



Knights' Visions

Keeping the vision of Father Michael J. McGivney

January/February 2008

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Bill Burke

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Wayne Mangold

Gerald Johnson

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Web Site

montanaknights.org

News Site

montanaknights.org/blog

State Deputy's Message:

Worthy Brothers, I want to take this time to thank the 5,000 + Montana Knights of Columbus for recognizing the great achievements of our Order to date and the great achievements that are still to come are the result of Catholic men in our great state forming an indissoluble band of brothers and following the footsteps of Father McGivney.

Special thanks to Grand Knights and Council officers, the backbone and source of our successes in Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. As with all organizations, we have strong councils and councils that are close to extinction. The Grand Knights of the struggling councils have an extraordinary burden of saving their council.

All State Officers and District Deputies have committed to assisting struggling councils with time, talent and energy. Evaluate yourself. You need our help if:

- 1. You are not adding new members and suspensions are high.**
- 2. Officers change place year after year or remain in office for years.**
- 3. Council reports never get done and submitted on time.**
- 4. Service projects are lacking or few and far between.**

The New Year means "A fitting time" to review your progress in Growing the Order in Montana. I have recently received a letter from our Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson and will quote his message to me:

"Bob, I have reviewed the membership statistics for your jurisdiction and am concerned to see that Montana stands at +16.8% of its membership goal as of December 31st. In the remaining 6 months of the fraternal year, please make membership growth your highest priority."

Wow, this means that as of December 31, 2007, we are +16 members in the state of Montana. We are moving up the hill, so let's not lose those 16 and our momentum by suspending without replacing. I will certainly honor the Supreme Knight's message and ask that all the council officers, district deputies and state officers join with him and myself in making membership our highest priority. Please refer to our action plan of all of us recruiting one new member during the next 6 months, and using the past member lists that your district deputies have.

March 29th is Founders Day. Let's remember Father McGivney by scheduling a membership drive in every parish on that day. Make his vision a reality; you never know whom you might have helped.

Over the past five years, we have gone from 56 to 27 Roundtables. The parishes are still there; the paperwork has not been done. Please put on your April Council meeting "Grand Knights Report," tonight is Roundtable Report Deadline.

Matching funds we receive from Supreme for Special Olympics depend on how many hours and monetary donations we gave to Montana Special Olympics as reported on the Special Olympic Fraternal Report due January 31, 2008.

Thanks to all the councils who have had the icon of Our Lady of Charity. We have given out 2 cases of prayer cards and the parishes are welcoming her and the Knights of Columbus presence in sponsoring her.

In addition to membership, let's work on submitting a Family of the Month and a Knight of the Month from every council. This year as in years past, we have a lot of Knights doing a lot for parishes and their communities. Let's recognize these men and for what they do.

Last year, 40 of 50 Montana councils submitted a Fraternal Survey. This is 80% and puts us above the Orders 72% reporting. So, last year 10 Montana councils did not submit. Let's aim for and hit 100% this year. Reporting on line is quick and easy. If you don't have Internet, someone in your council will, just ask, they will help.

In closing, thanks to all, for all you do for the Knights of Columbus. - **Bob Murphy**

State Chaplain's Message:

We begin Lent each year hearing the gospel passage from [Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18](#). The Lord is reminding his disciples of the need to focus on things beyond themselves. It is a challenge for us to look at greater things. In life today it is too easy to get focused on self. Where is my career going to lead? How much money am I going to make? How early will I be able to retire? What are the toys that I am going to have to play with? How much pleasure can I have, here and now?

In reality, there is much beyond us. Jesus is talking to his disciples about the three disciplines that we try to foster each year during this holy season. These are the disciplines of almsgiving, prayer and fasting. I'm sure most of you know what these disciplines are about, but just to make sure I'm going to say a few things about each and offer some reflections about how you might use these disciplines during this Lenten season.

