

HISTORICAL SKETCH
GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY
Grand Rapids Council No. 389
Knights of Columbus, 1899-1948
Prepared by Thomas F. McGuire

On January 8, 1949, Grand Rapids Council No. 389, Knights of Columbus, will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its existence as a Council. Fifty years of earnest endeavor and patient labor will have passed, but not in vain. They have been fifty years of progress and achievement. They have been five decades of steady, constant growth.

We hope they will recall pleasant and inspiring memories in the hearts of the pioneers of our Council and serve as an incentive to their continued fidelity and attachment to our Order. To the younger generation, we hope the record of outstanding accomplishments of their predecessors will serve as beacon lights to guide them along the same paths to emulate their steadfast adherence to our Order and to continue the traditional spirit of self-sacrificing generosity that marked their activities for half a century and perpetuated the precious inheritance that has come to us.

Retrospection

When Detroit Council No. 305 was instituted in 1898, the Knights of Columbus was little more than a name in Michigan or, in fact, in the west. There were very few Catholic men, even among the leaders, who were willing to grant the new experiment anything more than a short lease of life. Like every constructive movement, however, there were some who recognized the strong appeal a society of this nature could make to the charity, chivalry and patriotism of the Catholic laity.

They could see in the new Order with its lofty ideals and aspirations, coupled with its insistence upon the value of unity of effort, a great opportunity for marshalling the Catholic strength

of planting in the minds of Catholic men some conception of the power lying dormant in them, of their resources, strength and energy, which by proper organization could be made a mighty instrument for good in the service of God and Country.

Desire for Grand Rapids Council Manifested

The desire on the part of Detroit Council to extend the order to Grand Rapids received its first stimulus when five Catholic men of Grand Rapids made a trip to Detroit in 1898, a few months after that Council was instituted. They were initiated as candidates in the second class to be received into the order in Michigan and became potential charter member" of the prospective new council which they hoped would soon be instituted in Grand Rapids.

The men who thus formed the nucleus of a new council were. Michael H. Ducey, Patrick H. O'Brien, Charles E. Norton, Thomas A. McGee and Michael D. Ryan. Charles L. Brown, who was living in Detroit, joined the same class and moved to Grand Rapids before our council was instituted. These six men were the first Knights of Columbus in Grand Rapids and became the first Charter members by transfer when the application for a charter was made.

Prospect for Grand Rapids Council Increases

The six men who have' the distinction of having been the first Knights of Columbus in Grand Rapids, full of enthusiasm and thrilled at the experience of having joined the new Catholic Order, interested a number of their friends and associates to such an extent that on January 3, 1899, John F. Glendon of the Detroit Council visited Grand Rapids interviewed prospective candidates in his room at Sweet Hotel (Now Pantlind), set Sunday, January 8, 1899, as the date for initiating the new class and rented the Knights of Pythias Lodge Rooms in the Pythian Temple (Now Ashton Building) for the occasion.

January 8, 1899

At the conclusion of six o'clock Mass in Old St. Aloysius Church on Washington Boulevard in

Detroit, resplendent with historical memories and traditions, approximately 125 men hurried towards the Fort Street Depot to board a special train for Grand Rapids. This group, comprising the entire membership of the infant Detroit Council was supplemented by about twenty-five members from Toledo Council. In this group was a distinguished guest. Judge John J. Delaney of the Supreme Court of York. On this man's shoulders rested the responsibility for the exemplification of the ritualistic work and the institution of Grand Rapids Council.

Judge Delaney spent the previous day in Detroit conferring with a carefully selected group of members of Detroit Council who were to assist in exemplifying the degree work. Among these members was State Senator George F. Monaghan, who was destined later to be a most impressive exponent of our ritual, our District Deputy and an outstanding pioneer of Columbianism in Michigan. While in Detroit, Judge Delaney received a telegram, stating that L. A. Sauter and Patrick A. McArdle of Chicago Council would not only be on hand to participate but that a special Pullman car with twenty-five members of Chicago Council would arrive in Grand Rapids early Sunday morning.

