

Resolutions 2026

Resolutions 1

Greetings to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV

Submitted By: Ontario State Council

WHEREAS: we, the Knights of Columbus, in the jurisdiction of Ontario, ardently desire to place on record our steadfast loyalty to His Holiness, the successor of Peter, Vicar of Christ, Bishop of Rome and the Whole Catholic Church;

AND

WHEREAS: called to be Christ's Vicar on Earth, on the Feast Day of St. Michael the Arch-angel, May 8th, 2025, Pope Leo XIV accepted his responsibilities, and his pontificate is one of addressing the challenges which confront the Church as well as all Humanity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: the Knights of Columbus in the province of Ontario, in Convention, assembled in the city of Ottawa, hasten to renew our devotion and affection to our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV and humbly pray, in these troubled times, that Almighty God and grant to His Vicar on Earth fruitful years of life and wisdom.

THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO RESOLVED: A letter to that effect be sent to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV no later than 30 June 2026. (Letter of Greetings found at Appendix A).

Approved Rejected Referred to Supreme

Resolutions 2026

Rsolutions 2

Greetings to Cardinal Frank Leo

Submitted By:

Ontario State Council

WHEREAS: we, the Ontario Knights of Columbus and their families offer our support to His Eminence, Frank Cardinal Leo, Archbishop of the Diocese of Toronto, for whom we offer our prayers and deepest appreciation for his unconditional commitment to God, the Church and to the Order;

THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO RESOLVED: the Ontario Knights thank His Eminence, Frank Cardinal Leo, and we look forward to many years of spiritual guidance and pastoral service.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: A letter to that effect be sent to His Eminence, Frank Cardinal Leo no later than 30 June 2026. (Letter of Greetings found at Appendix A).

Approved

Rejected

Referred to Supreme

Resolutions 2026

Resolutions 3

Greetings to Supreme Chaplain Archbishop Willaim E. Lori

Submitted By: Ontario State Council

WHEREAS: we, the Knights of Columbus, in the jurisdiction of Ontario, recognize the Spiritual Leadership in the Order as our Supreme Chaplain, we offer prayers and support and our deepest appreciation to our Supreme Chaplain, Most Reverend William E. Lori;

AND

WHEREAS: we recognize his responsibilities as Supreme Chaplain for over 21 years, and his unconditional commitment to God, the Church and to the Order;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: the Knights in the jurisdiction of Ontario, look forward to many more years of his spiritual and pastoral service.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: A letter to that effect be sent to Supreme Chaplain Archbishop Willaim E. Lori no later than 30 June 2026. (Letter of Greetings found at Appendix A)

Approved Rejected Referred to Supreme

Resolutions 2026

Resolutions 4

Greetings to the Archbishop Marcel Damphousse

Submitted By:

Ontario State Council

WHEREAS: we, the Knights of Columbus, in the jurisdiction of Ontario, assembled in Convention, in the City of Ottawa, proudly recognize the outstanding Christian Leader in the person of Archbishop Marcel Damphousse, our Past State Chaplain;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: we hereby assure our Past State Chaplain, unabated loyalty to the Knights of Columbus, to our Patron Christopher Columbus, and our Founding spiritual leader, Blessed Michael J. McGivney.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: we humbly pray to God to protect our Past State Chaplain - Archbishop Marcel Damphousse and pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide him in the discharge of his responsibilities.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: A letter to that effect be sent to Supreme Archbishop Marcel Damphousse no later than 30 June 2026. (Letter of Greetings found at Appendix A)

Approved

Rejected

Referred to Supreme

Resolutions 2026

Resolutions 5

Greetings to the Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly

Submitted By:

Ontario State Council

WHEREAS: we, the Knights of Columbus, in the jurisdiction of Ontario, assembled in Convention, in the City of Ottawa, proudly recognize the outstanding Christian Leader in the person of Patrick E. Kelly, our Supreme Knight for the past five years;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: we hereby assure our Supreme Knight, unabated loyalty to the Knights of Columbus, to our Patron Christopher Columbus, and our Founding spiritual leader, Blessed Michael J. McGivney.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: we humbly pray to God to protect our Supreme Knight and pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide him in the discharge of his responsibilities.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: A letter to that effect be sent to the Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly no later than 30 June 2026. (Letter of Greetings attached in Appendix A)

