

K. OF C. GAINS PUT ROLL AT 751,000, CONVENTION TOLD

Huge Strides in Last Year Reported At Duluth Conclave
Attended by 6,000—All Officers Re-elected—Boy Program Approved—Archbishop Dowling's Sermon

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Duluth, Minn., Aug. 8.—The forty-third annual international convention of the Knights of Columbus was held here this week, with an attendance of 3,000 delegates and members and a total gathering of more than 6,000.

From virtually every angle, the convention apparently has been the greatest in the history of the order—in point of growth in membership and strength, and achievements reported; huge forward projects planned for the next year; unanimity at the conclave itself, and unanimity of spirit and enthusiasm. Facts reported concerning the strength, assets and growth of the order were fairly startling.

Passing the 750,000 mark, the Knights now have 751,000 members, it was revealed.

Delegates were present from every State in the Union, from every Province in Canada, and from Mexico, Cuba, Panama, the Philippine Islands and Porto Rico.

All Supreme Officers Re-elected

All the supreme officers and directors whose terms expired were re-elected, the only officer contested being that of Supreme Knight. In this contest, James A. Flaherty, of New Haven, the veteran incumbent, defeated Edward M. Haggerty, Conn., publisher of Greenwhich, Conn., 256 to 51. Supreme Knight Flaherty thereupon received a tremendous ovation, flowers and a handsome traveling case from the Pennsylvania delegation being presented to him.

Others re-elected are: Martin H. Carmody of Grand Rapids, Mich., Deputy Supreme Knight; William J. McInley of New Haven, Supreme Secretary; D. C. Callahan of Washington, D. C., Supreme Treasurer; Edward W. Fahey of St. Paul, Supreme Physician; Luke E. Hart of St. Louis, Supreme Advocate; the Rt. Rev. Msgr. P. J. McGivney of Bridgeport, Conn., Supreme Chaplain; David F. Supple of San Francisco, Supreme Warden, and John H. Reddin of Denver, John F. O'Neill of Jersey City, William C. Prout of Boston, George H. Bolvin of Quebec and Francis P. Matthews of Omaha, Supreme Directors.

Thomas J. Duffy of Columbus, Ohio, was elected a Supreme Director to fill the unexpired term of the late John A. O'Dwyer of Toledo.

Pope Pius XI lauded the work of the Knights, particularly the welfare projects in Rome, in a communication from Cardinal Gasparri, Papal Secretary of State, read at the convention. Notable among other dozens of cablegrams and telegrams of congratulation and wishes for success were one from Marshal Foch of France and another from William A. McGonagle, Past Grand Master of Masons of Minnesota.

Forty new K. of C. Councils were instituted in the last year, it was reported, and the gross increase in membership for the year was 67,000.

An increase of four and a half million dollars in insurance in the last year also was reported, the total insurance now in force exceeding two hundred and sixty millions.

Two notable policy announcements were made:

First, at the close of the present school year the Knights will discontinue their night schools. The reasons are the depletion of the War Fund from \$19,000,000 in 1919 to about \$2,000,000 now, and the belief of the Knights that the majority of the war veterans have now been cared for so far as night schools are concerned. Other work for the veterans will go on unabated.

Second, this year there will be launched by the Knights the program for boys on which Brother Barnabas, nationally-known expert on boy-training, has been working since the Atlantic City convention. Brother Barnabas' program was accepted in its entirety. It centers about the building up of a great national boys' organization to be known as the Columbian Squires, and the training of leaders in boy work, chiefly at Notre Dame University.

Growth of Order

Facts reported to the convention which show the tremendous strength of the order included the following: Total assets amount to twenty-one and a half million dollars, exclusive of special funds.

Total receipts in the year from all sources except the War Fund were \$5,500,000. Expenditures were almost \$3,000,000. The sum of \$1,000,000 for general operation of the order and \$175,000 on account of Italian welfare work.

There is almost \$21,000,000 in the Mortuary Reserve Fund, \$700,000 in the General Fund and \$650,000 in special funds not including the War Fund.

The order now has 2,400 subordinate councils, with 237,000 insurance members and 514,000 associate members.

