State Update

State Deputy’s Message

Change can be exciting and present new opportunities. One of our Up North Knights, who does volunteer work at the local Veteran’s Home, asked some Veteran Knights during a visit if they would like to participate with the council Knights at their parish during the Coast to Coast Rosary. The Veterans agreed. Arrangements were made to transport the Veterans to the parish on the appointed afternoon, and several Veterans participated. The Veterans expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to pray the Rosary with brother Knights.

Seeing how turn-around was fair play, the Veterans then asked the council if they would like to hold their December council meeting at the Veteran’s Home. The council always prays the Rosary together before their meeting so yet another opportunity to gather together in brotherhood. The usual meeting place at the church was changed and announced through the Grand Knight’s communications. On the evening of the council meeting, more Knights (including council Veterans who usually don’t attend) showed up to participate than had ever come to the regular old council meetings. A great time of camaraderie was had by all, and one of the Veterans filled out a Form 100 transferring his membership to the host council.

Yes Brothers, it can be done. Continue looking for new opportunities to engage your members and keep them active. Remember Programs and Membership go hand-in-hand. You can’t have programs without membership, and you won’t have members without programs.

Speaking of membership. With half the year behind us, the month of December was lackluster for gaining new members; only 9 total with 6 alone coming from Council 7961 (way to go GK Andy Airriess!). We’re now at 25% of goal to bring in new men to help us offset the inevitable losses we experience due to suspensions, withdrawals, transfers and deaths. Fortunately from last month’s report, the recruiting councils increased by two for a total of 19 of our 37 councils.

Congratulations to Councils 7961 St James the Worker - West Jordan (200%), 9731 Our Lady of Lourdes - Magna (133%), 10304 St Martin De Porres - Taylorsville (100%), 15741 Our Lady of Guadalupe - Salt Lake City (100%), 1136 Father Escaletre - Provo (100%), 8350 Saints Peter and Paul - West Valley City (71%), .1129 St Mary’s - Park City (38%), 14399 Holy Family - South Ogden (43%), 16127 Deacon Sliger - Hill AFB Base (33%), 12181 St Teresa of Calcutta - Draper (28%), and 13646 St Theresa of the Child Jesus - Midvale (25%). These 11 councils are leading the pack. By the way, Online Membership is also still working great.

Friendly reminder - the State Mid-Year Meeting will be held on Saturday, 5 January 2019 at the Cathedral of the Madeline. All Knights are invited. Detailed agendas, locations, and meal reservations can be found on the utahknights.org web site. Deadline for meal reservations was 28 December. Hope to see you all in January.

Vivat Jesus!

Greg Keller
Utah State Deputy

Holy Father’s Prayer Intention

Young People & the Example of Mary

That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

Offered in Solidarity with Pope Francis

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Special points of interest
“TO WHAT DEGREE”
Fourth Degree News and Views

Change is all in your Heart
Change is not something that is ever welcomed, even when people scream for it. Change is hard, change takes effort, change is not the norm and people in general like normalcy. Change can be great and change can cause serious issues, but for all of its inconsistencies on thing is for sure change is constant. Just about 26 years ago I started an Air Force career, a dream I had since I was in the 3rd grade of joining the military and since the 6th grade that it would be the Air Force. I had been in about 2.5 years and the Air Force had decided to change our Dress Blues, not that the Air Force has ever had the coolest uniforms (my opinion that goes to the Marines) but it actually looked like a uniform. Epaullets on the shoulders, fancy pockets, heavy and thick, the new one looked like a cheap Sears suit. We quickly got called US Air. It wasn’t a few years later and most people had forgotten all about the old uniform and we all survived change. What I realized through the numerous uniform changes I had in my 20+ years career was that it didn’t matter what uniform I wore to do my job, it was that I did my job.

Classic regalia or new uniform does not make the Knight. It won’t change what many other SK’s do. I never wore my Military uniform to look cool I wore it because I wanted to, I loved it, I love my country. Now I wear my regalia/4th-degree uniform because I want to, I love being a Knight; I love my GOD and My CHURCH and MY COUNTRY. Standing proudly over a fallen Knight is way more important than what I am wearing, supporting my clergy and being the visible arm of the Knights is more important than what I am wearing. Old and new let’s display them all through June, let’s just get out there.

