

## State Deputy's Message

### December 2018

Brothers,

The Gospel for November 11, 2018, is a good illustration of what it is to be a Knight of Columbus. In Mark 12-38:44, the author described how Jesus and His disciples observed people putting money into the Synagogue's treasury. They saw the rich place large sums of money into the coffers. But, when a poor widow came along, she put in only two small coins worth a few cents. Jesus called His disciples to himself, and said to them, "Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood." When Knights of Columbus give, they not only give of their treasure, what they have, but they give of their time and talents as well. Knights do not give just on Sunday, but every day of the week.

The poor widow put in her "two cents" that came from her heart. Let her be our example in guiding us on how to give from our heart and place our "two cents" into the treasury, not because of an expectation or mandate, but because it is our sincere desire to support our church, our families, and our community.

This week we begin our Advent journey leading up to the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior. This is a time to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. Will you be ready when He comes? Have you prepared a place in your heart for his birth within you? There are many activities that you can do personally, in your parish, with your family, with your council, and in your community.

Consider making a fraternal day of prayer and reflection as a council. Under the guidance of your council chaplain, Knights can attend a retreat or day of reflection together or perhaps organize an event for men of their parish. Remember that Council participation in Spiritual Reflection is required to qualify for Columbian Award. What a wonderful way to start off the season of Advent. Personally, you can make sure to avail yourself of the sacrament of reconciliation, clear your soul of sin and negative baggage. You can also forgive those who you feel have wronged you in some fashion. These are just a few ideas you can use to prepare your heart for Christ's coming this Christmas.

We are almost half way to the end of the fraternal year, but we are 218 new members away from the mid-point of our membership goal. We cannot allow our recruitment efforts to slowdown when we our goal is within grasp. Achieving our membership goal is all about building up our ranks so that we can grow our parishes, make our families stronger, protect our youth, and ensure that the sanctity of life prevails over the culture of death. Please increase your efforts, use your resources such as: e-membership, traditional recruitment methods, working with a fraternal benefits agent, or enlisting the help of a state membership team, to recruit new members. This next month, focus on closing the gap to 50 percent of our goal.

This past month an exemplification of the Foundation and Knighthood Degrees was held at Bishop Salpointe Council in Sierra Vista. It was an honor to bestow Knighthood upon many Knights that day. It was also a great honor to recognize the late Reverend Clement Agamba as the Class Honoree for the degree.

Ordained to the Priesthood on August 11, 1990, Fr. Agamba was an excellent model of what it means to be a Catholic and a good man. Fr. Clement began his ministerial work as an associate pastor for at Martyrs of Uganda Parish in Sirigu, a village in the Upper East Region of Ghana. In January 2007, Fr.

Clement met Most Reverend Gerald Kicanas, then, Bishop of Tucson. Afterward, he completed the lengthy process of obtaining his religious work permit and visa for ministry in the Diocese of Tucson. His first assignment was at Our Lady of Fatima Parish. In June of 2008, he was appointed Chaplain for the local Knights of Columbus council. From that point forward he actively supported the Knights in all their activities. In 2009, Bishop Kicanas extended Fr. Clement's stay in the Diocese of Tucson to continue his studies, and for the following five years, he served as an associate pastor at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. In 2014, Bishop Kicanas appointed Fr. Clement as Administrator of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Benson and quickly was named pastor. He was also appointed Vicar for International Priests and represented the international priest of the Diocese of Tucson and focused on helping newly arrived priests adjust to their new surroundings.

He had a kind heart and his words were always spoken humbly, with thoughtfulness, care for the people, and with the love of Christ in his heart. As Council Chaplain for the Logan de Rosier Council 7521 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Benson, Arizona, he provided spiritual guidance and demonstrated through his actions how a Catholic Man in the Knights of Columbus should lead their families.

It is for these reasons that we posthumously recognized Fr. Clement as honoree for the Reverend Clement Agamba class of November 17, 2018. May he Rest in eternal peace with God, Jesus his son, the Holy Spirit, Mary, the Apostles, and all the Saints.

Another great activity for this Advent would be to host a Holy Hour using the icon of Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians. Two icons are available for Phoenix and Northern Arizona, and two are available for Tucson and Southern Arizona. Please reach out to Past State Deputy and Worthy District Master Bryant Sayers to schedule a Holy Hour with one of the icons. Let us all be mindful of the suffering of our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East as they are openly persecuted for being Catholic or another Christian denomination; please pray for their redemption.

This past month, we sponsored the Tucson Catholic Men's Conference – Iron Sharpens Iron at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Over 350 men attended. Our membership team contacted several interested in joining the Knights. My thanks to Immediate Past State Deputy Sean Halpain, State Secretary Mario Vassallo, State Advocate Tom Kato, Membership Director Ken White, and State Public Relations Chairman John Garcia, for representing the State Council.

Coming up in December is an exemplification of the Foundation and Knighthood degrees. It will be held on Saturday, December 15, 2018, with registration starting at 9:00 a.m. It will take place at Our Lady of Joy Catholic Church, 36811 N Pima Rd, Carefree, AZ 85377. More information is available on the State Council calendar found on the website: [www.kofc-az.org](http://www.kofc-az.org).

Thank you for all that you do as Knights and as Catholic Men. Like the widow, you give all the you have for the betterment of our Church, your family, your council, the community, and to protect the sanctity of life. Please continue to put in your "two-cents." My sincerest wishes to you and your family for a joy-filled Christmas. May our Lord, Jesus Christ, be born into your hearts and soul. Amen!

Vivat Jesus!

Tom Kalisz  
State Deputy