



ILLINOIS STATE COUNCIL

Knights of Columbus

November – December 2014
Editor Robert J. Fuggiti, PGK, FDD., FSW



STATE DEPUTY Donald “Skip” Kinyon kinyon@gallatinriver.net

Worthy Brothers and Sisters of the Illinois Knights of Columbus,
Soon we will be celebrating our Lords birthday. What a fantastic time of the year it is. Many of our councils will be hosting parties and sharing the fraternity that makes the Knights of Columbus special. November and December is an excellent time to invite nonmembers to council holiday get-togethers so they can enjoy the Knight life that we talk so much about. During this time of gift giving, how about offering membership to a Catholic man and his family. Membership is one of those gifts that keep giving each and every day. Membership in the Knights offers a Catholic man an opportunity to become a better Catholic, Father, Husband and a better person in their community.

Speaking of gifts, as Diane and I were attending the State Deputies meeting which was held in Baltimore Maryland, we were able to witness the 500th Ultra Sound Machine being presented to the Michigan jurisdiction. I began to think what a gift the Ultra Sound Machines are, the gift that keeps giving. 500 machines, just think of how many babies have been saved by centers having these units? Local councils are teaming with the Supreme Council to give the gift of life to the most vulnerable.

The Archdiocese of Chicago and Illinois has been given a gift recently as well. Welcome to Archbishop Blase Cupich. His Excellency is a Brother Knight and we are looking forward to his ministry as His Excellency Cardinal George enters into a most deserved retirement.

When we are sitting at our dinner table during this holiday season please remember the men and women of our armed services who are protecting our freedoms that are so precious. Please remember those who have gone before us helping to prepare the table when we all will meet again in the splendor of our Lord Jesus. May each of you receive the graces that God provides to each of us.

Diane and I want to wish each of you a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Holy New Year!

Vivat Jesus,

Skip and Diane Kinyon



STATE CHAPLAIN Most Rev. Joseph M. Siegel

Dear Brother Knights,

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel” which means “God is with us”. (Matthew 1:23)

This was the message proclaimed by the prophets of the Old Testament. This was the dream of generations who awaited a messiah. All their expectations were fulfilled on a dark Bethlehem night when a baby’s cry pierced the silence and the world was transformed.

Each Christmas, we travel to Bethlehem to be reminded that our God loves us so much that He sent His only Son, born as one of us, to be our Savior. The birth of Jesus continues to proclaim hope and joy to a world all too often overshadowed by the darkness of tarnished promises and broken dreams. The Christ Child in the manger reveals that God indeed is with us. There is no reason to be afraid.



I pray that this Christmas season may be a time of grace for you, your families and your Councils. The Church offers us so many ways to share in the love, peace and joy that Our Lord wants to bestow on us. The liturgies are rich with prayers and beautiful readings from Scripture that evoke the hope of every person. Familiar hymns and carols help us join in the jubilant song of the angels that filled the air that first Christmas night.

I encourage you to prepare a place for the infant Jesus in your heart by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Celebrate this holy season by coming together as a family for Christmas Mass. Make time in your busy schedule to go with the shepherds to the stable and, in silent awe, reflect on the tremendous mystery of God’s love revealed in the birth of the Christ Child.

Be assured that I will remember you and your intentions in my Christmas Masses. May you have a joyous Christmas and blessed New Year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop Siegel
State Chaplain

STATE ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN Rev Chuck Tuttle

Dear Brother Knights and Families,

As we prepare for the Joyful and Wondrous celebration of Christmas – it only seems fitting that we turn to the new initiative of the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council: *“Building the Domestic Church – The Family Fully Alive.”* I sincerely hope and

pray that you have taken the time to look over the booklet that you received from Supreme and after having read the letters from both Bishop Siegel and myself have had the opportunity to check out both our State's website page (www.illinoisknights.org/mary/DomChurch/DomChurch.php) and Supreme's website page (www.kofc.org/familyfullyalive) for all the information you will need to conduct successfully each monthly activity.

It is such an easy plan and I have tried to simplify it even more through the monthly emails that you should be receiving from your Diocesan Chairman or his Assistant and which can also be downloaded from the State Website (as indicated above). Each month presents the theme for that month along with a Family activity, a monthly movie, a Council project, and prayers and reading for reflection.

