

K OF C RELIGIOUS INFORMATION BUREAU CATHOLIC HOME STUDY SERVICE

Catholic Home Study Service is a ministry offering free correspondence courses on the Catholic Faith. It is sponsored by the Vincentian Community and the Religious Information Bureau of the Missouri Knights of Columbus. Its origins go back to 1935, when Fr. Lester Fallon, C.M. and Fr. Joseph McIntyre, C.M. began to do street preaching in small towns in Southern Missouri.

There were few Catholics and no priests in these towns, and residents knew little about the Catholic Church. Fathers Fallon and McIntyre would put up posters to announce their coming. They would arrive in a car equipped with a pulpit and public address system, and would preach for several evenings in front of the post office, courthouse, or general store. They explained Catholic doctrine and answered questions.

Many people who heard the preaching expressed an interest in learning more about the Catholic Church. Fr. Fallon decided to offer a religion study by mail. Using the popular book, *Father Smith Instructs Jackson*, Fr. Fallon designed a course available to all who asked. Many requested the course, and Fr. Fallon established Confraternity Home Study Service in St. Louis. When World War II started, soldiers from all over the world asked for the course, and the ministry expanded rapidly.

In 1944 the Knights of Columbus began to offer financial assistance. They joined their Religious Information Bureau to CHSS, offering pamphlets and other materials. They sponsored ads in secular magazines reaching most households in the USA. From 1948 to 1971, over six million people responded to the ads, requesting pamphlets or enrolling in the instruction course. In 1962 CHSS moved to more spacious offices at 3473 South Grand in St. Louis. By this time, CHSS employed about 45 full-time workers and handled about 10,000 pieces of mail per week.

In 1971, the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus built a new national office in New Haven, Connecticut, and transferred its home study program there, renaming it "Catholic Information Service." The Vincentian Community kept Confraternity Home Study Service in St. Louis, and the Missouri Knights of Columbus continued to sponsor the Religious Information Bureau in their home state.

In 1991, the Vincentian Community moved Confraternity Home Study Service to St. Mary's Seminary in Perryville, Missouri, and changed its name to Catholic Home Study Service. The work sponsored by the Missouri Knights of Columbus continues as the Religious Information Bureau. The program now offers these courses: *"We Believe..." A Survey of the Catholic Faith* (an explanation of the teachings of the Catholic Church), *A Catholic Guide to the Bible* (an introduction to the books of the Bible), *The Privilege of Being Catholic* (the distinguishing features of Catholicism), *Christ's Mother and Ours* (Catholic devotion to Mary), *The Catechism Handbook* (a summary of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and a study of its content), *The Search for Happiness* (God's plan for our happiness: four levels of happiness - body, mind & will, heart, soul), *We Worship: A Guide to the Catholic Mass* (shows how we meet Jesus at Mass, and how we understand, pray, and live the Mass) and *We Pray: Living in God's Presence* (a "how-to-pray" manual for everyone) and *We Live: To Know, Love, and Serve God* (the purpose and meaning of life). Students may send in lessons by postal mail or via the Internet.

Catholic Home Study Service/Religious Information Bureau enrolls students from all fifty states and from over 100 foreign countries. We send course materials to priests and religious instructors who teach in parishes, military bases, schools, and prisons. CHSS courses are taken by Catholics who wish to update their knowledge of the Faith, and by non-Catholics who want to learn more about the Church. If **you** are interested, you may enroll by writing us at K of C Religious Information Bureau, Post Office Box 363, Perryville, MO 63775-0363, or our web page, www.amm.org/chss.htm. You may contact us at 573-547-4084, or via e-mail at chss@ldd.net. You may contact the director, Fr. James Ward, at jgwcm@juno.com.



Free Home Study Courses on the Catholic Faith

Catholic Home Study Service, sponsored by the Missouri Knights of Columbus Religious Information Bureau, offers free correspondence courses on the Catholic Faith. These courses help Catholics understand our Faith better. They help others gain a clearer knowledge of Catholicism as a step toward becoming Catholic or just to learn what we believe

Nine courses are available, listed on the form below. When you request a course, you will receive a textbook and workbook with study questions. You may send your workbook answers to us by mail or over the Internet. We make corrections and answer questions.

