your time, talents, and treasure for God.

#### 4. Share Your Catholic Faith

You don't have to be obnoxious or overbearing when sharing your faith. Just focus on doing simple things like being joyful in your walk with Christ or inviting people to come to Mass with you.

#### 5. Bring Back Regular Penances

Many Catholics don't know that Fridays outside of Lent are also days of abstinence or fasting. What small penitential practice can you adopt for Fridays this year?

#### 6. Go To Mass One Extra Day Of The Week

Mass is the source and summit of our faith. Think of ways you can arrange your schedule so that you can make it to Mass one extra day each week.

(Remember that daily Masses are usually only 30 minutes long!)

#### 7. Pray The Rosary

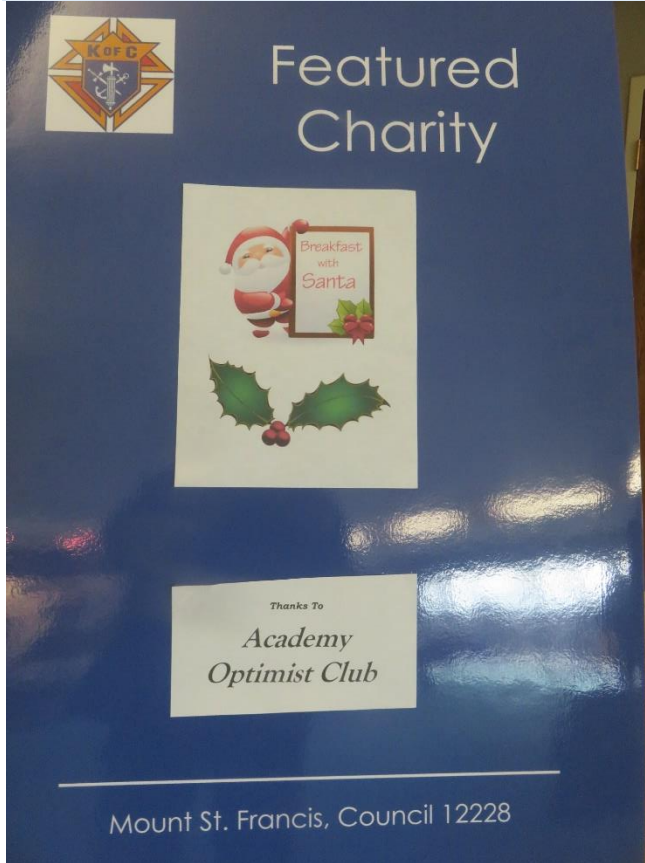
No Catholic list of New Year's resolutions would be complete without a daily rosary added in. If you already pray the rosary daily, that is fantastic. Maybe invite someone to say it with you!

#### 8. Pick A New Saint Buddy

Choose a patron saint whose virtues you would like to emulate in this year, and entrust this year to their special intercession. This is a great way to guard against the typical two-week lifespan of New Year's resolutions. With a saint to walk with you and inspire you, it will be easier for you to attain your goals!

- The Catholic Company ([catholiccompany.com](http://catholiccompany.com))

## PARISH BREAKFAST SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4



Biggerz Boys prepared and served a delicious breakfast for the throngs of children (young and not-so-young) that came to see Santa, sit on Santa's lap, get their caricature drawn, draw pictures of their own at the craft table, or to just have fun.

In the photo below are the members of the kitchen crew that day.

Left to right are leader Gene Saghi, Ryan Smith, Fabrice Suplisson, Dave Radek, and Bernie Zip.

Next Page: Random photos of the festivities

Many thanks to Tony Woloch for his photo contributions of the Parish Breakfast, Council Christmas Party, and PPHfH Apostles Build Home Dedication!







# Knights Christmas Party - Friday, December 9





## **Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity Apostles Build Dedication**

The ecumenical Apostles Faith (formerly Thrivent Faith Build) Build brings local churches from around El Paso County together to raise walls, funds, and prayers, building a house in partnership with a family in our community in need of affordable housing. Through this build, and as an affiliate as a whole, we seek to display the love of Christ by our work in our local community. The Apostles Build program is an opportunity to live out your church's local outreach ministry, fellowship with other church congregations from around El Paso County and see the miracle that occurs when God touches the hearts of future homeowners and the volunteers who work alongside them.

