

## **CULTURAL DIVERSITY VISION**

**Greetings Brother Knights,**

**Welcome to the 2018-19 Columbian year. I hope you enjoyed your two months of summer rest and had a great time with your families.**

**As the month of September is already hanging in the air, our duties as Knights again start and resume with our regular meetings and rhythm of activities. Like the aster flowers, the birth flower of the month of September, that symbolize wisdom, valor and faith, we the Knights also stand for those kinds of qualities.**

**Honestly I feel honored to chair this Cultural Diversity Committee and I appreciate our IPSD Brian Schatz and the state board in their trust and confidence in me to start this Ethnic program last year. Thanks also to our new Worthy State Deputy Chris Bencharski who choose me again to lead this mission under his term. For me, your trust my brother Knights is everything that gives me courage and confidence especially when you elected me as the new State Warden of our jurisdiction. Thank you to all of you.**

**Diversity is one thing we all have in common. We just need to recognize that each individual has a value of its own which we need to follow so we can have respect for the dignity of every individual. I strongly believe if we work together in diversity we will have the greatest strength because what is demonstrated is the principle of Unity. "The single fiber so easily broken but when bound to others resist every effort."**

**Most Catholics a long time ago experienced the faith through a single cultural lens yet people around the world live and imagine it in ways of a rich diversity.**

**Maybe one common obstacle is "FEAR". What we need to do is to remove the word fear. If we think of fear, we will come to the situation of not accepting each other. When we don't accept each other because of fear, we will ignore each other and we will not know each other. Fear will only separate us. We are all human being, we are all part of the whole universe, a part limited in time and space. We have our own experiences, thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest and this makes a kind of optical illusion sometimes we have in our consciousness. Life is like a race, but life is not competition; I believe life is helping each other. But having illusions for other purposes will only imprison us - restricting us to only our personal desires and give affection for what only is nearest to us. Let's make our task to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion not only by word but by deeds, so we can embrace all living beings and all of nature. Deep inside us we're not that different at all.**

**Today our Order's principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism are the perfect fit for every community regardless of cultural differences. Diversity now in the modern world is more than just skin color; it's gender, age, special background and even Catholicism appeals to different cultures for various reasons but still our faith is universal.**

**This Columbian year the Cultural Diversity committee will launch a program to help our Order grow especially here in Saskatchewan. This is to encourage all Ethnic Catholic immigrants living in the province to join our Order of Knights of Columbus. The title of this project is "GROW IN YOUR FAITH WITH THE KNIGHTS", in order for the Church to move forward, we the Knights need to help and carry the responsibility with our faith bringing more men to the Order as we are part of an important role in helping the Church. We the Knights have no exemptions and we are committed to**

***work in repentance, reform and rebuilding of the Church as our Supreme Knight Carl Anderson directed.***

***We need more good men. While Roman Catholics remain the largest religious group in Canada with an estimated 14 million followers with growing numbers of adherents from African and Asian communities, that's shifting the makeup of Canada's largest church.***

***Here in our province of Saskatchewan many Catholic immigrants are coming, but do we invite them to get involved?***

***To all Councils, to all District Deputies, Grand Knights and Cluster leaders, let's do our duties to help them grow their faith in the Knights of Columbus. We need their intrinsic qualities of Catholicism and it will help our councils grow. We need young good men to join our Order of the Knights of Columbus. On the State board, Cluster leaders are committed to do a church drive and we are asking all DD's and GK's to schedule a church drive in your area with the help and coordination of your Parish pastor.***

***Let our Worthy State Deputy Chris Bencharski know of your Church Drive plan and Cultural Diversity involvement plan and we'll make it happen in a way in which you are comfortable in your parish.***

***Jesus is still calling and being just a catholic is not enough. We need to stand strong in our faith. We need to be his fisherman or his carpenter. To be a knight is to become his disciple so let's start living a life - offered for the sake of others.***

***Fraternally yours,***

***SW Marte Clemente Nogot***

***State Cultural Diversity Chairman***

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