



## Knights Called to Transform World through Charity, Unity and Fraternity

In his annual report to the 126th Supreme Convention, Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said Knights of Columbus must cooperate with Pope Benedict XVI and be “co-workers in the renewal” of the Church and the world. “We have the power given us by the Holy Spirit to transform the world and ‘Build a Civilization of Love through Charity, Unity and Fraternity.’”

More than 2,000 Knights and family members attended the convention’s opening session to hear the supreme knight deliver his state of the order address.

The past year saw record achievements in all areas of the Order’s operations. Among the highlights cited by the supreme knight are:

- Membership at an all-time high of 1,763,182.

- A total of 13,485 councils, including 244 new councils.

- Total insurance in force at more than \$66 billion, with more than 1,651,151 life certificates in force.

- A surplus up 4.1 percent from 2007 to \$1.75 billion.

“Unlike so many other companies,” Anderson said, “the Knights of Columbus is financially stronger than it was one year ago.”

The Order’s dominance in the Catholic fraternal arena allows it to press forward with several new initiatives, programs and insurance offerings. Among the new ventures announced by the supreme knight are:

- New insurance products including a new member annuity available Sept. 1.

- A Web site, [www.fathersforgood.org](http://www.fathersforgood.org), and publications to promote and enhance fatherhood.

- A new film biography of the Order’s founder, Father Michael J. McGivney.

- Collaborations with the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See on events marking the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Vatican.

Supreme Knight Anderson told

## The past year saw record achievements in all areas of the Order’s operations

Knights that “defending life and defending marriage constitute two of our most urgent tasks.” He called the defense of marriage an “issue of the greatest importance.”

Noting that 2008 is an election year in the United States, Anderson said that the Order would remain nonpartisan. However, he continued, it is time Catholics “stop creating excuses for voting for pro-abortion politicians.”

“We will never succeed in building a culture of life if we continue to vote for politicians who support a culture of death,” he said.

The great challenges that face the Order in the future are “great opportunities” which can be met with assistance from the Holy Spirit.

Anderson ended his annual report by asking Knights to pledge themselves to following Jesus Christ and his Gospel. “The love of Christ urges us on,” he said. “Let us begin now.”

Printed copies of the Report of the Supreme Knight are available in the Supreme Secretary’s Office, Room 202, Convention Center (Level 2).

## Le pape Benoît XVI envoie ses salutations aux Chevaliers

En envoyant ses salutations au 126e Congrès suprême, le pape Benoît XVI incitait les Chevaliers à être « le levain du renouveau évangélique » au sein de l’Église et de la société. Les nouveaux défis que le monde doit relever, soulignait le pape, deviennent pour les Chevaliers un appel à demeurer fidèles à leur idéal élevé.

Les salutations du pape étaient transmises dans une lettre du cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, secrétaire d’État au Vatican, qui, d’ailleurs, avait été le délégué personnel du pape au congrès suprême de l’an dernier.

Le pape notait que l’Ordre tenait sa rencontre durant l’observance de l’Année de saint Paul dans l’Église. Les premiers chrétiens se distinguaient par la charité fraternelle, remarquait le pape, et, par leurs principes de charité, d’unité et de fraternité, les Chevaliers font écho à l’Église primitive. Il félicitait également les Chevaliers pour les programmes de formation catéchétique et spirituelle qu’ils offraient aux hommes.

Le pape Benoît conviait les Chevaliers à se faire les témoins « matures » de la foi catholique en réponse à « l’érosion de la société » comme conséquence « de la polarisation, de la haine et de l’étiolement des valeurs morales ».

Le pape invitait les Chevaliers à devenir « les messagers de la nouvelle humanité ».

Ont également envoyé leurs salutations les chefs d’État des États-Unis, du Canada, du Mexique et des Philippines, entre autres.

## Pope Benedict XVI Sends Greetings to Knights

In greetings to the 126th Supreme Convention, Pope Benedict XVI urged the Knights to be a “leaven of

evangelical renewal" in the Church and society. The new challenges facing the world, Pope Benedict said, are a call to the Knights to remain faithful to its high ideals.

The pope's greetings were conveyed in a letter from Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state. Cardinal Bertone was the pope's personal envoy to last year's Supreme Convention.

