

# STATE UPDATE



## UTAH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LEADERS

www.utahknights.org

October 2015

### State Deputy's Message

Brothers,

Councils do the main work of the Knights of Columbus and it is the council that need to decide what they need to do. Planning early and preparing a calendar can be so important so you have the men and resources to do the project justice. The state council is here to help you and help focus on programs that encompass the entire state. Many programs the state council sponsors started with an idea from a council or assembly with the most recent example being wheelchair drive. Others are ideas Supreme has seen a need for and has stepped up to assist councils. Two such programs are the seminarian support provided with RSVP and the Ultrasound Initiative.

Programs are the life blood of the Knights' charity and working together is what gives us unity of purpose. The Knights of Columbus has a lot of great programs from Special Olympics, helping with Habitat for Humanity, Food for Families, etc. Every state has its own unique issues and needs and Utah is no different. Take your ideas and programs and make them Utah Knights of Columbus programs and fill a need.

Membership is no different. New members are how councils grow, bring in new energy, and new ideas. October is a great time for recruitment when you consider the symbolism of Columbus Day. It was the vision of this man that brought about the growth of the Church and development of the Americas. Supreme asks all councils to do Church Drives in October. Please, plan for a 1<sup>st</sup> degree. If you wait to have candidates before you schedule a degree you have a candidate waiting. When a degree is scheduled, you have a goal to recruit men for the 1<sup>st</sup> degree

Each degree has a lesson to bring to our Knights. Talk to your District Deputies to schedule a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree so your men can know not only the Charity we bring but the Unity of purpose we develop when we perform our charities. Learn the fraternal aspect that makes us a family and worthy to call each other brothers.

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### State Chaplain's Summation

On the front door of my rectory, I have the Arabic letter Nuun ("N"). It stands for Nasrani, the Arabic word that Muslims use for Christians. In Iraq, ISIL marked the houses of Christians with this sign to single them out for persecution. (It is better to refer to ISIL as Daesh, from the Arabic acronym for the group. It means garbage and doesn't give them legitimacy.) Many Christians throughout the world have put this sign on their houses to show their solidarity with our persecuted brothers and sisters.

As you have no doubt seen on the news, our Christian brothers and sister in the Middle East are experiencing severe persecution at the hands of Islamists. Many have been martyred. Many have been driven from their homes. Many women and children have been sold as slaves. The response of the world community and our government thus far has been underwhelming. We should stand up for persecuted and oppressed people everywhere, but especially so for fellow Christians who are being singled out precisely for their adherence to the Faith.

A letter on the door is a good thing. It can help raise awareness of what is going on. But it isn't nearly enough. At the Supreme Convention, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson announced a concerted and focused effort to help those made homeless and stateless by the Islamist persecution. (<http://www.kofc.org/un/en/news/releases/detail/kofc-expand-humanitarian-assistance-middle-east-christians.html>) Our order is stepping up to meet this grave need and we are individual knights and councils need to join in. I am reminded of how, in The Acts of the Apostles, the churches collected money to send to help their persecuted brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

We can and should also express our concerns to our elected representatives, respectfully asking that our government help to stop the persecution and help those impacted

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## State Deputy's Message (cont)

Everyone should be proud of the country they live in and where they are raising their families. The Patriotic degree gives that to our men and it shows the support we look for in our church as well. The 3<sup>rd</sup> degree is no longer something that is performed on just weekends but can be scheduled on a weeknight. If a council or district would like to provide this benefit, work with the State Council to schedule a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> degree when it does not take a man away from his family all day on a weekend.

The Knights of Columbus was formed to protect our families. Let us not forget the men who represent this aspect and call them at least once a year to help focus on our family's security. These men are not just here to sell insurance but to come into our homes and help explain about any questions we have on what we already have and help us make informed decisions. The Knights of Columbus products are some of the best in the country as noted by our rating by national rating organizations and internationally when we were received the Most Ethical Company Award.

