



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

ONLINE BULLETIN

APRIL 2015

AVRIL 2015

WHAT MAKES A GOOD SHEPHERD?

COMMENT DEVIENT-ON UN BON PASTEUR?



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16

.....
Car Dieu a tant aimé le monde qu'il a donné son Fils unique, afin que quiconque croit en lui ne périsse point, mais qu'il ait la vie éternelle.
Jean 3:16



Sharing the Welcome

Bishop Fred Colli State Chaplain

Both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have encouraged us to reflect on the early beginnings of our church community and to try and model the enthusiasm, the joy and the excitement that the early members of our Church had when they received the faith. The early church was joyful and courageous in living and even dying for their faith in Jesus.

I believe an important part of that enthusiasm was the desire, on the part of every member, to make the church a welcoming community. The theme of welcome is important for any organization or group, and it is most important for the Knights of Columbus. If we want new members in our Order, then our attitude and approach must always be one of ☐welcome☐. We welcome someone by inviting them to work side by side with us in our projects, we welcome someone when we personally invite them to join our council, we welcome someone when we share time with them at meetings and look out for them in their need.

Welcoming is an important aspect in helping us to grow in numbers and also in highlighting the work of the Knights in the world. We might say that we are already a welcoming council or assembly, and in most cases that will be true, however, we can always look to see how we can become more welcoming, more attentive to our members and their needs and concerns, and more willing to make that extra effort to show Christian hospitality to one another.

If we look at the example of Jesus we can see that in each encounter with others in the scriptures, Jesus was always considerate, kind and concerned about them, and he responded to their need at the time.

In particular Jesus welcomed the sinner, and in his concern for them, helped them to change their lives for the better. As Knights of Columbus we too are called to reach out to others, and to help them change their lives for the better. In our concern for others, in our works of charity, in our willingness to go that extra step to help, then we are acting in the name of Jesus and following his example of love.

Pope Francis, in his document, The Joy of the Gospel ☐ calls us to be evangelizers of joy. We are people who are filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and who use these gifts to transform our world. Looking at our world today, we know that it is in great need of transformation. As St. John Paul II noted when he came to Canada many years ago, he said that too many young people in our world today, live without joy in their lives. Can we be those disciples of Jesus who bring some of that joy to others. It happens through our spirit of welcome. Let us be sure that we are a welcoming council, a welcoming assembly and a welcoming Church in everything we do. Vivat Jesus!

Bishop Fred Colli
State Chaplain





Sous le signe de l'accueil

Évêque Fred Colli Aumônier d'État

Le Pape Benoît XVI et le Pape François nous ont tous les deux encouragés à réfléchir aux débuts de notre communauté ecclésiale et à essayer d'imiter l'enthousiasme, la joie et l'engouement des premiers membres de l'Église quand ils ont reçu la foi. L'Église primitive était joyeuse et courageuse dans la vie, allant même jusqu'à mourir pour leur foi en Jésus.

Je crois qu'un élément important de cet enthousiasme était le désir qu'avait chaque membre de faire de l'église une communauté accueillante. Le thème de l'accueil est important pour tout groupe ou organisation, en particulier pour les Chevaliers de Colomb. Si nous voulons attirer de nouveaux membres dans notre Ordre, notre attitude et notre approche doivent toujours être axées sur l'accueil.

Nous accueillons quelqu'un en l'invitant à travailler côte à côte avec nous dans nos projets; nous accueillons quelqu'un quand nous l'invitons personnellement à rejoindre les rangs de notre Conseil, quand nous passons du temps avec lui dans les réunions et quand nous sommes à l'écoute de ses besoins.

Si nous regardons l'exemple de Jésus dans les Écritures, nous constatons qu'Il était toujours rempli d'égard, de gentillesse et de prévenance envers les personnes

qu'Il rencontrait, et qu'Il cherchait à combler les besoins auxquels ils faisaient face.

Jésus Se montrait particulièrement accueillant envers les pécheurs et, en manifestant de la sollicitude à leur égard, Il les a aidés à changer leur vie pour le mieux. En tant que Chevaliers de Colomb, nous sommes également appelés à tendre la main aux autres et à les aider à changer leur vie pour le mieux. En faisant preuve de sollicitude envers autrui, dans nos œuvres de charité, en allant au-delà de l'appel du devoir pour venir en aide aux autres, nous agissons au nom de Jésus et nous imitons Son exemple d'amour.

Dans son exhortation apostolique La joie de l'Évangile, le Pape François nous invite à évangéliser avec joie. Nous sommes des gens remplis des dons de l'Esprit-Saint et nous utilisons ces dons pour transformer le monde. En regardant notre monde aujourd'hui, nous savons qu'il a grand besoin de transformation. Comme l'a souligné Jean-Paul II lors de sa visite au Canada il y a de nombreuses années, trop de jeunes aujourd'hui vivent sans joie. Pouvons-nous être ces disciples de Jésus qui, par notre esprit d'accueil, apportent un peu de cette joie aux autres? Soyons des Conseils accueillants, des Assemblées accueillantes et une Église accueillante dans tout ce que nous faisons. Vivat Jesus!

**Évêque Fred Colli
Aumônier d'État**





“Is Your Flock Thriving?”

Kevin Daudlin Ontario State Deputy

This year I have written a series of articles all revolving around the theme “We are all called to be good shepherds.” By reading all of them you will find the answers to having a successful council. This final instalment on the series asks one simple question: “Is your council thriving?”

A good shepherd holds many facets in the life of his flock. Not only must he nurture and feed his flock, he must also care for his flock by creating a place where they want to be. This includes bringing in new members to revitalize the flock and to help with the older members.

Are you running programs that interest your group? Are they relevant to not only your membership, but to your parish and your community?

Thoughtfully (and honestly) diagnose the current state of your council. Ask yourself, what is the attendance at our meetings and functions? How old are the participants in our programs? Determine the percentages connected to your council activities and how complex your programs have become. Without an accurate sense of where you are, you cannot expect to make correct choices as to the goals that you want to achieve.

Ask yourself what you hope to see happen not only with your council but with the members themselves.

This is one of the most important questions that you need to answer for the answer to it will direct you what

you need to do to. You, your officers and program directors will then be able to set new directions. This will also tell you the kinds of experiences you need to provide for them and develop everyone’s understanding of the importance of training and planning.

A critical decision is to choose an appropriate system, model or strategy. An honest diagnosis of the current state of your council, parish and community, coupled with the clarity about what you hope to achieve with your members, should help you decide what outcomes you will want to obtain and set your direction. It has been proven that the most common cause of a council’s failure to thrive is choosing an inadequate strategy. Therefore, allocate resources sufficient to the task. It probably means you may need to reallocate your existing budget. Further, you’re going to need to reallocate sufficient volunteers. You’re going to need to reallocate the space on your website or blog, or, if you don’t have one, you may need to start one.

Being a good shepherd is not difficult, but it requires you to adapt to our ever changing world. What worked for your flock yesterday may not work today. You may need to venture outside of your flock for guidance and revitalization. Your council is bigger than the four walls of your hall or church. A good shepherd is always on the alert both for inherent dangers as well as for the nutrition needed to enable his flock to thrive and grow. Is it time for you to step outside the box? to go for a walk? and to find what is needed for your flock to thrive?. Vivat Jesus.

Kevin Daudlin, KCHS
Ontario State Deputy





Est-ce que Votre Troupeau Prospère?

Kevin Daudlin Ontario Député d'État

Cette année, je ai écrit une série d'articles tout autour du thème «Nous sommes tous appelés à être de bons bergers.» En lisant tous vous trouverez les réponses à avoir un conseil de succès. Cette dernière tranche de la série pose une question simple: "Est-ce que vous conseil prospère?"

Un bon berger détient de nombreuses facettes de la vie de son troupeau. Non seulement il doit nourrir et nourrir son troupeau, il doit aussi se occuper de son troupeau en créant un endroit où ils veulent être. Cela inclut de nouveaux membres pour revitaliser le troupeau et pour aider avec les membres les plus âgés.

Courez-vous des programmes qui intéressent votre groupe? Sont-elles pertinentes non seulement votre adhésion, mais à votre paroisse et votre communauté?

Pensivement (et honnêtement) diagnostiquer l'état actuel de votre conseil. Demandez-vous, ce est la présence à nos réunions et les fonctions? Quel âge ont les participants à nos programmes? Déterminer les pourcentages liés à vos activités de conseil et la complexité de vos programmes nef devenir. Sans une idée précise de l'endroit où vous êtes, vous ne pouvez pas se attendre à faire les bons choix quant aux objectifs que vous souhaitez atteindre.

