



Knights of Columbus

Order of the 4th Degree

Bishop James A. Healy Province

District of New Hampshire

Jay J. Morris, District Master

My Brother Knights,

On behalf of myself, my two District Marshals, and my entire staff, and in conjunction with our Worthy State Deputy, Mark Messier, I welcome each of you to the 127th Annual New Hampshire Knights of Columbus State Council Convention in beautiful Whitefield, NH! Spending the weekend conducting the business of the State Council, with good food and hopefully a little fun sprinkled in, is indeed a huge commitment, and I thank each and every one of you for being here and taking this important work so seriously.

It is indeed an honor to serve the Sir Knights of the District of New Hampshire. The District Master is appointed for a two year term by the Supreme Master, with approval of the Supreme Knight. Since taking office, my goal has been to surround myself with highly qualified and knowledgeable people. Two such people are my Marshals, Armand Carignan and Denis Querrard. Both have been an amazing help to me in carrying on the business of the Patriotic Degree in our State. As a team, we hope Faithful Navigators feel comfortable inviting any one of us to participate in their Patriotic events, initiate their Assembly Officers and using us as a resource for whatever they need.

The District of New Hampshire presently has over 1,400 Sir Knights, 34% of all active Knights in the State, spread across 23 active Assemblies, a much higher rate of participation than the National average of 24%. It is my hope that we all continue to recruit Knights to the **Patriotic Degree**. Knights attain full knighthood after being vetted by their local Council and their affiliated Assembly, and participating in a Master-sponsored **Exemplification of Patriotism**. These events are held each quarter of the year in various parts of the State. At the time of this writing, we have held 3 such events this Fraternal Year; Derry, Concord and Littleton, with a 4th event planned for this June in a location yet to be determined at the time of this letter's writing. These 3 events have brought 42 NH Knights to Sir Knighthood. I want to thank the dedicated members of the Master's Staff that make these events happen, the Faithful

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Navigators that promote the 4th Degree at their feeder Councils, and the Council officers that I know also promote the 4th Degree. I also would like to extend a special thanks to Exemplification Team Captain and Former District Master Ed Kennedy.

In February, 2025, the Supreme Board of Directors approved a modification to the Ceremonial for the **Exemplification of Patriotism**, allowing candidates' families and friends into the chamber to witness the entire Ceremony. We have used this new Ceremonial this entire Fraternal Year and have received very positive feedback from all! And what a blessing we have been given that as I lay the Master's sword on the shoulder of each candidate for Knighting, his family is right there at his side participating in this amazing moment!

The Color Corps continues to grow around the State as we rebuild following the regalia change of several years ago. Many Councils and Assemblies have authorized funds to assist Sir Knights in the purchase of a new uniform, which has allowed many men to be added to the Color Corps ranks. Color Corps Commanders continue to encourage Sir Knights to join their ranks, and I thank each of them for conducting this important work. Sir Knights have participated in untold events in uniform all around the State, to include standing at fallen Knights' Wakes and participating in their funerals, marching in parades, serving our Veterans and First Responders, participating in events at our State Veterans' Cemetery, helping with the NH Special Olympics, participating in several Diocesan events at the request of Bishop Libasci, and attending trainings held by Color Corps Commanders and the District Marshals. While all Knights in action show our fellow parishioners and the public that the Knights of Columbus is a vibrant group of Catholic men serving their parishes and communities, nothing highlights that fact more than a Color Corps, doing what uniformed Knights do!

I look forward to continuing to serve the District and encourage any suggestions, questions or requests anyone may have. My contact information is listed at the bottom of this document. My Marshals, staff and I stand at your service! And again, thank you for being at this Convention, and thank you for all the work you do back home, doing the Lord's work.

Vivat Jesus!

Respectfully,

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