

**THE ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE MICHIGAN STATE COUNCIL
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**GRAND HOTEL
MACKINAC ISLAND, MICHIGAN
MAY 23, 24, and 25, 2019**

STATE OFFICERS

State Deputy	William H. Chassé	Lansing
State Secretary	Walter K. Winkle, Jr.	Columbus
State Treasurer	Christopher A. Kolomjec	Grosse Pte. Farms
State Advocate	Barry M. Borsenik	Birch Run
State Warden	Charles E. McCuen III	St.
Clair Shores		
State Chaplain	Rev. Paul E. Erickson	
Lansing		

OPENING MASS HOMILY: Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron

Vivat Jesus. It is my experience of at least some 40 years of being a priest that God in His providence appoints a reading for us to hear that is apt for the moment. And in the 11 times now that I've been able to preside as the Archbishop of Detroit at the beginning of our convention, it's true, and I find it particularly true this afternoon. Because in meditating on this very short gospel—three verses only—what I heard in the Lord's word is a foundation—a commentary, really—on the four principle goods that we pursue in our order: the good of charity, the good of unity, the good of fraternity, and the great good of patriotism.

And I think this is important for us to think about and to understand that God's own word speaks about these realities so that we at least begin our time together in the conviction that we didn't make this up. This is not our construction. Yes, certainly, there are committees and groups, but your participation in the Knights of Columbus, in this fraternal order, is an extension of having heard the word of Christ and responded. It's an act of religion, something that you aim to make pleasing to God and to make an expression of your discipleship, of your belonging to Jesus Christ.

And each of these great goods is commented on by our Lord Himself in the gospel. The great good of charity when Jesus says, "As the Father loves me, so I also love you." In that one saying, Jesus redefines love, he redefines what charity is. It turns out to be this, doesn't it? The cross is the measure of charity. So I have loved you. This is what we all strive for as disciples of Christ, and it is the charity which is propagated in our fraternal order. Unity—remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in His love. By this saying, our Lord teaches us clearly that the unity we strive for is a unity not based on sentiment but a unity based, as His unity with the Father is, on the gift of self-giving, a total commitment of each to the other. And so the unity of the fraternal order of the Knights of Columbus is not a construct. It's a grace. It's a gift. The gift of being of one mind and one heart and doing the work of God's kingdom. The unity that is an expression, a sacrament, if you will. A manifestation. An icon of the unity between the Father and the Son in their love. And in Jesus' saying about joy, I hear Him commenting both on fraternity and on patriotism. "I've told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete.

The keeping of God's commandments, of the commandments of Christ, is about our human flourishing. What Jesus asks us to do is not an imposition, not some kind of tyrannical fatwa, but it is a great gift. His commandments are for us the path to our flourishing, whose fruit is joy, particularly in this Order. In the Knights of Columbus, the joy that comes from living in fraternity, the joy that Fr. McGivney knew would belong to the men in the first circle of Knights as they supported one another in their roles as husbands and fathers, confident that should they ever not be able to provide for their families, there was a brotherhood of Knights available to secure the good that they strove for, that they were dedicated to. The joy of fraternity. The joy that we all have because we are dedicated to a worthwhile cause and we can give ourselves to it and we can secure one another's well-being by our mutual assistance.

And the joy that comes from being patriots. In keeping God's commandments, in living lives of charity and unity, we are truly patriotic. Being a Knight disciple makes one a better citizen and makes our country a better country. And this is very important for us to claim and to stand up for and say, in these days, when there are people who describe our order as a cult or a radical organization. I was very impressed by this journalist's comment: "Since the Knights of Columbus have become a political issue recently, a constant refrain I've seen on social media is something along the lines of, 'What do you mean? The pancake breakfast guys?' The point being could you be picking on any nicer guys? But it is so much more than that. The Knights of Columbus are about virtue and service. The United States and the world would not be the same without the Knights of Columbus. I have a lot less hope without the Knights of Columbus. The Knights are far from an extremist organization that anyone ought to be induced to leave. To the contrary, we need more of the Knights. The people in public order need that fraternity all the more. But every man, whatever his calling, can benefit. And we should be thankful that they're part of the life of our country."

So very true. And how can this be? It is because we are disciples of Jesus Christ, that we live lives of charity that bring us to experience and act out of unity, to obey God's commandments with great fruit in the joy that is the crown of flourishing according to the will of God. This is what I thought about when I got on the ferry and I came up the hill for this convention. I know it's what my brother priests and my brother bishops think about. It's why we're happy to serve you, because we are confident that in the aspirations you work to achieve in our Order, you are becoming better disciples. God is being glorified and His kingdom is growing. That's what this Eucharist is about, as I said at the beginning. It's our opportunity to take all of our good works that have been done and all the good works we aspire to do and consecrate them to the Father along with the Body and Blood of Jesus. The world is blessed that through us God is blessing His world. Vivat Jesus.

OPENING SESSION (THURSDAY EVENING)

Charles McCuen: My brother Knights, vivat Jesus. By direction of our state deputy, William H. Chassé, it is my honor and privilege to open up the 119th Michigan Knights of Columbus annual state convention.

Walter Winkle: Worthy state chaplain, Paul Erickson, will you please say the opening prayer?

Rev. Paul Erickson: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Good and gracious God, we give you thanks and praise for the gifts, the blessings, the graces that you continually pour down upon us. Father, we thank you for this great state of Michigan, for the illustrious Order of the Knights of Columbus, Father, and the blessings that we've received through the Knights. We ask that as we come to order this evening and throughout this weekend, that your spirit would pervade our hearts and minds and lives and we would come to an agreement with Your will, for Your church. Father, we ask you to raise us up as men, as fathers, after Your Sacred Heart. And we ask all of this through the holy name of Jesus. Amen.

Walter Winkle: Worthy District Master, please post the colors.

Worthy Vice Supreme Master, will you lead us in the Pledge? *All: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*

Now we will sing the opening ode. *(All sang ode.)*

We'll start with the roll call.

Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron, Archbishop of Detroit, is present.

Most Reverend Steven J. Raica, Bishop of Gaylord, is present.

Most Reverend David Walkowiak, Bishop of Grand Rapids, is present.

Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley, Bishop of Kalamazoo, is present.

Most Reverend Earl Boyea, Bishop of Lansing, is present.

Most Reverend John F. Doerfler, Bishop of Marquette, is present.

Most Reverend Gerald Vincke, Bishop of Salina, Kansas, is present.

Most Reverend Frank Kalabat, Bishop of St. Thomas the Apostle of Detroit, Chaldean, is excused.

Most Reverend Richard Seminack, Bishop of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Eparchy of Chicago, is excused.

Most Reverend Donald Hanchon, Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, is present.

Most Reverend Arturo Cepeda, Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, is excused.

Most Reverend Gerard Battersby, Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, is here.

Most Reverend Robert Fisher, Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, is present.

Worthy State Chaplain, Reverend Paul Erickson, is present.

Reverend Paul Ballien, Archdiocesan Chaplain of Detroit, is present.

Reverend Nicholas Cooper, Gaylord Diocesan Chaplain, is present.

Reverend Lam T. Le, Grand Rapids Diocesan Chaplain, is present.

Very Reverend Robert Creagan, Kalamazoo Diocesan Chaplain, is present.

Reverend Robert Bacik, Lansing Diocesan Chaplain, is present.

Reverend Corey Litzner, Marquette Diocesan Chaplain, is excused; he'll be here tomorrow

Very Reverend James William Bessert, Saginaw Diocesan Chaplain, is present.

Reverend Enzo Addari, administrator of St. Louis Center, is present.
Former State Chaplain Msgr. Todd Lajiness is present.
Former State Chaplain Reverend Douglas Terrien is excused.
Former State Chaplain Reverend Scott Thibodeau is present.
Former State Chaplain Reverend Ronald Hutchinson is excused.
Former State Chaplain Very Reverend William Turner is present.
Worthy State Deputy William Chassé is present.
Worthy Supreme Treasurer Ronald Schwarz is present.
Worthy Membership Coordinator Joseph Ramirez is present.
Worthy Former Supreme Director Robert Stebler is excused.
Worthy Former Supreme Director and Past State Deputy Thomas Wegener is present.
Vice Supreme Master of the Hennepin Province, Cliff Wasmund, is present.
Worthy State Secretary Walter Winkle is here.
Worthy State Treasurer Christopher Kolomjec is present.
Worthy State Advocate Barry Borsenik is present.
Worthy State Warden Charles McCuen III is present.
Immediate Past State Deputy Kenneth Unterbrink is present.
District Master Mark Brezenski is present.
District Master #2 David Buick is present.
Master of District #3 Dale Bosley is present.
Master of District #4 Keith Woodrum is present.
Past State Deputy William Walsh is present.
Past State Deputy and Former Vice Supreme Master Thomas Clark is present.
Past State Deputy Richard McCloy is present.
Past State Deputy R. Martin Poleni is excused.
Past State Deputy Kenneth T. Grembowski is present.
Past State Deputy and Former Vice Supreme Master George Dann is excused, and please remember his wife, Connie, in your prayers.
Past State Deputy Kevin MacFarland Sr. is excused.
Past State Deputy Thomas Marcetti Sr. is present.
Past State Deputy Michael Malinowski is present.
Past State Deputy Robert Fox is present.
Former Vice Supreme Master George Mallison is present.

Supreme Council and General Insurance Agents:

Don Wesley is present.
Ron Sneller is present.
Dan Thelen is excused.
Brian Barlow is present.
Jack Jerzewski is present.

Supreme Director of the Order of Alhambra, Cliff Dake, is present.
President of the Michigan Catholic Conference, Paul Long, is here.
President of Holy Cross Children's Services, Peter Bertsch, is here.

Thank you for your attention as we have completed the first section of our roll call. We will now watch a short video from the bishops of Michigan on youth protection, followed by comments from our state program director, William Levecque.

Video was shown.

William Levecque: So as we all know, safe environment—the safety of our children—is extremely important to our Church. It’s extremely important to our bishops. And it should be as important to every one of us. What does a child molester look like? Everyday people. That’s why the Knights of Columbus also, to protect your councils, to protect you Grand Knights, has also developed a safe environment youth protection training. They have made it a requirement for all councils to participate in youth protection. Is it not important that we protect our children? What do you guys say? So we need you to make sure that your councils go back and make sure that they’re compliant with their youth protection. We’d appreciate you do that promptly each year, filling out your 185 and 365 forms. When your 365 form is filled out, the people in the four required positions will receive an email with a link to take their youth protection [training]. So we want to take our diocesan protection [training]; we also want to take our Knights of Columbus protection [training]. We want to take both. It’s better that we make sure everyone involved can spot any type of child abuse out there and prevent it. Thank you.

Walter Winkle: And now we have a short video from our Supreme Knight, Carl A. Anderson.

The video can be viewed at the following link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WBbx7ITFrRm3fQ_aI2fTZDmF_PY0eDvM/view

Walter Winkle: At this time, I would ask that the bishops, state and diocesan chaplains, council chaplains please retire to their meeting. The state warden will escort you to that location. Please follow him and his aides. Thank you. Let’s all show our appreciation to our clergy. *(applause)* Thank you very much. And at this time, if everyone would return to the dais that were up there? Thank you.

At this time I ask our state deputy to give his report. Please rise and welcome our state deputy, William H. Chassé.

William Chassé: Thank you, brother Knights. Thank you. Your Excellencies, Worthy State Chaplain, Worthy Diocesan Chaplains, Reverend Fathers, and all Religious; Worthy Supreme Treasurer; Worthy Supreme Regional Growth Director; Worthy Former Supreme Director; Worthy Vice Supreme Master; worthy fellow state officers; worthy past state deputies; worthy former vice supreme masters; worthy district deputies; worthy district masters of the Fourth Degree; worthy former district deputies; worthy former masters of the Fourth Degree; worthy state and regional and diocesan directors; worthy Grand Knights and council officers; worthy Supreme insurance agents; worthy delegates; worthy brother Knights; vivat Jesus. For the minute that you’ve all been waiting for—the state of the state.

I promise you it is an abbreviated version. If you would like to read it in its entirety, it was in your registration packets.

I would like to thank all of our bishops from all seven dioceses for their support of the Knights of Columbus. The relationship that we have with our bishops is something we as Knights take very seriously, and we will always be there for them. I would like to thank the diocesan chaplains for their support and their religious guidance. Without your support, our leadership would not be what it is today. Thank you to all the council chaplains for your support and religious guidance. Your support of the councils at the local level is vital to our continued success.

In 2018, June, we held our district deputy training at Queen of Angels in Saginaw. At that training, 38 new district deputies attended. The core message we shared with them was the importance of effective communication and the tools they need to be successful in their respective districts. From July 5-8, we held our summer organizational meeting at Crown Plaza in Lansing, with 90% of our district deputies in attendance and all of our directors. Our main topic was making the word “membership” a positive word. We explained the importance of rebuilding the army to stay vibrant, most importantly for the Church and all of our communities. We talked about the importance of Sacred Heart Major Seminary and the scholarship endowment fund, about which we will hear a lot this weekend. Because of this program, we assure that no seminarian will leave the seminary due to lack of finances. The Michigan Knights of Columbus committed \$1 million; a quick start of \$22,000 was raised at the summer organizational meeting. With the help of one member, matching funds were raised at those summer meetings. We talked of many different membership scenarios and reinforced the importance of communication and being positive and helping their councils succeed. On July 12 we hosted the Fresh Start council officers’ training and had over 273 councils participate. From July 10-20, the state leadership traveled all seven dioceses in our jurisdiction on the annual diocesan road trip. The leadership explained our philosophy of commitment, communication, positive attitude, and obtaining the best effort out of everyone for the good of the Order.

On August 3, we celebrated the 350th anniversary of Holy Name of Mary Proto-Cathedral in Sault Ste. Marie in the Marquette Diocese. August 4-9, the state board attended the 136th Supreme Convention in Maryland. The board gained much valuable information from the various sessions as well as making new contacts with our Supreme leadership. On August 10th we attended the vocations baseball game at Lansing Lugnuts Stadium. Over 50 priests and 40 sisters from different orders were present. This type of support for vocations is at the core of what we do as members of the Knights of Columbus. On August 25th, the state board and many council members attended the annual Tiger Night at Comerica Park in Detroit for a night of fraternalism. On August 26th, the board along with our state chaplain and state program director held a meeting with the evangelization team. We discussed the rollout of *This Man Is You*, a new program to help men be more involved with their parishes and their faith.

In September, the state board had a meeting with all bishops and diocesan chaplains at the Michigan Catholic Conference in Lansing. We discussed our role in evangelization and the work we need to do to perform throughout the year to increase our involvement with our parishes. Our bishops would like to know more about the goings-on in their respective dioceses. They are very committed to us. We agreed to share information about our efforts with them through better communication with the diocesan chaplains. On September 8 we held our installation of state leadership at the Lansing Center in Lansing with a statewide turnout showing solidarity of our

newly elected and appointed leadership team throughout the state of Michigan. On September 13th the board attended the Saginaw Bishop's Charity Dinner.

In October we attended several clergy appreciation dinners throughout the state. All clergy dinners are very important to the state board. We also worked with Columbus Day Tootsie Roll Drives throughout the state. October 10th was a proud day in my life. I was able to knight my oldest son into the Fourth Degree at the Michigan District #2 exemplification in Kalamazoo. Throughout the year the state board attended all Fourth Degree exemplifications to support the patriotic degree and to reinforce how we are stronger when we work together. October 12-14 we attended the Fr. Hennepin Province provincial meeting in Sterling Heights, Michigan. On October 17th, we attended the Focus for Life benefit dinner in Saginaw. On October 20th, the board attended the Prep Bowl, a Michigan Knights of Columbus-sponsored event that many, if you have not been there, should try to attend. The Knights of Columbus sponsors this event, and it is for all Catholic high schools from across the state of Michigan for the annual football playoffs held at Ford Field in Detroit. On October 24th, we held our state soccer challenge in Clarkston. Also during October, the leadership team conducted team-building sessions with all district deputies.

On November 3rd we attended Warriors for Lourdes fundraiser to send wounded veterans to Lourdes. The first-time event was well-attended. We also attended the Special Olympics Hall of Fame dinner later that evening. On November 4th, we attended Sacred Heart Major Seminary's Mass for all deceased Knights of Columbus members. On November 10th we attended a charity benefit dinner for St. Louis Center in Chelsea to support the Guanella Village, which houses many with special needs. On November 30th, we held our mid-year district deputy organizational meeting in Lansing. We received \$11,000 in gift cards for Holy Cross Services along with 1750 sweatshirts for residents of Holy Cross Services. In that same month, we handed out over 6,000 coats for kids at six different locations, and that does not include the local councils who held Coats for Kids events in their communities.

On December 8, we attended the Doc Egan Christmas party for adults with special needs in Lansing. Throughout the year, we attended 11 ultrasound dedications, bringing us to a total—as of today—of 56 machines for our state. This is a great example of how the Knights of Columbus put their belief into action as these ultrasound machines have saved countless lives.

Knights on Bikes is a new program instituted this year. Knights on Bikes have brought in 14 new members throughout their travels. They will add more charitable works throughout the state. They will be doing a ride for the Christian Refugee Relief Fund. During the months of December and January, we attended over 50 district meetings throughout the state, as a board, to share the message with council leadership and hear their feedback and concerns. In December we reactivated Bellaire Council #7338, which is well and alive. On January 18th, we participated in the annual March for Life in Washington DC to end abortion. On January 26th, we started a new council, MSU College Council #17197, with our own state treasurer's son as the charter Grand Knight. If I could have Christopher Jr. please stand? On January 30, we attended the Winter Special Olympics opening ceremonies in Traverse City and presented a \$10,000 check. This was in addition to your \$220,000 already given to Special Olympics through all councils' efforts with

their MI drives held in Michigan. You should be very proud of what you do with the MI program. Thank you, councils.

February 2 through 16 we attended Delta membership training given by John Olson from Supreme. February 7th we attended Council #4090 in Davison for their annual seminarians' benefit dinner, with all funds raised to go to the seminary. On February 9th we attended the state bowling tournament opening ceremonies in St. Clair Shores. During the month of February, we started another new college council, Michigan Tech University Council #17237 in Houghton. Is the Grand Knight or Deputy Grand Knight present? If you are, please stand. I know he is here, so let's give him a round of applause. On February 23rd we held our state chaplain's tribute dinner, honoring our state chaplain, Father Paul Erickson.

On March 10th we held our state free throw contest and walked in the St. Patrick's parade in Detroit later that afternoon. On March 16, we held our state spelling bee contest in Essexville, Saginaw Diocese. On March 17th we attended Holy Trinity's St. Patrick's Day Mass in Detroit. On March 19th we started another new council, St. Mary's Visitation Council #17232 in Byron Center, Kalamazoo. Is there anyone here to represent that council? District Deputy, please stand if you are. Thank you, Jim Pitsch, very much. On March 20th we attended a Top 10 Student Awards dinner that every state warden looks forward to, Council #2291 in Merrill. March 26 to 28, we attended additional Delta membership training sessions with John Olson from Supreme. On March 30th we attended the former state chaplain Rev. William Turner's 40th anniversary of his ordination with a dinner in Chelsea. To this day he still talks about how the entire board attended that dinner. And that's what we mean, guys, to our priests. All of you are very important to them. During the last week of March, Joe Ramirez and Marty Yzaguirre and Brother Le Nguyen from Supreme came to Michigan to help us with Hispanic and Vietnamese new council development.

On April 4th we attended the Michigan Right to Life dinner. We were pleased, on behalf of all of your councils in the Michigan jurisdiction, to present a check for \$100,000 to support right-to-life education in the state of Michigan. During the April board meeting, Right to Life of Michigan came and discussed the expense of the planned petition drive that will challenge Michigan Right to Life. Because of the support of all Michigan Knights, we were able to show our 100 percent back to the Michigan Right to Life, and later this weekend we will present them with another check for \$40,000 to help send a bill to our legislature to ban dismemberment abortions during late-term abortion procedures—very important. On April 30th we attended a Protect Life Michigan benefit dinner in East Lansing. With over 500 people in attendance, it was the largest benefit dinner of Protect Life Michigan in their five years of existence.

On May 3rd we attended a sisters' appreciation dinner at Council #2740 in Essexville. On May 4th we attended St. Pius X Council #3848's 65th anniversary dinner in Warren. On May 11th we participated in a living rosary on the Michigan State Capitol lawn in Lansing, which will be a new state program starting next year. Gentlemen, this will be a state program and we need you to support this program for what it stands for. At this year's convention, we will be able to present a check for \$12,000—this may be the first time you are hearing of this—to Michigan Special Olympics once again. This is given for being number one for the eighth year in a row in the Division One states for contribution and man-hours given to Special Olympics.

At this time I would like to thank Tom Wegener, former supreme director, for his commitment and time with helping redistricting the state of Michigan, which was well overdue. Many, many hours have gone into this. We will be going from 95 DDs to 104 DDS starting on July 1. This will give the district deputies the chance to make the best of their time, getting the message to their councils on a more regular basis. DDs that have six or seven councils, it is unrealistic for us to expect them to do the best they can do. Now DDs will have a maximum of five, with 85 percent of the DDs having four councils. This should help communication and answering questions that the councils may have. This will help councils and their DDs to have a better chance to be successful.

With all the achievements here in Michigan, I want to thank you for your dedication and support. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our state membership director, Jim Kraus, for his commitment and dedication. Jim has shown his dedication by developing effective strategies for building council sustainability and growth state-wide to help our councils achieve their individual successes. You will hear more later this week, gentlemen, how close we are for the first time in a decade to make Circle of Honor. And with your help in the month of June, I know we will do it. We'll talk more about that later on.

I would like to thank our state program director, Bill Levecque, for his leadership in introducing the changes of the programs from Supreme and helping the councils to achieve their goals, along with various other projects. Our Order's success is because of programs. Membership would not be successful without strong programs. And without new members, our programs would not be what they are. Membership and programs do go hand in hand.

As you heard, our new council development program was successful in bringing in two new college councils, one of them, as we said, the MSU council, a college council that has been in the works for over 20 years. And next year, for you Wolverines, we are going to Ann Arbor and we will open a council at Ann Arbor. Our Grand Knight here has a competition for that incoming Grand Knight of that council already. The other being the Michigan Tech in the Marquette diocese and one other council in the Kalamazoo diocese in Byron Center, with a few others that are well in the works. Thank you, Dan Fuller, for the hard work, and looking forward to all the new councils that you already have in the works to start up the coming year.

I would like to extend a heartfelt appreciation and thank you to my fellow state officers for your commitment and for working with me the way you work. Thank you very much, state officers. If it weren't for your dedication and your willingness to work as a team, we would not be in a position for making our goals. Thank you again for your commitment.

I would like to thank Vice Supreme Master Cliff Wasmund for your dedication and working together with the state board and all the Masters; as we know, accomplishments happen when we work together. Thank you very much, Worthy Vice Supreme Master.

To all the state, regional, and diocesan directors, thank you for your commitment, your dedication, and helping with putting Michigan back where we belong, towards the top. To all past state deputies, thank you for your support, your friendship. Thank you for paving the road

for all that is done. Without your leadership in the past and now, Michigan could not be where it is today, and we will talk about your more on the weekend.

A special thanks to my wife and ladies on the board for your support, your understanding and willingness to travel with us throughout the entire state, a state that you can start in one end and keep driving for 14 hours and still be in the same state. Without your support and assistance, we could not do what we do.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you delegates for being here this weekend. I sincerely appreciate you being here. The responsibilities of being a delegate are more important than some may know. What you hear this weekend must get back to your councils. Our councils deserve the right to know what is voted on and what goes on at this convention so they understand the direction that we are going in so they can be successful.

We are honored to have our Supreme Treasurer, Ron Schwarz, with us this weekend. I hope the proof of our programs and our commitment to build the army, to always protect and stand guard for the Catholic Church, goes without saying. The attitude here in Michigan is positive and the membership is fully alive. We are making Michigan great again. That concludes the 2019 State Deputy's report. Thank you, gentlemen.

Walter Winkle: Thank you, Worthy State Deputy. Wow, it's hard to believe we were that busy as a board. I get quite a few emails, I talk to quite a few financial secretaries and Grand Knights, as the state secretary, throughout the year, and one of the comments I get is, "You guys gotta be retired." Nobody on the board is retired. We all have a job. But that's our dedication to serving our Church and our Order. At this time, I will continue with the roll call. And because of the efficiency of our scanners, the balance of the roll call has been counted and recorded.

