



September 2015

Volume 9, Issue 1

# The Cowboy Bulletin

THE WYOMING STATE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWSLETTER

## From the State Deputy



Brothers Knights, welcome to a new fraternal year. It was a busy start of the year for my wife Peggy and me as I began my term as State Deputy. Let me tell you a little about it.

The first week of June, Peggy and I attended the new State Deputy training in New Haven, CT. We met with Carl Anderson, the Supreme Knight, and his wife, Dorian. All of the Supreme Officers were present at all of the receptions held in our honor as new State Deputies, as well as State Deputies returning for their second year.

The days always began with Mass, and then the men moved on to meetings. The wives were treated like royalty, however. Thursday began with breakfast and a tour of the Supreme offices for us, and a trip to the Villa Maria Guadalupe Retreat Center and the Sisters of Life for the wives. That evening, we attended a reception at the Knights of Columbus Museum, along with the Supreme Directors. Friday morning started with Mass and the conferral of our State Jewels at St. Mary's Church. The remainder of the day was spent in business sessions; the wives were treated to a luncheon at the museum, hosted by Dorian Anderson. That evening was yet another reception. Saturday began with Mass, and then the ladies took a daytrip to Newport, Rhode Island, while the men were in workshops all day. Sunday was Mass, breakfast, and the closing session. Our trip kept us busy and we enjoyed every minute of it.

July brought the Summer State Organizational Meeting in Riverton, WY. Thank you to Mike Greff and the other Knights and their families for a wonderful time. All the State Officers, District Deputies, Directors, Chairman and ladies had a wonderful meeting. The State Officers and District Deputies were installed to their elected position at the end of 5:30pm mass, with a dinner

afterward. (See Deputy, Page 2)

## The Lady's Lamppost

For those who don't know me, my name is Peggy Benedik, and I am the wife of the State Deputy. Typically my title would be First Lady, but my twisted sense of humor liked the moniker suggested by John Svoboda at the last state convention: Lady of the Knight. So with that, I think I should call this article, "Comments from the Lady's Lamppost".



The women met as a group for the first time in July at the summer organizational meeting in Riverton. Our discussions centered around several topics: how we can contribute to the state as wives of Knights, what kinds of activities we would like to see at our state convention, and how we can encourage other wives and children of Knights to attend future meetings.

The attitude toward the role of the wife and the family in the life of a successful Knight has shifted, and now is the time for us to step forward. With that in mind, I would appreciate it if those women who have not attended a state convention in the past to please email me at [peggyb1208@bresnan.net](mailto:peggyb1208@bresnan.net) and tell me why. I am genuinely interested. I would also like to know the ages of children that might attend in the future, and what types of activities THEY would like to see. We were all in agreement that a movie and a babysitter is no longer acceptable.

Another topic of discussion had to do with some sort of garment (e.g., vest, sweater, etc.) It didn't occur to me until later that I was skewing the choice to my wishes. So here it is: if you were given a choice between a simple, lightweight vest, or a simple, lightweight jacket/cardigan with the Knights of Columbus logo on the back, which would you prefer? Again, please let me know at the email mentioned above. I hope my email is overflowing! Thank you in advance for your feedback.



## Deputy - continued

The men attended training by the State Deputy and the ladies had their own meeting in the air conditioned library of the school. Materials were distributed to all over the weekend. Our Supreme Director, Ken Stockwell, spoke on membership, and Will Britten, our General Agent, spoke on the Supreme Insurance Program.



July also brought the Silver Rose Run and prayer service through the eastern side of the state. The Silver Rose entered the state from South Dakota to Newcastle, found its way through 7 councils, and left through Torrington to Nebraska.

August brought the 133<sup>rd</sup> Supreme Convention in Philadelphia, PA the birthplace of American Liberty. Our Supreme

Knight stated, "It was here in 1776 that the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence", a document whose opening words have been called "the greatest, most consequential statement of political philosophy of all time".

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Right, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*

*That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.*

The theme for this years' convention was 'Endowed by their Creator With Life and Liberty'. The theme is particularly appropriate this year, since we are celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. John Paul II's encyclical Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life) and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dignitatis Humanae (On the Dignity of the Person), the Second Vatican Council's document on religious freedom.

The Supreme Knight also stated that it is appropriate since we are meeting in the city of Philadelphia – a city steeped in Catholic history.

This was one of the few places in the 13 colonies where Catholics could freely practice their faith. And at times, it was the only place.

