

2018 Supreme Convention-Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

My name is Kevin Rutt. I am the Grand Knight of council #5259, from Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada. My wife and I had the honour and great pleasure of being invited to go to the Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention for 2018 in Baltimore, Maryland. We got to go because of the amazing job our council, our parish, and our community did to try to help a Brother Knight and his family. His daughter was diagnosed with an aggressive and rare brain tumor, of which the only treatment available was not covered in North America, so the costs were very high. The "Hope for Hana" benefit program that we helped with was a huge success, and although Hana eventually succumbed to her illness, we helped give her and her family some more great time together to celebrate life. All that hard and amazing work got noticed by the Knights of Columbus. Our council and the "Hope for Hana" project was nominated, and then won for the International Family Project of the Year! That is an amazing honour, to win for such a worthwhile and true to our heritage event, never mind the fact that we won from almost 2 million members worldwide! Our little council in our little town shone bright. We proved what an amazing community, parish, and council we have. I cannot begin to explain how proud I am to be Grand Knight of such an amazing council.

The Supreme Convention was amazing. I have been to a few State Conventions, which are always awesome, and help make you sure of why we are knights. But the Supreme Convention is on a whole other level. To be a part of it, just to walk in and see the thousands of fellow Knights, from all over the world, is truly humbling and inspiring. The opening mass was a truly beautiful and unbelievable spectacle of grand proportions. The cross brought in is over 200 years old, and is truly beautiful. Especially to a Knight, when you consider that it is from the Baltimore Basilica, which was the first Catholic cathedral in the United States, ever. Also, our founder, the venerable Father Michael McGivney was ordained at that amazing cathedral, most likely viewing that same cross. Just to think that I was on the same ground as the man that had the vision, strength and determination to form the Knights of Columbus, and by doing so, literally change the world for the better, was hard to even fathom. We all try to do things that make the world a better place, but being on the same ground as a man that made such a huge impact, and gives us the tools to try and do the same thing by continuing his mission, was unique and uplifting.

The Supreme Convention afforded me these opportunities, and every event was choreographed and organized to a tee. The entire convention ran like a well-oiled machine, which is saying something when you consider the sheer numbers of people that were being dealt with. I cannot even begin to word my appreciation and gratefulness for being able to take part.

We also had the opportunity to receive the award for Family Project of the Year from the Supreme Knight himself, Carl Anderson. Getting to meet him and shake his hand was also a huge honour. But hearing the stories behind the other award winners was equally amazing. From the International Family of the Year, who formed "Camp Veritas" for youths, that touches

the lives of thousands of our young people, to the council that rebuilt their local parish's church after it was destroyed in a senseless act of arson, and the council in Texas that helped rebuild their entire community after devastating flooding, to the brave Knights of Columbus who are setting up councils in the Ukraine, to help Catholic men there be able to do good work and try to change their world for the better. This project in particular moved me deeply, because this is a war torn country, where the current Catholics are persecuted, who have to be afraid to live out their faith. I know that sounds like something from the past, it sounds like one of the reasons Father McGivney formed the Knights, but it is happening right now, and the Knights of Columbus are at the forefront of not backing down, doing great things despite the adversity, and having councils prosper despite all of that. If that does not inspire you as a Brother Knight, nothing will.

I have only touched the surface of the amazing things I got to take part in, hear about, and be inspired from at the 2018 Supreme Convention. If I ever think that I might not have time, or have too much other stuff going on, or whatever other excuse crosses my mind sometimes when I think I might not want to take part in one of our council's events, I will now think twice. I will think twice because the Supreme Convention reminded me that together we can change the world, and make no mistake, the Knights of Columbus are doing just that. And how many people can truly say that they are a part of something that is changing the world for the better? Well, we Brother Knights, we can say that.

Vivat Jesus!

Grand Knight Kevin Rutt, Council #5259, Meadow Lake, SK, CAN