

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Ontario State Bulletin



FALL/WINTER 2024

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Anniversary
Celebrations**
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see details inside.



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Comments welcomed at stateoffice@ontariokofc.ca

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Let it snow, let it snow!

By: Editor, Bruce S. Poulin

As Knights of Columbus, we must always be aware of opportunities to promote the reading of Catholic literature.

Through the voice of the press, we are kept aware of the important events taking place in the world, and our opinions are formed and shaped by what we read. Hence the importance of reading only those sources of news that will convey an accurate and unbiased account.

As members of the Knights of Columbus, we should always be in a position to correct misinformation and distortion concerning our religion and the Catholic Church. To be able to do so we must be well informed and be in possession of the facts. Support your Catholic press, including your State Bulletin, and read it as avidly as you do your local daily newspaper.



Passing of the Editor - Brother Marcel Gauvin

A brother and Sir Knight, Marcel Gauvin, who fulfilling many roles within the Knights of Columbus family - including Editor for the State Bulletin, passed away on October 27, 2024, at the age of 70 and after serving the Order faithfully for more than 52 years.



Our State Warden, Earle DePass with former District Master and Editor of the State Bulletin, Marcel Gauvin, and his spouse on September 22, 2024.

Many will recall Brother Marcel's undying commitment to the Good of the Order, in fact, many would suggest that he had difficulty saying "No" whenever the Knights came calling for his help. His most recent role, before he was called to serve elsewhere, was that of District Master of the eastern region (2020-2024). He had also been a stalwart supporter and editorial contributor, especially when it came to the French version of the State Bulletin for more than a decade.

His "can do" attitude and selfless commitment to the Order will be missed.

Membership *Statistics*

Ontario Snapshot as of November 27, 2024		GOAL
Membership Intake	924 (40.6%)	2,277
New Councils	2	4
Star Councils	0	71

Like gasoline is the lifeblood of a car, new members are the lifeblood of a Council.

Invite your friends and family to join!

Vivat Jesus!



Christmas Message

By: State Deputy, Bruce S. Poulin



The season of advent has arrived, and it is time for us to prepare for the blessings of Christmas. In the rush of this modern age most of us are so busy buying gifts and preparing goodies that we may forget what Christmas really means.

Instead of thinking of gifts and parties, perhaps we can take a moment and fill our hearts with joy at the thought that our Lord came to save all of our souls. We must always remember out of infinite love for us the Eternal Father sent us the gift of his only Son. Through Him we are to inherit the most precious gift of all, "His Kingdom."

I would like to wish every brother and his family a Holy and Blessed Christmas. May we, through your prayers and acts of love, be Blessed by the Almighty in the coming New Year.

As we approach the end of the calendar year, it behooves us all, as Knights of Columbus, to look back and consider what we have done for the good of the Order, and particular what we individually have contributed to the successes and advancement of our respective councils.

When Blessed McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus, it was to fulfil a desire to unite Catholic men in a society founded upon the ideals of our Catholic Faith and protect them from Freemasonry. The objectives of the Knights of Columbus were - to provide a system of fraternal insurance to care for widows and orphans of members - to provide fellowship among the members - to aid the cause of religion- to perform charitable, educational and patriotic works for the benefit of their own fellowmen and their country.

Let us remember the ideals of our Order and resolve to be a participating member, working with the principles of Columbianism as an active and enthusiastic membership that supports all activities. We need you, so let us work together for the good of the Order.

At this time, I would like to extend to all my brother Knights and their families, our very best wishes for a Christmas filled with the Peace of the Father, the love of the Son and the joy of the Holy Spirit.

Vivat Jesus!





Christmas Message

By: State Chaplain, Archbishop Marcel Dampousse

Dear brother Knights and families,

Many families at Christmas time and New Year's, put lots of effort to get together, to share a meal and exchange gifts. Sometimes, some travel long distances and sacrifice time and money to please others. Knowing too well that the reality of our families are not always easy, these holy days can still be wonderful occasions for God's grace to help us create precious moments such as reconciliation after a long dispute, or the occasion to come back home after a long absence.

The family and family relationships have a very important place in the Christian life. Founded on love, the family gives its members (spouses, parents and children, brothers and sisters) a unique opportunity to surpass themselves and to bear witness to the power of Christ who lives in each of them.

What a wonderful Christmas gift! Is this not the gift that God the Father has given to humanity? When one chooses to follow Christ, relations are most likely to grow and do good.

I know that family has a special place in the heart of a Knight of Columbus. It is why I pray that this Christmas may be for you a true occasion to receive the blessings that come along with the coming of our Saviour. Just like Jesus himself needed a family at his birth, let us be conscious of the precious gift our family is or could be for all of its members.

On the eve of the Jubilee Year 2025, let us enter this year of grace as pilgrims of hope. Let us make Christ, the source of all hope, known to all those in search of truth, love and peace.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Holy New Year!

Marcel Dampousse
Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall



Lady Zoye; our State Chaplain, Archbishop Marcel Dampousse; and our State Deputy at the Annual Supreme Convention held in Quebec City in August 2024.



Vivat Jesus!



Faith Pillar Cor Initiative

By: Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation, Marcel Lemmen, IPSD

Four years ago, after listening sessions across the US and Canada, we discovered a pressing need amongst our members for faith formation. I helped organize the listening sessions in Ontario, and they revealed that many of our members, and especially young members, joined the Knights of Columbus primarily to share their faith. This was an epiphany for me. These men said that they felt isolated in their faith by secular society, and they wanted to share their faith, in a social setting, with like-minded Catholic men.

These listening sessions confirmed the thoughts of our Supreme Knight, Patrick Kelly, and along with his Vice-President of Evangelization and Faith Formation, Damien O'Connor, they designed and constructed Cor. In a nutshell, Cor is "Foundational, Christ-centered Brotherhood". Our Supreme Knight has called Cor a game changer for the Knights of Columbus and the Church. This will be his signature initiative, and Supreme has put significant resources behind this effort.



Cor was launched Order-wide at last year's Supreme Convention in Orlando, and in Ontario a year ago this September.

What does Cor look like? "Cor" is latin for "Heart" and comes from the episcopal motto of St. John Henry Newman: "Cor Ad Cor Loquitur" which means "Heart Speaks to Heart". Cor Meetings are run by Knights of Columbus Councils but are held outside of Council Meetings and are open to all men of the parish. Meetings are held at least monthly and last between 60 and 90 minutes. They consist of three essential elements: prayer, formation and fraternity.

The first element is formal prayer: a decade of the rosary, chaplet of divine mercy, or devotion to a particular saint. The formation element consists of a presentation on a topic about our faith and could include a video, booklet, bible study, or guest speaker. There is a wealth of formation content available from the Knights of Columbus and all of it is sound Catholic doctrine. The last element, fraternity, consists of refreshments and conversation.

Response to Cor in Ontario has been fantastic. Based on reports submitted by our District Deputies in September, there were **44** Councils that implemented Cor in the previous fraternal year. Another 22 have committed to implementing it this year for a total of 66. This far exceeds Supreme's goal of 10 Councils in each jurisdiction during the first year.

We've seen the need is real among Catholic men; because not only is Cor successful, but other men's groups are successful too: This Man Is You, Exodus 90, Be a Man, any many others. We want them to succeed as well and often these groups are led by Knights. Survey after survey shows that when men lead in faith, their families follow.

For information on how to implement Cor in your Council, please see the Supreme web site www.kofc.org/cor or contact me.

Vivat Jesus!



Faith Pillar Carhagouha Cross Restoration Project

By: State Deputy, Bruce S. Poulin

This imposing cross which rises before our eyes by its imposing granite work, its pure and proud symbolism, is unique among monuments in this province because it is only one of a handful of monuments ever paid for, designed and erected by the Knights of Columbus in Ontario.

Since it was first unveiled on August 7, 1922, and except for a special celebration at the site on August 11, 1935, commemorating its three hundred and twentieth anniversary, it has not seen much attention other than the carpet of the countryside and the reaping of the harvest. But to all those who take the time to visit this cross, we hope they will recall that this cross is a noble and great example of the critical role the Catholic Faith has played in this burgeoning country and the urgent lessons which are to be learned from the past.



It should recall to those pilgrims who come to this site, that it was here, on August 12, 1615, that the first white men, Father Le Caron, Samuel de Champlain, and 14 others came from a faraway land to explore and spread the Catholic Faith held and delivered and took part in the first Eucharistic celebration in Western America among the Wendat people (The French called them Hurons).

May this magnificent Catholic Spirit not be lost for the lessons of the future. May this Cross, be a vigilant sentinel in the center of these fields teach us that, more powerful and more profound than community of race, gender, ethnicity or age, there exists a higher solidarity which should always guide the actions of men.



