



State Deputy

When recruiting, emphasize the good things that we do

By Ken Girt
State Deputy

In our quest to obtain “Star Council”, we have been challenged to work on our membership and insurance growth in our councils, as well the requirement to perform four activities in our six service programs. These activities are considered charitable, keeping with the principles of Fr. McGivney, our founder.

Each year, Supreme Council uses the Fraternal Survey that councils submit in January and February to tabulate all our charitable donations and the hours of service provided to our churches and many, many charitable programs. In our recent electronic “Lighthouse” newsletter, I listed some of the charitable accomplishments of the Knights of Columbus, by both the Supreme Council and the councils in Ohio. It is worthwhile repeating again.

When recruiting a Catholic man to join the Order, be sure to emphasize our all the good things we do. You should explain that our 2012 charitable activities makes us the “Light of the World” and the “Light of Ohio.” You can explain the \$160.6 million the Knights of Columbus gave to charity worldwide in 2012 and the 70 million hours of volunteer service provided.

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The Supreme Convention

It was focused on works of charity, Culture of Life and the Family



Youngstown Diocese Bishop George Murry (left) attended the 2013 Supreme Convention. He is with State Chaplain Fr. William Kraynak (center) and State Deputy Ken Girt.

Membership

Conduct an October Blitz focusing on family

By Ken Gardner, *State Membership Director*

For many years, October has been a great month for membership recruitment in the Knights of Columbus.

I believe there are several reasons for this. Probably the top two are that Supreme Council has traditionally promoted an “October Blitz”, and that it’s a time that families are winding down after a hectic summer.

These two reasons can be combined into one successful recruitment effort with proper planning and follow-up. Use the following plan to hold a successful Family Membership Blitz Drive.

The Preparation Phase

- Obtain the pastor’s permission to conduct a Blitz at the church during a specific

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“We work especially to help those on the margins of society because they often have no voice but ours. We do all that we do peacefully and in a spirit of love. We help those in need wherever we can, and through our charity and by working through the legislative and legal process, we seek to make our society even more just and even more respectful of God’s gifts.”

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, in his annual report to delegates at the 131st Supreme Council Convention held Aug. 6-8 in San Antonio, Texas, put great emphasis on the Order’s works of charity, of a Culture of Life and of the Family.

“We did much to support the cause of life in the last fraternal year, with councils and assemblies reporting expenditures of more than \$11.6 million on pro-life projects,” he said. “We cannot speak of the culture of life without also speaking of the family. As an Order founded from the beginning to protect the family, we will always continue to protect Catholic families and witness to an authentic, Catholic vision of the family.”

“So, my Brother Knights, our support for the family and for a culture of life is inseparable. Knights of Columbus have worked hard on behalf of both. The circumstances that threaten life or the family may change. Our work in support

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2013 Matching Funds deadline nears

We are nearing the end of the 2013 Ohio State Council Matching Funds Campaign, which provides funds for Catholic education efforts, religious programs and RCIA programs in the six dioceses. The campaign, with the theme, “Shining a Light for Catholic Education”, began on Sept. 1 and will end on Nov. 1.

The Ohio Charity Foundation, an arm of the Ohio State Council, annually matches the first \$25,000 that is donated by councils, assemblies, Squires circles and individuals.

This year’s chairman, State Advocate Bob Byers, has set an ambitious goal of \$68,000, combined with a 90% participation of Ohio councils.

“I would hope that all councils across this great state will contribute as generously as they have in past years,” wrote Byers in a letter to council Grand Knights.

He suggested several ways that councils can fund their Matching Funds contribution,

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State Chaplain Souvenirs

By Fr. William Kraynak
State Chaplain

Defined, as a reminder or keepsake an item you would bring back with you from a trip or a special time. On one trip out West to the Dakota Badlands I brought home with me two rocks to remind me of a wonderful journey. One rock was from Mount Rushmore and the other was from the monument being created of Crazy Horse. Both of these monuments impressed me by what human beings can do with power and creativity.

Over the years I carried these rocks around with me, but in my last move I could not remember which monument each rock had come from. They had also lost their value to me because I have the memories to those places locked in my mind. I threw them away because as rocks they were worthless to anyone else.

Just recently I had the great honor and pleasure of attending the Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus in San Antonio, Texas. Upon returning home, my suitcase was full of souvenirs. I have pins from most of the states -- from Hawaii to Rhode Island as well as Canada the Philippines and Puerto Rico. I have printed materials from all the different meetings, lectures, and liturgical celebrations.

But my favorite souvenir is the feeling I got from seeing so many good faith-filled men and women from all over the Americas, Poland and Ukraine. They were people of joy, hope and faith. The love they had for one another and for the Catholic Church was overwhelming. And the Texas hospitality was nothing short of sensational. Just these memories alone were enough for me to take home.

Our Supreme Chaplain, Archbishop of Baltimore William E. Lori, gave a wonderful message to all the state chaplains on Monday morning. He began by recalling the theme of Pope Francis' message to the Youth Convention in Rio the week before. Pope Francis called for the youth of the world to "be not afraid and to serve". Archbishop Lori then went on to tell us that he felt that we, the

"But my favorite souvenir is the feeling I got from seeing so many good faith-filled men and women from all over the Americas, Poland and the Ukraine. They were people of joy, hope and faith."

Knights of Columbus, will be one of the best tools for the "New Evangelization" for the Catholic Church in the Americas and for the world. He reminded us that Pope Paul VI, after the Second Vatican Council, said that the documents and the spirit of the council had called for the Church now to be the "Church of the Good Samaritan".

The Knights are that church of service who have given 70 million hours of volunteer service and ministry to the faithful in their churches and in their communities. The Knights of Columbus is indeed a tool for the New Evangelization to our world, which is waiting for the Good News to be proclaimed by our words and by the clear witness each member gives when they respond to the cry of the hungry, homeless, naked and the ignorant.

