

STATE UPDATE

UTAH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LEADERS



www.utahknights.org

November 2015

State Deputy's Message

Brothers,

All Souls Day is a day of remembrance. We remember the loved ones and friends we lost over the last year and the friends and family from years before. We think about the loved ones we will be celebrating the holidays with and closeness of family at this time of year.

Through November, we keep those we remember close and in our hearts and use them as examples for how we live our lives. As Knights we also set examples in our families, churches, and neighborhoods.

The days are getting shorter and colder but this is the time of year the Knights of Columbus shine. We prepare to give the gift of warmth and comfort by giving coats to needy children. We help with food baskets so everyone can have a hot meal on Thanksgiving and Christmas. We fulfill others dreams with the gifts we provide that they cannot afford. We decorate our homes and our churches to celebrate the holidays and give that little bit of extra cheer.

If we haven't already, this is when we follow up on the recruitment church drives from October. These new men can give that extra help we need to get everything done. These men are the brothers and family that ever grows. These men are the new friends we make to help complete the circle of those we keep close to our hearts. They join to help give back to the church, experience the charity we have in our hearts with our programs, and feel the warmth of family and brotherhood that we develop every day. Let's fulfill their expectations and give them something to do and a focus for their charity.

Pope Francis just visited the United States in celebration of the family. He stressed the importance of family and placed the Catholic Church as a prime example of family. Family has its conflicts and difficulties but these are overcome with love. He spoke of the family as a "factory of hope" and that is what the Knights of Columbus nurture. Hope is what we bring to individuals and family with the charity that we provide and foster in all the programs we support. We change lives and save lives in what we do.

Continued on next page

State Chaplain's Summation

Unless you have been living in a cave for the last several years, you know that freedom of religion is under attack in this country. Photographers, bakers, and inn-keepers have been fined and sued declining to participate in same-sex 'weddings'. Businesses and individuals are being required by law to provide insurance which covers items which violate their religious convictions. The Federal Government is even trying to force a Catholic religious order, the Little Sisters of the Poor, to fund contraception. People are being told to pray however they want but that they have to leave their faith at church or at home.

Well, the Knights of Columbus do not live in a cave. Meeting with the State Chaplains in Philadelphia, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson reaffirmed the order's ongoing commitment to fight for religious freedom. Over the last several years, the Knights have supported and worked with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in fighting against incursions against the free exercise of religion.

Religious freedom is not merely freedom of worship. It is not merely the freedom to pray how and to whom you want. It is the freedom to live out that faith in public and in private. The First Amendment isn't just about freedom of the press or freedom of speech. It also includes the establishment clause which forbids the government from mandating our religious beliefs and practices. It isn't about keeping religion out of government but government out of religion. This isn't just a political right, it is a human right.

As men who are both good Catholics and good Americans, Knights have a duty to stand up for this important right. We can do this by supporting the bishops' efforts to lobby and educate on behalf of religious freedom. We can do this by letting our elected representatives know that this issue is of supreme importance to us. We can do this by voting for candidates that support legal protection for religious freedom. Above all, we can and must pray that this important and fundamental freedom be supported in our nation.

Fr. Erik Reichsteig
Utah State Chaplain

State Deputy's Message (cont)

November is a month with a 5th Sunday. Supreme has suggested that we take advantage of this and celebrate it with a Corporate Communion. We celebrate our family of Knights and show our support of the Church. We serve as lecturers and ushers to show we are on the front lines and taking an active part in our church. We receive Communion as a body as we do with our families to show we are a brotherhood and as such a member of a much larger family than just our own homes. Think about this and see what you can do schedule this with your priest and church.

There is a lot to do in the next few months. Make sure you make your new brothers welcome and invite them to help you in the months ahead. Get your membership active and let us get the charity flowing.



Vivat Jesus!

Jerry Hanten
Utah State Deputy

Master's Musings

I would like to thank all my Brothers that worked on the Veterans Wheelchair Project. Forty chairs were delivered to the Salt Lake VA and the rest are available for presentation. When you donated for the chair, if you had a specific person or place specified, we will be contacting you for delivery. If nothing was specified we will seek your approval on a destination, primarily a veteran, family, Knight, or facility. We plan on distribution of all chairs by this month. When you present your chair, please take pictures so we have a visual record of the successful completion of this project.

