

2018-2019 State Deputy Acceptance Speech

Praise be Jesus Christ!

“Reverend Monsignors, Reverend Fathers, and Deacons. Worthy Supreme Director, Worthy State Deputy. Worthy State Officers. Worthy Past State Deputies. Worthy District Deputies. General Agents. Worthy Grand Knights. Worthy Council Officers. Worthy District Warden. Field Agents. Brother Knights, Ladies, and guests.

I am honored and humbled to be the State Deputy next year. I am very happy to further serve my Indiana brothers and the Knights of Columbus.

First and foremost, I must thank my wife Sheila and my family for supporting me in my K of C officer roles for the last 19 years.

Who are we and where are we going? The IN K of C Mission is:

We are a welcoming group of over 33,000 Catholic gentlemen, striving to be better Catholic gentlemen, husbands and fathers by servicing others in works of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism to fulfill the vision of our founder, the Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney, to aid one another to strengthen our faith, our families and our parishes in order to truly be the "Charity that Evangelizes" and the "Strong right arm of the Church."

This mission will be our guide. We need to continue doing things that align with this mission and stop doing things that aren't.

We will continue Building the Domestic Church. This is not just a "Church" program. This is integral to our mission as Catholic men to strengthen our faith, our families and our parishes. Building the Domestic Church programs will be integrated into Supreme's new "Faith in Action" program model that takes effect in July.

We will continue to support the Culture of Life, at all phases of life, in Indiana and the United States. We will promote the March for Life in Washington DC, Chicago, and now

Indianapolis. We will continue to help crisis pregnancy centers help women and children through Supreme's Ultrasound Initiative. The Indiana Knights of Columbus started the Gibault school nearly 100 years ago and will continue to support their mission to serve children. We will continue to support Special Olympics Indiana with money from Tootsie-Rolls, Polar Plunges, and Plane Pulls and many volunteer hours. We will continue to serve those on the margins of society.

We will continue to stand in solidarity with our Bishops and Priests; Support our Seminarians, Race for Vocations, and the Supreme RSVP program. We've initiated the Perpetual Memorial Society this year to remember our deceased loved ones at every State Council mass. All proceeds will be used to build the Christopher Fund endowment to support our five tremendous Indiana Bishops.

We will continue to help councils achieve Supreme Star Council and Indiana Santa Maria Awards. These awards are not to brag or honor individuals, but because God told to let our light shine, to attract good men and families to join us in our mission. We must attract new members and, even more importantly, attract our passive brothers to once again become active and engaged in our councils. The Indiana membership and Star Council incentives will continue.

We will continue to grow our order, not for the sake of numbers, but for two reasons:

1. Just like trees we're either growing or we're dying. There's no maintaining, and
2. Jesus told his disciples to spread the Good News to the ends of the earth.

We will support Catholic Men's Conferences in every diocese and be visible. These are especially important opportunities to recruit good men, men who want to make a difference, men who seeking the face of God, to join us.

How can all this be done? Nothing is Impossible with God! I'll be praying daily for the Indiana K of C. Please pray for me.

Thank you, Vivat Jesus!