



Empire State Bulletin
Special Edition
125th Annual Meeting
2020 Convention

New York State Council



Knights of Columbus

My Brother Knights,

With the Virtual nature of the 2020 New York State Council Annual Meeting, there were multiple items which needed to be skipped.

This edition of the Empire State Bulletin provides many of those items. Included are the Chaplain's Messages, Officer Messages/Acceptance Speeches, Award Winners and listing of the 2020 State Appointees/Officers.

I hope that you remain safe as we face these challenging times.

Fraternally,

New York State Deputy



O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Our Lady of New York, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,

to conform ourselves to the Father's will

and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Amen.



The Most Reverend Gerardo J. Colacicco, D.D., J.C.L.
Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of New York
11 Clinton Street
Wappingers Falls, New York 12590

May 31, 2020
Pentecost Sunday

Dear Brother Knights,

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful!

As we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in these strange and challenging days of pandemic. Yet, in the midst of the struggle our Catholic Faith gives us the strength we need to face each day with hope. May the gifts of the Holy Spirit which we received at our Confirmations be used to the greater honor and glory of God and for the good of our neighbors in this time of great need. Let us ask Our Lord for the grace necessary to meet every challenge and embrace every opportunity to bring comfort and aid where it is needed most.

Our beloved Founder, the Venerable Servant of God, Father Michael J. McGivney did just that in his day and we his faithful sons follow in his footsteps. We rejoice in the recent announcement that a miracle attributed to his intercession has been approved and brings his Cause to the next step, that of Beatification. The miracle is truly one that fits well the legacy of our Founder: he healed a child in his mother's womb of a life threatening condition. Fr. McGivney dedicated his life to taking care of families, we should not be surprised that this miracle restored life, family and hope. Let each of us dedicate ourselves to carry on the good work envisioned by our Founder while on earth, and rejoice that he continues to take care of us from his place in heaven.

May you and your families remain healthy, safe and holy. With prayerful best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Bishop Colacicco

The Most Reverend Gerardo J. Colacicco
Auxiliary Bishop of the
Archdiocese of New York
Associate New York State Chaplain

Message from Rev. Brian E. McWeeney, Administrative State Chaplain

My Brother Knights,

I am sure that many of you were disappointed in the inability of meeting at the Villa Roma for our annual convention. But our State Council did a marvelous job conducting the business of our Order in a fraternal manner with the personal address of our Supreme Knight as the highlight. I noted two aspects of his wide ranged talk: his emphasis on the centrality of spirituality of a Knight and the Family; and the depth of knowledge and appreciation of our jurisdiction.

I, as the Administrative State Chaplain, can testify to the validity of his remarks. As our Church experiences great travails, it is each of you who have been faithful to the motto: In Solidarity with our Priests and Bishops. Whenever our parishes and schools with their leaders needed support you were there. Having been a priest for 47 years I can witness to the fact that a high percentage of our lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, Parish council members, catechists, and so many other roles are filled by followers of Father (soon Blessed) Michael J. McGivney.

Not only have you been faithful to the spiritual aspects of the mission of the Church by supporting scholarships for our schools, the RSVP program for seminarians and young religious, and aiding our Catechetical programs, you have been faithful to the fulfillment of the corporal works of mercy. Especially in times of crisis you have responded to the needs of people in our food pantries, hospitals and nursing homes, and veterans' facilities. Our programs of Coats for Kids, Wheelchairs, and Special Olympics, guarantee that no brother and sister is left behind.

None of these realities would have been possible without the support of our State leadership. I am truly grateful for the faith, example, and friendship of our State Deputy and Our First Lady. Wally and Dee have been good friends for years which has made this time of my ministry so fulfilling. The team he gathered to a man and woman have been examples of love and service. To each and everyone I am most grateful.

To all of you, thank you for your fidelity to Christ, His Church, and our Order. You and your families are always in my prayers.

Vivat Jesus,

Father Brian E. McWeeney D.Min(Prin)

Administrative State Chaplain

Message from Rev. Michael Louis Gelfant, PGK,
Associate State Chaplain

Dear Brothers:

These are certainly strange times!

Like the apostles, we find ourselves adjusting and desperately rising out of the darkness into His light. It is my prayer that as the Easter season finishes and in the middle of so much darkness of a pandemic, we remain faithful to Christ.