Columbia, the official organ, prints an average of 750,000 copies monthly, at a total cost of \$420,000 yearly. The sum of \$500,000 has been advanced for welfare work in Italy, with \$650,000 still on hand. To date, the Knights have invested \$425,000 in four playgrounds in Rome and a headquarters.

Correspondence schools for members show tuition receipts for 21 months of \$43,000 and expenditures of \$36,000.

The War Camp Fund last year spent \$2,000,000 and has a balance on hand of \$2,250,000.

Twenty-five thousand ex-service men were enrolled in correspondence schools without charge in the last year.

In their hospital work the Knights now have 191 secretaries working with 37,000 patients in 448 hospitals. Last year alone \$731,000 was spent on hospital activities and \$140,000 more to help disabled veterans through the American Legion and the Disabled Veterans of the World War.

Delegates in Parade

A parade of 3,000 delegates and members, many of them in uniform, and a solemn Pontifical Mass in the new Duluth amphitheater opened the convention. The Rt. Rev. Joseph G. Platen, Bishop of Superior, Wis., was the celebrant of the Mass, and 6,000 filled the huge auditorium. The Most Rev. Austin Dowling, Archbishop of St. Paul, preached the sermon, and the Duluth Knights' choir sang a special Mass written for the occasion by Walter Gelhard, a Knight of Columbus.

Following the Mass, the delegates were formally greeted at the Hotel Duluth, convention headquarters, by Mayor S. F. Salvey. The mayor declared that the Knights should be particularly at home in Duluth, since "first of all to this region came the missionaries of your Faith, to whom we owe so tremendous a debt of gratitude." Formal greetings also were presented from local civic and fraternal bodies.

Reports of the Supreme Officers at the first business session in the afternoon were unanimously applauded by the 325 accredited delegates and 3,000 additional members and friends attending. The city had been beautifully decorated, and the local Council announced an extensive program of entertainment.

Archbishop Dowling, after reviewing the early history of the order in his sermon, declared:

"No political, social or religious crisis gave it birth. It was not like the emancipation movement in Ireland, or the Center Party in Germany, or the great ferment of Catholic organization in France at the present moment. It did not come into being at the demand of the hierarchy. Few of the prelates who assisted at the Council of Baltimore in 1884 had ever heard of it. It is not doing them an injustice to say that some of those who were there on that occasion would have opposed it rather than encouraged it, such would have been their instinctive aversion to any organization that had even the appearance of secrecy."

Commending the Knights for the splendid aid they have given Catholic education and for their remarkable achievements in the World War, which he attributed to "the heart that the agents of the Knights put into their work," the Archbishop praised as "no less distinguished" the "continued enlightened, disciplined efforts to maintain as the trustees of the country's bounty the work of benevolence begun in camps and now carried on by evening schools, or in another sphere and using other resources, the generous cooperation with Catholic agencies in social service work for the youth of Rome."

Work for Boys Commended

His Grace further commended the plans for work among American boys under the direction of Brother Barnabas, and the formation of the Columbian Squires with the special feature of training college men in the direction and guidance of growing youths. He said that the Catholic Church in America thirty years ago was "sharply and painfully divided over language and racial questions," continuing:

"The Church in that day was European in its traditions and character. It was for the most part an inherited Faith, a religion transmitted from father to son. Irish, German, French, Polish, Bohemian, Italian or what-not, it conceived of the Faith as imperiled by the use of any other tongue or custom but that of the fatherland."

"Happily, the times have changed. We now live in peace and patience with one another. Many agencies have entered into that happy communion, and without question a society like yours has been a solvent

out charge to them, he said. Because the capacity of the existing War Fund is limited to hospitalization work and to the provision of free correspondence courses for veterans, however, the order had reached the point where the subsidizing of courses in K. of C. evening schools must cease.

In the night schools some 300,000 men and women have received full or part courses in a variety of subjects, he continued. With the withdrawal of the subsidy which came from the War Fund, he urged local councils to carry on the work because "it is a field in which we are able and in which we should be willing to serve permanently."

