



# Knights of Columbus **133<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention** Connecticut State Council **Bristol • April 24-26, 2026**

## Good of the Order Report 2025-26

Connecticut Knights of Columbus remain uniquely positioned to respond to the opportunities and challenges facing Catholic men, their families, and the Church in our state. Our councils are successfully answering the call to grow, and to serve and evangelize men and their families.

Our jurisdiction continues to provide leadership in New England and throughout the Order by hosting and supporting the Supreme Headquarters, and Council 1 at the birthplace of the Order. We ask that all continue to support the Order by refining the focus on Faith, Family, Community and Life. We recognize and support all the councils and districts who are on pace for STAR status as this acknowledges their Faithful embrace and support of service, and membership growth. We appreciate our Connecticut State Officers and their considerable Worthy support of every Council and District.

Young adult Hispanic Catholics make up over 50% of the Catholic Church, and we must continue to have real discussions of growth in the Church here in Connecticut. We have also recognized the distinctive cultural and linguistic differences, and their individual needs presented when engaging Portuguese speaking men. Together, these groups offer paths to success in CT new council growth and membership initiatives within their respective Catholic communities in Connecticut. The State Council team is partnering with our parish priests to share Blessed Michael McGivney's vision with our Spanish and Portuguese-speaking brothers.

There are numerous programs and initiatives where Connecticut Knights led the way in charity this past year, and three efforts continue to stand out for their impact across the state. Our Coats for Kids program has once again exceeded expectations, increasing the total coats distributed and adding sites in each diocese. The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut March for Life was an outstanding testament to our commitment to the defense of the unborn. We again organized numerous buses and participants, facilitating 2,000 plus participants who attended. The State also actively supports Special Olympics, in part through Council contributions from their Tootsie Roll Drives, and in part through the thousands of hours contributed in supporting local events and the annual CT Summer Games. Each program witnesses the strength of our state and local council collaborations on Order wide charitable initiatives.

As we look forward to planning another successful year, councils should consider three areas in which there is still opportunity to improve – our support for Catholic families, our work of faith formation, and our support of vocations to the priesthood.

We should look in each of our communities for even more opportunities to gather young families together, and to make our programs more inclusive and encouraging for families, in order that we might strengthen the bonds of our families and the parish. Each council should work directly with the Pastor and provide support to engage families. Also, as tangible support to Catholic families, councils are encouraged to review their college scholarship programs and consider directing those efforts towards Catholic grade school

and high school tuition, where it will make an even larger impact right now on a family trying to provide for Catholic education.

In support of the faith formation of our brother Knights, we continue to encourage council leaders to adopt COR in their local councils. The initiative is the premier Knights of Columbus model for helping Catholic men build a more intentional relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, formation and fraternity.

The relationship between Knights and our priests is central to our founding by Blessed Michael McGivney, and we continue to need good men to respond to the call to the priesthood. Every council should look to increase their material and spiritual support of our Connecticut seminarians through the RSVP program. Several Councils have made it a goal to sponsor young men who aspire to join the vocation. Each CT Council is encouraged to join this worthy challenge.

With growth and success comes the need for more men to step forward as leaders, both in our councils but also in service to the State Council. Council leaders should continue to promote leadership opportunities to younger men joining their councils and we encourage Grand Knights and officers to pursue development as District Wardens and District Deputies.

As the war in Ukraine continues, and conflicts have begun near the birthplace of Christianity, we ask that all pray for our Brothers in Ukraine and Poland, and those on the front lines everywhere, keeping in mind in thoughts and prayers and all the support you can provide for refugee relief and support for families, including many widows and orphans. Connecticut Knights continue to unite our efforts with the Order's *Ukraine Solidarity Fund* and *Christian Refugee Relief* program, that through our prayers and funding for relief, that we may also soon see peace.

This year we acknowledge the Election and Inauguration of the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, the first pope to have been born in the United States, the first to hold either [U.S.](#) or [Peruvian citizenships](#), and the first from the [Order of Saint Augustine](#). He chose his name in port in honor of Leo XIII, whose encyclical [Rerum novarum](#) established modern [Catholic social teaching](#) and promoted [labor rights](#). His choice of papal name is based on his concern about the world's cultural shifts. a type of [Copernican Revolution](#) involving [artificial intelligence](#) and [robotics](#).

Additionally, we wish to acknowledge the CT State Council McGivney Award Honoree, Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly, and his wife Vanessa and Family for their dedication and service to the Order, advancing the Knights' mission of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. We also salute his service to the nation in the US Navy.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Good of the Order Committee*

Bill Taylor DD – Chairman  
Karl Helff DD  
Ed Sheeran DD

Tom Sinkewicz DD