Demandez-vous ce que vous espérez voir se produire non seulement avec votre conseil, mais avec les membres eux-mêmes.

Ce est une des questions les plus importantes que vous devez répondre à la réponse à il vous dirigera ce que vous devez faire pour. Vous, vos dirigeants et

administrateurs de programme serez alors en mesure d'établir de nouvelles directions. Cela permettra également de vous dire le genre d'expériences que vous devez fournir pour eux et de développer la compréhension de tous de l'importance de la formation et de la planification.

Une décision cruciale est de choisir un système, un modèle ou stratégie appropriée. Un diagnostic honnête de l'état actuel de votre conseil, de la paroisse et de la communauté, couplé avec la clarté sur ce que vous espérez atteindre avec vos membres, devrait vous aider à décider quels sont les résultats que vous voulez obtenir et définir votre direction. Il a été prouvé que la cause la plus fréquente de panne des conseils pour réussir est de choisir une stratégie inadéquate. Par conséquent, allouer des ressources suffisantes à la tâche. Il signifie probablement que vous devrez peut-être réaffecter votre budget actuel. De plus, vous allez avoir besoin de réaffecter volontaires suffisantes Vous allez avoir besoin de réaffecter l'espace sur votre site ou blog, ou, si vous ne en avez pas, vous pouvez avoir besoin pour démarrer une.

Être un bon berger ne est pas difficile, mais il vous oblige à se adapter à notre monde en constante évolution. Ce qui a fonctionné pour votre troupeau hier peut ne pas fonctionner aujourd'hui. Vous devrez peut-être à se aventurer hors de votre troupeau pour l'orientation et la revitalisation. Votre conseil est plus grand que les quatre murs de votre salle ou à l'église. Un bon berger est toujours sur le qui-vive à la fois pour les dangers inhérents ainsi que pour la nutrition nécessaire pour permettre son troupeau de prospérer et de croître. Est-il temps pour vous de sortir de la boîte? aller pour une promenade? et de trouver ce qui est nécessaire pour votre troupeau de prospérer ?. Vivat Jésus.

Kevin Daudlin, KCHS
Ontario Député d'État





“Time Does Not Pass, It Continues.”
Marty Rubin

Joseph Salini Past State Deputy

A number of years ago I started a journey and it is now time as Mr. Rubin said: “to continue “.

My time on the Ontario State Board is drawing to an end and I must first and foremost thank my wife, my family and my co-workers for the time that they spent helping me through the last several years. It has been an interesting time, some good and some not so good. That is the nature of society in general.

What has happened is quite remarkable. We have nurtured new and continuing friendships that Leah and I will always cherish. We have witnessed interesting changes within the Knights of Columbus in Ontario and abroad.

If I asked myself one question: “have I made a difference?” I believe that the answer is “yes”.

One thing that I can offer to those who might consider taking up the challenge to become a member of the State Board, and to those who are making their way through the chairs, is: “make sure that you have a great deal of time to offer and to show everyone that you

offer passion and commitment to your church, your community and your family!”

Our mandate, from the Supreme Knight is to give every eligible Catholic man an opportunity to join the Knights of Columbus. It sounds very simple and in reality it is, but we must carefully analyze each individual situation to make sure that we approach it properly. We must ask the questions in the right way and treat everyone the way we would wish to be treated. If we follow this simple path, success is within our grasp.

As this is my last opportunity to address you formally as a State Board member, I can only think of one simple phrase: “Thank You”.

Vivat Jesus.

Joseph Salini
Immediate Past State Deputy





From The Secretary's Desk

Alain Cayer State Secretary

Squires

The Squires are a large component of our Order. They play a very significant and important role in their communities, Churches, and schools. WE, as Knights, should be working together with them to better promote the great works that our young men do. It suffices to listen to them speak at our DDs' organizational meetings and State Convention, to become aware of the difference that this program makes in developing them into inspiring, young, future Knights.

I encourage and actually challenge every District Deputy, Grand Knight, Council Officer and member to take a closer look at this program. By introducing this element into your Council, you can make a bigger difference in your community. Esto Dignus.

Again this year, we had some requests to have more documents translated into French to better serve our French speaking Brothers. After reviewing the amount of dollars we had in our budget, we quickly realized that the translation had to, again, be kept to a minimum unless we could find a cost effective way to get it done.

After some discussions, a few francophone brothers came on board to help translate some documents. As a result we have been able to produce bilingual versions of the monthly planner, and the Life Guard. Here is the list of translators. André Cayouette, Michel Cayouette, Félix da Matha Sant'Anna, Mario Duguay,

Jean-Maurice Gaudreau, Marcel Gauvin, Jean-Guy Giroux, Jeremy Leblanc, Martin Lortie, André Richer, Pierre Richer, Serge Marcil, André Vinette,

Thank you so much Brothers. You have stepped up to the plate and your efforts have made a difference and are appreciated. Vivat Jesus.

Pro-Life

We were all saddened by the unfortunate shootings that took place on Parliament Hill, We pray for the repose of the fallen and their families.

The CLC has informed me that the March for Life activities will proceed as previously planned, on May 13th to the 15th 2015. The march itself will occur on Thursday May 14th. Once again, I encourage councils to organize buses so that more people will have a chance to participate.

We are entering an unprecedented time in Canada when the attack on life has never been greater. Canada is one of the few countries in the world where there is 'No law' regulating abortion. In other countries, where abortion is legal, they at least have laws regulating when an abortion may be performed while in Canada an abortion may be performed at any time during the pregnancy including the ninth month.

Read more next page.





From The Secretary's Desk

Alain Cayer State Secretary

Pro-Life (Continued)

In addition, In recent weeks, the Supreme Court of Canada has struck down the long standing law which made assisted suicide illegal. The Supreme Court has ruled that either the government or the health care regulators have one year to come up with guidelines under which Doctors can assist adults, who are suffering mentally or physically and who are competent to make the decision, to commit suicide.

This is a very slippery slope on which other countries which now have full blown euthanasia began. In a recent letter to his parishioners Cardinal Collins stated: "the state is authorizing the killing of an innocent person, whatever controls are in place, and even those limitations can over time be swept away, leading to the more widespread practice of euthanasia. We have only to look at some European countries to see what lies ahead".

In its decision the Supreme Court recognized that many physicians will not assist people to kill themselves, therefore they made some very slight room for freedom of conscience. It trusts local Colleges of Physicians and other such groups to deal appropriately with the conscience issue. However, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario is proposing a policy (presently in draft form) which states that physicians who refuse to perform a procedure to which they morally object must provide a referral to someone else who will do it.

As Cardinal Collins has stated: "In other words, they are compelled to become accomplices. I urge the College not to go through with this unjust policy, and I urge Ontarians, especially physicians, to speak up against it. First the politicians; now the physicians: the assault on freedom of conscience steadily advances in our country." Where are we heading?

Vivat Jesus.

Alain Cayer
State Secretary





Have You Bought Your Ontario Charities Lottery Ticket?

Peter Lemon State Treasurer

ONE IN 500!

Did you know that each Lottery ticket you buy benefits not only the Arthritis Society in their search for a cure to this debilitating disease but also supports the Special Olympians in Ontario?

Did you know that each Lottery ticket purchased, or sold, benefits twenty other Ontario charities donated to on your behalf? The Squires, our youth mentoring program for boys between the ages of 10 to 18 is supported by its revenues. We support the Ontario Bishops and their programs as well as our bursaries program to assist our youth with their education.

Were you also aware that with every Lottery Ticket purchased or sold you can help your local churches, communities and charities by using the funds your council receives back for participating?

Did you know that the Ontario Charities' Lottery draw is the only fundraising activity done by the Knight of Columbus Ontario Charities Foundation?

We have just passed the halfway point in the fundraiser. From reports we have received through our Regional Chairmen it appears that we are doing well with the Lottery this year. If your Council is participating that is great and congratulations. If your Council does not participate in this worthy project to

benefit the many charities across the Province and in your local communities, then why not at the very least, support the surrounding Councils and be part of our charitable endeavors.

With the odds of winning a prize at 1 in 500, according to the AGCO, we have the best Lottery for our size in Ontario. Won't you join us and help the less fortunate??

Peter Lemon
State Treasurer, Chairman,
Knights of Columbus
Ontario Charities' Lottery





To My Brother Knights

David Peters State Warden

Another Fraternal Year is rapidly drawing to a close. Each of us should reflect on what we have accomplished in service to others during this term: “how have we served the Order and helped it in our mandate to reach out to and assist the less-fortunate? what positive moves have we made in terms of our own spiritual development? how much more could we have done? in what areas could we have improved?”

