



### **Introduction:**

One of Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney's aims in establishing the Knights of Columbus in 1882 was to form a network of support for the widows and families of deceased Catholic men. In today's context, the Order continues to accomplish this aim by providing support to members who are advanced in age and extending support and fraternity to widows of deceased Brothers.

The Ontario State Council has established the John P. Rodina Award to recognize council organized programs that are designed for the benefit and enjoyment of seniors and the widows of deceased Brother Knights.

Each year, a program will be chosen from a list of submitted candidate programs that meet the following criteria:

- The program must involve and benefit senior members of the Knights of Columbus (seniors are defined as individuals aged 65 and older for the purpose of this award).
- The program should also extend to the widows of deceased Brothers if possible and appropriate.
- The program must be a new or current project of the council conducted within the period of April 1 – March 31 of the current year (retroactive consideration of programs from previous years will not be considered, but information about the history of the program in previous years is encouraged and might be helpful when selections are made).
- **The program must involve the direct participation of the council membership i.e. providing a donation to a seniors centre would not qualify, but providing a donation to a seniors centre and having brother Knights run a program activity at the seniors centre or driving seniors to the centre would qualify for consideration.**
- **The program could be a single activity or a series of activities throughout the fraternal year. Simply involving seniors and widows in Council activities will not stand alone as qualification for the Award, but may be considered as part of an application.**
- Applications for the John P. Rodina Award (see attached) must be submitted to the Ontario State Office, Attention: State Awards Director signed by the Grand Knight by March 15th.
- The award will be presented at the State Convention in April.



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