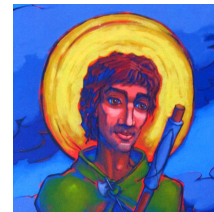




THE ROUNDTABLE



MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. MATTHIAS OF SOMERSET COUNCIL #9925, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 3, Supreme Convention Special 2020

THE 138TH SUPREME CONVENTION

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SK Frank Rees, PFN



I was privileged this year to be a New Jersey State delegate at the 138th Supreme Convention held virtually on August 4th and 5th at the

Supreme Council in New Haven, Connecticut. It was originally planned to be held in Washington, DC but the COVID-19 pandemic said otherwise -- so it became a virtual convention conducted as it would have been if it were live in Washington, albeit minus the closing Supreme Dinner.

The New Jersey State delegation met at the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset - nice for me, its only an 8 minute drive and I didn't need to stay overnight as the other delegates did.

Our delegation consisted of the following representatives:

- S.D. Vincent Tavormina-Jamesburg
- P.S.D. Robert E. Hatler-Rutherford
- Vincent J. LoBello-Cedar Knolls
- Thomas M. Perrotti -Bridgeton

- Andrew Schopfer-Union
- Vincent P. Lombardi -Woodland Park
- Charles T. Hollis -New Milford
- Francis A. Rees-Somerset
- Peter Donchak-East Windsor
- Deacon Stephen G. Scott -Parlin

Joining the Doubletree group in addition to the formally selected delegates listed above were **Supreme Director Daniel Rossi, State Treasurer Ray Sands and State Warden Russ Petrocelli.**

The total number of delegates present were 527 brothers.

At the start of the convention proceedings Supreme Knight read into the proceedings a letter from the Vatican's Secretariat of State presenting comments from Pope Francis about the Knights of Columbus and the upcoming Beatification of our founder, Venerable Fr. Michael McGivney who will be Beatified by Pope Francis on October 31, 2020.

The convention was officially opened at 6:30 pm on Tuesday in St. Mary's Church (our founder's home church) with the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in a Memorial of Saint Jean Vianney by **His Excellency Most Reverend**

Leonard P. Blair, Archbishop of Hartford.

SUPREME KNIGHT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson then presented the Annual Report. His report covered the issues shown here:

- Knights of fraternity
- Leave no neighbor behind
- Charity
- Disaster Relief
- Culture of Life
- Persecuted Christians
- Patriotic Degree and the Armed Forces
- Membership
- International Activities
- Into the Breach
- Father Michael McGivney
- St. Mary's Restoration
- Years in Review
- Saint John Paul II National Shrine
- Faithful Citizenship
- Insurance
- Investments

During his remarks Supreme Knight Anderson addressed the "vicious vandalism" and "one-sided narrative" against the Order's namesake, Christopher Columbus, as a "disservice to the truth." Encourage every member to learn more about Columbus and the false attacks on his legacy. See the adopted resolution [In](#)

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the first virtual convention in the Order's history — elected four new members to the Order's Board of Directors.

The new board members include:

- **Daniel Duchesne from Quebec**
- **John Appelbaum from Missouri**
- **Paul O'Sullivan from Massachusetts**
- **Rennan Duffour from Louisiana**

Each will serve a three-year term starting September 1, 2020.

NOTABLE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Resolution of Appreciation to His Holiness Pope Francis

WHEREAS, His Holiness Pope Francis approved the promulgation of a decree on May 26, 2020, recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God Father Michael J. McGivney, thereby clearing the way for the Beatification of the exemplary American priest and venerable founder of the Order of the Knights of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, His Holiness received the members of the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors with exceptional kindness during their pilgrimage marking the Centennial of the Order's presence in the Eternal City, receiving them in private audience in the Sala Clementina of the Apostolic Palace on February 10, 2020, and addressing them with inspiring words and encouraging sentiments; and

WHEREAS, His Holiness further manifested his paternal affection by greeting the Supreme Directors for a second time in the Pauline Chapel of the Apostolic Palace on February 12, 2020, leading them in prayer before imparting his Apostolic Blessing at the conclusion of their pilgrimage.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Supreme Council assembled virtually for its 138th

Honor of Christopher Columbus, under the heading of Notable Resolutions Adopted.

