



Knights of Columbus Connecticut State Council 133rd Annual Convention Hartford • April 24 - 26, 2026

2026 Report of the Committee on Greetings to the Hierarchy

To the Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne, Archbishop of Hartford and Honorary State Chaplain,
the Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport
the Most Reverend Richard F. Reidy, Bishop of Norwich
the Most Reverend Paul P. Chomnycky, Bishop of the Eparchy of Stamford
the Most Reverend Juan Miguel Betancourt, Auxiliary Bishop of Hartford
the Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair, Archbishop of Hartford,
the Most Reverend Daniel A. Cronin, Archbishop Emeritus of Hartford
the Most Reverend Peter A. Rosazza, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus
the Most Reverend Christie A. Macaluso, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus
the Reverend Jeffrey V. Romans, State Chaplain
the Reverend Monsignor J. Peter Cullen, Immediate Past State Chaplain
Your Excellencies, Monsignors, and Reverend Fathers:

On behalf of our elected Connecticut State Officers and the members of the Knights of Columbus and our families we, the delegates, and attendees of the 133rd Annual Meeting of the Connecticut State Council, extend our warmest greetings to each of you. In this year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-six, we loyally extend through you, our prayers and full support of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV.

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly has reminded us that the Second Vatican Council declared that the Church is a sign and Instrument of communions with God and of unity for the whole human race, and Unity, together with charity is one of our Order's first principles. At our founding, Blessed Michael McGivney stated that the purpose of the Knights is to "unite the men in our faith" in order to "gain strength and be charitable." During these times it may seem that unity around us is lost, but Supreme Knight Kelly goes on to state "we should not turn a blind eye to real problems, but to practice both charity and unity especially in disagreement and to not focus on things we cannot change but take responsibility for things we can".

The Supreme Knight acknowledges that to evangelize successfully, Knights need to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, formation, and fraternity. We achieved this through a program developed by the Knights called COR. The Connecticut State Council was proud to be one of a couple states to pilot the COR Initiative. Now we have 15 councils who have held COR gatherings with another 10 councils that are significantly interested in participating in the COR Initiative and another 26 councils who have expressed interest in considering the COR initiative. We continue to pray for our COR Formation Directors in each council for their patience and steadfastness in planting seeds in the minds of brother Knights to participate in this wonderful formation.

Another program that the Knights of Columbus are enthusiastic about is the Coats for Kids Program. Back in November the Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly attended 1000 coats being donated in Denver Colorado to Catholic School students, he said "The Coats for Kids Program has become synonymous with the Knights of Columbus mission of Charity as first established by our Founder Blessed Michael McGivney more than 140 years ago". The Knights of Columbus have now donated over 1 million coats to Children who may go without had it not been for the generosity of the various Knights of Columbus Councils that participate in this program. "Where there is a need there is a Knight" Kelly said. Here in Connecticut since 2012 we have donated 45,000 coats and counting. The state council this year offered to match every case purchased by councils which made a significant impact on the success of the program this year. In addition to that, we have also donated coats to adults throughout Connecticut, satisfying a current need. As brother Knights I am sure you would agree with me that to see the smiles on the children's faces when they put on that new coat is just priceless.

The Knights of Columbus continue to support the Right to life movement worldwide but especially here in Connecticut. Recently the Knights of Columbus were instrumental in orchestrating over 30 buses of supporters of the Right to life rally on March 18th in Hartford. From the K of C made signs being displayed by many of the thousands of attendees to the multiple references by several of the speakers who thanked the Knights for our unwavering support on belief of the work people are doing at the Capital to defeat Abortion legislation, it was clear of the Knights are making a huge impact. As a participant in the March for Life walk this year, I was impressed by not only the passion of the speakers, but also the people standing all around me acknowledging cheers of support as we processed through the streets of Hartford. Many of the officers from the Supreme office in New Haven were there in attendance as well which impressed on me how this support of this issue really comes from the top in the Knights of Columbus.

As you are aware, the Knights of Columbus also participate in the Silver Rose devotion each year where prayers for the Unborn make their way on a pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City from all over the United States and Canada. In the recent issuance of the Columbia Magazine, it was stated by Msgr. Eduardo Chaves a member of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Council 14138 and who is the postulator for the cause for canonization of St. Juan Diego that "The Pro-life prayers and pledges signify the commitment of so many hearts to remind us that we are Gods Family and this goes beyond borders, languages, traditions and cultures, love unites us". Let us please pray for the growth of the Right to life movement here in Connecticut and around the world as well as the continued support for the unborn with the Silver Rose devotion not only by brother Knights, but by all people.

The war in Ukraine has entered its 5th year and the Knights of Columbus is steadfast in both action and prayer to end this conflict that has impacted too many people and families. The Knights of Columbus has contributed over \$22 million dollars

through the Standing with Ukraine Fund and started a Novena of Solidarity with our 2,700 brother Knights and their families in Ukraine. On the ninth day of the novena, the petition is "May the Lord fill the hearts of young people with faith and the courage to live in solidarity with one another." We pray for the end of the Ukraine war and all conflicts around the world.

The Connecticut State Council is grateful and honored to be presented with a first-class relic of Blessed Michael McGivney. The McGivney Relic Pilgrimage gives people the opportunity to honor and venerate Blessed McGivney with votive Masses, prayer hours, litanies, and veneration of his relic. We continue to pray for the canonization of our founder Blessed Michael McGivney.

Our Order continues to serve in our parishes, communities, universities, and prisons in Connecticut and accomplish our Lord Jesus Christ's mission of love through the exercise of our principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. We request your continued prayers for the ongoing success, encouragement, support, and safety of our dedicated Knights of Columbus brothers involved in these many programs.

We also ask for your continued prayers for the Order's membership to grow in numbers and throughout all age groups and that all our members remain steadfast and grow in their Catholic faith and beliefs. We ask you to pray for the Knights of Columbus throughout the State of Connecticut to help build our domestic church.

We take this opportunity to thank all our Connecticut clergy for their continued dedicated service to the Church and for their personal support of their parishes, in this time of unprecedented challenges. The Connecticut clergy have rapidly and creatively adapted to meet the spiritual needs of their parishioners and for that we are eternally grateful. We also thank them for their continued support of the Knights of Columbus as we strive to serve families, parishes, and broader communities around the world. We offer our total commitment to support new vocations with our perpetual prayers and seminarian scholarships. We thank you, our archbishops, and bishops, for continuing to support your dioceses' programs that care for the disadvantaged, disabled, displaced, confined, elderly, and needy.

In closing, we request your prayers and blessings on the Connecticut State Council officers and all Knights of Columbus members and their families in our state, as we continue to pray for the well-being, guidance, and fortitude for you and the people of God here in the Founders State.

Vivat Jesus by the Committee on Greetings to the Hierarchy:

God Bless you all.

David Sanchez DD (Chair)