

# Go to the Peripheries - Regional Seminars

Opening Prayer

Welcome to all

Make introductions

Purpose of this meeting:

- To provide information on upcoming programs and events in our jurisdiction and to give you ideas for council programming, “Building the Domestic Church while Strengthening our Parish”.
- To provide a platform to train members on recruitment strategies and to give you ideas for successful recruiting in order to grow your council and our order in Manitoba.

**Buts de cette réunion:**

- Fournir de l'information sur les programmes et les événements à venir dans notre juridiction et de vous donner des idées pour la programmation du Conseil, ‘Construire l'Eglise domestique tout en renforçant notre paroisse’.
- Fournir une plate-forme pour former les membres sur les stratégies de recrutement et de vous donner des idées pour un recrutement réussi afin de faire croître votre conseil et notre ordre au Manitoba.

This evening will be giving you further information on these subjects. I would encourage you to take a few notes and/or get additional information from our website at

[www.manitobastatecouncil.ca](http://www.manitobastatecouncil.ca) . We will be posting pdf versions of these reports shortly on the website for your use and distribution.

The Knights of Columbus has grown to new heights in its charitable giving and volunteer hours during 2015, once again answering Pope Francis' call to reach out to those in need.

Les Chevaliers de Colomb ont atteint des nouveaux sommets dans ses dons de bienfaisance et ses heures de bénévolat en 2015 pour, encore une fois répondre ainsi à l'appel du pape François de tendre la main à ceux qui sont dans le besoin.

Worldwide, the Knights of Columbus set a new all-time record last year for charitable donations and service hours with over \$175 million in donations, an increase of \$1.5 million over 2014 and more than 73.4 million hours of volunteer service an increase of 1.9 million hours over 2014, achieving an increase in giving for the 17th consecutive year.

L'an dernier, a travers le monde entier, les Chevaliers de Colomb ont établi un nouveau record pour les dons de bienfaisance et les heures de service avec plus de 175 millions \$ en argent, soit une augmentation de 1,5 million \$ sur 2014 et plus de 73,4 millions d'heures de bénévolat, une augmentation de 1,9 million d'heures sur 2014, ainsi réalisant une augmentation en dons et argent pour la 17<sup>e</sup> année consécutive.

“We are answering Pope Francis’ call to go to the peripheries,” the Supreme Knight said. “We can reach half way around the globe to help those in need **and** we can reach to our neighbor next door. And we do that every day.”

Whether it is supporting the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation in various parts of the world, bringing aide and support whenever disaster strikes our neighbours, the support for persecuted Christians in the Middle East or the support of our local communities through Habitat for Humanity, Coats for Kids or your local food bank, this is how we, as Knights of Columbus families answer Pope Francis’ call to go to the peripheries.

Que ce soit en soutenant la Fondation canadienne des fauteuils roulants dans diverses parties du monde, en apportant aide et soutien lorsqu’une calamité frappe nos voisins, en soutenant les chrétiens persécutés au Moyen-Orient ou encore en soutenant nos communautés locales par Habitat pour l’humanité, manteaux pour enfants ou la banque alimentaire locale, voilà comment nous, en tant que familles de Chevaliers de Colomb répondons à l’appel du Pape François d’aller aux périphéries.

So, as you can guess, the theme I have chosen for this Columbian year is “Going to the Peripheries”. Let us once again answer to Pope Francis’ call to reach out to those in need, wherever they may be.

Membership growth continues to be a priority throughout our order. This past year was a difficult one in Manitoba for membership growth. With below normal recruiting efforts by many councils, an increase in suspensions and through deaths, we finished the year at 7,803 members, a net loss of 55 members. This year we **will** work harder to

surpass our goal of 8,000 total members in Manitoba. We have to put a stop to the suspensions and make sure the councils have active retention committees. We all have to be membership active 365 days a year. One Member, per Council, per Month and one Star Council per District will be our mantra and frequent Admissions Degrees our aim.

Remember recruitment is not about numbers, but a matter of survival for our councils.

