KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Ontario State Bulletin

FALL 2026

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE
The Fall Season Harvest ... Gratitude for Bulletin Contributors ... and Showing Appreciation ...

By: Bulletin Editor, Jerry Marcotte



In the fall, we instinctively count our blessings. For those of us who reside in a rich agricultural area such as Essex County, this is prompted by the bounty visible in the fields, which only comes after investments in energy, time, resources, knowledge, good weather and good graces.

In the mindset of a 'bulletin editor' we acknowledge, likewise, the multitude of inputs that those engaged in the activities of their council or assembly have invested in their programing and then who have taken the time to encapsulate and report on the good and the happenings of their respective group and of summarizing same to add content to their local bulletin. This is done, I believe, not to focus on a few, but to build enthusiasm among the members, some of whom may not have been engaged but for whom even reading about the recent activities of the council or assembly may increase awareness and build interest.

When one peruses the content and reporting of those contributing to Ontario State's Online Bulletin, one cannot help but be awed by the commitment and time invested by those in their area of leadership. What a generous time investment for those travelling with the wheelchair delegation to Mexico as outlined in State Deputy David Gelinas' and in the expenditure of time, effort and organization to the attainment of the many Star Council standings as are reported in the current stats of the Order in Ontario!

This issue contains bios of State Chairman Joseph Mathews and Martin Marko. Both show an enviable success of involvement in many categories and over many years in the Order.

At times, one is humbled to learn of the level of commitment of others throughout the Order.

What strikes me in bios such as these, is the leadership skills that some have brought to the order but also how being involved in the Order has tweaked their leadership skills that they have taken to other organizations. What a bonus for the Order, when those known to be knights share their skills in other worthwhile community endeavours. A case in point... retiring DD Charles Frank and his leadership with the Rotarians in Windsor. His 'guest' article is included in this edition.

When a member may be sharing his success or outcome of an activity, those in leadership never fail to show appreciation to their spouse and or family for their support. We know that home life schedules are often affected by 'knightly duties'.

Attaining some measure of leadership in the knights can be personally gratifying. But, it can also feel much better when one has practiced the inclusion of his wife and family within the realm of time spent on knightly tasks. Perhaps encouraging one's partner to share in the fraternity ..... meaning dinners and social gatherings can make all feel better in the pursuit of goals and challenges within one's council and district.

So, returning to the idea of gratitude, let us give gratitude to God for giving us some talent and time to expend in brotherhood and charity, as well as to our spouses and families for their support as well.

To the readers of this publication or your own local bulletin, may you be encouraged and inspired by those reporting and hence sharing what being a knight means to them. And oh, as a Third or Fourth Degree Knight, remember to take part in your community's Remembrance Day Services!

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!

Year in Review'... Final Statistics

By: State Deputy, David O. Gelinas

My dear brother Knights,



To follow my year in review from the summer bulletin, I wish to wrap up some final statistics.

By our own records we purchased 20,760 coats this past fraternal year but after a few more late sales in January, we were recorded with 20,868 coats. Supreme has indicated that Ontario was the jurisdiction with the largest number of coats for 2025-2026. A wonderful accomplishment for the councils in Ontario to realize we lead the Order with this program.

After all the final forms were processed during the last days of June, Ontario State was acknowledged with 82 Star Council awards. A tremendous improvement from the previous year with 65. The breakdown of those 82 there were 22 Double Star, 3 Triple Star and 3 Four Star Awards. There were 14 Star District Awards which include these District Deputies; Nicholas Quadrini, David Wattie, Wilhelm Mack, Amadeo Cuschieri, Leo Mayer, Paul Larocque, Rory Facca, Bryan Noble, Peter Choquette, Gerard Gonsalves, Roger Richard, Carlyle Daniel, Michael Goulet and Dennis Wahking. A special mention that DD Carlyle Daniel received the prestigious All Star District Award; which is awarded when every council in the District earned the Star Council Award. This was my personal goal to focus on more councils earning Star Council and the entire State team worked together to accomplish this objective, especially to help avoid any disappointment with missing forms or forms with missing information that would have been disqualified.

Another statistic for 2025-2026, in Canada there were 202 Star Council Awards and Ontario had 82 of them, which represents 40%. Clearly Ontario's success is vital to the total growth in the 10 jurisdictions in Canada.

The Supreme convention was held at the Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Centre in Aurora (Denver) Colorado from August 3rd – 6th. Your Ontario delegates included Bruce Poulin, Joe Bodnar, Henry Miller, Nicholas Quadrini, Ken Cavanaugh, Michel Beaudry, Robert Tinkess, Renald Bombardier, Raymond Bernicky and David Gelinas. DD Nicholas has a detailed report about our experience together.

