




# Knights' Visions

## Montana State Council

### August, 2020

Dan Halsten, State Deputy

Marty Beatty State Secretary

### From the State Deputy

It is good to see you found in the Montana Knights of Columbus! As summer begins to come to an end, I am anxious to get moving on the objectives of our order! Many of you have elected officers and assigned chairs and directors for you councils. Unfortunately, we have not seen many of the forms announcing these choices (Forms 185 and 365). PLEASE, send copies to me and to Supreme. One of my frustrations is not having the information we need to reach out to you and see where we can help. I am sure you are equally as frustrated as to who to contact at State or Supreme for guidance because we can't reach out to you. A rock and a hard place! Our worthy brothers Marty and Pat will be calling the numbers we have to encourage the filling out and turning in of these forms. Please cooperate with them the best you can!

I am still searching for District Deputies. If you would like to volunteer in your area, please call me ASAP!

Keep working for Faith, Life, Community and Family! Keep inviting worthy brothers to join WITH us in the Montana Knights of Columbus! Vivat Jesus! **Dan Hallsten, State Deputy**

### Program Suspended

The Montana Knights of Columbus Charities Inc. board, under the recommendation of the State Deputy, voted to suspend the annual Tootsie Roll campaign for 2020-2021. Due to COVID 19 restrictions and the uncertainty that public distribution of the product has on the health of others the decision was made. This decision was also made to protect councils from potential

lawsuits and negative publicity. Please suspend any activities you have initiated this year.

We regret the situation but will work to help find ways to keep our commitment to fund Montana Special Olympics and your many contributions to the charities you support with your annual **Dan Hallsten, State Deputy**

### Family, Priest and Knight of the Year Awards

On August 12<sup>th</sup>, the State Council awarded the Family, Priest and Knight of the Year awards at a ceremony at the end of Mass at St. Mary's Church in Livingston. An outdoor reception was held after Mass.

The 2019-2020 Family of the Year was **the John Williams Family**. John is a member of Council 8345 in Billings. The award was presented by Allen Cormany and Zane Fulbright.

The 2019-2020 Knight of the Year was presented to **Michael Banville** of Council 1413 in Bozeman. Allen Cormany and Marty Beatty presented this award.

The 2019-2020 Priest of the Year was presented to the Montana Knights of Columbus State Chaplain, **Father Leo McDowell**.

Pictures from the event and the complete write ups for the awards are later in the newsletter. These awards are usually presented at the State Convention. Since the Convention this year was virtual, the awards were presented at a special ceremony in mid-August.

## **Faith in Action**

The **Faith in Action** winners were also presented at the ceremony.

**Faith Award** - Billings Council 8345 for cleaning up a Labyrinth around the Church in the spring symbolizing a clear path during Holy Week.

**Family Award** - Helena Council 844 for building a ramp, widening several doors and making the house more accessible for a brother Knight who suffered a stroke.

**Community Award** - Stevensville Council for filling duffel bags for the homeless.

**Life Award** - Great Falls Council 9395 for providing much needed assistance for the ECHOZ Pregnancy Center in Great Falls.

## **2018-2019 Columbian, Founders, McGivney Award and Star Council Award**

### **Star Council**

Council 9395 - Great Falls

### **Columbian Award**

Council 11190-Thompson Falls

Council 1413-Bozeman

Council 6130-Hamilton

Council 6294-Baker

Council 8345-Billings

Council 844 -Helena

Council 9976-Billings

Council 10432-Belgrade

Council 1508-Lewistown

### **Columbian and McGivney Award**

Council 16834 – Columbus-Absarokee

Council 2464 - Roundup

## **McGivney and Founders Award**

Council 14060 – Bigfork

Council 7726 – Geysler

## **An Act of Spiritual Communion**

**My Jesus, I believe that You  
are present in the most Holy  
Sacrament of your Body and Blood.  
I love You and desire to receive You.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You and unite myself  
wholly to You. Never let me  
be separated from You.**

## **Fishing Vest Winner**



Matt R. Skuletich  
3625 Albany Ave  
Butte, MT 59701-4303

Dear Matt:

Congratulations on becoming a Knight of Columbus. Also, congratulations on being the winner of our Fishers of Men Knights of Columbus fishing vest, cooler, hat, cups and even fish! Every Catholic gentleman joining the Knights of Columbus between January 1, 2020 and June 30<sup>th</sup> had his name and his proposer's name entered into a drawing held in mid-July. You are the winner of the package.