To be that tool we don't need to be persons with degrees in Sacred Scripture, Theology or in Church History. Just people who have heard the call of God to discipleship and are willing to respond with the time, talent and treasures God has already given us.

It is important to keep learning about our faith -- to be reading, going to lectures, and keeping up on current events -- but it is just as important that we give witness by our attendance at Mass and our participation in our faith family and community. We need to be promoters of men and women who affirm the faith and are not embarrassed to share their faith in God and Jesus Christ with everyone.

We defend life in all ages; we support



State Deputy Ken Girt

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You can mention what the Knights of Columbus in Ohio donated during 2012:

- Our \$3.63 million dollars of total donations for charity.
- Our 1.5 million hours of volunteered service, which includes 771,017 hours for our parishes, 365,115 hours for our communities, and 216,973 for youth programs.
- Our 12,792 blood donors.
- Our 152,229 visits to the sick and bereaved.
- Our \$591,285 donated for service for our developmentally disabled.
- Our \$306,764 donated for Culture of Life projects, that include \$84,204 for Ultra Sound machines.
- Our \$1.4 million donated to our parishes and Catholic schools, which includes \$158,746 for religious education, \$178,005 for seminarians and RSVP, and \$193,180 for vocation projects.
- Our \$578,492 donated for various youth disbursements, which includes \$261,676 for scholarships and education.

And don't forget to explain what your individual council does for charity. If you are not sure, contact your Grand Knight so that he can list those donations and hours of service in your council newsletter. Our councils, assemblies and Squires in Ohio do much and donate much for our churches, our families and our communities.

Be proud of what we as Knights do here in Ohio. We are all the "Light of Ohio". Let's show a potential new member, that we and they can "give honor to our Father in heaven" with our activities.

Christian families and we defend our Church that has the right to not only worship as we please but to uphold its teachings in this free nation. We are tools for the New Evangelization, not afraid and willing to serve the least of our brothers and sisters.

If you need more words to support your faith and the position of the church you might check out the Knights' Supreme website and find some good reading. There are books and pamphlets that encourage the teachings of the Catholic Church and will help you to grow in your faith.

A lengthy and inspiring report was given to all the membership by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson in which he articulated many of the great works the K of C nationally and internationally has done over the last year. He not only reported on the state of the great insurance company of the K of C but also continually made reference to the inspiring works of many councils and individual Knights.

My souvenirs from the Supreme Convention may have weighed down my suitcase on my return trip. But my heart is even fuller because of the hopeful faith that I carried back to our State of Ohio. They have fanned the sparks of my faith so I hope I can help us all be "The Light of Ohio".

The Buckeye Bulletin

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State Chaplain appointed pastor in Ravenna

State Chaplain Fr. William Kraynak has been appointed pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, 408 W. Main St., Ravenna 44266, by Youngstown Diocese Bishop George Murry.

Ohio Knights seek new Pennies for Heaven goal: \$125,000

During the annual Summer program tours held throughout Ohio, the goal was once again raised for the 2013-14 *Pennies for Heaven* campaign.

"A goal of \$125,000 is the next step for Ohio Knights. It's a realistic goal that can become a reality this fraternal year," says Immediate Past State Deputy Dave Helmstetter, who serves as the *Pennies for Heaven* chairman.

Ohio Knights established yet another record last year, exceeding \$114,000 on the strength of a great effort from the Knights in the Columbus Diocese, who collected more than \$50,000 to support diocese vocation efforts.

A strong grassroots effort in local parishes can be the key, according to Helmstetter. Working with local pastors in parishes proved to be the important element in the Diocese of Columbus. And, it can lead to success for any council in Ohio.

Collecting funds during designated Sundays throughout the year can provide the extra boost. "Of course, it's important to pass the jug at every council event or any opportunity presented. It's a simple exercise that makes a big difference in supporting vocations in your diocese," says Helmstetter.

State Family Activities

Halloween, the controversial holiday

By Michael Saine

State Family Activities Director

Every year, a debate rages among Catholics and other Christians: Is Halloween a satanic holiday or secular one? Should Catholic children dress up like ghosts and goblins? Is it good for children to be scared?

Lost in the debate is the history of Halloween, which, far from being a pagan religious event, is actually a Christian celebration that's almost 1,300 years old.

"Halloween" in and of itself, means nothing. It is a contraction of «All Hallows Eve,» and designates the vigil of All Hallows Day, (All Saints Day).

Many people state concerns about the «pagan origins» of Halloween. But there really are none.

The first attempts to show some connection between the vigil of All Saints and the Celtic harvest festival of Samhain came more than a thousand years after All Saints Day became a universal feast, and there's no evidence whatsoever that Pope Gregory III or Gregory IV was even aware of Samhain. In Celtic peasant culture, however, elements of the harvest festival survived, even among Christians -- just as the Christmas tree owes its origins to pre-Christian Germanic traditions without being a pagan ritual.

Celtic elements included lighting bonfires, carving turnips (and, in America, pumpkins), and going from house to house, collecting treats, as carolers do at Christmas. But the «occult» aspects of Halloween -- ghosts and demons -- actually have their roots in Catholic belief. Christians believed that, at certain times of the year (Christmas is another), the veil separating earth from purgatory, heaven, and even hell becomes more thin, and the souls in purgatory (ghosts) and demons can be more readily seen. Thus the tradition of Halloween costumes owes as much, if not more, to Christian belief as to Celtic tradition.

Continued opposition to Halloween was largely an expression of anti-Catholicism (as well as anti-Irish prejudice). But by the early 20th century, Halloween, like Christmas, became highly commercialized. Pre-made costumes, decorations, and special candy all became widely available, and the Christian origins of the holiday were downplayed.

