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### **IMMEDIATE PAST STATE DEPUTY JOINS CANADIAN WHEELCHAIR TEAM**

Captain Bruce S. Poulin (ret'd) began his professional career as a military officer in 1979 and then, in his late thirties, switched to the not-for-profit sector, receiving several decorations from federal ...



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### **BASKETBALL FREE THROW**

The Basketball Free Throw is a very established program within the Knights of Columbus with councils participating in it since 1972. The 2024-2025 fraternal year was a very ...

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# EDITOR'S MESSAGE

## A Message on 'Readership'

By: Bulletin Editor, Jerry Marcotte

It is with a bit of trepidation that I, when asked by State Deputy David Gelinas to take over as 'Editor' of the State Bulletin, that I hesitated and thought about it for a spell. Knowing that the previous 'State Bulletin Editor' was none other than the well accomplished..... in K of C circles and more, our immediate PSD Bruce Poulin, those were indeed large shoes to fill! Not only would Bruce have had quite a pulse on what was happening in Ontario, but with the energetic celebration activities of the 125 Years of the Knights in Ontario and his connections, he would have had no shortage of articles to foster and encourage. Aside from that, Bruce is an accomplished editor his own right, with the engaging publication of 'Storm Warnings' .... with evidently, another edition of more recent history of the Knights in Ontario in the works.

As a longtime editor and publisher of the bi-monthly Third Degree Bulletin of Fr. Nicholas Point Council 4375, "The Nightly Beacon" I have experienced the coercing that is required to promote and foster articles and motivating content for one's bulletin. Many in leadership positions are devoted and hardworking, but pausing, recalling, and putting ideas on paper is a real task for some. Hence, aside from editing, I had to be ready to seize opportunities for photographs and to write articles and stories.

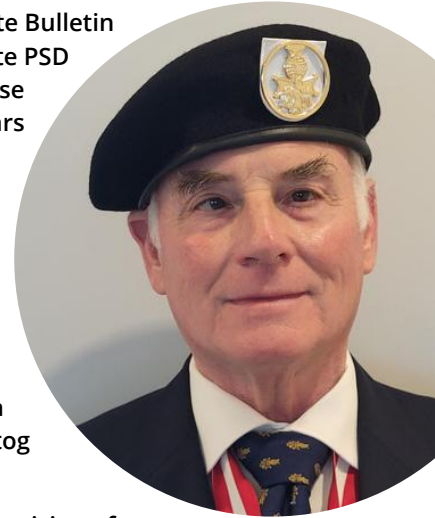
But, with the compilation of this first 'Fall Edition 2025' that was not the case as SD David had a vision of what he wanted reported in this issue and hence was the catalyst for content and petitioning for articles.

In my youth, and working in a printing and publishing company that produced a monthly town newspaper, 'The Tecumseh Tribune' I experienced what it was like to write and to see a published article with one's by-line. So, to all who contribute regularly to their council or assembly's newsletter and to this State Bulletin, thanks for your past and future submissions. Having been in the printing business as a youth, one learned to revel in the production of an engaging page. But, with the 'State Bulletin' being an online production, and the graphic layout left to the professionals at Phoenix Agency, my role is quite different and I've yet to prove myself in working with and supplying Phoenix with copy.

But I feel there is great purpose for disseminating what is occurring in Ontario when it comes to the Order. One can only be motivated by an awareness and knowledge of the commitment of those on State Board and hence, staying abreast of the State Bulletin has intrinsic value. How often do leaders and the general membership seek out the bulletin on-line? Of late, I have been asked by those, even in a leadership position of .....where does one find the quarterly State Bulletin? So, the task of all, should be to promote all to visit Ontario State and to open 'Bulletin'. So, I appeal to all bulletin editors across Ontario, to fill blank spaces in their publications with reminders for all to visit the Ontario State website and to read the bulletin. Remember, more energy and time were invested in writing the article that in your reading of it! In becoming an avid reader of your State Bulletin (as well as your own) one can 'be in the know' so as to be able to relate effectively, the accomplishments and the works of the Order in Ontario. By being able to converse effectively about the works of the Order, one can be an engaging promoter for membership.

Vivat Jesus!

It will be for July and August



04

# Membership Statistics

## Year to Year Growth Comparison

	2024-2025	2025-2026
July	88	99
August	114	116

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, The King of kings!



# September 2025 Report

By: State Deputy, David O. Gelinas

Hello my brother knights, for most, you should recognize me as I've been on the State Board for the past eight years through each State Officer position, and now the delegates at the State convention, this past April, elected me as your State Deputy for the 2025-2026 fraternal year.

I can confirm that it takes many people to help run this Ontario Knights of Columbus State team. In addition to the 4 other elected State Officers, I have appointed 16 Directors, and 58 Chairmen and 94 District Deputies to form this State team. When one is elected as State Deputy and similarly, as Grand Knight, each leader needs to trust that his decision to appoint other leaders is sound, and wise and through the guidance of prayer. I can attest that a large amount of trust factor is required as the State office staff, Board Officers and Directors worked together to prepare for the July District Deputy organizational meeting. Organizations this large depend on many people working in unison with a common goal and purpose in mind.



Supreme introduced a new concept for State teams to adapt but they left each team to develop their own plan that best fits their needs. It's called MOST and it represents the four key elements of the Mission Statement, Objectives, Strategies and Tactics. I won't go into the details of the last three but everyone should be familiar with the Mission Statement for this current fraternal year.

Ontario Knights are "In service to Jesus Christ and His Catholic Church, the Ontario State Council and its Board, provide the leadership, guidance, resources, tools, structure and value necessary to help our members, councils, assemblies and squire circles thrive to fulfill the mission set forth by our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, through the timeless principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism."

There are many other changes and new things for this fraternal year that include;  
\*The MIOs of the past, Membership and Information Officers, are now called Regional Chairmen (RC) and the leader for this team of 10 is the Regional Director. There are also 10 membership focused knights called Regional Membership Chairmen (RMC) and the leader for this team is the Membership Director. Each team has separate responsibilities and objectives but both teams work together for the common goals for Ontario's team.





# September 2025 Report

Con't

\*Supreme reorganized the 5 territories in the USA and Canada with the 10 Provinces in Canada no longer a territory ourselves, many Canadian State's are now part of a new territory. Ontario is still in Alain Cayer's territory but we now have a new Regional Growth Director and his name is William "Bill" Chasse. Bill is a past State Deputy from Michigan and I plan to bring Bill into Ontario to meet Knights in October and early November. Please come out to these town hall sessions that will be a Q & A structure.

\*Supreme is introducing 8 new programs this year and when they are released, DDs and Councils will be informed of what they are and how to conduct them. The first two programs are in the Community Pillar and include; Bright Futures and Celebrating our Catholic Heritage. I encourage councils to learn more about these new programs and introduce a new program to their council members. Each council should strive to keep members of all ages involved and full of excitement as a member of the Knights of Columbus and these new programs will help in that objective.

There are many new appointments and the list includes;

\*The Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO) appointed Bishop Bryan Bayda as our State Chaplain and they have also appointed Rev Fr Branden Gordon as our Association State Chaplain. \*Supreme Master Michael McCusker, on behalf of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and the Supreme Board of Directors, has appointed Past State Deputy Alain Cayer as the next Vice Supreme Master for the Cardinal McGuigan Province and he began his tenure on September 1st.