COUNCIL NO.	COUNCIL NAME	DELEGATES	ALTERNATES
305	Detroit	Delmar Harkenrider	
389	Martin Carmody		
414	Bay City	Ronald N. Makidon Rick L. Mistura	John Ayotte Norman E. Moore, Jr.
521	Msgr. E. J. Mc Cormick	William Jackson	Joe Mike Brown
529	Alpena	Arthur Mucciante	
575	Queen City	Andrew Kincaid	
587	St. Thomas	Anthony Portelli	
593	Father Kenney		SUSPENDED
600	Msgr Sharpe	Nicholas J. Greiwe Oscar E. Mittelstaedt	Gregory Zawalski
609	Jackson	Matt Vanhoof	Dennis Savageau
640	Escanaba		

646	Menominee		
649	Msgr Oliver J. O'Callaghan	Ian Yazel	Anthony Mauris
689	Msgr Nolan B. McKevitt	Brian Malone Tyson Murphy	Andy Wasilewski
692	Hancock		
695	Msgr. Patrick R. Dunigan		
706	Dan Kennedy		
708	Niles		
744	John Cardinal Dearden	Brian Felczak	Bryan Newcom
788	Richard	Ken Morrison Brian Peacock	Jay Corey Dave Luedtke
791	Cheboygan	Keith E. Ginop	Charles Rader Charles Atkins
853	Msgr. Steffes	Gary Sielski	
856	Marine City	Gabriel LaVere Paul W. Burger	
923	St. Francis Xavier	Joseph E. Hoffman Roger D. Clark	Andrew D. Mayer
944	Fr. Fierle	Richard Esparza	Tom O'Connor
1120	Immaculate Heart of Mary	Thomas D. Hanley Adam Bishop	
1139	Father Slane	Chris Hanson	Bob Hardenbergh Gary Bendall
1213	Grand Traverse	Joe Zayaz	Dr. Joseph Staymen
1224	Cadillac		
1245	Calumet	Joe Snow	
1266	Monroe	Joseph D. Vitale James M. Christensen	Shawn Piedmonte David H. Vanacker
1297	Mt. Pleasant	Robbie Waclawski Steve Stressman	Jose Reyes, Sr. Frank Hackett
1300	Father Faucher	Tom O'Brien	
1396	Ironwood		
1492	Pere Marquette	Michael O'Brien Patrick Wroble	William Roy
1541	Fr. Vincent L. Ouellette		
1546	Bad Axe	Eric Emming Steve Braun	Ray Geiger Phil Peyerk
1585	Bishop Baraga		

1616	Bishop Alfred J. Markiewicz OWES \$487.25	Daniel Barrett Ronald Magin	Patrick Murphy
1665	Adrian	Dave Krawetzke	Gerard Zenk
1705	Rogers City	Michael Stempky	
1802	Wyandotte	Ronald Thoms Dale Miller	
1874	Fr. James W. Cotter		
1982	Fr. John Riess		
1987	Lapeer	Fred R. Wurster Robert J. Kosal	Daniel A. Mausolf Mitchell J. Olejniczak, Jr
2022	Ogemaw		
2026	Manistique		
2084	St. Charles	Neil Kassuba Lawrence Kassuba	
2113	Dowagiac		No Delegates
2141	Midland		No Delegates
2168	Portland	Rex Waltersdorf	Todd Mc Elmurry Thomas Klein
2173	St. Ignace		
2198	Carson City Hubbardston		
2199	Mary Queen of Peace		
2251	Msgr Kromenaker	Leroy Mollan Daniel Granowicz	William Galliker Patrick Schindler
2291	Fr. Robert F. Newman	Arthur J. Buckley	
2300	Iron River		
2463	Gabriel Richard		
2508	Sturgis		
2515	Allegan		
2569	Bishop Gallagher	Sean Dare Gary Schultz	Francis Johnstone Alex Jakstys
2594	St. Basil		
2632	St. Paul	Michael J. Klein Ronald B. Bush	Anthony Mazzella Kevin Shinaberry
2659	Fr John R. Day	Eric Pogrmich Thomas Wilmoth	Harold Aaral Patrick Shanahan
2660	Bishop Foley	Dominic Raona Stephen Lentz	Ronald Brockman Frank Paolini
2667	Richmond	Bryan Eisen	Paul Eisen

		Willie Winkle	Matthew Sobkowski
2690	George F. Monaghan	William Dolunt Roy MacDonald	Larry Vendal
2709	Tawas	Scott Frank Ralph Zimmerman	Terry Marlinga Dave Lesinski
2713	Torch Lake		
2723	Card. Mercier		
2724	Fr. Eugene Labory	Ronald Alley	
2733	Lakeshore		
2739	Holy Cross		
2740	Fr. Van Rooy	Todd Prime Mark Smith	James Buda Gary Wrubel
2781	St. Mary's	Frank Sandler	
2804	Robt. Denman		No Delegates
2819	Msgr. Champion		
2835	Fr. Kramer		
2890	St Jude Thaddeus	Mike Fink Mike Prince	Dan Witgen
2894	Bishop Eis		
2900	Fr. Korst	Robert Small Bard Rupp	
2924	Bronson		
2929	Newberry	Rob Taylor	
2931	Bishop Pinten		No Delegates
2934	Fr. Baraga	Joey Lusty	
2943	St Christopher	Douglas Bishop	Michael Maxa
2950	St Lawrence	Scott Morgan Donald Heydens	Paul Burgmeister
2959	Dexter	Andy Toma	Raymond Phillips James Vincke
2966	St Mary's		
2975	George McCarthy OWES \$795.75	Mike Olivier Robert Wasside	James Burke
2986	Fr. Flajole		No Delegates
3021	Notre Dame	Mark Sieloff	Eric Pohl
3027	Msgr. Esper		No Delegates

3029	Clare	Charles Faching Matt Benic	Steve Ludwick
3042	Leo XIII	Clayton Kubacki Ronald Tomala	David Szymanski Jeff Kirkman
3078	Robt. H. Jones	Charles R. Morrison	Eugene T. Gross
3082	Guardian Angels		No Delegates
3092	Blessed Louis Guanella	Kenneth E. Kloviski Vincent R. Elie	Rich Hollo Tom Turek
3104	Bishop Plagens		No Delegates
3111	Marian		No Delegates
3129	St. Patrick		
3160	DeLaSalle		No Delegates
3170	Father Dolan		No Delegates
3191	Msgr. Stapleton		
3221	Bishop Henry E. Donnelly	Ron Stacey	
3224	Caro	Bryan Muska Matthew W. Perez	Patrick Decker John Papp, Jr.
3230	Alfred E. Walters	Ron Roznowski Dennis Zielinski	
3257	Bishop Wm.F. Murphy		
3260	Msgr. Michael J. Grupa		
3281	St. John	Michael Huhn	
3292	Fr. Victor J. Renaud	Paul A. Gelinas Jerry Murphy	Joe Bauer
3312	Monsignor Hunt	Robert Smedley Brendan Victory	
3447	Father John V. Dillon		
3505	Fr. Barrette		No Delegates
3577	Edward Cardinal Mooney		
3590	Msgr. Eugene A. Forbes		
3615	Msgr. John P. Eppenbrock		
3651	Beal City	Jim Streng	Edward Reihl Steven Schumacher
3725	Msgr. John Vismara		No Delegates
3774	Fr. Alfred Saylor	Robert Cooper	Felice Lalli Timothy Hayden
3797	Fr. Solanus Casey	Paul Desjardins	James Wietecha

3798	Paw Paw		No Delegates
3823	Ruth		
3830	Queen of Holy Rosary	Keith Flood James Nitkiewicz	Joe Panozzo Terrence Mack
3848	St. Pius X	Kevin Labudde Richard Del Papa	Jerome Kunert Stan Sobecki
3860	Fr. Patrick O'Kelley	James Vihtelic	Robert Ciavaglia Michael Bretsik
3869	St. Thomas the Apostle		SUSPENDED
3956	Bernard P. O'Brien	Bob Laforest William Robert	Walt Kabalka Larry Rossi
3959	Fr. Daniel A. Lord		
4036	Shower of Roses	Stephen Harnish	Brian Petes Bob Wagner
4055	Fr. R. G. Thelen		
4064	O. L. of the Lakes		
4090	Bishop Jos.H. Albers	Greg McCarty Mark Corcoran	Pete Ericson Carl Knieper
4102	St. Stephen OWES \$674.50	Scott DeWyse	Floyd Petroski
4141	Pope Paul VI	Deacon Mike McCloskey	
4188	Fr. John M. Lynch	Adam Rada Terry Clayton	John Napolitano Robert Paul
4232	Father Nouvel	Joseph F. Murawski	
4235	Alcona	Michael A. Maturen	
4285	Holy Family	Louis Bryan	
4354	Fr. Edwin Fisher	Martin Brogley Larry Bennedict	Eric Beurle
4362	Bishop Haas	Anthony Arbanas John Veneklase	Keith Lickley Ronnie Hage
4401	St. Francis OWES \$1129.00	Henry Testa	Tom Rancour
4404	St. Vincent DePaul	Randy Graftema	Jerome May
4513	Immaculate Conception		
4556	Our Lady Queen of Peace	Louis Parsch	
4693	Pius XII	William Izydorek Gerald Pathic	Michael Leen Andrew Leen
4764	Fr. Thomas R. Carey		No Delegates
4872	All Saints		

5083	Joseph M. Amley		
5255	Father Olk		
5280	Fr. Artman	Tom Smyczynski Tom Fruchey	Arden Lapalm Fred Sisco
5436	Pope John XXIII	Thomas F. Kendziorski Christopher J. Scheuer	John M. Greaves Michael R. Swillum
5446	Fr. Hubert		No Delegates
5452	Fr. Baumgartner	Mike McDermott	Bob Gillam Joe Carney
5460	John F. Kennedy		
5492	Dr. Thomas A. Dooley	John Galindo	
5981	Anchor Bay	Ronald R. DePestel Ronald J. Demick	Arvin Stephenson David M. Nummer
5999	St. Mary's		
6223	Irish Hills	Kirk Falk Robert Padley	
6293	Fr. George Pernaski		
6314	Boyne Valley		
6447	St. Louis the King		No Delegates
6534	St. Peter		
6548	Queen of Apostles	William R. Monahan	
6549	St. Maximillian Kolbe		
6593	Prince of Peace		No Delegates
6657	Fr. Casimir Szyper	Gregory Mulka	Dennis Budnick Richard Gronczewski
6667	Brother Felix		
6674	Saline	Roy Castel	Mike Anderson
6687	Bishop Zaleski	Gerald Brown Dale Fisher	Dave Walter
6694	Swartz Creek	Kenneth M. Lixey Robert H. George	Michael R. Trundle
6742	Mother of Perpetual Help	Richard Perry	Robert Herman
6824	Fr. George Ging	Dave Pearce Jim Russell	John Dobias Jeff Sans
6851	Thunder Bay		No Delegates
6865	Pope John Paul I		No Delegates
6980	Edward L. Koenig	John Byrnes	Brian Kaluzny

		Dan Dunn	Dan Kloosterman
7011	St. Nicholas	Joseph White	Carl Bontomasi Larry Babich
7018	St. Clement Of Rome	Joseph Suminski Mark Di Paola	Steve Betka Brian O'Curran
7100	Msgr. Theodore G. Beteski		
7115	St. John Neumann	Jeff Van Natter	Matthew Pines Luis Colon
7134	Troy		SUSPENDED
7172	Father Pierre		
7200	St. Isidore	Darin Gilbert Robert Garstka	Mark Kovasity
7227	Algonac	Ryan Kuzera	Richard Goulette Dan Kilian
7233	Fr. Van Poppelen	Kirk Dupuie David Mohn	Mike Rocha Joseph Pelon
7237	Msgr. Stotenbur	Andrew Rademacher Pat Schneider	James Sebrell James Sigmon
7239	Fr. James B. Heary	Ronnie Thompson John Turchin	Ken Podgorski Darren Gray
7255	Fr. Alpha LaHaie	Peter Messing Richard Shanley	
7304	Fr. J. Leo McCann	Ray Bonomo Steve Schafer	Kevin Mondloch
7311	St. Michael	Andrew Brege Ron Pioch	Dave Zerbe Dave Simon
7329	O. L. of the Woods Shrine	Bennet J. Horger	Paul Lyden
7337	Marlette		
7338	Fr. Malinowski OWES \$65.00	Thomas Gielda	
7340	Warren		No Delegates
7341	Bishop A.J. Babcock	David Kempisty Phil France	Roger Campbell Wally Bujak
7365	Kateri Tekawitha		
7413	St. Joseph		No Delegates
7418	Fenton	Bill French Mike Archambaugh	Paul Dorland George LaMarche
7419	St. Joseph the Worker		
7444	Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen	Douglas Sordyl Peter Essenmacher	Michael Opalko Kenneth Hulewicz
7472	Bishop Thomas L. Noa		No Delegates
7487	Bishop Fulton J. Sheen OWES \$1113.75	Richard S. Olszewski Peter Faraci	David Husted Kris Denny
7545	Fr. F.B. McCormick	Kevin M. Duffy	

7561	St. Mary	Michael J. Seefried Ronald J. Elwart	Thomas E. Seefried Kenneth M. Cazabon
7571	St. Athanasius	Robert F. Guzowski	
7582	Fr. Peter Robertson	Nick Cain	
7585	Holy Spirit		No Delegates
7586	Fr. Edmd Battersby		
7587	Howard Heath	Todd Balsler Jack Starzec	Danny Fromm Melvin Branchau
7591	Fr. Robert G. Smith		SUSPENDED
7623	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel		No Delegates
7688	Fr. Robert G. Smith	Philip Bandish	Ray Tovar
7717	Fr. Charles D. Philipp		
7719	Msgr. Hugh Beahan		Timothy Hess Scott Slaght
7761	Bishop Richter	John Tierney Shaun Bartz	Bryan Galloway Chad Carlisle
7780	Star of the Sea		No Delegates
7795	Joseph & Mary		
7796	St. Margaret's	Richard Everett Gerald Van Gelder	Don Leveille Jim Sullivan
7816	East Lansing	Paul Lacroix	Art Weber
7832	St. Peter the Apostle	Nicholas D. Martinez	John Michael Haddix
7869	Albert Doerr	John Mayer Phil Lundie	
7891	Holy Spirit	Adrian Barkan	
7918	Fr. John F. Farrell	Ronald J. Horbes	Paul McClelland
7945	St. Francis of Assisi	Jeff Wright Tom Schaffner	Dan Wawiernia Larry McNeal
7955	Durand St. Mary's		
8041	James M. Cronk		No Delegates
8042	West Huron Centennial	Gary Miller	David Eichle
8043	St. Agnes of Sanford		No Delegates
8071	Pewamo		
8113	St. Joseph	Jeffrey C. Taylor Jared O. Wadley	Donald E. Polzin
8117	Bishop Kevin Britt	Ronald J. Carlotti	Steve Vanderlean

		Ted Wright	Michael David
8118	Blessed Sacrament	Eric T. Walton	Terry Swanson
8169	St. John the Baptist	Tony Petkus Michael Babiuk	William Metz Roger Epp
8186	John Paul the Great	Barney Young	Paul N. Padyiasek
8231	Msgr.MichaelG. Abdo		No Delegates
8245	Fr.John A. Blasko		
8274	Immaculata	Taylor Luebke Michael Warfel	
8284	Msgr.Clement H. Kern	Michael Goodhart Larry Guastella	David Lengel Richard St. Peter
8291	Msgr.Julian A. Moleski		No Delegates
8344	Msgr.Michael Bochnewich		SUSPENDED
8390	St. Helen		No Delegates
8391	Msgr. Hardy	Roger Forest Edward Giron	Thomas Scheller Patrick H. Flannery
8392	St. John the Evangelist	Gary L. Schweda	
8425	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Lawrene E. Smith	
8441	St. Josaphat		
8458	Fr.Norman Zielinski		
8489	Flushing	Michael Szukhent Dan Anderson	Jacob Smith
8500	Fr. John Howard	Bob Szymanski Ken Huddas	
8554	Shepherd		
8556	Our Lady of Good Counsel		
8564	Richard C. Malone	Steven Gomez	
8582	Fr. Carl Cahill		
8605	Fowlerville	Louis F. Glubzinski	Joseph Brash
8659	Sacred Heart	Herb Stacer	Dan Heath
8669	Good Shepherd	Don Pollard Charles Stone	Ed Smeader George Marzonie
8687	St. Peter's	Dennis E. Dreyer	
8695	St. Joan of Arc	Matthew Miller	Gregory Paige
8697	St. Anne Anacleto Rodriquez		SUSPENDED

8698	Fr. Stanley A. Bowers		
8710	Fr. Patrick J. Cullinane	Dave Wangler Dale Long	John Cokonougher
8735	Blessed MotherFr Cogley		No Delegates
8785	St. Paul		
8808	Holy Spirit	Michael D. Metiva	Raymond Essenmacher Mitch Lenczewski
8820	Knights of Immaculata		
8858	St. Stanislaus Kostka		
8892	Central Thumb	KofC	Kevin Kausch
8902	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	Frank J. Esposito Frank L. Esposito	
8948	Holy Family		
8989	St. Francis of Assisi		
9131	St. Joseph	Michael Molden George Staudacher	
9154	St. Joseph Chaldean		SUSPENDED
9182	Mason	Jerome E. O'Shesky George M. Wygant	Christopher R. Knudstrup Paul S. Miller
9301	St. Mary Star of the Sea OWES \$768.50		Stan Fogg
9305	Reese		SUSPENDED
9346	Our Lady of Czestochowa		
9450	Sacred Heart		SUSPENDED
9523	Holy Spirit		
9526	Marysville	John Szczygiel Sean C. Van Tien	Bruce G. Rinke Gale B. Messing
9568	North Branch	Drew Edwards Frank Jones	
9711	St. Casimir	John Vatter Andrew R. Busch	Frank Laurich Luke Confora
9751	St. Ann-St. Jude		
9802	Montague - reactivated 2014 OWES \$490.00		
9871	Our Lady of Fields		SUSPENDED
9909	St. Michael's		
9937	Tecumseh	Wayne Ahlers John Kuenzer	Bruce Sommers
9962	St. Mary's	Michael Wachowski	Donald Pike, Jr.

			Jacob Engebretson
9979	Christ the King	Joseph Kane	Scott Hansen Theodore Mattis
10006	Okemos-St. Martha	James A. Ault Dante R. Ianni	
10170	Fr.Louis P. Gauthier	Joe Katrinic, Jr. Al Clark	Fred Westervelt Nate Vanderlok
10343	Fr. Gjergj Fishta	Mark P. Gjokaj	Deacon Alex Stanaj Prela Dushaj
10501	All Saints	John Mastej Rick Alberty	Jim Zinger Ken Hohlbein
10542	Immaculate Heart of Mary	Paul Mapes Eric Huhn	Dan Reinecke Ken Balcer
10724	Au Lac		
10777	St. Joseph's		
10907	St. Therese		
10963	St. Patrick	Paul Malocha	
10992	Holy Family		
11099	Msgr. John A. Gabriels	David R. Hall Mitchell E. Kogut	Ronald K. Holcombe John C. Gordon
11113	St. Anthony of Saranac		
11114	Father Owens	Brian Wemple	
11117	St. Henry St. Charles		SUSPENDED
11430	St. Anthony		
11432	Our Lady of Lake Huron		
11532	Most Blessed Sacrament	John Vanderkuur, III	
11581	St. Mary's Council		
11658	St. Hubert's	Jim Lepere Ron Rabine	Anthony Rangel
11664	Leelanau	Kevin Kuznicki	
11689	St. Paul of Tarsus	Michael A. Hartel Thomas R. Gray	Raymond A. Ignatowski Richard C. Okerhjelm
11694	St. Mary Cathedral	Clifford Farr Patrick Garlitz	Ryan Timmer Gary Langdon
11756	Fr. Wm. F. Welch	John Derler Aaron Bedford	
11761	St. Mary's	Mick Walton Roderick A. Forman	Paul X Cassar David V. Esser
11772	St. John Vianney	Donald R. Herman Gary Bates	Phil Dillard Robert Valcke
11811	Holy Family		

11875	St. Mary	James E. Wyszynski Mike Weitzel	Art Williams Tim Howard
11957	St. Therese Lisieux	John F. Lamanna Richard D. Fisher	David Kuptz Paul M. Saurine
12044	Laingsburg		
12090	O.L. Of Guadalupe		SUSPENDED
12102	Msgr John T. Gordon	Mike Padalino Joseph Wojerski	Frank Kurek Dr. Mark Schneider
12121	St. Paul on the Lake	Richard Sandifer	
12186	St. Joseph	Brian Wendt Richard Ockerman	Mike Gentry
12258	St. Isidore	David Shaw	
12294	Sacred Heart		No Delegates
12295	St. Mary Magdalen	Ryan Bosn Jim Kronk	Michael Stewart
12403	St. Thecla		No Delegates
12408	Nat.Shrine of the Little Flower	Lloyd West	Bill Kostrzewa
12423	St. Stanislaus Kostka	William J. LaFramboise	William O'Neil Kevin Britton
12479	St. Clare of Montefalco	Dennis S. Panas Lawrence Radgowski	
12597	Deacon Wm J. Dorsey		SUSPENDED
12660	Sts.Philip Neri and Anne	Frederick J. Schanbeck Elmer Tappen	
12668	Msgr.Gallagher		
12684	St. Joseph Rainbow		
12808	Fr. Arnold Kosco		
12850	Ubyl-Sheridan		
12985	Our Lady of White Lake	James Rose	
12998	St. Monica -Fr.A. Nadrach		
13035	Fathers Rudy & Clem	Earl J. Schaub Charles E. Colligan	Christopher Stanfield
13115	Fr. Glen Weber		
13224	St. Michael the Archangel		
13251	Mattawan		No Delegates
13305	St. Martin of Tours		
13318	Bishop Plagens		

13319	St. Patrick	Stan Politowicz Joe Gibson	George Goeddeke John Wagner
13333	St. Christopher Parish		
13340	St. Jane Frances De Chantal		No Delegates
13360	Christ the King	Lawrence Donnellon	Dan Taylor Tom Genyk
13362	St. Fabian		
13391	Blessed Sacrament		
13393	Father Swaboda		No Delegates
13419	Assumption Grotto	Jeff Parlow Roberto Bertran	Harry J. Wisniewski James Kortez, Sr.
13432	Fr. Francis L. Karl		
13449	St. Cyril & Methodius	James W. Dennis Thomas J. Dennis	Terry Loznak Mark Horak
13450	St. Augustine	Stephen A. Clos Robert Anthony Steele	
13452	Blessed Sacrament		
13453	St. Anastasia	John Carry Mike Le Faivre	Tim Dunning
13475	Sacred Heart		No Delegates
13485	St. Benedicts	Allen Bray, III	
13499	Grand Rapids Coun.		
13501	Aquinas College		
13516	Fr. Gerald F. Chapman		
13526	Bishop Kevin M. Britt		
13579	Holy Rosary	Paul Robaskiewicz Robert TP Johnson	Wayne Lapointe Thomas Ketchum
13600	St. Perpetua	David Brown John Scott	
13607	St Stanislaus Kostka		
13633	St. Ann		No Delegates
13634	Mother Theresa		
13641	Sacred Heart of Jesus		
13645	Livonia Council		No Delegates
13653	St. Christopher The Martyr		

13673	St. Gerald		
13703	Clio Council	Robert Lewandowski Rex Kincaid	Jerry Rooney Jerome Waldron
13731	St. Priscilla		
13749	White Pigeon		
13760	Pope John Paul II		
13780	Our Lady Seat of Wisdom		SUSPENDED
13782	St. Joseph		
13793	St. John Francis Regis		
13799	St. Michaels	Tom Nevedal Darren E. Petras	
13810	Fr. Maurice	Thomas Di Bianca Giuseppe Zeolla	Marco Barcnas Ralph Kozora
13822	St. Owen		SUSPENDED
13863	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton		
13865	Knights of Lake County	Gary Smith	
13930	St. Juan Diego		
13939	John Paul II		
13942	St. Joseph the Provider		Bob Niedzielski
13950	St. Mary of The Hills	Arnold Vandercruyssen Bob Szymanski	Paul Thorn Thomas Kubacki
13958	Traverse City St. Francis		
13980	St. Cyprian		
13983	St. Kieran	Darrell Pawlowski Robert Quitter	Luke Morgan Joseph Vogel
13992	Sterling Heights		SUSPENDED
14015	Warren		
14018	Birmingham	Michael J. Doonan	
14031	Flint	David Gagne	Tom Brooks Patrick Goodall
14056	St. Brigid	Shane Wallace Rev. Andy Booms	Bobby Ellis Chuck Reardon
14080	St. Valentine		SUSPENDED
14187	St. Toribio Romo		SUSPENDED
14206	Newago Council	Joe Bauer	

14211	Bay City Council		SUSPENDED
14213	Holy Innocents St. Barnabas		No Delegates
14366	St. Mary of the Lake		No Delegates
14404	St Edward/Lake Odessa		
14409	Buchanan		
14427	Our Lady of Victory		No Delegates
14586	Fr. Hecker-St. Luke Univ.	Ethan Ruffing Ikechukwu Okochi	
14598	St. Pius X	Kevin J. Galligan	
14642	St Sebastian		
14729	Saint Augustine		
14883	Divine Mercy	Steve Rawe Jason Wayman	Mike Donnellon, Jr. Jerry Humphreys
14928	John Duns Scotus	Ernest Gargaro, Jr.	Andrew Martin Zachary Newman
14980	St. Mark the Evangelist		SUSPENDED
15021	Fr. Francis X. Pierz	Andrew Martin	
15057	Warren		No Delegates
15135	Suttins Bay	Robert Crocker	Richard Strang Will Bunek
15186	Traverse City		
15204	Westland	Jeffrey Burden John Filipiak	Andrew Sigler Luis Gonalez
15213	Grand Rapids		
15337	North Muskegon		No Delegates
15352	Beverly Hills	Michael King Gerald Krivda	Peter Rosinski
15417	Lansing		
15439	Kalamazoo	David Marks	
15454	Grand Rapids		No Delegates
15495	Grand Rapids		
15548	Comstock Park	Greg Grzegovski	
15691	St. Stephen		

15692	Parish of the Holy Spirit		No Delegates
15811	St. Joseph the Guardian		SUSPENDED
15889	Blessed John Paul II	Len Kogut John Falicki	Tim Caron Zane Rice
15932	Carleton		
15937	Lewiston		No Delegates
15967	St. Daniel	Adam Smith Nicholas Zavatsky	Darwin Balcom
15993	Fr. Francis Emmerich	J. Lindsay Blamer	Charles Parnell
16092	Vanderbilt		
16169	Canton	Dan Timmerman	Dave Kennedy Ed Hurst
16199	St. Andrew		No Delegates
16223	Kentwood		
16311	Shelby Twp	Raad Orow Augeen S. Kalasho	Wadia Sharak Danny Asmer
16422	San Jose Obrero		
16628	Kalamazoo		
16630	Washington	Joseph Martino	
16643	Onkama		
17197	Michigan State University		
17232	St. Mary's Visitation - Fr. Anselm Weber OFM		
17237	Michigan Technological University Council		

Walter Winkle: I will now go through the committees that will be meeting. The credentials committee will meet tomorrow at 1:30, with me, in the presidential suite, room 146. Our state treasurer, Chris Kolomjec, who is currently on an assignment—he'll be back shortly—you all know who he is. The mileage and per diem committee will meet immediately following this evening's meeting, back by the exit sign in the left corner. Our state advocate, Barry Borsenik, will meet with his committees: bylaws, 2:30 tomorrow in the governor's suite, room 244; and resolutions committee, at 3:00 tomorrow in the governor's suite, same room, 244. Our state warden, Charles McCuen III, has already met with his ushers committee today at 11:20 in the theater, and assistants to the warden was today, Thursday, 1:30 in the Capitol Room. If you are on one of those committees and you could not make one of those meetings, please see the state board member so that he can fill you in on your duties. We really need the help. Banquet committee will meet with the state board and Chuck McCuen at 2:15 in the Geranium Bar. And

at this time, on behalf of the state warden, I'd like to ask the state deputy if he would be able to purchase a beverage for that committee. One. Thank you, Worthy State Deputy.

