

# STATE Affairs

ALBERTA-NWT STATE COUNCIL



COVERAGE OF NEWS FROM  
AROUND THE JURISDICTION

WEB SITE: [www.kofc.ab.ca](http://www.kofc.ab.ca)

December 2019

## Message from the State Deputy

## Message from the State Chaplain

“Christmas is Love!”



Vince R. Reyes

As we happily put to a close the first six months and enthusiastically welcome the final six months of the current fraternal year 2019-2020, it is prudent on our part to put matters into proper perspectives.

In our lives, there are so many opportunities to take stock of our advancement, both in the spiritual and material sense, to repair omissions, to correct errors and to plan for a better future.

By adding splendour to our good works, this would be beneficial to our church and community and thereby enhancing our Order’s proud name.

It is a truism that change is the only constant in life. Human nature is predisposed to resist change because of the risk associated with it. However, in spite of resistance to change, it is inevitable. Nowadays, the pace of change is immensely faster and it will only continue to accelerate.

Truthfully, if we do not change, we do not grow. If we do not grow, we will stagnate and be left behind.

To keep up with the changing times and environment, the Supreme Council initiated the Faith In Action programs and replaced the outdated 5 Surge with Service program which has been in

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Fr. Jim Corrigan

“Advent is when we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Baby Jesus.”:

My dear Brothers: I am not sure if it is age or what, but Advent has become one of my truly favorite seasons. Over the years I have been blessed to have numerous schools attached to the parishes I have served in and it has always been inspiring, (sometimes more than others I admit) to hear young people speak about what Advent means to them. Perhaps one of the more touching phrases I have heard many times is the following. “Advent is when we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Baby Jesus.” I can say, when these children say Baby Jesus, they mean what they say and is a beautiful sound to my ears and my heart.

Another facet of Advent that is a gift to me is the number of folks who desire to prepare their hearts through the sacrament of Reconciliation. This sacrament is a humble but very effective way to prepare our hearts to welcome the Savior of the world on Christmas morning. It is very much like doing a thorough house or garage clean up and taking the garbage out to the curb knowing that it is gone forever. This house cleaning really does allow for an attitude of gratitude, which leads to a heart that has a

*(Continued on page 7)*

## From the State Secretary

By Gaston Launière

*Whatever the mind can conceive and believe, the mind can achieve.” Napoleon Hill*

The first half of the Columbian Year has nearly ended and we have so much to be thankful for. Let us resolve to continue in meeting our respective goals for the greater good of our Order.

May this Christmas be a time of hope and happiness for you and your families and may Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney watch over you and guide you in the New Year.

On behalf of my wife, Danielle, my 3 children and my 5 grandchildren, I would like to extend a very Merry and Blessed Christmas to you and your families. Also, may your Council continue to grow in the New Year.



La première moitié de notre année colombienne est presque terminée et nous avons tellement à faire. Continuons à nous concentrer sur nos objectifs respectifs pour le plus grand bien de notre Ordre.

Que ce Noël soit un temps d'espérance et de bonheur pour vous et vos familles et que Notre-Dame de la Guadalupe et le Vénérable Père Michael J. McGivney veillent sur vous et vous guident dans la nouvelle année.

Ma femme Danielle et moi ainsi que tous nos enfants et nos petits-enfants aimerions vous souhaiter un très beau et Joyeux Noël pour vous et vos familles. Que votre Conseil continue de croître au cours de la nouvelle année.

Vivat Jesus!  
Gaston Launière  
State Secretary / Secrétaire d'État

## From the State Treasurer

By John Onyskiw

With Christmas fast approaching, we must reflect on the true meaning of Christmas,  
“The Birth of Christ.”

I recently read this and thought how appropriate for this season.

“ Bishop Henry once told a story of a little boy looking at the Baby Jesus in the manger and making the astute observation ‘ it did not grow since last year ! ’ That happens to us often on Christmas, we did not grow in our understanding of Christ and the mystery of his birth. We should all study the readings of scripture during Advent and Christmastime to see Christ grow and ourselves grow ”.

At our May 1998 Annual State Convention held in Medicine Hat it was voted (Resolution 98 – 04) that District Deputies should receive an annual honorarium to offset some of the costs that they incur. Since it passed our State Council has provided annually each District Deputy with \$200. Individual Councils in the District Deputy’s area are to contribute \$300 per Columbian Year, split according to the number of Councils in the District.

January 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of the second half of our Columbian year. In early January 2020, each Council must complete and submit their Semi-Annual Council Audit report (Form #1295) and forward it to Supreme. This one-page report, completed by the Financial Secretary and to be reviewed by the Trustees, lists the Council’s assets and liabilities. The requirements for the Annual Audit are outlined in Section A - 2 of the Grand Knight’s Manual.

Also due in January, from each Council, is the Survey of Fraternal Activities (Form #1728). It is imperative each Council submit this form to Supreme as it is not only mandatory but used to maintain our charitable status. The accuracy of this report is crucial to ensuring your Council receives credit for all the time and money that it has contributed to various causes. I must point out that a few Councils still have not reported their activities for the last Columbian Year.

The State Council Per Capita Assessment will be prepared and sent to each Council in January 2020. On behalf of my wife Judee and our family, we wish everyone a Christmas of joy, peace and love and all the very best for the New Year in good health, serenity and success.

Vivat Jesus!  
John Onyskiw  
State Treasurer

## From the State Advocate

By Andy Soshalski

Dear Brothers,

We are again in the Advent season, and Christmas is very near. We are again celebrating the great miracle of our salvation – Eternal God became a little baby in order to save each and every one of us. We must remember that Christmas is about Christ and His birth, not about Santa's, or Rudolph's, or reindeer. We should teach our children and grandchildren the real meaning of this great feast – Jesus! Jesus is the reason for the season. It is very important in our secular world once again to remind people about the real meaning and importance of these great Christmas days.

Christmas always reminds us about the necessity of charity, especially towards poor children. We should remember that charity is our main obligation as Knights. I know that all through our jurisdiction our Brothers participate in the Coats for kids program which is really important in this winter season. Please, Brothers, do what you can to help poor children and their families! This help can take different forms, but the main thing is to help our neighbour who is in need.

While I am writing these lines, the snow in Lethbridge is falling more and more. I guess we in the South will be at the front battlefield with the winter this time. We'll do our best not to let the snow go further north, though it's getting really hard. And you guys pray that we'll be able to get out of the snow and still live our lives.

Natalia and I wish you all and your families Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Anno Domini 2020!

Keep Christ in Christmas!

Vivat Jesus!

Andy Soshalski,  
State Advocate

## From the State Warden

By Rufus Awharitoma

### Warden's Angle

Brothers, soon the streets will light up, and a familiar sound of O' Come, O come Emmanuel will fill the air waves. Because, Jesus is the reason for the season, we have renewed hope in our expectation of his second coming. This season provides another opportunity, as knights, to be our brother's keeper, and a time to remember our neighbors and all those in need.

*Our message of "Keep Christ in Christmas" can only be meaningful and possible, when we put our Faith in Action. Let's come out in our numbers this season of Advent, to lend a helping hand in our Councils, Parishes and Community activities.*

*Let's appreciate our gift of faith as Catholic gentlemen, and members of the Knight of Columbus, by calling on others to join in our charitable works. By joining in to shine the light of Christ and the spirit of Christmas, to all Corners of our Jurisdiction, this is the best gift you can give this Christmas.*

*On behalf of me and my Family, we are wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.*

*Vivat Jesus!*

*Rufus Awharitoma  
State Warden  
Knight of Columbus Alberta/Northwest Territories.*

## From the Agency

By Marc G. Bouchard, General Agent

### He Sleeps in as Storm

A man seeks employment on a farm. He hands his letter of recommendation to his new employer. It reads simply, “He sleeps in a storm”.

The owner is desperate, so he hires the man.

Several weeks pass, and suddenly, in the middle of the night, a powerful storm rips through the valley.

Awakened by the swirling rain and howling wind, the owner leaps out of bed. He calls for his new hired hand, but the man is sleeping soundly.

So, he dashes off to the barn. He sees, to his amazement, that the animals are secure with plenty of feed.

He runs out to the field/ He sees the bales of wheat have been bound and are wrapped in tarpaulins.

He races to the silo. The doors are latched, and the grain is dry.

And then he understands. “He sleeps in a storm.”

My friends, if we tend to the things that are important in life, if we are right with those we love and behave in line with our faith, our lives will not be cursed with the aching throb of unfulfilled business. Our words will always be sincere, our embraces will be tight. We will never wallow in the agony of I could have, I should have. We can sleep in a storm.—”**Have a Little Faith**” by Mitch Albom, page 93, from sermon by Rabbi Albert Lewis.

Ask yourself if you family members can sleep in a storm.

Do you have a plan for your family if something would happen to you? Death, Disability or Long term financial freedom. Talk to your agent if not before the end of the year, early in 2020, so we all can “Sleep in a Storm.”

Merry Christmas from the Alberta Agency.

Marc Bouchard, GA

Alberta/NWT

## From the IPSD

By Ron J. Schuster

### *B*rother Knights and Family

As we are now into the Advent Season, you can't help but feel the love and friendship for our family and friends that we have seen, spoken too, emailed and/or texted.

What a special time of the Year!!!

Our Lord and Saviour has come into our lives in more ways than we can fathom. Let's celebrate and rejoice.

To all my Brother Knights and their families,  
HAVE A HOLY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS  
and ALL THE VERY BEST TO ALL IN THE  
NEW YEAR 2020

I.P.S.D. RON and KATHY SCHUSTER



## From the Program Director

By Sal Ficaccio



*W*orthy Grand Knights and Brothers;

Coats for Kids State wide event was a great success because of your generosity, commitment, effort and time. We profess our charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism with the 60 plus Brother Knights that were present to distribute the coats to more than 169 children, many were accompanied with their parents.

With the participation and help of 19 Councils, one Assembly and a Brother Knight it was possible to have available over 672 coats to be distributed to our needy children in the Calgary Catholic School System, to the Calgary community "Inn from the Cold" and Calgary Catholic Immigration Society.

I would like to express my gratitude to the following donors:

Knights of Columbus Supreme Council for donating 360 coats.

