

Resolutions to be Considered at the 126th Annual Meeting of the District of Columbia State Council of the Knights of Columbus

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Recommended Actions Proposed by the Committee on Resolutions

Felicitations, Greetings, Recognitions, and Church-Related

1. Felicitations to the Archbishop of Washington and His Brother Bishops
Recommended Action: **ADOPTION**
Submitted by: State Executive Committee
2. Felicitations to the Archbishop of the Military Services USA and His Brother Bishops
Recommended Action: **ADOPTION**
Submitted by: State Executive Committee
3. Expressing Support for our Bishops and Priests
Recommended Action: **ADOPTION**
Submitted by: State Executive Committee
4. Cause of Blessed Michael McGivney, Priest and Founder of the Knights of Columbus
Recommended Action: **ADOPTION**
Submitted by: State Executive Committee

Recognition of Military and the Civil and Foreign Service

5. Honoring our Armed Forces
Recommended Action: **ADOPTION**
Submitted by: State Executive Committee
6. In Recognition of Foreign Service Officers and Other Civil Servants
Recommended Action: **ADOPTION**
Submitted by: State Executive Committee

Christopher Columbus

7. In Honor of Christopher Columbus
Recommended Action : **ADOPTION**
Submitted by: State Executive Committee

Issues of International Concern

8. In Solidarity with Persecuted Christians
Recommended Action: **ADOPTION**
Submitted by: State Executive Committee

9. Support for People of Ukraine and for an End to Russia's War of Aggression

Recommended Action:

ADOPTION

Submitted by:

St. Josaphat Council 7530

Culture of Life, Religious Liberty and Other Matters of Church Social Teaching

10. Decency in the Media and on the Internet

Recommended Action:

ADOPTION

Submitted by:

State Executive Committee

11. In Defense of Religious Liberty

Recommended Action:

ADOPTION

Submitted by:

State Executive Committee

12. Building up a Culture of Life

Recommended Action:

ADOPTION

Submitted by:

State Executive Committee

13. In Defense of Marriage

Recommended Action:

ADOPTION

Submitted by:

State Executive Committee

Administration and Governance

14. Recommending Christopher Pierno for Election to the Board of Directors of the Knights of Columbus

Recommended Action:

ADOPTION

Submitted by:

Potomac Council #433

RESOLUTION 1:
FELICITATIONS TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF WASHINGTON
AND HIS BROTHER BISHOPS

WHEREAS, the Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church, as successors of the Apostles, define the magisterial teachings of the Church and are charged with leading their churches for the greater glory of God; and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus form the, “strong right arm of the Church,” and, as such, stand together in support of our bishops.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we express to our local ordinary, His Eminence Robert Cardinal McElroy, Archbishop of Washington, our gratitude and affection for his pastoral care and leadership of the Church with special recognition of his concern for the welfare and growth of the Knights of Columbus in the District of Columbia; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we also express our felicitations and support for the Auxiliary Bishops of Washington: the Most Reverend Roy Campbell, Jr, the Most Reverend Juan R. Esposito-Garcia, the Most Reverend Evelio Menjivar-Ayala; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we also express our felicitations to and support for the Archbishops Emeriti of Washington, His Eminence Wilton Cardinal Gregory and His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl, for their many years of service to the Church and the Knights of Columbus in the District of Columbia and throughout the world.

RESOLUTION 2:
FELICITATIONS AND GRATITUDE TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA, AND HIS BROTHER BISHOPS

WHEREAS, the Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church, as successors of the Apostles, define the magisterial teachings of the Church and are charged with leading their churches for the greater glory of God; and,

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus form the, “strong right arm of the Church,” and, as such, stand together in support of our bishops; and,

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia State Council has pledged itself, in a particular way, along with the Order at-large, to serve the Archdiocese of the Military Services, USA, whose headquarters is located within our territorial boundaries, but whose archdiocese is spread throughout the world.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we express to the Most Reverend Timothy Paul Broglio, J.C.D., Archbishop of the Military Services, USA, and President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, our gratitude and affection for his pastoral care and leadership of the Church with special recognition of his concern for the welfare and growth of the Catholic military chaplaincy throughout the world; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we also express our felicitations and support for the Auxiliary Bishops of the Military Services, USA; the Most Reverend F. Richard Spencer, the Most Reverend Neal Buckon, the Most Reverend William Muhm, the Most Reverend Joseph Coffey, and the Most Reverend Gregg M. Caggianelli; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded for consideration at the 143rd Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council.