Your heart and dedication can determine how change affects you. – District Marshal Stacey Yeager

New District Program

Patriotism - the 4th Degree principle. Sir Knights serve at the VA Hospital and other VA locations; host veterans to Fishing Events; support Fisher House and the families of vets... and most recently the Socks for Heroes Drive. We now augment our support to vets and their families by streamlining the vet’s claims of earned benefits, which could generate tens of thousands of dollars over the balance of their lives.

American Patriot Service Corps is the charity to achieve this mission. Simply put, APSC assists veterans and their surviving spouses apply for pension and health care benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. We know of the difficult filing process to the VA. We’ve heard of the countless claims rejections because of red tape. The frustrations of vets’ families seem insurmountable. APSC cuts through the paper maze by assisting vets; explaining, and submitting claims submission at no charge! A 501c3 charity since 2011, APSC assistance yielded over 110 million dollars in approved claims with almost twice that many claims currently pending.

Knights will join forces with APSC by assisting in locating those-in-need – vets, families, and widows and by pledging fundraising efforts to “serve those who served us!”

Yours in Christ,
Francisco Carmona
Master of the Fourth Degree
State Secretary’s Corner

What Brings You Joy

Administrative notes, we have 3 councils that have not submitted their Chosen Officers (Form 185) report, and 13 councils that have not submitted their Program Personnel (Form 365) report. To assist the councils the State Officers have divided up the districts and can be another point of contact for those councils in addition to their DDs. State Deputy Greg Keller has Districts 1 and 10, State Secretary Nick Nielson has Districts 6 and 8, State Treasurer James McManaman has Districts 2 and 7, State Advocate Bill Kelly has Districts 3 and 4, and Immediate Past State Deputy Andy Airriess has District 5.

We have recruited 63 new members this year, that is 27.39% of our annual goal. We were keeping pace with last year but at the end of December we are now behind our previous year by 10 members YTD. Online Membership is working well and can be a great help to your council. We have brought in 13 members this year through Online Membership. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

What is joy and what brings you joy? In a homily by Pope Francis a while back he makes a distinction between joy and happiness; and my personal impression is happiness seems to be tied to material things and can fade but joy is rooted in faith. I enjoyed a homily a few weeks ago where the pastor talked about a book by Matthew Kelly called “Rediscovering Jesus” and it talks about joy coming from serving others. There is a story in the book about a man that is on his way to make a flight but as he is getting into a taxi a woman has her fruit cart tip over and fruit spilling everywhere. He passed on the taxi and helped the woman pick up her fruit even though this meant he would miss his flight and not be with his family. As they finished picking up the fruit the woman asked if he was Jesus, the woman turned out to be blind and asked Jesus to help her. The man reflected on this and even though he didn't have the happiness of being with his family he was filled with joy helping that woman. The Gospel from that same weekend the pastor shared this homily was Luke 3:10-18 and it talked about if you have 2 cloaks to give one away, if you have extra food to share that with others. This is where joy comes from, it comes from repentance and living as you should, it comes from finding the needs of others.

I share this because this is what my membership in the Knights of Columbus does for me. It helps me find joy and I encourage you to reflect on your membership and hope that it brings you joy as well. I also hope that you will offer this gift of joy to others by inviting them to join the Knights of Columbus.

I'll leave you with the last part of the homily from that pastor, he provided an acronym for JOY: Jesus, put him at the center of your life. Others, serve others in need. And Yourself, love yourself and forgive yourself. Do these three things and you will have Joy. Happy New year and I'm excited to see where this second half of the year takes the Utah State Knights of Columbus.

Vivat Jesus!

Nick Nielson
State Secretary

Upcoming Degrees

Formation & Knighthood Degrees

1/12 — Saint Francis of Assisi, Orem, UT. 8:30am—12:30pm
1/19 — Holy Family, South Ogden, UT. 12:30pm—3:30pm
2/21 — WEEKDAY DEGREE St. John the Baptist, Draper, UT. 7pm-8:30pm, candidates arrive 6:30.

