



THE HISTORY OF MAINE IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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Chapter FORTY : Paul L. Harper - 1971 - 1973 - BANGOR

Our 37th State Deputy was born in Bangor, Maine on August 5, 1912. Paul L. Harper is the son of Joseph J. Harper and Irene McLeod. On September 4, 1933, he married Alice I. Dewitt in St. Mary's Church in Bangor, Maine. They were the proud parents of two children, a son Robert L. and a daughter Mary P.

Paul joined the Knights of Columbus in 1944, Pine Cone Council No. 114 in Bangor. In 1948, he transferred his membership to the St. Croix Council No. 149 in Calais. Paul was elected Grand Knight in June of 1948. Paul resigned as Grand Knight in November of 1948 and transferred back to Pine Cone Council No. 114 in Bangor. He was elected Grand Knight in Bangor in 1949. He later became Financial Secretary of his council on the death of Stewart Walsh, P.S.D.. He was later appointed District Deputy under S.D.'s Francis Reardon, Stewart Walsh and Wallace Bilodeau. He was appointed Fraternal Chairman under Chester Chase in the 6-Point Program.

Paul was elected State Deputy on July 1, 1971 and served as S.D. until June 30, 1973. The Supreme Council changed the 6-Point Program to the Surge With Service Program and the Degree Commission changed the degree work in the same year. It was a lot for the State Deputy to coordinate and for the councils to carry out these changes. The results, only history will tell.

When his term of office as State Deputy expired, all money commitments of the State Council had been paid, the last being for the Chapel at the Veteran's Cemetery. The State Council was left with money in its treasury and all phases of the degree work and Surge Program in full operation.

After the infamous decision of the Supreme Court on January 22, 1973, Paul became the first Maine Knights of Columbus Pro-Life Chairman.

During Paul Harper's terms as State Deputy from 1971 to 1973 there were no new councils formed in Maine.

FOURTH DEGREE MASTER #10: Robert Ouellette 1955-84 Brunswick

Following his three terms as State Deputy from 1952 to 1955, Robert J. Ouellette was appointed as District Master and served in that office from 1955 to 1984. This was a total of 29 years as District Master of Maine.

STATE CHAPLAIN 1967 TO 1987: Rev. Antonio A. Gosselin

Father Antonio A. Gosselin was born of Alphee Gosselin and Angelina Moreau in Lewiston, Maine on October 19, 1916 and was baptized on the same day in St. Mary's Church. His elementary schooling was done at St. Mary's school under the direction of the Good Ursuline Sisters of Waterville. From September 1930 to June 1938 he attended St. Hyacinth's College near Montreal where he completed his classical studies with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Montreal. In September 1938, Bishop McCarthy assigned him to St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto where, for four years, he pursued his theological studies. Father was ordained a priest by Bishop McCarthy on May 30, 1942 in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland, Maine.

His first assignment was as assistant pastor at Most Holy Trinity Church in Saco and served for 9 years. His later assignments were at Notre Dame in Waterville for 9 years, as pastor of St. Theresa in Stockholm for 7 years, St. Theresa Church in Oakland for 16 months and finally to St. Hyacinth in Westbrook.

In the early 1940's Father Gosselin joined the Knights of Columbus in the Bishop Fenwick Council #2239 in Saco, Maine. In July 1967, Bishop Gerety appointed him as the twelfth State Chaplain for the Maine State Council. Fr. Gosselin served faithfully for twenty years and resigned in 1987.

Bishop of the Portland Diocese: Most Rev. Bishop Peter Leo

Gerety, D.D. 1969 to 1974. Born on July 19, 1912, Peter Leo Gerety, who had been acting as apostolic administrator for the diocese since February 1967, was named the eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Portland on September 15, 1969. Before being named coadjutor bishop of the Diocese of Portland in 1966, Peter Leo Gerety worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture prior to starting his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1939 and then served in various capacities at parishes in Connecticut. During his tenure as Bishop of the Diocese of Portland, Bishop Gerety founded a number of new parishes in the suburbs and metropolitan areas; the first capital campaign was held to construct the Newman Center in Orono; the Diocesan Human Relations Services (DHRS), which was the precursor to Catholic Charities Maine, became a state-wide agency; and the diocese also opened the first units of low-income elderly housing in Portland and Waterville. Bishop Gerety oversaw the modernization of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and led a campaign to defend the rights conscientious objectors during the Vietnam War. In 1974, Bishop Gerety was appointed Archbishop of Newark, where he served from 1974 to 1986 before resigning. At age 100, Bishop Gerety is currently the oldest living Catholic bishop in the United States.

State Convention for 1971 was held in Kennebunkport (Shawmut Inn) June 4-5-6, 1971

State Convention for 1972 was held in Kennebunkport (Shawmut Inn) June 2-3-4, 1972

State Convention for 1973 was held in Kennebunkport (Shawmut Inn) June 1-2-3, 1973