RESOLUTION 3:
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR OUR BISHOPS AND PRIESTS

WHEREAS, the call to the priesthood is a holy call from God that should be encouraged, nurtured and celebrated by Catholic families and the entire Catholic Church community; and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus was founded by a parish priest whose own life and ministry mirrored that of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of priests, and has inspired our Order's long history of support for the priesthood as part of our critical mission of service to the Church.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus expresses our gratitude and appreciation for the many wonderful and gifted bishops and priests who have labored in our parishes and in our various dioceses; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon all Knights of Columbus families to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and for all councils to support those in formation for the priesthood through the Refund Support Vocations Program with the hope that more young men in the mold of St. John Vianney and Blessed Michael McGivney come forward to guide the faithful and become the future leaders of our Church; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded for consideration at the 143rd Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council.

RESOLUTION 4:
CAUSE OF BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY, PRIEST AND FOUNDER OF THE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

WHEREAS, on Oct. 31, 2020, Father Michael J. McGivney, diocesan priest of Hartford and Founder of the Knights of Columbus, was raised to the honors of the altar and accorded the title “Blessed” by decree of Pope Francis at a Mass celebrated in the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, this auspicious event marked a significant step in our Founder’s Cause for Canonization, which was opened in the Archdiocese of Hartford in 1997, with the Knights of Columbus serving as Actor; and

WHEREAS, Father McGivney is only the third U.S.-born male to be beatified, and needs a second miracle attributed to his intercession to become eligible for canonization; and

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2023, the Church in the United States accorded Blessed Michael McGivney the distinct honor of a statue in the Hall of American Saints at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the members and families of the Knights of Columbus join in offering fervent prayers of thanksgiving for the beatification of the Order’s Founder; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, with full knowledge that a second miracle is needed for canonization, call upon all Knights and their families to invoke the proven intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney for their own needs and intentions, and to promptly report all favors received to the Father McGivney Guild, in the hope that our Founder’s cause will continue to advance so that he might soon number among the saints; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Order fully supports the mission of the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center, previously known as the Knights of Columbus Museum, as it provides greater focus on the spirituality and charitable vision of our Founder, while continuing the museum's original mission of preserving and presenting the Order's history; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded for consideration at the 143rd Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council.

RESOLUTION 5:
HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

WHEREAS, many of our brother Knights, along with thousands of other servicemen and women, are presently deployed in hostile and unstable regions around the world in efforts to combat terrorism, maintain order, and promote peace; and

WHEREAS, many of these men and women have heroically given their lives or sustained serious or debilitating injury while deployed in the service of their country; and

WHEREAS, Knights of Columbus support for the armed forces dates to World War I and the establishment of more than 100 Knights of Columbus morale centers supporting the welfare of Allied troops under the banner, “Everybody Welcome, Everything Free;” and

WHEREAS, we are committed to the spiritual welfare of the armed forces through our ongoing support of the Archdiocese for the Military Services Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program, which is critical to the formation of new military chaplains; and

WHEREAS, since 2004 the Order has distributed more than 600,000 copies of its *Armed With the Faith* military prayer books to Catholic troops around the world, including more than 65,000 copies of a bilingual edition for the Canadian military; and

WHEREAS, since 2013, we have worked with the Archdiocese for the Military Services, to sponsor the Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage, which provides an opportunity for non-wounded, wounded, ill, or injured military personnel to travel to this special Marian shrine for spiritual renewal and healing; and

WHEREAS, we are committed to “serving those who served” through the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services program, with brother Knights and their families donating nearly 100,000 hours of volunteer service at over 100 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers in recent years; and