The trip to Mexico City from August 10- 12 was very successful. State Chaplain Bryan Bayda joined Lori and I to join the Knights of Mexico South and distribute coats to many adults and children. This year I extended an invitation for others in Ontario to join our State delegation to delivery these wheelchairs, at their own expense, and I was pleased when 4 others participated. These knights include Deputy Supreme Knight Arthur Peters, State Advocate Earle DePass, District Deputy Wayne Caskanette, and Grand Knight Claude Poirier. We attended mass at two special churches. The Metropolitan Cathedral of Mexico City and the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The joy was very evident that was much more than smiles on their faces. You could hear their happiness in their voices and see their gratefulness in their eyes. This trip was not just for the State Deputy to experience and the 7 of us joined 3 representatives from the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation, who included Christiana Flessner, and Bruce and Zoye Poulin. We all took our turn to speak with a wheelchair recipient and take a photo with them. We had some available time to tour both churches and Bishop Bryan who is very knowledgeable of the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe made this a very special experience for everyone.

You can read other great stories of Knights works in Ontario in all four quarterly State Bulletins and on our State social media.

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!

THE TRIP TO MEXICO CITY, FROM AUGUST 10–12

By: State Deputy, David O. Gelinas

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State Deputy David Gelinas and State Deputy Rene Sansores (Mexico South)



A women is a grateful recipient of a new wheelchair



(L-R) State Deputy David, Supreme Director Arthur Peters (Ontario), Supreme Director Jorge Carlos Estrada (Mexico South), State Deputy Rene Sansores (Mexico South), Canadian Wheelchair Foundation (CWF) Christiana Flessner (Executive Director)

THE TRIP TO MEXICO CITY, FROM AUGUST 10–12

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Two young boys receive wheelchairs.







Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!

BIO OF JOSEPH MATHEWS



I have been a member of the Knights of Columbus since 1992 when I joined John F. Kennedy Council 5523 in Mississauga.

I have served as a Grand Knight twice, once with JFK Council 5523, which is the oldest Council in Mississauga and then as a Charter Grand Knight of St. Patrick's Council 12782, which is based in my parish.

I have also served as a District Deputy for District 53 for three years, Toronto Western Diocesan Zone President for three years, and Archdiocese of Toronto Tri-Zone Chairman for three years.

During my term as District Deputy, along with the District Deputy for District 89, we introduced in the Mississauga area the Clergy Appreciation Night, the Blue Mass and the Councils of Mississauga Association where we coordinated a number of major fundraising activities in the city.

At the Zone level, we introduced the Tri-Zone Retreat and Tri-Zone Project in support of Martyrs' Shrine. I was twice the Supreme Delegate representing the Toronto Western Zone, first at the 2001 Supreme Convention held in Toronto and then at the virtual Supreme Convention in 2020. We also helped the Archdiocese coordinate the movement of the World Youth Day Cross in 2002.

At the State level, I was New Council Development and Parish Round Table Director, State Membership Director for two years, Online Membership Chairman for two years and Special Olympics Chairman since 2008. I also served on the Organizing Committee for the 2016 Supreme Convention in Toronto.

In addition to the Third Degree, I have also been active in the Fourth Degree since 1995, where I was a Faithful Navigator for two years, District Master for four years and Vice Supreme Master for four years. I recently sat on the committee for developing the new Canadian Fourth Degree Exemplification.

I had the opportunity to be involved with the Squires program as there was a Squires Circle at both JFK Council and St. Patrick's Council. I have held the positions of counsellor and chief councillor and while at Bishop Allen Circle (JFK) we hosted the 1999 Provincial Squires Convention in Mississauga.

On a personal note, I am retired from a career in Information Technology which began in the mid-70s near the beginning of the computer revolution. My wife Ruby, who has been very supportive of the work that I do with the Knights, and I are active members of Saint Patrick's Church in Mississauga where we serve as Eucharistic Ministers and where I am also a Lector and member of the Finance Committee. We enjoy vacationing in the Philippines, where we spend time with family, and on occasion partake in activities hosted by the Knights from the parish in our town.

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!

BIO OF MARTIN MARKO

By: SK Martin Marko PGK FDD PFN FM



Graduated high school with honours in 1979.

Accepted a Patternmaker apprenticeship at General Motors Foundry in 1979. Retired as Tool and Diesinker in 2009 at 47 years old.

Joined the Knights of Columbus in May 2012.

My family has deep Catholic roots: my oldest brother, was ordained a Greek Catholic Priest in 1985 and is now a Russian Orthodox Bishop, and my youngest brother, has been a Carmelite monk since 1983.

