

STATE DEPUTY'S REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE JURISDICTION FOR 2013-14 FRATERNAL YEAR

THEME

"The Light of Faith" is the theme chosen by our former State Chaplain, Most Reverend Richard Gagnon, Archbishop of Winnipeg. The subject and title of the first encyclical of His Holiness Pope Francis is Lumen Fidei or The Light of Faith. In this encyclical, our Holy Father speaks of faith as a light that dispels the darkness and illuminates the way of our lives. The light of Faith is how the Church tradition speaks of the great gift brought by Jesus. That gift is Salvation. Consequently, we, as Catholics who believe that Christ has already saved us are called to live as those who have been saved. The Light of Faith also typifies the Knights of Columbus who do live as those saved ones and who, by their witness and Charitable works, bring the great gift of the Light of Faith to all corners of society so that even more people can embrace this gift.

I wish to offer my gratitude to our Former State Chaplain, His Grace, Archbishop Richard for his tremendous support of the Order during his tenure as State Chaplain as well as for his inspiring friendship. I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Bishop Ken for taking up the challenge of providing spiritual guidance to the British Columbia & Yukon State Council. I would also like to express my admiration for his inspirational leadership over the past few months. For those of you who are not aware, our State Chaplain, in the finest tradition of a chivalric Knight, has made several trips to Ukraine in the past few months and, despite the inherent danger, is one of the clergy who you saw celebrating the Divine Liturgy and offering the Sacraments in Independence Square in Kiev to both police and protestors alike.

STATE OF THE JURISDICTION

The 2012-2013 Fraternal Year was a good year to us, and although we did not achieve all that was set out for us there were some memorable milestones reached. We fell a bit short of our membership targets but did manage a very respectable 84% of quota, and were one of the very few Canadian jurisdictions with positive membership growth for the year. We continued an extremely successful "Coats for Kids" program, which I'm delighted to say carried over into a very successful third year. Our fourth year of involvement with the Silver Rose Run reached even more and different communities. Our other state sponsored programs also served us very well.

Unfortunately, we don't have any new Councils in the Jurisdiction to welcome to our Annual General Meeting this year. I have been assured that we are currently working on 3 new Councils and that they will be in place by the end of the fraternal year. I offer my gratitude to those Brothers who are working to make this happen and I assure you that I will do everything I can to assist you.

Any organism must continue to grow in order to remain healthy. Our bodies grow, the plants in our gardens grow and once things stop growing, they quickly die. Our Order in British Columbia & Yukon is the same and unless we continue to grow and bring new men into our Councils, they will eventually get older and older and someday, the last of our members will pass away. To help us maintain a healthy growth plan, our Supreme Council provides us with certain goals. Our goals for this year are:

- To bring 575 men into the Order – to date we have welcomed 366 men into our ranks, which is 63.65% of the way to our goal.

- We have been tasked with growing the Order in British Columbia & Yukon by a net gain of 403 – to date we have grown by a net gain of 208 or 51.61% of our goal. Net gain is simply, intake minus suspensions, withdrawals and net transfers out of our jurisdiction.
- We have also been given a goal of a net-net gain of 173 and currently our net-net gain is 38 which is 22% of the way to success. The net-net figure is net gain adjusted for deaths.

In the current fraternal year, while we have welcomed 366 men into the Order, we have said goodbye to 158. We have taken several steps forward and then a couple of steps back. In total, we have suspended 43% of the men that we have recruited. It's tough to get anywhere when every time you take two steps forward, some body pulls you back one. You literally have to work twice as hard to get to where you want to be. If we can reduce the backward sliding, especially the unnecessary backward sliding, we can get to our goals of healthy Councils a lot quicker. The concerning statistic in the group that I just provided is the net-net number. Our net-net growth of 38 tells me that out of the net gain to date of 208 men, we have had 170 members pass away so far this fraternal year. That equates to a more than one member every two days. My brothers, we are getting older and we need to work to find new and innovative ways to attract younger men to our Order so that we have a legacy of Charitable programming to give to future generations.