\*The Canadian Wheelchair Foundation and Board of Directors from Surry BC has appointed Immediate Past State Deputy Bruce Poulin as their Senior Representative for Eastern Canada, as of August 4th.

The 143rd Supreme convention was held in Washington DC, from August 4-7 and the delegates from Ontario include; myself as State Deputy, iPSD Bruce Poulin, Joe Bodnar, Amedeo Cuschieri, Knolly Burnham, William Coppens, Mihal Szabo, John Artymko, Paolo DiMarchi and Dennis Kiteley. There were 3 non-delegates from Ontario that attended who included Dan Landry, Claude Poirier who both came at their own expense and brother Lawrence Beneteau, from Council 2110 in Amherstburg, who was recognized by Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly for his over 200 blood donations. Brother Lawrence and Lisa were awarded an all expenses paid trip to attend the Supreme convention. Next year the Supreme convention will be held in Denver Colorado.

We began this fraternal year with 460 active councils in Ontario on July 1st. In July 2019 we had 561 active councils in Ontario that is 101 less councils than we had six years ago. My focus along with the State team is to work to ensure councils that are stronger and more vibrant and working towards attracting new members and keeping their current membership active. Therefore, I will only be speaking over my tenure on positioning more councils to attain the Star Council award. This award is a significant marker that indicates councils are well balanced, conducting enough programs in each of the four Faith in Action Pillars, they are recruiting



# September 2025 Report

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enough new members to keep on pace with the natural death rate of our members, and are certified with the Safe Environment program. Last fraternal year, Ontario had 65 Star Councils, the year before 45, and before that about 23. All of it a great improvement from the previous year but still not at a level Ontario had prior to 2020. My team's focus is to get Ontario with over 70 Star Councils and push toward 80 over the next two years. If I can leave my tenure with more councils that are achieving Star Council status then I will depart satisfied.

During my tenure, the Knights from Ontario will focus on Jesus, the King of kings. I spoke with Bishop Bayda in April 2024 about what I was constantly seeing and hearing at that time as I prayed about my upcoming tenure as State Deputy and I am convinced now that it was listening to Christ when I visited the Cathedral of Alexandria in St Catharines on the Feast Day of Blessed McGivney on August 13th. Rev Fr Paul McDonald during his homily spoke about the knights and Christ the King. I was at the right place on the right day to hear that specific homily from Fr Paul. It was awe-inspiring that Fr Paul reminded us that Pope Pius XI, in 1925, instituted the Feast of Christ the King and he emphasized Jesus' authority over all creation and the true King of the universe. On November 23rd, this year in 2025, marks the 100th anniversary of the Feast of Christ the King. I can confess that I had not done any research when I decided in April 2024 to focus my tenure for Jesus the King of kings and how significant 2025 was in this 100th anniversary. What I realized during that homily, that we should do as God instructs us to, even if we do not fully comprehend the significance or reason why. Jesus as King of kings is used in reference to Jesus 3 times in the bible. First Timothy 6:15. Revelation 17:14 and 19:11-16. Even though society has never accepted this statement for over 2 millennia, we Catholics should never back down from declaring this truth.



Ontario State Deputy David Gelinas meets Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly in New Haven, Connecticut.

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



# Life Pillar: Featured Program of the Month

## Sisters of Life Luncheon for Mothers and their Children

By: Chris Naus, DD of District 77

### Details:

Show public support for the right to life. Knights of Columbus councils are encouraged to support the Sisters of Life in helping to serve women in distress pregnancies to choose life and to help them after they have done so.

### Action:

The Knights of Columbus encourages others to choose life through public support of the pro-life cause and to help those women who choose life. Even for those women who do not choose life, we support the Sisters of Life in welcoming those women and helping them seek forgiveness and receive the love and mercy of Christ.

### Links to Supreme Resources:

<https://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/faith-in-action-programs/life/march-for-life.html>

### Report Your Activity:

On Saturday, May 3, 2025, we had 3 Knights and 1 spouse (from St. Theresa's Council in Scarborough and St. Hedwig's Council in Barry's Bary) at St. Peter's Church in Toronto supporting the Sisters of Life in their annual Mothers' Day Luncheon for the mothers and children they serve. Donations were received from the following councils: St. Timothy's, North York (8782); St. Luke's, Thornhill (4393); Good Shepherd, Thornhill (8340); St. Theresa's, Scarborough (10435); Monsignor Ingoldsby, Toronto (9079); Ajax Council (6161); and St. Bernadette's, Ajax (10236).

5 of the 7 councils contributed \$500 triggering \$100 donation top-ups from Supreme under the Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) program. Along with a private donation from one of the Knights, the \$3,000 cost of the event was fully funded.

There were over 100 people in total including adult guests, children guests, Knights, volunteers, Sisters and the parish priest.



Knights and a spouse from St. Theresa's Council in Scarborough and a Knight from St. Hedwig's Council in Barry's Barry and other volunteers were present.





# Life Pillar: Featured Program of the Month

## Sisters of Life Luncheon for Mothers and their Children

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The Knights and the spouse helped to set up, serve the food, spend time meeting and talking to the guests and cleaned up afterwards. We had 3 Knights by the outside door happily greeting our guests and carrying their strollers down and up the stairs. We arrived at 11:00am and left by 3:00pm.

This was the 4th year in a row that Sandra's Italian Kitchen delivered the delicious food. Sandra left her busy shop for a few hours to meet the Sisters and the Knights in person for the first time. Sandra's love for the Sisters and their great work was expressed with her effervescent smile and numerous hugs.

The guests and volunteers enjoyed the singing and entertainment from the Sisters. As in previous years, the kids enjoyed the photo booth, crafts and balloons. One at a time, the children crowned Our Lady. Then, we all sang songs to Our Lady to close the event.



The Sisters on stage entertaining the mothers and children during the luncheon.



Sandra, pictured in the middle, is the enthusiastic provider of the delicious meal for 4 years running.

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



# Meet Some New Directors

## Meet Ontario State's Life Director: Alex Schadenberg

Alex Schadenberg is the Ontario State Life Director, a role in which he has served as for 8 years as well as one year as the Ontario Membership Director. Alex has been married to Susan for 35 years. They have 6 children and 7 grand children.

He is the past Grand Knight of Council 06495 West Elgin, the past District Deputy for District 51 and District 22, he is a past MIO and the current London East Diocesan Association Chair.

In his day job, Alex is the Executive Director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. In his role with the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Alex has provided speaking engagements in nearly every Canadian city, in 27 US states, in several European countries and in Australia and New Zealand.

Alex believes in the sanctity of human life and loves his Catholic faith.



## Meet Ontario State's Family Director: Denis Belanger

Denis married Anne in 1988 and they have 9 children, followed by 5 grandchildren so far. He joined the K of C in 2005 followed as council 14727 charter member and 2nd GK; He was then a DD, State Membership and Program Director positions before working 5 years for Supreme's Fraternal Missions Department as a Growth & Training Director. He's currently back on Ontario's State Team as Family Director.

In 2024, Denis also graduated from the Encounter Ministries 2 year training program and currently is part of the Ottawa Campus leadership team. He is a Lead Team Member of St. Mary's Evangelization Outreach Ministry. Family and Faith are his key motivators in serving the Knights and his parish community.



