



“Manitoba News”

Manitoba State Council - Monthly Bulletin - February 2009



From the State Deputy's desk

Brother Knights and Families,

One of the founding principles of our Order is **UNITY**. Knights can thank the Venerable Father J. McGivney, who decided that this was to be a basic principle of the Knights of Columbus. Knights need to apply the principle of unity to ensure that our order

will remain strong and survive.

There are many enemies that attack our Catholic beliefs, such as, our belief in the Culture of Life. To Catholics every life is precious so we must guard against those that oppose the Culture of Life.

Like any army, Knights can be a powerful force when we are large in numbers and unified in cause. Therefore, we need to bring in many new members and nurture them so that our order will be strong enough to survive the attacks.

Recently, Supreme Council sent me a former member list for Manitoba. **The total number of former members is 4344.** Supreme has asked that councils review the lists. Since this list is a possible source of renewed members, I will be forwarding a list to each council so that some of these former members might be encouraged to reconsider joining our ranks. Congratulations to the councils who already have had several former members rejoin the Order.

Yesterday I noticed a road side sign indicating that 22% of the children that live in Winnipeg live in poverty. Just imagine if we could double our membership how much more as a group could be done helping these poor children.

Another area in which we can help is the Wheelchair Program in Manitoba. It continues to grow and more and more councils are getting involved in the program. Remember that this could be a council project, a community project or even an individual project. (Many knights and their families have purchased a wheelchair.) Every wheelchair helps those who cannot help themselves. A tax receipt, certificate and a picture of the wheelchair recipient are available to the donors.

Pope Benedict in his message January 1, 2009

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From the State Chaplain's Desk

Brother Knights and Families,

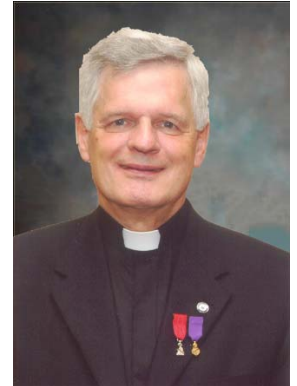
As we enter into February the second month of the new year 2009, we can reflect with joy the celebrations of the Birth of our Lord, His Names Day and Baptism for both the Gregorian and Julian Calendars. These celebrations should give us enough momentum

and spiritual nourishment to carry us into a blessed and Holy New Year. However we need to be nourished continually, and so on February 25th, Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent and on the Julian Calendar Monday March 2nd) we begin the long 40 day journey of the great Lent in preparation of the greatest feast the Resurrection of Our Lord.

This year during lent we should reflect on the life of St. Paul. As you know Pope Benedict XVI has called the Church to observe a year dedicated to St. Paul, which actually began on June 28, 2008, marking approximately the 2000th anniversary of the saint's birth. The hope is that perhaps during lent, the councils can plan pastoral, cultural and social initiatives inspired by St. Paul's spirituality.

Specifically, the Holy Father had expressed his desire to observe the year by “conferences and special studies on St. Paul's writings, which will improve our understanding of the wealth of learning they contain – a real legacy for humanity redeemed by Christ. During this time of lent, everyone should read St. Paul's thirteen letters which he writes to both Jews and Gentiles, where he states in his first letter which is written to the Romans that all mankind, both Jews and Gentiles, needs to be put right with God, for all alike are under the power of sin. People are put right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. During this time of Lent we need to understand St. Paul's ecumenical dimension. We need to understand ourselves and teach others in bringing the Good News to all the peoples, the Apostle to the Nations did all he could for the unity and harmony of all Christians.

As members of the Knights of Columbus, may St. Paul lead and protect us in this celebration, helping us progress in a humble and sincere search for the complete



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State Deputy's message continued...

states: "At the start of the New Year, then, I extend to every disciple of Christ and to every person of good will a warm invitation to expand their hearts to meet the needs of the poor and to take whatever practical steps in order to help them." Providing a wheelchair is one way that we can help the poorest of the world.

The Knights of Columbus have become a major sponsor of the wheelchair program. Knights have delivered over 710,000 wheelchairs to individuals in many countries. The total raised to date in Manitoba is approximately \$23,000. Again, congratulations to all that have sponsored this most worthwhile cause. Let's continue our strong support of the Wheelchair Foundation Canada program.

Vivat Jesus!

