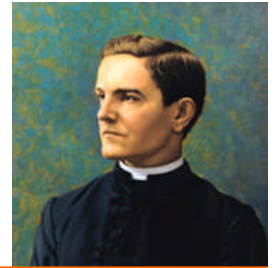




# SASKATCHEWAN KNIGHTLINE



September 2010

[www.kofcsask.com](http://www.kofcsask.com)  
[www.kofcsask.com/text.html](http://www.kofcsask.com/text.html)

Volume 1, Issue 1

## STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

As I am writing this I am preparing to lead your State Delegates to the Supreme Convention in Washington DC. Those of you who have had the honour to represent the State of Saskatchewan at a Supreme Convention know how special the

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week is and how much fun it is as well. It is a time to celebrate the successes of our Councils and our State but more than that it is a time to celebrate our successes as an Order.

Sometimes a Council, especially if it is going through difficult times, becomes very insular, focusing only on the negative goings on in the Council while not recognizing the successes that they share by being part of the State of Saskatchewan and the International Order. Yes, a Council facing difficulties needs to address the concerns within their own Council but they also would gain immensely by occasionally having a celebration. While every Council may not have an award to celebrate, every Council is in a position, united in the Order, to celebrate the many great works we do here in Saskatchewan and around the world and their own small contributions to those successes. By simply focusing on the positive works of the Order, a Council can see beyond its own difficulties and know that they are a part of a great organization.

Here in Saskatchewan we have many things of which to be proud. Over the years we have shown ourselves as purely unselfish in our aid to Louisiana and Haiti and in our support of the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation. These past few months Knights have answered the call to assist after the flooding and hail disasters here at home and we should be proud of that as well. We do so much for our communities, for our youth and for our Churches. The projects don't have to be large. Every little act of kindness, every act of support, adds to the total works of the Knights of Columbus united here in Saskatchewan.

One way I am hoping that we as the State of Saskatchewan can celebrate this year is by having a united effort to recruit new members into our Councils. The great thing about this is that one important thing that every struggling Council needs is new members. To this end I am asking all Councils to make an effort to recruit at least one new member this coming Columbian year. Many Councils can do more than that and perhaps aim at reaching Star Council Status but every Council needs to recruit new members so that it will have a strong future. I am hoping to see all Councils actively recruiting, in a united effort, so that at the end of the year, the entire Province can celebrate positive growth in membership and perhaps even Circle of Honour recognition from Supreme. I would love to travel around the Province next July going to events celebrating all the successes WE had as the Knights of Saskatchewan.

In addition to celebrating the successes we have as a State we should also be celebrating the wonderful things we are part of, united with Knights world wide. We should all be proud of being part of an organization that in 2009, internationally, gave out Monetary Donations totalling \$151,105,867 and volunteered 69,251,926 hours of time to needy causes. Saskatchewan showed itself well in both these areas as well, placing 7<sup>th</sup> in the Order in Per Capita Monetary Donations and 6<sup>th</sup> in the Order in Per Capita Volunteer Hours. These are numbers that we have all contributed towards and we should be proud and should celebrate that we have been part of these great successes.

We must never forget the lesson of unity. We are indeed stronger when we are working together but we are also a more positive, proud group when we recognize that, in unity, we can all celebrate everything we contribute to as part of the State of Saskatchewan and the International Order.

Vivat Jesus  
Edward Gibney  
Saskatchewan State Deputy

Editor—Pat Meuse

# STATE CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

## What Goes Around Comes Around

It is always interesting to see a common element in possibly unrelated things. We hear a proverb and say in our hearts, "That is exactly it!" or "You can say that again and mean it!" Something resonates in our hearts when we hear the truth.

### Role of a Chaplain?

That is certainly the case this month in the Chaplain's Report published out of New Haven. The Supreme Chaplain, Bishop William E. Lori, states *Seeking Authentic Human Development, the Church*



*Promotes Subsidiarity, Solidarity and the Common Good.* Father John P. Grace, O.S.A., the director of Chaplain Programs and Development, in his article entitled *Chaplains' Meetings & State Conventions Make for a Winning Combination*, stated that focusing on the role of a chaplain is important since "some chaplains, especially the new ones, do not know what is expected of a council chaplain".

