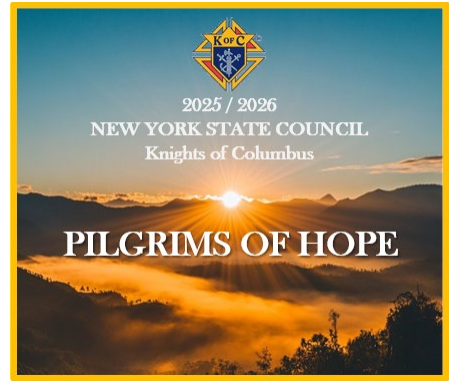


**“As the sun rises each day without fail, so does our
hope in Christ.
We walk as pilgrims, not in darkness, but toward the
light,
with hearts lifted by the promise of a new dawn.”
Pilgrims of Hope, Jubilee 2025**



Brother Knights,

This month, I begin my role as State Deputy with great humility and a heart filled with deep gratitude. I proudly stand with each of you, in perseverance and in dedication to the remarkable legacy of the Knights of Columbus.

I welcome you as my Brothers, but I also welcome you as Pilgrims of Hope. Together we are united in a mission of faith, discipleship, charity, mercy and hope. My new pin captures this theme with the perfect image of a sunrise. As men of unshakable faith, we know and we believe that just as dawn breaks through the darkness, casting light on the path ahead, as we draw closer to Christ, the rising sun who dispels the night.

As my companions on this journey, we will together deepen our faith through selfless acts of charity and service, and fortify the bonds of our cherished fraternity. As Pilgrims of Hope, we will bring hopefulness to those sorely needing hope, as we together witness and evangelize to the values of our Catholic faith.

We hear this quite often but it is especially true here: we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. This is certainly true for me. Allow me to recognize those leaders who have preceded me. Their tenacity and dedication have laid a foundation for us to strengthen and to build our Order. I am grateful.

Pilgrims of Hope: I am so humbled to have you on this journey with me. Let us rejoice in this time of renewal, and recommit to our Councils, parishes, and communities. Stand proudly with me as Knights of Columbus, united in faith, driven by purpose, and resolute in our collaborative mission.

When we wear this pin, let us remember, that the sunrise represents hope. That each new day brings fresh mercy, as the Jubilee invites us to trust again in God's promises. The dawn symbolizes God's faithfulness. No matter how dark the night, the sun always rises — just as God remains constant, guiding His people in every age.

Let us continue in the footsteps of Blessed Michael McGivney and glorify his model and example.

Pilgrims of Hope: May God bless our Order and guide us in all that we do.

GARY LEONARDO

State Deputy

NY STATE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS