

# FRATERNAL LEADER



## A Message from Senior Vice President John Borgen

Dear Fraternal Leader:

We don't need to look at the calendar to know that Spring is here. We sense it in the subtle signs all around us - more hours of sunlight, warmer days, birds returning, and flowers breaking through the softened earth. The time of Lent offered us the opportunity to do some "spiritual spring cleaning" of our hearts and souls in preparation for the celebration of Our Lord's resurrection.

At the home office and in our chapters, there are other signs of preparation for an event now just six months away! Our Triennial Convention plans are being finalized, and elections are taking place for delegates who will represent our chapters in Milwaukee, September 21-23. We are planning an outstanding agenda that will fulfill key governance responsibilities and will inspire, educate, and entertain. Please remember to conduct your chapter's election of delegates by April 15, and submit your delegate and alternate reports (online using the Fraternal Data System or on paper) no later than April 25.

I'm also happy to report that 2017 was an outstanding year for our Society, both financially and fraternally! You don't have to wait until the summer report to read about our financial results. Just go to our website and click on the large orange box that says, "Catholic Financial Life reported record financial results and impact in 2017" to read an article that appeared in the *BizTimes*. In addition, it is the consistently high level of activity, fundraising and volunteer support from our chapters that makes us unique and has a tremendous impact. Included in this issue of *Fraternal Leader* is a graphic highlighting some of our most significant facts and figures thanks to your efforts.

This issue also contains more information on our newest member benefit, "Impact Teams." Developed with input from our Fraternal Leaders Advisory Group, the New England Advisory Council and our Board of Directors, Impact Teams are a means to increase member engagement, utilizing a different approach to volunteering and service that encourages individual member action. What that means is that members will be able to organize a project to positively impact their community with support from Catholic Financial Life. Impact Teams may be formed in areas with or without a local chapter. In areas with a chapter, Impact Teams will not replace the charitable activities organized by our chapter leaders, but will complement and increase the level of outreach we can provide.

Our calendar of affordable, family-friendly activities sponsored by the Home Office is also expanding this year, including new events at Noah's Ark in Wisconsin Dells, "Mexican Fiesta" at Maier Festival Park in Milwaukee, and Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts. More information on our activities, including registration forms, is available on the Catholic Financial Life website. We hope that you will be able to join us at many of those this year.

Whether at one of our regional member events, at your local chapter activity, or at the Convention later this year, I look forward to seeing you soon and having the opportunity to thank you for all that you do for our Society. May the Lord bless you and your loved ones during this Easter Season and throughout 2018!

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John", written in a cursive style.

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## The Countdown Continues

The Catholic Financial Life Triennial Convention is less than six months away! As we continue making plans for this exciting weekend, we wanted to share with you a few of the things you and your chapter can be doing now, in preparation for the Convention:

1. **Submit your delegate / alternate reports to the home office immediately following your election, and no later than April 25.** The quickest way to update your delegate information is to use the Fraternal Data System. If you need help accessing the system, please contact the Member Engagement Department.
2. **Confirm your travel plans early, especially if you plan to fly into Milwaukee for the Convention.** Our policy in the past has been to reimburse the actual cost of coach airfare for delegates and their spouse/guest up to \$450 per person. The full Transportation Reimbursement Policy will be shared in a packet sent to all delegates in late June, following the Convention's Finance Committee meeting, along with information on overnight accommodations and meals. But don't wait until then to confirm your travel plans in order to take advantage of early-bird discounts!
3. **Begin work on your Chapter Brag Board!** This popular feature at our last two triennial conventions gives your chapter the opportunity to showcase all of the great things you have been doing over the last three years! Gather your chapter's best photos, newspaper articles, thank you letters, or whatever else you want to share. Full instructions will be provided in the first delegate packet.

Above all else, prepare to enjoy time with old friends, make many new friends, and be informed, inspired, and entertained as you fulfill the important task of helping govern our Society!



## Quick Refresher!

Chapter Bank Accounts: One chapter checking account should be established for the purpose of depositing all chapter revenues and paying chapter expenses. This may be an interest-bearing account. All interest income must be reported on the chapter year-end financial reports. The chapter Secretary/ Treasurer must establish the account using the Employer Identification Number (EIN) for the chapter, rather than the Social Security number of an individual. The account should be established under the name, "CATHOLIC FINANCIAL LIFE CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_ (Fill in number.) Do not print the name or address of the chapter Secretary/Treasurer on chapter checks. At least two officers of the chapter, preferably the Secretary/Treasurer and the President, should be signers on the account. All chapters must register basic account information with the home office. This information must be kept current.