Council 6488, Bishop Klein, for their very generous donation of, \$7000.00 or 20 boxes of coats.  
Councils 4622, 4749, 4878, 7432, 7938, 7871, 8870, 9658, 8045, 8325, 8636, 10547, 12446, 14492, 12419, 10065, 6083, 4530, Assembly 3225 and one Brother Knight from Edmonton.

Without the help and support of our Brother Knights it would be very difficult to succeed at such enormous task.

I would like to reemphasize the importance of the Faith in Action Program has for our councils and jurisdiction for Membership and Council survival. Please get your Council to seriously consider in participating in these great programs. Programs will retain membership as well strengthen our Faith, Family, Community and Life.

## State Council Service Programs Award

Now is time to get our programs prepared to be submitted to Red Deer Office by **February 28, 2020**.

There are four Categories for State Awards not six

Faith  
Family  
Community  
Life

This form is primarily the same, with just a few changes from the previous program:  
Number of non-members participating, members recruited and donations  
-what problem or need did this project resolve  
-why did the council select this project  
-describe the success of the project

Please utilize the help from your State Directors, District Deputies and Chairmen. Your program is important to all of us, so that we all can learn and be more productive.

Thank you; continue the great work of giving of your time, talents and cooperation.

**From my Family to yours, we would like to wish all of you a Blessed and Merry Christmas, & the Best for 2020.**

Sal Ficaccio  
State Program Director



## From the Ceremonial Director

By Dan Barth, PSD

### Worthy Grand Knights

On the weekend of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, our State Deputy, Bro. Vince Reyes called all his District Deputies to Red Deer for the mid-year meeting. This was to review the program initiatives of the State Council.

One of the new initiatives was the introduction of our new degrees of CHARITY, UNITY AND FRATERNITY. State Deputy Vince Reyes and I were in Orlando, FL., as well as the State Deputies and Ceremonial Chairmen throughout the Order.

What we witnessed was a shorter, concise and informative presentation of our degrees. Each degree is approximately fifteen minutes and with the introductory narrative the total time is thirty five to forty five minutes for all three degrees when they are consecutive.

The degrees can be presented to the candidates in three (3) ways: **1)** video, **2)** reading the script, **3)** memorizing the script. Family members can now be present while the husband or son takes his degrees, which can now be taken in a church, hall or council chamber. In the near future councils will receive the video and degree books from Supreme Ceremonial Office or you may already have them by the time you receive this writing.

Please insure that you incorporate the degrees into your council ceremonies as each council is expected to exemplify their own candidates in a timely manner following the approval of the candidate's Form 100.

There will **not be any travelling degree team to exemplify the degrees as in the past.** Every district should have at least a degree team since we know that not every council will incorporate the new degree.

The paraphernalia required for the degree are as follows:

- 1) A candidate kit – revised from Supreme @ \$6.00.
- 2) A cable for the Unity degree from Roger Sauv .
- 3) One crucifix approximately 12 inches high from Church Supplies.
- 4) Ceremonial Baldrics: one each for:
  - a) the Narrator, b) the charity Presenter,

c) the Unity Presenter, d) the Fraternity Presenter, e) the Warden. These can be ordered from Supreme or Roger Sauv  @ \$35.00 each.

Please Note: one person can do all of the above named parts but the Warden MUST be part of the presentation team.

5) One roll of thin fiber (string), which can be purchased from a local fabric store.

Please Note that there are thousands of First Degree members throughout the Order who remain as First Degree members ONLY. By now taking all three degrees within a 45-minute span, hopefully this problem will be rectified and you will be able to utilize these candidates as council officers in the near future. Candidates who are currently First Degree members will take the Charity Degree by observation.

Those Districts or Chapters that have scheduled degrees can continue to perform the present degree structure or adapt to the new degree. If the new degree is used, the candidates **DO NOT** receive the crosses or medallions as previously. Further to the above, the candidate's fee of \$25.00 payable **will remain** at least until the end of this Columbian Year of 2019 to 2020 and our State Ceremonial Policy is completely revised in the Grand Knights Manual L1, pages 1 to 7.

Lastly, Councils or Districts would be responsible for all expenses incurred with the exemplification of these three degrees unless express permission is granted by the State Deputy to do otherwise. It was also expressed but is not in the degree to also present a white rosary to the spouse. These white rosaries are available from Supreme at a cost of approximately \$6.00. Alberta policy is that these three degrees are to be incorporated no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2020. Once the books and videos are received and reviewed, further information will be sent in regards to implementation and policies.

On behalf of our Ceremonial Personnel throughout the Alberta jurisdiction, I wish all our Knights and extended family members a Holy and Joyous Christmas and a New Year filled with good health and many blessings.

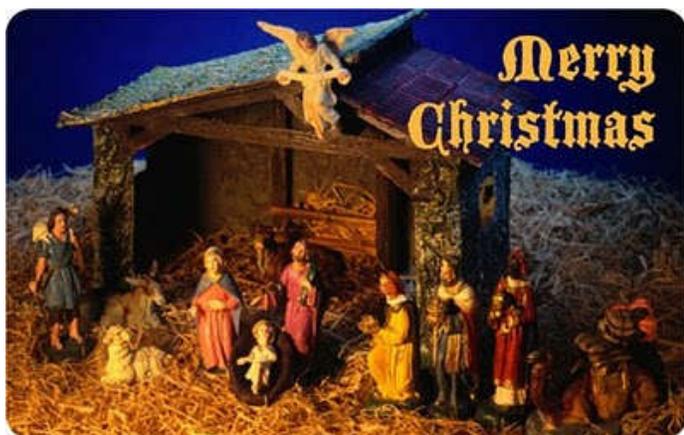
Daniel Barth, PSD



A council that is being reactivated, on Nov. 16, 2019, a large number of men became members of St. Vincent Liem Council #14747 in Calgary.



