

New York Knights Rally in Albany News Release - May 27, 2011
For more information contact William Ose at 315-232-4433



Photo (R-L) David Clark, Mary Clark, Herling Sorrell and Roy Garrant all of Plattsburgh



Photo – 4th Degree Knights marched in front of the Capitol Building

On Tuesday, May 10th, hundreds of New York State Knights of Columbus traveled to Albany for their 9th Annual Prayer Rally at the State Capitol. The Knights were only a few feet from the officers of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the state legislature as they prayed the four mysteries of the rosary and heard remarks from clergy, legislators and Catholic lay leaders. Bills have been introduced into the state legislature that would legalize same-sex marriage and further weaken New York's few restrictions on abortion. The Rally prayers asked Our Lord to enlighten the lawmakers and the speakers said it is essential that all Catholics make their voices heard. The elected officials supporting traditional values have a lonely fight without Catholic support. Prayer Rally Administrative Chairman Bill Ose of Adams explained, "Knights and families attending the rally have been called modern-day apostles and this describes the Knights of Columbus commitment to our God and our Church. I want to thank the hundreds of Knights and their families who traveled to Albany by the busload from every corner of our state. While we were praying other knights visited legislators inside the Legislative Office Building." David Clark, who organized a group traveling from the Plattsburgh area said, "Our people were renewed by the prayer and enlightened by the speakers. We were strengthened by all those people reciting the rosary."

Ed Mechmann, the Assistant Director for Family Life for the Archdiocese of New York, pointed to several legal ramifications of same sex marriage. For instance, state law requires that no organization receiving state contracts or grants may discriminate based on marital status. As a result, many Catholic institutions such as hospitals and social service agencies and possibly even Catholic schools receiving textbook or technology aid could lose their state contracts or aid and ultimately be forced to close their doors. Catholic institutions may also have to hire people in same sex marriages and provide them with the same benefits they provide a spouse today.

The rally speakers included Most Reverend Thomas Daily, Former Supreme Chaplain and Emeritus Bishop of Brooklyn; Rev. Monsignor John Murphy, Moderator of the Curia in the Diocese of Ogdensburg; Rev. Brian McWeeney and Rev. Ralph Fraats, Associate State K of C Chaplains and Sister Margaret of the Sisters of Life.

Elected officials delivering remarks included State Senators Marty Golden (Brooklyn), Catherine Young (Olean), Greg Ball (Weschester/Putnam/Dutchess), Lee Zelden (Shirley), Joseph Griffo (Utica), Assemblymen Andrew Raia (Northport), Joseph Saladino (Massapequa), Dean Murray (Patchogue) and Brian Curren (Lynbrook).

Catholic lay leaders speaking included Donna Bryon, Past President of the NYS Columbiettes; Charles "Chip" McLean, NYS President of the Ancient Order of the Hibernians; Patricia Gavin, Vice-Regent of the NYS Catholic Daughters of the Americas and Robert Fallon, Former K of C Supreme Director and Past New York State Deputy.