### ***MEET THE 2022 APOSTLES FAITH BUILD PARTNER FAMILY***

Prisca and Noella are sisters who originally hailed from the Central African Republic. They fled with Noella's son after violence swept through their homeland. Noella, Prisca, and Noella's son came to the United States as refugees and currently live in a very small apartment. They are excited to rebuild their lives in a stable and safe community. Noella and Prisca are looking forward to "be[ing] able to have the freedom to be responsible for our home so that when it is paid for it will belong to our family."

Noella shared words of gratitude for the donors and volunteers who have helped build their family's home: "God never ever leaves us behind, and here we are. We lost everything, but God... he's provided us more. Like we are going to get a home and I am so, so thankful about that. ... Thank you for everything that you guys provide us. I just want to say thank you. Thank you so much."

Other information spoken about during that 12/10/2022 house dedication:

They are a low-income working family that now has an interest-free 30-year mortgage.

Both Prisca and Noella have been multi-lingual before they came to the USA.

Both Prisca and Noella learned English after coming to the USA.

Prisca recently obtained her U.S. citizenship after passing the citizenship test on her first try.

Noella plans to become a U.S. citizen next year after completing her 5-year U.S. residency requirement and passing the test.

To control her nervousness in front of the large dedication audience, Prisca spoke in French. An interpreter translated her expressions of gratitude into English.

Prisca worked full time while also completing her 200 hours of required Habitat work.

Some of the money earned here by these sisters is sent by them to their remaining family in Africa.

[Read More](#) (on the PPHfH website)

- *Photos and text courtesy of Tony Woloch*



Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity

**2022 Apostles Build**  
Home Dedicated December 2022

Noella, Prisca and Noella's son Console

Prisca and Noella's home was made possible by the kind hearts and generosity of our donors and volunteers. Special thanks to all the churches throughout El Paso County who came together to partner with Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity, generously offering their time, energy, financial resources, and prayers.

**THANK YOU TO THE HOUSE SPONSORS**

**Rampart** SUPPLY, Inc.    **thrivent**    **Clark** **COPI** **LAND SURVEYING, INC.**

Ascension Lutheran Church  
Bethel Lutheran Church  
Black Forest Lutheran Church  
Cheyenne Mountain Roofing  
St. Michael's Episcopal Church  
Eric Stolp  
First Lutheran Church  
Frazee Construction Co.

Knights of Columbus- Tri-Community Council #13981  
Metal Products, LLC  
Mount St. Francis Knights of Columbus Council #12228  
Safe Haven Gutters, LLC  
Scotts Company  
St. Francis Assisi Catholic Church

Building strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter.  
PikesPeakHabitat.org

Together, we made affordable homeownership a reality for more people. We did this through...

**Support from Our Two ReStore Locations**

\$784,692 in total proceeds that helped fund our mission.  
1,942 tons of material recycled from local businesses.  
26,312 pounds of food donated.

**Volunteer Service**

1163 construction volunteers contributed 22,874 hours.  
1,482 Habitat volunteers contributed 26,777 hours.  
43,651 construction & Habitat volunteers provided 70,651 hours of service.  
338 Habitat Action Program volunteers helped our Apostles Build homes (last year, 194 our Faith Builders and 140 our Volunteers).

**Empowering Families**

34 families received Habitat for Humanity's Homeownership & Self-Sufficiency Program.  
26 international families served through \$17,000 in grants.  
\$149,293 in Habitat Homeownership program loans disbursed through El Paso County.  
126 hours of Habitat for Humanity volunteerism provided to Habitat Homeowners.

**Building and Repairing Homes in El Paso County**

10 new affordable homes under construction.  
\$8,509 savings on per-unit project.  
5 critical repair needs identified.  
\$260,000 amount of construction per home.

Your support enables our mission to get God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity



## THE WISE MEN

Have you heard the witty quip titled, “The Three Wise Women”? It goes like this... “Do you know what would have happened if it had been three wise women instead of three wise men? They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought practical gifts.”

Does it seem like the wise men brought the wrong gifts to the baby shower? Shouldn't the kid have gotten an action figure King David doll with a slingshot or something practical to suck on? What are the gifts of “Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh” all about? Let me try to connect the dots.