Currently, I am in my tenth term as a District Deputy and the Financial Secretary of Council 17273.

My journey didn't start in 2012 when I joined the Knights. It began decades earlier in 1985, with the Junior Chamber International.

It taught me a creed that I live by today:

We believe

- that faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life,
- that the Brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations,
- that economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise,
- that government should be of laws rather than of men,
- that earth's greatest treasure lies in human personality,
- and that service to humanity is the best work of life.

Over 25 years, in Canada: attended 55 leadership conferences in 7 provinces, served in 14 elected positions and was honoured with over 50 recognitions for service, including: Lifetime membership as a JCI Senator 56649, Canadian JC of the year, Canadian Senator of the year, International Affairs Vice president of the year in the USA, and a lifetime membership for JCI New York State.

Outside of Canada: attended 70 JCI Conventions. Met and conversed with people on 4 continents and 12 US states. Recruited new members and created two new chapters. When I brought those "transferable leadership skills" to the Knights, I didn't just want to join; I wanted to build. From chartering Council 15999 and Council 17273, I am adding to Blessed Michael McGivney's dream to have a council in every parish.

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I haven't walked this path alone. Marion is my other half and a beacon that helps me be the best I can be. She has always been there behind the scenes, working her magic to ensure that I—and all the Knights—have exactly what we need. We are a true team. Together we have worked tireless hours to grow this Order. Marion has grown the Order in her own right, recruiting new members. She has won two awards for her recruitment efforts—proof that she has put in many hours for our benefit.

Outside of our work here, Marion and I are passionate beekeepers for 10 years. We are honoured to be responsible for one of God's greatest and most hardworking creatures. I see a lot of the Knights in our bees: it is a hive of constant activity where every individual has a vital role to play, working in harmony to serve the Creator and provide for the community. Just like the hive, our strength as Knights comes from our unity and our tireless work for the greater good. That visibility also extends to the road.

As a member of Knights on Bikes, we ride for charity and join the annual Living Rosary at the Martyrs' Shrine.



I've also found a deep calling in working with the Special Olympics.

Supporting these athletes reminds me that every person has a gift to share. It is an honour to help these young champions shine.

In 2013, I joined the Patriotic degree. Helped charter a new assembly in 2014. Elected as Scribe, Captain and then Faithful Navigator helped me understand and learn about the Fourth degree. I never missed any Master's meetings over those years. Seven years later, I was appointed by the Supreme Council to serve as Master of the 8th Ontario District.

I have survived three motorcycle wrecks and six heart attacks. But it was my quad-bypass surgery that truly forced me to re-evaluate everything. For a long time, I took for granted that I'd always be here. That surgery was life changing; it showed me how fragile life really is. I believe God kept me here for a reason. He has a plan for me, and that plan is service.

"God gave me more time, and I intend to pay that gift forward. That leads me to a different kind of service..." A great act of charity is to donate blood or plasma. I am at 210 donations right now.

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!

FOOD FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM

By: Denis Belanger, Family Director



Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." CTV news reported, “8.7 million visits to food banks across the province (April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025 period), marking a staggering 165% increase since 2019.” As the need continues to grow, so does the impact of the Knights of Columbus Food for Families program which is an excellent way to engage with and recruit new members.

Windsor Essex Council 4375 Bingo Fund Raising has provided them the opportunity to donate $5000 for this wonderful Program. They donated funds to the following organizations:

- St Vincent de Paul food bank;
- Corpus Christi Catholic Middle & H.T. Lassaline Catholic Elementary Schools Lunch Programs;
- Tecumseh Goodfellows Annual Christmas food basket program;
- Essex City Meals on Wheels for seniors & people homebound; and
- Essex Area Food Bank.

By sending in the completed 10057 Form to Fraternal Services, they will receive another $500 from Supreme to add top their charity account and make an even bigger impact on their community.

Supreme has a new Join & Serve Challenge (link below) where if a council recruits their quota and donates a minimum $500 for Food for Families Program by November 30 and submits the 10057 form to Supreme no later than Dec 31, the council will receive 8 custom embroidered KofC aprons & hats. Please take advantage of this great offer.

https://files.kofc.org/download/assets/Join+And+Serve+Challenge/22ffcf66a56911f1a0566ee329f838ae

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!

MEMBERSHIP *Statistics*

Year to Year Growth Comparison

Year to year comparison				
Month	2025-2026	2026-2027	Pace comparison	% of year quota
July	99	95	-4	3.92%
August	116	100	-16	8.06%
September	259	202	-57	16.47%
Totals	**474**	397	-77	

Like gasoline is the lifeblood of a car, new members are the lifeblood of a Council. Invite your friends and family to join!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ONTARIO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BURSARY RECIPIENTS

By: Donny Thivierge Ontario State Warden, Director, Ontario State Bursary



Each application was carefully reviewed based on several important criteria, including academic achievement, involvement in the Catholic Church and parish community, participation in Catholic school activities, volunteer service, leadership, and a commitment to living out the values of our faith.

