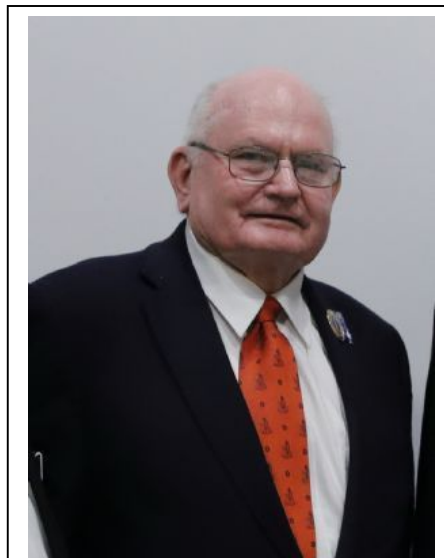


# The Silver Knight News

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## State Deputy's Message



State Deputy David Ryan

Brothers,

It has been an honor and a pleasure to have served you as your State Deputy this fraternal year. We've laughed together at our social events. We've supported each other through personal and professional challenges. We've worked tirelessly to make a difference in our Parishes, Families and Community.

The achievements of this last year are the results of collective efforts. Every member who volunteered at an event, contributed to a project, and supported our programs made this last year a success.

I want to thank the wives who tirelessly work alongside us in fulfilling the vision of Blessed Father McGivney. Without your love, support and understanding, we could not have accomplished the things we did this last year.

This year, our state has grown, not only in numbers, but also in the depth of our connections and the impact of our actions. We have welcomed new members into our ranks, each bringing unique talents and unwavering dedication to our shared mission. Together, we have embraced challenges as opportunities to serve, transforming obstacles into moments of triumph that have strengthened our unity. We have truly lived out the vision of Blessed Father McGivney, striving to embody the principles of charity, unity, and fraternity in all that we do. From organizing events that brought joy to families in our community to lending a helping hand to those in need, we have proven the strength of our collective spirit. The bonds we have formed and the lives we have touched are a testament to the power of shared purpose and collaboration.

Continued next page

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*It is said that our anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strength.*

*Charles Spurgeon*

## State Deputy's Message

Through our shared endeavors, we have exemplified the values that unite us as a community: compassion, perseverance, and faith. We have celebrated milestones and overcome obstacles, forging bonds that transcend mere association and become the very fabric of fraternity.

As I pass the torch to State Deputy Dave Clarke, I'm not saying goodbye. I'm simply changing roles. I'll always be part of the incredible Knights of Columbus family that we've built together. Together we've built something remarkable: a vibrant network of friendship, faith, and service that radiates outwards, touching lives in ways we may never fully see or understand. State Deputy Dave, I assure you of my unwavering support.

Let's continue to grow, to serve, and to make a difference – together.”

May God's blessings be with you and your families.

God Bless

David M Ryan, PSD, FVSM  
State Deputy



## Message from the State Deputy Elect



As I begin my term as your new Nevada State Deputy, I first want to express my deepest gratitude to our immediate Past State Deputy, David M. Ryan. Through his steadfast leadership, unwavering commitment to the “COR” principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism, and through his tireless efforts, Brother Dave has advanced the mission of the Knights of Columbus throughout our great state. On behalf of all Nevada Knights, Sir Knights, their families, and friends - sincere thanks Dave, for your “above and beyond” service and superb leadership.

*My faith rests not in what I am, or shall be, or feel, or know, but in what Christ is, in what he has done, and in what he is doing for me.*

*Charles Spurgeon*

Looking ahead, “for the good of the order” goals are focused on three basic areas:

**Growing Our Brotherhood** — Together, we will actively invite Catholic men of all ages to join our ranks, bringing the joy of service and fraternity to more families in every parish community.

**Strengthening Council Programs** — By supporting strong Faith in Action programs such as “COR” and “ASAP” we will continue to serve our parishes, protect life at every stage, and offer meaningful opportunities for members and their families to grow in faith and charity.