Approved

Rejected

Referred to Supreme

Resolutions 2026

Resolutions 6

In Honour of Arthur Peters, Deputy Supreme Knight

Submitted By: Ontario State Council

WHEREAS: Brother Arthur Peters was a member of the Columbian Squires from 1980 to 1986, has been a member of the Knights of Columbus since 1986, and served as a member of the Ontario State Board from 2002 to 2013, including service as Ontario State Deputy from 2010 to 2011;

AND

WHEREAS: Brother Arthur was elected as a Supreme Director in 2016 and was re-elected in 2019, 2022 and 2025;

AND

WHEREAS: on May 15, 2023, Brother Arthur was elected as Deputy Supreme Knight effective July 1, 2023, in which position he continues to serve;

AND

WHEREAS: Brother Arthur is only the second Brother Knight from Ontario to serve as Deputy Supreme Knight, following in the illustrious footsteps of Sir J. Ernest “Ernie” Wolff, KSG, who served as Ontario State Deputy 1961 to 1963 and as Deputy Supreme Knight from 1976 to 1977 and is only the fourth Canadian to serve as Deputy Supreme Knight, following in the distinguished footsteps of Dennis Savoie, New Brunswick State Deputy from 1992 to 1994, Deputy Supreme Knight from 2006 to 2014 and Ambassador of Canada to the Holy See from 2014 to 2024.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: we, the members of the Ontario Knights of Columbus,

assembled in our Annual State Convention, do hereby convey our heartfelt congratulations and respectful best wishes in honour of our Past State Deputy and Deputy Supreme Knight, Arthur Peters.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: A letter to that effect be sent to Arthur Peters, Deputy Supreme Knight no later than 30 June 2026. (Letter of Greetings attached in Appendix A)



Approved **Rejected** **Referred to Supreme**

Resolutions 2026

Resolutions 7

Greetings to the Supreme Master Michael R. McCusker

Submitted By: Ontario State Council

WHEREAS: we, the Knights of Columbus, in the jurisdiction of Ontario, members of the Order experience a sense of personal elation when we serve the Order of the Patriotic Degree. We are proud to follow the leadership of the Supreme Master,

AND

WHEREAS: Supreme Master Michael R. McCusker has served his Country in the military and is now serving the Order's Patriotic Degree with distinction.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: we, the members of the Ontario Knights of Columbus, assembled in Convention, in the City of Ottawa, extend our fond wishes for continued success, and good health in the distinguished office and that of Supreme Master.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: A letter to that effect be sent to Supreme Master Michael R. McCusker no later than 30 June 2026.. (Letter of Greetings attached in Appendix A)

Approved Rejected Referred to Supreme

Resolutions 2026

Resolutions 8

Expression of Support for our Military, Veterans and First Responders

Submitted By:

Ontario State Council (State Chaplain)

WHEREAS: we, the Knights of Columbus, in the jurisdiction of Ontario, assembled in Convention, in the City of Ottawa, offer our sincere gratitude and our patriotic support to the men and women of the Canadian Forces, as we pray for the safety of those wounded and injured, and for the souls who have died in the line of duty;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: we also offer our sincere gratitude to our Canadian Veterans, First Responders, both Police Officers and Firefighters, for their heroic service, who serve within our communities with dedication and bravery, and we pray for their safe return to their family in the discharge of their responsibilities. members and pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide them in the discharge of their responsibilities.

Approved Rejected Referred to Supreme

Resolutions 2026

Resolutions 9

Ontario Squires Annual Levy

Submitted By:

Ontario State Council

WHEREAS: on March 5, 2026, the Supreme Council advised Ontario State Deputy David Gelinas that the Squires program will end June 30, 2026, order-wide;

AND

WHEREAS: Resolution No. 11, adopted at the Ontario State Convention of 2017, directed Ontario councils to support Ontario Squires through an annual donation of \$40 per council;

AND

WHEREAS: through the cessation of the Squires program June 30, 2026, order-wide the rationale for the \$40 annual per council donation has been eliminated.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: the \$40 per council donation for the Ontario Squires program end as of June 30, 2026.