WHEREAS, we maintain 65 active military councils around the world which provide both material and spiritual support to answer the special needs of their local military and civilian communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus reaffirms our unequivocal gratitude, support, and encouragement for the men and women of the armed forces who defend our liberties and freedoms; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we will never waver in our commitment to recognize the contributions of every service member on active duty, in the Guard, in the Reserves, and all veterans and retired service members; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we prayerfully support and encourage the families of those servicemen and women who are deployed; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we continue to pray for the mission success and the safe return of all military personnel throughout the world, especially those deployed to combat zones; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we now pay tribute to those men and women who have served, especially those who have suffered serious combat injuries, and we pray for the souls of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in the service of their country; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded for consideration at the 143rd Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council.

RESOLUTION 6:
**IN RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS AND OTHER CIVIL
SERVANTS**

WHEREAS, the United States operates embassies and consular offices throughout the world which are staffed by professional foreign service officers who work hard every day to represent our country to the outside world; and

WHEREAS, the United States government relies on the dedicated service of many civil servants throughout the world whose service is critical to the preservation of peace and the American way of life; and

WHEREAS, these Foreign Service Officers and civil servants put their lives on the line every day and, in some cases, pay the ultimate price in defense of American ideals and peace; and

WHEREAS, many members of the Order are current or former Foreign Service Officers or members of the civil service; and

WHEREAS, in at least in one instance, Former District Warden and State Ceremonials Director Brian D. Adkins of the District of Columbia, a member of the United States Foreign Service, gave his life in this service of peace.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we thank our foreign service officers and civil servants for all their efforts to preserve peace in the world; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded for consideration at the 143rd Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council.

RESOLUTION 7:
IN HONOR OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

WHEREAS, in 1492 Christopher Columbus obtained permission and financial support from the King and Queen of Spain to sail west across the Atlantic Ocean in search of new trade routes; and

WHEREAS, on October 12 of that year, Columbus' expedition landed in what is today the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, immediately erecting a cross and naming the island San Salvador, in honor of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World; and

WHEREAS, Columbus established a policy that his men were to treat the native people in the new world with respect, pursuant to which he sentenced to death men who disobeyed this order, which resulted in his own arrest and return to Spain in chains; and

WHEREAS, the 16th-century historian Bartolomé de las Casas, who exposed terrible abuses of native peoples, defended Columbus's motivations saying, "...I knew him well and I know his intentions are good;" and

WHEREAS, on the 400th anniversary of Columbus' first voyage to the Americas, Pope Leo XIII reflected on Columbus's strong Catholic faith writing, "it is fitting that we should confess and celebrate in an especial manner the will and designs of the Eternal Wisdom, under whose guidance the discoverer of the New World placed himself with a devotion so touching," and ordered the celebration of Solemn Mass of the Most Holy Trinity in honor of the occasion; and

WHEREAS, U.S. President Benjamin Harrison similarly commemorated the anniversary by declaring a national Columbus holiday that year to provide, "expressions of gratitude to Divine Providence for the devout faith of the discoverer, and for the divine care and guidance which has directed our history and so abundantly blessed our people;" and

WHEREAS, following this anniversary of Columbus's voyage, memorials and celebrations in honor of Columbus became popular in the United States as ways to celebrate the Catholic history of the Western Hemisphere and to counter-act anti-Catholicism in the United States; and

WHEREAS, at the height of the nativist and anti-Catholic sentiment of the late 19th century, Columbus was chosen as the Order's namesake because he was one of the few Catholics considered a hero of American history, and because the founding members of the Order wished to show that faithful Catholics can also be patriotic American citizens; and

WHEREAS, in 1906 the Knights of Columbus advocated for the construction of a monument in Washington, DC in honor of Columbus and, when it was completed in 1912, President William Howard Taft presided at the dedication ceremony, which was attended by several foreign ambassadors, thousands of Knights of Columbus, and thousands more spectators, leading to the observation that "every possible vantage point was filled;" and

WHEREAS, in the following decades, several states established holidays in honor of Columbus and, following the strong urging of the Knights of Columbus and several civic organizations, the United States declared Columbus Day a federal holiday in 1937; and