Our State Officers and staff (District Deputies, Directors, Chairman and Grand Knights) met with our Membership Program Consultant, MPC Ray Lopez for a training in Casper the last weekend of August. I am going to arrange more regional meetings with Ray in other locations. I will be placing some of the materials under the secure area of our website.

As you all should know, Raoul Langanieri informed me towards the end of June he was going to step down from being our newsletter editor. He was in the hospital in Wheatland, Wyoming. Raoul passed on to be with our Maker, Monday, August 10, 2015. His rosary was Thursday, August 13. His funeral was Friday, August 14 at 10am and the Knights had a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Honor Guard for him. We all need to pray for his wife Fran and their family.

I was informed there will be 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees taking place in Pinedale. Contact Brian Gray for more information; his number is at 307-749-0741.

Vivat Jesus,  
John Benedik

**Pope Francis arrives in the United States on September 22 for his 5-day Apostolic Journey. In addition to his visit with President Obama and his addresses to Congress and the United**



**Nations, Pope Francis will be celebrating the Mass of Canonization of Junipero Serra as well as taking part in the 8th World Meeting of Families. Pray for Pope Francis and all of those with whom he will be meeting.**

## Gun-a-Week Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the winners of Council 9917's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gun-a-Week Raffle:

- Week 1 - 2713 - Jim Marshall, Cheyenne, WY
- Week 2 - 2144 - John Callahan, Littleton, CO
- Week 3 - 2422 - Craig Grassel, Gillette, WY
- Week 4 - 3245 - Maria Kidner, Cheyenne, WY
- Week 5 - 2732 - Marie Whipp, Lander, WY

The proceeds from the annual raffle benefit the St. Joseph's Society for Retired Priests. To date, more than \$210,000 has been given to the Society from this raffle. For a list of the weekly prizes or to purchase tickets, please visit [www.kofc9917.org](http://www.kofc9917.org) and click on News and Announcements.

## Statewide Highway Cleanup Weekend

*John Werner, Program Director*

While traveling around the state, I've noticed that many Wyoming councils have adopted a stretch of the highway. Because of this, I would like to have a statewide highway cleanup weekend. If your council has adopted a stretch of highway please make plans to clean your portion of God's creation on the weekend of September 26. Three councils have already committed to this weekend.

Keep track of the number of Knights, family members, and friends involved, the number of hours worked, and the number of garbage bags filled. Report this information to me at [jgwerner25@gmail.com](mailto:jgwerner25@gmail.com) so I can compile the statewide totals.

If your council has already scheduled a cleanup for earlier in the month, please continue as planned. I ask that you keep track of and report the above information, too.



## Planned Parenthood Protest

The Knights of Columbus organized a protest in City Park against the govern-

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES

*Jerry Hoefler, Church Activities Director*

As you may be aware, Supreme has announced the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Rosary Program. I encourage councils, in addition to the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, to conduct a Rosary service on another Sunday of each month, perhaps the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday. Additional information about the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Rosary program can be found in this newsletter.

It is important that we make ourselves accessible to our priests and parishes. Be sure to visit with your pastor as to what the Knights of Columbus can do to help in the parish. Also remember the birthdays and ordination anniversaries of the clergy in your area. A card and, if possible, a gift of some kind at these times and at Christmas is a good idea.

Other church activities that are presently being done in different councils around the state are RSVP, Knights Choir and Tuxedo Sunday/Corporate Communion.

I recently went to a daily Mass in Laramie. Frank Heck was the lector, the altar server, and the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. This may seem normal for a weekday Mass, but what is not ordinary is that Frank has passed his 90th birthday! Thank you, Frank, for your service to the Church. Frank is a member of Council 2720 in Laramie.

ment funding of Planned Parenthood. The event took place at City Park on the busy highway. Many honked approval and gave thumbs up. There were 22+ Knights and families from Cody and Powell participating. A lady from Washington State asked if she could join our group as we carried signs and prayed the Rosary.





## Night of Knights

A new Cody Council 4031 program – Night of Knights – was initiated in August. The monthly program consists of a no-host dinner at the historic Irma Hotel, followed by a presentation of and discussion on Catholic teachings. The first speaker was Fr. Kevin Barrett speaking on the Church’s teaching on Same Sex Attraction.

## MEMBERSHIP AND RETENTION

*Ralph Trotter  
Membership and Retention Director*

I have been appointed by State Deputy John Benedik to the position of Membership and Retention Director for the 2015-2016 term.

I am not a believer in quotas, whether it has to do with membership numbers or the Equal Rights Amendment. I believe that our best membership tool is an active council. When other people in the parish see an active council they will want to be involved with your work.

