



Knights of Columbus

THE BC & YUKON KNIGHT

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The Official Newsletter of the BC and Yukon State Council

STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers and Families,

We have had a wonderful year within this Jurisdiction and there are many more great years to come but only if we continue to work hard at spreading Columbianism in BC and Yukon. What exactly does spreading Columbianism mean? Well, it means that we must continue to show our communities who we are. We must improve our efforts to be Pro-Life and to be seen as being Pro-Life. We must continue to be seen as a Family Organization and not a men's club. We must be present at every Mass and at every church function to demonstrate that we truly do support our Bishops and Priests. We must continue to actively and bravely speak out when our faith, our church or our clergy come under attack. We must continue to support our youth and fight for the preservation of our families. We must continue to enhance our own personal spirituality and pray more with each other. By doing these things, we will attract more young men to our Order and in this way, we will be doing what we have been called to do, to spread the Good Word and to evangelize to all. That is what we mean by "spreading Columbianism." This is not a numbers game as some believe, quotas are only set to give you an incentive to work towards. It is all about spreading our Faith with others that is greatly enhanced when a man decides he wants his family to belong to the Knights of Columbus. I know there are men out there who have never been exposed to who we are or have never been invited to belong to our ranks. Knowing that what we are talking about is evangelization, I encourage each of you to make an extra effort this year to reach out to a neighbour or a stranger in the pew beside you and extend to him an invitation to belong to



the greatest Catholic lay organization in the world! Our Order has defied the statistics by being one of the very few fraternal Orders that continues to grow each year. This is a remarkable feat particularly in a secular world and when you consider we are selective in whom we admit. Families want to be a part of us, we have the responsibility and obligation to invite them to do so.

As we look to the years ahead we show do so knowing that there are many battles ahead for us and many of those will have an emotional toll on us. But as Knights of Columbus, we cannot and we will not give in to the social pressures of this secular world, we will "render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, but we will render unto God, that which is God's." And we will do so with a Christian heart. As our Supreme Knight Carl Anderson quoted these wise words of Abraham Lincoln at the Supreme Convention in Quebec, we will take on these challenges : "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in." So to the question: Are the Knights of Columbus relevant today? Well, the words of Abraham Lincoln were written when Fr. McGiveny was only 12 years old and not much has changed since they were written.

Our fight for what is right continues and we can no longer afford to hide behind our Priests, we must stand beside them and when appropriate, in front of them. When a



STATE DEPUTY

Dan O'Hara

STATE CHAPLAIN

Most Reverend David J. Monroe
Bishop of Kamloops

STATE SECRETARY

Michael Yeo

STATE TREASURER

Wil Wilmot

STATE ADVOCATE

Ed Shawchuk

STATE WARDEN

Arcie Lim

IMMEDIATE PAST STATE DEPUTY

Dave Jones



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same sex couple can convince the government of this province that parents no longer have the right to teach their values and morals to their children at home, we must speak out. When abortionists can receive the highest civilian award in this nation for the destruction of millions of babies, we must protest to the highest authorities in this country. When our families and our Faith our attacked, we must take up the cause and fight for the very preservation of our society. With every member that joins us, we make our cause stronger by one more family and we take one step closer to making ours, a civilization of love. As we enter this advent season let us do so knowing that God is always with us and despite what the world offers, nothing could ever match or overcome His love for us and his promise of salvation to those who remain true and faithful to Him. Celebrating the birth of our Lord every year serves to remind us of His eternal promise to us. With love in hearts and kind words for all, let us demonstrate by our actions that we are truly a people of God who await His coming with great jubilation and anticipation. May God continue to bless you and your families and may he grant you the peace, love and joy of this blessed Christmas season.

Vivat Jesus,
B. Dan O'Hara
State Deputy
BC/Yukon State Council

STATE SECRETARY Brother Knights,

Proceedings of our 97th Annual Meeting were distributed at the last Regional Seminars in September 2009. This compilation of reports is to be shared with your council members so that they are familiar with what their State Council has done and how we work as a fraternity.

It seems like yesterday when I advised that First Convention Call will be sent out soon. Time has a way of creeping up

on us! As we approach the half-way mark of our tenure have we achieved what we said and planned to do for our councils? Now may be a good time to take stock of our achievements or non-achievements. It is not too late to put your plans into actions if you have not already done so.

Our next State Convention will be held from April 24 – 26, 2009. This is also the time for us to present awards to deserving Councils for their hard work. Most of us need a pat on the back every now and then and this is the time we recognize councils who set excellent examples for the jurisdiction. Worthy Grand Knights are you doing your council a disservice by not submitting the required forms? We know that most of you are involved in the five areas of service: church, community, family, youth, and council and making a difference. But are you sending your activity reports in to be recognized?

This is also a good time to start thinking about resolutions to be submitted if any and finding the funds to send two delegates and the Council Chaplain if financially possible. What better ways than for your most important member, your priest, to meet the leaders in the BC and Yukon State Council? We are in "Solidarity with our Bishops and Priests!"

