

## **WV State Council Newsletter – Dec. 2014 / Jan. 2015**

### **From the Desk of the State Chaplain:**



One day not long ago, I was sitting in a Starbucks catching up on emails, and overheard a conversation between two men. It was a sales meeting. They were talking about how it might be possible for them to reach more people. They were excited about the possibilities of expanding their business. They wanted to share the good news of Jesus Christ in any possible way they could imagine. One told a story of how a little boy in their school prayed every day that his daddy might be saved, and the joy it brought when he eventually decided to join the church. The other recounted how great the need was in his neighborhood for the good news and what might happen if some of the families from the poor side of town got to meet Jesus.

Obviously these fellows were not Cradle Catholics. We do not use the language of “being saved” because we believe that Jesus has already saved every one of us. Instead, we talk about cooperating with the grace of God that is given to us. But that is all semantics! What I recognized in their conversation though was that they were actively seeking ways to cooperate with God’s graces. They saw some little gifts they had been given, and wanted to make them available to others. They were genuinely interested in the well being of their neighbor. Not just that they were warm and well fed and well educated, but they were concerned about their eternal salvation. And that is good news!

This little encounter caused me to wonder what might happen if we might be that kind of engaged about our faith, our church, our schools, our charitable projects. As faithful Knights, do we dare to share the joy of our faith? (or even talk about it in public!) Saint Paul tells us to “always be ready to give a reason for your hope.” Jesus Christ is, of course, the reason for our hope. He is the reason we are able to confidently face the past, present, and future. He is the reason for our Charity, Fraternity, and Service. He is the reason that we celebrate Christmas and provide food for the hungry and coats for the kids and scholarships for students and resources for Special Olympics and so much more. May we never lose sight of the reason for our service!

As we begin this new year, let’s set a goal to be present to our brothers in prayer each day. There is at least one brother in your own council that you know is in need. Ask Our Lady to intercede for him to her Son. Each of us also knows a project in our council that is not doing as well as it has in the past. Ask St. Joseph to guide the work of your brothers to greater success. We all know a family who is struggling. Ask your council to be Christ to them. That is the heart of charity that is proclaimed in the gospel!

*Fr John A. Rice*

“The easiest way to honor in this world is to be what you pretend to be.” — Socrates

*Faith & Charity In The Mountains*

**State Deputy's Message:**



Brothers all,

Greetings! I hope you and your families are doing well this Christmas season. Our fraternal year is half way over and I am happy to report that our State Council is doing very well. By working together as a team, we have made tremendous progress over the last year and a half and I thank each of you for your hard work and dedication to our order. Our programs are doing great throughout the state as you can see by some of the articles in this newsletter. We are wrapping up our "Coats for Kids" program this year with outstanding results. It is now time to turn our program attention to the Lenten "Food for Families" drive set to begin, March 5, 2015. Please work with your local council to participate in this program this year. Together we can make a difference in many lives in WV.

We are launching our new and improved website this month and I think you will like the new look and feel. As we thank Brother Thomas Eades for his hard work on the new site, I ask you to take a moment to remember and thank Brother Rob Walker, our former website chairman who passed away this year. Rob served as website chairman for several years and did an outstanding job keeping the site up and running. This newsletter is also proving to be a success, but we need more councils to send in articles and photos of local events. This newsletter and our website will be what we make it. The more councils contribute, the better the newsletter and site will be.

There is one very important area of the State Council that we need to improve, and that area is Membership Recruitment and Retention. Many of our councils are holding 1<sup>st</sup> degrees and many are not. Our order continues to shrink here in WV, but we can turn that around. We ask that all councils participate in at least one 1<sup>st</sup> degree in their district each month. I know that is a tall order, but we must have goals to try and grow our order. Our membership director Frank Koenig gave an outstanding presentation on membership at our Mid-Year Meeting in Elkins this month. I hope those in

attendance took home some ideas to increase membership in their councils.

In closing, I hope all councils are reminding their local communities to "Keep Christ in Christmas" this Christmas season. Becky, Megan and I wish each of you and your families a very Blessed and Merry Christmas and happy New Year. God Bless you all!