State Director Dan Remeika, are you in the room? There he is. Dan Remeika is in the back, waving his hand. He will meet with the Good of the Order committee tomorrow at 1:30 in the Frank Kelly conference room. State Deputy's Assistant Dane Jurkovic—is he here? Dane is in the back; he's waving. He will meet with the fraternal committee immediately after this meeting over by the piano here. State Auditor, Dan Chadwick, he's in the back there, waving, for those of you who are on the audit committee. A meeting immediately following this meeting will meet in front on the right-hand side. New Council Director Dan Fuller, are you in here? Yes. There he is. Dan Fuller—he will meet with the election judges immediately after this meeting in the center of the stage, right in front of the podium here. New Council Director Michael Lewis Sr., are you here? He's in the back. You will see him if you are on the election tellers, immediately after, in front of the stage. Master of District #2, Dave Buick, is in front here. If you are on the living rosary committee you will meet at 9:30 at the fountain, down below. Yes, that is tomorrow, and it will be sunny. Now I would like to ask Gary DeCarlo and Kevin Rowley, if they would come up and give their report for the Michigan State Charities.

Gary DeCarlo: Did I tell you I love you today? All right, I really do, because we had a real good raffle this year. You had a great raffle. Me and Kevin, we just kind of guided it along, but it's you that does this.

Just to read the report for you a little bit, we took in \$227,909. That's because somebody made a donation, so it didn't come out even. Our prizes totaled \$34,760. Our incentives, which is the money that goes to the councils, was \$50,506, and that will be sent out in the upcoming months to the councils that supported this. That's outstanding, by the way. Our total expenses were \$85,266. In addition to that we had advertising, materials, \$3,072. Ticket printing, \$48,327. And if you've ever seen 830,000 tickets moved around, it takes a forklift. I wish we were printing money. But that total of all the expenses is \$136,717, leaving the state with \$91,192. And these fine gentlemen up here are going to decide where the needs are in this state and how it's donated. And when your checks come to your council, you do the same. Thank you, guys. Kevin Rowley is going to give you a list of the top four winners. That's—the charity is number one. Unity is number two. Fraternity is three. And patriotic is four. I've heard that before.

Kevin Rowley: All right, our first degree, the charity prize, as Gary has said was a trip for two to the 2020 Super Bowl, all expenses paid, and \$8500 cash. That winning ticket winner was from Council #7018, Mark Pytlesky was the winner, and the seller was from the same council, #7018, Edwin Theut in Romeo. So that was our first-prize winner. Our second prize, the unity degree, was \$1500 cash. That was won by Ronald Ostrowski from Council #4055 in Coloma, and he was also the seller, and he got a hundred dollars for the selling of that ticket. Sometimes it pays to buy your own tickets. Third degree fraternity prize was \$1000 cash. Ron Rapa won that prize from Council #2515 in Allegan, and guess who sold the prize? Yeah, he won 50 bucks for that. Our fourth degree, the patriotic degree prize, was \$500 cash. It was won by Darwin Semann from Plymouth, Council #3292. It was actually sold, though, by Howard Weathington from Detroit. Howard, there he is. Howard gets \$25 for selling that \$500 cash prize. So he can buy you

one cocktail here at the Grand. So that's your winners. For a complete list of the winners, you can visit the website and the winners are all posted there.

Walter Winkle: Thank you, Gary and Kevin. Now I would like to have everyone sitting at the dais please, once again, join us in front. We have a short video from Knights on Bikes.

[Video was shown.]

Walter Winkle: I'd now like to introduce our newest state director, our newest state program, Bob Bagley—he is not only our state director but also national president of Knights on Bikes—for his presentation.

Bob Bagley: Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Chaplain, Worthy State Secretary, Worthy Supreme Treasurer, Worthy Vice Supreme Master, to those of you who do not know me or our state program, let me introduce myself and our program. I am the national president for Knights on Bikes USA, and as of January 1 I've been appointed by our state deputy as the state director for Knights on Bikes Michigan. I was the state president for Michigan from 2008 until 2017, which is when I was appointed as the national president for Knights on Bikes. As the video said, Knights on Bikes was established in 2005 by Sir Knight Raymond Medina in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas.

Who are we? At no time will we be considered a motorcycle club, a motorcycle association, or gang. We are all members of Knights of Columbus that ride motorcycles, two-wheeled or three-wheeled trike configuration. Anyone can ride with us with permission of our road captain, and we in turn can ride with anyone or any group that does not object. We are known worldwide by our vests. We enjoy the camaraderie of brother Knights in faith as motorcycle riders. We assist the Catholic Church and unite individuals in charity in the communities in which we live by our charitable works and leadership. We promote the spiritual need of our Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus, and encourage increase in strength of our faith in fellowship and service. Our outreach statement: "In the spirit of the Pontifical council for the pastoral care of migrants and itinerants guidelines for the pastoral care of the road. Knights on Bikes lives and witnesses faith as Catholic motorcyclists."

Some of the charity events that we are involved in, not just in Michigan but throughout the United States and Canada: We escort the Silver Rose in both countries, we stand and pray outside the abortion clinics, our brothers in New Mexico and Texas escort our priests and bishops through the border towns to keep them safe. Brothers in Michigan along with Ohio were called into Canada to show a sign of Catholic strength and deter Islam from interfering with a Mass at the cathedral. They were frightening our priests and our parishioners in Ottawa. We go into the inner cities and feed the homeless, attend Mass with them. We visit our veteran homes, raise money for them. We perform clothing drives, personal health care drives, hold blessing of the bike events for charities. We raise money for muscular dystrophy, autism, burn victims, toy runs. We do shrine rides to promote our faith, rosary runs from parish to parish, stopping to say a decade of the rosary at each, visit the sick, and evangelize our faith wherever we are.

Some of our brothers were also called into Georgia this year by a parish priest that was informed that the Westboro Baptist Church was going to lead a protest and disrupt the Mass. KonB in George and the surrounding states went in and made a blockade to keep them off the grounds and away from the Holy Blood and Body of Our Lord. We also just like to out and ride together, build fraternity, attend local bike nights, or enjoy a cigar and a beverage together.

We are a family organization. Our wives do ride with us. They have their own vests, and they have to be at least the fiancée or wife of a member. We have picnics with our families. On May 11th we held a blessing of the bikes in Allegan, Michigan, to raise money for Operation Injured Soldier, for the alternative high school, to support the food pantry, and classes that would not have been possible without our support. We also supported the local KofC council as well as the parish.

Now on June 1st—next weekend—we are escorting the Vietnam Wall from Grand Haven, Michigan, to Muskegon. On June 15th we are going to a camp for MDA and host a steak burning. On July 6th we will be involved in the rock ride in Niagara, Canada, which is a ride for children's cancer. Last year we were able to take first place. We raised over \$30,000 for children's cancer.

And the big event happening for us this year is we hold a biannual world-wide rally—international rally—for Knights on Bikes. This year it is held August 6-8 and will be held in Lansing, Michigan. We will have KonB brothers from all over the United States and Canada attending, and then on the 9th we'll head to The Cross in the Woods. From there we'll go to Marquette where the cathedral is reserved for us from 9 am until noon. We'll have special speakers. And this entire event will be filmed for EWTN for a show called *The Long Ride Home*.

In September KonB is hosting a dinner banquet with a guest speaker whose ancestors were the first ones to fight the Muslims in the Middle East. He has gone through several history classes and taught the classes, so we'll be holding a dinner banquet and, on the east side of the state and the west side of the state, discussing the history of our Church, Islam, and the Crusades and where we are today. This is a charity event to help raise monies that will be given to our state deputy for the purpose of helping the persecuted Christians in the Middle East.

Then on November 2nd, Knights on Bikes have been asked to come down to Florida to attend a conference on human trafficking; the Catholic Medical Association has asked Knights on Bikes to side with them against this fight. So we'll be going down to see what they're asking us to do. And hopefully it will be a—it should be a very interesting conference.

We have things for everyone, and not everyone has to do everything. You just do what you're comfortable doing. And I do have applications here on the island with me; I'm in room 202. And we have other brothers out here with the vest on that would be more than willing to answer your questions. Thank you for your time, and vivat Jesus.

Walter Winkle: I've been a member for a couple of years. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to go on any rides with them, but I'm trying to. We are pretty busy on the state board. I did get, just recently, a new license plate for my motorcycle that I can finally remember—KOFB. So when I go somewhere I'll know what it is. So thank you very much, Bob, for your presentation.

I'd now like to ask our Supreme Insurance General Agent, Don Wesley, for his remarks.

Don Wesley: Thank you. Worthy Supreme Treasurer, Worthy State Deputy, worthy state officers, Worthy Immediate Past State Deputy and all past state deputies, Vice Supreme Master, worthy state leadership and council leadership, brothers all, vivat Jesus.

On behalf of the Michigan Supreme Council insurance field force, we general agents would like to say it is a great honor to be here with you this weekend. We constantly remind our agents to reflect back and appreciate what an honor it is to serve alongside you. We are truly blessed to be able to work with such tremendous fraternal leaders and such a wonderful authentically Catholic organization.

2018 was an outstanding year for the Knights in this great jurisdiction of Michigan and an outstanding year for the Knights of Columbus insurance program as well. This past year marked our 18th consecutive year of growth. For 18 consecutive years, despite economic turmoil and uncertainty, the Knights of Columbus has insured a record volume of insurance. Thank you, too, for your participation and helping us to achieve this goal. Our \$8.56 billion issued volume in 2018 pushed us to more than \$109 billion of life insurance in force this past year. Last year alone we issued over \$70,000 in life insurance contracts for brother Knights and their families and distributed hundreds of millions of dollars in death claims and benefits and dividends. All told, the Knights of Columbus has more than 2 million active life insurance contracts protecting the lives of members and their families.

These are very impressive achievements. The Knights of Columbus continues not to only be a premiere Catholic life insurer but one of the biggest and best life insurers in North America. It is a tremendous testament to Father Michael McGivney's founding vision of financial protection for Catholic families. The genius of Fr. McGivney's vision, our Supreme Knight has said, forged through his own personal experience and suffering, was that he was able to combine spiritual principles and practical insight. He was confident that a fraternal society like the Knights of Columbus could deepen the faith of its members while providing a strong sense of Catholic brotherhood. Yet the Knights of Columbus was also, in large part, his solution to the problem of financial poverty as well. The Supreme Knight continued: It was critically important to him. He had hands-on involvement in the formulation of the original pass-the-hat insurance program and studied how other fraternal benefits societies worked. And we know that he was himself the Order's first owner and insurance member, truly a leader in leading by example. We continue to carry on his mission by serving more and more Catholic families and more and more brother Knights.

Our successes are also a tremendous testament to members' trust in the Knights of Columbus. And why do they trust us? Three reasons: size, our stability, and our standard. When it comes to size, you all know that we are one of the largest Catholic organizations in the world, but with more than \$109 billion of life insurance in force and more than 24 billion in assets under management, the Knights of Columbus is also top in the industry as well as a Fortune 1000 company. When it comes to stability, the Knights of Columbus has an impressive track record. For over 40 consecutive years, the Knights of Columbus has earned superior ratings in financial

strength from AM Best. And when it comes to our standards, the Knights of Columbus is committed to putting ethics first. It's not just a wish; it's a duty. We owe it to our members and our Catholic heritage and identity. We do not invest in companies that deal in abortions, contraception, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, for-profit healthcare that pays for any of the aforementioned, or pornography.

So as we gather here this weekend to celebrate your tremendous achievements in this past fraternal year, what does all this mean to you and your members? It means that as a proud member of the Knights of Columbus, you can rest assured knowing that your most valuable fraternal benefit—our insurance program—is here for you and your family when you need it. There will come a time in your life, if it hasn't already, where you will be looking for life insurance to protect your family or retirement annuities to plan for future golden years, or long-term care insurance to make sure you're taken care of, or disability income insurance to secure your hard-earned paycheck. And when that day comes, we will be there.

I hope you'll take the time to meet with us, because we have great products that will help you reach your goals. I hope you take the time to meet with us, because we have size, stability, and standards that you can rely on and believe in. I hope you take the time to meet with us, because you'll want to have the added comfort of knowing that your premium dollars aren't going to support questionable moral endeavors but to an organization that helps support the community and the church. But most of all, I hope you all take time to meet with us because we are brother Knights, and we're there protecting brother Knights, and that is what we do. It is what we live for. We're Knights just like you. The Supreme Knight said it best when asked what he would say to a member who has not yet looked into the benefits that the Knights of Columbus insurance program has to offer. He said this, "Now is the time. This is an extraordinary program spearheaded by extraordinary brother Knights in the field who have made it their mission to carry on Fr. McGivney's goal of providing financial protection to Catholic families. Why would you look elsewhere? With the Knights of Columbus you are doing business with brothers. You are doing business with an authentically Catholic company and one whose integrity and financial strength are well-documented and widely recognized. By becoming an insurance member, you are taking advantage of the greatest fraternal benefit that we offer and taking the critical step of protecting your family. It is a responsibility that we all have, especially as fathers, and one we can fill with the help of the Knights of Columbus. This organization is your organization. This company is your company. Take advantage of it, and see what we have to offer."

And precisely for that reason, I want to take this opportunity to ask each of you, as leaders, in your councils, in your districts, to be advocates and centers of influence for this great fraternal benefit. The members in your councils respect and admire your abilities and your achievements, and they also respect and value your opinion and perspectives that you have on your own organization, including the insurance program. Support from district deputies, grand knights, and all the council officers goes a long way in helping open the door for our hardworking field agents. These men are brother Knights who are trying earnestly and honestly to carry out Fr. McGivney's mission to protect Catholic families. So I thank you in advance for encouraging your councils to let the agent in and to listen to what he has to say. And another special thank you, Worthy State Deputy, for your support as well as the banner above showing your support.

Congratulations, again, on a spectacular fraternal year. We look forward to working with you in the days and weeks to come. Vivat Jesus.

Walter Winkle: Thank you, Don. I now have the honor to introduce our representative from the Supreme Council to our state convention. Please rise and welcome our Supreme Treasurer, Ron Schwarz, for his comments.

Ronald Schwarz: Worthy State Deputy, Former Supreme Director, Vice Supreme Master, state officers, past state deputies, district deputies, brother Knights and friends, it is an honor and a privilege to be with you this evening. I extend greetings to you and to all your fellow brothers in this jurisdiction on behalf of the Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson, the Supreme officers and the board members. But more than that, I bring a message of gratitude. We are thankful for your record of service and leadership in Michigan over this past year. And we are thankful for your courage and unwavering commitment to our Order's mission, ideals of charity, unity, and fraternity.

Our beloved founder, the Venerable Fr. Michael McGivney, chose these principles for a reason. They transformed the lives of all who embrace them, turning us into better men, husbands, fathers, citizens, and followers of Christ. But these principles also hold the power to transform our Church, our nation, and our world. And that is exactly what these men in this room do. Your work and your witness are evident for all to see. At the Supreme Council, we see much to celebrate. Last year our brothers grew in generosity—more than \$185 million and nearly 76 million hours in charity and to our Church. By the end of last year, we provided more than \$100 billion worth of life insurance to Catholic families in Michigan and across the Americas. Today we give more families peace of mind than ever before. Behind these numbers are brother Knights, more of whom join every passing year. We count almost 2 million among our ranks. Their example and their excellence can be seen in every diocese and every parish in Michigan and far beyond. These accomplishments are extraordinary. Your work and your support touch so many lives here in Michigan. Your support for Coats for Kids, the ultrasound initiative, March for Life, vocations, Special Olympics, just to name a few, represent an incredible effort by you and your fellow Knights. The Supreme Council salutes your efforts and actions over the past year.

As you heard from the Supreme Knight, now is not the time to rest on our laurels. Now is the time to lay the groundwork for even greater achievements. As we look toward the future, the Supreme Council calls on every council in Michigan to increase its efforts now and into the new fraternal year. Specifically, we urge each council to focus on three concrete areas: recruitment, engagement, and awareness. As you heard before, recruitment is critical to our Order's long-term sustainability. Every council, large and small, stands to benefit from new brothers. They bring fresh ideas, energy, and faith to our works, and as they grow in holiness and fraternity, they benefit us all. The good news is that it has never been easier to join the Knights of Columbus. It's as simple as pulling out your smartphone, going to our website, completing a form, and paying a small initiation fee. More than 8,000 members have already joined online, and that number is growing every day. Through April, Michigan had recruited 216 online members for this fraternal year, and a total of 306 members since going live in February of 2018. Of those 216 members, 93 had indicated they would like to join a council, and of those, 60 have already

joined. As you encounter prospective brothers, we encourage you to use online membership as the preferred method for point of entry. But let's be clear—asking someone to join our brotherhood is not the first step. Before you get there, you must inspire them by your words and your deeds. Men need to see how the Knights of Columbus has changed your life. One of the greatest benefits of the Order is to offer men a brotherhood of fellow Catholics that they can depend upon. In the Knights of Columbus you will find a group of faith-filled men who encourage each other's faith, family, and fraternity and who engage the culture in a meaningful way. If the men in your parish see these things in you, they will be inspired to join and they will keep our brotherhood strong for generations to come. More importantly, they will strengthen each other, their families, and everything that they touch. If every council places a renewed emphasis on active recruitment, our Order will continue to grow into charity, unity, and fraternity into the future.

The second area or topic: engagement. In the current fraternal year, we unveiled the Faith in Action [initiative]. It encompasses all the good works that we do. Unfortunately, many councils have yet to implement this initiative to its fullest extent. This matters because Faith in Action shows the breadth and the depth of our work. It offers 32 different types of activities across four key areas: faith, family, community, and life. Each option appeals to different people, which makes local councils more effective at recruiting and forming men. I urge you to return to your councils and spread the good news about Faith in Action. Talk about the Marian prayer program, which brings the icon of Our Lady, Help for Persecuted Christians straight to your parish. Get people interested in Coats for Kids or the free throw and soccer challenges. Tell families how they can be consecrated to the Holy Family and join the good works we are doing through the ultrasound program and our Christian refugee relief in the Middle East. Many of these programs will give fellow brothers new ways to get involved as well as new ways to involve their families. After all, we are a family—Knights of Columbus serves the family, too. Faith in Action will enable you to serve your parish, strengthen your community, and advance the Knights' noble mission in a whole new way.

The last topic is on awareness. If you went out and asked most Christians if they heard of the Knights of Columbus, what would they say? Yes. Ask them if they know what we do, most will say no. Amazingly, even many of our fellow brother Knights don't fully understand the work that we do and the difference that they can make. This points to a lack of education. Priests, parishioners, families, potential brothers, and even current brothers will never know what we do unless we tell them. And that duty falls to you. When it comes to spreading awareness, the relationship between the council's grand knight and the parish priest is crucial. Each grand knight must form a strong bond with the Father and let him know what they are doing, when they are doing it, and how he can help. Ask him if you can say a few words during the announcements. Better yet, ask him to say a few words about us, for your pastor is one of your best recruiters. There are many ways to spread the word at the local level. Church bulletin is tried and true. Information table after Mass is also great, and so is the steady drumbeat of events from pancake breakfasts to community service projects. You should always involve your general and field agents. They are fellow brother Knights and important advocates and recruiters, too.

And we are here to help. The Supreme Council has the tools and support you need to succeed. We want to help you tell your story and highlight your work. For example, last year we launched

our Everyday Hero video series, which introduced people to ordinary Knights doing extraordinary things. We continue to release new episodes and are creating new projects. It's just one example of how we can help you inspire your community and the wider world. But when it comes to awareness, once again, the critical factor is you. If you embrace your calling as Knights of Columbus, the results will be remarkable. Others will see your faith in action, and they will take note and tell about it. Your leadership will inspire others to join in. It will change hearts, win minds, and grow our effectiveness by an order of magnitude. Ultimately, your leadership will enable us to continue our good work that Fr. McGivney started.

And so, today, let me end where I began, with gratitude. On behalf of the Supreme Knight, the entire Supreme Council, thank you for your dedication to our brotherhood. You sacrifice your time, your talents, and your treasures to the cause, and we are very appreciative of that. What you do in the days ahead will shape our Order for years to come. More importantly, it will shape our Church in this difficult period. Through better recruitment, engagement, and awareness, we can begin a greater renewal in our time. We will grow as men and as brothers and give others a chance to do the same. We will live out our new evangelization and bring our faith to new places and new people. Each of you stood up and stepped forward, setting yourselves apart as fishers of men. You are the Knights of Columbus leading your families, your communities, and our country to new heights of charity, unity, and fraternity. For as the scripture reminds us, it is the love of Christ that compels us on, His love for us and His love for our neighbors. Vivat Jesus.

Walter Winkle: Thank you, Worthy Supreme Treasurer, for your remarks. I would like to remind everyone that Mass tomorrow morning will be at 7:30 a.m. Immediately following Mass is the men's leadership breakfast in the Grand Pavilion for our state, diocesan, and regional directors and district deputies. A reminder to our district deputies to bring your table counts to the breakfast and don't forget to add in your chaplains and your directors so that we have a proper count in your district. At 9:45 we will have an awards session that is an open session—all of your families are invited—followed by the living rosary, located on the front lawn of the hotel, a most spectacular event, if you have not been here before to see it. Per diem checks will be handed out after they've been accepted by the committee on Saturday, at the close of the meeting.

At this time I would like to ask our Lansing diocesan chaplain, Rev. Robert Bacik, for the closing prayer.

Rev. Robert Bacik: Thank you. It's a little warm in here. Our worthy chaplain Paul Erickson asked me to pray the five decades of the rosary with you. I said let's do it tomorrow and let's do it outside.

Let's ask the Lord for His continued presence with us and be ever mindful that He's been with us and is still with us as we go forward. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Good and gracious God, continue to bless the work of this order as we gather here. Bless our families at home, our councils at home. We would ask as we continue to meet and discuss and commit ourselves to following Your will and doing it all with the grace that You give us. We pray through the intercession of Mary our mother. Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen. The Lord be with you. [*And with your spirit.*] May the Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Walter Winkle: Thank you, Father. At this time, we will now recess this meeting and resume on Saturday at 9:30 in the morning.

MEMORIAL MASS HOMILY: Bishop John F. Doerfler

Vivat Jesus. These last months have not been a pleasant time in the Church for—obviously, you know why. And in this light, I think it's important for us to reflect on what's really going on. If the evil one wanted to destroy the Church, what would he do? Probably two things. He would try to corrupt bishops and priests, and he would also try to destroy and tear apart families. And isn't that what's been going on? And so, in this life, the most important step that we can take moving forward is true and deep spiritual renewal, renewal spiritually of the episcopacy and the priesthood, and renewal of families. And for this reason, I wish to commend you for your efforts to rebuild the domestic church, because isn't this what we need to do as part of this spiritual renewal?

And so, while we're together these couple days, I'd ask you to do something important. Please take some time and visit the Adoration chapel. We have the Adoration chapel up on the second floor; I think you've seen some signs. Please take some time and visit the Adoration chapel. Pray for bishops, pray for priests, and pray for families. Any authentic renewal in the Church begins with prayer, and I invite you to do so not only this weekend, but make this a practice throughout your life, to deepen your prayer life. Pray for bishops, pray for priests, pray for families.

The other important area of true spiritual renewal is for all of us to live our vocations more authentically, because the Lord renews His church by raising up great saints, and sainthood is born by embracing and living one's vocation authentically and with holiness. And our Gospel reading today provides us with a very fitting examination of conscience, for us as bishops, for all of my brother priests, and for all of you. As the Lord says, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friend." No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. And these words of our Lord are for us a very fitting examination of conscience. And so, we bishops might reflect upon these words every day and ask, by the way I am carrying out my pastoral ministry in care of the diocese, do my people know that I am willing to lay down my life for them? And in a particular way, do my priests know that I am willing to lay down my life for them?

A good examination of conscience for my brother priests might be very similar. The priests might ask themselves each day, in the pastoral care I've exercised of my parishioners today, can they see in that that I am willing to lay down my life for them? And when it comes to strengthening the domestic church, do husbands and wives reflect upon these very same verses each day? Husbands might ask themselves, by the way I treated my wife today, does she know that I'm willing to lay down my life for her? By the way I treated my children today, do they know that I'm willing to lay down my life for them? And wives might ask a very similar question: by the way I've treated my husband today, does he know that I'm willing to lay down my life for him, and so, my children? Do they know that by the way I've treated and cared for them?