Honouring the principle of subsidiarity, chaplains on each level must be aware of the role they play in our wonderful fraternal organization. As I respond to the role I face as the Saskatchewan State Chaplain for the first time, I would like to echo the importance of council chaplains understanding their role. They will understand their roles to the extent I understand mine and so I share, in some way, the responsibilities they face. Oh, the learning curve . . . of life.

### Chaplain and His Council

As new challenges are embraced, how a chaplain lives his life is spiritual food for the council he serves. The foundation is clear – love is essential for authentic human development. God is love. This is a message that every council chaplain knows well and everything from his newsletter commentaries to his private intercessory prayer must reflect it. As simple as it is, it remains a profound mystery because ever-deeper participation in this mystery is 'our daily bread'. The bread we receive is the bread we share.

Referring to Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical '*God is Love - Deus Caritas Est*' all Knights of Columbus chaplains would do well to ponder privately and then publicly what Father John P. Grace underlines from the Holy Father's letter:

*It is not only leaders of social institutions that have a responsibility to seek the common good. All of us must seek the common good by living up to our vocations, doing our work well, and being loyal and engaged citizens. The common good is all those conditions that enable individuals and groups within society to flourish. It is best secured in communities that defend the dignity of individual citizens and promote various social institutions that truly assist citizens, while calling them to seek the good of the nation and the world as a whole (Deus Caritas Est 407-410)*

This could be engraved on a plaque it is so important. Yet more dignity is bestowed when it is shared by council chaplains who have prayed over it and integrated it into their lives. Such is the case with local (Saskatchewan) circumstances this recent spring and the abundance of rain that has lead to serious flooding or damage. The Holy Father's words apply to the hearts of Knights across our province. Those words can be delivered door to door (council to council) by chaplains so that the knights across our province are better prepared to assist those in need. The water damage will continue to be felt over many months. We need knights to assist those in need. We need chaplains to spiritually support knights.

The common good involves everyone living up to their vocations. What is God asking you to do specifically in response to this water disaster? Are you to inspire with your words, deliver goods, donate money, pray with those who are depressed, give hope to those in need or give of your time in some manner? The theme of the 128<sup>th</sup> Supreme Convention is "I Am My Brother's Keeper". Helping others is everyone's duty, especially a Knight of Columbus, especially a Chaplain for the Knights.

Give from the gifts you have been given. You alone can't address all the problems, but what you are called to do will help someone directly in need of relief. You will be an example for someone else to give of their gifts. You will be used by God in ways you least expect.

Be a good Chaplain/Knight/Citizen and proclaim that God is Love with your actions so that others are inspired to be that love in action. What goes around comes around.

Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSsR  
Eparch of Saskatoon  
Saskatchewan State Chaplain

## SASKATCHEWAN KNIGHTS IN ACTION

**Announcing** a NEW section on the Saskatchewan State Web Site. We now have a Saskatchewan Knights in Action section on the Home page at [www.kofcsask.com](http://www.kofcsask.com). Each month I am asking all councils to send me one or two pictures of an activity the council has participated in. Included with the picture(s) should be an explanation of what is happening and who is in the picture(s). Please forward pictures to [wpmeuse@sasktel.net](mailto:wpmeuse@sasktel.net) by e-mail or:

Pat Meuse

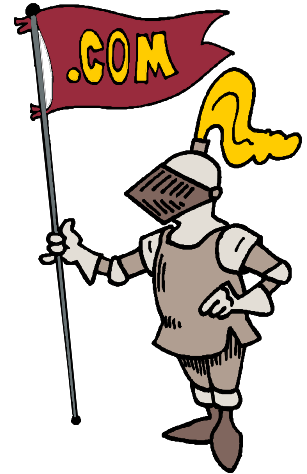
1238 Grandview St W.

Moose Jaw, Sk S6H 5M2

by Snail mail. You can submit the pictures any time. I will take all the pictures I receive by the 3rd week of the month and put them together for the following month. Any picture received after the 3rd week of the month will go in the following month.