Selecting only five recipients was an extremely difficult task. We received applications from many outstanding young Catholics across Ontario who have worked hard academically and have made meaningful contributions to their schools, parishes, and communities. So many candidates were deserving of this recognition, and I sincerely wish we were able to do more.

To everyone who applied but was not selected this year, please keep your spirits high. Continue your studies, remain active in your parish and school communities, and keep sharing your time and talents with others. Your service is noticed, valued, and deeply appreciated.

I would also like to thank the members of the bursary selection team for their time, careful consideration, and valuable assistance throughout this process. Their dedication helped ensure that every application received the attention and respect it deserved.

Once again, congratulations to our five successful recipients. We are proud of your accomplishments and wish you every success as you begin the next chapter of your education. May you continue to grow in knowledge, faith, and service while inspiring others through your example.

On behalf of the Ontario State Council of the Knights of Columbus, I am pleased to congratulate the five successful recipients of the 2026 Ontario State Bursary:



Henry Heaton
Council #8233
St. John de Brebeuf
Kingsville, ON
University of Windsor
Windsor, ON



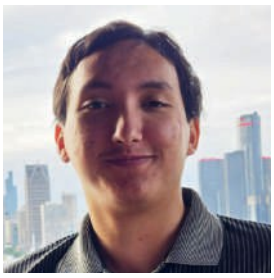
Harris Joseph
Council #6026
Pieta
Georgetown, ON
University of Windsor
Windsor, ON



Lilia Mazzocato
Council #6495
Reverend John McMaster
West Lorne, ON
Kings University College
London, ON



Cecilia Simpson
Council #6495
Rev John McMaster
West Lorne, ON
Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College
Barry's Bay, ON



Lance Pierre Jean-Denis Robillard
Council #8919
Father Paul J.F. Wattson
Windsor, ON
St. Clair College
Windsor, ON

CAPTAIN BRUCE S. POULIN (RET'D) APPOINTED TO THE ORDER OF MALTA.

Passed on by Jerry Marcotte

Prince and Grand Master Fra' John T. Dunlap has officially appointed the senior representative of the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation and the 60th past State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario, Captain Bruce S. Poulin, CD, OMC (Ret'd) to the Sovereign Military Order of Malta on September 26, 2026, at the Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica in Ottawa, ON.

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta (after 1798), officially the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and Malta (a.k.a. the Knights Hospitaller), is a Catholic military order. It may be traced back to the establishment of a hospital in Jerusalem dedicated to St. John the Baptist. Constructed sometime between 1070 and 1080 near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, in Jerusalem, this facility aimed to care for sick and poor Christian pilgrims who travelled to the Holy Land during a time of growing religious traffic and increased risk.

Following the First Crusade's capture of Jerusalem in 1099, the hospital had come under the control of the Benedictine Blessed Gerardo Sasso (e.g. Blessed Gerard), whose leadership gave it a more organised and religious character. He served as the Grand Master of the Order between 1099-1119. The French Knight, named Raymond du Puy, served as the second Grand Master between 1122 and 1160. He was largely responsible for turning the Order into a military organization. By February 15, 1113, Pope Paschal II had issued a papal bull, known as Pie Postulatio Voluntatis, that officially recognised the community as an independent religious order. Its Catholic members took vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience and committed themselves to the spiritual and physical care of pilgrims and the poor.



Immediate Past State Deputy, Bruce S. Poulin and Past State Chaplain, His Grace Bishop Marcel Damphousse, at the Order of Malta investiture ceremony. His Grace hosted the event at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Ottawa on Saturday September 26, 2026.

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As a former State Deputy of Ontario's largest Catholic fraternal organization – representing more than 58,000 members in Ontario - Captain Poulin (ret'd) brings an incredible wealth of experience in lay leadership to the Order of Malta. Notably, his decade-long tenure as a senior executive in the Knights of Columbus, his military service and service to veterans through Dominion Command of the Royal Canadian Legion as well as his current role of giving hope to people with mobility issues through the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation.



New inductees and current members of the Order of Malta pose for a group photo immediately following the investiture ceremony held at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Ottawa.

Bruce is only the second State Deputy of Ontario to be appointed to the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. The first was Sir Knight John D. Clemens, psd (1994-1996). Let us keep Sir Knight Captain Bruce S. Poulin, CD, OMC (Ret'd) in our prayers as he takes on this vital role within the Order of Malta and help the sick and the poor and perpetuate a tradition that dates back almost one millennium.

