



Knight's Visions

Keeping the vision of Father Michael J. McGivney

January, 2009

State Deputy's Message:

As we approach the 7th month of the Fraternal Year, it is time to make an honest evaluation of where your council is and where it is going. Thirty of our 51 councils have not added a new member this year. Forty percent of our councils have embraced the concept of holding a membership growth activity, whether it is a "Blitz" or another membership activity. We must continue to work hard to spread Columbianism in Montana. It means that we must continue to show our communities who we are. We must continue to be seen as a family organization and not a men's club. We must continue to actively and bravely speak out when our faith and/or our church come under attack. I ask each of you to make an extra effort these last five months to reach out to a neighbor or a stranger in the pew beside you and extend to him an invitation to belong to the greatest Catholic lay organization in the world. This last year the Knights worldwide had a banner year in terms of donations to charity, volunteer hours in supporting youth, families, community and church. The Order has grown to approximately 1.76 million members. In Montana this last year saw an increase in membership. For the 1st time Montana made the Circle of Honor. Knights in Montana last year increased their donations to charity and to the Montana Special Olympics. We are doing good work and we must continue to grow the Knights of Columbus in Montana!!

Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP)

The Knights of Columbus has committed itself to provide more financial and moral support to every seminarian in the United States. While the Order has a number of other programs to assist seminarians, the R.S.V.P. is the primary program through which councils, assemblies, and circles participate in an organized manner. R.S.V.P. is unique in that funds go directly to the seminarian. For this reason the checks must be made out to the individual seminarian, not to a seminary, diocese, or other institutions. I have asked our State Church Chairman, Jerry Johnson, to contact councils and let them know about the RSVP Program of the Knights of Columbus. For every \$500.00 contributed to a seminarian, Supreme will reimburse the council \$100.00 up to \$400.00. Jerry Johnson will get the names and addresses of seminarians from the Helena Diocese and the Great Falls/Billings Diocese. He will share the lists with appropriate councils. We want to make sure that all seminarians get support from us if at all possible.

Catholic Day at the Legislature and the issue of assisted suicide

We are faced with a critical issue being considered in Montana. The issue is assisted suicide. Knights throughout Montana need to take action to insure that assisted suicide does not become legal in Montana. Assisted suicide

State Chaplain
Fr. Leo McDowell

State Deputy
Bill Burke

State Secretary
Rod McElwee

State Treasurer
Art Malasani

State Advocate
Dave McLean

State Executive Secretary
Edward G. Wirtz, PSD

Immediate Past State Deputy
Bob Murphy

State Warden
Bob Howard

State Program Director
Wayne Mangold

State Membership Director
Ron Kazmierczak

District Deputies:

Kevin Miller

Pete Pfau

Louis Hull

Paul Mahony

Dale T. Blom

David D. Scott

Michael Winters

Larry C. Hillard

Terrence Cody

William Breitbach

Gerald J. Killen

Allen Cormany

John Kelly

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will seriously erode respect for life and our efforts at building a “Culture of Life”. As you know, a district judge in Helena ruled in December of 2008 that assisted suicide was legal in Montana. The State Attorney General appealed the judge’s ruling and the appeal will be considered by the Montana Supreme Court probably in March or April. It is my understanding that the Bishops (Thomas and Warfel) will file Friends of the Court briefs supporting Montana Attorney General Bullock in opposing assisted suicide. I have contacted the Supreme Advocate of the Knights of Columbus and informed him of what is happening in Montana. He told me to keep him informed. He said that Supreme could help if it was decided that there was a unique way that Supreme could be of help. I have also talked to Moe Wosepka, Director of the Montana Catholic Conference, and told him that the Knights will be involved in this issue of assisted suicide. There is probably little we can do regarding the State Supreme Court except to support our Bishops in their efforts. However, regarding the state legislature there is plenty we can do. There will be at least one bill introduced this session legalizing assisted suicide. This bill is **Physician Assisted Suicide LC1818 Death With Dignity by Dick Barrett**. The bill is to implement into law the recent Physician Assisted Suicide court ruling. It has not been introduced yet, but I expect it will be soon, and will be assigned to the House Judiciary Committee. It is nearly identical to the Oregon law that has a multitude of problems. It overlooks nearly all protections for the poor and disabled and those who would be most adversely affected by this law. **I am strongly encouraging all of our 51 councils to have their members contact legislators (state senators and state representatives) in their counties and districts and let them know in no uncertain terms that they oppose legalizing assisted suicide.** Let them know that they stand for a “Culture of Life” and not for a “Culture of Death” and that assisted suicide will seriously erode respect for life. If members throughout Montana contacted their legislators, we can contact legislators in all fifty-six counties in Montana. Also, **I encourage councils to send members to Helena on February 5th for the Catholic Day at the Legislature.** Montana Charities Inc. of the Knights of Columbus is helping to defray the cost of the luncheon that day for legislators and participants. I am attaching a copy of the agenda for that day. We, Catholics, must show that we will not be silent on this issue and other issues affecting our efforts at creating a “Culture of Life”.

