



NEW MEXICO



State Council Newsletter

FRATERNAL YEAR 2009-2010

February 2010

In solidarity with our priests

Examples of good priests are becoming more readily available these days. Fr. James Farfaglia who is a new member of the Board of Directors for Human Life International (HLI) and pastor of St. Helen's Parish in Corpus Christi, Texas, is such a man.

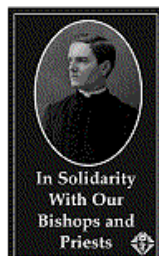
Fr. James has written an excellent book that calls men to holiness and accountability for their marriages and their faith. The book is entitled, "*Man to Man: A Real Priest Speaks to Real Men about Marriage, Sexuality and Family Life.*"

Father James is very strong in his convictions, and his writings reflect that. His no-nonsense explanations of our fundamental commitments to God and others refreshingly restate how we are supposed to thrive and live in a world hostile to our basic values. Fr. James' pastoral judgment is tried and true because he has spent his priestly life ministering to people in real-life situations.

An awesome experience of the priesthood happened recently in Rome with the conference sponsored by the Australian and American chapters of the Confraternity of Catholic Clergy. The week was full of erudite lectures on the priesthood, and the liturgy and was filled with prayer and priestly fraternity. The highlight of it all was participation in the Mass of Epiphany with Pope Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Basilica.

The website where you can read about and view the various events and programs conducted by HLI is www.hli.org.

Let us include our priests in our prayers and commend them to our Blessed Mother. Above all, pray for a total renewal of the priesthood and hierarchy; may they all stand strong against the evils of the day and meet the heavy challenges in today's world.



New Mexico is in the lead

By Benny Viegra, Regional Membership & Programs Coordinator

"The Year of the Volunteer" --- "The Year for Priests"

New Mexico 2009-2010 Goals: Intake - 470; Net Gain - 329; NCD - 4; RT - 70; Co. Reactivation - 3.

New Mexico Membership —YTD—Intake 248—Losses 58—Net Gain 190—Net/Net 116. MTD—Intake 27—Losses 5—Net Gain 22.

Per George Haddad, Manager of Membership Promotion & Council Growth for Supreme Council: Visayas leads Quebec by 9 members. New York is still beating Texas by 11 members. Florida now leads Massachusetts by 11 members. Illinois leads Missouri by 7 members. Iowa needs 5 members to surpass Virginia. **Nebraska is upsetting Colorado by 11 members.** Georgia is losing to Alberta by 2 members. Oklahoma leads Alabama by 2 members, and West Virginia leads Vermont by 1 member. **New Mexico is in the lead—congratulations!**

Membership Madness Competition—New Mexico has brought in 21 members (4.47%). Mississippi has brought in 7 members (1.63%). We must continue to stay in the lead to earn our way into the winner's bracket after January 31, 2010. Continue to recruit.

Make sure councils conduct First Degrees, and submit Form 100's for any new or reactivated member brought into their council.

Blitz—March 27-28, 2010—all councils and districts should be preparing for the upcoming Blitz. Step 1—ask your pastor's permission to conduct a Blitz.

Required forms:

Officer's for the Present Term Form #185 was due 7/1/09. (2 needed as of 1/22/10)

Service Program Personnel Report Form #365 was due 8/1/09. (7 needed as of 1/22/10)—let's turn in 100% of these.

Semi-annual Audit Form #1295 was due 8/15/09. (21 needed as of 1/22/10) It would sure be great to see New Mexico turn in 100% of the above three forms. Give me something to brag about—work to get them in, please.

The Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity Form #1728 is due on 1/31/10, so let's work to turn them all in.

Please see to it that district deputies get these forms from their councils. Let's work together to turn in 100% of these forms during this fraternal year. Let me know if I can help (785-650-8236).

Pray for the end of abortion, for the unborn, for the Culture of Life! Fire up for the "Membership Madness" Competition! Vivat Jesus!

From State Deputy Joseph W. Pozzi

My Brother Knights and Families:

During the first half of our fraternal year we added some new councils in New Mexico: one at Our Lady of Annunciation Parish, instituted by **Robert Lydon**, District Deputy #5. At Saint Anthony's Parish, Anthony, New Mexico we just need to complete the paper work to institute a new council under **John Byers**, District Deputy #11, thanks to much help and hard work from State Service Program Director **Gilbert Pérez**. District Deputy **Lee García** (District #9) is working hard at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Santa Fe to institute a new council there. District Deputy #2, **Peter Quichocho**, is working in Rio Rancho on two new councils in his district: one at San Ysidro Parish in Corrales; the other in Rio Rancho at Incarnation Parish.