NEW SUPREME DIRECTORS ELECTED

Delegates at the Knights of Columbus 138th Supreme Convention —

Annual Meeting on August 5, 2020, express their profound appreciation and renew their filial devotion to His Holiness Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that during the centennial year of the presence of the Knights of Columbus in the Eternal City, the Supreme Council renews the Order's commitment to remain in devoted service to His Holiness Pope Francis and all the Successors of St. Peter in the next hundred years and beyond; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Supreme Council also recommit to continuing its longstanding support for the broadcasts of Papal Masses and other events, having considered it a privilege to fund the extraordinary broadcasts undertaken during the coronavirus pandemic, which powerfully demonstrated the importance of these broadcasts in fostering a spiritual bond between the Holy Father and the faithful around the world.

Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic

WHEREAS, the global COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally changed everyday life necessitating the closure of businesses, churches, governments, and social services while dramatically changing the way we interact with family and friends; and

WHEREAS, these changes caused drastic increases in unemployment and difficulty responding to the needs of the homeless and impoverished; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has led to an unprecedented strain on the global healthcare infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis imparted an extraordinary Urbi et Orbi blessing in the early days of the pandemic reminding the whole world that, "The Lord....invites us to reawaken

and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support, and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering;" and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus answered the call of Pope Francis and responded to the challenges of the pandemic by launching the Leave No Neighbor Behind initiative, encouraging Brother Knights to assist one another, our parishes, our communities and the hungry during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus committed more than \$1 million to facilitate the donation and distribution of food through community food banks in more than 20 cities across the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, projects at both the local and Supreme Council level provided more than \$337,000 of food to the Acoma, Navajo, and Zuni nations as well as native Hawaiian communities and remote First Nations villages in Canada; and

WHEREAS, the Order has also addressed needs abroad by providing support to the Vatican's Bambino Gesù Hospital, the Maryamana Hospital in Iraq, healthcare facilities in Lebanon, and various projects throughout the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus set aside \$100 million for loans to support the financial needs of Catholic dioceses to ensure they can continue their important spiritual and evangelical missions; and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus also responded spiritually to the pandemic by organizing a Novena for Protection in Time of Pandemic, invoking our Blessed Mother under her title "Health of the Sick" from March 15-23; as well as a Divine Mercy Novena starting Good Friday, April 10, through April 18, in preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday,

when Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori offered Mass and joined the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in leading the Divine Mercy Chaplet from Baltimore's Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which was broadcast online to allow for the remote participation of members; and in response to the invitation of Pope Francis for families to "rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May," the Saint John Paul II National Shrine broadcast online the recitation of the rosary before an image of Salus Populi Romani daily during the month of May, concluding with the special prayers proposed by the Holy Father; and

WHEREAS, under the banner of Leave No Neighbor Behind, the Knights of Columbus has contributed nearly \$5 million to community and parish projects while donating 335 tons of food and 8,542 pints of blood.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus will exemplify our first principle of charity and continue responding to the global crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we will continue to observe important health and safety requirements, such as social distancing and the use of personal protective equipment, when implementing our programs to ensure our members, and those we serve, are protected from infection; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we continue to pray for an end to the pandemic, for those who are in distress because of its effects, for those who are suffering from COVID-19, and for the repose of the souls of our brother Knights and all those who have perished; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we offer our sincere appreciation for those who face the threat of infection everyday while they continue to provide essential healthcare, retail, and public safety services.

Celebrating the Miracle Attributed to the Intercession of Venerable Michael McGivney

WHEREAS, on May 27, 2020, the Vatican announced that His Holiness Pope Francis had approved the promulgation of a decree recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God Father Michael J. McGivney, Founder of the Knights of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, the approved miracle was performed on the unborn child of brother Knight and General Agent Daniel Schachle and his wife, Michelle, who with their family fervently invoked Father McGivney's intercession after receiving a fatal prenatal diagnosis from which their unborn child was miraculously healed; and

