



New Hampshire State Council Knights of Columbus

Life Director's Annual Report



Ronald Di Stasio

Fraternal year 20-21 has presented us with some difficulties and challenges. It also has presented opportunities to carry out programs in ways we never thought could happen. Go-to-Meeting, Zoom, and Webinar have enabled to complete successful programs and share ideas. I will review what we have done and delineate what we can achieve to promote a culture of life. Promoting this culture entails prayer, outreach, education, and political/legislative action.

PRAYER: Councils have united members and parishes via the Novena for Life. This year this activity was often carried out at home or in small groups. It is hoped that in the next fraternal year, will not be limited and can host the novena in their churches or council meeting hall. / Group and individual prayer were evidenced in participation in the Fall and Lenten 40 Days for Life campaigns. This year there were four venues in the Fall- Manchester, Concord, Greenland, and for the first time, Keene. I would like to see Councils commit 1 Brother Knight per week to pray at the clinics for the six-week period. Or, councils might plan a 40 Day for Life Day and go as a group with parishioners. / I must commend the Knights and fellow pro-lifers who attended the Midnight candlelight rally in Concord on Ash Wednesday. What a turn out! Our presence can and does change hearts and save lives.

OUTREACH: Our support of the 18 pregnancy centers in New Hampshire was very successful. In lieu of a laundry basket drive, councils purchased gift cards and made cash donations which totaled over \$12000.00. Twenty Councils and one Assembly participated. Think of what might have raised if 30 or 40 or 50 Councils made donations. Next year we will combine a laundry basket drive with gift card donations. This will better serve the pregnancy centers.

EDUCATION: Education played out at the 02/06 webinar: Celebrating the Culture of Life. We are moved and enlightened by the presentations of the guest speakers- Angel Marshall, Director of Pathways in Littleton, Lindsay Hyvonen, Director of Real Options in Nashua and Manchester, Beth Gaby, Coordinator of Concord 40 Days for Life, and Father Christian Tutor of New Hampshire Right to Life./ On a local level, Grand Knights should encourage the Lecturer to present different culture of life topics before a meeting./ Unfortunately, I had to cancel again the Annual Pro-Life Seminar because of the pandemic. I will be contacting the guest speaker, Sister Patricia Marie Barnette if she can make the trip from Pennsylvania.

POLITICAL ACTION: Despite the pandemic, Knights' presence was strong at the March for Life in Concord. The 4th Degree honor guard led the march, and over 350 were in attendance. We stood tall to tell New Hampshire and our nation that we will fight the good fight until abortion is the choice which is never taken. / As far as specific legislative matters, I will be working to make Brother Knights and their families aware of bills at the state house that demand our attention. This will entail phone calls, e-mails and even snail mail. But Council Life Directors need to be aware of life issues on all levels. Informative web sites include Cornerstone, New Hampshire Right to Life, the Susan B. Anthony List, the U.S.C.C.B; and the Diocese's site. More to come as move into the next fraternal year.

The keys to successful life programming are planning and unity of purpose. Ascertain what is feasible and what is not. Every Grand Knight needs to appoint a Life Director, who will jump start the programs and inspire new ideas. I will be asking the Grand Knights to send me the names and emails of their directors, so I can directly communicate with them. And, share your ideas. Make use of the state weekly newsletter and report your successes to Supreme. And work with your Church, Family, and Community Directors to develop programs with a common theme.

As Catholics we need to live our faith. And to live our faith we need to put the principles of Christianity into action. We are all made in the image and likeness of God. We must be compassionate but we cannot compromise the truth.

WE MUST BE COMMITTED TO EVANGELIZING THE GOSPEL OF LIFE!

Ron Di Stasio