We have a goal before us of 4 new Councils and to date, we have not brought any new Councils into the British Columbia & Yukon family. There are a number of parishes in the Archdiocese of Vancouver that are large enough to support a Council so let's get moving to offer our programming and support to every Catholic man.

We have been given an assignment to establish 40 round tables. To date, we have 18 which is far better than the 2 we had at this time last year, but 18 is far short of the 60 plus that the District Deputies identified at the mid-year meeting as easily do-able. All it takes to establish a round table is one simple form. Worthy Sirs, there are dozens of priests throughout the jurisdiction who have Knights of Columbus in their parishes but no Council and no Round Table. The round table formalizes the relationship between a Council and a remote parish. A Round Table allows a Council to get together with these remote parishes and their priests at least once per year and ask, "Father, what can our Council do to support you this year". There is no cost, no annual fee, no minimum hours of commitment, just one simple, single page form. I would ask that you make an effort to get our last 22 round tables set up before the 15th of May and I would suggest, I'll make a bet, that if you spend a few minutes with Brother David Sawatzky, we could have our 40 Round Tables in place by the end of tomorrow. Because round tables need to be restored each year, we will need to redo the paperwork after June 30 but that is no reason not to get this year's paperwork done and into Supreme. Besides, you can use that form as next year's template.

Our last goal combines healthy growth with programming excellence to ensure vibrant Councils. I'm referring to our goal of 20 Star Councils for the current Fraternal Year. Star Council is more than an award, it is a barometer that indicates the health of your Council and we should have no problem celebrating 20 Star Councils at the end of this Fraternal Year.

STATE ELECTIONS

The elections of State Officers will take place tomorrow. Resumes for nominations were included in the Second Call and other nominations may be heard from the floor for all those who may wish to run for State Office. First calls will be in the morning and delegates are urged to

seek out these nominees and get to know them and consider their nomination for the good of the Order.

FINANCES

Once again, I am very pleased to announce that we have managed our finances efficiently. We instituted a few new ideas to see if we could minimize expenditures. We also had the challenge of increased mileage costs for three State Officers who live outside of the lower mainland and need to travel to attend regular State Council and Executive meetings. The State Officers and State Directors and Chairmen have done an outstanding job of ensuring that there was no unnecessary spending of State Council funds. I understand that our Audit and Finance Committee will be reporting that we have another favourable opinion on our Financial Statements from our auditor. I know from experience that the job of State Treasurer is not an easy assignment and I would like to acknowledge our State Treasurer for his diligence in getting us through the year.

Our Christopher Fund as of January 2014 has a balance of \$130,238.00. The benefit to be paid out this year was \$4,701.89. The earnings from the Christopher Fund will promptly be deposited into our Corpus Fund.

CHARITY APPEAL

Charity Appeal ticket sales for this fraternal year saw a pleasant increase. This reversal of the downward trend of the prior years is encouraging for the future. Brother Henry Li and his team worked very hard with all Council chairmen to realize a net increase in sales of 2.08%, or 613.7 books, over last year. Total sales for the Charity Appeal were an impressive \$606,178.

I am pleased that 105 Councils out of 125 active Councils participated in the Charity Appeal this year. Please remember, that we are allowed to pay an incentive to the participating councils of \$2.00 commission for every book sold. This year, that commission to our Councils amounted to \$60,306.20, which Councils can use for any purpose. Congratulations to all who have made this year another successful year and especially to our State Charity Appeal Chairman, Brother Henry Li who is excused for this weekend as he is overseas visiting family. I would ask that those Councils who did not participate this year, look for ways to participate next year as the rewards to the community and the Council are substantial.