Photo caption bottom left: Knights of Columbus at the official unveiling of the Cross on August 7, 1922.



Knights of Columbus at the official rededication ceremony for the Cross on September 7, 2024



Faith Pillar Carhagouha Cross Restoration Project cont'd

On behalf of the more than 56,000 members of the Knights of Columbus I thank those who have been involved in the care of this monument and its restoration and I salute Fr. LeCaron for bringing the first Eucharistic celebration in Western America, and Fr. Athol Murray from St. Anne's Church, for proposing the erection of the cross in the 1920s as well as His Grace Archbishop Damphousse and Fr. Obrien for being here today for this - what can only be described as a Catholic event.

To the thousands of pilgrims who come to the Martyrs' Shrine and perhaps this Cross, I express the most fervent expression of gratitude from the Knights of Columbus.

On August 7, 1922, during the official unveiling, Ontario State Deputy George Hanrahan, stated: "The Knights of Columbus on Ontario had been singularly privileged in that the opportunity had been afforded them to mark so hallowed a spot in Western America by the erection of this monument." More than 100 years later, and four hundred and ten years after Fr. LeCaron's first Mass, I echo those same sentiments.

"We shall never begin to find the solution to our problems, social or fraternal, without the perspective of our historical and religious traditions. To move forward in history, we must recapture and seriously reflect upon a sense of trust and Faith in God and His guiding providence."



Time capsule containing 125th anniversary artifacts and buried at the site.



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Vivat Jesus!



NEW RELEASE

STORM WARNINGS

UNOFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN ONTARIO
PART 1
(1900 - 1962)



Capt. Bruce S. Poulin
MA, BA (Hon.), CD1, Ret'd

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

About the author should read: "Bruce S. Poulin, MA, BA (Hon), CD1, retired from the Canadian Armed Forces after 22 years of service. For the next 16 years, he worked with Canada's largest community-based veterans' organization, where he was a spokesperson and a service officer helping military veterans process their disability claims with the federal government. Bruce retired for the third time after working as a senior communications representative for one of the world's largest defence contractors.

Bruce has more than 30 years of community service and has been a proud member of the Knights of Columbus since 2007 and has the proud distinction of being acclaimed as the 60th State Deputy for the Knights of Columbus in Ontario since it was established in the province in 1900.

Bruce holds a master's degree from the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University and his work has been published in various newspapers, magazines, and periodicals. This is Bruce's first book."





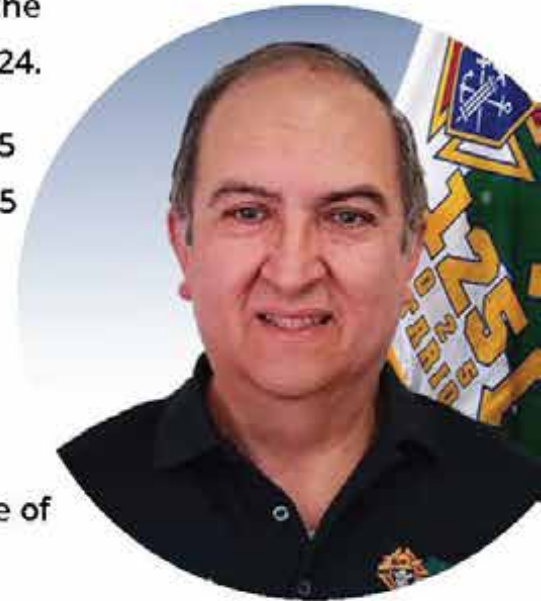
Family Pillar Message From Family Director

By: Family Director, Jaime Libaque

In the 2024 Summer newsletter a graph was presented showing the volume of activity for the Family Pillar throughout the year 2023-24.

·The first quarter (Jul-Sept) in 2023-24 was the lowest, and 2024-25 resembles that pattern. However, it's worth noting that in 2024-25 the # of entries increases from month to month: July 3 entries (Food); Aug 9 entries (6 FOM); Sept 13 entries (7 FOM, 1 Food)

It's reasonable to expect that with additional reminders and promotional materials (like this note and the article from the Chairman on Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest) the volume of activity reported for the Family pillar will continue to increase.



Reflecting upon the appropriate metrics for the Family Pillar, I feel that perhaps we're are not capturing the real families' engagement in our Service Program. And this situation presents an opportunity to develop and suggest better metrics.

·In a recent experience as Chair of the Anniversary celebration of my home Council, I purposely invited two women (both were wives of Brother Knights and mothers of Brother Knights) to be part of the organizing Committee. The dynamics of our interactions were quite different compared to having only men. The experience was both rewarding and enriching, with results achieved and relationships strengthened. During the event, I recognized their contribution and invited them to stand besides other Brother Knights who were also being recognized. It worked out well.

·During my remarks I pointed out that the Knights don't work in isolation but in collaboration with other lay groups of the parish; therefore, the achievements of the Knights are a reflection of the effort of the families and the parish in general.

In closing I'd like to leave you with a challenging thought: how could we strengthen our catholic families? What can we do as individual members, and leaders of our Councils, Districts, State to promote more families' involvement in our Faith in Action / Service Programs? Engagement would be a meaningful metric of success.

Vivat Jesus!



Community Pillar Sports Anyone

By: Membership Information Officer #4, Mike Meady

Chief Stan Beardy of Muskrat Dam first nation in Norther Ontario was in Thunder Bay to assist with some of his elders and their medical needs and to help some of his young people in the city who were having a difficult time with substance abuse.

By sheer chance he found himself in a waiting room sitting beside a past DD and active member of the Knights of Columbus, Brother Gilles Boivert.

They struck up a conversation and Chief Stan shared his frustration with Gilles, about send his young people into the city to get an education only to find out that they have been addicted to drugs and many were perishing.

He said that many back on the reserve were going down the same path and did not know what to do to stem this tide. Brother Gille stepped in and said, "how can we help you"! Although appreciative, Chief Stan did not know Gilles and did not believe that his offer was genuine.

They exchanged phone numbers and then Brother Gilles went to work, he contacted the Chief multiple times and finally suggested that the Knights could provide the youth in his community with some hockey equipment that they could use to participate in an upcoming NAN tournament in the area. If the young were focused on playing hockey, then would forget about the isolation and frustrations there were feeling.

Brother Knights in Thunder Bay were called into action and began to collect used hockey equipment for the cause. Skates, gloves, pads, pants, gloves and pucks. In a short time, multiple containers were filled up with all of the equipment needed for the cause. These items, along with a few boxes of Coats for Kids were flown up to the remote first nation. The impact was immediate and impactful.

This community was able to field two full teams for the NAN tournament that year and we received many photos of smiling children plating hockey and just having fun.

Chief Beardy was so pleased with seeing the youth in his community out skating, smiling and feeling good about themselves. In gratitude, he had an elder in his community make a couple of "Hand Beaded" emblems of the Knights of Columbus, that he was able to present at and dinner meeting in Thunder Bay.

-A testament to the "Truth" in Truth and Reconciliation! One small encounter, one small pebble in a larger lake. "Living our Faith makes a difference!....."





(LtoR) Chief Stan Beardy from Muskrat Dam First Nation; (the late) Brother and Sir Knight Dennis Gilmore; Brother and Sir Knight Gilles Boisvert; Brother and Sir Knight Derek West. Chief Beardy is presenting Knights of Columbus emblems that were hand beaded by Elders in his community. These were given as a gift of thanks for our support of the youth in Muskrat Dam First Nation.

Veterans' House Canada Cenotaph Project



Canada's veterans are seeking our support for the erection of a cenotaph at Veterans' House Canada.

This cenotaph will allow the tenants, regardless of creed, gender, race or ethnicity, to find spiritual comfort and opportunities to commemorate their legacy.

The Knights of Columbus in Ontario have a proud legacy of supporting our military during wartime through the Canadian Catholic Army Huts during the Great War, the Canadian Army Huts during the Second World War and now, during peacetime, with the cenotaph at a veterans' homeless shelter in Ottawa.

The completion of this project will coincide with the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario in the Spring of 2025.



For more information or to donate, visit ontariokofc.ca/donate/



Community Pillar Remembrance Day Ceremony at Veterans' House Canada - Ottawa

By: State Deputy, Bruce S. Poulin

For the past four years, since the Andy Carswell Building opened its doors to homeless Veterans in 2021, I have attended their Remembrance Day ceremonies. As a ret'd veteran and a proud member of the Knights of Columbus it is important for all brother Knights to recall our legacy of support for our military that goes back to 1917 with the Canadian Catholic Army Huts during the Great War (1914-18) and again with the Canadian Army Huts during the second world War (1939-45). But we are more than a legacy, today we have expanded our support to our veteran community - including the homeless. Attending Remembrance Day ceremonies is one aspect, but providing coats for Veterans and erecting a special cenotaph at Veterans House Canada -Ottawa are other examples to show we care. In many ways, during my term as State Deputy, I take great satisfaction knowing that we have become active partners, once again, concerned about the well being of our serving and retired military communities.