A casual observer in the Railroad Station would have discerned nothing in the making up of a four coach special train to distinguish the day as anything more than any other Sunday. There was no indication that the anticipated trip had any more significance than so many other runs. Just an ordinary incident in the daily routine of the railroad company. To the men who made that trip, however, it was an outstanding event. Their dreams of many months were about to be realized. The Knights of Columbus was being extended and might at some future time assume a position of prestige and influence in the State of Michigan.

Thrilled and impressed as this group of Knights must have been, none of them could possibly have visualized, or even vaguely imagined, the far-reaching results of the event in which they

were participating. Little did they realize that in fifty years, more than forty councils would trace their origin either directly or indirectly, to Council 389, which they would institute that day. Little did they realize that within half a century, the State of Michigan would boast of 101 Councils with a membership of more than forty-five thousand members.

Mission Accomplished

The hope and ambition of the small group of Knights of Columbus in Michigan to institute a Grand Rapids Council, was fully realized when the degree work was exemplified on a class of sixty candidates. In addition to delegations from Detroit, Toledo and Chicago, the pioneer councils of the West, the event was witnessed by about fifteen furniture buyers, members of Councils in the East, who were in Grand Rapids attending the semi-annual Furniture Exposition.

The banquet in the evening at Sweet's Hotel, under the supervision of Manager Tom Luce, was said to have been the most elaborate ever served in Grand Rapids up to that time. Patrick H. O'Brien, Grand Knight of the new Council, acted as Toastmaster. Addresses were given by Judge John Delaney of the Supreme Court of New York, Patrick McArdle of Chicago, State Senator George F. Monaghan and Alfred J. Murphy of Detroit. A new Council was born, the 389th in the Order, second in Michigan and the first in Grand Rapids Diocese.

Early Obstacles and Disappointments

Adverse conditions similar to those experienced in some other sections of the country, hampering the rapid advancement of our order were encountered in the formation of Council 389. Many of the clergy, mindful of past failures and unsuccessful attempts at forming Catholic Organizations on an extensive scale were prone to advise their people to go slow before supporting a new movement here.

Rt. Rev. Henry Joseph Richter, our Bishop at that time withdrew his objections to the Knights of Columbus entering his dioceses on the date of the

institution of our Council. The persuasive eloquence of Judge Delaney, however, was not effective enough to obtain his approval of our order.

There was also opposition from other sources and a wide difference of opinion on the manner in which the organization was being planned. Other organizations were strong and powerful, many of our people were lukewarm, some diffident and a large number hostile.

Despite these conditions the pioneers of the Knights of Columbus, believing that the new order with its lofty ideals and ritual had an opportunity for uniting the Catholic men of America and organizing them into a great fraternity, started an intensive campaign for members.

Ecclesiastical Approval Received in Grand Rapids Diocese

The Most Reverend Michael James Gallagher on attaining the dignity of Bishop of Grand Rapids continually praised the work of the Knights of Columbus. He signalized and manifested his feeling towards our order by entering Grand Rapids Council in 1917.

Charter Members of Council 389

M. H. Ducey	Andrew Doyle
P. H. O'Brien	John Doyle
C. E. Norton	Fred E. Howell
M. F. Ryan	M. F. Powers
Thomas. A. McGee	Benjamin E. Calvin
J. J. Burkhart	Patrick J. Goodwin
E. H. Vogt	Frank B. Mehen
Daniel Lynch	John Caulfield
M. Colleton	Theodore J. Host
J. Frank McKnight	Francis B. Martin
H. A. Swart	Chris M. Kelly
H. B. Schneerman	George O'Leary
John T. Byrne	W. R. McGarry
Nicholas J. Hoey	Edward A. Kinney
Patrick H. Burke	W. F. McKnight
Wm. Eicheldorfer	W. T. McGurrian
John E. O'Donnell	D. D. West
David J. Boland	P. D. Farrell
Joseph Coade	John F. McCarthy
J. Wm. Quinn	Daniel J. Murphy

Thomas McDermott	H. J. Willemsen
A. A. Delisle	Bernard M. O'Brien
Thomas P. Gleason	William Mahar
John Moran	M. J. O'Connor
F. Lemic Wurzburg	F. F. Keller
Charles I. Brown	Michael W. Marshall
James I. Kinney	Thomas J. Thompson
Fred W. Emmer	George C. Brown
Dennis E. Golden	Hames J. Howell
William FitzGerald	Edward H. Jansheski
John Wood	James J. Bayliss
Peter J. Hackett	Charles E. Boyland
John F. Boyland	John Johnson

Pioneer Councils

Until April, 1900, there was no state or territorial organization in Michigan and, as a result, the work of exemplifying degrees was in the hands of degree offices from other parts of the country. L.A. Sauter and P. A. McArdle of Chicago returned to Michigan to establish new councils and initiate charter members in Bay City, Port Huron and Alpena in 1899 and the early part of 1900.

