



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

## WEST VIRGINIA STATE COUNCIL



### *Newsletter, October 2014*

#### State Deputy's Message



Greetings Brother Knights! The 2013-2014 fraternal year is now behind us, and it proved to be a very successful year. We breathed new life into the State Council and accomplished many great deeds, celebrated some firsts in several areas of the State Council and broadened our horizons. As we venture into the

coming fraternal year, we must continue the great accomplishments of last year and at the same time set the bar even higher. To help us accomplish this and to further my effort to bring new talent to the State Council, I have appointed some new District Deputies and Chairmen.

I plan to continue to promote our new Mission and Vision for the WV State Council to help us realize our true calling as Knights and to fulfill Father McGivney's mission of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. At convention, I announced the theme for our State Council for the coming fraternal year, "Faith and Charity in the Mountains." The goal of the theme is to work hand-in-hand with our Mission and Visions and increase both our Catholic Faith and Charity here in our beautiful mountain state. This can help us grow as Catholic gentlemen, husbands and fathers and allow us to continue God's work of Charity for our fellow West Virginians.

I also plan to continue to place a strong emphasis on our programs as well as our membership activities. We'll continue live by the idea that membership alone does not make us strong and successful. We must have strong program activities to promote membership, and we must have a strong membership program to grow and perform our program activities.

In closing, my personal goal as your State Deputy is to make this year even better than last for program and membership activities, while maintaining and promoting the fundamentals and beliefs on which our Order was founded. I want to thank all of you for the tremendous support you showed me and the State

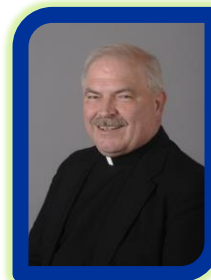
Officers this past year and I hope I have your continued support this coming year.

Vivat Jesus!  
*Mike McDougale*



*Faith & Charity in the Mountains*

#### State Chaplain's Corner



Have you read the news or watched television lately? The family is facing major problems in today's world. Many of those challenges surfaced last fall when we held our listening sessions in preparation for the upcoming special Synod on the Family. There are efforts afoot around the world, which seriously threaten the

dignity of human life and the family. When most of us grew up, there was an established routine, and most of us assumed that the same routine would just always repeat itself. We can no longer take that assumption for granted, and I would suggest that this is a good thing!

You see, the routine that we grew up with took too many things for granted, including our faith and the family. Today, we who claim to be people of faith must actively engage our beliefs; we are forced to consider "what do I really mean when I say that" at every turn because our children (and their children), and our neighbors look at our every move and call us out when we don't act in ways that are consistent with what we say. Thank God!

The Knights of Columbus was organized in St. Mary's parish, a parish to respond to the crisis in family life back in 1882. Father McGivney wanted to make certain that every widow was cared for, and in so doing, he uncovered many other issues. Today, Councils all over our state, and even all over the world, are engaged in projects to help families live out the faith that they profess on Sunday. A recent study showed that when

men become active in their faith, 93% of the time, the whole family becomes active in the faith. Now THAT is an impressive statistic, and one that we can build upon!

I was blessed to attend the Supreme Convention in early August, and there was introduced to a tool that I hope you will find useful in your parish or in your own Council. (Be sure to share this info with your parish priest!) **BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH:** The Family Fully Alive was developed at St. Mary's parish in Denver, Colorado, and the Knights of Columbus has adopted it for use with local Councils as a tool to prepare for the 8<sup>th</sup> World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in October of 2015. You can find more information about this program online or in Columbia Magazine.

Not merely another program or thing to do, this project introduces tools that every family, every Council, every parish can adopt to strengthen families amid the very real concerns our modern world imposes. It helps families learn to pray together so they can stay together. It helps parents learn the language of faith to pass on to their children. It helps local parishes or Councils do simple things to strengthen the family against the onslaught of secularism that faces us today.

I pray that your Council will look into ways of supporting this effort to strengthen the very core of our society - the family. It is the most practical thing we can do to hand on the faith!

*Father John*

### **The Family Fully Alive**

Recently, Pope Francis reminded us that Christian families "are the domestic church where Jesus grows in the love of a married couple, in the lives of their children."

To help our families better become what they are called to be, the Knights of Columbus has launched this initiative entitled: "*Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive.*"

Through this program, our families can realize more fully their mission to be an authentic domestic church through daily prayer, catechesis and Scripture reading, as well as through monthly charitable and volunteer projects they can do as a family. Please visit [kofc.org/familyfullyalive](http://kofc.org/familyfullyalive) to view the materials sent directly to local councils.