**Supporting Our Priests and Seminarians** — As a state council, we will renew our commitment to vocations, ensuring that those answering God’s call to the priesthood know they are supported by the Knights.

I look forward to working alongside each of you this year as we carry on the proud traditions of our Order. Let us continue to be the “strong right arm of the Church” in Nevada.

May the Lord bless all of your councils, and may He guide us in our shared mission.

Vivat Jesus!

Faternally,  
David Clarke State Deputy, Nevada State Council

## Message from the Vocations Director

Blessed Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus as a brotherhood of prayer and service; service and prayer. Let us always keep these values at the forefront of our endeavors.

Please:

serve with humility

serve with patience

serve with kindness

serve with love

pray at council and assembly meetings

pray the rosary

pray before the Blessed Sacrament

pray for vocations to priesthood, diaconate, religious life, consecrated life, married life, single life

pray for respect of life from conception to natural death

pray for all the Souls in Purgatory, especially for those who have no one to pray for them, and for all the wandering souls

pray for the strength to do God's will in your life

May the Lord continue to bless us in our ministry in His service.

Blessed Michael McGivney      Pray for us

Our Lady, Queen of the Knights      Pray for us

Deacon Rick

*It is not a matter of time  
so much as a matter of  
heart; if you have the  
heart to pray, you will  
find the time.*

*Charles Spurgeon*

## Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge



Each month, Archbishop William Lori – Supreme Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus – selects a brief passage from the Gospel reading of one of the Sunday Masses of the month. This month we look at John 14:15-16 the Gospel for June 8.

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always.”

Last month, we reflected on how Jesus probed Peter three times with the question “Do you love me?” Here we have an answer to what it means to truly love Jesus — by keeping his commandments, as expressed in Scripture and in the teachings of the Church. An earlier monthly challenge underscored how our faith bears fruit in what we do. Let us remember that to keep the commandments for love of Christ is to allow the Holy Spirit to bear good fruits in our lives.

This month, I challenge you to use the Catholic Information Service® resource A Guide to Confession, which is organized around the Ten Commandments, to examine your conscience and then go to confession.

### Questions for Reflection:

What is your response to Jesus’ question, “Do you love me?” Do you show your love for Christ in how you live? In what ways do you need to become more attentive to the commandments and the teachings of the Church?

*Trials teach us what we are;  
they dig up the soil, and let  
us see what we are made of.*

*Charles Spurgeon*

## Note from State Historian

### May God Bless Our Next Slate of Officers

#### *Schedule More Exemplifications!*

#### ***Council updates are as follows:***

- I continue to be in contact with our District Deputies and Grand Knights to make sure each Council has a respective Council Historian, for this new Columbian year and going forward. The Council Historian will assist the State Historian in reaching into the respective Council archives for access to the noteworthy events or activities of the Council and Brother Knights. In some Councils this role will reside with the Grand Knight, due to the size of Council membership. Please be prepared to discuss who is best suited for this position on your Council. As always, this is your chance to tell and record your Council's continuing story!
- In concert with Worthy State David M. Clarke, (Elect) and myself, we recommend Councils setting up a "cloud based" storage system for each Council's records, photos, activity accounting, etc. The continuity of record keeping can then be documented/updated over the continuing "Columbian Year" by the Council Historian.
- Please use my email address: [historian@nv-kofc.com](mailto:historian@nv-kofc.com) to assist in adding any historic documentation, as indicated above, to capture the Nevada State history of our Fraternal Order. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you, my Brother Knights

*Wherever Jesus may lead  
us, He goes before us. If we  
don't know where we are  
going, we know with whom  
we go.*

*Charles Spurgeon*

#### **Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us!**

**Remember:** The message Blessed Michael McGivney continues to have for us, that we carry on the work he began 143 years ago, when he gathered a group of Catholic men in the basement of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, CT.

#### **Continue to Celebrate Father Michael J. McGivney's "Blessed" status!**

## Philanthropic Mission of the Knights of Columbus

It is a privilege to reflect on a story that stretches across generations, communities, and continents -- the story of a legacy built on love, service, and unwavering faith.