I included the entire monthly outline that I put together of the program with the mailing from Bishop Siegel and myself. It can again be seen on the State website page that allows you to download each month's plan as a Word document that can be easily edited by the Council for its individual use and then distributed to its membership through its newsletter. Personally, I have taken this initiative one step further and have introduced it to my two parishes as a monthly family project and prayer opportunity. We include the handout in the bulletin at the beginning of each month and invite the families to participate in the activity, watch the movie as a family and be involved in the Council activity (most recently collecting non-perishable food items for a local food pantry and donating cash to help in the purchasing "Coats for Kids" program). I use one monthly weekend's homily reflection to talk about that month's activities.

The potential aspect concerning this initiative is that it provides a Council, which takes time to embark upon it, a built-in platform toward achieving the requirements for the IL SP-7 and the Supreme's Columbian Award. If used wisely and discerningly it can be an instrument that can help to recruit new members, retain current members and reinstate former members; foster various programs and ensure charitable donations.

I cannot think of a better Christmas gift that a Council could give to its membership than to begin developing ways in which the Council and its families could benefit from being involved in *"Building the Domestic Church."* It is built around how every family can become a "holy family" – a family that prays together, a family that plays together and a family that serves together – and isn't that a part of what we celebrate when we gather for Christmas?

Merry Christmas to each and every one of you and your families
and a Blessed and Happy New Year in 2015.

Father Chuck Tuttle



Associate State Chaplain

STATE SECRETARY Bill Doerfler bdoerfler@sbcglobal.net

The season of Christmas is soon approaching and our minds turn towards gift giving. No matter how much we try to not get caught up in the secularism of the Christmas season it's constantly in front of us. Whether it is T.V. adds to buy the latest and greatest that your love one will just love to the toys that your children tell you they need. We need to keep in our hearts and minds to the true gifts of Christmas, the gift of Jesus Christ, God's Son who constantly is giving us many gifts. Probably the one we most take for granted is the gift of life our own and those of the people we love. I could make list of many things, but I ask each of you to take a look at yourself during this season of giving and see what you've been given and share these gifts with the people you love but yet more important share your gift with maybe someone who is a little harder to love. It could be a smile, a work of charity, an invite for a cup of coffee, a ride to an appointment or maybe not judging by your standards. Showing patience is always hard with someone we've already formed an opinion about so maybe take a step back and just take the time to listen, we might be surprised. We have been blessed with so many gifts from God, why not share them?

Purchased gifts are all wrapped pretty and fun to get, but how can anyone of us turn away from a gift that may have cost the giver more than we realize.

I ask, take inventory of your gifts and pick one that is truly a generous gift of self—not one you've put on a shelf, but one that really shows the true meaning of this holy season. Also don't forget to wish each person we meet with a SINCERE MERRY CHRISTmas!!!! Don't let a small vocal minority take away the true meaning of CHRISTmas.

Theresa and I wish you all a Christmas season filled with many blessings and a New Year of good health. Please pray for our military that are away from their loved ones so we may enjoy yet another gift we take for granted – Freedom.

God Bless,
Bill and Terry

STATE TREASURER Ted Stites tstiteskc@charter.net

Human beings are creatures of habit. We want our lives to be routine, stable, safe. We get up, eat, go to work, care for our families and friends, and go back to sleep. For many of us, a routine, boring day with no surprises is a good day. But ultimately, something disrupts the routine, and we are forced to make an adjustment or a change in our lives. Maybe the car won't start, the sink is clogged, the dog ate Jimmy's science project, or some other minor inconvenience. Most of the time we'll grumble, maybe lose our temper, but soon we calm down and just deal with it.

Once in a while, life throws us something much larger. A storm tears through our community causing major damage to our house; or we lose our job; or a loved one suffers a serious injury or is diagnosed with a life-threatening disease; or a family member is called home to God. It's much tougher coping in these situations, but cope we must. It's a challenge, but we turn to our friends, family, and God to help us pull through. It may take time, but we find ways to heal and to move on and live our lives as God wants us to.