For more information on the Order of Malta – Canadian Association, please visit:
https://orderofmaltacanada.org/history
.



IPSD Bruce S. Poulin and Lady Zoye pose at the Order of Malta Banquet Dinner following the investiture ceremony.

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!

THE SACRED HEART PILGRIM ICON'S FINAL JOURNEY

Submitted by Joseph Remedios, FDD • PGK • PFN • Ontario State Faith Director



As we come to the close of another very successful year for the Pilgrim Icon program, we can look back with gratitude and satisfaction on an extraordinary journey. Over the past year and a half, the Icon has travelled throughout the entire Province, touching the hearts and lives of countless faithful pilgrims.

The Icon has left an indelible mark on many of those who had the opportunity to welcome it into their churches and councils. We are especially pleased by the overwhelming response from councils who have expressed interest in having the Icon remain in a permanent location once the pilgrimage program comes to a close.

We have received many wonderful reports of churches where the Icon drew people together in prayer, reflection, and quiet contemplation before our Lord Jesus. These moments of devotion have been a beautiful reminder of the power of faith and the importance of bringing Christ into the heart of our communities.

These past two years have also been dedicated to Jesus the King. What better way, then, to conclude the Pilgrim Icon's journey than during this special year devoted to Christ our King? The journey has been a testament to our shared faith and to the devotion of Knights, their families, and all those who welcomed the Icon with open hearts.

Brothers, I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in and supported this program. Without your dedication, generosity, and commitment, this Pilgrim Icon journey would never have been possible. Each council, parish, family, and individual who took part helped make this pilgrimage a meaningful and lasting expression of our faith.

May God bless each of you and your dear families. As we bring this chapter of the Pilgrim Icon's journey to a close, let us remain united in prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus—for peace in the world, for our Brother Knights, and for all our families.



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St. Basil's Jubilee, Council 18722
2026-01-22

(32 people attending)











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ONTARIO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 50/50 RAFFLE

By: Henry Miller, State Treasurer



At 10:00 a.m. the morning of August 31, 2026, the final Grand Prize Draw for the 'summer' 2026 Ontario Knights of Columbus 50/50 Raffle took place. Fuelled by enthusiasm generated by our raffle-focused newsletter, The Raffle Rouser, and with ticket sales open until 9:30 a.m. that same morning, the final Grand Prize draw pot reached $35,270. This was a commendable level for the quieter days of summer when many people are away on vacation. Frank Zanella was the lucky winner of the $17,635 Grand Prize. Way to go Frank!

Our final draw Grand Prize pots are proving to be consistently high, with pots for raffles in the busier months reaching almost $50,000 (December 30, 2025: $49,270 and April 26, 2026: $47,360).

Our 50/50 Raffle features an enticing Early Bird draw of $500. For the 2026 'summer' raffle, the Early Bird draw took place on June 22, 2026, with Joanne Petrisano winning $500. Congratulations Joanne! With a start date of September 4, 2026, the 'fall' edition of the Raffle will have an Early Bird Draw for $500 on Tuesday October 13, 2026, the day after Thanksgiving. The final Grand Prize draw will take place on Wednesday December 30, 2026, just in time for the New Year. Your efforts will ensure the Grand Prize pot reaches a record-breaking level.

Through The Raffle Rouser, distributed to all Ontario Knights, we actively promote raffle ticket purchases. The Raffle Rouser also is strategically released just before major gift-giving opportunities. In this gift-giving vein, we have worked with our raffle service provider, rafflebox, to enable purchase of 50/50 raffle tickets as gifts, e.g. for birthdays, wedding anniversaries, graduations and to say thank you to those who helped us over the summer, say as camp counsellors and baby-sitters. Recipients of gift tickets must be 18 years of age or older.

About 65% of councils, some 298 out of some 450 active councils, participate in the 50/50 Raffle. 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.

Tickets easily can be purchased on-line at 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. You can buy 10 tickets for $10, 40 tickets for $20, 125 tickets for $50 and 300 tickets for $100.

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Importantly, councils customarily receive a commission of 25% on their tickets sold, which is an excellent source of revenue for funding councils' charitable programs. Using rafflebox as our on-line service provider is Canadian, easy to use, user-friendly and extremely cost effective, with fees of only 5% of ticket price.

To further assist councils with raffle ticket sales, for example, in conjunction with council events, Point of Sale (POS) handheld devices are available to borrow, for free, from Ontario State Office for two-week periods. State Office is happy to assist and provide further details.

