



Illinois State Council Knights of Columbus



Paul Havrilka Jr., State Deputy

CHRISTMAS 2006

Robert Fuggiti, Editor

State Deputy

Judy and I wish all of you a Very Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year. Make sure you spend some time with your family and friends. Celebrate Christmas with the family attending Mass together and hearing the glorious news that the baby Jesus is born again. God's Love and Peace to all of you this year.

Vivat Jesus!

Paul & Judy Havrilka

State Chaplain

Dear Brother Knights and Families,

Jesus Christ is what Christmas is all about! Jesus Christ is what the Knights of Columbus are all about! I urge all Brother Knights to take their children to confession and to weekend Mass. As a high school principal, parents asked me how to get their teenagers to go to confession. I tried tactfully to tell them that they are asking the question far too late! My Dad took us to confession and Mass with him before my mother was a Catholic. But even she then always went to Mass with us. Your example means so much to your children! I am an old man: both my parents – and my older brother – went to God years ago. But I still remember and treasure their example. I still have and treasure a letter my Dad wrote me 60 years ago when I was in the seminary: *“A day without Mass is an empty day!”* He had a greater impact on me than my seminary spiritual directors. And you fathers (and mothers) have a greater impact on your children than anyone else! May your Christmas gift from Jesus, Mary and Joseph be that realization!

With a plea and a promise of continued mutual prayers always, and wishing your family the choicest blessings of Christ's Mass and the New Year, I remain,

Sincerely Yours in the Sacred Heart,

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer, State Chaplain
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet (*Retired*)



Associate State Chaplains

May all the joys of this holiday season be with the Illinois Knights and their families this Christmas. My special wish for all you is that the gift of the angels to the shepherds on that first Christmas day be yours—peace.

Peace in its original sense is not a calm after war, but rather it is the peace that comes when all the facets of our lives are work in concert. In our busy world, we are caught up in so many different activities that this peace seems impossible. This becomes more evident in the Christmas season when we are about so many things preparing for the celebrations with family and friends.

Let us not this year become so caught up in the externals that we forget the true meaning of what we are doing—celebrating the birth of the Prince of Peace. It is only in him, that we can find true peace and happiness. It is on in him that Christmas has its true meaning.

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Rev. James McIlhone, Associate State Chaplain

Dear Brother Knights and Families,
That special day of joy and cheer is fast approaching and everyone is busy putting their final touches on wrappings, decorations and greeting cards. Christmas seems to come earlier and earlier each year following the beauty of Autumn and the first sign of flurries in the air. But Christmas does not come any sooner than it did two thousand years ago- we have just gotten so much busier and preoccupied that it almost passes us by in a whirlwind. We need to stop! We need to listen and not just hear the sleigh bells. We need to look and not just see the glittering lights. Although these things have come to represent an important part of the season, there is hidden beneath the finely decorated tree a little Nativity scene that tells the whole story. Everything else only has meaning and purpose when this little scene is the proper focus of our family's attention. For within that humble little scene is the greatest of all gifts that could ever be placed under anyone's tree. One does not have to be the richest person in the world to possess it and the poorest of individuals can even share it with another. It is the gift of a Loving Father for all His children, everywhere and for all times. It is a gift that when we receive it- it becomes even more precious when we share it with someone else. It is in giving it to another that we share it- but only then can we truly possess it. If we were to selfishly hoard it- it would decrease in its effect and we could even lose it. God's love is meant to be lived in each word we speak, each thought we think and in every thing we do. We make each day a Christmas when we bring that love alive through us into the world around us.

Merry Christmas to each and everyone of you and your families.

Fr. Chuck Tuttle, Associate State Chaplain

State Secretary

MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Knights of Columbus is indeed an "Experience of A Lifetime" but it is all about Family. You belong to your immediate Family. You belong to your Church

Family. You are part of your Community. You are a Member of the Knights of Columbus Family and as such you are part of OUR FAMILY.

As we approach the Holy Season of Christmas, let us all remember our families and thank each member of our families for the gifts and joy that each member brings into our lives. They are indeed both precious and special and should never be taken for granted.

Alice and I extend from our Family to your Family our Christmas wishes that you indeed celebrate your family and enjoy the Faith, Hope and Joy of this Christmas Season. This is a simply but very important message. Please take the time to truly enjoy your Family and extend that Love that is only yours to give.

May God continue to bless you and your families.

Merry Christmas and Vivat Jesus

Alice and Phil Barone

State Treasurer

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year
from **Jim and Pat Bednar**.

Brothers, this is the time that you should give the gift that keeps giving, membership in the Knights of Columbus. Ask another catholic man and his family to be part of the dream of our founder, Fr. McGiverny. God bless and have a safe and blessed and most Holy Holiday. Remember the reason for the Season, his birth - to bring us to new life with the Father.

State Advocate

Merry Christmas to all and Happy New Year too! Christmas is a time of joy, peace and reflection on God's gift of a Redeemer in the name of Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son! How blessed we are as Christians to have Jesus Christ as our Guide. Christmas is a time that we celebrate the birth of Christ; we reflect on our families and our roles as husband, father, and our relationships with coworkers and neighbors. As Knights of Columbus, we share a common bond as a sort of extended special family of Christians ever focusing on being better Christians in union with the Holy See. That is what matters most and what drives us as Knights of Columbus to be involved as we are in church, family, community, youth and council activities. As long as we keep our focus on Christ and with Mary, Our Mother at our side, we cannot help but to succeed in being better Christians. On behalf of my wife, Linda and our entire family, we wish you and your families the peace and joy of this wondrous and hope-filled season now and forever.

