

*It is with a sad heart that I have accepted that Fr. Ben Uhlenkott will no longer be our State Chaplain. It is best for his health that he does so.*

*Fr. Ben is among the finest Priests I have ever had the honor of knowing. He has been a tremendous asset to the State Council, both as a Spiritual leader and as a friend. It is going to be very hard to replace him.*

*One of the best times I had with him was last year in Guadalajara on the Wheelchair Distribution. To watch him interact with the kids and parents as they received their chairs was amazing. And then there is the comical side of Fr. Ben as well. In Guadalajara, he took us on a walk to find an open market he knew was "only a few blocks away". It may have only been only been a few blocks but since most of the time we were walking in circles it turned into miles! He reminded us of a squirrel darting from one place to another. He took a lot of teasing about being the "squirrel". I found a picture of a squirrel dressed like a priest and he got quite a laugh out of it. Along with getting us lost he was also blessing babies, expectant moms and others who stopped him in the street. He filled me with pride for our faith and him as the Spiritual leader of the Idaho Council of the Knights of Columbus.*

*Fr. Ben you are the best of the best!!*

*Yours in Christ,*

*Shane Gehring, Idaho State Deputy*