WHEREAS, the strong Catholic identity associated with Columbus Day led the Ku Klux Klan to denounce the celebration of the holiday as a "papal fraud" and to commit acts of violence and intimidation, including burning a cross at a Knights of Columbus celebration of Columbus Day in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, to further accomplish its anti-Catholic goals in the United States, the Klan, and other nativist forces, initiated a campaign to disparage Columbus, claiming that he was not a hero, but rather just another foreign conqueror who was guilty of genocide, slavery, and oppression; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, these claims have been repeated, with misinformation about Columbus, leading to the elimination of favorable references to Columbus and the removal of monuments commemorating him, many of which were first established by Catholic immigrants seeking to establish their place in American society; and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus includes many members of Native American and First Nation tribes among its ranks and works with these brother Knights and their families to address the challenges faced by indigenous communities, as well as to develop specific programs promoting the unique traditions of their Catholic faith; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit of Columbus, who sought to partner with the peaceful indigenous people he encountered, the Knights of Columbus is sharing the culture of Native American and First Nation communities through its documentary, *Enduring Faith: The Story of Native American Catholicism*, promoting devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, and establishing a shrine dedicated to St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first indigenous American saint.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus remains steadfast in its support of Christopher Columbus as our namesake, state and federal holidays established in his honor, and, public monuments and commemorations dedicated to his life and historical contributions; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we will, without diminishing the unique contributions of native peoples to the remarkable cultural tapestry of the Americas, encourage our public officials to preserve the intended spirit of the public holiday tradition with its cultural and patriotic implications, and not allow it to be undermined or diminished by neglect, dilution, or replacement; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on state and local leaders to establish separate monuments, or other commemorations, that properly honor the contributions and centuries-long history of the native people of North America; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commit our prayers for greater civility, peace, and understanding between all peoples to the intercession of our Blessed Mother, Patroness of the Americas, and namesake of Columbus' lead ship on that historic 15th century journey; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded for consideration at the 143rd Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council.

RESOLUTION 8:
IN SOLIDARITY WITH PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

WHEREAS, people of faith are widely targeted for persecution around the world by non-state actors such as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and Boko Haram, and by the policies and actions of states classified by the U.S. Department of State as “countries of particular concern;” and

WHEREAS, on several occasions Pope Francis urged the international community to respond to the persecution of Christians, including during his recent apostolic journey to Iraq; and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus played a major role in the United States’ 2016 declaration that ISIS was committing genocide against Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East by preparing and distributing a 300-page report detailing the atrocities and by successfully advocating for unanimous passage of congressional resolutions in support of such a declaration; and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus signed a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Agency for International Development to collaborate on relief efforts and to share information to help increase the effectiveness of the government’s response to this crisis; and

WHEREAS, persecution of Christians in Africa continues unabated, especially in Nigeria where the terrorist organization Boko Haram, the West African branch of ISIS, and other anti-Christian entities have murdered more than 60,000 Christians since 2010; and

WHEREAS, religious persecution in East Asia is enabled by dictatorial regimes that reject the tenets of religious freedom and enact punitive laws that ban religion, decree certain practices illegal, or subvert religious observances in favor of fealty to the state; and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus dedicated its 18th Marian Prayer Program to Our Lady, Help of Persecuted Christians, thereby encouraging all Knights of Columbus families to pray that the Blessed Mother intercede on behalf of all those persecuted for their faith in her divine Son; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis expressed his appreciation to the Knights of Columbus for our support of those “brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world suffering from...violent persecution,” which has been accomplished through our Christian Refugee Relief Fund, which committed nearly \$30 million to support these communities in need.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus stands in solidarity with all Christians around the world who are suffering from violent persecution, and we call on all Christians and people of good will to do the same; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend those nations providing support to religious minorities seeking to rebuild their lives after persecution and call on all governments and legislative bodies around the world to recognize this genocide against Christians and other religious minorities and to assist these persecuted communities; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on the Government of the United States to continue an aggressive pursuit of religious liberty abroad through its engagement in international organizations and by the authority granted it in the International Religious Freedom Act, the Iraq and Syria Refugee Relief and Accountability Act, and other applicable statutes; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus pledges to continue providing assistance to those who are victims of atrocities, especially those Christians who have faced violent persecution because of their faith; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded for consideration at the 143rd Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council.

