Step Up!
Most of us are excellent at passing the buck! We are experts at procrastination, rationalization, and generalization, but at the end of the day, when it really comes down to it, we have no one to blame but ourselves. Yup, that’s right, all we need to step up and be men. Take on responsibilities and stop hanging back and waiting for someone else to volunteer.

Why should we step up and volunteer? As Catholics we are all called to evangelize. As Knights, we often do this through our service programs. With Lent beginning on February 14th, that better way to do more than by giving of your time, talent, and treasure to those in need.

To quote Pope Francis, “How marvelous would it be if, at the end of the day, each of us could say: Today I have performed an act of charity toward others.”

Looking for ways to improve yourself and your council? Your council has many programs in place you can help with, and there are many new ideas in this Knightly News and our online supplement.

Need help improving? Contact any of our state team members. They are volunteers, just like you, and are always glad to lend a hand.

Want to help others improve? Offer them the gift of membership, so they can benefit from the fraternity, charity, and unity of our Order; so they can experience the joy of volunteering and helping others. Vitalis Jesus!

Register for the 2018 State Convention in Rochester today!
All information and directions can be found online at mnknights.org under the Conventions tab.

Some of the highlights will be:
• Friday evening when we will be entertained by some very talented and musical seminarians
• Saturday’s Awards Luncheon
• Saturday’s Ladies Event as they take a trolley tour of Rochester
• Saturday evening’s banquet
• Opening and Closing Masses
• And of course, spending time with your Knights of Columbus family – old friends and new!

For questions or assistance registering, contact Bou Gazley bou.gazley@gmail.com or Ken Peters at km8peters@dmbroadband.com (507) 282-0034.

Resolutions for State Convention Due Feb. 10th
Notification to All Councils in Minnesota Councils wishing to submit resolutions for consideration at the 2018 Minnesota Knights of Columbus State Convention, being held in Rochester, must submit them by February 10th. They should be signed by the Grand Knight and Trustees. Send them to James Terwedo, State Advocate at 3700 West 220th Street – Jordan, MN 55354.

Lenten Change
State Chaplain Fr. Jeff Horpaj statechaplain@mnknights.org
If you are like me, you both look forward to and dread the coming of Lent. The dread is easy to understand as we often resist change and do not want to do the hard work of conversion. We all want our lives to be better, but we don’t like the pain of giving up some things and the struggle of creating new, better habits. One of the things that can help us make positive changes in our lives is knowing that many of our fellow church members are also going through the same thing during this special season of Lent. If others can change, so can we!

We look forward to Lent because it is a grace filled time to focus on our faith life and reaching out more to those in need. Who of us could not benefit from more time spent with the Lord? Parishes offer the Stations of the Cross, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and other prayer and service opportunities. In Minnesota, March is Food Share Month, so there is more of an incentive to support our local food shelf. As Knights, we have the Food for Families program to participate in. Whether we choose to give to the Catholic Relief Services collection or the Rice Bowl or some other charity, we can make a difference in the lives of those without the necessities of life. Fast- ing is a tradition that goes back to the early church. Church members would deny themselves a meal and use the funds saved to give to those who had nothing to eat.

If you are not accustomed to advocating for justice, Lent may give us that extra push we need to do so. A good place to start is www.mnknights.org, and then go to Advocacy Areas. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops website is also very good: www.usccb.org and then go to Issues and Action.

May you have a very productive Lent. God loves us and forgives us, and God is ready to help us break through the resistance to change. Vitalis Jesus!

Welcome to our Newest Minnesota Assembly
San Juan Diego Assemblea #3753
Their officers were installed on Saturday, January 13th at the Cathedral in St. Paul.