Pat Meuse

2010 / 2011 PR Director



## STATE SPECIAL PROJECT AWARDS

The deadline to submit a project for the State Special Project Awards is 15 March. There are Projects in the following areas:

**Church, Community, Council, Youth, Family of the Year and Pro-Life**

You can submit your project at anytime, however any project that that occurs after 15 March will be considered for the following year. To submit your project forward it to the General Program Director at [kofc.saskstate.sgpd@sasktel.net](mailto:kofc.saskstate.sgpd@sasktel.net) by E-mail or at the State Office by Snail Mail

General Program Director

214 Avenue M South

Saskatoon, SK S7M 2K4



Area residents assist with the Knights of Columbus distribution of wheel chairs to victims of earthquake disaster in Haiti

A delegation of about sixteen members travelled to Haiti from April 25<sup>th</sup> to April 29<sup>th</sup> comprising of Knights of Columbus members, a camera crew and the coordinating group HHS Foundation from the Dominican Republic. Among those chosen to go were Marvin and Pat DeSchryver and their grandson Dale Aalbers (the newest member of the Knights of Columbus). Included in the group was Christiana Flessner from the Canadian Wheel Chair Foundation (WCF), Chris Lewis (son of Jerry Lewis) with the American WCF, Dan Moberg director of public education for the WCF, State Chaplain of California Msgr. Nestor, Jacqueln Martin an EMT, the camera crew Steve Torbeck and Tonya Hill, Hans Meijer Grand Knight for Council



A Car passes through the Haitian Border



About 35 people in the back with all supplies on the top

#14212 in Florida, Bob Reed PSD Florida, Jose Mendoza State Deputy of the Dominican Republic and the coordinating group HHS Foundation members. They were met in Port of Prince, Haiti by our Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and his entourage at the University of Miami Hospital. On behalf of the whole Order, the Supreme Council previously announced that they would donate \$150,000 or 1000 wheelchairs to the victims of earthquake. This was to be the official kick off distribution of about 30 wheelchairs and they wanted to show emphasis on the fact that this is a Global Wheel Chair Mission, not just United States. As is quite normal, there are political ramifications and much coordination in making sure there is a minimum abuse in the distribution process. In this

case each recipient is evaluated as to need and authenticity by the HHS Foundation. They are tallied and assigned a certain size of chair, then will be delivered in groups of 30 - 40 chairs from Miami as they are needed.

In June 2007 the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus, during their Organization meeting in Nipawin, were shown a presentation on the Wheel Chair Foundation and the drastic need for mobilizing those who are unable to move about freely, (something we just take for granted). They also saw the effect one wheel chair has on the recipient, their family and all the caregivers around them.

Since that time Saskatchewan Knights and their communities have raised in excess of \$155,000 and delivered Wheel chairs to Sierra Leone, Vietnam, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. To put this into perspective all of Can-



Cooking breakfast on the open fire with the orphanage building to the left



Dale Aalbers newly initiated member of Council #3920 Denzil shaking hands with Supreme Knight Carl Anderson in Haiti

ada has collected just over \$365,000. Saskatchewan is recognized as having given the most per capita than any other Jurisdiction in the whole Order and almost half of the total donations across Canada. It was with this in mind that Past State Deputy Marvin and his wife Pat were invited to represent Canada on this Public Relations mission to Haiti. Dale being the newest and youngest Knight in the Order at that time they thought it would be a great experience for him, so they received permission to have him go along.

#### Our experience

Although the trip was a real endurance test, the experience of seeing the devastation and need was overwhelming. We travelled by car and air for over 18 hours, before arriving in Santo Domingo at 11:00 PM. The following morning we left for Haiti in a 24 passenger bus, for a seven hour trip. We arrived just outside Port of Prince at an Orphanage. The Orphanage had about forty children of all ages, consisting of those who lost their parents during the Earthquake. Their



The wards inside the Hospital

facility is just being built so they have very few amenities. This is where we had a true camping experience. All the cooking was done on open fires and we slept under the stars with a full moon shining down on us. The forecast had been for rain but God was with us. The only running water came from the young women who carried five gallon pails on their heads to fill a 400 gallon tank from about 500 meters away (a four hour job for five women). From this tank there was a valve to draw water and distribute as needed. They did have a makeshift



Dale, Marvin and Pat posing with a young boy who just received his chair



Dale posing with Wilkins one of the volunteers. He didn't think he was handicapped

bathroom with flush toilets but the water had to be carried about 100 meters from the main tank.