Many councils continue to have difficulty filling positions on their executives. We hear this time and again, that officers are being recycled through the chairs! If this trend continues, where are we going to be in 10 years? Our average age right now in Manitoba is 62. Ten years from now, if nothing changes, will we even still exist in Manitoba? It is critical that each and every one of us take membership recruiting more seriously from this day forward.

Rappelez-vous que le recrutement est non pas seulement une question de nombres mais une question de survie pour nos conseils. Plusieurs conseils continuent d'avoir de la difficulté à combler les postes sur l'exécutif. Nous entendons à plusieurs reprises que les officiers sont recyclés à travers les postes Si cette tendance continue où serons-nous dans 10 ans? En ce moment, l'âge moyen de nos Chevaliers au Manitoba est 62ans. Si dans dix ans rien ne change, existerons-nous encore au Manitoba? Il est essentiel que chacun d'entre nous prennent au sérieux le recrutement et ce à partir d'aujourd'hui.

We will be spending a lot of time outlining our membership plans and recruitment strategies a little later.

“Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening our Parish” is the initiative that is going forward as we move to make our councils more a part of the parish. Our programs should not compete with parish programs, but rather be integrated within the parish programs. Our councils should be the “go to” and “can do” organization that your parish priest can rely on.

By demonstrating what the Knights of Columbus do in our parishes, our communities and in the world, we can encourage prospective new members to join our councils. We have many good programs and we have to make sure that we are visible and that we let the members of our parish and community know what we do; whether it’s the wheelchair program, culture of life activities, food for families etc. Our programs have to be relevant to the young men of our parishes and their families. We need to value the talents and whatever time they may be able to commit. They are looking for ways to grow in their Catholic faith within their family and their community.

En démontrant ce que les Chevaliers de Colomb font dans nos paroisses, nos communautés et dans le monde, nous pouvons encourager les nouveaux membres potentiels à se joindre à nos conseils. Nous avons beaucoup de bons programmes et nous devons assurer que nous sommes visibles et que nous laissons les membres de notre paroisse et de la communauté savoir ce que nous faisons, que ce soit le programme des fauteuils roulants, les activités pour la culture de la vie, de la nourriture pour les familles, etc. Nos programmes doivent être pertinents pour les jeunes gens de nos paroisses et leurs familles. Nous devons valoriser leurs talents et apprécier le temps

qu'ils peuvent être en mesure de donner aux activités de la Chevalerie. Ces hommes cherchent des moyens pour grandir dans leur foi catholique au sein de leur famille et de leur communauté.

Information will be shared with you on our various programs from our State Program Director a little later.

There is a great need for the support of various ministries in the northern parts of our country. At our past State Convention in May, we made donations of \$2245 to each of the 5 Dioceses in Manitoba for the support of Youth Ministries in each Diocese. The donation to the St. Boniface Diocese was able to help subsidize 220 children who attend the Catholic School of Evangelization Summer Camp in St. Malo this year.

I know from the responses from Archbishop Chatlain of Keewatin – The Pas and Bishop Krotki of Churchill – Hudson Bay, that this donation was greatly appreciated for the youth in the North.

This is but a small part of what we can do for these communities. This year, in addition to our many wonderful State and local programs, I wish to introduce to you a new program that I hope will enhance our reach to the peripheries within our own country.

## **SHOW VIDEO**

Since its founding in 1908, Catholic Missions in Canada has come to the aid of isolated missions across the country, where a lack of resources makes it impossible to maintain a Catholic presence without outside financial help. We are asking that Councils hold an

annual event or program to raise funds to aid Catholic Missions in Canada. This is a program that was approved at the Canadian Association of the Knights of Columbus meeting in New Haven, CT. this past June to run nationally in every province. All donations will receive a tax receipt. If you receive individual donations and pool all funds from your council as one larger donation, please keep track of all donor names and addresses and include that list with your cheque to Catholic Missions in Canada. Or if you make your cheque to Manitoba State Council, we too will need all that information to forward to Catholic Missions in Canada for tax purposes. I encourage you to visit their website at <http://www.cmic.info/>.

As we carry on our Fraternal Mission, I ask that you continue to be proud members of the greatest Catholic Fraternal organization in the world and continue to answer Pope Francis' call to "Go to the Peripheries".

Vivat Jesus!