The rise of horror films, and especially the slasher films of the late 70's and 80's, have contributed to Halloween's bad reputation. The Satanists and Wiccans created a mythology in which Halloween had been their festival. They claim that it had been taken by Christians.

A new backlash against Halloween by non-Catholic Christians began in the 1980's, claiming Halloween was the «Devil's Night». By the late 1990's, many Catholic parents, unaware of the anti-Catholic origins of the attack on Halloween, had begun to question Halloween as well, and alternative celebrations became popular.

In the end, the choice is yours to make as a parent. If you choose, as my wife and I do, to let your children participate in Halloween, simply stress the need for physical safety (including checking their candy when they return home), and explain the Christian origins of Halloween to your children. Before you send them off trick-or-treating, recite together the Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel, and explain that, as Catholics, we believe in the reality of evil. Tie the vigil explicitly to the Feast of All Saints, and explain to your children why we celebrate that feast, so that they won't view All Saints Day as «the boring day when we have to go to church before we can eat candy.»

Increasing the level of participation of councils throughout Ohio is important. "We challenge each council in Ohio to support our seminarians with some kind of Pennies for Heaven activity this year," he says.

A *Pennies for Heaven* form is available on the Ohio State Council website. Deadlines for turn-ins are Dec. 15 and May 1. Checks should be made payable to the *Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus* and sent to Helmstetter at 5421 County Road 33A, St. Marys, OH 45885-9658.

Jugs can be purchased locally. If a council needs a *Pennies for Heaven* label, they should contact Helmstetter at dhelmstetter@woh.rr.com and he'll mail them to you.

Many councils do more than pass the jug. They involve the entire council or their parish in an activity. Those activities can be reported under the Church program and allow councils to collect program points.

"Councils have really shown their creativity in developing activities aimed at supporting vocations," said Helmstetter, who emphasizes councils should strive to reach \$1,000 plateau and receive recognition at the annual state convention.



Knights assist the Ohio Special Olympics

A check in the amount of \$13,500 was presented by the Ohio State Council to the Ohio Special Olympics. Representing the state council are State Treasurer Kevin Miller (left), and Past State Deputy Gary Eckstein (right). With them is Bob Rickard, Executive Director/CEO Special Olympics Ohio.

Knights of Columbus Insurance

Different life stages, changing needs

By Paul Goldsmith

State Insurance Liaison

Paying for college for your children may be one of your family's current needs. You may be concerned about a comfortable, worry-free retirement. You may wonder if needing costly long-term care will deplete your hard-earned assets. You want to have something to leave for your wife, children or grandchildren.

At some point you may have had all of these needs on your mind. Over time, these thoughts make way for others as your needs evolve, your finances change and you get older. What is important to you at age 20, may not be at 30, or 45, or 65. What is the best way to be prepared for these changes before they happen?

One of the easiest ways to be financially ready for changes that come with different life stages is to meet annually with your professional Knights of Columbus agent, and address the needs that his analysis uncovers. This can help you be ready to face the financial challenges and issues on the road ahead.

During that annual visit, I'll take the time to review your needs, goals and budget. I'll update all beneficiaries on your policies and be sure your coverage meets your needs. I'll recommend a program of life insurance, long-term care insurance and guaranteed income annuities that will help you rest easy at night.

Whatever your needs, whatever your concerns, whatever your stage in life, I can help.

2016 State Convention is set

State Secretary Bob Collins has announced that a contract has been signed to have the 2016 State Convention returned to the Kalahari Resort & Spa in Sandusky. It will be moved up one week from the traditional Memorial Day Weekend, being held on May 20-22, 2016.

The Supreme Convention theme: Be Protectors of God's Gifts

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson's Annual Report for the 2012-2013 fraternal year centered around the Supreme Convention theme of "Be Protectors of God's Gifts".

"My Brother Knights, with this theme I ask you to continue with an expand upon the good works you do," he said. "For over the past year you have been good stewards of God's gifts! Our Order is stronger today than ever before, and, my Brother Knights, the best is yet to come."

Some excerpts from Anderson's report follow.

Knights of Charity

"Whether at home or abroad, Charity is our Order's first principle and its lifeblood.

"We continue to be blessed by the incredible personal witness of Pope Francis, whose leadership in charity through his teaching and personal actions are an example for every member of this Order.

"Since our Order is dedicated to charity as its first principle, every Knight should bring the example of Pope Francis into his home, his parish, and his community. We can change countless lives and communities around the world. Our charitable service not only helps the temporal needs of our neighbors, but our personal witness of charity can also evangelize as we express Christ's commandment of love.

"For the 13th consecutive year, our Order's charitable contributions have grown."

Anderson reviewed many of the charitable ways the Knights of Columbus has assisted others: The Special Olympics and other projects that benefit people with intellectual and physical disabilities; the Order's Global Wheelchair Mission that has included distribution of more than 5,000 wheelchairs in 10 countries around the world; the Order's Healing Haiti's Children program, including the Order's commitment to provide each child who lost the use of a limb in the 2010 earthquake with a two-year treatment program; volunteerism in the Habitat for Humanity projects; the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.; natural disasters, including Hurricane Sandy on the east coast and Hurricane Isaac in Louisiana, tornadoes in the Oklahoma City area and in Indiana, Typhoon Pablo in The Philippines, flooding in North Dakota and western Canada; an industrial explosion in West Texas; the Order's Coats for Kids program; providing food for the hungry; blood drives.

Membership Growth

"I think all of us would agree that one of God's special gifts to each one of us is our membership in the Knights of Columbus.

"... During the fraternal year ending June 30, membership in our Order grew for the 41st consecutive year, to a record 1,843,587 Brother Knights. During this same period we added 229 new councils, including 8 in Mexico, 10 in Poland, 13 in Canada, 80 in The Philippines and 117 in the United States. That brings the total number of councils to 14,606.

