

ILLINOIS STATE COUNCIL



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 110th ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

PROCEEDINGS

THE WESTON HOTEL
Lombard, Illinois

Illinois State Council
Knights of Columbus
110th Annual State Convention
Westin Lombard Hotel
Lombard, Illinois
May 24-26, 2008

WELCOME RECEPTION

The opening prayer was offered by **Fr Jim McIlhone**. The colors were presented by members of the 4th Degree and the Pledge was led **by Master Ray Biliskov**.

State Deputy Barone welcomed all to the 110th Annual State Convention and to the home of Father **Boecker** Council 6081 our host council here in Lombard, Illinois and the beautiful facility here that we are in at the Westin Hotel. To give us a more formal greeting from the Village of Lombard I ask that Brother Knight, and trustee of the Lombard City Council or the Village Council I guess you would call it, Brother Jack O'Brien, please come forward.

'Worthy State Director, good morning. State Officers, Brother Knights and Grand Knights, I was called last night by **Bill Mueller** to ask if I could participate today because of his sickness, and I'll tell you I walk anywhere for Bill Mueller, he is a fine gentlemen and he is a fighter. My name is Jack O'Brien, I am the Village Trustee for this district and in fact you are sitting in Bill Mueller's Hall, he was instigated to build this facility and he got together and it didn't cost the village anything. But anyway, on behalf of Bill Mueller, our Village President and myself, I would like to welcome you to the Village of Lombard, *The Lilac Village*.

Bill can not be here this morning as he is dealing with his 4th case of cancer and his treatments are being extended today. He sends his best wishes on your 110th Annual State Convention. We are proud that you chose Lombard and to our beautiful new Westin Hotel Yorktown Conference Center to hold your convention. And we hope you have a most successful convention and that you enjoy your stay with us. I belong to Christ the King chapter of the council and during our meetings we say a prayer for our sick and disabled, I wish you would join me and say the prayer for Mr. Mueller. He is a council member, he has been a Grand Knight." [The entire body rose and said the Lord's Prayer]. I am proud to be a member of Christ the King council and our Mayor is a member of the **Father Boecker** Council where he served as Grand Knight. We are also proud of your State Treasurer, Rich Spada, who is also a member of the Christ the King Council. The Church and our council need the Knights of Columbus more than ever. We are faced with many difficult times ahead. You can make a difference and build a better council one step at a time. This is a great time to [unintelligible] with your brothers and to visit the Program Faire for your ideas. You are to be congratulated for your increase in over 2,000 new members, but don't stop there. Continue to recruit members; they are the strength of any organization.

Again on behalf of the Mayor and Brother Knight Bill Mueller and myself, we wish you a most powerful and successful convention and hope you will enjoy your stay in Lombard

Thank you"

The State Deputy then resumed the podium to invite the representatives of the Westin Hotel to come forward and 'we have with us a very nice person, Tim Treznewski, the 'Front Office Manager', I like that title it means he is right out there taking charge, along with him is the lady who has worked extremely hard and has to be the immediate interface with Brother Sean Morgan so you know she has to have great patience, this lovely lady, Stacy Becker. So at this time I would like to introduce Tim to give a welcome from the Hotel".

Good Morning to you all, as you said, my name is Timothy Treznewski I am the Front Office Manager and this is Stacey Becker the Convention Services Manager so throughout this weekend we will be your main contact people. I would like to first off start by thanking everyone for joining us here in Lombard which is shaping up to be a beautiful Memorial Day weekend for us. On behalf of the entire time I am officially honored to welcome the Knights of Columbus to the Westin Lombard Yorktown Center. It was great to finally see everyone arrive yesterday, getting everything kicked off. There were a lot of early arrivals and I am hoping that everyone is eager to get this weekend started. Our staff was also eager for the opportunity to make this 2008 Annual Convention the most successful ever. Throughout this weekend if there is anything that myself, Stacey or any of staff members can do here at the Westin Lombard, please feel free to pull any of us over and we will do whatever we can to make your stay here more comfortable. The team here at Westin is very appreciative of all the tremendous work the Knights of Columbus have done in the community in the past year and we're glad you chose our properties to celebrate your success. On behalf of everyone here on property, we wish the Knights continued success over the future years and of

course we thank everyone for joining us this weekend and we hope everyone has a great weekend with us.

Thank you very much everybody."

State Deputy Barone thanked Tim for his words and asked those assembled if they liked this hotel and 'should we come back here next year?' There was a loud response of Yes.

State Deputy Barone, then asked that "we all rise and welcome our State Chaplain, His Excellency, Retired Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet, Bishop Roger L Kaffer."

THE CHURCH SPEAKS

Bishop Kaffer stepped to the podium

"I would like to say a few things. First of all I have been reading the book" the wonderful book by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, "The Civilization of Love". If you haven't read it yet, do. It is really a...it's deep, it's not easy reading, but it is well worth it. He gives you a course in philosophy, modern history, family, sexuality, but it is a book for modern times. Anecdotally, I happened to be at the Holy Office, The Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith when Cardinal **Rostenger** was **Prefect** the day that Carl Anderson was elected Supreme Knight. And everyone there was delighted, including Cardinal Rostenger, Now Pope

Benedict XVI. He has leaned on our Supreme Knight by appointing him to several committees.

You have often heard me say that next to the Papacy of the Catholic Church itself, in my opinion, the Knights of Columbus are the strongest pro-life voice in the world, and you are. Keep up the good work.

Speaking of books, **Allen Napleton**, the President of the Basilica Press has agreed to publish my book before the World Youth Day in Australia, which I intend to attend, but I am not sure what the title will be. I have suggested 'Apologetics 101' or 'Why Catholics Believe What They Believe. Some say that the title is really too technical. As you know, from hearing me talk, I believe in stories so I tell lots of stories. Cardinal George has written a forward to the book and every line in it has been reviewed and approved by Father John Michael **McDermott** . He is the **[unintelligible]** Theologian of the Society of Jesus who was on Cardinal **Rastenger**' s International Theological Commission and now is on **Cardinal Evada's** International Theological Commission.

I am leaving for Rome, the day after tomorrow for the third time in three years working on evangelization. I also have plane tickets to Canada twice this summer; once for the International Eucharistic Congress and once for the Supreme Knights of Columbus convention and I will be going to Nashville, Tennessee, for the Silver Jubilee of one of our Providence girls who is a Nashville Dominican Nun. I went last year for the Silver Jubilee

for three of them of our girls. I am also going to World Youth Day in Australia. So I love retirement. I thought everybody who will listen to me, that my boss, Bishop Peter Sartain was 2 years old when I was ordained a priest. That's what happens when you live too long.

Confessions today will be from 1 to 3:30 in Cypress Room A. You can prevail upon Phil or anybody to let you out of whatever you are doing from 1 - 3:30, Fr McIlhone, Fr Chuck and I will be available. I forgot to bring my Blue Light, but it will be available. The Blue Light Special can help you make an examination of your conscience and confession of your entire life or any part thereof in 2 minutes and all you have to say is often, sometimes, never. We just run down the 10 commandments and there are only 10. And don't think that your ingenious wickedness is going to knock any one of us off the chair. You will bore us long before you shock us.

I am grateful to rabbi McIlhone and Fr Chuck Tuttle for their wonderful work as Associate State Chaplains, and Fr Tuttle for his work as Squires Chaplain. I guess you [referring to Fr McIlhone] are also the Squires Chaplain to the North and Fr Chuck Tuttle is the Squires Chaplain to the South, but he's the one that always gives me stuff to sign.

I want all of you to know that I offered my resignation as the State Chaplain for the Knights of Columbus when I retired six years ago and was asked by the Bishops of Illinois to remain as the State Chaplain which I am happy to do. [*Rousing applause went up from the crowd*] and for the reason stated above. In my opinion, the Knights of Columbus are the

second strongest pro-life voice in the world next to the Pope's and the Catholic Church. I also finally, want to thank worthy State Deputy Phil Barone and his lovely wife Alice and all of their predecessors for the fine leadership they give to this wonderful organization, the Knights of Columbus of Illinois.