Most of us were up next morning by about 5:00 AM to help load the wheelchairs, had another open fire breakfast and then travelled into Port of Prince to prepare for the presentations at the U of Miami hospital. The hospital is a conglomeration of tents in various sizes including those used for staff to sleep in. The temperature was well into the +30 - 35C range and the humidity was high. Some of the recipients had just come out of surgery; all of them were in the hospital. The tour of the hospital revealed just how great the need is. After the presentation of the wheel chairs and official speeches we were loaded back onto our bus and headed to the Dominican border before it would close at 4:00



This young girl was buried for 4 days one leg amputated and the other cut off

PM. When we finally arrived back in Santo Domingo at 10:30 PM we were all ready for a shower and comfortable bed under cover. Wednesday morning after breakfast and a good nights sleep we were ready again unloading wheelchairs and preparing for the distribution of about 70 chairs. The eligible recipients started arriving already at 8:00 AM and continued until 1:00 PM. This again proved to be a very dramatic event as we got to place each recipient into their new wheelchair. The expressions of gratitude and smiles from all of them, together with the



One of the many tent cities set up for homeless victims of the Earthquake



Pat receives a big hug after we placed this teen in her chair

warm feeling of being able to help those in need were overwhelming.

Our afternoon was spent touring some of the historic sites marking Christopher Columbus' voyages including his original home and the museum erected in his honour. That night we were hosted to an evening of dining and great fraternity. We then said our official goodbyes to each of our new found friends, some of whom we knew from our previous visit. Our flight home was departing at 7:00 AM, and no one was anxious to be up at 4:00AM to bid us farewell.



Street Market on Haitian border

The trip home was pretty much uneventful other than, after sitting on a plane in Miami for one hour, we were asked to change planes because of some mechanical failure. I guess it was better switching than experiencing this failure while up in the air.

Marvin and Pat DeSchryver

## WHEELCHAIRS TO HAITI

My name is Dale Aalbers. I am a seventeen year old student from Lloydminster. I was granted an amazing opportunity when my grandparents phoned and asked if I wanted to go with them to Haiti to deliver wheelchairs. It was a life changing experience and so hard to put into words. We were a group of 16 from Canada, USA and the Dominican Republic that went into Haiti.

We arrived in the Dominican Republic late at night on April the 25th. The next morning we made sure that everything was order before leaving. One of the biggest things that surprised me was the time it took to drive from Santo Domingo (the capital of the Dominican) to Port-Au-Prince. It was a 7 hour drive so it took most of the day to get to Haiti. Along the way we passed many different tent cities that had been set up to house those left homeless after the earth quake. We stopped at the University of Miami Field Hospital to get things ready for the wheel chair delivery the next morning. After getting the arrangements made we drove out to the orphanage where we would be spending the night.

I didn't know what to expect, at first the kids were really shy, but then they became accustomed to us and it was all good. We stopped and purchased food and fuel to cook supper. It was an awesome supper of rice, noodles, chicken and veggies cooked over a charcoal fire. We didn't have many options for sleeping, some chose to sleep in the bus, my grandparents had cots to sleep on, I slept under the stars on a cardboard box. The moon was almost full so we had light and we were in a big enough group to feel safe.

In the morning I played some soccer with the boys and had lots of fun with them. At first they didn't want to have their pictures taken soon they were busy taking my picture. Problem is I am 6'2" tall and they cut off my head in most of the photos. I had collected 300 pounds of school supplies to take to Haiti, which we gave to the children at the orphanage.

One little boy had an abscess growing on the back of his head, so we brought him to the University of Miami hospital to have this growth looked at. We then prepared the wheelchairs and got ready for the ceremony. The Supreme Knight, the head of the 1.8 million members of the Knights of Columbus a catholic men's organization came to be a part of the distribution. One woman's story was very touching she had been buried under the rubble for four days and then left outside of 2 other hospitals until someone brought her to the U of Miami hospital. Her 5 siblings died in the earthquake and she was reunited with her mother. I was really impressed with how the patients were being taken care of, the University and volunteers were doing an excellent job.