As we prepare for the coming of Christ with the onset of Advent, may you and your family find the peace and joy in the infant child Jesus on Christmas day and forever. Glynis and I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a Happy and prosperous New Year.

Vivat Jesus,
Michael Yeo

STATE TREASURER

The end of the first half of the Fraternal Year is fast upon us and soon we will all be preoccupied with our own Christmas preparations. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all Grand

Knights and Financial Secretaries that in a few short weeks the second half of the per capita and other billings will be sent out. There are still a number of Councils and Assemblies that have yet to remit their July amounts. I would urge those Councils and Assemblies to get those cheques in as soon as possible. There are also a number of Councils that have outstanding accounts for Major Degree fees. There are a number of expenses covered by State Council to ensure that properly trained teams are sent to locations around the province to conduct exemplifications. The fee levied per candidate is used to offset those expenses, so again if you have outstanding balances your earliest payment would be greatly appreciated.

Our web site continues to be underutilized. If your Council, Assembly or District is planning an event please drop me an email with all the pertinent details and I will have it posted (usually within 24-48 hours of receipt). Please include all details but at the same time keep it short and to the point. Posters are welcome as they will be posted as attachments.

On behalf of Val and myself and our family I extend our warmest wishes to you and your families for a most Holy and festive Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

God Bless and keep you
Fraternally
Wil

STATE ADVOCATE

We have almost reached the mid point of this fraternal year. Now is the time for us to review our accomplishments and it is also the time to look forward and set our plans for the next 6 months.

Part of the planning for me is to contact a few Councils in Burnaby to form the Resolution committee. The purpose of this group is to begin to review the submissions from the Councils and to make recommendations on the disposition of those resolutions. To make the job of this committee easier, I ask everyone to get their resolutions in as early as possible. In the past, the committee has suggested small changes

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to resolutions to streamline them, so if resolutions are submitted early enough, they can be amended and re-submitted before the deadline. Please help your Brother Knights on this committee by submitting your resolutions early.

I recently attended a workshop on the Corren Agreement. There are a number of Christian groups that are concerned by the manner in which the government and the Correns have usurped the responsibility of parents to educate and guide the development of their children. I was very concerned when I was told that although the Corren agreement would not apply to independent and denominational schools, that exemption was only for a limited time. The intent of these people is to make this part of all of our schools in the very near future. I think that we should get together with not

to the Order since its founding in 1967 is to excel at advancing progressive or liberal causes”.

One need only look at the membership of the nominating committee for the Order of Canada, or the Supreme Court of Canada, or the Judges sitting on any bench in the land, or the politicians who hold responsibility for governance of the country to see and realize that the proponents, witting or otherwise, of the culture of death are firmly in control and are continuing to consolidate that grip. Witness, for example, the cases that have gone before the various Human Rights Tribunals in the past few years; even a cursory examination will show that the HRCs' function has now evolved into the realm of controlling free speech and religious rights. Further, with each successive case, the determinations made by these Commissions have become more clearly driven by power and ideology than by intellect or law.

And where is the pro-life movement in all of this? As an average, pro-life supporter, I have not seen too many changes over the years since I became

just other Christians, but also other religious groups that hold similar ideals to let the government know our position. The provincial government is soon coming to the polls for our support and I think that this issue should be brought up at every debate of the candidates. Make your voice heard to ensure that every side of our democratic process is afforded equal opportunity.

Soon, many of us will be frantically trying to find just the right gift for that special someone. I was recently working on my wish list and thought I would share it with you.

Mom may enjoy a less stressful Christmas, so perhaps the families of our Councils could prepare a pre-Christmas dinner for our ladies.

The kids may enjoy some new challenges like those that they would find in the Squires or Squirettes program.

What guy doesn't enjoy new tools and new friends. We could combine both of these favourites for our Grand Knights by recruiting new members who could share the workload.

And finally, for our Bishops and Priests, I wish us to spend more time with them, making Christmas more inclusive. It's true that several of our priests have families that they share Christmas with, but there are also a tremendous number of priests that spend Christmas by themselves in the rectory. As Knights, what better way to show our fraternity than by making sure that our priests are included in our families at this special time of year. Ask your pastor what his plans are for Christmas, and if he isn't doing anything, perhaps you could invite him to spend some time with your family.

Whatever the Christmas season brings for you and your loved ones, please remember the reason for the season. To that end, Sandra and I wish all of you a very Blessed Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

STATE WARDEN

Bro. Knights,

It has been a wonderful experience since I officially took over my duties as State Warden and State Retention Chairman. The learning curve was tremendously made easy and bearable by the full support and guidance of my fellow state officers.

The road trip for the regional seminars offered me fresh and unique opportunities not only for learning but also for fraternal and spiritual bonding.