One of the concerns I hear about becoming a Sir Knight, is the cost of regalia. The Color Corps is a voluntary, elective division of the Fourth Degree whose distinctive presence at parades, wreath-laying and flag ceremonies, and Catholic functions is a visible reminder of our service to community. Only a small percentage of Sir Knights participate in the Color Corps. The tuxedo, chapeau, cape, and sword worn by the Color Corps were inspired by the 19th Century naval uniforms, with different colors representing nine different program ranks.

Master's Musings (cont.)

The ceremonial sword, symbolizes Christian Knighthood, and is carried to signify reverence to Church, Eucharist, country, and freedom. Color Corps members wear the regalia with pride, knowing that they represent the very best of the Knights of Columbus. Please talk with your membership and invite them to become Sir Knights. Later, if they wish to join the Color Corps we will discuss the costs and financing options with them. Stress that Patriotism is the forth degree to complement Charity, Unity, and Fraternity.

Please remember the Military Chaplains Fund. The State of Utah owes \$5,000 to the fund this year. We need the assistance 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. Currently there are 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. Thanks to Assembly 1144 for their dinner last month and to Council 12181 for their Veterans Breakfast in St. John the Baptist on November 15.

Each Assembly has an objective to increase their membership by approximately 10% this year. Last month I gave the intake goals for each Assembly and suggestions for Council targets. There is still time to submit candidates for this month's Exemplification on the 14th at St. Francis Xavier. Future Exemplifications will be June 18, 2016 in Bountiful and the revised date for the Exemplification in St. George, is April 9, 2016.

In closing, let me remind you that PATRIOTISM is exercising the power to vote. Vote not as other men dictate, but rather like men with the interest of your country at heart. Vote according to the dictates of your own consciences. ~ Rev. Michael J. McGivney. Susan B. Anthony in 1892 was arrested in 1892 for demanding to vote in the presidential election in Rochester, New York. She knew the value of one vote. In 1649, one vote caused King Charles of England to be executed. In 1876, one vote one electoral vote elected Rutherford Hayes president. In 1875, one vote changed France from a monarch to republic. In 1886, one vote kept Andrew Johnson from being impeached as president of the United States.

Vivat Jesus and God Bless America!

Bill McCauley
District Master - Utah

Perpetual Memorial Fund

Dear Fellow Knights.

I am writing to remind all of the Utah Knights of Columbus Perpetual Memorial Book. At our state convention, organizational, and mid-year meetings we have a special Mass to remember our departed brothers. The Perpetual Memorial Book is also a way we can think of our loved ones who have passed and remember them with fond memories. One way to remember those loved ones is with prayer, which is why I mention this book.



At the state functions where we celebrate a Mass, we have present the Utah Knights of Columbus Perpetual Memorial Book to include all those in the book in our celebration and prayers. The Memorial Book is a means to remember these Knights and those other than Knights. The Utah Knights of Columbus Perpetual Memorial Book travels with the State Council to all its functions and is placed at the Altar to extend prayer to all who have had their names placed in the book. This is a means of remembering and praying for your loved ones when other fellow Knights are assembled. Please take advantage of this opportunity and fill out the lower section of this letter and send it to our State Secretary. Your loved ones name will be placed in the book to be carried from now on and whenever you hear of a Utah KC State Council meeting you will know a prayer is being said for them.

Vivat Jesus!

Rick Kump, State Treasurer
Perpetual Memorial Fund Chairman
Utah Knights of Columbus State Council

Please detach and send with your donation.

I (*your name*) _____ would like you to add the name of my/our beloved deceased (*Name of loved one*):

Please **print** the name of the deceased so they can be added to the book

to the Perpetual Memorial book, and pray for them as often as possible.

I have included (\$10 recommended minimum) _____ donation, to be added to the perpetual memorial fund.

Make checks payable to: Knights of Columbus Utah State Council

Send to:

Andy Airriess
State Secretary
7215 So. 2530 West
West Jordan, UT 84084-2865

Thank you for your donation.