Meantime, elsewhere in the state we have the usual problems in increasing our numbers, and sadly the only thing that is increasing is the number of suspensions, which, incidentally, is also happening in many other states. Disheartening is the idea that someone took the time and effort to recruit a new member only to see that member suspended within two or three years of joining the Order.

We need to find out where we are falling short in the area of retention. Maybe our council does not offer members programs to work on; maybe members were not brought through the admittance committee correctly; maybe members have lost their job and have become financially strapped. Whatever the cause, we won't know it unless a personal contact is made and the pending suspension is discussed with the individual before there are no choices left. Once the reasons are known, they can be dealt with. No brother Knight should ever be suspended because he lost his job and cannot afford to pay his dues.

It is time we each took inventory of what we have done during this first part of the fraternal year. We each must ask, "What am I doing to fulfill my duties as a Knight?" Am I active in my council, in my parish, have I done anything lately to benefit my council, my family, my friends, my fellow Knights, and me? Am I proactive or passive and simply waiting to be told what to do?

Many of us in the various positions we hold in our councils and/or state council have been selected because in the past we have demonstrated we deserve those positions. Are we demonstrating that we were a good choice? Do I seek opportunities or do I wait for them to find me? What am I doing to keep my fellow Knights active and excited about belonging to this great organization?

Let's each examine our role as a Knight and make a personal plan to get ourselves and others active in the Order. If you have recruited a member in the past, encourage him to participate. If you know someone who would make a good member, ask him to join us, support

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From State Secretary Joseph B. Austin

What is Per Capita and why is it needed?

Anyone who has bought school clothing, paid college tuition, or paid for just about any product or service has seen these costs rise considerably over the past decade. These increases have affected consumers and businesses across the nation.

Your New Mexico State Council (NMSC) is no different than any other business in our country, and must operate like one in order to serve the needs of the individual councils. Since your State Council does not have a product or service to sell, it must rely on the members to finance its operation. This is accomplished through assessments to the individual councils. The assessments are commonly known as per capita charges.

To operate as a business, the State Office has to be staffed, furnished with office equipment and supplies including postage, copier service, and other office items.

A major expense incurred in the operation of NMSC is communications, which include the State internet/e-mail system, costs associated with the Organizational Meeting and the Mid-Year Meetings, expenses for State officers to travel throughout the state to help in recruitment, retention, programming, etc. All communication is vital for the success of the local councils, and to insure the entire state is operating under the same "game plan."

The State Convention is another large item on the State Council's expense report. At this event State officers communicate with the local councils and recognize those councils that have excelled in various programs. Elections are held every year so that the NMSC will have leaders to guide and support the 80 councils statewide. The convention is also a time for fellowship and fraternity among brother Knights.

The current NMSC per capita is \$7.75 per member (less honorary life and disabled members), which is billed in February of each year. The amount of per capita is not decided by the NMSC officers; it is voted on by delegates to the NMSC Convention. A key factor that forced the per capita increase is that 20% of the state members are honorary life members, and the per capita is not levied on these members. Research shows that per capita by state councils across the country range from \$7 to \$11.

The Supreme Council levies a similar per capita, and this serves the same purpose for Supreme as the per capita for the State. This charge is \$3.50 per active member and is billed twice per year (January and July) at \$1.75 per active member per billing.

Your NMSC officers are diligent in their efforts to contain costs, which include encouraging participation in the State e-mail system, holding Organizational and Mid-Year meetings at the most convenient places possible, and having area meetings in conjunction with District Deputy meetings to cut the cost of meeting facilities. We contract for competitive rates at motels near the meeting

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State Deputy (Continued from page 2)

him as he progresses to full knighthood, and continue encouraging him to remain active in the Order.

Fellow Knights, together we can increase our numbers and be "one for all and all for one." During the last half of this fraternal year let's share the privileges of knighthood with someone new and/or someone we brought into the Order. Wear something (tie tack or pin) everyday that lets everyone know that you are a **proud** member of the Knights of Columbus.