Incidentally, I did meet Pope Benedict XVI, the first time I met him, I met him twice, but the first time I met him I told him that 70,000 Knights of Columbus in the State of Illinois loved him and prayed for him.

Thank you"

State Deputy Barone resumed the podium and called for Fr Jim McIlhone and Fr Chuck Tuttle to please rise "let's thank them for being our Associate State Chaplains".

There are some simple house keeping things and points of interest and things I think you should know. First off, for those of you who did not get coffee and donuts, there are still coffee and donuts right by the end of the room by registration. Please go get that, I don't want the Insurance guys to be sitting there doing nothing. Go over there and visit them, they enjoy the company.

Secondly if you have not registered, the registration area is just out the door on the left
Brother Al Urban, who was just with the honor guard, is over there, they wait and they are
eager for you to come and visit them because they get lonely.

Now also, in that same corridor, if you go down, we had our Country Store with various
items you might want to buy such as nice Knights of Columbus ties, you can buy one of
them or any other articles. But in addition we've put around the country store tables all
around the activities of all the programming that we do in this state. The marvelous
programming from Charities, family, council, community, church, youth.

Go in there, our vocations program, go see Ron Ziemba he wants to sell you a button that
says "It's OK to say Merry Christmas" we think that's important. And it will only cost you \$1
So please visit all those areas.

Ladies in the room, the Ladies Program will start at 11:30 it will be on the other end in what
they call the Junior Ballroom. It is a beautiful, wonderful open room you'll have a great time.
That will be the same room we will have Mass in this evening with Cardinal George at 5:00
So those are the housekeeping items.

At this time I ask Brother Stites to please bring to us through the magic of electronics our
Supreme Knight.

A DVD with a message from Supreme Knight Carl Anderson was displayed. It was received with rousing applause.

State Deputy Phil Barone, thanked the Supreme Knight for his message. He then turned his attention to the group. "I want to make mention to each of you that our delegates or guests to this convention if you get an opportunity, all of the delegates should have received their packets, but please take time to read the reports all of the great work that is done by the local councils in this great jurisdiction because they do tremendous work to help those who are in need to help those who need it and to help our Church and Community so please take a moment to read those reports. They are great reports.

At this time I would like to ask our Associate State Chaplains, Fr Jim McIlhone and Fr Chuck Tuttle as well as Bishop Kaffer to the podium as we proceed to the installation of the Illinois State Squires Circle.

INSTALLATION OF COLUMBIAN SQUIRES

Bishop Kaffer took the podium to address the new Squires Circle Officers and those gathered.

"Dear Brother Knights and Guests.

It is now my privilege to install the newly elected Columbian Squires State Circle Officers for the fraternal year 2008-2009. Before proceeding, I wish to congratulate the officers that have filled their respective stations during the past year and the fact on behalf of the Illinois State Council Knights of Columbus.

To you, the new officers who have been elected to direct the affairs of the Illinois State Circle during the coming year. Welcome to the 2008, to the 110th Annual Illinois Knights of Columbus convention. We sincerely hope you will enjoy a fruitful and productive year.

As officer of the Illinois State Circle, you have been chosen because of the special qualifications which each of you exhibited for the duties which you are to perform. You have been elected through the thoughtful consideration of your brothers. Today, you are being entrusted with the management and direction of the Illinois state circle during the ensuing year.

Being elected to a state office is a high honor. It also carries with it responsibilities. From this time forward in performing the duties of your office you must have in mind the best interests of the State Circle and its subordinate circles. You represent no particular sector or circle, but rather all Circles. The progress and accomplishments of the Illinois State Circle during the ensuing year will depend upon the united efforts and support of all squires. It is your duty to fashion these activities so that when your term of office shall have expired, it may be known to all that the Illinois State Circle has progressed.

It is your duty as officers to work in unison. Abraham Lincoln said "A house divided against itself cannot stand". So did Jesus Christ. You will discover that the various duties will be performed more promptly, accurately and cheerfully, when a spirit of cooperation prevails. As the installation proceeds, heed carefully the words and thoughts expressed."

Bishop Kaffer then addressed each officer individually explaining their duties of office and invited the parents, the Grand Knight, or the District Deputy to invest each officer with their jewels.

STATE ARM CAPTAIN	David Toennies	Breese Circle
STATE POLE CAPTAIN	Jacob Carr	Rock Falls Circle
STATE SENTRY SQUIRE	Nicholas Ashbaker	O'Fallon Circle
STATE MARSHALL SQUIRE	Zachary Moreland	O'Fallon Circle
STATE BURSER SQUIRE	Lucas Essenpreis	Breese Circle
STATE NOTARY SQUIRE	Jamin Carr	Rock Falls Circle
STATE DEPUTY CHIEF SQUIRE	Wade Reeves	Evansville Circle
STATE CHIEF SQUIRE	Dakota Cane	Evansville Circle

I now call upon our Illinois State Deputy Phil Barone to give the Illinois State Circle Officers the Oath of Office. After administering the Oath, the State Deputy had these remarks.

Around your necks are the medallions of your office. These are not status symbols but signs of the great amount of work and the good to be done. Wear them proudly, but remember as you wear the jewel you accept the duties and responsibilities of your offices.

By the authority of the Knights of Columbus, and on behalf of the Illinois State Council and the 71,000 Knights and their families, I declare that you are the Illinois State Squires Officers for the 2008-2009 fraternal year and are duly installed in your offices and may commence with the business of the Illinois State Squires. Now you may congratulate them, The **State Deputy** stepped forward to issue the oath office and swear in the new officers.

I now call upon **Associate State Chaplain, Fr Jim McIlhone, State Father Prior** for the closing prayer and also **Associate State Chaplain, Fr Chuck Tuttle also State Father Prior** for the presentation of your Certificates. He then turned the podium over to Fr Jim McIlhone for the closing prayer.

Following the prayer, **Associate State Chaplain Fr Chuck Tuttle** assumed the podium announcing he would be presenting the Certificates of Office. He asked that Gerry Mattix-Wand, our State Chairman of the Columbian Squires come forward for the purpose of introductions.

After presentation of the certificates, **Gerry Mattix-Wand** then introduced the newly installed **2008-2009 Chief Squire, Dakota Kane**.

CHIEF SQUIRE'S ADDRESS

"Worthy State Chaplain Bishop Kaffer, Worthy Father Priors, Father Chuck & Father Jim, Worthy State Deputy, honored Knights, State Officers, Brother Squires, friends, family all.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank State Deputy Phil Barone for allowing me to speak at this one hundredth and tenth Knights of Columbus State Convention. It is with humble honor and enthusiasm that I accept the position of State Chief Squire.

As I and my fellow State Officers begin our term, this honored office will allow us to meet members of the Knights of Columbus serving in various capacities who serve as a true inspiration to the Columbian Squires. Being elected State Chief Squire brings with it a great deal of responsibility. I am honored that my brother Squires have placed upon me this great privilege.

It is not so important where we are now but, rather the direction we find ourselves going.

The Squires have helped forge a direction for me and other members. Being a Squire has given me the opportunity to meet dedicated men who give so much to their church, Knights of Columbus and Columbian Squires. As leader of the Illinois Squires I will make a special effort to help to introduce the benefits of the Squires to those Knights of Columbus councils who presently do not sponsor a circle. There are many youth groups but the Squires is the official youth organization of the Knights of Columbus. If any councils attending this weekend's convention are interested in finding out more about the Squires, or wish to

sponsor a squire's circle, I will be available along with my state officers to share our personal experiences about being a Squire, and assist you in any way possible.

On the occasion of the recent visit to the United States by Pope Benedict 16th, he brought us a message. This message is the basic of what it means to me to be Catholic.

"Christ our Hope"

This is the theme that I have chosen this year to help spread this message to all the Squires in the State that Christ IS Our Hope.

During his address to young people of the United States Pope Benedict said; "I say to you, dear young people: Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ – and you will find true life."

This is the direction I want the Squires to follow this year to be an organization dedicated to good works, to have hope in Christ and to grow as a true Christian organization.

