



*Saskatchewan State Council
Knights of Columbus*

State Deputy – Edward Gibney

Worthy Grand Knights and District Deputies;

I wanted to send a quick note wishing all of you a Happy and Holy New Year and my Prayers that you and your family had a very Blessed and Joyous Christmas.

As we enter into the second half of this fraternal year, I wanted to share with you a couple of thoughts.

At my State Deputies' Midyear Meeting in November, the State Deputies discussed why membership in our Order is important, not only to us as a viable organization but to the Catholic Church as a whole. Membership in our Order is evangelical in that it engages many of our members to do more in their communities, Churches, and often their own families. Simultaneously, our evangelical charity also provides a living example of Catholic men in action living their faith through Prayer and works of mercy, which in itself evangelizes lukewarm Catholics and often men from other denominations to strive to be like us.

In my short time as your State Deputy, I am finding that many Councils are looking for a new outlook on membership and want help in recruitment to strengthen their Councils. We have always believed that every Catholic man should be offered an opportunity to join us, but what reason have we given him to join? Do we have solid programs at the Council level that he can get involved in? Are our Councils accomplishing good works formed in faith? Do we have a spiritual based Council that supports Parish Life or are we only the social committee for the Parish or community? What is the image of your local Knights of Columbus Council? The Supreme Knight has stated that our Councils should be the lead organization within the Parish for charitable and social programs. Providing these programs is where you will find fertile grounds for recruitment.

I believe and many in your Council believe that we should be asking men to join the Order in an attempt to engage them in their faith. We are a unique organization in that we are bound in Unity through the Eucharist. I am convinced that our patron, the Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney, watches over and prays for us daily. More and more men are attending men's retreats such as our Men's Spiritual Enrichment Event March 4th and 5th in Saskatoon, our college men are better formed, seminary enrollment has been on the rise, and our teenagers are looking for spiritual outreach. The opportunity for the Order to grow has never been greater than now.

The Supreme Knight has often said: "IF NOT US, THEN WHO?" This statement applies to all of us. If we do not stand up for those who cannot defend themselves (babies, handicapped, intellectually challenged, aged) then who will. When the Church and our Priests come under attack, who is there to defend them? In order to accomplish this, we must stand up for ourselves, welcome new members to our ranks and grow.

- Each District should have a growth plan for the next five months:
- Every Council should be active in Programs and Recruitment
- New First Degree Pilot allows the Degree to be read - Every Council should try it, especially if they have not done a Degree in recent years – Remind both new and seasoned members of the lesson of Charity
- Councils should strive for Star Council
- Districts should plan their way to Star District
- Work with Field Agents to plan goals for next five months

If there is anything I or the other members of the State Board can do to assist you and your Council, do not hesitate to ask. Remember that the State Program Directors and the Regional Membership Directors are there to help you. Please utilize their services. Let us commit to serving our Churches and to strengthening our brother's Faith by asking Catholic Men to belong to the Knights of Columbus.

Fraternally,

Edward Gibney, SD
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