After the presentation was over we had to go because the border crossing closed at 6. Hector (a gentleman who started a foundation to help Dominicans and Haitians in 1992) was our coordinator and shared many stories about people, the country and its history as we traveled. One of the major things that shook me was that the Haitian National Soccer team died in the quake, they were practicing and the Stadium fell on them. Once we crossed the border and had driven for a while Hector pointed out a plain beside a river. He said that in 2007 a flash flood came down from the mountains and took with it 100,000 people in a night. This was very shocking for me as I had never heard anything about this.

After several hours on the road we asked Hector "how long until we can stop to eat" he replied "15 minutes" after another hour of driving he asked "Do we want to stop to eat before we eat". People weren't sure what he meant but everyone on the bus agreed that we should keep driving so after another hour we stopped for food. Hector's 15 minutes turned out to be 2 hours! We got back at our hotel around 11 PM.

April 28 we had a distribution of 70 wheelchairs at our hotel in Santo Domingo. This was a very amazing experience as I was able to personally place people in wheelchairs. We don't realize what a gift our mobility is, the ability to walk, run even get up off a chair. A man who had been hurt while working in Haiti was given a wheelchair and it really touched me as I witnessed his joy. A little boy about 4 years old was given a chair and once he learned how to move in it, his whole being was so happy and full of life.

Delivering wheelchairs is so amazing and to witness the difference that a wheelchair can make in a person's life is incredibly powerful. There are 100 million immobile people in the world let's share some of what we have with others. For more info on the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation their website is [www.cdnwheelchair.ca](http://www.cdnwheelchair.ca).



Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival  
 St. Patrick's Parish, Saskatoon  
 September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
 Led by Monsignor Eduardo Chavez

The Supreme Council has called for an International Rosary to Our Lady of Guadalupe on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM Saskatchewan Time. All Councils are asked to participate in this event by leading the Rosary at this time. The purpose of this event is to celebrate the Bicentennial of Mexican Independence and to honour Our Lady as "Shield and Patron of our Freedom and as the Mother of the Civilization of Love."

## MAJOR DEGREE SCHEDULE

Date	Place	Contact
October 17 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Humboldt	(DD Paul Revering - 682-4200)
October 24 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Regina	(Contact one of the local District Deputies)
November 7 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Moose Jaw	(DD Marcel Gagnon - 692-8458)
November 7 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Saskatoon	(Contact one of the local District Deputies)
February 13 <sup>th</sup> 2011	North Battleford	(DD John Vany - 445-5306)
March 6 <sup>th</sup> 2011	Saskatoon	(Contact one of the local District Deputies)
May 15 <sup>th</sup> 2011	Regina	(Contact one of the local District Deputies)

We would also like to have Major Degrees in Melfort, Yorkton, Estevan, Unity, Swift Current and Meadow Lake but have not confirmed that they will occur or what date they would be held.

## SUPREME CONVENTION



# Saskatchewan State Council Knights of Columbus

August 8, 2009

### Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus Attend International Convention

The 128<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus was held August 3, 4 & 5, 2010 in Washington D.C. The delegates representing Saskatchewan included 2 members of the State Board and 6 elected delegates from around the Province. In addition to the delegates 3 members of the Hierarchy of Saskatchewan were in attendance.

State Deputy Edward Gibney of Saskatoon  
 Past State Deputy Arden Andreas of Lancer  
 Rueben Mercado of Regina  
 John Cook of Saskatoon  
 Louis Roth of Saskatoon  
 David Hartnell of Regina  
 Ron Budd of Tramping Lake  
 Paul Bruynooghe of North Battleford

Bishop Bryan Bayda, Eparch of Saskatoon & State Chaplain  
 Abbot Peter Novecosky of Muenster  
 Bishop Albert Thevenot of Prince Albert

The Convention's Opening Mass began with a Procession of 186 Fourth Degree Members in Regalia, 136 Priests, 75 Bishops and 10 Cardinals. Each day of the Convention began with Mass before the delegates addressed the pressing concerns of the Reports and Resolutions.