Vivat Jesus!

*Mike McDougle*

*Faith & Charity in the Mountains*

**Holy Father's Prayer Intentions**

Offered in Solidarity with Pope Francis

GENERAL: That those from diverse religious traditions and all people of good will may work together for peace.

MISSION: That in this year dedicated to consecrated life, religious men and women may rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal.



**Desk of the State Warden:**

Let me begin by wishing everyone and their families a Blessed Holiday Season. As we begin the 2nd half of the fraternal year, there are 2 items I would like to make you aware of.

1) Every council is required to complete the Annual Fraternal Survey (form #1728). This form is due to Supreme on or before January 31st. As our Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson, indicated in a recent letter that this is necessary "so that the full power of our charitable giving and volunteering can be recorded and recognized." Let's not wait to the deadline !!!

2) At our mid-year meeting, I distributed our Seminarian Support Raffle Tickets. Please start planning various ways to sell these tickets and help realize our goal of raising \$ 10,000.00. More details will be forthcoming over the upcoming days.

If anyone has any questions concerning either item, please call me at any time (304-561-5032).

VIVAT JESUS,  
Paul Niedbalski

**Newsletter Host:**

Dear Brothers in Christ, it is my honor to be assisting the State Council of the Knights of Columbus of West Virginia in putting together the Council's newsletter.

The last month and a half has been a huge adjustment for me in the since of illness and a new job opportunity. I greatly appreciate your patience with the putting together of the State Newsletter.

This is only the beginning of great things to come. I hope to have an article or two from at least each council in the state as soon as possible in the newsletter. This will serve as an excellent communicator and idea gathering for those in the State of West Virginia.

Please send all items/articles/pictures that your council has done to the State Warden and myself at [dbonnett@aep.com](mailto:dbonnett@aep.com). Also, any future events that your council will be hosting would be great also, so that a calendar may be put together for everyone's information and enjoyment.

Thank you and God bless,  
Daniel Bonnett  
State Publicity Chairman

**MEMBERSHIP: REACHING FOR THE "STARS"**

Every Council should be reaching for the stars that is "STAR COUNCIL." It is a goal that measures the success and vitality of every Council. It recognizes the Council's activities in each program area and the achieving of membership and insurance goals. The STAR Council award recognizes success in our charitable service areas: our Church, community, family, youth and culture of life, and should be the goal of all Councils and every Grand Knights.

At our Mid-year meeting, State Deputy Mike McDougle presented the STAR Council awards from last year. At the mid-year meeting, seven-Councils were on their way to STAR Council, and they competed in a drawing for a first half cash incentive for the Council.. The winners were Beckley, Weston and Charlestown. Since then, two additional Councils, Berkley Springs and Shepherdstown, joined the Star Council group. The State's Star Council incentive drawing will continue through the second half of the fraternal year. All Councils that reach STAR will be in the drawing for the second half incentive.

Four Districts had one or more Councils on their way to STAR, and Mike Stranger, of District #6, won the District Deputy drawing. In addition, the State's "4 for the Quarter" initiative recognizes the Grand Knights who's Council recruited at least four new Brother Knights in the second quarter. Brother Ray of Wheeling Carroll #504 and Brother Mike of Charles Town Mother Teresa #12036 won it. A "Dinner for Two" gift card will be sent to each of them. The "4 for the Quarter" incentive will be offered again during the third quarter. Hopefully, we can recognize at least one or two Grand Knights in each District during that period. Our goals are "ONE DEGREE, PER DISTRICT, PER MONTH", "ONE or More STAR COUNCILS, PER DISTRICT" and finally, remembering "No job is complete until the paperwork is done." Thus, with every Council active, we can keep the Knights of Columbus growing and serving in West Virginia.

Frank Koenig – Membership Director

## Coats for Kids Drive

Our 2014 – 2015 Coats for kids drive is doing very well. Even though we only have roughly 10% of our councils participating we have distributed over 1000 coats throughout the state. Thanks go out to those councils participating; you are doing a great job! I encourage all councils to consider participating in the program next year. Think of the good we could do if more councils participated.