### **Growing the Order: Membership across WV**

The recruiting of new members is essential to the continued growth and well-being of your Council and the Order. By growing the Order in West Virginia, we

can ensure that the Knights of Columbus will continue to have a presence in parishes across the State, and to provide "Service to One, Service to All." It will allow us the opportunity to offer the Catholic men of West Virginia access to our fraternal benefits and to grow in their faith. Our goals continue to be: "ONE MEMBER, PER COUNCIL, PER MONTH" & "ONE DEGREE, PER DISTRICT, PER MONTH."

During the weeks of October 4<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, we will have an order-wide membership drive in honor of Pope Francis and St. Francis of Assisi. It is designed to emphasize our charitable works, and invite other members of our parishes to join us in an activity and to ask them to join us as a KNIGHT. Let's plan a drive in each Council, and strive to have a degree in every District this month. That is all 10 districts holding a degree, "10 for 10."

During the first few months, we've had eight districts hold at least one degree with 14 Councils participating. The "POWER of ONE" begins with you. Therefore, REMEMBER, every Knight is a potential recruiter; every KNIGHT can help conduct Church drives in their parish and every KNIGHT can ask someone to JOIN. Has your Council participated in a degree, are they planning to hold one in October, and have you recruited a member to ensure the growth and vitality of your Council?

-- Frank Koenig --  
WV Membership Director

### **State Insurance Agent's Intro & Mission**

Dear Brothers, I am humbled and have a deep sense of gratitude that the Order has placed the confidence in me to be the General Agent for the great state of West Virginia. I deem it an honor, a privilege, and am extremely excited about the opportunity to be part of the State of West Virginia Team.

The mission of the Burkitt Agency is this: to ensure that every Brother Knight and spouse has the opportunity to meet with a Field Agent to review their respective financial security needs, service existing policies, assist survivors with a compassionate heart and timely death claim service, and take an active role with the State and Council leadership in growing the membership of the Order.

With respect to my background, I have been in the Financial Services and Insurance business since 1992. I have had the privilege of working with respected names in the industry such as Mass Mutual Life Insurance Company and the Principal Financial Group. During my tenure, I assisted clients with their financial planning needs in a variety of disciplines and have earned the Financial Industry designations, Fraternal Insurance Counselor (FIC), Chartered Life Underwriter

(CLU) and Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC). Furthermore, I have been honored by the industry as a Million Dollar Round Table producer and recipient of the Court of the Table Honors.

I am very passionate about my career and the impact it has for people, especially those in need. Our Agency's goal is to share this experience and expertise to all the brothers and families of our state. We will achieve this goal by recruiting and training the highest quality Field Agents to serve you. Currently, the State has four very qualified Field Agents; we are seeking to add three more in the next six months. I sincerely appreciate thus far the referrals received from State Officers and Grand Knights. Please keep them coming. In respect to recruiting new members, Field Agents have been instructed to reach out to your Councils to offer assistance in your efforts. Our Field Agents are committed to the success of your recruitment efforts. Teamwork is an essential ingredient to success and achievement of goals. Let us all strive to work as a team to realize the vision and goals of our great State.

The Insurance industry celebrated in September Life Insurance Awareness month. The Knights of Columbus Insurance program is among the very best in the industry. Our Agency is here to share with you the very best, thus fulfilling the vision of Father Michael J. McGivney, providing financial assistance to widows and orphans. May God bless you and your family each and every day!

Vivat Jesus!

Michael F. Burkitt, FIC, CLU, ChFC

### **Celebrating Catholic Families**

*Submitted by John Price*

In southern West Virginia, we have many small Catholic parishes that have as few as 20 families on the church register, but no matter—they are very dedicated to their Church and community. We have realized over the years that you can only give so many Knights of the Month awards before you start awarding the same families over and over again. So, we've developed a program called Celebrating Catholic Families. This is our way to say thank you to the families in these small parishes.

Over Labor Day weekend, Council 5657's 4<sup>th</sup> Degree was in regalia and other 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Knights accompanied with their wives drove to Whitesville in Boone County. We lead the Rosary before Mass. After Mass, we presented Sheila and Tim Combs, members of Saint Joseph - the Worker Catholic Church, with a framed certificate of our gratitude for their work in the Church and their community. They were chosen for Council 5657's Celebrating Catholic Families (CCF) Award, because they epitomize Catholic family virtues.