Approved

Rejected

Referred to Supreme

Resolutions 2026

Resolutions 10

Building Up Ontario Charity Foundation Revenue

Submitted By: Ontario State Council

WHEREAS: charity is the first of our Order's fundamental principles;

AND

WHEREAS: Ontario State Council, working with Ontario councils, financially supports a variety of charitable causes and initiatives in service to faith, community, family and life through the Knights of Columbus Ontario Charity Foundation (the "Foundation");

AND

WHEREAS: in order to best support the Foundation financially, ongoing effort and innovation are necessary to sustain and build up Foundation revenue and assets;

AND

WHEREAS: although the Ontario State 50/50 Raffle is successful in generating Foundation revenue, regulations require distribution of all raffle proceeds, so that the Foundation requires additional revenue to sustain itself and, over time, increase its financial profile and reach;

AND

WHEREAS: some councils have found it challenging to support the electronically based Ontario State Raffle and some have expressed interest in reviving the paper-based 'Cars Draw' in some form;

AND

WHEREAS: multiplying the Foundation's sources of revenue in addition to the Ontario State 50/50 Raffle would increase Foundation revenue;

AND

WHEREAS: the \$40 per council annual levy has proven successful in providing necessary financial support to the Columbian Squires of Ontario.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: A Foundation committee chaired by the State Treasurer be formed to develop a Foundation fundraiser in the nature of or similar to a paper-based raffle.



Approved **Rejected** **Referred to Supreme**

Resolutions 2026

Resolutions 11 Building Up Ontario Charity Foundation Revenue

Submitted By: Ontario State Council

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AND

WHEREAS: Ontario State Council, working with Ontario councils, financially supports a variety of charitable causes and initiatives in service to faith, community, family and life through the Knights of Columbus Ontario Charity Foundation (the "Foundation");

AND

WHEREAS: in order to best support the Foundation financially, ongoing effort and innovation are necessary to sustain and build up Foundation revenue and assets;

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WHEREAS: although the Ontario State 50/50 Raffle is successful in generating Foundation revenue, regulations require distribution of all raffle proceeds, so that the Foundation requires additional revenue to sustain itself and, over time, increase its financial profile and reach;

AND

WHEREAS: some councils have found it challenging to support the electronically based Ontario State Raffle and some have expressed interest in reviving the paper-based 'Cars Draw' in some form;

AND

WHEREAS: multiplying the Foundation's sources of revenue in addition to the Ontario State 50/50 Raffle would increase Foundation revenue;

AND

WHEREAS: the \$40 per council annual levy has proven successful in providing necessary financial support to the Columbian Squires of Ontario.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: State Council institute a voluntary annual levy of \$100 per council to support the Foundation.



Approved **Rejected** **Referred to Supreme**

Resolutions 2026

Resolutions 12

Congratulations to the Organizers of the 2025 Annual State Convention in Ottawa

Submitted By:

St. Rose of Lima, Council #13244, Toronto

WHEREAS: The 125th anniversary special 2025 Annual State Convention was held for the first time in Ottawa since 1971.

AND

WHEREAS: the number of registered delegates, their ladies, and guests exceeded 670 people at the State Banquet dinner held on Saturday April 26 – a record that had not been seen in more than 25 years.

AND

WHEREAS: According to the financial audit for the 2024-2025 fraternal year, the cost of the 2025 Annual State Convention was less than those held in Niagara Falls in the previous years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the voting members gathered for this State Convention express their deep satisfaction and appreciation to the Bruce Poulin, Mario Duguay and the State Board and office staff for making the 2025 Annual State Convention a resounding success.

Approved

Rejected

Referred to Supreme

Resolutions 2026

Resolutions 13

Enhancing French-Language Services and Visibility within the Ontario State Council

Submitted By:

Rhéal Franche, Conseil #6198, Rockland

WHEREAS: Ontario has the largest Francophone population in Canada after the Province of Quebec;

AND

WHEREAS: many Knights of Columbus councils in Ontario are Francophone or actively serve Francophone communities and fully contribute to the mission of the Order;

AND

WHEREAS: the Ontario State Knights of Columbus website does not adequately reflect the presence, contributions, and vitality of Francophone councils, and no clearly structured French-language section is readily accessible;

AND

WHEREAS: the absence of French-language resources limits accessibility to information, participation, and the sense of belonging among Francophone members;

AND

WHEREAS: other jurisdictions, notably the State of New Brunswick, demonstrate that offering a bilingual website or dedicated French-language sections is both feasible and beneficial;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: the Ontario State Council of the Knights of Columbus direct the appropriate authorities to ensure to take steps that the Francophone members are served that undertake, as soon as reasonably possible, the necessary steps to:

1. Integrate a complete French-language section into the Ontario State website, including essential information, official communications, relevant forms, and events;
2. Identify and promote Francophone councils within this section, including contact information and a brief description of their activities;
3. Draw upon best practices from other jurisdictions that offer bilingual services, particularly the State of New Brunswick, in order to provide Ontario's Francophone members with an equitable and respectful level of service.