The five councils comprising, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Bay City, Port Huron and Alpena were the foundations upon which the Knights of Columbus was built in Michigan. To the first members of the order in Michigan, we of today owe a debt of gratitude for their indomitable spirit and perseverance in overcoming many obstacles and reverses. For nearly two years Grand Rapid was the only council in the western part of the state and had among its members men who lived as far north as St. Ignace and as far south as St. Joseph.

Bay City Council came into being about six months after the institution of Grand Rapids Council. To no man is more credit due for its foundation than to Edward J. Schrieber. With him were associated James Donnelly, John Donovan, R. Campbell, R. Kealy, H. J. Daily, J.C. Weadock and Harvey Hagadorn.

Port Huron was the fourth Council to be instituted. The men who made it possible were, C. C. Clancy, John M. Gleason, D. A. FitzGibbon, J.C. Lehr, James H. FitzGerald and Rev. J. P.

McManus.

Alpena Council was organized almost directly after Port Huron. Among the men active in bringing about its institution were, Michael O'Brien, James Frances, James Collins, Dr. E. E. McKnight, Fred H. Ouelette and George Ouelette. The latter was for many years State Secretary of the Order. Any mention of Alpena Council would be a grave injustice which did not include the name of Rev. J. D. Flannery, pastor of St. Bernard's Church in Alpena for forty years who was deeply interested in the welfare of Alpena Council.

State Organization and Rapid Expansion

After the institution of Alpena Council, Michigan had sufficient membership and an adequate number of councils to warrant recognition as a jurisdiction of the order. As a result in April, 1900, it was erected into a territorial jurisdiction and the Supreme Knight entrusted the future of the Order in Michigan to that sterling exponent of its principles, George F. Monaghan of Detroit.

When Mr. Monaghan took up his work, the total membership in Michigan was only 500. Among those who worked with him were William E. Thompson, James Hayes, William May and others of Detroit, but probably no one was more helpful than Rev. Edward D. Kelly, then pastor of St. Thomas Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan, who later became our own beloved Bishop of the Grand Rapids Diocese from Jan. 16, 1919, until his death March 26, 1929. Councils were rapidly instituted in Battle Creek, Ann Arbor, Saginaw, Pontiac and Jackson.

With ten councils organized in lower Michigan, Mr. Monaghan, carrying the banner of our order, pushed into the Upper Peninsula and organized the first five councils in that part of the state, Escanaba, Menominee, Sault Ste. Marie, Marquette and Hancock.

State Council Formed

As the Order spread rapidly through the state, the first State Council was called to meet in November, 1901, and Mr. Monaghan was chosen

the first State Deputy and continued in that office until May, 1906. His farewell report showed 26 flourishing councils in the state with a total membership of more than five thousand. This was a splendid tribute to his untiring efforts in blazing a trail against many adversities and disappointments. He personally instituted 16 of the 26 councils which he left in a flourishing condition, when he dropped the cares of his office and turned them over to Martin H. Carmody.

Martin H. Carmody ~ Second State Deputy

Early in his administration, Mr. Monaghan recognized the need of an assistant and found the man he wanted in Mr. Carmody, an outstanding orator and an impressive exponent of the ritual. Mr. Carmody was made District Deputy in the early summer of 1904. He assumed his duties with marked success, instituting councils at Ionia, Benton Harbor, Muskegon, Manistee, and Petoskey. In forming these councils out of the old Grand Rapids District, Mr. Carmody had the assistance of many men active in Columbianism in the western part of the state. Muskegon, P. J. Connell, Judge J. E. Sullivan. Dr. George Le Fevere. John McKearnan, William I. Weller, Ionia; Janus Scully, Fred A. Chapman, Thomas A. Carten and Joseph Poole; Benton Harbor, Matthias Weber, Charles Sullivan, Frank Ankil; Edward P. Barry; Petoskey, William L. McManus, Robert L. Wolff and W.A. Major.