If all of us in this room can say an authentic "yes" to this question each day as we examine our conscience, does that not bring about a renewal of the vocations to which the Lord has called us, a deepening of holiness, a renewal of the Church, and the strengthening of families? In all of this, let us acknowledge that we are sinners. And I know I, for myself, often fall short of this every

day. But can we go before the Lord and beg Him to strengthen us with these things, that with each passing day we may come closer and closer to following the Lord's example; He laid down His life for us. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

FRIDAY MORNING OPEN SESSION

Charles McCuen: My brother Knights and ladies, honored guests, please find your seats. I'd like to call to order this opening session of the awards banquet, 2019 Knights of Columbus state convention.

Rev. Paul Erickson: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Heavenly Father, we thank You so much for the gift of this day, for the gift of Your Son, for His death, His resurrection. Father, we thank You for all the ways that You continue to show us just how deep Your love for us is and far it goes. Father, we ask that as we gather once again this morning, Your Holy Spirit would be active in and among our hearts and minds, that everything we do would serve to give You glory. We pray all of this through Christ, our Lord. Amen. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

William Levecque: Welcome to the 2019 Knights of Columbus, the greatest jurisdiction in the Order, Michigan's, awards program. Up first we have our Holy Cross Services program, and our Holy Cross liaison is Thomas Madigan Wegener, our former Supreme Director and Past State Deputy. Holy Cross Services and the Knights of Columbus Hope for Families, helping Michigan's children and families since 1948. Holy Cross, with the Michigan Knights and their families, celebrated 71 years of partnership through Boysville, Holy Cross Children's Services, and now Holy Cross Services. The same self and family healing that comes with the charity of bringing hope to families, as Knights of Columbus would say, helping widows and orphans. Helping widows and orphans. With community-based programs, there are fewer structures housing children and families. The need for Holy Cross Services stretches to all seven dioceses. Every diocese is represented by those who seek the help of Holy Cross Services. The area in blue represents the home counties of those programs run by Holy Cross Services. It is now my pleasure to introduce a brother from my home council, Peter Bertsch, chairperson of Holy Cross Services board of directors, and a member of East Lansing Council #7816, one of the best councils in the state of Michigan.

Wow. I'm telling you. See? Please note that there is a stand-up screen in the hallway outside of the theater listing all of the councils that have given funds over their quote to help fund the programs that cannot be paid with public monies. Our funds help to provide Holy Cross Services' chaplain program, funding three chaplains in the organization. And now, please welcome the councils with the highest dollar over quota in the diocese. Yours will be given in diocesan alphabetical order, and the first is the Archdiocese of Detroit. From the Archdiocese of Detroit is Michael Doonan, Grand Knight, Holy Name Parish Council #14018 from Birmingham, Michigan. Congratulations, council #14018. For the Gaylord diocese, Phillip Bandish, Grand Knight, Reverend Robert Gordon Smith Council #7688, located in Onaway, Michigan. Congratulations, council #7688. From the Grand Rapids diocese, Michael Maguire, Grand Knight of Holy Trinity Council #15548 of Comstock Park. From the Kalamazoo diocese,

Matthew Heusser, Grand Knight of Allegan Council #2515 located in Allegan. For the Lansing diocese, David Vincent, Grand Knight of Msgr. Esper Council #3027, from the great city of Fowler. From the Marquette diocese, Robert Beaudoin, Grand Knight of Bishop Thomas L. Noa Council #7472, in Naubinway. Last but not least, the Saginaw diocese, Grand Knight Donald Szabo, Fr. Charles D. Philipp Council #7717 in Au Gres. And, as always, the state council does support the Holy Cross Services financially, so to end our Holy Cross Services presentation today, please welcome our state deputy, William H. Chassé, to the stage to present Peter Bertsch checks from the members of the Michigan Knights to Holy Cross Services. Thank you. Thank you.

William Chassé: On behalf of all the councils in the state of Michigan, Peter Bertsch, we'd like to present to you a check, the monthly check that we give, for \$15,000 for Holy Cross Services. Any of you mathematicians out there, you'd be able to do this math and find out that we're giving almost \$50,000 today. From our Christopher Fund from Supreme, I'd like to issue a check for \$32,001.79. Thank you very much, Peter, for everything you do at Holy Cross Services.

William Levecque: Thank you for another year of helping widows and orphans in all of their forms. It is now my pleasure to introduce to you our state operations director, John Rademacher, and the rector of Sacred Heart Major Seminary, our very own Msgr. Todd Lajiness.

John Rademacher: I hope you're standing for me. And now you can stand again for Father. Well, good morning, everybody. How's everybody? Good? I've got some good news and some really good news. Remember yesterday at the Mass when we took up a collection for Sacred Heart Major Seminary for the endowed scholarship fund? If we couple that with the matching funds—and it's not all in yet, but—we're touching on \$15,000. So thank you very, very much; \$15,000, and more coming in.

I was asked, can you sum up in 25 words or less what the endowed scholarship fund is all about? The true answer is no, I can't, but the actual answer is I will. What it is is a collaborative initiative between Sacred Heart Major Seminary and the Knights of Columbus to provide financial services to seminarians who are in their priestly formation. Did you swallow all that? It's a collaborative initiative, and that's where two or more people work together for a common cause.

What you can do to help me out the most my position as the chairperson of the endowed scholarship fund, we need to get out to the councils, all the members and the financial secretaries, what this program is really all about. I called a whole diocese a couple weeks ago, and they said, what are you talking about? Never heard of it. I said, I can't believe it. In this day and age, with all the communication we have, I just can't believe that people still don't know about it. So everybody here that are delegates, go back to your council, bring the blue bag which you all should have got, in which there is a beautiful insert. If you can get that distributed to your entire council and your financial secretary, I would be most appreciative.

Secondly, if you look at the 119th annual meeting convention bulletin, which you all got, on the back is probably one of the best descriptions that support a person to the priesthood that I've ever

seen. Take a chance to read that, and get that to your people. I'll be totally indebted to you. Monsignor's got a few words for you, as well.

Msgr. Todd Lajiness: My words are, on behalf of the archbishop, our board of trustees, the faculty and staff have worked really hard at the seminaries to say thank you. This initiative, this collaborative that John just mentioned, is already providing great fruit, and it is looking toward the future. And it's with great hope that we do that. So, together as one family—the Knights of Columbus—we can achieve what we set out as these goals and allow the Holy Spirit to work in the minds and hearts of those who he's calling, calling to the priesthood, and allowing this kind of support to keep that going. So thank you to all of you, deeply, and on behalf of the seminary.

John Rademacher: So now, if you would settle back, order your popcorn, eat it fast—for the next two minutes and twelve seconds—we have a premiere video.

[Sacred Heart Seminary video was shown.]

William Levecque: And now, for one of the supporting actors in the Sacred Heart Major Seminary video, on to stardom, our state deputy, Bill Chassé.

William Chassé: I brought Monsignor up here. I've been keeping something from him, and I wasn't going to bring this up today, but I think it's appropriate because most of you won't be there to hear about it or see it. But next month—in about three weeks—at the archbishop's gala, the Knights of Columbus, on your behalf, because of your contributions—and I'm only going to give you a rough idea; I'm not going to give you the whole idea. We will be issuing a check to Monsignor for the scholarship endowment fund well over \$100,000. Thank you to all of you for all the work you have done to make this happen.

William Levecque: We now have for our presentation for St. Francis Camp on the Lake, Cliff Dake and Russ Smith, and it looks like there's a couple other gentlemen they didn't tell me they were bringing up on stage. Ah, our Reverend Paul Ballien and Gary DeCarlo.

Russ Smith: I was going to say that. Gary DeCarlo, the past supreme director of the Order of Alhambra. This gentleman in the middle here is the Detroit diocesan chaplain of the Knights of Columbus and the supreme chaplain of the International Order of Alhambra, Fr. Paul Ballien.

Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Secretary—*[inaudible]* As the marketing director of St. Francis Camp on the Lake, it's an honor and a privilege to be here—that's what it says in my notes. As a brother Knight, I am in the finest company. Vivat Jesus. I can't believe that it's been 10 years since I got that dreaded phone call. You know the one, where somebody calls you up and asks you to join something. I got mine from my cousin, Gary. You know him. Gary DeCarlo. He's the Knights of Columbus state raffle chairman, along with Kevin Rowley. He calls me up and he says, "Have I told I love you today?" Right then, I knew I was in trouble. He said, "Stop by the office for a few." So I showed up and he says, "I'd like you to join the Knights of Columbus and the Order of Alhambra, two great organizations that work with the developmentally disabled." He told me, "Your reward will be beyond your wildest imagination." He said, "Russ, you have to do this. It's your responsibility."

Now, I knew what responsibility meant. We both did. You see, responsibility is two words. The first word, response, and the second word, ability. Responsibility isn't what someone puts on you. Responsibility isn't a job description. Responsibility isn't a paper you sign. We find ourselves looking at situations and then find ourselves with abilities. What we have to ask ourselves is, given my ability, what, then would be my response? Did I have the ability to do this? Yeah. I did. And what was my response to that ability? Well, not only did I join both organizations, I became the first and only executive director of St. Francis Camp on the Lake, a special camp for those with intellectual disabilities.

Now, we had our work cut out for us. First, the camp needed a new building. I invited the state board out to the camp for support, to see firsthand. I hadn't gotten around to that responsibility question when then-state deputy Tom Marcetti said, "This is a no-brainer." With unanimous support from the other state officers—Mike Malinowski, Bob Fox, Ken Unterbrink, and the late Tony Vittorini—we were given the financial support to build a brand-new Montana-style 35-bed dormitory log cabin now called Knights of Columbus Hall. It's rumored to be the only Knights of Columbus hall in the state of Michigan without a bar.

But that was just the beginning. We needed a new staff. I found a 27-year-old counselor who was new to this work but showed promise. I was able to convince her that she was capable of leading our camp to great accomplishments. I said, "It's your responsibility. You have the ability; how do you respond?" And respond she did. Together we created some new and exciting programs and challenges for our campers to explore. I told her, "Your reward will be beyond your wildest imagination."

But we didn't stop there. Recruiting enthusiastic counselors was going to be a challenge. Searching for high school graduates and first- and second-year college students to be part of our team was intense. We were able to convince them that they were capable and to believe in themselves. We said, "It's your responsibility. Do you have the ability to make changes in other people's lives? Do you have the ability to put smiles on campers' faces? If so, what is your response?" They all joined the team, and I said, "Your reward will be beyond your wildest imagination."

We were going strong, so we didn't stop there. When the campers arrived, they were hesitant. There were new and exciting, challenging activities for them to try. At first, they held back. So we helped them to find their own limitations, and then through specially designed programs, we encouraged them to challenge their own fears. We told them that it's their responsibility to try. We convinced them that they were capable and to just believe in themselves, that they had the ability.

And how did they respond? Well, Philip, who's 57 years old and blind, caught the largest wide-mouth bass in the history of the lake. And he said to his sister, "This was the greatest day of my life." Later, Sarah, who is afraid of the water, got on a specially designed ramp to go tubing behind the boat. And Brian, who is so physically disabled he can barely do anything—he was on the paddle boat all afternoon, going around the lake and wearing out our counselors.

Now, sweet Marilyn—we don't have a picture of her. She didn't sign the photo release. She's 43 years old and has lived in a wheelchair her whole life. You see, when you're developmentally disabled, sometimes your brain won't send the proper signals to your arms and legs. Marilyn knows this, and that's why she's in a wheelchair. She's always been afraid to do anything for fear of failing. This past summer, we helped her to believe in herself, that she was capable of anything, even playing without her wheelchair. When she went down an old-fashioned 100-foot slippery slide, she screamed in joy as the water was splashing in her face. Her reward was beyond our wildest imaginations.

Now, this may all sound easy, but it's not. It takes time, energy, and money to succeed. You see, a week of camp cost \$879 per camper, but we only charge the camper \$560. That leaves a \$319 gap. And at 205 campers per summer, that's over a \$65,000 shortfall. Thanks to you and your councils' contributions to the Tootsie Roll drives, we are able to make up the difference. As Catholic gentlemen, you have demonstrated your ability to support our campers. By your response, you have enriched their lives with a new and powerful freedom. By your contributions, you have truly empowered each and every camper to be potent, loving, contributing human beings by providing them with the ultimate camping experience they so richly deserve.

Because you have answered the call of our patron saint, St. Francis of Assisi, who teaches us that it is in giving that we receive. And you, my brother Knights, give unconditionally and have helped to impact their lives beyond their wildest imagination. Thank you. Thank you for opening your hearts and your wallets to help make this all possible. Someone once said that teamwork makes the dream work. We are the team, and that is the dream. God bless you, and God bless our campers.

William Levecque: And as John Rademacher said earlier, take out that popcorn one more time. We have a short video from Special Olympics.

[Special Olympics video was shown.]

William Levecque: And, from Special Olympics, we have the special gifts manager, Robert Wacłowski, and our new Special Olympics director's assistant, Willy Winkle.

Robert Wacłowski: Thank you so much. I'd like to start by asking you to give Bill a hand; he's been practicing my last name for the last 48 hours, and he knocked it out of the park. I love that video. I love seeing how pictures can tell what words cannot. Nelson Mandela had a famous quote that I love. He said, "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does."

Special Olympics started as the opportunity to provide children and adults with intellectual disabilities a chance to play sport, to compete. It has grown to so much more. Sport is now the catalyst for change in our society, in our culture. Special Olympics Michigan is in over 300 schools in the state of Michigan, and we are uniting students with and without disabilities with youth activation committees, anti-bullying programs, whole-school rallies activation celebrations and, of course, unified sport. We're not stopping there, and we cannot achieve the things that we do without the support of our partners. And we have no greater partner than the Michigan

Knights of Columbus, and that's been proven for 8 years in a row, which we'll cover in a little bit. We are trying to do more to highlight this partnership and to give our Knights the recognition that we deserve. We haven't always asked for it, but we're going to start to do better. We have plans to highlight our partnership at the fall games. There was information in your goodie bags, if you registered for the conference. Please look at that, and we're hope that you're able to support it. Now, I'm very excited to introduce the latest endeavor in our partnership, Mr. Willy Winkle.

Willy Winkle: Hello. My name is Willy Winkle. I have competed in the Special Olympics games for 20 years while I was in school. I competed in the summer games in middle school and in high school. I compete in the fall and winter games for St. Clair K of C for our new hockey equipment and uniforms so we can compete in and have nice uniforms. I continue to compete in hockey and cross country skiing. The money donated by the Knights of Columbus makes it possible for all of our athletes to compete in the sports we love to play. I am a Knights of Columbus member of the Fourth Degree color guard, and my dad is our state secretary. I want to thank my brother Knights and their wives and families for supporting all of the athletes across the state of Michigan. We would not be able to enjoy playing in the games and have nice hotels and compete and meet new friends without your generous donations. Thank you for all you do.

William Levecque: And now, with our continuing support, our state deputy.

William Chassé: Willy, that was great. Great job, Willy. Willy is, as Robbie said, a new addition, but I want to explain what his position is. John Hundiak, are you in the room? John Hundiak, right over there, starting July 1 he will be our new state director of Special Olympics, and Willy is going to be his personal assistant. So, John, he'll keep you in line. Willy is so involved with Special Olympics, when I asked him to be the assistant he was a little concerned because he thought he was going to have to miss some of his events. And by all means, I told him, Willy, you won't miss a thing.

We all love forms. Because of all of you turning in your forms, because of all the great works you do here in the state of Michigan, as Robbie let out, for 8 years in a row we are now able to present Special Olympics, on top of your already given \$220,000 from the state of Michigan, a \$12,000 check from Supreme for being number one in division one states. Thank you, all, for all you do.

William Levecque: Now it's my pleasure to introduce to you the director of development for Right to Life of Michigan. Brian Cusack has been involved with our pro-life work for 38 years. Where'd Brian go? There he is. Brian Cusack.

Brian Cusack: Good morning. Thank you, State Deputy Chassé and state board, for sharing your program this morning with the unborn child. Ladies and gentlemen, despite our best efforts over the last 46 years, the reality of abortion on demand has been the best-kept secret in America. That is, until the last several months. Beginning in mid-January, all of the lies, the deception, the massive cover-up began to unravel right before our very eyes. In the weeks that followed, the American public got their most accurate look yet at abortion on demand. New York, Virginia, Vermont, Rhode Island, Illinois, and New Mexico, and several other states,

began to move aggressively to deregulate late-term abortion. In doing so, they showed America their true colors.

And I don't have a whole lot of time this morning. I just want to give you one example. In the state of Virginia, a state delegate introduced a bill that would legalize abortion right up to the moment the woman was "dilating." On the very same day, that very same delegate introduced a bill to legally protect the fall cankerworm. You cannot make this stuff up. Apparently, in Virginia an insect, a bug, a pest deserves more legal protection than an unborn child.

But why now? Why are these states across the country aggressively moving to deregulate abortion? And the answer is they're moving to encode *Roe v. Wade* into state law before it is reversed at the federal level. Like us, our opposition knows that the days of *Roe v. Wade*, ladies and gentlemen, are numbered. And very soon the Supreme Court of the United States will reverse *Roe* and the issue will return to the individual states to be decided. Now, these people are turning the world upside down and inside out. They are rushing to deregulate abortion, even throughout the third trimester of pregnancy. The state of Michigan is going in the opposite direction, ladies and gentlemen. We're not going to deregulate late-term abortion; we're going to restrict it.

Now, I have to tell you, we perform late-term abortions in Michigan every single day. But we're going to move in the days ahead to ban dismemberment abortions in the great state of Michigan, and the good news is, ladies and gentlemen, that last week, on the very same day our state house and our state senate passed a bill to ban dismemberment abortion in the state of Michigan. And I would urge you in no uncertain terms to go to our website, rtl.org, to see exactly what a dismemberment abortion does to an unborn child in the second and even the early third trimester of pregnancy. But the state house and the state senate, the good news is, have banded. The bad news is that our governor, our radically pro-abortion governor, has already promised to veto that legislation. That has not happened yet. We anticipate that to happen any day now. When she vetoes that bill, at that point in time we will launch an initiative petition campaign to override her veto. If we can collect a minimum of 400,000 signatures of registered Michigan voters, we can bypass the governor's veto. We re-introduce the bill in the state house and in the state senate with a simple majority vote in both chambers, our ban will become law. We are not trying to put it on the ballot. We are trying to re-introduce that legislation in a veto-proof format.

We have launched four of these campaigns in the past and, with the help of the Knights of Columbus, we have set all kinds of records in this regard—the most signatures collected in the shortest period of time, the highest accuracy rate, and currently we're literally the only group of people of concerned citizens in Michigan that can pull this kind of monumental effort off with a 100 percent volunteer workforce. And once we collect the first signature, we will only have 180 days to complete the task. If all goes as planned, we will launch sometime mid to late June.

Now there's talk on the streets in Michigan of the need for a heartbeat bill. Again, I don't have time for all the details, but let me assure you of this. Great bill, wrong state. And the reason it's wrong for Michigan is that we first outlawed abortion in the state of Michigan in 1846, 173 years ago. That law, ladies and gentlemen, has never been officially rescinded. It is still on the books to this very day. You can find it in section 14 of the Michigan penal code. Right now,

unfortunately, that old law in Michigan is overshadowed by *Roe v. Wade*. When *Roe* is overturned, our old law will come back into effect in the state of Michigan. So you see, we already have a heartbeat bill in Michigan. It would be a duplication of efforts for us here. Perfect for a state like Georgia but wrong for us.

So, ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion, we have an unstoppable team here in the great state of Michigan. We have God—I should say, we’re not on His side; He’s on our side. We have the Michigan Catholic Conference, our pro-life bishops, our individual Catholic Church pastors throughout this state, the Knights of Columbus, and Right to Life of Michigan. I’m pleased to report that under the leadership of State Deputy Chassé and your outstanding board, this project, this petition drive will become a major campaign for us in the coming days and weeks. We will work with your leadership to get you everything you need at the local council level to collect these signatures. Ladies and gentlemen, it’s time for the state of Michigan to take a stand and make a statement that will resound from coast to coast. We’re not going to deregulate abortion in Michigan; we’re going to restrict it. This is our next giant step forward, and we need your support. Thank you and God bless.

William Levecque: It appears our state deputy has one more thing to say.

William Chassé: Earlier this year Brian came to the state board and asked for just a little help. And as most of you know, because of all of your work, because of the state’s commitment to Right to Life of Michigan, we were able to present a check for \$100,000 at the annual dinner for right to life, and I told Brian, “Brian, this is a lot of money. Brian, don’t come back and ask for money anytime soon.” Brian came back and asked for more money.

Brian Cusack: It’s in my job description.

William Chassé: And it’s only because of all of the works of all of you—please get this back to your councils. Let your councils know the work that you’re doing to save lives. For the cost of what is coming up, Brian told us he could use more help to pay for this, and he asked us for a certain amount. And I said, “That’s too much.” Brian said, “I knew that.” So we are giving it to you today. We’re giving another check to Michigan Right to Life for \$40,000, because of you. Brian, do what you can do.

Brian Cusack: Thank you so much, but you’re really applauding for yourselves. I want you to know this. We have the absolute best track record in the United States of America in terms of reducing abortions performed. And when *Roe* goes, ladies and gentlemen, we will be in the best position of any other state in the country to outlaw abortion in its entirety, except to save the life of the mother, once more in this state. We could have never, ever achieved these accomplishments on behalf of the unborn child without the Knights of Columbus. You are the greatest. God bless and thank you very much.

William Levecque: At this time we would like to take a moment to thank all of our Supreme Council insurance general and field agents for their dedication and hard work fulfilling the vision of Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney to protect Catholic families. These are the men that are at your service to help your families in their time of need and help widows when they have

questions from how to pay bills, who to contact for home maintenance issues, or to help with the last requests of loved ones. They are the men that will meet with you at your convenience to help you protect your families now and in the future. We have general agent Brian Barlow to assist with award presentations. It is now time that we recognize our top three field agents for 2018.

The first is our State Treasurer's Award, and that goes to Dale Jacks. Dale Jacks joined the Knights of Columbus as a third degree, full status Knight and owner of the Order in August of 1997. After a long 25 years in the automotive supply sales, he became a field agent for the Wesley agency. In his first year as a Knight of Columbus Supreme Council field agent, he helped one of his assigned councils to achieve Triple Star status. By his third year in the Knights of Columbus field force, he achieved the designation of an FICL. Now in his seventh year as a successful and trusted agent, he has brought in over 25 members to the Knights, and recently he became a member of the state council Ambassador's Club by signing five new members in the first half of the current fraternal year. In promoting the vision of our venerable founder, Dale has assisted countless families, ensuring their viability upon the passing of our fellow brothers. Dale is honored to serve the members of the Mount Clemens and the townships of Clinton, Harrison, Chesterfield, Macomb, Washington, and Shelby, where he resides. God blessed him with his beautiful wife, Denise, of 31 years, a son, and two daughters. He is the papa of three grandsons and hopes to have his own grandsons' hockey team in the near future. Please join me in congratulating our State Treasurer's Award winner, Dale Jacks, and his wife, Denise.

Now we have the State Secretary's Award winner, presented by our state secretary, Walter Winkle, Anthony Bliss. Anthony Bliss joined the Knights of Columbus and became a third degree, full-status Knight and owner of the Order in 1979 at the age of 18. In 2004 he became a Fourth Degree member. Anthony served as guard, warden, advocate, recorder, deputy grand knight, grand knight, and for Fr. James B. Heary Council #7239, becoming the district warden. In 2013 he received an award from his community for a lifetime of community service. In 2014 he began serving the Knights of Columbus as a Supreme Council field agent. Anthony holds an FICF and is a member of the NAFIC. Anthony is also financial services certified, an FSCP designation. Anthony is blessed to serve the members of Madison Heights, Utica, Troy, Sterling Heights, and resides in Madison Heights, Michigan, with his wonderful wife, Paula. He has three sons and three grandchildren. This is Anthony's third straight year as an award winner. Anthony is a two-time past State Deputy's Award winner. Please help us congratulate State Secretary's Award winner, Anthony Bliss.

Finally, the State Deputy's Award winner, presented by our state deputy, William Chassé, Mike Raths. Mike Raths joined the Knights of Columbus in August of 2017, a Fourth Degree member. Mike's previous career experience is in manufacturing and sales, and he also spent four years as a department manager in the retail industry. Mike holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan. Mike was married to his wife, Michelle, in September of 2018, and they are parishioners at St. Matthew Parish in Flint, Michigan. Mike is also a member of the Davison Council #4090. Mike became a field agent with the Order in December of 2017. When asked why he changed careers, Mike said, "I became an agent with the Knights of Columbus to help my fellow Catholic brothers and their families feel secure about their future by making sure their families are protected, both in the present and for the long-term. I am able to do my part in carrying out Fr. Michael McGivney's vision every day. What initially drew me to the Knights

was the fact that it's very appealing to work with an ethical Catholic company and not have to leave my faith behind when I go to work." Mike is honored to serve his members in Davison, Lapeer, and the surrounding areas. Mike has excelled in his position as field agent from day one, helping nearly 100 families in just his first year, breaking several agency records and earning a spot in the company incentive trip to Bermuda. Mike has also qualified for membership in the exclusive Million Dollar Roundtable, which represents the top one percent of financial service professionals worldwide. Please help us congratulate State Deputy's Award winner, Mike Rath, who is accompanied by his wife, Michelle.

Again, we would like to thank all of you for your support and acknowledge the best referrals for field agents come from men and women in this room, the leaders in this great jurisdiction in the great state of Michigan. Vivat Jesus.

It is a true pleasure being able to introduce a lot of these fine Catholic gentlemen and their wives and families, and it gives me great opportunity to call up to the stage our new council development director, Dan Fuller; our state membership director, Jim Kraus; and state deputy, Bill Chassé, for our new council development awards.