Montana State K of C Winter Meeting

The State Officers’ and Montana Knights of Columbus State Charities, Inc. Board meeting was called to order at 8:30am in Great Falls, Montana, 12/13/2008. The State officers present are State Deputy, Bill Burke, State Secretary, Rod McElwee, State Treasurer, Art Malisani, State Warden, Bob Howard, State Executive Secretary, Ed Wirtz, P.S.D., Immediate Past State Deputy, Bob Murphy, and Supreme Regional Program Consultant, Frank Pulice, P.S.D.. State Chaplain, Father Leo McDowell, and State Advocate, Dave McLean, were excused due to bad travel conditions. The members of Charities, Inc. board are all the voting State Officers, except State Executive Secretary, the Past State Deputy, Bob Murphy, Don Hartman and Ed Wirtz. State Treasurer reported \$5943.80 as of 12/1/08 in the Montana State Council checking account and \$25,471.72 in Montana Knights of Columbus State Charities, Inc. checking account.

The State Deputy went over the agenda for the upcoming meeting with the District Deputies and Program Directors. He then went over the resolutions that the State Officers will present at the State Convention. Resolutions #4, 7 and 12 need to be reworked. Also, the assisted suicide case in Montana was discussed and the Knights will work with the Bishops in seeing that assisted suicide is not legal in Montana.

The K.C. Charities, Inc. Board discussed all the projects/programs listed on the Green Slips. It was decided to reevaluate annually all the projects to see if any need to be eliminated. The Board moved to change the name of Green Slips to K.C. Charities. The Board agreed to start paying out of Montana Charities, Inc. anything that pertains to charities instead of the State Council general fund as has been the practice.

The State Officers', District Deputies' and Program Chairmen/Directors' meeting was called to order at 10:30am. A roll call was taken, 9 of 13 D.D.'s, 6 of 12 Chairmen/Directors, and 6 of 8 State Officer's were present. It was asked that all present, say prayers for John Glen, P.S.D. and his family in their time of need. The State Secretary was asked to check with Supreme about a Certificate of Award for Father Leo McDowell, State Chaplain, for his service with the Military. The printing of the Knight's newsletter will not be printed after December 2008. A web page has been established www.montanaKnights.org for future publication. Send all your news to Marty Beatty so he can get it Randy Heinz, our web master, to post.

Bob Norby from Montana Special Olympics gave us an update on the winter and summer Olympics. He also received a check from Montana K.C. Charities, Inc. for \$2500.00, a Knights of Columbus MT/ND All Star Football Game proceeds contribution. P.S.D. Don Hartman gave a report on the Knights of Columbus Insurance. He explained the changes that have occurred. Don also being State Fund raising chairman, he informed us of some new possibilities for fund raisers. He also gave us an update on the Bad Lands Bowl. The Program Director, Wayne Mangold, and Family Director, Steve Zachmann, were not present because of bad weather to give their reports but will publish their reports on the web page. P.S.D. Bob Murphy, Round Tables Chairman, went over the details about round tables and how to fill out the report forms. Ron Kazmeirczak, Membership Chairman, gave his report on the **How, What** and **Why** of membership. He had some great ideas for the District Deputies to carry back to their councils.