A legacy of charity -- the philanthropic mission of the Knights of Columbus.

When Father Michael J. McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882, his vision was simple but profound: to strengthen the faith of Catholic men, to protect the financial stability of their families, and to serve the vulnerable in their midst. From the very beginning, charity was not just a principle of our Order. It was its heartbeat.

What began in the basement of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut has become one of the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organizations, with over two million members today --and at our core remains a single, enduring mission: to love our neighbor through acts of charity.

This legacy is visible in countless ways. In recent years alone, the Knights of Columbus have donated over \$185 million to charitable causes annually and contributed tens of millions of volunteer hours. But these numbers are only part of the story.

Each statistic represents a moment of compassion:

- A family fed through a local food drive.
- A mother choosing life because of a free ultrasound made possible by our Ultrasound Initiative.
- A community rebuilt after a natural disaster, with the help of Knights who stepped up, sleeves rolled, tools in hand.
- A Christian in the Middle East finding hope again, because we helped them return to them homeland.

We serve the hungry, the homeless, the unborn, the disabled, the displaced, the grieving, the forgotten. We do this not for recognition, not for rewards, but because charity is the call of our faith. Through our disaster relief efforts, we are among the first to respond when tragedy strikes. Through our support for persecuted Christians, we affirm religious freedom as a human right. Through our college scholarships and vocations programs, we invest in the future of our Church. And through millions of quiet acts in our parishes and neighborhoods, we reflect Christ's love to the world.

But this mission is not only about what we have done. It is about who we are -- and who we choose to be. We are the men who stay after Mass to serve. We are the fathers who teach our children the meaning of sacrifice. We are the brothers who never let another brother face hardship alone. We are the hands of Christ in a world that desperately needs His mercy. And so I ask you -- whether you are a longtime Knight, a new member, or someone simply seeking purpose -- to recommit yourself to this mission. Let us be known not just by the words we speak, but by the lives we touch. Let us build a world where faith leads to action, and charity is the measure of our courage. Let us honor our founder's dream by living out the very best of who we are. This is our legacy. This is our witness. This is the philanthropic mission of the Knights of Columbus.

May God bless the work of our hearts and hands.

*Let gratitude be awakened;  
let humility be deepened; let  
love be quickened.*

*Charles Spurgeon*



Knight in the Light Submitted By: J. Michael Brady, State Historian

**Fr. Elberto Melendez,  
Pastor St. Michael, Reno, NV**

I was ordained as a priest in the Diocese of Reno in 2004 and recently celebrated 20 years in the priesthood. I was assigned to St Therese of the Little Flower in Reno for the first month and then I was in Yerington, Gardnerville and Battle Mountain. I have been at St Michael's in Stead since 2018. In my spiritual life I have been involved in the Charismatic Movement beginning in 1992 and I continue to be a spiritual leader for the group. When I see a need, especially with the Hispanic people, I love to talk to them and teach them. Coming from other countries, such as Spain and Colombia, the theology that I have comes from an awareness of Liberation Theology. It is the awakening of clergy and lay people about the sociological circumstances in life.

My effort is to teach people how to become good leaders and I have implemented Leadership Formation classes at St Michaels. At first, not a lot of people were involved, but our parish population has grown so much it has become necessary to add more weekend Masses, and more people are participating in the various groups.

I feel blessed to be at St Michaels. I trust in providence to fulfill not only my dreams, but also the dreams of the community. One of those dreams is -- with God's help -- we can continue to grow the Body of Christ.

Being a member of the Knights of Columbus, I feel their mission is the way I have been walking through my life. Helping me to be a good Catholic, helping the Church and community in many ways and working for social justice.

I know that if every man would understand and get involved with the Knights of Columbus, they would feel the reverence of doing Jesus Christ's work for the poor.

I would encourage people to be a part of the Knights of Columbus as they do what Jesus does for us.