THE FOUNDATION

Several years ago, a target of \$2,000,000.00 was set for the Corpus or general fund of the Foundation. At the time that the goal was set, deposits earned around 6% per annum and it was hoped that the interest income would be around \$120,000 per year. The State Council of the day saw the need for funding that was not subject to the restrictions of the various regulations of the BC Gaming Commission. I am pleased to announce that in the current year, our Corpus within the Foundation surpassed the 1 million dollar mark. As of February 28, the Foundation had assets of \$1,016,683 in the general fund and \$338,537 in the gaming fund for a total of \$1,355,220. Every year at Convention, a resolution is presented and passed that each Council in the jurisdiction conduct one fundraising activity during the year in support of the Foundation Corpus. Each and every year, only about six Councils honour that commitment; consequently, our goal of two million dollars is still a dream. Having said that, I note that during 2012-13, nine of our 135 councils made donations, and I thank each of them for their contribution. Worthy Sirs, this is your Foundation doing the good works of the Knights of

Columbus. Please support the Foundation. If you have questions about what the Foundation does, please approach either Brother Michael Yeo, PSD or me this weekend to find out more.

At last year's Foundation AGM, you approved a change to the investment strategy for the Foundation. I am pleased to announce that we received our first return on the portion invested with the Archdiocese of Vancouver and our investment earned 4.03%, which is an excellent return.

In October 2011 we introduced the "President's Challenge"; an incentive to recognize and thank individuals and Councils for their effort to grow the Corpus. Through personal fundraising, the President makes a donation to the Corpus Fund and the amount raised is announced at the Mid-Year District Deputies' meeting. This year, again the threshold was set at \$250. Individuals and Councils are invited to match or exceed that amount. Those individuals and Councils will be recognized at tomorrow's Foundation AGM.

On behalf of the entire jurisdiction, I would like to thank Brother Michael Yeo, PSD for his tireless efforts to keep our Foundation strong. Thank you Brother Michael.

REGIONAL SEMINARS

Because of conflicting work schedules, we were unable to have all of the State Officers travel as a single group to all the venues for this year's Regional Seminar. Brother Ming was the ironman who came to every Seminar with me this year and his company on the road was welcome. I must say that I have had some unfortunate luck on these journeys but in every dark cloud, we can always find a silver lining.

Many of you will remember that we hit a deer with Sandra's van on the first leg of my first ever trip just outside of Vanderhoof. The result was that the RCMP officer who attended the scene was Catholic but not yet a Knight. We rectified his status with the Order as he was filling out the accident report. On this last trip, which incidentally, will be my last full trip, Brother Ming and I were rear-ended on the first day by a hit-and-run driver. The RCMP officer who attended was, yes, you guessed it, Catholic. And, yes, we talked to him about becoming a member, which we are still pursuing. Perhaps, Brother Ken, we can ask the Supreme Knight to amend his Order wide goal from One Member per Council per Month to One Police Officer per Accident per Seminar.

We debuted a new format for the seminars that, based on the comments and cards sent to me, was very well received. We did a short presentation and then engaged the assembled membership to tell us about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges in their areas. We reviewed a number of areas with several Brother Knights and each of the State Officers who were at the various venues learned a lot. I hope to use a similar format on the abbreviated seminar this coming fall. I would be grateful if you would invite all members of your Council to come out and hear what is new and to let us know how we can support you.

CHAPLAIN'S SEMINAR

The bi-annual Chaplains' Seminar is coming up this year and I would ask all Councils to make their Chaplains aware of the seminar. The dates that our State Chaplain has set aside for us are October 21 and 22. We will announce the venue once we get the plans finalized. Please make sure to share these dates with your Council Chaplains. We have gotten positive feedback

from those Chaplains who have attended in the past telling us that they have found this program helpful.

PROGRAM SECTOR REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP

Father McGivney's vision was for a Knights of Columbus Council in every parish and to offer membership to every eligible Catholic man and his family. We are working towards that goal. Last year, we formed two new Councils and we finished the year slightly under 84% of our membership goal. At last year's Convention, we were informed that we had a gross intake of 411 new members. Currently this year we have brought 366 new members into the Order. We are sitting at 63.65% of our membership goal.

We have missed achieving our goals in both of the last two years. I think that we should have no problem in reaching our membership goal of 575. As of today, we are only 209 members away from reaching our annual membership goal. Currently we have 15 Councils in excess of 100% of quota and we need 20 Star Councils, 6 councils that have achieved between 75 to 100%, 13 councils between 50 to 75%, 24 councils between 25 to 50%, and 16 councils from 1 to 25% of their membership goal. In total, we have 73 Councils that have positive membership growth. What is of great concern is that we have 40 Councils that show zero growth and 31 of these have no membership activity of any sort during the year. Additionally 17 others have negative growth. I know that with a concerted effort to follow our Supreme Knight's goal for the Order of One Member per Council per Month, we can still have a successful year.