Let's keep working together to make our 50/50 Raffle more and more successful. Our Raffle efforts emphasize how well we can work together, as Knights, at both the local council and State levels, to advance our programs and achieve results that we never could achieve otherwise.

Let's keep working together to make our 50/50 Raffle more and more successful!

Remember…. The winner gets one half!



50/50 CASH RAFFLE

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!

REPORT OF THE 144TH SUPREME CONVENTION — DENVER, COLORADO

By: DD1 Nicholas Quadrini on behalf of the Ontario State Delegates



The 144th Supreme Convention in Denver, Colorado, took place from August 3-6, 2026. The Ontario State Council was represented by members of the State Board and delegates elected by the Diocesan Associations across Ontario:

- State Deputy David Gelinas
- Past State Deputy Bruce Poulin
- State Secretary Joe Bodnar
- State Treasurer Henry Miller
- DD Nicholas Quadrini (Ottawa)
- DD Ken Cavanagh (Toronto East)
- Diocesan Director Renald Bombardier (Cornwall)
- DD Raymond Bernicky (London West)
- DD Ronald Liboiron (Sault St. Marie)
- DD Robert Tinkess (Toronto North)

The Supreme Convention is an opportunity for Knights from around the world to meet, share ideas, and learn from the success of other jurisdictions in the Order. Ontario delegates began each day with Mass, followed by a packed agenda that included networking, conducting the business of the Order, and celebrating the achievements of the past fraternal year. We were blessed to have our State Chaplain, His Excellency Bishop Bryan Bayda, Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada, join the Ontario delegation throughout the convention. Bishop Bayda also served as a concelebrant at the convention Masses and attended the joint Colorado-Ontario-Louisiana State Delegation Dinner on Wednesday evening.

The convention agenda unfolded over four days, beginning with Canadian jurisdictional discussions and concluding with formal business sessions and resolutions.

On August 3, the main highlight was the Canadian Association Meeting, where Knights from across Canada met to discuss pressing issues facing the Order north of the border. Delegates heard several presentations from a variety of speakers, including our own PSD Bruce Poulin, who discussed the impact of the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation, particularly in the ByWard Market area of Ottawa, where donations from the Order are supporting individuals with mobility challenges whose needs are not being fully met through the social safety net. We also heard from Newfoundland and Labrador State Deputy Paul Baldwin about an opportunity to create a Warriors to Lourdes program for Canadian veterans and their families. A committee was struck at this meeting, with a desire to work with the Fourth Degree, government, and private organizations to seek funding for this initiative. We also heard from Bishop Mykhaylo Bubniy, the Archiepiscopal Exarch of the Ukrainian Catholic Archiepiscopal Exarchate of Odesa,

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Ukraine, who sought funding from Canadian Knights to support his diocese, which has been ravaged by the ongoing war with Russia. Both Bishop Bayda and Bishop Bubniy promised to work on a video targeted at Ukrainian Catholics living in Canada, inviting them to join the Order. Deputy Supreme Knight Arthur Peters then discussed the importance of membership recruitment in Canada. He emphasized that new member growth must outpace losses due to deaths, underscoring the critical importance of welcoming new brother Knights into our ranks. The Deputy Supreme Knight also confirmed that Fourth Degree uniform button replacements will soon be coming to Moores, alongside Supreme-approved overcoats for Honour Guard services. We were also informed that work is actively underway on a new Fourth Degree ceremonial for Canada, and that it may be launched as early as next year. Finally, Graydon Nicholas, the outgoing advisor to the Supreme Knight on Canadian and Indigenous Affairs, encouraged delegates to prioritize the daily rosary, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and purchasing life insurance policies from the Order for children and grandchildren as an investment in their future.

While the men were busy in meetings on Monday, the Ontario ladies visited the many hospitality suites at the Gaylord Rockies Hotel, enjoying treats from different states, from Polish gingerbread to Louisiana-style king cakes. A fan favourite was the Texas chili, a real showstopper year after year at the Supreme Convention. Delegates and their ladies also enjoyed exchanging pins with jurisdictions from across the Order—an opportunity to meet brother Knights while taking part in a little friendly competition to see who could collect the most pins.

Monday concluded with the Knights of Columbus Awards Session, which recognized the outstanding work of councils and fraternal leaders. You can read more about the award winners on the Supreme website.

August 4 featured the Opening Mass, celebrated by Bishop James Golka of the Diocese of Colorado, as well as the Opening Business Session and the States Dinner. Our Worthy State Treasurer, Brother Henry Miller, represented Ontario State proudly as a member of the Fourth Degree Honour Guard for all convention Masses.

