



The Explorer

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February 2017

STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

As we enter into the second half of this fraternal year I would like to share with you a couple of thoughts.

Membership in our Order is important not only to us as a viable organization but to the Catholic Church as a whole. More important than any one of us individually, membership in our Order is evangelical in that it engages many of our members to do more in their communities, churches, and often their own families. Simultaneously, our evangelical charity also provides a living example of Catholic men in action living their faith through prayer and works of mercy, which



in itself evangelizes lukewarm Catholics and often men from other denominations to strive to be like us.

In my time as State Deputy, I am finding that our men are hungry for a positive outlook on membership and a reason to ask other men to join us. We have always believed that every Catholic man should be offered an opportunity to join us, but what reason have we given him to join? Do we have solid programs at the council level that he can get involved in? Are our councils accomplishing good works formed in faith? Do we have a spiritual based council that supports parish life or are we the social committee for the parish or community? What is the image of our local Knights of Columbus councils? The Supreme Knight has stated that our councils should be the lead organization within the parish for charitable outreach. Providing this outreach is where you will find fertile grounds for recruitment.

I believe that we should be asking men to join the Order in an attempt to engage them in their faith. We are a unique organization in that we are bound in Unity through the Eucharist. I am convinced that our patron, the Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney, watches over and prays for us daily. More and more men are attending diocesan men's retreats, our college men are better formed, seminary enrollment has been on the rise, and our teenagers are looking for spiritual outreach. The opportunity for the Order to grow has never been greater than now.

I have often used the Supreme Knight's words which hold very special meaning for me: "IF NOT US THEN WHO?" This statement applies to us across the board. If we do not stand up for those who cannot defend themselves (babies, handicapped, intellectually challenged, aged) then who

will. When the Church and our priests come under attack, who is there to defend them? In order to accomplish this, we must stand up for ourselves and grow.

Vivat Jesus,
Vincent P. Melvin III, State Deputy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY:

- 31 **Deadline** – Form #1728, Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities due at Supreme
- 31 **Deadline** – Form #4584 Partnership Profile Report due at Supreme

FEBRUARY:

- 1-14 District Free Throw Contest
- 11 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 25 – Host 8488 –Location:Manhattan/Thomas Moore – CO: Steier
- 12 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District - 40-41 - Host 2224 Location: Sharon – CO: M. Roth
- 12 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 42 – Host – 3034 Location: Russell – CO: Kaiser
- 12 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 28 – Host 601 – Location: Salina – CO: J. Roth
- 15 Submit Squire, Circle & Counselor of the Year Applications to Squires Chairman
- 15 Form #1295, Semi-Annual Audit Report, due at Supreme
- 15 Deadline for Council Substance Abuse Poster Contest Winners to District Deputy
- 15 Soccer Challenge Report Form Due
- 18-19 73rd Annual Men's Bowling Tourney in Topeka (1st Weekend)
- 19 Regional Free Throw Contest at designated locations. Gyms open at noon. Contests at 1:00 pm
- 19 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 29 – Host 5222 – Location: McPherson – CO: J. Roth
- 25-26 73rd Annual Men's Bowling Tourney in Topeka (2nd Weekend)
- 26 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 35 – Host 12049 – Location: Wichita/St. Jude- CO: Weber
- 26 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 50 – Host: 2955 - Location: Dodge City - CO: M. Roth

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS Continued

MARCH:

- 1 40 Cans for Lent program begins
- 2 Deadline for Council Substance Abuse Poster Contest Winners to State Chairman
- 4-5 73rd Annual Men's Bowling Tourney in Topeka (Final Weekend)
- 4 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 12
- Host: 12437 - Location: Louisburg
- CO: Grothoff
- 5 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 27
- Host: 8316 - Location: Clay Center
- CO: Steier
- 5 Admission Degree – Council 1149 – Paola
- 10 Deadline for Council Family of the Year to your District Deputy
- 10 Deadline for Council Knight of the Year to your District Deputy
- 10 Any council with an item to be considered for the Pennies for Heaven Auction is asked to contact Bruce Luehring .
- 11-12 Council Church Drive
- 12 Formation/Knighthood Degrees- District 19
- Host:8059 - Location: Topeka/Mater Dei - CO: Winchester
- 15 Deadline for selected Vocational Posters to winning poster in each division to District Deputy
- 20-26 Council Admission Degree Week
- 27-02 Council Outreach Week in honor of Father McGivney

Congratulations Knights:

Knight of the Month: Congratulations to Brother Knight Joe Finar of Council 1913 in District 10. He will be receiving a beautiful Knights of Columbus Crucifix and certificate.

