



# “Manitoba News”

**Manitoba State Council - Monthly Bulletin - January 2009**



## From the State Deputy's desk

Brother Knights and Families,

Many people are touched, after watching the Wheelchair Foundation Canada video. We cannot imagine the hardships that individuals endure without the gift of mobility. The trip that Margaret and I took to the Dominican Republic to present wheelchairs was

truly an “Experience of a Lifetime.” We saw first hand the great need for wheelchairs.

We presented chairs to many individuals who were brought to community centres. Chairs were also brought to people's homes both in Santo Domingo and surrounding villages. The gratitude expressed by the individuals was often by tears of joy. Many expressed their thanks by blessing us. The feeling that one gets when presenting a needy individual with a wheelchair cannot be put into words.

Coming from North America, we cannot imagine the living conditions of some of these individuals. We witnessed individuals who had been bed ridden for up to eighteen years. Other individuals were unable to attend school because of their lack of mobility.

What was truly amazing was that even though poverty exists, the people generally seem happy.

Another unforgettable experience on this trip was the fraternity that our brother knights from the Dominican Republic provided. From the day that we met them at the airport to the day we left, we were welcomed and made to feel at home. When we left, we were told to come back anytime as we now are part of their family.

From the Dominican Republic, we went to Grapevine, Texas for the mid-winter state deputies' organizational meeting. Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson opened the meeting by addressing issues concerning the Culture of Life and our insurance program.

For your information, the monies received from Canadians for the Culture of Life fund will stay in Canada to support activities related to the culture of life. Such as, the radio ad, which some of you may have heard, that was aired prior to the last federal election. Any and all donations above the three dollars being assessed are welcomed,

*State Deputy's message continued on page 2 ...*

## From the State Chaplain's Desk

Brother Knights and Families,

We are entering a new year and have just completed the celebration of a very joyous event, the Birth of Our Lord and Savior. Most of us had an opportunity to gather with family and friends, to do some visiting, traveling and exchanging of gifts. We had an opportunity to gather in prayer, sing Christmas carols and give thanks to God for sending us the beautiful gift of His Son, so that there may be peace and love among people of good will. I hope that you all took full advantage in proclaiming this good news “that Christ is born, and the reason for the season is His birth”.

As we begin this new year 2009, there will be many challenges coming our way, in our personal and family life, in our community, in Canada, the universe and our own organization of the Knights of Columbus. What ever they may be, we are people of faith and we will be able to meet them trusting the Lord, and that with Him we will meet the challenges that lie ahead of us.

One topic that I would like share with you in our first “Manitoba News” of 2009, that besides being your State Chaplain I also have the responsibility of being Vocations Chairman. At our last Manitoba State Council Mid-Year Meeting in early December, I shared with our Brother Knights that Vocations was a very important part of their program, and that their prayers and promotion of Vocations should be in the front of their activities.

Vocations need to be everybody's business, all the more for the Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus cherishes and celebrates all forms of vocation as gifts of God. But Because of the Church's urgent need for priests and consecrated religious women and men, the Order's vocations program gives special priority to promoting these vocations. Vocations of all kinds arise and are nurtured within families. Therefore the Knights of Columbus vocations program is related not only to the Church Activities program but also to the Family Activities program. This “family” dimension of vocations makes lay involvement particularly important.

The other day statistics Canada told us that in November 71,000 people lost their jobs. And I can almost bet you that not one of our priests lost his job through unemployment. On the contrary this is the only vocation that has openings in every Diocese of Manitoba, and I'm sure of every Diocese throughout the world. Some of our larger parishes with almost 2000 families.

*State Chaplain's message continued on page 2 ...*

**State Deputy's message continued...**

as the larger the fund, the more that can be done towards building a culture of life.

As far as our Knights of Columbus insurance; it remains solid as ever. The economic times have had little impact on our insurance program. (Please refer to the Supreme Knights message which can be found on the Knights of Columbus website.)