Fr. Michael McGivney challenged each of us with the responsibility to continue the Order by inviting every eligible Catholic gentleman and his family to join us. We must take up that challenge and reach out to the Catholic men who are not yet members, share with them what the Order is all about, and invite them to join our organization to witness their faith through council service activities.

A fellow Knight I met at the State Deputies meeting in Orlando, Florida, told me a simple but effective way of recruiting new members: "When I finish reading my **Columbia** magazines, I place them in the media rack in my parish, and since my name and address is on the label, I get calls and letters from men of the parish, at which time I invite them to join our Order." I encourage you to use this means of recruiting. *Vivat Jesus!*

**From State Service Program Director
Gilbert Pérez**

The Columbian Award: What is it, how and why file?

This is a common question among councils. The award form seems complicated; it's difficult to recall all the completed activities; it's hard to decide which category to list each activity; the result is to not file the form.

Every year no more than 25 councils file this report. Sadly, that leaves about 47 very deserving councils that do not receive this award.

Other reasons for submitting this form: Your council members that are doing the work deserve recognition for their efforts. Your Council Program Director or committee just has to fill out the paper work. Remember the "Power of 10 Program"--here is one way you can benefit by that program.

On the Columbian report, we verify the work we do as Knights of Columbus. This information is essential to the Supreme Council in verifying our charitable status with the United States Government. No doubt you have heard about attempts to remove the tax exemption status of charitable organizations. So far, we have squashed those efforts by showing the extent of our work. Filing the Columbian Award is not just to blow your horn; it assists the Knights of Columbus maintain their tax-exempt charitable status. Only with your help can we keep the dream of Father Michael J. McGivney alive. To qualify for the Columbian Award the council must:

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State Secretary (Continued from page 2)

place to cut costs substantially.

Rest assured that the per capita fees are necessary, and are used prudently by the NMSC and Supreme Council to administer the programs of the world's largest Catholic family and fraternal service organization.

Those in need of prayer

District Deputy **John Byers** informed us that brother Knight **Gilbert Pérez** lost his daughter, Sylvia Fajardo, through a long-term illness. Let us pray for the Pérez family.

Please keep in your prayers the following brother Knights who are in the hospital: **Johnny Moore**, Council 10560 Financial Secretary, and **Fermín Monsivaiz**, Council 9340 GK, PDD; they need our prayers for a speedy recovery.

Isaac Martínez, Council 4227, needs our prayers for a successful triple by-pass heart operation.

**From State Youth Director
Richard J. Espinosa**

Since 1972, councils have sponsored the Knights of Columbus free-throw championship for boys and girls, ages 10 to 14. The contestants compete within their own gender and age group. Competition starts at the council level. Winners move up to district and then state level. This year, the state competition will be held at St. Pius X High School, 5301 Saint Joseph Dr., NW, Albuquerque, on March 20, 2010. The State Council will sponsor the competition, hosted by Brother Matthias Barrett Council 10560. Registration begins at 11 a.m., and competition should start at 12 noon. The competition is a great way to expose the Order to the community while providing a rewarding activity for our youth.

Columbian Squires, a fraternity of young Catholics, should be a big goal for all councils. Founded on August 4, 1925, by Brother Knight Barnabas McDonald, it provides spiritual, cultural, civic, social and physical improvement of its members. As a state, we have reached our goal in establishing Squires this fraternal year. If you have questions or need assistance in starting a Squires Circle, please contact me at 505-281-4288; Cell phone 505-796-2280; email coachespi@yahoo.com. We now have a ceremonial team to do Squires Circle investitures in the Albuquerque area, thanks to brother Knight Chuck Rumschschlag, Council 9340 Peralta, Squires Circle 5332.

Let us continue to support our youth throughout the state. *Vivat Jesus!*

NEWSLETTER

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State Service Program Director (Continued from page 3)

- 1) Complete and return Services Program Personnel Report (Form 365) by August 1.
- 2) Annually conduct and report 6 major involvement programs in each of the following: Church Activities, Community Activities, Council Activities, Family Activities, Pro-Life Activities, and Youth Activities.
- 3) Complete and return Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (Form 1728) by January 31.
- 4) The State Council Service Program Awards (Columbian Award), Form STSP, should be filled out for each major category and submitted to Supreme prior to June 30th to be considered.