Having worked in the Pinedale council for the past 7 years I found that we often had people join in our efforts and help. As a small council and parish it is common for people to just jump in and give a hand. It is during this time that a council has to make those people feel welcome and to want to do more than just help and join. It is during these times that you are being judged on whether you are working towards something they want to be associated with. Do you have on your best Catholic face or are you not recognized as someone other people want to be around?

I use the term other people very consciously because we are a family organization and we want the family to feel comfortable with being around any of our activities that do not involve degree work. During the time my boys were growing up, my family was some of my best help at activities. We approached all of our Knights of Columbus activities as a family project. My wife Virginia is still my best help at activities. Teach your family the benefits of service through the Knights of Columbus.

Vivat Jesus!

## Only Having Insurance “Through Work” Doesn’t Work

Do you know anyone whose life or career has drastically changed during these years of economic downturn? It’s very likely that someone in your immediate or extended family or group of friends is facing financial uncertainty. Maybe there’s a possibility that you (or your spouse) could lose your job or change employers. Too many people have often relied on group term life insurance as their only safety net. Often, this insurance is an employee benefit provided at low or no cost. The existence of this coverage might convince someone that personally-owned life insurance is not necessary.



Knights of Columbus  
**INSURANCE**  
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

But only having “through work” insurance can leave you and your family vulnerable. Most group life insurance policies are limited in amount, which may be tied to salary or some other benchmark. These numbers are often capped, and this cap may be dangerously low when compared to your family’s actual needs. In fact, a detailed needs analysis that evaluates your specific situation, will likely show that any employer-provided coverage falls short.

In addition, the amount of group insurance offered is almost always reduced, sometimes dramatically, when you retire. You could one day find yourself without coverage, and if your health has changed (which it will as you age), you might also find yourself unable to secure individual protection. At the very least, it will definitely be more expensive.

While group life insurance can help, it does not replace the need for individually owned life insurance. Your Knights of Columbus Field Agent will be happy to meet with you and provide a no-cost needs analysis, so you’ll know exactly where you stand.



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## Remembering a Brother

*Carl Joe Welte  
Immediate Past State Deputy*

Brother Knights,

In the time since the last Cowboy Bulletin, we have experienced the loss of one of the greatest gentlemen and Knights in Wyoming. I remember first meeting Raoul Laganieri when he was District Deputy for District 1. He attended our council meetings in Torrington. In addition to District Deputy, Raoul was also the Financial Secretary for the Wheatland council. He was always at the meetings of his District.

We served together on the State Council. I have memories of the trips we took together including traveling to Dallas for a meeting of the State Secretaries, Program Directors, and Membership Directors.

Raoul started and was the original editor of The Cowboy Bulletin. I remember when it was three or four pages. He built it into a paper of seven to eight pages.

He will be missed as he was a friend to all and a great Knight. Please keep his wife Fran and his family in your prayers.



## CEREMONIALS

### UPCOMING DEGREES:

September 19, 2015—**CONFIRMED**

2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Degree

Council 9756, Pinedale, WY

Lunch at 11:00, Degree work to follow

Mass @ 5:30 with wild game BBQ after

Contact: Brian Gray—307-749-0741

### Interested in Hosting a 2<sup>nd</sup> and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree exemplification? This is what you will need:

- Good sized TV and DVD player.
- Additional speakers if possible for DVD audio.
- Medallions for candidates.
- Review degree cost with degree team captain.
- Review meal schedule and costs.
- Supply Catalog Items:
  - Medallions #30630
  - Honoree Scrolls
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree - #273
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree - #272
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Degree - #271

## NECROLOGY

The following Brother Knights passed away in recent months. Pray that God has mercy on their souls and gives peace and comfort to their families and friends.

Joe Lucero, Cheyenne, Council 801, June 2, 2015

James Scalia, Worland, Council 8635, June 6, 2015

Watts, Lander, Council 5447, June 11, 2015

Mike Lanker, Buffalo, Council 3332, July 1, 2015

Tom McGuire, Saratoga, Council 11291, July 12, 2015

Patrick Lange, Cheyenne, Council 801, July 13, 2015

Charles Miranda, Riverton, Council 3237, July 15, 2015

Charles Ronning, Cheyenne, Council 801, July 29, 2015

Michael Schumacher, Cheyenne, Council 801, August 7, 2015

Raoul Laganieri, Wheatland, Council 3551, August 10, 2015

Joe Shubert, Rock Springs, Council 2441, August 12, 2015

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon them.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

## How many Knights does it take to change a light bulb?

On Thursday, August 20, ten Knights of Council 801 in Cheyenne gathered at the Cathedral of St Mary to replace the halogen lights that shine on the ceiling of the church. These bulbs had not been replaced since the renovation of the church several years ago. Most of these lights had since burned out and needed to be replaced.