Approved **Rejected** **Referred to Supreme**

Resolutions 2026

Resolutions 14 Wheelchair Program

Submitted By: Ontario Council #755, Cornwall

WHEREAS: The Knights of Columbus have been involved with and supported the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation and its program to provide wheelchairs in Canada and abroad since 2006;

AND

WHEREAS: Until 2019, State Board officers paid their own way to travel with the staff from the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation to deliver wheelchairs abroad;

AND

WHEREAS: Since 2020, the State Board officers have authorized a State Board officer(s) to travel (expenses paid for him) once every two years to help oversee the distribution of wheelchairs along with the staff from the Canadian Wheelchairs Foundation and local Brother Knights;

AND

WHEREAS: Since 2025, Brother Knights in Ontario have been directed that there are funds to support travel of past state deputies, directors, and chairman within the jurisdiction of Ontario. This includes membership drives, District Deputy Organizational meetings, etc...

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: With the exception of a specific invitation by the Supreme Council, no State Board officer, director or chairman and their spouses (if applicable) shall be compensated for any travel (flights, meal, accommodation, etc...) outside the jurisdiction of Ontario until this resolution is rescinded at subsequent Annual State Conventions.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: This resolution, if adopted takes effect on July 1, 2026.



- Approved** **Rejected** **Referred to Supreme**

Resolutions 2026

Resolutions 15

Warriors to Lourdes Canadian Participation

Submitted By: Ontario Council #755, Cornwall

WHEREAS: the Supreme Council has actively sponsored with the Archdiocese for Military Services, USA (AMS) the Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage;

AND

WHEREAS: The International Military pilgrimage since 1946 has become a place of prayer and healing for active-duty military and veterans;

AND

WHEREAS: Soldiers and veterans have come to Lourdes to pray for peace and healing with those in uniform from around the world;

AND

WHEREAS: Many active and retired Canadian Servicemen could benefit from the experience of this spiritual journey of a lifetime;

AND

WHEREAS: Many of these active and retired Servicemen are Brother Knights;

AND

WHEREAS: This Supreme program is insufficiently promoted within the Canadian jurisdiction of our Order;

AND

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: the Ontario State Council actively promotes with the assistance of the Canadian Association of the Knights of Columbus this worthwhile Supreme Program.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: the Ontario State Council set up a designated donation to the Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage fund page on our website, no later than June of 2026. This would permit Councils and Brother Knights to specifically donate funds to support our warriors wishing to experience this spiritual journey.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: the Ontario State Council request that Supreme set aside an amount to be determined annually for vacancies for eligible Canadian participants.



Approved **Rejected** **Referred to Supreme**

Resolutions 2026

Resolutions 16

Championing Women's Health

Submitted By:

Toronto Council #1388, Toronto

WHEREAS: Ontario Knights of Columbus, have been diligent in championing men's health in supporting Movember, through both local councils and the Ontario State team, with the Ontario State team raising approximately \$10,000 in 2025;

AND

WHEREAS: the women in our lives, e.g. wives, daughters, mothers, sisters, and friends, are our most loyal and dedicated supporters, on whom the success of our Order greatly depends;

AND

WHEREAS: it is only fair, therefore, to champion women's health as well as men's health;

AND

WHEREAS: just as for men, cancer is a major health threat, with breast cancer continuing to be the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Canadian women.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: State Council enable and encourage participation in and support for the Canadian Cancer Society's annual Run for the Cure, both through local councils and an Ontario State team.

Approved

Rejected

Referred to Supreme

Resolutions 2026

Resolutions 17

Inserting mention of the Safe Environment Program into the Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity.

Submitted By:

William J. Sheady Council #1507, Guelph

WHEREAS: Our Order's Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity communicates the founding vision and determination of Blessed Father Michael McGivney, with the protection of the widow and orphan, and the care of others as core to it, according to the circumstances of the day;

AND

WHEREAS: Today, in fidelity to Blessed Father Michael McGivney's vision, as a fraternal order of Catholic gentlemen, and more, distinguished as we are as "the strong right arm of the Church", we continue to work in new ways in protecting the vulnerable within our families, our parishes and our communities;

AND

WHEREAS: Our understanding of this work has also led our Order to introduce Safe Environment protocols and training among its members;

AND

WHEREAS: The Order has an opportunity to connect Blessed Father Michael McGivney's vision for the Order to today's protection of vulnerable persons in succinctly drawing from the Lessons on Charity, Unity and Fraternity by thoughtfully inserting mention of it within the Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity, to further connect it all to today's Safe Environment Program;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That Supreme strike a committee to evaluate inserting mention of the Safe Environment Program into the Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity, and provide a recommendation to Worthy Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly on whether to undertake this addition to the Exemplification, and if positively recommended, to also recommend the process by which the insertion would be crafted and included.