WHEREAS, with the approval of a miracle, Father McGivney will be raised to the honors of the altar during a Mass of Beatification on October 31, 2020, at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford, after which the founder of the Knights of Columbus will be known as Blessed Michael McGivney.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Supreme Council assembled virtually for its 138th Annual Meeting on August 5, 2020, join in offering fervent prayers of thanksgiving with brother Knight Daniel Schachle and his family for the healing and beautiful life of his son, who is named Michael "Mikey" McGivney Schachle, now five years old and brimming with joy; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Supreme Council expresses its grati-

tude to all whose efforts made possible the advancement of the Founder's cause, beginning with Archbishop Daniel A. Cronin of Hartford, who in 1997 opened Father McGivney's Cause at the request of Past Supreme Knight Virgil C. Dechant; as well as to Brother Knight John Walshe and all the McGivney Family relatives who have supported the cause; to Reverend Gabriel B. O'Donnell, O.P., who as postulator authored the Prayer for Canonization and prepared the Positio which presents the case for Father McGivney's heroic virtue; to Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, who has diligently worked to promote devotion to Father McGivney, including the publication of his definitive biography, Parish Priest: Father Michael McGivney and American Catholicism; to Dr. Andrea Ambrosi, Postulator of the Cause for Canonization, and Vice-Postulator Brian V. Caulfield, and the doctors and experts whose work and testimony were indispensable to the finding of a miracle; and to Bishop J. Mark Spalding and the members of the Tribunal convened in the Diocese of Nashville to document and examine the reported miracle; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Supreme Council, knowing that one more miracle is needed for canonization, calls on all Knights and their families to invoke the proven intercession of Father McGivney for their own needs and intentions, and to promptly report all favors received to the Father McGivney Guild; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Supreme Council calls on all state and local councils to plan Masses of Thanksgiving and other suitable celebrations in the year following the beatification of Father McGivney to promote devotion to our Founder by all members and their families, as

well as by all Catholics everywhere the Order is established, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Supreme Council fully supports the transformation of the Knights of Columbus Museum into what will become the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center, giving greater focus to the spirituality and charitable vision of our Founder, while continuing the Museum's original mission and updating its recounting of the Order's history.

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In Honor of Christopher Columbus

WHEREAS, in 1492 Christopher Columbus obtained permission and financial support from the King and Queen of Spain to sail west across the Atlantic Ocean in search of new trade routes; and

WHEREAS, on October 12 of that year, Columbus’ expedition landed in what is today the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, immediately erecting a cross and naming the island San Salvador, in honor of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World; and

WHEREAS, Columbus set forth a policy that his men were to treat the native people in the new world with respect and sentenced to death men who disobeyed this order, which resulted in his own arrest and return to Spain in chains; and

WHEREAS, the 16th century historian Bartolomé de las Casas, who exposed terrible abuses of native peoples, defended Columbus’ motivations saying, “...I knew him well and I know his intentions are good;” and

WHEREAS, on the 400th anniversary of Columbus’ first voyage to the

Americas, Pope Leo XIII reflected on Columbus’ strong Catholic faith writing, “it is fitting that we should confess and celebrate in an especial manner the will and designs of the Eternal Wisdom, under whose guidance the discoverer of the New World placed himself with a devotion so touching,” and ordered the celebration of Solemn Mass of the Most Holy Trinity in honor of the occasion; and

WHEREAS, U.S. President Benjamin Harrison similarly commemorated the anniversary by declaring a national Columbus holiday that year to provide, “expressions of gratitude to Divine Providence for the devout faith of the discoverer, and for the divine care and guidance which has directed our history and so abundantly blessed our people;” and

WHEREAS, following this anniversary of Columbus’ voyage, memorials and celebrations in honor of Columbus became popular in the United States as ways to celebrate the Catholic history of the Western Hemisphere and to speak out against anti-Catholicism in the United States; and

WHEREAS, at the height of the nativist and anti-Catholic sentiment of the late 19th century, Columbus was chosen as the Order’s namesake because he was one of the few Catholics considered a hero of American history, and because the founding members of the Order believed the explorer symbolized that faithful Catholics can also be patriotic American citizens; and

WHEREAS, in 1906 the Knights of Columbus advocated for the construction of a monument in Washington, DC in honor of Columbus and, when it was completed in 1912, President William Howard Taft presided at the dedication ceremony which was attended by several foreign

ambassadors, thousands of Knights of Columbus, and thousands more interested spectators leading to the observation that “every possible vantage point was filled;” and

