

STATE UPDATE

UTAH KNIGHTS OF



COLUMBUS LEADERS

www.utahknights.org

February 2015

State Deputy's Message

Brothers,

We have just started a new year. It is a time to prepare and make resolutions and goals for the upcoming year. The knights work a different calendar which runs from July and June. It is up to you to decide if in respect to your year, is the glass half empty or half full.

In January, we put together our reports to compile the hours and dollars we gave to charity in 2015. Next month we have deadlines for awards and scholarships. We begin preparation for our State Convention. This is not a signal that we can start slowing down and coast to the end of the year. We should be checking to see if our goals set at the beginning of the year are being met. Do we need to adjust our plans to make sure our goals can be met or can we raise the bar higher to make those goals and even a little more.

Our goal has always been charity. Another goal is to keep our councils strong and alive. New members are needed to keep councils vibrant and meeting the needs of your families, churches, and communities. If the same guys are doing all the work, how long is it before they begin to burn out. These same guys are not getting younger and most communities and churches are growing which means even more efforts are needed to keep the programs going. With these conditions, do we start cutting our programs or do we get more men to help and modify our programs to meet the new needs of our community.

These questions can all be answered to the positive. Talk to the pastor to make sure you are meeting the needs of the parish. Check how your parish interacts with the community and where you can help with their needs. Talk to your parishioners and see what they would like to see happen. Bring in the men from the parish as members so they can help keep the charity flowing. Even if they don't join immediately, work with them and let them help.

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St. Chaplain's Summation

Mercy. We are in a jubilee year of Mercy. Like all jubilee years it is a time for an outpouring of grace. Our Holy Father Pope Francis has granted indulgences for this year. That is to say, through simple prayers and actions the temporal (non-eternal) punishments due our sins can be washed away. At our very own Cathedral of the Madeline, one of the entries has been designated a door of mercy. All we have to do is enter it, pray for the intentions of the Pope, and go to Confession and receive Holy Communion within two weeks. Pretty easy eh? A chance to receive God's mercy.

During jubilee years we are often called to reflect on and practice a particular aspect of the Faith. Yes, you guessed it: it is Mercy. This is not to say that we have never been merciful or known about God's mercy until now. It is an essential part of our Faith. But, we are being called to reflect upon it and renew our efforts to put it into practice. What is God's Mercy? Better to say who. Jesus is the embodiment of God's mercy. Through no merit of our, God gives us Himself to atone for our sins and open the gates of Heaven for us. We didn't have to earn it. We could not earn it. And yet God loves us so much that He gives us Himself.

So people think that this means that it doesn't matter what we do. This is wrong. God's mercy is an opportunity. He will not force Himself on us. We have to accept His Mercy and work with Him. And we need to be merciful ourselves. Repeatedly Jesus teaches us that if we wish to receive mercy, we must be merciful ourselves. We must not expect others to earn our forgiveness and like God we must reach out to others with our mercy. This can be a very hard thing. But if it were easy, Jesus would not have to teach us to be merciful.

To truly celebrate this year, we need to make an extra-effort to receive God's Mercy; to let God's grace, most especially the grace given by the Sacrament of Confession, make us new and whole again. We also need to look for opportunities to share that mercy.

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State Deputy's Message (cont.)

Once they know the good they can do, experience the fellowship of the Knights, and the protection they can provide their families, they will want to join the Knights. With the new ideas, let the new members grow by letting them lead. A man will work harder to make something succeed when it is his idea.

Lent is starting and the Easter season is just around the corner. Lent is a time of inner reflection about the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross and what it means to you. We are founded on this belief and the extension of love and charity. These are the principles that make the world around us a better place. Without these principles, the world would be a vacuum with no real purpose for what we do each day. Keep the charity flowing and work to fill the glass and make our lives and what we do mean something. The Knights "Change Lives and Save Lives" and prove that every day.

Vivat Jesus!



