

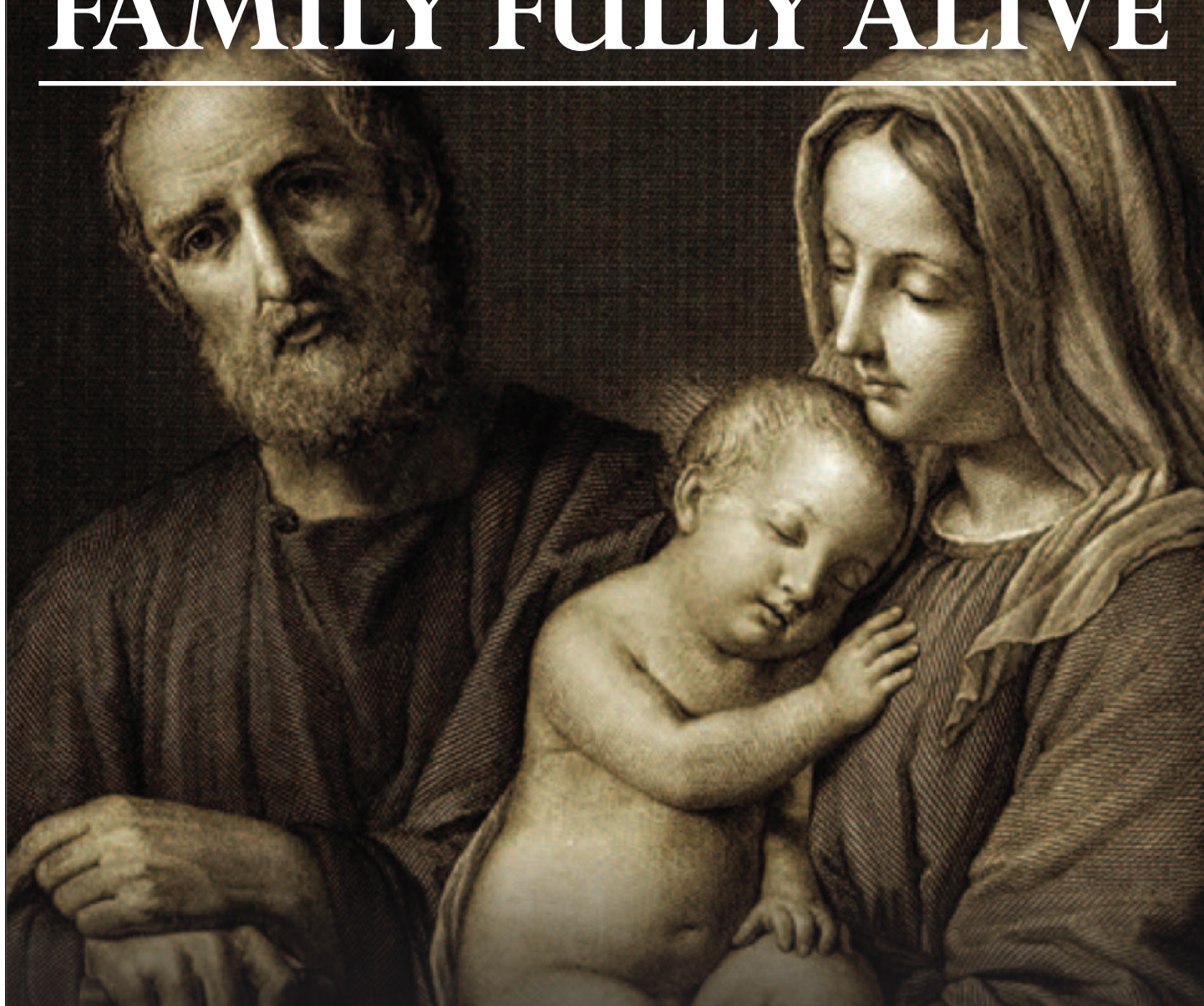


KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

ONLINE BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2015
DÉCEMBRE 2015

— LOVE IS OUR MISSION —
FAMILY FULLY ALIVE



— L'AMOUR NOTRE MISSION —
LA FAMILLE BIEN VIVANTE!



*May you receive the blessings that
come along with the coming of our
Saviour*

Mgr Marcel Damphousse State Chaplain

Dear brother Knights and families,

Many families at Christmas time and New Year's, put lots of effort to get together, to share a meal and exchange gifts. Sometimes, some travel long distances and sacrifice time and money to please others.

Knowing too well that the reality of our families are not always easy, these holy days can still be wonderful occasions for God's grace to help us create precious moments such as reconciliation after a long dispute, or the occasion to come back home after a long absence.

Family and family ties have an important place in our Christian perspective. Founded on love, family provides to its members (spouses, parents and children, brothers and sisters) a golden opportunity to surpass ourselves and witness to the power of Christ living within each of us.

When one chooses to follow Christ, relations are most likely to grow and do good.

I know that family has a special place in the heart of a Knight of Columbus.

It is why I pray that this Christmas may be for you a true occasion to receive the blessings that come along with the coming of our Saviour.

*Just like Jesus himself needed
a family at his birth, let us be
conscious of the precious gift our
family is or could be for all of its
members.*

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Holy New Year!

Mgr Marcel Damphousse
Bishop elect of Sault Ste. Marie
Ontario State Chaplain





*Recevez les bénédictions qui viennent
avec la venue de notre Sauveur*

Mgr Marcel Damphousse Aumônier d'État

Chers frères Chevaliers et familles,

À l'occasion des fêtes de Noël et du Jour de l'An, plusieurs familles font un effort de se rassembler, de partager un repas et de se partager des cadeaux.

Parfois, certains d'entre eux voyagent de longues distances et sacrifient temps et argent pour plaire à tous. Sachant bien que la réalité familiale n'est pas toujours facile, ces jours saints sont tout de même des jours de grâces qui favorisent des moments précieux, tels que la réconciliation après une longue chicane ou l'occasion de revenir au bercail après une longue absence.

La famille et les liens familiaux ont une place toute importante dans la perspective chrétienne. Fondée sur l'amour, la famille donne à ses membres (époux, parents et enfants, frères et sœurs) une opportunité en or pour se surpasser et témoigner de la puissance du Christ qui vit en chacun d'entre eux.

En suivant et aimant le Christ, les relations ne peuvent que grandir et faire le bien.

Puisque la famille prend une place spéciale dans le cœur d'un Chevalier de Colomb, je prie que ce Noël soit l'occasion pour vous tous de recevoir les bénédictions qui viennent avec la venue de notre Sauveur.

*Comme Jésus lui-même avait
besoin d'une famille à sa venue
en ce monde, soyons nous-mêmes
conscients du don précieux qu'est
notre famille ou de ce qu'elle
pourrait être pour tous ses
membres.*

Je vous souhaite tous un Joyeux Noël et une Sainte Année!

Mgr Marcel Damphousse
Évêque élu de Sault Ste-Marie
Aumônier d'État de l'Ontario



Build the Domestic Church and Strengthen Parish Life

Alain Cayer State Deputy

Here we are, days into December and already, we are busy preparing to celebrate the birth of our Savior, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

His journey started like many of ours, by being a young boy and growing up into a teenager and suddenly began to preach in synagogues. Many people started to follow Him so that they could listen to what he had to say. He then recruited some 12 apostles, this was so that they too would continue to spread His words. As people listened, they started to understand what he was teaching and many decided to change their lives to be able to follow the Lord. More than 2000 years later, many still convert, many others find it important to baptize their children, raise them in our Church and by doing so, our Church grows.

This is very similar to our Order. Father McGivney had a vision of something much bigger than himself. To do something good for others, he approached catholic men from his Church and expressed his vision to help protect widows and orphans, and our Order was created. Today, if we want to continue to grow, we must recruit so we can continue the good work that is needed in our communities, Churches, and parishes.

Star Council awards: To demonstrate the importance of this award, during the State Deputies mid-year meeting in San Antonio Texas, our Supreme Knight announced that again this year, any council that qualifies and receives the Star Council award, will be

eligible for a per capita discount of \$4.50 per paying member.

Can you imagine that, for a council of 100 members, this would represent a \$450.00 rebate that could go to support a charity, help the needy or any other great cause your council participates in. Does your council qualify? It is a proven fact that 95% of councils already organize enough programs to complete the SP7 application which helps in meeting your quotas of new and insured members.

Only a few steps are missing; which are paying your per capita to Supreme and State, and confirming your forms 1728 and 365 have been filed.

This past year, Ontario State had 44 Star Council Awards and we want more this year. We want to help you achieve this status, so if in need, please don't hesitate to ask one of your State Board officers, State Directors or Chairmen. We want your success!

Impressive milestones were reached in November.

First, the Order reached 100 billion dollars of insurance in force, and, later in the month we welcomed our 1.9 millionth member. Being part of a solid, worldwide organization with this amount of members working together to do good where it is





Build the Domestic Church and Strengthen Parish Life

Alain Cayer State Deputy

needed, and all of us can sleep well at night because we have secured our families with our well-funded insurance company is a wonderful gift. I know we are part of the best organization, and it is our duty to introduce this gift to others.

“Our Mission to build the Domestic Church and Strengthen Parish Life” is how Supreme Knight Carl Anderson’s opened our State Deputies Mid-Year meeting and followed up by explaining his vision. For example, the Knights initiated one of the largest vocations programs in history. Through our Refund Support Vocation Program and scholarships, we have provided \$68 million to more than 115,000 men and women pursuing their vocations.

Also, the Order will begin to move away from establishing councils dependant of home corporations; instead we will promote parish based councils aligned with Father McGivney’s original vision of the Order.

A greater focus on Programs that will include more family member activities. We must realize that when council members work hard running activities to create revenue to offset costs of their buildings, they are not doing Knights work as to help their church, communities, youth, and families. We need to switch this direction of thoughts.

As we are days away from Christmas, we are always in the mood to give and receive.

We go out purchasing gifts for our loved ones, buying a little something for the neighbour who helps with the snow, or the bus driver who has the responsibility of transporting your children to and from school. We love to give as a sign of appreciation. But, let’s not forget we like to receive as well.

As givers, why not give a gift that can change the life of that special person, let’s give the gift of membership. It’s free and it has benefits. I appreciate this gift my father gave me when I was 18 years old, as it has changed my life for the best.

*Try it, and you will cherish the
feeling you will get from giving.*

From my wife Sheryl, my family and myself, I would like to wish all of you and your families a wonderful, warm, and Merry Christmas, and wish you: health, prosperity, and success for 2016!

Vivat Jesus!

Alain Cayer
State Deputy



Bâtir l'Église domestique et renforcer la vie paroissiale en français

Alain Cayer Député d'État

Nous voici rendus au début de décembre et déjà nous sommes occupés à nous préparer pour célébrer la naissance du Sauveur, notre Seigneur Jésus Christ.

Son parcours a débuté comme la plupart de nous en étant un jeune garçon, il est devenu adolescent et s'est soudainement mis à prêcher dans les synagogues. Beaucoup de personnes se sont mis à le suivre afin d'écouter ce qu'il avait à dire. Il a ainsi recruté 12 apôtres afin qu'ils puissent continuer à propager Ses paroles. Alors que les gens écoutaient, ils ont commencé à comprendre ce qu'Il enseignait. Plusieurs ont décidé de convertir leur vie pour être ainsi en mesure de suivre le Seigneur. Quelque deux mille ans plus tard, plusieurs continuent à se convertir et plusieurs autres trouvent important de faire baptiser leurs enfants, de les élever dans la foi de notre Église et, ce faisant, notre Église grandit.

Ceci est très similaire pour notre Ordre. Le Père McGivney avait une vision de quelque chose de beaucoup plus grand que lui-même. Pour faire ce quelque chose de bien pour les autres, il a approché des hommes catholiques de l'Église, leur a exprimé sa vision d'aider et de protéger les veuves et les orphelins et ainsi notre Ordre fut fondé. Aujourd'hui, nous continuons à vouloir grandir, nous devons recruter pour être en mesure de continuer le bon travail nécessaire dans nos communautés, nos églises et nos paroisses.

Prix pour les Conseils Étoiles. Afin de démontrer l'importance de ces prix, durant notre réunion mi-mandat des Députés d'État à San Antonio Texas, le Chevalier Suprême a annoncé que cette année encore, tout Conseil qui qualifie et reçoit le prix du Conseil Étoile, se verra octroyé un rabais de 4,50\$ par membre payant. Imaginez pour un Conseil de 100 membres, ceci équivaut à 450\$ qui pourraient être dirigés vers une œuvre de charité de votre choix, ou pour aider des gens dans le besoin ou encore pour n'importe quelle grande cause auquel participe votre Conseil. Qu'a-t-on besoin pour se qualifier? Il est prouvé que 95% des Conseils organisent déjà suffisamment de programmes pour la demande SP-7, il y a donc l'atteinte des quotas de vos nouveaux membres et d'assurances, d'avoir payé le per capita au Suprême et à l'État, et d'expédier les formulaires 365 et 1728. La dernière année, quarante-quatre (44) Conseils ont atteint cette reconnaissance importante et cette année, nous en voulons encore plus. Nous voulons vous aider à atteindre cette marque de reconnaissance, alors si vous avez besoin, s'il-vous-plait, veuillez demander de l'aide à un officier du Bureau d'État, à un Directeur d'État ou à un Président de programme. Nous voulons votre succès!

Le mois de novembre a été un excellent mois pour l'atteinte de buts particuliers pour notre organisation.





Bâtir l'Église domestique et renforcer la vie paroissiale en français

Alain Cayer Député d'État

Premièrement, l'Ordre a atteint 100 milliards de dollars d'assurance en vigueur et un peu plus tard, durant le mois, nous avons souhaité la bienvenue à notre 1,9 millionième membre. Faire partie d'une organisation mondiale avec un tel montant de membres qui fait beaucoup de bien là où c'est nécessaire et bien dormir la nuit parce que nous sécurisons nos familles avec notre compagnie d'assurance de premier plan, je sais alors que nous faisons partie de la meilleure organisation et nous nous devons de la faire connaître aux autres.

“Notre mission: Bâtir l'Église domestique et renforcer la vie paroissiale”. Le Chevalier Suprême Carl Anderson a ouvert notre réunion mi-mandat des Députés d'États avec cet énoncé et il a expliqué sa vision.

Par exemple, nous avons créé un des plus grand programmes de vocation de l'histoire. Par le biais de notre Programme de Remboursement pour l'Appui aux Vocations (RSVP) ainsi qu'avec nos bourses d'études, nous avons donné au moins 68 millions de dollars, à plus de 115 000 hommes et femmes qui poursuivent leur vocation.

De plus, l'Ordre commencera à s'éloigner de l'établissement des Conseils dépendant de corporations; plutôt nous ferons la promotion de Conseils paroissiaux en lien avec la vision originale de l'Ordre, du Père McGivney. Une plus grande attention vis-à-vis des programmes qui incluront plus d'activités pour les membres et leur famille. Nous devons réaliser que lorsque les membres de Conseil travaillent fort à produire des activités pour créer des revenus pour contrer les coûts

de leur bâtiment, ils ne font pas le travail des Chevaliers qui consistent à aider leur église, communauté, jeunesse et famille. Nous avons besoin de changer cette façon de penser.

Alors que nous ne sommes qu'à quelques jours de Noël, nous demeurons toujours dans l'esprit de donner et de recevoir. Nous sortons acheter des cadeaux pour ceux que nous aimons, un petit quelque chose à notre voisin qui nous aide avec la neige, ou pour le conducteur d'autobus qui a la responsabilité de transporter notre enfant, ou nos enfants, sur le trajet de l'école. Nous aimons donner comme signe d'appréciation, mais, ne l'oublions pas, nous aimons tous aussi recevoir.

Comme donneurs, pourquoi ne pas offrir un cadeau qui peut changer la vie de cette personne spéciale; donnons donc le cadeau de l'adhésion comme membre. C'est gratuit et il y a des bénéfices. J'apprécie ce cadeau que mon père m'a donné lorsque j'avais 18 ans, alors que cela a changé ma vie pour le meilleur. Essayez-le, et vous apprécierez ce sentiment que vous aurez de donner.

De la part de mon épouse Sheryl, de ma famille et de moi-même, je voudrais vous souhaiter à tous, ainsi qu'à vos familles, un merveilleux et chaleureux Joyeux Noël, de même que la santé, la prospérité et beaucoup de succès pour 2016!

Vivat Jesus!

Alain Cayer
Député d'État





Where are you?

Kevin Daudlin Immediate Past State Deputy

The fraternal year is now half over. Where are you at this point? Has your council conducted at least one first degree?

Are you attending and taking part in district and Diocesan Association/Zone activities? Have you recruited a new member? If you haven't, there is still time.

In August 2016 we will be welcoming the Knights of Columbus World to Ontario. This is our year to put our best foot forward and return to the circle of honour.

But it takes a team effort where each and every member participates. Last year we were so close and with our new quota this year, our new goals are certainly achievable.

It all starts with you! We have over 530 councils in Ontario and 113 districts.

Therefore we should have a minimum of 113 Star Councils. Wouldn't it be a surprise to the rest of the order to discover that every single council in Ontario met this goal and set a new milestone?