WHEREAS, several states began establishing holidays in honor of Columbus and, following the strong urging of the Knights of Columbus and several civic organizations, the United States declared Columbus Day a federal holiday in 1937; and

WHEREAS, the strong Catholic identity associated with Columbus Day led the Ku Klux Klan to denounce the celebration of the holiday as a “papal fraud” and even burn a cross at a Knights of Columbus celebration of Columbus Day in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, to further accomplish its anti-Catholic goals in the United States, the Klan, and other nativist forces, began the trend of disparaging Columbus suggesting he was not a hero of western history, but rather just another foreign conqueror who was guilty of genocide, slavery, and oppression; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, these claims have been repeated leading to the propagation of further misinformation about Columbus and actions to abolish references to Columbus and remove monuments and commemorations to Columbus’ life – many of which were first established by Catholic immigrants seeking to establish their place in American culture and fight discrimination.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus remains steadfast in its support of Christopher Columbus as our namesake; state and federal holidays established in his honor; and, public monuments and commemorations dedicated to his life and historical contributions; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on state and local leaders to establish separate monuments, or other commemorations, that properly honor the contributions and centuries-long history of the native people of North America; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commit our prayers for greater civility, peace, and understanding between all peoples to the intercession of our Blessed Mother, Patroness of the Americas, and namesake of Columbus’ lead ship on that historic 15th century journey.

Abortion and the Eugenics Movement

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus has a long-standing policy of opposing abortion, while promoting life-affirming alternatives and projects that provide spiritual support to those women suffering from the traumatic emotional and psychological aftereffects of abortion; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis has made clear that all new lives conceived “are children of the entire community, and their being killed in large numbers with the backing of the state constitutes a grave problem...;” and

WHEREAS, the abortion rate for children diagnosed with Down Syndrome in utero is approximately 66% in the United States and approaching 100% in several European countries; and

WHEREAS, the January 2020 Knights of Columbus/Marist Poll found that 65% of all Americans, and half of all pro-choice Americans, oppose abortion when sought because the unborn child has been diagnosed with Down Syndrome; and

WHEREAS, in Asia, cultural and governmental pressures have led to rampant sex-selection abortions resulting in as many as 160 million “missing women” over the past several decades; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, the abortion rate among African American populations is 3.5 times the abortion rate among those of Caucasian descent; and

WHEREAS, the rise of legal abortion, especially in the United States, tracked closely with the popularity of the eugenics movement which pursued strategies of social pressure, contraception, and—ultimately—abortion, to attain its stated goal of “improving the stock,” which the eugenics movement claimed would “give to the more suitable races or strains of blood a better chance of prevailing speedily over the less suitable...;” and

WHEREAS, Planned Parenthood Founder Margaret Sanger was a leading proponent of the U.S. eugenics movement, and one of Planned Parenthood’s most prominent presidents, Alan Guttmacher, echoed eugenicist sentiment saying of the successful legal expansion of abortion, “We’re now concerned more with the quality of population than the quantity;” and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress, and several states, have proposed laws to ban abortions that are sought because of the race, sex, or disability of an unborn child with some states recently enacting these discrimination bans; and

WHEREAS, the ideology underlying the twentieth century eugenics movement has emerged in the twenty-first century as opposition to these discrimination bans; and

WHEREAS, in responding to a lawsuit by Planned Parenthood opposing one of these state laws, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas expressed his support for such laws, stating unequivocally, “...this law and other laws like it promote a state’s compelling interest in preventing abortion from becoming a

tool of modern-day eugenics,” going on to note that, “Technological advances have only heightened the eugenic potential for abortion, as abortion can now be used to eliminate children with unwanted characteristics, such as a particular sex or disability,” and concluding that, “Enshrining a constitutional right to an abortion based solely on the race, sex, or disability of an unborn child, as Planned Parenthood advocates [in this case], would constitutionalize the views of the 20th-century eugenics movement.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that while the Knights of Columbus continues to stand against all abortion, it wholeheartedly endorses legislative, regulatory, and legal attempts to eliminate the particularly evil practice of seeking an abortion because of an unborn child’s race, sex, or disability; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we condemn the practice of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and other abortion providers, of over-targeting certain ethnic and racial demographics to promote abortion in these communities.