Here's a few more reasons why:

- They are active members of the Whitesville, WV community, and have been married 23 years.
- They assist the Church's food pantry and publish the Church bulletin.
- Sheila was the force behind raising \$700,000 to build the UBB Miner Memorial along Route 3, and is currently working with others to establish a community park.
- Sheila also serves on the Catholic Charities Western Region Advisory Board, which addresses poverty, hunger, and social services needed in the area.

### **The Silver Rose Run Story**

*Submitted by Douglas White*



The Miracle of the Roses of Our Lady of Guadalupe is the basis for the Knights of Columbus' Silver Rose Run. On a cold December morning (December 9, 1531), Juan Diego, a young Mexican who was baptized into the faith as an adult in 1523 was on his way to serve Mass. Suddenly, he heard beautiful music and a woman's voice calling him to the top of a hill. At the top of the hill, he saw a beautiful lady who revealed to him that she was the Blessed Virgin. She told him to go to the Bishop and tell him to build a temple at the base of the hill. Juan Diego did as he had been told, but the Bishop did not believe the boy's story and asked for a sign of proof. On December 12, he returned to the hill and asked the Blessed Mother for a sign of proof and she told him to go to the top of the hill and pick the flowers that he would find there. At the top of the hill, Juan found a miraculous garden of beautiful roses growing in the frozen earth. He gathered them and brought them to the Blessed Mother who arranged them in his cloak and told him to take them to the Bishop as the sign of proof. When he arrived to see the Bishop and opened his cloak, the roses fell to the floor but an even more miraculous event also happened. Imprinted on the coarse fabric of his cloak was a portrait of the Blessed Mother. The cloak with the image is now displayed at the Cathedral in Mexico City.

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On July 31, 2002, Juan Diego was declared a saint by St. John Paul II. His feast day is December 9 and the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe is December 12.

The Run of the Silver Rose (1 Life - 1 Rose) began in 1960 as a project by the Columbian Squires which is the youth branch of the Knights of Columbus. It has since become an annual event for the entire organization. In the past, there have been five roses starting in Canada, then crossing into the United States traveling to Texas and finally into Mexico. This year, there will be six roses, with five originating in Canada and the sixth rose starting the run in Virginia and finally reaching Mexico. Of the five roses originating in Canada, four will go from Canada to Texas to the Basilica in Monterey, Mexico. The fourth rose to leave Canada will go travel through the Midwest, then through West Virginia and will finally make its home in the National Basilica in Washington DC. The last of the five roses originating its journey in Canada will start in New Brunswick and then go to New England and then will go to its resting place at the Knights of Columbus Supreme Headquarters in New Haven, Connecticut.

This program is an ideal project for the Knights of Columbus to promote unity in the Order and to honor the Patroness of North America, Our Lady of Guadalupe. Through the Run of the Silver Rose, we reaffirm the Order's dedication to the sanctity of human life. During the 54 years of honoring Our Blessed Mother in this way, we have grown while continually supporting our Catholic values.

This year, our Rose came into West Virginia from Ohio and rested briefly at the Adoration Chapel at St. Anne's Parish in Shinnston. After being exhibited in the Italian Festival Parade in Clarksburg on August 30, the Rose proceeded to Thomas for the Silver Rose Run to Elkins, then to Buckhannon and then to Weston. The Rose was honored by a Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael Bransfield on September 13 at the Basilica in Washington, DC. Many Knights made a pilgrimage to the Basilica to participate in the Mass. On September 14, there was a Mass and Rosary service at St. Leo's Parish in Inwood. After these celebrations, the Rose exited West Virginia and will make the journey through Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland. The Rose will then come to final rest at the Basilica in Washington, DC. On December 12, the remaining four Roses will come to their home at the Basilica in Monterey, Mexico at the location where Our Lady appeared because of the faith of Juan Diego.

### **Six Priests Concelebrate Mass**

*Submitted by Mike Williams*

On August 15, six priests from four Catholic dioceses concelebrated the Mass of the Feast of the Assumption

at the historic St. John, the Evangelist Catholic Church in Sweet Springs, WV.

Coordinated by the Alleghany Highlands Council 8689, the Mass attracted more than 110 residents from throughout southern WV and VA with an ice cream social held on the grounds following the Mass, hosted by the Altar and Rosary societies of St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, Ronceverte, and St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, White Sulphur Springs.