My position as State Warden has required my involvement in several areas and I will take this opportunity to share some experiences.

Diocesan Association Liaison:

Within an organization as large and diverse as the Knights of Columbus, it is a challenge to “keep things running smoothly”. Each region, each district, each Council, indeed each parish has its own “personality” and it is only through diligent understanding and application of principles that progressive harmony can be realized. This is where the importance of the “overseer” role of Diocesan Associations (DA’s) is manifested and I have been privileged to serve as Liaison Director for them.

Unfortunately we cannot all attend the upcoming State Convention. We should all be ably represented, however, by our selected delegates who

- are charged with the responsibility of acquainting
- themselves with the plans being put in place in order
- to ensure a healthy, stable and progressive future for
- the Knights of Columbus in Ontario. The delegates
- are the “eyes and ears” of the membership-at-large.

- As a follow up, we must be scrupulous in our
- selection of a delegate to this year’s Supreme
- Convention because next year we will be facing the
- enormous challenge of hosting the 2016 Supreme
- Convention. It is imperative that our State Board
- will have a sitting member who is fully cognisant of
- all the ramifications and responsibilities which are
- part-and-parcel of this undertaking.

- One of the issues up for discussion at next month’s
- Ontario State Convention will be the “rotation
- schedule” for delegates to the Supreme Convention.
- Input from all the Diocesan Association directors is
- welcomed.

The Fr. McGivney Guild:

- Your response to the appeal for a commitment
- toward the cause for canonization of our Founder
- has been very impressive . You have responded in
- numbers that only seemed “like a dream” a year
- ago. Let us not rest on our laurels. The “call for
- prayers” is still being made and you can commit by
- registering at **www.fathermcgivney.org**



Annual Ontario State Charity Golf Tournament:

Obviously, because of location and so forth, not all Brothers in the Province are able (or expected) to participate in this effort to raise funds for our Charitable Foundation. However, your assistance and support in promoting the Tournament can be a major contribution. We need sponsors ... hole sponsors, prize donors, brochure advertisers ... in order to really make this a worthwhile venture. The exposure for sponsors is immeasurable as they will be recognized in the Ontario State Bulletin which is sent to 56,000 households throughout the Province. Sponsors can obtain additional information at davidpeters123@rogers.com

This 5th. Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, September 19th. At BraeBen Golf Course, 5700 Terry Fox Way, Mississauga L5V 2W2

The \$150 registration includes green fees, golf cart, prizes galore and a steak dinner. We look forward to your response!

David Peters
Ontario State Warden



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Welcome!

Kevin Heffernan State Church Director

Brother Knights!

This fraternal year, Councils, Assemblies & Squire Circles have been actively supporting our seminarians with prayers and financial support. Approximately 1 in 5 Councils actively participate in the RSVP program.

Through this program, Councils not only support vocations, but also receive a \$100 rebate for every \$500 donated. Many councils also show their support for our future chaplains with smaller donations and gestures of support such as letters, rides, dinners and just as importantly council and family prayers. As the academic year winds down for our seminarians, let's offer some prayer for their discernment and let us reflect on how else we can support our future chaplains and priests.

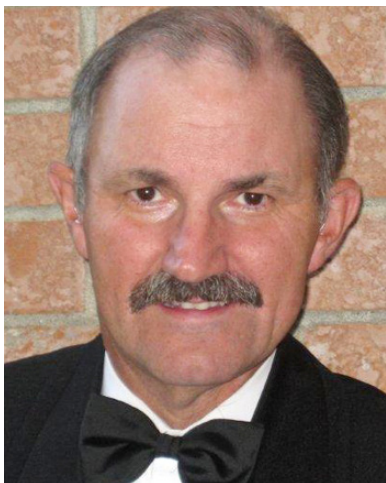
On a different area, our councils and parishes have also been very busy welcoming the Immaculate Conception Icons across our Jurisdiction. Children and people of all ages have experienced Mary in a special way as we learned/relearned a fundamental teaching of the Church: the Blessed Virgin Mary was free of original sin from the moment of conception. Thus the title of "Immaculate Conception".

Commemorating the 350th anniversary of the Cathedral Basilica Notre-Dame de Quebec and the Archdiocese of Quebec, in 2014 the Immaculate Conception Prayer Program was brought to virtually every parish, council and district as well as many schools, culminating on January 1, 2015, on the Feast of the Solemnity of Mary. Marian Prayer Programs, like this one, remind us as Knights that we play a special role in introducing our Blessed Virgin Mother to a new generation of our faithful as well as in renewing the faith lives in our communities.

Vivat Jesus!

Brother Kevin Heffernan
State Church & Culture of Life Director





State Convention

Bill Country State Program Director

Worthy Sirs,

At this time, in the Councils' Fraternal Year, there are many things about which we can be thinking so as to allow our individual Council to finish strong and put the council in a position to continue its future success.

Each Grand Knight should be looking for new members and retaining the current members. Put together a plan that will make your Council visible to your Parish.

Seek your Pastor's permission for any presentations on membership.

Announce, from the pulpit, the date of your information meeting and also publish it in your Church bulletin. This will give your potential candidates something to reflect on. Be sure that you invite the wives to that information meeting as well.

It is also time to make that big push at completing one of the eight featured programs highlighted this year by Supreme.

As it will soon be time to elect Officers for the next Council Year, it is important to find men who are willing to make the commitment to the council. When your nominations' committee ask about the commitment that is required for the benefit of the council, especially Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, Program Director, Financial Secretary, and Membership Director, be clear!

Also, remember to review, with your Officers, the requirements for the Columbian Award to insure that your Council Calendar contains the programs necessary for you to qualify for this award. Remember that there is no man hours or percentage of Council membership requirement in order for an activity to qualify. BUT take the time to do the paperwork and avoid disappointment. Let your brothers be proud of their accomplishments and let your Council become a council that will make each one of you stronger. T.E.A.M.!!!

Vivat Jesus

Bill Country
State Program Director





Message From The Editor

Nat Gallo
Editor

***ARE YOU ONE OF THESE NEW
KNIGHTS? DID YOU SPONSOR
ONE OF THEM?"***



***"Why not ask someone you know
today? Be counted in!"***

A Message from the Editor:

Did you realize that there is always someone out in our midst who is waiting to join our beloved Order. Be it in our churches, our communities, our workplace... someone is waiting in the wings not knowing how to join us.

On March 23, at Saint Aidan's council # 11332, 17 men were exemplified into the 1st degree. We extend a warm and hearty welcome to our newest brothers. We congratulate them on becoming members of our World-wide family. We thank them for joining our charitable endeavors.

We find it also equally important to offer a sincere thank you to their sponsors and urge them to keep the new members active in their respective councils so that their vibrancy is maintained!

**Natale (Nat) L. Gallo,
Assistant to the Supreme Knight for
Canadian Affairs**





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Knights of Columbus
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State Warden
David Peters





Free Throw, Soccer Challenge, Substance Abuse Poster Contest

Savio Fernandes **Youth Director**

Dear Brother Knights,

This year we have made some improvements to the Free Throw Information Package and the Substance Abuse Awareness Booklet so as to make them more simplified for everyone involved.

Despite the frigid winter weather that we have endured across Ontario this year, we saw a slight increase in the participation from by Councils and Districts at all 14 Regional levels for the Free Throw Competition. This would not have been possible without the hard work of our members, Grand Knights, District Deputies, Regional Chairmen and their teams.

The Soccer Competition has been challenging as there was less participation at the Regional levels even though we saw a slight increase in participation at the Council and District levels.

Our Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest this year had less participants.

Looking ahead to next year I ask that Councils promote this activity early so as to generate more youth interest and participation.

Please ensure all your council Free Throw and Substance Abuse Awareness Participation forms have been sent in.

Please send me your success stories and photos so that we can publish them in our bulletin to help us improve and promote our future youth programs. Remember also that your suggestions are most welcome too.

*“Coming together is a Beginning;
Keeping together is Progress;
Working together is Success.”*

The success of our youth programs depends on all of us working as a TEAM.

Thank you all for a job well done and for your continued support for our Youth Programs.

Vivat Jesus,

Savio Fernandes
State Youth Director





How can you tell when your council is in trouble?

Jim Farrand **Retention Director**

Non – payment of State and Supreme per capita and catholic advertising.

Lack of membership recruitment and retention.
Can't hold a council meeting because a quorum can't be reached.

Lack of Surge with Service programs in council, church, community, family, youth and culture of life programs.

Lack of functions or presence in the church, turning members off.

An aging membership – younger members are not interested in joining.

No one wants to take executive positions – therefore the need to recycle executive members.

Members are not paying their dues and not attending meetings or functions.

