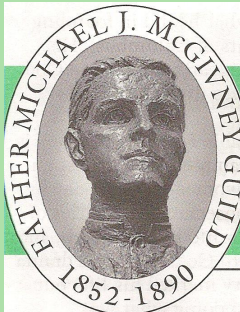


The Compass

"The Year of the Priest and the Volunteer"

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Father
**Michael J.
McGivney**

Venerable SERVANT
of
God

Apostle to the
Young

Protector
of Christian Family
Life

Hello Brothers,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the District 20 newsletter. It is my intention to publish this letter every other month.

I hope to make this letter useful to all the Grand Knights and their council officers, as well as their committee chairmen. It will include, but is not limited to:

- *List of upcoming events*
- *District Deputy's "Random Thoughts and Ideas"*
- *Messages from local priests,*
- *Leadership thoughts*
- *Information from Father McGivney,*
- *Individual council "happenings"*
- *State and Supreme Information.*

I want to make this newsletter a dynamic "living" document, so your thoughts and ideas for improvement are welcomed and encouraged. I am constantly looking for better ways to disseminate pertinent information in a timely manner, as well as encouraging the councils to work together on some of their most meaningful projects.

I am proud of what each of you has accomplished during the first half of this fraternal year. I am confident the second half will be even better and that we will all accomplish the goals we set for ourselves in the months of August and September.

May God continue to bless all of your endeavors. Father Michael J. McGivney pray for us!

Vivat Jesus!

Ron Girkins DD#20

Random Thoughts & Ideas

Half-Time Adjustment

by Ron Girkins



As we approach the mid-point of the fraternal year, ideas and "necessities" keep entering my sub-conscience.

As a leader if you answered "yes" to these questions, then I think your job stress has been greatly reduced, if not eliminated.

Membership is the life-blood of any organization. Do we all have a solid reason why it is important, and can we articulate it? Do we all have a membership director? Do we have a program director?

If the answer to the vast majority of these questions is "no", I would be willing to bet that the job of Grand Knight is not much fun and you feel like *you* are doing the majority of the work.

Are we all conducting at least two membership blitzes annually?

This can be fixed. Begin addressing, with the help of your officers, each of these areas now. It's half-time; all good teams make adjustments at half-time. Even if your council has addressed these questions, programs, and or issues, are they viable and meaningful? If not, improve them.

If so are they organized and to "standard?" Are we planning for the March/April Blitz now? Do we fully utilize and emphasize



The Silver Knight and

Shining Armor awards? Can I name the last winners in my council of both awards?

For real satisfaction, leave the council better than when you got it.

Vivat Jesus!
Ron Girkins

Do we have a useful annual calendar? If not, are we working on one? Do all members have a copy of it? Do we have a "scrubbed" phone tree and e-mail list?

Do we habitually and formally recognize Knight of the Month and Family of the Month? Are State and Supreme, respectively, notified of the winners?

Do we complete our monthly service reports prior to the 10th of each month as part of our goals?

As Grand Knights have we appointed a chairman to each of our committees and events listed on our annual calendars? Do these chairmen brief monthly on their up-coming events?

IMPORTANT MEETING FOR

Grand Knights, Deputy Grand Knights, Membership Directors and Financial Secretaries

Make plans to attend the Regional meeting at St. John Vianney on Saturday Jan. 9, 2010 at 8 am.

This is important for council development!

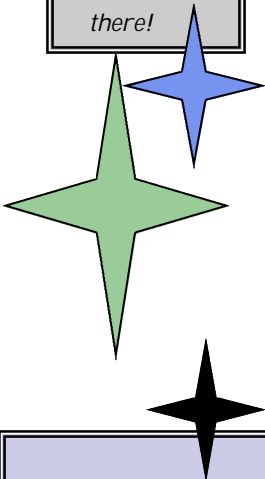
Remember
Our Holy
Days of
Obligation:

Dec. 8
*Immaculate
Conception*

Dec. 25
Christmas

Jan. 1
*The Solemnity
of Mary*

Wherever you
are...be
there!