## Meet Ontario State's Executive Secretary: Todd Cowan

Born and raised on the family farm in Tilbury East, Kent County, Todd grew up with strong roots in community, hard work, and service. After completing his studies at the University of Guelph, he began his career in the agricultural industry, where he developed a deep appreciation for the land, the people who work it, and the vital role agriculture plays in our society.

His career path eventually led to Queen's Park and into the world of politics and public service. For nearly 20 years, he worked in both provincial and local government, gaining valuable insight into the inner workings of policy, governance, and the importance of strong community leadership.

In 2016, he followed a long-standing dream and founded a weekly newspaper in the Waterloo Region, where he operated for just over seven years. The paper served as a voice for the community, shining a spotlight on local issues, people and events. Sadly, like many small businesses, he had to close due to the challenges brought on by COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing government sanctioned lockdowns.

For the past 16 years, he has been a proud and enthusiastic member of the Knights of Columbus. Through his Council and Assembly, he has held numerous leadership roles including Grand Knight and Faithful Navigator, and he joined the Poulin Administration where he has served as a District Deputy for the past two consecutive years. He lives in Tavistock with his beautiful wife Jill. Whether through public service, community work, or faith, Todd remains committed to making a difference and will be a boon for our State Office in Hamilton and the Order in the jurisdiction of Ontario.



Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



# By The Numbers - 2024 - 2025 Year in Review - IPSD Bruce Poulin

For the past two years, under the banner of our 125th Jubilee Anniversary, we witnessed our Faith in Action programs reignite across Ontario—from the production of a commemorative miniature jewel to the hosting of our State Convention in Ottawa. We chose to celebrate this historic milestone not because it was easy, but because our legacy demanded it. In doing so, we successfully mobilized our membership in the wake of the COVID-19 lockdowns, when so many other institutions were faltering.

Looking back, I believe this strategic decision to focus on legacy and renewal was the most consequential of my tenure as State Deputy. It reignited a sense of purpose among our members, empowered bold new initiatives, and positioned us to leave a lasting impact for the next 125 years—all within the guiding framework of our Québec + 1 Strategic Action Plan. This past fraternal year, in particular, surpassed all expectations and merits a detailed review of our milestones.

Our resurgence was not fueled by tradition alone, nor confined to the familiar; it was driven by action, relevance and a renewed commitment to service. Today, the Knights of Columbus in Ontario stands once again as a beacon of Catholic leadership, vibrant community engagement, and unwavering dedication. As I approach the close of my second term, I invite you to reflect with pride and gratitude on the remarkable progress and achievements we've shared over the past year.

## MEMBERSHIP

### Annual Membership Total

Highest Membership in Ontario		
Rating	Fraternal Year	Total
1	2006-2007	57,136
2	2007-2008	57,104
3	2005-2006	56,942
4	2008-2009	56,924
5	2009-2010	56,765
6	2004-2005	56,721
7	2024-2025	56,579
8	2010-2011	56,530
9	2011-2012	56,198
10	2003-2004	56,006



This past fraternal year, we recorded a total of 56,579 members. This is the highest membership total in 15 years, when Yvon A. Robert served as State Deputy. It ranks as the 7th highest in our 125-year history of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario.





# By The Numbers - 2024 - 2025 Year in Review - IPSD Bruce Poulin

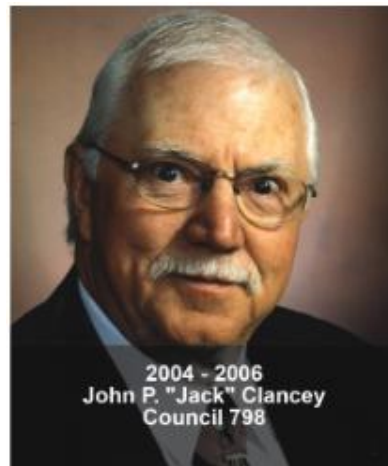
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## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP INTAKE TOTAL

Annual Intake	
Fraternal Year	Total
2024-2025	2,382
2023-2024	2,184
2022-2023	1,871
2021-2022	1,348
2020-2021	1,875
2019-2020	1,731
2018-2019	1,962
2017-2018	1,601
2016-2017	2,073
2015-2016	1,808
2014-2015	2,024
2013-2014	1,833
2012-2013	1,674
2011-2012	1,826
2010-2011	1,925
2009-2010	2,085
2008-2009	2,141
2007-2008	2,216
2006-2007	2,272
2005-2006	2,197
2004-2005	2,509



Notably, Past State Deputy Natale "Nat" Gallo and his administration hold both the highest and second highest membership totals in our jurisdiction's history



Our annual intake reached 2,382—the highest in 20 years. There were only three days this past year that we recorded zero new members. One must go back to the term of John P. "Jack" Clancey, PSD, to find a higher yearly intake by a State Deputy.

This intake represents 41% of the entire intake in Canada for 2024-2025, despite Ontario comprising only 27% of Canadian membership. From another perspective, Ontario's intake surpassed the combined totals of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Many will recall that we reached our membership quota on June 19, 2024, in the previous fraternal year. This year, we achieved it on May 26 – a full month before year-end and two weeks earlier than last year.



Our annual intake this year represents 111.31% of our annual membership quota which placed us 24 out of 75 states in the Order. This is also the second highest intake in the past 25 years – only exceeded during the 2020-2021 fraternal year, when David Peters, PSD, and his team achieved 114.61% and earned the prestigious Pinnacle Award (which required 110% of quota or more that year).

That year, Supreme Council reduced membership quotas by 40% and insurance quotas by 50% in recognition of the extraordinary challenges caused by the COVID-19 lockdowns.



# By The Numbers - 2024 - 2025 Year in Review - IPSD Bruce Poulin

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## ONLINE MEMBERSHIP CONVERSIONS

### Annual New Councils

Since online membership registrations became available to Catholic men, on January 16, 2018, we have focused much attention on this more user-friendly option. The ongoing challenge has been converting online members to active members of local Councils. Conversions doubled to 55% in the 2023-2024 fraternal year and rose again to 58% in 2024-2025 – the highest conversion rate since the program began in Ontario.

New Councils	
Fraternal Year	Total
2024-2025	5
2023-2024	4
2022-2023	3
2021-2022	3
2020-2021	5
2019-2020	9
2018-2019	7
2017-2018	5
2016-2017	12
2015-2016	3



The health of a successful membership effort can often be seen in the number of new Councils established each fraternal year. While criteria for establishing subordinate Councils may have evolved over the past decade, their creation and potential for growth remain valuable indicators. Over the last 10 years, this benchmark has been led by the administration under Alain Cayer, PSD.



Ontario State Council  
Knights of Columbus

\$100 for <b>300</b> Tickets	\$50 for <b>125</b> Tickets	\$20 for <b>40</b> Tickets	\$10 for <b>10</b> Tickets
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**Grand Prize Draw**  
December 30, 2025

**Early Bird Draw**  
October 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.  
500 Cash Prize

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**50/50**  
**RAFFLE**

License #: RAF1441633



# By The Numbers - 2024 - 2025 Year in Review - IPSD Bruce Poulin

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## STAR COUNCIL

### Annual Star Councils

Previous attempts to share accountability for the Star Council Award were largely unsuccessful. As a result, we established a dedicated Star Council Director role with the explicit purpose of helping councils achieve this distinction. We are pleased to report that the number of Councils achieving the Star Council Award has reached record highs in the past decade.