Our State deputy with the then Executive Director Suzanne Le on their inaugural Remembrance Day ceremony on November 11, 2021



(LtoR) Then District master, Marcel Gauvin; a member of the Royal Canadian Legion; our State Deputy, Bruce S. Poulin, and brother Mike Patton on the second annual Remembrance Day ceremony held on November 11, 2022



(LtoR) Sir Knight Finley Kavanagh; Faithful Navigator, Henry Kinsella; Our State Deputy, Bruce S. Poulin; and Sir Knight Tom Kavanagh on the third annual Remembrance Day ceremony held on November 11, 2023.



A record number of brothers and Sir Knights accompanied our State Deputy, Bruce S. Poulin at the fourth annual Remembrance Day ceremony held at Veterans' House Canada - Ottawa on November 11, 2024.

Vivat Jesus!



Community Pillar

Veterans' House Cenotaph Project - Update

By: State Deputy, Bruce S. Poulin

On October 24, 2024, the groundwork for the first Knights of Columbus Cenotaph in the Ottawa area began. The project, begun as an idea in March 2021 is scheduled to be completed on April 24, 2025.

In March 2021, our State Treasurer at the time, Bruce Poulin, read accounts of a new affordable housing community called Veterans' House in Ottawa that had opened its doors on February 1, 2021. Veterans House: the Andy Carswell Building is an example of responding to the needs of the veterans' homeless community. It is part of a much larger Veterans' House Canada initiative to build permanent residences, with supportive programs, to assist with some of the 3,000 – 5,000 homeless veterans in need across Canada. Based on need and local support, other cities under consideration include Edmonton, Halifax, Montréal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria.



On Monday June 21, 2021, this project began in earnest when our then State Secretary elect, Bruce Poulin held a virtual meeting with then Executive Director of Veterans' House Canada, Suzanne Le, and the Fund Development Manager, Sheldon Leong, also of Veterans' House Canada, to discuss opportunities to help. The aim was to reconnect the Knights of Columbus with members of the Canadian military and veterans, and the revive the motto: "Everyone Welcome, Everything Free."

After consultation, it was agreed that the greatest need that the Knights could help with was the erection of a cenotaph at the site of Veterans' House: the Andy Carswell Building. The State Board approved the project in September 2021 and the location of the cenotaph has been identified and the cement foundation was poured this past October with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony planned for April 24, 2025. The ceremony would coincide with the 125th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario and immediately before the opening ceremony of the Annual State Convention held at the Westin Ottawa hotel in April 2025. The project was endorsed unanimously.



Artist design of the cenotaph that will be unveiled on April 24, 2025 at Veterans' House Canada - Ottawa.



Community Pillar

Veterans' House Cenotaph Project - Update

cont'd

The Knights of Columbus in Ontario have a proud legacy of supporting our military during wartime through the Canadian Catholic Army Huts during the Great War, the Canadian Army Huts during the Second World War and now, during peacetime, with a cenotaph at a first-of-its-kind, permanent, affordable and supportive housing for homeless veterans in Ottawa.

Canada's veterans are seeking our support for the erection of this cenotaph at Veterans' House: the Andy Carswell Building, located on the former Rockcliffe Airbase in Ottawa. This cenotaph will allow the tenants, regardless of creed, gender, race or ethnicity, to find spiritual comfort and opportunities to commemorate their legacy. Your donations will help make a difference.

Your support would help brother Knights in Ontario, love of our history to our children, our elders and our country and renew our legacy of love for our servicemen and women and help us weave the Knights of Columbus back into the very fabric of our military community as we embark on our 125th anniversary celebrations.



The crew mixing the cement for the cenotaph's foundation.



A view of the cement foundation after it has been poured.



Pictured here are the wreaths placed on November 11, 2024, in front of the cement foundation that will eventually hold the cenotaph.



(LtoR) Our Provincial Marshal, Wayne Watts; our State Deputy, Bruce S. Poulin; and the Operations Manager at Veterans' House Canada Ottawa, Steve Madore.

Vivat Jesus!



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OF SERVICE IN 2025



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A hard copy will be included in all registration packages for
the 2025 Annual State Convention at the Westin Ottawa hotel.



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Community Pillar Sleep in Heavenly Peace Project

By: Membership Information Officer #9, Dan Pergolesi

In early June, State Deputy Bruce Poulin was approached, asking if Ontario State could assist with the promotion of a new initiative involving an organization by the name of Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP). Already established in the US, it is still in its infancy in Canada. This organization is focused on building and providing beds to children, ages 3 to 17 who would not have access to one or who would have mattresses laid on the floor. The motto of this organization, “No kid sleeps on the floor in our town.”



The Windsor Chapter of SHP, the only location in Quebec or Ontario, was asked to provide the materials. The request to Chapter President Brian Cyncora and his team, to produce material for 200 headboards and 20 beds, all to be shipped to Quebec City for this year’s Supreme Convention, where delegates from North and South America, and overseas will gather and have an opportunity to assemble the headboards / beds, which would then be distributed in Quebec and in the Windsor / Essex area.

Chapter President Brian Cyncora, the K of C Leadership team and local Insurance Agency identified a build date. Enlisting assistance Supreme Director of Programs and Member Engagement, Drew Dillingham, as well as Ontario State Secretary David Gelinias, canvassing of Territory 9 Councils began to promote this initiative and gather local volunteers.

The build was held Sunday July 14th, with two four-hour shifts. Initially a target of 30 volunteers per shift had been desired, however this day actually saw numbers nearing 100 volunteers, representing 18 of 39 Councils in Territory 9, including 8 members of the McGregor Squires Circle. These numbers allowed for both shifts to complete their assigned tasks well under the planned 4 hours.

In addition to Knights and family members, we were joined by representatives from Supreme, Drew Dillingham and Sam Baker, as well as Tecumseh Mayor Gary McNamara and Councilman Andrew Dowie – all were hands on in preparing the material.



Community Pillar Sleep in Heavenly Peace Project cont'd

This pilot project with the Knights was hoped to foster a long-lasting relationship between our organizations. The Windsor Chapter is currently the only one in Ontario. Our hope is to help establish additional Chapters along the 401 corridor from Windsor to Ottawa.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a Not-for-Profit organization who rely on support from the local community for all their expenses. They receive no government funding. Councils are asked to consider adding them to their approved donors list through the OLG.

On September 25th, following the initial build, nine Knights responded to a call from Brian Cyncora (SHP) to help cut lumber for Head & Base boards produced by other organizations over the last two months. The build scheduled for 4 hours was completed in just over 2 ½ given the expertise of those involved. Chapter President Brian Cyncora had nothing but praise for the Knights and is proud of the relationship we have formed.

Two further builds were conducted October 16th & 30th which saw members of the Knights participate where slats (for under the mattresses) were cut and assembled.

The next 20 bed build has been scheduled for Sunday January 19th, 2025. If you are interested in participating, please use the link below to register for the event.



Volunteers on September 25th



Brother Knights from the Windsor area helping to build beds.



Community Pillar Sleep in Heavenly Peace Project cont'd



20



Sleep in Heavenly Peace staff



Volunteers on October 15th

Vivat Jesus!



Community Pillar Chatham-Kent Barnstormers

By: District Deputy #51, Lorne Laframboise

There are times when the call to serve is a quiet one at first. Great endeavors often begin with little fanfare, but it still takes courage to answer when opportunity knocks.

Our story begins with a chance encounter between a young Knight and the owner of a new baseball team in Chatham Ontario, Canada.

Br. Trevor Legary was interested in finding out more about the Inter County Baseball League (IBL) team that was rumored to be coming to his hometown. He reached out to the owner and soon found out the team was looking for volunteers to coordinate the 50/50 draw process. Seeing an opportunity, Trevor reached out to his Council to see if this was something they would be interested in.



With a 21 game home schedule it was obvious the small Council would not be able to achieve this on their own. Instead, a meeting invite was sent to all of the Councils in the Chatham Kent region to gauge their interest.

The response was encouraging, with a dozen curious Council representatives taking part. This in itself was remarkable as many of these Councils had little or no prior interaction and many members were basically strangers. As the meeting progressed it was obvious that the desire to go forward was there. Each Council that participated would provide manpower and in turn be able to put forth charities in their area to receive raffle donations. We remained a fairly non structured group at his point and were simply known as the Knights of Columbus Barnstormers Committee (KOCBC).