The Supreme Council has authorized the following incentive programs and contests for the remainder of the Fraternal Year:

- VIP Program - there is a 4th Quarter bonus in effect for recruiters. Members who recruit one member between April 1st and June 30th will receive 1,000 VIP points. Recruit two and you receive 2,000 VIP points, three members will net you 6,000 VIP points, four will get you 8,000 VIP points and you will receive an additional 2,000 points for every member recruited above four.
- Each Council that is awarded Star Council will also receive 4,000 VIP points. Those earning Double Star will get 8,000 and Triple Star will win 16,000 VIP points.
- District Deputies, for each First Degree held in your District between March 1st and June 30th you will receive 1,000 VIP points. If you have a First Degree in each of March, April, May and June, you will receive an additional 5,000 VIP points.
- The Officers Challenge will continue for the remainder of the year. Councils who have each of their 13 officers recruit one new member will be awarded 26,000 VIP points. The Council can use these points to order flags, door prizes etc.
- Lastly, there is the Race to the Finish. If we can grow the order by more members than the other State Councils in our bracket, Supreme will provide financial rewards.

I know that a number of you roll your eyes at the contests, but the idea is to make you think about growing the Order. Some Councils are already feeling the effects of not growing the Order. One of the primary consequences is a greater and greater difficulty in finding men to run for Officer positions. I don't think any Grand Knight relishes the idea of being Grand Knight for his 10th or 20th term in a row, but if we don't have new members to step up, the recycling of officers becomes a necessity. Please make a concerted effort in the last few weeks of this

Fraternal year to find a couple of more men who you can mentor over the next year and who could take leadership roles in the Council in a year or two.

NEW COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT

New councils are critical to our Order's future growth. We started the year with high hopes of forming four new councils. To date, we have not had success in forming these Councils. Accordingly, the New Council Development team is investigating other options for the remainder of this fraternal year and into next year. It takes approximately 7 weeks to form a new Council and we have 9 full weeks left in the Fraternal year. If we all take this task to heart we can have our 4 new Councils up and running by the middle of June. Accomplishing this goal and dedicating the work to our Bishops would be a fantastic way to honour these men for Father's Day. So what are we waiting for?

INSURANCE AGENCY

Brother Richard Lee Wah, and his field force of 15 field agents, continues in the tradition of exceptional service to the members of our jurisdiction. Our Agency finished 7th overall out of 130 Agencies in Canada and the US. Brother Joseph van der Buhs also finished 7th overall in rankings of all 1,400 agents of the Order. Brother Joe, please stand and take a bow.

The Lee Wah Agency in 2013 issued 824 Life Insurance Certificates for over \$134 million of much needed protection for our families.

Last year, the Order surpassed \$92 Billion of Insurance in Force with almost 2 million policies protecting our membership. Additionally, the Order paid out over \$283 Million in dividends to policyholders. Our insurance program has more than doubled in a little over a decade rising from around \$40 Billion in 2000. Even more impressive is the fact that our Order paid out over \$2,439,000 in death benefits to British Columbia & Yukon families last year.

Knights of Columbus Insurance has once again been rated by A.M. Best as A++ Superior for the 37th consecutive year and there continues to be no more highly rated life insurer in North America.

CEREMONIALS

I am much encouraged by the reports of new Second Degree teams being certified. To date we have 7 Second Degree teams certified and up to 6 more in training, but, we need more Second Degree teams. Each District should have a Second Degree team so we should have 27 teams in place by now. We have been mandated by the Supreme Council to separate the Second and Third degrees and by the end of this year we should have successfully accomplished that directive. I have attended separate Second and Third degrees and have been very impressed with the results to date.

