My Brother Knights,

As we start our new fraternal year, I what to take this opportunity to thank all of you for an outstanding 2013 – 2014 year. Our success as a Knight and as an organization is defined by our adherence to the mission defined by Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney 132 year ago when he founded our Order. The mission was to help Catholic men practice their faith and become better husbands and fathers. He made it a requirement that every Knight be “a practical Catholic” yet did not demand that a man be a perfect Catholic to become a Knight. It was meant that membership in the Order was to help men progress in making God a priority in their lives.

Father McGivney knew that the greatest opportunity for men to achieve making God a priority would be through works of charity and experiencing the fraternity with other men with the same beliefs and desires. The Supreme Knight in his address to the State Deputies said; our success is how faithful we are to the vision and the dream of Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, and his principles for charity, unity and fraternity. The Oklahoma Knights have 109 years of the finest and most dedicated fraternal community with a missionary spirit. That same fraternal missionary spirit must be passed along to other Catholic men by asking them to join the Order. The vision of Father McGivney was that every Catholic man have the opportunity to become a member of the Knights of Columbus.

During our last fraternal year, the Oklahoma Knights showed their missionary spirit by collaborating with Catholic Charities and St. Vincent DePaul in the House in the Box program. That program started on July 13, 2013 and ended on February 22, 2014. This is one of many programs that you the members and councils perform annually and the Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney would proud of the Oklahoma Knights for carrying on his mission.

This past fraternal year the members and councils of Oklahoma recruited 474 new members, netting 157 new members after suspensions, withdrawals, deaths and transfers. We established new councils at St. Mark’s in Pryor and at the Church of Resurrection in Tulsa and reactivated the St. Clements Council in Bixby. As stated in past articles, the state goal is to make every council successful and your council’s goal should be to attain star council. Last fraternal year twenty councils met their membership and insurance quota from Supreme and could possibly achieve Star Council if they filed the required reports. In addition, four other councils achieved their membership quota and another eight councils attained their insurance quota.

Again, I want to thank you for an outstanding 2013-2014 fraternal year and look forward to a successful 2014 -2015 fraternal year.

Vivat Jesus,

Ron Schwarz

State Deputy