I was very fortunate to participate with the State Degree Team in conducting at least three first degree exemplifications in the last few months. I believe that this is a hallmark in the history of our jurisdiction to have all State Officers conduct the exemplification in the first degree...it was quite a moving and emotional experience for me, especially the degree initiated at the Holy Rosary Cathedral in conjunction with the establishment of their first K of C council in 100 years.

Suspensions to date are down to very comfortable level. If the current trend is an indication of what will happen for the rest of the fraternal year, we would be looking once again for another banner year. Thank you for all your hard work and efforts in keeping "membership retention" one of your top priorities along with recruitment.

Another friendly reminder for councils who have not yet submitted or reported their Council Retention Committee. It is never too late to report them to me either by mail, fax or email. As explained before, each council must have an established, working committee on retention as a requirement for processing and approval of suspensions.

My wife Matilde and our children join me in wishing you all a wonderful season filled with love and happiness. May you have a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Arcie J. Lim

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STATE COUNCIL DIRECTOR

My Brother Knights:

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the Councils who have taken the time to promote the *State Knight of the Month* program. This program could be more successful, as the submissions received were 9 percent of the 126 Councils in our jurisdiction. I would recommend more encouragement from all Councils, as this is an important recognition program. Please take the time to submit your Knight of the Month so that he can be recognized for his special contribution to our Order. Also please submit your *State Knight of the Year* before the 1st of April, 2009 as the presentation will take place at the State convention. The forms are available on our State website at www.KofCbc.org. Please continue to submit your stamps and eyeglasses, for your convenience I will be at the District Deputy Mid-Year Meeting, from November 28-29, and will gladly accept all collections. According to reports from various councils the wheelchair project is doing well, but this project can use much more support as there is a very large demand for more wheelchairs. If you would like more information, feel free to contact Christiana Flessner, Executive Director at 604-536-2022 or cflessner@wheelchairfoundation.ca.

For more information or any needed forms, please feel free to contact me at g_parolin@hotmail.com or visit www.KofCbc.org forms,

My wife Maria and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Vivat Jesus,
Gary Parolin
State Council Director

STATE YOUTH DIRECTOR

Our Youth Programs for this fraternal year is well on their way. The first program is the Soccer Challenge. Since this program is in its fourth year, we are slowly but surely getting increased participation. Soccer is one of the most popular sports in the world and we expect this program to grow each year. Many councils/districts have worked with the local soccer associations which increased the Knights of Columbus' exposure to the general public and also increased participation among the youth.

The next program will be the Free Throw Competition. Councils will need to order their Free Throw Kit from Supreme so they can conduct this program. This has been the Order's most successful Youth Program. District Competition will commence early in the New Year. We are holding a Regional Championship for the Lower Mainland Districts on Saturday, January 24 hosted by Archbishop Duke Council in Richmond. Please ensure your council events are completed before Jan. 24 so winners can participate in the Regionals.

Our State Squires & Squirettes Coordinators have been busy working on starting new circles. Our State Deputy has put a major emphasis in the development/reinstatement of new circles. We expect to have 2 new circles by the beginning of the new year. We are excited about the interest from many councils to start new Squires & Squirettes Circles.

Please don't forget that there are other Youth Programs such as the Substance Abuse Poster Competition and the Essay Contest. Information is available through Supreme.

Clara & I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Wonderful Holy New Year.

Vivat Jesus!

Herb Yang
State Youth Director

STATE COMMUNITY & LIFE ISSUES DIRECTOR

In the wake of the Morgentaler award of the Order of Canada, the Canadian Federal and the US election, and in view of the stories published by organizations like "The Friday Fax" from the UN, I have to wonder if the pro-life forces in Canada, the United States and around the world aren't going about saving the TITANIC with dinghy-sized bailing buckets. I am also not sure if those bailing in the forward end are working in consonance with those in the other parts of the ship.

A series of reports from The Friday Fax expounded upon the means being used by committees of the UN to strong-arm member nations into allowing free access to contraception, abortion, and gay-marriage where no such mandate exists in any of the international treaties sponsored by the UN. In short, it is clear that organs of the United Nations such as UNICEF, World Health Organization (WHO), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) are bullying nations into adopting anti-life positions and laws where no such authority for this exists.

On the home front, Terry O'Neill's article in the *Report Magazine* concerning the Morgentaler award was fascinating in that it showed that Dr Morgentaler was not the first "culture of death" recipient of the honour but that there is a long list of supporters of liberal ideologies who have preceded him to the hallowed halls of honour. As Mr O'Neill writes, "The evidence may be anecdotal, but in the wake of the explosion of controversy over the July 1 appointment of abortionist Henry Morgentaler to the Order of Canada, many Canadians – not just pro-lifers – have become convinced that a sure way to join the list of more than 5,000 of their fellow countrymen who have been appointed to the Order since its founding in 1967 is to excel at advancing progressive or liberal causes".