When new squires are welcomed into their circle they take a pledge to: "*pattern their lives on that of the youth Christ*". What better model could someone find then that of Jesus working in the workshop of his earthly father, Saint Joseph? That same model can be found in the guidance that we are given in our own families and that of our extended family, the Knights of Columbus. God's love isn't conditional and He loves us all equally. I'm sure that just like any father His heart breaks when one of His children makes wrong choices over good ones, even after he has done so much to teach us what is best. I'm sure he is sad beyond our understanding when his children fight with each other. And I'm sure the last thing he wants to see, is one of us walking away from Him. I will challenge my

brother Squires to take this opportunity to grow closer to the youth Christ through prayer and all they do each day, and to envision Christ as their true model of perfection in all they do. We, Squires and Knights are faced with many challenges each day in our lives.

My brother squires, honored knights friends all, I make this challenge to everyone gathered to model their lives after Christ. To have hope in Christ. Please pray for the success of all the endeavors of the Columbian squires. I conclude with a quote from the great General George S. Patton,

"If a man does his best, what else is there?"

GOD BLESS!"

At this time, State Deputy Barone took the podium to recognize the Chairman of the Columbian Squires, Dan Ashbaker. "you have done a fine job this year".

I have been corrected and I have to make a correction here, we are definitely in the Village of Lombard, in the home of one of the host councils which is Father **Boecker** Council 6090 but there is a second host council which is near and dear to our State Treasurer, and of course to our Village Trustee, they are both members of Christ the King Council 11027 which is closer to this hotel than Father **Boecker**.

I also want to recognize the people that worked so hard last night to give us a great Friday Night Party. Did you have a good time last night, I hope you did. Brother Wayne Decker, Brother Wally Johnson and Al Urban and their wives did a fantastic job. Now to introduce the new Great Kahuna, I think he's gonna be know now, he is taking over that Hawaiian group, Brother Al Urban will come forward now to give us the felicitations report. Let's welcome the Great Kahuna."

FELICITATIONS REPORT

'Good Morning. A few weeks ago the Felicitations Committee had letters sent out to His Excellency the Papal Nuncio, his eminence Cardinal George, to excellencies the bishops in the State of Illinois, the Governor of the State of Illinois, and catholic members of the United States Congress and the State Congress, asking them for their thoughts on the Knights of Columbus.

At this time I would like to introduce Terry Berkos and Howard Kinch and they will read some of these letters."

Howard Kinch approached the podium to read two letters.

"Good Morning, this letter is from the Papal Nuncio." "I was pleased to learn of the 110th

State Convention of the Illinois State Council of the Knights of Columbus. As the Apostolic Nuncio and personal representative of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, I have witnessed the fine work of the Knights of Columbus in these United States of America and it is my privilege and joy to offer congratulations and best wishes to all the Knights in the State of Illinois.

The example of this remarkable fraternal organization gives hope to many in the Church and throughout the country. Your goals of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism are most admirable and I am certain that as the Knights strive to realize these goals in their lives, countless others are inspired by such good example. I take this opportunity to invite you to reflect on the words of our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, in his encyclical - Spe Salvi: "The Gospel is not merely a communication of things that can be known- it is one that makes things happen and is life-changing. The dark door of time, of the future, has been thrown open. The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life." [Spe Salvi, #2]

I pray that through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, your convention will bear abundant fruit and may the Knights of Columbus throughout the State of Illinois continue to serve the Church, as a true beacon of hope in the United State and in those countries where your brother Knights are found.

Commending the Knights and their families to the maternal intercession of Our

Blessed Mother, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Pietro Sambi Apostolic Nuncio'

"Greetings on this, the occasion of the 110th Annual State Convention for the Illinois Knights of Columbus. With hearty congratulations and warmest personal regards, I offer you my sincere gratitude for all that you do for the Church and Her mission. I am especially grateful for the continued support and prayers that each of you give to our priests, deacons and seminarians as they do their work on behalf of you and all they serve. The weekend of your convention is the weekend I will be ordaining priests and deacons for service in the Diocese of Rockford as we continue the celebrations for our centennial year.

I once again encourage each of you as worthy participants of this annual convention to use this time well and strengthen the esteem each one of you has for the Church, her ordained ministers and lay faithful.

May God bless you all and bring to glorious fulfillment your endeavors. I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Thomas G. Doran, D.D., J.C.D. Bishop of Rockford"

"Congratulations on your 110th Annual State Convention. I am unable to be with you in person, but please know that you hold a special place in my thoughts and prayers.

For over 100 years the Knights of Columbus have been an important and integral part of the Church in Illinois.

Membership in the Knights of Columbus is a faith building experience which provides the foundation for a lifetime of service and leadership. Your goals of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism are the backbone of what our parishes and society stand for and cherish. These goals compliment the very purpose of your organization, to promote the teachings and love of Our Savior Jesus Christ.

Celebrate during your Convention and be thankful for the rich history and tradition of Catholic service to others. Discuss and appreciate ways Christ reveals himself in our daily lives.

Thank you, and may God continue to bless you as we commit ourselves to Jesus and grow in his friendship.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain Bishop of Joliet"

"Congratulations on 110 years of faithful service to God, Church and Country! When one considers how many lives most likely have been touched by the Knights in Illinois over the course of those 110 years the numbers would be astounding. There are many people who may never have known our Lord Jesus if it were not for you.

The Knights of Columbus have been a great support to all of us in the Archdiocese for the Military Services for many years. We are grateful most especially for what you've done in the area of Vocations to the Priesthood and in our efforts to reach out to the young active duty men and women through our program called "Catholics Seeking Christ." The Knights have been our mainstay in countless ways.

You continually inspire us with your goals of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. May God be the source of your ongoing commitment to these goals and may He bless you abundantly in the years ahead.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph W. Estabrook, D.D Vicar for Evangelization

Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA"

State Deputy Barone was presented with a notebook which contained all the letters of Felicitation received for this 110th Convention.

State Deputy accepted the book of Felicitations and commented on "a fine report".

"At this time I would like to recognize our insurance agency. I know they are in the room and I ask them all to stand up for a minute and let's thank them for the great job." I ask Kenneth Niedzwiedz to come forward to give us this year's Insurance Agency report. While he is coming forward, I'd like to recognize that the Knights of Columbus it really has two hands; a right and left hand, but more importantly we have a fraternal side and an insurance side. The partnership between the two is what really makes our Order great. So at this time, Ken will give us the report of the Insurance agents."

INSURANCE REPORT

"Worthy State, Most Reverend Bishop Kaffer, Reverend Clergy, Worthy Supreme Director, State Officers, Brother Knights and ladies all,

On behalf of the seven General Agents in Illinois, namely Jeff Schaecher, John

Blazevich, Jeff Goralczyk, Dominic Tarullo, Stanley Mudd, Mike Muto and myself, I present this report.

In years past when we presented our report, we always gave you a litany of statistics including our ratings. This year we decided not to do that. Instead I am just happy to report that the Knights of Columbus Insurance has again secured all of the top ratings and we broke three all time records in sales in 2007. We are larger, stronger, and bigger than ever.

I would like to ask you a question. What role does our insurance program play in the existence of the Knights of Columbus? Let's go back to the end of the nineteenth century. European Catholic immigrants stood on the lowest rung of the employment ladder in the industrial revolution. Factory and mining jobs were available but dangerous. Health and safety in the workplace were rarely considered by owners of capital. Working men were, to be blunt, were expendable. As a result many young men died on the job leaving their families destitute. Because Catholics were hated and despised, commercial life insurance companies refused to write life insurance on them. As a result homeless widows and orphans were forced to beg in the streets.

Father Michael J McGivney witnessed the hardship and financial devastation that were rampant in the working class immigrant community. In 1882 he decided to do something about it. So out of necessity the Knights of Columbus was born, born to provide financial

aid to its members and the beneficiaries of the members. Yes, the Knights of Columbus was founded to provide life insurance to the member and his family. Just think of it, if commercial companies in 1882 wrote life insurance on Catholics, we would not be here today. There would have been no reason for Father McGivney to start our Order.

Over the years we have paid out more than \$2.2 billion of life insurance saving 10's of thousands of families from being destitute. We have paid out many millions of dollars in monthly retirement checks as a result of our annuities. And in recent years we have paid out long-term care claims saving families from losing their estates. All this sounds good, but allow me to show you more.