Frank Pulice, Supreme Regional Program Consultant, reported on what Supreme wants and needs the State Councils to address. Membership being the main priority of the Order. He also announced that after this fraternal year he is retiring. The Montana Knights of Columbus State Council wishes Frank God's Blessings.

The District Deputies meeting was called to order at 8:30am 12/14/2008. They were handed their D.D. packets and the State Deputy reviewed the material with the DDs and answered any questions especially from the new DDs. P.S.D. Art Gregr, Special Olympic Chairman, passed out the Special Olympics raffle tickets to the DDs to give to their councils. He explained how the councils were to return any monies they receive.

Degrees Scheduled

East Helena- Feb. 15th-start 11:00am-1st, 2nd and 3rd Degrees
Great Falls-March 15th- start to be announced
Glendive-March 29th- start 11:00am-1st, 2nd and 3rd Degrees
Billings- May 3rd – start to be announced
Polson-April or May

Each District Deputy gave reports on each of their councils. Winter meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Knights' Visions

Knights' Visions, the newsletter of the State Council, will no longer be mailed. It will be on the Montana State Council's website, www.montanaknights.org, starting sometime in **early February**. Please identify one member of your council to be responsible for checking the website and providing you, the Grand Knight, a copy of the newsletter so you can share it with your council. Also, if you are interested in putting items on the website, please contact Marty Beatty, our State Council's Community Chairman and the editor of the newsletter, or Randy Heinz, the website master. Randy's email is randy@sfolife.net. Marty's email is mnmbt@attglobal.net and his phone number is 406-442-9804.

Important Dates

- January 31, 2009 Councils submit Form 1728, Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities, to Supreme.
- January 31, 2009 Councils submit Form 4584, Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics, to Supreme.
- March 1, 2009 All activities by councils for state awards must be received by the State Program Chair, Wayne Mangold, by this date.
- March 1, 2009 Councils' nominations for Family of the Year and Knights of the Year must be received by the State Family Chair, SteveZachmann, by this date.
- April 17-19, 2009 State Convention in Hamilton, Montana.

Members attaining 50 years of service

Recently I received from Supreme a list of 30 members of the Montana Knights of Columbus who will attain 50 consecutive years of membership in the Order during 2009. This is an achievement that should be recognized by local councils. During the year, I encourage councils to honor these members. Consider highlighting them in council publications. The State Council will have a resolution regarding these members at our annual state convention. Listed below by council are the 30 members:

Albert J. Helburg	3250	Robert A. Rubash	8345
Frank C. Owens	1810	Kenneth P. Silvernagel	8345
John A. Hollenback	1810	Harold Kelso	9976
Thomas L. Morris	1810	Robert J. Rasmussen	2997
Michael J. Ward	2860	Edward J. Sheehan	0668
Charles M. Nagengast	3911	Wm. A. Spoja Jr.	1508
David M. Spores	1021	James L. Goettemoeller	1508
Jack J. Becker	3002	Robert L. Stoltz	1259
Joe Steinbeisser Jr.	3002	James H. McLuskie	1259
Glen W. Asbeck	3002	Rosaire E. Lemire Jr.	1259
Edward R. O' Connor	3002	Leonard T. Duray	1259
Joseph F. Micheletti	0882	Herbert J. Keller	1259
J. Fred Bourdeau	1493	Dennis D. Casey	1259
Donald P. Hogan	1493	Richard J. Picard	7009
Walter E. Dion	1644	Carl L. Karge Jr.	1959

In closing I wish you and your council the best in this New Year. Please let me know if I can assist you in promoting the Knights of Columbus in Montana and your community. Thank you for all you have done. - **Bill Burke**

Chaplain's Message

We once again are approaching the holy season of Lent. It is a time of reflection and repentance. It is a time of prayer and a time to bring ourselves closer to God.

For many of us Lent seems to come and go without a lot of real change in our lives. We may attend Stations of the Cross for the weeks of Lent.