Larry Kustra, State Deputy

State Chaplain's message continued

unity of all the parts of the mystical Body of Christ. Don't let the year go by without doing something to observe this great saint of our Church. Our church needs our Order more than ever to defend the message of the Good New of Christ. St. Paul's chief concerns was with problems such as divisions and immorality in the church, and with questions about sex and marriage, matters of conscience, church order, love and concern for the poor, works of charity.

As we enter into the period of the Great Lent, let St. Paul lead us into this journey of preparation to the Resurrection of Christ, so that we can see God's grace in Christ, that we can see everything in the light of Christ's love, sacrifice, forgiveness, grace, and purity.

Blessing and prayers to all – State Chaplain, Msgr. Michael

MEMBERSHIP

We are already on the home stretch of this fraternal year. In Manitoba, where do we stand in attracting new members to our Order? As of mid-January, 129 men have joined our ranks since July 1st. Suspensions, withdrawals and deaths have diminished our ranks by 99 members. So we are now 30 members ahead of where we were on June 30th, 2008. This result is encouraging. For the past 10 years our growth was more or less static. We now seem to be making some headway.

The **growth** to date has been attributed to 32 Councils. I congratulate all of these Councils for taking membership recruitment seriously. I especially would like to highlight the accomplishments of Bishop de Mazenod Council #11115, who have recruited 24 new members over the last six months. This gain is 400% of their quota of 6 new members for this year. What about the other 71 Councils in our jurisdiction? In order for their Councils to survive, it is essential to find and sign up good qualified practical Catholics who can continue the work of their Council.

I acknowledge that one of the problems associated with recruitment is that there are not enough scheduled **1st degrees**. I have Councils waiting to take their candidates to a 1st Degree. I have not been able to convince a Council to host a 1st Degree in the beginning of February. If you can help in this regard, please let me know.

I ask every Council to conduct a **Membership Blitz**. This can take a form of the traditional Church Blitz including Pulpit Presentations and Orientation evenings. The blitz could also take the form of a personal invitation, in person or by letter, to all qualified men in your parish. I am asking all Councils to take 10 to 15 minutes at the February meeting to talk about membership. You may be surprised at the novel ideas that can come forward by just taking the time to talk about recruitment. Don't entertain negative discussion that focuses on the topic that "there is no one eligible in our parish" or "we have asked everyone we know to join and we were turned down." We have an excellent product and we have an obligation to tell others about it.

This is a reminder that the Manitoba State recruitment **incentives** for this year are as follows: You are eligible for a chance to be selected to win a \$50.00 reward every time that you sign-up a new member. The more members that you recruit the more chances you have of being selected. There will be 20 of these cash incentives awarded before the end of June.

Vivat Jesus!

Bob Girouard, Membership Director

Knights of Columbus

Fourth Degree

CARDINAL McGUIGAN PROVINCE

District of Manitoba

Well it has been another busy and productive year for the Fourth Degree.

We, as Sir Knights, have participated in numerous events throughout the Province. Requests by our Brother Knights were gladly received and filled by large numbers of Sir Knights from our 13 assemblies.

Sir Knights participated in funerals, State and Community events where we proudly and visibly had the opportunity to represent the order.

Gloria and I were able to respond to many of the gracious invitations extended to us by Manitoba State, councils and assemblies during the busy Holiday Season. We thank them for the opportunity to do so.

The new year began with filling the requests from assemblies to perform the ceremony of the Renewal of Obligations. District Marshall Arley and myself visited Miles MacDonnell Assembly in January. We will be visiting Sir Francis Patrick Kennedy end of February and Tache assembly in March. I urge any other assemblies contemplating this ceremony to contact myself as soon as possible.

Work has started on our annual Exemplification which will take place June 13, 2009 at Saints-Martyrs Parish hosted by Tache assembly and material has already been mailed to all the assemblies.

Grand Knights now is the time to inform your members of the opportunity to fulfill their desire for full Knighthood and reach even further with their faith, it is time to consider the Fourth Degree. Remember give the opportunity for a Brother Sir Knight in your council to speak at your meeting in the proper place allotted in your program, we dearly appreciate any of your efforts to enhance our ranks. As we in the Fourth Degree always work diligently to promote first degree members as we know they are the future of both our councils and assemblies.