Rich & Linda Spada

State Warden

May The Blessing's
Of Our Lord
Jesus Christ
Be with You and Your Family
At This The Most Holy Time

Blessed Christmas &
Happy New Year

Frank & Mary Ryan

Immediate Past State Deputy

On behalf of the Ludwig Family
Have a Safe and Joyous Holiday season.
Remind all that "Christ's Birth is
the reason for the season".

Logan & Ina Ludwig

State Membership Co-Directors

Best Wishes to all our Brother Knights, their families
and loved ones, for a very blessed Christmas Season
and a happy and healthy New Year.

Bob and Jan Thomas

Bill and Andrea Linz Jr.

General Program Director

Diane and I would like to wish all of our Knights of
Columbus family a most Blessed and Holy Christmas
holiday season. We cannot thank you enough for all
the love, compassion and support that you give our
family. May the Peace and Love of our Lord be with
you each and everyday.

Skip & Diane Kinyon

State Charities Director

The leaves are all but gone, lately the sky seems to be
grey more than blue, and you had to dig into the closet
to pull out that heavier coat. I was walking into a store
the other day, and lo and behold, the bell ringers are
already out in full force. Yes, the holidays are again
upon us.

This year as you prepare for the birth of our Savior,
look upon your children and grandchildren. See in
their eyes the joy and wonderment. What a beautiful
sight to watch a toddler, full of life, scurrying about
without a care. See the children walking into school.
Each day closer to Christmas they seem just a little
more excited. The big day will soon be here.

Yet this is not the case for many families and children.
There is so much want and need in our world. The

Christmas season is supposed to be a season of joy.
But that joy is hard to see for the homeless, the poor,
and the disadvantaged in our world today.

In this Christmas season, Linda, myself, and our family
ask all of the families of the Knights of Columbus to
remember and pray for those less fortunate and to be
as generous as you can to whatever charity you
choose. On Christmas morning, take the time to give
thanks for the many blessings our Lord has bestowed
upon you and your family. Enjoy and savor every
moment of Christmas. It is truly a day to recapture the
magic of life and to delight in the hope tomorrow brings
through our Savior's birth.

From our family to yours, a very Blessed and Merry
Christmas!

Ted & Linda Stites

KC Academy Director

Over the past few weeks I have been contemplating
what I wanted to write for this year's message. Every
time I thought I had it, well, it just didn't make it. A few
minutes ago I looked down at a letter from our Worthy
State Deputy Paul Havrilka and, as I and you both
have seen many times, the phrase at the bottom "**FAMILIES --UNITED BY FAITH TO SERVE CHURCH
& COMMUNITY**". While I am certainly not a
theologian nor have I received any such training etc-I
started to think about Jesus and His Family. I am
guessing that Joseph was concerned by all that
happened that led up to the Birth of Jesus. I am
guessing he was concerned about how life was going
to be from that moment forward. How was he going to
take care of his family? How would he support and
provide for them? All those things that parents then
and certainly today are constantly concerned about-us
included. It just seems amazing to me how many
parallels I can think of that probably existed then which
still exist today. Yet we seem to hear very little about
"family" in our current media. We hear even less
about how Christmas came to be. In recent years
some of our KC Councils have stepped forward and
tried to do something to put Christ back into
Christmas. Congratulations to them and us for
supporting those efforts! For without the Birth of
Jesus-what would Christmas be? What would
anything be? I would ask all of us to do whatever we
can to "Keep Christ in Christmas". And that we can
do in both our Church and community! And you do not
have to get out of bed at 3 a.m. to do it!

Speaking of family and Christmas, this Christmas will
be even more joyful for my family as there will be an
addition of a Grandson within the next 2 weeks or so!
In March, yet another one! God has truly blessed

Carolyn and I and our family! I would ask that you please remember in your prayers those who cannot be with their families at this very joyful time that they may have the Merriest Christmas possible-wherever they are and especially those who serve our Country so valiantly!

In closing, I want to ask you all to please do me a favor. I would ask you all to do something nice at this time of the year particularly, for someone that maybe you might not ordinarily. On behalf of the Academy Faculty and together with my wife Carolyn, our immediate and also our extended family, we wish you and yours the Merriest of Christmas' and the Happiest of the New Year!

Vivat Jesus, **Ted & Carolyn Glaser,**

Illinois State Council Office

As we lift a quiet prayer for you and your families this holiday season,
We are asking GOD to "Bless YOU and YOUR FAMILIES" in His gentle caring way
And as
The New Year comes, we pray HIS joy will fill your days and bring you many Blessings in warm and loving ways
Don, Donna and Mary

Public Relations Director/Newsletter Editor

I would like to take a little time to make you think. Over 2000 years ago a soon to be mother and her husband were forced to board in a stable. Can you imagine the indignity of having to sleep in a building that more than likely smelled from animal feces or having not a bed to lay in. It is something none of us would wish on our families. These thoughts are something none of us really thinks about because it was all over shadowed by the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The birth of any healthy child can transform the worst condition into a place of euphoria. At that moment their where no bad smells, no discomforts just a beautiful new life. Nothing physically changed in the surroundings but what did change was the inner feeling of the parents. This moment of Joy is relived during the season. We exchange gifts and get together with Family and friends. My wish to you is always remember this good feeling. May Christmas be a time of Joy for all of you. Spread that Joy and Love to one another and remember that Christ is the reason for the season. On Behalf of my wife Linda and the extended Fuggiti Family, we wish you a Holy and Joyful Christmas. May your New Year be filled with prosperity and Love.

Yours in Christ, **Bob Fuggiti**

Copies of this and previous newsletters are available for download on our website at

www.illinoisknights.org



Keep Christ in CHRISTmas!
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