Eritean Community Round Table with the spiritual Guidance of Fr. Susai Jesu, OMI Pastor of Sacred Heart Church.



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great deal more room for the joy that is an integral part of the reason for the season. Reconciliation during Advent, is also a great acknowledgement of the two-fold nature of Advent. We prepare our hearts for the birth of our Saviour and we prepare our hearts knowing that our Lord will come again in the final judgement.

Finally, in my role as a pastor I have the blessing of inviting the schools to perform their Advent concerts in the parish itself. I must say that with the K-4 grade schools, and we have had four different schools in the parish this Advent, I have found great joy listening to them with their imperfect but super enthusiastic voices literally lifting the roof from the Church. They sing with abandon, like you and I would like to sing but are to shy or self conscious. These children are not, and they are singing for Jesus. Brothers, if you are parents, grandparents, uncles or friends, take the opportunity to attend one of these hectic evenings. You will not regret it. Your heart will have no choice but to be invaded by the beautiful selfless love of these young people singing for the Lord.

Brothers the way we prepare to celebrate the beginning of the final chapter of salvation history will vary from man to man and from family to family. The key is that we enter the season with desire. If we do our part, God's grace will certainly be sufficient for us. My worthy Brothers in the Lord; may our loving God bless you and your families with a joy and faith-filled Christmas and a healthy happy, holy and prosperous year of our Lord, 2010.

With fraternal love and prayers  
Fr Jim, State Chaplain  
Alberta/North West Territories

## From the Membership Director N

By Leo M. Sosa Jr.

### *R*ecruitment Campaign Plan for 3rd Quarter 2020

At the District Deputies Mid-Year Meeting in Red Deer held on November 29th to December 1st, the District Deputies filled out the Church Drives and Admission Degrees Schedule forms for the 3rd Quarter (January, February and March 2020) to be discussed and confirmed their proposed Church Drives and Admission Degrees plan with the Grand Knights of their respective Councils. When the schedules are finalized and the Council needs assistance in the conduct of Church Drives and Admission Degrees, the State Membership Team is willing to assist the Councils in the set up and conduct of their Church Drives and Admission Degrees. The State Membership Team will also supply the Councils with the recruitment materials during the drives.

After the conduct of the Church Drives and the Councils have the list of prospects, the GK or the Council Membership Director will have to enter the names and contact information in the Council Landing Page. After entering them in the Landing Page, the next step is that the Council Executives will have to call each of the prospects that were obtained during the recruitment campaign to do a complete interview of the prospects. The sooner the Council calls them for an interview and gives the Council's information, the more chances to convince them to join the Council. Usually, the Council will have to call each one of them within the 2 weeks from the recruitment campaign date. For any that qualify and demonstrate sufficient interest, the Council will have to complete a form 100 and get the information prior to a scheduled Admission Degree/s. The Council will have to set up an Admission Degree/s, at least 2 schedules, so to provide them options to attend the Degree. Admission Degree (via team or video) should be set up in the Church. A day or two before the scheduled Degree, the Council also do reminder calls to get them to come to the Admission Degree. Follow up is key.

Open House: Yes, information sessions can be set

up, however, the Council will have to assemble them. The set back of this process is that men today do not appear to like many meetings/gatherings. The more effective way is to personally make calls. Each call should take about 10-15 minutes for each of the prospects; it is a long process but effectively worthwhile. Once the information is acquired and completed on the Form 100, focus on the Admission Degree exemplification.

Brothers, we should exert efforts to recruit new members and together with the "active" members, form a core group to start creating an atmosphere of visible and vibrant fraternal brotherhood within the parish community. Let us recruit new members and together with the "active" members start this approach with them. This is creating reasons for our "inactive" members to come back to the Council. It may take longer, but we have to start somewhere. This will take time as it is a transformation of culture within the Council. When this stage of Council renewal is past, different outlook, purpose and interest will be created and create a more fraternal Council. Let us build a reason for our Brother Knights to come back to our Council, a place to enjoy each other's company and be felt as a Catholic gentleman's home. He will find fulfillment and hope in the service to his parish and community at large. New blood will help bring about renewal within the Council with substantively changing dynamics within our membership ranks. We have to create that enthusiasm for our mission of service and Catholic faith into our Councils.

Thank you in advance for your efforts to bring the new members into your Councils, District and in the Jurisdiction. God bless us all.

*Wishing you and your loved ones all the wonder and joy of the Christmas season!*



## From the Charitable Foundation

By Willis Winter, President

### DECEMBER 2019 STATE AFFAIRS ARTICLE FROM ACF

The Alberta Knights of Columbus Charitable Foundation was established to provide sustainable funding to selected charities fulfilling needs in the areas of education, youth, women, seniors and communities. Since 1979, it has operated as an independent arms-length charitable foundation. Yet it is an integral part of the Knights of Columbus as every Knight in this jurisdiction is a member of the Foundation.