The award the district deputy will receive in the Knights of Columbus is a Knights of Columbus watch, which is a time-honored tradition, for assisting with new council development. Come on, you guys. The first of the three newest councils, St. Mary's Visitation-Fr. Anselm Weber OFM, Council #17232. Congratulations to Grand Knight Benjamin Schaendorf and District Deputy James Pitsch.

The second new council that we're going to talk about comes from the Michigan State University—go green, go white. It's Michigan State University Council #17197. Congratulations to Grand Knight Christopher A. Kolomjec Jr., and if you didn't recognize that name you better go back to school and learn who our state treasurer is. He is the son of Christopher A. Kolomjec Sr. And [congratulations to] District Deputy Paul Kelsey.

The third of the three new councils we have is the Michigan Technological University Council #17237. Congratulations to Deputy Grand Knight Josh Treib and District Deputy Ed Glowacki Jr. Let's have a round of applause for all three of our new councils.

Next up we have the Century Club. The Century Club is a group of outstanding Knights who have, through their tireless work, been recognized by Supreme Council for recruiting or proposing 100 or more new members into the Order. And today we are honored to announce the two newest members of this club. I want you to pay attention to this one: Joseph V. Dunn, a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council #6742 in Grand Blanc. Brother Dunn has been a member of the Order for 64 years. He is 96 years young, so it means we can always recruit no matter what age we are. Joseph was not able to join us today, but receiving the jacket on his behalf are Grand Knight Richard Perry and District Deputy Dean Hayward. And if you notice, it is a lovely shade of green.

Our second award winner, James R. Highfield, a member of Pope Paul XI Council #4141 in Three Rivers. Brother Highfield has been a member of the Order for 23 years and is currently

serving as the Kalamazoo Diocese membership director. Worthy diocesan membership director, please come forward and receive your jacket to honor your achievement.

The next thing on our agenda is our service awards. I want to just take a moment to talk to you about the fact that as our Supreme Treasurer talked about yesterday, we have eight designations in four categories, 32 programs that you all have been doing for many years, many of them. A lot of times what we'd like to see you do is take some of those projects that you're doing and document it, photo it, write it up, put it in a booklet and send it in for your service program awards. In the state of Michigan, I think we should have—we have 439 councils, I think we do 439 things that deserve attention as far as the state awards go. So I'd like to see every council try to do at least one activity that they would like to send their award in for. So thank you.

So our first award is under our faith umbrella. The faith program award winner is—congratulations to John Paul II Council #13939 White Cloud, Michigan, Grand Knight Bill Lyon. The project involved the construction and remodeling of a house intended for hospice services into a home for hospice patients and their families. The Newaygo County Compassion Home is a place where people with terminal illness can receive end-of-life care in a home-like setting. They and their families receive personal care as well as physical, emotional, and spiritual support. Ann Hines, the board president, wrote, “For the past year and a half, the Pope John Paul II Council has served the Newaygo County Compassion Home for the terminally ill with tremendous acts of service. From the moment we moved into the current location, the KofC Council #13939 members began to serve. We were in need of a handicap ramp, and they quickly designed and built it so we could begin servicing guests. The Knights have helped paint and have done numerous odd jobs to make our home safe and secure. This council has also donated the much-needed funds to help repairs to the home. We truly believe God sent his angels to us in the form of Knights. Facing one's own mortality or that of a loved one is one of the most challenging experiences of this life. The Knights of council #13939 are a modern-day Mother Teresa of Calcutta example of serving the poor, the destitute, and the dying. Congratulations to council #13939.

Our next service program winner is in the category of family, the family service program. Congratulations to Msgr. Russell E. Kohler Council #15204, Westland, Michigan, Grand Knight Jeffrey Burden. Grand Knight Jeffrey Burden embraced the Faith in Action programs, especially under the family category. They have participated in the Family of the Month/Family of the Year programs, provided the Family Fully Alive program, a family Trunk-and-Treat, consecration to the Holy Family, parent night, and more; the Keep Christ in Christmas program, *The Passion of Christ* movie, food for families, many more programs that we can't list today. So congratulations to council #15204 for a great job of family growth through programs.

On to the community service program. Congratulations to Holy Family Council #10992, Sparta, Michigan, Grand Knight Dan Fodor. Best Prom Ever. The council wanted to give special-needs young adults [the chance to know] what it's like to experience what other kids their age do. The project was a huge success and has grown larger than they expected. Because of this success, it had to move to a larger venue, and people in the community really stepped up to help. It continues to grow more and more popular. More attendees, more volunteers, and more accepted and happy people. Congratulations, again, to council #10992.

Life. So congratulations to Queen of the Miraculous Medal Council #609, Jackson, Michigan. They did a traditional Polish golumpki fundraising dinner. We have Grand Knight Phil Stevens. In 2009, council #609 was the first sponsoring council in Michigan, which happened to be the same year as the new Knights of Columbus ultrasound machine matching funds program started. Fast-forward to August of 2018. Executive director Hannah Miracle with the Center for Women in Jackson contacted District Deputy Jeff Thomas, inquiring whether or not the Knights of Columbus still had a program for the ultrasound machine similar to 2009. Jeff Thomas said, “Absolutely,” which started the dialogue and the planning process. Jeff contacted Tim Donovan, state life director, to begin the process to become eligible for Supreme matching funds. Once the initial paperwork was completed and reviewed by the Lansing diocese and Supreme Council, Jeff along with Stephen Arntz and their team went to work. The team consisted of Hannah Miracle, executive director; councils #609, #8392, #8858, #9131, and #9301—all the Jackson area immediate councils. In early October, after a demonstration for the new ultrasound machine, the team met weekly for lunch at different locations to strategize and coordinate everything that was needed for a successful event. The team came up with the idea of having a golumpki dinner, which would include dining and takeout the day of the dinner. Once agreed upon and after contacting all involved, the date was set for Sunday, November 4, 2018, from 11:00 to 3:00 p.m. to be held at Lumen Christi High School in Jackson. Keeping in mind that the original goal was to raise \$20,000, the team decided that in order to attain this goal they would need not only the help of districts 47 and 49; they would need help from all the parishes in the Jackson and surrounding areas. Up to and including the day of the fundraising dinner, total receipts as of November 5, 2018, totaled \$62,000. That’s some expensive cabbage. Everyone involved the day of the dinner knew that this event far exceeded their expectations. However, in no way did they think they’d raise that amount of money. As time went by and 2019 approached, funds continued to pour in from anonymous donors, individual donors, additional Knights of Columbus councils, and churches. Twenty-seven non-Catholic Christian churches also donated, and the final total receipts collected were slightly over \$70,000. Due to the poor imaging and the increased demand for ultrasounds at the Center for Women, they were ready for their new ultrasound machine. State life director Tim Donovan submitted the final paperwork to Supreme for the matching funds on December 10, 2018. The Supreme Council sent to the Center for Women in Jackson a check for \$17,794.50, which was half of the machine’s cost. This allowed the Center for Women to contact the vendor and order the new 3D ultrasound machine. On March 13, 2019, District Deputy Jeff Thomas and the Lansing diocesan membership director, Stephen Arntz, presented both Supreme and local council checks to the Center for Women in Jackson at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. As stated earlier, the local fundraising far exceeded half the funds needed. In addition, district #59 also updated their electrical for the room where the machine would reside as well as provided an uninterruptible power supply for the new ultrasound machine. And then, they completed the project by donating the balance of the funds directly to the pregnancy center. \$70,000 raised in just two short months, nine councils, a community of givers, a few meetings, and about 400 dinners. Congratulations to all that were involved. Now for the award.

And now it’s the Family of the Year. Our Family of the Year is Deacon Pat and Peggy McDonald family. Pat is a graduate from Catholic Central High School in 1954 and magna cum laude from the University of Detroit in 1961, a master’s degree from Georgetown Law in 1962. He served as a captain in the US Air Force from 1962-1965. Peggy graduated from Convent of

Sacred Heart High School in 1955 and [earned] a BA from the University of Detroit in 1959. They were married on August 10, 1963, at St. Clare of Montefalco, Grosse Pointe, Michigan. They have eight children: daughter Marianne and her husband, Michael, and their children, Peter, Andrew, and Timothy; son Mike and wife Marysol and their children, Patrick, Conor, Rohan, and Mary; daughter Colleen and her husband, Robb, with their children, Brian, Cecelia, Maggie, and Benjamin; son Patrick and his wife, Kathleen, and their children, John, Henry, Timothy, and Mimi; son Tim and his wife, Kim, and their children, Juni and Wyatt; Molly and her husband, Seth; son Tom and his wife, Elicette, and their children, Christopher and Anthony; and their daughter Maureen. With Peggy's blessing, Pat entered the new permanent diaconate program initiated by Pope Pius XI in 1968 and was ordained by Cardinal Dearden on June 24, 1972, at St. Mary's in Redford. Then they settled down in Brighton at St. Patrick's Church and joined the Knights of Columbus as a charter member of council #7304. Both Pat and Peggy have been very involved in the community, family, and parish life. Some of the organizations they have been involved with are: Detroit public schools, Guest House, St. Vincent de Paul, Catholic College Night, Keep Christ in Christmas—these are just a few, and there were many more. Pat and Peggy continue to be models of a good Catholic married couple. They attend daily Mass together. Peggy is an extraordinary minister, and they serve the homebound at Brighton Center for Recovery. I could continue on—there's so much more—but I would like to thank the whole family for being a gift from God for all of us. Thank you, and God bless.

Deacon Pat McDonald: Peggy and I would like to thank the Knights of Columbus and make two points. First of all, the person who nominated our family is not able to be here due to illness. His name is Bob Flynn, wife Elizabeth. I'm going to ask you to join me in saying a Hail Mary for their recovery. [*A Hail Mary was prayed by all.*] Thank you. Second, the Knights of Columbus, as you can see, have emphasized the importance of the family. And this is in keeping with our very Church that emphasizes that as well. So today we feel very privileged to have been selected, because the Knights of Columbus have such wonderful families, and we feel a great sense of humility to be able to accept this award on behalf of all those families in the Knights of Columbus. We have with us today, as you can tell from that one picture of all us at the beach, that we have a few of the members here with us today. We have eight children, four boys, four girls—equal opportunity family. We have two daughters with us today. We have Colleen Marie McDonald Burroughs and Maureen McDonald. We have two sons with us as well, out of the four—Thomas McDonald and Michael McDonald. They're both members of the Knights of Columbus as well. We have some grandchildren with us today—Cecelia Grace, Margaret, along with Christopher and Anthony, our newest grandchild. Along with six great-grandchildren out of a total of 16 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. So on behalf of all of the members and families of the Knights of Columbus, we with great humility accept this award, and I accept it as well on behalf of our family. Thank you so much for your kindness and your selection process. Amen. God love you.

William Levecque: A couple of things before we all head over to the rosary. In the back we have a program that's running and some demonstrations going on. It's what we call the Pinewood Open, and it's a unique program. Our state director, Mike Wegener, is back there with his son, back in that corner. Can everyone see them back there? You should go by, take a look at what he's doing. He's giving a great demonstration on how to run it, and he has information for you. It is a very fun program councils can do, helps raise money, helps Coats for Kids, helps

other programs. So take a look back there. Secondly, rosary on the lawn. If you cannot walk down, we will have some taxis that will take you down there. So feel free to come back here. We'd like all the program winners to be back here with the taxis.

At this time, we need closing prayer. So as soon as Deacon Pat is done, we'll have him give us a closing prayer. I was just informed of one more fact. He is the longest-serving deacon in the United States.

Deacon Pat McDonald: No. Active deacon.

William Levecque: Active deacon. Active deacon.

Deacon Pat McDonald: As we finish this, we're going to ask for our Lord's protection on all of you, all of us here present, with a blessing that we say very often with Our Lady of Perpetual Help. So, I ask you to place yourself with our Lord. We ask you, dear Lord, to protect all of us here present, our family, our friends, all those who are not here. We ask you to protect us, be within us to sustain us, in front of us to lead us, behind us to defend us, and above us to bless us in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen. God love you.

FRIDAY NIGHT BANQUET PROGRAM

Christopher Kolomjic: I think we'll get started with our program so we can finish up and go to the hospitality rooms and eat more. So it's my distinct pleasure to introduce to you this evening's toastmaster. He's somebody that I think you will all know and recognize, somebody that we've all grown to love and appreciate, somebody who will take you through this evening with great grace and charm. He even rides a yellow motorcycle. It's my pleasure now to introduce to you our worthy state secretary, Walter Winkle.

Walter Winkle: Thank you, Worthy State Treasurer. We will now recite the litany. Your Excellencies; Worthy State Chaplain; worthy diocesan chaplains, council chaplains, and faithful friars; worthy former state chaplains; brothers, sisters, and all religious; Worthy State Deputy, William H. Chassé; Worthy Supreme Treasurer, Ronald Schwarz; Worthy Supreme Regional Growth Coordinator, Joseph Ramirez; Worthy Former Supreme Director Thomas Wegener; Worthy Vice Supreme Master; worthy fellow state officers; worthy district masters; worthy past state deputies; worthy former vice supreme masters; worthy district deputies; worthy former district masters; worthy state directors; worthy regional directors; worthy diocesan directors; worthy supreme council general agents; worthy grand knights; worthy faithful navigators; worthy council officers and council delegates; worthy assembly officers and members of the color corps; worthy supreme council field agents; worthy conferring officers; worthy degree staff captains; worthy officers of the Michigan State Council Bowling Association; worthy former district deputies; worthy former state directors; worthy former diocesan directors; worthy past grand knights; worthy past faithful navigators; lovely ladies; and dear families; my brother Knights, honored guests and friends, vivat Jesus. Welcome to the 2019 state deputy's banquet. With the approval of the state deputy, all further speakers for this evening's program are now excused from reciting the litany. Thank you, Worthy State Deputy.

It is now my pleasure and humble honor to introduce our distinguished head table to you tonight. As has become our custom, when we introduce one person, we give them the one clap of hands, the famous Grand Hotel single clap. And when the entire group has been introduced, we will give them a round of applause.

To my right, your left:

President of the Michigan Catholic Conference, Paul Long
Immediate Past State Deputy Ken Unterbrink and his wife, Eleanor Unterbrink
Mandy Borsenik, State Advocate's Wife
Barry Borsenik
Trevor Pollo, Protect Life of Michigan
Christen Pollo
Vice Supreme Master's wife, Susan Wasmund
Cliff Wasmund
Cheryl Ramirez
Supreme Regional Growth Coordinator Joseph Ramirez
My wife, Karen Winkle
His Excellency, Bishop of Grand Rapids, Most Reverend David Walkowiak
And, of course, myself

To my left, your right:

State Warden Charles McCuen III
His wife, Pamela
General Insurance Agent Don Wesley
And his wife, Julia
Julie Kolomjec
State treasurer, Christopher Kolomjec
The wife of our Supreme Treasurer, Janet Schwarz
Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, Most Reverend Donald Hanchon
The Supreme Treasurer, Ronald Schwarz
Our state chaplain, Reverend Paul Erickson
His Excellency, Bishop of Gaylord, Most Reverend Steven Raica
Marybeth Chassé
And our state deputy, William H. Chassé

My brother Knights, ladies, and guests, it is right and proper that we shall recognize the many people who throughout this year and for many years have helped make Michigan one of the best jurisdictions in our honored Order. I ask that they please stand as they are introduced; please, one clap upon individual introduction, and a round of applause for the entire group at the end.

Our former state chaplains of Michigan: Monsignor Todd Lajiness and Very Reverend William Turner. Let us recognize our former state chaplains.

Now I am pleased to introduce our diocesan chaplains. I ask that they stand and be recognized as they are introduced. Please, the one clap until they've been introduced. Reverend Paul Ballien, Archdiocese of Detroit; Very Reverend James William Bessert, Diocese of Saginaw; Reverend

Robert Creagan, Diocese of Kalamazoo; Reverend Robert Bacik, Diocese of Lansing; Reverend Lam Le, Diocese of Grand Rapids; Reverend Corey Litzner, Diocese of Marquette; Reverend Nicholas Cooper, Diocese of Gaylord. Let us recognize our diocesan chaplains.

We also have a special group of priests here this year celebrating their 20th year of ordination, the class of 1999. Yes. Some of them have left us, unfortunately, earlier today, but what we have remaining is—I've already introduced Fr. Paul Ballien, who was part of that class; Rev. Brian Kokonougher; Rev. Jeffrey Day; Msgr. Bob McClory; Rev. Richard Treml; Rev. Robert Copeland; and Rev. Timothy Laboe.

We also have special guests with us, Rev. Arthur Logan and Fr. Enzo Addari. Thank you.

To all the members of the clergy here this week, we express our deep gratitude for your vocation and service to the Church and humanity. Would all priests, deacons, and religious please rise so that they may be recognized and thanked? Once again, thank you very much.

Also, directly in front of me we have the parents of Fr. Paul Erickson: Brian Erickson, his father, and mother Arlene. Thank you for being here.

Our jurisdiction has been blessed with great leadership over many years. The strength that we possess is due in no small part to the great efforts put forth by these men and women on our behalf. As I introduce them to you, I ask them to please stand. And once again, please hold your applause. The past state deputies of Michigan: Past State Deputy and Former Supreme Director Thomas and Joyce Wegener; Past State Deputy William and Joan Walsh; Past State Deputy and Former Vice Supreme Master Thomas Clark and Sarah Lee; Past State Deputy Richard and Terry McCloy; Past State Deputy and Former Master Kenneth and Carol Ann Grembowski; Past State Deputy Thomas and Arlene Marcetti; Past State Deputy Michael and Maureen Malinowski; Past State Deputy Robert and Sandy Fox; wife of Past State Deputy and Former Vice Supreme Master, the late James Fedewa, Mary Ann Fedewa, and her guest; wife of Past State Deputy, the late John R. "Bob" Moody, Judy Moody, and Betsy Moody. Let's give them a warm Michigan welcome.

I'd like to also introduce as our guest Peter Bertsch and his wife, Brandy, directly in front. Thank you.

Also I'd like to recognize our executive secretary, Larry and Marie Grabowski and their daughter Catherine, who are with us this evening, along with editor of the *Michigan Columbian*, Gary and Marie Kolbicz.

Our district masters: District Master #1, Mark and Janice Brezenski; District Master #2, David Buick, and his guest, Monica Balderson, and Dave's daughter, Katie Buick; District Master #3 Dale Bosley and his son, Landon; District Master #4, Keith and Marie Woodrum. Please give them a round of applause.

I am now pleased to introduce to you a group of people who have the utmost concern for you and your family's welfare. These are, of course, the members of our agencies. As I introduce them, I

ask them to please stand. General agent Brian Barlow, general agent Ron Sneller, general agent Dan and Julia Thelen are not here due to illness; please remember him in your prayers. General agent Jack and Ashley Jerzewski with their daughter, Delilah; general agent Don and Julia Wesley. And our winners for this year's awards: Mr. and Mrs. Michael Raths; they won the State Deputy's Award. Field agent Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Bliss, State Secretary's Award winner; and field agent Mr. and Mrs. Dale Jacks, State Treasurer's Award winner. Please recognize them.

At this time, the state officers will give their presentations, and we'll start with our state warden. Please welcome Charles McCuen III.

Charles McCuen: Worthy State Deputy, Worthy Supreme Treasurer, my brother Knights, honored guests, vivat Jesus. One of the points of achieving Star Council is the Founder's Award. Councils achieve this by working hand-in-hand with their general and field agents, bringing quality insurance benefits to our members. This is attained by reaching 100 percent of their quota. Will those councils who are listed in the awards program and those with a Founder's Award tent on their table please rise and be recognized?

At this time, I would like to introduce my family who is present: my uncle Dennis and his wife, Jan McCuen; my daughter Kayla and her cousin Ally Malloy; and I cannot forget my lovely wife, Pam, who puts up with all of my stuff through all of these years.

And now I'd like to bring to the podium our worthy state advocate, Barry Borsenik, for his presentation.

Barry Borsenik: Your Excellencies, Worthy State Deputy, brother Knights, and guests, vivat Jesus. I know this is a big auditorium and not all of you can see the presenters, but I hope you give the respect to listen to the awards that we're presenting because we're trying to recognize the people and the councils that have accomplished things this fraternal year, and it's important that they are recognized. I want to recognize one of the most important things for our fraternity, for our Order, which is the sustainability of our councils. And that leads to membership.

Membership recruitment is important for us to be able to continue the great works that we do. So tonight we honor the councils that have achieved 100 percent or more of their membership quote and will be awarded the Fr. McGivney Award, in the center of your program book. There are 29 councils this year that have achieved this mark so far, as of the printing of this program. Will the council members or representatives of those councils please stand to be recognized for achieving the Fr. McGivney Award? And the fraternal year is not over, so don't stop recruiting. Do I get points for that, Jim? Where is Jim?

I'd also like to recognize my family. You've already been introduced to my wife, Mandy. My daughter, Olivia. My parents, Mike and Sally Borsenik, and my in-laws, Jack and Dinah Moltane. Thank you for joining us.

Now I'd like to welcome back up our state treasurer.

Christopher Kolomjec: My brother Knights, vivat Jesus. I am here to announce the winners of Double Star and Star Council. We have one winner for the Double Star award, and that goes to Bishop Foley Council #2660, and the Grand Knight, Dominic Raona. Where are you, Dominic? Back room. Of course. He knows what he's doing. All right. For regular Supreme Star award, it goes to council #14642, St. Sebastian, Mark Boillat; and #16169, St. John Neumann, Daniel Timmerman.

And I'm going to shorten this and announce my family. We've got cousins and nieces and nephews, so we have the Garcias, the Romanos, my daughter Madeline, my daughter Jacqueline, her boyfriend—I guess—his name's Jackson. He's staying in Christopher's room, so there's no— And also my son, Christopher Jr., the grand knight from Michigan State Council. Oh, and my wife, Julie.

I'd like to now bring up our worthy state secretary again for his awards and family.

Walter Winkle: Well, I'm going to introduce my wife again before I forget, so, my wife, Karen. Don't want to forget that.

I want to thank—before I introduce my family—I'd like to thank everyone for the cards and the support that they gave after the passing of my father-in-law a couple months ago. It really solidifies what the Knights of Columbus is about, that we're all one big family. So with that being said, I'd like to share with my family some good news that my son has asked his girlfriend to marry him. So my son Walter asked Karli Watson to be his wife, while they were on vacation this week, and I didn't even tell my parents or anyone. So this is the first time they're hearing it.

So, the family members that are here. I have my mom, Patricia; my son Willy and his fiancée, Michelle; my sister-in-law Kim Bewersdorff; my mother-in-law, Susan Bewersdorff; my sister-in-law Chris; and my sister Lynette and her husband, Robert—this is their first time up here. So thank you very much. At this time that completes the awards.

And right now I am very honored to introduce to you and recognize our family of the year, the McDonald family. Thank you very much, and congratulations.

Now at this time I would like to introduce our worthy state deputy for his presentation.

William Chassé: Thank you. Thank you. I would like to introduce my wife, Marybeth. I also have been through this a few time, and I have forgotten before, too. Thank you, sweetheart, for all the support and for everything that you've done for me and letting me continue in my endeavors with what we do. Thank you very much.

At this table here, I would like to start with my mother, Irene, and her husband, my step-dad, Gary Simancek. Next to him, my oldest son, Jacob, and his wife, Kassie, and my grandson, Colton. Next to him my son Cody with Hannah, and across from them, my other son, his twin brother, Zack with Sammy Jo. My brother-in-law Larry Headley and his wife, Marcia. At this table over here I'd like to start with Don and Trish Headley, my brother-in-law. Next to him, my dad, Leo Sr. Across from him, my step-mother, Debbie. Jim Headley, my brother-in-law, and

Emily. One of my youngest brothers, Leo the 2nd, and his son, Leo the 3rd. And my other younger brother, Lyle. I would like to thank all of you for being here. My other family over here, in the back row, thank you for being here also. Thank you very much.

Walter Winkle: Now it's my pleasure and privilege to introduce our Vice Supreme Master of the Hennepin Province. Please welcome Clifford Wasmund for his remarks. Worthy Vice Supreme Master.

Clifford Wasmund: Your Excellencies, Worthy State Chaplain, Reverend Fathers, Religious, Worthy State Deputy, Worthy Supreme Treasurer, Worthy Supreme Regional Growth Director, worthy state officers, worthy Masters of the Fourth Degree, sir Knights and ladies, vivat Jesus. I bring you greetings from our Worthy Supreme Master, Dennis Stoddard, the other 19 VSMS within the Order, and the nearly 20,000 Fourth Degree members of the Fr. Hennepin Province.

As you all know, the Fourth Degree color corps has been in a transition state for the last 18 months, with the new uniform being introduced at the 2017 Supreme Convention and with the classic regalia being retired as of July 1st of this year. Even though the new uniform has gained acceptance throughout the year, we are still faced with a number of color corps who are not going to be participating either due to their age, the cost of the uniform, its looks, or because they are just upset because they were not consulted on the change. This will reflect in a decrease in color corps participation at the local, district, and the statewide events such as the living rosary that we had a couple weeks ago in Lansing, the living rosary that we had on the front lawn today, and also the Special Olympics event that will be happening next week. The color corps will not be able to support the events that we have seen during the past years because of this decrease. I ask for your patience that, through the coming years, as the new uniform gains further acceptance and our levels increase, we will then be able to support the color corps events that you are now used to. I would also like to thank the color corps that did participate a couple weeks ago at the living rosary on the capitol steps, the color corps that participated on the front lawn today, and the color corps that will be participating at the Special Olympics. These are the guys that are recognized as the Knights of Columbus. They are the visible arm of our Order. Yes, the uniform has changed. But the mission hasn't. We are all one. We have a uniform that has changed through the times, and we just need to accept. Change is difficult at times, but believe me, we'll make it through.

I am also pleased to announce that the military chaplain's fund has now increased to nearly \$1.9 million, just \$100,000 shy of the \$2 million goal Supreme set back in October. Now, just think. Last October they gave us two years to collect \$400,000. And we did it in the first 9 months of those two years. You councils and assemblies need to be congratulated. I thank you for your participation in this great event, and the next \$100,000 should not be a difficult matter to get by the end of the year. So thank you very much.

I would also like to acknowledge the sacrifices our veterans have taken. At this time I would ask all veterans, men and women, to please stand up and be recognized. Thank you.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge our beautiful wives, who have taken so much grief with us being out and doing what the Order asks us to do to help the less fortunate, to help the

widows and orphans, and to help our veterans. I would like to thank my wife, who has supported me—by the way, that’s Susan. I’m glad I fit it in the speech so well. But really, ladies, thank you very much. You put up with a lot from us, but you know what we stand for in supporting the less fortunate. So thank you very much.

Well, summer’s coming on, and guess what? I have a golf outing, too. This is our second annual St. Louis Hennepin Provincial golf outing, which goes to support the veteran groups throughout the province. It will be happening on June 29th at Cracklewood Golf Course in Macomb Township. The proceeds will be divided through the districts in Ohio and Michigan based on their participation in this outing. It’s open to all, including women and even kids, if they want to participate. But again, the proceeds will go to our veteran groups.

And this year’s Hennepin Province meeting will be held October 18-20 at the Wyndham Hotel in Sterling Heights. This date was selected only because Michigan, Michigan State, and Ohio State do not have home games, so there’s no reason for you guys not to show up.

And in closing I’d like to thank our worthy state deputy for his support of the Fourth Degree. Thank you very much for that terrific lunch you gave us. This is another demonstration of your support of the Fourth Degree and acknowledgement of everything we try to do for you and the state. And also the state officers and his directors throughout the state for their support of the Fourth Degree.

At this time, I’d like to thank everyone again for their support of the Fourth Degree. And God bless the United States, and God bless the great state of Michigan. Vivat Jesus.

Walter Winkle: At this time I’d like to ask Rev. Paul Erickson to come up and introduce his family, and if he has any remarks.

Rev. Paul Erickson: Well, the pressure’s off of me; I don’t have a wife to forget. So that’s all right. But I do want to thank my parents: my dad, Brian, my mom, Arlene, thank you so much for not only being here but for supporting me throughout the years, through seminary, through my priesthood, and it means the world to me. I love you very much. Thank you so much for being here.

Now our worthy state secretary made the mistake of saying, “if he has any remarks,” he’s allowed to make them. And every good priest doesn’t turn down a microphone, Walter. You should know this. And so I’ve been thinking a lot about what we’ve been enjoying this week, right? The wonderful food and accommodations here and what we gather to celebrate, right? We celebrate these wonderful councils and individuals and districts doing remarkable things. And I don’t want to downplay any of these things that we’re celebrating here. But I do want to say that if we’re not rooted in Jesus, none of it means anything. If we’re not rooted in Jesus, a star council award is just a piece of wood to hang on a wall. If we’re not rooted in Jesus this is just a hunk of metal. It doesn’t mean anything.

But once we’re rooted in the love of Christ, once we’re rooted in His mercy and the salvation that He offers by His death and resurrection, that’s when the Knights become something more.

And that's when all of these accomplishments become something better than just mere celebrations and receiving of awards. This is about souls. These are the souls of our brothers and sisters. It's about the salvation of the world. And I believe very strongly that the Knights of Columbus have a role to play there.

And so my brother Knights, I implore you, be disciples first. Whatever else you are in your life, be disciples first. Because once people see the love of Jesus in you, they'll want it. Once people see the compassion in you, they'll want it. The goodness, the strength, the joy that comes to you from the grace of God, they'll want that. How could they not? My brothers, this is our call. This is who we are as Knights of Columbus. Know that it is my prayer for you always that we remain rooted always in that love and that mercy that Jesus offers to us, and that without that, all of this is just a nice week at a nice place that means nothing. Brothers, be disciples. Allow the love of God to transform your hearts, to transform your minds, to transform your lives. Let discipleship be your mark. Amen.

Walter Winkle: At this time I am pleased to present to you for his remarks Paul Long, president of the Michigan Catholic Conference. Paul?

Paul Long: Thank you, Walter, for the introduction. Your Excellencies, Reverend Fathers, Worthy State Deputy, friends all, good evening. First of all I'd like to know whose idea was it that I should follow Fr. Paul. Not really fair at all.

This year that I am with you is a little bit different for me because while I am here to celebrate with you the Knights' mission of faith and family and service, my wife at the same time is at home caring for our family and her patients, and together we are separately celebrating, today, our 22nd wedding anniversary.

This evening, my brief remarks will be focused on an issue that is important to the whole Church, to all people of goodwill, and one which has been the focus of the Knights' work and prayer for nearly 50 years. While it is not pleasant dinner conversation, it is a conversation which must take place.

Across the nation we see a growing divide on how we care for and protect the weakest among us, the unborn. Earlier this year we watched in horror New York state, Virginia, and other states as the pro-abortion movement was at work. This extreme radical change in our discourse over human life is staggering. Michigan's laws provide a sharp contrast to others around the nation. We have a ban on human cloning. We banned assisted suicide. We have a constitutional ban on the death penalty. And since 1846, Michigan law has banned all abortions. The most current state law went into effect in 1931, providing exception only to save the life of the mother. This total ban is currently not enforceable because of the 1973 ruling in *Roe v. Wade*.

However, Michigan law retains numerous active restrictions on abortion. If and when *Roe* should ever be overturned at the federal level, Michigan's broad ban on abortions will become effective once more. That said, there is work to be done. Earlier this year, the Michigan Catholic Conference board of directors approved moving forward with our long-time collaborators in the

cause to protect human life, Michigan Right to Life, to pursue banning dismemberment abortions, banning that procedure from being able to take place in this state.

A dismemberment abortion is a type of abortion usually performed in the second trimester, between the 13th and 24th weeks. It is the most common abortion procedure used in this time period of pregnancy, and it involves brutally dismembering an unborn baby by tearing it limb from limb within the womb and removing them, piece by piece. In 2017 it was reported that there were 1,777 of these types of procedures performed in this state of the 26,000-some abortions that were performed.

To pursue a dismemberment ban and to raise awareness of the brutality of abortion itself, bills were introduced in the state House of Representatives on March the 12th. Identical bills were introduced in the state Senate on March the 19th. These bills would ban the dismemberment procedure by amending the state's 2011 ban, the law which bans partial-birth abortions. Using this approach, it is likely that the dismemberment ban will be determined to be constitutional. In fact, the US Supreme Court in their ruling upholding the federal partial-birth abortion ban, highlighted the similar brutality of the dismemberment and the partial-birth abortion procedures.

The bills that I referenced passed both the House and the Senate on May the 14th, and now they wait to be dealt with in the other—the House bills in the Senate, and the Senate bills in the House. And it's up to the legislative leadership to decide which bills will, in fact, be sent to the desk of Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Sadly, she has already promised that she will veto these bills when they arrive on her desk as she reiterated her opposition to limitations on any abortion. A veto, however, does not end this effort.

A ballot question committee has been established, called Michigan Values Life—End Dismemberment Abortions. This committee will spend the summer gathering signatures to place these bills back before the legislature, which is called citizens' initiated legislation. When this comes back to the legislature, they will approve it, and when they do, it will become law. The governor would play no role, and her veto of the bills presently pending would essentially be overridden by the will of the people.

More than 400,000 signatures will need to be collected in this effort. Through the bishops, the Michigan Catholic Conference will be working with every Catholic parish in the state to coordinate signature-gathering efforts. Each pastor will be asked to appoint a leader in the parish to help Catholics participate in this petition drive. Tonight I respectfully ask that in keeping with the decades-old tradition, the decades-old collaboration between the Knights of Columbus and the Michigan Catholic Conference, the Knights play a key leadership role in this effort. I would be so bold as to suggest that at least two of your members stand up and volunteer to be the leader in the parish, with their pastor, to help lead the way in every parish.

Through the years we have worked diligently to protect human life and to do so in a prudent and an effective way. This is why Michigan is looked at as being one of the leading states in the nation with regard to the protection of human life. It is why we are behind **this** effort to ban dismemberment abortions. It is why we have been joined by the Michigan Family Forum, the Citizens for Traditional Values, and the Great Lakes Justice Center in this effort. Together we

can accomplish this signature gathering and place this legislation back before lawmakers before the end of the year. Together we can stand for life to protect the weakest among us. Together we can end this brutal procedure and build up the common good. Please help us in this effort. Thank you, and have a wonderful evening.

Walter Winkle: At this time I'd like to introduce Christen Pollo for her comments on Protect Life of Michigan. She's doing a great job with our college students across the state.

Christen Pollo: Good evening. It is such an honor to be here and be a part of this incredible weekend. We've meet so many incredible people, my husband and I. And it is my husband, Trevor's, first time at the Grand Hotel, his first time on Mackinac Island. And before we came up this weekend he said, "I know you said they don't have cars on the island, but do they have electricity? Is it like a summer camp?" And I said, "It's like the most expensive summer camp you've ever been to." So it is an honor for us to be here, and he was pleasantly surprised by the electricity on the island.

I have been a fan of the Knights of Columbus since my very first introduction to them. When I was 15 years old, a council in Jackson, Michigan, sponsored a billboard for my pro-life student group to display along the highway. And I was so moved by this act of generosity and was instantly a fan of your good works. But the Knights had an influence on my life long before that billboard.

For decades your councils have supported pregnancy resource centers. In fact, the very first ultrasound machine purchased by the Knights in Michigan was purchased for the pregnancy center that saved my life from abortion. That machine was purchased years after my birth, but I know that the Knights were so supportive of that organization, along with so many others, and are quite literally the reason that I am here today. Not just here on the island, but here as a survivor of *Roe v. Wade*.

As you heard in my introduction, my name is Christen Pollo, and I'm the executive director of Protect Life Michigan. We used to be called Students of Life of Michigan; you might know us under that name. But we changed our name last summer along with most of the high school and college groups in the state. When I graduated from the University of Michigan back in 2013, I wanted to devote my life to something that mattered—to the pro-life cause. So I put it all on the line and became the very first employee of this little organization that was just getting started. It's been a few years of a lot of hard work just to get things going, but our organization now has a staff of 10 people working on more than 50 high school and college campuses throughout the state. Protect Life Michigan exists to support pro-life student groups and train up young leaders, and we're the only state-wide organization in Michigan that works exclusively with the next generation to lead the fight against abortion.

I've worked full-time as a pro-life missionary for about five years now, and I often feel as if I'm unfairly blessed by the opportunity to do this work, to be on the college campus, experiencing first-hand how the abortion industry is losing to the pro-life movement. But I say that I feel unfairly blessed because I know that the reality is that there are millions of pro-life people throughout this entire country whose only insight to this issue is the negative news headlines that

they read and the constant bombardment by Planned Parenthood in our culture, and I know that is very discouraging. And I think it has caused the average person to mistakenly believe that we're fighting a losing battle. But you, in this room, know that that is far from the truth. Today we know that *Roe v. Wade* may actually be overturned. More pro-life legislation has been passed in the last eight years than ever before, and in the last several months, numerous states have begun banning abortion at six weeks and even earlier. The tide is beginning to turn.

In fact, I believe that this is the defining issue for my generation. A third of us have had our lives taken by abortion. We're more passionate and pro-life than any generation before us. In fact, we've been called THE pro-life generation. You, the Knights of Columbus, have been leading this fight for decades. You are the very reason that so many from my generation, including myself, have survived *Roe* to be the dedicated young advocates that we are. And tonight I want to tell you why my generation is picking up the torch and running alongside you. We recognize the hard work that you have put in, and we are committed to continuing your efforts.

So here are three ways in which Protect Life Michigan is picking up the torch. We are training new leaders, we are engaging the culture, and we are stepping into the gap. The first way that we're running alongside you in this battle is by training new leaders. Protect Life Michigan, as I said, serves more than 50 high school and college campuses. We teach students to defend the pro-life position, to be experts in changing pro-choice hearts, and to prepare them to have lifelong involvement in this fight. Each year we train about 4,000 young advocates in these ways, and we hope to double that number this year by hiring two new campus mentors.

We also speak at school assemblies. We hold conferences and trainings, and we even put students through a very rigorous 4-day summer training to make sure that they are well-versed in pro-life knowledge and strategy. There is nothing as comprehensive for pro-life students in the entire nation.

The second way in which we're running alongside you is by engaging the culture on hostile turf. The mission of each one of our affiliated college groups is to expose the student body to the reality of abortion. Every day these courageous young leaders are out on campus with displays and awareness campaigns. They are going head to head with their peers and their professors in order to win them to the pro-life cause.

One of my favorite ways in which we engage the culture on hostile turf is through our Stump the Pro-lifer event. This year we had over a thousand students attend these events, and my husband is the keynote speaker for Stump the Pro-lifer. This is a tour in which we invite pro-choice students to come out and ask their toughest questions about abortion. This poor guy over here had no idea what he was getting into when he married me. But this year we saw as many as 30 percent of some pro-choice audiences have a change of position on abortion in just one hour. We did this event at Northern Michigan University last year, and a student who came into the room pro-choice and left the room that night pro-life came up to me and said, "Why have we never heard this before? This changes everything."

I often joke about poor Trevor and all the pro-life work that he seems to get dragged into, but I want to say tonight that I feel extremely blessed to be able to do this work alongside my

husband. He makes us a better organization, and being able to do this work as a united team is such a blessing. So thank you, Trevor.

The final way in which we are carrying the torch is by stepping into the gap for women in need on campus. The Knights are famous for their tangible support for women who face crisis pregnancies, and this has inspired us young people to follow in your footsteps. Last year we launched a resource for pregnant and parenting students called Project Rosie. Project Rosie is a website and a marketing campaign. You can go to ProjectRosie.com, click on your school, and see a list of all of the free resources available in your area of the state. The message that we share with this campaign is clear. If you are pregnant in college, abortion is not your only option. Sadly, students don't hear that nearly enough. You can do this, and we will help.

We have placed 1.5 million ads online for Project Rosie. We've started scholarships for this program, and we have seen babies saved from abortion as a result of it. In fact, last spring a student told us that just days before connecting with Project Rosie she was sitting in Planned Parenthood for her abortion appointment. She ran out of the building that day in tears, feeling as if she needed more time to think about her decision. She prayed that God would give her a confirmation that she could continue her pregnancy without sacrificing her education. Two days later she met us, and today she not only has a beautiful little baby girl but has finished her education and is going to graduate school in the fall, and we walked with her every step of the way.

As you head home and back to reality later this weekend, I want you to remember Protect Life Michigan. Remember that while you have been running the race we have been waiting in the wings, warming up, ready for our turn to run. We're training an army of young people to lead this fight to victory, an army that has been inspired by your years of action and service to this cause. There are no words to express the gratitude that I have for each one of you and your important mission.

Bill, I want to thank you for the invitation to be here tonight along with the rest of the state officers so that I can meet heroes like you. And I want to thank the many councils that are here tonight that faithfully support our work year after year, month after month, because our work on campus is not possible without you. Please have hope, my friends. Your efforts have not been in vain. We are here to run with you, and we will cross the finish line. Thank you.

Walter Winkle: Thank you, Christen, for all your dedication and devotion to saving lives.

At this time I would like to welcome the state deputy to the podium for his introduction. Worthy state deputy William H. Chassé.

William Chassé: Thank you. Great speech, Christen. Thank you very much. Thank you for everything that you do. Thank you.

I have the honor of reading the bio of our Supreme Treasurer, Ronald F. Schwarz. Ronald F. Schwarz is the current Supreme Treasurer of the Knights of Columbus and a member of the Supreme Board of Directors. He was elected to the Supreme Board of Directors at the 2015

Supreme Convention and asked to serve as the Supreme Treasurer at the 2016 Supreme Convention. He has been a member of the Knights of Columbus since 1977, and he has held the offices of grand knight, deputy grand knight, treasurer, trustee, for the St. Monica Council #11237 in Edmond, Oklahoma. He is a member of Fr. Joseph Tierney Assembly #2004 in Edmond and held offices of faithful navigator, faithful admiral, faithful comptroller, faithful purser, and faithful sentinel. He also served as district deputy from 2005 to 2007, state advocate from 2007-2009, state treasurer from 2009-2011, state secretary from 2011-2013, and was elected state deputy of Oklahoma for the 2013 and 2015 fraternal years. During his term as state deputy, Oklahoma achieved the Circle of Honor in both years and attained the Pinnacle Award in the 2013-2014 fraternal year.

Ron is a parishioner of St. Monica Catholic Church in Edmond, Oklahoma, where he has served as Eucharistic minister, usher, greeter, volunteer, adorer of the Blessed Sacrament, member of the parish council, volunteer as a parish hall and church cleaner, and member of the mowing team for the parish grounds. Quite extensively. Ron served on the board of directors for the Center of Family Love facility, serving the intellectually disabled, [which was] started by the Oklahoma Knights of Columbus. After relocating to Connecticut, Ron became a parishioner of Most Holy Trinity parish in Wallingford. Ron has been a certified public accountant since 1991, with over 30 years of corporate and fraternal accounting experience. He is a graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma with a B.S. in accounting, a B.A. in business management, and a minor in computer science. Ron and his wife, Jeanette, have two daughters: daughter and son-in-law Jenna and Luis Garcia Jr. of Yukon, Oklahoma; daughter and son-in-law Kristin and Justin Knight of Edmond, Oklahoma. They are proud grandparents to grandsons Luis III, age 6, and Jacob Garcia, age 3. It is my honor to ask up the Supreme Treasurer, Ronald F. Schwarz.

Ronald F. Schwarz: Your Excellencies, Reverend Fathers, Worthy State Deputy, Former Supreme Director, state officers, and to all my fellow brother Knights, your families, and our guests, it is an honor and a privilege to be with you at your 119th annual state convention. I bring you greetings on behalf of the Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson, and from the Supreme Council. We are grateful for your dedication to our Order and to Fr. McGivney's vision. Each of you plays a pivotal role in our work and our witness of the Knights of Columbus. And you have earned our appreciation.

To my brother Knights, thank you for your work and your witness over the past year. You have brought our brotherhood to new heights of charity, unity, and fraternity. To all our guests, especially our priests and religious, thank you for partnering with the Knights of Columbus and for your support. Our collaboration strengthens the foundation of our faith, and we will continue to stand with you to protect and preserve our Church. And, finally, to all the families gathered here, thank you for supporting your loved ones as they served their parishes and communities and for so often joining them in their work. And a special thanks to our wives. Many of us are here tonight because of your gentle push and constant encouragement. So, on behalf of all the Knights here, I want to say thank you.

Because of all of you, our brotherhood has set new standards of success last year. You put our Order's principles into practice and put our faith into action. The accomplishments of the Michigan Knights of Columbus have impacted the lives of so many throughout your state. Your

support for your bishops and your priests, the relationships you've built with your parishes and your community, your commitment to raising a million dollars for the Sacred Heart Major Seminary endowment fund, helping in founding and supporting the Holy Cross Services over the past 71 years. I could keep going. The point is, you're changing minds, winning hearts, and saving lives across the state. The Supreme Council applauds this work and all who made it possible, and your actions contributed to a record year across America.

Nationwide last year, the Knights of Columbus and their families paid more than \$185 million to worthy causes and gave more than 76 million hours of our time to charity and to our Church. We stepped up to support Special Olympics. We put coats on the backs of over 100,000 vulnerable kids and helped tens of thousands of families recover in the wake of hurricanes and wildfires.

And when it comes to the sanctity of life, we made a bigger difference than ever before. While some leaders in our nation are calling for abortion after the moment of [birth] and even after, we took action to save more innocent lives. We now have placed more than 1,000 ultrasound machines in crisis pregnancy centers across America. In Michigan, you have placed into service 56 ultrasound machines; however, we just approved two more to be established in the state. This is the greatest humanitarian achievement in the history of the Knights of Columbus, and the Supreme Knight has pledged that we will build on this record and save even more lives.

And beyond American borders, the Knights of Columbus are on the ground supporting and standing with the most vulnerable and oppressed. Our wheelchair program has never been larger in the world. Last year we gave out more free wheelchairs in the countries between Vietnam and Mexico, and we continue to provide education, housing, and medical aid to orphans in Africa. We are defending religious freedom and helping shattered faith communities in new ways. Look no further than the Middle East, where the Christians, Yazidis, and Shiite Muslims suffered greatly as the hands of ISIS. Our brother Knights and your families have stepped up to support them. And across northern Iraq we're building new homes, new roads, and restoring centuries-old churches. With your continued help, they will reclaim their land and rebuild their lives, and we will continue to stand with all who suffer for their faith.

No matter where you look at home or abroad, the Knights of Columbus can be summed up in a simple phrase: A force for good. Everywhere we go, we make a difference. Everything we do advances our principles of charity, unity, and fraternity. But while tonight we are here to celebrate your accomplishments, it is also a time to ask ourselves, how can we do more and how can we grow in action and effectiveness? We need to ask these questions and we need to answer those questions, too.

At the Supreme Council we believe that the mission of the Knights of Columbus is more important than at any point in time since Fr. McGivney founded the Order back in 1882. Now, as then, young men are searching for meaning and striving to find communities in broken and fragmented societies. Now, as in the late 1800s, the Catholic family and the Catholic faith are under a sustained assault by the culture around us. And now, as then, the Knights of Columbus offer a solution to the crisis. Our Order is the antidote to the time we live in. It starts with our understanding of manhood. We believe in a masculine ideal that is too often missing in the modern world and yet is exactly what the modern world needs. It needs men who are committed

to their wives, to their children, and to helping their neighbors. In our brotherhood, we spur men to see beyond themselves. We help them look up to Jesus Christ as the ultimate example of servant leadership, and we help them look out for their families, their parishes, their communities. The Knights of Columbus leads men into communities. They draw them into a life a service and empower them to become better husbands, fathers, neighbors, citizens, and followers of Christ. Men who are committed to charity, unity, and fraternity—in short, men called Knights.

As the Supreme Knight has said, “We seek good men who are looking to be better men, and then we give them the opportunity to be great men.” We need more great men in the world today, and that is why we must rededicate ourselves to our noble mission. This brotherhood also gives the men the chance to defend the family. The family has always been at the heart of our faith and the foundation of our fraternal mission. Sadly, the family faces many challenges in the modern world today. Our opportunity and our obligation is to strengthen the family in a new way.

In recent years we have launched new initiatives to support families and bring them into our Order’s work. This includes building the domestic church as well as the historic new program we recently launched, Faith in Action. Through Faith in Action, councils can implement up to 32 separate and important programs at the parish levels. From the soccer challenge to family consecration to Coats for Kids to March for Life, every activity falls into one of four categories: faith, community, life, and family. But in a very real sense, the entire initiative is about the family. It gives a huge range of options to involve your families and others in the Order and in your parish community. By implementing Faith in Action in our local councils, you can help Pope Francis’ call to make the church a family of families. We’ll be stronger for it, and so will our society, which needs strong, whole, and thriving families like never before.

Finally, in the Knights of Columbus we give the men the opportunity to defend our Mother Church. There’s no doubt that the Church is hurting today. At times like this it’s easy to despair and it’s hard to see a way forward. That’s where we come in. St. John Paul II often called the Knights the Church’s strong right arm. Our strength is critical in this time of trial. We must be leaders who work for repentance, renewal, and rebuilding the Church in the bonds of trust. Through our work we can and will inspire priests and laypeople alike to strive for holiness. Holiness, after all, is at the heart of renewal. At every crisis point in the Church’s history, our Lord called upon individuals to renew her from within. He is calling us to do the same today. And as we work to reform our Church from within, the Knights of Columbus will also defend her from outside attacks.

In recent years, faithful Catholics have encountered rising hostility in the public square. Nowhere is that more obvious than in our politics, where some leaders equate Catholicism with bigotry and hate. This should remind us of the discrimination that Catholics faced when Fr. McGivney founded our Order in 1882. It’s the modern equivalent of a sign that reads “Catholics Need Not Apply,” and while it’s baseless and wrong, it demands a strong response from all of us who know the truth.

As Catholics, we stand for the dignity of every person, and as Knights we know that our Order has spent nearly a century and a half standing up for the marginalized. We fought the Klan in the

United States in 1920 and 1930. We defended persecuted Catholics in Mexico. We never drew the color line in World War I, and today we defend persecuted Christians in the Middle East. The Knights of Columbus embody the best of America, and we cherish our faith, and we'll never back down from our beliefs.

So thank you again for all your work over this past year. Thank you also for the warm welcome you have shown me and Jeanette this week. In closing, let me just say that the world needs the Knights of Columbus more now than ever. That's why we need to inspire and recruit new generations of servant leaders. When Fr. McGivney founded our brotherhood, he showed men a better path. We are their heirs, and so we must be leaders in the New Evangelization. So by showing good men how to be great men, we will transform their lives and the lives of everyone they meet. We will strengthen our families and will renew our Church. The Order is sworn to this mission.

As we look towards the next year, we should be excited for what's in store. The challenges will be many, but so are the opportunities and the rewards. As we prepare ourselves for what's ahead, let us be confident in each other, in our shared mission and principles, and let us take comfort in the words of Scripture, which tells us, "The Lord, your God, is with you wherever you go."

Thank you. May God bless you in the coming year. Vivat Jesus.

Walter Winkle: And now please welcome to the podium for his closing remarks, our state deputy, William H. Chassé. Please rise.