We are here to help. Over the next few months members of the State Board and other team leaders will be contacting you to be part of an elite training team on either membership and/or programs.

We want to see all of you succeed and will give you the tools to do it.

Through this effort we will find you all and assist you to shine in your parish and community. Please do not be the one council at the end of the fraternal year when all of the Knights in Ontario ask "Where are you?"

Vivat Jesus!

**Kevin Daudlin, KCHS
Immediate Past State Deputy,
Ceremonial Director**





Take some time to reflect and think of those who are less fortunate

Peter Lemon State Secretary

My Brother Knights

As we start this festive season of Christmas, we should take some time to reflect and think of those who are less fortunate. Although we live in one of the greatest Countries in the world, there are many who have a hard time putting food on the table on a daily basis.

We, as our Brothers keepers, have an obligation to assist those to the best of our abilities. It may not be financially, but, to take the time and effort to comfort those who are less fortunate can go a long way to making their lives better.

Within our Councils and Parish communities, we should organize support to those who are less fortunate, maybe through a hamper program, or collecting gently used clothing to keep them warm, as the weather turns colder.

As Knights, we have a great opportunity to, as Pope Francis speaks so eloquently, on helping those who cannot help themselves. Sometimes, it can be something as simple as visiting our Family or, taking the time to visit our Brothers who may be in nursing homes or extended care facilities.

Learning how they are doing and spending the time to cheer them up, just with your presence.

One of the guiding principles of the order is Charity. This is not just to those outside of your family but also your family and your Brother Knights.

Sometimes we just overlook this simple thing. Our Family and Brothers need our help just as much as the stranger in the community.

Take the time this Christmas and make sure that they are welcomed within our homes and our Councils.

On behalf of my wife Beverly and myself may we extend to each and every one of you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Holy New Year.

Peter Lemon
State Secretary





From the State Treasurer's Desk

David Peters State Treasurer

My dear Brother Knights

As we approach the close of this calendar year, we are inclined to look back upon our achievements... and our shortcomings... and attempt to prepare ourselves for an improvement in our overall attitudes during the upcoming year.

We must not fall into the trap of only evaluating our material successes (and failures) but we should always be cognizant of our spiritual development and how that might be improved.

As your State Treasurer, I have to examine our Order's "financial health" and do whatever I can to encourage you to expend any additional effort that might be necessary in order to "keep the ship afloat". To this end I bring to your attention a few items and ask that you assist me in improving the current status and helping me put the State's financial standing on a solid footing as we enter 2016.

The per capita payments must be brought up to date. My Brothers, I cannot over-emphasize the importance of this. Invoices have long since been prepared and distributed but still, for some reason or other, there is an inordinate number of Councils still in arrears. I ask each and every "Brother in authority" to attend to this matter without delay.

The time for 2016 invoicing is upon us already so let us not allow our Councils to slip any further behind in their commitment and responsibility.

The State Charities Lottery has been addressed; changes to the prize structure and number of tickets printed (and the method of distribution) have been made. The sale of these tickets and timely remittance of the proceeds is up to you. In the past you have been made aware of the importance of this lottery so I will not dwell on it here. Once tickets are received by your Councils, let's "roll up our sleeves" ... don't delay ... and strive to make this year's lottery a sell-out.

Finally, my Brothers, I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you ... and all whom you hold dear ... a very holy, happy and blessed Christmas. May the joy and peace of The Spirit fill you and stay with you throughout the coming year!

Vivat Jesus!

Fraternally

David Peters
State Treasurer





Home Corporations

Marcel Lemmen State Advocate

Home Corporations

Over the years, many councils have established Home Corporations to build and manage permanent facilities such as halls or other gathering spaces. These facilities are used by councils for their meetings and to host charitable and fraternal programs for the church and community.

In recent years these facilities have become expensive to maintain and many Home Corporations are struggling to raise the funds to do so as they compete with hotels and banquet facilities for rentals. Financial struggles strain the relationship between councils and Home Corporations and often lead to difficulties.

To avoid difficulties, in 2014 the Supreme Council established a policy requiring written agreements governing terms of use and charitable distributions. A "Handbook for Councils Using Home Corporation Facilities" was published that contains background information, instructions and template agreements.

In the upcoming months, councils that use Home Corporation facilities will be asked to enter into legal agreements with the corporation.

The reason for this is to protect both the council and corporation in the event of a dispute and provide

mechanisms for resolving disputes without having to involve the State or Supreme Advocates. The content of the agreements address the most common issues between councils and corporations.

Please note that these agreements in no way involve the Ontario State Council or the Supreme Council. In fact, they are designed to avoid our involvement as much as possible by empowering councils and Home Corporations to solve problems on their own. We are in the process of surveying the councils in Ontario to determine which ones are associated with Home Corporations so that we can send the Grand Knights the "Handbook for Councils Using Home Corporation Facilities".

Resolutions

I would like to remind councils that the deadline for submitting resolutions for the 2016 Ontario State Convention is January 15, 2016. The resolutions template is available under Forms in the Officers menu on the Ontario State web site. After the council has approved the resolution it should be sent to the Ontario State Office.

Marcel Lemmen
State Advocate





*It's time to take inventory of a
summary of some of our activities*

Bruce Poulin State Warden

Half of the fraternal year has passed and it's time to reflect on some of our activities.

Squires:

This past September, I had the good fortune of participating in a Squires Camp which included an initiation ceremony for new Squires as well and the installation of the Provincial Board. It was there that I witnessed first-hand, the camaraderie and leadership development of these young men. Brothers, I believe that the Squires are fulfilling their duty to the Church and the Knights of Columbus in a manner that is faithful to the ideals of Father Michael J. McGivney.

They deserve our support in time and money.

Let us never forget that – we have a moral obligation to ensure that every Catholic Man is a member of the Knights of Columbus it also means, in the same way, we need to support the Columbian Squires thereby ensuring a positive impact in our communities for many years to come.