In his opening remarks, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson announced his theme for the coming year, "Am I My Brother's Keeper" stressing the importance of the Knights of Columbus being the visible image of the goodness of the Catholic Church under a recent barrage of news articles that only address the negative image of all things Catholic. Under this year's theme Knights are to stress the goodness of Catholic Church teaching, through their works, for all in the Catholic Church as well as for all of society, as all are our brothers.

Important Resolutions that came up included;

- o An effort to Support Religious Freedoms
  - o Devotion to Brother Andre Bessette at his Canonization and a call to have all 1<sup>st</sup> Degrees in Canada named in his honour in the coming year.
  - o That in the recognition of the Centenary of Blessed Mary of Calcutta's Birth (Mother Teresa) the Knights pledge greater efforts to assist the poor with Charitable Programs and Outreach to the needy.
- Support for the Lady of Guadalupe Rosary planned for September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## From the Council Director's desk.

As we start a new season of State Events, I would like to ask for support by all the membership. Those Councils that are putting time and effort in organizing State Events so that we can exercise the principle of fraternity certainly prefer a well attended event. In the next few years as this needs to be on the long term radar, the following events are scheduled.

2010

Charity Appeal	Kindersley	13 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2010	Council 4899
Mid Term Meeting	Davidson	3-5 Dec 2010	Council 5384

2011

State Curling	Weyburn	18-20 Feb 2011	Council 1731
State Golf			
Organizational Meeting			
State Bowling/ retreat			
Charity Appeal	Yorktown	5 Nov 2011	Council 5182
Mid Term Meeting	Moose Jaw	2-4 Dec 2011	Council 1534

2012 Applications (not yet approved)

State Curling			
State Golf	Prince Albert		Council 8547
Organizational Meeting	Meadow Lake		Council 5259
State Bowling/ retreat			
Charity Appeal	Ituna		Council 5320
(2 Applications)	Lake Lenore		Council 5946
Mid Term Meeting			

As you can see, the list is not complete. I would encourage Councils really look at their situation and find a way to put something together and submit an application. I keep thinking of Carlyle who hosted the Golf a couple of years ago aside from the weather everyone had a great time and the Council had a great time putting the event together. Another good example is Davidson they keep applying for mid-term. They have a great time doing it. A state event brings a Council together and gives it a purpose, it revitalise a Council and give the local membership an occasion to meet the folks on State Board.

If you decide to apply for an event, the application forms are found on the website [www.kofcsask.com](http://www.kofcsask.com) please download the form, follow the directions and send it in to either me or the Saskatoon Office. If you have any questions, please call me or the State Deputy so we can help you set things up.

Have a great year and keep the requests coming.

Gilles Doiron  
State Secretary/Council Director

## WHEELCHAIR MESSAGE

My Brother Knights:

As is stated in the attached Haiti experience, Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus members and their families have donated over \$155,000 so far to the Wheelchair Foundation and have sent wheelchairs to Sierra Leone, Vietnam, the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica. This has been done by less than 25% of the Councils. If your Council or District has not been involved yet, please do so this year. The need is great and when you purchase a wheelchair you are not just helping the recipient but all the care givers around the person. The opportunity to be present when someone receives a wheelchair is an experience you never forget. The look of happiness and their show of gratitude is overwhelming.

If you are planning to get involved or would like to continue, this is an ongoing project and we look for your support. A \$150 donation will purchase one wheelchair and if your Council or District collects enough for a container load of wheelchairs, you may designate which country you wish to send them and you can join the coordinating agency when these chairs are delivered. You have a choice of either 110 or 280 wheelchairs to make up a container load.

If you need any help in getting started please call me. I have recent DVDs and all the information. I am also available to make a presentation to your Council, District, Church or whole community.

Come on Saskatchewan let's continue to lead all other jurisdictions in the order.

