



Knight's Visions

Keeping the vision of Father Michael J. McGivney

September 2008

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

Web Site
montanaknights.org

State Deputy's Message:
Dear Brother Knights,

We are finishing the first four months of the fraternal year. During October we lost one of our finest knights, Pete Malin. Pete Malin was a very strong advocate for the Knights of Columbus. He served in many capacities for the Knights of Montana such as being a State Deputy and a CO for 3rd Degree Exemplifications. We all will miss Pete. Also, October was a busy month for our councils throughout the state. Councils were engaged in conducting membership campaigns, continued planning for the State Convention, Tootsie Roll Drives, councils solidifying plans for the year, church breakfasts and dinners, establishing two new 1st Degree Teams in District 13, youth and community and church projects, Marian Hour of Prayer in some parishes, etc. November and December will be busy months for us with local, state, and national elections; district meetings for Districts 1, 10, 11, and 13; 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Degree Exemplifications in Great Falls on November 9th; Thanksgiving baskets for the needy in our communities; membership drives; Christmas activities for our youth; fund raising projects; etc.

Ed Wirtz, Executive Secretary, mailed out to Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries in October the Montana State Council's business plan for the fraternal year. Please review the plan and share it with your council. The financial health of the State Council is ok. We are operating on less money than was the case in the past years. As stated in the business plan, we will share with all 51 councils the financial statements of the Montana State Council in December and at the state convention in April. Also, the proposed budget for fraternal year 2009-10 will be made available to councils before the state convention. This should enable delegates at the state convention to make informed decisions regarding future expenditures. Also, starting with the January-February newsletter of Knight's Vision we will no longer mail out the newsletter but will publish it on our website, www.montanaknights.org. We are taking this step to reduce costs. In my letter of October 8th to Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries I asked that each council identify a council member who regularly uses the internet. This knight then could print out the newsletter for the Grand Knight so he could share it at upcoming council meetings.

Recruiting new members and retaining members is critical to the health and vitality of our Montana Knights of Columbus. As of the last report from Supreme we had gained 29 new members but lost 37 members. So far 36 of the 51 active councils have not recruited a new member. As stated in the business plan, we start meeting the membership goal given us by Supreme with every council recruiting at least one new member. From there we can begin to reach our membership goal. Council 2613 in Plentywood is to be congratulated for not only being the 1st council in Montana to meet their goal of 5 but surpassing their goal. One of the ways we believe we can increase membership is through the establishment of round tables. According to Supreme on the average for every active round table a council realizes three new members. Bob Murphy, our Past State Deputy, and Bert May, a past District Deputy, will head up our efforts to create round tables. Where appropriate, one of them will contact each council in Montana. From my point of view round tables serve a very important function in helping our priests. Many priests serve more than one church or mission and need help. In talking to both Bishop Thomas and Bishop Warfel, I found them to be very interested in round tables especially as they support the work of parish priests. I believe that round tables are an excellent example of how we as Knights are taking seriously Pope Benedict's request "follow me in building the Church". A final note about membership, all Financial Secretaries should have received from Donald Kehoe, Supreme Secretary, a memorandum about the new Form 100s. He urged Financial Secretaries to begin using the revised Form 100 immediately and destroy all previous versions of Form 100 after December 31, 2008.

In closing I cite our Supreme Knight regarding the challenges that lie ahead for us. "My brother Knights, this has been a great year (2007-08) for us and the Church," he said. "But even greater challenges are on the horizon. We have before us both opportunity and responsibility. We strive to be a people of life and a people for life-committed to building a culture of life. We resolve to protect the basic building block of society—the family based upon the marriage of a man and a woman. We continue our works of charity to aid those in need and who suffer, bring them hope and comfort. In those ways and many others, being strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we will continue Building a Civilization of Love through Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. It will not be easy. But it is our mission, our vocation, our solemn duty."

I thank all of you for your good work in making the Knights of Columbus a strong moral force in Montana. God bless you and your family. May you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving and a merry Christmas.