The Fr. McGivney Guild:

At the beginning of the fraternal year, at the District Deputies meeting, I made an appeal to all DDs present to register for the Guild and I was pleased to see that virtually everyone present agreed to register for this worthy cause. At our last District Deputy meeting this past November, I distributed a package with several items of interest to each and every District Deputy thanks to the custodians of the Honoris at Saint Patrick's Basilica in Ottawa.

This package also contained useful information for anyone wishing to support the Guild: a prayer card supporting the canonization of Father McGivney, the Guild's purpose, objectives, and means of support, as well as a schedule of masses held at St. Patrick's Basilica in Ottawa where the Honoris is held. It also includes a description of the third class relic of Fr. McGivney which can be viewed at the Honoris.

This package, which is readily available from the committee of the Honoris, is specifically designed to inform anyone interested in supporting the Honoris as well as providing concrete steps on how one can become involved and join the Guild.





It's time to take inventory of a summary of some of our activities

Bruce Poulin State Warden

It is worth repeating that the more members that belong to the guild – including spouses, children, relatives, friends and neighbours – the greater the support for the cause of Venerable Father McGivney. With your support the Pope might elevate him to Sainthood. So let's show our appreciation and register for the guild – which is free!

You can commit by registering at:
www.fathermcgivney.org.

The Syrian Refugee Crisis

Unlike the Syrian economic refugees walking through Europe, most of the Christian Syrian refugees are located in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey and they represent the poorest of the poor.

Lacking money to travel to Europe, lacking higher education or easily transferable skill sets, they have nothing to barter, and they rely almost entirely on the generosity of other citizens of the world for their subsistence. Their only crime is that they are Christian, they seek peace rather than war, and hope rather than despair.

Their plight calls to our humanity and we, as Knights of Columbus, should respond to this plea. And I am pleased to say that the Knights of

Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund has already contributed more than \$4.5 million to help so far. But we can do more! And many brother knights want to do more!

Councils may help by participating in the Order's Solidarity Cross program. Individuals can also help directly by visiting: www.christiansatrisk.org and make a direct contribution.

The most important fact here is that 100% of all monies contributed goes directly to raising awareness and providing support to persecuted Christians in the Middle East and elsewhere. The KofC is assuming all administrative costs.

So let us, as Brother Knights, give generously and show that we care for the persecuted Christians in the Middle East – especially those from Syria as a result of the current Syrian refugee crisis.

Vivat Jesus!

**Bruce Poulin
State Warden**



A Portfolio of Protection

The Knights of Columbus offers a full-line of quality, flexible products backed by our top-rated financial strength* to help protect your Catholic family.


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State Warden
Bruce Poulin





*Thank you Ontario Brother
Knights for the years of support!*

Nat L. Gallo PSD, KCsSG, FVSM, FSD and Assistant to the SK.

Worthy Brothers and friends,

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all brothers, especially the Ontario Knights for their support and cooperation during my tenure in various leadership roles.

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve initially at the Council level and District level. This was followed by serving State Deputies in different portfolios and eventually as State Board Officer in all its offices, from State Warden to State Deputy.

I was fortunate to have a good working relationship with Ontario Knights at all these levels, and appreciate the rewarding experiences.

As a result, I was then appointed Vice Supreme Master for the Cardinal McGuigan Province and had the challenge and opportunity to lead the Fourth Degree in Ontario and Manitoba.

Further to that, I was elected as Supreme Director and then appointed by the Supreme Knight as his Assistant for Canadian Affairs. This gave me the experience of meeting brothers throughout the Order and especially our Canadian Jurisdictions.

Since at Supreme positions are not renewable after the age of 70, my assignment was completed at the end of August 2015.

However, rest assured that my commitment to serve the Order and to assist in any way that I am able remains a priority. I have offered my services to the Canadian State Deputies and am willing to offer my experience to any brother and his family.

For your information, the individual elected at the 2015 Supreme Meeting is the former Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, Graydon Nichols. He has joined our only other Canadian Supreme Director, Larry Kustra from Manitoba.

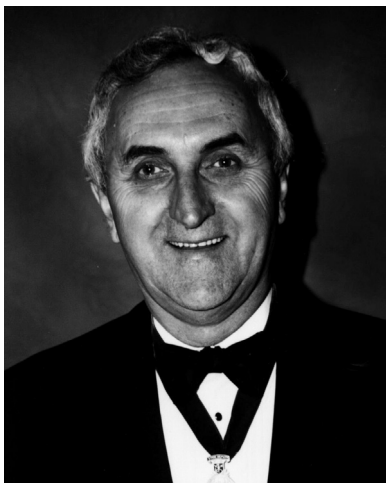
It is my hope that in the near future Ontario will regain a directorship as well.

I urge every member to work diligently to regain the leadership that we have traditionally held in our Province.

Thank you to each and everyone,

Vivat Jesus!

**Nat L. Gallo,
PSD, KCsSG, FVSM, FSD and
Assistant to the SK.**



Membership Is Everyone's Business

Armand Martin, PSD Council Retention Chairman

Retention begins during the recruitment process. The more a man knows about the Order, the greater his interest in the Knights of Columbus will be.

Even the best recruitment efforts are worthless if a council can't keep its current members.

If an active member has stopped attending meetings, a council representative or his proposer should call to inquire if he is well, and to let him know he has been missed and is needed.

The District Deputy should pay close attention to any councils exhibiting problem characteristics - council under suspensions for non payment of Supreme Council assessments and councils that are not suspended but are showing "warning signs" including:

- low membership (less than 30 members)
- failure to add at least one new member per year

Membership is everyone's business. There are many eligible Catholic men who have never been asked to join with us in supporting our programs.

It could be a relative, friend or neighbour. Many will join if asked and even if at first they say no, ask again.