To enroll, check your preference below (*one only, please*), fill in your name and address, and mail the form (allow 3-6 weeks for a reply). When you complete a course, you may take another. There is no charge. No one will call. You may also enroll at our **Web Page** – www.amm.org/chss.htm

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS RELIGIOUS INFORMATION BUREAU

P O BOX 363

PERRYVILLE MO 63775-0363

(Check only one)

- We Live: To Know, Love, and Serve God* - (New!) God's answers to our questions about the purpose of life; reasons for belief, how to find happiness in knowing, loving, and serving God
- "We Believe..." A Survey of the Catholic Faith* - the basics of Catholic belief, cross-referenced to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- We Pray: Living in God's Presence* - a "how-to-pray" course for everyone: how God speaks to us, Bible teaching on prayer, ACTS of prayer (adoration, contrition, thanks, supplication); ways to pray
- We Worship: A Guide to the Catholic Mass* - how to understand, pray, and appreciate the Mass, how it makes Jesus and His power present to us, how to live the Mass
- A Catholic Guide to the Bible* - an explanation of how Catholics understand the Bible, and a guided tour of each book of the Bible
- The Search For Happiness* - God wants us to be happy. This course explains the four levels of happiness, and uses Scripture, real-life stories, and humor to show God's plan for our happiness
- The Privilege of Being Catholic* - a handbook of Catholic beliefs and practices, explaining why we believe as we do
- Christ's Mother and Ours* - a complete explanation of Catholic devotion to Mary as it is expressed in Scripture, Church teaching, liturgy, apparitions, sacramentals, and the rosary
- The Catechism Handbook* - a summary and explanation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

I will send my workbook answers: over the Internet by mail (check one)

(Please Print)

NAME (circle one)

MR MRS MISS MS _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

Religious Information Bureau Display Board Credit Application

Grand Knight
Complete and Return To Obtain a \$50 credit
For Displaying Your R.I.B. Board

COUNCIL# _____ NAME _____

COUNCIL LOCATION _____

NAME OF AFFAIR _____ DATE _____

LOCATION _____

ATTENDANCE _____

NUMBER OF PAMPHLETS DISTRIBUTED _____

RECEPTION OF BOOTH (CIRCLE ONE) EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR POOR

HOW MANY WORKED IN THE BOOTH? _____

TOTAL MAN HOURS SPENT _____

LOCATION BOARD WAS RETURNED _____

COMMENTS _____

GRAND KNIGHT, COUNCIL # _____

MAIL TO:

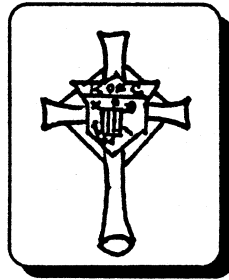
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E-mail: jgwcm@juno.com
Web Page:
www.amm.org/chss/chss.asp
www.morib.org

RELIGIOUS INFORMATION BUREAU

"SPREADING THE TRUTH TO MANY"

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THIS YEAR'S GOAL HAS BEEN SET AT \$285,000.00

How Can We Achieve This?

We invite every Knight in the Great State of Missouri to donate to the Religious Information Bureau by giving at least \$7.50 through his Council. Each Auxiliary member is also asked to give at least \$3.75. Clown Clubs, Fourth Degree Assemblies, Squires and Columbus Girls Circles are asked to consider donations to such a worthwhile program. Just think, if all 41,000 Knights in the State would contribute his part, we would raise \$307,500.00. If every Auxiliary member would donate \$3.75 to the cause, we would raise over \$15,000.00, bringing the Total to \$322,500.00.

Ways your Council can achieve its Goal:

- The easiest way is to include it with your Council or Auxiliary dues.
- Encourage your parish to use the Home Study Service booklets and materials for their youth and adult education programs. Hold classes using the R.I.B. materials before, during or after Council meetings. This would educate all of our members and then they would understand what the program is all about.
- Hold a fund raiser to collect the necessary amount to go over and above your goal!
- Earn a \$50 credit for your council by displaying a R.I.B. Board at a Public event.
(This credit can be given once each fraternal year. The application can be found on a following page.)

What Is The Religious Information Bureau?

This program was originally set up to help non-Catholics inquiring about the Catholic Church. It is also used by Catholics who want to learn more about their faith. Non-Catholics might take the Home Study Course to learn about Catholicism prior to joining the Church through a parish CCD program. Catholics take the courses to update their knowledge of Church teachings and the Bible.