*"You have to think
anyway, so why not
think big?"*

-Donald Trump

DISTRICT DEPUTY 2009-2010 GOALS

As we approach the mid-point of the fraternal year, I think it is important to highlight the goals that I set out in early September. Remember, in order to be a goal it must meet certain criteria.

A goal must be:

- Observable
- Obtainable
- Accomplished by a certain date

If you fail to accomplish a goal by the date given, keep working on it until it is accomplished!!

Here are the goals:

By 15 January 2010: Star Council Membership

By 31 January 2010: Develop and implement an email contact list.

No Later than 15 May 2010:

- 1000 Point Club (monthly service report form)
- Three Silver Knight winners
- One Shining Armor award winner

No later than 30 June 2010:

- Three Fourth Degree winners
- Four Second & Third Degree winners.
- Win Star Council award with the objective of being double star in 2011
- Participate, develop and implement "Blitz Plan" twice a year (November and March)
- Develop a council newsletter and distribute at least four times during this fraternal year

Two of the most prestigious awards that a Knight can win are *The Shining Armor Award* and the *Silver Knight Award*. The Shining Armor Award can only be earned during the new knight's first year of membership. Brothers, these two awards, if optimized within your councils will practically guarantee the "Star Council Award" and will certainly move your

membership well towards that most desired annual achievement.

The Shining Armor Award

- Worked on 3 council service programs
- Attended at least 3 council business meetings
- Received your Third degree.
- Met with council insurance representative
- Recruited one new member

Ensure that each new member, at the time they receive their First Degree, receives this card (#4292)

Silver Knight Award

- Maintain 3rd degree in good standing
- Attend 3 business meetings
- Participate in 3 service programs
- Meet with insurance agent *or* maintain insurance member status
- Recruit two new members



Leadership Truth

There are plenty of misconceptions and myths that people embrace about leaders and leadership. Here is one common one:

"The Management Myth"

*John C. Maxwell
Leadership 101*

A widespread misunderstanding is that leading and managing are one and the same. Up until a few years ago, books that claimed to be on leadership were often really about management. The main difference between the two is that leadership is about influencing people to follow, while management focuses on maintaining systems and processes.

The best way to test whether a person can lead rather than just manage is to ask him to create positive change. Managers can maintain direction, but they can't change it. To move people in a new direction, you need influence.

KEY UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 10 -Monthly service project reports due to State (1000 Point Club)
-Family of the month report due to Supreme.
- Dec. 11 Council #8137 Christmas Party at St. Charles gym, 6 pm — 9 pm
- Dec. 25 **Merry Christmas!**
St. Charles Christmas dinner for the needy,
St. Charles gym, 11 am — 1:30 pm
- Jan. 1 **Happy New Year!**
-Feast of Mary Mother of God
-State per capita due
- Jan. 2 Council #13831 Christmas Party, St. Anthonys, 4:30 pm
- Jan. 9 Regional meeting at St. John Vianney for all Grand Knights and related leaders, 503 N. Walnut Rd, 8 am — 4:30 pm
- Jan. 10 -Monthly service project reports due to State (1000 point club)
-Family of the month report due to Supreme
-Council #10534 Pancake breakfast following
8 am & 10:30 am Masses
- Jan. 31 -Annual survey of fraternal activity due (#1738)
-Essay contest entries due



Knights of Columbus News

McGivney Miracle Information Submitted to Vatican

Officials of a supplemental tribunal constituted by the Archdiocese of Hartford formally sent a new report to the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints concerning the cause for canonization of the Order's founder, Father Michael J. McGivney. The tribunal — a panel tasked with gathering additional testimony — interviewed witnesses, including several medical doctors, about the circumstances of a reported miracle attributed to Venerable Michael McGivney's intercession.