In order to reach the lights, one Knight needed to climb a 40 foot ladder to reach the light fixture in question while, for eight of the ten lights, a few of the remaining Knights removed some pews to make room for the ladder in other areas.

Once the men assembled, the crews quickly formed. One crew of three men unbolted and moved the necessary pews to make way for a 40-foot ladder. A majority of those present were



needed to move and anchor the ladder as Jeff Shaffer, a Cheyenne firefighter, climbed the ladder to replace each bulb. The final three men moved the pews back into place and reattached them. Deacon Frank Kokozka was also present and provided the necessary moral and prayer support for this effort.

After the hour-long project, the Cathedral lights shine bright once again. Assisting in the effort were Jeff Shaffer, Jim Storey, Bert Grant, Chuck Hall, Fred Schlachter, Matt Leininger, Rick Weingardt, John Kaiser, John Werner, John Estorga, and Deacon Frank Kokozka.

## Annual Respect Life Banquet

The Catholics United for Life Respect Life Banquet is scheduled for September 26 in Cody. The keynote speaker is Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood Clinic Director, who is espe-

cially relevant in light of recent reports. Tickets for the event are \$30 each. Further information can be found at [www.catholicsunitedforlife.net/upcoming-conferences.html](http://www.catholicsunitedforlife.net/upcoming-conferences.html) or by calling Mary Ann at 307-578-5977 or Fred at 307-587-2733.

## Charitable Trust Update

*Doug Gasseling, Charitable Trust Chairman*

State Deputy John Benedict has appointed me as the new Charitable Trust Chairman. I would like to thank Rev. Mr. Don Stewart, the past Charitable Trust Chairman, for his many dedicated years of service. Deacon Don resigned at the end of June and has moved to Cross Plains, Wisconsin. If you have any questions about the Trust, please call me at 307-638-7016.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Rosary Program

To help bring parishioners together in a spiritual activity and promote devotion to Mary, Supreme has announced a new church activity, the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Rosary Program. Knights, their families and other parishioners are encouraged to pray the rosary as a corporate body every time a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday occurs during a month.



This program provides a visible "faith formation" program that will engage current members and their families, and offer parish families who are not yet part of the council an opportunity to experience the faith and fellowship that comes with being a member of the Knights of Columbus. During the 2015/16 fraternal year, the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Rosary services will be conducted on Aug. 30, Nov. 29, Jan. 31, and May 29.

When reporting activities, each 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Rosary conducted during the year can be counted as a separate Church activity on the SP-7.





August 7, 2015

Dear Brother Knight,

During my annual report at our Supreme Convention this week, the delegates from every jurisdiction in our Order stood and held up an olive wood cross made in Bethlehem as a pledge of support for our brothers and sisters suffering persecution in the Middle East. Then, at our States Dinner, we heard stirring testimony from Archbishop Bashar Warda of Erbil, Iraq, and Archbishop Jean Clement Jeanbart of Aleppo, Syria. Rarely in the history of our Order have we heard such words, delivered by men who daily risk their lives for the Faith.

We have already donated more than \$3 million to this cause, and, as an Order, we have pledged to redouble our efforts to do even more.

Please visit [www.ChristiansAtRisk.org](http://www.ChristiansAtRisk.org) and help support these brave men and women who have lost everything, simply for their belief in the One who taught us to love one another.

As I noted in my report on Tuesday, we need "a season of truth," to help bring their story to the attention of the world. I also said:

In Iraq alone, the Christian population has fallen by at least two-thirds, from 1.5 million to less than 400,000. Many of these Christians have fled to the city of Erbil. In Syria, almost 10 percent of the population is Christian. There, too, violence against Christians has caused a refugee crisis. Thousands have fled for their lives to escape forced conversion and martyrdom. Just days ago, a headline in *The New York Times* asked, "Is This the End of Christianity in the Middle East?" The world remains largely silent. These refugees' cries for help remain largely unheard. ... But neither the United States government nor the United Nations are doing enough. The blood of these martyrs cries out to heaven for justice. And the blood of these martyrs cries out to you and to me for help. Through our Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund, we have already delivered more than \$3 million to assist our brothers and sisters in Iraq and Syria. Our dollars provide housing and medical care, but we can and must continue to do more.