Fraternally,

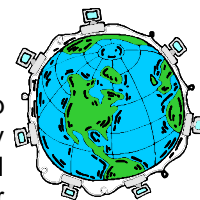
Marvin DeSchryver PSD,  
Community Life and Wheelchair Foundation Chairman

## TEXT BASED WEB PAGE

We are working on a Text based main web page to speed up downloads for those of you on dial-up Internet service. The web address will be [www.kofcsask.com/text.html](http://www.kofcsask.com/text.html). The page will enable you to very quickly download the main web page as there will be no graphics in it at all. It will be just words that will allow you to link to other files or sub web pages. We expect to have it up and working by 1 September 2010. Please try it out and let us know how it is working.

Pat Meuse

2010 / 2011 PR Director



## GENERAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Hopefully all councils in Saskatchewan are gearing up for the new Columbian year. I urge all Grand Knights to give your immediate attention to the following items:

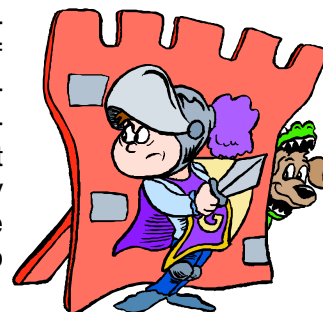
1. Your Council Membership Director and Council Program Director should be appointed by now and your council should be completing your yearly plan of activities in the six service areas by the end of August.
2. Pages 10, 11 and 12 of the State Council Directory include the names of all the State Program Directors. We have an excellent group of individuals who are more than willing to help with your programming needs so don't hesitate to phone any of them.
3. Reporting your council activities is important and I urge all councils to get their reports in to me as soon as possible. The reports are due on the 10th of each month. Please complete a report for each month even if you did not meet or had no activity. You can do your report by using the attachment sent to you by Executive Secretary Bob Barkman on July 5 - Copy of [KofC\\_Monthly\\_Evaluation\\_Report\\_Master](#). After filling it out email it to [kofc.saskstate.sqpd@sasktel.net](mailto:kofc.saskstate.sqpd@sasktel.net).
4. Some program ideas:
  - A. Sept. 11 is the Knights of Columbus World Day of Prayer for Peace. Knights of Columbus Councils are urged to plan an appropriate prayer service in a church or a public place such as a war memorial, a municipal park or on the grounds of Town or City Hall. Item #9484 (Prayer Card) can be ordered from Supreme.
  - B. "Made for Each Other" - a new free DVD on marriage now available by calling 203-752-4270
  - C. Ultrasound Initiative Grants - Supreme Council will match 50% of the cost of ultrasound machines. Further information can be obtained from the Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family Values; Knights of Columbus; 1 Columbus Plaza; New Haven CT 06510-3326

I wish each council in Saskatchewan a successful year in doing good works for our church, families, youth and communities

Yours Fraternally,  
Chris Bencharski, State Warden

## RETENTION

Brother knights; As we are well into our new Fraternal year with a new executive and program directors, we must put a major emphasis on retention of membership as well as council retention. Retention begins as soon as a member joins your council and keeping your membership active and happy, ensures retention of our councils. I ask all our council leaders to make sure that you are aware and using all our programs that are offered to all councils. Every program is important and they are there to be used. As well, call on your State Program Directors. It is their job to assist you in implementing their program to



you. Call them and introduce yourselves to them so that a good line of communication is established. If you need help in training, again, ask them or our State Deputy or myself, for help. We can help with all your planning and resources.

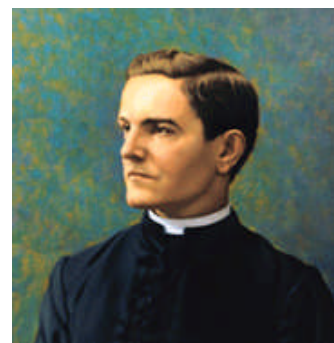
Council retention is a priority for myself this year. Our State board is aware of the many councils that are experiencing difficulties. Together we are going to do what we can to make every council viable and every member important. I ask all councils that wish to have special attention given to their council that they feel are in serious trouble in staying alive, to please contact me. I also ask all District Deputies and Regional Membership Directors to refer to me the councils that they see are in need of help. Please let me know quickly so that we can organize our plan of attack. I am not predicting miracles everywhere but we must do something. Let's start now. Together we can fulfill Fr. McGivney's vision of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. Our positive attitude in doing what we can is very important as a leader. Please pass this positive attitude to all your membership and you will be surprised on the positive reaction. I wish you all a great and rewarding year.

