



REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
20TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION | APRIL 25, 2026

Members of the Corporation and my Brother Knights,

It is a privilege to stand before you as President of the DC Knights of Columbus Charities and to share this report on the work we have accomplished together over the past year.

At the outset, I want to offer my sincere thanks to our Immediate Past President, Former Supreme Warden and Past State Deputy, George Hanna. His leadership, dedication, and care for this organization have left us on solid footing. We are building upon a strong foundation because of his efforts, and I am personally grateful for his guidance during this transition.

As reflected in last year's report, our organization remains financially sound and mission-driven. While markets and circumstances continue to shift, our focus has stayed consistent: to steward our resources wisely and direct them where they can have the greatest impact.

One of the clearest expressions of that mission is our continued support of Catholic education. This year, we were proud to once again award scholarships to deserving young men and women in our community. These scholarships are more than financial assistance - they are an investment in the future of the Church and in the formation of leaders grounded in faith and service.

I am pleased to recognize this year's scholarship recipients who will receive their awards tomorrow at our Convention Brunch:

- Abigail Ho – Georgetown Visitation
- Christopher Clarke – DeMatha Catholic High School
- Ruby Reed – Bishop McNamara High School
- Angelina Bonilla Sanchez – St. John's College High School

Each of these students represents the very best of our community, and we are honored to support them in their educational journeys.

In addition to individual scholarships, we continued our commitment to strengthening Catholic elementary education. This year, we awarded \$1,000 grants for scholarships to the Washington School for Girls and the San Miguel School - two institutions that are doing extraordinary work to provide quality education and opportunity to underserved students in our city. Supporting these schools allows our impact to extend beyond individual recipients and into entire communities.

Beyond education, we also made a meaningful investment in addressing food insecurity - an urgent and growing need in our city. In the fall of 2025, DC Knights of Columbus Charities awarded \$5,400 in grants to nine parish food pantries across Washington, DC. These parish-based ministries are often the first line of support for families in crisis, providing not just food, but dignity, compassion, and a sense of community.



What makes these efforts especially meaningful is their local impact. These are not distant initiatives, they are rooted in our parishes, our neighborhoods, and our shared mission as Knights. They reflect the very heart of charity: responding directly to the needs of our brothers and sisters.

We also continue to benefit from the strong support of our donors, participants, and volunteers. Events like our annual golf tournament - this year taking place on October 5th - and the generosity of our members make this work possible. Their continued engagement ensures that we can sustain and grow these efforts in the years ahead.

Looking ahead, our responsibility is not only to preserve what has been built, but to grow it thoughtfully. The needs in our community are not static, and neither can we be. We are called to remain attentive, responsive, and open to new opportunities to serve.

At its core, this work is not just about programs or grants - it is about living out our faith in a concrete way. In the Gospel of Matthew, we are reminded: *“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”* That call continues to guide us. Every scholarship awarded, every grant distributed, every family served through a parish pantry is a reflection of that mission in action.

And here’s where I want to be very clear: this charitable fund exists to serve the interests of our councils and the needs you see on the ground. You are closest to the people we are called to serve. You see the challenges, the opportunities, and the gaps.

So I invite you: bring us your ideas. Share with us where you see a need. Tell us how we can partner with you to make a greater impact in your parish and community. The strength of this organization depends not just on its leadership, but on the engagement and insight of the brother Knights it serves.

We want to hear from you, and we want to work with you.

Taken together, this year’s work reflects a clear and consistent mission: supporting our brothers and sisters, strengthening communities, and living out the call to charity that defines us as Knights of Columbus.

Thank you for your continued commitment, your generosity, and your faith in this work. It is an honor to serve alongside you.

Fraternally,

Chris Pierno

President, DC Knights of Columbus Charities