The STG Syndrome

Dear brothers,

We have a problem but as you know in most of the cases a problem is just an opportunity. The problem I am referring is called the STG - the "Same Ten Guys". The problem we have is that most of our roster shows many names of members who are not active anymore. The problem is the perception most of the parishes have about the K of C, they may think that our order is just a few men doing wonderful things. Fortunately, on the other hand, the opportunity is right there, in front of us.

The opportunity for us is to bring new members, fresh ideas, and fresh blood to our order. If we show more faces and have more participation, we will solve most of our problems; current inactive brothers will see changes and will re-engage by themselves; parishioners will perceive a vibrant and live council, the pastor will receive more support for his parish and parishioners will be just enchanted to see more participation. If we bring more members and keep them actively involved in our programs, they will be able to talk and to invite their own friends and family members to join our order.

Our order is constantly sharing great information with us about programs, incentives, activities and recruitment. Columbia magazine always highlights wonderful ideas implemented successfully worldwide. The problem we have is about hands, volunteers, and families to implement and to execute our programs. Our opportunity is there in front of us, at every single Mass, when we have the opportunity to see those families who are attending Mass with the same need to feed their souls and families. If we show them not only what we do but why we are doing is, I am sure just few people can resist our invitation to join us.

This is your challenge. Ask yourself and ask your council in your next meeting this question: Why are you a Knight? Then when you are able to answer this question from the bottom of your heart, you will be able to recruit one more, to give him the opportunity for joy and to receive the same things you are getting now as a knight; to serve our community and to serve our Lord. The consequence of this will be just great; we will eradicate the STG syndrome from our council in just 8 months. As you know, we do not need too many new members at our councils at the same time, we just need 5 new Knights from mainstream and 5 new knights from the Hispanic community at your council (if you have Spanish Masses at your parish) in the next 4 weeks, the multiply effect of this effort will work by itself.

The most effective way of recruitment I was able to see by myself in many parishes is the pulpit talk. In my opinion, the message is better received by the families if it is delivered by our Pastors or some special guest who can give a short speech at the end of Mass with a short endorsement from the Pastor at the end, and that is exactly what I propose to you. I would be happy to speak at a Spanish language Mass at your parish if you like, and I or another member of the state council can speak at your English language masses if that is your choice. If you or another member of your council would rather speak for your council, we would be happy to provide materials you can use for your presentation. Please ask your Pastor for his authorization to give a short speech after Mass to invite more families to join the Knights. The most effective way to do it is having a couple of you at the end of Mass at the main entrance taking names and phone numbers to follow up with them in the two days following the pulp[it] speech. If they give you their phone number and we call them back, they become a Knight in just one or two weeks. I have personally seen this happen many times in several councils in Utah.

We need more hands, fresh ideas, fresh blood, and fresh families at our councils! We can do it; we do have a magic key in our pockets all the time, wherever we go our Rosary is always with us! We are doing what is right and if use our rosary to ask Our Lady for her intercession we will be able to accomplish all we want to accomplish in the name of Jesus.

Alex Guzman,
State Membership Director
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Save the Date

The State midyear meeting has been set for Saturday, January 9th at St. Olaf Church in Bountiful. The meeting will begin at 9 AM following breakfast. The meeting will wrap around a lunch break. After Mass there will be a banquet.

Details of the meeting, including an agenda, will be sent when they are complete.

Stay Tuned!

You Walk and it Works

Over the past few years the Utah Knights of Columbus has participated in the Salt Lake MS Walk. We have done this to support the hundreds of thousands of those who have this debilitating disease.

The money we raise goes towards helping those who cannot afford it to pay for medicine and support. The money we raise also goes towards research. It is the nature of research that we are never sure what is happening. Until now.

A recent study purposely destroyed the immune systems of a group of test patients, then rebuilt it using stem cells. It should be noted that the stem cells used were adult, not fetal stem cells. The results are spectacular. The researchers report that three years after completing the treatment, 86 percent of the volunteers have avoided relapses, and almost 91 percent have so far shown no signs of their MS progressing. This is with the type of MS that affects 85 percent of MS patients.