Families' of the Month:

District 40, Council 1269 Family of Joe Harbert
District 23, Council 1370 Family of John Burns
District 45, Council 6984 Family of Rick Binder
District 3, Council 2093 Family of Robbie Weishaar

STATE CHAPLIN'S MESSAGE

The most Reverend Dan Gardner, State Chaplin

God has fun with us! The weekend of January 14-15, 2017 was welcomed with dire warnings of an ice storm. While it proved true that the state was impacted with ice and power outages, the results were different from town to town, county to county. Being up here in the northeast part of the state, next to the Nebraska border, we were scheduled to be the last part of the state affected. Initially, it would start around 6:00pm on Saturday. So, I wondered, do I need to cancel masses Saturday night and Sunday? I know that some of the county parishes south of me had already. I waited. A further report

pushed back the beginning of the ice storm to 9:00pm. Great, I can have my masses on Saturday night but maybe not Sunday morning. Everyone can come Saturday night and skip Sunday. As the weather reports were updated, the ice storm would now start at midnight, or later. So, I made plans to get up at 3:00am, 4:30am and finally at 6:00am and check the weather to see if I would need to cancel Sunday masses. At 6:00am, no precipitation. Hmmm. The first mass was scheduled for 8:15am. Finally, at 7:00am, a little precipitation made its appearance. Now what do I do? I decided that if anyone would brave it to come to mass, I'd celebrate, no matter how many came. We did cancel the morning Religious Education classes. I texted people at the next town where mass was scheduled for 10:00am mass to let me know what the roads were like there. I texted the leader of the youth choir to let me know if he wanted to cancel the music for mass. This was not an easy morning to make decisions.

A little background. It has been my experience throughout my priesthood that when there was event planned, and I checked the weather and it didn't look positive, I'd cancel the event. And, shortly thereafter, the weather turned for the better! Thus, my hesitation to cancel anything until I absolutely had to. I was just sure that if I had cancelled the Sunday masses, the ice would not have arrived. I was going on past experience. As it turned out, the roads were a bit icy for the second mass, but some people came. No one complained. I cut the masses short, less music, no sermon, with this rationale I shared with the people that I wanted to get them home safely as soon as possible so that they could kick off their shoes, prop their feet up, and drink their hot chocolate. God had fun with us, making us wonder if we needed to get out or stay home because of the ice. God is still in charge.

So, this is a long winding narrative to remind us that whatever we plan, God is still in charge and we do the best we can do. Yet, plan we must do. In this month of February, we celebrate the sacrament of Matrimony. It is good to remember that God created marriage to be image of his love for us, an image of the Trinity, and to be united with us here on earth. Let us pray that as couples approach marriage, they do so with the understanding that God is leading them, even though the difficult decisions they will make. Let us pray that married couples continue to reflect the presence of God in their marriage as they go through the highs and lows of daily married life. We will wonder, we will doubt, but we will always know that God is in charge.

STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It seems that as the older you get; the months of the year move faster. I can't explain that phenomenon

but it sure feels like it. Just yesterday, okay a few months ago, we talked about how Councils need to get recruiting now. Why? The reason is that the winter months will fly by and all of the sudden you have to have a big recruiting effort to get to Star Council and precious little time to do it in. Well, here we are in February and many Councils find themselves in that spot. Don't wait any longer. The next thing you know is that you will look up and it will be May. Every Council should be focused on bringing in new members this month. In addition, every Council should be planning to do a church drive in March. Order your materials now from Supreme for that church drive. These include items such as prospect cards, Form 100's and flyers about the benefits of the Knights of Columbus. If you search the Supreme website for "church recruitment drive" you can find the materials order form. Supreme will ship you one church drive kit for free (NO SHIPPING CHARGES). Take advantage of this option and get your materials now so you are prepared.

