

Are you a player or bench warmer?

In the after glow of the Christmas and New Year's celebrations many of us take a little time to reflect over the past year's accomplishments. We usually make a mental list of things we need to improve in the New Year. It is time to pause and reflect and to resolve to use the gifts that God has given us in a more productive way. As leaders in the Knights of Columbus we have a rare opportunity, since at this time of reflection, we still have six more months to improve the situation in our Councils.

Each man has a set of unique talents that make him who he is. These were freely given by God and He expects us to use them, not hide them under a bushel basket. Because of your unique abilities you are in a position of leadership in an organization dedicated to improving the lives of others. The question is: "are YOU using the talents that God has given you?" Your job as a leader is not merely to hold a position, but to be innovative and creative. You must evaluate the efforts of your council and determine what is working and what is not. The responsibility falls on your shoulders. You set the vision for your council. You must insure that every man's talents are maximized to actually accomplish the goals of our Founder, Father Michael J. McGivney.

Charity is the duty of every man, rich and poor alike. Charity is also the responsibility of each Council. Every Council would be a "poor council" if all they did was to rely on dues to accomplish their goals. It is your job as a leader, to use the talents that God has given you, to find new opportunities to raise the funds necessary to satisfy both the needs of your Bishop as well as those of your local parish and community. In addition you must then "sell" your ideas in a way that will motivate your Brothers to action. The good Lord gave you these talents and allowed you to be in the position you are in. Do not waste this opportunity. You now have the responsibility to lead your council to a new level of accomplishment! In the next six months you can exceed every goal set by the Order if you start today. Just use the gifts sent to you by God.

As we enter the second half of the fraternal year we have approximately one third of our councils who have already met or exceeded their goal to support their Bishops' fund. However 315 Councils are still sitting on the side lines and have not yet contributed to their Bishops' fund. If your council is still sitting on the bench; it's time for YOU to get in the game. There is plenty of time left for you to let your light shine. Do not keep it under a bushel basket. Act NOW!!! Continue to pray the Rosary and good things will happen.