Our fraternal family of the Knights of Columbus has many stories of life's successes and letdowns. But as a family, we always help each other. When a disaster strikes, we answer the call to assist those affected. When a brother Knight or his family suffer some misfortune, we are there to help him. When we see those less fortunate than us in our community or elsewhere in our world, we reach out to lend a hand. We are always there in the name of Jesus Christ, living the ideals of our founder, Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney. In our daily lives, we should strive to demonstrate what it means to be a Knights of Columbus. Our actions through the ups and downs of life, should be a testimony to those around us of what our order is all about. Using our own lives as an example, we must invite and welcome new members to share their lives in the same manner.

As you celebrate with your families and friends over the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, please keep in your prayers all those in the world who are suffering and need encouragement and peace in their lives. Linda and I thank all of you for your thoughts and prayers as we coped with loss and difficulties over the last several weeks. Our family wishes all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed and Joyful Christmas.

STATE ADVOCATE Frank Schwartz fjschwartzjr@ameritech.net

Shelly and I want to wish all of you and all of your families a very Merry Christmas, and a Faith filled New Year. During this advent season may we all remember to Keep Christ in Christmas by conducting family programs of Charity and Unity.

ILLINOIS KNIGHTS IN ACTION



Troy Knights of Columbus Council 9266 recently recognized the baptism of Jacob Daniel Welser and presented Jacob and his parents a silver cross. Pictured left to right are Godparents, Kevin and Mary Ann Empson, Nathan & Amy Welser holding their newly baptized son, Jacob Daniel Welser, St. Jerome Pastor Fr. Patrick Jakel, and Knight Ryan Kemp.

Use programs such as a "Knight before Christmas" by offering a friend, neighbor, or relative the gift of membership in the Knights of Columbus. Let them also become the Light of Christ by taking advantage of all the Knights have to offer. Allow them to be a part of programs such as the "Food for Families" program where Knights and their families collect food for local food pantries to help those in need. Or let them participate in the "Coats for Kids" program where Knights and their families distribute coats to families who may not be able to purchase winter coats this year. Better yet ask them to join you in a children's Christmas party where Knights invite families to come out have a lunch, then have the Christmas story read to them by your council Chaplain, and then a special visitor comes in with a special gift for each child.

Councils can promote the "Light up for Christ" Program in December, this can be done by inviting members and non-members to come out to sing Christmas carols as you light up a Christmas tree, or visit a Christmas Nativity scene, a night where keeping Christ in Christmas is celebrated by all. Family fun with the opportunity to share is what the Knights are about.

The Three Wise Men followed the Star to the birth place of Christ because they understood that it was a once in a life time event. Each Council should follow their Star to become a Star Council. What does a Star Council have to do with Advent and Christmas? That's easy: programming and membership grows not only our Order but also our Church and our faith one family, one member at a time. What better way to keep Christ in Christmas?

With that I challenge each council to build the domestic church in their community by running one great program that alerts others to the reason for the Advent season. Have at least one man and his family join the Knights because by doing so he'll see the reason why we need to build up the domestic church in his community.

Merry Christmas and a Faith Filled New Year from our family to yours

Frank and Shelly Schwartz

STATE WARDEN Steve Mann pgksgm4179@yahoo.com

Here we are at that most wonderful time of the year: the holidays. As I sit here typing this article my elbow keeps getting bumped by this little black nose. It is attached to my little brown buddy who really doesn't care about deadlines or my wonderful thoughts on the holidays. Right now his thought process concerns me throwing and him fetching a ball. His name is Caesar and he showed up three years ago just before Christmas. He was this little fuzz ball who was rescued from the animal shelter and he needed a Christmas name. He sure didn't look like a Jingle or Noel. So I turned to the Christmas Story found in Luke: 2-2:14 In those days Caesar Augustus decreed that the whole world should be enrolled, and thus the new ruler of my house was named. Many times one does not know when a true friend is going to enter your life and then you can't imagine what life would be like without that friend.

Many of us go through the holidays in a daze, worrying about what we need to buy, what we need to decorate, what event we need to attend or host. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas we expend so much energy that we can't wait for Christmas to be over. On December 26th we look back and feel robbed of that Christmas feeling we had as a child. Could it be that we have forgotten what Christmas is?

It is a time to remember why we celebrate this Holy day and why we say Merry Christmas. We need to remember that Christ has come into our lives. He is that friend you cannot imagine what your life would be like if He was not in it. This year at Thanksgiving say a prayer of thanks to Christ for all that he has given you. Look around the table and be thankful for all those who share this day with you. Enjoy the season and let His love into your life. You will be amazed that by Christmas you will



remember the joy you felt as a child. Also remember that Christmas does not end on December 25th. Christmas Day is the start of the Christmas Season and it continues until January 6th, the Epiphany of our Lord.