Star Council Award	
Fraternal Year	Total
2024-2025	65
2023-2024	46
2022-2023	30
2021-2022	14
2020-2021	9
2019-2020	42
2018-2019	tbd
2017-2018	32
2016-2017	61
2015-2016	44



Membership is a critical component in assessing the health of a jurisdiction. Another key component is the number of Star Councils each year

### Star Council & Fraternal Benefit Events (FBEs)

As previously stated, membership is critical to the success of the Order in Ontario—and equally vital to the prosperity of local Councils. However, once a Council achieves its membership quota, several additional criteria must be met to qualify for Star Council. These include Safe Environment training for certain officers and the hosting of Fraternal Benefit Events (FBEs). With the focused leadership of a dedicated Star Council Director and a renewed mandate to prioritize FBEs, we saw remarkable growth in both the number and scope of these events—and a corresponding increase in the number of Star Councils.

Fraternal Benefit Events	
Total FBEs as of June 2024	Total FBEs as of June 2025
168	598





# By The Numbers - 2024 - 2025 Year in Review - IPSD Bruce Poulin

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## Faith in Action programs

Another criterion for achieving Star Council is fulfillment of the Faith in Action Programs. Specifically, the four pillars: Life, Faith, Family and Community. While it is beyond the scope of this report to review all programs for all pillars, there are some unique events that have characterised this past year. They include such events as the restoration of past state Deputy tombstones in Ottawa (Aug 2024); the restoration and rededication of the Caraghougha Cross in Midland (Sept 2024) and the Pray for Peace Monument in Windsor (Sept 2024); as well as the International Knight banquet dinner in Windsor (Sept 2024); followed by the 125th anniversary Banquet Dinner in Ottawa (Jan 2025); the construction, unveiling and dedication of a Veterans' cenotaph in Ottawa (Apr 2025); and the first documented historical account of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario, to name a few. There are also other regular programs which have shown remarkable gains and should be highlighted here.

## Community Pillar - Coats for Kids/Vancouver

Coats for Kids/Veterans Program		
Fraternal Year	Goal	Total Donated
2024-2025	12,000	18,696
2023-2024	10,000	11,004
2022-2023	10,000	8,784
2021-2022	10,000	7,260
2020-2021	10,000	8,292
2019-2020	10,000	7,956
2018-2019	7,000	6,859
2017-2018	3,000	5,256
2016-2017	1,000	2,676



Beginning in 2008, the Knights in Ontario have raised funds to provide winter coats to children in need. Since then, tens of thousands of dollars have been raised and approximately 100,000 coats have been donated to the children throughout the province. Although this started as a local Council initiative, beginning in 2016 the State Council became involved, with record keeping initiated.

In the 2023-2024 fraternal year, the program was expanded, at the behest of this Administration, to include Coats for Veterans. The Supreme Council adopted this initiative throughout the Order for the 2024-2025 fraternal year.

## Community Pillar - Canadian Wheelchair Foundation

Canadian Wheelchair Foundation	
Calendar Year	Ontario Donations
2025	\$47,908.00
2024	\$60,581.75
2023	\$55,376.00
2022	\$88,316.00
2021	\$48,028.72
2020	\$32,395.00
2019	\$64,346.00
2018	\$44,856.75
2017	\$30,015.00
2016	\$27,745.00
2015	\$15,023.10
2014	\$22,703.30
2013	\$23,725.00
2012	\$22,524.50
2011	\$12,373.50
2010	\$13,049.00
2009	\$24,791.00
2008	\$20,940.00
2007	\$16,151.10
2006	\$330.00



This fraternal year Knights from Ontario raised \$65,683 and purchased 337 wheelchairs that were donated in Ontario, Puerto Rico, and Panama. We placed second in overall donations, only trailing the jurisdiction of Alberta whose members raised \$70,458.00. Past State Deputy Marcel Lemmen's administration amassed the largest annual donation in our history following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 which resulted in a plea to help Ukraine by sending wheelchairs to that war-torn country.



# By The Numbers - 2024 - 2025 Year in Review - IPSD Bruce Poulin

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Since first partnering with the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation in 2006, Knights from Ontario have contributed over \$671,000, resulting in the donation of approximately 3,773 wheelchairs to those in need.

## Life Pillar - Ultrasound Machines

Ultrasound Machines	
Fraternal Year	Donated
2024-2025	2
2023-2024	1
2022-2023	0
2021-2022	0
2020-2021	0
2019-2020	0
2018-2019	1



Our Knights donated their first ultrasound machine in June 2019, when Dan Heffernan was state deputy. Since then, we doubled the number of ultrasound machines donated in Ontario during the 2023-2024 fraternal year and then doubled the number again in 2024-2025.

## 2025 Annual State Convention

To mark the 125th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario (e.g. January 28, 1900), the 2025 Annual State Convention was hosted in Ottawa – its birthplace – for the first time since 1974. A new record, unmatched in several decades, was set when 687 delegates, observers, guests, and their families attended the State Banquet Dinner. The State Convention also generated a \$30,000 surplus. At the same time, more than \$31,000 was raised for our Life pillar during the State Banquet Dinner on Saturday, and an additional \$5,000 was raised at the "Flying Fathers vs. Knights of Columbus" charity hockey game on Sunday.

Reflecting on my past ten years on the Ontario State Board, my heart swells with gratitude for the incredible journey we've shared. When I arrived in 2015, you welcomed me with open arms. Your warmth, your kindness and unwavering support have been a source of strength and inspiration. We have laughed, cried, and prayed together. We have built lasting friendships and cherished memories. As I submit my last "Year in Review" please know that you will always hold a special place in my heart.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve and being acclaimed with the honorary title of "Mr. Knights of Columbus," by the voting delegates at our annual State Convention. May God bless you all.

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



# Immediate Past State Deputy joins the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation Team

By: Shane James, Ontario State Wheelchair Chairman



Executive Director of the CWF, Christinia Flessner (on left); and our IPSPD and new Senior Representative for Eastern Canada, Bruce Poulin (on the right).

Captain Bruce S. Poulin (ret'd) began his professional career as a military officer in 1979 and then, in his late thirties, switched to the not-for-profit sector, receiving several decorations from federal and provincial governments for his community work along the way. Today, decades later, still driven by the same commitment to "service", he has joined the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation as Senior Representative for Eastern Canada. In this capacity he will be supporting Christiana Flessner, Executive Director of the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation.

His primary duties since August 2025 will be to generate funding towards distribution of wheelchairs both within Canada and abroad at a time of perceived donor fatigue. Lady Zoey will lend her support with the international component of wheelchair deliveries.

Members and Councils interested in presentations about the program, please, contact Bruce Poulin at [bpoulin62@gmail.com](mailto:bpoulin62@gmail.com), and those in donating to the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation are invited to click here [canadianwheelchairsociety.com](http://canadianwheelchairsociety.com)



Brother Fransico Naar, Chairman of the K of C Wheelchair Program at the time, the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation Executive Director Christinia Flessner, former Ontario State 'First Lady' Zoey and Bruce Poulin who has been named the new Senior Representative for Eastern Canada for the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation.

As stated by Bruce..." *The gift of mobility changes lives, and I am excited to help advance that mission in meaningful ways.*" Mobility projects for this fiscal year are focused on Canada, Mexico City, Ukraine, the Dominican Republic and the Philippines.