Bill Burke
State Deputy

Program Director's Message:

Special Olympics Chairman:
.. – Art Gregr

Tootsie Roll Chairman
. Dan Norman

Chaplain's Message
Marty,

I'd like to submit the following for Knight's Vision. If you see some editing that needs to be done, feel free to make some changes. :)

Dear Brother Knights,

Some of you may have heard the news already, but I'm guessing that most of you have not. I have recently been appointed as the vocation director in charge of recruiting for the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings. Fr. Jay Peterson will be in charge of the seminarians once they are accepted into the seminary.

One of the great works of the Knights of Columbus is encouraging vocations. The bishop asked about the possibility of forming vocation committees in the parishes of the diocese. I quickly realized that we should already have a start on this project with the members of the KofC who so willingly work to foster vocations. This should not only be a task for Knights from Eastern Montana, but also for those in the Helena Diocese.

Vocation committees in the various parishes would be made up of men and women who want to inspire young men to consider priesthood, and young men and women to consider religious life. These committees would work with the pastor to get information about vocations spread throughout the parish. Research has shown that those who respond to the call to priesthood or religious life have been inspired by a strong devotional life in the parish, and by personal invitation by a priest or religious to listen for God's possible call in their lives. One way of working on the devotional life of the parish would be to work with the pastor to incorporate a prayer for vocations at the end of Mass. For several years, the Knights of Columbus have been behind an effort to have a vocation prayer said in every parish in South Dakota after every Mass, Sunday and weekdays. I would like to encourage use in Montana of that same prayer.

Prayer for Vocations

Lord Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, grant to our young people the generosity necessary to follow Your call and the courage required to overcome all obstacles to their vocation. Give to parents that faith, love and spirit of sacrifice which will inspire them to offer their children to God's service and to rejoice whenever one of their children is called to the priesthood and religious life. Let your example and that of Your Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph encourage both young people and parents let

Your grace sustain them. Amen.

On a second note, I want to encourage all councils and round table to remember to keep Christ in Christmas and our campaign to spread the word about the meaning of the season.

May God bless each of you as we celebrate the month of November and remember our dead, and begin the season of Advent, leading up to the celebration of the birth of our savior.

Fr. Leo McDowell, State Chaplain
t.-Father Leo McDowell

Ceremonials Chairman

Brother Marty:

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Degree scheduled for November 9th, in Great Falls was cancelled due to lack of candidates. That means we have had only one advanced degree performed this fraternal year. This is NOT a good showing and is in my estimation NOT acceptable. It is the District Deputies responsibility to canvas their Councils, encourage them to sign up new members and schedule major degree. We now have three Degree Teams in Montana so there should be no reason that Ceremonials can not be conducted in any area of the state.

The next scheduled major Degree is not until March 2009 to be held in Glendive. DD's lets get to work on this. If you need help ask any State Officer or Past State Deputy in your area and/or myself and we would be glad to help and advise you. This is your job so lets get it done and MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

John J. Glen, PSD
Ceremonial Chairman

. John J. Glen,.PSD

Congratulations to the following 50 year members of the Knights of Columbus.

In Memoriam.

District Deputies Report

District 12 Visions article for October:

During October, Council 844 held a First Degree Exemplification and initiated one new member. The Councils in District 12 have also been participating in the Order-wide membership Blitz. Council 10576 had a

pancake breakfast October 12TH and Council 2360 participated in Townsend's Fall Festival. Council 844 raised money from a food booth at the Bullfest competition. On a sad note, Past State Deputy Pete Malin, a member of Council 844 and Fourth Degree Assembly 589, passed away this month. Pete will be missed by the KC's and the Cathedral of St. Helena Parish. A First, Second and Third Degree Exemplification is planned for January 24, 2009. More details will be reported here next month.- **Allen Cormany**

Dale T. Blom and David R. Scott

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.

Knight's Vision
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