"But there is much more to be done. If each council recruited one member each month, that would be nearly 180,000 new members.

"Christ didn't seek perfect men for his apostles, and we do not seek perfect men for the Knights of Columbus. We seek good men who are looking to be better men, and then we give them the opportunity to become great men."

Youth

"Young men and women who participate in one of our sports programs or essay contests, or who win a Knights-sponsored scholarship, carry a favorable impression of the Order – and the good works that we do – into adulthood.

"Over the past year more than 109,000 young people between the ages of 10 and 14 participated at 2,225 Knights of Columbus Free Throw competitions, and our newer Soccer Challenge program drew more than 7,200 participants at 1,000 events.

"Last year, local councils sponsored 29,880 Scouts in 1,210 Scout units in the United States and an additional 1,079 Scouts in 121 Scout units in Canada.

"Columbian Squires concluded the fraternal year with 25,848 members in 1,696 active Squires circles.

"During the 2012-2013 academic year, the Supreme Council funded 575 scholarships worth more than \$1.35 million for students at institutions of higher education. And 112 scholarships went to seminarians through the Fr. Michael J. McGivney and Bishop Thomas V. Daily Vocations Scholarship.

"But the largest amount of Knights of Columbus support for vocations comes from the local councils, assemblies and Squires circles participating in our Refund Support Vocations or RSVP program. Last year alone 2,929 local units provided direct financial support totaling \$5,941,883 to 5,791 seminarians through the RSVP program.

Fourth Degree and the Armed Forces

"Patriotism is a core principle of our Order, and that is why, over the past year, we have encouraged more Knights by eliminating the waiting period between the Third and Fourth degree. Now, Third Degree Knights can immediately proceed to the Patriotic Degree, and I am happy to report that during the past year, 15,709 Knights did so, bringing Fourth Degree membership to an all-time high of 335,132.

"Sir Knights have become a highly visible presence in veterans hospitals around the United States and account for the lions share of the thousands of Knights who are part of the Veterans



Ohio's delegates to the 2013 Supreme Convention are (Back row, left to right) Vernon Bergman, Michael Nau, Paul Rance, Denver Mossing, Edward Chavez Sr., Andrew Nuckols, Earl Olenhouse III, Joe Lacey Sr. (Front row, left to right) State Deputy Ken Girt, State Chaplain Fr. William Kraynak (not a delegate) and Immediate Past State Deputy Dave Helmstetter).

Affairs Voluntary Services program (VAVS).

"The Fourth Degree has also been in the forefront of the Order's drive to support vocations for military chaplains. We have pledged \$1 million over five years in support of this program. The fundraising is being led by the Fourth Degree, and thus far assemblies have raised \$530,936 for this vital project."

Insurance

"For the 38th consecutive year, the Knights of Columbus earned A.M. Best's highest rating of A++, a ranking reserved only for companies that have 'a superior ability to meet their ongoing insurance obligations'. No insurer in North America is more highly rated than the Knights of Columbus.

"Our assets grew 7.6% last year and now total more than \$20 billion. Our insurance in force has reached \$90.6 billion.

"Ultimately, the measure of our success is the benefits paid to our members. Last year, we paid more than \$286 million in death benefits. Equally important, last year we paid more than \$274 million in dividends to our policy holders."

The Church

"On June 28, I had the privilege of a private audience with Pope Francis. It was an extraordinary opportunity to speak with him about the charitable work of the Knights of Columbus. It was also inspiring to experience first-hand the love and concern which our new Holy Father has for the poor and suffering. Like him, we are deeply committed to charity. And like him, we are strongly committed to living out our faith and promoting the New Evangelization. Also like him, we are steadfast in our commitment to protect God's gifts by helping those on the margins of society.

"For the first time in many years, a new series of booklets is being developed by the Knights of Columbus. The new 19-part series will cover the basic themes of the New Evangelization and show that the New Evangelization is not a 'new' Christian message, but rather a new presentation of the joy of the Gospel in all its transforming power.

Faithful Citizenship

"We are called to be both good citizens and faithful Catholics. We must lead by the example of the good that we do, and we must not be silent in speaking up for our rights. For in a democracy, silence is not good citizenship – it is the antithesis of it.

Culture of Life

"We continue to work to undo the HHS contraceptive mandate, which attempts to force us to violate our fundamental religious beliefs regarding abortion-inducing drugs, sterilization and contraception. I am confident that as has occurred already in many court cases, this ill-conceived mandate will ultimately be found unconstitutional.

"I am pleased to report to you that through the Order's Ultrasound Initiative the Knights of Columbus has now donated ultrasound machines to pregnancy resource centers in Canada, Jamaica and in all 50 of the United States. The latest ultrasound technology provides a remarkably clear and vivid picture of the baby in the womb, and when a woman is able to see her child growing within her, the evidence suggests that she is much more likely to carry her child to term.

"Each year since 2008, the Knights of Columbus-Marist Poll has sampled public opinion regarding abortion, going beyond the typical 'are you pro-life or pro-choice' question that most polls use. If you ask people whether they would place limits on abortion, an overwhelming majority would do so. This year, our polling found that 83% of Americans favor significant restrictions on abortion."

K of C Councils are established in Ukraine

The Order has established two Knights of Columbus councils in Ukraine and a round table in Lithuania, Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson announced at the Supreme Convention.. It is the Knights' first expansion since the Order established councils in Poland in 2006.

The 2013 Supreme Convention

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of them may have a different emphasis in one country or another. But the guiding principle remains the same: be protectors of God’s gifts – of life, of human dignity, of marriage and of the family.”

(Other details of SK Anderson’s Annual Report can be found on Page 3).

