

STATE UPDATE

UTAH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LEADERS



www.utahknights.org

December 2015

State Deputy's Message

Brothers,

We are just entering into a joyous time of year. Do we go around and wish everyone a Happy Holiday or do we wish them a Merry Christmas? It is the same season, they are the same people, but how we say our greeting, can be a form of evangelizing. We declare we are Christian every time we say "Merry Christmas." With the recent turmoil in our world this is a declaration that says we are not afraid to believe. We believe in the salvation of Christ our King and the peace that he spread around the world. We believe in America and the equality and freedoms that our country was built on. We believe in our family and friends and the bonds we build and celebrate at this time of year. We believe in ourselves and that we stand for all this and more.

November was a time to remember those we lost and who went before. We think of how those people influenced us and helped make us what we are. We have fond memories we cherish and we see the good of these people brought about for our world.

December is when we start to look forward. The year may be coming to a close but we finish by celebrating the birth of our savior and the rewards he promised. A birth is a beginning and is often considered a gift. We celebrate Jesus' life as a gift and use his life as an example for peace and giving that is unparalleled in history. The gifts we give and exchange are small in comparison to his gift but it is a way to emulate his life. The gifts we give are a piece of us and what we give is meant to help the growth of the receiver. That is what Christmas is, the sharing and opening of our hearts to family, friends, and even strangers.

Charity is the gift we give and for that charity to grow the order must grow. How it grows is to bring in men who have felt that charity and want to join and maybe even improve on it. Membership in the Knights of Columbus can also be a gift. We change lives when a coat is unwrapped and put on a child.

Continued on next page

State Chaplain's Summation

Inevitably during the Advent and Christmas seasons (remember that there is a difference), I always think of Christmases past. No, I am not being haunted by any Dickensian ghosts. It just makes me happy to remember them. I like to think of relatives that are no longer with us in the flesh. And yes, I think of the presents I received as a child. There were some pretty cool ones. Guys, remember the full-sized GIJoes? I had a lot of fun with them back in the day. And looking back, I can now see that my parents and grandparents got even more joy in giving them than I did in receiving.

Think back to the greatest gift you got as a child. Remember how much fun it was. Your parents no doubt taught you to say thank you and maybe even made you write the dreaded thank you notes. Remember the joy that you gave your mom, dad, or Great-aunt Sue with that heartfelt thank you. The gift gives joy to the receiver. The gratitude gives joy to the giver.

Even during the worst of times, we are the recipients of many gifts and blessings. The greatest are given to us by God. We show our gratitude by using these gifts well and joyfully even if that gift is simply another day on earth. (I was reminding of this the other day by an 80 year old African American man who was driving the airport shuttle. In response to my perfunctory "Good morning", he said, "Yes it is! Another day to praise the Lord!") The marvelous thing is that when we count our blessings, we see how small our problems are compared to God's love for us.

This is especially true during the seasons of the Incarnation. Even during times of want, war, and violence, we can't help but respond with joy and gratitude to the great gift we have all been given, the Lord Jesus Christ; a gift which will never pass away.

So please take a moment to count as many of God's gifts as possible and thank Him with joy in your heart.

Fr. Erik Reichsteig
Utah State Chaplain

State Deputy's Message (cont)

We save lives when a mother sees her child for the first time by the benefit of an ultrasound. We give the gift of mobility to a veteran who can be more independent because of their wheelchair. Gift exchanges go on all the time but they are not always tangible. We can change the life of that new member by giving the experience of charity. We can give the gift of security for his family with our insurance plans. We give the gift of friendship and brotherhood when we work together.

Enjoy this season and all that it can offer. Be with family and friends to share the warmth and gifts of the season. Celebrate with all the new beginning that the birth of our Savior brings.

Merry Christmas!



Jerry Hanten

Master's Musings

Several people have questioned the cost of the Patriotic Degree Exemplification. The charge was set by the Supreme Master and Supreme Council at \$70.00 and includes the cost of a banquet meal.