During the four years of Mr. Carmody's administration as State Deputy from 1906 to 1910, the organization continued a steady and progressive growth, increasing in membership from 5,000 to more than 7,000. He, like his predecessor, was an untiring worker. He was a splendid exemplifier of the ritual and surrounded himself with a number of men who made his team, known as the Grand Rapids Degree Team, outstanding, in the state and the country. Members of the Grand Rapids Council who were active on the original team were, William "Bill" McCue, Dr J.B. "Doc" Doyle, Henry

Swart, Wallace B. "Wally" Wendall, John F. McCarthy, Peter Hackett, Charles L. Brown, Herbert Hefferan and Louis McGee. His team reached a state of perfection that placed it in demand in distant parts of the country and National Officers frequently attended initiations to witness its work.

Mr. Carmody Becomes National Officer

Mr. Carmody's ability was quickly recognized by the Supreme Council and before his term as State Deputy expired, he was chosen to the second highest place in the Order and became Deputy Supreme Knight. His acceptance of this office made it necessary for him to sever his relations with the office of State Deputy and he was succeeded by Thomas A. Lawler of Lansing, father of our present State Advocate. Russell Lawler. At the close of State Deputy Lawler's term in 1915, the membership had increased to more than eleven thousand and the number of Councils to 43. The Order by reason of steady, constant growth and rigid adherence to the principle of quality of membership had attained a position of strength, character and influence. Numerous Councils in Michigan had now placed themselves upon such staple foundations that they felt themselves warranted in seeking ways and means of financing and securing permanent homes.

Our Building

Simultaneously with Mr. Carmody's selection to the second highest position in the order, the hope and ambition cherished by our members for a permanent home became more concrete. In February, 1911, a site was selected and a corporation formed for the purpose of building and maintaining a permanent home. The plans and specifications were prepared by Wernette, Bradfield & Mead with a view of providing all the comforts and accessories essential to a Knights of Columbus lodge home. The original officers of the 'Building Company, under whose direction the plans were drawn, consisted of: Michael Ducey. President; Phillip Fritz, Vice

President:

John Wood, Secretary-Treasurer; and Directors, Martin H. Carmody, Charles J. Carpenter, William F. McKnight, James R. FitzPatrick, Joseph P. Rusche, George R. Holloway and Dr. Stephen A. Whinnery. The contract was let to Horner & Kelly and the building project was under way.

The plans, as accepted and subsequently consummated, called for a semi-public auditorium wholly separate from the lodge rooms to be used for other than lodge purpose and other quarters to be leased to fraternal organizations. Dimensions 60x156 part two stories high and part one story, with full basement. The central entrance corridor, parlor, reception rooms, ticket office, men's and ladies' cloak rooms, to be rented independently with auditorium for dancing parties and entertainments. On the second floor the lodge room with parlors, six property rooms, men's and ladies' coat room, toilets and ante rooms. Lodge rooms, can be reached by a stairway direct from the first story corridor and a separate entrance independent from the balance of the building. Private library of the club rooms is on the first floor and is connected with the card rooms by a private staircase. The auditorium, 57x85 feet, fitted with stage and dressing rooms, has a seating capacity of 900, and may be used for dancing parties, lecture and such other uses that demand a large public room. The basement contains a 34x50-foot gymnasium, the height being right for indoor ball and other games, four bowling alleys, billiard, card, lounging rooms and shower baths.

The gymnasium served a very useful purpose in the early days. It was turned over to the use of Catholic Central High School students as training quarters and was a very influential factor in producing city championship teams. Later when St. Andrew's parish built a gymnasium on the high school campus, our gymnasium fell into disuse.

Recently through the generosity of Raymond J.

Scheffler, the floor of the Gymnasium was raised to the same level as the balance of the basement, which together with other repair and alterations produced a recreation, assembly or banquet room. This room is constantly in use and is known as the "Scheffler Room." Mr. Scheffler also redecorated and modernized our Library. This magnanimous and most acceptable gift was made by Mr. Scheffler to the Council of which he is a member.