### As of January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015

| Council | Location              | # of Members in Council | Coats Collected/Purchased | Average Coats per Member |
|---------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 594     | Parkersburg           | 355                     | 80                        | 0.22                     |
| 603     | Elkins                | 180                     | 52                        | 0.28                     |
| 872     | Clarksburg            | 500                     | 24                        | 0.05                     |
| 3232    | Montgomery            | 53                      | 49                        | 0.92                     |
| 8689    | White Sulphur Springs | 63                      | 36                        | 0.57                     |
| 1169    | Martinsburg           | 188                     | 72                        | 0.38                     |
| 1404    | Bluefield             | 69                      | 632                       | 9.10                     |
| 12630   | Charleston            | 92                      | 72                        | 0.78                     |
| 10756   | Inwood                | 149                     | 36                        | 0.24                     |
| 13887   | Shepherdstown         | 64                      | 36                        | 0.56                     |
| 4694    | St. Albans            | 118                     | 24                        | 0.20                     |
| 942     | Fairmont              | 575                     | 60                        | 0.10                     |
| Totals  |                       |                         | 1173                      |                          |

## Food for Families Lent 2015

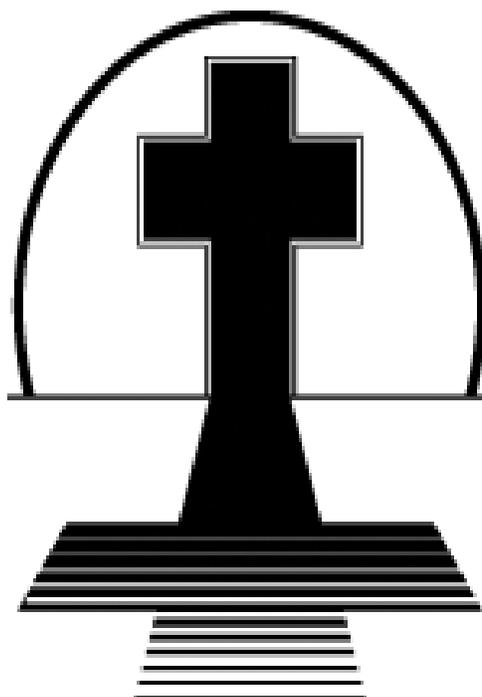
It's not early to be planning for our state wide Lenten Food for Families program for 2015. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2015.

Food Drive  
for Hunger



We are asking every council in the state to participate and hold council Food for Families Drives during Lent 2015. We had great results last year during Lent and I

know we can do more this year if more councils participate. I will be sending out more information as we get closer to Lent.



## **Alleghany Highlands Council 8689 Red Cross Blood Drive**

The Alleghany Highlands Council 8689, hosted a Red Cross Bloodmobile on Friday, Oct. 24, the first ever Bloodmobile visit at St. Charles Borromeo Church, White Sulphur Springs, collecting 15 units of blood, thus helping as many as 45 in need of blood products. Three were first time donors and one Knight gave a unit to complete 16th gallon and another local man donated to complete his 14th gallon.

## **COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVED IN THE GREENBRIER VALLEY**

In observance of Columbus Day, Oct. 12, and the Monday holiday observance Oct. 13, the Alleghany Highlands Council 8689 Knights of Columbus placed the American flags on the K of C sign at each entrance to White Sulphur Springs.

In addition, the American flags were visible at each Catholic Church in the Greenbrier Valley area for the holiday.

Members of the Knights are planning two community activities in the month. One will be a blood mobile drive at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church Parish Hall Oct. 24 and that blood drive will be open to the public from 3-7 p.m. Telephone 304-645-1373 and leave a message to sign up to give blood at the Red Cross bloodmobile.

Also, the annual drive to collect gently used coats, hats, toboggans, and winter gloves has started and donations can be left at the St. Charles Borromeo Church at 325 West Main Street in White Sulphur Springs and on Sunday mornings 10-11 a.m. at St. Catherine of Siena Church, Walnut St. at WV 63, Ronceverte. The coats will be distributed locally to children and adults in need.