The Opening Business Session featured the Supreme Knight's Annual Report. Entitled "In the One, We Are One," this year's report called brother Knights and their families to renew our unity in Christ while celebrating a year of remarkable growth, faith, charity, and service. The Supreme Knight highlighted the Order's continued expansion, including new members and councils across the world, and reminded us that Blessed Michael McGivney's vision remains as urgent today as ever. A major emphasis was evangelization, with the Supreme Knight pointing to Cor as a growing parish-based initiative that forms men in prayer, fraternity, and faith, while also calling councils to be bold in inviting Catholic men and their families deeper into the life of the Church.

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In the area of charity and relief, the report showcased the Order's response to suffering at home and abroad, including support for persecuted Christians, humanitarian aid, disaster relief, Coats for Kids, Special Olympics, and the Global Wheelchair Mission. The Supreme Knight also continued to emphasize the Culture of Life, including the ongoing impact of ASAP and the Order's support for pregnancy resource centres, maternity homes, and families in need. The report also noted the strength of the Order's insurance and investment programs, which continue to protect Catholic families while supporting good works throughout the Church.. The Supreme Knight's message was clear: whether in Canada, the United States, or around the world, Knights are called to stand together in charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism, putting our faith into action and serving Christ by serving his Church and our neighbour.



Ontario delegation at the 144 Supreme Convention in Denver Colorado

At the States Dinner, delegates heard from Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, who delivered a keynote address on patriotism as a virtue for people of all nations.

The final two days of the Supreme Convention focused on the main business sessions reserved for delegates and brother Knights. A total of 520 Supreme Delegates and Representatives were registered for the convention. Worthy Past Supreme Knight Carl Anderson offered a report on Christianity and its role in the founding of the United States of America, and on the new pillars upon which civil and religious liberty will need to be founded. The Past Supreme Knight challenged brother Knights to encourage the new generation to keep this noble cause alive through prayer to the Blessed Trinity.

Following the Past Supreme Knight's report, eight Supreme Directors were elected, including PEI Past State Deputy Savio Dias, who adds a fourth historic Canadian voice to the Supreme Board.

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The full list of elected Supreme Directors is as follows:

- John Marrella, Connecticut
- Daniel Duchesne, Quebec
- John Appelbaum, Missouri
- Jorge C. Estrada Avilés, Mexico
- Greg Mahoney, Washington
- Savio Dias, Prince Edward Island
- James Sweeney, New Jersey
- Scot Landry, Massachusetts

During the final business session, Supreme Delegates considered resolutions submitted by State Councils from across the Order. The Committee on Laws and Resolutions, led by Supreme Advocate Anthony Picarello, presented recommendations on each resolution consolidated duplicate submissions. Resolutions were passed on the following subject:

- In Solidarity with his Holiness Pope Leo XIV
- Celebrating the Semiquincentennial of the United States of America and its Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- In Support of an Equitable Migration Policy
- Celebrating the Beatification of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen
- Amending Section 126, Section 128 & Chapter XV of the Laws of the Knights of Columbus to Streamline Council Officer Operations
- Amending Section 128 of the Laws of the Knights of Columbus Concerning the Election of the Office of Financial Secretary
- Honoring Columbia Magazine
- Commemorating the Centennial of the Cristero War

On behalf of the Ontario Supreme Convention delegates, I thank the Ontario State Council and the Diocesan Associations for allowing us to represent you at this year's Supreme Convention. I encourage you to consider letting your name stand in the future to serve as an Ontario delegate to the Supreme Convention.

Next year's Supreme Convention will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, from August 3 to 5, 2027, at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort.

This year's convention was an unforgettable experience and one of the greatest highlights of my time in the Knights of Columbus.

For more information on how to become a 2027 Supreme Convention delegate, please speak to your Diocesan Association Chairman or email Worthy State Secretary Brother Joe Bodnar at statesecretary@ontariokofc.ca

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!

THE EXPERIENCE OF VOLUNTEERING...

By: Dr. Charles Frank, Former District Deputy



As summer begins to wind down and we look toward September, it seems like a good time to pause and reflect on the importance of being involved in our community—and on the many rewards that come from giving our time to others.

Over the past year, I have had the privilege of serving as District Deputy. It has been an interesting and rewarding experience, providing me with the opportunity to visit councils, meet many dedicated members and see firsthand the good work being done throughout our district.

But when I look back on the year, what stands out most isn't the meetings, the paperwork or even the challenges that inevitably come with working with a large group of volunteers.

It is the people.

One of the great rewards of volunteering is the opportunity to become part of something larger than ourselves. Whether it is helping at a community event, supporting a family in need, raising funds for a worthy cause, helping a young person achieve something special, or simply being there when someone needs a hand, our efforts can make a real difference.