[At this point, Ken began his slideshow presentation]

A few years ago the Knights of Columbus developed the Wheel Chair Program. To date over 200,000 have been distributed to the needy around the world. Just last November wheelchairs were given to our veterans at our local Hines Hospital. Please understand, the millions of dollars spent by our Supreme Council to purchase, ship and distribute these wheelchairs is funded as a direct result of our insurance program.

[Reading from the slideshow presentation] Only the altar steps remain at St Clare's Church in Biloxi, Mississippi. The Katrina disaster is still fresh in our memories and still haunts New Orleans and other places. The Knights of Columbus contributed \$14 million to the Katrina Fund. \$4 million came from our insurance program.

The Vicarius Christi Fund - For those that don't know what this is, let me explain. The Knights of Columbus established this fund with a \$20 million endowment. Yearly, the earnings from this fund is given to our Holy Father for his personal charities. As you can see, [referring to his slideshow] our former Pope is giving assistance to Mother Theresa's sisters [in that picture]. In that period of time we have donated over \$40 million to the Holy Father. Please understand that the \$20 million endowment came from our insurance program.

Who will ever forget September 11, 2001? Once again the Knights of Columbus jumped into action. On September 12th, the Board of Directors approved the establishment of The Heroes Fund. On September 13th, the first of the 419 checks were delivered to the 419 relatives of the fallen emergency heroes that died on the 11th regardless of religious affiliation, for a total of \$1.5 million. Again, the monies came from the insurance program. In addition, full scholarships to the catholic college of their choice have been made available to 29 children of members killed or disabled in the line of duty on September 11th through the Order's Matthews & Swift Educational Trust Fund. This fund has been maintained and supplemented by the insurance program.

You might not be able to read that [referring to his slide presentation], let me back that up. We have done tens of thousands of good deeds over our 126 years as a result of our insurance programs. But there is one last slide I would like to share with you. Unbelievably, over 99.5% of annual operating capital of the Knights of Columbus is

directly funded by the Insurance Program. To give you a better perspective, if we did not offer insurance program to our members, each one of our more than 1.7 million members, no honorary members allowed, would have to pay an additional \$280 dollars or more in dues each year in order to maintain our organization and all its current programs. Not many Knights could or would pay that much in dues. Surely it wouldn't take long before our Order would disappear and just be a shadow of what we are today.

As you can see, our Insurance program is vital not only in the hundreds of thousands of insured members and their families, but it is vital to our very existence as we know it today.

As Knights, you are not obligated to purchase insurance from the Order. But what we ask is that you please allow our field agents to do their job, which is to meet with you. Let them do their analysis and if you agree that there are areas where insurance could protect you or your family member against financial risk, I have one simple question, why would you not buy the insurance from the Knights of Columbus where you know the proceeds are doing God's work around the world? Secular insurance companies are exactly that, secular. As you heard, our insurance revenues help the Church, our councils and millions of people. My wife and I and our four children and their families own a total of 60 life insurance policies through the Knights of Columbus. [You] might ask why? Why, because the Knights of Columbus has the best permanent life insurance in North America and because we want our premiums to help fund all of the good works

that we do in the Knights of Columbus. I would wish that you would hope to do that as well.

If you are already purchasing your insurance program from the Knights of Columbus, we deeply thank you. We need you to continue to support the insurance. Because you are already experiencing the benefits, we ask that you promote the insurance programs at your council meetings, with your family members and your Catholic friends.

Finally, from all of our field agents and general agents, we thank all of you for allowing us to work for you.

God bless you and the God bless the Knights of Columbus."

[Long and enthusiastic applause]

State Deputy Barone thanked Ken for his report. He also said: "At this time it is customary that the State Deputy give you basically the status of the State of Illinois for this last fraternal year as we continue and to give you an idea of how we are doing.

First and foremost, your Excellency Bishop Roger Kaffer, Reverend Fathers, Reverend Mr. Deacons, my fellow elected State Officers, Worthy Supreme Director Logan Ludwig, Worthy Supreme Secretary Emeritus, Charles Foos, Worthy Supreme Ceremonials Director, Gary Nolan, Worthy Supreme Regional Consultant, Joseph Pietruszynski,

Worthy Past State Deputies, Worthy Directors, Chairman and Committeemen, Worthy District Deputies, Worthy Masters, Worthy Grand Knights, Worthy Council Officers, Worthy Sir Knights, Brother Knights, certainly our Illinois State Circle Squire Officers, my guests and most especially the lovely ladies who have joined us this morning,

Thank you for all coming to this event.

First I can not truly express our pride and honor for serving as your State Deputy for this past Fraternal Year. It's been an extraordinary opportunity and one that myself and my wife Alice will never forget.

This 125th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus has truly been an exceptional year. The Illinois State Council has achieved many things, and I am going to just briefly go through some of them.

First and foremost, I'd like to recognize people who are not with us at this convention. We lost over the past year 3 great men that I've come to know and love over the years.

First and foremost we lost Past State Deputy and Former Master, Brother Al Kukla, this past year, a great man indeed.

Secondly we lost Past State Warden and Former Master and my personal mentor, Robert F McHale.

And we lost this past year a great man from the Rockford Diocese who served as State Council Ceremonials Director and this past year he was the Diocesan Membership Chairman for the Rockford Diocese, Brother Lenny Schachtner.

These were all great men and Father will include them obviously in the Sympathy and Condolence Report, but I ask that you would join me this year as we would dedicate our convention to the memory of these three men and their families who gave so much to the Knights of Columbus.

How do we do this? Quite honestly, the only we can really measure how we are doing is how we are able to replenish, rebuild and revitalize our councils so that the Knights of Columbus are bigger, better, stronger and greater as we move forward to the future and at that our prosperity will be there for our successors.

And as to membership growth, needless to say the Illinois State Council has had a great year so far. We still have another month or so to go to and we need to really finish it off strong and great. But first and foremost, if you look at our recruitment number, we have done pretty well. We're almost 2400 men in and we have lost a few people through

suspensions and withdrawals, but our net growth is at 1,773 and I am sure Brother Pietruszynski probably has more updated numbers as he gets them everyday. But this is as I looked at it the other day. [He was interrupted by applause] And as our great insurance men would point out to you, we always will have deaths, The Illinois State Council, unfortunately has led the Order in deaths for many years, we'd like to do something about and I encourage the insurance men to reduce our deaths. [Laughter again interrupts the State Deputy]. That's your job next year. But unfortunately we lost 1366 men, but I'm proud to say that right now we have 387 more members at this time than we started the year with at July 1st. [Applause]. Because of this we are over goal, but we have to look at what our other goals are. That is the Circle of Honor goal, we have that. Let's look at how we measure up to the goals that we started the Year out.

We started, first and foremost, saying that really for the Knights of Columbus in Illinois to move positively forward, we need to strive to reach 3,000 new members. At this time, as you can see, we are within striking distance at 2366 but there is a great deal of hard work left to be done by our local councils to achieve our number.

We set a goal of 12 new councils this year and I am happy to say we have 4 new councils as you look up here at banners here, you will find we had 4 new councils that came in and I'm asking that if there are members of these councils, if they would stand for a second. Let's look at St. Patrick's Council #14373 are they here? Yes, there they are [Applause]. St. Ansgar, 14435 are they here, if not let's give them a round of

applause anyway. 14463, Divine Mercy out of Chicago, are they here? Let's give them a hand. And 14484, and not to insult our good friends, I'm going to say our [unintelligible] Mt Carmel? Will they stand up? They are out of the Joliet area. Also I am proud to say we've had 2 reactivations rather good reactivations places that we need to go back to, and encourage people to get back active, 'cause those parishes need our help. First and foremost, Council 8060 Illinois State University out of Normal, anybody here from there? And last but not the least this year I hope is council 10276 Scott Air Force Base. Thank you Brothers for joining our Order.

Now there is still much to be done, because as you look our goal was 12 in total. Now if you look at it we have 2 Hispanic councils that we brought in and that's not bad, we were looking to get 3. We're looking for 1 new cultural council and we haven't quite done that yet so that is another opportunity that we have. So we have many prospects that are being worked by Brother John Muldoon who is our New Council Development Chairman he's working hard as well as the other members of the Membership Team throughout the State of Illinois. But it us to us, especially the District Deputies to promote the Order in places where we don't exist.