Star Council Safe Environment Requirement 2017-2018
To be eligible, councils must be fully compliant with applicable safe environment requirements. For more information on the Knight of Columbus Safe Environment Program, please visit kofc.org/safe.
Next month I’m heading to Panama City Beach during the schools’ winter break. (I am writing this article during this last week of school, after I have done some research to find out what there is to do so that I can be prepared. I am looking at reviews and getting recommendations. I want to make the most out of my week down in the warmth. As the potential next state deputy, if elected by the delegates in May, I am starting the process of looking ahead and getting prepared. I am looking at the current programs and getting recommendations. I am starting to think more and more about what new faces if any. If I waited till the third weekend in May before I started that process of planning, I would not be prepared to assume the responsibilities starting July. I would not get the most out of my tenure as SD. How about your council? Is the deputy grand knight starting to assemble a staff? Is he looking at the previous year and making changes in programs, if needed. (Hint: if the council is using the fraternal plan, much of the needed information will be handy.) Just because the council did a program in the past doesn’t mean it needs to continue if it isn’t paying dividends. Is he looking for something new to go with the familiar faces? It is not too early to start planning.

Please don’t get me wrong. The deputy grand knight still needs to be supporting the current grand knight’s efforts, just as I am supporting the current state deputy’s work. Hopefully, as a team, you are supporting each other so that the successful current year runs right into the next year. Vivat Jesus!

The 2018 Minnesota State Free Throw Championship (on the second Youth Programs page).
February is here, and how is your council doing this year? Two important forms that are due are past due that need to be processed now. Your council’s charitable giving of time and talent. Share this completed form with all of your members to show how much you accomplished in the past year for your parish and community.

The Semiannual Audit also monitors how your council is doing both financially and in membership. Your council’s charter is subject to audit done on time is not being accountable to the membership of the council. When a council does not get the audit done, this should be a red flag. Your officers have taken a pledge to be financially accountable to the membership of the council. When you miss two audits in a row, your Financial Secretary and Treasurer are no longer bonded!

This year, 63 councils have not sent in audits that were due August 15. We ask that FS send back an email to remind councils to do this in the future. The most current list is in the Semiannual Audit. Please contact us if you need an audit form and do not know what is going on. The Audit Committee is always looking for new members. How many members are honorary life? How many paying members caught up on their dues? How many members are not for profit status.

Here in Minnesota, we have strong leadership support for the Knights of Columbus. Vivat Jesus!
Father Wants You Membership Campaign

To be held at least twice a year:
1. Meet with your parish priest to explain the campaign so you can invite those who did not, to get his permission, and to invite him to write his own letter of invitation or have him approve a “Father Wants You” invitation letter (several samples were sent to all MN grand knights and district deputies).
2. Ask for permission to use the parish members name or parish directory list of members who have joined the parish since it was published.
3. Circulate your listing to your current roster and create a list of those men who do not belong to your council.
4. Form a team of council members who are active parishioners and know many of the parishioners.
5. Have this team meet and highlight those men they know and recommend for membership.
6. Have your parish priest look over the list of prospects, and see if he would like to add any other names to the list.
7. Schedule an open house to be attended by Father, your field agent, your council officers, the team, council members, prospective members, and the wives of these gentlemen.
8. Send out invitation letters to these prospective members. Track who attends and who does not.
9. Host an open house (ideas for this agenda were also sent out to Ks and DDS).

Collector Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Chairman Chris Wiesb
Greenway@integra.net ~ (952) 913-7566

NOTE: We can also accept the tabs from soup, fruit, vegetable, and pet food cans that have a tab top.

Collecting these tabs:
⇒ Bring them to the 2018 State Convention
⇒ Council with highest weight per member wins
⇒ Winner may display the traveling trophy until the next State Convention Banquet
⇒ Benefit Minnesota Ronald McDonald Houses
⇒ Help families that need these services in Minnesota

Holy Family Icon

Plan ahead! Look at this schedule and plan your prayer services in advance so everything is ready to roll when you get the icon.

Holy Family Icon Schedule by District August 2017 to June 2018

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For comments, or additional supplies, please contact Marian Hour of Prayer Chairman Dan Schlegel at (507) 725-6713 or (952) 887-1218
Orville@filbrandt.com