



Knights of Columbus / Chevaliers de Colomb

Nova Scotia State Council

Building the Domestic Church

Making a Difference for Life

“Convinced of God’s Love & Power”

November 22, 2017

Memorandum

To: Brotherhood of the Order in Nova Scotia
Fr: Carl F. Reid-State Deputy
Re: Report of the Mid-Year State Deputies meeting in Washington DC

My dear brother Knights of the Order, I have just returned from the **mid-year meeting of State Deputies** with the *Supreme Knight Carl Anderson*, Supreme Officers, members of the Supreme Board of Directors, and Supreme Office staff in Washington DC. In his address, the Supreme Knight sincerely thanked all 75 Knights of Columbus Jurisdictions and the brotherhood throughout the world in carrying on the precious work that we do in looking after those who are needy, downtrodden, marginalized and destitute. These were among the heartfelt reasons for our dear founder Father Michael McGivney creating the Order 135 years ago.

The activities of the *Knights of Columbus* are predominantly occupied with our involvement in the three broad categories of *Programs*, *Membership*, and *Insurance*. The Order continues to demonstrate growth in all three areas throughout the Jurisdictions.

Our Insurance products offer a large range of fraternal benefits to our brother Knights. We are among the most ethical and successful insurance companies anywhere in the world. Over 100 billion dollars of life insurance in force is a testimonial and an indicator of our financial strength in the Order. **“Insurance by Brother Knights for Brother Knights”** is our theme. However, with less than half of our brother Knights enrolled in the products available in North America, there is still room for improvement. This is an area from which brother Knights in Nova Scotia can also take better advantage.

Our programs which total in the tens of millions of hours and even more in financial contributions in volunteer work by our councils in the world each year demonstrate their overwhelming, and unshakeable commitment to the purpose of our existence as a fraternity. Local councils continue to assist brother Knights and their families in need; to serve the connected parish community and priests; to serve the local community at large; and to serve the broader community in the world such as the Middle East and Africa. In

the past three years the Knights have donated more than \$13 million for Christian refugee relief toward food, clothing, shelter, education and medical care.

The **Building the Domestic Church (BDC)** initiative was introduced two years ago by Supreme to assist local councils in helping family members become stronger Catholic families by strengthening the connection between family life and parish life. This can be done through a number of **programs** supported by Supreme. This particular initiative is an area that councils in Nova Scotia can certainly improve.

Our membership growth in councils and new members continues in an upward trend in general throughout Jurisdictions around the world. However, this is an area where Canada overall has lost in membership over the last ten years. The numbers have generally declined by over 10,000 members in this time frame. This reflects in an aging membership in Canada and fewer brother Knights able to deliver programs at the local council level. Nova Scotia has unfortunately been a part of this decline. Although Nova Scotia has made some gains here, we need to do much more.

This year I am happy to report that ***Councils 1105, 2181, 3133, 5449, 6633, 7077, 7302, 8666, 9093, 10486, 12917 and the new Saint Agnes council 16817 have increased their membership to date.*** Their dedicated work in recruiting has brought in 43 new members since July 1st. **Council 16817** has brought in 18 new members with 5 brought in recently on the 9th of November.

The recruitment work of these twelve councils, their members and their Grand Knights are so very much valued and appreciated. ***If each of the remaining 37 councils brought in just 1 new member before the end of December 2017, think of the burden that would be lifted from the limited and all too often aging members who attempt to deliver programs and staff the council with elected and appointed officers. My brother Knights, this is absolutely essential if the Order is to continue its work in Nova Scotia.*** The numbers don't lie.

The **Patriotic Degree** (Fourth Degree) has also experienced a drastic lack of new members over the last ten years throughout Canada. The last Columbian year saw an increase of over 17,000 new Sir Knights bringing the total to over 358, 000 worldwide. However, the Fourth Degree is "aging out". The average age for the Fourth Degree is now over 70. While the age in itself is not a negative by any means, it is however an indicator that existing younger Knights are not joining. More importantly, although the Patriotic Degree is referred to as the "***visible arm of the Order***" it is not attracting new candidates for the ***Admission Degree*** into becoming a Knight.

As you are aware, this Columbian Year 2017-18, at the Supreme Convention in St. Louis Missouri in early August, the Supreme Knight announced that the Supreme Board of Directors had decided to modernize the Fourth Degree uniform with the intent of attracting younger members. This uniform would replace the standard tuxedo, social baldric and accessories with the following dress: ***blue blazer with the Fourth Degree emblem, dark gray slacks, a blue Fourth Degree tie, Fourth Degree lapel pin, a white shirt and a black beret with the Fourth Degree emblem.*** This would now preclude the need for new Sir Knights to wear a tuxedo for their exemplification.

Also, the existing **Honour Guard Regalia of the Fourth Degree** would be replaced by the wearing of this new uniform plus the **service baldric, sword, gloves, mini-jewel(s) and a colour insert into the beret emblem to indicate the hierarchy Honour Guard position.**

Throughout the history of the Fourth Degree, its official regalia has changed with the times. In 1940, the white tie, tails and top hat had changed to the tuxedo, chapeau, and cape. In 1981, different colour capes and chapeaux were officially recognized.

The Supreme Knight at the 2017 Supreme Convention had also announced that there would be a grace period for the existing Honour Guard members of Assemblies to wear the new regalia. ***The date set to comply with the full transition was June 30th, 2018.***

At the mid-year meeting of State Deputies this last week, November 18th 2017 the Supreme Knight announced that the Supreme Board of Directors decided upon a new grace period for the complete change-over for the new Honour Guard regalia. The new compliance date will be June 30th, 2019.

On the weekend of December 1st, 2nd, and 3rd the District Deputies of Nova Scotia will have their mid-year meeting and will be discussing all of the items mentioned throughout this memorandum and more. In the weeks following, they will hold their meetings with the council Grand Knights as to the status and direction of the Order in Nova Scotia throughout the next two remaining quarters of the present Columbian year.

My brother Knights let's move ahead in this Columbian year with a spirited motivation and heightened enthusiasm for improved recruitment, greater membership involvement in programs, sincere dedication to the BDC initiative, and a genuine practice of our dear principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism in the spirit of our beloved founder, Father Michael J. McGivney.

***Vivat Jesus!
Brother Carl***

***Carl F. Reid
State Deputy and CEO for the Knights of Columbus in Nova Scotia***