Now let's look at council achievements. First and foremost, you're gonna see that, when I did this it was as of April 30th, we had 78 councils that had already achieved 100% of goal. Congratulations to those councils! That's fantastic! Of those 78, 15 of them had achieved what they call Double Star Status and that's very good. But most importantly,

there are another 29 councils that have achieved over 75% of their goal. Those councils over the next month and 1/2 have every opportunity to join the 100% club and I encourage them to work as hard as they can to get those members in for the good of their councils. Now we are also proud to say the 274 councils at this time have more members in their council right now that they did as of July 1st. They have growth their councils. That is very good. [Applause] We also have, what we believe, based on the cooperation with our insurance people and through our programming efforts that we think we can achieve 65 Star Councils. That would be a very good number and would be more than we have done in previous years and I encourage every council that is at the 100% level, get your paperwork in. Talk to Don Lajoie if you need help, talk to any of the State Officers. We'll help you get that Star Council.

Now sadly I have to report that there are 32 councils that in a negative position which means that their councils are less strong now than they were at the beginning of the year. There is also another 85 councils that have not recruited One New Member this year. That's a sad statement gentlemen, a sad statement. Each of us really does have an obligation to give every Catholic man an opportunity to become a part of this great organization and to have this *Experience of a Lifetime*. Everybody should have that opportunity to join the Knights of Columbus.

Moving on, as you look by Diocese, I want to take a special note of a couple Diocese, first and foremost I want to recognize the Archdiocese of Chicago for their resurgence

this year. I believe they are sitting at 65% that is the highest % they've had in a great number of years. I really congratulate the Archdiocese.

Secondly I want to take note of my home Diocese of Joliet. They have really come on in the last month 'cause they heard that Chicago had beat them out, and their pride was hurt. And they should be hurt by that and they made a surge now, so I think it's now Chicago's time to make a surge so they can go back and forth until the end of the year with a friendly rivalry that they have.

Now I just want to make mention of the Belleville Diocese. I know when you look at that slide your initial reaction will be well, they're only at 25%. I want you to know that just about at the end of January the Belleville Diocese was sitting at 5%. I want to commend them for taking up the challenge, taking up the charge and working very hard over the last few months to get that percentage up. Congratulations you guys, keep it up until the end of the year.

I want to congratulate all of the Diocese and all of their Chairmen because through there efforts and the efforts of every one of the local councils, Illinois is achieving its success. Congratulations for membership growth and for what you have done to help this Illinois State Council achieve, which is the highest honor that the Supreme Council can bestow upon the State, which is the Circle of Honor. Congratulations gentlemen, two years in a row. That's great. [Applause]

For what should be our objective as a local council as a District Deputy? Obviously the ultimate goal for a local council is the Star Council Award. The ultimate goal for a District Deputy is not simply the Star District, but to see that each one of his councils are truly successful. There is no prouder man than a District Deputy that can stand before [unintelligible] my councils are successful. So I congratulate each of the local councils and the District Deputies for what they do.

So where is the Order going? What is our first and foremost principle? It's Charities. As we look this year we can tell this year that our major charity programs have each had a very good degree of success. As we look at the MR/LD Program, we see that we reached 97% of goal. That's higher than what we did last year and that's a terrific job and each one of you should be patted on the back because where does that money go? Where does that money go? 90% of that money stays right in your local community and is distributed on the determination and judgment of the local council. That is one program that no one else in the United States can talk about and say that they do. You are the deciders of how that money goes and believe me, the people you give that money to are extremely grateful. You have taken not only the time and effort but have made great sacrifices to help those in need.

As we look down, we see the Newman Campus Ministry Program. The number there shows that we are sitting at 84%, but that number is better than last year. \$278,000 is a

good number. Unfortunately it won't be where we want to be. We have been somewhat set on a stagnant level in our contribution to those campus ministry programs that rely heavily on the Knights of Columbus to provide money to them so that they can bring the message of Jesus Christ to those students on secular campuses so that they can practice their Catholic faith while away from home. That is an extremely important program and I encourage each one of you to talk to your councils, talk to you members when they get that mailing next year from us, they don't have to be a Century Donor, but we want every member to be a donor. At this time I would like to recognize all the Century Donors. Will everyone who is a Century Donor please stand for a minute. {Applause} Thank you gentlemen. Proudly wear your pin. Proudly wear your pin

As we look at our General Assistance Fund, you will see are not really where we should be. Once again, it's been a difficult year for many people because of disasters and events that have really been out of their control. Unfortunately, I have to report to you that the numbers that you see here, \$48,000 pales in comparison to the amount of money that has been distributed to help those in need. That is because the Illinois State Council your Board of Directors receives requests each and every month from people in need, States in need. All you have to listen to the reports on the radio about the hurricanes, the tornadoes that have gone through and ripped apart various neighbors to us. All you have to do is look at certain local communities and see the fires to churches, see the devastation to schools that occur. See your own Brother Knights that have had unfortunate incidents which were totally out of their control which have put the really in a

perilous situation financially. The General Assistance Program has been there to try to help people. It is not a program that will satisfied all their needs, but simply means to show that we will try to help them and that us Brother Knights, help our Brother Knights, and that we care about them. So we need you to go back, Pass That Can. Go back to your councils and say, why are we not at 100%? We need to hit that 100% to help those people in need. We are going into our reserves now and those reserves are going down and when that's exhausted, we just won't be able to help people. So take up the challenge, go back to your councils and tell them the people in need, need your help.

Lastly, [unintelligible] there is the Vocations Program. The Vocations Support Program is the STATE Support Program. I don't want to confuse it with the R.S.V.P. Program from Supreme which is a wonderful program and I encourage every council to participate in that program, where you give \$500 to a religious and the Supreme Council will give you \$100 back. That's a pretty good deal isn't it? \$500 and you get \$100 bucks back and as every one knows from any of my speeches, when Supreme offers you money, what do you do? [Audience Response} Take It! So participate in that program.

The Illinois State Vocations Program is where we try to help our local seminarians throughout the State of Illinois that are in the various seminaries by giving them various ways of recognizing their work, encouraging them to continue to become a priest. This has been a marvelous program headed by Past State Deputies, Bill Brown and Ron Ziemba. So when I told you to buy those buttons today, you know 'It's Ok to say Merry

Christmas" that money, when you buy that button, will go to help that program. That's where the money is going to go. So buy as many buttons as you need, take them back to your councils spread them out. You can give them to non-Catholics, but help this program out. The amount you see there [referring to the slide] is a rather significant amount. It represents the highest amount we have collected since we put this program together years ago, of \$109,000. So I encourage you to continue this great growth.

Those new councils, I am going to ask you now, how many councils have participated, stand up if you could, for the first time in the Vocations Raffle Program? If you are here the first time you participated. That's fantastic, so all of us are participating and have been doing it for a number of years. Thank you. Please continue that program. That is important.

This past year, because of your efforts in this State Sponsored Program, and because you participate in R.S.V.P., 2 religious organizations gave us the highest honor that they could give us as a lay group. The first honor was the 2008 Visions of Hope Award. This is only the third time they have given this award out and was presented to us by Father Michael **Danek** the **Provincial** of the Resurrectionist Fathers and that is a terrific award. You can see that award if you go around to the Program Faire, it will be on the Vocations table. The second award, that Father McIlhorne is reminding me I cannot pronounce too well, is the [unintelligible] **Ad Joseph Award**. I got half of it right anyway, and that was presented to us by Father James **Crestor** who is the rector of the St. Joseph College Seminary in Chicago and that is only the second time they gave that award out. Both

groups felt that the Knights of Columbus was the most important group that they should recognize. I think that, on behalf of all of you, we accept that award so give each of you guys a pat on the back.