Very small communities with parish councils have no one left to recruit.

The Diocese can no longer sustain parishes due to the lack of priests and parishioners are not attending Mass, especially our youth.

Churches are clustering where several Knights of Columbus councils are involved.

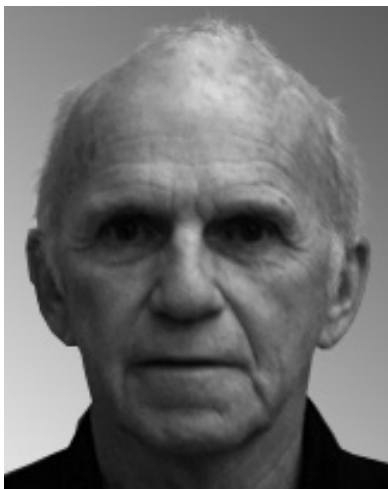
Council has no Succession Planning. Election meetings can't fill all the positions.

No attendance at Diocesan Meetings or Training Sessions.

The council is not sending in reports to State or Supreme including Forms 185, 365, 1295 and 1728

When you see some of these things happening in your council ask your District Deputy for help. He can get help from the Ontario State Board Officers, Directors and Reports and Information Directors. The entire resources of the Ontario State Council are at your disposal.

Jim Farrand F.M.
State Council Retention Director



The Family Portfolio

Alexander (Sandy) Harkes State Family Director

The family portfolio has three areas of Council participation: *The Family of the Month*, *the Family of the Year* and *Seniors & Widows*.

Each category has its own recognition.

The Family of the Month receives a Statue, presented by the District Deputy, the Family of the Year receives a plaque at the State Convention and the John P. Rodina award is presented to the winning council at the State Convention.

Take a look at what's happening to our family life. Do we communicate? Do we share? Do we take time to get involved with each other? Are there opportunities for improvement? What is God's plan for us?

Today's society makes it hard to be a family. Television takes up a lot of our time together. The hustle and bustle of business, rushed meals, school, work, committee meetings, sports and shopping are cramming our days and weeks.

The family is under heavy attack today. The battle is largely over values and commitments. To survive, the family needs support. Its primary source of strength must be found in a growing religious and parish life. But it also can be helped substantially by an organization such as ours.

- Help prevent the death of the family by administering preventive medicine. Conduct the programs and activities which aid in rebuilding the family spirit from within, making it vital and strong.

- The Surge with Service Manual pages 25 to 28 lists many ideas and programs which would help our families, seniors and widows and at the same time increase your council's participation in these areas.

- Remember, one of Father McGivney's visions was to help FAMILIES! I ask each council to encourage family programs that will enhance family life and increase your council's activities in a needed area. Now is the time for the newly elected officers to evaluate your council's activities and start the planning for the next fraternal year! Encourage your Family Directors to take a look at the ideas in the Surge with Service manual.

- I congratulate the councils who won awards in this area during last fraternal year. I also thank all of the councils that participated in the family programs, although not all winners, it indicates that your councils have activities in these areas. Please continue to submit your applications for the awards that are available in these important areas of family life.

- **A.(Sandy) Harkes**
• **State Family Director**



Robert Bezaire Grand Knight



Michael O'Neill Honoris Committee Chairman

A COUNCIL IN ACTION: There is always an opportunity to demonstrate how we care.

Windsor Council 1453 has seized a wonderful opportunity to practice our first principle, charity. We have been doing so by financially assisting the Guadalupe House. This is a residence run by Sister L. Dube and other volunteers.

They supply a place for unwed mothers who choose to not have an abortion, rather, to chose life and keep their child. The house was generously donated but funds are needed to maintain it. Over the past two years Council 1453 has adopted this project and it alone has donated \$3500.00. Significantly, part of these funds come from the proceeds from the Roses for Life campaign.

After we became involved, the information spread by word of mouth and many other local council have made donations. No matter how large or how small the donation, they all go to a charitable cause and a pro life cause.

This is the only residence in Windsor to offer this service and we as Knights are proud to provide any help that we can. Won't you consider joining Council 1453 in this Life giving effort?

**Robert .D.Bezaire p.g.k/ f.d.d.
Grand Knight-1453**

August 14th we will be observing the 125th anniversary of the death of our Founder, the Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney. What better way to mark this anniversary than by having your council pray the Annual Novena in his honour. In addition, we would like to remind everyone of the monthly Mass that councils can sponsor for the advancement of his cause for sainthood. Remember that by working with and supporting The Honoris your council will have the opportunity to use this activity towards the Columbian Award.

Moreover, being an independent registered charitable organization, created exclusively to promote the cause of Fr. McGivney, The Honoris is able to issue receipts for financial contributions. Again this year, The Ontario State Board has graciously granted us the opportunity to have a table at the Ontario State Council Convention in Toronto. Please drop by and say hello.

For more information about the Father McGivney and/or the Honoris visit our web www.michaeljmcgivneyhonoris.ca; e-mail us at bohola@outlook.com; or telephone 613-592-9020.

The Honoris Committee





What have we accomplished?

Francisco Naar State Community Director

As we approach the end of our fraternal year, it is important for us to look at what we have accomplished so far and ask ourselves if we have made any difference. How many lives did we impact collecting coins for our Coins on a Mission program at our meetings and socials, or at least sending the \$20.00 cheque to support the Catholic Mission in Canada? How many children benefited by receiving a warm winter coat this year through our Coats for Kids program? Did we take advantage of the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation program and provide someone the freedom of mobility that they have been missing due to their disability?

We have taken the ownership of a project to send a full container on April 2016 to Central America, in April 2016. To accomplish this we need at least 125 wheelchairs.

Most importantly are we ready to provide an Easter Dinner to families in need, with our Food for Families Program? Like many of us, new immigrants know how difficult those first few years can be when you don't have or can't afford a dinner for your family. I know in my heart that many of you can relate to that, just as I do. And this is when you pause for a moment and look deep in your heart and ask if we are living up to the expectation of the main principal of our order **CHARITY**. Whether we do it as a person or Council or an Assembly, we do it in the name of our Lord. If you have not done or participated in any of these programs, there is still time to do so. It is never too late to take part in this amazing experience and join us and the thousands of our brother Knights by supporting our brothers in need.

FOOD FOR FAMILIES, please continue to make food drives part of your year round activity, and help to provide food to those less fortunate families. Remember that you can qualify for a \$100.00 by collecting over 1,000 pounds or making a donation of \$500.00

WHEEL CHAIR FOUNDATION, there are so many people in need of a wheelchair and with your donation of \$150.00 you can make an incredible change in the life of someone by providing them freedom and mobility.

COINS ON A MISSION, the principle of our order is Charity and I believe that charity starts at home, and home is here in Ontario. We need to support the Catholic Missions in Canada, and by collecting as many coins as we can, we are able to assist the missionaries in spreading the word of God in isolated and poor areas. As well we can help with the education of seminarians. This is not Mission Impossible, this is possible with your help and support. Please send the money collected or at least a \$20.00 cheque to the State Office along with form SO-42.

By participating in these programs potential candidates will see firsthand what the Knights of Columbus are all about. What better way to sign up a New Member! As a bonus, turn these four programs into best tool to recruit One Member, Per Council, Per Month.

Vivat Jesus!

Francisco Naar
State Community Director





Membership starts with each leader

Christopher Lazure State Membership Director

We joined this honoured Order to help in our parishes, in our councils and in our community. We want to help our youth and the less fortunate. Knights are seen, and we are, leaders for all of these groups. It takes a leader to help those who cannot help themselves, it takes a leader to help a priest to grow the parish, it takes a leader to mentor youth and it takes a leader to raise money and donate it to charitable endeavors. You are the leaders, I am a leader and the Venerable Father McGivney is a leader.

From nothing, Father McGivney started something; he started an organization which has grown into the largest Catholic fraternal organization in the world. We need to tell our family members and our neighbours that we want them to be part of this. We need each and everyone of you to be the leader that accompanies a new candidate to a degree and then to his first meeting so that he can lead side by side with you. Take a few minutes and watch the video, "The Power of One", on Supreme's website. It shows how much help we actually give. If each of us gives an hour each month, that is 12 hours per year helping. How much could our parish, council or community grow by 1 hour. IF each member in Ontario did that we would have approximately another 672,000 more hours helping someone in the province. If you brought in your friends and family how many more hours would we end up contributing? What kind of leaders would we be showing to the world? It would be the shining example that Fr.

McGivney started, with one leader talking to a group of men to change the world, a little bit at a time. Now it's time to be the leader that we know is in you, talk to people about your Knights council and ask them if they too want to become leaders!!!