Almsgiving is better known as giving to the poor. In the gospel we hear that one should not let their left hand know what their right hand was doing. It is so easy to sit down at the beginning of the year and plot out our giving. I'm going to give x dollars a week to the parish. I'm going to give z dollars to support the work of the diocese. I'm going to spend w hours teaching English as a second language. One of the problems we run into when we do such planning is that we sometimes fail to see the other needs that are out there. This planning is an important step, but we must not limit our almsgiving strictly to the plans we've laid out. We need to keep our hearts open to recognize the other needs that exist around us and to make a response to those needs. Two years ago when the hurricanes hit the south, it was easy to see the need and make a response. In many small towns, when someone's house burns to the ground, in no time at all plans are made to step in and help out with food, clothing and a temporary place to live. Those are the easy needs to recognize. But, as you look around your community I'm sure you can find other worthy causes which could benefit from some of your time, talent or treasure. I'm not talking about just looking around today and making a decision to help out, but to be looking around everyday. It needs to truly become a natural thing in our lives so that it just happens. Then our left hand will not know what our right hand is doing.

Ok, I guess I don't really have to give you a definition of prayer. I'm sure most of you have had some experience in praying. The wonderful thing about the Catholic Church is that we have so many forms of prayer that we can experience. Of course, the ultimate prayer that we have is to fully participate at the Mass as is proper to our station in life. For a priest, that is celebrating the Mass. For the lay faithful, that is serving in the various ministries that are needed to enable the Mass to take place. For some, this means being a Lector, or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. For others it may mean being a responding part of the congregation, joining in the songs and prayers proper to the people. We do not take part in the Mass to draw attention to ourselves, but to worship God. Sometimes we have to remind ourselves of this fact. We also have many other forms of prayer in which we may participate. These may be in public, or in private, but we need to ask ourselves if we are doing the prayer to be seen, or to really help us focus on God. These prayers include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the praying of the Rosary, the Stations of the Cross, Lectio Divina, spontaneous prayer and a host of other devotions that the Church offers us for our spiritual growth. We just need to remember to keep the focus on God and not draw attention to ourselves as we strive to grow in our faith.

The final discipline in which we participate during the Lenten season is fasting. Despite what some young people might think, that is not a race to get to the end of Lent. Fasting is a denial of things we normally make use of in our lives. Fasting from food is common during Lent. As a matter of fact there are two days which require us to fast, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these two days we are expected to eat much less than normal. I say that because there are many days when my eating habits would meet the requirements of a fast with no effort on my part, so on fasting days I take it an extra step. Often times, people fast from some specific favorite food or drink. Some will fast

from television. As I have for the past several years, I'm giving up watching football on television for Lent. (You were suppose to laugh at that part since football season is over and it is not really a sacrifice, and if you really knew me, you'd know that I'm lucky to watch a total of three full games each season on TV.) Some people give up some driving, walking when they can. Again, we should not make a big deal about the fact that we are fasting. It should just be as subtle thing that people may notice, but it is no big deal if they don't. An example, let's say that you've given up drinking soda pop for Lent. You are at a friend's house and they ask if you'd like something to drink. You could respond, "I've given up pop for Lent so I guess I'll have to settle for water." Or you could say, "Water, please." While we may not always remember to keep our fasting to ourselves, it speaks volumes when we do it with humility instead of pride.

May this Lent be a truly fruitful experience for you and your families.- **Fr. Leo McDowell**

Our Lady of Charity

Our Lady of Charity icon continues to travel to every council in the state. Pictured are the District Deputies and State Officers with the icon at the Winter Meeting held in Bozeman. When the icon visits your council, plan a prayer service or rosary with your parishes. Make the icon available to every Catholic in the State of Montana.



Community Director's Message:

The state convention soon will be here! Those of us who procrastinate getting their paperwork in and submitted to Program Director, Kevin Miller, will be affected. A community activity is an activity that you do collectively to assist your fellow man. Volunteer where you can –Habitat for Humanity, local food banks, escorting the elderly to church, doctor visits, grocery store or bingo night! It all counts. Remember to get your reports to Kevin on time. I look forward to seeing you at the convention in Kalispell. -**Kenneth E. Meyer.**

State Secretary's Message:

I wish you and your councils a great New Year! In January, your council should have received a per capita statement. I am awaiting the January report from Supreme before I send out the per capita statements. Along with the statement you will receive delegate forms for your delegates to our 2008 State Convention. Please return your per capita payment to me. Also include members of your council who died during this fraternal year. They will be remembered at the mass during the convention.