So what are the special programs we have been supporting lately? We've been really a proud supporter of the Special Olympics. For those who are not aware, we have contributed this year \$285,000 to the Special Olympics. \$100,000 is given each year for our support of the Winter Games that are held each February in Galena, Illinois. Believe it or not, we are the number 1 sponsor, without our sponsorship; there would not be a Winter Games in Galena. So you guys should be proud that we are doing that. I want to say over 20 years maybe longer, Charlie Foos was a former Board of Director and can tell me how many years later, but we have been doing it for a number of years you guys should be complemented and you should see the Knights of Columbus in Galena and how proud they are to be out there. The second \$100,000 we have been giving relatively recently it's a partnership program that we've entered into which you guys have embraced greatly. It is called the Spring Games. We have given \$100,000 but more importantly you guys have been giving up your time through volunteer efforts, through exposure, through honor guards, presenting the awards, registering people and just providing hospitality. You have been really the strength and backbone in helping the Illinois Special Olympics with their Spring Games Program. I can assure you tonight they'll express their appreciation. Lastly we're going to give them the final installment with a check for \$85,000 tonight for a statue in Tribute Park. [It's] a marvelous place. If

you get an opportunity to go down to Normal, Illinois where the Illinois Special Olympics headquarters is and you'll find this beautiful park that the athletes themselves in conjunction with the Board of Directors, designed. They put up a statue for the Knights of Columbus a family statue. And they felt the Knights of Columbus was the most fitting group to be with the Family Statue and our emblem is on it. Congratulations to you guys on that.

And that you will see that we have taken up our other Special Program, as I mentioned our unique program in the MR/LD Program is that 90% of the money is maintained by the local council. So somebody asked, so what happens to the other 10%? Through the collection of the 10% the Illinois State Council, we were able to institute a program to provide housing. We call it our Home Loans Program. This has been a terrific program that has been in existence for a great many years, as a matter of fact the first home loan was given in 1986. And from that point in time we've had over just about 60 loans to various homes totaling over \$8.3 Million. What a great program. Congratulations to you people.

Our General Programming: Our General Programming through our local councils is second to none throughout the United States. Many of our programs that we do on the State Level are initiated through our local councils. There are no great minds on the Illinois State Council, contrary to belief. We imitate, we copy, we cheat, we steal from the local council, because you guys are the great minds. You guys are innovators. You're

the guys that have created the great programs that not only does the Illinois State Council share with the other councils in Illinois, but we share throughout the Order through the Supreme Council. You will find the many of the Supreme Programs that you find originated in the great state of Illinois. You gentlemen are the innovators and what we do in the various programs throughout our activities is just phenomenal. Just to name a few: our Church Activities Program, this year, put in place Our Lady of Charity Icon Program. What a fabulous program. We put an Icon, and its on display over in the Program Faire area. One icon in each of the Diocese go there, and there is a rumor that a second icon is still moving around Chicago, though somebody told me it might be on e-bay. But in any event, I hope we get a lot of money out of it if it does sell, but that program has gone through each of the diocese. Every council has an opportunity to have the icon and present it at any important event, and special event that they want to do whether it is in the parish or in the council. It seems that everywhere I've gone throughout the various dioceses any important event, Our Lady of Charities has been there with us to guide us. It's fantastic and I complement you guys for having that icon displayed. [applause]

We have to continue that most important program, the Parish Roundtable Program and unfortunately the numbers don't truly reflect what we are doing in the parishes. Our goal is 250 parish roundtables. To date we have only received forms telling us that we have 145 roundtables. I know we have more. What is a roundtable? A roundtable is interaction of the council with the parish community. You can't tell me that your councils

are not interacting with your parish community. So we need to get the forms in gentlemen. We know that's what happened.

In our Community Activities area, Brother Jim Russell has pushed greatly for our Blood Donor Program. Believe me, the Knights of Columbus are second to none in giving this great gift of life to other people through our programs. It is fantastic.

Obviously we continue to support the Special Olympics through the Recycling Program that Brother Frank Ryan instituted a few years ago. For those councils who haven't quite taken up this challenge, it's simple. Just take used cell phones, everybody's got one, I've got one with me today that I'm going to turn in today, or ink cartridges from your printers, turn them in. Believe it or not, your garbage is somebody else's treasurer. We can make money to help other people, so check out that program.

I want to take this opportunity to recognize our Pro-Life Chair Couple, Marge & Larry Theriault for the fantastic job they do in keeping us aware of all the pro-life activities that occur. They have an extremely competent and efficient email network. If you are not on that email network and you want to be, simply give Larry & Marge your email address by sending them and note, their email address is in the book. You don't have to go see your Worthy Grand Knight or Financial Secretary; they have one of the State Directories.

Our Family Activities Program continues to be exceptional. For those who are not aware, there is going to be a Kamporee in just a couple of weeks out there, I'm not sure exactly where it is. It's close to Norway, Illinois, but Brother Dave Tressell tells me the wagons are ready. They're rolling and they're going to be out there in Norway, Illinois. If you want to join them all you have to do is say yes and give him a call and you can go right out to Norway.

Congratulations to Romaine Badyniak for the Ladies Auxiliary Program and you're going to hear some of the great work they do.

Under Council Activities, I want to complement Mike Gebke. He must be the guy who is in the best shape of all the Knights of Columbus in Illinois. He's our Basketball-Softball Chairman and he has done one heck of a job keeping our councils active and vibrant and giving them an opportunity to perform these athletic events. I understand that some of our teams actually achieved National Honors. I want to complement those folks.

[applause].

For those interested in bowling, you're going to find Jim Michel is the Bowling Secretary Extraordinaire. This man has been running the Bowling Program for a number of years, and please get involved with him. He has informed me that next year's Bowling Tournament, which last year was down in Cahokia, and they did a great job hosting that

event, this year we will be up in the Rockford area and I now they will do another great job. So if you are a bowler, get the shoes on, get the ball out and roll it down! Get going!

I want to complement also, Brother Pete Schumacher. This man has taken the Euchre Tournament to another level. He wants to go even one more level. He wants to see that all areas of the State of Illinois are going to play by his rules. [Laughter]. I have no idea what those rules are, but I'm sure if you get involved with the Euchre Tournament, you're going to have a good time. So if you are interested in that, please see Brother Pete Schumacher.

Now you already saw our outstanding Youth Activities and I did complement Brother Gerry Mattix-Wand for what the Squires are doing and they do a great job. But I wanted to complement Wayne Decker for an exceptional job on the Free Throw Tournament and I want to thank the 'little guy' Paul Adamowski for getting that Soccer Tournament going. We are going into our 3rd year. That program has grown through your efforts. Get involved. The people seem to love to kick that ball, especially those kids out there, so give them an opportunity. And then I want to complement Curt Zurliene for his job with the Spelling Bee. I know I can't spell and you'll probably see it when you read my report, but those kids are really something to see when they spell and that has been an outstanding Program.

The entire Programming Team under the leadership of Brother Bill Doerfler, I ask that they stand up, if they're in the room. Brother Bill stand up for a minute and the rest of the programming team if you're in the room. What a great job you guys. [Applause].

Now I would like to recognize the efforts we have done in a couple of areas, most importantly the KC Academy. Ted Stites, who is also our audio/visual man this year, has done a great job in basically bringing to you information. We call them training programs, but what they're really doing to sharing their expertise with you: Sharing their experiences: Sharing the things that all the Brother Knights through, really, their *Experience of a Lifetime* through the Knights of Columbus can give to you. As Brother Logan Ludwig says, many times, all of us are smarter than one of us. That's what he Knights of Columbus KC Academy gives us the opportunity to do. Share the knowledge of great people. Ted and his staff have traveled throughout this great State. They have done Grand Knight Officer Training, Financial Officer and Budget, and that's really a unique program, Membership Growth Planning which you can see we are having great results, Star Power Retention Program which our Brother Rich Spada developed which I really encourage you to take a look at. I did not want to talk about negatives so I am not going to talk about negatives, we're to talk about the positive, which is to make sure every member of our councils feel that they are a strong vibrant member of the council and more importantly, part of our council family, our ONE FAMILY UNDER GOD. That sure be our goal. Every member should feel that they are part of ONE FAMILY UNDER GOD.

Of course we have had activity planning and district deputy training. For those of you who want to learn how to put together a planning calendar, Ted has got a great program that he is going to show during the lunchtime. Ted, would you please stand, and any members of the KC Academy that's here would you please stand? I want to recognize you.