*Whenever God means to  
make a man great, he  
always breaks him in  
pieces first.*

*Charles Spurgeon*



## A Lifetime of Service and Lessons Learned

By Al S. Pena State Program Director

It truly takes strong leadership and organizational skills to earn a state-level leadership position within the Knights of Columbus. As a **lifetime member** with nearly 50 years of service, spanning 35 years in California and 15 in Nevada, I've gained firsthand experience with the dedication and commitment required. I'm proud to have immersed myself in the virtues of Father Mc Givney's four pillars: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism, and to have achieved my Fourth Degree.

Before becoming a Grand Knight, I served my Council diligently as Lecturer and then as Deputy Grand Knight for eight years. My four years as Recruitment Director were particularly rewarding, earning our Council a 2-Star award for the first two years, and then a 3-Star award in the subsequent two years under Grand Knight Ken Chipman.

My tenure as Grand Knight from 2021-2022 was a highlight. Our Council achieved 10 Gold Stars, the highest possible, and I was honored as Grand Knight of the Year, alongside numerous other awards. Throughout these roles, I committed to learning every aspect of the job. I attended seminars and training meetings, leveraged online resources, participated in group discussions, and consistently planned and executed initiatives to help our Council achieve its goals. Our primary focus was always on financially supporting our church, parish community, and the marginalized members of our broader community.

*Do not look to your hope,  
but to Jesus, the Source of  
your hope.*

*Charles Spurgeon*

### Insights into State Council Operations

My involvement extended to serving on the Audit Committee, a crucial role in ensuring the State Council's fiscal security. This involved meticulously reviewing the proposed budget for the upcoming Columbian Year and establishing each Council's per capita requirement. This experience provided me with invaluable insights into the vital roles of the State Treasurer and State Secretary.

### The State Treasurer's Role: Financial Stewardship

The State Treasurer is responsible for maintaining the State Council's financial records, typically using QuickBooks. This demands a basic understanding of accounting principles. The QuickBooks program, originally designed by Past State Deputy Tom Thorn, proved highly effective for accurate record-keeping and financial statement preparation. It greatly streamlined tasks like bank reconciliation, per capita billing for councils, cutting checks for convention delegates, and following up on past-due per capita payments. It also facilitated tracking actual versus budgeted expenses, providing early warnings to State Officers if expenses were exceeding allocations. While incredibly beneficial, some subsequent State Treasurers found it cumbersome due to the need for passwords and specific knowledge of posting entries and generating reports.

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## A Lifetime of Service and Lessons Learned

### The State Secretary's Role: Planning and Administration

Similarly, the State Secretary holds significant responsibilities. This role involves preparing the budget for conventions, planning and engaging members for upcoming State Council events, and coordinating various activities such as site selection, catering, entertainment, program development, reservations, and guest speakers—all in accordance with the budget. The State Secretary is also charged with maintaining the minutes of State Council meetings and overseeing the administrative and organizational responsibilities of the State Council.

### The Critical Role of the State Advocate

Finally, I strongly advocate for the position of State Advocate to be filled by a lawyer or someone with a strong legal background and active community involvement. Beyond advising the Council on matters like potential patent infringement lawsuits or insurance claims for injuries or property damage, the State Advocate should be involved with other non-profit organizations that align with the Knights of Columbus's values. This includes groups like "Nevada for the Common Good" and other advocacies defending our religious principles, such as the right to life, religious freedom, LGBTQ+ rights protection, and addressing homelessness.

The State Advocate is crucial for keeping the Council informed about pending legislation affecting these rights, rallying support, ensuring the Council's voice is heard, and ultimately making a tangible difference in the community. As the Council parliamentarian, the Advocate must also be knowledgeable in Robert's Rules of Order and Protocol, Meetings, and Ceremonials (#11620).

### Advice for Aspiring Leaders

My nearly five decades of service within the Knights of Columbus have taught me invaluable lessons about leadership, dedication, and the profound impact we can have when we commit ourselves to our principles. For any aspiring leader in the Knights of Columbus, regardless of the specific position, I offer the follo

1. Embrace Continuous Learning: The Order evolves, as do the needs of our Church and communities. Never stop learning. Actively seek out seminars, training, and resources. Engage in discussions with experienced members and adapt new ideas to serve your council and the broader community effectively.