Despite this, we find that most Knights know very little about the Foundation. Most learn about the Foundation when they attend the Annual General Meeting which is held in conjunction with the State Convention. This is a very limited audience as each council sends at most two delegates.

For the last two years, Foundation Directors have been visiting each council to inform their members about the Foundation's purpose, to explain how the Foundation obtains funds for charitable works, and to stress the importance of ongoing donations to the Foundation.

In early October, we sent an email about the Foundation and its work to every Grand Knight with a request that he forward it to all his Council members. We want to reach more of the Council members to increase awareness of the Foundation and its work on their behalf.

Our goal is to continue to provide sustainable funding to selected charities. We have done this for St Mary's University College in Calgary and St. Joseph's Seminary in Edmonton for years. Over the years the Foundation has given these institutions hundreds of thousands of dollars. In addition, the Foundation gives funds either directly or through Council directions to 60 to 80 charities each year.

As a registered charity, the Alberta Charitable Foundation invests conservatively to ensure it can meet its annual charitable obligations without dipping into its capital. Alberta now faces an uncertain economy and prevailing low interest rates. As a result, our income from interest and divi-

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## From the Columbia Director

By Gregory Amerongen

Mes chers frères Chevaliers!

Happy Advent to you and your families!

I am heartened to have received several submissions for our **Canadian content** which Supreme desires to publish in the *Columbia*. Please continue to submit these to me. As a reminder, we look for two main types of stories:

**1. Council events** that are scheduled at least two to three months from when I would receive your submission. They should be characterized as very impressive and remarkable events that would attract the attention of other Canadian Knights throughout the province.

**2. Council members** who have served in extremely remarkable ways and whose lives reflect our principles to an unparalleled degree. They are our unsung heroes.

Finally, dear brother Knights, I wish each of you some quiet time to cherish the gift of good health, time with family, and remembrance of Christ Who first came two thousand years ago to christen time, cloaked in the disguise of human flesh while leaving behind His majesty to live as we do, but without sin so as to leave us an abiding memorial of how to live the prayer "THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN!"

May God inspire each of you to grow a little more in the way of Christ and advance more deeply into His Charity, our first principle, especially as marked by gifting ourselves to our family members even as Christ gifts Himself to us as marked by self-sacrifice and forgiveness. Consider praying for estranged family members and for greater unity among our brother Knights, for, with God's grace, reconciliation is possible, thus disposing us brothers and our families to thrive in joy.

In closing, I wish you a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2020 anno Domini.

Fraternellement,

Frère Gregory Amerongen  
Alberta-NWT State *Columbia* Chairman

# From the Life Director

By Gregory Amerongen

Cari fratelli Cavalieri!

I hope that your Christmas preparations are going well – the buying of gifts, tree decorating, house-lighting, and other material aspects that reflect and symbolise our faith. The life of Christ is at once perennially demonstrated in our unswerving commitment to lead councils in our programs, most clearly in the sovereign value of LIFE, for without life and life in Christ, nothing else matters!

Therefore, I trust that your councils and districts have begun to undertake at least some of the our Knights of Columbus programs. If you haven't, there's still time to start. You will find more details about the particular programs on our **Supreme website under Programs** <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/programs/life/index.html>. Furthermore, our State Chairmen contact information is available through our State Roster. Of course, feel free to contact me any time.

In closing, I wish you a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2020 anno Domini.



“Catholics must be committed to the defense of life in all its stages and in every condition” (St. John Paul II, 1995). The urgency of the threat to a culture of life in our world cannot be misunderstood. The Knights of Columbus vigorously defends the dignity of each human being at every stage of life. Councils and parishes can work

Frater-

namente,

Fratello Gregory Amerongen  
Alberta-NWT State Life Director

## NOVENA FOR LIFE (REQUIRED / NEW)



Lead your community in the spiritual fight to establish a culture of life in our nations.

## MARCH FOR LIFE (FEATURED)



Show public support for the right to life by attending the **Alberta March for Life on Thursday, May 14, 2020**. The brochure should be online by about March, 2020 at <https://albertamarchforlife.com/>.

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operation for the past 40 years or so. Most recently, the First,

Second and Third degree ceremonials will be combined into one ceremonial. The combined ceremonial will be open to the public, no more secrecy and will only last for 35 minutes. The lessons on each degree will be carried over to the combined ceremonial.

I am very pleased to give you an update on the Circle of Honor Report, as of December 16: Intake Goal is 753. Gain: 418. Need: 335. Percent: 55.51%. Proudly enough, Alberta is No. 1 in Division 2, No. 1 in Canada and No. 4 in the entire Order, consisting of 75 jurisdictions. Wow! That said, in order to maintain our position and sustain growth, we need the help and support of everybody. I always believe that we can all do way more than we think we can! What difference are we making? Big or small, it does not matter. If everyone made a small difference, we would end up with a big difference, wouldn't we? Pope Francis summed it up best: "Help one another. This is what Jesus teaches us. This is what I do. And I do it with my heart."