*Faith & Charity In The Mountains*

Serving Greenbrier, Monroe, Pocahontas, Alleghany, and Bath counties, the Alleghany Highlands Council has one round table which is a section of the Council centered at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Marlinton and serves needs in Pocahontas County as well as assisting Knights in their projects throughout the Alleghany Highlands and the Greenbrier Valley.

The Knights of Columbus is an international non-profit Catholic men's organization serving the needs of the communities, families, churches, youth, and charities locally, state-wide, nationally, and worldwide.



This is the western entrance to the city of White Sulphur Springs, but also the entrance visitors to The Greenbrier would pass on their way to the historic resort during what is considered one of the busiest months of the year at the hotel.

Mike Williams  
Alleghany Highlands Council 8689  
[cwilliams1948@frontier.com](mailto:cwilliams1948@frontier.com)



# Mid-Year Meeting Photos



*Faith & Charity In The Mountains*



## **Berkeley Springs Council Donations**

The Knights of Columbus, Berkeley Springs Council presented a \$700.00 check to Widmyer Elementary Special Ed teacher Mary Vivian Hornbreaker and a \$1000.00 check to Eagle Intermediate Special Ed. teacher Melanie Jeck for discretionary use in their respective classrooms. The money was raised by the Knights during their "Tootsie Roll" campaign at the Food Lion in Morgan County and the Spring Mills Wal-Mart in Berkeley County.

The "Tootsie Roll" campaign is a nationwide effort by the Knights of Columbus to raise funds and awareness for children and adults with intellectual learning disabilities or other mental handicaps. In West Virginia, a small portion of the money collected by all local councils is pooled in a special account to

be distributed by grant to institutions or organizations for special projects to help the mentally challenged.

Each year, a large grant is given to the State Special Olympics from the pool. Any local organization or institution with a special project which will assist the mentally challenged can apply for a grant by contacting the local K of C Council through St. Vincent de Paul Church (304)258-1311.





Our Agents are committed to assisting Councils in their efforts to increase council membership by participating in membership drives and promotion of the Shining Armor Award; help members provide financial security to their families through the orders insurance and retirement products; and assist Councils achieve the Star Award. This fraternal year, thus far, ten councils are currently on target for Star Award.

How can our field agents help members? The Order has provided our Agents a financial planning software tool called "Forecaster" that effectively evaluates insurance and retirement needs in relation to the member's goals and objectives. The Forecaster has proven to be an invaluable tool in determining the financial strengths and areas of weakness in a family's financial plan. Recommendations are made simply to address the areas in need.

As stated above, the Order is committed to product innovation. This past summer, the Accelerator Term Insurance Product Series was introduced. It is the only product of its kind in the marketplace and has been very well received. Members now have the opportunity to extend their term insurance coverage beyond age seventy at fixed rates, the product allows for automatic death benefit increases to keep up with inflation.

In conclusion, as field agents, it is our duty to meet with our members; it is the only way we can ever hope to fulfill the mission of our Founder, Father Michael J. McGivney. On behalf of the Burkitt Agency, it is our hope and prayer that you all have a Wonderful and Blessed Christmas!

**From the Desk of KofC General Agent:**



Dear Brothers,

The year 2014 has been a great year for the Knights of Columbus Insurance Program. Earlier this year the Knights of Columbus received accolades from the Ethisphere Institute ([www.Ethisphere.com](http://www.Ethisphere.com)), in being named one of the world's most ethical companies. In July, we earned