Patriotic Degrees

1/26 — Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Orem, UT 12:30pm—9pm
Membership Memo—Temperature Check

As we reach the midway point of the year we are on pace with last year as far as membership in concerned. We have more suspensions than we did at this point last year but I hope this will allow us to manage our rosters better and concentrate on those Knights that are committed to the Order. The holiday season is a busy time and Knights have always been busy supporting our parishes and helping the needy. I hope 2019 will be a banner year for all Knights and we can continue to do the charity work we all love.

The mid-year meeting is January 4th and 5th and I look forward to seeing my brother Knights. We all know that more Knights means more hands to help and we as a State need to do a better job of scheduling and conducting admission degrees. We have one council that has already achieved Membership and Insurance for the year and they have time to completing the other requirements for Star Council. More information at the Mid-year meeting. I will be providing each council with a detailed report on what they have accomplished and what reports, audits etc. that still need to be filed. You will only get information for your council so no one needs to worry about being singled out in front of everyone.

The State Officers have been assigned Districts which will make it easier for the State to assist you in becoming successful.

I hope all of you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Vivat Jesus,

James "Mac" McManaman
Utah State Treasurer, Membership Director
statetreasurer@utahknights.org

From Supreme—A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPREME KNIGHT

Dear Brother Knight:

There have been times in our country's past when uninformed or prejudiced people questioned whether Catholics could be good citizens or honest public servants. That's why Father McGivney chose the name “Columbus” for our Order — because the discoverer was the Catholic figure from American history most admired and accepted at the time. In fact, from our founding in 1882, until the election of Brother Knight John F. Kennedy in 1960, many still held that Catholics were unfit for public office. Throughout that time, the Knights of Columbus worked to counter such prejudice.

Sadly, it seems that in some quarters, this prejudice remains. [i] First, in 2017 a Notre Dame law professor was deemed unfit for a federal judgeship by a United States Senator who feared that “the dogma lives loudly within you.” Now, two more senators have questioned a Brother Knight’s fitness for the federal bench precisely because our Order holds firm to the Church’s teachings on the sanctity of life and marriage.

Such attacks on the basis of our Catholic faith are hardly new. The Knights of Columbus was formed amid a period of anti-Catholic bigotry. We stood against that then, and we do so now. We have spoken out against persecution around the world for nearly a century. At the same time, we stood against the Ku Klux Klan, including its attempts to ban Catholic education, and we published books on the black and Jewish contributions to American history decades before the Civil Rights movement. More recently, we stood with the Little Sisters of the Poor in their fight for religious liberty and have worked with both the Obama and Trump administrations — and both sides of the aisle in Congress — to help Christians, Yazidis and Shi’a Muslims targeted for genocide by ISIS.

From our very beginning, the Knights of Columbus has been an organization adhering to the teachings of the Catholic Church. As with the Church, our primary motivation in everything is Christ’s great commandment, that we love God completely and our neighbor as ourselves.

As the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church explains, “Jesus Christ reveals to us that ‘God is love’ and He teaches us that ‘the fundamental law of human perfection, and consequently of the transformation of the world, is the new commandment of love.’”[ii]

This love impels us to our great charitable endeavors on behalf of those in need. From inner cities in the United States to refugee camps in the Middle East our Order’s donations over the last decade — more than one billion dollars and hundreds of millions of hours in volunteer work — are the result of this faith.

These works of charity have practical impacts that transform lives as we help people here at home and around the world. Our charity helped typhoon victims in the Philippines rebuild their lives and livelihoods; it brought prosthetics and rehabilitation to thousands of Haitian youth after the earthquake there; it puts coats on poor, cold
children in some of our country’s most impoverished neighborhoods each winter; it gives wheelchairs to those who otherwise could not afford them in countries like Vietnam and Mexico; and it provides education, housing and medical care to AIDS orphans in Africa.

This love also motivates us to stand with the Church on the important issues of life and marriage, precisely because the Church’s teaching reflects and is based on that love. We stand with our Church because we believe that what our faith teaches is consistent with reason, is timeless and transcends the changing sentiments of any particular time or place.