The report was signed and presented to Archbishop Henry J. Mansell of Hartford, Conn., on Sept. 22 and was affixed with the archbishop's seal. The postulator of the cause, Dr. Andrea Ambrosi, traveled from Rome to Hartford for the occasion.

The event was held in the chapel at the archdiocesan chancery and was attended by Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, other Supreme Officers, relatives of Father McGivney and archdiocesan officials.

For more information on the cause for Father McGivney, or to join the Father McGivney Guild, visit www.fathermcgivney.org.

Supreme Council Awards \$1.6 Million in College Grants

For the 2009-10 academic year, the Knights of Columbus has awarded scholarships totaling more than \$1.6 million to 190 students. Most recipients are the children of Knights or Knights themselves attending Catholic universities or Catholic colleges in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico or the Philippines. These figures include \$105,000 in grants to 42 seminarians in the United States and Canada. Additionally, nearly 500 existing scholarships will be renewed, provided the recipients maintain their current academic status.

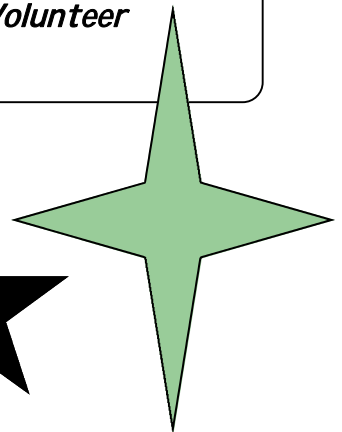
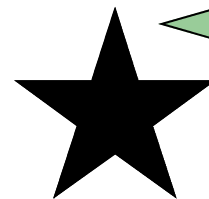
At the grassroots level, K of C councils and assemblies reported distributing more than \$7.1 million in scholarships during the 2008-09 fraternal year, according to the 2008 Survey of Fraternal Activity.

For more information about the Order's scholarship programs, visit www.kofc.org and click on the "For Members" link.



*Karl Hadley, PSD,
was appointed Mas-
ter of the Washing-
ton District of the
4th Degree.*

*This is
the Year of the
Priest and the
Volunteer*





North = Charity West = Patriotism

South = Fraternity East = Unity

Points of the



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The Precepts of the Church

1. *You shall attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.*
2. *You shall confess your sins at least once a year.*
3. *You shall humbly receive the Lord Jesus in Holy Communion at least during the Easter Season.*
4. *You shall observe the Holy Days of Obligation.*
5. *You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence.*
6. *The faithful have the obligation of supporting the Church.*

REFLECTION by Fr. Eugene Tracy



*A good idea can
become a great idea
when it is given focus
time.*

On the First Sunday of Advent, we began a new liturgical year. This season invites us to reflect on the dimension of time, which always exerts great fascination over us. However, after the example of what Jesus loved to do, I wish to start with a very concrete observation: we all say that we do not have enough time, because the pace of daily life has become frenetic for everyone. We always have little time, especially for the Lord, and we do not know how, or sometimes we do not want to, find it. *Well, God has time for us!* He gives us His time. This is the first thing that the beginning of a

liturgical year makes us rediscover with ever new amazement. Yes, God gives us his time, because he entered history with his Word and his works of salvation to open it to eternity, to make it become a covenantal history. In this prospective, already in itself time is a fundamental sign of God's love: a gift that man, as with everything else, is able to make the most of, or on the contrary, to waste; to take in its significance or to neglect with obtuse superficiality. . . The liturgical season of Advent celebrates the coming of God in its two moments: it first invites us to reawaken our

expectation of Christ's glorious return then, as Christmas approaches, it calls us to welcome the Word made man for our salvation. Yet the Lord comes into our lives continually. . . This involves a proper detachment from earthly goods, sincere repentance for one's errors, active charity to one's neighbor, and above all a humble and confident entrustment to the hands of God, our tender and merciful Father.