## About Canadian Wheelchair Foundation

Founded as a registered charity in 2002, the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation provides free, brand-new wheelchairs and other mobility devices to people in need worldwide at an average cost of CAD \$195 per wheelchair.

The Foundation remains committed to:

- raising awareness of the needs and abilities of people with disabilities,
- delivering mobility into the lives of those who have no means to acquire a wheelchair, and
- transforming lives through mobility, and with it giving Freedom, Dignity and Hope.

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!





# Ontario State Global Wheelchair Mission

By: Shane James, Ontario State Wheelchair Chairman

Since 2006 the Order in Ontario has been a vital part of the Global Wheelchair Mission Program. The mobility each wheelchair provides gives independence, freedom and hope for a better life to their user, as well as their caretakers.

Every year a small delegation from the Ontario State Knights of Columbus accompanies a shipment of wheelchairs to their destination to personally help with their distribution. In the last two Fraternal Years, wheelchairs have been delivered to citizens of all ages in Panama (218 wheelchairs) and Puerto Rico (110 wheelchairs).



This Fraternal Year, Ontario State is planning to distribute wheelchairs in Mexico. At the beginning of this Fraternal Year, Ontario State were less than 90 wheelchairs away from ordering another shipping container for distribution in Mexico. Several Councils have already sent in their donations to purchase wheelchairs. Our Worthy State Deputy, David Gelinas, has asked Councils that have some charity funds available to please support the Wheelchair Program, especially early in the Fraternal Year.

Please consider donating enough for a few wheelchairs. If 30 Councils donated enough for 3 wheelchairs during August, Ontario will achieve our goal by Labour Day! Councils can donate directly with the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation at <https://cdnwheelchair.ca> (select "Knights of Columbus" in the Campaign box) or at Ontario Charity Foundation at <https://ontariokofc.ca/donation-globalwheelchairmission> (indicate "wheelchairs" in the comment box).

Message from Shane James  
Ontario State Wheelchair Chairman  
[shanejames1969@gmail.com](mailto:shanejames1969@gmail.com)

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



## "Our Jane Doe"

By: Sk Frederick Hawkins of Council 1507 (formerly of Council 14201)

**On August 28, 2005**, a women's body was found wrapped in a sleeping bag in a roadside pull off on Hwy #7, just west of Rockwood, Ontario, Canada.

**In the year 2008**, the Rockwood Knights of Columbus, Council 14201, was approached by a fellow member Ralph Harper, who brought forward the thought of his council doing something for this unidentified woman. A motion was passed by all the members, permitting their Grand Knight, Fred Hawkins, to proceed with getting approval from the County of Wellington, Ontario Provincial Police, and the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario, to place a memorial stone in the location to honour her. Farnworth Superior Memorials in Guelph, Ontario, teamed up with the Rockwood Knights of Columbus in the funding of this project.



**Jane Doe's Memorial Stone in Place**  
The Rockwood Knights, "Holy Name of Mary" Council 14201 hold their banner with pride as they honour this unknown woman on **July 19, 2008**.

Sean Kenny, Barry Govia, Tim Kenny, Italo Ciaschi, Robert Koechl, John Galda, Reverend Pablito, Labado, Ralph Harper, Grand Knight Fred Hawkins, Mark Koechl, Ryan Kenny, Michael DaMaren, Giuseppe Ceccato.

Reverend Pablito Labado of Sacred Heart Parish in Rockwood and Reverend Gordon Strongitharm blessed the new memorial stone. Attending were Knights of Columbus members, their wives, fellow church members, Ontario Provincial Police Detective Constable Paul Johnson, and Marilyn Kroes, the Design Artist for Farnworth Superior Memorials.

**August 23, 2015**, marking the ten-year anniversary, a second blessing was given to the unknown woman by Reverend Mark Morley of the Rockwood Sacred Heart Parish, along with the Knights, their wives, family and friends, Ontario Provincial Police, and Criminal Investigation Branch member Heidi Stewart.

**From the year 2019**, an Acton man named Keith Porty, stepped in to help maintain the area around this unidentified woman's stone. Keith installed a bench for people to sit in prayer for her soul and identity.







# "Our Jane Doe"

Con't

**On August 28, 2024**, nearly nineteen years later, our prayers were answered when the Ontario Provincial Police, Criminal Investigation Branch, Detective Inspector Randy Gaynor reported our Jane Doe's identity to be, Tammy Eileen Penner, age 41, from Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada.

**October 24, 2024**, Steve Lemieux and Marilyn Kroes, of Farnworth Superior Memorials were contacted by Fred Hawkins to update Tammy's memorial stone.

Past Grand Knight Fred Hawkins, Farnworth Superior Memorials, and the list below paid for the updated inscriptions.

Rockwood, Ontario Knights of Columbus "Holy Name of Mary", Council 14201

Maryhill, Ontario Knights of Columbus "Monsignor Stephen Foerster", Council 6024

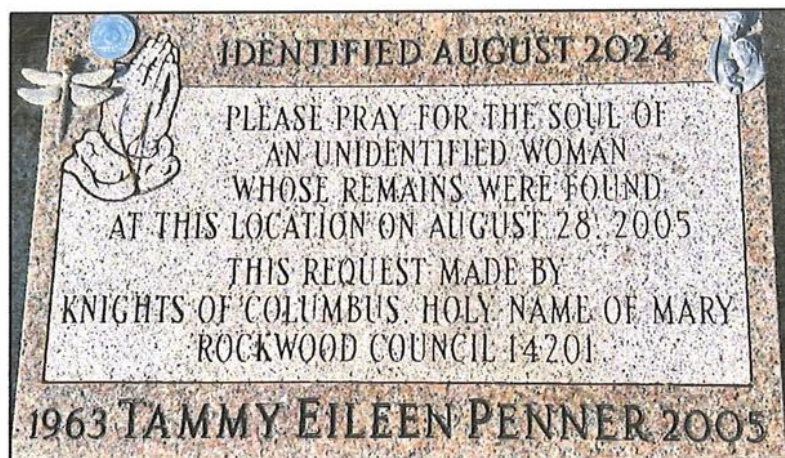
Guelph, Ontario Knights of Columbus "Monsignor Walter Hawkins", Council 10631

Guelph, Ontario Knights of Columbus "William J. Sheady", Council 1507

Elora - Fergus Ontario Knights of Columbus "St. Mary & St. Joseph" Council 15333

Guelph, Ontario Knights of Columbus "Bishop MacDonnell", Assembly 2510 - 4<sup>th</sup> Degree

There was an over flow of funds that had been collected to pay for the project; therefore, all agreed to donate the remaining funds to the "Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis" in memory of Tammy Eileen Penner.



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**On December 5, 2024**, Rockwood, Sir Knight Fred and Lady Lorna Hawkins, Sir Knight Peter and Lady Margriet Barrett, and Sir Knight Andrew Vince, met with Jennifer Duggan, the Guelph Fundraising Coordinator for "Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis", and Jacinta Cassidy Manager of the "Fergus Rural Women's Support Program". The two ladies were honoured to receive our donations in Tammy Eileen Penner's name to help other women in need.

**We wish to thank all who held Tammy Eileen Penner in their hearts.**

**"Rest in Peace Tammy"**

**We hold you!**

**Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!**





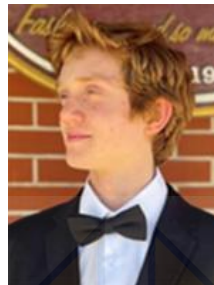
# BURSARY WINNERS FOR 2025

By: Joe Bodnar, Ontario State Treasurer

Brother Knights and family,

As the State Bursary Chairman, I would like to thank our State Treasurer, Henry Miller and State Advocate, Earle DePasse for assisting me in choosing our 2025 State Bursary winners.

