



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATE COUNCIL
124TH State Convention: April 29-April 30, 2023**

Report of Thomas L. Jones, District Deputy #2

It has certainly been an honor for me to have served these last two years as the District Deputy #2. And during that time, I had the opportunity to not only work with my brother Knights, but also to get an opportunity to meet and become acquainted with them during this period. The councils under my supervision have made great strides despite the many obstacles and challenges they faced in demonstrating that their dedication to the knights of Columbus will forever be remembered by me and our brother Knights who believe in the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. At this time, I shall identify each council and share my findings, because I believe that each council did their best to demonstrate their commitment as members of the Knights of Columbus, despite the many trials, tribulations and challenges that came about unexpectedly.

CARROLL COUNCIL #00377

Carroll Council #00377 is to be commended and recognized for their efforts in making sure that they did their best in following through with what they were able to do in the forwarding of reports, which at times was very challenging. However, Grand Knight James Oxford Jr and Financial Secretary Charles M. Coleman Jr with other council officers did not let any shortcomings determine their abilities to serve as officers in maintaining a viable council with support from other members of their Executive Board. These officers handled their responsibilities and kept the council moving, until a decision was made that outside support was needed and another venue had to be chosen, which was the potential and eventful merging with a council in their immediate jurisdiction. Therefore, with much input from the membership through voting for a merger, it was decided that Carroll Council #00377 would begin taking the steps to merge with Keane Council #353, who also held council meeting and determined that the merger would benefit them both. Subsequently, both councils presented their "signed" Resolutions of Merger," and as District Deputy #2, I requested in writing that the merger move forward, as "stipulated by the laws and rules of the order," with approval from the State Deputy. Although Keane Council #353 will "assume all members, liabilities, and debts of Carroll #377," this merger will provide a more viable program with increased support from the

total membership. We extend our congratulations for a job well done and a new beginning in council growth and commitment to the Knights of Columbus! Thank you, Carroll Council #00377 For your dedication and service!

KEANE COUNCIL #353

Keane Council #353, under the direction of Grand Knight Peter Gervais and with support from Financial Secretary Robert Newman and the Executive Board, started the New Fraternal Year by immediately putting in place a very effective Slate of Officers to help the council move forward and carry out their proposed plans for a new beginning, which included the appointment of a Chaplain and a Financial Secretary. And together they forged plans and gathered commitments from the membership to again bring recognition to Keane Council #353, under the leadership of grand Knight Peter Gervais. Their council's plans covered activities and programs, as well as the involvement of their members in Faith based activities in the Church. Also, they promoted recruitment activities, in which new members were recruited from Nativity Church to further the goals of council growth. They held community Blood Drives in the Youth Center; filled Service Program positions; participated in the D.C. Charities Golf Tournament; held membership Recruitment Drives that awarded them new members; held community breakfast programs and Spanish Masses for the purpose of furthering their recruitment efforts; promoted Nativity Church cook-outs; held Friday Knight Fish-Frys; provided fundraising support and food drives to benefit St. Gabriel's Church, which is also in the jurisdiction of Nativity Church; paid required financial obligations to Supreme and D.C. State Council; addressed the Child Protection Program by being In- Compliance in two areas, with one Pending; and submitted of the Annual Audit Report and the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity. However, the most outstanding event Grand Knight Peter Gervais undertook is the agreed upon merger of Carroll Council #00377 with Keane Council #353, through their Executive Boards. Since Keane Council has consistently given help to the St. Gabriel's Church community, this merger was a blessing. And with support from the District Deputy and approval by the State Deputy, the entire process was brought to fruition with hopes for a new beginning, and of course council growth. We are very proud of the cooperation these councils have received in the merger. Also, this new membership looks forward to more outstanding programs as members of the Knights of Columbus. Thank you, Keane Council #353 for your dedication and service!

DIVINE MERCY AFRICAN COUNCIL #17611

I am proud of the diligence that was put forth by Divine Mercy African Council #17611; however, unanticipated challenges and untimely events slowed down many activities, due to the incapacitating illness of Grand Knight Venantius Chief Okey Onunaku, who held more than one officer title. He is not only was Grand Knight of Divine Mercy African Council #17611, but also Faithful Navigator of Washington Assembly #151. The involvement of Chief Okey in his council is very inspiring, because he was able to bring about an increase in membership through

church recruitment and make sure his council and assembly both functioned well. However, an unexpected occurrence took place that had a debilitating effect upon his health, which required Chief Okey to be hospitalized on more than two occasions. Therefore, this illness lessened the effectiveness of his position as Grand Knight. Although there were officers to step up to the leadership position as Sir knights in the Assembly, his council which was Chartered approximately two years ago, is lacking in having experienced Knights carry on in his absence. Therefore, this resulted in a breakdown in the timely submission of required council items. Nevertheless, Grand Knight Okey is now on the mend, and his council is looking forward to better days. However, before his illness came about, Chief Okey made sure certain reports were being submitted, such as the Report of Officers Chosen for the Term; the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity; the submission of Service Program Personnel Report, whereby chosen officers look forward to the successful completion of the Survey for the Child Protection Program. However, Grand Knight Chief Okey is currently In-Compliance. Divine Mercy African Council #17611 has agreed to submit the Semiannual Council Audit Report immediately. These areas were addressed by the council, so that all back-dated items including Per Capita payments to Supreme Council and D.C. State Council are handled, accordingly. Nevertheless, I am proud of the various achievements this council has been able to receive under the leadership of Grand Knight Venantius Chief Okey Onunaku, and we pray that he is convalescing well. Thank you, Divine Mercy African Council #17611 for your dedication and service!