Give all catholic men you know the opportunity to practice their faith by joining the Knights of Columbus. Invite them to share with us the joy of helping those in need and by working together as Catholic men in our communities and church to fulfill the Gospel message.

YES, We are proud to belong to the best Catholic, Family Service Organization in the world today.

*As Knights of Columbus members
we should recruit as never before
and share the job of membership.*

We are fast approaching the beautiful family feast of Christmas. This special time when we recall the birth of Christmas. This special time when we recall the birth of our Lord and Saviour. As Thérèse and I celebrate this special occasion we extend our best wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our brother knights and their families.

Armand Martin, PSD
Council Retention Chairman

Vivat Jesus!

Armand Martin, PSD
Council Retention Chairman





A Message From Your Ontario State Church Chairman

John P Semaan **ON State Church Chairman** **Vocations-RSVP Program**

The RSVP Program is the perfect way to help our dedicated men/women studying towards Priesthood or Vows as Nuns. Each \$500 donation will get the sponsoring Council a \$100 Refund from Supreme (up to \$400 Refund for each person sponsored). Participating in the Supreme Form #2863 RSVP Program will also fulfill the "Church Activities" category of the SP-7 Columbian Award Application, since it counts for the full 4 Church Activities in the SP-7 Columbian Award Application: it's a Win-Win situation.

As you know, many of our Ontario Councils have been generous in their support of our Seminarians via the RSVP Program. But, many Councils are not even aware that sponsoring women who are studying towards their Vows as Nuns is also an option available via the Supreme RSVP Application (please refer to the Instructions of the RSVP Application, which states this clearly). As you may also know, the course of study from start to Final Vows is 7 to 8 years for these dedicated women studying towards their goal of becoming Nuns to service our Church and communities.

Should your Council wish to help a Seminarian or a woman studying towards her Vows as a Nun, please contact me if your council does not have the name of a particular Seminarian or a particular woman studying towards her Vows as a Nun, and I will provide your Council with particular contact information in this regard.

Also, please note that the best time to sponsor a Seminarian or a woman studying towards her Vows as a Nun is in the middle of the study year-during Fall/Winter, before Spring.

Although the RSVP Form #2863 is due for filing by June 30, the sponsorship should occur months before that, if possible.

Remember, without our Priests and Nuns there would be no Catholic Church, and without our Catholic Church, there is no Knights of Columbus. Let us all support these dedicated men and women via the Knights of Columbus RSVP Program.

Thank You and Sincerely,

John P Semaan,
ON State Church Chairman
Vocations-RSVP Program

(519) 977-8764 (Windsor, ON).





How to grow and strengthen your council

Mario Duguay State Program Director

Brother Knights,

A council needs to give its members a sense of belonging and to attract Prospects we must give them a good reason to join.

To keep members from losing interest they need a variety of activities to choose from and an opportunity to volunteer – that is why they joined!

The key to success is your service programs, they are essential to a council's success. Effective programs will strengthen your council by creating active members. This will bring membership growth and result in fewer suspensions.

This can be achieved by increasing community and family activities and by being visible.

A well-tuned Service Program is focused to the needs of the local church, community, council, families, youth and members.

Remember that every council is different - what works for one may not work for others. In addition, circumstances change, so what worked yesterday may not work today!

When was the last time your council did a reality check and evaluated the success of your programs? Are they still effective or is it time to change them?

Remember to take good care of your new members and acknowledge their presence.

Present them with a token of appreciation, for example: a baseball cap, a T-Shirt or polo with the Order's emblem and council's name and number.

At a minimum, give them a certificate when they complete their first degree.

A successful council gives their new members a sense of belonging by offering transportation to council meetings, by answering their questions and by making sure they are properly introduced.

This is how you make them feel welcome. Being a Big Brother to a Brother! Get them involved in what they are interested in.

Don't forget about your members who have been with your council for years and are no longer attending your meetings or activities.





How to grow and strengthen your council

Mario Duguay State Program Director

There might be a valid reason why they are not attending.

Maybe they are sick or unable to drive. Take the time and call members you have not seen in a while and make sure they are ok.

You need to make them feel important because they are. They probably dedicated hundreds of hours in volunteer work over the years and now may be the time they need your support the most.

Don't let them down in their time of need.

During the Christmas season let's stop and reflect on what Father McGivney accomplished by founding the Knights of Columbus.

His vision is responsible for the good work we all do for our community, church, family youth and councils.

Now, imagine a world without the Knights and the impact it would have on the world.

We need to remember the commitment we all made when we joined the Order and work to make it grow bigger and stronger.

My wife and I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mario Duguay
State Program Director





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Active councils are successful councils

Jerry Hayes **State Awards Chairman**

Active councils are successful councils.

If you asked other councils that received “Star Council” recognition this past year what their secret to success is, their answer no doubt would be “PROGRAM ACTIVITIES”.

Activity breeds success. The more activities and charitable works that councils undertake in their parish and community, the more people will see and appreciate all that the Knights of Columbus are able to achieve. With this in mind, it is not too early to plan for “Star Council” success for the upcoming fraternal year. Councils will however, have to plan their activities in such a manner as to ensure that they reach their “Star Council Destination” in a timely fashion. Think about it along the lines of planning a long trip. If you have no idea where you are going when you start the trip, how do you know that you will arrive at a successful destination?

With this in mind both the Ontario State and Supreme web-sites provide direction on how to plan for “Star Council Success”.

Below you will find links to sites that will help you get started on your journey

http://www.kofc.org/un/en/forms/council/state_serviceaward_p.pdf

http://www.ontariokofc.ca/?page_id=884

<http://www.kofc.org/un/en/service/council/awards/star.html>

Undertaking activities generates interest among existing members, and makes your council more desirable for new members to join. New members bring new life to a council by bringing new ideas with them. It's a circular process where everyone wins because these ideas benefit the council and its' existing members, as well as the new member, the parish, and the community as a whole. You can quickly see that everyone wins.