Approved **Rejected** **Referred to Supreme**

Resolutions 2026

Resolutions 18 **Online members joining outside the State**

Submitted By: St. Clement Council #17725, Ottawa

WHEREAS: Supreme membership should recognize where the member joins a Council;

AND

WHEREAS: Supreme membership should transfer the member that is from outside the Province to the Council he joins

AND

WHEREAS: Councils should be able to see the member that joins in their prospect tab;

AND

WHEREAS: Having a member from outside the State listed in their Prospect tab once join on line;

AND

WHEREAS: This will make it easier to enter the member in the Prospect tab his ceremony date;

AND

WHEREAS: Let's make a Knight joining on line easier for the Financial Secretary and the Grand Knight to see members on their Prospect tab;

AND

WHEREAS: Let's make a Knight joining on line easier for the District Deputy to see members on their Prospect tab;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: let's make it easier to have online members join under the council number and not the State the member lives.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: let's make it easier for all councils to have their online members join their council directly.



Approved **Rejected** **Referred to Supreme**

Resolutions 2026

Resolutions 19

Amendment Of Youth and Vulnerable Activity Policy

Submitted By:

Holy Redeemer Council #11729, Pickering

WHEREAS: the Ontario Knights of Columbus Risk Management (“Protocol”) And Abuse, Discrimination, Harassment Prevention Policy states all members who participate in programs, events, and activities sponsored by the Knights of Columbus involving minors and other vulnerable persons in an official capacity must first be screened and trained through the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program or screening process via the Office of Youth Protection prior to the event taking place;

AND

WHEREAS: the Ontario Knights of Columbus Risk Management (“ Protocol”) And Abuse, Discrimination, Harassment Prevention Policy states Council Family/Community Directors and/or other members of the council who have been background checked and trained through the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program within the last three years shall, in conjunction with their Grand Knight, ensure all Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program policies and procedures are followed at all programs, events and activities sponsored by a Knights of Columbus council involving minors and other vulnerable persons;

AND

WHEREAS: the document “Safe Environment Training and Background Checks” issued January 5 2026, stated the intent of the program outlined at Youth Protection– Safe Environment Program, Knights of Columbus is to ensure that councils have taken the necessary steps to ensure that the four officers named by Supreme (Grand Knight, Family Director, Community Director and Program Director) have taken the necessary training and have been cleared with a Presidium based police check from the Office of Youth Protection at Supreme;

AND

WHEREAS: the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment: Best Practices document states Programs, events and activities in which minors and other vulnerable persons are present (e.g. Columbian Squires, Coats for Kids, Basketball Free Throw, Pancake Breakfasts Fish Frys etc.) sponsored by Knights of Columbus, require the presence of two key leaders/Lead Volunteers who have successfully completed Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Training within the last three years and at least one Key Leader/Lead Volunteer typically the councils Family Director or Community Director who has been background checked and trained through the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program within the last three years must also be in attendance;

AND

WHEREAS: The Grand Knight, Program Director, Community Director and Family Director are required to take the mandatory training and have a background check through Praesidium to be compliant;

AND

WHEREAS: Having training and background checks required by position, means the members in those positions are often not available in the daytime, due to work or other requirements and therefor cannot attend events involving vulnerable people such as Free Throw;

AND

WHEREAS: Currently only members in roles that require training can receive safe environment training;

AND

WHEREAS: It is essential that each Grand Knight be fully aware of all the elements of the Knights of Columbus Safety Protocol;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Knights of Columbus in the Province of Ontario in convention, take the necessary steps to amend the Youth and Vulnerable Activity Policy to state: Each fraternal year, all Grand Knights must take the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment training and that councils must have at least four additional members, identified by the Grand Knight, trained in the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment program and that

Safe Environment training is available to any member who wishes to complete it. A certificate of completion must be filed with the Grand Knight and Ontario State. This will ensure there are enough trained members available to attend events involving vulnerable people on an annual basis.



- Approved**
- Rejected**
- Referred to Supreme**