



# knights of columbus

Msgr. Weis Council #10596

• 8501 Calumet Avenue • Munster, IN 46321 • 219-836-8610 •

December 2009

## From the State Deputy

Brother Knights:

For many of us, December is a wonderful holiday month in which we recommit ourselves to spreading goodwill and working toward the ultimate goal of achieving peace on earth. December is also the time of year when families join together to reminisce of times passed and look to the future through the eyes of the little ones.

The idea of the family of the Knights of Columbus is a simple one. Every Knight is a part of the Knight family - but our family is much larger than the 1.7 million members. The Knights of Columbus family includes everyone of the men, women and children who are involved in our work. As a family we are here to help everyone and look out for all those who need us. We just don't look after our own - that's not what Knighthood is about.

At this time of the year and especially in these difficult economic times, I ask all Brother Knights to "Lend a Hand" to families in their communities particularly those in need of special assistance. It also relates directly to an initiative I am asking every council to join in a **Food for Families** program that is based firmly on our Order's first principal of charity.

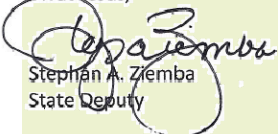
Each Council is asked to conduct a food collection and delivery drive to restock local food banks. The goal is to have a minimum of 25% of Indiana's Councils to take part. It is unthinkable that families in our parishes and communities may go hungry during this Christmas season and the winter months ahead.

As an incentive, the Supreme Council has established a \$1 million fund to restock food banks within the Order. Indiana will receive a share of this fund if we can document that 25% of our Councils have participated in providing food to food banks in their areas. Look to our website, [www.indianakofc.org](http://www.indianakofc.org) for the Chairman of this project and reporting guidelines.

Every council should strive to achieve a balanced interaction between knighthood and their families. Food for Families is a program that everyone in a Knight's family can embrace. It is a program that addresses the often cited problem by younger men that the Knights compete with family time.

Andrea and I wish each of you a blessed, joyful and caring Christmas season. Feliz Navidad, Joyeux Noel, Fruhe Weihnachten, Natale Allegro, Sretan Bozie and Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia.

Vivat Jesus,

  
Stephan A. Ziembra  
State Deputy

## From the Grand Knight

Brother Knights,

Another month has passed. The year is coming to a close and we have much to do. The Christmas tree sales are falling out of the blocks. The wreaths have never looked better and are selling fast. Come out and volunteer your time during the week at the sales lot. A good time of fellowship with your brother Knights is always good and you get to know one another a little better.

We have our annual Christmas party, in the gym at St. Thomas More, coming up on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Dinner will be at 7:00pm. Cocktails and appetizers will begin around 6:35pm or as soon as Father makes it to the party so we can say grace first. If you can help setup we will be do so in the afternoon.

I have been calling all Knights to inform you of the Christmas party. If your information is not correct with the council you may not have received a call. I have called everyone from the letter "A" through "O" as I am writing this new letter. In any case, reservations are required to be in by December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Speaking of the December 14<sup>th</sup>, our meeting will follow the Penance Service that begins at 7:00pm. I expect our meeting to begin at 8:00pm.

There will be a blood drive on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010. All able Knights, invite your friends and family, and roll up your sleeves. Please donate during this time of giving. I would like to take this time to close and say Merry Christmas to all and may God bless each and every one of you.

God Bless,

*Tom Alexander*

Grand Knight



There is a phrase for every person you may encounter when you drink and drive:

POTENTIAL VICTIM  
Please, if you celebrate the holidays with alcohol, do not drive!



**DECEMBER  
BIRTHDAYS**

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!**

6 Joshua Herold  
9 Willis Miller  
12 Cortland Driggs  
14 Dennis Austgen  
15 Richard Rueth  
17 Joseph O'Brien  
20 Antonio Ruiz  
John Schwer  
21 Michael Christensen  
24 Fr. Rick Holy  
25 Richard Gard  
26 Erik Slazyk  
28 Scott Hamill  
29 Gerald Childs  
31 Sylvester Porras



Dear Brother Knight:

Eleven down . . . One to go . . .

If I were from England, I would say that I am absolutely "gobsmacked." Rushing to an online dictionary, you would learn that gobsmacked means flabbergasted, astounded, shocked. That is exactly what I am. Absolutely flabbergasted, astounded, shocked that eleven months have gone by already this calendar and that we only have one more, the month of December, to go before reaching the end of the year.

Where -- WHERE?! -- is the time going?

Has some rift in the universe opened somewhere, some black hole that sucks out the normal length of days, weeks, months, and years? Will this relentless ticking of the clock ever slow down, will it stay the same, or will it get worse?

I've got news for you. You had best be seated for this. It is going to get worse!

My folks always told me that time appears to go by faster the older one gets.

I did then what I always did when my parents would say anything -- what any teen does when his or her parents say anything -- I did not believe a word they said.

Talk about reality cruelly waking me up.

It happened, already, several years ago when I realized that I woke up one morning only to have it be the next day by the time I shaved, showered, got breakfast, et cetera. Well, maybe not literally. But it sure felt that way. And ever since then, time has been gradually -- and sometime drastically -- increasing.

There is so much to do to prepare for the celebration of Christmas. I am not even talking about the cooking, baking, Christmas card lists, et cetera, that typically consume us at this time of the year. I am not even talking about the spiritual preparation of self that is, or should be, a part of this season. I am talking about the physical and spiritual preparation of parish and parishioner as we go through this season. There are extra events these next weeks such as Advent Evening Prayer, communal Penance Services, and such that are designed to help the parishioner prepare for a spiritual celebration of Christmas. There are the temporal concerns, the ordering of flowers, the decorating of the church, the training of the servers for Christmas liturgies, et cetera, that also have to do on. That does not count the number of times that we will be away from our parishes help other priests here confessions at their place.

Now, do you want to know what all this makes me want to panic?

Because as I go through all of this through the month, my eye is not even on Christmas. It is already on Easter! There is so much preparation that needs to go into the celebration of Easter and it has already begun.

That is why time moves so fast for so many of us. We are constantly looking ahead. That does not allow us much time to seek refuge in any "down" time in any day. We are too busy thinking about what needs to be done next to realize that we have just received a little time to rest and reflect.

Your month is going to be busy. But please take the time, when it becomes available to you each day (and it does!), to rest and reflect upon the Advent Season and its message to prepare spiritually for Christmas.

Rev. Michael J. McGivney, Sainly Founder of the Knights of Columbus, pray for us.

Mother Theodore Guerin, Patroness of the Indiana Knights of Columbus, pray for us.

Vivat Jesus!

*Fr. Mike*