If you have not completed the fraternal survey for your council, please do so. The survey is due by January 31st. Also complete the Special Olympics survey and send it along to Supreme, the State Deputy, and your District Deputy with the fraternal survey.

Everything seems to be shaping up for the Knights of Columbus in Montana for this coming year. We accomplished a lot during 2007 and will continue to meet the challenges and opportunities of 2008. Let me know if I can be of any assistance to your council.-**Bill. Burke**

Membership Director's Message:

“Reach out. Give your hand to another man who is worthy of Knighthood. Make him one of us. He will thank you and the Order will thank you.” This quote from Supreme Knight James A. Flaherty was first published in the January 1926 *Columbia*. It's a message that parallels State Deputy Bob Murphy's request for recruitment; “We are at a crossroads in building council strength in the State of Montana. If we don't grow, we die. I am issuing a plea for your support in building the greatest fraternal organization in the world helping brothers and sisters in charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.”

There is something that you and I and every Knight of Columbus can, and should do. Let's start the new calendar year with a resolution to recruit a new Knight in our Councils. New members will bring fresh ideas and new perspectives to our Councils, events and programs. *Please* continue to reach out to new members..-**Allen Cormany**

Family Director:

The number of Family of the Month and Knight of the Month nominations has dropped off this year. It is normal for councils to get back up to speed through the fall after the summer months but we have been hoping for a greater participation in these two programs.

It is appropriate that at this time of year that we reflect on the importance of families, especially families in our council and parish. We know that they are our source of support, purpose and inspiration. As we hold the Holy Family up as the ultimate example of God's people, let us look at how we also uphold families of Brother Knights, fellow parishioners and our communities. Let us reflect on how we've supported and encouraged them in our Knights of Columbus programs, activities and personal efforts.

The reporting season is here! Fraternal Surveys and Semi-annual Audit were due the end of January. What better time than this month to complete the Activity Reports for the past year (March 1, 2007 to present) while you're looking at compiling the man hours and money spent on your projects.

The State Program Director will be asking for these reports to be sent in to him by March 1, so it would be very helpful to complete those you have and get them in early. He will be reviewing every activity report from 53 councils and getting the reports early will help him greatly. Please send reports for Youth, Council, Church, and Community Activities and Knight of the Year to Program Director Kevin Miller. Kevin will forward the nominations to Steve Zachmann. Family of the Year Nominations are sent to Steve Zachmann, Family Activities Director, PO Box 1071, Baker, MT 59313. These should be well done as they will be forwarded to Supreme if your nomination is selected as Montana Family of the Year. Tell us who the family is and what specifically they do to earn your admiration. Please be sure we have the specific details of their involvement to base our decision on.

I don't mind getting those in mid February. But please be sure to get them to me before March 1.

Send supporting pictures, news clippings, etc with them. And if you have projects that occur throughout the year, submit them as one. If you've not been participating in the Family of the Month and sending the report to Supreme you can still do so, you can still enter your nomination for Family of the Year.

The Family of the Month, Family of the Year and Knight of the Year, are not intended to be a competition. Why do we pick one each month/year over the others? We do it to hold them up as good examples of what we are all striving to be. They

remind us of what it is to be good Christian families and good Knights. Please call me at (406) 891-0783 if you have questions.- **Steve Zachmann**

Ceremonials Director's Message:

Unfortunately the 2nd and 3rd Degree scheduled for January 20th in Helena was cancelled due to the weather. However, a First Degree Exemplification was held and 10 new members joined our Order. The next major degree in the State will be held in Laurel, MT. February 10th. First Degree will start at 12 noon with the 2nd and 3rd Degree to follow. The Great Falls Team will conduct both the 2nd and 3rd Degree.

