

STATE UPDATE



UTAH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LEADERS

www.utahknights.org

March 2015

State Deputy's Message

Brothers,

The Lenten season is upon us and I often think about a question that I was asked from someone questioning me on my Catholic religion. He stated "I get Christmas but what is the big deal about Easter?" My reply started "Without Easter there is no reason for Christmas." I then tried to explain the "LOVE" of this man was so great he gave his life for us but Easter is not a celebration of the death of a man but the defeat of death and the salvation of our souls by the Risen Lord.

This is a pivotal aspect of our Church and the focus of our Supreme Council is "Building the Domestic Church". Time has shown again and again, the more we support our families the more the order grows. How do we do this? I hope many of you signed up for the webinar this last week. Some great points were made and not the least is the evangelization called for by Pope Francis. In his *Evangelii Gaudium* he states "By her very nature the Church is missionary . . . she abounds in effective charity and a compassion that understands, assists, and promotes." The charity that Pope Francis is talking about is the same charity for which the Knights of Columbus was established.

A further quote presented in the webinar was from Saint Pope John Paul II in his *Ecclesia in America*: "The renewal of the Church in American will not be possible without the active presence of the laity therefore the laity is largely responsible for the future of the Church." We as the laity have the mission to Build the Domestic Church. When Supreme asks for us to fully integrate our councils into the parish life, it doesn't mean dilute the good your council does by becoming just another parish organization. We work with the parish organizations to enhance their and our programs when they have common ground. More hands and more ideas can make the programs that much better and stronger.

Continued on next page

St. Chaplain's Summation

Love it or hate it, we are in Lent. The season in which we redouble our efforts to live the Christian life and so be prepared to celebrate the Paschal Mystery; the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Our Lord.

While the proper practice of Lent also includes prayer and almsgiving, when most people think of Lent, they think of its 'third leg', penance. It is fitting since Lent is a penitential season.

The unfortunate thing is that a good many people think that penance is about pain and being miserable and unhappy. It is as if they think that God wants us to hurt ourselves. While penance may include pain—many good things can be painful as every athlete knows and not every good thing makes us happy in the short term—it isn't a form of spiritual masochism. In penance we strive with God's help to turn from sin and embrace the Gospel. (You may have heard those words on Ash Wednesday.)

People also think that penance is only about giving something up for Lent. (Chocolate and TV are perennial favorites though I prefer not to spend Lent in the fetal position.) Penance can also be about doing something we would rather not that is good; like being kind to that co-worker or even Brother Knight who drives us nuts. Remember the purpose of penance is to draw closer to God and to lift our minds and hearts from earthly things to the heavenly.

Penance can also be communal in addition to being individuals. As a Church, we all give up meat on Fridays during Lent. Many families do some of their Lenten penance together. Might not a KoC council do some form of communal penance during Lent? This is something to think about for next year.

Above all, we should when deciding on our penance ask ourselves, "Will this lead me closer to God?"

Another thing we should remember is that penance isn't just for Lent.

Continued on page 3

State Deputy's Message (cont.)

One survey taken during the webinar showed approximately 60% of those attending talked to their priests occasionally or only rarely. How can you help the parish get stronger when you rarely talk to the key man who is responsible to and for the parish? To be an effective resource in your church you must have the priest support and the best way to get that is to support him and his vision. Talk to your priest and be active on the parish council so they know what you can do and what resources you bring to strengthen the church.

One question that continually comes up is how to bring young people into the church and into the Knights of Columbus. One place to start is with your March church drives. You should have them already planned and scheduled along with follow up 1st degrees. Have you planned notices in the bulletin, pulpit speeches, and RCIA exposure with the new men and women soon to become Catholic? Will your priest be giving a message of support to the parish? New members can mean new life for your council so be proactive in recruiting those new men.

Lent is here and part of lent is reflection on the sacrifice of Jesus and what it means to you. Be in earnest with this reflection and get a vision of what is needed to help your parish. What can you and your council do to make this vision a reality? Make sure what you do is supporting your parish and not competing with it.

The next webinar is scheduled for March 19th so watch for the signup notice. If you signed up for this last webinar but were unable to attend, use the same link to view the archived webinar in its entirety. New ideas and new energy are needed to grow and prosper so do what you can to help.

Vivat Jesus!



Jerry Hanten
Utah State Deputy

Our First State Webinar

ON Thursday, March 31 the state council will hold our first webinar "Getting the most from the State and Supreme Web Sites." Hosted by State Secretary Andy Airriess, it will be 30 minutes of handy info on these important resources. More info to follow.

Master's Musings

The Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus was established on February 22, 1900, on the principle of Patriotism – love for and devotion to one's country – and Sir Knights focus the majority of their activities on this principle. It should be remembered that the Fourth Degree is an important part of the Knights of Columbus – a Catholic, family, fraternal, service organization. Nurturing a spirit of fraternalism within your assembly is a vital aspect of the work of the Patriotic Degree. There are several ways fraternalism can grow and spread among your fellow Sir Knights.

Fourth Degree members compose a brotherhood united in their dedication to patriotism enlightened by the Catholic faith. The patriotic spirit of every Knights of Columbus member can be enhanced if he chooses to join the Patriotic Degree.

To effectively celebrate and perpetuate patriotism, the Fourth Degree always needs additional members. While it may be unrealistic to expect that every Third Degree member to be a Fourth Degree member also, it is always important to encourage Third Degree Knights to take the patriotic degree of our Order

Recruiting Sir Knights means convincing an eligible man that to be a Patriotic Degree member is to be even more than the concerned and active Catholic gentleman he has been. It is "To Be a Patriot."