Finally I want to take this opportunity thank a some people that have really helped your State Deputy out and had guts to come up here before you and tell you what a great year we are having. I want to first ask my Elected State Officers to stand up. State Secretary Jim Bednar, State Treasurer Rich Spada, State Advocate Donald 'Skip' Kinyon, and my State Warden is running around doing what he's supposed to do, Brother Bob Bukowski and Immediate Past State Deputy Brother Paul Havrilka, Jr who could not be with us this weekend because of illness and difficulty of travel. These guys are really the brains behind the actions that you see and I thank them very much.

I would also like the support we get from the Supreme Council. Many must think that the Supreme Council is this great administrative bureaucracy that simply just lectures us on the do's and don'ts of the Order. Believe it or not, they provide tremendous support. They provide tremendous encouragement and more importantly they want us to succeed. They want us to succeed. They want every council to be successful. They want every District Deputy to be successful. They want every State Council to be successful. To that

end, they take very talented people and I am proud to say they have taken most of their people from the great State of Illinois where some of the talent has come from and I want to thank first and foremost our Regional Program Consultant who mentors many states, but I hope he is proud to say he is from the great State of Illinois, Past State Deputy, Joseph Petruszynski, please stand up. [Applause].

I want to say we have been blessed by having phenomenal Supreme Directors come from the State of Illinois. We have a tremendous legacy, having Brother Bob Hisel, Brother Darrel Beck, doing on up to Charles Foos and of course Supreme Director, Logan Ludwig. So I ask Brother Hisel if he is in the room, Brother Foos, Brother Ludwig to please stand up. [Applause].

Finally I want to thank the most important people, that is you, the membership. The people who work in our local councils for what? To work for their Church; to work for their Community; they work for those less fortunate; those in need; they work to strengthen their own families. Why do you do it? You do it because you know, as we all know it's the right thing to do. As pointed out many times by our Bishop, the Knights of Columbus do the right thing.

May it always as it should be [unintelligible] and of course committed to our Church, Community and Faith, but most of all, ONE FAMILY UNDER GOD

Vivat Jesus!

At this time I ask that our Worthy **Charitable Activities Director, Bill Linz**, please step to the podium to present the Charitable Activities Report for this Charity year.

"Reverend Fathers, Worthy State Deputy, Worthy Supreme Director, State Officer's, and My Brother Knights and Ladies all.

The first principal of our order is **CHARITY**. We continue to teach this lesson of charity to our new members, children, grandchildren and the entire world in our actions as members of the Knights of Columbus. Setting good examples is what we do all year long through our charitable activities.

When a disaster hits a community, whether it's a tornado, a fire, hurricane or flood, the Knights of Columbus are there to help.

When Special Olympics needs volunteers or assistance, the Knights of Columbus are there to assist.

When a man answering God's call to become a Priest finds himself in financial need and fears he may not be able to fulfill his vocation, the Knights of Columbus are there to provide funds and support.

As our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews head off to college and find themselves on their own for the first time in their lives, when they need a friend to talk to about their faith and a place to attend mass between their class schedules. The Knights of Columbus have helped to provide a campus Newman Center where students can retreat.

To my Brother Knights across the State of Illinois, your State Charities Team would like to thank you for your dedication and hard work. This past year through your efforts, we raised almost \$2.25 million. Although we did not reach any of our state goals, this is still an outstanding total.

I'm hoping that you have seen or you have a copy of the **Newman Campus Ministry** DVD that Roy Lanham has put together, thanking Brother Knights for their hard work toward the Newman Campus Ministries. [SD Barone interjected that Brother Stites would show it right now]

These DVD's are available at the Faire at the Newman Table. Show it to your council members and your new members. Get them involved as being a donor As Knights of Columbus we play a vital role in the success of our Newman campus Ministry. We can not let our youth down. The last year, the State Council has donated on your behalf \$225,000 which is distributed to the Newman Programs across the state. Last year Jerry

Bevignani started the "Get on Target with Newman" program. We must get on target with Newman and stay on target with Newman.

Our past history has shown that we don't have as many Century donors as in the past years, and we pray that we will see that growth again. We also would like to see more donations of \$5, 10, and 20 from all Brother Knights and from new donors. Just a little reminder, funds go to more than just the larger colleges and universities. Although not all Newman Campus Ministries have a center or a building, they still have Newman Apostolate Program. Here are just a few colleges that we support: Chicago State, College of Du Page, Illinois College, Rockford College, and many more. In fact we support the Newman Program at over 50 colleges and universities throughout Illinois which service over 475,000 students.

This year your **General Assistance Fund** dollars allowed the State Council on your behalf to provide help in many ways. For example, we assisted with repairs to some parishes. St. James Parish had a main water line burst; St. Rocco Oratory had a fire; St. Joseph Retirement and Nursing home chapel walls and ceiling collapsed; the towns of Watseka and Pontiac were hit with the floods. Gifts for the Troops helped by sending packages to our soldiers in Iraq. We assisted two Brother Knights with some major medical expenses. We also assisted a Brother Knight who had a fire in his home. **GAF Chairman, Joseph Matlon** has reminded you to *Pass the Can* at your council meeting. Also please send in your donations to the state office at least quarterly. By not sending

your funds on a quarterly basis, you are hurting those in need. We must be ready at all times to help when a disasters strikes.

The **Vocation raffle** this past year was successful. Your **Co-Chairmen PSD Ron Ziemba and PSD Bill Brown** did an excellent job on the vocation raffle. Also thank you to all of you for doing your part on getting out and selling raffle tickets. Remember that this is the only state council supported raffle. The proceeds from this year's raffle allowed us to donate around \$100,000 to our seminarians.

Please don't forget to participate in the **RSVP Program**. If you haven't sent your RSVP form into Supreme; please do so as soon as possible. Remember our seminarians appreciate our help and support. They will be our priests of tomorrow, and they need our help today. Please keep our seminarians in our prayers.

As you have seen on our State Deputy's report, the **MR/LD** campaign was a little off this year, but it wasn't a bad year. We can and have in the past, done much better. The MR/LD Drive this year is the weekend of September 19, 20, and 21. **MR/LD Co-Chairmen Ted Glaser and Ed Feeney** are getting the information together and planning the MR/LD kickoff meetings. Plan to attend the kickoff meeting in your area. We have important information to help you with your Drive and information about additional funds that may be available in you area. Your councils should have made all preparations and

plans for your MR/LD Drive, if you haven't please make that one of your first thing to do when you return home after this weekend State convention. If you haven't sent in your **MR/LD Chairman form** you could turn it in at the MR/LD table and also receive a gift. Councils that have turned their chairman form prior to the convention will receive a gift too. The deadline to receive a gift is here at the convention, any form turned in after this weekend SORRY, your form is late. Actually, this is your free gift if you get your form in. [Charity Director Linz held up a baseball hat for all to see]. State Deputy Barone, asked: "You mean I get a free hat if I turn in my form?" "Yes you get a free cap" responded Director Linz.

I would like to thank the councils who have turn in your form already by mail or e-mail. Remember that it is to your benefit to organize a successful drive. You determine which approved organization receives your donation. On your behalf the State Council through part of your collections has donated around a quarter-of-million dollars this year for Special Olympics. We also provide low interest loans to the MR Homes across the State. This year we considered and are working on several requests. SO YES, The fruits of your labors are hard at work, and we thank you for your years of support, and your continued support for MR/LD.

As I said earlier, we did not reach any of our goals at the state level. But we had many councils reached all their goals. There are a few councils that did very little or nothing at all. There should be no reason why State goals cannot be met. Remember the State

council is all 71,000 plus members and the 400 plus councils in Illinois; because without members and councils, there would not be a State Council. To those councils that annually meet their goals, we thank you. We have put together a Certificate of High Achievement Category reads: "In grateful recognition of achieving 100% of their goals in 4 out of the 4 Charities" or "(3 out of the 4 Charities)" and a gift as a thank you.