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*Too many people write  
their blessings in the sand  
but engrave their sorrows  
in marble*

*Charles Spurgeon*

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## A Lifetime of Service and Lessons Learned

2. Live the Pillars: Father McGivney's four pillars—Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism—are not just ideals; they are the bedrock of our actions. Immerse yourself in these virtues daily, letting them guide your decisions and inspire your service.

3. Be a Doer: Leadership isn't just about holding a title; it's about action. Plan diligently, execute purposefully, and always strive to achieve your goals, whether they are fundraising for your church or advocating for the marginalized.

4. Understand the Mechanics: For roles like State Treasurer or Secretary, a foundational understanding of finance and organizational management is critical. Don't be afraid to learn accounting basics, understand budgeting processes, and become proficient with the tools that aid in efficient administration..

5. Cultivate a Collaborative Spirit: No leader succeeds in isolation. Foster strong relationships with your fellow officers, council members, and state-level counterparts. Teamwork and open communication are essential for achieving common objectives.

6. Champion Our Faith and Values: Especially for the State Advocate, but relevant for all leaders, be prepared to stand firm in defending our religious freedoms and advocating for issues that align with Catholic social teaching, such as the right to life and support for the vulnerable. Be informed and be a voice.

7. Dedicate Yourself: Long-term commitment yields the greatest rewards. True leadership often involves serving in various capacities over many years, building a wealth of experience and a deeper understanding of the Order's mission.

Your journey within the Knights of Columbus will be incredibly rewarding. By embodying these principles, you will not only lead effectively but also contribute meaningfully to our Order's noble cause.

*Nearness to God brings  
likeness to God. The more  
you see God the more of  
God will be seen in you.*

*Charles Spurgeon*

## MOMs Help at Knight's Pancake Breakfast



*Every Christian man has a choice between being humble and being humbled.*

*Charles Spurgeon*

The Ministry of Mothers (MOMs) meets twice a month during the school year. The 35 or so mothers who attend regularly arrange themselves around four tables. Every meeting starts off with breakfast for the entire group prepared by the ladies at one or another of the tables. The moms, of course, bring their children --- which could be as few as 35 youngsters or as many as 50. MOMs hires a professional babysitting service which provides licensed "nannies." "The nannies are trained even to handle medical emergencies," explained ministry leader Christine Rossi. "We want our mothers to feel comfortable leaving their children with a nanny, so they can be present together for a couple of hours."

Christine says she is beginning to see fruits of friendship among the ladies. "These are all like-minded Catholic women previously isolated at home, but now come together and share their values and experiences."

After breakfast, the moms listen to a live or recorded speaker. Topics can be light-hearted such as "how to shop in your own closet," or deeper and more serious.

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## MOMs Help at Knight's Pancake Breakfast

At one meeting, the mothers heard Jennifer Roback Morse, Ph.D (founder of the Ruth Institute, an interfaith international coalition to defend the family) speak on gender ideology. Dr. Morse seeks to "defend traditional Christian sexual ethics by providing scientifically sound evidence, carefully reasoned arguments, and compelling personal testimonies."

Another meeting brought "The Four Horsemen," a term coined by Dr. John Gottman, which refers to four negative communication patterns that often appear in relationships. The Four Horsemen are: Criticism - Attacking the Person, Not the Problem; Contempt - A Sense of Superiority Over Your Partner; Defensiveness - Playing the Blame Game; and Stonewalling - The Silent Treatment. The moms learned to recognize each of the horsemen and how to manage or even eliminate them from a relationship.

One meeting the moms found especially meaningful covered the book "Forgiveness" from Newman Springs Publishing. The story centers around a middle-aged woman from the Deep South who catches her husband having an affair with another family member. Through the shock, the author must figure out what she plans to do with her life and whether or not to show him forgiveness. "The book was very moving," commented Christine. "I looked around and everyone in the room was dabbing her eyes."

After the speaker concludes, the ladies discuss the topic then close the meeting in prayer.

