



September 2020

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST. LOUIS COUNCIL 3335



A picture is worth a thousand words. Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, holding a gavel, presides at the 138th Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus at the international headquarters in New Haven, CT on August 4, the first ever KofC virtual convention because of Covid-19. The emblem of the order is on the podium and the table shows the international nature of the order.....Chevaliers de Colomb (French Canada and France), Caballeros de Colón (Mexico & Guatemala), Rycerze Kolumba (Poland), the Ukraine, Lithuania, South Korea, and the Philippines.

The Supreme Knight is flanked by the flags of the Knights of Columbus and the Vatican, indicating that every knight is expected to be a faithful Catholic. On the right is a replica of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe that miraculously appeared on the tilma of St. Juan Diego and is miraculously preserved for all in her shrine in Mexico City since 1531. She is the patroness of the order.

On the left is a portrait of Fr. Michael McGivney (1852-1890), who founded the Knights of Columbus at St. Mary's Church New Haven in 1882. He is scheduled to be beatified on October 31. The theme of the convention was "Knights of Fraternity (brotherhood)", one of the four pillars of the order.....to be men of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

Fr. McGivney proposed establishing a lay organization to prevent Catholic men from entering secret societies such as the Masons who are antithetical to Church teaching, uniting Catholic men, and helping families of deceased members. On its website the Knights of Columbus proclaim its mission: "We are Catholic men building a bridge back to faith. There is much good and necessary work to be done in this world, and that's what Knights do every day."

THE 138th SUPREME CONVENTION of the Knights of Columbus was held on August 4-5 as a virtual meeting at its headquarters in New Haven, CT because of Covid-19. The delegates participated in the business session via the internet. Much of it (written resolutions, proceedings, new board members, and awards plus videos) is on the Knights of Columbus website at www.kofc.org.

The Opening Mass video link is
<https://www.kofc.org/un/en/news-room/convention/2020/opening->

mass-video.html. Leonard Blair, Bishop of Hartford was the main celebrant on the feast of St. John Vianney, the patron of parish priests, at St. Mary's Church where Fr. McGivney served from 1877-1884 before being named pastor of St. Thomas in Thomaston. His tomb is in the same church.

Sentiments of Pope Francis. See the complete document at <http://kofc.org/en/resources/convention/2020/papal-message-138th-supreme-convention.pdf>. At the Mass a letter of Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State was read to relay the Pope's greeting and sentiments. It included his apostolic blessing, and assurances of closeness and prayer, recognizing the efforts of the Knights of Columbus to build a fraternal, just, and equitable world while contributing to the Church's mission of evangelization.

Coinciding with the fraternal theme, Cardinal Parolin quoted the Pope.....“to reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning” to our brothers and sisters. Pope Francis is grateful for the countless ways in which the Knights of Columbus continue to bear prophetic witness for a more fraternal, just and equitable world in which all are recognized as neighbors and no one is left behind.

His Holiness trusts that the beatification of Fr. McGivney will stimulate the Knights to deepen their commitment to live as missionary disciples in charity, unity and fraternity.....to inspire them to seek each day in prayer the wisdom and strength to practice “a fraternal love capable of seeing the sacred grandeur of our neighbor, of finding God in every human being” (Evangelii Gaudium, 92). He recognized the commitment of the knights to life and the domestic church, the “Into the Breach Video Series promoting masculine virtues, the “Leave No Neighbor Behind” program, and for their support of persecuted Christians.

Highlights of the Annual Report of The Supreme Knight, Carl A. Anderson (watch at <https://www.kofc.org/un/en/news-room/convention/2020/supreme-knight-speech-video.html> and the complete text in detail at <http://kofc.org/en/resources/convention/2020/annual-report-of-the-supreme-knight.pdf>). He opened his remarks with an appeal for faith, conversion, and self-sacrifice in living a life of charity. He asked us to make our council a community based upon brotherhood as the religious orders have. We must rise from racism to brotherhood. It was the Knights of Columbus that republished the book by W.E.B. DuBois: “The Gift of Black Folk”.

He lamented the tearing down of statues such as Christopher Columbus (he punished many who mistreated the Indians - <http://www.kofc.org/en/columbia/detail/christopher-columbus-fake-history.html>) and St. Junipero Serra, who fought for the rights of the Indians. It was these missionaries who founded and named such cities as Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, San Antonio, etc. Shall we now change the names of these great cities? Our Lady of Guadalupe was perfect for the acculturated evangelization of the Indians. “Ask her to heal the people”.

Knights of Columbus Insurance has \$114 billion in force with 1100 agents.....insurance by brother knights for brother knights to help their families. It is one of the top rated insurance companies according to Standard & Poor (AA⁺ Rating). Only six insurance companies have a higher financial rating. Profits (i.e. surplus) go to KofC charities and in rebates to the insured.

The Knights of Columbus has been very active in the support of persecuted Christians around the world (probably worse than ever). Its research in 2015 led to the declaration of the persecution of

Christians in some parts of the world (namely Iraq and Syria by ISIS and Africa) as genocide.

The Supreme Knight asked the police to consecrate themselves to St. Michael, their patron to help them in crisis situations, especially in regard to the proper use of force. Many, including black officers, have been killed in the line of duty over the years. The Knights contributed large sums of money over the years to the construction and ongoing improvements of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, particularly the recent Trinity Dome mosaic and other dome mosaics. Nearby is the St. Pope John Paul II National Shrine (www.jp2shrine.org) and his advocacy for a “Civilization of Love” which the Knights of Columbus purchased and operates.

The 2 million member strong fraternity in 16,242 councils, including the military and colleges, continues its work on the national and council level (77 million volunteer hours) in many areas not mentioned in this newsletter.....Coats for Kids, Special Olympics, building a culture of life (March For Life, 1255 ultrasound machines, lobbying) the KofC Museum in New Haven, food and blood drives, wheelchairs, Habitat For Humanity, scholarships, seminary support, disaster relief, the Native American Initiative, sponsorship of some EWTN programming as the 6 pm and 9 pm Nightly News, loans to Catholic dioceses, schools, parishes, hospitals, etc., and \$188 million in charitable donations.

The Memorial Mass for All Deceased Knights was held the next day at St. Mary’s Church. The Supreme Chaplain, William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore, was the main celebrant. The Mass video taped on the following link:

<https://www.kofc.org/un/en/news-room/convention/2020/memorial-mass-video.html>.