Each year many councils hold food drives or host meals for the less fortunate among us. Use these charitable events to invite your fellow Catholic men to join you as you share the love of Christ with your fellow man. Let them experience the good works of the Knights and ask them to join the Order. Please remember to not limit the gift of membership to just this season, but to give it next month and the month after that. If you give it all year long, just think how strong your council will be next year this time and how much more your council will be able to accomplish in the community. These will become the members and Brother Knights you just can't imagine your council doing without.

Merry Christmas,
Steve

IMMEDIATE PAST STATE DEPUTY Richard C. Spada 630-363-1785

On a Mission From God!

Vivat Jesus!! Lately I've been pondering the relationship that we have as Knights of Columbus to Holy Mother Church and how our missions are similar. As with so many matters that involve people whether in the Church or in the Knights of Columbus, some run closer to the mission than others. In these ponderings, I find it sometimes helpful to go back to basics i.e. how we began; the journey we've travelled and where we are headed.

First in our Church, Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, is showing us by example and through his writings just how to proceed as a Christian; it may even be said that he is modeling the behavior. Certainly, recent Popes beginning with Pope Paul VI have identified the particular struggles encountered by a secularist and more materialistic society that seems to have been developing for some decades. Throughout our history as a Catholic, fraternal, service organization our mission has closely aligned with the Holy See. Our founder, the venerable Father Michael J. McGivney was way ahead of his time in recognizing the role of lay involvement to keep his faithful parishioners close to Holy Mother Church and in a way that allows them to apply their Catholicity in a meaningful and practical manner. His concerns were driven by the mission of our Church which was started by Jesus Christ Himself as He commissioned the early disciples to spread the good news throughout the world. The Second Vatican Council recognized the need to proclaim the good news in a way that better relates to a new age yet in no way changed the good news that Jesus Christ Himself urged the disciples to proclaim. This divine mission has always been the wind beneath the wings of our great Order, the Knights of Columbus. The importance of the shared missions of Church and Knights of Columbus provides the reason for all that we do and what we strive to do; and, it should always be for the honor and glory of God.

I've become increasingly concerned about what I perceive as misunderstandings that members and our local councils encounter with Supreme and State council leadership. The perception is that the only concern is to increase membership numbers and that increasing those numbers serve only to show a greater number representing our Order whether in the local council or state council and even internationally. Sure, that is undeniably an opportunity for bragging rights when a council achieves STAR or Double STAR; or a state council achieves Circle of Honor. When Supreme and State Council leaders emphasize the growth of our Order, I believe it is something more than just numbers to brag about; instead, I believe it relates more to meeting the shared mission of Holy Mother Church and what our founder, the venerable Father Michael J. McGivney are focused on. Our God, through His Son and the Church that he willed to us asks us to be disciples to spread the good news. Our Founder organized our fraternity to focus on the Church mission of spreading the good news through Charity, Unity and Fraternity. The challenges in achieving that shared mission are greater today as we all know the materialism and secularism that pervades our societies. While these challenges were more prevalent in lands outside the United States of America they are now prevalent in our own land. God is out of our schools and in many aspects of our legislative decisions. The Church wants us to be prepared to serve as disciples by truly learning and living our Faith; to be evangelizers equipped

with that knowledge and guidance from Holy Mother Church; and, to live our lives in charity in the way we treat each other and especially those who need our help. Isn't the Knights of Columbus as perhaps the most organized fraternity within the Catholic Church and with an infrastructure that can make a difference in the mission of the Church something that we should share with all fellow Catholics and those who have left and want to join us again? We are on a shared mission from God and my family and I are privileged and proud to be part of the Knights of Columbus. I pray that leaders of our councils ponder this perspective in your council organizational planning. Know that growth of a council equates to welcoming fellow Catholics and returning fellow Catholics of our Church to our fraternity which provides opportunities to spreading the good news as true followers of Christ. Linda and I wish you all a very blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!!

STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR Bob Bukowski rebukowski@earthlink.net

The "Spirit of Illinois Honors" program is designed as a tool for councils to "be all that they can be" in the area of programming. Each of our councils should have filled out a Spirit of Illinois tally sheet indicating your councils anticipated level of participation in this fraternal year and filed it with the District Deputy by September 15, 2014. Approaching the half-way point in the fraternal year this is a good time for the District Deputy, Grand Knight and council Program Director to meet to review the progress of your council towards the completion of the year in programming.

To be considered for the Illinois Spirit Awards, a council must be positive in membership and submit a fully completed Supreme Form SP-7 to the Supreme Council before June 15, 2015. Then attach a copy of Supreme Form SP-7 to the IL-SP7 form and submit it to the State Office postmarked no later than June 15, 2015. The District Deputy and Grand Knight should verify and sign the bottom of Spirit of Illinois Award Application before submitting. Every council has the opportunity to receive an award if they just complete and send in the forms.

IL-SP7 Points Explanation

- *Councils receive up to 6 points for activities listed in each section (1 pt. for 1st activity, 2 pts. for the second activity, and 3 pts. for the third activity)*
- *Councils receive 20 points for each activity chosen as "Program of the Month" (chosen from Form STSP's received each month)*
- *Councils receive 10 points for reaching their Goal in each/any of the 5 charities, with a 30 point bonus for reaching their goal in all 5 charities.*
- *Councils receive 50 points for meeting "McGivney Award" criteria (meeting membership goal as established by Supreme)*
- *Councils receive 300 points for establishing and maintaining a Practicing First Degree Team
And hold at least 2 1st Degrees in each of the periods between: July 1 and December 31, 2014 and between January 1 and June 30, 2015.*
- *Councils receive 300 points for establishing and maintaining an Active Squires Circle*
- *Councils receive 100 points for establishing and maintaining an Active Ladies Auxiliary.*

GOLD = 330-550 SILVER = 240-329 BRONZE = 150-239 HONORABLE MENTION 70-149

Reminder, councils should be underway with Coats for Kids, Food for Families, Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest, Pro Life Christmas Puzzle Program and Marian Hour of Prayer. Councils should also start promoting the Free Throw Contest.

Remember "Every Program Represents a Membership Recruitment Opportunity"

Take time this Christmas Season to slip into the stillness of winter and let the Spirit of the Holy One reveal something new to your soul. Nancy and I pray that the Wonder and Magic of Christmas fill your heart with Peace, Happiness and Joy and may God's love surround you, protect you and be with you and your loved ones on Christmas and always.

Bob and Nancy

STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR Erik Lockett kcerik.lockett@aol.com

Brothers:

The ongoing theme for this fraternal year is *"One Member, Per Council, Per Month"* and utilizing *"the Power of One"* as a focus in our recruitment efforts. If we work hard, we can be nothing but successful in our efforts. As November gives way to December, we can reflect on Giving Thanks. We give thanks for the many gifts that we have to share that are bestowed on us by God. We give thanks to all of the new members we have been able to recruit this year, who will help support and defend our Priests, Parishes, and Religious Freedoms. We give thanks for all the brother knights who have passed during the last year as we join ranks to support their widows and children.

Brothers, it should be clear that we must grow in number so we can sustain and increase our charitable fundraising for those in need. With more brother knights, we can contribute more man-hours performing the many good works that we do in support of our Church and community. We must continue to promote the Gospel values in our ever more secular society and to stand strong defending religious freedoms!

In order to accomplish our goals, we need to:

1. Utilize your District Deputy for he has a wealth of knowledge to share. Meet with your Pastor and find out what the Knights can do for him and for the Parish. Enlist his help to promote the Council and encourage parishioners to join. ***We need each brother knight to reach out and recruit on a regular basis!***
2. Plan and organize you Council's Membership Plan. If you put together a plan that incorporates recruitment efforts into your Programming and Charitable Opportunities, you **WILL** be successful. Use your fraternal year planner to look ahead and be prepared to grow your Council. ***Every Council needs a plan so they can utilize the many tools that are available to their best advantage.***

As your Council drives forward on the path to *Star Council* pay attention to your membership! Reach out to everyone, but especially those you haven't seen lately. Open your arms to embrace not only the new member, but welcome his entire family. Make efforts to Welcome Back some of the Brothers who have fallen into inactivity. The fraternal year still has many months left, but it is important that you get your Council moving forward in a positive way to grow the Order. What better thing to do for the Christmas season but to give the *Gift of Membership* to a fellow Catholic. As you work to prepare the parish and council facilities, **NOW** is the time to invite prospective members.

