



**NEW MEXICO**




**State Council Newsletter**

**FRATERNAL YEAR 2011-2012      December 2011**



## Message from State Deputy Mel Apodaca

Brother Knights, Ladies and Families:

On behalf of my fellow State Officers, District Deputies and State Directors I extend my sincerest, joyful wishes in this blessed season of Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, **Jesus Christ**.

All State Deputies attended the Supreme State Deputies meeting in Nashville, Tennessee (November 17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>), and we were recommended to convey to our membership the following:

The focus of our Membership 365 Strategic Growth Plan is the minimum recruitment of one member, per council, per month. The better we tell our story of volunteerism and lay spiritual leadership at the council level, the better we will recruit, retain, and reactivate members and thus take the State to the next level.

Our charity as Knights of Columbus defines who we are, and we have a great story to tell. The average person, however, does not know who we are, what we do, or why Catholic men join our ranks. The story would tell you what a Knight of Columbus is and what he believes. For example, a Knight loves God, his Church, his family, and his country. A Knight is compelled to reach out and help others. A Knight feels the need to give back. A Knight knows that he is on a spiritual journey and that he is not alone. A Knight's council is a safe haven for his family and like-minded people. A Knight is eagerly interested in the future and wellbeing of his family. A Knight cares, he is a doer of good deeds, he is a patriot, and believes that he is not a dying breed.

If we conducted a survey of our members, the majority would tell us that the toughest and most fearful task of a Knight of Columbus is asking a man to join our Order. For some, it is the fear of rejection or of being asked a question that the recruiting Knight cannot answer. This fear keeps us from fulfilling our moral obligation to invite every eligible Catholic man to join our Order. Here is a simple and straightforward technique that will free us from such fear and uncertainty, and thus enable us to increase recruitment efforts throughout our councils. Invite a prospect to come along and volunteer with us at a Knights of Columbus charitable event. Invite him to help once, then twice, and, if necessary, a third time. Once the prospect

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Knights, order-wide, honor *la Morenita*

The Prayer Program of Our Lady of Guadalupe began August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the 129<sup>th</sup> Supreme Convention in Denver. This program features an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

As patroness of the Americas, Our Lady of Guadalupe has special significance to the Knights of Columbus. When the Order sponsored a tour of a relic of St. Juan Diego's tilma in 2003, Our Lady of Guadalupe's role as mother of all in the Americas became very clear.

In city after city, crowds of tens of thousands of people came to venerate Our Lady of Guadalupe. What was most striking was not the number of people, but the number of nationalities and ethnicities represented in each gathering. Likewise, at the Guadalupe Festival sponsored by the Knights of Columbus in 2009 in Phoenix, more than 20,000 people came to venerate and celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Back in 1979, the first such program was begun, which also focused on Our Lady of Guadalupe. Over the years, the Blessed Mother has been honored by her Knights through these Prayer Programs under her titles of the Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Our Lady of Pochaiv, Our Lady of the Assumption, Our Lady of the Rosary, and Our Lady of Charity. These Orderwide programs of Marian prayer have

gathered together more than 14 million people at some 132 thousand prayer services conducted at local councils and parishes.

May this prayer program continue to expand the evangelization of the Americas and the devotion to Our Lady. (Source: [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org))



*"¿No estoy yo aquí que soy tu Madre?" ["Am I not here, who am your Mother?"]*



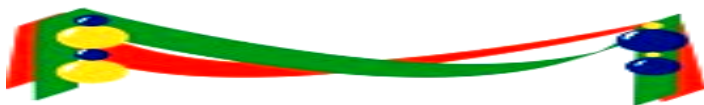
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## 10 ways to make "Jesus is the Gift" a reality during this Holy Season

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*"For God so loved the world that He gave..." JOHN 3:16*

1. **Give the Gift of Encouragement.** Instead of writing letters to Santa, have children write letters to someone who needs encouragement this Christmas. For example, soldiers, nursing home residents, or hospital patients.
2. **Give the Gift of Hope.** Adopt a needy family in your church or community. Bless them with Christmas presents or a special dinner.
3. **Give the Gift of Joy.** Find simple ways to bring a smile to someone's face during the Christmas season, For example, hold the door for someone loaded with groceries.
4. **Give the Gift of Kindness.** Offer your time or energy to someone in need. Hang lights for an elderly neighbor, or wrap presents for an overwhelmed new mom.
5. **Give the Gift of Words.** Speak words of affirmation and affection to your friends and family. Take time to write a special note in your Christmas cards.
6. **Give the Gift of Faith.** Read the Christmas story with your family. Share thoughts about what Christ's birth means for you and your family.
7. **Give the Gift of Peace.** In the midst of the hustle and bustle of the season, set aside one "silent night" to be at home: Light up your fireplace, curl up with a cup of hot chocolate, and take a few moments to simply reflect on God's loving goodness.
8. **Give the Gift of Hospitality.** Invite someone to your home who may not have family nearby, or host an open house for your neighbors.
9. **Give the Gift of Time.** Help nursing home residents write Christmas letters, offer to baby-sit so busy parents can go on a date, or spend a few hours at a shelter.
10. **Give the Gift of Love.** In everything you do, ask God to help you see His beloved Son in your service to others.



