



New Hampshire State Council Knights of Columbus

Good & Welfare Committee Report

David F. DeWorken



Brothers,

The more the world changes the more the challenges stay the same. We are just coming out of the pandemic. Different countries and different states have various restrictions to deal with trying to avoid a resurgence of COVID-19. In the state of New Hampshire most restrictions have been lifted but in no way have we gotten back to normal. If you doubt me go to your local church on Sunday.

Building the domestic church is still one of our major programs. Today, in the world of post-pandemic reality, promoting gatherings is even harder. While we have made some progress the challenge is even greater. Pastors have said to me, when asked how can the Knights of Columbus help, without hesitation, help put butts in seats. While we have helped, our efforts need to be redoubled. Each District and each council need to work with their pastors to stir up recognition of the Catholic Church's role in their community.

The "affiliate" program has given councils a tool to aid them in cleaning up their rolls so as to reflect a clearer picture on membership. Most councils have answered the call for identifying those members who are likely to be candidates for the affiliate program but there is still work that needs to be done. This program has focused attention on retention and the need for councils to double their efforts on maintaining active roles.

The aging of the members of our Order continues to be a concern. Delta Drives have been a help in recruiting but as the statistics show they are not a magic bullet. The objective for additional younger members depends directly on the methodology used to attract them. E-membership has helped but again is only one tool. Financial Secretaries and Grand Knights are being asked to regularly check the site for possible new members for their councils. Diligence is the key to making this system a success. Finding new young members continues to be a vital endeavor.

The Knights have shown over the past several weeks that they can be relied on when a major need arises. The Ukraine is in dire need of just about everything you can imagine. The Knights of Columbus responded with over a million dollars in funds. They also are working with our councils in Poland as well as the Latin and Greek Catholic Churches in Ukraine to provide temporary shelter, food, medical supplies, clothing, and communications.

Christopher Columbus is under attack as well as our Order. We cannot standby and let others define us. There is a saying which I will try and paraphrase, evil succeeds when good men stay silent. We must be proud of the Order we are a part of and see to it that the communities we serve understand who we are and how the Knights of Columbus are an important part of those communities.

Your brother in Christ,

David F. DeWorken

State Warden