We may "give something up". But, which of these activities do we continue at the end of Lent? How much of an impact do they make on our lives as we strive to be closer to God?

When we look at repentance, we have to realize the areas of our lives which truly need to be changed. For some of us, we are living lives that include sin. Sometimes, we are so caught up in our sin that we forget that it is sinful. I had that case once in a parish. I had spoken many times about being properly married in the church. It did not seem to sink in until I had a parish mission put on by the Fathers of Mercy. The mission priest said something that clicked and this parishioner stopped receiving communion until the marriage situation was fixed and a proper church wedding could take place. Lent is a good time to look at our lives and our need for repentance and change. If we find that our moral life is not in line with the church, Lent would be a good time to start on the change we need to truly bring it into line and show true repentance.

Change and repentance is not easy. We need to spend time in prayer to prepare ourselves and trust God to lead us through any change that may Be required.

May God bless you as we prepare for this holy season. **-Father Leo McDowell**

State Secretary's Message

This being the first printing of our newsletter on the web, I wish all of you the best for the New Year because we will need it. Our faith is going to be tested like never before in our lives with cut backs, lay-offs, high prices, assisted suicides issues, renewed abortion efforts etc., we need to turn our faith completely over to God to get us through.

By now all the Financial Secretaries have received the councils **per capita** and **credential forms**. Please send back a copy of each to me for my records. Also it is time to complete your **Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity**, form # 1728 and **Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics**, form # 4584. The next project will be filling out the **Audit**, form # 1295, which is due by February 15th. Another reminder, please get your **Round Table** forms completed and mail a copy to Supreme, the State Round Table Chairman, and to the State Deputy. May God's spirit be with all of you and your families and friends. - **Rod McElwee**

State Advocates Message:

The State Convention for the Knights of Columbus is rapidly approaching. As you are aware, it is to be held in Hamilton from April 17 to April 19, 2009.

A major order of business at the convention deals with the considerationb of resolutions presented by the State Officers or by individual Councils. Now is the time to prepare any resolutions that your council may want the State Convention to consider. If you wish to have a resolution considered, it must be in my hands no later than March 2, 2009. This date must be strictly observed because of the necessity of compiling all of the resolutions to that they can be mailed to each council for consideration at a general membership meeting prior to the date of the convention. Any resolution not in my hands be the March 2, 2009 deadline may not be presented to this year's convention due to lack of time to properly transmit it.

Your timely attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated by the State Officers. Mail your resolutions to: David M. McLean, State Advocate, 2004 Hamburg, Anaconda, MT 59711. – **David McLean**

Program Director's Message:

It is that time again in our Knights of Columbus Fraternal Year to begin actively reporting what your council has been doing. Fr. McGivney founded this fraternal order on our ability to reach out to our fellow man. To organize this outreach 5 categories; Family, Youth, Church, Council and Community; were established to show our dedication to his cause. Each council should actively pursue activities in each of the categories and report these to the Montana State Council and to Supreme.

All activity reports should be sent to the MT State Program Director. My contact information will be listed at the end of this letter. Every activity no matter how small should be recorded and sent. These activities should have taken place between March 1, 2008 and February 28, 2009. All activities that are received by **March 1, 2009** will be considered for Montana Knights of Columbus awards that will be given out at the state convention in April. There are divisions for large and small councils so there will be plenty of awards. Please use the hard copy form found in the Council Activity booklet, the same form on the CD disk that was distributed by the DD's in the fall, or the form found online at www.KofC.org. You may email these reports if you wish. Give as much information as you can and photos are welcome. Use any of these forms, but **please** send these reports in.

A common question that comes about when filling in the activity reports is "Which category does this activity fall into?" The answer to this is that many activities could be in more than 1 category, so submit a report for each category. The program chairmen will make the decision.

