

STATE UPDATE



UTAH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LEADERS

www.utahknights.org

May 2016

State Deputy's Message

Brothers,

It is hard to believe we only have two months to go and we will be at the end of our fiscal year. We have a lot to do in those two months. State Convention is only 1 week away and we have officers to elect for next year: for both state and councils. It looks like a lot of planning for next year but we still have to make a close for this year. The Columbia Award application is the last thing required for the fiscal year but don't wait until the last minute. If you have any corrections to make to qualify it will be too late to make those corrections after June 30. I have said it before and I say it again, "Every Council in Utah does the work to qualify for the Columbian Award and Every Council in Utah should be applying for it just because the membership deserves the recognition."

The Star Council Award is an achievement showing you and your council are doing the work of Fr. McGivney but you are also working for the future. The main ingredients for the Star Council are the programs (Columbian Award), membership (McGivney Award), and Insurance (Founders Award). Any one of these is an enviable award and all start with the Columbian Award. With only 2 months to go, membership and insurance are the key to make it that much better so don't wait until the end of June.

You are the leaders of your council and you shouldn't be stopping now. The State Convention is a prime time to see old friends and make new ones. Ideas are exchanged and the direction of the state leadership is decided. It is up to you to make sure your members are represented. We discuss the charity councils perform all over the state and you can get ideas of how to improve your own programs. Councils are the foot soldiers for charity but you leaders need to make sure it is done right. At the convention you meet other leaders and you can make sure you are taking that information and message back to your councils.

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St. Chaplain's Summation

Do not get your information on the Church and Her teachings from the secular media! Let me say that again, Do not get your information on the Church and Her teachings from the secular media! Why? Because the secular media does not see what is going on in the Church in terms of faith but rather according to political and social concerns. And yes, some of them simply oppose what the Church stands for and will do whatever they can to frustrate Her, but most reporters are honest, just not equipped to understand and present the Church. (This is why it is a very good thing that the Knights are supporting Crux, a Catholic news service that used to be affiliated with "The Boston Globe".)

Case in point, Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation "Amoris Laetitia". This is the Holy Father's response to the two recent Synods of Bishops on the Family. You may have read that "Pope Francis is changing the Church and the Church's teaching!" I am happy to tell you that this is not the case. Yes, Pope Francis is different than Pope Benedict and speaks differently. People are different. But Popes don't get to change or alter the Church or Her teachings to suit themselves. They don't try to and they don't want to. Their job is to present the Gospel to the world and help us to do the same. Sometimes this means that they help us see how the Church's unchanging teaching applies to the problems we face today.

So, what do I suggest? Make an effort to learn what the Church (and Her pastors) really teach, not what the Tribune or the Deseret News say they teach. The Pope's exhortation is long and is going to take a while for us pastors in the trenches to digest. But let me leave you with these points. The family is of the utmost importance and we as Christians need to do all that we can to support and help families especially the ones that need our help the most. We are blessed with the Order's initiative "Building the Domestic Church". Get to know it and help your council and parish put it into practice. This is part of what the Holy Father is talking about and wants to see happen.

Fr. Erik Reichsteig
Utah State Chaplain

State Deputy's Message (cont.)

Have you made sure you have leaders coming up who can take over the reins? This is an important aspect of leadership and even if you may not be planning on giving up the reins yet, you will have to sometime and that means you will need someone to take over. You should be looking at your programs and asking if you have back up leaders for these programs and your officers. Have you trained these leaders to keep the programs going? Are you satisfied with the programs going as they have or do you want to improve them? You need leaders with new ideas and the ability to make changes to make things better. Have you brought in members with new ideas and energy? New members are where these ideas come from and where your leadership will come from to keep your councils going.

Your responsibilities, just like the state officers, do not just end on June 30 but you should keep working to put the icing on the cake and finish the year strong. Make your members proud to be knights and make sure the charity you are doing means something. We are here for our families, our church, and community. So many times I hear "What are the Knights of Columbus" or "What do they do?" The work we do is important on so many fronts that our message should be out there and people should be saying "How can I help" instead of wondering what we do. We are there for our church, our families, our youth, the unborn, the veterans, those with special needs. These are programs that are our mainstay and we touch lives on all these fronts. Be proud and say "I Change Lives, I Save Lives". These are words every knight can say and what every knight should be proud to say. Take this message to your councils and make them believe it

Vivat Jesus!