On November 25, Margaret and I attended the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Charlebois Council #2704 in The Pas. Prior to the banquet, mass was celebrated by Archbishop Sylvian Lavoie and four priests from the Keewatin-The Pas diocese. Several Honorary Life members were presented with their pins. Congratulations to all the members who achieved this milestone.

On December 5& 6, the district deputies attended their mid-winter organizational meeting in Winnipeg. District Deputies will be informing councils the results of the deliberations at their district meetings. Thank you to all that attended. Congratulations to District Deputy #21, Amado Mendoza, who will be accompanying the Manitoba team to the supreme convention next August in Phoenix. Runner up was District Deputy #20 Stan Morga.

Our membership continues to grow in Manitoba. Congratulations to the following councils who have obtained their membership quotas:

Goulet Council #3681 (100%);  
Fathers A&J Kulawy Council #9790 (214%);  
St. Anne Council #10551(100%);  
Bishop De Mazenod Council #11115(317%);  
St. Peter's Council #12319 (113%)

I urge all councils in the final six months to put an extra effort towards increasing their membership. New members will help us in regards to "charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism".

Margaret and I wish you a most prosperous and happy New Year.

Vivat Jesus!

Larry Kustra, State Deputy

**URGENT!**

Grand Knights, please ensure that **Form #1728, Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity Report** is sent to Manitoba State by January 23, 2009. Thank you for your co-operation.

Larry Kustra - State Deputy

**NOTE: Financial Secretaries, Grand Knights, etc.** If you are sending electronic reports, until further notice, Supreme has asked that you send a back-up "hard copy". (There is a glitch in Supreme's software).

Larry Kustra - State Deputy

**State Chaplain's message continued .....**

(over 6000 souls) are served by two priests and in many cases only one. Everyone one of our parishes and missions could use more than one priest.

Jesus needs all of us to continue His mission – we cannot afford to say NO! Firstly, a vocation belongs and is nurtured in a family, parents, brothers, sisters and friends. They have a duty to guide their children in an awareness of God and His overwhelming love for each of us. If the parent is truly fulfilling his own vocation he is promoting vocations. However, the laymen, of which the Knights of Columbus are part of need also to play an important role if the fostering of vocations.

What are some of the practical things you as a Knight and your council could be doing to promote vocations. Let me just share a few:

- First there should be respect for your clergy. Yes, they are not perfect human beings, they have their weaknesses, but at the altar they are the **OTHER CHRIST, REPRESENTING HIM IN HIS TEACHINGS, ADMINISTERING THE SACRAMENTS AND PROVIDE THE NECESSARY COUNCELLING.**

- What is our conversation about your pastor or clergy in general at your dinner table, coffee club, among friends, but mainly between your children. Is it positive are you running them down?

- Have vocational awareness days – participate in career days in your local high School or community career days.

- Have a Holy Hour for vocations, in co-operation with your Chaplain and parish priest, arrange for Holy Hour, at least twice a year, especially in April, when high school students are seriously deciding what to do after graduation.

- Vocational awareness day in your parish, sponsored by the Council – have videos, have the pastor speak about his own vocation, provide reading material for the various vocations of priesthood or religious monastic life for both men and woman.

- Support a vocations ad, in the local paper, your council bulletin, or your parish bulletin.

- Most important make sure that your council has an active Vocations Director, that he has at his disposal the Vocations Handbook – that he develops a strong vocations program within the council but also integrate as much as possible with existing parish and Diocesan efforts.

**The Knights of Columbus have always been strong defenders of the priesthood and religious life and have given generous financial support towards the education of priests. Indeed in solidarity with our priest has become a very important theme.**

**If we do nothing else let us ENCOURAGE PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS, that I know everyone can do at anytime. At each council meeting include one decade of the Rosary especially dedicated for vocations.**

**May we in this coming year encourage and promote at least one vocation from each of our councils – can it be done, with prayer and good effort every thing is possible.**

Vivat Jesus!