Our March church drive theme is "Spring into the Knights". Your District deputy was provided a sample pulpit speech geared towards "Spring into the Knights". If you did not receive a copy from him, ask him for it or email me directly as membership@kansas-kofc.org and I will be happy to email you a copy of it.

The mission of the Knights of Columbus first and foremost is charity. We cannot do the works of charity without members. Sadly, members pass away to their eternal reward every day. Without replacements for those that move on, we will cease to exist. Today is the day to recruit. Tomorrow is the day to recruit. The day after that and the day following that is the day to recruit.

St. Matthew related in his gospel that Christ said "Come follow me and I will make you FISHERS OF MEN". YOU must be a Fisher of Men. Follow in the footsteps of Christ. Follow in the footsteps of Fr. McGivney. Let help others that need help. We don't do that alone or just one or two men in the Council. Everyone is a recruiter, a FISHER OF MEN. God bless you and God bless the Knights of Columbus.

John Schulz,
State Membership Director

STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

During 2015 the Knights of Columbus contributed over \$175 million and over 73.5 million volunteer hours to benevolent causes. These statistics come from Fraternal Activities (Form #1728). Have you filed this form which was due January 31? This form is also one of the requirements to be eligible for the Star Council Award. If you missed the deadline, the

report must be sent in right away so the numbers can be included in our Order's statistics.

ONLY THREE MONTHS UNTIL THE STATE CONVENTION IN TOPEKA and significant amounts of work and several deadlines lie ahead of us! Please review the deadlines listed in the Calendar of Events above. Get started early for the remaining activities. Select your Knight & Family of the Year and Vocation Poster Contest Winners. Complete your Culture of Life donation information and begin putting together your application for the Evangelium Vitae Award. Assemble your council scrapbooks and submit them to the appropriate State Directors prior to April 1. Remember, determining the appropriate category for the scrapbook is very important. An error could result in disqualification. For help in determining the proper category, call any of the programming directors or myself.

State Secretary Dale Weber reminds all Grand Knights to complete the forms recently received from him. These include the Necrology Report, the 50 Year Member Report, and the Credentials Report. These are due back to Dale by March 1 to allow time for these names to be recorded in the Convention Mass Program and the Convention Program Booklet. District Deputies, please check with your Grand Knights to make sure these forms are submitted.

State Advocate Jamey Roth reminds all Grand Knights that Council Semi-Annual Audits are due at Supreme by February 15th. This is the responsibility of the Grand Knight and Council Trustees. It assures stableness and integrity for your council as well as retaining the bonding for the Financial Secretary and Treasurer.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Adopt a Seminarian

As of January 1st, 2017, 160 councils and 29 assemblies have pledged \$ 172,490 to the seminarians and other religious across the state of Kansas. All seminarians have received some financial assistance, however many of our 101 seminarians are still in need of additional assistance. If your council or assembly has not submitted a pledge card to Vocations Chairman Gary Wondra, please contact him immediately. All councils and assemblies are asked to fulfill their pledges to the seminarians as they have returned to school and are incurring expenses for the next semester. In addition to the financial assistance, show your seminarians support with prayers, cards and letters of encouragement. The seminarians are all very appreciative of your support.

Vocation Poster Contest

Councils are encouraged to involve the youth and support vocations by sponsoring a Vocations Poster

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Contest. "Passing on the Faith" is the theme for this year's contest. Councils should hold their contest in February and submit their winning poster in each division to District Deputy their no later than March 15th. Guidelines for the contest are available in the Programming and Membership Guide. All guidelines must be followed to prevent a poster from being disqualified.

Religious Education

A **Special Thanks** to all Brother Knights for their hard work in selling the tickets. Because of this great effort, over **\$90,000** was dispersed for Catholic Education in Kansas this year.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Activity

All Council Free Throw Contests should now be complete. Youth Activities Director Bob Duffin asks that all winners' lists and score sheets be turned in to your District Deputy right away. Don't forget to send your council's participation form (FT-1) to Supreme. The District Contests will follow the same rules as the local contests. At completion, District Deputies are to send the winners list to the Regional Director where his district will attend. Remember, everyone in your district must attend the same regional competition.

Regional Contests will be held on February 19, 2017. The gyms will open at noon and the Contest will begin at 1:00 pm. The Regional Contests will take place in the following towns: Meridan, Chanute, Tipton, Garden Plain, Quinter and Ulysses. Details, including addresses, can be found on the state website at www.kansas-kofc.org.

