



Saskatchewan State Council Knights of Columbus **97th Annual Convention 2019**

PRESS RELEASE

The 97th Annual State Council Meeting of the Knights of Columbus of Saskatchewan, held in Moose Jaw on April 26-28, 2019, was a call for Knights to hold fast to the Catholic principles around which the Order was founded 137 years ago. Under the theme “United In Faith And Action” State Deputy Chris Bencharski, the State Executive, and the delegates and their families from around the Province celebrated the past year’s successes and deliberated on how to better serve the bishops and priests, the Church and the community.

Throughout the weekend, delegates had the opportunity to hear a message from Archbishop Don Bolen, Bishop Mark Hagemoen, Bishop Bryan Bayda, State Chaplain, and Bishop Scott McKay, Bishop Ordinate of the Military Bases of Canada. The delegates also received information on important issues facing the Church, the Community and the Order with guest speakers instructing the delegates on the information they should be taking back to their home Councils. Delegates to the convention reaffirmed resolutions passed at previous conventions as well as passed the following new resolution.

“Be It Resolved, that the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus reaffirm our support for public funding of Catholic Education for all Saskatchewan Citizens and as may be necessary, including financial donations and letter writing campaigns, to support an appeal, to the highest Court in the land, any court ruling that adversely affects Catholic education in the province.

And Be It Further Resolved, that the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus Councils and members become actively involved at the local and provincial level supporting a public awareness campaign led by the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association to clearly identify the benefits of Catholic Schools for all Saskatchewan citizens.

The State Council elected the following executive effective July 1, 2019: State Deputy - Chris Bencharski of Meadow Lake; State Secretary - Joe Riffel of Saskatoon; State Treasurer - Larry Packet of Davidson; State Advocate – Marte Clemente Nogot of Saskatoon; State Warden - Greg Dezorec - Regina. Brian Schatz of Regina will continue on the executive as Past State Deputy.

Re-elected State Deputy Chris Bencharski announced the following appointments; Honorary State Chaplain – Most Reverend, Donald Bolen, Archbishop of Regina, Associate State Chaplain – Reverend Edward Gibney, and the Order is honoured to have Bishop Bryan Bayda Eparchy of Saskatoon as our State Chaplain.

From the opening Mass celebrated by State Chaplain Bishop Bryan Bayda to the Memorial Mass celebrated by Associate State Chaplain PSD Father Ed Gibney, the 97th Annual Convention of the Knights of Columbus of Saskatchewan was a great success, holding firm to the principles of the Order; Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. The delegates left Moose Jaw better informed and inspired to go back to their communities and join together to spread the message we received in this year’s convention theme ... “United In Faith And Action”.