



MANITOBA NEWS

MANITOBA STATE COUNCIL SEPTEMBER, 2017

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State Deputy's Message

I am truly honored to have been elected as the Manitoba State Deputy for this Columbian Year. I

look forward to working with the State Board, District Deputies, Grand Knights, Councils and Members throughout Manitoba to make this year a great success in Manitoba through programs and membership.

This Year we started by attending the Installation of Officers and the District Deputy Seminars. The International Peace Gardens Field Mass Bus Trip is always a highlight to start the year's activities. My wife Lisa and I had the honour of attending the 135th Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention in St. Louis, Missouri as your Manitoba State Deputy. We were joined by State Chaplain Rev. Fr. Michael Kwiatkowski, Arch Bishop Richard Gagnon, Bishop Anthony Krotki, IPSD Karl Brosch and his wife Susan, SS Thomas Kraemer and his wife Marlene, DD Mark Desjardins and his wife Claudia, and Claude Lagacé and his wife Suzie. St. Louis was a very active, busy city and we had the opportunity to visit the famous St. Louis Arch, attend a St. Louis Cardinals Ball Game and tour at the Anheuser Busch Beer Factory. We also had the opportunity of meeting many of our brother Knights and wives from all over the world. It once again is a remarkable experience everyone should peruse.

At the Supreme Convention the Manitoba Delegates along with Supreme Director Larry Kustra and his wife Margaret, we were invited to a special evening by Supreme Secretary Michael O'Connor. Along with Manitoba, we were joined by the delegates from Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Saskatchewan, and Pennsylvania. It was an incredible evening with an amazing meal along with

singing of songs from every country present. It was a very enjoyable evening for all! My motto for this year is **"God Gives His Toughest Battles to the Strongest Soldiers"** We as Knights of Columbus face many challenges daily, and our

Membership is one of those Battles. We really need to get Manitoba State into a positive position with new young Members this year. So, Let's shoot for the **Goal of 8000 Members in Manitoba!!**. We All Need To Recruit a new member TODAY!

Our Supreme Knight Carl Anderson is encouraging all members to make membership recruitment a priority in your council. I challenge you to recruit one new member each, and by doing this, we can achieve a great membership year for Manitoba. We started this year [already with the "MANITOBA 75" Admission Degree and we are still recruiting to reach our goal of 75 members!](#)

Brothers, we need motivated and active members, with good programs and fresh ideas to be successful. Membership growth is essential to keep our order strong and alive. It is everyone's obligation to ask Catholic men to join the order. Also equally important is the duty of Member Retention! What an honour it is for a council and a District to achieve Star Council or Star District! Start reaching for your Stars Today!

Due to the Hurricanes and horrible weather in the Southern States, the situation has created huge problems. There are Millions being affected by this horrific weather and this includes many of our brother knights and their families and many more around the world. Please keep them in your prayers. Donations in support are being accepted through the Knights of Columbus Supreme website.

Vivat Jesus

Dan Shepherd





CHAPLAIN'S OCTOBER 2017 REFLECTION

Dear Brother Knights,

Vivat Jesus!

We arrive at a month that is filled with unexpected challenges and yet a month that also offers us an almost limitless “supply depot” and “arsenal” to deal with the challenges.

The challenges are the encroaching social attitudes and even civil legislation that forcing Catholics and people of goodwill to take notice and to take action. Throughout the month of October, **40-Days for Life** volunteers will be making a prayerful witness for life – as they encourage individuals contemplating an abortion to explore the options and “give life a chance”. If any Brother reading this has never witnessed – even for an hour – at the 40-Days for Life effort – YOU MUST DO SO! Do it for your own integrity as much as for the unborn that have no one to defend them but you. I guarantee that your soul will rejoice that you went out!

