



The Explorer

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December 2008

STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

December is upon us and with it the Advent Season and preparations for the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. This is a time for family & friends and showing our love and appreciation for those around us. It's also a time for us to reach out to those in need. I encourage every Council and every Knight to look around your community to make sure that none are forgotten at Christmas. Your deeds may include providing food or clothing to the needy or simple acts such as visiting the homebound, providing transportation for someone to attend Christmas Eve Mass, or just being there as a friend to brighten a life at Christmas time. Remember, the magic of Christmas doesn't come in a box, it can't be bought, but it can be given by each and every one of us. Let's remember to "Keep Christ in Christmas".



As we interact with family & friends this Christmas season, let's keep membership recruitment in the front of our minds. Membership in the Knights is one of the greatest gifts a Catholic man can receive and one which can change the life of a man and his family forever. It's the gift which will keep on giving for many years to come as new members will help to spread the charitable acts of the Knights to others they will come in contact with.

As Grand Knights, District Deputies and members, we must ask ourselves: "Have I done all I can to help Pope Benedict XVI in his call to **"FOLLOW ME, HELP US BUILD UP THE CHURCH"**? Have you encouraged your council(s) to recruit? Have you set first degrees dates for your membership to recruit toward? Have you developed prospect lists and made sure all these prospects are contacted about joining our great Order. Have you set major degree dates to give these men ample opportunities to join? The Holy Father is calling us all to join with him in "Building Up The Church". If you have answered "no" to any of these questions then the time to act is now. December is a great time to schedule first degrees or major degrees as family and friends are home from college or on vacation. Many councils and districts have done an excellent job in recruitment thus far, however many others have done little. Now is the time to get the ball rolling in our recruitment efforts. Why not recruit a "Knight Before Christmas"? New members are our lifeblood and will insure great leadership for years to come.

Lori & I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Joyful New Year. May the magic of the Christ Child fill your hearts with love, happiness and kindness. Vivat Jesus.

Francis G. Drouhard—State Deputy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER: Keep Christ in Christmas

Share the Light of Advent by keeping Christ in Christmas

- 2 Light up for Christ
- 6-7 Mid-year District Deputy Meeting at Hutchinson
- 6 Drawing for Religious Education Fund Prizes
- 15 Deadline to submit Commitment to Humanities (Tootsie Roll) Reports & Checks to State Treasurer, Ron Zishka
- 22 Deadline for receipt of articles for the Knight's-Lite
- 25 Celebrate the Birth of Jesus with your family
- 28 Major Degree at Norton #1510

JANUARY: Support Pro-Life Activities

- 1-31 Council Free Throw Contests completed by end of month
- 1-31 Conduct 10th Annual Pro-Life Baby Shower
- 4 Major Degree at Garden City #2795 & #8491
- 11 Major Degree at Winfield #4713
- 11 Major Degree at Frankfort #1383
- 11 Major Degree at Salina #8196
- 22 36th Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade decision
- 22 March for Life – Washington D.C.
- 23 **Deadline** to file Request to Host 2010 Men's Bowling, Golf & Sporting Clays Tournaments
- 31 **Deadline**--Form #1728, Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities due at Supreme

DID YOU KNOW?

The Kansas Knight of the Month is Brent Wood from Goodland Council #1993.

Family of the Month winners of a Holy Family Plaque from Supreme were:

James & Mary Sullivan Family of Council #834 - Horton;
Christopher & Stephanie Wolf Family of Council #1181 – Chapman;
William & Becky Luebbers Family of Council #1521 – Hoisington.

STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

“HAVE YOU ASKED FOR A KNIGHT THIS MONTH”? Yes, many have, as our membership numbers show. At this writing we are plus 291 members for the year. For those councils that these new members belong to, **congratulations**, you are doing the necessary things to be successful in membership growth. You are scheduling Degrees and then getting your prospects initiated very soon. You are having a major degree now rather than waiting 3 or 4 months down the line. Great job! Don't slow down! Keep up the good work, and we will see you at the “STAR DISTRICT” and “STAR COUNCIL” AWARDS.

