

Report of District #4, District of Columbia  
2025 State Convention  
Joseph Accardi

## **Introduction**

With regrets, I am not able to join you all this weekend for the 2025 State Convention. A change in employment has caused me to quickly relocate to South Georgia, precluding my physical participation in these events. With that said, I am pleased to report that the three college councils within the District of Columbia have all been extremely successful this year. Along with impressive recruitment achievements, the college councils hosted a slew of successful events within the Faith in Action Programs, impacting both their respective campus communities and the greater D.C. area throughout the past year.

In addition to their individual successes, the college councils continue to demonstrate comradery through district-wide collaboration. The annual “Knightsbowl,” where the councils come together for a touch-football tournament, continues to be an overwhelming success. This year saw high turnout from all the councils, and each group contributed something to make the event a success. Overall, I am extremely impressed with the collaborative spirit demonstrated by these colleges, and know that their ability to communicate and walk together to achieve their shared mission will serve them well in the years to come.

The College Councils should be proud of their performance this past fraternal year and are properly prepared to achieve greater success next fraternal year.

## **Georgetown University Council #6375**

Georgetown University Council #6375 had a successful year of programming and has its membership with a successful recruitment campaign. Council #6375 recruited thirty-four new members and exceeded their quota by 485.7%. In my memory, this is the most successful recruitment year in the council’s recent history. As per tradition at Georgetown University, elections were held in the middle of the fraternal year and Hans Guenther was selected to lead the council as their new Grand Knight, succeeding Paul Clement. Both of these individuals deserve credit for this impressive recruitment campaign.

Additionally, the council conducted programs that benefited the membership, the university, and the larger D.C. community. Of note, they conducted their annual cleaning to the graves of the Jesuit priest on campus, showcasing our order’s participation in the Corporal Works of Mercy and emphasizing our pride in our priests, both past and present. Additionally, the brothers of this council helped to orchestrate the annual Cardinal O’Connor Conference, showing their commitment to our pro-life mission on a national scale.

## **The Catholic University of America Council #9542**

The Catholic University of America Council #9542 continues to showcase our orders strength and vitality on our country’s national Catholic University. The council continues to collaborate

with the university's Campus Ministry and other organizational components, resulting in greater exposure of the council's great work amongst the campus community. Led by Grand Knight Ryan Corey, Catholic University Council #9542 recruited forty-seven new members into the Order, exceeding its quota by 313.3%.

The council continues to host a slew of outstanding programs, in addition to creatively addressing their community's need with new initiatives. Of note, the brothers of this council lead their campus in the rosary each day, in a scheduled slot prior to the principle daily celebration of the Mass. This initiative allows literally thousands of students, faculty, and staff to opportunity to join our order in its devotion to our Blessed Lady. Additionally, the council just announced that they will be coordinating an annual scholarship in the name of their chaplain for students at a local Catholic secondary school. This unique initiative will allow the council to stretch our order's charitable arm into the community outside of their campus boundaries, and is the result of careful financial planning that ensures the program's ability to continue for years to come.

### **George Washington University #13242**

George Washington University has made a tremendous leap forward this year, instilling confidence in myself that their council has the ability to continue growing in the coming years. After being recognized by the Supreme Council as one of the nation's top college programs, the brothers of this council continued to build on the year's successes, largely on account of the leadership of their Grand Knight, Antonio Salazar. Council #13242 recruited seven new members and exceeded their quota by 140%.

The council has enhanced their ties with the University's Newman Center, allowing their continued outreach to the Catholic campus community. This year, they supported the Newman Center's weekly dinners, building the bonds of brotherhood in faith on their campus. Additionally, they hosted their annual Knights Gala, wherein brothers come together to both celebrate their academic year's accomplishments, and raise money for the Capitol Hill Crisis Pregnancy Center. This yearly initiative showcases the bonds of Catholic brotherhood, as well as their commitment to our order's pro-life activities.

I should note that I am concerned about the stability of the council's leadership, specifically with regard to the position of Financial Secretary (FS). A new FS was appointed at the start of this Columbian Year, and they have indicated that they will be appointing another individual at the start of the next Columbian Year, who is a senior who is graduating next May. It is my hope that the council will be able to identify an individual within the council who will be able to serve a full three-year term in the future, perhaps coming from the leadership team of the Newman Center. I am heartened by the fact the council has identified a Grand Knight for next year who will be a sophomore. He has already been in touch with the state council, and expresses a drive and determination to ensure the future success of his council.