

From the Desk of your District Deputy – August 2016

My Brothers,

My wife and I had the honor of attending this Year's Supreme Convention in Toronto Ontario Canada. It was an amazing experience. We had attended one prior Convention in Orlando Florida in 2014, which was also an amazing experience but this Year's Convention was extra special in that Oregon had a Great Year in 2015-2016. Oregon Immediate Past State Deputy Bob Kish was on the stage 4 times during the Awards Ceremony. Oregon received 300% in New Council Development, and for making all of its Quota's received the Pinnacle Award which is given when you reach both levels of the Circle of Honor. This is a first for Oregon. We had 117.18% of Membership, Net/Net 140.77%, New Council Development 300%, Round Tables 113.30% and Star Council 123.53%. The cherry on top was that Oregon Family of Paul and Michelle Nowak from Lebanon Council 3184 were selected as the International Family of the Year.

It is my hope that this Fraternal Year will be as great or even better. We have had a great start so far. All our Councils should be able to make Star Council this Year, we just need to help with Insurance and Membership.

In his annual report delivered at the 134th Supreme Convention in Toronto, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson noted the Order's record levels of charity, with over \$175 million in donations and over 73.5 million hours of volunteer service.

"Our charity is motivated by faith. And our faith is a gift to be shared," stated Supreme Knight Anderson. "When we bring new men into the Order, we give them the opportunity to be better Catholics. And we multiply the good works that we can do. I am pleased to report that our membership grew for the 44th consecutive year to a record high of 1,918,122 brother Knights. Soon, we will number more than 2 million men."

"Because the light of faith is first transmitted within the family and nurtured in the parish, we have started new programs to strengthen both our families and our parishes. They especially give young fathers the tools they need to bring their families closer together and closer to God," Supreme Knight Anderson said. The Building the Domestic Church program, he added, provides concrete ways in which Knights can reach out to accompany wounded families.

"I ask each of you to take to heart our responsibility as leaders of the most important Catholic men's organization in the world," Supreme Knight Anderson asked his brother Knights. "What we do in our families and parishes will change the history of the Catholic Church in our communities. And it will help ensure the future of those parishes. The strong right arm of the Catholic Church must also be the strong right arm of our parish church. Today, this is what it means to be a light to the nations."

Along with growth in membership and charity, the Knights of Columbus also achieved records in its insurance program.

"This year, we have seen Father McGivney's legacy of shielding Catholic families from financial disaster reach new milestones," Supreme Knight Anderson said. "This year our insurance program achieved its 15th consecutive year of growth. We set a record high of 8.4 billion dollars in new sales. This represents nearly 72,000 new life certificates, surpassing the closest fraternal benefit society by more than 25,000.

Our five-year sales growth of nearly 1.6 percent is above that of the insurance industry as a whole. Last year, our insurance in force grew by more than \$4 billion. And in the last 13 years, our insurance in force has more than doubled. Today, we have more than 2 million certificates in force. "But our greatest achievement was reaching this milestone," he added. "We surpassed \$100 billion of life insurance in force."

The Knights of Columbus Investment Department also saw a successful year, especially in the Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, which is in its 17th month of operation and has 50 clients, including religious orders, dioceses and local and state councils. Asset Advisors is already among the top 200 asset managers in the United States.

"In thousands of ways, every day the Church of the Good Samaritan lives and grows through the works of charity that are the hallmark of the Knights of Columbus. And all of this is the legacy of our founder, the Venerable Father Michael McGivney whose spiritual genius inspired generations of Catholic men to step forward with courage to confront the challenges of their day by living out the principles of charity, unity and fraternity in a distinctly Catholic way."

"The prophetic flame of which Pope Francis speaks continues to burn bright in the hearts of our brother Knights around the world," the supreme knight said. "That flame enkindles in them a true sense of Catholic charity, a charity that evangelizes and brings in a very concrete way, a light to the nations."

"Yes, it is the hour of the laity," he added "It is the hour of the Knights of Columbus."

Vivat Jesus,  
Duane Morris  
District Deputy 17