Commemorating Knights of Columbus History of Racial Equality

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus was founded with a framework to support membership drawn from the broadest possible diversity of practicing Catholic men and was, at the time of its founding, the only American fraternal society that did not prohibit membership on the basis of race; and

WHEREAS, one of the Order’s original incorporators, Supreme Secretary Daniel Colwell, described a purpose of the Knights of Columbus to be a social and fraternal organization that would “unify American Catholic citizens of every national and racial origin...giving scope and purpose to

their aims as Catholics and as Americans;” and

WHEREAS, in the early 1900s, the Knights of Columbus promoted missionary work among African American communities by supporting initiatives such as a college for African American Catholic catechists in Montgomery, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the Order’s commitment to racial diversity was substantially expressed in 1905 with the establishment of the Knights of Columbus in Mexico—paving the way for expansion into the Philippines less than a decade later and continued growth throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, during World War I, the Knights of Columbus hospitality huts were the only integrated facilities available to troops advertising such with their well-known motto, “Everybody Welcome. Everything Free;” and

WHEREAS, in the 1920s and 1930s, the Knights of Columbus banded together with African American, Jewish, and other minority communities to combat the evil actions and propaganda of the Ku Klux Klan leading the Klan to specifically cite the Order as “the organization most interested in [its] destruction;” and

WHEREAS, in 1921 the Knights of Columbus established its K of C Historical Commission to combat prejudice with education by addressing omissions in generally Anglo-centric histories of America and, as part of this initiative, commissioned NAACP Co-Founder W.E.B. DuBois who in turn authored *The Gift of Black Folk: The Negroes in the Making of America*; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the important and historical nature of the 1963 March on Washington, the Knights of Columbus provided grants totaling \$25,000 to provide for the lodging of clergy; and

WHEREAS, when it became known that some councils were preventing African American men from joining the Order in violation of the Constitution, Laws, and Rules, the delegates to the 82nd Supreme Convention held in 1964 amended the bylaws to “remove forever the opportunity of prejudice” in admissions; and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus applied social and economic pressure to the site of the 1964 Supreme Convention, the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans, forcing its owner to finally end its segregationist policies or lose the convention; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Knights of Columbus supported the foundation of the Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism to further the Church’s response to the sin of racism, with Supreme Knight Carl Anderson serving as a consultant to the committee; and

WHEREAS, in June 2020, the Knights of Columbus asked all people to come together in solidarity to forge a path forward free of discrimination and hate by calling for a Novena for National Unity and an End to Racism; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis has been clear that, “We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life;” and

WHEREAS, the Holy Father has commended the Knights of Columbus for exemplifying our second principle of unity, noting that “In a world devastated by violence, injustice and growing polarization, this witness of unity in service to the Gospel has become all the more timely and urgent.”

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus recommits itself to exemplifying our principle of fraternity and reiterating our

commitment that all eligible Catholic men are welcomed and invited to join our ranks; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we take to heart the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that “injustice anywhere, is a threat to justice everywhere,” by pledging to continue supporting projects that create opportunity for people of all races, ethnicities, and backgrounds; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we pledge to answer the Gospel calling to build a civilization of love by committing ourselves to following Christ’s example of praying for unity among all people of goodwill; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that as we endeavor to build on our history of promoting a true understanding of fraternal unity and inclusion, we will make the words of Dr. King from his Birmingham jail cell our own, that “Human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of men willing to be co-workers with God, and without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation. We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right.”

