



## State Deputy Closing Remarks



Your Excellency, Reverend Fathers, Brother Knights, Ladies, Friends,

This is my last official address to you as your State Deputy.

With the utmost sincerity of my heart, I wish to express to each and every one of you my most heartfelt thanks for an incredible 2 years. Time has just flown by. It feels like only yesterday when we were in Hermiston at the 2023 State Convention and I was elected as the next State Deputy. I was full of excitement at the opportunity to fulfill my dream of serving as a State Deputy for this State of Oregon. The past 2 years have been full of memories that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I will treasure them always. I am most fond of the opportunities to travel around the State and visit with other Brothers and inspire everyone to carry out Blessed McGivney's vision. Kneeling in Adoration with all of you has been an incredible honor.

Brothers, the world needs the Knights of Columbus. We are an immense force for good and we impact the lives of others in ways we do not know. We make a positive impact on one another by sharing in an organization of men committed to the Catholic Faith and committed to helping each other grow in our Faith as iron sharpens iron. We strive to bring out the best in each other. We make a positive impact on the world by saving countless lives through our pro-life work, serving the community, and being a public witness in living a life devoted to God.

The world needs this witness. The world needs to see an ever growing Order of men who hold themselves to high standards and demonstrate exemplary virtue. The world needs to see men who are men of prayer and dedicated to constant ongoing formation.

I want to continue to encourage all councils to prioritize Cor. Through prayer, one allows the Holy Spirit to guide and direct the heart and to be attuned to the Voice of God. Through formation, one allows himself to absorb and take in valuable lessons and teachings that help him better become the man God is calling him to be. Through fraternity, one surrounds himself with other men who will be good role models and will help bring out the best in him. This is what the Order can most optimally provide for the world today.

I also want to continue to encourage all councils to prioritize Eucharistic Adoration. Participate in Holy Hours as often as possible. Spend some meaningful time with the Lord. Listen to Him. Kneel nobly before your King as a knight.

Brothers, also remember that while we do many incredible programs and acts of service, being a Knight is much more about who we are. More than pancake breakfasts and fish fries, a Knight is a man of exemplary virtue and character; chivalry! Men, be proud of who you are! Wear your badge of knighthood proudly! Take pride in being a Knight! Let it inspire you to hold yourselves to a high standard of virtue and conduct. Remember, it is an honor to be a Knight!

Brothers, I wanted to serve as your State Deputy for the past 2 years because I believe in what the Knights of Columbus stands for. I embrace the core mission of the Knights of Columbus deep in my heart. I desired to pursue this mission, pouring out my passion for it, and leading and inspiring others to do the same. I have wanted to ignite within others the same passion for the Knights of Columbus and our core mission. I have wanted to do everything in my power to encourage all Knights of Columbus here in Oregon to have the true heart of a Knight. This is why I chose to serve as your State Deputy, to advance the mission of the Order to the best of my ability, and to encourage each and every one of us to become the men God is calling us to be. I want to see each and every one of you become who you were born to be.

My time remaining as State Deputy is short and I want to finish to the very end of my term, doing everything I can to help each of you truly become the men God is calling you to be. I wish to conclude with the words King David gave to his son Solomon in 1 Kings 2:2 as he was passing the kingship to him in his last moments of his life, "I go the way of all the earth. Be strong, therefore, and show thyself a man." Brothers of Oregon, be strong, show yourselves to be true men of God and have the true heart of a Knight.

Thank you again, my brothers, from the bottom of my heart. I carry each of you in my heart always and will continue to pray for you and for the success of the Oregon Knights of Columbus.

Vivat Jesus!