Vivat Jesus! Ask your Grand Knight, Council Membership Director or even your District Deputy about what incentives Supreme and Ontario State have going so you can get your thank you.

On the web? Check us out on Facebook www.facebook.com/knights.ontario and twitter @KofCOntMember to find out about incentives and what's going on.

Just think, the next time you smile at another catholic gentleman remember you are changing the world, maybe he could help you! Maybe he needs to be asked "Would you like to join my council because...." Without asking those at church, at our programs, friends and family how will you get the help you need to make your council grow.

Vivat Jesus!

Christopher Lazure
Ontario State Membership Director





Recognition Around Our Province

Giustino (Gus) Taraborrelli Knight



Sir Knight Giustino (Gus) Taraborrelli, member of the Dean Wagner Assembly in Windsor, Ontario. Brother Giustino (Gus) was recently honoured as Knight of the Year 2014 during the Dean Wagner Knights of Columbus annual awards ceremony.

Gus was duly recognized and congratulated for his work and dedication to the council by Assembly Navigator Dr. John Cappucci. "An honourable award for a very dedicated man."





Sudbury Priests

Tony Sottile



Sudbury Knights demonstrate our unity and fraternity by honouring one of our priests.

On Sunday March 22nd the brothers at Father Brian McKee Council 1387 held a special gathering.

Hundreds flocked to Christ the King Church to celebrate and honour Father James Sharpe on his 89th Birthday.

Brother Knights of Father Brian McKee Council 1387 are and will always be thankful to Father Sharpe for his many years as Chaplain and his many years as an active member of the Council.

Shown in front row are Deputy Grand Knight Tony Sottile, Father James Sharpe and Council member Michael Gowalko.





The Special Olympics

Joe Mathews Special Olympics Chairman

Brothers:

On behalf of the thousands of Ontario Special Olympians, I want to thank you for your continued support of Special Olympics in Ontario. Your involvement in the various activities in which we participate, from our bottle drive through our Flag Relay program, is truly much appreciated.

Special Olympics Ontario invites Councils to sell their Knights of Columbus Raffle Tickets at any Special Olympics event. To find out when the next event is being held in your area, please contact Special Olympics Ontario at 1-888-333-5515.

Special Olympics Ontario will be conducting its Provincial Floor Hockey Championships from May 7th through to May 9th in Ottawa. The local Knights are currently working with the organizers of the Championship Games to coordinate our participation in these events. We also invite Districts, Councils and Assemblies from across the province to support these Championships in their communities through a variety of ways. What about adopting a local Athlete who will be going to the Games? or promoting the Games within your area? or holding a Special Olympics flag raising ceremony? just to name a few possibilities. I invite you to get more information on these Games by visiting their website at specialolympics2015floorhockey.com.

To find out more on what the Knights are doing for

Special Olympics across Ontario please visit our website at www.kofcflagrelay.com, or visit the K of C page on the *Special Olympics Ontario* website at www.specialolympicsontario.com/default.asp?contentID=316.

Vivat Jesus. Fraternally, doing during the Games, such as providing volunteers, conducting a Special Olympics Flag Raising Ceremony, providing a Fourth Degree Honour Guard, or carrying in the Special Olympics flag during the Opening Ceremonies.

Councils from across Ontario can also be a part of these Games by supporting their local athletes, through the Adopt An Athlete or Team program, or by promoting the Games throughout their area, be it organizing a Special Olympics Flag Raising Ceremony or by inviting a Special Olympian to speak about the Games at one of your Council meetings.

This year we introduced the position of Area Chairman to help coordinate activities and to serve as a liaison with Special Olympics at the local level. I would like to thank these Area Chairmen for their time and commitment to Special Olympics.

*To become more involved with the Special Olympics program in your area, please visit: **www.specialolympicsontario.com***



In closing, I want to again thank you for your support of Special Olympics and may God bless you for all the good work that you do.

Vivat Jesus!

**Bro. Joe Mathews,
State Special Olympics
Chairman**

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Fourth degree brothers educating our youth and spreading the good word: Is this not also about recruiting? Visibility encourages curiosity/inquiries and interest to join us !!

The Fourth Degree is the visible arm of the Order, which fosters the spirit of Patriotism by promoting responsible citizenship and a love of and loyalty to our country, Canada.

A good example of the principle of Patriotism in action was shown by the Sir Knights of the Fourth Degree on Sunday February 15, 2015, which was the 50th Anniversary of the Canadian Flag.

On that day (Flag Day), and leading up to that day, the Fourth Degree Assemblies in the Second Ontario District recognized this memorable occasion in the history of our country by organizing a number of events and activities, such as: Sir Knights going into the schools, some in full regalia, to make a presentation about the flag to the students and to hand out Canadian flags; Sir Knights discussing flag etiquette to local youth organizations; an Assembly and Council organizing a Flag Day breakfast at the Church; Sir Knights providing an Honour Guard and Colour Guard to bring the Canadian flag into the Church before Mass and distributing Canadian flag pins to the parishioners, just to name a few examples.

To find out more about what the Sir Knights did on Flag Day and what we are doing in the Second Ontario District, please visit our website at www.secondontario.com.

Vivat Jesus!

**Bro. Joe Mathews,
State Special Olympics
Chairman**





The Hour of Prayer Continues for the Knights, Families and Visitors

Immaculate Conception Council 12158

Saint Patrick's Basilica council 12158, Ottawa, was honoured to receive a copy of the Immaculate Conception Icon that traveled for the "Hour of Prayer" program throughout Ontario in 2014. The icon, which is a gift from the Ontario State Council, will be hung near the Basilica's Venerable Michael J. McGivney Honoris.

State Program Director Bill Country and Ottawa District 1 District Deputy Denis Belanger where on hand to make the presentation, on behalf of State, to the Basilica's Rector Fr. Bosco Wong and Council 12158 Grand Knight Brendan Hennigan. Present were also members of Saint Patrick's Basilica council 12158.

The Immaculate Conception icon will be a valued addition to the Basilica's icons and artwork. It is hoped that the icon will become a focal point for private prayer and reflection. The location of the icon is in the area close to Our Lady of Lourdes' Grotto, where summer weekday masses and monthly all night Eucharistic Adoration are held. A dedication plaque, outlining the history of the icon, will be mounted near it. Knights of Columbus Immaculate Conception Marian prayer books will be available for private and group devotions.

The original painting is housed in the Cathedral Basilica Notre-Dame de Quebec, Quebec City. The 40 X 27 inch icon of Our Lady was painted in 1925

by Sister Mary of the Eucharist, of the Quebec based Sisters of Charity. This substituted the original 18th century painting which had been destroyed by fire in 1922.

Council 12158 Grand Knight Brendan Hennigan said "It is an honour for our council to have the gift of the icon and it is hoped that all knights, their families and parishioners will take the opportunity to reflect on the mystery of the Immaculate Conception and God's love for us all. It is appropriate that the Immaculate Conception icon is located near the Venerable Michael J. McGivney Honoris were many parishioners and knights stop and pray."

Council 12158 was presented with the icon at their general meeting on March 10th. A dedication and blessing ceremony was subsequently conducted by Fr. Bosco Wong, Rector of Saint Patrick's Basilica, at the Archdiocesan Knights of Columbus meeting on March 28th.

For more information about the icon, or the Venerable Michael J. McGivney Honoris please contact Grand Knight Brendan Hennigan, or Honoris Director Michael O'Neill.

Email: brendanhennigan@hotmail.com

**Immaculate Conception
Council 12158**



Attached is a photo Of Council 12158 with Immaculate Conception icon. Fr Wong, SPD Bill Country, DD Denis Belanger, GK Brendan Hennigan and council members.

THE POWER OF ONE

“ 1 MEMBER, PER COUNCIL, PER MONTH ”

“ 1 STAR COUNCIL, PER DISTRICT ”

“ 1 NEW COUNCIL PER DIOCESE ”

“ 1 FIRST DEGREE, PER DISTRICT, PER MONTH ”

“ 1 VERBAL CONTACT, PER MEMBER, PER MONTH ”

The Hour of Prayer Continues



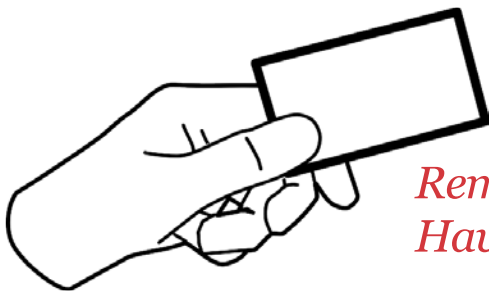


2015 Foundation Charities Lottery

Knights of Columbus Ontario Charity Foundation

Let's Grow our Charities Lottery Program – We're halfway to a great success!!

