



# Knights of Columbus

OREGON STATE COUNCIL  
Office of the State Deputy

July 8, 2017

Worthy Brother Knights,

It was just a month ago that my wife Tay and I sat in the pew with the embossed word “Oregon” on the outside in St. Mary’s Church in New Haven, Connecticut waiting to be installed as your State Deputy. The mind immediately started to fill with the faces of all the previous Oregon State Deputies that sat in this very same pew waiting for that same moment of honor to be installed by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson as Oregon’s State Deputy. I think I also know the reason why Knights of Columbus breakfasts at most parishes are synonymous with being the “Parish Pancake Breakfast.” Yes, the breakfast hosted by St. Mary’s KC Council following the Installation Mass was a pancake breakfast.

The Readings for that Saturday Mass and homily by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop Lori carried a very similar theme. “You are rooted and grounded in love” said St. Paul in his Letter to the Ephesians, “and may it be strengthened by the Holy Spirit so you may comprehend the breath and length and height and depth of this love.” The Gospel was the parable of the vine and the branches. “You are the branches” says the Lord, “remain in me as I remain in you.” “A branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains with the vine.” Archbishop Lori then continued, “Your role as Knights of Columbus is to be that branch that bears fruit and extend Christ Love to others.” At the conclusion of the homily, my wife leaned over to me and said “There’s your theme.” Thus the theme for this Fiscal Year is “**In His Love.**”

Another memorable event that weekend was the meeting our first morning with Supreme Knight Carl Anderson with the other “State Deputy-Elects.” The Supreme Knights message was a prelude to the Readings we would hear at the Installation Mass the next day. “You are Evangelizers of the Order. The parable our Lord once used is still with us: In my Fathers vineyards there much work to be done, but the laborers are few. There is so much need in the world but the laborers are few. What we do in extending Christ Love has the potential to grow the Order and help provide more laborers for the vineyards. Will you men help me? Will you be those most needed laborers for the Lord’s Vineyard?”

Our gathering that morning with just the Supreme Knight and our “freshmen class of thirty six” was unique. You could sense the sincerity, the caring, the evangelistic personality of this man and the urgency of his message. Why wouldn’t you want to be laborer in the Father’s Vineyard? It was like we were that small room of St. Mary’s Church basement—which we had a chance to visit after our pancake breakfast---listening to Fr. Michael J. McGivney plead with his small group of men: “Will you men help the families, the widows, the children of our Parish? Will you help me?”

So as we move onward, move forward into this next Fraternal Year, I extend that same question to you Brothers. Will you help me? Will you be some of those most needed laborers for our Lord’s Vineyard? At our final meeting of this weekend in New Haven, we were challenged with the “Supreme Knight’s Summer Fast Start.” The Summer Fast Start is a short-time goal to achieve additional members during the summer months equivalent to the highest ever achieved during the past five years. For us in Oregon, that means 24, 35 and 46 new members during the months of July, August and September, respectively. **So my Brothers, will you help me? Can we add 24, 35 and 46 more laborers to work in the Lord’s Vineyards?** Will you help encourage more Catholic men to be laborers with us, and build that labor force so much needed for the Lord’s vineyards?