ILLINOIS KNIGHTS IN ACTION



Troy Knights of Columbus Council #9266 organized a spaghetti dinner and raffle to raise funds in support of some needy kids in Kenya. These kids are nieces, nephews, neighbors and friends of Fr. Kennedy Nyumba who was the Pastoral Vicar of the St. Jerome (Troy), St. Elizabeth (Marine), St. James (St. Jacob) and St. Gertrude (Grantfork) parishes. Parishioners from all four parishes donated over 45 themed baskets for the raffle. Bob Viviano with the help of his wife, Julie and kids, Tony and daughter Angie

NOW is the time to *Keep Christ in Christmas and Light up for Christ!* Offer a fellow catholic gentleman an opportunity to become a better husband, family man, and a better Catholic. Recruit a KNIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS!

ONE Brother Knight in a council CAN make a difference! We need each Officer sharing his council pride, each member sharing in the council's accomplishments, each council making a difference in the Parish and the community that they serve. *WE ARE CALLED* to help those in need and we MUST play a major part in the New Evangelization.

Jalayne and I hope you are all blessed with the joys and wonder of the Christmas season as we look forward to the birth of our Savior. We would like to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year.

Vivat Jesus!

Erik Luckett

STATE CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR Jeff Peters jtp7481@comcast.net

MERRY GRINCH-mas



Brother Knights,

You're a mean one, Mr. Grinch. Your heart's an empty hole.
You're a vile one, Mr. Grinch. Your heart is full of unwashed socks.
You're a foul one, Mr. Grinch. Your heart's a dead tomato splot.

So are the lyrics to the song, You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch. After a Charlie Brown Christmas, maybe my next favorite Christmas special as a kid growing up. The music was fun, the animation great, and the message relevant. So what about the message? Are we a Grinch? Are our hearts an empty hole, full of unwashed socks and a dead tomato splot?

Or, will our heart grow three sizes? Since you are Knights, I have no doubt that it is the latter.

Grinch or No Grinch? Are we participating in all five of the State Charities? Or, just the ones we want to; or think are important? Do we participate at all? Our State Charities need the Council's support year round. Maybe at this time of Thanksgiving & Christmas giving, we can take a look at our Council progress in regard to our own Council's charitable goals.

Have we participated in the General Assistance Fund? Do we promote it at every meeting and pass the can around? A dollar or some spare change can make a difference for someone in need or who has experienced a loss.

The official ID Drive may be over, but Councils can still contribute monies to meet their goal by holding a breakfast or dinner to raise additional funds. If we did participate in the ID Drive, have we completed our paperwork, paid for our Tootsie Rolls and most importantly, have we sent in our Distribution paperwork to get the monies we worked so hard to raise out to the individuals and organizations that need it. Make sure you follow-through and enjoy the gift of giving.

Do we promote the Newman Apostolate fund to support our Newman Centers as they in turn nurture and support our students away from home at college? Did you take the time to open the Newman mailing you received and considered making a tax deductible donation? Or, did you just toss the envelope aside and say maybe next year. Every donation, small or large, is appreciated.

Has the Council participated in the State Pro-Life fund? If not, maybe now is a good time. This fund, more than the others, needs the support of the Councils. In addition to supporting the fund, maybe as a Christmas gift your Council along with

neighboring Councils could take on the Ultrasound Initiative and purchase an ultrasound machine for your local pregnancy center. It's really pretty easy when you work together. What a Christmas gift that could be!

I hope every Council supported the Vocations Support Fund by participation in the Vocations Raffle. Your participation is so important. The fund supports one of our most precious resources, our Seminarians and those studying for vocations. Without these men & women, who will be there to lead us in our Faith? Likewise, support of the Vocations fund does not end with the Vocations Raffle. Monies can be raised and sent in all year long to participate and meet your goal. And finally, be charitable, and offer the best gift you can to a gentleman of your parish; Membership in the Knights of Columbus. Introduce him to the charitable works of our Order and make a friend for life. Who knows, he could be the next Grand Knight and leader of your Council.