RESOLUTION 9:
IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE AND
FOR AN END TO RUSSIA'S WAR OF AGGRESSION

By Saint Josaphat Council No. 7530

WHEREAS, the country of Ukraine is suffering another unprovoked military invasion by the forces of the Russian Federation, which has now entered its fourth year; and

WHEREAS, the aggression of the invading forces grossly violates basic norms of international law, universal morality, and human dignity; and

WHEREAS, this conflict has led to the death and injury of hundreds of thousands of soldiers and civilians, as well as the displacement of millions of men, women, and children; and

WHEREAS, Ukraine has throughout its history been a land where saints and martyrs shed their blood for the Catholic faith, as well as for democracy, freedom, and independence; and

WHEREAS, the conflict imperils, in a special way, the freedom and apostolic mission of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, which has suffered tremendously throughout modern history, along with Latin Rite Catholics, Orthodox, and various religious minorities; and

WHEREAS, the conflict has impacted the lives of Ukrainians in their homeland and worldwide, as well as their friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis, and numerous hierarchs have called for peace and continue to encourage the faithful to show solidarity for Ukraine through prayer and fasting; and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus has been established in Ukraine since 2018 and witnessed phenomenal growth to the present, including the institution of the Fourth Degree in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Order has provided tremendous humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine during this conflict, including \$24 million in charitable contributions, as well as over 300,000 care packages and 10 million pounds of supplies and goods.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus condemns the unjustified genocide against the Ukrainian nation and other peoples of Ukraine; calls for the restoration of Ukraine's internationally recognized territorial integrity; and prays for Ukraine to continue as a beacon for all nations striving to live as democratic, free, and independent states; and

BE IT, FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and offers them continued prayers and spiritual and moral support; and

BE IT, FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the Supreme Council for consideration at the 143rd Supreme Convention in Washington, District of Columbia, which will be held August 5–7, 2025.

RESOLUTION 10:
DECENCY IN THE MEDIA AND ON THE INTERNET

WHEREAS, pornography, sympathetic depictions of promiscuity, excessive violence, and profanity in the entertainment media, on social network platforms, and on the Internet are leading to a coarsening of our cultural life; and

WHEREAS, the ready accessibility of pornography on the internet and the pervasive presence of objectionable sexual content, excessive violence, and profanity in movies, the music industry, the video game industry, on social media platforms, and on television and radio are making it more difficult to raise children in a healthy atmosphere that protects their innocence; and

WHEREAS, pornography, objectionable sexual content, excessive violence, and profanity in the media offends the dignity and integrity of the person and have a destructive impact on marriages and on family life; and

WHEREAS, pornography is frequently connected to other criminal activity and is often a contributing factor leading to the crimes of human trafficking and the sexual abuse of children.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus condemns pornography, objectionable sexual content, excessive violence, and profanity in the media and calls upon the entertainment industry, the video game industry, social media companies, and internet providers to maintain high standards of decency that will protect children and promote healthy family life; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend those in the entertainment and retail industries who produce and/or sell family-friendly media products; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend and thank those law-enforcement officials who enforce laws against child pornography, human trafficking; and selling adult rated materials to minors; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded for consideration at the 143rd Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council.

RESOLUTION 11:
IN DEFENSE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

WHEREAS, the Second Vatican Council declared in *Dignitatis Humanae* that the right to religious freedom is based upon the inherent dignity of the human person, which requires that all people are to be free from coercion in matters of belief and conscience, and that no one should be forced to act in a manner contrary to his or her own beliefs or conscience; and

WHEREAS, the right to religious freedom is guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and other documents recognizing religious freedom; and

WHEREAS, religious freedom is not a benefit that a government confers out of a sense of mere tolerance, which can be removed, but rather it is an inalienable right, rooted in the transcendent dignity of every human being; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis called religious freedom “a fundamental right of man,” that is “not simply freedom of thought or private worship” but “the freedom to live according to ethical principles, both privately and publicly;” and