I have just completed a study of the District Deputy reports for the first 4 months of our fraternal year. There are many Districts that have less than 5 new members thus far, and many of those have zero new members. In making numerous phone calls I find that many councils have prospect lists, some are sizable, and yet they don't have 1st degrees scheduled.

In a perfect world it would be great to have all candidates go through Major Degrees, all 3 degrees in the same day, however if we all used that approach, there is no way that we would have enough degree dates for recruits to join our Order. To put it simply, not everyone can make it to a degree on the same date. So let's get those 1st degrees booked and get these eligible catholic families in the Knights.

Let's look at it from a prospective member's perspective. If I have to wait till next year to get in the Knights, they must not want or need me very much. But if we let them know that we are making a special effort to help them become members, they are going to feel special, and they are special. Every member is special and needed.

Brother Knights, if we are going to do our part in helping Pope Benedict XVI “BUILD UP THE CHURCH”, then we must grow our membership to do it. You can decide to have a 1st degree today and hold it tomorrow. It takes no more time than that. Yes, it does take some work, but it's the Lord's work so now that the farm work is done and winter is setting in, let us **LOOK FOR A WAY TO MAKE IT HAPPEN**.

Marilyn and I wish you and your family a very Blessed and Happy Christmas.

Vivat Jesus,
Gary L. Hoppe, Membership Director

STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The fraternal year is nearly half over, but we still have many tasks ahead of us. Many successes have been achieved so far. Has your council been part of them? Has your council participated in state-sponsored programs along with local programs? Your help is especially needed to quickly wrap up the Adopt-A-Seminarian pledges and the Tootsie Roll Drive reports. Refer to the individual sections of this issue for information on these items. Please help our State Chairmen by submitting them today.

The **Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities, Form #1728**, another council requirement for the coveted “Star Council” award is coming up. Although the deadline for receipt of this form at Supreme is January 31, it would be extremely helpful if you could get the form in by January 15. In doing so, you will save the cost of several phone calls and postage in trying to locate it at the last minute.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Adopt a Seminarian

Church Activities Director and Vocations Chairman Vince Melvin III advises that over 100 councils have not yet submitted their Adopt-a-Seminarian Pledge Card. **This needs your immediate attention!** Vince needs to know your council's pledge amounts right away to insure that all 81 Seminarians are adopted and that the pledges are equalized. The pledge cards were provided by your District Deputy. Contact Vince or your District Deputy if you haven't received or cannot locate your council's pledge card, Seminarian List or Seminary Address List.

“**Light Up For Christ**” is scheduled for **December 2nd 2008** at 8:00 p.m. Please be sure to turn on all your house and Christmas lights at that time to share the light of the Advent Season.

Vocation Poster Contest: This year's theme is “**Vocations – A Call to Serve.**” Plan the details for your council's vocation poster contest at your December meeting so your council's posters can be easily completed, judged and forwarded to your District Deputy by the March 15th deadline.

Religious Education

Many requests for Religious Education Funds have been received by Fr. David Metz, Religious Education Fund Chairman. Money for the program will be dispersed to the Grand Knights in December. He asks that you present the checks quickly so the Religious Education Groups can make use of the money in a timely manner.

Religious Education Fund Raising

Religious Education Fund Raising Chairman Dean Haselhorst wishes to thank all those who sold tickets, especially those who requested additional tickets over and above their original allocation. The drawing will be held at the Mid-Year DD meeting on December 6-7. Good luck on winning the \$25K!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Activity

Have you sent in your Soccer Challenge participation form? Make sure copies go to Supreme and the State Youth Activities Chairman Thomas Schmeidler. Is your council ready for your Free Throw Contest in January? Have you secured the gym and ordered your council Free Throw Kit? District Deputies will receive the district medals at the Mid-Year Meeting. Grand Knights, this would also be a good time to consider the Substance Abuse Poster Contest and the Youth Essay Contest. These three programs are very important youth activities to consider.