The true meaning of Christmas is love. "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. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through him." Christmas is the season for giving, remembering, sharing, and spreading the love. It is a time to count our blessings and reach out to the needy by opening our hearts and minds. Jesus is the Reason for the Season! Rejoice!

My family, beloved wife Ruby, wonderful children, Stephanie and Richard, and I, wish each and every one of you lots of love, joy and happiness!

Have a very Blessed, Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Vivat Jesus!  
Vince Reyes, State Deputy

## From the State Pennies for Heaven Chairman

By Brian Strawford

*W*orthy Brother Knights,

My huge thank-you to all Brother Knights through the Councils who support the Pennies for Heaven Program. This Truly shows our support of Seminars and Religious.

To have your Councils donation for this fiscal year, please make contributions before December 31, 2019

For donations, please make your cheques payable to the K of C State Council and mail to:

KofC State Council Office  
#4, 5579-47 Street  
Red Deer, AB T4N 1S1



## From the State Refund Support Vocations Program Chairman

By Brian Strawford

*K*eeping the faith alive for our Seminarians and Postulants

As the strong arm of the Church, the Knights of Columbus are committed to provide moral, financial and spiritual support to our future Priests and Religious. A feature program, RSVP counts for two credits towards the Columbian Award. Through this program Council and Parish families will raise funds to support Seminar-ians or Religious in formation in their area. For every \$500.00 given to an individual, the Supreme Council will refund the Council or Assembly \$100.00. The maximum refund a Council or Assembly can receive is \$400.00 per individual supported although financial support is vitally important, it is not the only aspect of the RSVP program. Councils are also called to provide their "adopted" Seminarian or Religious with moral support and prayers for their success.

Please call me if you have any questions of this RSVP program.

My best wishes to all Brother Knights and Family for a Blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Fraternally Yours  
Brian Strawford  
Pennies for Heaven/RSVP Chairman

## From the Community Director

By Ross Szentmiklossy

December 2019

*B*rother Knights:

January through to March is Basketball Free Throw months. It starts at Council level in January, followed up by District level where the winners proceed to regional level. Please let me know if you wish to host the regional. The areas are in the back of the roster book Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Olds, Calgary, Medicine Hat.

I will be ordering Medals for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the regional and plaques for provincial winners.

Grand Knights need to apply for your free throw kit at officers on line, and the same applies to District Deputies for their 12 District Medals for first place.

Thanks to Brother Sal and Brother Kevin for their part in the Coats for Kids function held at Bishop Kidd school in Calgary.

I received an email from the Wheelchair Chairman North Richard Rajotte Wheel chair program had Council 7070 in Edmonton donate \$80,000. To the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation. Great job.

Vivat Jesus!  
Ross Szentmiklossy,  
State Community Director.



*(Continued from page 9 Foundation President)*

dends plus our share of the Charities Appeal sales is less than our required charitable giving and our operating expenses. This year we will give out about \$ 95,000 and face a shortfall of about \$ 25,000.

Increasing the sales of Charities Appeal tickets would help the ACF and the Councils. The ACF can sustain its charitable giving without dipping into its capital; Councils will have more funds available for their own charities.

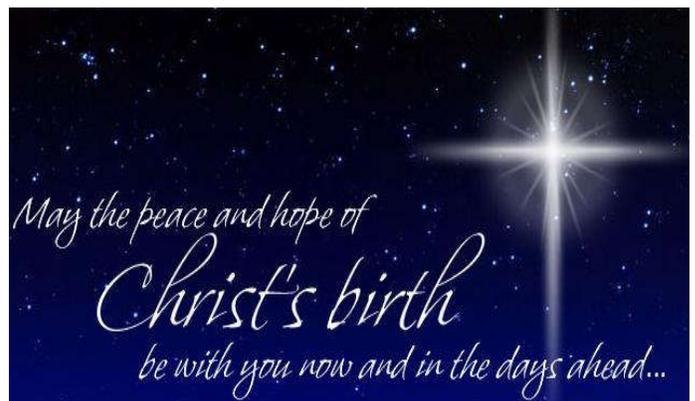
Individual and council donations to that ACF will also add to our share of the Charities Appeal ticket sales in supporting charitable giving. We seek your assistance to increase our income through bequests and donations.

When your ACF representative visits your Council, he would be pleased to accept donations from individuals and from your Council. If you wish to make a donation at another time, please contact Ron Bichel [rbichel@dlmpc.ca](mailto:rbichel@dlmpc.ca) or Willis Winter [winteraw@telus.net](mailto:winteraw@telus.net) and we will send you the form.

In 2019, we were able to assist numerous charities on your behalf. I extend my sincere gratitude to all those who helped us achieve these results.

Kathleen and I offer our best wishes for a Blessed Christmas and good health and happiness in the New Year.

Willis Winter, President – ACF





### Ascension Council 10065 Donates - Toshiba Ultrasound Equipment to SAIT Diagnostic Imaging Program

After exhaustive effort to place an Ultrasound Machine in Canada, as part of the Culture of Life – Ultrasound Initiative over the past 2.5 years, we were finally successful in partnering with the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) to place our gift. The In Kind Donation was graciously accepted by the Diagnostic Imaging Department to help train up and coming Sonographers.