William Chassé: Thank you. Thank you. Your Excellencies, Worthy State Chaplain, worthy diocesan chaplains, Reverend Fathers and all religious, Worthy Supreme Treasurer, Worthy Supreme Regional Growth Director, Worthy Former Supreme Director, Worthy Vice Supreme Master, worthy fellow state officers, worthy past state deputies, Worthy Former Vice Supreme Master, worthy district deputies, worthy district masters of the Fourth Degree, worthy former district deputies, worthy former masters of the Fourth Degree, worthy state and regional diocesan directors, worthy grand knights and council officers, worthy Supreme insurance agents, worthy delegates, worthy brother Knights, ladies, and guests, vivat Jesus. I do not and have not been told the final numbers yet from our basket raffle that we do every year, but as most of you know, on an average year it's right around \$15,000, and I'm bringing this up because I want to give a round of applause to the Weingartz family, who could not be here tonight, for matching funds, and the Peter Bertsch family, who is right here. If I could get Peter and Brandy to please stand. I know you're very humble, but please stand. That will be in excess of \$45,000 to \$50,000 raised today, this weekend, for Holy Cross Services.

I would like to thank all of you for your support and your teamwork that you have shown us in this very tough year. I say tough because of how we got here, starting with the untimely death of our late brother, State Secretary Antonio Vittorini. If I could have the Vittorini family please stand. The Vittorini family is here today with us. Thank you very much for coming. With Tony's loss, I'm sure it was very hard for the Vittorini family to come to this convention. This would have been Tony's first convention. I should not be up here. Tony should be up here. And because

of the commitment the Vittorinis have towards the Knights of Columbus, that is why they're here, and I want to thank you one last time for your support and for you being here.

The Michigan Knights of Columbus state board—we had a decision to make, moving up a little sooner than usual. With two new board members elected, we knew we had our work cut out for us. With myself moving to the state deputy's position a few years early, I am very proud of what this board and this state has accomplished this year. If it weren't for the close relationship of this state board and Tony, I don't think it could have been possible. I thank you for your support and your willingness to listen to our philosophy. I know Tony would have believed and been proud of what we have started. That is what we started back in July—new council fresh start officers' training. I believe every year is a fresh start. We talked about communication, and how important communication is, starting with district deputies and their councils, with the help from state, regional, and diocesan directors. All of this pulled together is proof of good teamwork. Because of your teamwork, Michigan is back where it belongs, towards the top. We have worked hard, and numbers don't lie. All of you should be proud of what we have achieved with only five months to prepare for the beginning of this year.

Our Take Ten charity program could not be successful without the help of Past State Deputy Bill Walsh. Thank you, Worthy Past State Deputy, for your commitment and willingness to help in any way possible. Past State Deputy Bill Walsh has one major concern—why only half of our 430 councils participate with this program. Brother Knights, I'm asking you to take home with you and go back to your councils and inform them of the importance of this program. All monies from this program are used for major charities and many others. Without this support, we just can't help all the charities that we do. We must get more participation from the councils to ensure the charities that we will always be here for them. I would like to thank all the 200 councils that did help with this program this year.

One of those charities would be St. Francis Camp on the Lake. I would like to thank Past State Deputy Mike Malinowski for his support in taking on the duties and representing the state board and being a board member with the St. Francis Camp on the Lake. Thank you, Mike. The Knights of Columbus has been an important part of the success of St. Francis Camp on the Lake, and I would like to believe we will work together for many, many years to come.

Bob Fox took on a role of being the liaison of the Marquette diocese, from where he lives, a five-hour drive is the average. Bob spent many hours on the road, helping with mentorship and helping with anything that is needed in the Marquette diocese, and many more of his drives were seven hours. Thank you very much, Bob.

So as you can see, we could not be successful without the help of all past state deputies. In one way or another, all of them continue to help. Thank you, past state deputies. I would like to give them a round of applause.

The Sacred Heart Major Seminary scholarship endowment fund program needs your attention. About a year and a half ago, Archbishop Vigneron asked the state board for help making sure we don't lose any seminarians due to financial reasons. As we know the shortage of priests, it was easy to pledge \$1 million to ensure no seminarian will leave the seminary due to financial

reasons. This is where we need your help. The program started under Immediate Past State Deputy Ken Unterbrink. We ask each member of every council to pledge \$6 a year until this goal is reached. This is a program that I believe this goal would be reached within the next seven years. We ask all Knights of Columbus to help with this program. This is something that every member can do. We as the Knights of Columbus are here to help those less fortunate and to protect and support the Church in all ways possible. What better way to show your support than to give \$6 a year to the endowment program? We can all do that. I ask you to take this message back to your councils. Ask them to support the Sacred Heart Major Seminary scholarship endowment fund.

I also ask you to take back to your councils that membership is more important than ever due to the daily attacks on our Catholic beliefs. We must act now by recruiting for the right reason, and that right reason is the Church. It is about numbers. It is about numbers, but maybe not the way that some of you think. Fifty-six ultrasounds already purchased, saving hundreds of babies each year. Thousands of coats for kids every year for those who don't have one. One million dollars committed to Sacred Heart Major Seminary for seminarians so no seminarian is denied of their dream. One hundred and forty thousand dollars given to Right to Life of Michigan to help stop abortion. The state board thanks you for your commitment in helping with the mission to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and someday, no human life will be taken that can't protect itself.

So you see, numbers are important. We could not be so charitable if it weren't for our members. That is why we ask you to recruit and strengthen our army, to always be there for those who need us. It is our responsibility to help Catholic gentlemen to have the humble feeling that we have when we help those less fortunate. That is why we do what we do.

I have a three-point answer to a question, and I really believe that the ladies in this room can be very vital to this also. But gentlemen, I'm asking you to take this back to your councils and use this technique the next time you're asked to recruit, which could be and should be next week. The next time you ask a Catholic gentleman to join our Order, I know the most favored answer you get is, "I don't have time. I have kids that play sports, and I just don't have the time." Look at him and say this, "Can you help put a coat on a child that does not have a coat because his mom or dad cannot afford one?" I know I have driven by many bus stops in the winter and seen kids out there with sweatshirts. We should not allow that. Ask him if he has 2 hours a year, 2 hours a year, that's all, to stand in front of a store and help our Tootsie Roll drive for those with intellectual disabilities. Two hours a year. And the last one? Some of them will say they do not have the time because they have kids in sports. Ask them if they know about the Knights of Columbus youth programs. A lot of them will say, "Yes, my kids join and play in the free throw contest every year." Right there. They're already helping. They don't know it. Ask them, "Can you help us keep score? Keep score at a facility that you're already at. That's all you have to do." Put a coat on a kid that can't afford it. Work two hours for the Tootsie Roll drive. Or help keep score somewhere that you're already at. I daresay if that man is a Catholic man, he cannot look at you in the face and tell you, "No, I can't join." You can take your phone out, join online, or bring him through the natural way with the First Degree, but I do not believe they will tell you that they can't help put a coat on a child that can't afford one.

In closing, I would like to thank the Supreme Treasurer, Ron Schwarz, and his wife, Jeanette, for coming to our state convention this year. I hope you enjoyed yourselves and see Michigan is well and alive. We are committed to continue the dream of our founder, Michael J. McGivney. I would like to thank my wife for her support and companionship on all of the road trips and journeys that have taken us. Thank you to the state board and your commitment and your support, and thank you brother Knights and all ladies. We could not do what we do if it weren't for your support. With your help, with everyone's help in this room, we are making Michigan great again. God bless all of you. Have a good evening.

Walter Winkle: At this time, I would like to ask the state warden to come up and give his presentation.

Charles McCuen: Thank you, Worthy. This is one of the most enjoyable parts of being the state warden. I would like to make this presentation to our lovely First Lady, a small token of our appreciation for all that you do, for keeping the board in line, and for all that you do for the Order.

Walter Winkle: And now our state deputy has a presentation that he's going to present.

William Chassé: Ron and Jeanette, we are very, very happy that you are here. If you could come up, we have a small token that we would like to give you to remember your time spent here on Mackinac Island. No, it's not fudge. No fudge. It's a very large size, softball-sized Christmas bulb with a picture of the Grand Hotel on it. And that's not all. As we know, our shirt sales out there—and I just thought Ron should have one of these shirts, and it is one of the famous shirts that have *Catholic and Proud* on the back of the neck. And if you don't like that color, I know Karl Knittel sells them; he'll exchange it. Also, a book of the Grand Hotel and Mackinac Island, with many pictures of all the rooms and everything that goes on at the Grand Hotel. Thank you very much.

Walter Winkle: I have a watch that was left in the Detroit caucus. It's a watch that was given for new council development. I have it up here, if you'd like to come pick it up. If not, the state deputy will take it.

And now, the moment we've all been waiting for. Please welcome to the podium Most Reverend Donald Hanchon, auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Detroit, for benediction.

Bishop Donald Hanchon: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Lord, we thank you so much for friendships, the friendships which this Order does so much to encourage, and for the food we have shared. We return Thee thanks, Almighty God, for these and all Your benefits, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen. And may the blessing of God, His protection, be with us always, God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen. Go in peace. *Thanks be to God.*

Walter Winkle: Thank you for attending today's event. At the back of your book you have *God Bless America*. Let's close with a song. *All sang "God Bless America."*

SATURDAY MORNING MASS HOMILY: Bishop David Walkowiak

Our gospel reading reminds of what we already know and probably, at one time or another, have experienced, that the world will hate the Christian. We might begin by asking, what do we mean by the world? We mean a human society organizing itself without God. And we sure are getting an experience of that these days. It's prevalent in first-world countries. There is bound to be division between a person who regards God as the center of his or her life, as the only ultimate reality in life, and the person who regards God as irrelevant for life. And we certainly know, if we follow the statistics, that the largest group in the United States right now are the unaffiliated, the so-called "Nones," growing and growing and growing.

My brothers and sisters, we do not belong to the world. Here we have no lasting home. We belong to Jesus, and that means that we take, as we have heard in the previous Masses for this weekend, we take the time to pray. We reflect upon Scripture. We guide our lives and make our decisions based upon the teachings of Jesus and the Church of which we are members. So Jesus warns us that the world will hate us.

Sometimes this hatred can be obvious and dramatic. More often, the world's hatred is subtle. The world as I have defined it is suspicious of people who are different. The world dislikes people whose lives are a condemnation of it, a sign of contradiction to it. It is costly to practice a higher standard than that of the world. What this world wants from us is conformity, just to go along. Anyone who does not perform to the prevailing patterns will certainly meet opposition and, probably, trouble.

We have, of course, other religious surveys that tell us that Catholic religious beliefs are considered by many to be terribly out of date and even discriminatory. And we have people, maybe friends, who every now and then say, "You really don't believe all that stuff, do you?" In the Magnificat, the great hymn of Mary, Mary's prayer for what God has done for her personally, Mary broadens out what God does for all who fear Him in every age. And we can see how in embracing the wisdom of God we are not at one with the wisdom of the world, because the Gospel in so many places, and certainly in Mary's prayer, the Magnificat, God reverses human status, human perception and ways of seeing things. God scatters the arrogant, who seem to have the upper hand. God pulls down the mighty from their thrones. God sends the rich away empty.

But what do we also see? God exalts the lowly. God fills the hungry with good things. God upholds his servant Israel. In remembering our Blessed Mother, her life and her example, we see that the basic demand upon us who are Christians is to have that courage to be different, and it's becoming more and more difficult to be different. Jesus says he has chosen us out of his world. Indeed, in the fourth chapter of Paul's letter to the Ephesians, we hear that God chose us in Him before the world began to be holy and blameless in His sight, to be full of love. It wasn't some random act of chaos; it was God's divine choice that we should be different in the ways that matter most.

But no one can be a disciple of Christ unless he or she accepts that challenge, indeed, that risk. There must be a difference between the person who belongs to the world and the person who

belongs to Jesus Christ. And so we ask ourselves, what decisions can we make to show that we belong to Jesus? May Mary, our Mother, always keep us close to Jesus, her son. Amen.

CLOSING SESSION, SATURDAY MORNING

Charles McCuen: I will now reconvene the opening session of the convention. I would like to invite Fr. Paul Erickson up for the prayer.

Rev. Paul Erickson: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Heavenly Father, we give You thanks and praise for all the ways that You've continued to pour out Your blessings upon us. Father, we thank You for the gift that this convention has been and will continue to be through this last session. Father, we ask that Your Spirit descend upon us, that You would help us to become the men, the fathers, the disciples that you call us to be. Father, we ask for faith, for courage, for strength in carrying out Your will for Your church. And we ask all of this through the Holy Name of Jesus. Amen. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

William Levecque: Good morning, brother Knights. Are we excited to be here? Just waiting for everybody to take a seat real quick. And now we're going to have a short video from Holy Cross Services.

[Holy Cross Services video was shown.]

William Levecque: So what do you guys think? Pretty good? Remember, Holy Cross Services was started with the help of the Knights of Columbus. All those things you see there—you are part of that solution. So thank you.

At this time we have a video from St. Louis Center.

[St. Louis Center video was shown.]

William Levecque: And now for a commercial message. So it has given me a great pleasure to introduce Fr. Enzo Addari and Joe Yekulis.

Joe Yekulis: Good morning, my brother Knights and leaders of Michigan. Vivat Jesus. I'm happy to be here once again, and I want to talk to you a little bit about the who, what, where, and how we do things in the two minutes that Bill has given us this morning. The who is, of course, we are servants of the Lord in all that we do, everybody here but in particular St. Louis Center, carrying out the mission of St. Louis Guanella, who you just saw up on the screen. He was a contemporary of Fr. Michael J. McGivney. They lived during the same time period in the 19th century. And his mission, just like Fr. McGivney's, was caring for widows and orphans, but in a special sense Fr. Guanella was also about caring for people with disabilities who were abandoned in their communities.

So what we do at St. Louis Center, of course, from what you saw—hopefully it was conveyed in the video—is providing compassionate, loving care to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, 24/7, in a faith-filled setting. That includes men and women, boys and girls, and we provide a whole continuum of care. Our youngest is 5 years old, and our oldest goes into the 70s, so we say from 5 to 75 we have a whole continuum of care for people that we take care of. We're located in Chelsea, which is along the I-94 corridor between Ann Arbor and Jackson.

And the three main challenges that we have in front of us these days is, of course, with the economy being booming as it is, it's harder than ever to try to find good employees to stick around to work in human services careers, to do direct care. Everybody's having the same problem right now. We're also fighting a state bureaucracy that would like to see the elimination of any organization that provides faith-based services. And, finally, finding adequate resources to deliver 21st-century care to the people that we serve and love. So that's why we need and rely on your help and support every year throughout the year as our partners in serving others.

And now Fr. Enzo would like to say a couple of words to thank you for all that you do. Fr. Enzo Addari, the CEO of St. Louis Center.

Fr. Enzo Addari: My brother Knights, vivat Jesus. I want to say thank you, along with what Joe Yekulis just said, for your support and your love. They are the things that keep us going, moving every single day, with all the many different challenges that we have. Of course, one is financially, because 20 percent of the people we serve are benevolent care. They are people that we have decided we truly want to provide for them because they are the only family that they have in life. That is the very first challenge that we have. And our costs are about \$5,000 per month per person. So that is one. The other challenge that we are facing these days is a secularistic, pagan ideology has taken over half the human services. They are imposing on us their view of the person. We know that this is a challenge, and we are going to fight against that because we truly believe that God wants everybody at the table, including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Thank you for helping us with this project in the fact of these challenges, and may God bless you all. Thank you.

William Levecque: And now, one of the things, the first principle of our Order, charity. Our state deputy for a check presentation.

William Chassé: As you've seen on the screen behind us, a few years ago under Past State Deputy Bob Fox, the board committed to the 10 years, \$25,000 per year. After this year's donation, we'll be halfway through that commitment. It's because of all the work that you guys do, and I hope you've seen the monies that we've been giving away this weekend. It's because of you and everything that you do. But I urge you—our bank accounts getting a little low. Continue those checks to the state secretary.

At this time I'm very honored to give the \$25,000 contribution to St. Louis Center. Fr. Enzo, thank you for everything that you do. Thank you.

Walter Winkle: Good morning, brother Knights. From the credentials committee, the report is the number of eligible councils reporting zero delegates are 176. The number of councils reporting one delegate are 100. The number of councils reporting two delegates are 124. The total number of delegates, 348. There are five state officers casting one vote each. There is a vote for the immediate past state deputy. A total of 176 eligible votes. Half that number plus one is needed to win on the first ballot. If the election goes more than one ballot, to win you'll need 50 percent plus one of the ballots cast. With that being said, I ask the state deputy, can the credentials committee please be excused? Would the credentials committee please rise and be recognized? Thank you for your service. I would also like to report that we had 100 percent participation of that committee, that attended the meeting. Also a big thanks to our executive secretary, Larry Grabowski, for all his hard work making that things were correct during this election. Worthy State Deputy, could you please come forward and give further instructions on the election?

William Chassé: My brother Knights, we are going to start the elections of officers. Nomination speeches—the first nomination speech will be held to three minutes, the second speech to one minute. The state advocate will use a stopwatch to keep time. The state deputy now resigns the gavel to the state secretary for the office of state deputy.

Walter Winkle: Do we have any nominations for the office of state deputy?

Ken Morrison: Worthy State Deputy, my name is Ken Morrison, and I'm first delegate of Richard Council #788. I would like to relinquish my time to Jim Kraus for his nomination speech for Bill Chassé as state deputy.

Walter Winkle: Do we have a motion to relinquish his time? *(unanimously approved)* Thank you.

Jim Kraus: Worthy State Secretary.

Walter Winkle: Worthy State Membership Director.

Jim Kraus: My name is Jim Kraus. I'm the past grand knight of council #7237 in DeWitt and I'm currently the state membership director. Today I have the honor of nominating a man who has shown in just one year that our state could be changed by placing renewed trust in our council leaders to build our Order at the local level, that our state could be changed with renewed efforts supporting our parishes and our communities with outstanding programs, that our state could be changed by working to bring back councils from the inactive status and the formation of three new councils, including two college councils, that our state is seeing a 10-year high in membership sustainability to ensure our future as the strong right arm of the Catholic Church. Here in the great state of Michigan we are blessed to have a strong leader willing to continue the work he has started this fraternal year, a strong leader who understands the value of teamwork and building positive relationships across the state to continue to build our great Order. A leader who understands that Catholic men, regardless of age or background, add value to our Order and that by all of us working together we can make a difference in our parishes and in our communities. A man who believes the words *faith, family, and fraternity* are more than just

words; they are the way that he lives his life. A man whose long history of service to the Order is only possible with the rock-solid support of his loving family, his wife of over 30 years, Marybeth; and their children, Jacob, Cody, and Zach, all three sons who are active members of our great Order. As we continue to face the challenging times, both within our Church and our Order, we need a leader who will continue to build on this year's progress, to help us meet our mutual challenges and overcome them, working as a team. We have such a leader. Worthy State Secretary, it is with great pride and honor that I place the name of William H. Chassé in nomination for the office of state deputy of the Michigan jurisdiction. Thank you, and may God bless the Knights of Columbus.

Walter Winkle: Thank you. Are there any seconds to the nomination of William Chassé for state deputy?

Dominic Raona: Brothers, all. I first met Bill four years ago, when he was state advocate, at a major degree at Robert Jones council, and I was impressed that a state officer would take the time to attend a major degree two hours from home for no other reason than to observe and meet brother Knights from around the state in a laid-back environment. I am not sure why, but Bill settled in next to me during that degree, and I haven't been able to shake him since. I would like to think our friendship started that day and has grown into a relationship of mutual respect. I gave Bill fair warning that I was pretty outspoken and that he should think twice before associating himself with me but he encouraged me to speak my mind freely and to share my ideas. The unexpected passing of state secretary Tony Vittorini elevated Bill to state secretary for a short six-month term. Those around him began to notice the transformation, and we saw Bill become more focused and determined. Bill stepped in as our state deputy last July. He has worked hard to build a stronger brotherhood and to share his vision to grow membership and to build our Order's Catholic identity. He has never forgotten the men in the councils, all of us who work in the trenches every day to make our Order great and to instill in all of us a sense of pride to say that "I am a Knight of Columbus." It is my great honor and distinction to second the nomination of Bill Chassé for state deputy of the great state of Michigan.

Walter Winkle: Worthy state delegate, could you please give us your name and council number for the record? Just to clarify. Thank you.

Dominic J. Raona: Dominic J. Raona from council #2660, Bishop Foley, Dearborn.

Walter Winkle: Thank you. Are there any other seconds to the nomination of William Chassé for state deputy? Are there any other seconds? Are there any other seconds? Are there any other nominations for state deputy? Are there any other nominations for state deputy? Are there any other nominations for state deputy? Therefore, I move that nominations be closed for state deputy and a ballot be cast. (*unanimously approved*) Thank you. Worthy State Deputy, do you accept?

William Chassé: I do. Thank you, brother Knights. Thank you. Brother Knights, we will now continue the election of state officers. My brother Knights, is there a nomination for the office of state secretary?

Tom Kendziorski: Worthy State Deputy, my name is Tom Kendziorski, and I am the grand knight and first delegate of Pope St. John XXIII Council #5436, located in Waterford, serving Our Lady of the Lakes parish and our pastor, former state chaplain Fr. Scott Thibodeau. I move to relinquish my time to Brother Knight Dan Fuller for the purpose of making a nomination speech for our worthy state secretary, Walter Winkle Jr.

William Chassé: Brother Knights, is there a motion to accept relinquishing his time? (*unanimously approved*) Will the guards please escort him in?

Dan Fuller: Worthy State Deputy, my name is Dan Fuller. I'm from council #5436, Waterford, Michigan, currently serving as state new council development director, and it's my pleasure to put into nomination the name of Sir Knight Walter Winkle Jr. for the office of state secretary. Walter began his service to our Order in Richmond Council #2667 in 1988. Walter's path to state leadership has included almost every elected and appointed position in the council, assembly, diocese, and state jurisdiction. As an elected leader to the state board, Walter has served us as warden, as advocate, as treasurer, and this past fraternal year as state secretary. Walter, along with his family, has made serving the Catholic community of Memphis and Richmond, the Archdiocese of Detroit, the jurisdiction of Michigan, and made it their vocation and passion. Walter has commented to me that his only hobby is serving the Knights of Columbus. Many of us in this meeting room share that same passion and hobby. Walter has served alongside his brother Knights at many events including Special Olympics, membership growth events, and major degree ceremonies. Walter has always led through example, not asking his brother Knights to take on tasks that he has not taken on himself. Walter's 31 years of service to our Order has equipped him to be a great mentor to all of us as brother Knights and aid our state deputy in the continuing process of making Michigan great. And it is my proud honor to nominate Walter Winkle Jr. to the office of state secretary for the great jurisdiction of Michigan.

William Chassé: Thank you. Is there a second to the office of state secretary?

Clayton Kubacki: Worthy State Deputy, my name is Clayton Kubacki, grand knight of Leo XIII Council #3042 in Eastpointe, Michigan. At this time I would like to relinquish my time to state raffle director Kevin Rowley for the purpose of seconding the nomination for state secretary. Thank you. (*unanimously approved*)

Kevin Rowley: Worthy State Deputy, Worthy Supreme Treasurer, worthy state officers, and brother Knights. Dan Fuller is a tough act to follow. I am Kevin Rowley. I am currently the state raffle director and a past grand knight and former district deputy from Leo XIII Council in Eastpointe, Michigan. Thank you for allowing me the time to address the delegation. Three simple words sum up the way State Secretary Walter Winkle Jr. has lived his life: faith, family, and service. Walter is a man of great faith who lives the Gospel every day and always strives to place God at the forefront of his daily life. No greater love does Walter have than that for his very supportive wife, Karen, and their family. He is an example to his children and others of how to live your daily life as a true gentleman. Many years ago Walter found an outlet to put into practice his true calling to service and helping those in need. The Knights of Columbus has been his passion and joy as he has risen through the ranks of leadership to his current elected position

of state secretary. I am proud to stand before you today and second the nomination of Walter Winkle Jr. for state secretary of the great jurisdiction of Michigan. Thank you.

William Chassé: Thank you. Are there any other seconds for the office of state secretary? Are there any nominations for the office of state secretary? Are there any other nominations for the office of state secretary? Hearing none, Worthy State Secretary, do you accept?

Walter Winkle: Worthy State Deputy, I do.

William Chassé: I move for a unanimous ballot. (*unanimously approved*) Congratulations, Worthy State Secretary.

William Chassé: My brother Knights, are there any nominations for the office of state treasurer?

Jeff Parlow: Worthy State Deputy, brother Knights, vivat Jesus. My name is Jeff Parlow. I am the current deputy grand knight of council #13419, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Detroit, Michigan, otherwise known as Assumption Grotto. I ask permission to yield the bulk of my time to Chris Kolomjec Jr. for the purpose of nominating Chris Kolomjec for the position of state treasurer.

William Chassé: Brother Knights, do we hear a motion to accept relinquishing his time? (*unanimously approved*)

Christopher Kolomjec Jr.: Worthy State Deputy, my name is Christopher Kolomjec Jr., charter grand knight of Michigan State Collegiate Council #17197. I'm here this morning to tell you how I got here. As much as I hate to admit it, it's not really something I can take credit for. As long as I can remember, my father has stressed the need for the Church to have a masculine face and recruit young men to be proud Catholics. This is what prompted him to press for the establishment of overseas US military councils. This is also what prompted him to urge our pastor to approve the establishment of Assumption Grotto Council #13419. This is what inspired me to help bring the Knights to Michigan State University. In these times, when our culture is more and more hostile to our Catholic faith and values, never have the young men of our Church and nation been more in need of the transforming experience that is the Knights of Columbus. Under the leadership of men like Chris Kolomjec Sr., the Michigan Knights are forming a new generation of loyal Catholic men, husbands, fathers, and leaders in our communities. I proudly place his name in nomination for re-election as state treasurer.

William Chassé: Thank you. Are there any seconds to the nomination of the office of state treasurer?

