

2020 State Convention Resolutions

Congratulatory Resolutions – #1 to #8

Presented by: Ontario State Board

1. With Humble and Sincere Devotion to the Leader of our Church:

BE IT RESOLVED: That Ontario Knights and their families pledge uncompromising support to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and assure him of our eternal love and prayers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: We thank our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for his humility, understanding and promotion of love and charity to those who are outcast, lonely and in need.

2. With Humble and Sincere Devotion to the Pope Emeritus:

BE IT RESOLVED: The Ontario Knights and their families pledge uncompromising support to our Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI, and assure him of our eternal love and prayers.

3. In recognition of the Spiritual Leadership and Dedication of our Supreme Chaplain:

BE IT RESOLVED: That Ontario Knights and their families offer our prayers, support and deepest appreciation to our Supreme Chaplain, Most Reverend William E. Lori, for his years of service and his unconditional commitment to God, the Church and to the Order; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Ontario Knights look forward to many more years of his spiritual guidance and pastoral service.

4. In recognition of Cardinal Collins' Inspiration, Governance, and Ardour for the Church:

BE IT RESOLVED: The Ontario Knights and their families offer our support to His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, for whom we offer our prayers and deepest appreciation for his many years of service and unconditional commitment to God, the Church and to the Order; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: We thank, Cardinal Thomas Collins, and we look forward to many more years of his spiritual guidance and pastoral service.

5. In Support of our Bishops, Priests and Clergy who Serve us in all Jurisdictions:

BE IT RESOLVED: The Ontario Knights and their families offer our prayers and support to all Past State Chaplains, and to our current State Chaplain His Excellency, Most Reverend Bishop Marcel Damphousse, as well as all Priests and Council Chaplains for their spiritual leadership, devoted work and their dedication to the growth of the Church and Order; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: We thank all our Bishops, Priests and Clergy, and we look forward to more years of their spiritual guidance and pastoral service.

6. With Humble and Respectful Gratitude to our Supreme Knight and Board of Directors:

BE IT RESOLVED: The Ontario Knights and their families honour brother Knight Carl A. Anderson for his devoted, honourable and outstanding leadership as Supreme Knight; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: We thank our Supreme Knight, the Supreme officers, the Board of Directors and the staff of the Supreme Council for their excellent service and their exemplary leadership during the past fraternal year.

7. Support for the Cause for Canonization of Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney:

BE IT RESOLVED: The Ontario Knights and their families pray for, and promote the cause for the canonization of the founder of our Order, Venerable Servant of God, Father Michael J. McGivney, and continue to seek his intercession.

8. Support for Armed Forces, Veterans, and First Responders:

BE IT RESOLVED: The Ontario Knights and their families honour the members of our Canadian Armed Forces, Veterans, and First Responders, for their heroic service dedicated to our communities and country, and we pray for their safe return to their family.

RESOLUTION #9 Request to Host Supreme Convention in 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Ontario State Board

WHEREAS: The Knights of Columbus jurisdiction of Ontario will be celebrating its 125-year anniversary in 2025; and

WHEREAS: The first Knights of Columbus in the jurisdiction of Ontario that was awarded a Charter was Pioneer Council #485 in the City of Ottawa on 28 January 1900; and

WHEREAS: The Ottawa Tourism office supports our endeavors to celebrate our anniversary in Ontario and more specifically in the City of Ottawa; and

WHEREAS: The State coordinator for the Supreme Convention held in Toronto in 2016 has agreed to help us again and mark our 125th-year anniversary in 2025;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The State Board shall signify its interest and submit a bid package requesting to host the Supreme Convention in the jurisdiction of Ontario in 2025 to the Supreme Office; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT: The City of Ottawa will be the preferred city to host the Supreme Convention in 2025.

RESOLUTION #10 Opposition to the *Supporting Children, Youth and Families Act, 2017* Revisions to Child Protection Proceedings

SUBMITTED BY: San Damiano Council No. 15861

WHEREAS: The Supreme Court of Canada has held, in regard to section 7 of the Charter, that it should be “plain that the right to nurture a child, to care for its development, and to make decisions for it in fundamental matters... are part of the liberty interest of a parent”; and

WHEREAS: The Court further stated that “the common law has long recognized that parents are in the best position to take care of their children and make all the decisions necessary to ensure their well- being”; and

WHEREAS: The Court further held “the parental interest in bringing up, nurturing and caring for a child, including medical care and moral upbringing, is an individual interest of fundamental importance to our society.” (ref. *B. (R.) v. Children’s Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto*, [1995] 1 SCR 315); and

WHEREAS: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State (Article 16(3)), and that Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children (Article 26(3)); and

WHEREAS: The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Canada is a signatory, reiterates the above provisions in part, and further states: “The State Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians *to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions*” (emphasis added), in Article 18(4), which was further confirmed as applicable in Canada by our Supreme Court (*Loyola High School v. Quebec (Attorney General)*, 2015 SCC 12); and