For more information on this, and other Chapter Policies and Procedures, go to:

<https://www.catholicfinanciallife.org/Resources/ChapterResources/Policies-Procedures.htm>

## Impact Teams Take Off

We're excited to announce the launch of Catholic Financial Life **Impact Teams**! As explained in the Spring issue of *Radiant Life Magazine* and on the Catholic Financial Life website, this new member benefit empowers our members to organize an individual service project with the assistance of friends, family, and others who are passionate about the same cause!

Impact teams may be organized in areas with or without chapters. In areas with active chapters, Impact Teams will provide additional support to local communities. However, Impact Teams may not be combined with an activity already being sponsored by a chapter. **As stated earlier, Impact Teams will not replace the charitable activities organized by our chapters.** And since Impact Teams are not eligible for Match Funds, the fundraising support your chapter provides to local parishes, schools, and other community groups is as important as ever!

All financial members are eligible to apply for this new member benefit! Simply gather at least four other people (members or not) to form your Impact Team, complete a short application to explain to us what you'd like to do, and once approved, Catholic Financial Life will help support your project in three ways:

1. Up to \$150 to purchase supplies to get your project off the ground
2. Five free "Impact Team" shirts for your group to wear while completing your project
3. An online sign-up link for you to share and help spread the word about your project



For more information, go to: [join.catholicfinanciallife.org/impact-team](http://join.catholicfinanciallife.org/impact-team)

## By the Numbers for 2017

CHAPTERS **224** IN **31** STATES

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES  
**2,800**  
with 289,000 attendees

Disaster Relief  
funds distributed  
**\$39,000**

MEMBERS **143,000**

HOURS  
VOLUNTEERED  
**103,111**

CHARITABLE  
CONTRIBUTIONS  
**\$1.9**  
MILLION



VOLUNTEER  
ECONOMIC VALUE  
**\$2.5**  
MILLION



Scholarships awarded  
(grade school, high school, & college)  
**\$303,000**

Years of operation **149**

*"Everyone can be great because anyone can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."*

*- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## Fabulous Fund-Raising Foods!

Unless you live in Northeastern Wisconsin you likely have never enjoyed the delicious, hearty, country soup with the intriguing name of "booyah." However, scores of Catholic Financial Life chapters in and around Green Bay sponsor "booyah" dinners.

But what IS booyah and how did it get its name?

According to an article that appeared in the Green Bay Post-Gazette on October 29, 1976, it's an offshoot of the French word "bouillon" for "broth." The name took root in the Green Bay area thanks to the thousands of French-speaking Walloons who migrated from Belgium in the mid-1800s.

It seems the term "booyah," though, came about thanks to a misunderstanding. Back in 1906, as the story goes, Andrew Rentmeester, a schoolteacher at Green Bay's Finger Road School, was looking for a way to raise money to buy books and such. He drove about the countryside going from farm to farm picking up chicken, beef, and anything else he could lay his hands on for free to create a traditional Belgian-style soup.

With the big fund-raising event just about a month away, Old Andrew figured he'd better put some publicity out. Over at the Post-Gazette, a cub reporter, "not from these parts," misunderstood the schoolmaster when Andrew said the event would feature "lots and lots of bouillon!"

When the article came out, it said the event was going to feature "booyah" and the name stuck - almost as well as the soup does to your ribs!

One Catholic Financial Life chapter that has turned booyah-making into some tasty profit for good causes over the last 25-plus years is Chapter 307, Eaton, Wisconsin. Historically, booyah events average a 50% profit margin, according to Phyllis John, chapter secretary/treasurer, FLAG representative and former Society board member.



The best time to sponsor a booyah fundraiser is in the spring or fall. However, contrary to that rule of thumb, the Prince of Peace Parish picnic, held each August in Bellevue, offers a heaping helping of hospitality - booyah-style. It annually serves from 700 to 1,000 hungry Wisconsinites. That's about 400 gallons of the tasty soup!

So how does one prepare a great booyah that will attract folks from far and wide? It begins with making lots of the stuff in special cast iron kettles and letting it simmer over an open fire for 6 hours. But what exactly goes into those kettles is a closely guarded secret. Every famous booyah chef has their own special recipe, which is handed down to a select few. Certainly there's plenty of chicken, veggies, and potatoes, but it's the spices and the TLC that make the difference. It also helps if you can trace your family heritage to the Wallonia part of Belgium!

With most of the ingredients either donated or provided at a deep discount from local vendors and farmers, the average bowl of booyah sells for just \$3.00! At that the chapter still makes a 50% profit on each serving! Over the years Chapter 307 has raised funds for cancer victims, Old Glory Honor Flight, Hurricane Katrina relief, youth mission trips, and for local neighbors who suffered losses due to fires and tornadoes. It's amazing what a bit of tasty soup can do when done right!

Just one word sums up Northeastern Wisconsin when the soup's on and the money starts pouring in for a good cause - "Booyah!"

Next issue: Chowder and Clam Cakes



*Booyah!*

If you have any questions regarding topics in this newsletter, please contact:

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