The charge for the banquet meals was set at \$30.00 by the Utah Biennial District meeting in 2010 to cover the expenses of the Master and the caterer. The Master pays for the meals of the team members, the District Friar, the class honoree and his wife, and the Vice Supreme Master and his wife. Assemblies cover the cost of their priest and their guests. When an Exemplification is held in St. George, mileage and hotel expenses can add another \$900 - \$1000, bringing a bill to the Master of over \$1200. These costs remain the same whether exemplification attendance is large or small. \$25 of each ticket to the banquet goes to the Assembly for caterer and other expenses. \$5 goes to the Master.

Other expenses of the Master include the social baldric, 4th Degree pin, American flag, and certificate given to each new Sir Knight; which totals \$25. Supreme requires a payment of \$12 of each new Sir Knight. The honoree receives a certificate, Ladies receive a rose, and everyone receives a printed program at the banquet. This adds another \$150 - \$200 to the expenses. The Master also prints and mail invitations to 3rd Degree members informing them about the Patriotic Degree. *Continued*

Master's Musings (cont.)

Remember the Military Chaplains Fund. The State of Utah owes \$5,000 to the fund this year. We need the help of every Council and Assembly to reach this commitment. In the past four years the Knights of Columbus have donated over \$1 million to the fund. There are now 23 seminarians receiving funds through this program. Five priests were ordained in 2014 and another five in 2015. Today, only 225 priests remain as active-duty chaplains – that is one priest for every 1,300 Catholics in the military. While 25 percent of the US military is Catholic, Catholic priests make up only 8 percent of Chaplains.

Each Assembly has a goal to increase their membership by about 10% this year. Last month I gave intake goals for each Assembly and suggestions for Council targets. Future Exemplifications will be in St. George, the revised date is **April 9, 2016**. The other is June 18, 2016 in Bountiful.

A few months ago, I asked each GK to assign a 4th Degree Knight to attend the Assembly meeting as your representative. If one was not enough, additional Sir Knights could be assigned. Please provide me with the names and email addresses of your liaisons so I can send them information about the 4th Degree and the types of things they should report back to the Council.

In closing, let me remind you that **FRATERNITY** is knowing a friend would come. A platoon of US troops was driven back and one of their infantrymen was wounded by gunfire. As he lay on the battlefield, a friend asked his sergeant in the foxhole, "Can I go get him?" "There's no use. He's probably dead," the sergeant answered. "And even if he isn't dead, you'd never make it back alive. But if you want to..." Those last few words were all that the friend needed to hear. Crawling on elbows and knees he reached the bleeding infantryman, hoisted him to his shoulders, and hobbled back. As he neared the foxhole, the heroic friend was hit in the chest with a bullet and the two friends collapsed in a heap. The sergeant tried to find the pulse of the infantryman and there was none. Dead. Then he told the soldier, "I told you it would be useless. Your friend is dead and now you've been shot." Fighting for air, the friend painfully explained, "No. I have no regrets. You see when I first got to him, he was alive. He recognized me and said "Thanks, Jack. I knew you'd come." With those words the soldier friend died. That is friendship. Friendship says, "I knew if I needed you, you'd be there for me. I knew I could count on you." Have you ever been able to count on a Brother Knight to be there? *If God is thy father, man is thy brother.*

Vivat Jesus and God Bless America!

Bill McCauley



2016 Mid-Year Meeting Agenda
St. Olaf Catholic Church
Bountiful, UT
Saturday January 9th



8:00 am to 8:45 am Breakfast - RSVP is REQUIRED

9:00 am Meeting comes to order	
Pledge of Allegiance	Alex Guzman-State Warden
Opening Prayer	Fr. Erik Richtsteig-State Chaplain
9:10 AM Opening Remarks	Jerry Hanten-State Deputy.
9:15 AM Chaplain Remarks	Fr. Erik Richtsteig-State Chaplain
9:20 AM Chaplain Emeritus Remarks	Fr. James Blaine-State Chaplain Emeritus
9:25 AM Opening Remarks	Ray Lopez, PSD, Supreme Representative
9:30 AM Road to Star Council	
Service Program Personnel Report (365)-August 1	
Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (1728)-January 31	
Columbia Award (SP7)-June 30	
Membership Quota-June 30	
Insurance Quota-June 30	
In Good Standing-June 30	