I do want to say Thank You to all of the Councils. You do so much for your Church, community, council, families and youth. I have seen the reports of all the charitable activities you do. It is amazing. Please continue to keep up the good work and we will have a great charitable year.

Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!
"Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store.
"Maybe Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!"

The greatest gift of charity came upon a midnight clear; our Savior and Lord. When asked to give, Mary & Joseph said yes. The three Kings brought gifts of gold, frankincense & myrrh. What will our gifts to him be this season? He asked us to bring everyone to his Father. Will we? As we all know, Charity is our number one principle. However, it does not just apply to gifts of monies. At this time of year, it especially comes from a kind heart and a helping hand for our fellow man and Brother Knight. Volunteer at a soup kitchen or help deliver a Christmas tree to a family. Give some time to a local shelter or visit someone at a nursing home or hospital. And finally, slow down and take time to spend with your family; maybe dinner at the table, a game night, or watch a Christmas special (hint, hint) together.

And, let your heart grow three sizes this Christmas season.

From everyone at the Peters' household (Jeff, Teresa, Jennifer & Madelynn),

We wish everyone a Blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Fraternally,

Jeffery J. Peters



STATE DISTRICT DEPUTY DIRECTOR Gary Schmidt pswqls0809@yahoo.com

Article for November newsletter and what does one say in these last days of the 2014 year and the most Joyous time of the year? Well to start I would say thank you for your work these first 6 months of the 2014-2015 fraternal year. We have had some downs, but it seems that we are having some ups lately. We can beat this thing called membership decline, programming and charities slow down, by promoting a bright side of our works, the upcoming check presentations of the proceeds of the Tootsie Roll Drive and just think of the publicity your council will receive when these checks are presented. You haven't sent in your report yet, oh my, you probably missed the November 1st deadline and now you need to scramble to get it done. Better hurry, these funds to your chosen charities mean a lot.

Soon we will celebrate Thanksgiving with our families and friends, remember those with a prayer that will not be with their families and friends.

In the first weekend of December some of you will be in Springfield for the Mid-year meeting and the Vocation Raffle drawing. Two plus weeks after the Mid-year meeting, we will be celebrating the most joyous time of the year, the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

So with that in mind,
Have a Happy Thanksgiving,
A good Mid-year Meeting and
A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Gary and Barb Schmidt, District Deputy Director

STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR Robert Fuggiti no5025@aol.com

What better way of communicating with members and potential members than by having a web site for your Council, Chapter or assembly. Well if you haven't heard about *uknights.org* than it's time you make like Columbus and explore. Go to: <http://www.kofcknights.org/> This is an interactive web site that makes it easy for Councils to be connected with not only their member but with other Councils. All Councils should have a Public Relations Chairman or Director. If yours does not then assign one and please have him listed under your chosen officer report form number 365. You can always send in an updated form.

The Season of Thanksgiving and Christmas are times we Knights need to renew our 1st degree of Charity. This is the season of giving and even if you don't have the means to donate you can give of yourselves. Helping at a food pantry, at church food drives, at the USO and the list can go on and on. How about we look into our own councils and see what members are home bound. How about something as simple as a telephone call. Let that person know that someone still cares. That is what each and every one of us crave.

Linda and I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving, A Joyous Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year. We are thankful for your friendship and Joyful for all the good you do as Knights and family.

Vivat Jesus,

Bob & Linda

ILLINOIS STATE COUNCIL OFFICE Denny, Donna & Vicki

Thank you to all Councils that participated in this year's Intellectual Disabilities Fund Drive. Over 225 Councils have submitted their ID Drive Report. Great work! For those Councils that have yet to submit their report, the due date was November 1st, so please get them in to the State Office as soon as possible. Remember, you can submit supplemental reports for additional monies collected. Plus, thanks to Donna, the ID Report form and ID Request for Distribution form are available in an Excel format on the State website. Just go to Charities, then Intellectual Disabilities (ID) Fund.

Newman donations have been coming in, steadily! Thank you! And thank you for utilizing the "revised" donation cards, but please remember to mark your donation clearly on the card and to indicate your Council number on your check. The Century Donor plaques are sent to the Grand Knight of each Council for presentation at a Council meeting. Pins and year plates are sent to the Donor unless indicated otherwise on the donation card. If you have not received a donation card, you can download a Newman Contribution form from the State website under Charities, then Newman Apostolate Fund. Donations can be made by check, cash, Visa or MasterCard.