State Contest will be held March 5, 2017 at Sacred Heart Junior-Senior high School, 234 E. Cloud Street, Salina, Kansas.

Substance Abuse Poster Contest

Councils should have their winning Substance Abuse Posters to their District Deputy by February 15th. District Deputies should have their District Winners to the State Youth Activities Director by March 1.

Essay Contest

Continue to promote the essay contest. Council winners should be sent to the State Youth Activities Director by March 1.

Coats for Kids

The **Coats for Kids Program** form is available on the Supreme website. To get to it, go to our state website, click on Forms and select Supreme. Scroll down through the list to the Coats for Kids form. The form can be submitted online or printed and mailed.

Columbian Squires

This year the State Columbian Squires Convention will be held in Garden Plain the weekend of April 1-2. All Squire, Circle, and Counselor of the Year selections are due to State Squires Chairman Bob Duffin by March 1.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Family Life

Congratulations to each family that has been nominated by local councils. Building the domestic church is a focus and by recognizing those families within our councils, the Knights of Columbus encourages this growth. A highlight of our upcoming annual meeting will be the announcement of our State Family of the Year. We look forward to the nominations being submitted by the councils as they recognize Knights and their families for supporting the church, community and living each day with the focus upon Christ's love for the family. The council Grand Knight is an excellent point of contact and will guide the council toward a nomination in February, 2017. Should you have questions or wish to learn more about the KOC and our programming involving the Family please contact the Grand Knight within your parish or State Family Life Director, Scott Nichols, family@kansas-kofc.org.

Thank you again for focusing on all the great works completed by your parish families and building the domestic church.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Commitment to Humanities

We still need some Council's to report their Tootsie Roll Drive results and forward their check to State Treasurer Mike Grothoff. This should be done immediately as the deadline was December 15th. Any Knights members who are interested in volunteering to help with the Special Olympics Basketball Tournament in Hays on March 16-18 should contact Commitment to Humanities Chairman, Barney Wolters at 316-323-7084 Or community@kansas-kofc.org.

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

Plans are under way to raise \$90,000.00 for the Pennies from Heaven Fund at the State Convention in Topeka. Each Council across the state is asked to donate arts, crafts, or other items, to be sold in the Country Store or at the live auction. Money generated from the sale of the merchandise will be credited to the council that donated that particular item. Any council with an item to be considered for the auction is asked to contact Bruce Luehring by March 10th. REMINDER – COUNCIL PENNIES FROM HEAVEN MONEY MUST BE TURNED IN AT THE COUNTRY STORE DURING THE STATE CONVENTION BY NOON ON SATURDAY MAY 6th. Awards will go to councils with the highest dollar-per-member in each division and the District Deputy with the high-

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est dollar-per-member in his district. All participating councils will receive a certificate. Plaques in this competition will be awarded after the convention. I would like to thank all participants thus far and also say thank you in advance to those participating during the convention. If anyone would like to volunteer to work in the Country Store during the convention, please let Bruce know.

CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES:

As January comes to an end so will many of the Culture of Life events such as the council baby showers and the "Bottles of Life" fundraisers. Be sure to donate your items and funds raised to the Pro-Life center(s) of your council's choice. Be certain to include these events on the Pro-Life Report form and the Evangelium Vitae Application for your council. These forms are due to Lino Munoz by April 1, 2017. The forms can be found online at kansas-kofc.org or from you District Deputy. Please send them in right away when completed. Also, remember to send digital photos of your memorials and/or billboards so that we can update the Pro-Life Scrapbook. A very special Thank You to all the councils that donated to the ultrasound initiative for the purchase of ultrasound machines. Your donations have made and will continue to make a difference in the saving of innocent lives and to the wellbeing of their mothers. "Our Ultrasound Initiative gives an expectant mother a light that enables her to see the reality, and often the personality, of her child in the womb." Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, 134th Supreme Convention. As the year continues please encourage your councils to support Culture of Life activities in your parishes and communities. Be sure to check the Knights of Columbus web site for suggestions of events that you councils can host. These can also be added to the Culture of Life scrapbook which are due April 1 as well.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Athletics: The 76th Annual Knights of Columbus Bowling Tournament will be held at Westridge Lanes in Topeka and hosted by the councils of District 19. The dates of the tournament are February 18-19, February 25-26 and March 4-5. All Brother Knights are encouraged to participate and you need not be a league bowler. All that is required to participate is a current Knights of Columbus membership card. For more information and to register for the event visit the Kansas State website at www.kansas-kofc.org.