Our State Deputy with the co-owner of the team, Dom Dinelle who is a resident of Trois Rivières, Que., played professionally for 12 years, coached professionally and was an amateur scout for the Expos and the Miami Marlins.



Volunteer Appreciation night.



We did however develop a 4 pillar mission statement...

- 1) To have multiple Councils working on a common goal.
- 2) Provide an opportunity for youth to join us as volunteers and potential future Knights
- 3) Provide positive exposure for the Knights in the community
- 4) Provide funds for multiple charitable organizations

At this point, this may have been the extent of our contribution to the baseball season. However, after several meetings with the owner it came to light he was struggling to find a service group to take over the concession sales as well. Many of the local clubs' struggle with aged or declining membership, lack of equipment large enough to handle a venue of this size...or simply had too many other commitments.

Again, an opportunity had come our way, but this one would be well beyond what we had envisioned.

As we pondered whether to go to this next step, two things became clear. First, this would take an incredible amount of coordination, manpower, volunteers and equipment. Secondly, as we got to know our brothers from other Councils it became apparent that the amount of experience and skill sets in the room was immense. Many Brothers had been involved in similar, if not smaller versions of fund raising for years. It was this bank of talent that made us decide to move forward.

While the KOCBC was still a loose affiliation, we began to break down and assign the various aspects of the project to members. Insurance requirements, 50/50 and concession permits, food handler training, contact with the charities etc. were all critical aspects that were taken on by individuals or teams. Their hard work behind the scenes cleared a multitude of hurdles.



Volunteers for the 50/50 draw with District Deputy Gerald Moynahan and our State Deputy



More volunteers at the registration desk along with the District Deputy Gerald Moynahan and our State Deputy.



Two of the larger challenges were acquiring the concession equipment and coordinating the army of volunteers needed. Enter the Vercoouteren family, B. Peter, B. Emile and Helene. Peter made it his mission to scour the countryside for barbeques, tents, tables as well as the various vendors to supply us with raw material throughout the season. Emile began to recruit Knights, youth from the parishes and schools and volunteers from the general public. Through their efforts we were able to provide the equipment and enough hands on deck throughout.

Baseball is all about stats. Our stats for this inaugural season are tremendous. \$102,646.00 in gross receipts from Concession sales, \$42,341.00 in 50/50 sales, \$18,467.00 awarded to charities, \$4-5000.00 donated to each of the 8 participating Councils, 150 volunteers and over 10,000 volunteer hrs. The volunteers included 60 Knights (including their family members) from 8 Councils as well as 35-40 youth volunteers and dozens from the general public.

One of the many highlights of the year was a visit from our Worthy State Deputy Bruce Poulin. It was a chance to showcase to him the group while in action and we appreciate his positive comments and words of encouragement.

This has been a remarkable story of perseverance, comradery and faith...in short all of the things that constitute being a Knight. The members of the founding Councils who were strangers before this have become friends, a band of Brothers. With much of the behind the scenes work completed this year, applications and preparations for the coming season should be much more streamlined.

Because of this we are looking forward to next season with less trepidation and even more excitement.





Community Pillar Chatham-Kent Barnstormers cont'd

There were far too many stories within this larger tale to list here. Stories of friendships forged, respect gained and Faith in action. Volunteers endured long hours, heat, rain and hard work to emerge even more determined and proud to be part of this adventure. The charities we supported have been genuinely touched by our efforts and the general public has seen what it means to give unconditionally for a higher purpose as Jesus commanded. They have responded with high praise and kind words. There is no doubt the status of the Knights has been elevated in their eyes.

In Christ,

{Chatham: Blessed Sacrament Council 1412,
Wallaceburg: Our Lady of Help Council 2102,
Tilbury: Monsignor A.J McNabb Council 2356,
Belle River: St-Simon & St-Jude Council 2775,
Blenheim: Fr Ladislaus Council 7744,
Ridgetown St.Raphael Council 8435,
Comber: Visitation Council 8783,
Chatham: St Ursula Council 9551}



A few of the 150 youth, public, charity and Knights volunteers needed to make it happen with "lefty" the Chatham-Kent Barnstormers' mascot.



A few of the many charities that benefitted from our draws and concession sales.

Vivat Jesus!



Community Pillar Oh What a Knight!

By: Chairman of the International Knight Banquet Dinner Committee, Gordon Edwards

When the idea came about to celebrate this milestone in our history. We looked at the Councils across the Province and realized that all the oldest ones were located in major cities along the rail lines. Starting in Windsor and going back to Ottawa.

In our State Deputy's research of the history of the order in Ontario he discovered that in January 1949, Windsor Council #1453 started the International Knight tradition in Windsor, where members from Western Ontario and Lower Michigan gathered for a friendly evening.

The inaugural event saw more than 550 members, and subsequent years saw even higher participation. District 1 from Michigan has been joining the 5th Ontario District for many years now at our Canada Day Parade and we have been joining them for events in Michigan.

We had more than 350 attend our International Dinner on the 14th from all over Ontario and Michigan. It started with a rededication of the Pray for Peace Monument at Dieppe Gardens that was placed there by the State Board of Ontario in 1967. Our State Deputy Bruce S. Poulin along with the State Board unveiled a plaque to rededicate this monument in honour of our 125 years. We then held a degree that brought in 11 new Knights with many of the guests from the dedication ceremony in attendance. The day finished off with a wonderful dinner at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts in Windsor. This was a great way to start the 125th Anniversary Celebration in Ontario.



The State Deputy for Michigan, Barry Borsenik, joined our State Deputy for this international event.

Vivat Jesus!



Community Pillar Rededication of Pray for Peace Monument

By State Deputy, Bruce S. Poulin

During State Deputy Louis G. Salini's term as State Deputy (1965-67), the State Council officers felt that the Knights of Columbus in the jurisdiction of Ontario should commemorate Canada's centennial anniversary in 1967 in an official capacity.

William C. Kennedy, Grand Knight of Toronto Council #1388 volunteered to be the Chairman for the project. The first task was to find a suitable location. After much discussion, the Dieppe Gardens on the Canadian bank of the Detroit River was selected. In exchange for the monument, the officials from the City of Windsor agreed to provide the land, supply lighting and maintain the monument in perpetuity, at the city's expense.



Regrettably, Bill Kennedy died on April 8, 1967, before the project was completed. In his stead, Cecil Berry, also of Council #1388 in Toronto, agreed to chair the project to its realization. Thirteen designs were submitted for consideration by the Committee. All agreed with past State Deputy Tobias Kelly's suggestion.

He proposed that a beautiful granite monument dedicated to "Peace on Earth" be erected at a suitable site. The projected cost of the 50-ton monument was \$40,000.00 and this cost was to be shared by all the councils in Ontario (a special levee of \$1.35 per member was authorized).

The original intent was to have the monument unveiled on Saturday May 20, 1967, the same day as the opening of the Annual State Convention which was being held in Windsor that year.

The 25-foot-high monument was unveiled on October 22, 1967, and dedicated to past State Deputy Louis G. Salini since this project had been discussed, funded and construction had begun while he was the State Deputy. Dignitaries at the unveiling included the State Chaplain and Bishop of Pembroke, His Excellency William Smith; the Bishop of London, Reverend G. Emmett Carter; Hon. Paul Martin, Minister of External Affairs; the 25th Mayor of Windsor, Judge John Wheelton; and the first Catholic Mayor of Hamilton, Victor Copps (1962-1976) who was also the Ontario State Deputy for the Knights of Columbus at the time (1967-68).



Community Pillar Rededication of Pray for Peace Monument cont'd



Sir Knights of the Knights of Columbus Honour Guard escort the dignitaries to the Pray for Peace Monument at Dieppe Park, Windsor.



The Ontario State Board was on hand for the event. (LtoR) IPSD, Marcel Lemmen; Deputy Supreme Knight, Arthur Peters; Associate State Chaplain, Bishop Bryan Bayda; State Secretary, David Gelinias; State Deputy, Bruce S. Poulin; State Treasurer, Joe Bodnar; State Warden, Earle DePass; and State Advocate, Henry Miller.



New plaque that has been placed on the Monument during the rededication ceremony held on September 14, 2024.

To all those who take the time to visit Dieppe Park, including this monument, we hope they will recall that this structure is a noble and great example of the Knights of Columbus "Call to Action." To quote the former Bishop of London who was at the unveiling ceremony in 1967 and quoted from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address: "It is not for us to dedicate this place but to be dedicated by it," and renounce all forms of totalitarianism and the violence that is associated with it.

May this Monument, be a vigilant sentinel in the center of this park teach us that, more powerful and more profound than community of race, gender, ethnicity, age, or political views, there exists a higher solidarity which should always guide the actions of men.