Urges Fight on Corruption

Urging the Knights ever to remain true to the principles of their order and to do battle against the forces of dishonesty and corruption, he continued:

"We have certain great possessions. Our Faith, in the first place, glorious, enduring, through the ages surviving the conflicts of the world's greatest quarrels, the promise of peace to men of good will today. Then, our respect for law and the orderly processes of government, by which the validity of contracts is enforced, the inviolability of the home secured, the enjoyment of safe liberty established. In the possession of these great fundamental elements of force we have the right, nay, even the duty, to make our thoughts and principles avail."

"We have long since passed out of the shadow of those bickerings which darkened understanding in the Catholic body 30 years ago. We have not yet quite emancipated ourselves from the apologetic mind which so long obsessed us."

"The record of this order is a revelation of what Catholic men can do. Tomorrow calls to us with even greater challenges to match our minds, our thoughts, our principles with the subtle, elusive, gross thought of the day, to enter as students into the fields of popular education, and with the competence of knowledge to hold our own with those who, in the name of novelty, seek to bring back the old disorders against which God's flaming sword was unsheathed at the gates of paradise."

At the second day's session, Archbishop elect McNicholas of Cincinnati, now Bishop of Duluth, addressed the convention, after which Supreme Knight Flaherty read his report. He called attention to the great gains made by the order in all departments then continued:

"It is gratifying to note the spread of new councils of the order everywhere, and I should like to stress the community obligation of each council we organize, not only for the benefit of the individual or the collective body of Catholic laymen who become Knights of Columbus."

"The council is formed not only to be of aid in all matters of Catholic welfare in the community, but it must be of genuine use to the community itself."

Mr. Flaherty urged the establishment of permanent council homes.

Permanent Homes Urged

"It is written in our records," he said, "that the council with a permanent home is generally the progressive council. Its members find some substance in fraternal life where there is a home and not merely some rented rooms."

The duty of participation in civic undertakings was stressed.

"I believe, however," the Supreme Knight said, "that it is unwise for any council to be too eager to participate in general work as distinguished from specifically Catholic functions."

"In educational and patriotic work, each council should play its part. In the rounded activities of every community being open and broad, but not flashy or flamboyant, welcoming an opportunity to serve with other organizations not of our Faith, but not rushing into associations that are not properly ours. In whatever enthusiasms are engendered through cooperation with our fellow countrymen not of our Faith, our specific responsibility as Catholic workers in the Catholic field must never be neglected or overlooked."

Position On Night Schools

Touching on the educational work of the order, he characterized as particularly successful the correspondence school. There are now enrolled 4,000 members in 85 courses, in addition to 20,000 ex-service men who have availed themselves of the correspondence school opportunity with-

out charge to them, he said. Because the capacity of the existing War Fund is limited to hospitalization work and to the provision of free correspondence courses for veterans, however, the order had reached the point where the subsidizing of courses in K. of C. evening schools must cease.

In the night schools some 300,000 men and women have received full or part courses in a variety of subjects, he continued. With the withdrawal of the subsidy which came from the War Fund, he urged local councils to carry on the work because "it is a field in which we are able and in which we should be willing to serve permanently."

Dealing with the hospitalization work, Mr. Flaherty said that at present the Knights are ministering to more than 40,000 men in about 500 hospitals. He announced the gift of \$35,000 to the American Legion for its further activities among the disabled. This is in addition to a gift of \$50,000 two years ago, another of \$15,000 to veterans and still another of \$75,000 to the Disabled Veterans of the World War.

Canadian Knights Lauded

Rayling the splendid record of war work, Mr. Flaherty paid an eloquent tribute to the work of the Canadian Knights, "who have labored as unceasingly for the veterans of their country as we have for ours."

"The name of the Knights of Columbus is nowhere more illustrious than in the Dominion to the North," he said, "thanks to the courage and industry of the Canadian executives and the intrepid energy of their co-workers."

He dwelt at length on the importance of the boy work to be done through the Columbian Squires. He said he hoped for the day when every council of Knights will have its unit of Squires.

The K. of C. work in Rome he characterized as most important, dealing with its financing, he declared:

"The man who states that the Knights of Columbus in any way divert war money from its legitimate avenues of expenditure is not only a liar, but a venomous liar. Not one penny of our war funds has gone into this important work we are doing under the auspices of the Holy See. Not one penny shall go into it."

