

**State Deputy's Message  
January, 2012**

**UNITED AS ONE**

By the time that you receive this newsletter, the annual Mid-Year meeting will be coming to or at a close. We all will be starting fresh and moving on with the start of the new calendar year but in the middle of our Knights of Columbus Fraternal Year. As a state, as a council or assembly and as an individual, "What have we accomplished?" And, "Where do we go from here?" If we sit back and look, the accomplishments are easy to identify. We look at the activity of our councils and our members. We can look at the growth of our state, councils and assemblies and the successes we have accomplished over the past 6 months or year. Are we succeeding or have we become routine? Have we become robotic in the way we handle activities that we have done time and time again. Have we not moved forward much because we "have always done it a certain way" or are we experiencing an excitement amongst members by introducing new activities or revitalizing some of the old.

When I began my term as State Deputy, the Supreme Council was in the midst of many changes. We have seen adjustments and the revamping of the way we do Degrees. First Degrees can be read so that every council can have the opportunity to bring in men who wish to become Knights in a reasonable amount of time. There have been the naysayers who believe it has to be memorized for the Degree to be of value. Yet, Supreme has seen a request for paraphernalia for conducting the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree increase from 3 for the year to 167. Do you think that maybe this increase will help provide councils the opportunity to increase their membership with brothers who wish to share our faith and be a part of an organization that thrives on doing good works? The same can be said for the revamping of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree. Though it is extremely different from what we have been doing, it has allowed the Knights to do more 3<sup>rd</sup> Degrees, which will increase the pool of Knights who are eligible to lead our councils, districts and the state. It has brought the Eucharist into the forefront of our lives where it should have been all along.

This year we have been stressing the need to reach out to all eligible men in our parishes and in the outlying areas of our state where there are men at mission parishes or within our own parishes who may be of a different culture or nationality but share a commonality – our faith. We can easily accomplish a unity through the use of Roundtables. Roundtables can be utilized in a number of ways. Within our own parishes where there is a council but who may have left out an untapped resource of Catholic men who are part of the parish. Reach out to these men and embrace them in our Order through the use of a Roundtable. We are brothers who share our Catholic faith. It is a faith that has no barriers and welcomes all. Our unity can be expressed with our current Marian Hour of Prayer icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe. She exemplifies what we should be all about. She is the Patroness of the "**Americas**," not the Patroness of North America or South America or Latin America; but the Americas. We are one. We should be united as one and work as one for the Good of the Order and the vision of our founder, the Venerable Michael J. McGivney.

We have entered a new year and can start anew. We must look within ourselves, our councils, assemblies, the state and our Order so we can move forward united as one. Our theme from

Supreme is “So that the World may know New Hope”. As we move forward we are changing to become a more effective organization through our Catholicity, spirituality and our charitable works. Let us think “outside the box”. Let us take those programs that have become a bit stale and revitalize them with a new energy. When a Brother Knight steps forward with a new idea or a different spin on an old idea, as an officer of your council or as a Brother Knight, give him support. Encourage him to move forward on that idea and not say “it won’t work, we tried it 10 or 20 years ago” or the usual answer, “we can’t do it that way, we have always done it this way”. Maybe it is time rethink our priorities and get excited about the annual Mentally Handicapped Campaign or instituting a Squires Circle to introduce the youth of our parishes to the Knights of Columbus, their good works and their own Catholic faith or; possibly a new angle on the hosting of a Clergy Appreciation event.

I look forward to the future of our state. I believe we can energize the membership throughout the state and share the vision of our founder through the expansion of the ideals of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. If we truly believe, we can be united as “**ONE**” and truly be “**United with the Holy Spirit**” and be “**One Nation under God**”.

Vivat Jesus, Vivat Maria

**Roger G. Muller**  
**State Deputy**