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involved. That involvement, like most, included the annual Life Chain, annual dues to the local pro-life group, a banquet, and being ready to say that “I am pro-life” should anyone care to ask. Over those same years I have seen the polls and spoken to many people only to learn that our support is slipping. There I sat, on the sidelines really, saying that something new was needed but not knowing what or where to begin. When I became more deeply involved this year as the BC & Yukon Knights of Columbus State Council Director for Life Issues, it became apparent to me that the many pro-life organizations (about 35 of them in the Province of BC) were busy doing whatever they thought best but, in reality, were not well focussed or coordinated. Further, the opposition has branded the pro-life movement as nothing more than religious fanatics with nothing new to say, if they ever had anything to say in the first place. Politicians, jurists, and the media have been successful in selling this idea; in fact, they have been so successful that even the majority of the 23% of practicing Christians in this country believe it and distance themselves from the movement.

The forces of the culture of death command more funds, more organs of communication, have a better focus and hence, will power, than the culture of life forces. As long as this situation remains, our culture will continue its downhill slide and deteriorate into ruin. It has been said, though, that for the first time in the history of human civilization, our society has at its command the means to halt the decay and, indeed, turn it around. There is only needed the resolve to see the underlying faults and correct them. This will be a long-haul project. As a comparison, it took the Church some 75 years to slide, almost entirely, into the heresy called Arianism, and 150 years to correct the error. The point is, we must start now if our great-great-grandchildren will be conceived, born, raised and die in a society that will respect the dignity of their lives from

conception to natural death and not discriminate against them because of so-called birth defects or sex or just plain “inconvenience”.

The pro-life movement must become more effective, more focussed and coordinated, and it must be better funded. It must speak to the people and society in a way that can capture attention and inspire in a positive way, thus leading to a change in heart and thought. If the ground won over the last decades is not to be totally lost, a more coordinated approach will be needed. The small local organizations should become united with the larger umbrella groups thereby achieving an economy of effort and concentration of force. Funding is essential if we are to get our message out consistently and reasonably. Since the media, politicians, and society in general see us as religious fanatics, we must become less “threatening to them”. Our organizations need to have a more strategic approach while retaining the compassionate and loving local face of the movement.

A broad based approach, steeped in faith and reason but couched in terms that the target audiences will understand, will be necessary. The base of this assault on the culture of death must be anchored in the spiritual realm, for as St Paul so aptly said, “For though we live in the world we are not carrying on a worldly war, for the weapons of our warfare are not worldly but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle to the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.” *2 Cor 10:3-5*. From this base will come the strength to hold out to the end. Indeed, as Maximilian Kolbe said, “We must pray like it all depends on God, and work like it all depends on us”.

How might this be accomplished? As organizational engineers might say, we need a ‘migration’ plan, a plan to get us from where we are now to where we need to be in order to turn the tables on the culture of death and restore the Culture of Life. This will require con-

version: conversion of organizations, conversion of approach, most importantly, personal conversion, especially the setting aside of egos or ‘territorial’ claims and thus working in consonance and coordination across the field.

Beginning on the personal level, it will take an act of will to fling off the complacency that has accreted on our hearts, souls, minds and wills; those things that have become idols in our lives and rob us of the physical strength to pursue any higher ideals. Excesses in any area of our lives must be moderated; our self-discipline must be re-established. Next our social lives may need to be re-ordered so that we know what is truly good and what is truly evil, never mix them up, and never compromise one against the other. We must then teach our children the Truth by thought word, and example, never making excuses for their mistakes but like ourselves, hold them accountable for their behaviour. Within the family, contraception, perhaps the greatest sin, must be set aside and recognized for the great evil that it is. It weakens self-discipline, it robs women of their true dignity rendering them mere objects for pleasure, it robs couples of the mystery of the power of procreation which they share through God’s grace, it renders the marital act sterile and thus legitimizes any perversion of that act. For the Catholic, it offends God and endangers the immortal soul.

At the community level, schools, news organizations, church pulpits, television, Internet and the like can be powerful means for re-educating the culture. However, these will remain out of our control as long as we continue the way we are going. Our revitalized families will either revitalize the schools or, more likely, abandon them. This will be true regardless of sponsorship. Public schools are lost now and need to be abandoned; the sacrifices this will entail are steep but immaterial compared to the salvation of children’s souls. Our pastors must teach the Truth of the Gospels, including its social content; we need to hear the “hard

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souls. Our pastors must teach the Truth of the Gospels, including its social content; we need to hear the “hard teachings”. Once good education and good religious teaching are returned to the centre of our lives, we will be able to confront the world with reason strengthened by faith and successfully stem the tide of the culture of death.

The Catholic Church has at its disposal the entire armour required to confront, combat, and rout this culture of death. She has Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition and her Magisterial teachings readily at hand. She has the methods and institutions in place to teach, to prepare, to nourish and strengthen her sons and daughters for this mission. Regrettably, the armoury is not often open to her soldiers because the trainers are few, ill informed, or ignorant of what is contained in those vaults. The soldiers have heard too many contradictory sayings or teachings and are, or have become, weary from frustration and are slipping into the debilitating ways of the world. Where one sees true teachers teaching Truth, one sees soldiers who are fully alive and capable and eager to move into the action. These know who they are, to whom they belong, and where they can return for comfort and healing when they suffer from the battle. But alas, the pockets of these battle ready troops are small and the logistical train that is needed to support them is thin and stretched.