After reviewing 24 applications as well as the high school marks, personal biographies, reference letters from parish priests and guidance counselors for each applicant we met as a committee to discuss our personal choices and then we made a group decision on who the 5 winners would be for one of our (5) \$1,000 State Bursaries. These are awarded to students who are either active Squires or whose father, grandfather or uncle is an active Knight. They also must be entering their first year of full-time studies at an accredited Ontario university or college to be eligible for consideration.



Alyssa Gill

Dimarco Castellani

Anthony D'Allessandro

Claire Bui

Joel Menezes

Council #1428  
Orillia  
Orillia, ON

Council # 7969  
Fr. G.M. Warren  
Stoney Creek, ON

Council #4189  
Our Lady of Sorrows  
Aylmer, ON

Council #14662  
St. Philip Neri  
North York, ON

Council #8340  
The Good Shepherd  
Thornhill, ON

Georgian College  
Midland Campus  
Midland, ON

Brock University  
St. Catharines, ON

Our Lady Seat of  
Wisdom College  
Barry's Bay, ON

York University (Keele  
Campus)  
Toronto, ON

University of Toronto  
(Mississauga Campus)  
Mississauga, ON

The Knights of Columbus in Ontario recognizes the importance of Post-Secondary School education so the Ontario State Chaplains Bursary program was established to award to 5 successful applicants each year a Bursary of \$1,000.00 each. This program is available for YOUTH and ADULTS. It provides a bursary to assist Knights and members of their families entering the first year of post-secondary education into a full-time program at a University or College in Ontario.

Candidates who are eligible for an Ontario Knights of Columbus Bursary are:

1. A member of the Knights of Columbus of Ontario in good standing.
2. The wife, son or daughter of a member in good standing.
3. The wife, son or daughter of a deceased member in good standing at the time of his death.
4. A grandchild of a member in good standing.
5. A member of the Squires in good standing.

Applications must be submitted by June 1st of the current year. Schools and individuals may reproduce the application form or download it through our [website](#). Although the applicant's marks are important and taken into consideration, it is important to note that in many cases where an applicant is successful, it is based on their need. The bursary recipients will be announced by the end of June of the current year. Application form – [English](#) / [Français](#)

One of the more prominent comments we receive each year is that members were not aware that the bursaries were available. Through this website we hope to publicize more widely that the Knights of Columbus are interested in assisting those entering Post-Secondary Education.

Please assist us with the dissemination of this information so that as many people as possible can take advantage of this opportunity.

NOTE: There are many more scholarships and bursaries available through Supreme Knights of Columbus as well. You can check these out at <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/members/programs/scholarships/index.html>.

For more info, email State Treasurer Joseph Bodnar at [statetreasurer@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:statetreasurer@ontariokofc.ca) or [stateoffice@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:stateoffice@ontariokofc.ca)



# Ontario Coats For Kids Program

By: Mario Duguay, Coats for Kids Chairman

The 2025 Ontario Children's Coat Program is underway, and coats will be arriving in our Ontario warehouse soon, waiting for your order. We did it! Last year, we distributed over 18,000 new winter coats to children, and our goal for 2025-2026 is 20,000 coats. We can do it! With your help, 20,000 new coats are within reach! This year, the need will be great! With rising costs due to inflation, many more families are struggling to choose between food, shelter, and clothing, and we anticipate a much higher demand for our coats this year. Let's help these families in need. Remember, every box you buy keeps 12 children warm.



We ask you to be generous and help us meet this increased demand. As many families continue to struggle during these difficult economic times, there has never been a better time for Knights of Columbus councils to help by providing warm winter coats to children in their communities through the Coats for Kids program.

For 2025-2026 campaign we are promoting the State Council BOGO incentive program from Supreme. Supreme will match the number of coats purchased by the state council as part of the coat distributions that take place. To qualify the Council or District must purchase its coats through the State Council and complete the BOGO Proposal Form. Once approved by the State Office the form will be sent to Supreme. We only have a limited number of submissions so State Office will select the biggest orders to receive the greatest number of free coats as possible. All the coats ordered on a form can only be delivered to one physical address. Supreme does not permit more than one location. A copy of the form is on our website under the coats for kids' program or can be requested through the State Office. BOGO proposal due date is September 15. Proposals can be approved sooner, but due to the increased costs of this program, there will be limits on the number of coats that Supreme will match for each jurisdiction. Please anticipate that your request may be denied or you may receive fewer free coats as part of this incentive this year.

State Office and Supreme's Fraternal Operations Department must approve all Black Friday or Boxing Day BOGO proposals submitted by councils before state councils can place order.

The purpose of the BOGO incentive is to donate coats AND to invite men to join the Order during membership drives. All proposals must describe how the jurisdiction's Black Friday or Boxing Day distribution will achieve those goals.



# Ontario Coats For Kids Program

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## Details:

1. The Coats for Kids program is one of the pillars of the community. To earn the Colombian Award, councils are required to purchase 4 cases.
2. Coats can be delivered now.
3. Each box is a standard prepackaged box, either a box for boys or a box for girls. Each box contains 12 coats in a variety of styles and sizes in the following size ranges: Toddlers, Youth, Teen, or Adult
  - Children - Sizes 4-6x for toddlers up to second grade.
  - Junior - Sizes 7-16 for children from second grade to seventh grade.
  - Teen - Sizes S-XL
  - Adult - Sizes S-XXXL



NOTE: that each box will only contain coats for girls or boys in the selected size range.

1. Cost: \$395/box of 12 coats (includes taxes and Shipping charges)
  - Council purchases can be made online: <https://ontariokofc.ca/community-pillar-coats-for-kids/>
  - If paying by check, please order online and print a copy of the form to include with your check. Make checks payable to: Knights of Columbus Ontario Charities Foundation (Include Coats for Kids in memo and your council number) and mail to: Ontario State Office – Coats for kids 393 Rymal Rd. West, Suite 201 Hamilton, ON L9B 1V2
  - Credit card payments are accepted.
  - Electronic transfers can be made to: [payments@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:payments@ontariokofc.ca) (Indicate Coats for Kids and your council number in the notes section).
1. Individual donations can also be made. A charitable tax receipt will be issued. (min. \$20)
  - Coat boxes can be ordered online: <https://ontariokofc.ca/community-pillar-coats-for-kids/coat-for-kids-orders-form/>
  - Individual donations of any amount can be sent to the following address: <https://ontariokofc.ca/coat-for-kids/coats-for-kids/>

## Timeline:

The best time to buy your coats is NOW, so that the coats are ready and available for the children before the weather starts to get cold.

If you have any questions, please email [marioduguay.kofc@gmail.com](mailto:marioduguay.kofc@gmail.com) or contact your general agent.

For more information on coats, order forms, and other details, please visit: <https://ontariokofc.ca/community-pillar-coats-for-kids/>

## Report your activity:

Immediately after each session of your program, complete the Fraternal Programs Form (No. 10784).

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!