The program at SAIT is now at record capacity graduating 32 students per year from the program. Our gift of the Toshiba Xario Ultrasound machine was a very welcome addition to the program and is being put to immediately use in the Human Simulation Lab. The Toshiba equipment that we have donated has functionality and options specific to Obstetrics & Gynecology which many of their current units do not have. Our donation will assist students to become better prepared to enter Maternity Diagnostics.

Accepting the gift on behalf of SAIT is Jennifer Brown, MEd, MRT(R), Academic Chair, Diagnostic Imaging, Allied Health Practicum Coordinator.

Presenting on behalf of Canon Medical System Canada, Robert Clarkson, Executive Account Mgr. AB, SK, NWT  
Hubert Bautista, Regional Technical Support, Ultrasound

On behalf of the Knights of Columbus, Gaston Launiere, State Secretary, Kevin Power, PGK, FN

Celebrating with us were students of the program as they finished the last exam before the Christmas Break.

Thanks to everyone involved, for your patience and perseverance in this project and for finally finding a great home for our gift.

Wishing you and yours' a Blessed Christmas and a Safe and Happy Holiday.

Kevin f. Power  
PGK Ascension 10065  
FN Fr. Naphin Assembly 2346

(Continued from page 10 State Life Director)

## CHRISTIAN REFUGEE RELIEF



Help save persecuted and at-risk Christians facing genocide all over the world, particularly in the Middle East.

## MASS FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS *(NEW)*



Welcome individuals or families who might not normally feel comfortable participating in a regularly scheduled Mass.

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS *(FEATURED)*



Celebrate the intrinsic worth and dignity of every single human being.

## SILVER ROSE



Share the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe and promote respect for life through this meaningful pilgrimage.

## PREGNANCY CENTER SUPPORT *(NEW)*



Change public hearts and minds about abortion by showing love for both mother and child before and after birth.

## ULTRASOUND *(FEATURED)*



Save lives and help women choose life by giving them the opportunity to view their unborn children on ultrasound machines at pro-life pregnancy centers.

For program details, go to the Supreme website: **Faith in Action: Life Programs:** <http://www.kofc.org/en/programs/life/index.html> Questions: Gregory A. 587 566 4193 lifedirec-

Fraternellement,

Frère Gregory Amerongen  
Alberta-NWT State *Life Director*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### ANNUAL STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Details to follow.

**STATE ANNUAL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT TO BE HOSTED BY  
LUKE KILLORAN COUNCIL #4510 APRIL 3, 4 & 5, 2020**

At the Wainwright Multi-plex Contact  
Ryan Doetzel 780-868-2380 or Neil Loonan 587-281-2566 or  
Tom Kennelly 780-806-3434 or Richard Caron 587-281-0827

**STATE ANNUAL CURLING TOURNAMENT TO BE HOSTED BY  
FATHER DUNCAN MACDONNELL COUNCIL #6363  
FORT SASKATCHEWAN FEBRUARY 22, 23, 2020**

For additional Information contact Bill Potvin at  
billpotvinn@gmail.com or 780-998-0504

**ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION CALGARY WESTIN HOTEL  
(DOWNTOWN) APRIL 24, 25 & 26, 2020**

(When applying for Athletic events, please use the  
specific form. Forms can be found in the GK Manual  
in Section F-1, pages 2-3.)

## **Form #100 Belongs in All of These Places**

- Briefcase
- In Your Pocket
- Near Your Phone
- Glove Compartment
- Everywhere You Go!



**SIGN UP A  
NEW MEMBER  
TODAY!**



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**



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*We offer our heartfelt sympathy and  
prayers:*

Please keep in your prayers the family of Brother William Yuchem who passed away December 12, 2019 in Calgary.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let  
perpetual light shine upon them.  
May the souls of the faithful departed  
Through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

## The Gift of the Magi

By O. Henry (1906)

One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies... Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas. There was clearly nothing to do but flop down on the shabby little couch and howl. So Della did it. Which instigates the moral reflection that life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating.

While the mistress of the home is gradually subsiding from the first stage to the second, take a look at the home. A furnished flat at \$8 per week... In the vestibule below was a letter-box... and a card bearing the name "Mr. James Dillingham Young." The "Dillingham" had been flung to the breeze during a former period of prosperity when its possessor was being paid \$30 per week. Now, when the income was shrunk to \$20, the letters of "Dillingham" looked blurred... But whenever Mr. James Dillingham Young came home and reached his flat above he was called "Jim" and greatly hugged by Mrs. James Dillingham Young, already introduced to you as Della. Which is all very good.

Della finished her cry and attended to her cheeks with the powder rag. Only \$1.87 to buy a present for him. Her Jim. Many a happy hour she had spent planning for something nice for him. Something fine and rare and sterling--something just a little bit near to being worthy of the honour of being owned by Jim....

Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride. One was Jim's gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair... So now Della's beautiful hair fell about her, rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters. It reached below her knee and made itself almost a garment for her. And then she did it up again nervously and quickly.

On went her old brown jacket; on went her old brown hat. With a whirl of skirts and with a brilliant sparkle still in her eyes, she fluttered out the door and down the stairs to the street. Where she stopped the sign read: "Mme. Sofronie. Hair Goods of All Kinds"

"Will you buy my hair?" asked Della.