And so we receive the news that our venerable founder, Father McGivney will be raised to the altar of the blessed's. Why now? Perhaps by mere coincidence. But if we are people of faith, might I suggest that the timing of this announcement is by divine providence.

From the end of March and continuing, we have seen the greatest mobilization of Knights of Columbus throughout our state engaging their communities in heroic acts of charity. Whether feeding neighbors, checking on vulnerable members, comforting the many who mourn the loss of a family member, feeding and supporting front line workers or gathering through video conferencing to maintain communal prayer...we are active. We are doing exactly what Father McGivney founded us to do. You brothers are heroes. A unified force of good bringing the light of Christ to many who are suffering. This is what it is all about.

Through the intercession of Father McGivney, may this pandemic end, may the suffering of our neighbors end and may our Knights of Columbus remain steadfast in this most noble cause.

-Rev. Fr. Michael Louis Gelfant, PGK

Message from Walter Wych State Deputy

My Brother Knights,

Thank you for selecting me to be your State Deputy for the 2020-2021 Columbian Year. I cannot venture to guess what this coming year will bring.

The past year has been very fulfilling as I was able to meet and work with so many of you as we implemented so many good changes for the Order and for the New York State Council. Most notable was the implementation of the New Charity, Unity and Fraternity Exemplification. I have been able to experience the cooperation and support provided by our Supreme Council and the dedicated men and women who work there.

Just as notable were the social changes we experienced, with a virus dictating our daily lives. This also brought out the best of our Order, whether it was conducting a blood drive, feeding the hungry or demonstrating our appreciation to those who have given so much to provide health services to us, our families and our friends. The cooperation and teamwork displayed by our Councils, Assemblies, Chapters, Conferences, State and Supreme truly exemplified the strength of the cable.

On a much more solemn side, we have lost so much over the past year. Our Lord has called to heaven, many members of our State Council, as well as spouses, children, family members and friends of the Council. We will continually pray for them, as we know they will continually guide us.

For the coming year, our goals will be to continue to drive those results for which we are known. We must continue to provide service to our brother knights, their families, and our society. We have an organization in place that is dedicated to those goals.

The appointments made at the last convention in 2019 have proved to be effective and successful. Unfortunately, there were some cases where personal commitments required people to change their direction. As Administrative State Chairman for Recruitment, Kevin Coleman has been a critical factor in the success of our Membership Programs. I sincerely thank Kevin for his contributions particularly over the past year. At this time, I am pleased to announce that Ralph Cefalo has accepted the position of Administrative State Chairman of Recruitment, reporting to Membership Director Tom Moran.

Over the past year, we have moved our communication vehicles forward, under the direction of our State Chairman for Digital Communication, Al Ronda. Thank you, Al. Going forward, I have asked Brian Wych to step in, with primary responsibility for our Website. We hope to move the website to the position of a “go-to” source for all information relating to the state.

Over the past year, I have been most impressed with the many good works that our members, councils, districts, chapters and conferences continue to perform. But we do not advertise it. You may say that we do not do these works for the accolades, and I would agree that we do the good works because they are good works. But if people do not know what we are doing, we will lose our resources. Both volunteer resources and financial resources are only given to those efforts of which people are familiar.

I have asked my Warden, Carl Schneider, to undertake the additional role of State Chairman of Public Relations, reporting to me. Carl will be responsible for coordinating the work of 12 Auxiliary State Chairmen in communicating the programs and actions we are doing, through social, digital and press media.

We have many challenges ahead of us this year. Our Charitable giving is more important than ever. However, to continue that giving, we need to be certain that the C&B Program continues to grow. The C&B sales are what allows us to help feed the Frontline Volunteers, allows us to give scholarships and matching grants, allows us to aid the Bishops of New York, allows us to support food pantries. I realize that it may be more difficult to support this program due to COVID-19, but we can overcome that virus as well. Support of the C&B Program is more important now than ever.

Finally, as I enter this second term as your State Deputy, I thank my staff, Officers, and all members of the New York State Family. We have started a journey. Regardless of the challenges it brings, we will stay focused on the destination. This journey would not be possible without the love and support of Dee, and my entire family. They are the ones who have allowed me to serve and have provided the support for us to succeed.