The laying of the corner-stone of our building occurred January 10, 1915, with appropriate ceremonies. The event was attended by practically our entire Council, which numbered about 500 at that time and delegates from various parts of the state. Michael Ducey gave an outline of the founding of our order together with its aims and purposes. He was followed by Martin H. Carmody, who acting in his official capacity as Deputy Supreme Knight, gave the address of the day in which he stated, "We not only hope that this temple, will stand to perpetuate a beautiful piece of architecture, a meeting hall, but that it will be a source from which will emanate the undying principles of pure manhood and clean citizenry."

The building was completely finished and used for the first time by the Knights of Columbus on Columbus Day: October 12, 1915. A class of more than 100 candidates was initiated by District Deputy Thomas A. Lawler and his team from Lansing. We were honored by the presence of a number of officers from the Supreme Council. At the banquet in the evening Supreme Knight Flaherty and Governor Ferris participated in the program of speeches. The building was formally opened to the public by ex-President William Howard Taft, who gave a most timely speech on "The Sign of the Times," October 27, 1915.

World War I

Ernest A. O'Brien of Detroit succeeded Thomas A. Lawler as State Deputy in 1915, and filled the office for six years. If Mr. O'Brien had any personal ideas for a program for the growth and

development of the Knights of Columbus in Michigan, they were quickly discarded and he was kept busy meeting situations as they arose. His tenure was marked by the World War cataclysm. He met and overcame unprecedented problems which gave the Knights of Columbus a name that was outstanding in relief work.

In the second year of his administration, the Lusitania was blown up, a state of emergency was proclaimed by the President, the German Ambassador was given his passports, war was declared on Good Friday, our regular army was dispatched to France, the National Guard was mobilized, a draft law was enacted, the Germans were crossing the Marne and the "Big Berthas" were shelling Paris. Our nation was torn between the conflicting emotions of defeatism and a grim determination to carry on to victory.

In this crisis the Supreme Council committed the Order to the most privileged responsibility of carrying something of the atmosphere of the homes they had left behind to the boys in the service. From the smallest army post in this country to the pock-marked section of "No Man's Land" the "Casey's" were always present. Letters from "Somewhere in France" to anxious parents brought consoling stories of the comforts received at the K. of C. huts where the sign always read "Everything Free and Everybody Welcome." It was a gigantic undertaking, a stupendous social relief project, undertaken by a group that was as unprepared for such a task as many of the men who donned khaki. The result of this effort was that the name and the work of the Knights of Columbus became a household word in millions of American homes.

During this same time an insidious attempt to abolish parochial schools by a state constitutional amendment was defeated in a large degree by the Knights of Columbus under the able leadership of Mr. O'Brien. The well deserved publicity received from our war record combined with the other causes operating at the same time, showed its natural results in a large increase in

membership. While there was about eleven thousand members in Michigan when Mr. O'Brien became State Deputy, there were thirty thousand when he left office and the number of Councils had increased from 42 to 58.

The constant increase in numerical strength, the results of the feverish energy displayed in every direction by our people under the stress of war and the educational relief work undertaken after the war, changed the attitudes of many towards the order.

Local Drive for Knights War Activities

In May, 1918, the local drive to raise thirty-five thousand dollars, Kent County's quota of ten-million dollar Knights of Columbus war fund was under way. Previous to this time expense had been borne by our own membership, money having been furnished by the Supreme Council and by special efforts of local councils. By this time more than 100 buildings had been completed and in operation in various camps in this country and forty-one buildings were under construction. There were 219 secretaries and sixty-nine volunteer chaplains. The need was urgent for increased number of secretaries and chaplains abroad together with club houses to supply the needs of our constantly increasing armies in Europe. Men of all creeds united in this effort to make the task a little lighter for the boys "Over There." Zeph FitzGerald, wrote a song titled "For Him" and dedicated it to the drive. This song while, written to be used in Grand Rapids soon become popular throughout the nation.

Rt. Rev. Bishop Michael J. Gallagher became Honorary Chairman of the drive which opened with a mass meeting in Power Theatre. J. David A. Brown, of Detroit, most representative Jew in the country, was the principal speaker. Martin H. Carmody and George A. Monaghan also spoke.

