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| Mid-year meeting | January 9-10 |
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Knight's Visions

Montana State Council

December, 2020

Dan Halsten, State Deputy

Marty Beatty State Secretary

From the State Deputy

Thanksgiving. What a wonderful holiday. It's my favorite. Then it is Christmas time! I hope when you are gathered with friends and family that you also think about your fraternal brothers. Be thankful to be part of this group of men they call Knights. A group watched over by our Beatified Fr. Michael McGivney. These are men who have sworn to look out for you and your family. The family you have gathered with to give thanksgiving and praise the new born babe in the manger.

I am sure, because of your actions, there are families who are thankful for the Knights. This is where we are humble and thankful to God that we can be able to help and aid others. Especially during this period in our lives, we are needed. We can't let people down who are hungry, naked, and in need of companionship. This is the season for giving! I am thankful for the Knights who are participating in the Coats for kids' program, doing food drives, blood drives, and duffle bags for veterans, billboards for the protection of the unborn and much more. Keep it up! Leave no neighbor behind.

I am also sure that you know of families who would love to be part of this brotherhood in the faith. Let's not leave them out. Ask and you shall receive! There are many programs to help them join. Starting with free online registration (McGivney Code 2020). Our State program for a Christmas ornament to all new members. We are looking for 30 new Knights in Montana before January. Please call that neighbor or that guy at church or your co-worker Most importantly, your

happiness to have another brother to watch over your family.

Get FOUND in the Montana Knights of Columbus. Get FOUND in thankfulness for all God has provided. Have you seen our bumper sticker? Stickers are available from the State Secretary. If you need some, contact him and proudly display it!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR! KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS!-
Dan Hallsten, State Deputy**

From the State Chaplain

One of the things I like about this time of year is the variety of cooking that takes place. Usually we follow a recipe. Some recipes are very exact such as a quarter teaspoon of this and a half a cup of that. Sometimes the recipes aren't so exact such as a pinch of that or small handful of this. When working on our spiritual life exact recipes don't always work. Each of us is different and we need different things to help us to grow spiritually. While most of us need the same ingredients, there are different measurements for each of us to help us truly meet our spiritual needs.

What are the ingredients for a good spiritual life? The first is prayer. Prayer can take many forms. It could be as formal as praying the Liturgy of the Hours each day or it could be as simple as shouting out simple prayers throughout the day such as, "Jesus, help me."

The second ingredient would be reading of scripture. Throughout the day if one follows the liturgy of the church one gets a lot of scripture. Reading the daily Mass readings, the scripture included in the Liturgy of the Hours, or just taking

time to read scripture yourself can hold benefit us in our spiritual growth. Especially this time of year when we have the benefit of many great stories in scripture that allow us to contemplate upon Jesus' coming into the world and his return in glory.

The third ingredient I would recommend, although oftentimes it's not thought of as a spiritual need, is community. It is our communities that help keep us on task spiritually. Our communities can hold us accountable for our prayer and scripture reading. Our communities that help us spiritually include our parishes and our Knights of Columbus councils. The other aspect of community is our job of helping others in our community by holding them accountable for the prayer and scripture reading they should be doing.

As we approach Christmas let us look at our recipes for spiritual life. Perhaps our recipe needs a little adjustment for "taste". The measurements may vary, but the ingredients should be about the same. May the remainder of this advent season help you to adjust the recipe to be spiritually prepared for the Lord's return, and for the celebration of Christmas. - **Father Leo McDowell, State Chaplain**

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.**

From the Regional Growth Director- West

I heard a story yesterday: On November 29th, a man and his wife were sitting at home. She started to feel ill and to have trouble breathing. He called an ambulance. They are transported to the hospital. The thought was, of course, Covid-19. After some testing, it was discovered that she had a pulmonary embolism and had less than an hour to live. She had just turned 50 years old. Scripture tells us we know not the day or the hour but what if we did? Would you spend that last hour rejoicing or sad, grateful or angry, hopeful or scared, loving or grieving, counting your blessings or regretting what you did or what you failed or feared to do or all of these at the same time?

I worked with this man for over 25 years at the Sheriff's Office. They have 2 daughters in their mid to late-teens. Please include this family in your prayers during these trying times..

If this is your last hour on Earth, how are you spending it? If you had 1 hour left, how would you live it? Yours in Christ. - **Chuck Davlin-
Assistant Regional Growth Director – West**

From the Co-membership Chairs

WE NEED 20 NEW KNIGHTS!