A Fourth Degree Exemplification will be held in Billings on Sunday, March 9th at St. Bernard Church. Any candidates for the 4th Degree should have their applications into our State Master, Sir Robert Heinen, 89 Parker Rd., Sun River, MT. 59483.

A First, Second and Third Degree exemplification is tentatively scheduled March 30th in Helena.-**John Glen**

Special Olympics Chairman:

By this time, you should have received your Special Olympics raffle tickets from your District Deputy. The strategy is simple: Appoint a Special Olympics Chairman to monitor all Council Special Olympic activities and reports. Make the tickets available at all your functions-breakfasts, fish fries, etc. And post the available posters wherever you can. The winning council under 100 members will receive \$250; the second place council receives \$150. The same applies for councils over 100 members.

Last year, we were challenged to increase our tickets sales by 25% and we gave Special Olympics 80%. It shows what we can do! Let's give them another banner year! – **Art Gregr**

Insurance Promotion Chairman's Message:

A New Year is beginning. Our hopes and prayers are that this will be the year of rejuvenation for the Knights of Columbus insurance program in Montana. Even though the insurance numbers have been increasing in the State, they are not where we should be. We are short of qualified agents to truly service the membership as it should be done. Any sincere individual who would like to have an above average income and to work with Catholic families as a dedicated servant of the Montana Catholic population is welcome to contact me. Currently we have only one council that is qualified for the Founders' Award. There are a couple of councils that are sitting at 50% of the requirements. The Founders' Award is for those making their quota of new insurance members.

The membership or Father McGivney Award has only one council with 50% of the required quota. The two Awards, together with the forms requirements lead to the Star Council Award. Time is getting shorter by the day.-**Jack Tacke**.

Insurance Tip –

“I don't believe in Life Insurance. It's ok for some folks but I have other investments that will take care of my wife and family when I'm gone. I can spend my money in other ways.” That's a statement that I again heard in the last week or so. It could certainly be the fact. If you die the bank will pay your family what you saved. Life insurance, however, pays what you meant to save. I ask 'why do you bother with fire and damage insurance on your home. Only a small percentage homes go up in flames but I will guaranteed that you are going to die. Your wife and family will need a place to live, should your home burn. Aside from the spiritual and supportive presence you provide, your family will need to replace the income your are providing, they will have to pay for someone to help with any of the things you do to maintain your family as a living and

functioning Christian unit. Whether it is doing the family accounting, maintaining the house and yard, keeping the family vehicles in running order, or helping raise the children or grandchildren, all the chores and pleasures you do without realizing the contribution you are making will have to be replaced once you are gone. Life insurance can and does help with these needs. I ask the non-believer of life insurance why he bothered with auto insurance. Is the value of your car or truck more valuable than his own life? How do you compare the value of your life? As an asset, is it worth as much as your home or vehicle? And consider that when the insurance is paid to replace that car or truck, you are most likely the one driving it.-**Jack Tacke.**

Youth Director's Message:

I would like to remind every council that now is the time for you to participate in the 2008 FOCUS Fundraiser. As of this summer 2007, FOCUS has 150 serving as full-time missionaries at 33 campuses in 18 states. Of these 7 are from Montana. To date 108 men have entered the seminary and 33 women have entered the religious life after being involved with FOCUS. By supporting FOCUS your council is not only directly contributing to 3 of our Montana Missionaries (John Meyer, Joel LaLiberty, and Steph Dunbar), but also helping keep our catholic college youth practicing their faith and supporting vocations. Kristen Fausey, who addressed our state convention last summer, will be moving back to Montana and has accepted a position of youth minister at one of the Missoula Parishes. Checks should be sent to State Secretary Bill Burke and noted for deposit in the State 2008 FOCUS Fund. Last year we collected over \$2000 for this Annual State Youth Activity.-**John Beck**

SPECIAL GK QUARTERLY INCENTIVE!