When you use the vest and other prizes remember how great it is to be a Knight of Columbus in our times. We truly are “Fishers of Men.” Knights Leave No Neighbor Behind. Our charitable works help those in need! We care about our neighbor, the hungry and the homeless.

Please encourage your Catholic friends who are not Knights to join our order. Give them the chance to participate with other Knights in our Faith in Action Programs. Remember that Catholic gentlemen can join the K of C as an e-member until the end of August for free. Refer them to our website – [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus).

Enjoy your prize!

Vivat Jesus!

Marty Beatty  
Co-Membership Chair-West

Pat Perrella  
Co-Membership-East

### **Knight of the Year**



This Knight has been the Grand Knight of his Council twice. He has recruited numerous new Knights, helps at breakfasts and has organized the Family Week activities for several years. He contributes to Family Promise and Food for Families Programs. He is the past Honor Guard Commander of the Fourth Degree at Masses and parades and has led the exemplification ceremony for First Degree Knights for several years. He has

been a member of the Knights of Columbus for 36 years.

This Knight and his family are active in Council fundraisers such as the Christmas Stroll and pancake breakfasts once a month. During Family Week, he helps the knights cook, leads hikes and helps with car washes.

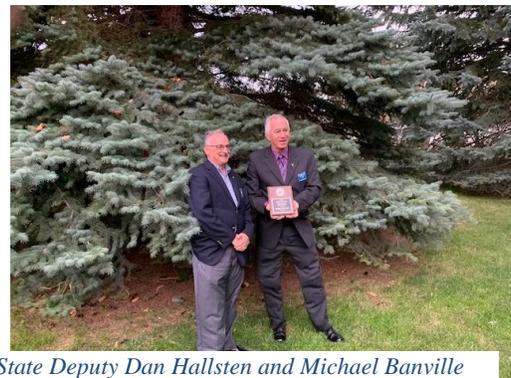
Mike’s family are greeters and gift bearers at Mass and he leads the rosary at Sunday Mass. His wife sings in the parish choir and teaches faith formation classes. He assists with food at funerals and other special activities. Mike’s family works on Family Promise.

He has been a member of the local Rotary Club for 16 years and his family is involved and assists in Rotary activities. Between Rotary and Knights of Columbus, Mike is kept busy.

Mike was the State Warden for the State Council for two terms. He also was the chairman for the State Convention held in Bozeman several years ago. He also served as the digital and communications advisor for the State Council. He does all of the Bozeman Council’s social media postings.

He is an avid fly fisherman. He ties his own flies and fishes whenever he can. A couple of years ago, the State officers held a meeting in Livingston. After the meeting, State Officers that wanted to floated the Yellowstone River. Mike’s raft was the fishing boat. Not only can he fish, but he is also a great oarsman and an excellent guide on the river.

There is no doubt that Mike Banville deserves to be the 2019-2020 Knight of the Year.



*State Deputy Dan Hallsten and Michael Banville*

## Family of the Year



For this Knight and his family, involvement with the Knights of Columbus has always been a family affair. He and his children are active in most of the parish activities geared for kids. As the children continue to grow, they are helping more with Knights projects. As the years have passed, the other children have succeeded their siblings with these projects. Mom and dad are always there to assist and complement the efforts of their children.

This gentleman has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for 16 years. He currently serves on the Recruitment Committee. He has been a lector for twelve years. His wife taught CCD classes until the birth of their daughter, who was born with severe medical conditions that demanded 24-hour complete care. Since then their daughter has been involved in national research studies on aging. This daughter continues to attend Mass with the family and does her best to sing along. The other children who are old enough are altar servers; their younger brother looks forward to receiving the Sacraments so that he too can become an altar server. The oldest child is now an usher at mass. All the children attend CCD or the Youth group at their parish.

This Knight is an administrator at Alternatives Inc., a prerelease center for men transitioning from incarceration to full release. His wife chose to leave the professional business community as a medical office manager to become a stay at home mom. While taking care of their daughter she still finds time to support the children in their parish, school, sports, and social activities. She served on the little league baseball board, tracks schedules, and transports children. She always includes neighborhood friends who need transportation support, and usually has two or three extra children in their home.