In Solidarity with Persecuted Christians in Africa and East Asia

WHEREAS, Christians are the group most targeted for persecution around the world according to the Pew Research Center, and have been targeted by non-state actors as well as the policies and actions of those nations classified by the U.S. Department of State as “countries of particular concern;” and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis has urged government leaders, non-governmental organizations, and people of goodwill to respond to the persecution of Christians; and

WHEREAS, persecution of Christians in Africa continues unabated, espe-

cially in Nigeria where the terrorist organization Boko Haram, the West African branch of ISIS, and other anti-Christian entities have murdered more than 52,000 Christians since 2010 and, over the past two years, been responsible for 7 in 10 of faith-based murders of Christians worldwide; and

WHEREAS, religious persecution in East Asia is enabled by dictatorial regimes that reject the tenets of religious freedom and enact laws that ban religion, decree certain practices illegal, or subvert religious observances in favor of fealty to the state; and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus dedicated its 18th Marian Prayer Program to Our Lady, Help of Persecuted Christians, and encouraged all Knights of Columbus families to pray that the Blessed Mother intercede on behalf of all those persecuted for their faith in her divine Son.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus stands in solidarity with all Christians around the world who are suffering from violent persecution, and we call on all Christians and people of good will to do the same; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend those nations providing support to religious minorities seeking to rebuild their lives after persecution and call on all governments to follow suit; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend the recent Executive Order directing necessary funding to programs that support those persecuted for their faith and empowering the United State Foreign Service to properly address violations of religious freedom throughout the world; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on the Government of the United States to continue an aggressive pursuit of religious liberty abroad through its

engagement with international organizations and by the authority granted to it by the International Religious Freedom Act and other applicable statutes; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus pledges to continue providing assistance to those who are victims of atrocities, especially those Christians who have faced violent persecution because of their faith.

In Solidarity with Christians in the Middle East

WHEREAS, Christians are the group most targeted for persecution around the world according to the Pew Research Center and have been the target of a genocide by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS); and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis has urged government leaders, non-governmental organizations, and people of goodwill to respond to the persecution of Christians; and

WHEREAS, the Holy Father has expressed his appreciation to the Knights of Columbus for our support of those “brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world suffering from...violent persecution” through our Christian Refugee Relief Fund, which has now committed more than \$25 million; and,

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus dedicated its 18th Marian Prayer Program to Our Lady, Help of Persecuted Christians, and encouraged all Knights of Columbus families to pray that the Blessed Mother intercede on behalf of all those persecuted for their faith in her divine Son; and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus developed the nearly 300-page report detailing the genocide being waged against Christians and other minorities, and undertook massive publicity, advertising, and advocacy efforts which led to the U.S. Secretary of

State's official declaration of genocide in March 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Order's advocacy and report were not only decisive in securing this declaration of genocide, but also in securing the unanimous passage of two bi-partisan resolutions, H. Con. Res. 75 and S. Con Res. 33, both expressing the 114th U.S. Congress' belief that a genocide was occurring and that the international community must respond; and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus has provided critical advocacy, research, and technical assistance to change U.S. policy, thereby helping to end what was tantamount to de facto discrimination against the most vulnerable victims of ISIS; and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus has signed a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Agency for International Development to collaborate on relief efforts and to share information to help increase the effectiveness of the government's response to this crisis; and

WHEREAS, Congressional testimony by the Supreme Knight established the blueprint for the introduction of H.R. 390, the Iraq and Syria Refugee Relief and Accountability Act, bi-partisan legislation sponsored by Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA), which is designed to help ensure the U.S. Government take the necessary steps to aid these targeted communities and bring the perpetrators of this genocide to justice; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Knight and members of the supreme office staff have travelled to Iraq and seen firsthand the sufferings endured by the Christian communities there; and

WHEREAS, in July 2019 the Supreme Knight addressed senior government officials from around the world on this issue at the State Department's Ministerial on Religious Freedom.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus stands in solidarity with Christians in the Middle East who are suffering from violent persecution and commits to continue providing support while calling on all Christians and people of goodwill to do the same; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend those nations providing support to religious minorities seeking to rebuild their lives after persecution by ISIS in Iraq and Syria, and call on all governments and legislative bodies around the world to recognize this genocide against Christians and other religious minorities and to assist these persecuted communities; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend the Government of the United States for its changes in policy designed to assist these vulnerable communities and for its promise of assistance to them, and call on it to direct the designated funding to these communities with all possible speed; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we welcome the recent Executive Order directing necessary funding to programs that support those persecuted for their faith and empowering the United States Foreign Service to properly address violations of religious freedom throughout the world; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on the Government of the United States to take quickly the following three steps: (1) continue to demand that the United Nations assist the communities that have suffered genocide by including them in humanitarian and reconstruction aid; (2) demand that the appropriate international body prosecute those guilty of genocide in Iraq and Syria; and (3) continue to work with the international commu-

nity to defeat ISIS and similar terrorist groups.