On behalf of the more than 56,000 members of the Knights of Columbus I thank those who have been involved in the restoration and I salute our brothers from across the border who came to Windsor Canada to share this important event with us.

To move forward in history, we must recapture and seriously reflect upon a sense of trust and Faith in God and His guiding providence. Today, we pledge anew our commitment to our Catholic Faith and the Knights of Columbus by putting our Faith in action and preserving and promoting our Catholic legacy in Ontario for the next 125 years and renew our call to "Pray for Peace!"

Vivat Jesus!



By: Cecilia Engbert and Bruce Poulin

(Reprinted from Knights of Columbus magazine November 2024, pp. 24-25.)

On the morning of Aug. 12, Ontario State Deputy Bruce S. Poulin sat in front of a granite monument, meticulously repainting the faded lettering on a headstone. Marking the grave of Major Reverend John J. O’Gorman, the spiritual founder of the Canadian Catholic Army Huts, it was the third epitaph Poulin had personally restored in Ottawa’s Notre Dame Cemetery. Each one took about three hours to complete, but Poulin didn’t mind; he was just one Knight honoring another.

Poulin finished his task just in time to join State Chaplain Archbishop Marcel Dampousse of Ottawa-Cornwall and others for a memorial service to pay homage to Reverend O’Gorman and seven other K of C leaders — including six past state deputies — buried in the historic cemetery. The Ontario State Council refurbished all eight of the Knights’ headstones as part of a series of initiatives to commemorate the jurisdiction’s upcoming 125th anniversary in 2025.

“We are acknowledging the legacy upon which we are building our success today, built on their sacrifice and successes of yesteryear,” State Deputy Poulin affirmed. Writing in the Ontario State Council bulletin, he explained that the restoration was “inspired by love and a sacred memory of our dearly departed” and the responsibility to pray for those who have gone before us. “Especially during the month of November, we are reminded of our duty in this regard.”

The Order’s presence in Ontario began with Ottawa Council #485, chartered Jan. 28, 1900. While investigating the history of Ontario Knights in anticipation of the anniversary, Poulin discovered that more Ontario state deputies are buried in Notre Dame Cemetery than any other site in Ontario.

“That got my interest going, so I went out to the cemetery to see these tombstones,” Poulin said. “I saw that they were worn out and dirty; moss was growing on them and the lettering had all faded. Many of these tombstones date back to the 1920s and ‘30s.”



The state council decided to restore the headstones, and a contractor was hired this past summer to power-wash and clean up the monuments and raise or straighten the stones that had become overgrown and buried in dirt and grass.

One thing the contractor would not restore, however, were the faded inscriptions on three of the Knights' tombstones. So Poulin took matters into his own hands. "I said, 'OK, somebody's got to do it.' So, I bought some paint and a paintbrush, and off I went," he said.

The process, Poulin explained, required sanding and cleaning the lead letters, applying a rust-inhibitive primer, and then carefully applying semigloss black paint with a small paintbrush.

The cemetery is the final resting place of six state deputies, four of whom were of "pioneer" Council #485, including its charter grand knight, John Dunne (1860-1924). Also buried at Notre Dame cemetery is its first chaplain, Father Matthew Whelan (1853-1922). Dunne, considered the father of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario, was also the first Canadian-born state deputy of what was then the jurisdiction of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador (1902-04).

The other charter council members buried at Notre Dame are Father John O'Gorman (1884-1933), a World War I military chaplain who was wounded at the Battle of the Somme and later helped to lead the Order's Canadian Catholic Army Hut program for which he was awarded with the Order of the British Empire (OBE) medal; Michael J. Gorman (1856-1935), a prominent lawyer in Ottawa and the jurisdiction's first state deputy for Ontario; and State Deputy Francis Latchford (1856-1938), a Québec native who moved to Ottawa and later served on the Supreme Court of Ontario in Toronto. Three more state deputies are buried there, as well: Thomas Brown (1874-1945), Philip Phelan (1888-1966) and Yvon Robert (1939-2020).

Knights and guests had the opportunity to honor and pray for these past leaders at the ceremony on Aug. 12 held on the same day as Blessed McGivney's birthday. A Fourth Degree honor guard, together with bagpiper Donald MacDonald, past grand knight of Council #485, led attendees from grave to grave; at each tombstone, Poulin shared information about the Knight buried there, and Archbishop Damphousse led a specific prayer for each one.



Michael O'Neill, 86, a Knight for more than 66 years who assisted Poulin with his research, spoke about the distinguished contributions of several of the Knights as well.

O'Neill noted that Council #485 was originally established by members from Montréal. They found a spiritual leader, he said, in Reverend O'Gorman: "He attracted men of education, men of substance, men of faith, and it made a very successful start for 485."

The council was independent from a specific parish, but St. Patrick's Church — elevated to a basilica in 1996 — was particularly instrumental in its history. "For the first 50 years of 485, the grand knights came from St Patrick's," he explained.

In 1998, a separate council was chartered at the basilica, with O'Neill as its first grand knight. St. Patrick Basilica Council #12158 and Ottawa Council #485 merged in 2021, becoming St. Patrick's Basilica Ottawa Council #485.

O'Neill also helped to establish, and is currently serves as president of, the Blessed Michael McGivney Honoris at the basilica, which promotes devotion to the Order's founder and his cause for canonization. Complete with a first-class relic of Blessed McGivney, it is the only honoris of its kind in Canada.



Brother and Sir Knight Michael O'Neill is the president of the Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney Honoris at St Patrick Basilica in Ottawa.



Some of the restoration work was done by Eastern Ontario Cemetery Memorials Inc.



Sir Knights from the Honour Guard that took part in the restoration of tombstones ceremony: (LtoR) Field Agent Vincent D'Souza; unknown; Tom Kavanagh; unknown; Alain Gratton; Michael O'Neill; unknown, Provincial Marshall, Wayne Watts.

He was particularly gratified to see the pioneering members of Council #485 remembered and acknowledged.

"It was a lovely ceremony," O'Neill said, adding, "[Council] 485 has to be honored because of what they did and what they have done for years and years."

When Poulin initially reached out to Notre Dame Cemetery for permission to restore the eight tombstones, he discovered a sobering fact: Not a single contact for family members of the deceased K of C leaders could be found.

"Though these past state deputies may have been forgotten through the generations by their families, they are not forgotten by the Knights of Columbus," Poulin said. "I think that it is very inspiring that their contributions as Catholic men, fathers and husbands made society a better place, and they are acknowledged and appreciated by the Knights today."



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Our State Deputy putting the final touches on the tombstone of Fr. John J. O’Gorman, the spiritual founder of the Canadian Catholic Army Huts.



Honour Guard next to the tombstone of past State Deputy Tom E. Brown (1930-32). This was just one of the many tombstones restored and acknowledged during this ceremony at Notre Dame cemetery in Ottawa.



In addition to the Notre Dame Cemetery project, the Ontario State Council has restored several K of C landmarks in the province in recent months. One of these is the Pray for Peace Monument at Dieppe Park in Windsor, which was erected by the Knights in 1967 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation. A rededication ceremony took place at the park on Sept. 14, with Knights from across the province participating, including Deputy Supreme Knight Arthur Peters and Associate State Chaplain Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada.

A week prior, the Knights also restored the Carhagouha Cross, erected by Knights in 1922 to mark the site of Ontario's first Mass, celebrated Aug. 12, 1615, near present-day Lafontaine. The granite monument was cleaned, and a new plaque installed. On Sept. 7, the Knights held a ceremony at the Cross and buried a time capsule at the base of the cross that contains, among other things, several 125th anniversary commemorative items blessed by Archbishop Damphousse.



Brother Michael O'Neill gives some historical background on Fr. Whelan the first Council Chaplain of the Order in Ontario.



Provincial Marshal and Faithful Navigator, Wayne Watts, Our State Deputy and our State Warden, Earle DePass enjoy a moment of fraternity after the ceremony.

Vivat Jesus!



MARK YOUR **CALENDARS!**

— THE NATIONAL —
MARCH FOR LIFE
— IS IN OTTAWA ON —
THURSDAY MAY 8TH 2025 —

Similar to previous years, there will be masses at 10 am at Notre Dame Cathedral, St Patrick's Cathedral and St Clements Church (Latin).

The Rally and speeches will begin on Parliament Hill at 12:30 pm and the March will begin at 1:30 pm.



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS
TO BE MARSHALLS AND TO DISTRIBUTE SIGNS.

Contact alexschadenberg@on.aibn.com if you are able to volunteer on May 8th.