Thomas A. Carroll, as Chairman of the meeting, was assisted by John W. Blodgett. Henry B. Herpolsheimer, Benjamin Hanchett, Paul Steketee. John Higgins, Henry Sullivan, John

Murray, William Judson, William H. Anderson, Col. W.T. McGurrin, John I. Cusik, Edward Lowe, Gustave A. Wolfe, Claude Hamilton and Robert Graham. The drive received inspiration from a telegram from President Wilson.

"To the Workers of the Knights of Columbus War Fund:

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, heartily approve your plan to accumulate a fund to be spent for the spiritual and moral welfare of our soldiers and sailors, and I am very happy and gratified to know that your efforts, while born of the charitable purposes of a single church, is non-sectarian in its scope and purpose and intended to bring a fundamental benefit to all whose mental, moral and physical health is our solemn concern. Woodrow Wilson."

Our Knight's of Columbus campaign was placed on the same footing as the Liberty Loan, Red Cross and other drives and prominent non-Catholics eagerly co-operated with us in securing an oversubscription of our quota. The Executive Committee was composed of the following prominent men: Edwin F. Sweet, Vice President of the Oldest Bank and President of the Y. M. C. A.; Major Philo C. Fuller, Vice President of the Y. M. C. A.; Stuart E. Knappen, President Rotary Club; Benjamin P. Merrick" President Federation of Social Agencies; Charles J. Kindel, Civilian Ordinance Director; W. E. Tallmadge, City Commissioner; John W. Blodgett, Charles E. Tarte, Julius Tisch, Clarence Weil and Gustave A. Wolfe. None of these men were Catholics but recognizing the merits and non-sectarian nature of our project gladly gave us their wholehearted co-operation in making the drive an outstanding success.

In the fall 1918, the local Council, in view of its outstanding record in behalf of the boys in uniform, was included as one of the agencies in the Kent County War Chest Drive.

Grand Rapids Overseas Service

Rev. James Golden volunteered for duty as a K of C. Chaplain and was soon dispatched to the war

front. He was quickly followed by Charles L. Brown, Phillip Crowley, Leo Grady, William McCue and Thomas McGee, who served as overseas Secretaries in charge of K. of C. huts. The manner in which these men met the duties and responsibilities of the positions for which they volunteered, may he gained from the following letter to Edward L. Hem, Overseas Commissioner of K of C. activities:

Headquarters 23rd Infantry,

A. E. F. Rengsdorf, Germany, July 9, 1919

Mr. Edward L. Hearn

Overseas Commissioner K. of C.

Paris, France

I wish to take this opportunity in thanking the K. of C. for the useful and beneficial work done through its representative, Mr. Charles Brown, and to report the efficient manner in which he carried it out.

Mr. Brown has added greatly to the comfort of the men by his continuous energy and initiative in getting supplies to the soldiers when they wanted them the most.

During the last concentration, he worked day and night to distribute candy and cakes and tobacco to the men on the march as well as in the camp.

While he remained in Germany he not only got supplies to every outpost in the Regimental Area., but he distributed cigarettes and tobacco at all of the baseball games.

Mr. Brown's departure will be a loss to the Regiment, but his kindness and devotion to duty will never be forgotten.

Yours truly.

Harry A. Eaton, Colonel 23rd Infantry,
Commanding

After his return from service, Mr. Brown moved to Detroit where he organized St. Paul's Council and became its first Grand Knight.

Home front Activities of Council 389

Grand Rapids became a city of Khaki overnight. Camp Custer full to overflowing and thousands of new recruits arriving: in a continuous stream created such congestion in Battle Creek that

Grand Rapids became a mecca for boys on leave. This presented an opportunity to Grand Rapids Council which was whole-heartedly accepted.

Our Building was abandoned by members excepting as they were called on to carry out assignments. Fred Boyland, as Chairman of the House Committee, assumed full charge and was ably assisted by Herbert Hefferan and John Cusick. These men operated on a twenty-four hour basis, to serve the boys in uniform.

Our library crowded with desks, and generously provided with writing material, was in constant use by boys writing letters.