- Midway results are very promising and some Councils have already sold out. Thank you for your hard work but don't stop selling. Please ask for more tickets and continue to grow our Charities Lottery Program
 - Please get it out there that tickets are available. Send us dates of your event and we will post it on the Ontario State website as well as on Facebook
 - Send us your pictures... we'll post them as well
 - Use the tools available on the Ontario State website to help you with your sales. The Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries have access to: Marketing Tools, Media Scripts, Interview Points and Selling Tips on our website.
 - Don't be afraid to ask – for many, \$5.00 is disposable income.
 - People love taking small risks to win big
 - Many will think of it as a donation and may buy 2, 3 or a book of tickets.
 - Many people buy tickets every year and are waiting for you to sell them a ticket
- These lottery tickets appeal to all... especially the younger generation who love the TV's, laptops, tablets, activity trackers, and TV sound bars as well as the car and cash prizes



*Remember to:
Have tickets on hand... always!!!*

Let's continue to:

Use every opportunity to sell your tickets

If you are running a dinner, dance or any another program remember to have your tickets on hand. Keep all opportunities open! Father Funcken Council 1504 in Kitchener was very successful with their ticket sales at their Basketball Free throw competition.



Create great displays

Great visuals like the display set up St. Paul the Apostle Council 9352 in Alliston will also help you with your sales.



Participate

St. Bernard's Council 13433 Ottawa members were very active in selling their tickets. Make sure that your Council participates. If we sold tickets to all our members and families we would have a sell out!



Support the Arthritis Society

Holy Redeemer Council 9544 in Kanata did a great job of promoting the Arthritis Society at their Sales booth.



...and now let's support Special Olympics Ontario

Funds from this program will help support over 19,000 Special Olympics athletes in Ontario participate in school and community based programs, grow and thrive as individuals. When you support Special Olympics you are changing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities to experience achievement, joy and acceptance.

All Special Olympics Ontario Regional Directors are familiar with our lottery and will help if you ask. Please go to the Special Olympics Ontario website to find the contacts and events in your region.

Let's continue to grow our Lottery Program!

Remember, Knights of Columbus are Catholic gentlemen committed to the exemplification of charity. By selling tickets you are promoting the good works of the Knights, helping the overall sale of tickets, benefiting the Arthritis Society, Special Olympics Ontario and your local charities.... the more you sell the more your local charities benefit. This is what it is ultimately for... to help others with a need.

State Office Lottery Team





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*The Fourth is an Extension of the Third;
Show your Colours!*

Brendan Saunders Vice Supreme Master

Brother Knights,

Have you considered joining the Fourth Degree? During the Months of April, May and June the Fourth Degree will be exemplified in a number of locations across Ontario and we invite you to join us. Fourth Degree members are Knights like yourself, unified to support religious, civic and charitable causes and dedicated to the service of their Church, their country and our Order. Here is a little about Fourth Degree involvement:

For Church...

- Financially supports causes addressing religious, civic and educational needs.
- Promotes active support of the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP) and the Scholarship Program.
- Provides honour guards for the Holy Father on his visits to the countries where the Order exists.
- Provides honour guards to local churches for Masses and ceremonies.

For Country...

- Promotes programs that encourage love of country and supports the application of Christian principles at all levels of government.
- Encourages active participation in programs for Church, country and the Order.
- Sponsors youth essay contests and poster contests geared to patriotic themes.
- Presents free flags to local churches and schools.
- Participates in Remembrance Day and Canada Day events.

- Conducts “Get Out the Vote” awareness campaigns to stress the importance of voting and assists in taking home-bound citizens to the polls.

And The Order...

- Participates at wakes and funerals of members; presents a “Resolution of Condolence” to the family of a deceased member.
- Sponsors a program to commemorate the death of a member by presenting a memorial in the deceased’s name.
- Speaks out against the culture of death, euthanasia and assisted suicide.
- Participates in the annual National March for Life in Ottawa.
- Sponsors Columbian Squires Circles and scout troops.

Are You Qualified?

To qualify for the Fourth Degree you must:

- Be a practical Catholic in Union with the Holy See
- Be over 18 years of age
- Be a citizen of Canada
- Be a Third Degree member in good standing with your council

To learn more about the Patriotic Degree and how to join its ranks, contact us at the link on our website:
www.mcguiganprovincekofc.com

Vivat Jesus!

Brendan Saunders
Vice Supreme Master





The Catholic Register

Arab Knights Reach Out to Holy Land Written by Ruane Remy



Students get ready for the school day at Jerusalem's Greek Catholic Patriarchate School. The Toronto Arab Knights of Columbus council is raising funds to help put students through school. Photo courtesy of Hikmat Dandan.

TORONTO - Toronto's Arab Knights of Columbus are calling on Catholics to help support Christian students in Jerusalem today to ensure the future of Christianity in the Middle East for years to come.

Hikmat Dandan, Grand Knight of Toronto's Jesus The King Arab Christian Council, began this project two years ago when Archbishop Joseph Jules Zerey of Jerusalem addressed members of Jesus The King Melkite Catholic Church.

The archbishop spoke "about the problems that Christians were facing in the Holy Land," said Dandan. "And then he spoke about the school and how parents are not able to cope with the cost of the students."

Dandan is referring to the Greek Catholic Patriarchate School in Beit Sahour founded in 1966. Beit Sahour, which means place of the night watch, was where the angel appeared to the shepherds to announce the birth of Jesus.

"In a way, these students are the great grandchildren of the shepherds who greeted baby Jesus," he said. Dandan launched the Jerusalem Students project to help children who couldn't afford to pay school fees.

"In general the economic situation there is very meagre and very bad. And parents are hardly able to cope with the expenses," said Dandan. "Sahour is mainly a tourist area... Because of all these problems in the Middle East, it has affected the economic situation for the past couple years."

Supporting the education of Christian students will strengthen the Christian presence in the Holy Land, said Dandan.

"When they are successful and they graduate and become university students and they have good businesses, the Christian presence will become stronger."

On the other hand, Dandan says that if a student "is in dire need," he will not succeed and his parents won't have more children because of the challenge of raising just one.

"And the Christian presence will become more meagre."



With the intention of advertising the project to Christians and Knights of Columbus members worldwide, Dandan took his idea to Zerey, who gave his blessing. Then 25 children in need of support were identified by school administrators.

He promoted the project among parishioners and colleagues, and a fellow Knight sponsored a web site, which has been online for about six months. It keeps the students' names anonymous, but includes details on their lives, detailing why they need support.

With about 600 students and 50 teachers, he said, "The school has an annual deficit of \$125,000 (U.S.) ... They are Christian students and the patriarchate cannot tell them you're not paying, leave the school."

One student costs the patriarchate \$800, says Dandan, but he feels that amount is too much to ask for from one individual. So through [www. JerusalemStudents.org](http://www.JerusalemStudents.org), he lists the cost to sponsor one child as \$500 for one year. Two sponsors can also share the financial cost of supporting one student. Sponsors can pay monthly or in one lump sum. And they will receive a profile of the student sponsored, including a photograph and a handwritten letter of thanks from the student.

Currently, nine students have been sponsored. Once all 25 have been sponsored, Dandan will request another list of 25. "In our council, we also have an obligation to help Christians in the Middle East, where Jesus walked and preached in the Holy Land... In 50 years or a little bit more, there will be no more Christians there."

Recalling the Pope's visit to Lebanon last September, "His message was very clear. He asked the faithful all over the world to bolster and strengthen the Christians of the Middle East because they are passing through turbulent times," said Dandan.

"My goal is — and I hope God helps me to do that — this web site becomes well known to faithful Christians all over the world. And not only to sponsor students in Beit Sahour, but to sponsor Christian students everywhere in the Holy Land and in the Middle East in general."

Since launching the project in 2012, Jerusalem Students, won the Supreme Council International Youth service Award in the 131st Supreme Convention in San Antonio Texas in 2013. This project is a practical way in strengthening the Christian presence in The Holy Land as by giving these needy students a chance to get a decent education, go to university, graduate and form successful Christian families, the sponsors are ultimately reversing the diminishing trend of Christians in the land where our Lord Jesus walked and preached otherwise in the next fifty years or so, the Holy Land is going to become museums of Christianity with out any Christians.