We have 2020 ornaments for each new Knight and their proposers! Encourage joining the Knights of Columbus on-line before December 31st with no joiners fee.

www.kofc.org/joinus

**ENCOURAGE CATHOLIC GENTLEMEN
TO BECOME A KNIGHT BEFORE
CHRISTMAS!**

Ask your neighbors, friends and relatives. Call the new young man you saw at Mass or the gentleman you saw taking his children to Religious Education!

If each Council in the state would recruit one new member, we would meet out goal.

There's still time to get ornaments before Christmas! Act NOW.- Marty Beatty and Pat Perrella, Co-membership chairs

You Can Make a Difference

Every year, Montana Knights come together to donate to the organizations on the Green Sheet. This past fraternal year, Montana Knights contributed significantly to this program.

Now more than ever, these organizations are asking for the Montana Knights to help them. Can YOU help make a difference?

Please give generously to the Green Sheet Funds. Contact your Financial Secretary or Montana Charities INC. President Allen Cormany for more information on how to contribute.-**Allen Cormany Immediate Past State Deputy/President, Montana Charities, Inc.**

From the Program Director

St. Joseph: A Role Model for all Knights
With the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

At the conclusion of his Letter, Pope Francis adds another prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-francis-proclaims-year-of-st-joseph.html>

Salvation Army Bell Ringers

How many of us took a turn ringing the bell for Salvation Army? This is one simple way to take care of those who find themselves in a bind. Make certain your council gets the paperwork submitted to track this and the other programs that you're completing. You all are doing good things; give yourselves credit for it!

Leave No Neighbor Behind

With Christmas just days away this is a good time to check on your Brother Knights who may be absent from Mass lately. Invite them to Mass; provide them with the Christmas Mass schedule. See how they're doing. If they're not comfortable attending Mass in person, let them know how they can participate in Mass online. There are plenty of parishes (and our cathedrals) who broadcast Masses. See if there is anything else that they need. Offer to pray for them, and do it. Stay connected Brothers!-

*Saint Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle,
be our protection
against the wickedness and snares of the devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;
and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host,
by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*

Consecration to the Holy Family

As we focus on the birth of Christ, and celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on December 27, this is a great time to consecrate or re-consecrate our families to the Holy Family. Work with your pastor to celebrate this event as a parish family. For more information see the great resources at www.kofc.org.

Coats for Kids

Is your council participating in Coats for Kids? It's never too late to start. Even if your council doesn't purchase coats through the Knights you can still participate. Collect gently used coats, wash, and distribute through your local schools, shelters, or HRDC. Hats, mittens, socks are also good items to collect and share.

Family

In his 1968 encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, Pope Paul VI taught that "any action which either before, at the moment of, or after sexual intercourse, is specifically intended to prevent procreation - whether as an end or as a means" is to be "absolutely excluded as lawful means of regulating the number of children." He goes on to affirm that "Neither the Church nor her doctrine is inconsistent when she considers it lawful for married people to take advantage of the infertile period but condemns as always unlawful the use of means which directly prevent conception, even when the reason given for the later practice may appear to be upright and serious."

My wife and I volunteer to teach Natural Family Planning (NFP) to help couples as they prayerfully discern to try to achieve or postpone pregnancy. With help from other NFP instructors in Montana, I have created a brochure with contact information for instructors in both the Diocese of Helena and the Diocese of Great Falls/Billings. Both bishops have granted approval for Knights to approach their local parish priests and request permission to make these brochures available in their parish. My hope is that you will help distribute these brochures in your parishes to ensure that couples know instructors are available to help with NFP. I will

work with the State Deputy to get these brochures into the hands of councils in Montana. I hope your Christmas season this year is filled with love and joy!-Joel LaLiberty-Family Chair

Life

From the Life Director I would like to report that 3 Montana Pregnancy Resource Centers are in the process of obtaining new Ultrasound machines via the Ultrasound Program of matching funds from Supreme-Helena, Miles City and Sidney.

Helena's fund raising is complete as of today and the paperwork is in process.

The Holy Spirit is doing terrific work through the generosity of the faithful and this worthy Knights of Columbus program.-**Dan Wing-Life Program Chair. - Zane Fulbright-State Program Director**

What Have Montana Knights of Columbus been doing?