Jerry Hanten
Utah State Deputy

Master's Musings

The lessons of Charity, Unity and Fraternity are not to be taken lightly for they are the basis for which we live our Catholic lives at home, at church and in our communities. They help in establishing a firm foundation as Catholic men. But there is another principle that we would like you to consider on your journey as a Knight of Columbus and that is the Principle of "Patriotism." For most men who follow Jesus, there comes a time when duty extends beyond our own lives, beyond how we lead our families, and into how we serve our fellow man. That's what the Knights of Columbus is all about. And for those who are called to take it one step further, the Fourth (Patriotic) Degree is the way.

The title of Sir Knight is more than just a title. The Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus is committed to the preservation of the Church, the Order, and the many nations where Knights serve. We stand where Christ would have us, as examples of His presence in the world. If the sanctity of life, family values, and true religious freedom are to survive, democratic nations need a greater commitment from people of faith.

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Master's Musings (cont.)

Fourth Degree Knights make that commitment. Fourth Degree Knights hold unwaveringly to what is right and honorable. This means working to keep God in the civic arena. It means supporting and defending laws that recognize the sanctity of life and true religious liberty and of course, serving the life of the Church. Fourth Degree Knights are committed to building lives of character. Talk to your Third Degree Knights in good standing. Now is time for them to consider reaching even further with their faith. It is time for them to consider the Fourth (Patriotic) Degree.

Our next 4th Degree Exemplification will be on February 27, 2016 and will be held at St. Vincent de Paul's Benvegna Center in Holladay, Utah. We have forms and information for download on the 4th Degree website at utahknights.org. This is a unique exemplification in that candidates are not required to wear tuxedos. This is an opportunity to become a Sir Knight that will not be repeated. You need to get the Form 4 to your Assembly ASAP. All of your officers, Clergy, and 3rd Degree members should be encouraged to attend this exemplification.

In closing, remember that PATRIOTISM is reverence for all life. "I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me... whenever you did this for one of the least important followers of these followers of mine, you did it for me!" – Matthew 25:25, 40.

Tip O'Neil was a member of Congress for 34 years. He was a speaker of the House for ten years, the longest consecutive term for any speaker in the history of Congress. On the wall of his office hung these words from the last speech that Hubert Humphrey (Senator, Vice President, and Presidential nominee) ever gave. Tip said they summed up his own philosophy and values. "The moral test of government is how it treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children... in the twilight of life, the aged... in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped." How might our Councils and Assemblies witness to our special concern for the unborn, the sick, the needy, the handicapped, and our nation's homeless veterans?

Vivat Jesus and God Bless America!

Bill McCauley
District Master - Utah

Important Deadlines

Our Mid-Year meeting went well and I thank all you who participated, and thanks to St. Olaf's Council 5502 at for being such wonderful hosts. We presented a lot of information and asked you to set some goals to take you through to the end of our fiscal year. Part of those goals are some milestones in March which you should be preparing for this month.

The scholarship program is due by March 15 and this is eligible for children of Utah members or members who will be graduating. Details and entry forms are on the state web site under "Programs."

State Award Applications are due March 15 and every council should have programs they are especially proud of. These awards are not there so someone gets a pat on the back. The awards are there to show pride in the charity that we provide let your members know that they have something to be proud of. Even if your council does not receive the award for the best program, it is an acknowledgment that what they do matters and they are making a difference. The entry form and details are on the state web site under "Forms/State Forms."

Church drives are traditionally in March and you should be preparing now. There are a lot of options which can include working with the pastor, pulpit speeches, bulletin announcements, open houses, breakfasts, or many other recruitment options. New members are the life blood of the councils. To sustain your councils you need the new ideas and energy of new members. Have a ceremonial scheduled for follow-up so these men do not have to wait to begin the charity they desire and they can begin to "Change Lives and Save Lives". Details on running a church drive can be found on the Supreme Web Site by searching for "Church Drive."

Jerald Hanten

Utah State Deputy

St. Chaplain's Summation (cont)

The church teaching that there are seven spiritual works of mercy: to instruct the ignorant, to counsel the doubtful, to admonish sinners, to bear wrongs patiently, to forgive offenses willingly, to comfort the afflicted, and to pray for the living and the dead. There are also corporal works: to feed the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to harbor the harborless, to visit the sick, to ransom the captive, and to bury the dead. As Knights we should take this opportunity to reflect on how we can better live these out as individuals, councils, and as an Order.