This family is dedicated to their Catholic faith and the Knights of Columbus. They are cohesive, loving, active, and a social family unit that is recognized in the parish and community for exemplifying their Catholic faith and love as a

family. The parents are exemplary in practicing their faith and instilling it in their children. Their daughter Sophia will be a high school senior and elected a member of Student Council and Business Professionals of America. Anthony is entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade, plays three sports, and helps neighbors with chores. Alenna is entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade, plays softball and volleyball, is in the parish children's choir and helps her siblings at home. Myah is entering 4<sup>th</sup> grade, is a server at Mass and is in the children's choir. Luke is entering 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, was confirmed this year and is climbing the ladder of activities like his brother and sisters. Gabrielle is fifteen years old and is the child sent by God who receives and reflects this family's care, nurturing, and love.

For all of these reasons, the Montana Knights of Columbus Family of the Year for 2019-2020 is the John and Mary Margaret Williams Family of Council 8345 in Billings.



John Williams Family

## Priest of the year



This Priest wears the standard black suit like most priests wear, but sometimes he can be seen wearing a Cassock. Either a black suit or a cassock tells you that this priest is dedicated to God and service to others in more than one way. On his days off, he might wear casual clothes. He loves to camp and enjoys other outdoor activities in the great Montana outdoors.

Father was born on October 28, 1965. He attended Wagner Community School in Wagner, South Dakota and graduated from High School in 1984 from Forsyth High School in Forsyth, Montana. Father attended Montana State University from 1984 to May 1987. He started school at MSU before “listening to God and going to the seminary.” Father attended Mount Angel Seminary in Mount Angel, Oregon earning a BA in Philosophy. He then attended the University of Saint Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois earning a Master of Divinity. Father was ordained on June 8, 1994.

His first assignment as a priest was as the Parochial Vicar at St Patrick’s Co-Cathedral in Billings. In 1998 he was re-assigned to Circle, Jordan and Richey first as administrator and then as pastor. In 2009, Father became Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Fort Benton and St. Margaret in Geraldine. In 2012, he moved to Livingston and became pastor at St. Mary Parish in Livingston, St. William in Gardiner, St. Margaret Mary in Clyde Park and St. Joseph in Big Timber. He has also been the Diocesan Vocation Director.

Father was a Volunteer EMT in Jordan serving the approximately 5,000 square miles of Garfield County. He also served as treasurer for the Ambulance Service. When he was reassigned to Fort Benton, Father volunteered with Memorial Ambulance. One can easily see that this priest has a serious compassion for anyone in need.

Father has been a volunteer for the Boy Scouts of America, Montana Council for 36 years, serving in various capacities including as a member of the Council Executive Board. Father served as a Chaplain in the US Air Force Reserve for 23 years. He was deployed to Kyrgyzstan and he also counseled victims and families following the 9/11 attack.

Father is currently the State Chaplain for the Montana State Council Knights of Columbus, serving with the State Deputy to enhance the Knights of Columbus programs in the State of Montana. As State Chaplain for the past 14 years, Fr Leo has been an inspiration to many Knights. He rarely misses a state meeting and has attended many Supreme Conventions. Father always has a message for the Knight’s Visions newsletter and is often asked to pray at state meetings and conventions. His prayer is always meaningful and appropriate for the occasion. He has a great love for Catholic education and is a key figure at St Mary School in Livingston. Father encourages Councils to participate in Faith in Action activities and he encourages family participation in parish and K of C activities. Father always encourages Catholic gentlemen who are not Knights to become Knights!

One of Father’s hobbies is making beer. He is always brewing different flavors and kinds. His latest batch is called “Spruce Tips.” He has a special refrigerator that dispenses beer right out of the door! He has never made wine, but thinks he would like to. He is an excellent BBQ chef and likes to cook.

A lot more can be said about Father Leo. But let us congratulate Father Leo McDowell as the 2019-2020 Montana Priest of the Year.



*Past State Deputy Allen Cormany presents Father Leo McDowell as Priest of the Year*

**Knights Visions Material**  
The Knight's Visions is electronically posted by the Montana State Council of the Knights of Columbus. If you have information you would like published in the newsletter, submit information to Marty Beatty at [mnmbt@attglobal.net](mailto:mnmbt@attglobal.net). Articles about what's happening in your Council and pictures in jpg format are always welcome.

## **GET FOUND IN MONTANA**

## **Montana Knights of Columbus!**



**LEAVE NO NEIGHBOR BEHIND**

**ONE MEMBER PER COUNCIL  
PER MONTH.**

**CHECK ON A BROTHER  
KNIGHT TODAY.**