Upward of a million dollars has been appropriated for Roman work, Mr. Flaherty told of the recent visit he and Supreme Directors Houlihan and O'Neill made to Rome, where they reviewed the project of the Knights. He quoted the words of commendation of the Holy Father.

Tuesday evening the delegates attended the institution of the first circle of the Columbian Squires, the new junior order of the Knights of Columbus. Thirty Duluth boys were initiated with great solemnity in the Cathedral auditorium under the direction of Brother Barnabas of Notre Dame. A special ritual service has been provided which is very beautiful. The youthful candidates were required to take the following pledge:

"I promise on my honor to imitate the youthful Christ, who grew in wisdom, stature and grace before God and man. For this purpose I will endeavor earnestly to perfect myself spiritually, intellectually and socially."

The ceremony lasted an hour and a half and made a profound impression. It marks the beginning of the work for boys planned for three years, on which about \$30,000 was spent in the course of the last year. The Committee on Boy Work, of which Deputy Supreme Knight Carmody of Michigan is chairman, informed the delegates of the plan to proceed with the boy work slowly and cautiously. Only one circle of Columbian Squires will be permitted for each 25,000 Knights, and then only when competent men are available to direct the work. An encouraging report was made on the graduate course at Notre Dame for instruction in biology. There are now 20 men taking the course of Knights of Columbus scholarships, and 20 more are to be accepted next September. The course is two years long, and academic degrees are required from candidates.

Flow for Martyr Shrine

Father Wynne, S.J., of New York, addressed the convention on the recently beatified Jesuit martyr of North America. After reciting their heroic struggles, he told of the long efforts to have the Holy See recognize them as martyrs and of the great ceremony when they were beatified.

He urged the Knights to mark this event by proper celebrations next Columbus Day in all parts of North America, and told of the renewed efforts to enlarge the work for the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs at Auriesville, N. Y., asking that councils in that neighborhood promote pilgrimages. The delegates, much impressed, agreed to the suggestion.

At the final session a communication was received from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, in convention at Tulsa, commending the Knights of Columbus war work. The session was given over to consideration of more than 100 resolutions pertaining to the general government of the order. An effort was made to limit the tenure of office of all Supreme Officers to two terms, but was defeated after spirited debate.

A request was received for the financial assistance of the Knights in the Joyce Kilmer memorial

A message of alibi devotion was cabled to the Holy See, pledging continued support of Italian welfare work.

Many Seek Next Conclave

Two of the original incorporators of the K. of C., William M. Geary and C. T. Driscoll, both of New Haven, were present, as well as two Past Supreme Knights, John J. Phelan of Bridgeport, Conn., and John J. Cane of Deal Beach, N. J. Several groups attended the convention as excursion parties notably from Philadelphia and New York. Some of these parties plan to journey further west to the Grand Canyon. Thousands of women were present. The K. of C. band of 75 pieces from St. Paul, attired in colorful uniforms, the lifeless St. Louis Souaves, and the crack marching club of 600 from the Twin Cities lent color to the conclave.

David Wisted post of the American Legion, of Duluth, sent warm greetings and tendered the use of its local headquarters.

San Francisco, Baltimore, Detroit and Philadelphia sought next year's convention but the decision was left to the Supreme Directors.

Apostolic Delegation Secretary Honored

Washington, Aug. 5.—Word has been received at the Apostolic Delegation here that the Rev. George L. Leach, J.C.D., Secretary of the Delegation, has been made a Monsignor by the Holy Father.

Villa Maria College Breaks Ground

Two New

Two new buildings are being erected at the Villa Maria College, St. Mary's, Pa. They will be known as the "Hall" in honor of St. Mary, and the "Chapel" in honor of St. Joseph. The buildings will be completed within one year, and the property will then be the permanent home of the college.

Magr. Fitzmaurice To Be Consecrated Early in Autumn

Philadelphia, Aug. 5.—Rev. Magr. Edmund J. Fitzmaurice, who has just been appointed to the Holy See to be Bishop of the Diocese of Fall, the city of the consecration has not yet been determined.

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