Vivat Jesus

Arden Andreas

## FATHER MCGIVNEY

Brothers; We still are patiently waiting for the day when our founder, Fr. Michael McGivney, will be accepted into the heavens as a Saint of God. Until then we must continue to pray for this day and to Fr. McGivney to guide us in his vision of charity, unity and fraternity and caring for those that need our help. I ask every council to strive to have every member join the McGivney guild. Its free and its open to everyone; men, ladies and children. This year let's see how many councils can achieve 100% of their council membership signed up. Offer this chance to every new member that you sign up and to their families. Have these forms at the church entrance with information on



our founder and with a cheerful personality, I am sure you will be surprised how many sign up. Keep the prayer to our founder in the council chambers as we continue to pray for his beatification. I will be in contact with all councils to see how you are doing so please appoint someone to organize this and give me his name. Contact me if I can be of any help. Let us all be ready to celebrate that day when the great announcement is made. Our support is not suggested but it is a must.

Vivat Jesus

Arden Andreas

Editor's note: To join the Father McGivney Guild go to the web Site:

[www.fathermcgivney.org](http://www.fathermcgivney.org)

Hello Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus!! I hope you have had an exciting summer full of sun, golf, lake and other summertime activities. I also hope that you have taken time to think about and become excited about this Columbian Year. I almost said “upcoming Columbian Year”, but we are already well into it, with, hard to believe, 2 months gone.

As you have thought about this new year I trust you have thought about membership. Our State Deputy put it so well earlier this month; membership is just not about “numbers” – it is the lifeblood of a council and is absolutely critical to sustain the good works that a council does. New members provide the excitement and enthusiasm that keeps the council active and involved as well providing opportunity for grooming new leaders. Needless to say, as you look around the council chambers of most councils in Saskatchewan you will see we are getting older and some of the leaders have served many, many terms. It is also a fact that other members who had lived a full life here on earth are now reaping their eternal rewards.

Membership is a very good measure for accessing the health of an organization. Membership that is growing or at least holding its own, replacing those that pass away, indicates the council is active and is attractive to those looking to belong and make a contribution.

In 16 of the past 20 years the Saskatchewan jurisdiction has seen its membership decline. At the State level we are looking to help you reverse that trend beginning this year.

For this year our plan has 3 focus areas:

- Every Council to recruit at least 1 new member

- Ukrainian Parish Roundtables & promotion with First Nations

- Recruiting young members in the 18 – 35 age group, who in all major studies and surveys indicate a strong desire to fulfill their spiritual needs.

Our State Membership team consists of Regional Directors:

- Marvin DeSchryver – Northwest

- Wayne Exner – Yorkton & Area

- Ron Holaday - Northeast

- Jim Stoffel – Regina & Area

- Earl Synkiw - Saskatoon

- Kerry Yuzik – Swift Current & Area

We will be making further appointments to cover all the areas.

Our success will be measured in how well we can be of assistance to the DDs and councils. We, along with Supreme Membership and Program Coordinator Dan O’Hara will be rolling up our sleeves and coming out to your areas to assist you in getting your people in place – a Membership Director and trained Recruiters. We will help you access the potential for new members in your parish/community and help you develop your membership recruitment plan for the year.

Brother Dan was in Regina August 15<sup>th</sup> conducting a recruitment seminar. If you are interested in having a similar seminar in your area please don’t hesitate to be in touch with your DD/Regional Membership Director or myself to make arrangements. If you so desire, contact State Deputy Ed. He, as well as any of us will always be available for you. We will never be so busy that we won’t be able to help you.

Before signing off I would be remiss if I did not mention the upcoming Blitz. Grand Knights should be ensuring that plans are in place and the preparation phase is fully underway.

I’m excited about our potential success this year. Its been a long time since we have had such a good potential. The Saskatchewan population has been increasing and while we have been impacted by the global recession, optimism reigns.

May God’s Blessings guide you to a very, very successful year

Brian Schatz