Celebrating the Mass were (left to right) Monsignor John Williams of the Diocese of Raleigh, NC; Father Harry Winters of St. Paul, MN (the last resident priest to serve Monroe County); Father Tom Collins, pastor of St. Joseph's, Clifton Forge, VA, and Sacred Heart, Covington, VA, of the Diocese of Richmond; Father James Conyers, associate pastor of St. Catherine of Siena, Ronceverte, St. Charles Borromeo, White Sulphur Springs, St. Louis, King of France, mission, Lewisburg and chaplain of the Alleghany Highlands Council; Father Bonaventure Lussier and Father Emanuel Betoesso, both of Christ on the Mountain Carmelite Monastery near Hinton, all three of the Diocese of Wheeling/Charleston.

"This is certainly a record for this Church and community," Father Winters who is the historian for St. John's, said, adding, "To have six priests celebrating the Mass is the most ever at St. John's." St. John's is the oldest Catholic Church building in WV, dating back to 1859, with some records indicating it was being built as early as 1839.

Music for the special Mass was provided by the "Hymns and Hers," the choir of St. Catherine of Siena Church, Ronceverte, under the direction of Mrs. Mary Thompson of Ronceverte. Flowers for the Mass were provided by the Altar and Rosary Society of St. Catherine's and by Mrs. R. L. Carter of Sweet Springs.

The Church houses historical information collected over the years by Father Winters and other "Friends of St. John's." This year, a photograph from the 1930's showing Father David Lord and one of the members of

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the Lewis family taken at Earlhurst, VA, has been added to the collection by Mrs. V. V. Deolloqui of Lewisburg. Father Lord was president of Boston College during the 1930's, spent his summers at Earlhurst with the Admiral Ballenger family, and celebrated Mass daily at the nearby St. John's Church in Sweet Springs.

The Church is now a part of the parish of St. Charles Borromeo, White Sulphur Springs. The Church is located at the Intersection of WV/VA 311 and WV 3 and tours of the historic structure can be arranged through the office of the Catholic Churches of the Greenbrier Valley at (304) 536-1813.

## From the State Warden's Desk

Councils, the following reports are due immediately to Supreme:

- ✓ Report of Officers chosen for this fraternal year
- ✓ Report of Chairman for Council Activities
- ✓ Semi-annual audit report

Our goal is 100% completions. Don't lose out on any awards for your Council for failure to submit this very important information. I'll be contacting Councils to see if assistance is needed to complete the required forms.

Vivat Jesus,  
Paul Niedbalski, State Warden.

## WVU Raffle Winners



Congratulations to:

- Richard Humphrey, Council 603, Richard also received a \$100 prize for selling the ticket
- Council 1404, Ron Ciccolini received a \$100 prize for selling the ticket

Every council was a winner as they received \$1.25 for every ticket sold.

## Football Frenzy

We are currently in the middle of our 2<sup>nd</sup> fundraising effort for both State and local Councils. The WV State Council will be giving \$7,000 to lucky winners starting with games played on the weekend of October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Remember, every Council will also benefit by receiving \$3 for each ticket sold.

**\*\*DEADLINE\*\* Purchase tickets by October 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Don't miss out on an opportunity to benefit yourself, your Council, and WV children.

For inquiries, call the WV State Warden, Paul Niedbalski at (304) 561-5032.

## Mark your Calendars

Upcoming State Meetings:

- **October 11, 2014** at 9:00AM, Multi-District (4 & 5) Meeting at Kingwood Council 9578
- **November 15, 2014** at 9:00AM, Multi-District (6 & 10) Meeting at Inwood Council 10756
- **December 6, 2014** at 9:00AM, Mid-Year Meeting at Elkins Council 603
- **February 7, 2015** at 10:00AM, State Officers Q3 Meeting at Parkersburg Council 594
- **April 26, 2015** at 10:00AM, Catholic Schools Dinner in Morgantown
- **May 15-17, 2015** at 9:00AM, State Convention at Beckley Council 5657

Next Fourth Degree Exemplification:

- **November 15, 2014** in Berkeley Springs

## Coats for Kids

Winter's just around the corner! We're only a month into our Coats for Kids Program, but how is your Council doing? As you know, time is of essence. We really should begin handing coats out by November. Please update the State Deputy on your Council's progress.

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