10:00 am BREAK

10:10 AM Insurance Protection	Insurance Team
10:30 AM Roundtables-Growth of the Council	
10:40 AM Vocation Support and RSVP	Jerry Hanten State Deputy
10:50 AM 4th Degree Report	William McCauley-Utah District Master

11:00 AM BREAK

11:10 AM Programs	Greg Keller-State Advocate
Science Fair	Al Martinez-Chair
Poster Contest	Tom Giron-Chair
Free Throw Challenge	Ron Mecham-Chair
Essay Contest	Tom Giron-Chair
Ultra-Sound Initiative	John Wainscott
11:30 AM Benefits of membership	Alex Guzman
Member Engagement	
Getting new members busy	
Getting senior members to be mentors	
Getting senior members active	
Retention: Keeping membership engaged	Rick Kump
Use programs to get membership busy	
11:50 AM Your goals with half the year gone	Jerry Hanten-State Deputy

12:00 to 12:30 PM Lunch - RSVP is REQUIRED

12:30 PM Science Fair Information

12:45 PM Silver Rose Summation

Greg Werking

12:50 PM Building the Domestic Church-The Family Fully Alive

Greg Werking

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM Programs and Membership

State Officer Team

Subjects to be covered:

New Member Recruitment Status

Church Drives/Roundtables

Retention is not suspension

Steps to Suspension, 1845, and state conservation

Proper use of Retention Chair/Committee.

3:00 PM Membership Incentives

3:05 PM Membership in the 4th Degree

William McCauley-Utah District Master

3:15 PM State Convention

3:30 PM Closing Remarks

Supreme Representative

3:40 PM Closing Remarks-Jerry Hanten

State Deputy

3:45 PM Closing Prayer-Greg Keller

State Advocate

Meeting Adjourned

5:00 PM Mass

6:30 PM Social

7:00 PM Dinner (**RSVP is REQUIRED, Reservation form follows on next page**)

Knights Needed to Help With Holiday Blood Drive

The American Red Cross teams up with Fox 13 for their Holiday Blood drive just before Christmas every year and the Utah Knights have been there volunteering for the past several years to help it run smoothly. The American Red Cross relies on the Utah Knights of Columbus to provide the staffing during one of their largest blood drives throughout the year. The Knights act as "Blood Ambassadors" working different stations that range from registration, escorting donors, and to helping out in the hospitality room after the donors have given blood. At times it gets pretty busy but the Knights help ensure a steady flow of donors from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Last year the drive produced 411 units of blood, and every unit has the potential of saving 3 lives; which means as a result of everyone's hard work they could impact 1,233 lives! Last year we had 30 plus Knights volunteering and combined provided 109 hours of service. This year the American Red Cross is planning on 400 plus donors and hopefully more units than what was produced last year.

If you can spare an hour or two (or more) volunteer by contacting Nick Nielson, Utah Community Director at njnick.nielson@gmail.com. Or you can always donate blood yourself, but this isn't required to volunteer.

Please note the location has changed this year to the South Towne Expo Center at 9575 South State St., Sandy. The hours for volunteers need are 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. See you there!

Nick Nielson

District Deputy, District 2, Community Director



Knights of Columbus

UTAH STATE COUNCIL

...a Catholic, family, fraternal, service organization



Invitation to Mid Year Meeting January 9th 2016

**St. Olaf's Catholic Church, Bountiful, Utah
MEAL RESERVATION FORM**

*****DEADLINE: MONDAY- January 4th, 2016*****

NAME: _____ COUNCIL: _____

MID YEAR MEETING

_____ Yes, I will attend the breakfast served between 7:00 to 8:45AM (no charge).

_____ Yes, I will attend the lunch served between 12:00 to 12:30PM (no charge).

Attendees who reserve breakfast and lunch will be served first.

Those who do not reserve for breakfast and lunch will be served after those with reservations.

