



New Hampshire State Council Knights of Columbus

State Faith Director's Annual Report

March 15, 2026

Worthy Brother Knights:

Our past fraternal year has been one of striving to honor the legacy of Jim Preisendorfer, our longtime and much regarded State Faith Director, who passed away early 2025. Of the many notable traditions he developed and nurtured over the years, I want to focus on two, the Men's Retreat and the Pilgrim Icon Program.

The Men's Retreat is an annual weekend gathering of Brother Knights and men interested in becoming Knights. It is held each year at Camp Bernadette, a Catholic girls camp, founded in 1953 by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester. The camp is located in an idyllic location next to Lake Wentworth in Wolfeboro NH. More than a decade ago, Jim Preisendorfer, John McClure, and a handful of Brother Knights held our first Men's Retreat, with Fr. Robert Smolley as its first Spiritual Director.

Over the years the Men's Retreat grew into an annual tradition with more than 40 gentlemen participating in 2025. Our 2025 Spiritual Director was Fr. Andrew Beauregard, a Franciscan of the Poor Christ, from Holy Rosary Shrine in Lawrence MA. The Friday to Sunday weekend included Mass each day, four conference sessions, morning and evening liturgy of the hours, confessions, rosary, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus before meals, as well as a campfire, fishing, and swimming for a few souls braving the cold water. Fr. Andrew has graciously agreed to return as our Spiritual Director for the upcoming 2026 Men's Retreat, which will run September 11-13, 2026. We are all looking forward to another successful retreat of meaning and reflection.

The next program I want to highlight is the Pilgrim Icon Program. This program was developed by Supreme in 1979 to provide Knights an opportunity to gather in prayer services around a common theme across the order. The theme for last year was a Sacred Heart Holy Hour featuring an icon depicting the Sacred Heart of Jesus, painted by Pompeo Batoni in 1767. Supreme provided our State Council with two icons, with the blessing of Pope Francis' Papal Almoner.

Our State Pilgrim Icon Chairman, Denis Querrard, organized the 2025/26 program and will be chairing the 2026/27 program as well. Several councils participated in the Pilgrim Icon Program over the last fraternal year and both icons visited locations throughout the state. A few weeks ago, a letter was sent by our State Chaplin, Fr. Aggie, to his brother priests in each parish, informing them of the program and inviting them to contact their councils. Several councils have in turn contacted Denis to schedule the Pilgrim Icon for future veneration. We will strive to keep councils engaged and informed of this important program.

I wish to briefly mention two additional programs, the State Rosary, and the Living Rosary.

In October of 2020, the founder of our order, Blessed Michael McGivney was beatified. In celebration of that event, our State Council initiated a plea to our Knights to pray an intentional rosary for the canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney. Our Knights responded in grand fashion

with more than 5,000 rosaries said over the program's duration. In connection with that plea, the State Council instituted a monthly online gathering to recite the rosary, hosted by Jim Preisendorfer, our State Faith Director, with the State Officers and other State Council members, each reading a decade. Due to scheduling conflicts, several years ago Jim passed the torch to Mark "Chip" Lukitsch, our State Warden, who has been hosting the State Rosary ever since. The monthly tradition of the online State Rosary is anticipated fondly by all those involved and will continue throughout the next fraternal year. I heartily encourage all Knights in our state to take advantage of this outstanding monthly opportunity to pray the rosary in fraternal solidarity with your Brother Knights.

The last program I want to mention is the Living Rosary. Our version is a large rosary, with wooden beads approximately the size of a coconut, where each bead (or a few beads) is intended to be held up by an individual. The rosary prayer is said as it normally would be, however the person holding each bead is the one reciting that Hail Mary. It is a great way to pray in a group setting with everyone feeling like they are participating in a fraternal activity. We typically have the rosary used at the convention and camporee. We have also had individual councils use the rosary in their own parish. It is a great way to have a visible activity to celebrate things such as a church anniversary or special occasion.

Thank you for your participation, advice, and fellowship, during this last fraternal year, and I look forward to the new fraternal year.

Vivat Jesus!

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