The Magi's gifts were the Christmas miracle. Gold was fitting for a King ... right? This gift funded this poor family's extended excursion to Egypt. How else would a blue-collar carpenter, who just paid a significant tax bill, keep afloat in a not so friendly land? Gold was their golden ticket to avoid the genocide in Bethlehem. Frankincense was used by the priests in the temple giving off a sweet aroma when crushed. Jesus is our High Priest. Myrrh was an embalming agent. Huh? Every person would say, “Hey, that's for dead people.” Yup! I know this was not on Mary's gift registry, but this baby was born to die.

Matthew 2:11 states: "On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Someone said that these “magi were men who 1) read and believed God's Word, 2) sought Jesus, 3) recognized the worth of Christ, 4) humbled themselves to worship Jesus, and 5) obeyed God rather than man. They were truly wise men!”

The star sent the wise men on a quest that led to Jesus. This baby King enraged King Herod and throughout history has compelled seeking and thinking people to ask, “Who is He? This Jesus is either the Savior of the world or the biggest con artist in history. I have never seen Him, but I have seen what He has done in my life and others. He loves to reveal Himself to people. He sometimes uses a star or someone or something else to guide people to Himself. Wise men/women still seek Him.



○ Source: Linked In: [Michael Sprague • 1st Chaplain at Capitol Commission](#)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January	Dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus
All Fridays	Rachel Rosary on Centennial Blvd. near Planned Parenthood, 9:15 AM
1 January, Sunday	New Year's Day; Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
5 January, Thursday	Mass for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI @ 5:00 pm KofC Membership Meeting, 6:15 p.m. in Rooms B and C after the Mass The Ladies Auxiliary will also meet after the 5 p.m. Mass in the Hall and there will be a social afterwards in the Hall.
7 January, Saturday	District 34 Meeting, 8-Noon, St. Francis Hall
8 January, Sunday	Parish Breakfast following 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Masses, SF Hall, Harvey's Hashers
9 January, Monday	The Baptism of Our Lord
16 January, Monday	Rocky Mountain March for Life 2023 – {put more details in Pro-Life articles}
19 January, Thursday	KofC Officers Meeting, 6:15 p.m., Rooms B and C
20 January, Friday	National March for Life / Washington, DC
29 January, Sunday	5th Sunday Rosary, 9:45 a.m. in the Church
Following Month	
2 February, Thursday	KofC Membership Meeting, 6:45 p.m. Rosary, 7:05 Meeting, Rooms B and C, followed by Social with Ladies Auxiliary.
5 February, Sunday	Parish Breakfast following 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Masses, SF Hall, Mike's Mashers
11 February, Saturday	KofC Valentines Dinner and Dance, following 5 p.m. Mass in SF Hall
16 February, Thursday	KofC Officer's Meeting, 6:15, Rooms B and C
22 February	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> ; Fast and Abstinence
24 February, Friday	Lenten Meal, 5:45 p.m., St. Francis Hall (Biggerz Boyz)
18 March, Saturday	St. Patrick's Dinner and Irish Dance, 6:15 p.m., St. Francis Hall

COUNCIL #12228 OFFICERS	
Grand Knight	Robert Condron
Chaplain	Fr. Erin Kochivar
Chaplain Emeritus	Fr. Ken Przybyla
Deputy Grand Knight	Michael Wolfe
Chancellor	Dr. Ben Davis
Advocate	Al Batey
Recording Secretary	Gene Saghi
Treasurer	Ron Toman
Warden	John Heyne
Inside Guard	Michael Kindt
Outside Guard	
Lecturer	Joe Priester
1st Year Trustee	Frank Castellano
2nd Year Trustee	Randy Bartlett
3rd Year Trustee	Joe Shonka
Financial Secretary	Ron Born

District Deputy	Al Batey
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Program Director	Ben Davis
Faith	Larry Gray
Community	Joe Shonka
Family	Ed Naughton
Life Director	Harvey Siegle
Membership	Ron Toman
Cooking Team Director	Mike Ortiz
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# 4 PRINCIPLES 4 REASONS

CHARITY UNITY FRATERNITY PATRIOTISM

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**Editor's Note:** Send questions, letters, comments, or article ideas to the editor. Submissions must be received by the 26th of the month for inclusion in that month's newsletter. - [harvey.siegle@saintfranciskofc.org](mailto:harvey.siegle@saintfranciskofc.org)

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Mount St. Francis Council #12228 website: <http://saintfranciskofc.org/>

Knights of Columbus Colorado State website: <http://www.coloradokofc.org/>

Knights of Columbus Supreme website: <http://www.kofc.org>