These powerful growth experiences could not take place without financial support to pay for the babysitting service. "We asked the Knights to help us with some of the costs and they gave us the proceeds from their pancake breakfast. A very heartfelt thank you to the Knights. We include you in our prayers," said Christine.

*Thus there will be three  
effects of nearness to Jesus --  
humility, happiness, and  
holiness.*

*Charles Spurgeon*



## Meet the new Associate State Chaplain



**L to R: Supreme Director Antonio Pascua, Father Wojciech, Lady Pascua and State Deputy David Clarke**

*Jesus wept, but He never complained.*

*Charles Spurgeon*

On May 21, Father Wojciech (pronounced Voy-check), the Parochial Vicar at St Rose of Lima Parish, received a call from the Bishop of Reno, Daniel Muggenborg. "Father Wojciech," said the Bishop, "the Associate State Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, Fr. Arlon Vergara, is returning to the Philippines on July 1 and I'd like you to take his place." Father Wojciech gulped and then answered, "Of course, yes sir. I'd be delighted." The Bishop said, "Good, because you leave in two weeks for training in New Haven, CT."

Father Wojciech attended the Knights of Columbus State Deputies and Chaplains training meeting in New Haven, CT from June 4 to 7. "During the session, I had the pleasure of personally meeting Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly, Archbishop William E. Lori, our new Nevada State Deputy David M. Clarke, as well as past Nevada State Deputy and current Supreme Director, Antonio Pascua," said Father Wojciech. "I also met the Associate State Chaplain from Poland, Fr. Andrzej Stopyra."

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## Meet the new Associate State Chaplain

Father Wojciech described the training meeting: "The gathering had a twofold theme. In the first part, we visited places connected to the life and ministry of Fr. Michael McGivney. We went to his first parish in Terryville and had the chance to see original documents he signed. We also visited his parish in Thomaston. One of the highlights was celebrating Mass at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, where Fr. McGivney founded the first K of C council, and then visiting the graves of his parents.

"The second part focused on a meeting of all State Chaplains with the Supreme Knight and the Supreme Chaplain, where we shared experiences and reflections. We also heard a series of presentations by the Supreme Council about the current state of the Order, development prospects, and present-day challenges. For the Knights, a strong spiritual foundation and Catholicism expressed through action and personal, deepened faith are very important. These characteristics truly distinguish the Knights from other associations.

Father Wojciech had one more surprise. "At the meeting, I found out that the diocese where I'm from in Poland is now referred to as their "New Haven." This is due to the rapid growth of new councils and the very fruitful work being done. Truly, when you look at the activity of the Knights in the Radom Diocese, you can see incredible dynamism."

Father Wojciech arrived at St. Rose of Lima Parish from Poland in July 2024. He joined the St John Vianney Council of the Knights of Columbus in September 2024 and now serves as the council chaplain. Last month Father Wojciech celebrated the twelfth anniversary of his ordination.

*To trust God in the light  
is nothing, but trust him  
in the dark -- that is  
faith.*

*Charles Spurgeon*



## Ponderosa Council Holds Exemplification



On Thursday June 19, Ponderosa Council 4928 of Sparks completed an exemplification ceremony for five new Knights. Four of them joined council 4928 and the fifth was a guest from Our Lady of the Desert council 12877, also of Sparks.

The guest candidate from Our Lady of the Desert council enabled that council to complete the requirements for Star Council. Three additional E-Knight candidates were unable to attend but are expected to complete exemplification in the near future.

- Anthony Watts GK 4928

*We shall not grow weary  
of waiting upon God if  
we remember how long  
and how graciously He  
once waited for us.*

*Charles Spurgeon*



## This Month's Photos



**Delta Drive at St Therese of the Little Flower.  
L to R: Ryland Lopez, Jose Lopez and State Deputy David Ryan**



**Grand Knight Ted Schmidt presents a scholarship  
check to Madison Rodriguez**



**Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish family of the half year:  
Nestor and Kim Bustero with daughter Adelle, Father  
Justin Lazar and Grand Knight Ted Schmidt**