The pope noted that the Order was meeting during the Church's observance of the Year of St. Paul. Fraternal charity was a hallmark of the first Christians, the pope said, and the Order's principles of charity, unity and

fraternity echo the early Church. He also complimented the Knights for its programs of spiritual and catechetical formation for men.

Pope Benedict summoned the Knights to a "mature" witness of the Catholic faith in order to respond to the "breakdown of society" marked by "polarization, anger...and a weakening of moral" values.

Be "heralds of a new humanity" Pope Benedict told the Knights.

Greetings to the convention were also received from the heads of state of the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Philippines, among others.

## Knights Welcomed to 'Eucharistic City' as 126th Supreme Convention Opens

Cardinal Marc Ouellet of Quebec City called the Order's annual meeting, which opened Aug. 5, a fitting "epilogue" to the International Eucharistic Congress (IEC) hosted here earlier this summer. The primate of Canada made his remarks during a homily he preached at the opening Mass of the 126th Supreme Convention.

The IEC, he said, was a "memorable world event" that remains "engraved in our hearts." In welcoming the Knights to what Cardinal Ouellet called a "eucharistic city," he thanked the Order for its volunteer and financial support of the congress. The "blessings and fruitfulness" of the congress, he believed, would carry through to the Knights' meeting.

## Knights' convention seen as a spiritual 'epilogue' to International Eucharistic Congress

Cardinal Ouellet said the Knights of Columbus has a special role in "witnessing to the love of Christ in today's world" especially concerning family life and marriage. He urged the members of the Order to pay renewed attention to Pope Paul VI's 1968 encyclical *Humanae Vitae (On Human Life)*. He said its prophetic message had not been truly received and noted the "sad consequences" that have resulted.

The archbishop of Quebec City complimented the Knights on their programs to enhance the spiritual lives of members and their volunteer projects that demonstrate "social solidarity" with the poor and needy. These efforts, he said, "promote a culture of life and a civilization of love."

Cardinal Ouellet was joined on the altar by members of the hierarchy from around the world and more than 70 priests. Nearly 200 Fourth Degree Knights took part in the honor guard, including four who carried the IEC Ark of the New Covenant in procession.

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## Latin Patriarch Sees Signs of Hope in Holy Land

His Beatitude Fouad Twal, head of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land, addressed the Knights in convention Tuesday Aug. 5. The Latin Patriarch said the patriarchate, or diocese, works hard to maintain schools and seminaries there and meet the humanitarian needs of Christians despite many hardships. Among the many challenges he said are ongoing political and economic stability; lack of housing; fewer job opportunities for Christians; and a declining birth rate among Christians.

Patriarch Twal said that Christians who leave the Holy Land for opportunities elsewhere sell their property with no chance of ever reclaiming it, since it is purchased by Jews and Muslims in the region. "They lose their roots; your roots," he said.

The Knights of Columbus has established a \$2 million Pacem in Terris Fund with annual proceeds paid out to support the Latin Patriarchate. Since its establishment, the fund has generated nearly \$800,000 to support Christians in the Holy Land.

Patriarch Twal urged the Knights to pray for Christians in the Holy Land. "Help us fulfill our mission so that we can act as a bridge of reconciliation and be agents of peace between the Jews and the Arabs," he said.

Patriarch Twal noted that approximately 28 percent of students attending Christian schools are Muslims. He called the interaction between Christian and Muslim children "a dialogue of hope" for the region.

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## CALENDRIER DES ÉVÉNEMENTS DU CONGRÈS CONVENTION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### LE MERCREDI 6 AOÛT - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

10 h 30 : Session d'affaires - Salle de Congrès 200 ABC - Centre des Congrès (Niveau 2)  
10:30 a.m.: Business Session - Convention Hall 200 ABC - Convention Center (Level 2)

15 h - 17 h : Session ouvertes, familles invitées - Salle de Congrès 200 ABC - Centre des Congrès (Niveau 2)

3 - 5 p.m.: Awards Session - Open Session, Families Invited - Convention Hall 200 ABC - Convention Center (Level 2)

### LE JEUDI 7 AOÛT - THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

8 h : Messe commémorative annuelle - Salle de Congrès 200 ABC - Centre des Congrès (Niveau 2)

8 a.m.: Annual Memorial Mass - Convention Hall 200 ABC - Convention Center (Level 2)