The convention began with the traditional Opening Mass, with all its magnificence, including the parade of 150 Sir Knights, more than 100 priests and deacons, approximately eighty bishops and 11 cardinals to the altar to begin Mass and at its conclusion. Main celebrant and homilist was Most Rev. Gustavo Garcia-Siller, Archbishop of San Antonio.

“You represent more than 1.8 million Knights,” he said. “Your principles of Charity, Unity and Fraternity are vital to the Church, giving us light.

“The Church is our light. The Church is growing. But there are shadows – poverty, lack of jobs, and so on. Be a light in the darkness. Go Serve. Let us enjoy the presence of the Lord. We have so much to be thankful for.”

Another traditional highlight was the elegant States Dinner, in which 2,000 persons were served and which included a dais of three rows of Knights of Columbus and Church hierarchy. Among speakers were Anderson, Supreme Chaplain Most Rev. William Lori; Most Rev. Garcia-Siller; Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, president, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; Bishop of Edmonton Richard Smith, president, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops; Archbishop of Cebu Jose S. Palma, president, Catholic Bishops’ Conference of The Philippines; and Cardinal Sean O’Malley, Archbishop of Boston.

“In our estimation the Knights of Columbus embodies the laity in the life of the Church,” said Cardinal Dolan. “Indifference is hardly a word in the work of the Knights.”

“I’m grateful to the Knights of Columbus for all you do,” said Archbishop O’Malley, the main speaker. “In our own country so many Catholics have drifted off. Pope Francis has called upon us to be missionaries in our own communities. He tells us to open the door and invite others in.

“In today’s world we must promote a Culture of Life,” he continued. “We must be a better people. We must love other people. We must overcome indifference in our own lives. We are called to live our lives as a service to others.

“The pope is counting on you.”

The annual Awards Session occupied much of the second day’s business, with honors bestowed on councils and individuals throughout the Order for their work during the past fraternal year.

Ohio was one of 27 jurisdictions recognized for achieving or exceeding their new council development quota for 2012-2013. Immediate Past State Deputy Dave Helmstetter, accompanied by his wife, Cinda, was presented the award by Dennis A. Savoie, Deputy Supreme Knight. Helmstetter was Ohio’s presiding State Deputy when the quota was attained.

Helmstetter also was among 36 Knights who were honored for completing their term as State Deputies.

Ohio District Deputy-51 John Sprouse also was recognized at the Awards Session. He was among 450 District Deputies Order-wide who attained Star District status (all of their councils being Star Councils). Those District Deputies were entered into a



Immediate Past State Deputy Dave Helmstetter and his wife, Cinda, receiving the New Council Development award from Deputy Supreme Knight Dennis Savoie..



San Antonio Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller (above) processes to the altar for the Opening Mass. He was the main celebrant and homilist. Also in the procession are Ohio State Chaplain Fr. William Kraynak (top right) and Youngstown Diocese Bishop George Murry.



drawing for one of four trips to the Supreme Convention. District Deputy Sprouse was one of those four winners.

* * *

More than 40 Ohioans attending the Supreme Convention gathered for an Ohio Dinner. The State Officers always perform a skit at that dinner, and this year was no different. While State Deputy Ken Girt and his wife, Linda – and the other dinner guests – watched, the officers entertained with a takeoff from the old *Andy Griffith* television show State Warden Mark Siracusa and his wife, Beth, were celebrating their 37th Anniversary at the convention. His fellow officers presenting the couple with an anniversary cake at the Ohio Dinner.

* * *

A former Ohioan was one of the honorees receiving awards from Deputy Supreme Knight Savoie. Ed Collins, son of Ohio State Secretary Bob Collins, was Grand Knight of the Naperville Council 1369 in Naperville, Illinois, during the 2012-2013 fraternal year. His council was No. 1 in the Order for its Culture of Life Activity, a special banquet held to support both the Waterleaf Women’s Center, recipient of an ultrasound machine purchased through the Order’s Ultrasound Initiative, and the Fr. Michael J. McGivney Center for Hope and Healing. At one time, Brother Ed was a member of the Squires Circle at Father Ragan Council 3269, Avon.



State Warden Mark Siracusa and his wife, Beth, celebrating their 37th Anniversary at the Ohio Dinner.



Ed Collins (right), receiving the award for Best Pro-Life Activity from Deputy Supreme Knight Dennis Savoie.

State General Program Director

We've already seen some great programs!

By Jeff Kiliany

State General Program Director

I hope everyone has had the opportunity to look over your *Light of Ohio* general program manual and has become familiar with the new program. There are a lot of good ideas for activities that your Council can do throughout this fraternal year.

The State Program Directors already have been getting many great activities and reports from councils across the state. For instance members of Council 10820 replaced the roof of their parish garage; Council 968 held a Blood Drive in memory of a fallen Brother and collected 60 units of blood from members and their families; Council 3304 hosted 124 Knights, wives, and children at their Family night at a Lake County Captain's baseball game; and Council 5009 hosted a youth fishing tournament.

If you have not already done so, you should plan on getting together with your council officers, program directors, and key members and set up a rough activity plan for the fraternal year. The grid on page 26 is a good tool for you to use in your planning session. The state reporting directors will be happy to answer any questions and assist your council in planning activities in their respective program areas and getting your council well on it's way to becoming a Star Council this fraternal year.

Remember that we really urge each council to report ONLY TWO activities in the each reporting area per reporting period. There have been some council's that have reported their four reports already. We are thrilled that your council is doing this many events and activities.

It's great to see you keeping your membership involved. But, this IS NOT the right way to successfully complete the year-long General Program. To keep it a fair program, it is important that each council abide by the same reporting guidelines. So I again ask all councils to stay within the guidelines of two activity steps per period per reporting area. If you don't understand, or have questions, PLEASE CALL ME at 330-427-9874.