# ONTARIO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 50/50 RAFFLE

By: Henry Miller, State Treasurer

Brothers, are you looking for ways to engage your councils, parishes and communities, raise council funds for charity, and have some fun along the way? Your answer, I think, would be a resounding yes! Our Ontario Knights of Columbus 50/50 Raffle can help you with all of this and more.

For example, the 50/50 Raffle will help you recruit members by showing prospective Knights what councils actually do to help put faith into action. Once they see the level of engagement with parish and community that 50/50 Raffle participation brings and how, individually, they can make a positive difference by helping promote our councils' participation they definitely will want to become members. Indeed, our beloved dearly departed Past State Deputy Paul Crawford first became involved with the Knights selling Ontario State lottery tickets.



Councils also can use participation in the 50/50 Raffle as a powerful element of developing and implementing successful Faith in Action programs, effectively tailored to local needs. This, in turn, will help them achieve Columbian and Star Council awards.

Ontario has a long and successful history of running a State lottery in various forms, beginning, in 1920, with the initiation of the Knights of Columbus "Tombola" in Ottawa by Bayswater Council No. 1812. Now, with all the advantages of modern technology, our 50/50 Raffle is digital, using Rafflebox as our service provider. It's Canadian, easy to use, user-friendly and extremely cost effective, with fees of only 5% of ticket price.

Tickets easily can be purchased on-line at [ontariokofc.ca](http://ontariokofc.ca). There are four ways to pay for purchases: debit, credit card, Google and Apple Pay. The more tickets you buy the lower the price of each ticket. Importantly, councils customarily receive a commission of 25% on their tickets sold, which is a source of revenue for funding councils' charitable programs.

To assist councils with raffle ticket sales, for example, in conjunction with council events, Point of Sale (POS) handheld devices are available for rent or purchase (\$35 per month rental plus \$125 activation fee). Ontario State Office is also strongly committed to supporting councils with their ticket sales by offering councils free use of a POS machine for two-week periods. State Office is happy to assist and provide further details.

Currently, some 293 councils out of some 460 active councils participate in the 50/50 Raffle (63%). Together, we can increase participation, benefiting both individual councils and Ontario State. It's also very important to keep in mind that increasing participation means increasing both the number of councils participating and the number of tickets that each participating council sells.

The current 50/50 Raffle has a start date of September 5, 2025, with a \$500 Early Bird draw on October 14, 2025, and the Grand Prize Draw on December 30, 2025. Will you be part of it?

Let's work together to make our 50/50 Raffle ever more successful.

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



# BASKETBALL FREE THROW

By: Anthony Viresi, Youth Sports Chairman

The Basketball Free Throw is a very established program within the Knights of Columbus with councils participating in it since 1972. The 2024-2025 fraternal year was a very special one for the State of Ontario; not only were we celebrating our 125th year we were also celebrating our 50th year participating in this wonderful program for the kids in our communities.

Throughout the order councils have sponsored the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship for boys and girls from the ages of 9 to 14 to provide an athletic outlet and encourage the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. For the last 8 years Ontario has been including 15 to 17 year olds up to the State level of competition.

The Free Throw program allows kids to compete within their own gender and age categories and progress from local level to district and regional competitions. The scores of Regional winners are submitted for both Provincial and International levels of competition. This program is a great way to introduce the Order to your community and recruit faithful family men of service.





# BASKETBALL FREE THROW

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Sponsoring a council free throw is not difficult at all and it is recommended that you approach your local schools in September to become involved in the program. All the information you need can be found on either the Supreme website under Community Programs within the Free Throw Championship Playbook (#1928). The playbook is also found in each free throw kit you order. You can also get more detailed information about the program through the Ontario State website on the free throw page. There you can find the Ontario State Free Throw Package for 2026 and other materials you may need to help run your free throw event. The Free Throw Championship Playbook and the Ontario State Free Throw Package will provide you with rules, regulations, tips and information on the competition. The posters and sample press releases can be used to promote the event in schools, churches, community centers, libraries and Columbian Squires' circles.

The timeline for the Free Throw program will have councils complete their free throw competition by January 31st; District competition by February 22nd and Regional competitions by March 22nd 2026.



If you have questions regarding the Free Throw program, please don't hesitate to contact our State Youth Sports Chairman Bro. Anthony Viresi at 416-241-1522, [viresi\\_kofc@yahoo.com](mailto:viresi_kofc@yahoo.com) or the State Community Director Rory Facca.

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!





# CHRIST THE KING CHAPEL AT HOLY FAMILY RETREAT HOUSE

By: Sir Knight, Deacon David Ducharme, PGK, Director, Holy Family Retreat House

Dear Brother Knights and Friends,

I'm excited to share with you an important initiative that directly aligns with our State Deputy's chosen theme: "Jesus the King of kings." This powerful theme calls us to recognize and honour Christ's divine kingship in our lives, our communities, and our mission as Knights of Columbus. Christ reigns not only over creation but also in our hearts and in the work we do together as men of faith.

In keeping with this theme, our State Deputy has chosen the Christ the King Chapel at Holy Family Retreat House as the special project for his term. This sacred space, nestled within the retreat house grounds, has welcomed a multitude of retreatants over the decades. We are now preparing to renovate and upgrade the chapel to better reflect the glory of Christ our King and to serve the spiritual needs of all who come seeking renewal, reflection, and deeper communion with Him.

Holy Family Retreat House was founded 76 years ago by the Diocese of London in partnership with laypeople who recognized the need for a place where individuals could come for prayer, reflection, and rejuvenation. In today's busy world, we all need moments to pull away from daily worries, reconnect with God, and to experience His love in a new and transformative way.

Located on the shores of Lake Erie in the community of Oxley, Holy Family Retreat House offers accommodations for up to 57 in single occupancy or 100 in double, a full service dining room with meal plan, conference facilities, lounges, beautiful grounds, and of course our Christ the King Chapel. Many laypeople and clergy attend retreats each year including silent retreats with spiritual direction, group retreats for Catholic elementary and secondary students, parishes, youth and young adults, seminarians, religious, and many others. We have enjoyed hosting the Columbian Squires Ontario Provincial Board multiple times in the last few years for their regional meeting, retreat, work project and fraternity with local circles, as well as other local Council and Fraternal Benefit Agency Events.





# CHRIST THE KING CHAPEL AT HOLY FAMILY RETREAT HOUSE

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The Christ the King Chapel Project is still in the beginning planning and design stages, however items already identified for renovation or upgrade include: window repair, new flooring, upgraded LED lighting, painting, a new sound and microphone system, bell tower refurbishment, piano repairs, and the installation of a Blessed Michael McGivney stained glass memorial window.

There are several ways your Council can participate in this great initiative that will serve countless individuals in the years to come. If you or your members have skills in architecture, design, construction, landscaping, or other trades, we would love to hear from you. Your time and talents are a gift to the ministry at the retreat house and to all who will benefit from the renewed chapel. Your financial support is also greatly appreciated. Donations can be made to the Ontario State Foundation or directly to Holy Family Retreat House. As a registered charity, we can issue personal charitable tax receipts and receive funds from your Council's charity or bingo accounts. All contributing Councils and individuals will be recognized on a commemorative plaque in the chapel alongside the Ontario State Board.

This project is more than a renovation. It is a renewal of a sacred space where Christ the King is honoured and where lives are transformed. I invite you to join us in this mission: to build not just with materials, but with faith, fraternity, and love. Thank you for your continued support and prayers. May Christ the King reign in all we do!