A new award that is being instituted this year is the Montana Columbian Award which will recognize one large and one small council for overall activities. This award may be given to a council which may not win a top award, but will be given to a council who does many, quality activities in each category. This award mimics the Supreme Columbian Award for overall activities and is part of the Supreme Star Council award. The Supreme Columbian award is due in June, 2009. It is my personal goal to have 20 Montana Councils achieve the Supreme Columbian Award this fraternal year. I hope to have a session at the state convention that will help councils fill out the form for this supreme award.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some state wide programs. First, the KC Free Throw Contests in councils should be held in January, with the District contest completed by the end of February. District Deputies need to get this information into John Beck, Youth Chairman, as quickly as possible

In addition nominations should be received for MT KC Family of the Year and MT KC of the Year by March 1st. Hopefully your council is monthly selecting a KC Family of

the Month and KC of the Month. Give these families and brother knights some recognition by nominating them for these prestigious awards. These nominations may be sent to me or to Steve Zachmann, Family Chairman.

Please feel free to contact me or any of the Program Chairmen if you have any questions about filling out the report forms. Let's make this the best year ever for reports and outstanding service programs. Contact me and send reports to: Program Director, Montana Knights of Columbus, PO Box 191, Plevna, MT 59344 (406) 772-5831. Email waynem@midrivers.com. -**Wayne L. Mangold**

State Fund Raising Chair

At the present time the only New State Fund Raiser we have going is the sale of "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets and window stickers. I'll have them at the State Convention so your local Councils can buy some for next Christmas Season. We still have available the "Knights to Christ" daily meditation books. I recommend every Knight have one. Local councils should always have these on hand to give to their new members. These are available for \$7.50 each. Contact Don Hartman, at 122 Balsam Drive, Miles City, Mt. 59301 or call 406-234-1118 (office) or 406-234-0360 (home). Checks should be made out the Knights of Columbus State Council. Your District Deputy should have information on a new product that local councils should buy. This is a Commemorative Bible, to be given to the family of a Deceased 3rd Degree Knight. This Bible comes in a very nice leather case and would have your local council number engraved inside. Talk to your District Deputy about this product. See you in Hamilton in April. - **Don Hartman, PSD**,

State Council/Round Table Chairman's Message

Thanks to those councils who are sponsoring a Roundtable. Earlier this fall, Grand Knights in the Western Diocese were provided with information for their councils to form Round Tables. Round Tables are easy to form and easy to administer. It only takes filling out a form to let Supreme know what activities the Round Table have done for their parish.

Please get these Round Tables started before the Convention in April. If you need help, give me a call at 406-248-7583. - **Bob Murphy, PSD**

Special Olympics Chairman:

Councils are selling Special Olympics tickets! Please have raffle tickets available at all council events. 2009 has to be our best year ever. If you need more tickets, contact your District Deputy. - **Art Gregr**

Youth Director

Three of the state council youth programs for 2008/2009 will be coming to completion before the state convention in April. The deadline for nominations for religious educators financial support to the 2009 LA Congress has passed with only one council participating. It's not too late for councils to participate in the Substance Abuse Poster Contest or the FOCUS fundraiser program. District Free Throw Competitions should have been scheduled by this date and hopefully if your council held a council competition, you will help your council champions attend the district competition. I have attached a document prepared by our Montana FOCUS Missionaries that can be used to promote your local council fundraiser. By supporting FOCUS you are helping keep our freshman catholic student practicing their faith on campus and also supporting vocations in that many FOCUS Missionaries join the religious life after completing their work in FOCUS. - **John Beck**

District Deputies Report

During January, Council 10576 held a First Degree Exemplification and initiated two new members. Councils 844 & 10576 are hosting Free Throw contests this month and Council 844 is having a KC Open House on February 12TH for current members and anyone interested in joining the Knights of Columbus. If you're in Butte for St. Patrick's Day, stop by the KC Hall and say Hi to Council 668.