Fraternally,

Walter J Wych
State Deputy, New York State Council

Message from Brian P Langdon
State Secretary

Dear Worthy Brother Knights,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and in good health.

Thank you for participating in our New York State Council Knights of Columbus 125th Annual Virtual Convention. I am sure that you will agree that our Worthy State Deputy Wally Wych, his staff and our State officers did a tremendous job making it a success. I can honestly tell you though that I very much like the “live and in person” convention much better.

Thank you for the confidence that you have bestowed upon me to serve as your Worthy State Secretary for the 2020 - 2021 Columbian year.

Thank you for your service in the 2019 - 2020 Columbian year. It is unfortunate that the present circumstances (COVID19) have dictated such a different ending to a most successful Columbian year. You can rest easy that you did your best to further the programs and principles of our beloved Order.

As your New York State Secretary, I am very proud of all of my Brother Knights and looking forward to the continued partnership with you for the 2020 - 2021 Columbian year.

Please embrace the “Leave No Neighbor Behind” program. A lot of our Brother Knights, their families and the general public are hurting. What better way to further exemplify our Knights of Columbus principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism! This is a very tough time for all. Continue to amaze us with your wonderful deeds.

There are still many tasks that need to be completed. Many forms that need to be sent in. Many meetings (virtual) to attend. Many new Exemplifications to be held. Quotas in many programs have been adjusted by both the Supreme Council and the State Council. These adjustments should help our Councils succeed. Please be aware of these changes.

None of these are possible without you! You, Brother Knights are the one that make it all happen. Please continue to pursue that “Catholic gentleman”!! The new “Virtual” exemplification degree is a great tool for membership. None of our programs are possible without Membership. Supreme Councils “Faith in Action” has proven to be a valuable tool in Membership Recruitment. Please do your best to utilize these (very accessible from Supreme) materials.

Thank you again for your service to our Beloved Order. We will get through this together.

Please pray for Justice and equality for ALL.

Please stay safe.

Brian

Brian Langdon, NY State Secretary

Message from Robert P Graziano
State Treasurer

My Brother Knights,

On April 26th we attended our State Council Convention via the telephone.

I cannot believe it has been a year already since our last convention where you have put your trust in me and elected me to the High Office of State Treasurer. Once again you have placed your trust in me and have elected me to this very important position.

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation for this high honor. I thank you for your vote of confidence and support. I have and will continue to do my best for our Order and our Great State Council.

We have an impressive team of Officers that work hard for our Order and I am so happy to be working with them. Thank you all for your continued support.

This new term of office I dedicate to all the Brothers, family members and friends whom we have lost during this pandemic. May their memory live on through our hearts as we put our faith into action.

May God Bless us all!

Robert P. Graziano

New York State Treasurer

Message from Norman Wagner
State Advocate

My Worthy Brother Knights of New York State,

I would like to thank my Brother Suffolk County Conference Delegates, the Delegates of the Long Island Conference and the Delegates to our 125th State Convention for your continued support by re-electing me to the position of New York State Advocate. I thank you from the bottom of my heart, and as I told you last year at the Villa Roma, I am humbled by your vote and simultaneously proud to be elected an Officer of the greatest State Council in our Order.

As a State Council, with your continued support, we will emerge from this pandemic re-committed to the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity, and stronger than ever!

Vivat Jesus!

Norman A. Wagner

Advocate

Message from State Warden
Dr. Charles J Robinson

My Worthy Brother Knights of New York State,

I thank all of you for the great honor that you have bestowed on me in electing me for another term as your State Warden. It has been my distinct pleasure to have faithfully served you in this great state. Kathy and I thank all of you for the great courtesies that you have bestowed on us as we have visited throughout the state.

In contrast to the rest of my fellow state officers who have long toiled in this state, I am a relative newcomer here, having arrived in far upstate New York (12 miles from Canada!) 15 years ago. But I have had a long history with the Knights, first joining in 1967, and holding various offices in a council near Columbus, OH and in one in Ruston, LA, finishing as there Grand Knight. I also served the Louisiana Knights as one of their four area membership coordinators. Additionally I have brought to my current state position over 35 years of leadership experience in other international volunteer organizations. This background prompted the Northern Conference to nominate me for a district deputy position, for CoB and Conference Chair, and finally for the high position of State Secretary for FY 2014 and 2015, and again as State Warden for FY 2020 and 2021. I want to thank that minor conference, my home council Norfolk #11544, my district, and especially Col. Bill Ose from Adams, for their encouragement and support.