Missoula

Councils in the Missoula area have done a lot of praying in hope that the pandemic will end soon. Councils are unable to physically meet and the virtual meetings do not work well for them.

Hamilton

On November 7th 2020 members of Father Ravalli Council 6130 gathered near Victor at their Pro Life Billboard Sign to do repairs.

The current Signs that Said ***"Life What a Beautiful Choice"*** were fading and looking rather weather beaten.



The council shopped around and came across the company www.prolifebillboards.com coincidentally owned by a fellow Knight from Pennsylvania. The new

ones send the same message urging people to “Choose and Protect Life in a way that catches ones eye. With a new updated look. They Look Great to.... **Way to go Guys!**



- **Davin Atman, Grand Knight Council 6130**

Bozeman

Council 1413 in Bozeman sponsored the Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest. Their Council also participated in the Coats for Kids Program distributing 200 coats.

Livingston

Prepare Sunday breakfast once a month for the elderly and shut-ins; 22 meals delivered to their doors last month. Remove 3 large pine trees that were blown over by the wind on church/school property. Sponsor and conduct weekly rosary prayer on Wednesday; Holy Hour twice a month in Gardiner as well as adult catechesis every Sunday morning.

Belgrade

Belgrade Council: Help Church with repairs of damaged basement wall caused by water.

Chinook

Choteau does not have a Council and is a Roundtable of the Havre Council.

Knights and volunteers in Chinook gathered and delivered 50 food baskets to those in need. The baskets included, potatoes, hamburger, canned goods and pie to homebound and others in need. The community donated money and several residents donated other food basket items. The enthusiasm of this Roundtable is high and they are real go-getters. The Knights made the holidays just a little nicer for the community. The Knights call brother

Knights and make sure that no neighbor is left behind.

District Deputy Frank LaTray and Sylvester Barros worked together to make a lot happen this year. Frank says that Sylvester Barros is a fantastic mentor and Sylvester says Frank is the best. Look what happens when there is unity amongst two districts!

Culbertson

Lynda Joyce Labatte wife of Gregg Labatte Grand Knight of Culbertson passed away in November because of COVID-19.

Many Knights and their families in District 13 have COVID-19. Prayers are requested for those who have died and those who are sick

Roundup

Roundup Council hosted a retreat with Bishop Warfel in October. The emphasis of the retreat was St Catherine of Sienna. The planned, hosted and participated in the retreat. The retreat started with lunch and ended with Mass.



An in person exemplification was held November following Sunday Mass and 4 candidates were advanced.

The Council provided “Remembrance Trees” for the church during November to remember the dearly departed that died during the year.



In December, Council members rang the bell for the Salvation Army at a local grocery store. And

The youth of the parish presented the “Journey to the Inn” program during Advent. The Council planned and participated in the program.

The Council has held in person membership meetings following social distancing protocol. The Council is looking at the option of virtual meetings in the future.

The Council mourned the death of Bernie Ruhland due to COVID 19 in early December.

Billings

Billings Councils participated in their annual Christmas Tree Lot. This year, the tree lots sold out early. All three Billings Council’s participate in the Christmas Tree Lot.

Council 8345 mourned the death of Grand Knight John Daubert due to CoVID-19 in December.

Council 9976 is in the process of establishing pandemic protocol for the Council. Meetings in the future will be both virtual and live beginning the first of the year.

Havre

Council 1644 in Havre participated in the Coats for Kids program with coats that they had left from last year along with the coats they ordered this year.

Great Falls

During October of 2020 I spoke with Br Frank LaTray, the newly appointed District Deputy for District 8, and mentioned to him the tremendous positive impact on our community that our annual projects such as the Coats for Kids winter coats giveaway event and *Food for Families* food collections and donations had created and how it unified our Council members to complete these projects.

Shortly thereafter, we decided to embark on a project to partner both our districts and expand our works of charity together. Br Frank was eager to pursue my challenge, accepted a sample of our surplus of winter coats. In turn he approached the Councils in his district interested in following up with these programs and had a waiting list for those in need of a new winter coat.

A brand new deep chest freezer, valued at \$600, was purchased by Council 9395 just little over a year ago, was delivered and donated it to the Little Flower Catholic Church food in Browning. The deep freeze was filled approximately 500 pounds of ground beef in 2-lb chubs. Several months ago, the donated freezer seized to function properly was rendered unusable.