Community Pillar Coats For Kids

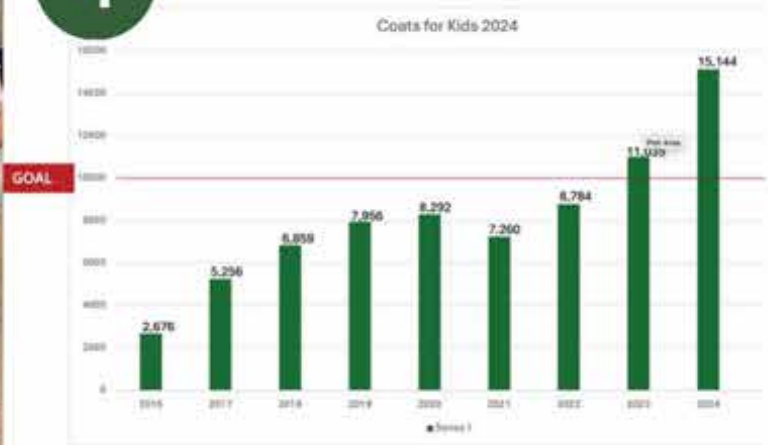
The official launch of the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids program has a tradition of being launched in Hamilton and is usually held in the week after Thanksgiving. Fr. Jeff Oehring from St. Ann's Parish in Hamilton blessed the coats. Patrick Daly, Chairperson of the Board for the Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District Board, Brother Terrance from Hamilton Good Shepherd as well as our State Deputy, Bruce S. Poulin, were keynote speakers. In the past two years, we have almost doubled our donation of coats. We have also introduced into the entire Order a Coats for Veterans component to provide some comfort and care to our homeless veteran community. Of all of our community pillars, the Coats for Kids and Coats for veterans program has seen the greatest exponential growth in the past two years



1

4

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COATS FOR KIDS PROGRAM



2

Photo 1: With the weather cooling down, a warm coat for a child is a must. Knights of St. Michael Council 4501 in Leamington is [#SpreadingtheWarmth](#). They are playing their part in meeting the need by donating 156 winter coats to Schools and Daycares in the local area.

Photo 2: Our past State Deputy, Nat Gallo, helping other brother Knights prepare the coats for distribution. Also seen here is our Executive Secretary, Mario Duguay (far right).



3

Photo 3: (LtoR) District Deputy #17, Marcel Lachance, MIO #2, Ron Hutt, State Deputy, Bruce Poulin, Sir Knight Michael Proctor, MIO #1, Paolo de Marchi, Sir Knight Finley Kavanagh, Provincial Marshall, Wayne Watts, Brother Peter Stuart; and Sir Knight Tom Kavanagh gathered at Veterans House Canada - Ottawa to distribute more than 84 coats to the Veterans.

Image 4: The donation of coats is expected to double to 16,000 this fraternal year - effectively doubled in only two years.

Vivat Jesus!



Supreme Convention

By all accounts the Supreme Convention in Quebec City was a first class event into which countless hours of thought and effort have been given. The tremendous scale of the convention with so many in attendance and the extensive facilities to accommodate them is, in itself, a fantastic sight.

Seeing some 529 delegates representing some 75 jurisdiction was a unique opportunity. But witnessing almost 2,000 people seated at a banquet dinner which is served with the same efficiency as would a party of fifty people will not be forgotten soon. But there is more than just size, splendour, and expert accommodations. It is also a sight to witness these people having fun enjoying each others company as they sing their state songs and support each other. We even had time for a screeching-in ceremony in our hospitality room by the State Secretary from Newfoundland and Labrador.

Here we have a gathering of people who, but for the common bond of being a member of the Knights of Columbus, for the most part, have had no relationship with each other before. Yet, they are sharing smiles and pleasantries with each other.

As I reflect on the theme of the Convention: "On Mission," I am reminded of the ever present religious aspect of the convention. The opening masses celebrated by more than 30 bishops and cardinals, and with an even greater number of priests (88 priests and deacons) in attendance is spectacular in itself. Add to this the magnificence of a stately cathedral packed to capacity with Knights and their families and awesome begins to mean something.



Ontario delegates for the Supreme Convention.

Front row (LtoR): State Secretary David Gelinias; Associate State Chaplain Bishop Bryan Bayda; State Chaplain, Archbishop Marcel Damphousse; State Deputy, Bruce S. Poulin; IPSD, Marcel Lemmen.

Back row (LtoR) District Deputy #74, Rino Dube; District Deputy #82, Mike Perreault; Faithful Comptroller, Michael P. Whelan; District Deputy #99, Ron Frank; Financial Secretary, Alain Gratton; and brother Gary Macdonald.



Supreme Convention cont'd



Our State Deputy delivers his report to the Supreme delegates as our Supreme Knight, Patrick E. Kelly looks on.



State Secretary of Newfoundland and Labrador, Paul Baldwin (above right) presents District Deputy #95, Gerad Gonsalves (above left) with his unofficial "screching-in" ceremony certificate following the Monday pin exchange.



State Secretary of Newfoundland & Labrador, Paul Baldwin (above left) also "screched-in" one of our past State Deputies, Grant Ertel.

Later, as our Supreme Knight, Patrick E. Kelly, delivered his report and reminisced about his years as a brother Knight, I am enthralled by his matter-of-fact accounts of the Knights of Columbus presence throughout the world.

As we take comfort in the greatness of the Knights of Columbus something stirs my inner being. Then it hits me. Yes, the Knights of Columbus is a great organization and Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly is an influential person, but I too am part of this! I share in this greatness because as a member of the Knights of Columbus I contribute to all this being possible. I am not just a member of a subordinate Council, I am a member of the entire Order, and I share in the greatness of the Knights of Columbus and our Supreme Knight.



A view of the delegates and their wives at one of the morning masses at the Annual Supreme Convention held in Quebec City.

Vivat Jesus!

APRIL 25 - 27, 2025



2025 ANNUAL State Convention

Experience the 125TH anniversary celebrations in Ottawa, the birthplace of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario.

📍 THE WESTIN OTTAWA HOTEL LOCATED AT 11 COLONEL BY DRIVE, OTTAWA, CA K1N 9H4

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

▼ THURSDAY APRIL 24

- Unveiling of a KofC cenotaph at Veterans' House Canada



▼ FRIDAY APRIL 25

- Opening Ceremony and awards.
- Visit the marketplace booths at Westin Ottawa hotel

▼ SATURDAY APRIL 26

- Visit the Notre Dame cemetery (Montreal Road) where the founding members of the Order in Ontario, the founders of the Canadian Catholic Army Huts, as well as several past State Deputies are buried.
- Visit marketplace booths at Westin Ottawa hotel.
- Unique Ladies Program (details TBC)
- Business sessions consisting of: State Board elections and Resolutions.

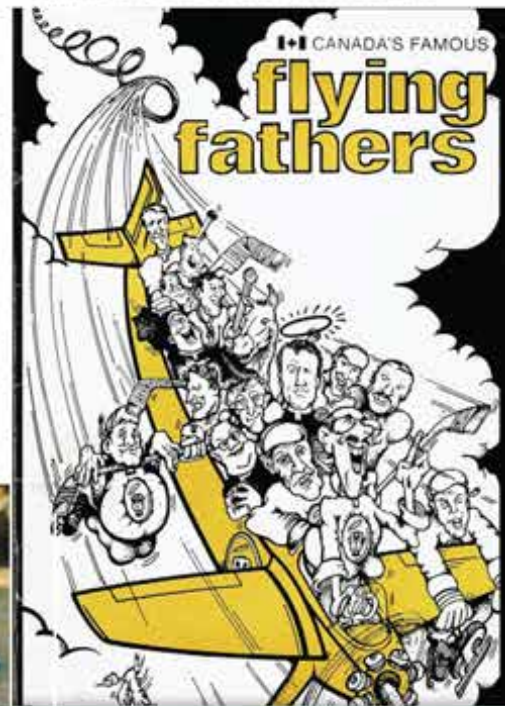


- Mass to be held at the Notre Dame Cathedral
- Banquet dinner featuring Abby Johnson as keynote speaker and Ontario regional song-book with a DJ.



▼ SUNDAY APRIL 27

- Catch all the action. Fundraiser hockey game against the Flying Fathers at 2pm at the Jim Durrell Recreation Centre.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS, REGISTRATIONS WILL BEGIN IN THE ISSUE OF THE SPRING 2025 ONTARIO STATE BULLETIN

Membership By the Numbers



By Membership Director, Dem Magmanlac

Happy to report that the membership component of the Québec + 1 Strategic Action Plan is unfolding nicely in the first half of this fraternal year.

Despite a traditionally slow start to our fraternal year, this year saw a notable increase in recruitment each month, building on last year's momentum that earned us the Circle of Honour.

The online membership initiative is central to our Strategic Action Plan, with projections suggesting that we are poised to achieve Circle of Honour status and, potentially, historic membership levels, surpassing the high of 57,136 members set under the guidance of Past State Deputy (PSD) Nat Gallo in 2006-07.