Dances on three floors were sponsored every Saturday night. Eighty cots were set up in the auditorium. Under the supervision of Fred Boyland the auditorium was converted from a dance hall to a dormitory in about fifteen minutes with the aid of a number of willing volunteer workers. Breakfast was served in the basement under the direction of Mary O'Connor, who reported for duty each morning at 4:30. An average of 400 service men slept in the dormitory and had breakfast each week. Meals, aside from breakfast, were furnished at the Railroad Canteen or public restaurants and paid for by the Knights of Columbus.

Men who could not be accommodated in the K. of C. building were provided for in private homes or hotels. Jerry Cummings, in charge of the Club Rooms, provided smokes, candy bars and soft drinks. The only requirement for this service was the uniform. "Everything free and everybody welcome" and "Your money is no good at the Knights of Columbus" became well known phrases among the boys in khaki and blue.

Automobile service for boys requiring transportation was gratuitously provided by members. In this undertaking the Knights had the whole-hearted support of the Business Girls' Co-operative Society. Groups of these ladies were assigned to serve breakfast, attend visiting relatives of service men, provide entertainment and in many other ways assisted in making the

project the outstanding success that everyone acknowledged it to be.

Post War Activities

The sudden signing of an armistice and the termination of hostilities brought new and unprecedented problems to our nation. The change over from wartime production to peacetime pursuits was a slow process and brought in its wake a long period of unemployment. Millions of boys returning home made the situation more critical and created an atmosphere of unrest and discontent.

The Knights of Columbus was prepared to inaugurate a constructive program which was put into effect with the same energy and effectiveness as had characterized its war activities. The funds entrusted to the Order for war relief work were fully accounted for and the balance on hand, augmented by additional funds from the National Council, were made available for a gigantic educational and rehabilitation project to qualify returning soldiers for a better position in civilian life.

The two apartment houses adjoining our building on the north were vacated and transformed into class rooms, competent teachers were employed and over two hundred students enrolled. Courses in business administration, productive industry and manufacturing processes were taught. An employment agency operating in conjunction with the school placed boys in substantial positions as rapidly as they qualified and the employment permitted. After two years, when the economic situation became more normal, students who had not completed their courses, enrolled in a correspondence school which the National Council sponsored and the post war program locally came to an end.

The correspondence course, however, was later enlarged and its benefits are still available to our entire membership and their families at a nominal cost sufficient only to cover the actual expense of its maintenance.

Mr. Carmody Becomes Supreme Knight

A faithful service was not only recognized and rewarded, but a distinct honor was conferred on Council 389 in 1927 when Martin H. Carmody was elected Supreme Knight, the highest office in the Knight of Columbus. He held this office until 1939.

His life, since he entered the order, has been one of constant service to the Knights of Columbus. He entered the Order in 1902, became Grand Knight of Council 389 in 1904, and in the following year was appointed District Deputy by State Deputy George F. Monaghan. He succeeded Mr. Monaghan as State Deputy in 1907. In 1911 he was elected to the office of Deputy Supreme Knight, and held that office until 1927 when he was elected to Supreme Knight.

During his tenure as Deputy Supreme Knight he supervised the investment of all money for the Insurance Department. In 1922 when the movement to establish a junior organization was started, he was made chairman of that committee. Under this committee was founded the post-graduate department of boy's guidance at the University of Notre Dame.

As a Supreme Officer and Director, he was one of the most active men in war work of the Knights of Columbus during World War I and was sent as special representative to Panama and Alaska in connection with the welfare of the soldiers in those places.

In 1920 Mr. Carmody was a member of a party of 250 Knights who visited the Battlefields of France and presented that government an equestrian statue of Lafayette, which was erected at Metz. At that time, because of the welfare work of the Order during the war, Mr. Carmody was decorated by the Government of France, through Marshal Foch, with the Legion of Honor. In the same year he was decorated by Marshall Lyautey, French President of Morocco as a Commander of the Order of the Star of Morocco. As a fitting climax to these honors, Pope Benedict XV decorated him with the Order of Knight of St. Gregory the Great.

In 1939 Mr. Carmody received an honorary degree of Doctor of Law from the University of Michigan and a like degree from the University of Notre Dame.