We also need to keep building First Degree teams so that we can fulfill the words of our Supreme Knight when he said, "we don't hold candidates for degrees, we hold degrees for candidates". To make exemplification of first degrees easier, the Supreme Council has authorized the use of a video that can be downloaded from Officers Online for Councils that do not have a First Degree team. The video is intended to be a second option, the first option remains a proficient team that has memorized their parts. As a last resort, we are still authorized to read the first degree.

The separation of the degrees has led to a slow start this year. We only had one third degree in the first half of the year, however, after the initial investment of time to get the process working, we look like we are scheduled to hold 10 third degrees in the last half of the year. I would like to thank Brother Marcel Renaud for his tireless work in furthering our Ceremonials throughout the jurisdiction.

SERVICE PROGRAMS

Excellent programs attract new prospects and retain members. We are well served by the six men and one lady who have come forward to lead our Surge with Service programs. I would request that they all stand and be recognized for their outstanding contributions:

Family Director – Brother Daniel Gueguen
Church Director – Brother Richard Whalen
Community Director – Brother Rui Carrao
Youth Director – Brother Jim Williams
Council Director – Brother John Sokolowski
Culture of Life Couple – Brother Dale and Mrs. Debbie McGregor

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR'S PROGRAMS

WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION

We have been supporting the wheelchair program for the past nine years. From a humble donation of \$110.00 in 2006, we managed to increase our support to more than \$35,000.00 in 2010. This past year we were able to fund 380 wheelchairs by raising \$56,984.90. Congratulations to those Councils and Districts who will be recognized tomorrow for their outstanding contributions to the Wheelchair Foundation.

You cannot imagine what it means to a person half a world away when, through your generosity, he or she is given the priceless gift of mobility.

We are very pleased and honoured that the Director of the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation, Christiana Flessner has agreed to be with us later this weekend as her schedule allows. Christiana is currently in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan at the Saskatchewan State Convention, but she will be flying home to address both the men and the ladies on Sunday morning. Please seek her out and learn just how precious your gifts are.

COATS FOR KIDS

In 2011, we held our inaugural Coats for Kids distribution at the Raycam Community Centre in the middle of East Vancouver, serving what is arguably the most needy neighbourhood in Canada. In 2012 we did a major state distribution in Victoria and this past year we did a major distribution in Surrey at the Options Community Center. I would like to thank Brother Rui Carrao for his passion for this program and his dedication to ensuring its success. Please take a moment to see the coverage of the Surrey distribution as it was reported on both the 6 pm and 11 pm news on Global TV.

As was alluded to in the news clip, there was a second significant distribution with joint State and local sponsorship back at the Raycam Community Center again this year. The staff at the

Raycam Community Center was delighted to have us back. I was really pleased to see that this second major distribution was spearheaded by a local Council rather than relying on State Council to lead the way. I would like to express my appreciation to Grand Knight Bosco Toa of St. Francis Xavier Council 10500 and our State Advocate, Brother Ming for their hard work in putting this distribution together.

As you saw in the news clip, child poverty is reaching record levels and the Coats for Kids helps to fill that very large need in our communities.

SILVER ROSE RUN

This year, we are fortunate to have the Silver Rose begin its 2014 journey right here in British Columbia and as you just saw, the relay began right here. Please take a moment this weekend to have a look at the Silver Rose and perhaps offer a Hail Mary or two for the Culture of Life.

I would like to thank Brother Alex Mitro for once again developing a route so that more and different Councils could participate in the Program. Last year, the Silver Rose traced a path across the northern part of our Jurisdiction starting in Dawson Creek and running out to Prince Rupert then back to Prince George and down the interior of the Province. This year, the Silver Rose relay will again be centered in the Lower Mainland and Lady Sandra and I will be taking the Rose to our neighbors in Washington to present to them at the Opening Ceremonies of their State Convention in a few short weeks.

Brother Alex Mitro, our Squires Coordinator, is once again managing the run. He has published the schedule and it is posted to our website. I ask all District Deputies and Grand Knights along the proposed route to be actively involved in the progress of the Rose. I would especially encourage those Councils sponsoring Squires and Squirettes circles to get our youth involved as much as possible.