WHEREAS, since its founding, the Knights of Columbus has worked to defend religious freedom for all people and has done so out of a commitment to our faith and our unshakeable belief that religious freedom is a basic human right; and

WHEREAS, the Order’s work on behalf of religious freedom included efforts in the U.S. Supreme Court case *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, which affirmed the right of children to a Catholic education in opposition to the efforts of the Ku Klux Klan; and

WHEREAS, our work for religious freedom also included protesting the persecution of Catholics in Mexico in the 1920s; efforts to combat the anti-religious worldview of Communism; and the inclusion of the phrase “under God” in the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance to distinguish the United States from anti-religious governments; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis urged the Knights of Columbus to draw the attention of Catholic Americans “to contribute to the reasoned defense” of religious freedom and reminded us that “to the extent that this right is menaced...there is a need for a mobilization of consciences on the part of all those citizens who, regardless of party or creed, are concerned for the overall welfare of society.”

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we will remain steadfast in our support for the free exercise of religion as it is described in *Dignitatis Humanae* and enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other documents recognizing religious freedom; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we stand firm in our conviction that the full guarantee of religious liberty cannot be limited to “freedom of worship” as some have claimed, but must include full “freedom of religion,” which necessarily encompasses the public dimension of religion, the freedom from persecution or discrimination on the basis of conscience and belief, and the fact that believers are called to play an active role in building the social order; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge all government officials to maintain robust religious freedom exemptions, and to enact legislation that protects the right of religious institutions and individuals to be free from government coercion; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we will always speak out against any effort to impose religious tests on candidates or nominees for government positions; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we will remain steadfast in our opposition to future governmental actions or policies that force institutions and individuals to violate their deeply held religious beliefs; and,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded for consideration at the 143rd Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council.

RESOLUTION 12:
BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus has a deep and historic commitment to oppose any government action or policy that promotes abortion, embryonic stem cell research, human cloning, euthanasia, assisted suicide, or other offenses against life; and

WHEREAS, the Order supports programs that provide women facing crisis pregnancies with alternatives to abortion, including adoption, and that we support projects that provide spiritual support to those women suffering from the traumatic emotional and psychological aftereffects of abortion; and

WHEREAS, our Ultrasound Initiative has provided a window into the womb by placing nearly 2,000 ultrasound machines in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Canada, and nations around the world; and

WHEREAS, in July 2022 the Supreme Council launched the ASAP (Aid and Support After Pregnancy) Program which has now provided more than \$14 million of support to over 2,000 pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes—facilities collectively serving more than two million expectant mothers, parents, and babies; and

WHEREAS, we reaffirm our commitment to building a “culture of life” by promoting policies that favor the family, and by recognizing that it is within strong and healthy families that moral values are taught and the spiritual heritage of the nation is transmitted; and,

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus has a long history of supporting marches and rallies for the cause of life in the countries where we have a formal presence and throughout the United States in state capitals and other major cities; and

WHEREAS, in since the U.S. Supreme Court returned the question of abortion to the citizenry and their elected representatives in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, nearly half of the state legislatures in the United States have passed laws to curtail abortion despite continued activist judicial rulings and growing hostility to advocates and elected officials that promote pro-life practices and policies; and

WHEREAS, in his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis reminded us that, "Among the vulnerable for whom the Church wishes to care with particular love and concern are unborn children, the most defenseless and innocent among us...this defense of unborn life is closely linked to the defense of each and every other human right. It involves the conviction that a human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development;" and