Summer is over and we should be going full tilt on our programs. Invite your neighbors and friends to help and get that feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction of doing something great. Invite him to join and learn the pride of being able to call you brother.



Vivat Jesus!

Jerry Hanten  
Utah State Deputy

## www.utahknights

The new state web site is up and operating. We owe a great debt to our previous web master, Michael Goleniewski for his tremendous work over the past years. Our current web master, Chris Hood, has built a framework that allows more timely adding, removing, and modifying of events and programs.

We hope you will have a look around and come back often. Please let us know if there is anything else we can add that would be of help to you and your council and assembly. This is YOUR web site and we want to make sure it addresses your needs.

Special thanks to everybody who helped put the new site together, including Chris Hood and PR Chairman Greg Keller.

## State Chaplain's Summation (Cont.)

Also, we need to remember that it is not only in the Middle East that Christians are being persecuted for the Faith. Throughout the Muslim World, in Communist countries, in India, many other places Christians are being killed, are imprisoned, or are simply experiencing discrimination. Christianity is the most persecuted religion in the world. We need to remember our brothers and sisters in our prayers and help them whenever we are able.

Fr. Erik Reichsteig  
Utah State Chaplain

## State Secretary's Corner

One of my favorite writers on leadership is Ed Marx. This column of mine comes from a recent column of his which I have adapted for a Knights readership and to focus on charity, not health care information technology.

What is the difference is between a manager and leader? Leaders replicate themselves; managers don't.

If you have not replicated yourself to cultivate leadership, you are a manager. There is nothing wrong with being a manager — you just have to be honest about it. If you think you are a leader but no one follows in your footsteps, you are a manager. The greatest joy of a leader is to raise someone up and see him succeed. Here are some tips to identify which you are and how to become a true leader.

**Self-reflection.** Yes it starts with you. Are you worthy to be replicated? Do people seek you out and want to serve you? If not, be honest about it and figure out why. I self-reflect constantly and sometimes, I don't like what I see.

**Mentor.** Establish a mentoring program. These can be formal or informal. You will have more success if you develop a formal program and enlist others in your council to help.

**Hand-offs.** I still recall an Army mission where we were on patrol for three days straight. The company commander approached me early one morning and said, "Congratulations Marx, you are in charge. Take us back safely." No time to prepare or rest. Man, I grew on that mission. My boss knew how to force me to grow. Throw surprises at your team. That is how you accelerate growth

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# District Master's Message

Last year, over 15,000 Knights joined the Patriotic Degree. Because of losses, mostly deaths, this resulted in a net increase of 6,217 Sir Knights, bringing Fourth Degree membership to a record high of 347,177. We also added 84 new assemblies, bringing the total to 3,253. Here in the Utah District, we have 1,077 Sir Knights in 9 assemblies. The Knights continue to be an especially important presence in Veterans Administration hospitals throughout the United States. Today we are the VA's largest single fraternal volunteer service partner. Led by the Patriotic Degree, Knights have donated nearly 99,000 hours of service at more than 136 VA medical centers.

This year we will have one Clergy Exemplification: October 14 for Priests and Deacons, scheduled at St. Francis Xavier in Kearns, beginning at 7:00 PM. There will be three regular Exemplifications: November 14, scheduled at St. Francis Xavier, April 2, 2016 at St. George Church in St. George, and June 18 at St. Olaf's in Bountiful. The Exemplifications will start at 1:30 PM this year, with Registration at 12:30. We also have two dinners scheduled: Special Olympics on January 30, 2016 and Fisher House on March 19, 2016. Hopefully, many of you attended the Military Chaplains Dinner this month.

The District Meeting will be held at St. Thomas More in Sandy on March 19, 2016. We also continue our support of Special Olympics. We will have an Honor Guard and High-Five Line at the Fall Games at University of Utah on October 16.