Dinner (\$25.00 per person)

Roasted Sirloin w/ Brandy & green peppercorn sauce OR
Seared King Salmon w/ artichoke plum tomato buerre blanc,
Mixed green salad w/ house balsamic ginger vinaigrette, creamy mashed potato w/ scallions, sautéed seasonal
vegetables, homemade bread & butter.
Pumpkin cheesecake w/ Bailey's Irish cream & coffee service

_____ @ \$25.00 ROASTED SIRLOIN

_____ @ \$25.00 SEARED KING SALMON W/ARTICHOKE PLUM TOMATO BUERRE BLANC.

_____ **TOTAL DUE**

FEEL FREE TO MAKE ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS INFORMATION AS NEEDED.

EACH KNIGHT WHO WISHES TO BE SERVED MUST SUBMIT AN RSVP.

*****ALL DINNER RESERVATIONS MUST INCLUDE PAYMENT*****

Make checks payable to:

Knights of Columbus Utah State Council.

PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION AND PAYMENTS TO:

Alex Guzman Utah State Warden
2226 W 1175 N
Layton, UT 84041-7412801-540-9109
agguzmanv@gmail.com



Life Support



A Pro-Life Newsletter

Volume 22 Issue 12

Dedicated to Our Blessed Mother, The Immaculate Conception

December 2015

Web sites for Pro-life current events: <http://nrlactioncenter.com/>, nchla.org/issues.asp, usccb.org/, firstthings.com, frcblog.com, <http://powellcenterformedicaethics.blogspot.com/>, <http://stoptheabortionagenda.com/>, capwiz.com/nrlc/issues/, <http://pregnancyline.com/>

Let Man have Dominion over All the Wild Animals (Gen 1:26)

Death with Dignity

A legislator in Utah lost a vote last year on her Death with Dignity bill. Undeterred, she plans to reintroduce it this coming legislative session. Death with Dignity is the misleading title of Assisted Suicide.

Even in a conservative state like Utah, the tentacles of this cancerous practice have supporters and promoters.

Our hope is that Utah citizens will rise up in energetic opposition to this terrible bill.

There is nothing in the history of assisted suicide, or it's various titles, which has resulted in any social good. It has ravaged the practice of medicine in Belgium and several other nations. It diminishes the value of life and changes people's focus to their comfort rather than focusing on the benefit and needs of others.

We need to oppose assisted suicide at every opportunity and every time it's ugly head appears.

Animal-like

Wesley J Smith, one of our favorite writers, finds fault with an English Professor who believes we need to define ourselves as "mammals"

rather than humans.

Professor

Randy Laist

states we

would be more

compatible with our "co-mammals" and our environment if we were willing to identify ourselves with them and their lives.

In a very clear manner, [Wesley shows the inadequacy of his arguments.](#)

The professor would have us diminish our place and responsibilities by denying our capacity for compassion and moral evaluation and, thus, equating ourselves with non-humans.

It is one more step in denying God and the distinctive place he has given us.



God's Love

Article by Thomas Riddell

An [article in ClimbingOnotes](#) tells of a Presbyterian pastor who believes someone becomes a person when they are loved. At first glance, the thought that a human being is not a person until they are loved is devastating. We who are unable to reach the unborn, might hear these words and cringe. An unborn child is carried, but not touched, kept warm, but not kissed.

Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates his own love in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." John 3:16 states, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son..." Praise God for loving us! Can God's love do more than ours? A short investigation should bring us clarity.

If God so loved the world, then God's love includes everyone in the world. The impact of God's love towards us is best summed up in Rm 8:38, 39. Nothing in all creation is able to separate us from the love of God found in Jesus! We love some people while His complete, powerful love touches everyone. Jesus is the touch we can't complete, the kiss we can't give. Conclusion, everyone is already loved!

Admitting

For most pro-abortionists, admitting abortion is violent, it is a person, and it is killing, is admitting abortion is wrong and should be illegal. It puts a nail in the coffin of their entire movement.

But, admitting and knowing are, apparently, quite different. The [attached article](#) tells us plainly and directly that they know the truth.

So, we understand again they are protecting their income and their lie. They have achieved their goal, legalizing abortion on demand, and have the support of many in power so they can live the manner to which they have become accustomed.

Over 55 million deaths and they are yet to be satisfied.