Early in November, Council 9395 members transported the inoperative deep freeze back to where it was purchased in Great Falls for evaluation and repair. We learned that the warranty was only for one year and it was not repairable.

In turn, Council 9395 purchased another new deep freezer to replace the unrepairable one and filled it full with y 600 pounds of assorted frozen meat-chicken, pork and beef. The freezer was transported to the food bank operated by e Little Flower Catholic Parish in Browning.

An additional 2500 pounds of assorted canned and dried food-vegetables and fruits was also delivered and donated during this trip to benefit our neighbors of the indigenous population at the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and Heart Butte.

With the cooperation and coordinated efforts of District Deputy Frank LaTray, a second contribution of 2,500 pounds of assorted food and 3 cases of new kid's coats were transported and delivered for distribution at Saint *Gabriel's Catholic Parish* in Chinook to people at the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation near Harlem and Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation near Box Elder.

As a result of this joint venture between the both districts and with the help of his parish priest, Father Michael Schneider at Saint Gabriel's Catholic Church, District Deputy Frank, his wife Karen and numerous Parish Round Table members from Chinook, assembled, distributed and delivered 50 holiday dinner food baskets to local families in need The assembled holiday food baskets consisted of he donated food supply contributed by Council 9395, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Great Falls. Moreover, the donated new winter coats were also distributed to grateful recipients.

The fourth major project was Council #9395 spearheaded and conducted its 6th annual city wide in-person *Coats for Kids* winter coats giveaway in Great Falls.

Council #1493, also in Great Falls, was asked by Council 9395 to “**partner in**” this event and they distributed gloves, scarves and caps to the needy during this event. In addition, parish staffers from Corpus Christi Catholic Parish donated and handed out “goodie bags’ of packed with an assortment of snacks.

This first-ever joint event by two neighboring districts (#8 and #14) was truly noteworthy, challenging and rewarding.

Successfully completing this initial joint “*Coats for Kids*” winter coats giveaway events utilizing 24 cases of new winter coats available to the needy children this winter and the “Food for Families” project during the Thanksgiving season was a true blessing and a rewarding experience for all Knights involved. What a blessing indeed!! A joint venture project worthy of repeating in the future.





Leave no neighbor behind...



By Sylvester “Sly” Barros, District Deputy

Whitehall

The Whitehall Council has met physically and the have donated \$250 to the local Food Bank.

Helena

Helena Council meets virtually and in person every month. This fall, the Council was able to help with the Thanksgiving

basket program with a donation of \$1500 to Saint Mary’s parish. The parish works with Helena Food Share to donate over 450 food baskets to the hungry in the Helena area. The needy apply for a basket and then pick up the basket at Saint Mary’s the Sunday before Thanksgiving. This year was different and had to be done as a drive through pickup instead of going into the building to get their baskets.

Helena Council 844 also participated in the Coats for Kids program. Coats were delivered to Saint Mary’s parish and were available at the Thanksgiving basket pickup. Coats were given away on Black Friday at the Good Samaritan Thrift Store in Helena. Coats were given to Our Lady of the Valley parish who supports the Head Start program. Coats were given away at St Helena Cathedral at their Christmas Store. The Cathedral Store takes place before Christmas and those that need help shop at the store for what they need.



Last year’s Tootsie Roll money was given to the Westmont Flower Trading Company. The Council gave \$640 to Westmont. This agency that hires the disabled to work in its flower shop and Christmas tree lot.



The Council has an active Into the Breach group that meets regularly.

Co-membership Chairs

www.Kofc.org/Joinus

Marty Beatty and Pat Perrella, Co-membership chairs

Did you know?

Total number of Montana councils **54**.
 Our membership quota is **160** new members. So far we have **31**; need **129**.
 Circle of Honor among all States **62**.
 Total membership right now: **4919**.
 Councils not recruiting a member this year: **49**.
 Councils not completing a Form 365: **32**
 Councils not completing a Form 1728: **12**
 Councils not completing a Form 185: **18**.
 Montana is down in number numbers by: **47**



*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!*



For a Child is born and the world rejoices!

Montana Knights of Columbus!

WE ARE

OPEN FOR BUSINESS



**ONE MEMBER PER COUNCIL
PER MONTH.**

**CHECK ON A BROTHER
KNIGHT TODAY.**

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. Articles about what's happening in your Council and pictures in jpg format are always welcome.