

Report of the Committee on the Good of the Order

Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Chaplains, Reverend Fathers, Worthy Supreme Representative, Worthy State Officers, Fellow Delegates, and Brother Knights,

The Good of the Order Committee would like to thank State Deputy Marc Peters for the confidence extended to us in bringing this report.

Thank you to State Chaplain Fr. Gabriel Walz for his dedication to the Knights of Columbus. Your spiritual guidance and leadership is appreciated by one and all.

Thank you also to Associate Chaplain Fr. Martin Schaefer for his spiritual and fraternal guidance. We look forward to your term as State Chaplain.

Thank you to 4th Degree District Master Brad Jacobs for his leadership of the 4,200 Sir Knights across the state. With numerous honor guards across the state, these Sir Knights demonstrate their love of church and country. We also want to recognize and thank all veterans.

Thank you to each and every Brother Knight who has stepped up to serve their council in a leadership role as an officer or chairperson. It takes each and every one of us in our individual roles to make a council successful.

For the 5th time in the history of the Knight of Columbus, Minnesota hosted the Supreme Convention in Minneapolis. Under the theme, "Knights of Unity," hundreds of volunteers welcomed delegates and visitors from around the world. Thank you to our co-chairmen, PSD Craig Larson and PSD Phil Harter, for a job well done.

Last January, the Supreme Council rolled out a new Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. This new combined exemplification replaces the 3 separate exemplifications that have been used for years. The new exemplification is open, and family and friends are encouraged to attend. Furthermore, the response from observers has been very positive. They have enjoyed it and have learned a great deal about the Knights of Columbus. The new exemplification is a positive step in growing the Order!

Many of our events this spring had to be cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Numerous Knights responded with prayers and novenas and by putting their faith into action to "Leave No Neighbor Behind." The committee recognizes all service personnel for their selfless actions during this pandemic. Many have stepped up to aid others and work additional hours. We have all made many changes in our lives to deal with this situation. Councils adapted by conducting meetings, exemplifications, and voting online. Even this year's state convention will be conducted online.

This fraternal year, State Deputy Marc Peters again used the theme GTO (Grow the Order). We thank him for his continued efforts to grow the Order throughout the rest of this fraternal year and into the future.

Online membership continues to grow in Minnesota, with 137 gentleman joining the first nine months of this fraternal year. The average age of these new Brother Knights is 40, and many indicated they would like to join a local council. Unfortunately, we have not done a good job of converting these online members into local councils. We continue to work to remedy this situation.

Every council that helps support a seminarian through RSVP, gives a coat to a child who needs one, donates a wheelchair to someone needing mobility, provides food to a hungry family, or saves a baby through the ultrasound program has grown the Order. Every Brother Knight who helps with the Free Throw Contest or Special Olympic Bowling, hands out Tootsie Rolls for the Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities, or marches in a March for Life is growing the Order. Still other Brother Knights are growing the Order simply by living out their faith as lecturers, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, husbands, and fathers.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to sustain all of these great acts of charity, unity, and fraternity unless we grow the Order in membership. Currently, we are losing more members through suspension, withdrawal, and death than we are bringing in. As our membership declines, so does our ability to do God's work here on earth. We need more members to continue our legacy and to provide even more assistance to those in need.

Using the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity we follow in the footsteps of our founder, Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney, as we strive to Grow the Order so we can continue to do God's work here on earth and provide even more assistance to those in need.

Respectfully submitted,

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