Jerry Hanten
Utah State Deputy

Master's Musings

The vision of the Patriotic Degree is: **Standing Firm in Support of the Order, Proudly Serving the Country, Unwavering Support of the Faith, and Honoring the Legacy of Knighthood.** That is why we were tasked with spearheading the Military Chaplains Scholarship Fund. Since 9/11, the active duty roster of Catholic Chaplains has shrunk from more than 400 to 216 priests. Currently 25% of the military is Catholic, but Catholic priests make up only 8% of the Chaplain Corps, leaving them stretched thin over a globally dispersed faith community on the scale of only one priest per 1300 service members, not counting their families. This month a challenge was made to every Council and Assembly in Utah to send \$25 to the State Council for this fund. This will tremendously help us meet the \$1500 commitment we still have to meet.

Our next 4th Degree Exemplification will be on May 21, 2016 and will be held at St. Olaf – McNamara Center, 276 East 1700 South, Bountiful, Utah. We have forms and information for download on the 4th Degree website at <http://utahknights.org/fourth-degree/>. This is final Exemplification held in Utah this Fraternal Year. **The event is 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 PATRIOTISM is praying for our nation. *"If my people, upon whom my name has been pronounced, humble themselves and pray, and seek my presence and turn from their evil ways I will hear them from heaven and pardon their sins and revive their land."* ~ Chronicles 7:14.

Every important event in Jesus' life found him in prayer. Jesus prayed at His baptism (Luke 3:21). He prayed at the start of His ministry (Mark 1:35). He prayed before picking the twelve apostles (Luke 6:12). He prayed before asking His disciples the question, "Who do you say I am?" (Luke 9:18). He prayed before going to Jerusalem (Luke 9:29). He prayed in the garden (Luke 22:41). He prayed on the cross (Luke 23:34). He prayed before teaching His disciples how to pray (Luke 1:1).

What role does prayer play in the important events in our lives? *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.* ~ Romans 12:12. *Prayer is like the turning on of an electric switch. It does not create current: it simply provides the channel through which the electric current may flow.* ~ Max Handel

Vivat Jesus and God Bless America!

Bill McCauley

District Master - Utah.

State Secretary's Corner

I was my council treasurer for 5 years. In the 10 audits over that period I never balanced to the penny once. NOT ONCE. Yeah, it bugged me. Each time we had more in the account than I showed on the books, and it was never for a lot of money, so that was good, but still, never once did I balance. Luckily, I have a talent for software and when I became state treasurer, I balanced to the penny every single time because I had software to help me (and because there was heck to pay from the auditors if we didn't balance). Auditors are not as nice as Trustees.

Same job, similar circumstances, different results. Why? I had help. Sure, the software was a help, but I also had someone who was in the position before me who left detailed instructions on how to do my job, and that was invaluable. I've had that at every step as a state officer and I could not have possibly done the job as well if I hadn't. Without Jerry Hanten helping me at every step, I would not have had the same success because I would have spent the first few months in each position learning instead of doing. It hasn't always been that way in the state council. Not too many years ago that culture of mentoring for a smooth transition did not exist, but now it does and over the recent years the state of Utah has been one of the best jurisdictions in the order.

Do you have the same process of teaching and mentoring in your council? One of the benefits of making a lot of council visits is getting to see how literally dozens of councils operate. The most successful generally have a progression of officers through the chairs before they become grand knight. Knowing the jobs of other council officers helps everybody in the council because the grand knight understands what everybody needs to properly do their jobs.

If you do not have that culture, now would be a great time to start it. Make some instructions, or better yet, get the officers who currently hold the positions to do so. Or, get officers who used to hold the positions to write them. Good or bad, detailed or an overview, anything is better than nothing. Begin that culture of teaching and learning and you will find your council succeeding as it never has. Everybody in the council can learn. One of the best things a council officer can do is to go to other council meetings and see what they do. Sometimes what they do won't work in your council, sometimes they will, sometimes you can change what they do a little and blend it with what you do and end up with something that is better than what either of you were doing.

At the upcoming organizational meeting, the plan is to have innovators from councils around the state to tell you how they do what they do to make their councils a success. We hope you attend to take some of these ideas back to your councils. We all need to change and grow and learn, and never stop.

Andy Airriess

State Secretary

State Program Updates

MS Walk The walk was a tremendous success. The weather was wonderful, the fraternity warming, and the total we are raising for MS grows almost daily. You can contribute by buying raffle tickets for the Avon basket valued at over \$400 at the state convention.

State Convention Park City, May 6, 7, and 8 in Park City. See the state web site for details, including the agenda, and reservation info. Come up for the day if need be and bask in the unity and brotherhood..

State Video Contest The forms are under the last item in the "Programs" menu on the state web site. Thanks to Council 14399 at Holy Family parish in South Ogden, the awards has been doubled! We're getting lots of interest, make sure the high school students in your parish know about the contest.

http://utahknights.org/programs/#video_psa

State Organizational Meeting St Therese of the Child Jesus in Midvale. Saturday, June 25th