Here is where organizations like the Knights of Columbus figure prominently in the battle array of the Church. With broad based programs for Church, Council, Community, Family and Youth, the Knights continually position themselves in the van of the assault on the culture of death. Recently, the Supreme office established a website to encourage men to become Fathers for Good and a new Culture of Life fund has been approved that will be used in matters affecting life, family, marriage, and similar priorities affecting the Culture of Life. The Knights will be found assisting with the organization of events like local Life Chains or the March for Life.

The British Columbia and Yukon State Executive is rigorously pursuing many fronts in this culture war. The Knights have intervened in the Vancouver initiative to make prostitution legal during the 2010 Olympics, raised concern over the Corren Agreement with the BC Ministry of Education, been a co-sponsor of the first annual March for Life in 2007, and in January 2009, will be sponsoring a “Baby Shower” drive to get new and used baby items to mothers who are at risk of aborting their babies because of a lack of material support. Our members are busy, busier than they should be because there are only about 10,000 of them in the BC and Yukon State where there are perhaps ten to twenty times that number of Catholic men. We need all of you to do what we all need to do.

The Knights of Columbus need more men and their families to join in the great work of building a Culture of Life. But it is not just the Knights, the Church needs all of her sons and daughters to return to the front lines of spiritual and physical combat so that the revamped society-wide pro-life movement, Culture of Life movement, can stem the tide of rampant death and restore to us a country of true peace, true justice, true liberty, in the true glory of God.

Finally, our brethren in other ecclesial communities and other faiths have much to offer. Bitterness, envy, arrogance, and even hatred amongst fellow religionists must end on this front at least, so that all may bring their talents to the table and present to the public, our target group after all, a united, coherent, and consistent argument free of any confusing rhetoric stemming from different religious or ideological roots.

This has been done in other areas where a message, for example, with roots in Christianity, has been successfully applied to non-religious audiences, accepted by them, applied to their lives, and social problems resolved. An excellent example of this is the 12-step addiction treatment programs. The pro-life movement should be laying the way to save lives at any stage of development or ailment at the hands of pragmatic ideologues. At the present juncture, it is not a means of direct evangelization, though it may be laying the bed on which that road may later be paved.

In conclusion and returning to the TITANIC analogy, the forces of the culture of death are systematically puncturing the hull of the ship while the passengers, society at large, blissfully party on deck. The pro-life forces are manning pumps and bailers trying to stem the ingress of water. However, there appears to be no one on the bridge to direct the efforts and so the Damage Control (DC) groups (local pro-life organizations) do what they think is best with the training they have and in the context of their particular situation. Anyone trained in damage control in a ship at sea knows that when this happens the ship is not likely to be saved. The Bridge must be established, control must be regained, the “DC parties” must accept and have confidence in those directing operations from the bridge, the passengers must be informed of their peril, or the ship will be lost to her fate with many more casualties than we have hitherto seen. I propose that this latter option is not an option at all.

Kevin D. Kirkwood

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As members of the Knights of Columbus we are honored and privileged to have as our Founder, The Venerable Servant of God, Father Michael J. McGivney. We are proud and honoured to have His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI and the Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone the two top Prelates in the Vatican giving support for our Founder's Cause in Rome. We must support the Guild wherever and whenever we can. One of the most fruitful times is the First Degree Exemplification.

The Father Michael J. McGivney Guild serves as a source for information about the life, works and spirituality of Father McGivney. The Guild distributes informational materials about him, receives reports of favors granted through his intercession and oversees the distribution of relics. There are more than 83,000 members of the Father McGivney Guild.

The purpose of the Guild is to inspire greater personal holiness and cooperation with God's grace by disseminating information about Father McGivney. "The Guild's goal is to spread the good word about Father McGivney's holiness of life, to encourage devotion to his memory and to seek his intercession before the throne of God," said Dominican Father Gabriel B. O'Donnell, guild director and postulator of Father McGivney's cause for canonization.

The Knights of Columbus founded the Guild in 1997 concurrently with the archdiocesan phase of Father McGivney's cause for canonization. Membership in the Guild, which is free, is open to all individuals and households, but not groups. Members of the Knights of Columbus are not automatically Guild members and must elect to join the Guild. The Father Michael J. McGivney Guild Newsletter is published bimonthly except July- August, and is sent free to Guild members.

Members who wish to do so may make tax-deductible contributions to assist in the Guild's work, but this is by no means required. Those devoted to Father McGivney are encouraged to join the Guild and regularly say the Prayer for Canonization, which is available online and on a special prayer card. Members are asked to pray for Father McGivney's canonization, report favors received and assist in the advancement of the cause.