Columbian Squires

If the Knights of Columbus will take care of the growing boy, then the boy grown into manhood will not only take

care of the Knights of Columbus, but the Church and the nation as well. These young men need your guidance to develop into our leaders of tomorrow. Join Jeremy Rabe, Columbian Squires Chairman, in assuring the Squires Circles grow and flourish in Kansas.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Family Life

Participation has increased each month in the Family of the Month Program. Has your council been recognizing your most deserving families? If not, choose one this month and see how the family appreciates the recognition that you give them. Be sure to send the entry form to Supreme by the 15th. Dennis Schrick encourages you to plan a family activity during the Christmas season and remember to "Keep Christ in Christmas".

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Community Activity Program

Suggested activities for your council to participate in include a food or clothing drive for the needy, help Habitat for Humanity or participate in highway cleanup. Community Activity

Director Pat Winchester encourages councils to get involved in area community activities. Your community can and should benefit from your council's activities.

Tootsie Roll Update

Early reports from the Tootsie Roll Drive indicate we are on track to break last years Tootsie Roll Drive record. Has your council submitted its Tootsie Roll Report? Don't forget the **December 15th Reporting Deadline. Only councils submitting their report by the deadline will be eligible for awards at the State Convention.** Send the white copy of the report, along with a check for 100% of the Tootsie Roll Drive proceeds, to State Treasurer Ron Zishka, and the yellow copy should be sent to Commitment to Humanities Chairman Pat Winchester. Checks for your designated agencies will be returned to you from Ron Zishka. If you misplaced your report form, a copy can be printed from the **State K of C Web Site (www.kansas-kofc.org)**, or call Pat Winchester, as he has extra forms available.

Grand Knights, remember to complete **Supreme Form 4584, Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics.** This is a new form in your Council Forms Booklet or it can be completed and submitted online! This form is also due December 15.

Pennies From Heaven

Pennies From Heaven Chairman Dale Weber reminds councils to start planning now for items to bring to the State Convention "Country Store" and the "Pennies Auction" next May. The winter months are also a great time to have a fund raiser for the "Pennies Parade" at the Convention. Grand Knights are asked to be sure and have these items on the agenda of your next council meeting. Contact Dale if you plan to bring items. Remember, proceeds from the sale of donated items will be counted toward your council's Pennies From Heaven donation.

Pro-Life Update

As we approach the halfway point of the fraternal year, it is time to check the progress of our Pro-Life Projects,

especially the Evangelium Vitae Award and to prepare for the 10th Annual Pro-Life Baby Shower to be held in January. This program will get a "Jump Start" at the Mid-year DD meeting in Hutchinson. Your council's plans for the Baby Shower should be finalized at your December meeting. If January doesn't work for your council or parish, it can be held anytime, but your Pro-Life report must be in **before April 1st, 2009.** If you plan to conduct the Bottles for Life you should have your bottles purchased, labeled and a month chosen to hand them out to your parish. This is a worthwhile project that can help pro-life centers with their financial obligations. With your help, we can encourage less fortunate mothers-to-be to **CHOOSE LIFE**, instead of abortion. Contact Pro-Life Chaircouple Jim & Theresa Pritchard for help with any of these activities. Don't forget the "March for Life" rally to be held in Topeka at the Capitol building on January 22. Make plans now to join us at this event to remember the Roe vs. Wade anniversary.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Council Activities

This year's 65th Annual Knights of Columbus Men's Bowling Tournament will be held at West Ridge Lanes in Topeka, KS. The dates of the tournament are Feb.22-23, Feb. 28-March 1, and March 7-8. An invitation to participate should be extended to all Brother Knights in your Council. The tournament is open to league and non-league bowlers. A current membership card will be required when checking in.