The District 12 First, Second and Third Degree Exemplification will be held February 15TH, 2009 at ST. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Community, 120 West Riggs in East Helena. The First Degree will begin at 11:00 AM with the Second and Third Degrees following at 12:30 PM. After the Exemplification, a spaghetti dinner will be served at 4:00 PM at St. Cyril & Methodius. The cost of the dinner is \$7.50. All members of the Knights of Columbus and their families are welcome to attend this dinner. For more information, contact the Grand Knight of Council 10576, Earl Webb at 406-475-9107, or District Deputy Allen Cormany at 406-449-7476.- **Allen Cormany, District 12**

Family Chairman' Message

The March for Life held in Baker on January 22 was a public statement of our belief in the sanctity of life. Seventy people representing 10 area communities and many faiths joined in the March sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, walking a mile in the cold of January to show their solidarity. It was impressive to see everyone gather for food and fellowship afterwards and speak out of the difficult task before us of convincing the people of this nation that the women and children do need to be protected. The speakers were eloquent and urgent in their message – we all know they were preaching to the choir but we also know that we need to be strengthened in our resolve to pray and work harder, now more than ever.

As I walked along in the center of the group, I was struck by how a public demonstration of belief had also become an important family event. A number of families marched along with children of all ages, all safely dressed or bundled and excited to be

participating with the adults. It was quite heartwarming to witness the interaction between young and old, and the positive values and lessons being handed on.

How often do we get or take that opportunity to offer a positive influence to the families in our communities? More importantly, how often do you and your council get to do the same in your communities?

We still have half of our fraternal year, and but small amount of time before state activity reports need to be submitted, to be sure we have held activities for our families. Please be sure to remember your Family of the Year and Knight of the Year nominations and send those and your activity reports in.

If you haven't yet been selecting a Family of the Month, you can still begin now. And you can still nominate your Family of the Year to honor. Selection of the Family of the Month and Year is just one way we can hold up positive role models for the parish and community and perhaps inspire others. It can offer a lot of encouragement not only for those chosen but also for others as they see the support that our Knights of Columbus councils have for Families! We all need positive role models!

Family of the Year and Knight of the Year nominations should follow the same format as those in the Report Forms Booklet or online. We do encourage extra materials, photos etc., as well as supporting information from other sources in your community.

The number of councils reporting Family of the Month to Supreme has been increasing steadily and we ask that your council participate in this worthwhile program. Ask your Family Activity Chairman or another Brother Knight in your council to spend 20 to 30 minutes each month in selecting and submitting the name of a deserving family.

If you would like help in this area or any other Family Activity, please call me at 778-2261 or email me at padre@midrivers.com. - **Steve Zachmann**

Family of the Month

The Montana winner of the December 2008 "Family of the Month" contest, obtained through a random drawing held at the Supreme Council Office from many nominees is

**Family of
George and Colleen Kupka
Council 1493
Great Falls**

Congratulations!

Montana Catholic Conference

“Catholic Day at the Legislature 2009”

Helena, Montana

February 5th

10:00 Prayer service in the Cathedral of St. Helena

10:30 Orientation and legislative update

11:30 March, for those who wish and weather permitting, to the Capitol

12:00 Welcome by Lt. Governor John Bohlinger

11:45-1:00 Lunch in the Rotunda with legislators

1:00-4:30 Visit displays in the Rotunda from Catholic schools, hospitals and organizations, tour the Capitol building, visit the House and Senate galleries and be introduced in each and attend committee meetings.

Let's fill up the Capitol with Catholics to raise awareness among the legislators and the people of Montana of the presence and involvement of Catholics in Montana as well as emphasize the economic and social impact of Catholic institutions such as schools and hospitals on the state's economy. Let your voices be heard as we carry the Catholic message to the legislature and help shape public policy in our state.

Contact the Montana Catholic Conference at 442-5761 for more information.

Montana State Knights of Columbus 2009 Convention-Hamilton Montana Thursday,
April 16 through Sunday, April 19, 2009

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 is available only on-line. Councils must submit the name and email address of the Grand Knight and Financial Secretary to Marty Beatty,

mnmmt@attglobal.net who will receive an email and a link to the Knight's Visions newsletter. Material to be included in the newsletter can also be submitted to

mnmmt@attglobal.net Send articles and pictures of what your Council is doing and we'll publish the information in the newsletter. Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries and

District Deputies are asked to appoint a Knight who can print and bring the newsletter to Council meetings. Anyone can read the current newsletter at

<http://www.montanaknights.org>