As we start this next program reporting period, remember that keeping your members active and involved with programs and activities helps to keep existing members from leaving your council, and generates interest in your council which helps to attract new members. Please do not overlook completing a Membership action Plan for your council. Even though this is an optional requirement under the Administrative section of the State Program, submission of this plan will aid your council in developing a viable plan to help you achieve your membership quota for this fraternal year, which puts you another step closer to achieving Star Council.

State Church Activities

How do we as Knights evangelize?

By Don Prall

State Church Activities Director

We as Knights are being called to be living examples not only to build up the Family of Christ, but also to evangelize by spreading HIS light throughout the world.

Evangelization is simply sharing our story (witness), confirming that our lives revolve around our relationship with Christ and that this relationship influences everything we do and are. We share our experience of Christ within trusting relationships, such as the Knights of Columbus, as naturally as we would talk about any important person in our lives.

Our State Deputy, Ken Girt, was firm that evangelization be a part of his state program so that with HIS help and direction we can be stewards of our faith which would ultimately attract new members. In this way our excitement transfers to our new members and brings them to the Light of Christ!

As Bishop Murray stated in his article "Attitudes for Evangelization," let us ask ourselves:

- Am I willing to share my faith with others?
- Do I reflect the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ?
- Am I Joyful because I have been redeemed?
- Does that joy shine through me?

As Knights of Columbus, we are committed disciples of Jesus through mentoring formation in prayer, sacraments, scripture/prayer, and service. We are to use our gifts and energy to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world through our individual, personal and spiritual gifts.



Dayton Sir Knights at the ballgame

Sir Knights from the Dayton Chapter area presented the colors at the Dayton Dragons' baseball game on the Fourth of July. Approximately 35 Sir Knights participated.

Culture of Life Activities

Councils get off to a fast start defending life

By Gary Anderson

State Culture of Life Director

Councils across Ohio wasted no time in jumping right into the battle to defend Life at the outset of the new 2013-2014 fraternal year.

Marysville Council 5534 held the first of its Knights Hours during the monthly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Marysville on July 13. During that time, Brother Knights pray for the unborn and for their protection from conception to natural death.

Father Maruskin Council 10936 in Hudson sponsored a Baby Bottle campaign in July where they successfully raised an impressive \$4,970 to benefit Pregnancy Solutions and Services, which provides free pregnancy testing and ultrasounds from their mobile units. When one considers that nearly 90% of pregnant women considering an abortion who see an ultrasound ultimately decide to have their babies, this is a tremendous Culture of Life activity by Council 10936! Well done!

North Olmsted Council #4731 sponsored a screening of the abortion/adoption movie, October Baby on July 17. Thirteen Brother Knights were involved in the event that was open to members, families, and friends. Our Lady of Light Council 14891 in Kettering had six Brother Knights and their families ride in the annual TK Hausfeld Ride for Life in Dayton on July 26 to benefit Dayton Right to Life, the Life Resource Center, and the Life Enrichment Center. The council was also a gold sponsor of the event, donating a generous \$1120. These are just a handful of wonderful Culture of Life activities and events already held in this first reporting period of the new fraternal year. Congratulations to all councils who have completed Culture of Life activities to date.

Important Culture of Life events include the semiannual 40 Days for Life, which kicked off on Sept. 25 and runs through Nov. 3; Respect Life Month in October -- including Respect Life Sunday on Oct. 6; and the national March for Life on Jan. 22, 2014, in Washington D.C. Start planning now!

It's time to think about the holidays

The Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons soon will be upon us, so it's time to plan your council's holiday activities. How about:

- A feeding the needy project?
- A dinner for the senior citizens of your communities?
- A kids' Christmas party with Santa?
- A council or assembly Christmas party?
- A community billboard proclaiming "Keep Christ in Christmas"?
- Distribution to coats for needy children.
- Car magnets proclaiming "Keep Christ in Christmas"?
- Lapel badges proclaiming "It's OK to say Merry Christmas to me"?

Membership

The Knights of Columbus family

By Ken Gardner

State Membership Director

In December, 2012, the Ohio State Council Team lost a family member when State New Council Development Director Bill Wirtz's granddaughter, Allison Wyatt, lost her young life in the grade school shooting tragedy in Newtown, Conn. Within hours of the tragedy, emails started to circulate, asking for prayers for Bill and his wife, Joyce, and their entire family. I am sure that thousands of prayers were offered up for the Wirtz family and all of the families affected by this tragedy.

When it comes to membership growth in the Knights of Columbus, a lot of times we talk about numbers and goals we are trying to achieve. Numbers are one way we track the success of our recruiting effort, but they come nowhere near telling the true story of what difference we can make in the world, our own community, and most important, our families.

When we bring a man into the Knights of Columbus what we are really doing is bringing his family into the Knights' family. I consider every member of the Knights -- his wife, his children, his grandchildren, and beyond -- members of my K of C family.

When I recruit for my council, I recruit the family. I tell the man and his wife that our Order is a **CATHOLIC FAMILY ORGANIZATION**. Every social meeting should include a family program. All councils should be holding programs that bring families together.

After the horrible event that December, a tragedy that affected our own Ohio State Council family, the significance of being a part of this organization should be even more apparent. Prayer is the most important tool we have to survive situations such as this.

My personal experience with my daughter Christine's illness and the prayers that I know are offered for her from my K of C family are a testimony to the importance of being part of something bigger. Would my wife, Linda, and I have been able to make it through Christine's illness and daily challenges without the prayers of my Knights family? Probably, but I know it would have been a lot tougher.

Recently two members of my former council lost their sons one day apart. Members of that council -- St. Joseph of the Three Rivers 11550 in North Bend (Cincinnati Diocese) reached out with prayer and support to those families. I received at least one email a day asking for prayers for a K of C family member.

