

**MESSAGE
FROM THE
STATE DEPUTY**



**ORIENTATION CONGRESS
2010-2011**

**St.Hyacinthe
July 2-3, 2010**

Venerable State Chaplain,
Venerable colleagues from the State Executive of Quebec,
Venerable Supreme Director,
Worthy Supreme Vice Master,
Representative of the Director of Agencies,
Director of Programs
and Membership from the Supreme Bureau,
Venerable Regional Directors,
Venerable District Deputies,
Worthy Masters,
Venerable Officers of the Order,
responsible for Programs and Coordination,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to address my first words to our Venerable State Chaplain, Father Jean-Claude Drolet, who has, for many years, through his profound knowledge of the history of the Order and of the life of our Venerable Founder, Father Michael J. McGivney, guided one after the other those who have paid attention to his advice, each of the State Deputies and senior officers of the Order. Father Drolet, thank you for accepting to continue your essential support, particularly in these troubled years where pseudo intellectuals, through their inventions, seek to spread doubt in the minds of our people, to put down our values, and this, particularly in Quebec. Thank you for your message filled with hope. This journey, this challenge which you are proposing, it is up to each of us to adhere to it and to react according to one's ability.

To all members of the State Executive, my most sincere congratulations for your election. Thank you for accepting to work with me in this team dedicated to revival. I would like, before all these officers and our spouses to assure you of my support, to the best of my ability. To my friend, Claude Rousseau, thank you for an excellent job done. If we can now speak about revival, it is certainly due to the leadership and sense of duty which you displayed during the past two years serving the Order and your brother Knights. Cheers Claude and thank you for being with us in this new challenge.

To each of you, Venerable Officers who have accepted to serve the Order and your brother Knights at whatever level, I thank you and wish you all a most rewarding mandate. Your brother Knights truly count on you. Your attitude is key in the exercise of your position. When wearing your officer's jewel, you represent the authority of the Order. Many of you will, tomorrow, be officially recognized at the installation ceremony, before your spouses, as Officers of the Order of the Knights of Columbus. A number of you will be reconfirmed Officers of the Order. Let us be trustworthy and respectful. This duty is incumbent on each of us.

Ladies, Gentlemen, as heirs and heiresses of family and Christian values received from our parents, where do we stand? We were taught to love and respect each other, to have faith and to hope...

During my training session in New Haven, as State Deputy Elect, three weeks ago, our Venerable Supreme Knight, Mr Carl A. Anderson, said, during his address, and I quote: “Our cult Ministers are being attacked as if all were guilty of one or many wrongs. The Doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church is always true. As members of the largest organization of catholic men, if we do not react, who will do it in our place?”

And he added: “For over 125 years, many brother Knights, and you may be one of them, worked hard and succeeded in doing great things. Our Coat of Arms is very much respected throughout the world. Let us be proud of it! Let us be witness of this nobility in all our actions and declarations.”

For over fifteen years, applications to join the Knights have been on the decline, despite every effort, and there have been plenty... Our financial standing demands a new division of responsibilities, and equity from region to region, so as to have equal opportunity to succeed. We are at a turning point. The future of the Order in Quebec is in our hands. Will we say yes to the challenge before us? In my humble opinion, such is within our capability. However, it is urgent that we join forces.

A few years ago, a tremendous amount of work was done to avoid the current situation. Unfortunately, many recommendations were left unanswered. Far from questioning everything, I believe it is essential that we all take a new start. Have we become so different today from other organizations helping the needy? Have we clearly focused on and identified our successors, in our troubled environment? Must we wait for the flow, not to say the flood, to leave us stranded in some place, at the mercy of who and what?

Some time ago, a friend, a father, a brother invited us to join the Knights of Columbus. Each of us here answered “Yes”. We were taught, we took commitments and we were confirmed Knights of Columbus. We said yes to the works of our Venerable Founder, Father Michael J. McGivney, namely: to be the living witnesses of the Church and to help the Widow and the Orphan. What has become today of these lessons? Who are those disciples who were confirmed to be Knights of Columbus?

We cannot alone answer this last question, and more so propose a path guaranteeing success. But together, united as in the past and focusing on the same goal, I sincerely believe that this revival, centered on the Family and on our Children, will make us happy to be genuine Knights of Columbus, make radiant families and make our successors grateful.

All this looks fine. How can we take this turn, return to our values and to which values? I wonder, offer a hand and set off again. I continue and pull myself together. Each of us still has in the back of his mind who we were, what our values were. In respect of that memory, let us adapt to today’s life and become references of the way we, Knights of Columbus, wish to propose, which we want to follow.