**Risking all for Christ**

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## Your prayers are requested

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**David Griego**, DGK, San Felipe Neri Council 14254, passed away at home. He is the brother of **Patrick Griego**, who is the Grand Knight of Council 14254, FDD, PFN. May David rest in peace!

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, PSD **Robert Hoskinson** notified us that his wife, **Cathey**, was called to the Lord that day. May Cathey rest in peace.

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### State Pro-life Couple José and Rosely Valdez

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I thank the councils who have donated funds on behalf of the unborn. At the mid-year meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, I gave your District Deputies the balance we currently have in the Ultra Sound Machine Fund (we almost have enough to order another machine). I also gave each District Deputy a petition to be distributed to all councils in their districts. The petition, "We support the pain-capable unborn child protection act," is one all Knights must strongly support. Through this petition we are requesting that the legislature respond in favor of the unborn. As some of you may know, when surgeons perform procedures in a woman's womb to remove tiny unborn babies, some of them have seen the child flinch, jerk and recoil from sharp objects and incisions.

Your District Deputy should have a flyer (in English and Spanish) that I distributed, which compares American military casualties in all of our wars versus casualties of the unborn.

The District Deputies should also be distributing copies of a flyer I gave them regarding the Sanctity of Life Rally to be held in January at St. Francis Cathedral Basilica in Santa Fe. The rally will include Mass, prayers and a procession to the State Capitol. Project Defending Life will provide me with the exact dates for this event.

I still do not have a complete list of all Council Pro-life Couples (or chairman). Therefore, if you have not done so yet, I remind you to please send me the names, addresses and telephone numbers of your council's Pro-life Couple (or chairman); I need this information as soon as possible. Currently, only about one-third of all councils in the state have sent this information to me. You can contact me at [joenrosely@aol.com](mailto:joenrosely@aol.com).



John the Baptist challenges us to greater zeal for Christ in this Advent season. Let us recall the risks that John took. He issued a moral challenge to a king with a murderous temperament, for John did not fear Herod or any other man. The one John feared most was God. He so much wanted the whole world to be prepared for Christ that he was willing to risk even challenging a tyrant with the hope that he would have a true conversion of heart and lead his people to God. Even though John lost his life preaching that message, he did not fail; nor will we fail when we take risks for God.



John the Baptist calls us to repent of our sins and make straight our distorted habits and lifestyles. Such a message goes directly against a society that drags us into sin and away from God. John is willing to tell us not what we **want** to hear but what we **need** to hear to prepare us for our Redeemer's coming.

What sacrifices are we making for Christ? Are we willing to risk a friendship or family relationship to issue a moral challenge to someone who is not living as Christ commands? Is there a loved one or friend living in sin; have you issued a challenge or remained quiet to keep the peace? It may not be easy to speak up but if our concern is really for their immortal souls shouldn't we risk all for those we love?

Maybe the risk involves standing fast when the world challenges our values. John did not seem to have much regard for worldly standards; he lived in the desert, clothed himself in camel's hair and ate locusts and honey! And when he was challenged by the Pharisees or worldly-minded men, he returned the challenge by telling them to repent.

To confront the corruption of our culture requires us to take to heart the prophetic teachings of our Church and, as did John the Baptist, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

The transformation of hearts and society requires a church full of prophets and saints who are willing to risk many things and relationships for the sake of Christ.

(Source: Fr. Euteneuer, *Spirit & Life*, the second of a four-part Advent Reflection Series).



**State Deputy** (Continued from front page)

knows **who** we really are and **what** we do, he will usually respond with a "yes" when we ask him to join us. For it is true that by our deeds we shall be known.

We live our ceremonials in our daily lives and put our principles into action, and **effectively** tell our story. United in faith, with the help and support of our families, we will see new hope as we recruit, retain, and reactivate our most valuable asset, our **members**.

**Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Vivat Jesus!**

**Mel Apodaca**, State Deputy

## If the Holiday Season brings the blues ...

It has been said, written, and commented upon that the Holiday Season can cause the blues sometimes. There are many reasons why the blues can be triggered in some.

We should be responsive to our family, friends, neighbors, even strangers when we detect unhappiness in their voice or demeanor.

And should the blues hit us when we least expect it during this Season of Joy, let us seek comfort in the One Who divested Himself of everything to come down from Heaven to comfort us even in the midst of His own sufferings.

Here are some "emergency numbers" for you to "dial" to talk to Him when...

***You feel like an outcast; dial [Romans 8:31-39](#)***

***You are seeking peace; dial [Matthew 11:25-30](#)***

***You feel the world is bigger than God; dial [Psalm 90](#)***

***You need Christ-like insurance; dial [Romans 8:1-30](#)***

***You are leaving home for a trip; dial [Psalm 121](#)***

***You require courage for a task; dial [Joshua 1](#)***

***Investments are crowding your mind; dial [Mark 10:17-31](#)***

***You are depressed; dial [Psalm 27](#)***

***Your bank account is empty; dial [Psalm 37](#)***

***You lose faith in mankind; dial [1 Corinthians 13](#)***

***You feel people are unfriendly; dial [John 15](#)***

***You are losing hope; dial [Psalm 126](#)***

***The world seems small compared to you; dial [Psalm 19](#)***

***Paul's secret for happiness; dial [Colossians 3:12-17](#)***

***To get along with others; dial [Romans 12](#)***

***To deal with fear, dial [Psalm 47](#)***

***For security; dial [Psalm 121:3](#)***

***For reassurance; dial [Psalm 145:18](#)***

***NOTE: All these numbers are direct; no operator assistance needed; all lines are available 24/7.***

### NEWSLETTER

Publisher: New Mexico State Council

Editor: **Maria Cortez** (spouse, **Bill**, RIP, Council 6696)

Webmaster: **Larry Kolker**, [www.nmkofc.org](http://www.nmkofc.org)

# New Mexico's Fraternal Insurance Team

Vivat Jesus!



**Jim McCabe, FICF, LUTC, CSA**  
General Agent  
[james.mccabe@kofc.org](mailto:james.mccabe@kofc.org)

Phone: (505)830-5770  
Toll Free: (877)830-5770  
Fax: (505)830-5769

[nmknights.com](http://nmknights.com)



**Gabriel Moya, FIC**  
*Agent of the Year: 2008 & 2009*  
Phone: (505) 554-2501  
[gabriel.moya@kofc.org](mailto:gabriel.moya@kofc.org)



**Steve Ortle, FICF, CSA**  
Phone: (505) 281-4565  
[steve.ortley@kofc.org](mailto:steve.ortley@kofc.org)



**Ruben Montoya, FICF, CSA**  
Phone: (505) 452-0021  
[ruben.montoya@kofc.org](mailto:ruben.montoya@kofc.org)



**Kevin Dixon, FIC**  
Phone: (505) 507-8228  
[kevin.dixon@kofc.org](mailto:kevin.dixon@kofc.org)



**Deacon Don Cupps**  
Phone: (505) 554-9806  
[don.cupps@kofc.org](mailto:don.cupps@kofc.org)



**Charles Lange**  
Phone: (575) 644-9396  
[charles.lange@kofc.org](mailto:charles.lange@kofc.org)



**Michael Guilliams**  
Phone: (575) 442-9250  
[michael.guilliams@kofc.org](mailto:michael.guilliams@kofc.org)



**Michael McCabe**  
Phone: (505) 514-2200  
[michael.mccabe@kofc.org](mailto:michael.mccabe@kofc.org)



Serving Catholic Family's for Generations



## Congratulations and continued success in New Mexico!

After four years of growth in New Mexico, the Knights of Columbus Insurance General Agency saw the need to expand their office space. A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held in early November, which perhaps several of you attended. The General Agency's office is located at 2800 San Mateo Blvd., NE, Suite 111 (north entrance), Albuquerque, NM 87110, in the Knights of Columbus Building.



**Knights of Columbus Insurance**  
Serving Catholic Families throughout New Mexico

Phone: 505-830-5770  
Fax: 505-830-5769  
E-mail: [eva@nmknights.com](mailto:eva@nmknights.com)



Contact person: Jim or Eva McCabe, 505-830-5770

## Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for December

**General Intention:** That the nations of the earth, through knowledge and mutual respect, may grow in harmony and peace.

**Missionary Intention:** That children and young people may be messengers of the Gospel and that their dignity may always be respected and preserved from all violence and exploitation.