Our next 4th Degree Exemplification will be on April 9, 2016 and will be held at St. George – Kuzy Hall, 259 West 200 North, St. George. We have forms and information for download on the 4th Degree page of the state council web site at <http://utahknights.org/fourth-degree/>. This is one of only two remaining exemplifications that will be held this fraternal year. The other is scheduled for June 19 in Bountiful. These events are formal and each candidate and observer is required to wear a traditional black tuxedo without tails, no vests, and a lay down collar shirt with black bow tie.

In closing, remember that FRATERNITY is continuing the Master's work. "Jesus said to his disciples, "Proclaim the gospel to every creature." ~ Mark, 16:15.

Composer Giacomo Puccini was stricken by cancer while working on his last opera, Turandot. He said to his students, "If I don't finish it, finish it for me." Shortly afterward he died. His students carried out his wish. In 1926, Puccini's favorite student, Arturo Toscanini, directed the premiere in Milan. When the opera reached the point where Puccini was forced to put down his pen, Toscanini stopped the music, turned to the audience, and cried out, "Thus far the Master wrote, but he died." A reverent silence filled the opera house.

Continued on next page

Master's Musings (cont.)

Then Toscanini picked up the baton again, smiled through his tears, and cried out, "But the disciples finished his work." At the conclusion of the opera, the audience broke into a tumultuous applause. How prepared and willing are we as Knights to help finish our Master's work? Are we proving it with our Council and Assembly activities? Show us by submitting summaries of your work for the State Awards by March 15

Vivat Jesus and God Bless America!

Bill McCauley

District Master - Utah

State Secretary's Corner

There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body .

This verse, 1 Corinthians 12:12 and following text, as well as the song with which we are all very familiar , is a central part of who we are as Catholics. In a similar way, we are all Knights. We are all one body. Yet, we are also individuals who have our own skill sets, different parts of the body if you will. None of the parts can work as well alone as it can in conjunction with other parts. Hands can't grasp unless the eyes tell it what to grab. The hand, with no instruction, can only search in the dark. The brain wants to get somewhere, but cannot unless all the parts of the body work together to get it there.

A council cannot function properly unless all its parts are working together. This is one of the most important parts of a Knights leader's job; to ensure that all the parts are working together, and that each part is working in a function to which it is suited. Unless you can avoid it, don't assign an ear's job to a foot. Learn to recognize the potential in people. Some people cannot imagine themselves as anything but what they currently are, but none of us would be where we are today unless someone had seen something in us and asked us to step outside our comfort zone.

The best way to learn how to do these things is to have performed as many jobs in the council as you can and work your way up the chairs. In this way, as a leader in the council, you can teach and inspire from experience. Your primary function as a leader is not to do, it is to teach and inspire. Sure, you know how to do many of the functions necessary to run a council, and you can probably do them faster by yourself, but how will your replacement know what to do when it is their turn to lead?

St. Chaplain's Summation (cont)

Contrary to what some think, the Church didn't abolish this after Vatican II. Instead, She allows us to substitute another act of penance in place of abstaining from meat (the ordinary practice) outside of Lent.

We always need penance because no one is as holy as they can or should be. This makes sense because penance can also be called conversion.

Fr. Erik Reichsteig
Utah State Chaplain

Inspiring is another matter. That is something you cannot teach, it has to be experienced by those around you. By demonstrating the desire to serve teamed with the skill that comes from experience you can serve as the inspiration to those behind you, just as you learned from those who inspired and came before you.

If you were not lead to your office in the traditional way, through the chairs, perhaps you can begin the tradition in your council.

Those who hold positions of power manage. Those who lead inspire. We follow our managers because we have to, it is our "job" after all. We follow leaders because we want to. We get more satisfaction by doing something we want to do, not something we have to do. By being a leader, those who work for us and more importantly WITH us, will do a better job with more energy and will be more willing to do it again.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12 - 26 and see if those fine words will help you be a better leader.

Andy Airriess
State Secretary

Delegate Forms

The forms that you use to identify your councils' delegates to the upcoming state convention have been emailed or mailed to the financial secretaries of each council. It is critical that these forms get returned by April 15 as it takes time to get all the names entered and to print all the materials for the convention, particularly the balloting.

Please ensure that the materials are returned on time and with your council's seal.

Good news on the Pro-Life Front!

Euthanasia and assisted suicide are active practices in Belgium and their out-of-control applications have filled the pages of many sources over the past years. Finally we have a serious and very likely to succeed legal objection in the making.

Archbishop of Mechelen-Burssels, Jozef De Kesel is asserting his right to refuse Catholic hospitals and aged care facilities to co-operate with euthanasia.

This action is causing a review of the law and its application.

Now, someone is trying to protect the conscience rights of doctors and staff and patients. That is something to pray about.

The Guttmacher Institute reported on the State laws enacted in 2015 “Affecting Reproductive Health and Rights”. In particular, they noted the increasing number of pro-life actions restricting abortion. In the 15 years, 1995-2010, there were 292. In the 5 years, 2011-2015, there were 288.

They go on to breakdown the restrictions by type and number.

They are concerned since the pro-life progress is strong and continuous. While this should give us joy, it should also give us increased motivation. Pray, work, pray.

The previous entries are from brother Dick Riddell's "Life News" newsletter, that is distributed to a number of states.

State Program Updates

State Scholarship This is the time to get the high school seniors you know to finish 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

The deadline is March 15.

State Awards There is still time! The deadline is not until March 15th. The entry forms are on the stat web site on the State Forms menu (utahknights.org/forms/#stateforms). You can submit the forms in PDF format by email now, saving you the time and expense of submitting 13 hard copies of each form.

State Free Throw The State Free Throw Challenge is coming up Sunday, March 13, 1-4 PM at Blessed Sacrament. Make sure your council and district winners attend.

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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