"I buy hair," said Madame. "Take your hat off and let's have a sight at the looks of it."

Down rippled the brown cascade. "Twenty dollars," said Madame, lifting the mass with a practised hand.

"Give it to me quick," said Della.

Oh, and the next two hours tripped by on rosy wings. Forget the hashed metaphor. She was ransacking the stores for Jim's present. She found it at last. It surely had been made for Jim and no one else. There was no other like it in any of the stores, and she had turned all of them inside out. It was a platinum fob chain simple and chaste in design, properly proclaiming its value by substance alone and not by meretricious ornamentation--as all good things should do. It was even worthy of The Watch. As soon as she saw it she knew that it must be Jim's. It was like him. Quietness and value--the description applied to both. Twenty-one dollars they took from her for it, and she hurried home with the 87 cents. With that chain on his watch Jim might be properly anxious about the time in any company. Grand as the watch was, he sometimes looked at it on the sly on account of the old leather strap that he used in place of a chain.

When Della reached home her intoxication gave way a little to prudence and reason. She got out her curling irons and lighted the gas and went to work repairing the ravages made by generosity added to love.... Within forty minutes her head was covered with tiny, close-lying curls that made her look wonderfully like a truant schoolboy....

"If Jim doesn't kill me," she said to herself, "before he takes a second look at me, he'll say I look like a Coney Island chorus girl."

Jim was never late. Della doubled the fob chain in her hand and sat on the corner of the table near the door that he always entered. Then she heard his step on the stair away down on the first flight, and she turned white for just a moment. She had a habit of saying little silent prayers about the simplest everyday things, and now she whispered: "Please God, make him think I am still pretty."

The door opened and Jim stepped in and closed it. He looked thin and very serious... Jim stopped inside the door, as immovable as a setter at the scent of quail. His eyes were fixed upon Della, and there was an expression in them that she could not read, and it terrified her. It was not anger, nor surprise, nor disapproval, nor horror, nor any of the sentiments that she had been prepared for. He simply stared at her fixedly with that peculiar expression on his face.

"Jim, darling," she cried, "don't look at me that way. I had my hair cut off and sold it because I couldn't have lived through Christmas without giving you a present. It'll grow out again--you won't mind, will you? I just had to do it. My hair grows awfully fast. Say 'Merry Christmas!' Jim, and let's be happy. You don't know what a nice-- what a beautiful, nice gift I've got for you."

"You've cut off your hair?" asked Jim, laboriously, as if he had not arrived at that patent fact yet even after the hardest mental labour.

"Cut it off and sold it," said Della. "Don't you like me just as well, anyhow? I'm me without my hair, ain't I?"

Jim looked about the room curiously. "You say your hair is gone?" he said, with an air almost of idiocy.

"You needn't look for it," said Della. "It's sold, I tell you--sold and gone, too. It's Christmas Eve, boy. Be good to me, for it went for you. Maybe the hairs of my head were numbered," she went on with a sudden serious sweetness, "but nobody could ever count my love for you. Shall I put the chops on, Jim?"

Out of his trance Jim seemed quickly to wake. He enfolded his Della.... Jim drew a package from his overcoat pocket and threw it upon the table.

"Don't make any mistake, Dell," he said, "about me. I don't think there's anything in the way of a haircut or a shave or a shampoo that could make me like my girl any less. But if you'll unwrap that package you may see why you had me going a while at first."

White fingers and nimble tore at the string and paper. And then an ecstatic scream of joy; and then, alas a quick feminine change to hysterical tears and wails, necessitating the immediate employment of all the comforting powers of the lord of the flat. For there lay The Combs--the set of combs, side and back, that Della had worshipped for the long in a Broadway window. Beautiful combs, pure tortoise shell, with jewelled rims--just the shade to wear in the beautiful vanished hair. They were expensive combs, she knew, and her heart had simply craved and yearned over them without the least hope of possession. And now, they were hers, but the tresses that should have adorned the coveted adornments were gone. But she hugged them to her bosom, and at length she was able to look up with dim eyes and a smile and say:

"My hair grows so fast, Jim!" And then Della leaped up like a little singed cat and cried, "Oh, oh!"

Jim had not yet seen his beautiful present. She held it out to him eagerly upon her open palm. The dull precious metal seemed to flash with a reflection of her bright and ardent spirit.

"Isn't it a dandy, Jim? I hunted all over town to find it. You'll have to look at the time a hundred times a day now. Give me your watch. I want to see how it looks on it."

Instead of obeying, Jim tumbled down on the couch and put his hands under the back of his head and smiled. "Dell," said he, "let's put our Christmas presents away and keep 'em a while. They're too nice to use just at present. I sold the watch to get the money to buy your combs. And now suppose you put the chops on."

The magi, as you know, were wise men--wonderfully wise men--who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger. They invented the art of giving Christmas presents. Being wise, their gifts were no doubt wise ones, possibly bearing the privilege of exchange in case of duplication. And here I have lamely related to you the uneventful chronicle of two foolish children in a flat who most unwisely sacrificed for each other the greatest treasures of their house. But in a last word to the wise of these days let it be said that of all who give gifts these two were the wisest. Of all who give and receive gifts, such as they are wisest.... They are the magi.