Fraternal

Fraternal Chairman, Greg Lix, reports that entries for the Knight of the Month Contest continue to arrive by e-mail and Snail Mail. If your council hasn't yet participated, there isn't a better time to start. To honor that special Knight in your council, e-mail (complete the form found at www.kansas-kofc.org or e-mail Greg at fraternalchairman@kansas-kofc.org with the information) or mail the entry form found on page 30 of the State Program and Membership Guide. Entries must be received by the 15th of the following month to be entered in the drawing.

Publicity

Did you see the picture of members of the Rev. Juan Padilla Assembly in Emporia in the November Columbia Magazine? Greg Lix, Publicity Chairman, reminds all Councils and Assemblies to publicize their activities by submitting pictures and articles to your local newspaper, diocesan newspaper, Columbia Magazine, and your local newsletter and church bulletin. People need to know the good deeds we are doing.

Knight's-Lite

Knight's-Lite Editor, Duane Engel reports the next edition of the Knight's-Lite will be assembled in December. All articles must be received by **December 22nd** to make the publication date.

History

State Historian Larry Marstall encourages all councils to continue updating their council history. This information will be valuable to future members wanting to know past items about councils for activities, etc.

Continued on back page

STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Webmaster

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In an effort to simplify and speed up communication with Grand Knights across the state of Kansas, all the email addresses of Grand Knights that were written on the sign-in sheets at the regional meetings in July and August have been entered into our email system. The State Council will now be able to send urgent and informational messages to Grand Knights as a single group. A welcome email was sent to all available Grand Knight email addresses on November 28. If you are a Grand Knight and did not receive a welcome message, please contact State Webmaster Todd Bachamp at webmaster@kansas-kofc.org. Likewise, if you received a welcome email on November 28 but you are no longer a Grand Knight, please contact Todd. Information sent to Todd should include your name, council number, and whether or not you are the current Grand Knight. Rest assured that your email address will never be given or sold to anyone and messages are never sent unless they have been approved by State Deputy Francis Drouhard.

Scott A. Maurath
State Program Director

EXPLORER INSURANCE REPORT

The Knights of Columbus agency department is proud to congratulate the following men for achieving the honor of Field Agent of the Month for their respective agencies:

Eastern Kansas Agency: Joseph Cummings wrote \$1,925,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in October.

Central Kansas Agency: Chad Mishmash wrote \$710,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in October.

Western Kansas Agency: Dan Reed wrote \$1,800,014 in life insurance protection on members and their families in October.

The three agencies combined to write a total of \$25,280,537 in life insurance during the month of October. The Eastern Kansas Agency wrote \$15,750,000 of the total volume. That is a tremendous job!

Please join us in congratulating the following men for their outstanding performance. These men lead the state for the Knights of Columbus insurance program in 2008.

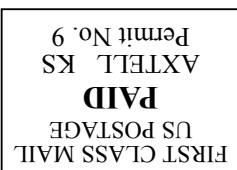
David Soukup Mark Stallbaumer Bill Roggenkamp
JJ DeGES Darin Reed Dan Reed

If you or someone you know would like to join our winning team of Field Agents please call 1-866-391-8781 for more information.



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mark Roth
2164 N. Carlton
Liberal, KS 67901



KANSAS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
10TH ANNUAL PRO-LIFE BABY SHOWER



**PURPOSE: A PRO-LIFE CLOTHING & SUPPLY DRIVE TO
BENEFIT MOTHERS-TO-BE WHO MIGHT
OTHERWISE CHOOSE ABORTION AND TO ALSO
BENEFIT THE UNBORN WHO MIGHT NOT
OTHERWISE BE GIVEN THE “RIGHT TO LIFE.”**

WHEN: THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 2009

WHERE: AT YOUR COUNCIL’S HOME PARISH(ES)

HOW TO CONDUCT:

1. Obtain your priest’s permission to set up a baby bed or play pen in the entrance or foyer of your church.
2. Find a baby bed or play pen to use. Most councils will have a member who has a used bed in nice condition and no longer in use.
3. Beginning Saturday, December 27, 2008 and continuing throughout January, 2009, ask your parish priest to announce to the congregation, or get permission for one of your council members to announce, that you are conducting a Pro-Life Baby Shower with the proceeds to be given to the Pro-Life organization of your choice. Also place a notice or insert in your church bulletin each week. Ask parishioners to donate new or used baby or maternity clothing, baby and pregnancy supplies, diapers, bottles, formula, etc. Be sure to “seed” the baby bed with some nice articles of clothing and supplies as this always helps! Make a nice sign to put up, so people who miss the announcements, will know what the bed is for.
4. At the end of January take all the items and donate them to the Pro-life center(s) of your choice.
5. Document the items donated along with a fair market value of the items (retail may be used for the new items only).
6. Complete and file the Pro-Life Report Form with the State Pro-Life Chair—couple, Jim and Theresa Pritchard, no later than April 1, 2009. (These donations count toward your council’s Pro-Life donations. Awards will be given at the State Convention!)
7. Please conduct this activity in addition to your regular Pro-Life Fund-raisers held during the fraternal year. We would like to see 100% of councils across Kansas participate in this activity.

Jim and Theresa Pritchard
Pro-Life Chaircouple
111 Hillcrest Dr.
Paola, KS 66071
(913) 294-3303

EVANGELIUM VITAE AWARD

THE PURPOSE OF THIS AWARD IS TO RECOGNIZE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCILS MOST EFFECTIVE IN PROMOTING THE GOSPEL OF LIFE.

To be eligible for this award a council must be involved in the four-part plan proposed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "**Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities - A Campaign in Support of Life**" from conception to natural death.

1. Public Information and Education.

Required - An educational presentation of at least 45 minutes at council or parish function on abortion, infanticide, death penalty or euthanasia. Additional Suggested Activities:

- A. Erect a pro-life billboard
- B. Conduct a Pro-life essay contest for the youth.
- C. Purchase and display a set of fetal models.
- D. Promote natural family planning.

2. Pastoral Care for those who have been affected by our culture of death.

Required - To sponsor at least one major fundraiser for pro-life.

Additional Suggested Activities:

- A. Erect a memorial to the unborn.
- B. Promote Project Rachel.
- C. Visit nursing homes or elderly shut-ins.
- D. Assist mothers who have made a life-affirming decision including adoption.

3. Public Policy efforts for favorable pro-life legislation.

Required - Support the Kansas Catholic Conference's pro-life legislative agenda. Council sponsored postcard/letter writing campaign or petition drive. Additional Suggested Activities:

- A. Participation in March for Life rallies, pro-life chains, etc.
- B. Conduct a Voter Forum, voter registration.
- C. Support efforts to end the death penalty and better understand the Church's teaching.
- D. Conduct a survey of your elected officials.

4. Prayer and Worship - that the culture of death that surrounds us today will be replaced by a culture of life and love.

Required - A council sponsored rosary before or after Mass at least one weekend each month for the intention of ending the unnatural taking of life. Additional Suggested Activities:

- A. Sponsor a Pro-Life Living Rosary.
- B. Sponsor Pro-Life Stations of the Cross.
- C. A monthly Mass for Pro-Life Cause and conversion of those in the abortion industry.
- D. Distribute Holy Cards to students to promote prayer and understanding of Pro-Life.

Reporting Council must submit report of at least one activity in each of the four areas (additional activities are encouraged) to State Pro-Life Chaircouple by **March 20, 2009.**

Awards:

Diocesan award winners receive a plaque.

State award winner will have their council name placed on the Traveling Trophy.

Fraternally,

Jim and Theresa Pritchard

Pro-Life Chaircouple
111 Hillcrest Dr.
Paola KS, 66071
(913) 294-3303
pro-lifechaircouple@kansas-kofc.org