The relatively new legislation on Euthanasia – **Medical Assistance in Dying** (MAID) – is quickly taking the next natural step. How so? Well, our present government has not only opened the door to allow the quiet ‘termination’ of our elderly parents and grandparents and others. Legislation is being passed that will force those who don’t agree to either change their minds or silently participate directly or indirectly in the ‘mercy’ killing. When something is wrong, the perpetrator will either admit and correct the error or try to cover it up by any means possible. Some even do so with the hope that the wrong will somehow become right if enough people accept it. [Do they still read Andersen’s Emperor’s New Clothes in School?]

All immorality or sin wants not only to be free to have its way, it wants to do so without a guilty conscience and without the judgement of others. We ourselves, who have fallen short of the grace of God, know that we might “get away with” our sin if our conscience does not bother us. Our conscience naturally does bother us, but we know that we can quite effectively ‘kill’ our consciences – at least for a while. However, if some other person reminds us that our lifestyle or our actions are wrong and

destructive – we have to deal with a voice that is harder to silence, because we do not control it. We know how dictatorial regimes deal with voices of opposition. They may tolerate the pluralistic adage, “we’ll have to agree to disagree” for a while, but not when they want total conformity. When they are impatient with their agenda being delayed, they will legislate against opposing views, and then imprison those not easily silenced by fines. Then, if need be, they will terminate those that refuse to remain silent. Not a few of our Brother Knights are from parts of the world where this was lived out. Anyone, who wonders if such a comparison of today’s social trends and legislation in North America to that of despotic regimes is fantastically *over the top* – should simply re-read the history of the 20th Century.

Our parishes will be making an effort to support legislation in Manitoba to protect those in the medical profession who will not in conscience be able to support the MAID mentality or techniques. Hopefully Knights will not have to wait to be asked, but will approach their local priest, doctor and diocesan/eparchial coordinator and offer their assistance now.

There are many other issues that will be touched upon in future messages. But for now, let us look to the good news that we will have great support in fighting for what is right at this critical moment in our Catholic witness in our country, in our province.

This month of October is traditionally the “Month of the Rosary”. This is a perfect opportunity for Knights to promote that practice of praying the Rosary daily with family, friends, fellow parishioners and other Brother Knights. The Mother of God who we honour and implore as we pray the Rosary has always brought about positive results through her intercession. Remember the **Memorare**, that, “never was it known that anyone who... implored you help... was left unaided”.

In October, the eastern Churches celebrate the feast of the protection of the Mother of God. This is an amazing example of how Mary will come through – even against seemingly hopeless odds – to help those that ask for her help. Don’t know the story? Ask one of your Ukrainian or Geek brothers.

God bless the Knights of Columbus and all of our councils throughout this wonderful month.

Fr. Michael Kwiatkowski,
State Chaplain



Thomas Kraemer, State Secretary

At the time of writing it is early September. The first two months of this Columbian Year have been very busy.

Brothers, it is an honour to have been elected as your State Secretary. I fully support the efforts of our State Deputy, Dan Shepherd. I look forward to working with the other State Officers, District Deputies and all members especially Grand Knights and Council Membership Directors in building a strong jurisdiction and ensuring its future.

Another way to ensure the future of the Knights of Columbus is to promote the cause for canonization of our founder, Fr. Michael J. McGivney. Please encourage all members and anyone else to join for free, the Father Michael J. McGivney Guild. (see attached application) Pray often the prayer for his canonization.

Brothers, know that I stand ready to help you in any way. Please contact me to discuss your needs and if necessary develop a course of action.

I encourage you all to take seriously your responsibilities in the order, whatever they may be. Approach your duties with joy and enthusiasm. VIVAT JESUS.



Stuart Strijack State Treasurer



Reginald Robert, State Advocate

This year, I am celebrating 50 years as a member of the 3rd degree and 28 years as a 4th degree member. I have always been an active member and has

held all executive positions at the council level including twice as Grand Knight. At the 4th degree level was Faithful Comptroller for 20 years, 2 years as Captain and 2 years as Faithful Navigator. At the

Manitoba State level for the past 20 years I have held District Deputy, Program Director, Community and Council Directors, and State Warden. I presently hold the position of State Advocate. I have been married 49 years to Ghislaine. We have no children.