Remind your grand knight that for councils that **recruit five new members between January 1 and March 31, 2008, the grand knight of record will be entered into a drawing for one of ten "K of C Apparel."** If the grand knight qualifies in each of the quarterly contests during the 125th anniversary celebration he will be eligible for a grand prize drawing to be announced in April 2008. Each quarterly contest will be announced in the last week of the current quarter.

TOP RECRUITER WILL GO TO QUEBEC!

Also, during council meetings point out that for recruiting the most new members Orderwide between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008, the **Orderwide Top Recruiter** will receive a trip to the 126th Supreme Convention in Quebec City, Quebec.

GKs GOING TO NEW HAVEN

Let your grand knights know that as a bonus to having been the leader of a council that earns the Star Council Award, qualifying grand knights will be entered into **a drawing for one of three trips for two to New Haven, Conn., in October of 2008. To qualify, Star Council status must be attained during the periods of July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008.**

State Convention Report:

The 2008 State Convention for the Knights of Columbus is fast approaching. This year's convention will take place April 17, 18 and 19th at the Red Lion Inn in Kalispell. All members of all councils are invited to attend any part of the convention. The most memorable event might be the banquet on Saturday night, April 19th. The evening will include a great meal, enjoyable entertainment, brotherhood and encouraging remarks from the Supreme Office of the Knights of Columbus from New Haven, Connecticut.

A silent auction will take place during the convention. All delegates and members are encouraged to participate. Please encourage all delegates to clean their pantries and bring any (non-perishable) food item for the Food Bank.

Councils are invited to place an ad in the convention program. The 1/8 page ads will be sold to fellow brothers at a reduced price of \$25. All councils have been send ad forms. Please remit to Knights of Columbus, ads; PO Box 724, Kalispell, MT 59903-0724

Montana Knights Website

The website for the Montana State Knights of Columbus is <http://www.montanaknights.org>. The webmaster is Randy Heinz and his email address is randy@sfolife.net. Go to the website to see what's going on in Montana! The Knight's Visions newsletter will soon be available on-line. Watch upcoming issues of Knight's Visions and the website for when this will happen.

Special Membership Incentives and Papal Visit Report:

During this 125th anniversary year of the Knights of Columbus, let us recommit ourselves as Knights to growing our Order in service to the Church and our communities. Let us also realize that as we prepare for Pope Benedict XIV's visit to the United States in April, 2008, the growth of the Order will be a fitting tribute to our Holy Father. You can be a part of that tribute as we live the dream of our founder, Father Michael J. McGivney by expanding our membership.

All First Degree exemplifications through the end of the 2007-2008 fraternal year will be in honor of Pope Benedict XVI. Every new or readmitted member proposed into the Order between December 1, 2007-April 20, 2008, will be presented with a limited edition certificate commemorating the fact that they became a Knight during the celebration of our 125th anniversary year. Likewise, each new Knight recruited will have his name listed in a special book that the Supreme Knight will present to Pope Benedict XVI, For every new or readmitted member brought into the Order between December 1, 2007-April 20, 2008, the recruiter will be presented with a specially minted medallion commemorating their efforts towards growing the order during the 125th anniversary year.

Each year, grand knights that attain star council status are annually entered into a drawing for 1 of 3 trips to New Haven and District Deputies that attain Star District Status are also entered into a drawing for 3 trips.

In honor of our 125th anniversary year – grand knights that attain Double Star Council status for the 2007-2008 fraternal year will be entered into a drawing for 3 additional trips and district deputies that attain All-Star District will be entered into a drawing for 3 additional trips to where our Order was founded.

“Let us pray that the Holy Spirit illuminates, inspires and guides our work and pushes us to charity and the service of others.”

Pope Benedict XVI

Membership Director Allen Cormany visits with a prospective Knight. If each grand knight and council officer recruits one new member during the 125th Anniversary, our membership would increase over 100. Let's give every Catholic gentleman the opportunity to join our order.



*Grand Knights and District Deputies,
Please pass this newsletter around at your next Council Meeting
Vivat Jesus!*

Knight's Vision
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