What I am trying to say is that we need to offer Catholic families the chance to be a Knights family member. We owe it to them as we function as Disciples of Christ and spread his gospel in the world.

The next time you see a Catholic family at Mass, offer them the chance to be part of this outstanding organization.

District Deputies

Make sure councils have installed officers

By Joe Mackos

State District Deputy Director

By this time of the fraternal year, every council should have had their officers installed. This is a Supreme requirement, that all council officers be installed by Aug. 31.

If you haven't accomplished your installation yet, you still can do so -- but please get it done as soon as possible. Many District Deputies have more than five councils to deal with, and it's not easy for them to travel to your council, only to find out that the installation has been canceled. I have asked all District Deputies to consider a combined installation of officers with all councils in their district. This is a great way for the council to meet the members within their own district.

Forms, 185 and 365 should have been submitted by all councils by now. Did you give your District Deputy a copy? If not, please send him one. Whatever paperwork a council sends to the state council or to supreme, please make a copy and send it to your District Deputy. This way, if there are questions he will have a copy of your records.

Also, has your District Deputy given you the blue notebooks that have been provided by Supreme? If not, please call your Diocesan District Deputy Coordinator and let him know. The coordinators are:

Archdiocese of Cincinnati: Mike Felerski, 513-869-0180; Diocese of Cleveland: George Metz, 440-449-0081; Diocese of Columbus: Ted Johnson, 614-539-5863; Diocese of Steubenville: Tom Offenberger, 740-373-1256; Diocese of Toledo: Jim Collins, 419-868-6133; Diocese of Youngstown: Mike Rogers, 330-677-1277.

Ohio State Council Membership as of September 1, 2013

Diocese	Quota	Year to Date Gain	Year to Date Loss	Net	Percent of Quota	Needed
Cincinnati	452	43	34	+9	2.0%	443
Cleveland	314	41	44	-3	-1.0%	317
Columbus	281	80	55	+25	8.9%	256
Steubenville	81	24	17	+7	8.6%	74
Toledo	411	24	24	0	0.0%	411
Youngstown	211	26	17	+9	4.3%	202
TOTALS	1,750	238	191	+47	2.7%	1,703

Conduct an October Blitz focusing on Family

Continued from Page 1

weekend. This blitz should focus on family involvement in the Knights.

- Advertise the event weekly in the parish bulletin building up to when it is held.
- Order recruitment materials from the Supreme Council Supply Department (allow several weeks for delivery).
- Put together a council membership recruitment display that shows family events.
- Plan a council family activity within two weeks after the Blitz weekend. Ideas include a Family Movie Night, a Halloween Party, a Family Night at a local sports event, or a Family Fun Event.

The Execution Phase

- Set up informational tables at every door of the church. Have plenty of prospect cards and pencils on hand to distribute to each man as he enters the church.
- Have something at the table that draws families to it. Cookies and punch, ice cream sundaes, or something as simple as helium balloons.
- Arrange for a membership recruitment announcement to be made during Mass by the priest endorsing the council as a family group.
- Have brother Knights on hand to answer questions and to collect prospect referral cards or names and contact information as men leave the church with their families. The wives of the recruiting knights should also be with their husbands if possible.

The Follow-Up Phase

- Personal contact must be made with every prospect within 48 HOURS.
- Inform each prospect and his family of the date, time and location for the council family activity.

The Family Activity Phase

- Request that your council's chaplain attend the activity and start the event with a prayer and some words about the Order and its mission.
- Be sure that current members and their families attend the event.
- Have brother Knights on hand to assist prospects in completing these forms.
- Conclude the event with some light refreshments.
- Inform the candidates of the date of the next First Degree.

If this plan is executed as written, your council will be successful in recruiting good Catholic men and their families. Be sure to keep them interested by conducting family programs throughout the year.

2013 Matching Funds Campaign deadline nears

Continued from Page 1

such as:

- Donating a portion of the council's Super Cash Bonanza Charity ticket rebate.
- Host a council fundraising event with proceeds earmarked for the fund.
- Take up collections at council meetings.
- Ask members to make a personal pledge.
- Awards will be presented to District Deputies at next January's Mid-Year District Deputies Meeting for the following:
 - Highest donation overall by a council.
 - Highest donation by a council in each diocese.
 - Highest donation per member by a council in each diocese.
 - Highest donation by a chapter, assembly or Squires circle (each will receive an award).
- For those District Deputies with 100% council participation in their districts.
 - Checks should be made payable to the Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus and mailed with the donation to: Bob Byers, State Advocate, 565 Indian Run Road, Marietta, OH 45750. Information concerning the council's name and number, district, diocese, city, Grand Knight (with his phone number), Matching Funds chairman, and total donation should be included with the mailing.

Knights of Columbus sets new Record for charitable donations

The Knights of Columbus has been setting records for charitable contributions for the past 12 years. And the Knights set another new one, for the 13th consecutive year, in 2012, according to Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson.

Based on Supreme's Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity for the year ending Dec. 31, 2012, more than \$167.5 million and 70 million hours were donated to charitable causes. It was an increase of more than \$9.4 million in contributions over the preceding year and nearly 64,000 more volunteer hours from 2011.

Cumulative figures show that during the past decade the Knights of Columbus has donated \$1.475 billion to charity and provided more than 673 million hours of volunteer service in support of charitable initiatives.

Football Sweepstakes entry deadline is Oct. 26

The chance to purchase a ticket and participate in the 2013 Ohio Knights of Columbus Football Frenzy Sweepstakes is rapidly decreasing, as the deadline for turn-in of tickets is Oct. 26. That's when all sold tickets, and money, must be received by Past State Deputy Gary Eckstein, who has been Sweepstakes chairman since its inception 11 years ago.