Wife Kathy and I especially want to thank our most worthy State Deputy, Wally Wych and his wife Dee, my fellow state officers and their wives, Fr. Brian McWeeney, the great state staff, and all of the DDs, for their encouragement, generosity, welcomes and hospitality that they have shown us throughout my first term. We have been blessed to have all of you as friends, and to work with you all to better our members, families, churches and communities throughout the state. I lastly but most importantly must thank my lovely wife Kathy for allowing me to serve the Knights.



Vivat Jesu,

Fraternally Yours,

REMEMBER THE MEMBER. CHERISH THE CHURCH.

Dr. Charles J. Robinson, DSc, PE — State Warden — New York State Council Knights of Columbus
252 Adams Rd, Norfolk, NY 13667 Cell Phone 315-244-6241 c.robinson@ieee.org

New York State Program Award Winners

Thanks to Programs Director, Anthony Zibella, and the Administrative State Chairmen (Lou Pepe, Mike Flanagan, John Mastrosimone, Jim McCue and Mike Galgano) for their work in identifying the State Service Program Award Winners.

Category	Title	Council	Grand Knight	Conference
Faith	Consecration to the Holy Family	7707 Spencerport	Larry Peck Thecup7882@yahoo.com	Finger Lakes
		Nearly 850 participants in the parish-based program.		
Family	Dinner for Eight	7085 Fairport	Carmen Scoppa II cscoppa@rochester.rr.com	Finger Lakes
		Council cooked and served Dinner for Eight, to raise funds for Food for Families		
Community	VA Hospital Assistance	4810 Greenlawn	John A Pelkonen JPelkonen@Verizon.net	Suffolk
		Council support of Liturgical celebrations in VA Facility		
Life	Life Center of Long Island	2520 Hicksville	Derek Stradler stadlerderek@gmail.com	Nassau
		Support of the Life Center of Long Island		

Leave No Neighbor Behind New York State Program Award

In April, the Supreme Council announced a special award directly related to the Leave No Neighbor Behind Program.

In New York, we have had multiple examples of members taking the lead to address the pandemic. Councils have placed well-being calls to all their members, held blood drives, food drives, feeding the front-line medical and residence staffs. The list can go on for the examples of the good works of the Order being carried out by the members and councils across New York.

Beginning in March, two Brother Knights saw a specific need, and addressed the issue. In the epicenter of the pandemic – New York City – people were out of work due to the shelter in place. But there were about six brother Knights who were different, in that they were out of work, but not eligible to receive unemployment, not eligible to receive the stimulus. These two leaders used personal funds to buy food and deliver it to these six families. The numbers have grown, to the point where the St. Finbar Council (#15728) and Most Precious Blood Council (#6134) now provide food to over 100 families, over 600 men women and children. Charles Shelly and Lou Stuto are the Grand Knights of their respective councils but are much more. They have used their leadership skills by leading by example. Over the past three months they have enlisted the members of their councils to packaging a week's worth food and distributing it weekly. The volume of need has increased so that using personal funds is no longer feasible. Charlie and Lou solicit donations – food, supplies, and monetary – to continue their works. These two Grand Knights have motivated their councils so as to have active participation in all aspects. They have involved college-aged students who are also Knights and have brought non-Knights to volunteer and learn what the Knights are all about. As good mentors and leaders do, Charlie and Lou have worked with having their actions spread to other councils.

I am honored to present St. Finbar Council (#15728) and Most Precious Blood Council (#6134), under the leadership of their Grand Knights, Charlie Shelly and Lou Stuto, as co-recipients of the First Leave No Neighbor Behind Award for New York State, as they have chosen to demonstrate the true principles of our order.

New York State Family of the Year

Thanks to State Chairman for Family of the Year, Joseph Schlitz, and his team of Auxiliary State Chairmen.

I am pleased to announce the selection of Maria and Albert Rocco and their family, from St. Ambrose Council #1463, in Queens, as the 2020 New York State Family of the Year.