Msgr. Michael – State Chaplain

# Knights of Columbus

## Fourth Degree

### CARDINAL McGUIGAN PROVINCE

### District of Manitoba

#### “Sir Knight” Is More Than A Title It's An Honour

The need for strong role models has never been greater. If the sanctity of life, family values, and true religious freedom are to survive, democratic nations need greater commitment from people of faith. That's what the Fourth Degree represents. We are the pinnacle of knighthood. We live, serve and protect the truth.

For most men who follow Jesus, there comes a time when duty extends beyond our own lives, beyond how we lead our families, and into how we serve our fellow man. That's what the Knights of Columbus is all about. For those who are called to take it one step further, the Fourth Degree is the way.

We are in a time were too few Christians are prepared to speak up for what they believe. Fourth Degree knights hold unwaveringly to what is right and honorable. This means working to keep God in the civic arena. It means supporting and defending laws that recognize the sanctity of life and true religious liberty and of course serving the life of the church. Fourth Degree knights are committed to building lives of character.

The color corps is a division of the order, whose distinctive presence in parades, ceremonies, and Catholic functions is a visible reminder of our service to the community. Fourth Degree members wear the colors with pride and honour , knowing they represent the very best of the Knights of Columbus

Life, family values, and true religious freedom are to survive, democratic the need for strong role models has never been greater. If the sanctity of nations need greater commitment from people of faith, that's what the Fourth Degree represents. We are the pinnacle of Knighthood. we live, serve and protect the truth. Fourth Degree knights are integral to the preservation of the order.

Fourth Degree knights glorify God by serving our communities and nation as though Christ were the one being served.

For our Third Degree brother knights it's time for you to consider reaching even further with your faith. It is time to consider the Fourth Degree.

We invite our Third Degree Brother Knights to join us for our next exemplification on June 13, 2009 at Sts. Martyrs parish hosted by Tache Assembly.

Worthy Grand Knights this is your opportunity to elevate your members to the highest degree of the order. and remember Fourth Degree members add that craved stability a council looks for.

Vivat Jesus!  
Marvin A. Lucyk, Master

# CONGRATULATIONS

To the Brother Knights who have celebrated  
**50 YEARS OF SERVICE**  
in the Knights of Columbus in December

- Donald Maurer, Charleswood Council #7523
- Edward Michalko, Brandon Council #1435
- Walter R. Joss, East Kildonan Council #4107
- Stanley T. Gorcie, East Kildonan Council #4107
- Joseph A. Campeau, St. Norbert Council #8557
- W.H. Evason, St. Josaphat Council #4138



**REMINDER**



**KEEP CHRIST IN  
CHRISTMAS  
POSTER CONTEST**

**DEADLINE FOR  
SUBMISSIONS IS  
JANUARY 15, 2009**

**FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION PLEASE  
CONTACT: DAN MITCHLER,  
CONTEST CHAIRMAN  
(204) 633-3786**

# Manitoba State - Calendar of Events

## 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](http://www.manitobastatecouncil.ca) or the Wheelchair Foundation website at <http://www.wheelchairfoundation.ca>

### **First Degrees / Premier Degrés**

**February 21, 2009**

Hosted by St. Anne Council #10551

Degree:

Contact: Grand Knight Len Mariash (204) 668-4358

**March 28, 2009**

Hosted by: Winnipeg (St. J. Brebeuf) Council #1107

Degree: 9 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 Majeurs:**

**February 21, 2009**

Hosted by St. Anne Council #10551

Major Degree:

Contact: Grand Knight Len Mariash (204) 668-4358

**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.

**ICCD Early Bird Draw - January 24, 2009**

Hosted by St. Claude Council #7766, St. Claude, MB.  
For further information and tickets please contact Grand Knight, Marcel Lesage (204) 379-2196

**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, Claude Lambert (204) 832-1338

**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](mailto: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.

### **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.