From the response already received from many assemblies I look forward to installing a good number of new Sir Knights in the Month of June. We will be Honoring our Vice Supreme Master and Past State Deputy Sir Knight Marcel Wozny for his dedication and service to the order.

Vivat Jesus!

Marvin A. Lucyk, Master

CONGRATULATIONS

To the Brother Knight who has celebrated
50 YEARS OF SERVICE
in the Knights of Columbus in January

Morris M. Kowalchuk
Cook's Creek Council #7002

Manitoba State Council

Major Project

The Knights of Columbus has teamed up with Wheelchair Foundation Canada, which is involved in an international effort to create awareness of the needs and abilities of people with physical disabilities, to promote the joy of giving, create global friendship, and to deliver a wheelchair to every child, teen and adult in the world who needs one, but cannot afford one.

For more information visit the Manitoba State Website at www.manitobastatecouncil.ca or the Wheelchair Foundation website at <http://www.wheelchairfoundation.ca>

Congratulations

Manitoba State Council has chosen Brother Lorne Woychyshyn KSG from St. Anne Council #10551 as the **Knight of the Month** for February 2009. Submission deadline for Knight of the Month for March is February 15, 2009.

Manitoba State - Calendar of Events

First Degrees / Premier Degrés

February 9, 2009

Hosted by Goulet Council #3681
Degree: 7:30 p.m. at Foyer Vincent, 200 Horace St.
Contact: Grand Knight, Philippe Lessard 237-1141

February 21, 2009

Hosted by St. Anne Council #10551
Degree: 9:00 a.m.
Contact: Grand Knight Len Mariash (204) 668-4358

March 7, 2009

Hosted by St. Joseph Council #11006
Degree: 9:00 a.m.
Contact: Grand Knight Denis Ouellet (204) 737-2029

March 28, 2009

Hosted by: Winnipeg (St. J. Brebeuf) Council #1107
Degree: 9:00 a.m.
Contact: Grand Knight Grant Nazarko (204) 489-3748

**If you are having a 1st Degree
please inform the State Office.**

Major Degrees/Degrés Mjeurs:

February 21, 2009

Hosted by St. Anne Council #10551
Major Degree: 12 Noon
Contact: Grand Knight Len Mariash (204) 668-4358

March 7, 2009

Hosted by St. Joseph Council #11006
Major Degree: 12 Noon
Contact: Grand Knight Denis Ouellet (204) 737-2029

March 28, 2009

Hosted by: Winnipeg (St. J. Brebeuf) Council #1107
Major Degree: 12 noon
Contact: Grand Knight Grant Nazarko 489-3748

Dates to Remember

ICCD Tickets - If more tickets are needed for your council, please do not hesitate to contact State I.C.C.D. Chairman, Claude at the I.C.C.D. office at (204) 669-7947 or at home at (204) 253-7979. Early and frequent remittance of sold tickets would be appreciated.

Manitoba State Curling Bonspiel - Feb. 27, 28 & March 1, 2009

Hosted by Brandon Council #1435
Deadline for entries is January 15, 2009
For further information contact:
Bruce Ray (204) 726-0013 or
Nelson Hyrsak (204) 726-4746

ICCD Major Draw - April 18, 2009

Hosted by Father Allen Hall Council #8604
For further information please contact Grand Knight,
Eugene Phaneuf (204) 837-6704

31st Annual Caritas Award Dinner, Thursday April 23, 2009. L'Arche will be honored with the Caritas Award. For further information or to arrange for tickets, contact The Catholic Foundation of Manitoba at (204) 233-4268 or e-mail: cfmb@mts.net.

Manitoba State Convention, May 1, 2, 3, 2009 at the Victoria Inn, Winnipeg, MB.

Pro-Life March, May 14, 2009 - Details to follow.

Celebration of Life, May 25, 2009 - to be held at St. Boniface Cathedral with His Grace Emilius Goulet presiding. Further details to follow.

NAME TAGS

Any council wishing to purchase name tags
may do so by contacting:

Chappellez's Trophies

**207 Rosser Rd., St. Francois Xavier, MB
R4L 1A4**

Phone/Fax 1-204-864-2501

E-Mail: chapellazs_trophies@mts.net

First & Major Degrees

We are looking for councils to host First and Major Degrees! Contact Manitoba State Council at (204) 663-8022 in order to schedule the degrees for the year.