SQUIRES AND SQUIRETTES

You have all heard the statement that our youth of today are our leaders of tomorrow; and more importantly, our Catholic youth of today are our Catholic leaders of tomorrow. We must do more to support their efforts to develop as Catholic leaders. Proper succession planning demands that we groom our youth now to take our places in the future. Let us give them the tools and the skills that they need to become those Catholic leaders of tomorrow. Let us provide them with good Catholic role models by which to live productive lives. Past State Deputies Yeo and O'Hara, set us on a course to acknowledge and support our Catholic youth. Our Immediate Past State Deputy, Brother Wil carried on that tradition by offering our Circles a higher visibility at State events. Squires and Squirettes will be offering their services as altar servers at our Masses. Squires and Squirettes have also been invited to get involved in the Silver Rose Run as the Rose of Our Lady of Guadalupe makes its way through the jurisdiction over the next few weeks.

What we need from you is to sponsor Circles of both Squires and Squirettes in your areas. How do you do that? We have a very experienced and dedicated coordinator with us all weekend. Brother Alex Mitro will be more than willing to talk to you and answer your questions. The Squires and Squirettes will also have a display here all weekend. Both the State Chief Squire and State Chief Squirette are here to provide information about their respective programs. Drop by, talk to our young people, and see just how committed they are to the programs.

COUNCIL REPORTING

Worthy Sirs, there are a number of things that make getting up in the morning worthwhile. Being a part of this tremendous Order is one of those things that makes me happy that I wake up each day. You see, I get to see the big picture of what all of you are doing and it is truly an inspiration. My Brothers, to coin a phrase, you are the wind beneath my wings.

While we were not specifically acknowledged by the Supreme Knight at the last Convention as being a leader in charitable giving throughout the Order, we were for the eighteenth year in a row again number one. With an average contribution of just under \$290 per member, British Columbia & Yukon led the Order once again. This figure of \$290 was up from \$278 the prior year. Annual per capita giving of \$278 is something to take note of when you consider that the second place jurisdiction was around \$140 per member, which is just over half that number. I am pleased to report that based on the Fraternal Survey at the end of 2013, we are going to be way up again.

On behalf of the State Deputies and State Executives dating back to Brother Jim Watson I thank and congratulate each and every one of our Brother Knights who have worked so diligently and given so much of themselves in order that we have this most enviable record. I know that your spirit of charity will continue on so that for the next eighteen years our State Deputies can continue to be singled out by the Supreme Knight.

Based on the Fraternal Survey submitted to the Supreme Offices for the period ended December 31, 2013, we have set new records for generosity. Last year, our disbursements for miscellaneous activities was \$1,288,361, Culture of Life activities was \$46,039, Youth programs was \$254,191, Church activities was \$620,734, and in Community programs we gave an impressive \$3,920,524. Our total cash disbursed to offer our programs that reach out to all sectors of society in 2013 was a record \$6,129,849. Our per capita giving should be an amazing \$546.77 per member. That is astounding and I think that you should give yourselves a tremendous round of applause.

In his report to the Supreme Convention last year, the Supreme Knight reported that each volunteer hour given in 2012 should be valued at \$22.14 per hour. In 2013, we gave 614,031 hours of charitable service, which at an hourly rate of \$22.14 would equate to another \$13,594,646 that we invested into making our communities a better place to live. The total charitable outreach of the British Columbia and Yukon Knights to the less fortunate, to our youth and our Church in 2013 was a staggering \$19,724,495. It would have cost our governments, on average \$1,759.39 per member to deliver the same impact that you have given out of your deep commitment to the Charity that Fr. McGivney knew we could be counted on to offer.

I think this is an appropriate time to once again say, "If you understand that our first and most fundamental yardstick as Knights of Columbus is the impact of our meaningful charitable programs, then I am convinced, and the numbers again back me up, that the finest Knights of Columbus in the entire Order are the Knights of Columbus in British Columbia and Yukon. Worthy Sirs, I stand in admiration of your dedication to Fr. McGivney's vision for the Order.