The Annual Sporting Clay Tournament is scheduled for May 20, 2017 at the Sportsman Acres on Milford Lake in Junction City, KS. More information will be available soon at <http://kansas-kofc.org/> Requests to host the tournament in 2018 must be made in writing to Tom Schmeidler, State Program Director before November 1, 2016.

Fraternal

Fraternal Activities Chairman Mike Barnard thanks all the councils that have been submitting their Knight of the Month applications. By submitting these applications on time, your honored brother is then eligible for the State Knight of the Month drawing. Now is the time that every council should be considering and selecting an outstanding brother knight as the council's "Knight of The Year". Use the application package you received in the mail to submit his name and information as your council's "Knight of the Year" to your District Deputy no later than March 10, 2017. If you have not received your application package, please contact Mike Barnard at 1-785-224-7276 or email him at fraternal@kansas-kofc.org

Membership tip; at a time when dues are being collected please take the extra time to contact every knight in your Council. Inquire about how they are doing, how their families are doing and invite them to a meeting or function. Find also members of your council to visit those members who are homebound and unable to attend meetings. What can you do to involve them? Make sure they are receiving a newsletter, visits, ask them to please pray for the council, the unborn, there are many ways to involve every Knight.

Publicity

We ask all councils to continue to publicize all of your council activities. Sharing this information with your community is a good way to spark that interest in prospective members. Publicizing your council activities allows everyone to see what the Knights of Columbus is all about. Remember to send copies of your council activities to the Publicity Chairman Mike Barnard.

Webmaster

Webmaster Doug Wietharn reminds all councils and assemblies to review the website for your council or assembly and to send him any updates for the website. It is important that we keep the information current. If you have any questions, please contact Doug at webmaster@kansas-kofc.org. Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries are asked to sign up for the email communications, contact Doug with your information in order to get setup.

History and Centennial Book

State Historian and Archivist Jim Pritchard reminds all councils and assemblies whose history is not current to submit their past year's history updates. This information needs to be documented and preserved for future generations. The history update forms can be found at: <http://www.kansas-kofc.org/forms/Kansas/Council> History Update. Don't hesitate to call Jim at 913-294-3303 to request information or ask any questions. Jim also

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has state history books to sell. Order forms are on the back of the State Directory and can be copied. Orders for the history books can be placed at any time.

Father McGivney Guild

Father McGivney are encouraged to join the Father McGivney Guild. Father McGivney prayer cards #10115, are available through knightsgear.com. Additional information is available by visiting fathermcgivney.org

Tom Schmeidler, State Program Director

INSURANCE AGENCY MESSAGE

The Knights of Columbus agency department is proud to congratulate the following men for achieving the honor of Field Agent of the Month for their respective agencies:

Eastern Kansas Agency: Luke Baker wrote \$2,410,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in December.

Central Kansas Agency: Darren Mueller wrote \$4,020,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in December.

Western Kansas Agency: J. J. Deges wrote \$1,000,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in December.

The three agencies combined to write a total of \$21,475,921 in life insurance during the month of December.

Please join us in congratulating the following men for their outstanding performance. These men lead the state or the Knights of Columbus insurance program in December of 2016.

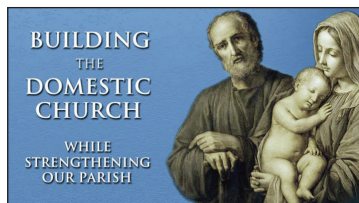
J. J. Deges	Shaun McGovern	Wade Greif
Adam Bruna	Joe Cummings	Darin Reed
Zachary Caro	Tyler Meyer	Bill Weber
Dan Reed	David Soukup	Jon Reboulet
John Schibi	Darren Mueller	John Dorsey

If you or someone you know would like to join our winning team of Field Agents, please call 1-866-391-8781 for more information.

Dale A. Weber
State Secretary
514 E. 33rd St South
Wellington, KS 67152

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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“Fishers of Men”