WHEREAS, in remarks to the leadership of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Pope Francis reiterated that "protection of the unborn is a preeminent priority" and it is not first a religious issue, but rather an issue of human rights.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus will continue to uphold the Catholic Church's authoritative teaching on the sanctity of life from conception to natural death, as explained in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and other documents; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we believe women deserve better than abortion and will continue to support alternatives to abortion, including adoption, and that we support projects which provide spiritual support to those women and men suffering from the traumatic emotional and psychological aftereffects of abortion; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that through the Ultrasound Initiative and ASAP Program, we will continue to support pregnancy care centers and maternity homes so that they can provide the necessary resources and support that help mothers to choose life and care for their children; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that we will continue to speak out to our elected representatives about the need to enact legislation protecting human life in all its stages; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on government officials at all levels to enact laws that protect unborn human life; and, where abortions may continue to be legal, we call for laws that protect the rights of conscience of medical professionals from being forced to perform abortions and for laws that prevent the use of taxpayer funding, promotion, and facilitation of abortion; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we reaffirm our long-standing policies of not inviting to any Knights of Columbus event, persons, especially public officials or candidates for public office, who do not support the legal protection of unborn children, or who advocate the legalization of assisted suicide or euthanasia, and that we prohibit such persons from renting or otherwise using facilities over which our members have control, or speaking at Knights of Columbus events, or bestowing on them honors or privileges of our Order of any kind, or inviting them to serve as honorary chairpersons of events, celebrations, or committees, or hold any office in the Knights of Columbus; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we once again commit ourselves to praying the Rosary frequently, to fasting and to doing penance in reparation for the evils perpetrated against the gift of life and that we seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who herself said “yes” to life, to intercede on our behalf for the establishment of a culture of life; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded for consideration at the 143rd Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council.

RESOLUTION 13:
SUPPORTING A CULTURE OF MARRIAGE

WHEREAS, marriage is a natural institution, pre-dating the state, that is based on ancient human values and that has been recognized over time as a unique and deeply rooted social, legal, and religious institution; and

WHEREAS, marriage reflects the natural biological complementarity between a man and a woman, which is woven into the social and religious fabric of every major culture and society; and

WHEREAS, on numerous occasions, Pope Francis reminded us of the importance of the Order's role in the protection and promotion of marriage, including in his message to our 131st Annual Meeting in San Antonio, his first as pope, and invited all Knights "...to bear witness to the authentic nature of marriage and the family...and the beauty and truth of human sexuality;" and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis declared in his Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* "that only the exclusive and indissoluble union between a man and a woman has a plenary role to play in society as a stable commitment that bears fruit in new life."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus renews its commitment to supporting the Catholic Church's teaching on marriage; and,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded for consideration at the 143rd Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council.

RESOLUTION 14
**RECOMMENDING CHRISTOPHER PIERNO FOR ELECTION TO THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

WHEREAS, Christopher Pierno served with distinction as State Deputy of the District of Columbia from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, he continues to serve the jurisdiction as State Executive Secretary, and State Membership Director, in addition to positions outside of the State Council as of Treasurer of Potomac Council 433, Faithful Comptroller of James Cardinal Hickey Assembly 2534, and as a member of the Board of Directors of DC Knights of Columbus Charities; and

WHEREAS, prior to assuming the office of State Deputy he held the positions of Grand Knight of Catholic University Council 9542, District Deputy, Young Adult Membership Chairman, Online Membership Chairman, State Warden, State Treasurer, and State Secretary; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from The Catholic University of America with a bachelor's degree in politics and a master's degree in management focusing on organizational communications; and

WHEREAS, he has served the Church in the United States by previously working in Catholic University's advancement office, where he led the efforts for the National Collection for Catholic University, and worked as an account manager at a marketing agency where he led direct-mail fundraising efforts for national Catholic non-profits; and

WHEREAS, he currently serves as the Director of Operations at the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, and for over 10 years has worked in various roles at the Catholic Apostolate Center; and

WHEREAS, he served as President of The Catholic University of America's Alumni Association from October 2021 to April 2024 where he was as an observer to the University's Board of Trustees, and also currently serves as Vice President of the National Christopher Columbus Association; and

WHEREAS, he has displayed exemplary service to the Knights of Columbus as a member, council officer, assembly officer, and state officer always encouraging those whom he has worked and collaborated with to remember why they joined the order and to harness that energy to move the order forward not only in the District of Columbia but around the world.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the District of Columbia State Council nominates Christopher Pierno to the Board of Directors of the Knights of Columbus; and,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be submitted for adoption by the Supreme Council.