Below are a few sample activities that fit in the listed categories. Some activities fit into more than one category but can only be recorded once. You must list 4 activities in each category. This list will help you recall your council's charitable works as you complete your form:

Church Activities:

Vocations work, Parish Roundtable, members usher, are lectors or greeters at Mass; serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion; assist as altar servers; assist with church maintenance; do church/cemetery yard work; clear off

snow; sing in the choir; decorate the church at Christmas or Easter; clean the church; serve coffee and rolls after Mass; teach/assist in religious education; serve on parish boards.

Community Activities:

Members serve on city boards; assist in city clean up; serve meals-on-wheels; volunteer at a nursing home or at a hospital; visit the home-bound; hold or assist in food drives; assist the elderly in various ways; assist or donate blood at blood drives; do ditch clean-up; do fundraising.

Family Activities:

Family of the Month; Lady of the Month; council family outing; activities to protect family value or defend sacredness of marriage; assist at funerals, fundraising events, fishing tournament, Christmas programs, Christmas gift programs for the poor; collect school supplies.

Pro-Life Activities:

Members support pro-life organizations, send anti-abortion letters/flyers, march for Life, display materials on Defending Life; promote letter-writing campaigns to state legislators; sponsor "Tree of Life" program to collect baby items/supplies for unwed mothers/crisis pregnancy service centers; demonstrate publicly outside abortion clinics.

Youth Activities:

Columbian Squires Circle in good standing fulfills all 4 youth category requirements, scholarships, list circle number, support/assist at youth camps, work with Big Brothers/Big Sisters or similar programs, free-throw contest, soccer shoot out, coach little league (soccer, basketball, football, flag football), assist in religious education program, help train altar servers, teach confirmation/other religious classes, assist in youth trips.

From Councils throughout the State

Division 1 winners of Council's 1332 Oratorical Contest: 1st place, Rebecca Galli; 2nd place, Ray López; 3rd place, Janna Miller.



Coronado Council 1332 held its annual oratorical contest on January 21, 2010, in the historical Shuler Theater, Raton,

New Mexico. The event was hosted by District Deputy **Ed Fidel**.

Over 25 contestants participated, and the community came out to support this great youth event. Awards were: \$100 bond plus a medallion for first place; \$75 Bond plus a medallion for second place; \$50 bond plus a medallion for third place. Judges were Barbara Bonahoom, retired teacher, James Gallegos, Cimarron Public Schools Superintendent, and Lady **Janice Espinosa**, teacher at Our Lady of Fatima, Albuquerque.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for February

Scholars

General: For all scholars and intellectuals, that by means of sincere search for the truth they may arrive at an understanding of the one true God.

The Church's Missionary Identity

Missionary: That the Church, aware of its own missionary identity, may strive to follow Christ faithfully and to proclaim His Gospel to all peoples.

From State Chairman for Program for People with Intellectual Disabilities Leo Pilat

The Program for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PPID) is one of our most cherished programs helping many of our disabled citizens. Each council should have a goal to reach on this program, and I hope you have worked on those goals during the past six months. If you are using the Tootsie Rolls for donations, remember to order them from Tootsie Roll Industries at least 30-40 days before your drive dates. If you need forms, call me at 505-220-7658, or contact your District Deputy.

The statewide drive is on April 17, 2010. I ask that each council have a fundraiser on that date. The need to help the disabled is even greater now. I know you can have a successful drive for you have done so in the past, raising over \$80,000 statewide, with over 40 councils participating! If you have activities in conjunction with PPID, please send in your reports to me. *Vivat Jesus!*

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Serving Catholic Family's for Generations



Pennies

You hear the usual stories that pennies on the sidewalk bring good luck, are gifts from angels, etc. But this is the first time I've ever heard this twist on the story:

One day as my husband and I were walking into a restaurant, he stopped suddenly, reached down and picked up a penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. I asked him if the penny had some special value.

"Look at it and read what is written on it," he said. I read the words, "United States of America."

"No, not that; read further."

"One cent?"

"No, keep reading."

"In God we Trust?"

"Yes!"

"And?"

"And if I **trust in God**, the **name of God** is holy even on a coin. That inscription is written on every United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of us telling us to trust Him. Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust **is** in God at that moment, I pick up the coin as a response to God that I **do** trust in Him, and for a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!"

Happy Valentine's Day!

Your spouse deserves your tenderest love!