WHEREAS: The government of Ontario has passed the *Supporting Children, Youth and Families Act, 2017* (hereinafter “SCYF”); and

WHEREAS: SCYF provides that, in determining what is in the best interests of children, government agencies and courts must consider the “gender identity” and “gender expression” of the children, and includes provisions whereby the government is authorized to remove children from families which do not accept the gender ideology promoted by SCYF; and

WHEREAS: SCYF replaces the previously enunciated right of a parent to direct a child’s religious education, with the newly engaged power to direct the child’s upbringing in accordance with the child’s “creed,” which effectively serves to give the government

grounds to intrude upon Catholic or other religious parents from raising their children in accordance with their faith; and

WHEREAS: The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization, which affirms both that God created us male and female and that everyone should be treated compassionately , according to their human dignity, as created in the image and likeness of God, and that parents as first educators should direct the religious instruction of their children; and

WHEREAS: In *Amoris Laetitia* Pope Francis decried the “ideology of gender” imposed through “educational programmes and legislative enactments,” teaching that instead, the young “need to be helped to accept their own body as it was created”; and

WHEREAS: The Catechism of the Catholic Church (2211) teaches that the political community is obliged to protect parents’ rights to bring up their children in keeping with their moral and religious convictions;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ontario State affirms its opposition to the *Supporting Children, Youth and Families Act; 2017* , insofar as it empowers government agencies to make decisions about children’s custody, health, and moral decisions in place of parental rights based on a gender ideology incompatible with Catholic teachings, and allows a child’ s “creed” to trump parental rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Catholic School Boards be informed of the opposition of the Ontario Knights of Columbus to any acceptance of gender ideology incompatible with the Church’s teachings in their respective codes of conduct as they apply to employment rights, as part of denominational guarantees owed to public Catholic education under s. 93 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, s. 29 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the provisions of the *Education Act*, and s. 19 of the *Ontario Human Rights Code*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Knights of Columbus engage efforts to oppose the unjust and religiously discriminatory aspects of this legislation by public statements, or other means to be determined by the State Board.

RESOLUTION #11 Supporting Parental Rights on Sexual Education Curriculum in Schools

SUBMITTED BY: San Damiano Council No. 15861

WHEREAS: The government of Ontario is engaging in consultations regarding the content of the sexual education curriculum to be used in public and Catholic schools throughout the province; and

WHEREAS: The Catechism (2223-2228) teaches that parents have the primary duty to educate their children, that they have the right to choose an education in accord with their convictions, and that public authorities have a duty to protect this right; and

WHEREAS: The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization, which upholds the rights of Catholic parents; and

WHEREAS: The Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario in conjunction with Catholic educators and trustees released in 2012 the “Respecting Difference” resource, to promote equity and respect in Ontario Catholic schools; and

WHEREAS: In February 2015, the Archbishop of Ottawa, voicing the concern of many Catholics, stated that the new Ontario sexual education curriculum as then proposed threatened the “fundamental right of parents to educate their children in the moral dimension of sexual behaviour”; and

WHEREAS: In April 2016, the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario released guidelines for sexual education in Catholic schools, affirming the rights of parents and the importance of fidelity to Church teaching; and

WHEREAS: In their July 2018 response to the repeal of the previously imposed curriculum, the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario affirmed the role of parents as the primary educators of Catholic students, and prayed that elected officials would listen intently to all voices in developing a new curriculum; and

WHEREAS: The Ontario government produced a revised version of its expectations for sexual and health education in 2019, which included early introduction of aspects of certain concepts despite objections from many parents;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ontario State supports the positions asserted by the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario as previously asserted in its various submissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Ontario State, in particular, asserts the right of parents to have comprehensive access to the content of the curriculum, to receive notice when their children are enrolled in classes with sexual education components, to receive notice of the specific lesson plans involving sexual education components in a timely fashion, or on request,

and to be able to withdraw their children from classes or school activities on such topics if called by their conscience to do so, withdraw their children from classes or school activities on such topics if called by their conscience to do so; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Knights of Columbus engage in the ongoing consultation to express their support for these positions, through means to be determined by the State Board.

**RESOLUTION #12 **Opposing the Expansion of Medical Aid in Dying
and Enhancing the Availability of Palliative Care****

SUBMITTED BY: San Damiano Council No. 15861

WHEREAS: The government of Canada is engaging in consultations regarding the proposed expansion of medical aid in dying (MAiD), as currently permitted under the *Criminal Code*, to include advanced directives, reduced wait times, or access to the procedure for psychiatric patients; and

WHEREAS: According to best estimates, the percentage of Canadians accessing MAiD is approaching 2 percent of all deaths in Canada, with over 5,000 reported in 2019 (Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, January 2020); and

WHEREAS: The Parliament of Canada approved legislation by unanimous all-party support in 2017 to develop a national framework for palliative care by Dec. 11, 2018; and