I congratulate our Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries for once again coming through and submitting the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities Report on or before the deadline for State Council to forward to Supreme. We are again one of the few jurisdictions that has 100% reporting on the Fraternal Survey. When I say State Council submits the forms to Supreme I am really saying that our Worthy Executive Assistant Brother Simon Leon receives, records and

forwards our forms. Thank you Brother Simon for the countless hours you have spent on this task and for making us all look good.

Remember also, this is one of the required forms for Star Council qualification and this year we have been given the challenge of having 20 Councils reach Star Council. I'm sure you have all seen the Double Star Council pin on the lapels of a few Grand Knights. I would like to remind everyone that Supreme has struck new pins for this year and they will not only be recognizing Star Council and Double Star Council but there is also a special pin for achieving Triple Star Council. In addition to the Grand Knight being recognized, this year his Council Membership Director and Program Director will also be awarded a specially struck pin for their contributions to making Star Council, Double Star Council and Triple Star Council.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

This year we took up the Tootsie Roll program and the results have been very encouraging. I would like the Grand Knights of the Councils that participated to please stand and be recognized.

Through the efforts of the membership in the Tootsie Roll program and other programs, we will be presenting a cheque to Special Olympics British Columbia tomorrow for \$6,533.44 which is up from our presentation of \$3,500 last year.

If your Council did not participate in the Tootsie Roll program this year, I would encourage you to seek out one of the Grand Knights whose Councils did, or you can ask our State Council Director, Brother John Sokolowski to find out just how easy this program is to implement. Thank you to all who have made this program a success in its inaugural year.

Thank you Brother John for your hard work and dedication to keeping our partnership with Special Olympics alive and vibrant.

PENNIES FOR HEAVEN

Over the course of the weekend, we will be distributing the proceeds of the Pennies for Heaven fund. Although we were not able to set new records in our gifts to our Bishops this year, I think that they will be suitably pleased with the donations from the program. So as not to spoil the surprise, the final dollar amount will not be revealed until Saturday evening. Understandably some of our Bishops have other engagements and are not able to be with us this weekend. Those Bishops will be given their cheques privately.

Our Foundation Administrator, Brother Mike advises me that he is available all weekend to accept your donations for next year's program.

RSVP

Our Councils participating in the Refund Support Vocations Program are to be applauded and encouraged for their tremendous support of our seminarians. Figures just released by Supreme for our jurisdiction show that we had 12 Councils participating in the valuable program which unfortunately is one less than last year. We supported 17 male seminarians in 2013. The total giving for this program in 2013 was \$10,200 or on average \$850 per participating council. Let's make a concerted effort to take advantage of the benefits of the RSVP program. Under this program Supreme council rebates \$100.00 for every \$500.00 that a council gives. The total

rebated from Supreme to the councils in 2013 was \$2,000. While these numbers are impressive, they are down slightly from last year and they identify that only 10% of our councils are involved. Vocations are everyone's and every Council's business. Remember what Blessed John Paul II said, "Without the Eucharist, there is no Church and without Priests, there is no Eucharist". I think that is the last time I will get to refer to him as Blessed. Let's make a concerted effort in 2014 to have every Council active in supporting Vocations and our Seminarians.

DISTRICT DEPUTIES

District Deputies, you are the representatives of the Supreme Knight and of the State Deputy in your District. You assist and remind your councils to live up to our principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity, the core of the Knights of Columbus. You have been appointed because of your demonstrated capabilities, your leadership qualities and your ability to set an example for the members in your district. Your councils' successes are, in a large part, dependent on your leadership and guidance. For those who have met their goals, thank you but don't stop now, for those who are still working toward their goals, please make one last race to the finish. There are two more months until the end of the fraternal year, so we still have an opportunity to make this year the most successful ever. It's not over until it's over and that will be at midnight June 30, 2014.