Each year we receive a significant number of cards returned marked "DECEASED". Once again, we are asking the Financial Secretaries to please submit a Form 100 to Supreme for the deceased members of your Council. Additionally, we ask that notification of Change of Address be submitted to Supreme and the State Council. Fortunately, we are able to mail the

Newman solicitation to all members in Illinois at a "bulk" rate, however for every envelope returned, because the addressee has moved or due to an incorrect address, the State Council is charged \$.49 per envelope. With thousands of returns, we are facing thousands of dollars in postage for returns.

Vocation Raffle books are due back to the State Office by November 28th! If you are unable to submit them to the State Office by that date, please contact your District Deputy, Diocesan Chairman or Diocesan Assistant Chairman and make arrangements for him to bring them to the District Deputy Meeting in Springfield the first weekend in December. The drawing is on Saturday, December 6, 2014!

"Keep Christ in Christmas" pins are available from the State Office. Order yours NOW! If you need an order form they are available on the State website, just click on the Charities tab and then Vocations. Check out the SPECIAL OFFER!

The 2014-2015 Illinois State Council Directory has been distributed. Council Financial Secretaries and Assembly Faithful Comptrollers each received two copies of the directory. One for themselves and one for their Council Grand Knight or their Assembly Faithful Navigator, respectively.

Spelling Bee kits are available through the State Office. Please e-mail Vicki@illinoisknights.org or complete the order form online on the State website.

REMEMBER to submit Knight of the Month, Family of the Month and Program of the Month forms to the State Office, regularly each month. Just a reminder, Program of the Year for each Category will be selected from the Program of the Month entries.

As you prepare for the New Year ahead, make a resolution to submit your report forms in a timely manner. The Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728) and the Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics (#4584) are due by January 31, 2015. The Semi-Annual Council Audit for the Period ending 12-31-2014 is due by February 15, 2015. These forms should be submitted to Supreme with a copy to the State Council at Vicki@illinoisknights.org and a copy to your District Deputy.

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year from *Denny, Donna* and *Vicki* at the State Office.

From all your State Elected and Selected Officers,
Here's wishing you and your families a
Happy Thanksgiving, and a Holy Christmas.

He is the Reason for the Season, so...

Keep Christ In Christmas



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**

IN MEMORIAM

MAY THEIR SOULS AND ALL OF THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

Years	Council #:	First Name	Last Name	Office(s)
43	658	S.K. Henry M.	Woznizk	
71	658	S.K. John P.	Moran	
21	716	B.K. Leo C.	Walz	
34	716	S.K. Stanley E.	Banaszek	P.G.K.
61	731	B.K. Aloysius	Konieczny	
41	731	S.K. Stanley	Schapels	
59	731	S.K. Thomas	Decker	P.G.K.
1	734	Clarence	Jones	
66	780	S.K. Raymond J. "Budzo"	Soltis	P.G.K., F.F.N.
48	790	B.K. Albert C.	Mandula	
21	790	B.K. Daniel E.	Salata	
34	790	B.K. Dennis R.	Salz	
58	790	B.K. Eugene E.	Donnelly	
1	790	Joseph V	Karkless	
47	790	B.K. Lawrence	Lukach Sr.	
34	790	B.K. Raymond J.	Chismarick	
11	790	B.K. Robert W.	Miller Sr.	
16	790	Samuel V.	Panno	
29	790	B.K. Vincent N.	Reihl	
29	790	B.K. Willard	Savage	
26	790	William F.	Muntz	
19	790	William R.	Halcott	
67	891	B.K. Joseph	Henry	
35	891	B.K. Richard	Semonin	
40	891	S.K. William	Assell	
6	1775	B.K. Francis	Barsi	
24	1775	William	Gallup	
50	2869	B.K. Jerry	Ratermann	
13	3738	B.K. Dixon	Cider	
60	3738	S.K. Robert J.	Price	
14	3761	B.K. Daniel E.	Dietsch	
26	3761	B.K. Robert F.	Brandle	
38	4024	B.K. Joe	Grant	
51	4024	B.K. Lyle	Overton	
57	4400	B.K. James	Schneider	
48	4688	B.K. Rudy	Papa	P.G.K.