Over the next few months councils are encouraged to strive to attain both State and Supreme award recognition and promote programs that really highlight a membership component. Please provide us with your feedback regarding your success which we can promote or publish on our web-site to share with others.

Your programs are for your membership, --- and your membership growth will grow your programs even further.

Jerry Hayes
State Awards Chairman





Your feedback is important to us!

David Gelinas State Retention Director

Brother Knights,

I spend much of my time communicating with Grand Knights, District Deputies, Financial Secretaries, retention committees and with some individual members.

I wish to take this opportunity and communicate directly to all 55,434 brother knights in Ontario.

We understand that no member joined us just to pay dues each year and every member was attracted to join the family of Knights for other reasons.

I want to know if each member is being contacted more than just once per year from anyone else beside your Financial Secretary reminding you of your dues, therefore, please take a moment to answer these questions:

Are you satisfied with your council executive and the programs they provide?

Do you receive a monthly council bulletin that keeps you updated with your council's activities?

Are you receiving phone calls from your council on a regular basis (min. twice per year) to keep you updated?

When you joined the Order, did your family receive a visit from the council's welcoming committee?

Have you attained your full knighthood and received your 2nd & 3rd degree?

Has your Grand Knight invited you and kept you updated on all upcoming degrees?

Are you aware that our Order's insurance company has received the highest rating from A.M. Best for the past 40 years and been awarded the most ethical company from Ethisphere Institute for the past 2 years?

Have you recently learned what free benefits you have with your membership and what other protection the Order can provide to your family?

If not, your field agent can explain what free benefits you already have and those available to your family, including any financial planning, at no charge to you.





Your feedback is important to us!

David Gelinas State Retention Director

If you answered NO to any of the preceeding questions, I suggest you contact your Grand Knight or District Deputy and ask them why you're not being kept informed or invited to events.

State Deputy Alain Cayer, your State officers and directors want you to be satisfied with your membership in the Order.

Please contact brother Alain or myself for any other concerns you have.

Toll-free (519-733-5359)
or david4kcknights@hotmail.com

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a joyous and healthy New Year.

Fraternally,

David Gelinas
State Retention Director

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*“Under His Guidance –
We Faithfully Serve”*

Joe Bodnar State Squires Director

This year's Columbian Squires Ontario Provincial Board theme “Under His Guidance – We Faithfully Serve” takes on a new meaning during the Christmas season.

This is the time of year when we as Squires and Knights takes extra steps to help the less fortunate in our parish and local communities.

Whether it is providing a Christmas Dinner to the homeless, helping out a family with gifts for their children or just simply smiling at someone on the street our actions as Knights and Squires do not go unnoticed.

The way we treat others during the Christmas season will go a long way to encourage others to follow in our footsteps.

Each year the Provincial Board spends \$25.00 each on a gift exchange with another Board member. This year the Board decided that instead of buying each other a gift we would donate the money to a needy seminarian at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto.

We donated \$275.00 and at the recent December District Deputy meeting we asked the State Board to follow our example and the \$835.00 in raffle money that was collected at the dinner was also donated.

This money will be donated to help make a couple of Seminarian's Christmas holidays more special.

The second initiative the PB participated in the same weekend was to serve the meal and wash the dishes for the St. Joseph the Worker CWL Annual Turkey dinner in Oshawa.

This was a great way for the PB to faithfully serve another organization that also does great things within the local and parish community.

The third initiative the PB was able to accomplish came with the help of Squires and Counsellors at our recent Squires Convention in May.





*“Under His Guidance –
We Faithfully Serve”*

Joe Bodnar State Squires Director

At the Convention, a presentation was done by St. John Berchman's Circle in Mississauga, about the importance of adopting a child somewhere in the world through the Chalice organization.

The PB decided that the Mass collection would be used to follow the footsteps of St. John's Berchman's Circle and we have finally received word that we have adopted Jonethan Nazareth Dias, a 7 year old boy, from Mumbai, India.

We encourage and challenge other Councils and Circles to adopt a needy child this holiday season whether locally or globally.

As you can see, the Provincial Board has lived up to our theme “Under His Guidance – We Faithfully Serve”.

The PB would like to thank Fr. Philip Kennedy for his spiritual guidance over the past 8 years acting as the Provincial Father Prior.

This 8 year term was the longest term for a Fr. Prior and we are thankful for his service.

We would like to introduce and welcome Fr. Chris Lemieux, (Vocations Director-Archdiocese of Toronto) as our new Father Prior. The PB thanks him for accepting this important role of guiding the young men in the program.

At this time, the Columbian Squires Ontario Provincial Board would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Esto Dignus – Be Worthy

Joe Bodnar
State Squires Director





Ontario State Membership

Denis Bélanger State Membership Director

If you were to try to guess the average age of our membership in Ontario, what would you think it is? If you guessed forty-two, then you would be surprised to hear that we have an average age of sixty-two.

Even more striking, is the number of members over the age of 65 which is 25,810 or 46% of the membership.

Recruitment is the lifeblood of any organization.

Be it a sports team, a company, or a parish, we all need to bring in new members to support those who have been consistently contributing to our organization.

This week, I was very encouraged to hear of a local council which had recruited 5 young men, all in their 20s. Young men are the future leaders of our Order and communities.

These young men joined because they wanted to do community service and learn more about their faith.

Service programs along with our benefits are the main reasons why members join our team. Even more imperative is that we mentor and engage these new members as soon as they join.

Rewards are a visible witness of the work that our members do.

We shouldn't hide our works under a bushel basket, if we want to inspire other young men to become members.

The "Circle of Honor" is the ultimate witness within our order; it recognizes how well our recruiting and retention efforts are working.