Finally, Brother Knights, after having spoken to Gloria Griffin, the Guild secretary, Father Gabriel O'Donnell OP postulator for Father McGivney's Cause and Guild chairman, learned that Father Gabriel OP is still the postulator and Guild chairman.

However, Father O' Donnell has been given extra duties by his Superior which in the near future will percpitate the appointing of a new postulator and Guild Chairman. I will keep you all posted.

May the Venerable Servant of God, Father Michael J. McGivney bless each and everyone of you and your Families

John Roberts - State Guild Chairman

Historic Investiture of St. Jude Squires Circle

Who could ever imagine that an organization for young people in St Jude could be established? The dream became a reality on Thursday, November 20, 2008 when 19 teenagers between 10 to 18 years old were invested into the Squires Circle of St. Jude under the auspices of the Knights of Columbus.

This dream of forming a Squires Circle was hatched by Fr. Lawrence Donnelly, Pastor of St. Jude and Chaplain of St. Jude Council 9998 late last year when he shared it with the then Grand Knight Peter Leong, who brought it to the attention of District Deputy #3 Charles Paqueo, who made sure that this idea would move forward. DD #3 then consulted State Deputy Dan O'Hara, who inspired him to start this circle of youth. So, he prepared the paper works, got the Council 9998 involved and invited speakers like State Youth Coordinator Herb Yang, State Squires Coordinator Glen Dudka, Chief State Squire Adam French and the new State Squires Coordinator Alex Mitro. Fr. Lawrence met with the counsellors to discuss how to proceed and was happy to know that the previous Grand Knight Peter Leong accepted the position of Chief Counsellor. When the roster of counselors was complete, it was time to carry out the membership drive. On October 5, 2008, District Deputy Charles Paqueo on behalf of Alex Mitro delivered the pulpit talk on three Masses. Like a wild fire, it started with one youth signing, then all of a sudden 21 others signed up. The interest was so high, even girls signed up for the Squirettes.

This night indeed is a milestone in the history of the Knights of the Columbus in St. Jude as a Parish. Parents came to support their boys undergoing investiture. Bro John Roberts representing the State Deputy gave a passionate talk that challenged the youth to stand up and make a difference in their church and school by being committed squires.

REPORT FROM BISHOP KEN NOVAKOWSI



CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

by Bishop Ken Nowakowski

Dear Brother Knights,

On November 15, the Ukrainian Catholic Church begins what is referred to as the Philip's Fast. The Feast of Saint Philip the Apostle is celebrated in the Byzantine Tradition on November 14th. So, on the evening of November 14th the Eastern Church begins a forty-day period of spiritual preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord on December 25th. In the Latin tradition, the time of preparation prior to Christmas lasts four Sundays and is referred to as Advent and this year begins on Sunday, November 30th.

In the Christian East, our pre-Nativity period of preparation developed rather late. In fact, the Church in Rome, the Latin Tradition, began to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord within the first century of Christ's death and resurrection, while the celebration was introduced in the Christian East around 400 AD. (The East focused more on Theophany – commemorating the Baptism of Our Lord). And it was only in 1166 AD, that at a local Synod in Constantinople the Bishops decreed that the fast would begin on the evening prior to November 15, ending with the Christmas Vigil on December 24th.

I know that we often use terms in the Church and expect everyone to know exactly what they mean. So, here are a few definitions for you:

Advent – This is term used by the Roman Church to describe the preparation period for Christ's Birth. It comes from the Latin "adventus" and means "coming".

Phillip - Apostle, born in Bethsaida on the shore of the Lake of Tiberias, the place of origin of Andrew and Peter. He was called in Galilee after Jesus had been baptized by the Forerunner John. (Cf. Matt 10:3, John 1:43-48, John 6:5-7, John 14:8-12) The Nativity Fast in the Eastern Tradition begins at sundown at the conclusion of the day on which we celebrate his memory (November 14th).

Why bother with a Fast before Christmas? First of all, any fasting without prayer and almsgiving is really just a diet! So, when we speak about the Phillip's Fast or Advent, the faithful of the Church are encouraged to abstain from foods or recreational activities (parties, TV, movies etc.) and to make a special effort towards spiritual renewal through prayer, receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation and of course participating in acts of charity.

Our commercial outlets understand all too well the opportunities of the pre-Christmas Season or as the more politically-correct call it, the "Holiday Season". Stores will spend huge amounts of money to get us in to buy, buy, buy! Decorations and catchy advertisements lure us in and music puts us in the right mood. As far as I'm concerned, a Christmas Season without Christ is a "Mas" Season, where "m" stands for money, "a" stands for advertising, and "s" stands for "spend, spend, spend", which is what our consumer society thinks we need to do in order to be happy.