Jerusalem Students now has around 40 students sponsored. \$15,000 were transferred in sponsorship to the school in 2014. The majority of sponsors are brother knights and councils and the rest parishioners. The plan is very flexible and very affordable, to sponsor a student, councils, members or parishioners can pay \$500 per year or on a monthly basis only \$42 or even share the sponsorship of a student with another member for \$21 per month. It can be donated from the general account and tax receipts will be issued to sponsors if they need one. Every sponsor will receive a file of his student, including his profile, photo, thank you letter, letter from the school, and letter from the Melkite Catholic Archbishop of Jerusalem and a receipt from the school that the sponsorship has been paid against the student's tuition.

To sponsor or share a student, visit www.jerusalemstudents.org





Columbia, The Online Edition

Hope for Syrian Christians Written by Mike Mastromatteo



Rami Kaai, a member of Jesus the King Arab Christian Council 15045 in Thornhill, Ontario, sits with his wife, Hiyam Kholi, and children, Jad and Naya, inside Jesus the King Melkite Catholic Church. (photo by Nadia Molinari)

As Syrian Christians wait with grim determination for the return of peace and stability after two years of civil war, a Knights of Columbus council half a world away is working steadily on their behalf.

Rami Kaai, financial secretary of Jesus the King Arab Christian Council 15045 in Thornhill, Ontario, is a native of Homs, Syria, one of the hardest-hit areas in the war. Kaai arrived in the Toronto area with his wife and two children in 2006. He is now a member of a newly formed Syrian-Canadian coalition dedicated to supporting Syrian Christians who are struggling for survival.

In addition to standing with Kaai and the coalition's efforts to raise awareness of the turmoil in Syria, Knights at Jesus the King Melkite Catholic Church are engaged in several hands-on projects. Under the leadership of Grand Knight Hikmat Dandan, the recently launched "Food for Syria" program supports displaced and hungry Syrians, while the award-winning "Jerusalem Students" project and the "Churches for Jesus" rebuilding initiative continue to lay foundations for future generations of Christians in the Middle East. Such projects offer concrete ways for the larger Christian community in the West to reach out and help their Eastern brothers and sisters in need.

THE SUFFERING IN SYRIA

Christians have long been an important minority in Syria, composing roughly 10 percent of the country's 22.5 million people. Since the civil war began in March 2012, more than 2 million Syrians — among them some 500,000 Christians — have fled to Lebanon and elsewhere. Kaai and his family immigrated to Canada six years before the violence started. Their relatives and millions of others haven't been as fortunate. Kaai's parents and two of his brothers are now in Lebanon, where Syrian refugees account for roughly a quarter of that country's population.

Kaai recounts harrowing tales of violence, gunfire, ruined churches and abandoned neighborhoods in Homs, which he visited just over three years ago. Although the war had not yet begun, the country was in a state of unrest. Kaai witnessed row upon row of abandoned streets and houses. "Even the church where my wife and I were married is now practically ruined," he said.



Kaai's wife, Hiyam Kholi, also related how, shortly after they emigrated to Canada, she discovered that her parents had been turned out of their home. "I happened to telephone my parents' house in Homs, and instead of getting my mother or father on the line, there was some stranger who told me my parents didn't live there anymore," Kholi said.

She later learned that her parents had made it to a refugee settlement in Lebanon, where they await word on whether they can return to Syria or perhaps obtain a visa for resettlement in Ontario.

Such wrenching experiences are typical of the general hardship confronting Syrians and other Christian communities in the Middle East. The "Arab Spring" movement of 2011 was heralded as a bold push for democratic reform and openness, but for many Christians in Syria and elsewhere, it has only led to strife and suffering. Like their brothers and sisters in Iraq, Syrian Christians have struggled for survival while enduring separated families, destroyed churches and holy places, and the harassment, arrest and kidnapping of clergy.

It is especially significant that Syrian Christians now face such adversity. According to the Syrian-Canadian coalition, Syria was long considered a refuge for Christians fleeing persecution in other parts of the Middle East, since the Christian population there enjoyed more rights and freedom of religion than many other countries in the region. With the onset of the civil war, however, Christians were pressured by both government forces and rebels to take sides in the conflict. Their unwillingness to do so has led to increased attacks on Christian communities and churches by Islamist elements in the rebel alliance.

Syrian Christians have remained neutral throughout the struggle, Kaai explained. "The people there are basically innocent bystanders caught up in the crossfire."

In addition to the 2 million who have fled the

country, the United Nations estimates that 6.5 million Syrian nationals remain either internally displaced or virtually under siege in their own communities. As rebels, the Syrian army and assorted militias battle for control, U.N. sources report that at least 100,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

ARAB COUNCIL OUTREACH

While the international community monitors the situation and weighs its level of involvement, K of C Council 15045 is quietly lending its own brand of assistance. Established in May 2010, the 60-member council seeks opportunities to raise awareness of the plight of Syrian Christians, to provide assistance to refugees, and to fortify the Church in and around the Holy Land.

Dandan and Kaai are among those who actively support the Syrian-Canadian coalition, which has been advocating for easier immigration for Syrian refugees to Canada since last March.

As part of his involvement, Kaai works with the Archdiocese of Toronto's Office of Refugees to lobby the Canadian government to expedite visas for up to 1,300 Syrian refugees. Kaai and his coalition colleagues arranged a meeting in March 2012 with Jason Kenney, Canada's federal immigration minister and a member of St. Albert the Great Council 12446 in Calgary, Alberta, to present their concerns. In response, the Canadian government agreed to the creation of a program for Syrian refugees, similar to an existing initiative for Iraqi refugees.

Dr. Martin Mark, director of the archdiocese's refugee office, recently presented a seminar at Jesus the King Parish to outline the latest developments. He explained the benefits of the "Private Sponsorship of Refugee" program, which allows parishes, religious orders and other groups in the archdiocese to provide assistance. So far, there are at least 166 parishes, 10 religious orders and five other Catholic groups participating in the program.





Debris is seen on the floor of Saydet Al-salam (Our Lady of Peace) Church in Homs, Syria, which was damaged during clashes between Syrian rebels and the Syrian regime in 2012. The Melkite Catholic church is where Rami Kaai and his wife were married and where their two children were baptized. (CNS photo/Yazen Homsy, Reuters)

Mark praised the work of Council 15045: “The Knights’ work assisting refugees shows the strength of brotherhood and the fantastic charity of the Church, which saves lives.”

Grand Knight Dandan has long been concerned about the threats to Christians and places of worship in the Holy Land. He is deeply troubled by the diminishing Christian population in Syria and elsewhere. He fears the Holy Land will become “a museum of Christianity.”

“The situation is by no means a recent concern,” Dandan said. “We’re especially worried that without support from the outside world, we might soon end up with a Holy Land that has no Christians living in it.”

Well before the Syrian civil war and the Arab Spring brought additional unrest, the Middle East saw an exodus of Christians as they fled instability, violence and occasional intimidation by Islamist groups. Now, in addition to a shrinking Christian population, many of the most precious church buildings and artifacts face the threat of ruin or desecration, said Dandan. Even the ancient language Aramaic, spoken by Christ

during his time on earth and still spoken today in the Syrian village of Maaloula, is in danger of extinction as local people look to escape.

In 2010, Council 15045 established its “Jerusalem Students” project — JerusalemStudents.org — to support education and community development in a small town near Bethlehem. Through individual and shared student sponsorships, K of C councils are invited to help Christian students in the Holy Land continue their education in the hope that they will become future leaders in their communities. The program earned Council 15045 the International Youth Service Award at the 131st Supreme Convention this past August. In tandem with its support for Syrian refugees, the council also intends to take up church reconstruction efforts once the crisis improves. Dandan launched the project — ChurchesforJesus.org — in 2000, when he was a member of North York Council 4393, in order to help rebuild a church in Lebanon.

CRADLE OF CHRISTIANITY

Melkite priest Father Georges Farah, pastor of Jesus the King Melkite Catholic Church and a charter member of Council 15045, is in a unique position to appreciate the threats to churches and holy sites in the Middle East. As an authority on the history of Christian Arabs in Syria, Father Farah sees the current situation as part of a long struggle for survival.

According to Father Farah, the majority of the rebel forces now fighting in Syria are from other countries, and in effect are carrying out their jihad, or holy war, in Syria. It is ironic, he added, that Syrian Christians should be under such pressure, considering that the city of Antioch, one of the four cities of the Syrian tetrapolis, is regarded as the cradle of Christianity.

“Christians there have always been peaceful, living in harmony with the Syrian Muslims of all factions, but whenever there was an imbalance or period of unrest, the leaders took it out on the Christian groups, describing them as invaders, even though many of them have been there since the beginning, centuries

“Christians continue to flee countries like Iraq, Egypt, the Holy Land, Lebanon and Syria, driven by wars, conflicts, persecution and the dream of a better world and times for their families,” Father Faddoul explained via email. “The numbers are becoming scary. The Holy Land has only about 50,000 remaining Christians. Lebanon continues to bleed, although it’s the only country in the area where Christians have full freedom and have a say in the political fate of the country, and where the president is Christian.”