Yours in His Service,

Sir Knight, Deacon David Ducharme, PGK | Director, Holy Family Retreat House  
Permanent Deacon, Diocese of London, Central Essex County Catholic Family of Parishes  
Spiritual Ar, Knights of Columbus, Holy Name Council # 3305  
Office: 519-738-6136 | Email: [dducharme@dol.ca](mailto:dducharme@dol.ca) | Website: [www.hfrh.ca](http://www.hfrh.ca)

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!





# SACRED HEART PILGRIM ICON REPORT

## REPORTING PERIOD: JULY 2025

By: Joseph Remedios, FDD, PGK, PFN, Ontario State Faith Director

The Pilgrim Icon Program continues to inspire devotion and strengthen the faith of our members and parish communities. During this reporting period, the Sacred Heart Icon travelled to several parishes within our jurisdiction, drawing many faithful to prayer and reflection.

### Attendance & Participation

Overall, the program was well-attended. Many Brother Knights and their families, together with parish communities, participated in prayer services, Masses, and devotions, demonstrating strong engagement and devotion throughout the program.



### Reflections & Spiritual Impact

- Parishioners expressed deep appreciation for the opportunity to venerate the Icon.
- Clergy emphasized the importance of this devotion in renewing faith and deepening prayer life.
- Many faithful shared personal reflections of peace, encouragement, and a renewed call to prayer.
- Knights reported a sense of unity and fraternity in hosting the Icon across multiple communities.

### Reception & Community Response

The Icon was warmly received in every parish it visited. The devotion fostered a strong sense of reverence and was especially moving for families and youth. Several parishes requested that the Icon return in the future, indicating its positive and lasting spiritual impact.



### Conclusion

The Pilgrim Icon Program has been a source of grace and inspiration for our communities. We thank all clergy, Brother Knights, and parishioners who supported and participated in this spiritual journey. May this devotion continue to deepen our faith and strengthen our unity as Knights of Columbus.

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!





# COUNCIL 15999 FAMILY HIKE ST. HELEN CHURCH CHAIR LIFT PROJECT

By: Ray Francoeur, Grand Knight 15999



A Family Hike was held on June 08th at Kinsmen Park which began at 12:30pm. Parishioners and family were all invited and with a barbecue to follow. The turnout was great and everyone there had a wonderful time talking to one another, enjoying the comradery with new parishioners and being entertained by a member of the congregation playing his old squeeze box. Mother Nature was kind as the weather was ideal. Many had gone for a one hour walk along the Bruce Trail, the views were spectacular.

## Council 15999 2nd Annual Family & Barbecue Hike

Last year, you had asked if we were going to have another advertised Church event. Notices went out to the Church parish, family and friends. We offered a guided tour of the Bruce Trail followed by a delicious barbecue afterwards. This was also a goodwill fundraiser for St Helen Church Chair Lift project, to assist the disabled and very elderly parishioners at St Helen to attend Mass and Church events. The hike and barbecue was very successful and they all said that we should do this again in the fall weather permitting. I have attached below photos and article of the event from our July newsletter. Hope you find this worth the print in your publication of the Columbian.



Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



## A MESSAGE FROM SONNY SANGEMINO CANADIAN AGENCY EXECUTIVE CONSULTANT & GENERAL AGENT

Greetings and best wishes on behalf of your Ontario General and Field Agents. Many members wonder why it is important to meet with their KofC Field Agent regularly. We recommend that you meet periodically to review your coverage with the Order as well as to offer an objective second opinion to other plans or insurance you may have in place. Part of this review includes reviewing your beneficiary designations regularly.

Many erroneously believe that beneficiary designations are a “set it and forget it” process... nothing can be further from the truth. A member’s life and personal situation may have changed drastically since they originally applied for their policy. Life Insurance and Annuities allow you to appoint beneficiaries which indicates where the proceeds should go in the event of the death of the insured individual. Beneficiary designations on Life Insurance and annuities, bypass an individual’s estate. By doing this, these proceeds are not subject to probate fees or the delays that undergoing probate can entail. It can be argued that proper beneficiary designations are a powerful tool in avoiding unnecessary costs and delays when someone dies.

However, a beneficiary is only good if it communicates the policy owners wishes... this is why the periodic review and updating of beneficiary designations is so important. Unfortunately, we see too often individuals who assume their beneficiary designations are correct and do not meet with their Field Agent only to find they are not up to date at death. Your KofC Field Agent can professionally review your beneficiary designations on your KofC or outside policies and discuss what updates might make the most sense for a member’s family.

Your KofC Field Agent is a fantastic resource for discussing many of your financial goals, desires and concerns. We equip our Canadian Field Agents with NaviPlan, one of the most comprehensive financial planning software packages available in North America. Your Agent can review your beneficiaries as well as give you a comprehensive needs analysis virtually or in the comfort of your home.

I would encourage every member to invite their Field Agent to do a complimentary review of their holdings to see if we can assist in any way. Your KofC Field Agent is a brother Knight who is trained to ensure your family is in the best possible position whether you are worried about death, disability or retirement.

Remember the Knights of Columbus Insurance program is run BY brother Knights FOR brother Knights and is only available to Members, their spouses and member children under the age of 18. Call your local Field Agent today to see how we can help!

Sonny Sangemino CHS, FIC, CPCA  
Canadian Agency Executive Consultant  
General Agent  
[sonny.sangemino@kofc.org](mailto:sonny.sangemino@kofc.org)







## Supreme Convention Attendees

Attending a Supreme Convention must indeed be a rewarding, motivating and memorable experience. Shown here at the August 2025 Supreme Convention is the fine contingent from Ontario State.



Front row, left to right : Mary Kiteley, Anna Szabo, Lisa Beneteau, State Chaplain Bishop Bayda, Cardinal Frank Leo (Archbishop of the Diocese of Toronto), Lori Gelinas, Angie Peters and Tricia Bodnar.

Back row, left to right: Paola Di Marchi, Dennis Kiteley, Mihal Szabo, Lawrence Beneteau, John Artymko, Dan Landry, Claude Poirier, David Gelinas, Arthur Peters, and Joe Bodnar.

## Meet your new State Warden...Donny Thivierge

I'm Donny Thivierge, a proud and active member of the Knights of Columbus, with a life deeply rooted in faith, family, and service. I was born and raised in Windsor, Ontario, and joined the Knights in 2006. In 2019, I became a 4th Degree member. Since then, I've had the honour of serving in various leadership roles within the Order, including Grand Knight, Faithful Navigator, District Deputy, and Chairman of the LWDA. In each of these roles, I've worked to promote and strengthen the core principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism—both among my brother Knights and throughout the community.

Professionally, I bring over 30 years of experience as an Automotive Technician. For the past 13 years, I've also worked as an educator with the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board. My background in both the trades and education reflects my passion for mentorship, hands-on skill development, and lifelong learning.

Outside of work and the Order, I've been deeply involved in youth sports—especially baseball. I previously served as President of Windsor East Little League Baseball, and I've spent many years coaching and supporting young athletes. Helping them grow in confidence, character, and teamwork has been incredibly rewarding.

My wife Kristi and I have been married since 1999. Together, we've raised five children and are now proud grandparents to five and more to come. Kristi's love, support, and shared faith have been the foundation of my journey. Everything I do is grounded in our Catholic values and a steadfast commitment to serving others through the mission of the Knights of Columbus.



Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!