But there is another side to volunteerism that we sometimes overlook: we benefit too. Our lives become enriched.

Volunteering gives us a sense of purpose. It gets us out into the community, introduces us to people we might otherwise never meet and creates opportunities to develop friendships that can last for years. It also reminds us that we have something valuable to contribute—our experience, our skills, our time and, perhaps most importantly, our willingness to help.

Some of the most rewarding moments I've experienced have not been the ones that appeared on a calendar. They have been the conversations with fellow volunteers, the satisfaction of seeing someone receive help when they needed it, watching young people participate in an event, or seeing a group of members come together to accomplish something that none of us could have achieved alone.

Those are the moments that make volunteerism worthwhile.

We sometimes hear people say that they are too busy to volunteer. I understand that. All of us have competing demands on our time. But volunteering doesn't necessarily mean taking on another major responsibility or committing every evening and weekend. Sometimes it simply means saying, "Yes, I can help."

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And once we begin saying yes, something interesting happens. We discover that our community needs us—but we also discover that we need our community.

As we begin another fraternal and community-service year, I encourage everyone to find a way to participate. It doesn't have to be something big. Attend an event. Help with a project. Welcome a new member. Bring a friend. Offer an hour of your time. Ask what needs to be done.

You may be surprised by how much satisfaction you receive in return.





I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve our District, but even more grateful for the people I have met and the friendships that have developed through that service. Being District Deputy was a position; being a volunteer is something much more meaningful.

At the end of the day, our legacy isn't measured by the titles we held or the number of meetings we attended. It is measured by the people we helped, the friendships we formed, the lives we touched and the difference we made in the community around us. So, as summer comes to an end and a new year begins, I encourage each of us to stay involved—or perhaps become involved for the first time.

Give a little of your time. Share your experience. Help where you can. Get to know the people around you.

The rewards of volunteering are many, but perhaps the greatest is knowing that because you chose to be there, you made your community, your council and the lives of others just a little better.

Editor's Note: This article was written for the 'The Knightly Beacon' ... the bimonthly bulletin of Council 4375 (Tecumseh), but its message is relevant to all. Bro. Charles is currently resident of the Windsor St. Clair Rotary Club. This speaks to the transferability of leadership skills.

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!

TWO LUNGS, ONE BODY

Michael Mullin, CLU, CHS, FIC, CPCA, General Agent's Representative to the State Board



At our District Deputy meeting this summer, State Deputy David Gelinas gave us an image I have not been able to set down since. The Knights of Columbus, he said, breathes with two lungs; the fraternal and the insurance. Not two departments. Not two priorities competing for air. Two lungs, one body, one breath.

He is in good company. St. John Paul II used the same image for the Church herself, insisting she must breathe with both her lungs, East and West, or she does not breathe fully at all. What is true of the Church is true of this Order Father McGivney built inside her: take away either lung, and the body labors. Let me show you what it looks like when both lungs are working.

Early in his career, one of our agents sat at a kitchen table with a young father of three. He hadn't come through a cold call. A brother Knight — a council officer who knew the family — made the introduction, the way brothers do. That is the fraternal lung: the trust, the friendship, the man who says you should sit down with our agent, I did. The father was busy, healthy, forty-something, and half-convinced the meeting was unnecessary. He sat anyway. Before the agent left that night, a term policy was in place, enough to cover the mortgage & replace his income for ten years. Not long after, he was killed in a collision on the 401.

In the weeks that followed, his council did what councils do. They filled the funeral pews. They carried the casket. They brought meals, cut the grass, checked on the boys. That is the fraternal lung, breathing at full strength, and no cheque can replace it.

But the cheque came too. His widow, forty-four years old with three children, kept her home. She grieved without a bank hovering over her. The lights stayed on for a decade while she rebuilt. That is the insurance lung, the one Father McGivney gathered working men around in 1882, when the question in the basement of St. Mary's was as plain as it gets: if I am gone tomorrow, who will protect my wife and children?

Here is the part I ask every Knight reading this to hold on to: neither lung was optional to that family. The casseroles without the cheque would have meant losing the house with company present. The cheque without the brothers would have meant surviving alone. She needed the Order to breathe with both lungs, and it did.

Some details above have been altered to protect the family's privacy. The story is true, and it is true many times over across this Order.

So when your council's agent calls this year and asks for a short meeting with your associate members, hear it rightly. That is not a sales call. That is the Order taking a breath. Nothing has to be bought; the credit, and the point, is in the conversation itself, making sure every brother knows what already stands behind his family.

Our State Deputy handed us the right image. Our job, District Deputies and council officers, and all members, is to keep the body breathing with both lungs, this fraternal year and well beyond it.

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!