

# Bishop calls for man to choose between Knights, Klan

By Tracy Early  
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — The national chaplain of the Knights of Columbus said that if reports are true that the head of the New York state Ku Klux Klan is also a member of the Knights of Columbus, the man must choose between the two organizations.

Bishop Thomas V. Daily of Brooklyn, national supreme chaplain of the Knights, made the statement following reports that William Hoff, 55-year-old grand wizard of

the New York state unit of the Invisible Empire of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, also belonged to a Knights of Columbus unit in the New York City borough of Queens.

Bishop Daily, whose diocese includes Brooklyn and Queens, issued a statement declaring that "membership in the KKK is incompatible with the teachings of the Catholic Church."

The bishop said there was no evidence that the Klan had turned away from "its

longstanding opposition to Catholics, Jews, African-Americans and foreign-born persons."

Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York also denounced the Klan in the homily at his Oct. 7 Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

"Membership is a disgrace to Catholicism," he said, alluding to the reports about Hoff. "Let that be clear."

The *New York Post* reported Oct. 5 that Hoff was a member of the Colon-Monsignor Higgins Council of the Knights

of Columbus in Queens.

It said he was the chief organizer of its food drive that provides Thanksgiving meals mostly to black residents in a public housing project.

However, he was quoted as saying, "I don't care too much for blacks. Whites have become second-class citizens. I believe in standing up for white people in this country."

The *New York Post* said Hoff had rejected the views of Bishop Daily and Castello.

"I don't care what any church teaching is about the KKK," he was quoted as saying. "I don't ask them and I don't ask the postman or the man in the street."

Another New York tabloid, *Newsday*, quoted Russell Shaw, national spokesman of the Knights of Columbus, as saying, "If this gentleman is in the Ku Klux Klan and claims to be in the Knights of Columbus, our position is he is not a member in good standing."

## Souter becomes Supreme Court's newest justice

WASHINGTON (CNS) — David H. Souter prepared to become the U.S. Supreme Court's 105th justice following his Senate confirmation Oct. 2 by a vote of 90-9.

Souter, a 51-year-old Episcopalian, was scheduled to be sworn in by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist Oct. 9 and hear oral arguments later that day in a case involving alleged sex discrimination by employers who exclude all women of childbearing age from some hazardous jobs.

The Senate confirmation came after nearly four hours of speeches on the Senate floor. The only opposition to Souter was from Democratic senators who expressed reservations about his stands on abortion and civil rights.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., said Souter could "solidify a 5-4 anti-civil rights, anti-privacy majority" on the court.

At his Senate confirmation hearings in mid-September, Souter said he had no "agenda on what should be done with *Roe vs. Wade*," the 1973 Supreme Court decision that made abortion a legal right.

"I don't suppose there is any more moving example ... that whatever the court does ... thousands of lives will be affected, and that fact must be appreciated," he said.

The National Abortion Rights Action League, which had opposed the nomination, said after the confirmation that the Senate had "made a dangerous leap of faith" that could lead to the return of "back-alley abortions."

President Bush's first nominee to the Supreme Court, Souter was a judge of the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston at the time of his nomination and had been attorney general, trial judge and member of

the state Supreme Court in his native New Hampshire.

Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee who voted in favor of Souter, said he hoped the Bush administration "will not learn the wrong lesson" from the Senate's approval.

"Our overwhelming approval is not a sign that the Senate intends to be lax about

exercising its advise-and-consent power, or intends to use that power only to screen out extremist nominees," he said. "Rather it is a sign that we take this power seriously and that we intend to exercise it responsibly."

Souter fills the post vacated by Associate Justice William Brennan, who retired this summer.

### Diaconate sessions slated

The diocesan Office of the Permanent Diaconate has scheduled two information sessions for men — and their wives — who are interested in applying as candidates for the permanent diaconate.

One session is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 25, at Church of St. Mary Our Mother Church, 816 W. Broad St. Horseheads. The second session is slated for Monday, Oct. 29, at the Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester. Both sessions will take place from 7:30-9 p.m.

For information, call the diaconate office at 716/328-3210.

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