The Holy Father has also expressed his support for this initiative. The papal greeting to our convention, read Tuesday, was clear. On the issue of the "protection of religious freedom," and "in response to the attacks unleashed on minority communities, most often Christian, in various parts of our world," the letter noted that Pope Francis is "profoundly grateful for the efforts of the Knights to raise public attention to this grave humanitarian tragedy."

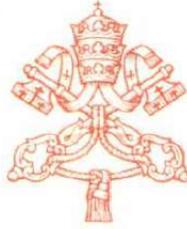
The letter also expressed the pope's gratitude "for the practical solidarity shown to suffering individuals and families through the recently established Christian Refugee Relief Fund." And the pope asked the Knights and Catholics throughout the world to pray for "a conversion of hearts, an end to fanatical violence and intolerance, and a general recognition of those fundamental human rights which are not granted by the state, but from the hand of the Creator, whom all believers invoke as a God of peace." The letter expressing the pope's sentiments was signed by Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin.

So once again, I ask for your renewed support for these brave, persecuted Christians. Please visit [www.ChristiansAtRisk.org](http://www.ChristiansAtRisk.org) to learn more about what is happening there, to help us bring attention to their cause, and to help us support these Christian refugees financially.

Every penny of your donation directly supports humanitarian assistance and raising awareness for persecuted Christians and other religious minorities, especially in the Middle East.

Sincerely,

Carl Anderson  
Supreme Knight



## SECRETARIAT OF STATE

No. 69.385

From the Vatican, 1 August 2015

Dear Mr. Anderson,

His Holiness Pope Francis has been informed that from 4 to 6 August 2015, the 133<sup>rd</sup> Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has asked me to convey his warm good wishes to all present, together with the assurance of his closeness in prayer.

As he prepares to visit Philadelphia next month for the Eighth World Meeting of Families, the Holy Father expresses deep appreciation for the steadfast public witness which your Order has borne to our Christian understanding of marriage and the family. Elevated by the Savior to the dignity of a sacrament, marriage is, in the Creator's plan, a natural institution, a life-long covenant of love and fidelity between a man and a woman, directed to their perfection and sanctification, and to the future of our human family. Today, when the institution of marriage is under attack from powerful cultural forces, the faithful are called to bear witness to this basic truth of biblical faith and natural law, which is essential to the wise and just ordering of society. In meeting the moral, social and political challenges of the present hour, great wisdom and perseverance will be required of them — "the patience of the saints, who keep the commandments of God and hold fast to their faith in Jesus" (*Rev 14:12*).



For this reason, His Holiness trusts that the theme of this year's Supreme Convention — *Endowed by their Creator with Life and Liberty* — will draw attention to the duty of American Catholics, precisely as responsible citizens, to contribute to the reasoned defense of those freedoms on which their nation was founded. The cornerstone of these is religious freedom, understood not simply as the liberty to worship as one chooses, but also, for individuals and institutions, to speak and act in accordance with the dictates of their conscience. To the extent that this right is menaced, whether by invasive public policies, or by the growing influence of a culture which sets alleged personal rights above the common good, there is need for a mobilization of consciences on the part of all those citizens who, regardless of party or creed, are concerned for the overall welfare of society. It is the Holy Father's hope that the program of catechesis and prayer which the Knights have inaugurated in view of the forthcoming Synod on the Family and the World Meeting of Families will contribute significantly to this prophetic witness.

The protection of religious freedom must also engage the consciences of believers on the global level, in response to the attacks unleashed on minority communities, most often Christian, in various parts of our world. His Holiness is profoundly grateful for the efforts of the Knights to raise public attention to this grave humanitarian tragedy. He is likewise grateful for the practical solidarity shown to suffering individuals and families through the recently established Christian Refugee Relief Fund. He appeals once more to your Order for constant prayer, in families, parishes and the local Councils, for these, our beleaguered brothers and sisters, who strive only to be faithful to Christ. It is urgent that, from Catholics throughout the world, an unceasing sacrifice of prayer be offered for the conversion of hearts, an end to fanatical violence and intolerance, and a general recognition of those fundamental human rights which are not granted by the state, but from the hand of the Creator, whom all believers invoke as a God of peace.



Finally, the Holy Father has asked me to express his appreciation for the outstanding charitable, educational and spiritual activities with which the Knights of Columbus contribute to the Church's mission, and to his own ministry as the Successor of Peter, charged with solicitude for all the Churches.

Commending the deliberations of the Supreme Convention to the intercession of Mary, Seat of Wisdom, the Holy Father assures all the Knights and their families of a special remembrance in his prayers. With great affection he imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of strength and peace in the Lord.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Pietro Card. Parolin".

✠ Pietro Cardinal Parolin  
Secretary of State

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