God Bless America

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) [as paraphrased by LifeIssues](#), offers this voting advice: "Some issues involve principles that can never be abandoned such as the fundamental right to life and marriage as the union of one man and one woman," the bishops said. They said voting for a candidate specifically because the politician favors a 'grave evil' such as abortion amounts to 'formal cooperation' with that evil by the voter."

Thus, it is essential for voters to understand the candidate's position on major issues in order to defend life and family with his/her vote.

"I have set before you life and death, ... Choose life, ..." (Dt 30:19) Without life, no other issues matter.

No candidate agrees with all our concerns. Therefore, elect to give the life issues the greatest priority.

Animal vs. Human Rights

An animal rights group in New York has submitted [a suit](#) which would allow human rights to be ascribed to chimpanzees and is based on the idea that animals can be included under the rules of "habeas corpus".

A New York Supreme Court Justice agreed.

The Federal Court of Appeals [has rejected the lower court's opinion](#) and returned some reason to the judicial process.

Legislatures have failed in that some unborn children do not have that protection.

Life is Precious

We have written often about Assisted Suicide but never from a personal experience viewpoint.

[Mary Karner does just that](#) and brilliantly. She tells of her mother dying from brain cancer, her mother's rejection of assisted suicide, and the love which they were able to share.

State Secretary's Corner

It's easier not to be a Knight. Sitting at home watching TV or playing games does it for some people. Yet, here we are, year after year. Why? Because we get soul-enriching satisfaction from the work we do; it's food that fills a space in us that nothing else can. It nourishes and sustains us. The dessert is the fraternity we share and the friendships we make, remake, and share.

It's also easier not to be a Knights leader. Lots of good Knights are happy simply to be told what to do and to joyfully do it. Yet, here we are, year after year. Why? Although we work harder than most, I bet you are like me and know lots of Knights who work more diligently, more regularly than just about anybody we know. You, like others in your position know that responsibility comes at a price. But the rewards are greater. The satisfaction of a job well done, a council well run, is an enduring reward that far exceeds a plaque or accolades. When a council succeeds it means that people are getting fed, clothed, supported, encouraged, and rewarded.

It's easier not to change. Doing the same thing over and over again is a lot easier than trying something new. Yet, here we are, year after year with something new coming around the corner. Why? The world is changing and we can't stop it. If we don't change with it, the world and its opportunities will pass us by. Us and individuals and us as Knights. Remember Kodak? Your kids will never know what Kodak was because Kodak didn't change. Instead, they went bankrupt. The people we are trying to attract to our ranks have changed since we became Knights and they are still changing. The people we help are changing. The ways we do our work is changing. This change keeps us on our toes. The more we adapt to change, the more change we can adapt to.

We do what is not easy because it needs to be done. Simple as that. Go away like Kodak? I can't do that. You can't either, you have proven that. Too many people need help. Too much needs doing. Too many souls need saving.

We serve, we lead, we change, we grow. We are Knights.

Andy Airriess
State Secretary

State Program Updates

The **State Poster Contest** Posters are due to Chairman Tom Giron by December 15th. Winners will be announced at the Mid-year meeting. It is a simple, easy, inexpensive program that can build your council's interaction with the parish and the parents of the children who participate.

The **State Essay Contest** - Entries are due the first week of January. It is also a simple, easy, inexpensive program that can build your council's interaction with the parish and the parents of the children who participate.

The **Keep Christ in Christmas Poster contest** - I know, no snow yet, but it really is just around the corner. An inexpensive program in both time and cost, it is one that builds your council's interaction with the parish and the parents of the children who participate.

With all the above programs, and the support of your pastor, present certificates to the winners at Mass. A great way to give recognition to the winners, provide great visibility for the council, and will be much more of a recruiting tool.

Red Cross Media Blood Drive We need volunteers. Details on the event can be found on a preceding page.

Science Fair The Knights of Columbus Diocesan Science Fair is Saturday, February 6th at Judge Memorial High school. Signups are not yet possible and will be conducted online only. The signup web site will be coordinated by the science fair teachers. When we know what it is, we will let you know.

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