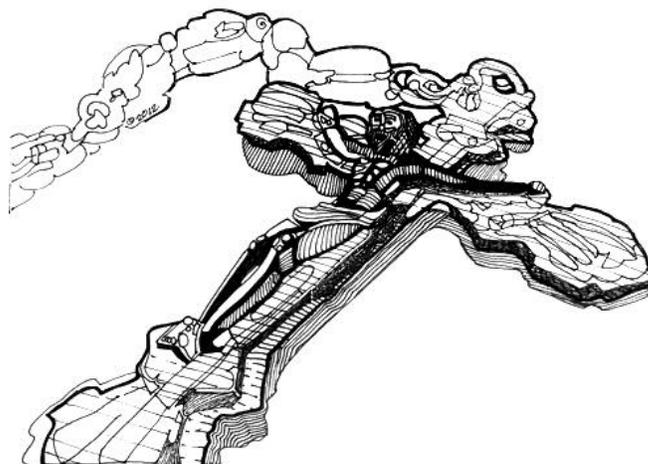
for the 39<sup>th</sup> consecutive year A.M. Best's highest rating, A++ Superior, reaffirming our financial strength in the insurance marketplace. Over the Thanksgiving weekend the Order eclipsed 96 billion of insurance in force. Quite a story, quite a company. The Order continues to add value to our members utilizing a conservative asset management approach, maintaining its core values and beliefs, and product innovation; enhancing our value proposition to members. Needless to say, I am excited about being part of the Knights of Columbus and our Insurance Program.

As an Agency, we are making progress on several fronts. Please join me in welcoming our newest addition to the Field Agent staff, Eric B. Mowry. Eric comes to us by way of referral from PSD Bernie Kelly. Eric is off to a fantastic start as a Field Agent and we are very happy to have him aboard. Eric lives in Follansbee WV with his wife Lisa and their children, Keenan and Mikayla. The councils Eric will serve in West Virginia are Chester, Weirton, Follansbee, and Wellsburg.

Vivat Jesus!

Michael F. Burkitt

CLU, ChFC, FIC



**From the Computer of the WebMaster:**

Praise the Lord! My Brothers,

As all of you might know by now our new state website [www.wvkofo.org](http://www.wvkofo.org) is up and running, thanks be to God! I would like to give credit to our State Deputy Mike whose ideas are what I put to work in the website. We have also attached a Face book Page (Knights of Columbus of West Virginia) to the site. In this article I am going to explain how we can use each for information and recruitment. Each has its own strength in both areas. The website is more in depth information and Face Book is like a teaser to people who want more information to the website.

The web site will be updated on a consistent basis as time allows. I will be continuing to tweak it as time goes on. At this point it is only about 80% complete of what I envision it to be. I would like to receive a picture of everyone to go along with their descriptions of their title. It doesn't have to be professional. That would mean all the State Officers and Committee Chairmen and Program Administrators, all the Grand Knights and Officers of each Council. One area I am working on now is for every District to have a page in the site and then a subpage for each of the Councils in that District. These pages will contain information from the individual District/ Councils and what's going on in them. Along with that I am also working on a video and photo page, a page that would show case all our good works, a prayer requests page and several others.

The Face Book page should be link to all the Face Book pages the councils have. It will be a place that is open to all. Of course I will be monitoring the page to block anything we don't want on there. The Page is an awesome way to recruit new members, stay in touch with our brothers, exchange ideas, spread our good works; we can also connect with others councils and organizations. But most of all it is a way to get people to our website. We need to get them interested in the Knights of Columbus and the awesome things we do. Especially the young and a lot of us I know are working hard on expelling the myth that we are a bunch of stuffy old men in a secret organization.

After saying all of the above none of this is going to work without each of you. I am only the socket but nothing works without each of you the plug. I know everyone is very busy so that is why I am trying to set this up so it is easy for you to get me information. 1) You can send me texts with photos 540-848-5645. 2) You can post anything you want to the Face Book page. 3) you can email me at [wvkofo@gmail.com](mailto:wvkofo@gmail.com) or

*Faith & Charity In The Mountains*

[tom.olv@gmail.com](mailto:tom.olv@gmail.com). I can pick up any information that is posted on the FB page and post it to the website. I mean everything all I need is just a description and or a picture. That's only a minute or two of your time. Also any recent past events please send me pictures and descriptions.

Remember it doesn't happen without you. So, let's share the face book page with everyone you know on face book and invite them "Like" it and to share the page and website with all their friends with same message. See everyone has at least 50 friends, especially wives and children. So that alone should be thousands of people getting exposed to the Knights of Columbus and Our Faith and Charity in the Mountains. Thanks so much for your time.

God Bless You all,

**Brother Tom**

State Website Chairman, Council 10011



Photograph of Father Michael J. McGivney at St. Mary's.