We, Dear Brothers Knights, have an occasion to make the Christmas Fast a truly special time in our homes, our Councils, and our Parishes, so that together we can in prayer, fasting and good works set our hearts to experience the joyful celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord. We want to keep Christ in Christmas, so let us also prepare by challenging ourselves spiritually... and not by simply crossing off names on our gift-shopping list! Pray regularly, and more frequently and fervently, abstain from something and donate what you can to your favourite charity, do some extra volunteering in the Council, your Parish or in the Community, especially in favour of the poor and needy.

May this time of the Phillip's Fast and the approaching of Advent be for you and your families a time filled with God's rich and superabundant graces as you journey and long for the celebration of the coming of our Messiah!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Christmas without Christ is mas (many annoying sales!)

British Columbia Knights of Columbus Langford Council 8394 form Historic Round Table in Afghanistan

In June of 2008 State Deputy Dan O'Hara suggested that Langford Council 8394 initiate a dialogue with our troops in Afghanistan to see if the council could set up a round table. The DGK of Langford council Brother Hank Francis (one of our ex military brother knights) took on this role and immediately contacted Fr. Jim Brown the serving Padre in Kandahar. Fr. Brown contacted a brother knight Dave Hentschel a fourth degree knight who was serving there at that time. He agreed to set up the round table and take on the role of round table coordinator for the remainder of his deployment and look for replacement.

With the next rotation of troops MCpl Cameron Burton who is from a council in London Ontario, and has experience as a DGK took on the role of RT coordinator and initiated the SAYAD PACHAD SCHOOL PROJECT.

Children in Afghanistan are viewed as the future of their country, just as Canadian children are in Canada. Without an education there is no future, and no hope of ending the cycle of violence and poverty. The Sayad Pacha School Project was started out as a grassroots Canadian, and Canadian Military venture to help bring quality education to the Afghan children of the local Afghan National Army stationed at Camp Hero, Kandahar, Afghanistan.

The children's first classrooms started out in a bombed out Russian era apartment building, with little or no supplies to assist in their education. Through the efforts of Canadian soldiers in Kandahar, with financial aid and supplies from caring Canadians, the Sayad Pacha School project was started. In a short time a new school had been constructed, courtesy of (Japanese NGO), with Canadian soldiers making a number of trips to both the old and the new school, bringing supplies and making it possible to continue with a way ahead for the children.

With the changing from the PPCLI to the RCR Battle Group, the lead of the Sayad Pacha School project was handed over to Skills Generation (www.skillsgeneration.org) in an effort to maintain continuity between future rotations of soldiers, but still allowing for the myriad of expertise presented by Canadians here in Kandahar and in Canada to continue supporting the school through both hands on upgrading on site, and financially through Skills Generation and TD Bank.

MCpl Burton as the round table coordinator took over and he believes that charity is a big foundation of what the Knights of Columbus is all about. His intent is to raise enough money to construct a fence around the school. This will secure the projects that have been built and the children's safety. In his latest report, Brother Cameron said he had been overwhelmed with the response from the troops for this project. We commend MCPL Cameron Burton for undertaking this project and as a Brother Knight pray that he is successful in his endeavour and that the Round Table established between Langford Council in BC and the troops in Afghanistan will be a fruitful and rewarding adventure for all concerned.

***Hank Francis, DGK
Langford Council 8394***

PARENTS FOR DEMOCRACY IN EDUCATION SOCIETY (PDES):

This is a group that is working in collaboration with many other local organizations to bring back a democratic process to our educational system in the face of the recent, secret changes made to our school curricula as a result of the Corren Agreement (please Google if you are not aware of what the Corren Agreement is). Supreme has given the BC and Yukon Knights of Columbus permission to enter into a collaborative arrangement with these groups as follows: "I see no objection to the BC/Yukon Knights of Columbus as being in collaboration with the organizations referred to in your e-mail, namely: the BC Parents and Teachers for Life and Parents for Democratic Schools, among others.

Certainly your position is consistent with the Church's position with regard to the role of parents as the primary teachers of our children and your decision to take this responsibility seriously is certainly appropriate.

We would hope and expect that the position of the BC/Yukon Knights of Columbus would not be articulated in a way which gives a reasonable person the right to draw the conclusion that the Knights of Columbus is anti-gay anymore than the church is anti-gay - which it clearly is not.

Emphasizing not only the right but the responsibility of parents to exercise direct control over the education of their children is entirely appropriate and, to this end, I wish you and the Knights of Columbus of British Columbia and Yukon territory the very best. "

I bring this to your attention so that should you see or hear of the name of the Order associated with these groups, you will know that it is done with the approval of Supreme and with the State Executive as the "watch dogs" of the material associated with us.

It is important that you look at this link and watch the video:<http://web.me.com/onevoicemag/pdes/Welcome.html>

God Bless,

B. Dan O'Hara

State Deputy

BC/Yukon State Council

More News



Dear Brother Knight: It is probably fair to say that no other single activity has defined the Knights of Columbus over the past half century as much as the pro-life movement.