Second Council Organized in Grand Rapids

On January 11, 1948 Grand Rapids, outgrew its swaddling clothes and took its proper place among the larger cities of the country that boast of more than one Council. Bishop Plagens Council No. 3104, perpetuating in the annals of Columbianism the name of our late Bishop, came into being. The Council was organized with a charter membership of fifty members and now enjoys a membership of more than three hundred. From present indications, this council, under the leadership of Grand Knight Stanley Gogulski, will have a membership exceeding five hundred within a year.

Our Present and Future

Fifty years have run their course and the fondest hope and ambition, that could have possibly have been cherished by the pioneers of Council 389, have been realized far beyond the expectations of the most fantastic imagination. The men of today will be the pioneer of the next half century. We must justify the confidence of our predecessors and expand our order even more energetically than they. A glorious future unfolds before us. We have only to prove ourselves worthy of its responsibilities.

The Knights of Columbus expanded and attained a position of influence because there was a very definite need for such an organization. Today a greater need exists. The necessity of opposing the force of intolerance and bigotry against minority groups has abated. Instead, men of all religions are uniting to oppose a common enemy, an enemy that is intent on destroying all religion and very wholesome influence our Christian civilization has developed. In this movement the Knights of Columbus destined to play a role of leadership.

We see a world of such chaos and such feeble gestures toward reconstruction that, in their

despair, millions of hungry men are driven, as though by some demonic urge of self-destruction, toward the Communistic solution which is the direct antithesis of our Christian civilization and direct challenge to our full resource and energies. Christian faith and Christian courage have never, since the days of Nero, been more sorely tried than they are today and never was such a widespread organized effort directed toward their complete destruction.

Who among us would deny that the finger of God did not fortify Father McGivney with those far-reaching resources of reason and revelation, when in 1883 he organized our Order. This was just one year after the death in Germany of Karl Marx, the father and founder of the blasphemous blight of international Communism. His followers today are leaving nothing undone to destroy our Christian civilization and all it represents.

They are presenting a challenge to us all as Americans. They are presenting a challenge to us particularly as Catholics and it is a challenge that must be met and successfully overcome by the Knights of Columbus. It is a challenge that in the last analysis will determine whether our Christian civilization as symbolized by the Cross and the Flag is to survive or whether it will submit in defeat before the onslaughts of the Hammer and Sickle of Communism.

Council 389, like every council in our country, is anxious to enroll every eligible man in its membership so that Church and Country may have the benefit of greater numerical and moral strength in meeting this crisis, but urgently as it needs Catholic men, it does not need them nearly as much as the Catholic men need the Knights of Columbus.

GRAND KNIGHTS OF COUNCIL 389

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Patrick H. O'Brien - 1899-1900
Michael H. Ducey - 1900-1901
Charles E. Norton - 1901-1904
Martin H. Carmody - 1904-1905
J. P. Halpin - 1905-1906
Henry Swart - 1907-1908
James R. FitzPatrick - 1909-1910
George Holloway - 1910 ~1911
Dr. S. A. Whinnery - 1912 - 1914
Charles Boyland - 1914-1916
William J. Pulte - 1916 ~1917
Bertrand T. Talbot - 1917-1918
Gus A. Richter - 1918-1919
Ervin J. Billo - 1920 - 1921
M. Thomas Ward - 1921 - 1922
Dennis E. Golden - 1922 - 1923
Vincent R. Wood - 1923 - 1924
Herbert E. Rasch - 1924 - 1925
William Riley - 1925 - 1926
Fred Hatch - 1926 - 1927
Dr. L. E. Baribeau - 1927-1928
Dr. J. P. Ghysels - 1928-1930
Harry Ackerman - 1930 - 1930
Dr. W. J. Carey - 1930 - 1931
Charles Norton - 1931-1932
James L. McInerney - 1932-1933
Thomas E. Walsh - 1933-1934
Leo W. Walsh - 1934-1935
Frank Nienhaus - 1935 - 1936
Frank Seibel - 1936 - 1937
Edward Neuman - 1937-1938
Joseph A. Dunn - 1938-1939
Frank Slattery - 1939-1940
Arnold R. Levandoski - 1940 - 1941
John J. Mieras - 1941-1942
William King - 1942-1943
Louis E. Maggini - 1943-1944
James F. Delaney - 1944-1945
Martin Wright - 1945~1946
James M. Slattery - 1946 - 1947
Vincent E. O'Neill - 1947-1948