



September 2021

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



The first official act of new Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly (right) on June 11 was to dedicate his tenure to St. Joseph. Above is an icon of St. Joseph with his foster child. God gave him the mission of being a parent, provider, and protector of the Holy Family. We fathers today have that same mission to form, to teach, and prepare our children for the great mission that God has for each one of our children. As the deceased Joseph Loya said to his five children years ago, “God put me here for one reason and that’s to get you guys to Heaven”.....a tremendous responsibility. Icons, common in the Eastern Rites of the Catholic Church, are full of symbols that illustrate Church teaching. In this icon the halo symbolizes great holiness and the Lily indicates the purity and chastity of St. Joseph. This icon of St. Joseph is the cover page of the

Annual Report of the Supreme Knight at the 139th Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus (8/2021):

Called to Creative Courage

For the Complete Text go to <https://kofc.org/en/resources/events/supreme-convention/2021/sk-report.pdf>

In his first annual report to the Order, Supreme Knight Kelly urged his brother Knights to find creative solutions to adapt to the challenges of the pandemic and other cul-

tural challenges facing Catholics today. “Charity is our highest calling, and it demands our renewed focus. Where there’s pain, let us heal. Where there’s grief, let us comfort. Where there’s need, let us meet it, in new and creative ways.”

‘Bold in Faith’ as Fathers. The Supreme Knight committed his tenure to strengthening the faith of men and their families. “Our growth depends on empowering men to be the husbands and fathers that God wants us to be,” he said. “It is harder than ever, and for that reason, we must push forward as never before. It will require *creative courage*.” He called St. Joseph the “Guardian of the Family” and “Guardian of the Truth.” We also must be guardians of the family against a hostile culture, and must defend the truth during a time in which “key truths — about life, marriage, the nature of the family, and the meaning of freedom — are increasingly denied and even vilified.”

To Support a Eucharistic Revival. Supreme Knight Kelly announced the Order’s support for the *National Eucharistic Revival*, organized by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. “Working with our bishops and priests, we will strive to renew belief in the Eucharist and build up the Church.....“We are a force for unity, and we will prove it by pointing to the source of unity. *As*

‘Knights of the Eucharist,’ we proudly proclaim this truth.’

Blessed Michael McGivney, the founder of the Order as an example to follow. Though he also lived in a time when the Church and its families faced a hostile culture, Father McGivney did not shrink from those challenges. “In the mold of St. Joseph, he stepped into the breach, with creative courage,” he said. “Father McGivney listened to the Lord, fought for the family and the faith, and devoted himself to our Blessed Mother.” Father McGivney successfully rallied the men of his parish to lead lives of charity, unity and fraternity, which the supreme knight argued are still the solutions to the most serious problems of our time. “By elevating our founder, the Lord has called us to greater depths of courage and faith, and greater heights of charity, unity and fraternity,” he said. “In the beatification of Blessed Michael McGivney, the Lord has not only confirmed where the Knights have been in the past. He is showing us where we must go in the future.”

Defending Life, a Legacy of the Knights of Columbus:

- Playing a leading role in national and state [marches for life](#) since they began.
- Marking the [60th anniversary](#) of the Knights of Columbus Silver Rose Program, which signifies the Order’s commitment to building a culture of life.

- Growing the Ultrasound Initiative that has placed more than 1,400 of these lifesaving machines in pregnancy resource centers, including one that was dedicated in [South Korea](#) last April.
- Continuing [support](#) for legislation that protects the right to life of unborn children.

“The fight for life has many fronts. They all require our creative courage, and the coming year will be pivotal,” the supreme knight said. “I look forward to the day when together we march to victory!”

Supreme Knight Kelly thanked his predecessor Carl Anderson for his 20 years of faithful leadership, during which time the Order grew dramatically in every measurable way: “Our charitable donations soared by more than 60%. Insurance in force nearly tripled. Membership rose by nearly 400,000 and surpassed 2 million. And the Order expanded internationally for the first time in a century, to Europe and mainland Asia.”

In 2020, the supreme knight reported, the Knights of Columbus donated more than \$150 million and volunteered more than 47 million hours to serve their communities, despite the challenges of the pandemic. Under the banner of the [Leave No Neighbor Behind](#) initiative, Knights donated nearly \$7.7 million to community and parish projects, as well as 1.2 million pounds of food and almost a quarter million pints of blood. They supported

nearly 300,000 struggling parishioners and brother Knights, with a special focus on Indigenous families across the continent. Other 2020 highlights include

- \$3.2 million and nearly half a million volunteer hours for the Special Olympics
- \$1.5 million for [disaster relief](#) programs
- More than [100,000 coats](#) given to children in need throughout the U.S. and Canada, resulting in 800,000+ “Coats for Kids” over the past 12 years
- Milestone of [100,000+ wheelchairs](#) donated around the world over the past 18 years, in partnership with the Global Wheelchair Mission
- \$4.4 million for [persecuted Christians](#) in the Middle East, with total Middle East relief efforts standing at more than \$30 million, and new efforts focused on Nigeria

Despite a difficult year, Supreme Knight Kelly reported insurance sales were strong, with Knights agents selling \$7.4 billion in new insurance. The Knights now have more than \$116 billion of insurance in force protecting Catholic families.

The supreme knight also reported that the [Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund](#) is off to a strong start: “After just 18 months, we already have \$14 million in assets, and we anticipate robust growth in the coming months.”

In conclusion the Supreme Knight made an appeal: “Let us summon the creative courage to fulfill the calling that our Lord has placed on our hearts. And let us take comfort in the knowledge that the work of our Order is far from over”. “The work of the Knights of Columbus is only beginning — and we are the ones who will carry it forward.” Find additional coverage of the 139th Supreme Convention at www.kofc.org/convention.