2024 - 2025 Fraternal Year Monthly Membership Growth Goals (2,301)

2024			2025		
Month	Regular Goal/Actual	Online Goal/Actual	Month	Regular Goal/Actual	Online Goal/Actual
July	58/24	82/64	January	68/xx	94/xx
August	54/33	75/81	February	81/xx	113/xx
September	63/65	87/129	March	95/xx	131/xx
October	68/51	94/232	April	90/xx	125/xx
November	103/xx	144/xx	May	81/xx	113/xx
December	86/xx	118/xx	June	117/xx	162/xx



Regular & Online Membership

Following last year's record intake, our new team is aiming to set another high watermark this fraternal year.



New Council Development

With a goal of establishing four new councils, we have already confirmed two and expect a third to be approved shortly. Notably, Ontario is the only region in Canada with new councils this fraternal year.

- St. Boniface Jubilee Council #18571 in Toronto
- St. Monica Council #18583 in Ottawa



The newly exemplified members of the Order along with the exemplification team pause for a photo marking the moment when there were a sufficient number of members to form St Monica Council #18583 in Ottawa on November 9, 2024.



Members of the new St. Boniface Jubilee Council #18571 in Toronto.

Round Tables

Under Dan Pergolesi's guidance, we are on track to exceed our targets again this year.

Additionally, eleven of our District Deputies met or exceeded their membership targets.

Congratulations to those District Deputies who achieved Supreme's First Quarter Membership Incentive by attaining 30% or more of their District Intake Goal by September 30th.



District Deputy	District	Total Goal	DD Goal	Intake as of 9/30/24	Percentage of Goal
Roger Richard	101	30	21	17	80.95%
Paul O'Neill	7	18	13	8	61.54%
Michael Goulet	104	24	17	9	52.94%
John Schembri	79	26	18	9	50.00%
Rohan Nazareth	62	31	22	9	40.91%
Rory Facca	67	38	27	11	40.74%
Franklin Godoy	65	20	14	5	35.71%
Dennis Tomini	13	34	24	8	33.33%
Joe Gamble	50	25	18	6	33.33%
Steve Benson	4	35	25	8	32.00%
Gerard Gonsalves	95	27	19	6	31.58%

By all measurable standards, we are currently on pace to set new records during this 125th anniversary. But this can only be achieved through continued effort and scheduled church drives across all Districts of this jurisdiction. Rest assured that our State Deputy and his team are always available to support your efforts to encourage more Catholic men to become better Catholics, husbands and fathers through the Knights of Columbus.

If you have any questions regarding membership, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Ultrasound Program Saving the Unborn

Help us Bring a Message of Hope for the Unborn.

Access to abortion does not save lives; it takes lives. Providing resources for mothers and their preborn babies means saving lives. One of the most powerful tools in our pro-life arsenal is the **ultrasound machine**. It gives the mother a window into the womb, allowing her to see her baby and hear the heartbeat. Often, this is a life-saving moment.

We have a medical clinic with a pro-life doctor in Hamilton that needs our help to acquire an ultrasound machine.

Let us work together, put our Faith in Action, and give hope to the unborn.

To make donations, visit
<https://ontariokofc.ca/donate/>

Vivat Jesus!



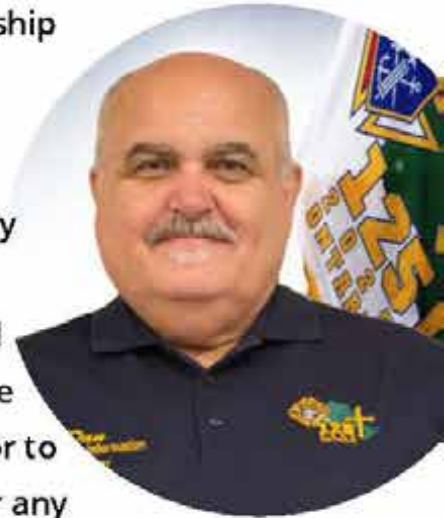
Membership

The Benefits of Roundtables

By: Roundtable Chairman, Dan Pergolesi

In light of its potential growth and its new affiliation with our Membership Director, it was deemed useful to review and explain the purpose of Roundtables in Ontario.

First and foremost, it is to bring the members of the Order more closely into parish life and to create a parish consciousness in individual member. What is envisioned is a program of providing a dedicated and willing cadre of men within the boundaries of a parish; men who will be available for any assignment by a pastor. The program enables a pastor to have access to the manpower provided by the Knights of Columbus for any purpose whatsoever without requiring time for supervision and/or direction. Such effort can do nothing but create a good will for the Order among the Order and the Church. What greater witness can we give to our priests, our fellow parishioners and our families than that desire to respond to the call of Vatican Council II for the layman to take a more active role in parish life! We will be fulfilling our function as members of the largest Catholic fraternal organization in the world.



The Roundtable concept provides a member with the opportunity to extend his mission of discipleship to his own parish regardless of Council affiliation. Thousands of members of the Knights of Columbus are deeply involved in parish life, but many have never become involved in any of the programs, activities or undertakings of the Order. Roundtable participants enjoy the opportunity to work with their pastor within the parish unit and shall in no way interfere with any regularly established program or group within the parish.

Each pastor must clearly understand the unit is geared to work with and for the parish and pastor in conjunction with any effort already in effect or for any new program projected.

The pastor also should know the roundtable concept is not driven as the beginning of a membership program looking to establish a new council. Its thrust is primarily to allow the pastor to draw upon the capabilities of the Knights and non-Knights within his parish.

Vivat Jesus!



There are currently 25 active Roundtables reported in Ontario, though it is understood more exist. Each year Councils are required to submit the names of appointed Coordinators and parishes served via the Notice of Appointment of Round Table Coordinator (Report 2629), due June 30th, or as required throughout the year as new Roundtables are established. Councils throughout Ontario are encouraged to investigate parishes within their areas currently not represented by a K of C Council or Roundtable and inquire whether the Pastor and parish would be interested in enjoying the benefits a Roundtable can provide.

Guidelines:

The establishment of a roundtable should be simplified as much as possible. Paperwork should be held to a minimum. The responsibility for the roundtable in each parish is not that of the priest or pastor, but shall be assigned a parent/ host council. Therefore, the following guidelines are presented for assistance in establishing a roundtable.

1. There is no specific minimum requirement to form a Roundtable, though should include both Knights and non-Knight members.
2. The Roundtable is not an independent entity, but an extension of a host Council, and will work in cooperation with the Grand Knight and membership of the host Council.
3. There are no elected executive. Rather a Coordinator shall be proposed by the Grand Knight; and with approval by the Pastor, appointed by the Grand Knight to represent the Council.
4. The coordinator shall be a Knight, though not necessarily a member of the host Council. It is expected he be one who is active in parish life and well-known within the parish community. He shall act as the liaison between the host Council and the Roundtable, providing regular reports to the Grand Knight and Council membership as requested.
5. The Roundtable shall meet as required or at the discretion of the Pastor.
6. The Roundtable unit shall have no bank accounts, independent assets or dues structure. Members will continue to meet their financial obligations to their respective councils. All financial support required by the Roundtable and supported parish shall be submitted to the host Council for approval. Any funds raised by the Roundtable shall be the responsibility of the host Council to manage.



Cardinal Francis Leo Becomes Member of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario

By: State Deputy, Bruce S. Poulin

It is with great pride that we announce that Cardinal Francis Leo accepted our invitation to become a member of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario. He is one of only two Cardinals in the Order in Ontario, the first is Cardinal Collins.

Born in Montreal in 1971, he was ordained a priest for service to the Archdiocese of Montréal on 14 December 1996. He served in different parish assignments in Montréal until 2006 when he accepted the invitation to enroll in the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy in Rome and subsequently enter the Diplomatic Service of the Holy See (2006-2012), serving in different Apostolic Nunciatures across the globe. On 9 January 2012, Pope Benedict XVI appointed him Chaplain of His Holiness, bestowing the title of Monsignor.



Upon his return to Canada, he was appointed General Secretary of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCBC), a mandate which came to an end in the fall of 2021. As of 1 February 2022, Monsignor Leo was named Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia of the Archdiocese of Montréal.

Monsignor Leo was ordained to the Episcopacy on 12 September 2022 for the Diocese of Montreal. He was named as the Archbishop of Toronto on 11 February 2023 by Pope Francis. He was installed as Archbishop on 25 March 2023. On October 6, 2024 the Holy Father announced the creation of 21 new Cardinals, including Archbishop Leo. Pope Francis elevated Archbishop Leo to the College of Cardinals on December 8, 2024.