RELIGIOUS INFORMATION BUREAU

SPREADING THE TRUTH TO THE MANY

Awards for the Year 2011-2012

Council Awards:

Each Council achieving 100% and/or 125% of its quota will receive a 2011-2012 100% silver plate or 125% gold plate as the case may be to affix to the Council's R.I.B. Achievement Award plaque. Additionally Councils achieving 125% of quota will be honored with the R.I.B. Apostolate Cross pin.

Special Recognition:

All Councils achieving at least 100% of its quota by March 31, 2012 will be inducted into the Circle of Honor Society for the current year and will receive a commemorative certificate of recognition. The Council's name will also be inscribed with those attaining this award and displayed at Convention. Grand Knights will be honored with the R.I.B. Apostolate Cross pin whose Councils have attained 125% of quota.

A "Special" Plaque Will Be Awarded For The Following Achievements:

- *Highest Percentage Per Member Goal
- *Highest Gross Amount Donated By An Individual Council
- *Highest Dollar Amount Donated Over Quota

LADIES AUXILIARIES:

Each Auxiliary achieving 100% and/or 125% of its quota will receive a 2011-2012 100% silver plate or 125% gold plate as the case may be to affix to the Auxiliary's R.I.B. Achievement Award plaque. Additionally Auxiliaries achieving 125% of quota will be honored with the R.I.B. Apostolate Cross pin.

DISTRICT DEPUTIES:

In appreciation for their efforts, the Apostolate Cross pin will be awarded to the District Deputies whose Districts attain 100% of their quota.

Religious Information Bureau: Missouri Knights of Columbus

Catholic Home Study Service

Post Office Box 363

Perryville, Missouri 63775-0363

Phone 573-547-4084 E-mail jgwcm@juno.com Web Page www.amm.org/chss/chss.asp

2011-2012 State Directory and Program Manual

Dear Knights and Lovely Ladies,

I want to begin my letter by thanking Father Oscar Lukefahr for twenty years of service to the Religious Information Bureau (RIB) and the Catholic Home Study Service (CHSS). His hard work, dedication, and energy for writing are wonderful gifts for us and the Church. As I said on several occasions, I have big shoes to fill. Just a few weeks ago I was speaking with one of our Vincentian priests, stationed in Kenya, Africa. He mentioned to me how grateful they are in Kenya for the books Father Lukefahr has written. Father Lukefahr will continue to assist us in his role as "Director Emeritus" of CHSS, and I hope he has more time to go fishing.

I started as the new Director of CHSS on February 1, 2011. The staff members of CHSS - Cheryl, Penny and Sherrie - also moved to the offices of the Association of the Miraculous Medal (AMM), located on the campus of St. Mary's of the Barrens in Perryville. I am also the President of the AMM. Like Father Lukefahr, I am a Vincentian priest. I have been ordained for 34 years. For most of those years I have worked in the sunny South. During those years I have served in the following capacities: seminary and university teaching (mainly teaching philosophy and Hispanic studies), parish work, brief missionary work in Guatemala and the Philippine Islands, and ministry in the Hispanic community. In every place I have been stationed I have loved the people and I did not want to leave. Now I have the best boss in the world, the Blessed Mother, in my work at the AMM, and I am surrounded by good people on the staffs of CHSS and AMM.

In April, 2011 I had the opportunity for the first time to participate in the Knights of Columbus convention in Jefferson City. I was deeply impressed by the zeal of the Knights in so many areas. Thank you for all that you do for the life of the Church and for the work of evangelization, that is, sharing God's Word and the knowledge of our faith with so many others.

Right now I am excited about two new programs. One is the beautiful display case which we can use to show our KC materials. Another is the use of billboards, which started July 1. In this second program there is a display of KC/RIB/CHSS billboards throughout Missouri for one year. We at CHSS are also working with AMM to make more use of social media (email, Twitter, Facebook, etc) to get the word out about our programs.

We are here for you. Get to know more about the faith and our program at our website (www.amm.org/chss/chss.asp). Click on "Enroll through this webpage." Enroll in one of our free courses.

Please continue to support the Religious Information Bureau. Check out the RIB information in this Directory. Make copies of the enrollment form and distribute them. Encourage your Council to make use of the new display case of KC materials. Of course, please pray that God will continue to bless our ministry of evangelization. You and your family are remembered in my daily prayers and Masses. Please pray for me.

Fr. James G. Ward, C.M.

Fr. James G. Ward, C.M. Director, Catholic Home Study Service