Each ticket sells for \$10, and is valid for the last 10 weeks of the National Football League season -- games played between Oct. 27 and Dec 29. There are 32 teams in the NFL. Each week each player has four teams. Each player has new teams each week, and no ticket has the same teams in any given week. A total of \$1,000 in prizes is awarded each week to ticket holders with the four teams that score the most -- and the least -- number of points in that given week of games. Winners are notified and paid automatically each week by the Ohio State Council. Also, a winners list is posted on www.footballsweeps.com. The password is ohiofb13.

Councils earn rebates based on the number of tickets sold statewide. The funds can be used for any purpose.

The sold tickets, and money, must be sent to: PSD Gary Eckstein, 1498 River Trail Dr., Grove City, OH 43123. For further information, contact PSD Eckstein at (614) 679-4238.

2013 Ohio K of C Bowling Tournament results

The 2013 Ohio Knights of Columbus State Bowling Tournament was held last April in Worthington (Columbus Diocese). The three top finishers in each category are listed below:

All Events Handicap

1st: Ken Wehrman, 2366; 2nd: Joe Strausbaugh, 2314; 3rd: Jeff Stopar, 2268.

All Events Scratch

1st: Mike Thewes, 2194; 2nd: Marty Kearns Jr., 2151; 3rd: Troy Berning, 2104.

Doubles Handicap

1st: Jeff Stoper and Rick Stoper, 1509; 2nd: Marty Kearns Jr. and Marty Kearns Sr., 1486; 3rd: Bill Tischler and IDan Mauser, 1478.

Doubles Scratch

1st: Marty Kearns Jr. and Marty Kearns Sr., 1431; 2nd: Doug Thewes and Mike Thewes, 1382; 3rd: Nick Goubeaux and Brian Schmiesing, 1350.

Team Handicap

1st: Orians Five, 3454 (Mark Orians, Chris Homan, Kevin Orians, Leon Orians, Karl Orians); 2nd: Council 1991, 3411 (Mike Heckler, Kenny Sieftring, Karl Giere, Randy Giere, Kyle Bruns); 3rd: Kaufman King Pins, 3406 (Len Kaufman, Brian Kaufman, Craig Kaufman, Adam Kaufman, Ben Schroeder).

Team Scratch

1st: Father Ragan Council 3269, 3180 (Mark Konya, Steve Kimmel, John Schrifft, Dennis Zakutny, Fran Tibbits); 2nd: Noonan Heating, 3045 (Andrew Noonan, Mike Noonan, Pat Noonan, Justin Overman, Rich Overman); 3rd: Dreamscape Landscape, 3044 (Sean Schaefer, Tom Kozlevcar, Mke Sheehan, Marty Kearns Jr., Marty Kearns Sr.).

Singles Handicap

1st: Ken Wehrman, 798; 2nd: Joe Strasbaugh, 785; 3rd: Troy Berning, 778.

Singles Scratch

1st: Troy Berning, 778; 2nd: John Bloomquist, 732; 3rd: Mike Sheehan, 726.

1st new council established for fraternal year

The first new council for the 2013-2014 fraternal year has been established in Ohio, according to State Deputy Ken Girt. It is the Fr. Charles Griffin Council 15793, at St. Peter's Parish in Chillicothe.



Workers and friends gather at David Bertsch's "Victims of Abortion project."

Boy Scout completes pro-life project in his quest to earn Eagle Scout Award

Boy Scout David Bertsch, son of St. Malachy Council 5128, Morrow (Cincinnati Diocese), was looking for a project to do in his quest to earn the coveted Eagle Scout Award.

He found his answer from the Knights of St. Malachy Council, according to Trustee Carvel Steinke: a project to erect a memorial tombstone to the "Victims of Abortion" at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in Morrow.

David accepted the project with a great deal of enthusiasm, according to Steinke. He drew up plans and obtained permission from the pastor Fr. Ronald Piepmeyer. Then he presented his plans to a joint meeting of St. Malachy Council members and the Ladies Auxiliary to obtain funding for the project, which they approved. It was well received.

David designed a pathway with 94 paving bricks that could be engraved. The council sold these at \$35 each.

"I have never been swamped before selling something after Mass," commented Steinke. "We sold 124 bricks in two weekends, so David re-designed the layout to accommodate the extra brick sales."

David then designed the memorial stone and had it engraved. He chose the name "Victims of Abortion" because the mother also is a victim since she has to live for the rest of her life with the fact that she allowed her child to be killed.

David drew up a work schedule, obtained help from fellow Boy Scouts and the council Knights. He then arranged for the Sir Knights of Blessed Sacrament Assembly 2879 to be present in regalia for the dedication ceremony, which was conducted by Fr. Piepmeyer last June 13.

In summing up the project, David wrote that "I believe this pro-life memorial is a beautiful and positive addition to St. Philip the Apostle Parish. It reaffirms the Church's position on the issue of abortion and remembers the victims of it. The memorial also provides a focal point for prayer and spiritual contemplation that I think many people may benefit from."

Former Master Don Hall named Vice Supreme Master

Donald Hall, a former master in Ohio, has been named Vice Supreme Master of the Hennepin Province, which encompasses Fourth Degree assemblies in Ohio and Michigan.

Hall has served as a director for the Ohio State Council as well as his service in the Fourth Degree. He is a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Council 472 in Wintersville (Steubenville Diocese) and of Fr. Bigelow Assembly.

Hall was graduated from The Ohio State University and also attended the Franciscan University of Steubenville. He served in the U.S. Army as a 1st lieutenant, with service in Viet Nam. He has been employed at Weirton Steel Corp.

He and his wife, Elaine, reside in Wintersville and attend Blessed Sacrament Parish.