I don't understand why councils when they meet their goals or after a State formal drive are completed, why they stop working on Charities. Charity work should continue every day all year around. Our charity year is from May 1st to April 30th of each year. We have heard for some rumor that when a council exceeds their goals by a larger amount, they think that their next year goals will go higher. This is not true, with one exception. Your Newman, GAF, and Vocations goals are simply an assessment of per active members. So the only way your goal would increase is by recruiting more members. But that is a good thing; it shows that you have a healthy membership program. If you have 100 members, your Newman goal would be \$500.00 dollars. If you raise a \$1000.00 dollars, your goal next year will still be \$500.00 dollars. (If your Membership stays the same) So let's get out there and raise as much money as we can and as a result we can help more people in need.

The one exception is in MR/LD. It is based on what you have raised over the last three years. That the total is averaged out, then another 3% is added on. That is usually not large amount. The MR/LD is the one goal that we come particularly close to each

year 97% as you have seen. Let's make an extra effort and reach our goal. Did you know for the last few years we have been at the Threshold of reaching the 2 million dollar mark? We can get it done. Just because we do our drive over one weekend, does not mean we cannot keep collecting for MR/LD. So I encourage you to keep working at it.

My Brother Knights, thank you for all of your hard work over this past year. I can assure you that all of your efforts are greatly appreciated by your State Charities Team, and the State Council. I hope that we were able to serve you and work for you as well as you worked for us. The new charities year is upon us. Let's try to get a good start and make those goals that are set before us. I'm certain you will keep up your enthusiasm to succeed in charities for all of those that are in need of our help.

Thank You and God Bless"

State Deputy Barone, I would like to ask Brother Linz to stay here for a minute and ask the other members of the Charities Team to stand for a minute. Let's give them a round of applause for all the hard work that they do"

At this time I would like to ask District Deputy Brother John O'Keefe to please step forward real quick for a presentation of some of the proceeds that we give out. This one from the General Assistance Fund, is to help a missionary, who has motorcycle problems and can't get himself around to all of his people. But we need him to spread the Catholic

Faith. He needs his motorcycle fixed. We're going to get the Faith to the people because they can not get to him. So on behalf of you, my Brother Knights, and 71,000 Brother Knights, we present a check for \$500 to the Archdiocese of Kampala to help this missionary to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to his people.

Brother O'Keefe accepted the check and addressed the gathering. "Gentlemen, I'd like to thank you for this donation. It is actually inspired by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting so I would like to hand it to the National Vice Chair on Scouting, Gordon Steeple, who will carry this check personally to Uganda, East Africa next week and give it to Father himself." And Gentlemen we also have additional funds from our council that he will be also taking in a total of \$1,110 that he will also be taking. So once again we thank you very much."

State Deputy Barone added " That's just an example of some of the great programs that all of our local councils in Illinois do"

"At this time, I ask you to rise and welcome Associate State Chaplain, Father Jim McIlhone who will give the Sympathy & Condolence Report."

"Just one comment on the previous presentation: Last summer I was in Kampala, Uganda and will guarantee that a motorcycle is the best way of getting around other than your 2 feet.

Each year a number of our Brother Knights pass away and at this time we like to remember those that have passed away this year.

STATE OFFICERS

Al Kukla, Past State Deputy, Former Master

Robert McHale, Former State Warden, Former Master

STATE COMMITTEEMEN

Lenny Schachtner, Diocesan Membership Chairman Rockford Diocese

DISTRICT DEPUTIES

Kenneth Diers, FDD, PGK #4596, PFN

William Dale Drone, FDD, PGK #988

Andrew Garbacz, FDD, PGK 1555, Past Chapter President

Michael Hennesy, FDD, PGK 5866

Paul C Kotz, FDD, PGK #7624

Paul J Scehovic, FDD, PFN

Jerome H. Wedige, FDD, GK #4776

CHAPLAINS

Rev. Eugene Cerniglia, #5751

Rev. Paul Cull, Chaplain, #731

Rev. Art Fagan, #5751

Rev. Raymond Holmgren #7527

GRAND KNIGHTS

Louis G. Beeler, PGK #2944

Gary Bertolo, PGK #4293

John Owen Brendel, PGK #9266

Ben J Calcaterra, PGK #2164

George Cassidy, PGK #792

Clarence Clary, PGK #734

James P. Colleary, PGK #1846

Joseph A Doyle, PGK #6993

Verian G Fietsam, PGK #3789

Michael J. Fill PGK #7331

Adriano V Galassi, PGK #4338

Frank Gioia, PGK #1911, PFN

Andrew S. Gruca, PGK #2789

George H. Haase, PGK #1343

Wilburt J. Haarman, PGK #665, PFN#214

Dave Hasquin, PGK #4688

George Hertz, PGK #11707

John C. Hilan, Jr. PGK #282

Lester R Hochhalter, PGK #9770

David T Hojnacki, PGK #5573

Raymond "Doc" Holland, PGK # 10212

Stan Jakalski, GK # 1911

Joseph Keigher, PGK #745

James Kulavic, GK #6707

Elmer Laurent, PGK #5081, PFN

Albert J Ledet, Sr., PGK #731

Walter J. Luber, PGK #1580 PFN

Raymond Luchtefeld, PGK #665, PFN

Lyle Martin, PGK #745

John A. Mass, PGK #988

Dennis McInerney PGK #6521, PFN

John C Mills, PGK #2859

Raymond Moore, PGK #6483

Joseph B. Mueller, PGK #4745

Alvin Myerscough, PGK # 1952

John Nass, PGK 988

Stanley P Niski, PGK #4338

Dr. Thomas O'Shea PGK #4849

Mike Orszula, PGK #1911

Henry Orth, PGK #3731

Joseph Sabo, PGK #731

George Schmittling, PGK #2944

Edward P Schuman, PGK #10212

Charles Sethaler, PGK #2944

James F. Stephens, PGK #860

Byron Weiler, PGK #1352, PFN

Kenneth Westjohn, PGK #2874

Edward Zettle, PGK #1911

FAITHFUL NAVIGATORS OF THE FOURTH DEGREE

Joe Barra, PFN #206

Jean Fiedler, PFN #234

Adolph A Kuzniaz, PFN #1556

Joe McNamara, PFN #234

Stephen Miget, PFN #210

Clarence Summers, PFN #1666

OTHERS

Stephen Adams, brother of Andrea Linz, wife of State Charities Director, Bill Linz

Martha Brown, mother of Past State Deputy, Bill Brown

Rose Decatoire, mother of Jeanne Spainhour, wife of PSD William Spainhour

Henry Hyde, US Congressman

Mable C. LaJoie, Mother of Executive Secretary Don LaJoie

Howard S. Lively, father of Past State Deputy Don Lively

Frank J. Schwartz, father of State Membership Director, Frank J. Schwartz, Jr.

Catherine Woods, mother of Judy Havrilka, wife of IPSD Paul Havrilka, Jr.

May their Souls, and all the Souls of the Faithful Departed through the Mercy of God,
Rest in Peace.

[Response] Amen

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord

[Response] Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them"

State Deputy Barone thanked Father McIlhone for his report. We are going to take a moment of silence. "Thank you".

Once again, State Deputy addressed the group. "At this time we would have some convention announcements. **Brother Schwartz**, do you have some convention announcements? Real quick!"

Brother Schwartz assumed the podium. "For those of you wondering where the *Activity Training and Planning session* is, it is that room right back there, where the Grand Ballroom E is located. For those of you that have Scrapbooks and Newsletters they have to be in by 12:15, if they are not in they will not be judged.

Those are my 2 announcements"

State Deputy Barone returned to the podium "As Father Chuck comes forward to give us the blessing before our meal I am going to remind you that this hotel has "Holy Mackerel" and "Holy Cow" and Holy Gosh, but the mall is directly across the parking lot. There is a food court in there you can find just about anything you would like to eat there. There is a place in Target as well. So you have 2 hours for lunch, but I need you to be here for 1:30. That is when we are going to give out the awards to these councils and they really need your presence here to really encourage them to do the great work they did and thank them for the hard work they did.

Now will you rise and please welcome, **Associate State Chaplain, Father Chuck**

Tuttle."

Fr Tuttle stood at the podium: "In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen."

[The group repeated in unison] "Bless us o Lord for these thy gifts which we are about to receive from thy bounty Christ our Lord Amen."

Fr Tuttle again said "Thank the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Amen"

The Reception was adjourned at 11:30 AM