Father Faddoul added that Christians throughout the world have a stake in preserving a Christian presence in the Middle East, citing Pope Benedict XVI’s 2012 apostolic exhortation *Ecclesia in Medio Oriente*.

“Pope Benedict XVI pinpointed the fact that the area’s Christians go back to Christ himself and his Apostles,” Father Faddoul said. “As such, they are called to live out their faith freely and truthfully. However, this has not been possible in the light of the consecutive wars and persecutions they have been subjected to in recent decades, especially after the 2003 Iraq invasion and now with the so-called Arab Spring, which has turned out to be a ‘stormy winter’ for the whole region and its inhabitants.”

To offer further assistance, Council 15045 has also established a new initiative, “Food for Syria,” aimed at raising funds to provide basic food staples to Christians in Syria and in refugee camps.

Dandan stated that while the council is dedicated to rebuilding ruined churches once stability returns to Syria, there are pressing needs that must be addressed right now. “We have to take care of human beings first, the stones later,” he said.

Dandan urged the creation of a Food for Syria program and its accompanying website — FoodforSyria.org — which the council is preparing to launch. The goal is to encourage people throughout the world to make small donations,

which will be used to help feed hungry, displaced Syrian Christians.

However the present struggle plays out, Kaai and Dandan will remain resolute in their charitable work, reaching out to those in need in a spirit of solidarity and hope.

“The whole purpose of our outreach efforts is to enlighten brother Knights and others about the suffering of Christians in Syria,” Dandan said. “Our aim is charity, not politics. The ultimate objective is to lessen the suffering.”

The FOOD FOR SYRIA project, launched last year by Jesus, The King Council 15045 in Markham, in collaboration with the Melkite Catholic Patriarchate in Syria, has provided food and medical supplies to more than 1500 families. A new Christmas Wish initiative consists of financing the donation of winter clothes for 2,850 Syrian Children in Qusayr at a cost of \$30 per child.

To aid with these efforts visit foodforsyria.org





Our Charity Reaches Far and Wide

Ottawa Rally Council 14727

On September 14, 2014 Parliament Hill saw a Rally in Support of Persecuted Christians.

Its aim was to urge the Canadian Government to assist in the rescue of Christians caught up in the terrorism spreading across the Middle East especially in Iraq and Syria.

As well it sought to demonstrate to the Media the importance of providing coverage on the plight of these unfortunate minorities and to provide an opportunity for ordinary Canadians to be seen and have their voices heard in regard to this crisis.

The organizers of the rally consisted of Council 14727 Grand Knight Dave Watson accompanied by his wife Lee, Brother Knight Mark Rees and his wife Carroll and two St. Theresa parishioners Keith and Anne Bell. The six were sponsored by Archbishop Terrence Prendergast, with support from the Knights of Columbus donation program.

Although sponsored by the Catholic Church, the rally's speakers were ecumenical in composition including clergy from the Jewish and Muslim faiths, as well as from the United and Lutheran Churches. The Government of Canada was represented by the Honorable Pierre Poilievre, Minister for Democratic Reform and MP Paul Dewar, Critic for Foreign Affairs.

A number of Catholic priests, two of whom represented the Catholic minorities in Syria and Iraq (Syriac and Chaldean) and our Archbishop addressed those present.

From the outset, as organizers, we knew that we needed two things to ensure success: the sponsorship of the Ottawa Archdiocese and, just as importantly, the support of the Knights of Columbus. In regard to the K of C component there were four key tasks required of them: manpower for the set-up of the large tents to provide cover for the signing of petitions and letters of support; as well as help for the signing stations and take down activities at the close of the rally; We also needed crowd control and individuals to act as information officers; lastly we needed to attend to the collection/accounting of the afternoon's donations.

The rally exceeded all of our expectations. Despite threatening skies, over 2,000 concerned Canadians came to the Hill to hear very passionate speeches in support of those innocent Middle East victims. Donations collected by the Knights of Columbus for the benefit of Christians and other persecuted minorities in the troubled areas after the deduction for expenses (sound system, choir and travel expenses of the keynote speakers) reached a total amount of \$3,846. All funds were forwarded to the Knights of Columbus Iraq/Syria relief Fund.





Organizers believed from the very beginning that the Lord was directing our efforts and that He wanted this rally to take place. We did His work to the best of our ability and could not have accomplished it without the support of our Archbishop and Brother Knights. A total of 24 Brother Knights from Council 14727 participated in this event and contributed to its success.

Thank you.
Council 14727



Our Charity Reaches Far and Wide



A Special Day for Canadian Knights

2015 Flag Day

2015 Flag Day was a special day for Canadian Knights. Sunday February 15th marked 50 years since the Canadian flag (the Maple Leaf) was inaugurated at ceremonies in Ottawa and throughout Canada. In Sault Ste. Marie, Sir Knights of Superior Assembly #883 distributed 2,000 Canadian lapel flags at weekend Masses in local and area churches. A short history of the Canadian flag and flag protocol (bulletin 1667) was also distributed. Parishioners expressed gratitude to the Knights for providing this timely and tangible reminder of our heritage.



Photo: Master of the 3rd Ontario District, Len Donnelly and Faithful Navigator, Claude Lacroix, present a pin and pamphlet to a parishioner at St. Jeromes Parish

7 April 2015

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Re: Canada's Current Military Mission in Iraq and Syria

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

I write to commend to you the attached letter signed by the denominational leaders of members of The Canadian Council of Churches.

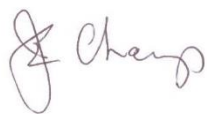
We are troubled by the actions of Islamic State in Iraq and Syria committing atrocities that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. While we applaud the Government of Canada for recognizing the gravity of this situation, we also have serious questions about how Canada is responding.

Our views are informed by deeply rooted beliefs in the sanctity and dignity of human life, the need to protect vulnerable people from atrocities, and cautions about the past ineffectiveness of international military interventions in the region.

We are therefore writing to urge you and the Government of Canada to

- strengthen diplomatic efforts and make them better known so we can discuss these efforts with others in the Middle East;
- increase further humanitarian assistance to the region and provide robust support for refugees, including consulting with the Sponsorship Agreement Holders Association to coordinate the response in Canada;
- support civil society organizations to contribute to peace and social development over the long term;
- reduce the flow of arms to the region; and
- focus on the protection of the rule of law and respect for human rights, especially through inclusive government structures in Iraq and Syria.

Please be assured that churches across Canada continue to hold you and your government in our prayers.



Lt-Colonel Jim Champ
President

Le 7 avril 2015

Le très honorable Stephen Harper
Premier Ministre du Canada
Bureau du Premier Ministre
80, rue Wellington
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Objet: La mission militaire du Canada en Iraq et en Syrie

Monsieur le Premier Ministre,

Je vous écris pour vous présenter une lettre signée par les dirigeants des membres du Conseil canadien des Églises.

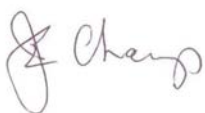
Nous sommes troublés de voir l'État islamique en Iraq et en Syrie commettre des atrocités qui équivalent à des crimes de guerre et à des crimes contre l'humanité. Nous félicitons le Gouvernement du Canada d'avoir reconnu la gravité de la situation, mais nous nous posons aussi de sérieuses questions sur la forme que prend la réaction du Canada.

Notre point de vue s'inspire de convictions profondes sur la sainteté de la vie et de la dignité humaine, sur l'importance de protéger de telles atrocités les populations vulnérables et sur la prudence que suggère l'efficacité qu'ont eue dans le passé les interventions militaires internationales dans la région.

Nous vous écrivons donc pour vous presser, vous-même et le Gouvernement du Canada, de

- multiplier les efforts diplomatiques et de les faire mieux connaître afin que nous puissions en discuter avec d'autres intervenants au Moyen-Orient;
- accroître encore l'aide humanitaire à la région et de fournir un appui robuste aux réfugiés, en consultant notamment l'Association des signataires d'entente de parrainage pour coordonner la réponse au pays;
- soutenir les organisations de la société civile afin de contribuer à la paix et au développement social à long terme;
- réduire l'afflux des armes dans la région; et de
- mettre l'accent sur la protection de l'état de droit et le respect des droits de la personne, en particulier grâce à des structures de gouvernement inclusives en Iraq et en Syrie.

Croyez, Monsieur le Premier Ministre, que les Églises du Canada continuent de prier pour vous et votre gouvernement.



Lieutenant-colonel Jim Champ
Président

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