James E. Smidt, State Warden

I have been married to my beautiful wife, Janice, for 18 years. We were married at St. Anthony of Padua in West Kildonan, and we continue to be members of the parish.

I am a Correctional Officer at Stony Mountain Institution. I have been a Correctional Officer for the past 17 years. I was as a Crisis Negotiator, I worked in the Visits and Correspondence Department, and currently work in the Admissions and Discharge Department at the Minimum Security Unit of Stony Mountain Institution.

I became a Knight of St. Anthony of Padua Council #10569 at the end of the 2013-2014 Columbian Year. I joined the Knights of Columbus just in time to attend my Council's elections for the 2014-2015 Columbian Year. At the council elections I was asked to accept the Deputy Grand Knight position of our council. After much discussion with my wife, I agreed to accept the position of Deputy Grand Knight. As Deputy Grand Knight I assisted our council's Grand Knight in achieving Star Council.

I was elected as Grand Knight of St. Anthony of Padua Council for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 Columbian years.

At the 2017 Manitoba State Conference, I was approached by the State Deputy Elect and State Secretary Elect to consider letting my name stand for the State Warden position. After discussing this with my wife for several days, we agreed to let my name stand as State Warden.

I am excited to serve on Manitoba State Executive as your State Warden.

I look forward to my duties and representing our great organization as your State Warden.



District Master
Sir Knight Karel Moravek

After lengthy anticipation, the new appearance of the Colour Corps is finally here. Following several years of intense research and testing, the Board of Directors approved the new uniform: well designed and skillfully tailored from high quality material. Our beloved regalia with the touch of nostalgia of chivalry will be retired by the 30th of June 2018. Its replacement is a more versatile garment that will appeal to the younger generation. In addition, the requirement to wear a tuxedo at an exemplification was dropped; although the tux is still acceptable, a dark suit will be now sufficient dress code for new candidates.

We Knights begin the new fraternal year with enthusiasm to fulfill our pledges to the Order and the Catholic Church. During the Installation of Officers, to be held by the end of October, Assemblies Officers will promise to support and obey the Constitution and Laws of our Order and to insure that the members of their respective assemblies will do the same.

I am confident that each of fourteen assemblies in the Manitoba District has their program for this Columbian Year outlined and the tentative calendar of events for the Columbian Year set-up. Remember, there is always time to introduce new patriotic activity in programs to accommodate the current events of the year. It is also important to insure that each assembly's membership is growing, especially in the rural locations. The expectation is that the introduction of the new uniform and eliminating the use of a costly tuxedo at the exemplification should help to attract new candidates. The next Fourth Degree exemplification is scheduled for November 4, 2017 and it will be held at Mary, Mother of the Church in Winnipeg. Now is the time for recruiting!

Change is the necessity of our lives. In the spirit of our second virtue - UNITY - we must accept the decision of the Board of Directors, who has supreme power and control over the Fourth Degree. Let us

willingly support the implementation of the new uniform for the Colour Corps. I am positive we will wear the new uniform with pride and dignity.

Calendar of Events

June 30 - Manitoba State Roster due

June 30 - Report of Officers Chosen for the Term (form 185)

August 1 - Service Program Personnel Report (form 365) due

August 15 - Semiannual Council Audit Report due

September 30 - Council Training Session in Winnipeg (See attachment for details)

September 26, 27, 28 - Seminars (see enclosed attachment)

October 14 - Admission, Formation and Knighthood degrees (information found in poster sent with the current mailing)

October 28 - Installation of Assembly Officers contact your Faithful Navigator

November 4 - Fourth Degree Exemplification - contact Karl Moravek, Master

November 11 - Remembrance Day service hosted Cardinal Flahiff Assembly

November 18 - Keep Christ in Christmas (formerly known as the Santa Claus) Parade

December 3 - Youth Christmas Party - details to follow

Grand knights please advise all council members with internet access to visit the Manitoba State website: www.manitobastatecouncil.ca as the website will shortly be undergoing a major revamping.

Remember to pray for those affected by recent natural disasters and conflicts.