

95TH ANNUAL CONVENTION 2017 PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Regina, Saskatchewan, April 30, 2017



The Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus held their 95th annual convention in Regina, Saskatchewan the weekend of April 28-30, 2017. The business meetings focused on informing all present about the important issues facing the Church, the Community, and the Order with guest speakers instructing the delegates on the information they should be taking back to their home Councils. The delegates passed the following resolution in support of healthcare workers who believe in the sanctity of life;

“That the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus continually lobby our elected MLA's and MP's by letter, phone calls and personal visits until Health Care Workers Rights legislation is adopted”. There is constant pressure on healthcare workers to violate their religious and conscious beliefs to perform abortions and euthanasia.

Another resolution adopted by the 122 delegates representing the 160 Councils and 10,600 members was a strong endorsement of action to defend access to Catholic education, “That the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus fully support the Catholic School Boards of Saskatchewan, and that the Government of Saskatchewan be encouraged to join in the appeal of the decision regarding the funding of non-Catholic students attending Catholic separate Schools.”

Other resolutions included continued prayers for the cause for the canonization of our founder, the Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, memorial donations to the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus Charitable Foundation on the passing of a member, and increased recognition of a council's Financial Secretary who plays the weightiest role in the viability of a council through his actions by preparing, maintaining council records, and keeping accurate fiduciary accounts.

The State Council re-elected the following executive effective July 1, 2017: State Deputy – Brian Schatz of Regina; State Secretary – Chris Bencharski of Meadow Lake; State Treasurer – Joe Riffel of Saskatoon; State Advocate – Larry Packet of Davidson; State Warden – René Gaudet of St. Louis. The Order is honoured to have Bishop Bryan Bayda Eparchy of Saskatoon to continue as State Chaplain and Denis Carignan, Battleford to continue as Immediate Past State Deputy.

From the opening Mass celebrated by Archbishop Donald Bolen, Saturday's Mass celebrated by Bishop Bryan Badya, to the Memorial Mass celebrated by Father Danilo Rafael and Concelebrated by Bishop Bayda, the 95th Annual Convention of the Knights of Columbus of Saskatchewan was a great success, holding firm to the principles of the Order; Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. The delegates left Regina better informed and inspired to go back to their communities and join together to “Be the Light of the Lord”.

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