Following the shock of the Supreme Court's decision to preempt all state and federal laws regulating abortion in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, we launched a long-term battle to fight legalized abortion. While achieving the ultimate goal of overturning *Roe* remains somewhere in the future, we have been able to achieve many small successes along the way:

- the Hyde Amendment, which restricts federal funding for abortions;
- the federal law banning partial birth abortions, which was finally upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in April 2007;
- the "Mexico City Policy," which has barred the use of federal taxpayers' money to pay for abortions in other countries;
- laws in 44 states that preserve a parental role when children under 18 seek abortions;
- laws in 40 states that restrict late-term abortions;
- laws in 46 states that protect the right of conscience for individual health care providers;
- laws in 27 states that protect the right of conscience for institutions;
- laws in 38 states that ban partial birth abortions;
- laws in 33 states that require counseling before having an abortion;
- and laws in 16 states that provide for ultrasounds before an abortion.

All of these restrictions on abortion - all of the progress we've made over the past 35 years in trying to limit and reduce abortions in the United States - would be invalidated with the stroke of a pen if the next Congress passes, and the next president signs, the so-called "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA).

Before you cast your vote on Tuesday, please take the time and effort necessary to learn whether candidates for whom you might vote favor or oppose FOCA.

The House sponsors of FOCA are listed [here](#)

The Senate sponsors of FOCA are listed [here](#)

Obviously, if a candidate in your area is not listed among the sponsors, you may have to ask his or her campaign for their position on FOCA.

We have gathered much additional information about the Freedom of Choice Act, including links to material from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and on life issues generally on a [special Knights of Columbus web page](#):

Remember, all that we've done together since *Roe* to save the lives of the unborn is at stake. Please pass on this message to your pro-life friends.



State Officers, Father Pandolfo and members of District 15 at the Regional Seminar held in Terrace this past September

Marriage Referenda Win Everywhere with Knights Support

State constitutional amendments defining marriage as between one man and one woman passed in all three states where they were on the ballot on Nov. 4, including Florida, Arizona and the most hotly contested state, California. Knights of Columbus provided both financial and volunteer support in all three states. Now, all 30 states that have considered marriage amendments have adopted them, and Knights have been involved in every one of the victories. In photo, Knights arrive at a San Diego rally in support of Proposition 8. California approved Proposition 8, defining marriage as the union between one man and one woman, overturning a state court decision legalizing gay marriage. (CNS photo/Mike Blake, Reuters)

<http://www.kofc.org/un/index.cfm>

No doubt, it was a disappointing night with overwhelmingly bad news. But there was some good news for those who support traditional marriage. In the states of Arizona, Florida and California voters said no to homosexual "marriage." In fact, in the Sunshine State, 60% of the vote was needed to keep marriage only between a man and a woman, and our side was able to garner 62% of the vote.

We won in Arizona, too! This is significant because a couple of years ago the marriage amendment was defeated when the pro-homosexual marriage advocates played the fear card with senior citizens.

Finally, in California, our country's largest and most liberal state, the citizens voted 52% to 48% to overturn the state Supreme Court's decision to allow same-sex marriage. This is BIG news! Radical homosexual groups, Hollywood celebrities and the liberal media came together to try and defeat Proposition 8, yet the pro-family and pro-marriage citizens of California won a huge victory and, if I might add, put the arrogant California Supreme Court in its place.

God Bless,

B. Dan O'Hara
State Deputy

DISTRICT EVENTS

District # 6 is holding their annual Grand Knights Ball, Saturday, January 24 at St. Bernadette church hall.

The event will be semi formal and the charity dollars raised will be split between Agape ministry, Vision quest and Luke 15.

Agape assists women on the street, Vision Quest provides faith based rehabilitation houses for drug and alcohol addiction and Luke 15 provides faith based half way housing for men recently released from prison.

As you can see there is a commonality to our charities this year, i.e. faith based.

The evening will comprised of dinner, live auction, 50/50, live Italian music by the Gianni Fuoco band.

Tickets will be available in late November from any District # 6 Grand Knight or District Deputy John Smith

Phone: 604-590-3797

Corpus Christi is celebrating its 25th Anniversary as a Council in December. Date : 7 December 2008 Sunday Night At Corpus Christi Hall 6850 Nanaimo Street (48 & Nanaimo) Vancouver, Time 6:00 pm, cocktails 7:00 pm Dinner Cost \$35.00 per person EVERYONE INVITED LIMITED TICKETS!!! Contact Bro. Armand Girody @ 604-271-0270 or Bro.Jackson Fong @ 604-321-7403 for tickets or info.

Saturday December 6, 2008 25TH ANNIVERSARY CHARTER NIGHT Council 8520 Our Lady of Lourdes

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Centre

Mass 5 PM. 6 PM. Happy Hour 7 PM Dinner

Entertainment 9 PM- 12 Midnight Dancing

Tickets \$15.00 Each ----- Available After Mass.

Everyone welcome Tickets may be requested from; Andrew Henry 769-5004

Jim Riordan 768-3485 Robert Slaney 768-7252

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