

Resolutions 2026

Resolution 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 Archangel, May 8, 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, solidarity and affection to our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV and humbly pray, in these troubled times, that Almighty God may 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.

Resolutions 2026

Resolution 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 Cardinal Frank Leo, Archbishop of the Archdiocese 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, Cardinal Frank 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, Cardinal Frank Leo no later than 30 June 2026.

Resolutions 2026

Resolution 3

Greetings to Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William 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 William E. Lori no later than 30 June 2026.

Resolutions 2026

Resolution 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 Archbishop Marcel Damphousse no later than 30 June 2026.

Resolutions 2026

Resolution 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.

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Resolution 6

In Honour of Arthur Peters, Deputy Supreme Knight

Submitted By: Ontario State Council

WHEREAS: Brother Arthur L. 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: in April 2023, Brother Arthur was elected by the Board of Directors to the position of 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.



Resolutions 2026

Resolution 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 as members of the Patriotic Degree (also called the Fourth 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.

Resolutions 2026

Resolution 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, including Police, Firefighters and Health Care workers, for their heroic service, who serve within our communities with dedication and bravery, and we pray for their safe return to their families in the discharge of their responsibilities. As members of the Ontario Knights of Columbus, in Ottawa assembled, we pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide them in the discharge of their responsibilities.

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Resolution 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.

Resolutions 2026

Resolution 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.



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Resolution 11

Building Up Ontario Charity Foundation Revenue

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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 contribution of \$100 per council to support the Foundation.



Resolutions 2026

Resolution 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, 2025 – 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 net expense of the 2025 Annual State Convention was less than the one held in Niagara Falls in the previous year.

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

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Resolution 13

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

Submitted By:

Rhéal Franche, Council #6198, Rockland

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

AND

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

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, by the 2027 State Convention, , the necessary steps to:

1. Subject to the capacity of the State Council, 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 where possible, 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;
4. Utilize existing software available to the board, such as Microsoft CoPilot or DeepL, to facilitate translation services.



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Resolution 14

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.

Resolutions 2026

Resolution 15 **Online members joining outside the State**

Submitted By: St. Clement Council #17725, Ottawa

WHEREAS: Supreme membership should recognize where when a member specifies a council on their e-membership registration;

AND

WHEREAS: Supreme membership should assign the member that is from outside the province to his preferred council;

AND

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

AND

WHEREAS: this will make it easier to enter the member in the Prospect tab on his exemplification date;

AND

WHEREAS: By entering a preferred council on the e-membership form and ensuring the member is properly assigned, regardless of where they live, it would make it easier for councils to welcome new members.

THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED: that if a member specifies they wish to join a particular council outside the jurisdiction in which they live, that the Supreme Council consider facilitating this.

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Resolution 16: Concern for Christians in Beit Sahour in the Holy Land

Submitted by: Toronto Council 1388 in Toronto

WHEREAS: through the Jerusalem Students Scholarships Ontario councils, including Toronto Council 1388, have long been generous sponsors of the Greek Catholic Patriarchate School in Beit Sahour (Shepherds' Field), a small town near Bethlehem, Palestine, and the site of the angels' appearance to the shepherds when Christ was born;

AND

WHEREAS: Toronto Council 1388 also supports Bethlehem University, a Catholic university in the Lasallian tradition, which many graduates of the Patriarchate School attend, and has welcomed its Vice Chancellor, now retired, Peter Bray FSC, as a council guest several times;

AND

WHEREAS: with a heritage stretching back to the time of Christ, the Christian population of Bethlehem and its surrounding area, which the Patriarchate School and Bethlehem University help to nurture, has decreased greatly over the past several decades (86% in 1950 to approximately 10% today) and must be sustained;

AND

WHEREAS: the area of Beit Sahour now faces the threat of illegal settlement, with the Mayor of Beit Sahour bringing the situation to the attention of Kairos, the ecumenical justice and peace organization of which the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (Caritas Canada) is a member.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: State Council, with the advice and guidance of the State Chaplain, Associate Chaplain and legal advisors to the State Board, bring the situation to the attention of the appropriate authorities, with a view to its constructive and peaceful resolution.