



NJ State Council - General Programs

Annual NJ State Convention Report . May 2021

State Program Director Scott Williams, FDD

Worthy Acting State Deputy James E. Stoever, and my Brother Knights at all levels of involvement,

While the Pandemic hindered some of our Programs once again, it has been an outstanding year of successful programs because of the exemplary support and unwavering dedication of Knights conducting meaningful service and faith-based programs that made such a positive impact in the lives of so many throughout the State of New Jersey, especially considering the unprecedented circumstances our Order has had to overcome. As a Catholic, family, fraternal, service organization, the Knights of Columbus continues to demonstrate our commitment in performing so many great works that help our Catholic Church, our community, and those less fortunate or vulnerable. By working together with our Brother Knights and families, our faith-filled programs and charitable outreach bring spiritual growth to each of us, hope to those in need, and immense joy and fulfillment in giving to others. It is truly inspiring, and memorable to see these outstanding and heartfelt efforts selflessly performed by our valuable members that continually make our world a better place to live.

This past year, the New Jersey State Council of the Knights of Columbus continued full embracement of the %faith In Action+program model consisting of 4 program categories Faith, Family, Community, and Life. %Building the Domestic Church+initiative was the gateway to the %faith in Action+ Program model, which is now the strategic plan for a renewed closeness between families, parishes, and the Knights of Columbus. This %faith in Action+program model along with numerous programs offered by the New Jersey State Council has transformed our Order by helping us to live our faith and serve our community, while forming our members and strengthening our families and spiritual lives. Our programs enhance the membership's experience, persuade Catholic men to join our Order and are the source of honor, pride, and reputation for accomplishing good. Most importantly, our programs evangelize our faith and bear witness to our Catholic religion.

This past year, we continued to show our concern for our youth and vulnerable individuals by continuing to promote and mandate the Safe Environment Program which was a critical component in this year's mandatory training for key council personnel including the Grand Knight, Program Director, Family Director, and Community Director, and optional training for any interested Brother Knight. The Safe Environment Program is so important because it safeguards children and other vulnerable persons, assures members and their families that we maintain a safe environment, protects members from awkward situations, misunderstandings, and appearances of impropriety. This program builds trust with arch/dioceses and parishes and protects the good name of the Knights of Columbus. All are encouraged to visit www.kofc.org/safe for more information.

At this moment, I would like to address our Late State Deputy Vincent P. Tavormina. You have been and always will be a great influence on my adult life. While our lives became intertwined through our relationship in the Knights of Columbus, I will forever be grateful for your insight and guidance thorough my career. I have always appreciated your friendship and mentorship and I will miss you greatly as I proceed down this path you have built. I will remember you fondly and work to earn the respect of every Knight I encounter as you would have expected of me. You are and will always be my guiding voice during my career as a State Officer. You will be hard to improve on, but I will do my best.

I already do and will continue to miss you, my friend. Rest in Peace in the Arms of Our Lord.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the members of our General Programs Team for their outstanding program work carried out during this fraternal year, especially Deputy Program Director Edward Michalak, FDD; Faith Director Robert Lynch, FDD; Community Director Robert Wright, FDD, Family Director Arthur Troccoli, FDD; Life Director Steven Richardson, FM; as well as Columbian Squires/Squire Rose Director Thomas Rohe, PGK; and all the State Chairmen who did such an amazing job of promoting, coordinating, and facilitating each of their State Council programs considering the extremely unprecedented times we experienced throughout this fraternal year.

Additionally, many thanks to those that supported our General Programs Team mission: our beloved and esteemed State Chaplain Most Reverend Paul Bootkoski, Bishop Emeritus, and Assistant State Chaplain Rev. Ernest Rush for their outstanding spiritual guidance; The Late State Deputy Vincent P. Tavormina, and Acting State Deputy James E. Stoever our State Officers, and Past State Deputies for their guidance and hard work in ensuring the continued strength and effectiveness of each of the programs offered; our Executive Secretary John Connell, FDD and John Hencinsky, FDD for their seemingly endless work at the Executive Office handling all the incoming forms and administrative matters; Webmaster Bernie Ernst, FDD and his assistants Martin Boyle, FDD, Peter Briody, PGK, and John Gazis, FDD for his 24/7 work with maintaining databases, electronically collecting and compiling data from on-line forms, and communicating our important program information through the state website and state-wide email blasts; John Gazis, FDD for maintaining our State Directory and for a fantastic job of assembling the monthly *Crusader* newsletter to spread the word about our numerous programs; as well as Ron Kist for a great Cavalcade magazine that highlighted the best program accomplishments of so many awesome councils. Through teamwork, we were able to communicate our objectives, set our plan of action into motion, and realize the significant benefits of planning and implementing these outstanding programs designed by Supreme and State Council.

Finally, my sincere thanks go out to the Grand Knights, Chaplains, officers, members, and their families of each of the councils in New Jersey for their dedication and commitment in implementing such successful programs. Additionally, I cannot thank the District Deputies enough, for guiding each of their councils to raise awareness and help with the successful implementation of so many worthwhile programs that positively impacted the lives of so many. The heartfelt response by those involved with these great programs is beyond words and ALL councils and members are urged to continue to support these programs for an even better future!

The attached reports from our State Council Program Directors will provide some of the highlights for the 2020-2021 Fraternal year, demonstrating that our State and Supreme Council programs and the Faith in Action+program model continues to help us better connect with our Catholic Faith and Church, and to truly exemplify the principals of our Order for ALL in the local community to see. For more information, visit www.kofc.org/faithinaction.

In closing, it has truly been an honor and pleasure to serve my brother Knights in New Jersey as the State Program Director. The NJ State Council is extremely fortunate to have such councils of distinction and caliber who are involved in our many service programs that truly exemplify the principles of our Order. **Thanks, again, to all of you!** As in past years, it has been an incredibly successful year for General Programs and the Knights of Columbus considering all that this past fraternal year has thrown at us! The New Jersey State Council General Programs Team and I, along with our families, offer all of you our best wishes and prayers for a happy, healthy, and successful future. May God bless you for all you do for our Order and for our Catholic Church.

Vivat Jesus!

Respectfully submitted,

Scott C. Williams, FDD

State General Program Director

New Jersey State Council

Knights of Columbus