How rewarding it would be to share the "Circle of Honor Award" this August at the Supreme Convention here in Ontario? While we have recruited nearly over 500 members so far, we still have at least another 1500 members to go.

That's only an average of 3 more members per council over the next 6 months.



Ontario State Membership

Denis Bélanger State Membership Director

We have recently instituted a new training program on how to hold a Parish Recruitment Drive to help you achieve this goal.

Our objective is to equip you all with the right tools to ensure your parish recruitment drive is successful.

This training details the 9 step process to ensure that preparation and execution of all the important activities are achieved.

In November, your leadership team piloted the training in Sudbury and successfully demonstrated the process in 2 of the local parishes. After the church drive we were able to sign-up 24 prospects.

Your District Deputies are there to help you as is Guy Precourt, our Membership Program Consultant with this very important training.

Denis Bélanger
State Membership Director





Coming soon to your area: *Flag Relay for Special Olympics*

Joe Mathews State Special Olympics Chairman

My Brother Knights:

The Knights of Columbus Flag Relay for Special Olympics will soon be arriving in your area. The relay begins the week of January 4th-10th and will start in six locations across the province, where it will run through to mid-May.

During this time the Knights will be moving the six Special Olympics flags from District to District, town to town, throughout Ontario, until the flags reach their final destination, which is the Special Olympics Provincial School Championships in Durham Region on June 1st – 3rd.

This Championship will comprise of students and coaches from schools from across the province and where we are a major supporter of these Games.

As the flag moves from District to District, we will be raising public awareness for Special Olympics, while showing our support for the athletes who will be competing in the local school and regional competitions, and then at the Provincial Championships in Durham.

Each District will have the flag for one week, at which time those who will be participating in the program, be it a flag-raising event, selling raffle tickets, volunteering for a Special Olympics event, or whatever may be planned, will be asked to sign the flag and the Flag Relay book, take plenty of pictures and email them to Special Olympics at KOCFlagRelay@specialolympicsontario.com.

The more pictures the better, as they will be posted on social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc), and where the relay will be followed not only within your community, but also across the province and around the world.

Any activities that the Knights have done in their Districts with regards to Special Olympics, be it before the Flag Relay is in your District or after the flag has left, are invited to email any pictures you may have so as to continue building up the momentum until the flags reach Durham and then during the Provincial Championships.





*Coming soon to your area:
Flag Relay for Special Olympics*

Rocky Gualtieri State Community Director

More information about the Flag Relay and our involvement with Special Olympics will be made available during the course of the relay, and you can visit our Flag Relay website at <http://kofeflagrelay.com>, where you will find everything about the Flag Relay, including being able to follow the flags as they move across the province.

Thank you for your continued support of Special Olympics.

Fraternally,

Bro. Joe Mathews
State Special Olympics Chairman

Bro. Rocky Gualtieri
State Community Director

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Lack of conscientious freedom for health care workers to avoid euthanasia procedures

Christian Elia Ontario State Prolife Director

Dearest Brothers,

It has been a busy and worrisome year. The Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) has inflicted euthanasia upon our country.

To make matters worse, there is currently little protection for conscientious freedom of health care workers to avoid participation in assisting in the death of patients. Several provincial regulators of doctors and health care workers have found it acceptable to compel doctors to be complicit in acts which they find morally unacceptable.

Currently, regulatory bodies in Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan have changed their governing norms so as to force a physician to provide an “effective referral”, or in cases of emergency, to perform an objectionable service against their will or suffer exposure to regulatory reprimand.

The compulsion for referral is not acceptable as it still violates a physician’s conscience. For Catholics, it also means being complicit in an intrinsically evil act, or full participation in grave sin.

In addition to our prolife work in standing up for all human life from conception until natural death, let us also support our Catholic doctors, nurses, and indeed all health care workers who refuse to engage in the intrinsically evil act of mercy killing.

This is not an issue to defer to some distant time in the future. The time for us to stand for conscience rights is now.

Whereas, the current federal government and its leader have already indicated enthusiasm for the Supreme Court’s overturning of prohibitions against physician assisted death (PAD), let us stand with our bishops against all forms of assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Let us stand with Catholic physicians and other healthcare professionals who refuse to be bullied into taking part in this culture of death.

The time is now Brothers!

Vivat Jesus!

Christian Elia
Ontario State Prolife Director





*Congratulations to all the participants
of the 2015 Soccer Challenge*

Dennis Keefe Ontario State Soccer Challenge

My Brother Knights:

As we close yet another year of the Soccer Challenge, I want to congratulate all the participants from all the Councils at both District and Regional levels.

You, my Brother Knights have made this a very successful year. Also, I want to wish you luck as you move on to the International level. Last year we won two awards at this level and let's hope we can win more this year. With regards to the Regionals, scores have been totalled up and sent to the State and Supreme, which will announce the winners at the upcoming 2016 State Convention.

Last of all, I have listened to all your concerns and I have re-written the Soccer Challenge for the upcoming year upon the approval from the State Deputy, who will inform you of any changes.

Once again, thank you for your participation in this Youth Program and good luck at Internationals. God bless you all,

Dennis Keefe
Ontario State Soccer Challenge Chairman

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 ”

International Winner of the Drug and Substance Abuse Contest!

Mya VanDyk (center) was the International Winner in the Alcohol and substance Abuse Contest. The host Council is 8149 Dollier / Galinee Council Port Dover / Walsh Ontario Canada.

From left to right: Backrow School Board Trustee Cliff Casey, Grand Knight (8149) Chris LeBerge, Mayor of Norfolk County Charlie Luke, Father Peter VanDyk, Principle of St Michael Catholic School Walsh Joe Ernst, State Warden Bruce Poulin.

Front Row

District Deputy 84 Doug Souilliere, Mya VanDyk and her mother Jane, State Deputy Alain Cayer, and representing the K of C London Diocesan Association: the Chairman of the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Contest Dennis Blake Council 8149.



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