As for us, members of the State Executive, we have agreed to commit ourselves to:

- Being respectful of members and to create an environment essential to the respect of others;
- To proceed to a true decentralisation to ensure greater equity;
- To establishing a more actual definition of the profile of a brother Knight in 2010;

finally

- To live within our means.

In order to give shape to these commitments, we have divided some of those files among ourselves.

Our Venerable State Chaplain, Father Jean-Claude Drolet, will prepare a draft definition which will allow us to answer, as soon as possible, the following questions:

- Who are we, Knights of Columbus of Quebec, in 2010?
- What is the profile of a potential Knight of Columbus candidate?

Our Venerable State Treasurer, Mr Claude Linteau, will establish clear and precise policies to ensure follow-up and controls to prevent unnecessary excesses; he will analyse various hypotheses of services management to be offered to Councils, and make recommendations to decision makers: either the general assembly, one of the Subordinate Councils, one or many fair and realistic administrative models, which will ensure a financial future measuring up to our needs and resources.

Our Venerable State Advocate, Me Leonce E. Roy, will be in charge of the Culture of Life subject. To begin with, he will clarify with Supreme Headquarters the objectives of this important program and its operating rules, specifically adapted to Quebec. Our decisions will thereafter be facilitated and our contributions applicable in every region. It is urgent and important that each area be able to actively participate to this great priority of the Civilisation of Love: "To live with dignity from conception to natural death". He will also supervise the preparation of a memoir to be presented to the province of Quebec Standing Committee on euthanasia.

Our Venerable State Warden, Mr Claude Touchette, will proceed to analyzing various programs with regards to issuing certificates, souvenir plaques, trophies, all types of recognition awards, and submit a procedure more adapted to our times, including awards presentation protocols for all levels.

Our Venerable Past State Deputy, Mr Claude Rousseau, will harmonize a close cooperation between two teams essential to the future of the Order in Quebec. Our initiation teams at all levels, under the leadership of Venerable Conferring Officers, will work hand in hand with those responsible for membership enrolment to ensure the

complete cycle of information, ballot, greeting and membership conservation. In addition, they will cooperate to the review of rituals procedures, to ensure that each of our Conferring Officers may be accredited by Supreme Headquarters.

Every Officer will plan his work with the cooperation of a team, to ensure his duties are performed with a view to successfully achieving the mandate accepted.

As for myself, I have, since my election, in cooperation with our Venerable Past State Deputy, worked on harmonizing our business relationship with Supreme Headquarters. Our communications are now very clear and effective. Both sides have agreed to make every effort so that Quebec's knighthood regains its previous status; the most important State in the Order. At this point, I would like to thank our Venerable Supreme Knight, as well as our Deputy Supreme Knight, for their support and undertaking to help us. Such was the case from all senior Officers.

Also, I plan on finalizing the work initiated by our Venerable Past State Deputy, Mr Claude Rousseau, concerning the introduction of a communications structure allowing all parties, at all levels of responsibility, to know where and with whom to refer, to ensure better cooperation and effectiveness.

The same will be done for our organizational structure, to eliminate overlapping lines of authority which hamper harmony between parties of an organization as large as ours.

Your contribution is essential to our success, to the development of these action plans, to their implementation and to the motivation of all Council Officers, and most of all to the commitment of our brother Knights. Our future depends on it.

Brother Knights, you have been identified and chosen for your leadership qualities in your community. Your past must be a guarantee of your future. Your brothers, your community need you. Your attitude will have a great impact; your choices, the path chosen, will have a bearing on youth, families, and the people who look at you, who await results from you and your brother Knights. Alone, we cannot take this turn, but united we can.

Yes, brother Knights, who are we in 2010 and what is the reason of our existence? More than ever, we must pull ourselves up; we must come out of our Councils. Let us organize our activities for and with the organizations which we already support, in their community. Let us be present and show pride towards our flag, our Coat of Arms. We are not a social club. We are the largest organization of Catholic laymen in the world. We are proud and happy to live our faith as Christians, to live and be witnesses of our family bliss, proud of being a father, a mother, proud to witness the progress of our grandchildren.

The society needs us. Our families must be supported; our children and grandchildren need us. Our elderly live in solitude. All around there are hands outstretched, too often, alas, without response.

Brother Knights,

**Now is the time for revival...
for the future of our families and of our youth!**

I need each and every one of you. I am extremely proud to be here today, before you.
Are we ready to answer a well thought-out and decisive "YES"?

I am!

Thank you Ladies, thank you brother Knights.

Have a successful Columbian year.

Vivat Jesus!

Jean Moyen
State Deputy