Fr. Erik Reichsteig
Utah State Chaplain

State Secretary's Corner

The fruit of Silence is prayer.

The fruit of Prayer is faith.

The fruit of Faith is love.

The fruit of Love is service.

The fruit of Service is peace

- Blessed Mother Theresa

As Knights, we are very good at most of this quote. We pray. We pray at our meetings, on our own, at church and just about everywhere else. We have faith? Our order was founded with and on faith. Love? We demonstrate it with every program and project we have. Love for the less fortunate, the sick, the imprisoned, the persecuted, our church, our families. We demonstrate this love through our service.

With all that we do we give each other peace, and give peace to that little voice inside us that calls us to action. Until we hear that voice again and in the silence, we pray.

Andy Airriess

The following articles come from the "Life Support" newsletter by Dick Riddell

Pro-Life Progress

The US reached the lowest abortion level in 2012 according to [the latest CDC report](#). These are the latest figures available.

"A total of 699,202 abortions were reported to CDC for 2012. Of these abortions, 98.4% were from the 47 reporting areas that provided data every year during 2003–2012. Among these same 47 reporting areas, the abortion rate for 2012 was 13.2 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years, and the abortion ratio was 210 abortions per 1,000 live births. From 2011 to 2012, the total number and ratio of reported abortions decreased 4% and the abortion rate decreased 5%. From 2003 to 2012, the total number, rate, and ratio of reported abortions decreased 17%, 18%, and 14%, respectively, and reached their lowest level in 2012 for the entire period of analysis (2003–2012)."

This is very good news. Surely we are not there yet but we are winning.

So What!

To defend abortion is to say “so what!” in the face of conclusive scientific evidence and well established medical proof that life exists from conception, babies are genetic originals (each one of us), babies are genetically complete from conception, babies feel pain at least from the 20th week, and the visual reality that babies born very early are fully formed.

Denying those realities has just more fully entrenched pro-abortion “thinking”. They are so dedicated to abortion on demand, for any reason, at any time, no matter the circumstances, and so concerned that any crack in their façade will signal the demise of the entire structure, that they are willing to paint themselves into an irreconcilable corner rather than to accept they are losing any reasonable defense for their intractable position.

Politically that is equivalent to pandering to a constituency to retain power at the expense of truth, openness, and morals. It is cooperating in holding one’s constituency hostage to a fallacy. It is defending a social evil while declaring it a social good.

And still politicians do it and supporters defend it.

Denial

Why is it that abortionists who “see the light” and convert to pro-life, readily admit that abortion kills a living human being and that abortion is very painful to the baby?

Yet, those same abortionists, before their conversion, deny or minimize those facts.

While we may think of it as the difference between knowing and admitting, profit and integrity, truth and error, justice and evil, it is more likely God’s grace of conversion which is finally accepted and acted upon

State Program Updates

Science Fair The Knights of Columbus Diocesan Science Fair is Saturday, February 6th at Judge Memorial High school. We need judges! Contact our estimable Chairman is Al Martinez who can be reached at zenitharmy@gmail.com.

State Scholarship This is the time to get the high school seniors you know to start the submission process for the state scholarship. This program provides \$1,000 to graduating seniors entering a post-secondary education institution. Information and the entry form can be found from Chairman Chuck Dover at dovcha@hotmail.com and on the state web site at: http://utahknights.org/programs/#state_scholarship

State Free Throw The State Free Throw Challenge is coming up in March, but THIS is the time to get your free throw kit from Supreme. Our State Chairman is Ron Mecham and he can be reached at 801-973-8337. For all the info you need just search for "Free Throw" on the Supreme web site or use this link: http://www.kofc.org/un/en/service/youth/freethrow/support_materials.html

MS Walk Coming up at the end of April. This is a great event and our fundraising for it has helped lead to wonderful things happening in developing treatment. You or your council can donate. Or, show your support by just enjoying a walk with some of your fellow Knights and their families. More details on this event will be coming soon from Community Director Nick Nielson.

State Convention Park City, May 6, 7, and 8 in Park City. See the state web site for details and reservation info.

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