New York State Scholarship/Grant Awardees

Thanks to State Chairman of Scholarships, William Kuil, and his team of Auxiliary State Chairmen

Diocese	Name	Council Name	Co #	District
Albany	Gabriel Sherwin	Saratoga	246	65
Brooklyn	Ellie Krumm	Baron deKalb	1073	33
Brooklyn	Sean Sweeney	St Anne's	2429	24
Brooklyn	Anna Lampman	Msgr Sherman	5103	23
Brooklyn	Joseph Kinsella	Msgr Cafieno	7236	36
Buffalo	Ryan Fitzpatrick	Msgr Kirby	325	74
Buffalo	Nathan Wingels	Hamburg	2220	73
Buffalo	Matthew Coughlin	Msgr Ash	3875	73
Buffalo	Joshua Weil	St Gregory the Great	14687	79
New York	Ella Cipriana	Manresa	2147	38
New York	Gabriella Rado	St Martin dePorres	7551	53
New York	Mary Igoe	Bishop Mestice	15698	52
New York	Sabastian Correa	St Joseph-St Mary Immaculate	16467	40
Ogdensburg	Gianna Richards	Watertown	259	104
Rochester	William Rappold	Pope Pius	4691	91
Rockville Center	Emily Connelly	Corpus Christi	2502	17
Rockville Center	Nicholas Fonseca	New Hyde Park	2852	17
Rockville Center	John O'Hanlon	Msgr Walsh-St Raymond	7220	21
Rockville Center	Brendan Browne	St Thomas the Apostle	11588	19
Rockville Center	Kate Nicastro	St Philips-St James	12839	9
Syracuse	Peter Cedrone	Oswego	227	80
Syracuse	Liam Rupprecht	Bishop Curley	3717	81
Syracuse	Sophia Finn	St Joseph	5398	82
Syracuse	Ethan Harris	Bishop Cunningham	10904	81

New York State Council 2020-2021		
	State Chaplain	His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan
	Administrative State Chaplain	Rev. Brian McWeeney
	Associate State Chaplain	Most Rev. Gerardo Colacicco
	Associate State Chaplain	Rev. Michael Gelfant
	State Father Prior of Youth	Rev. Dennis Nikolic
	State Deputy	Walter J Wych (Dee) 4065
	State Secretary	Brian Langdon (Cindy) 6282
	State Treasurer	Robert P Graziano (Beth) 1463
	State Advocate	Norman A Wagner 1816
	State Warden	Dr. Charles Robinson (Katheryn) 11544
	Chief of Staff	James A Foy (Dorothy) 445
	Secretary to the State Deputy	Anthony T Spaziani (Jeanne) 4065
	Warden to the State Deputy	Carl F Schneider (Lori) 9254
	Admin Asst to the State Deputy	Daniel Keenan (Linda) 444
	Executive Secretary	Joseph F Peluso (Cathy) 6243
	Ceremonials	Kenneth Latham, Jr (Carol) 4541
	Digital Communications	Brian Wych (Lauren) 4065
	Logistics	Darren Gamma (Adene) 1106
	Photographer	Crispin Reyes (Jasmine) 5962
	Public Relations	Carl F Schneider (Lori) 9254
	Training	Joseph Muller (Delfina) 1675
Membership	State Membership Director	Thomas Moran (Danine) 5983
	New Council Development	Deacon Charles Esposito (Patsy) 3076
	Online Membership	Bill Stewart (Christa) 3676
	Recruitment	Ralph Cefalo (Paula) 5872
	Retention	Edmund Newborn 1675
Programs	State Program Director	Anthony Zibella (Susan) 316
	Community Programs	John Mastrosimone (Tina) 9267
	Faith Programs	Louis Pepe 17000
	Family Programs	Michael Flanagan (Linda) 7707
	Life Programs	James McCue 2147
	Squires	Michael Galgano 2520
Charitable Activities	Charitable Activities Director	Peter Cassidy (Lori) 4065
	C&B Program	Anthony Marengo (Mary) 2548
	C&B Secretary/Treasurer	Francis Boccabella, Jr. 17153
	External Fundraising	Rocco D'Erasmus (JoAnn) 1463