FOURTH DEGREE

The visible arm of the Knights of Columbus is the Fourth Degree. What an awesome responsibility to represent the Order when they put on that cape and chapeau and march into a church or in a parade, present the flag of our country at a meeting, or stand guard at a wake. When they do, they represent not just the Fourth Degree, but the entire Order of the Knights of Columbus. Each one of us here should be proud to be a member of the Fourth Degree. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Out of almost 11,250 Third Degree members, only 2,372 or approximately 21% of our Brother Knights belong to the Fourth Degree. Statistics prove that a substantially lower percentage of 4th Degree Knights leave the Order through suspensions, so Worthy Grand Knights perhaps we should be not only recruiting for new members, but we should also be actively promoting membership in the 4th Degree for all of our Knights. I am certain that the Master would appreciate the support.

APPRECIATION

I wish to thank His Excellency, Bishop Ken Nowakowski for accepting the office of State Chaplain for the last part of this Fraternal year. I thank you your Excellency for never being too busy to see me to discuss issues of faith that have arisen from time to time and for providing me with the sound guidance that was needed to deal with these issues. I also thank you for being a very close friend. We are very privileged to have you as our spiritual leader.

To my fellow State Officers and our Executive Assistant: It has been an exciting year so far and it is truly a blessing to have a supportive team to help me lead this jurisdiction. We have been able to accomplish a lot and we have made some significant changes as a team in all areas of the delivery of programming from the State Council level. It is because each one of you gave of yourself unselfishly. Each of you brought forward different talents and ideas and you have gone above and beyond in sharing those for the good of the Knights of Columbus in this jurisdiction. The membership should be proud of the work that you have done. I would make special mention of my predecessor and our Immediate Past State Deputy Brother Wil. Thank you for

your untiring support and encouragement and for continuing a legacy of strong leadership. Thank you also for your part in building the team that is here on the stage this afternoon.

To all the District Deputies, State Directors, Chairmen, and Coordinators: Your commitment and enthusiasm has kept our programs and our Councils running smoothly. You understood that great programs attract eligible Catholic men and their families and, more importantly, retain members in our Order. You have provided extraordinary service to our jurisdiction. Thank you.

To all Grand Knights and my brother Knights: My travels throughout the province have shown me how much time, talent, and effort you have given to the Knights of Columbus, your parishes, and communities in service for the greater glory of God. Without you and your members, there would be faith without works. In the Gospel of St. James, we are told, "What does it profit, my brothers, though a man may say that he has faith and not have works. Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you say to them, Go in peace and be warm and filled and do not give them the needs of the body, what does it profit? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead by itself. Yea, a man may say, You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without your works and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God and you do well. But even the devils also believe and they tremble. But, will you know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" Brothers, these words speak directly to the identity, the persona of the Knights of Columbus. We have woven the virtues of Fraternity, Unity and especially Charity in every fiber of our being so that we can be examples of the living faith. You have accomplished much but, as Jesus tells us, "we will have the poor with us always". This is not because He cannot make everyone rich, but because he wants each of us to show our love for one another and for God in the special way He has enabled within us. This is the legacy of those who went before us. Let us leave here today committed to the principles of the Order and determined to do even more to make our families, our parishes and our Order stronger each day.

Last, and by no means least, I would like to acknowledge what is perhaps the greatest source of strength that the Order has. To our wonderful ladies who share our lives, who are our proof readers, who pack our bags and ensure that we have our speeches, robes, jewels and name tags then quietly sit by allowing us to take all credit for being so well organized and ready for every eventuality, what can I say but thank you. Without your encouragement, support and love we would not be able to do what we do. You have played a very significant part in the successes that we have achieved. On behalf of all the Knights in British Columbia and Yukon, thank you ladies so very much for being there whenever we needed you and helping us serve the Order and our Catholic Church.

It was the vision of Fr. McGivney that every Catholic parish should have the support of a Knights of Columbus council and that every, eligible Catholic man be extended the invitation to become a Knight of Columbus so that his family can benefit from our protections. Continuing growth is essential to the survival of our Order. I know that I can count on your support to ensure that growth happens.

So let us go forward together as Brother Knights, faithful Catholics and good citizens, renewed in our commitment and steadfast in our determination to be the Light of Faith in this world.

Esto Amica, Esto Dignus,
Vivat Jesus,
Edward Shawchuk, State Deputy
British Columbia and Yukon State Council