Our State Deputy presented Cardinal Leo with a congratulatory letter upon hearing of his admission to the College of Cardinals on October 8, 2024.



Fourth Degree Exemplification Message

By: Vice Supreme Master, Joe Mathews

Brothers,

As the Knights of Columbus embark on the 125th Anniversary of the patriotic arm of the Order, there are a number of new initiatives being introduced by the Supreme Assembly.

On February 22, 2025, the newly revised Fourth Degree Exemplification, which families are welcome to attend, will be exemplified for the first time at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. The costs for this exemplification along with a sample of the commemorative certificate that each candidate attending this exemplification will receive can be found below.



Exemplification Costs

125th Commemorative Certificate

REGISTRATION:	
October 10, 2024 – January 20, 2025	
Exemplification Candidates.....	Fee \$60.00 (1000 Maximum)
*No tickets required for St. Patrick's Cathedral Candidates must register for exemplification and pay the fee	
Banquet Tickets.....	Fee \$125.00 (1400 Maximum)
Attendee Tickets.....	No Fee
The \$60 candidate fee will be waived if 2+ banquet tickets are purchased A Special Hotel Reservation Link (Mid Town Hilton and other hotels Attendees are responsible for travel costs and expenses	



To register for this event please visit <https://www.kofc.org/en/for-members/anniversary.html>.

On February 22, 2025 the Supreme Assembly will also be launching a special program at the anniversary celebration in New York City. From February 23-August 31, 2025, the goal of this challenge will be for every District to hold an anniversary exemplification with a class of at least 125 candidates. Note that no other exemplifications should be scheduled for February 22, 2025.

All 125 for 125 candidates will receive a special commemorative certificate, while every District Master who successfully conducts a single exemplification with a total class of 125 Sir Knights or more will be presented with a plaque. Vice Supreme Masters with 100% participation by all districts will also be recognized for their leadership with a plaque and a special gift.



Fourth Degree Exemplification Message cont'd

The Supreme Assembly has also designed and produced a 125th Anniversary Fourth Degree Exemplification coin for this memorable occasion (see below).



Cardinal McGuigan Provincial Programs

The Prayer Card for the 125th Anniversary of the Fourth Degree

St Michael the Archangel Prayer Card

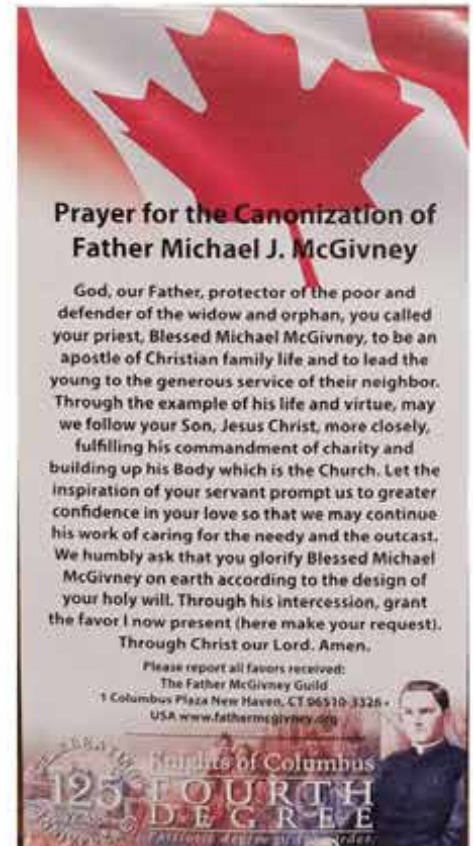
To commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Fourth Degree, the Cardinal McGuigan Province has designed and produced a prayer card, in both English and French, to serve as a memento of this historic milestone for the Fourth Degree. These prayer cards are now available from you District Master.



Cardinal McGuigan
Province

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

St Michael the Archangel
Patron Saint of Military Personnel, Police, Firefighters and Paramedics



Prayer for the Canonization of Father Michael J. McGivney

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request).
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please report all favors received:
The Father McGivney Guild
1 Columbus Plaza New Haven, CT 06510-3326
USA www.fathermcgivney.org

Knights of Columbus
125 FOURTH DEGREE
FATHER MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY



Fourth Degree Exemplification Message cont'd

The Veteran's Program for the Cardinal McGuigan Province

This fraternal year the Cardinal McGuigan Province has expanded its Veterans' Program to include Remembrance Day Signs, which are available from your District Master; our Military Roll of Honour to recognize members of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario and Manitoba who are either veterans or active members of the military; and our continued support of Veterans' House for homeless veterans.

VETERANS' HOUSE CANADA

HELPING HOMELESS VETERANS



MAISON DU VÉTÉRAN CANADA

SECOURIR NOS VÉTÉRANS SANS ABRI



Roll of Honour

Ontario Knights who served in the Canadian Catholic Army Huts in the Great War (1914-1918)

During the 2018 Poetry Competition (October 25 to November 26, 2018) The following Councils will be appearing in Roll of Honour from the Ontario State Council commemorating their Knights Knights who served Canada through the Canadian Councils. And also programs during the Great War (1914-1918) year.

St Patrick Basilica Ottawa Council 495	St. Catherine Council 1306	Wilson J. Stevely Council 1407
Providence Council 748	Palmer Council 1268	St. John H.C. Leavelle Council 1431
St. Anne Council 759	Our Lady of Lourdes Council 1438	St. Basil Council 1417
St. Joseph Council 798	St. John Council 1438	St. Joseph's Catholic Council 1439
St. Joseph Council 834	St. William E. Preston Council 1439	St. Elizabeth Council 1439
St. Basil Council 1441	St. Vincent Council 1439	St. Charles Martin Council 1440
St. Joseph Council 1442	St. Paul Council 1441	St. Joseph Council 1441
St. Joseph Council 1443	St. Joseph Council 1442	St. Joseph Council 1443
St. Joseph Council 1444	St. Joseph Council 1444	St. Joseph Council 1444
St. Joseph Council 1445	St. Joseph Council 1445	St. Joseph Council 1445
St. Joseph Council 1446	St. Joseph Council 1446	St. Joseph Council 1446
St. Joseph Council 1447	St. Joseph Council 1447	St. Joseph Council 1447
St. Joseph Council 1448	St. Joseph Council 1448	St. Joseph Council 1448
St. Joseph Council 1449	St. Joseph Council 1449	St. Joseph Council 1449
St. Joseph Council 1450	St. Joseph Council 1450	St. Joseph Council 1450

Lest we forget



HELPING HANDS PHILIPPINES



Charity is at the heart of our work and our faith--- and it always has been. For the Knights of Columbus, charity means supporting a virtually boundless variety of projects helping all those in need around the world! TODAY is your chance to "Make a Difference"

Finally, we have introduced our Helping Hands Philippines program where Assemblies, and their affiliated Councils, collect food, clothes, toiletries and toys. Once a box (balikbayan box) is full, we will arrange to ship it to our Brother Sir Knights in the Philippines, who will then distribute the items to where there is a need. Our first shipments will be going to the victims of a typhoon. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at joe.mathews@bell.net.

Lady Ruby and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Blessed and Holy Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2025.

Vivat Jesus!



Let's Play Bingo!

By: Anna Kocmarek

Let's Play Bingo



Many Councils host bingos in bingo or church halls. Some run TV bingo or radio bingo. Now we have Convention Bingo! Every member who registers at the Convention will receive 2 bingo cards.

One Convention Bingo card to play at the Convention and one Bulletin Bingo card to take home and play when the summer, fall and winter bulletins come out.

That's four chances to win \$200.

Convention Bingo - Completed!!!

Game 1 - Congratulations to John Schembri in Ottawa who had fun playing bingo at the convention and won \$200.

Bulletin Bingo - Completed

Game 2 - Summer Bulletin- closed - no winners!

Bulletin Bingo - Let's Play!!!

Game 3 - \$400 prize

Use the same card as game 2 - 10 Bingo numbers are drawn and posted here. If you have one line or 4 corners, email stateoffice@ontariokofc.ca letting Liane know that you have a winning card. Please include the red card number found at the top of your card as well as the number found under the free spot.

Bingo can only be claimed for 2 weeks after the bulletin is published.

If we have multiple winners, they will share the \$400 prize.

If we have no winners, then the \$400 prize will carry over to game 4 in the Winter bulletin.

Please don't dab... use bingo chips, coins or cheerios to mark the numbers.

Ani and Liane from the State Office have drawn 10 numbers.

O-65; B-02; N-34; I-30; O-64; I-21; O-62; G-47; B-13; G-58

Game 4 - use the same card as game 3 and same rules as game 3. Numbers will be found in the Winter bulletin. If we have no winners, the prize will carry over and be drawn at the 2025 Annual State Convention.



Vivat Jesus!