Roberto Bertran: Worthy State Deputy, my name is Roberto Bertran, second delegate from Assumption Grotto Council #13419 in Detroit. I ask to yield my time to a member of our council, Harry Wiesneski, for the purpose of seconding the nomination of Chris Kolomjec to the office of state treasurer.

William Chassé: Thank you. Brother Knights, there's a motion. (*unanimously approved*)

Harry Wiesneski: Worthy State Deputy, I am Harry Wiesneski, third degree Knight from Assumption Grotto Council #13419, and I'm here to second the nomination of Christopher Kolomjec as state treasurer. Last year we talked about Chris and his dedication to family, faith, country, and fraternity. I want to say a few words in particular about fraternity this year. Echoing what Chris Jr. said, Chris really does value the Knights and the fraternity it brings. Oftentimes Chris talks about two very valuable facts of life in the Knights. One is that we are the only lay organization that can actually have a very positive influence on the Church because we are the right hand of the Church. Secondly, we are not a men's parish club. We're not a men's small group club. We are men dedicated to the magisterium of the Church, and we are here to support each other in charity, but very importantly, to bring together men of like minds to come together and have fellowship. Especially in this time, when our Church and very reason itself is under attack, we come together for fraternity, to support each other, and give that mutual love and fellowship and enjoyment that we all need. So therefore I second the nomination of Christopher Kolomjec as state treasurer.

William Chassé: Thank you. Are there any other nominations for the office of state treasurer? Are there any other nominations for the office of state treasurer? Are there any other nominations for the office of state treasurer? Hearing none, Worthy State Treasurer, do you accept?

Christopher Kolomjec: I do.

William Chassé: My brother Knights. (*unanimously approved*) Congratulations, Worthy State Treasurer.

William Chassé: My brother Knights, we'll move on to the office of state advocate. Are there any nominations for the office of state advocate?

Kirk Dupuie: Worthy State Deputy, I am Kirk Dupuie, first delegate from Fr. Norman Van Poppelen Council #7233 at Birch Run/Frankemuth in the Saginaw diocese, home council of State Advocate Barry Borsenik. It is my honor and privilege to come before you for the nomination of a brother Knight who has respect for all brother Knights, even those who may disagree with him. He has no hidden agendas, just for what is good for God, his family, and the Order. I've had the privilege to witness Barry's growth in the Knights of Columbus from Grand Knight to Saginaw diocesan membership director to district deputy to navigator to Master of District #4 and on to his current role as state advocate. Barry is and has been a great example and inspiration to me in my involvement in the Knights of Columbus and is a cherished friend. Therefore, I am proud and honored to nominate Barry Borsenik, a true man of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism for advocate of the Michigan Knights of Columbus. Thank you, and may God bless the Knights of Columbus.

William Chassé: Thank you. Are there any other nominations? Are there any seconds for the office of state advocate?

Dave Mohn: Worthy State Deputy, Worthy Supreme and state officers, my brother Knights all, vivate Jesus. My name is Dave Mohn. I am the deputy grand knight of council #7233 and the

faithful navigator of assembly #2365 in Birth Run. It is an honor and privilege for me to second the nomination of our state advocate, Barry Borsenik. Over the last 20 years, I've found Barry to be cool-headed and of sound judgment. He is a great negotiator, problem solver, and has held many titles in our Order in both the third and fourth degree. I can assure you, whatever Barry does, it's done with the well-being of others and not of himself. I'm proud to call Barry my friend, mentor, and brother Knight. It's truly been a pleasure watching him and his family rise up through the ranks and now as state advocate. I can think of no better man for the job. With that said, I again second the nomination of Barry Borsenik for the office of state advocate.

William Chassé: Thank you. Are there any other nominations for the office of state advocate? Are there any other nominations for the office of state advocate? Are there any other nominations for the office of state advocate? Worthy state advocate, do you accept?

Barry Borsenik: I do.

William Chassé: Hearing none... *(unanimously approved)* Congratulations, Worthy State Advocate.

Brother Knights, we will move on the office of state warden. Are there any nominations for the office of state warden?

John Lamanna: Worthy State Deputy, my name is John Lamanna. I'm the grand knight from St. Therese of Liseiux Council #11957, the proud home of former state secretary Antonio Vittorini. At this time I'd like to relinquish my time for the nomination of Charlie McCuen for the office of state warden.

William Chassé: Thank you. Brother Knights, there is a motion on the floor. *(unanimously approved)*

Paul Palka: Worthy State Deputy, Worthy Supreme Treasurer, Worthy Supreme Director, worthy state officers, brother Knights all, vivat Jesus. Thank you, Brother John, for relinquishing your time to me. My name is Paul Palka. I'm a former district deputy and current archdiocesan membership director. I am from St. Therese of Lisieux Council #11957 in Shelby Township. I've known Charles McCuen for 10 years. Charlie has served the honored Order for over 20 years, from his humble beginnings as the garbage man at his first pancake breakfast to his many roles, including district deputy, archdiocesan membership director, new council development for the Archdiocese of Detroit, finally attaining the rank of state warden for the great state of Michigan in 2018. Charlie is inspiring to me, as he is to many of you Knights in this room. His dedication to his friends, family, the Order, and his Lord stand as a testament to his character. I know I'm a better man for knowing him. He has performed well as state warden, advising councils as to protocol and in serving the officers of the state board. Not only has he served his role as required but has performed many mechanical duties during his past year as state warden. It is with great honor that I nominate Charles McCuen III for the office of state warden of the great jurisdiction of Michigan.

William Chassé: Thank you. Is there a seconding of the office of state warden?

Greg Mulka: Worthy State Deputy, my name is Greg Mulka. I am the grand knight for Posen #6657. I am the first delegate. I'd like to relinquish my time to District Deputy #38, Joe Kendzorski.

William Chassé: Brother Knights, there is a motion on the floor. *(unanimously approved)*

Joe Kendzorski: Worthy State Deputy, I would like to second the nomination of Charles McCuen III for the office and position of state warden for the state of Michigan Knights of Columbus. Charlie has been an exemplary Knight, brother, friend, and state warden. He and his family have stepped up and are making a difference in the position of state warden in the most positive ways. Before he became the state warden, I really didn't know him. Since then, through his positive attitude, his leadership, and focus, he has become known by everyone who he has come in contact with as a driving force for the good of our Order. Every time I talk to him, meet him in a meeting, or interact with him or his family, the positive persona along with the striving for excellence is very apparent. He appreciates the position and will continue to grow and improve the positions he will hold with his leadership. Charlie has been and continues to be a pillar in his church, in his community, and as our brother in the Knights of Columbus family. I invite everyone to get to know Charlie; his wife, Pam; and his daughter, Kayla. You will see what everyone else knows, that Charlie is an example of what each of us would like to become—a great Catholic, a great father, and a great Knights of Columbus brother. Please accept my second for Charles McCuen III for another term as the state warden for the Michigan Knights of Columbus.

William Chassé: Thank you. Are there any other nominations for the office of state warden? Are there any other nominations for the office of state warden? Are there any other nominations for the office of state warden? Hearing none, Worthy State Warden, do you accept?

Charles McCuen: I do.

William Chassé: I move for a unanimous ballot. *(unanimously approved)* Congratulations, Worthy State Warden.

I would like to thank the election committee and judges and tellers. You are excused from your duties. Now I'd like to call to the podium State Treasurer Chris Kolomjec for his report on mileage and per diem.

Christopher Kolomjec: Worthy State Deputy, the committee on mileage and per diem met on May 23, 2019, after our opening session to deliberate on the cost to be associated with this convention. The per diem for the 2019 Michigan state convention, May 23 through May 25, 2019, was proposed as follows:

Cost: \$149.00	Per member of official family per day
\$ 29.06	Hotel gratuity: 19.5% of daily rate
\$ 10.68	State sales tax: 6% of the daily rate
\$ 3.56	Island assessment tax: 2% of the daily rate
<hr/> Total: \$192.30	Per diem

With spouse attending—one day for the spouse, two days for the official family member. That equals three days:

\$576.90	Daily hotel
\$ 18.00	Boat ticket
\$ 8.50	Baggage handling
<hr/> Total: \$603.40	Per diem (with spouse)

We subtract the \$40 registration fee and the \$10 convention book picture fee for a total of \$553.40.

Single rate:	
\$ 384.60	Daily total
\$ 18.00	Boat ticket
\$ 8.50	Baggage handling
<hr/> Total: \$421.10	Per diem (single)

Subtracting the registration fee and convention picture, it comes to a grand total of \$361.10.

Mileage of 30 cents per mile round trip is to be added to the above per diem. The point of reference is 555 East Central Avenue, Mackinaw City, Michigan. The \$40 registration fee, as mentioned, is subtracted from the mileage and per diem. The per diem applies to all district deputies, state and diocesan directors, and appointees. The full committee members assigned were present for this meeting. After a reading and review of the proposal, I as chair entertained a motion and second to approve the proposed compensation for the convention. After further review and discussion, the committee voted unanimously to accept and adopt the aforementioned proposal. I now ask that the members of this committee please stand, be recognized, thanked, and dismissed by the state deputy. That concludes my report.

I now call the state advocate.

William Chassé: Brother Knights, there is a motion on the floor to accept the state treasurer's report. *(unanimously approved)*

At this time I'd like to call up our state advocate, Barry Borsenik, for the bylaws and resolutions reports.

Barry Borsenik: Worthy State Deputy, the bylaws and resolutions committees met yesterday at 2:30 and 3:00 pm respectively. There were no new bylaws or amendments proposed, so it was a rather short meeting. Resolutions 1 through 42 are for thanks and appreciation, and these are

recognizing, for example, Archbishop Vigneron, Supreme Treasurer Ronald Schwarz, Vice Supreme Master Cliff Wasmund, our executive secretary, past state deputies, district master, and the like. One addendum was the addition of item 5.1—it's not on your sheet—for Most Reverend Robert B. Gruss, the new bishop of Saginaw. Resolutions 43 through 69 are for sympathy and support for causes such as the Sacred Heart Major Seminary Endowed Scholarship, support for vocations, the safe environment training program, our Michigan charities raffle, and the MI Fund Drive. The complete list is included in your convention packet. The committee unanimously voted to recommend resolutions 1 through 69 for adoption. And I would entertain a motion. *(unanimously approved)*

Resolution 1-70 was submitted by Pope Paul VI Council #4141. While it was deemed to have some merit, it was ruled out of order as it directly conflicts with the Supreme charter, constitution, and laws. At this time, I ask the members of the bylaws and resolutions committees to stand for recognition and ask that they be released.

Walter Winkle: Do I have a motion to accept this report? *(unanimously approved)* Thank you.

At this time we ask Don Chadwick to give his audit report.

Don Chadwick: Brother Knights, vivat Jesus. The audit committee met Thursday night after the general meeting. We reviewed the June 30 annual financial statement, June 30, 2018, and the December 31, 2018, six-month semi-annual audit statement. There was some discussion, but there was a unanimous vote to approve and recommend that these reports be forwarded to the convention. I would like the audit committee to please stand and be recognized and thanked for their service and released. Thank you.

Walter Winkle: We have a motion to accept the state auditor's report. *(unanimously approved)* Thank you. And now we will call up Dan Remeika to give his Good of the Order report.

Daniel P. Remeika: Worthy State Chaplain, Reverend Fathers, Religious, Worthy State Deputy, Worthy Supreme Treasurer, Worthy Supreme Director, Worthy State Officers, Worthy Delegates, and brother Knights, Vivat Jesus.

It has been a joy to meet here on Mackinac Island to renew our dedication to our mission as the new Faith in Action model approaches its one-year anniversary. By now we all know that it shows our council members how to participate in faith and family activities that foster unity and spirituality and integrate our families and councils in the sacramental and social lives of our respective parishes.

Faith in Action can also tackle declining membership in our Holy Church and the challenges we face in growing and promoting the good of our own Order by drawing us closer to God and the Church in tangible and meaningful ways, not just for ourselves but also for those around us to whom we give witness. Quoting from the Archdiocese of Detroit's *Unleash the Gospel*, "Our goal is not to be good and make it to heaven. Our goal is to extend the kingdom of God on earth by making the world a place where Christ is known and loved, so that as many people as possible are brought with us to eternal life."

Although damage had been done by scandals, we have opportunities to help refill the pews by involving men and their families in our parishes, by supporting our priests, and by evangelizing in our homes, businesses and communities. In the Gospel of St. John 6:67-68, after Jesus told the assembled about his body and blood in the Eucharist, He then said to the twelve, “Do you also want to leave? Simon Peter answered him, ‘Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of everlasting life.’”

We do indeed believe Jesus is the way, the truth and the life; that is our faith. But He went mysteriously further in the next verse, “Did I not choose you twelve? Yet is not one of you a devil? He was referring to Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot; it was he who would betray him, one of the twelve.” Maybe Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori had this verse deep in his mind when he cautioned us with these words in his address at the 2017 Supreme Convention:

“Time and again, I have experienced the great dedication of many brother Knights. In their commitment to the Order, they are passionate about the principles upon which the Knights of Columbus was founded, about the brotherhood we share, and about the good works that we do. Such commitment and passion sometimes lead to strong opinions, and experience teaches that these opinions can differ. At times, we may disagree with a decision made by our local or state council, or with a decision that comes from Supreme. After we’ve expressed our opinion respectfully and cogently, we may be upset that our view did not prevail. When that happens, it’s easy to throw our unity and charity under the proverbial bus. Sadly, some brother Knights may even decide to walk away. If and when we reach such a crossroads, I firmly believe that we need to stop, look, and listen. We have to stop being angry, look at what the Order is really all about, and listen to the voice of the Lord.” The Supreme Chaplain was asking us to listen to the Lord, to the Church, to our loved ones, and to our brother Knights, and keep things in perspective. The committee urges all Knights to devote themselves to the good of the Order using Faith in Action based on prayer in unity with Christ.

But what better way is there to unity than through the Holy Eucharist, a sacrament of unity. By receiving the Body and Blood of the Lord in the Holy Eucharist, we enter into a close union with Him and with one another. So, to those councils who have drifted away from regular corporate communions, consider that the Eucharist makes us one in Christ and strengthens our love and respect for one another, helping us to eliminate all obstacles to brotherly cooperation.

Let us make each other better Knights, Catholics, fathers and husbands through our interactions with each other. Among the different ways we spend our time, include a few hours each month with brother Knights to help us grow together. In a time when we can be isolated from each other because of competing interests, come together socially as men with common interests.

Yes, Jesus knew his apostles. And he also knows the leaders of his holy Church. He knows us and our need for frequent forgiveness. In this month’s *Columbia*, the Supreme Chaplain wrote, “These days though, it is the Church – sinful in her members – that needs healing. Sins against young people and the failure of Church leaders to respond continue to haunt and hobble the Body of Christ.” Archbishop Lori helped draft the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People which became particular law for the

Catholic Church in the United States. Its purpose is to ensure that no one who works for the Catholic Church will ever pose a threat of any kind to any person, young or old. Please keep this context in mind lest any become upset about anything that seems too strict regarding Safe Environment training and certifications.

“An anecdote on filling the pews that you can find at various internet sites goes like this: A Church goer complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. ‘I’ve gone for 30 years now,’ he wrote, “and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can’t remember a single one of them. So, I think I’m wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.’ This went on for weeks until someone wrote: ‘I’ve been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for ... those meals. But I do know this; they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!’”

Whether or not this story is enough for anyone struggling for a reason to regularly attend and pray at Mass, it is made more difficult in the current news environment. We are bombarded by media ignoring facts and reporting opinion. This discourages us from making our own decisions. Like Archbishop Lori said, we may be upset that our view did not prevail among a people who refuse to consider anything that conflicts with their own position. Our youth face unique pressures and a breakdown in family life, missing strong, religious parenting. So, the committee’s advice, brothers, is to become deeply involved in our parishes and schools – Faith in Action. Help families be strong; help fathers lead and become deep in their daily commitments to follow always in the footsteps of Christ – Faith in Action.

Remember to make worship of God through prayer a priority in all council activities; an involved chaplain is particularly helpful here. It’s important to show new members that they are in an environment that will, “Deepen your faith with access to spiritual resources to help you become a better Catholic man.” Remember to plan with the pastor and the various parish committees on how the council can assist him and serve the parish. The round table program is especially important to non-parish-based councils and why it is so important for councils to be of the parish, not only at the parish. Remember to use and inform your insurance agents, diocesan membership directors and diocesan program directors. They are all resources.

Brothers, it has been a privilege to present this report on behalf of the Good of the Order Committee. Worthy State Deputy, thank you for the honor to address the 119th State Convention of the Knights of Columbus on Mackinac Island and to present this report to our distinguished brother Knights. The Good of the Order Committee requests that this report be approved and incorporated into the proceedings of this meeting and that the members of the Good of the Order Committee please stand, be recognized, and with the permission of the state deputy be released.

Walter Winkle: We have a motion to accept the Good of the Order report. (*unanimously approved*) Thank you. At this time, I’d like to bring Dane Jurkovic for his fraternal report.

Dane Jurkovic: Worthy state officers, my brother Knights all, vivat Jesus. My brother Knights, this year's fraternal committee met this past Thursday evening to review a recommended list of distinguished delegates and alternates that will be representing our jurisdiction at this year's Supreme Convention. Worthy State Deputy, before I continue on with this report, I feel that it is important to let you know that you and your amazing state officers are very much adored here in the jurisdiction of Michigan. Thank you, Worthy State Officers. Thank you for being approachable, compassionate, and loyal to our Order in helping to achieve our councils making their goals. You truly are making Michigan great again. Now, on with the report. The committee, by unanimous vote, has recommended all the names on our list as distinguished delegates and alternates to this year's Supreme Convention. Delegates:

William Chassé	Council 788
Kenneth B. Unterbrink	Council 3092
Steven Sincic	Council 9979
Ralph VanOcker	Council 2084
Gerald Leinberger	Council 2740
Kurt Koenigsknecht	Council 3027
Joseph Yekulis	Council 3092
Stephen Jacek	Council 3860
Peter Wilhelm	Council 3797
Robert Fluture	Council 1874

Alternates:

Thomas Meehan	Council 10777
William Monahan	Council 6548
Richard Carl	Council 9526
Gaylend Meeks	Council 10542
Jeffry Cypher	Council 9962
William Gorney	Council 3312
Robert Vigneron	Council 10724
Michael Horvath	Council 10006

Worthy State Deputy, the committee requests the adoption of this report, which was unanimously approved. Will the fraternal committee please stand and be recognized?

Walter Winkle: We have a motion to accept the fraternal report. (*unanimously approved*) Thank you. At this time the state warden will give his report on his committees.

Charles McCuen: Worthy State Deputy, my brother Knights, I ask that the following members of these committees please stand and be recognized, thanked, and dismissed: the ushers committee, the banquet committee, and the assistants to the warden committee. Gentlemen, without all your hard work and the dedication to perform your duties, much of our activities could not be done without your help. So thank you very much.

Walter Winkle: Thank you, Worthy State Warden. And now I'd like to introduce our state deputy to ask the membership to select a site for our 2020 state convention. Worthy State Deputy.

William Chassé: Thank you, Worthy State Secretary. Is there a motion for the site of next year's 2020 state convention?

Unidentified speaker: Worthy State Deputy, I move that we hold the 2020 state convention at the beautiful Grand Hotel.

William Chassé: Is there a second? Hearing none, I ask you to cast a ballot for next year's state convention to be held here on Mackinac Island at the Grand Hotel on May 21, 22, and 23. (*unanimously approved*) Thank you.

At this time I have the honor of asking our Supreme Treasurer, Ron Schwarz, for his closing remarks.

Ronald Schwarz: Worthy State Deputy, Former Supreme Director, state officers, and my brother Knights, I want to thank you for your hospitality this week. Jeanette and I have totally enjoyed our visit to Michigan here at Mackinac Island. It is an honor to celebrate your accomplishments that you have achieved this past year. I extend my congratulations to our re-elected state officers and look forward to another successful year. I also wish to extend my congratulations to all the award recipients and want to thank all the councils and members across Michigan for their hard work and dedication to the vision of Fr. Michael J. McGivney.

Again, let me remind you that the Supreme Council is here to help and has the tools and support for the success that you will need into the future. I want to thank all the delegates for your service this weekend and for accepting the responsibility as your council representatives. As leaders of your council, your role is to take this experience and the information provided this weekend and share it with your councils and your brother Knights. We must finish this fraternal year strong and set the momentum for the coming year. I am going to report back that Michigan is very much alive and well.

But can I also go back to the Supreme Council and the Supreme Knight and let him know that you guys are committed to finishing this year strong and attaining the goal that every state council looks to—the Circle of Honor? Do I have that commitment from you guys? Do I have a commitment that you guys will do and make that attainment for the next fraternal year, coming year? Thank you, and God bless you. And again, thank you, and I want to end with gratitude, where I started out from. Gratitude for all your services that you guys have done, your time, and your commitment to the Order and vision of Fr. Michael J. McGivney. Vivat Jesus.

Walter Winkle: Thank you, Worthy Supreme Treasurer. And now for his closing remarks, please rise and welcome our state deputy, William H. Chassé.

William Chassé: Thank you. Thank you, brother Knights. Thank you, Worthy State Secretary. My brother Knights, I hope you've enjoyed your weekend. I hope that you realize that we have been thoughtful of your time. I thank all the delegates for being here. It's very important that you take back everything to your councils. The Supreme Treasurer just asked for a commitment, and I have asked 20 or so district deputies what I was about to do if they feel it's the right thing to do.

And every one of them told me it was. So I'm going to proceed. I do not mean to put anybody on the spot, but we are at the time of our life that we need to continue to recruit for the passion and for the better welfare of our Order. Brother Knights, we are coming to the end of the 2019 state convention. As you can see, we have a lot to be proud of. Thank you for everything that you have done this year. We have some work that still has to be finished. I am very, very proud to be your state deputy and proud of the accomplishments that we have made. I'm asking you to take home everything that you have learned and heard. Please take home the 3-point question to the answer. I guarantee you that it will work, and if it doesn't work, please call me.

We are close to our Supreme goals for the first time in over a decade, as you have heard. I have a question to ask you, district deputies, with the help of all in this room. You have heard our philosophy. Numbers are important. District Deputies one through number ten, please stand. Worthy district deputies, I'm asking you to bring in five new members in each of your respective districts by June 30. Will you make that commitment? Thank you, district deputies. District deputies 11 through 20, please stand. District deputies, I'm asking you, please bring in five new members by June 30 in your respective districts. Do I have your commitment? Thank you. Worthy district deputies of 21 through district 30, please stand. Worthy district deputies, I am asking the same of you for a commitment of five new members in your entire district. Do I have your commitment? Thank you, worthy district deputies. Worthy district deputies 31 through 40, please stand. Worthy district deputies, I am asking you, do I have your commitment to work hard, bring in five new members by June 30? Thank you. Worthy district deputies 41 through 50, please stand. Worthy district deputies, I am asking you for your commitment to bring in five new members by the end of June 30. Do I have your commitment? Thank you. Worthy district deputies 51 through 60, please stand. Worthy district deputies, I am asking the commitment out of you to bring in five new members out of your entire district. Do I have your commitment? Worthy district deputies 61 through 70—thank you, worthy district deputies 51 through 60. Worthy district deputies 61 through 70, there you are. Do I have your commitment to bring in five new members by June 30? Thank you, worthy district deputies. Worthy district deputies 71 through 80, please stand. Worthy district deputies, I am asking a commitment out of you for five new members out of your entire district. Do I have that commitment? Thank you, worthy district deputies. Worthy district deputies 81 through 95, please stand. Thank you, worthy district deputies. Do I have your commitment, including you, Worthy State Advocate, to bring in five new members in your respective districts by June 30? Thank you, worthy district deputies. Worthy district deputies, the commitment you just made will put us in Circle of Honor. Now the work has to be done. For the love of Fr. Michael J. McGivney, his dream, let's make sure it happens. Brother Knights, if we don't do it, who will?

All men: We can do it. We can do it. We can do it.

William Chassé: Let's let the ladies hear you. I need it louder. I told them they'll know when you're coming, when they hear you. I need it louder. I need it louder, guys. God bless all of you. Thank you, and I hope you had a great weekend, and safe travels home.

Walter Winkle: At this time, I would like to ask Fr. Cooper to come up and give a closing prayer.

Rev. Cooper: What they don't know is I'm long-winded, so... Of course they get the new guy to do the closing prayer, but I'm also the closest even though I'm in another diocese.

I just want to do a personal thank you, though. I've only been ordained two years, and throughout my time in seminary—I said this when we were down there in Lansing, but I just want to reiterate again how many times when I had a bill come in and I was like, I don't know how I'm going to pay for this. And my mother was like, I'm not giving it to you. It was always a check from the Knights of Columbus from some council within my diocese or beyond. And so I just want to thank you for that support, and just continue that support for seminarians and our education. So thank you, on behalf of the Diocese of Gaylord and beyond.

Let us bow and ask for God's blessing. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Heavenly Father, we thank you for this time to be here on this island, this island that was founded by missionaries, of Jesuits, who came here to bring Christ to this island. May we go forth from here as missionary disciples, carrying the sword of armor to our respective homes, and at the dining room table, to bring Christ to our family. And then from the dining room table to bring Christ to those in need. May we always have the heart of Christ deep within us. May it exude from us that He may shine so brightly within all the Knights of Columbus that truly you may be light for the nations. We ask all of this through Christ our Lord, with the intercession of the Blessed Virgin as together we say, Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen. The Lord be with you. *And with your spirit.* May Almighty God bless you all, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. *Amen. Go in peace. Thanks be to God.*

Walter Winkle: Thank you, Fr. Nicholas. Well, time for the closing ode.

Closing ode was sung.

Walter Winkle: Worthy District Master, please retire the colors.