We do not stand alone.

In his first message to our international convention, Pope Francis asked “each Knight, and every Council, to bear witness to the authentic nature of marriage and the family, the sanctity and inviolable dignity of human life, and the beauty and truth of human sexuality.”

And our positions on life are not new. My two predecessors as supreme knight spoke out forcefully to defend the rights of the unborn. In 1973, Supreme Knight John McDevitt wrote that Roe v. Wade was “a mortal blow to all who consider human life sacred.” He urged the Order “to initiate or increase efforts to offset the harmful effects of this lamentable decision.”

My immediate predecessor, Virgil Dechant, said in 1977: “With some 1.2 million unborn babies being killed by abortion each year in the United States alone, we are confronted with an outrage against human life paralleled only by the ravages of a bloody war.”

Simply put, our positions are now, and have always been, Catholic positions.

We must remember that Article VI of the U.S. Constitution forbids a religious test for public office, and the First Amendment guarantees our free exercise of religion, freedom of association and freedom of speech. Any suggestion that the Order’s adherence to the beliefs of the Catholic Church makes a Brother Knight unfit for public office blatantly violates those constitutional guarantees.

Let us continue to express our love of God and neighbor by helping those in need and by standing with our Church, regardless of the popularity of doing so. Let us remember that our “Christian witness is to be considered a fundamental obligation.” [iii]

Let us also remember that, from our founding, we have embodied the truth that a good Catholic is a good citizen who shows civility and dignity even in the face of prejudice.

As we begin 2019, Dorian and I wish you a new year filled with the joy and wonders of His love. Thank you as well for all the many ways in which you have brought joy into the lives of millions around the world. May the inspiration of our founder prompt us to greater confidence in that love and encourage us to even greater works of charity.

Fraternally,
Carl A. Anderson
Insurance Assurance—Your Shield of Strength

As the economy begins to shake off a half-decade of turbulent times, the Knights of Columbus is celebrating 17 consecutive years of insurance business growth.

We’ve weathered the storm when others haven’t, because it’s not our first. We’ve weathered the storm when others couldn’t, because we know how to navigate. We’ve weathered the storm when others made costly mistakes, because we don’t take on unnecessary risk.

Our strength is undeniable. More members than ever before see it, and are using our shield to protect their families. Are you?

If you need life insurance – and chances are you do – why would you look anywhere else? Let us be your shield.

Did you know that the Knights of Columbus is one of the largest life insurers in North America? The Knights of Columbus has surpassed $110 billion of insurance in force, and is a member of the Fortune 1000.

Did you know that the Knights of Columbus consistently earns the highest possible ratings for its ethical business practices and sound investment strategies?

A.M. Best, a global leader in the rating and analysis of insurance companies, has given the Knights of Columbus their highest financial strength rating (A++, Superior) for 39 consecutive years. There is simply no more highly rated insurance company in North America than your Knights of Columbus. And, for the last 5 consecutive years, the Knights of Columbus has been named a “World’s Most Ethical Company” by the Ethisphere Institute in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Did you know that providing financial benefits for members was the reason that Venerable Father Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus?

Our founding charter from 1882 makes it clear, the Knights of Columbus’ primary goal is “to render financial aid to its members and the beneficiaries of members.”

Did you know that the Knights of Columbus offers a full, top-quality product line of life insurance, disability income insurance, long-term care insurance, and retirement annuities?

We have products and solutions to fit your family’s needs and budgets. I am available to provide a complementary, comprehensive analysis to assess your situation.

Did you know that there are a number of products and services that you may be eligible for, just for being a Knight?

Whether it’s our family fraternal benefits program, our survivor benefits, or our Personal Planning workbook, there are a lot of ways that the Knights of Columbus Insurance program can benefit you and your family.

There might be quite a bit that you don’t know about Knights of Columbus Insurance and about the fraternal and financial benefits of your membership. Join the hundreds of thousands of your brother knights who use our shield as their protection.

Contact us today to learn more about our products.

“If you need life insurance – and chances are you do – why would you look anywhere else? Let us be your shield.”