



THE HISTORY OF MAINE IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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Chapter Five : DIFFICULT TIMES FOLLOW FR. MCGIVNEY'S DEATH:

Perhaps Providence was kind to Father McGivney in shortening his years. He was saved the agony and the disappointment which most assuredly he would have felt most deeply, when the Order faced some bitter years. All organizations, no matter how noble their purpose or aims, must inevitably be assailed by those who are clearly in opposition because of base motives. The Knights of Columbus faced opposition and misunderstanding also. There were those who made much of the fact that the Knights of Columbus was a secret society, and that as a Catholic society nothing should be hidden. They understood not that the purposes and the work of the Knights were open for all to behold, and that only the rite of introducing candidates to membership was a confidential ceremonial, not an oath-bound ritual which might contain secret conspiracies or elements of conflict with either the Church or the State. Then it was also argued that such an organization discriminated against Catholic men who were not Knights of Columbus, and that this principle seriously offended against charity, and furthermore such distinction within a Catholic Group was not democratic. Since no Catholic in good standing was excluded from membership such objections came from men who had their own axes to grind.

In order to cope with the difficulties besetting the first years of the Knights of Columbus, and to assure Catholics of the United States, and the world for that matter, that the Knights of Columbus were truly a Catholic group in Faith, practice, and in principle, the Supreme Council presented the plan of the organization, the constitution, the laws, and the ritual to Archbishop Satolli, Apostolic Delegate, for his examination. After careful study of the documents submitted, Archbishop Satolli, representing the Holy See in the United States, officially and publicly approved the Order of the Knights of Columbus.

Throughout the nation, archbishops, bishops, prelates, priests and people had now obtained a better understanding of the Order. Many pastors who up to now had been somewhat reluctant to encouraging the Catholic men of their parishes to join the Knights of Columbus now became enthusiastic for the cause, and a great expansion of the Order followed. With the appearance of the official magazine in 1902, named the Columbiad, the Knights of Columbus became better known everywhere. In 1921, this magazine received the new name Columbia, and under this title is now reaching every member of the Order each month.

At the beginning of the century the Order had spread along the Atlantic seaboard and as far west as the Mississippi River: into twenty states and into Canada.

BIOGRAPHY OF MAINE'S SECOND STATE DEPUTY: S.D. JOHN F. CROWLEY 1898-1899:

John F. Crowley was born on September 10, 1857 in Bangor, ME. He was educated in Bangor schools. He was married to Ellen H. McNulty on October 11, 1882. They had five children who were all well educated in Bangor. While residing in Bangor, Mr. Crowley owned and operated the Standard Clothing Company at 11 Main Street, Bangor. Brother Crowley was a very devout Catholic and was very active in raising money for St. John's Church. John was a charter member of Pine Cone Council #114 of Bangor which was chartered in January 1895. In recognition of his leadership he was elected the first Grand Knight of his council. He was appointed the first District Deputy of Maine and was elected the second State Deputy. He served one year as State Deputy and was elected to be a Supreme Director. While a member of the Supreme Board he served on a special committee which reorganized the entire insurance system of the Order. He served as State Master of Maine and New Hampshire.