WHEREAS: The framework document developed by that report and released on December 4, 2018, endorsed the **World Health Organization** (WHO) definition which states that palliative care should “neither hasten or postpone death”; and

WHEREAS: According to polling, 75 percent of Canadians would prefer to die at home, 60 percent of Canadians actually die in hospitals, and only 15 percent of Canadians have access to palliative home care services; and

WHEREAS: Though 87 percent of Canadians could benefit from palliative care at end-of-life, only 35 percent are receiving it, according to a recent report by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (source: *Catholic Register*, December 13, 2018); and

WHEREAS: More palliative care represents an opportunity to reduce costs, on the basis that a residential hospice bed is roughly one-third the cost of a hospital bed; and

WHEREAS: The federal government previously pledged \$6 billion to go toward palliative care and home care expansion, without expending such funds to date, but has recently extended the timeframe to spend this commitment to 2027; and

WHEREAS: The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Fraternal organization, which defends the right to life of all human beings from the moment of conception to natural death, based on both scientific grounds and the teachings of the Church, which believes that all human beings deserve equal respect, as formed in the image and likeness of God;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ontario State oppose efforts to expand Medical Aid in Dying as proposed by the federal government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Ontario State promote a return to the commitment in favour of greater access to palliative care, from both the provincial and federal governments, by enhanced funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Knights of Columbus engage efforts to promote enhanced access to palliative care from our public health care system via public statements, or other means to be determined by the State Board.

RESOLUTION #13 Releasing All Programs in All Four Official Languages

SUBMITTED BY: Notre-Dame du Rosaire Council No. 9922

WHEREAS: The Knights of Columbus has four (4) official languages, English, French, Spanish and Polish.

WHEREAS: Several new Knights of Columbus programs are always introduced in English first, for example, the new Exemplification, the Faith and Action program ... and the Knights of Columbus does not introduce programs in French, Spanish and Polish at the same time.

WHEREAS: There is a lot of confusion in the regions or several English and French language Councils concerning ceremonies and programs. For example, a new member can do the new exemplification in English, but in French should do the three (3) separate ceremonies as before. Faith and Action program was introduced in French, months after it was introduced in English;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT: We encourage that the Knights of Columbus complete all programs and ceremonies in the four (4) official languages of the Knights of Columbus, English, French, Spanish and Polish before they are launched in all jurisdictions.

**RESOLUTION #14 Amending the Standing Rules Governing the
Election of State Board Officers**

SUBMITTED BY: Our Lady of Fatima Council No. 3732

WHEREAS: The document “STANDING RULES GOVERNING ELECTION OF STATE BOARD OFFICERS FOR THE JURISDICTION OF ONTARIO, Published under the authority of the Ontario State Deputy as Appendix II of Article IV – Elections Section 24 of the By-Laws of the Ontario State Council Knights of Columbus – December 2018”; and

WHEREAS: The Preamble states, “In preparing this document, the team assigned to review the election process unanimously agreed that, in order to have an experienced line of succession, candidates should consider election to the position of State Warden and weigh in the option of up to eight years moving through the ranks of State Officers to eventually become State Deputy.”; and

WHEREAS: The State Deputy will be possibly offering solutions, advice and counselling to Grand Knights, so he should have experienced the position of Grand Knight; and

WHEREAS: The State Deputy approves and appoints District Deputies, so he should have experienced the position of District Deputy; and

WHEREAS: The process of electing of one office takes approximately 45 minutes; and

WHEREAS: That valuable time for elections can be better utilized for important business; and

WHEREAS: To ensure a proper line of succession and continuity of leadership for the Ontario State Knights of Columbus;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: A new SECTION XII be added to the Ontario State Election Rules to read:

“SECTION XII – CANDIDATES’ QUALIFICATIONS

- a. Any candidate for an Ontario State Officer position must have served a full term as Grand Knight;
- b. Any candidate for an Ontario State Officer position must have served a full term as District Deputy.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: This resolution will take effect, once adopted, for 2021 Ontario State Convention.

**RESOLUTION #15 Amending the Constitution and Making Two
Votes Per Council the Ongoing Rule**

SUBMITTED BY: Holy Cross Council No. 10617

WHEREAS: The current rules require an annual resolution by the State Deputy to allow Councils that are represented by only one person to have two votes on any matter; and

WHEREAS: Restricting Councils with only one representative to have only one vote disadvantages less financially solvent Councils that cannot subsidize travel and other costs for their delegates; and

WHEREAS: Allowing Councils with only one delegate to cast two votes was the practice for many years and this should be the rule for all state jurisdictions without the need for an annual resolution by the State Deputy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Section 12(e) of the Charter, Constitution and Laws of the Knights of Columbus be repealed and replaced with the following: “Any Council in the State jurisdiction may be represented at the State Convention by the Grand Knight or, in his absence, any duly elected Past Grand Knight, or by the alternate of one of them, who shall be entitled to two votes (for a maximum of two votes per Council) on any matter coming before the annual meeting.”