ST. AUGUSTINE COUNCIL #15723

St. Augustine Council #15723 has been putting forth great efforts in maintaining the status they held three years ago as one of the most effective and recognized councils. However, the lack of having an identified grand knight did set the council back in the implementation of their programs and activities. Therefore, past officers stepped up with support from Financial Secretary Ernest Hoosman to fill in the void, until Sam Gaillard moved up from the Deputy Grand Knight position, and ultimately took the helm as Grand Knight of St. Augustine Council #15723. He held council meetings; participated D.C. State Council gatherings for Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries and District Deputies; attended degree ceremonies; helped motivate his council's brother Knights to participate in the "Combined" Degree at the St. John Paul II Shrine and encouraged them to participate in the Exemplification of the Fourth Degree and become a new Sir Knight. Also, he made sure that reports were submitted, such as Report of Officers for the Term, Semiannual Audits, Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity, Supreme and State Council Per Capita. The Service Program Personnel Report was submitted, thus far, and Grand Knight Gaillard is In-Compliance in one of the service personnel positions. However, he is looking for his officers to assume other positions to be approved very soon. However, as the council was making progress, I found out from their Chaplain that family illnesses and other issues had taken place with key members of St. Augustine Council #15723, and many of the activities and events were brought to a standstill. Therefore, the council's plans and programs were then suddenly placed on hold. Nevertheless, their Chaplain has faith that the council is on the mend,

and that Grand Knight Sam Gaillard will soon become active again and reach out to his council for support in the continuation of new programs and events. We pray that everyone's health is on the mend and that they are doing much better. Thank you, St. Augustine Council #15723 for your dedication and service!

ST. THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #11578

St. Thomas More Council #11578 started the New Fraternal Year with a series of plans to help get activities and events moving within the council. Grand Knight Larry Holmes met with his members regularly and decided upon a series of programs that will not only help the community, but also demonstrate that they were viable again. Therefore, he reached out to the D.C. State Council with support from the Grand Knights to join with his council in giving school supplies to children. He promoted his project with colorful flyers being distributed over the internet by way of emails, and he posted the supplies flyers throughout the community. Since he was expecting a large turnout of families with children, he needed support from the councils to help him realize this project. The flyers asked for donations, such as book bags, notebooks, paper, pencils, rulers, ink pens, magic markers, glue, and back-packs. He even requested support from the D.C. State Council, indicated where the supplies could be dropped off. Soon, phone calls and emails began to come in, and supplies were even delivered to his home. This proved to be a very worthwhile project, because on the day of the event. Passenger cars were lined up in the parking lot at McDonald's with families in need of school supplies for their children. We extend congratulations to Grand Knight Larry Owens and Financial Secretary Robert Fuller for a job well done! This event was so motivating that the members of St. Thomas More Council began to hold regular council meetings to bring on board other projects. Grand Knight Owens made sure that important reports were submitted such as the Report of Council Officers for the Term; the submission of Service Program Personnel Reports, with the hope that officers will take the survey and be In-Compliance with the Child Protection program; the Annual Survey for Fraternal Activity; and Per Capita payments for Supreme and D.C. State Council. However, Grand Knight Owens is working with those members who still have concerns regarding the pandemic, and they have not fully returned to attending In-person meetings. Quite recently, we received word that Grand Knight Larry Owens was briefly hospitalized. However, he is now up and about and working with his council. We pray that he is doing well. Thank you, St. Thomas More Council for your dedication and service!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SHRINE COUNCIL #4944

Immaculate Conception Shrine Council #4944 continues to utilize its resources to help bring about whatever is needed in offering support to the parish communities. Shrine Council offered

support in providing school supplies to help promote St. Thomas Mores Council #11578 “Back to School Program”; provided support to the ushers at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Thanksgivings Day, helping to usher hundreds of Haitians at the Basilica, and serving on Palm Sunday during the Lenten season. Therefore, it is with much praise that we thank Grand Knight Arthur H. Robinson, who has kept Shrine Council #4944 active and involved in council affairs through the years. And during the time when society was experiencing the adverse conditions of the pandemic, Grand Knight Robinson kept in contact by telephone and held meetings according to the council’s schedule by way of Zoom. However, much later, Grand Knight Robinson was given training in how to use the laptop, which was a great benefit to the membership. He is now able to see and communicate with the members through Zoom on his laptop, which has motivated the members to participate in programs and activities. Under his leadership the Report of Officers was submitted, as well as the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity; the payment of Per Capita to Supreme and the D.C. State Council; including the Evaluation of the Financial Secretary and recommendations for his reappointment. Grand Knight Robinson made sure the Service Program Personnel Report was submitted, and all who signed up to participate in the Child Protection Survey are all In-Compliance. Suddenly and without warning, we were notified that Grand Knight Robinson had suffered a stroke, while he was home. He was immediately hospitalized and is now receiving daily therapy. We pray that Grand Knight Arthur H. Robinson will continue to heal. Thank you, Immaculate Conception Shrine Council #4944 for your dedication and service!

I would like to sincerely thank State Deputy Chris Pierno for his leadership, along with support from the Executive Team, and selecting me to serve as the District Deputy #2 for the six councils under my jurisdiction. It has been a pleasure to serve, and I thank you for your service, as well.

Vivat Jesus!

Respectfully,

Thomas L. Jones
District Deputy #2
D.C. State Council