By now, each GK should have assigned a 4th Degree member of their Council to represent them at the Assembly business meeting. This will allow a greater flow of information among all the Councils in each Assembly. This person would also be able to give the 4th Degree Report at the Council meeting. Continue to keep your Sir Knights active in your Councils. We are dedicated Knights and will help out as much as we can. We can be especially helpful in retention and mentoring newer Knights. As always, we support our clergy. Assembly 1429 is sponsoring a Clergy Appreciation Dinner on October 23. Knights, Ladies, and guests are all invited to show our appreciation. If interested, contact Joe Hudak for information at [johudakjr@hotmail.com](mailto:johudakjr@hotmail.com).

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.

Each Assembly has an objective to increase their membership by approximately 10% this year. You can break that out by Council, but at the Kick-Off Meeting I challenged each Council to advance three new Sir Knights this fraternal year. Talk to your Clergy and current officers; advance members to full Knighthood in the 3rd degree; and give all your 3rd Degrees the opportunity to learn the lesson of Patriotism in the 4th Degree. The Intake Goals by Assembly are:

Fr. Dominquez Assembly 1144	27	Fr. Escalante Assembly 1146	6
Msgr. Cushnahan Assembly 1429	22	Carbon Assembly 1570	4
Bishop Scanlan Assembly 2393	10	Rev Thomas J Meersman Assembly 2577	23
Padre Pio Assembly 2636	6	St John Paul II Assembly 3501	5
Rev Msgr Robert C Pollock Assembly 3586	5		

In closing, let me remind you that FRATERNITY is being strong and of good courage. Be strong and of good courage, do not fear or be in dread of them; for it is the LORD your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. ~ Deuteronomy 31:6.

Vivat Jesu and God Bless America!

Bill McCauley

District Master - Utah

## State Secretary's corner, continued

**Inspire.** You cannot mandate leadership, but you can inspire leadership. Speak life into your people. Most are beat down by the circumstances of life. Stuff happens and life and it can be hard. Counteract the negativity with an opposing spirit by encouraging those you serve. Tell them what they need to hear, but don't necessarily believe about themselves and their abilities – that they are leaders and have what it takes. That they can be a leader. That they are better than you. That their lives matter and they can make a big difference in the lives of others.

**Listen.** The biggest compliment you can give is to ask for input, listen to those you serve, and take action on it. Insecure leaders are afraid and don't listen, but doing so builds the confidence of those around you. Confident subordinates are future leaders.

**Model.** Always lead the way. Don't just talk about getting your hands dirty, actually do it and take people with you.

**Opportunity.** Look for opportunities for your team and pass them along. Leaders help locate opportunities for those they lead. This could be an open state or assembly position, or leading a program in your council.

**Legacy.** We should all ask ourselves what on earth we are here for. We need to ask ourselves those deathbed questions about legacy and our life every day. What better way to leave a legacy than to have dozens of leaders out there you helped develop who are saving and changing lives? Better yet, leaders who spawn other leaders. Wow. That is something to live and work for.

**Time.** Your time is not yours. You owe everything to your team and to God. Spend social and work time with your team. Laugh, cry, reflect, vent. If you don't give yourself to your team, they will never escape adolescence and grow into the leaders they have the ability to be.

What are you going to do with this challenge? Are you a leader with offspring ... or are you a manager? What will you do to move from manager to leader? What will you do to increase your impact in this world?

### State Program Updates

The **State Soccer Challenge** is scheduled for October 10th at Judge Memorial High School. Registration begins at 9AM, the competition begins at 10AM

The **State Poster Contest** is just around the corner. 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. Order your support materials here: [http://www.kofc.org/un/en/service/youth/poster/support\\_materials.html](http://www.kofc.org/un/en/service/youth/poster/support_materials.html)

The **State Essay Contest** - Is also just around the corner. 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](http://www.kofc.org/un/en/service/youth/essay/support_materials.html)

The **Keep Christ in Christmas Poster contest** - Is also just around the corner. Very much like the state poster contest, 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/church/christmas/support\\_materials.html](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. Our Northern councils and the state council are both planning for an earlier distribution than last year, so start your fundraising early. Let's make this year's drive so much better than last year's success.

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