Welcoming the French Republic as a Territorial Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus

WHEREAS, the Catholic Church has deep historical roots in France beginning with the 5th century baptism of the Frankish King Clovis I, continuing through the declaration of Charlemagne as the first Holy Roman Emperor, exemplified in the saintly example of King Louis IX, hailed through the heroic life of St. Joan of Arc, recognized the world over following apparitions of Our Lady in Cotignac and Lourdes, and made manifest for the whole Church by the virtue of St. Jean Vianney; and

WHEREAS, during the proceedings of the 134th Supreme Convention held in Toronto in 2016, the Supreme Knight announced the expansion of the Order into France with the establishment of St. Jean Vianney Council 16500 in Dardilly, St. Louis King of France Council 16501 in Saint Cyr-su-Mer, and the additional chartering of three other councils throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, French Knights have dutifully responded to the needs of the Church in France by organizing the faithful in prayer following attacks on several parish churches in 2019 and the devastating fire at the historic Cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris; and

WHEREAS, over the past four years membership in France has continued to grow in communities across the country, leading the Board of Directors to designate France as a territory of the Knights of Columbus pursuant to Section 14 of the Constitution and Laws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we welcome the Knights of Columbus of the French Republic and pray that they may, like the Curé

of Ars, be “devoted in winning over young people and bringing families back to the standards of Christian morality.”

CLOSING CEREMONIES

The convention was officially concluded at 2:00 PM on Wednesday in St. Mary’s Church with the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in memory of all deceased Knights of Columbus by **His Excellency Most Reverend William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore and Supreme Chaplain.**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ADOPT NEW LOGO**

Our Brand Signature

Over 130 years, we have developed a rich heritage. In the same way we’re evolving our strategy to show the appeal of Catholic values for the modern man, we’re evolving our logo to show how our identity translates for a modern world.

The Knights of Columbus logo is made up of two components: the emblem, and the wordmark. While these components have been updated, we have retained the integrity of the original emblem, while optimizing it for contemporary

reproduction methods. Our wordmark uses our new typeface, McGivney. We also use this typeface in the emblem, so it is even more closely linked to the wordmark.



**Knights of
Columbus®**

New Emblem and Wordmark



Retired Emblem

NOTABLE KNIGHTS

- **Ed Sullivan - TV Entertainer**
- **Myles Connolly - Hollywood Screenwriter**
- **Joyce Kilmer - Poet**
- **John F. Kennedy - US President**

- **Al Smith - NY State Governor**
- **Sargent Shriver - Peace Corps Founder**
- **Louis St. Laurent - Canadian Attorney General**
- **Jeremiah Denton - US Senator from Alabama**
- **John “Jack” Reagan - Father of President Ronald Reagan**
- **John Chang Myon - South Korean Ambassador**
- **Daniel Colwell - Superior Court of Connecticut Officer**
- **James Connolly - Gold Medalist Triple Jump 1896 Olympics**
- **Ross Youngs - Baseball Hall of Famer**
- **Connie Mack - Baseball Hall of Famer**
- **Johnny Evers - Baseball Hall of Famer**
- **Babe Ruth - Baseball Hall of Famer**
- **Vince Lombardi - Legendary Football Coach**
- **Jim Thorpe - Sports Legend**
- **Floyd Patterson - Heavyweight Champion**
- **Lt. William Fitzsimmons - First casualty WW1**
- **Fr. William Davitt - Chaplain Last WW1 casualty**
- **St. Rafael Guizar Valencia - Bishop of Mexico**
- **Fr. Isias X. Edralin, SJ - Phippine POW WW2**
- **Blessed Carlos M. Rodriguez - Author**
- **Fr. Robert Graham, SJ - Author**
- **Gene Kranz - Apollo 13 Flight Director**
- **Alfred Fuentes - NYC Fire Chief First Responder 9/11 Attack**
- **13 Mexican Martyrs (Priests) of the War of 1926**

St. Matthias of Somerset Council #9925
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