"many of the patients have shown remarkable improvement in their EDSS scores. One patient went from being housebound at times before the study to resuming many of his favorite activities, including hitting the slopes on his snowboard - if only for yards at a time between falls.

Improvement in the EDSS scores from baseline suggests that nerves may be remyelinating, the holy grail of MS research. Restoring myelin can repair damaged nerves, restoring their function."

There are some side effects, but with continued research, the hope is that these can be reduced and the percentage of patients who go into remission will go up.

This research is only possible because people like you walk to show your support, because people like you contribute, because people like you solicit donations from others. Because people like you care.

The next MS Walk will be in April at the Gateway in Salt Lake City. Please consider soliciting funds from your council, family, and parish. The good that contributions do has been demonstrated. Let's take this fight to its end and rid the world of this disease. When the appeal goes out from Community Director Nick Neilson early next year, do your part.

If we each do a little, together we can help do marvelous things.

Check your Checks

A few tips to help you when writing checks to the State Council, during this, National State Secretary's month:

Pay to the order of:

Checks only get made out to "K of C Utah State Council" or "Knights of Columbus Utah State Council" or "Utah State Council of the Knights of Columbus" or something very close.

Not:

To the program director (e.g, David Matyjasik)
To the program name (e.g. Coats for Kids)
To the State Secretary (as much as I enjoy getting checks)

Then write the name of the program or item you were billed for (insurance, per capita, etc) in the Memo line.

Your checks

A few councils do not have their council number in the address at the top of the check. If yours is one, when you re-order checks, please have your council number printed there. There are some financial secretaries who live in cities outside their parish city.

Combining Checks

You can write one check combining multiple deposits. But, if you do, please indicate in the memo line the item and the amount. In this way, you can write one check for insurance, per capita, Science Fair prizes, and Coats for Kids donation. The memo line could look like this:

Insurance 79.50
Per Capita: 652.75
Science Fair (Young Scientist 50.00)
Coats for Kids: 250.00

Then your worthy state treasurer can cut back on the Vicodin for his poor, gnarled fingers.

If you do combine checks, please double-check your math.

State Secretary's Corner

There was a reading in church a few weeks ago that really struck a chord with me. I've added a few words from the passage in the bible (James, Chapter 1) that were removed from the reading:

Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves . . . who is not a hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, such a one shall be blessed in what he does. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

What a perfect description of the Knights of Columbus.

We are not only hearers; we are doers of the word. You have to hear to know where help is needed, hear to know we are the ones who are needed, and hear to know how we are to help. Knights do these things because we listen with our hearts as well as our ears. Then we do. And how we do!

We were founded by a priest whose primary interest was the care of widows and orphans. The United States Council of Catholic Bishops' notes for the reading from James above states "In the Old Testament, orphans and widows are classical examples of the defenseless and oppressed." With the money and goods that we donate and the hundreds of thousands of hours of our own time that we donate, we demonstrate how we are tireless doers for the defenseless and oppressed.

Absolute purity, to be unstained, has only been achieved by one. While giving us something to aim for we are also certain to fall short. By being doers, by actively participating in our faith, we work to keep closer to the unreachable standard. This is the hardest task of those who live in the world. But with the charity, unity, and fraternity of our order, and the support and inspiration of our brother Knights to guide us, we are more likely to be closer to the goal than those without such help.

State Program Updates

The **State Poster Contest** well underway 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. It's not too late to order your support materials here: http://www.kofc.org/un/en/service/youth/poster/support_materials.html

The **State Essay Contest** - Entries are due the first week of January. Details to follow. 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. Order your kit here: http://www.kofc.org/un/en/service/youth/essay/support_materials.html

The **Keep Christ in Christmas Poster contest** - I know, no snow yet, but it really is just around the corner. An, inexpensive program that can build your council's interaction with the parish and the parents of the children who participate. Order your kit: http://www.kofc.org/un/en/service/church/christmas/support_materials.html

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.

Coats for Kids Think about how you can have your parish participate and make this year's Coats for Kids drive better than last year's. Start your fundraising now. Let's make this year's drive so much better than last year's.

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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