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Archdiocese of Baltimore to host Knights of Columbus Convention

JULY 25, 2018. BALTIMORE, Md. — The Knights of Columbus will hold its 2018 Supreme Convention in Baltimore. More than 3,000 people are expected to attend the 136th annual event from August 7-9 at the Baltimore Convention Center. The Knights last met in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the nation's oldest Catholic diocese, in 1989.

"We will have people from all over the world from places like South Korea, the Ukraine, Poland, France, Guam, Philippines, Mexico and Canada," said Steve Cohen, the immediate past State Deputy of the Maryland Council of the Knights and General Chairman of the Supreme Convention. "Our group started planning and putting the pieces together about two years, once we found out the Convention was coming to Baltimore. About a year ago, we got down to the specifics. Our core committee is 15 strong but if you include volunteers there will be around 250 people putting this together."

Founded in 1882, the Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic family fraternal service organization in the world. The Order is still true to its founding principles of charity, unity, and fraternity. Charitable outreach, aid, and assistance are offered to the sick, persons with disabilities and their families.

The Knights of Columbus Maryland Council, with 27,500 members, has a long history of work on behalf of individuals with intellectual disabilities. The Maryland Knights have found a great partner in The Arc Maryland, which is Maryland's leading disabilities advocacy group. Through their partnership, The Arc established a scholarship program entitled the "Community Integration Program," utilizing generous donations from the Knights to provide need-based scholarships to individuals with



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intellectual disabilities. Past scholarship winners have used these funds for college classes, camps and other activities.

"There are some supreme programs, which include Coats for Kids and Special Olympics, but each jurisdiction has some of its own charitable programs," Cohen said. "One of ours is the Box of Joy program where we supply presents to kids in third world countries that normally would not receive a present during Christmas or any other time. Last year, we collected 1,400 boxes that were distributed in Guatemala, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic. There is a lot being given to those who need it."

As supreme chaplain of the Knights since 2005, Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, has the responsibility of overseeing the spiritual welfare of the Order's nearly two million members and their families.

"This is the first time ever that the supreme chaplain has hosted a Supreme Convention in his Diocese," Cohen noted.

In addition to the three-day program, which includes daily Mass and business sessions, the Maryland Council of the Knights will showcase Baltimore and the surrounding area prior to the event with tours of historical sites such as the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Mary's on Paca Street and the St. Alphonsus National Shrine.

"There is a lot of fraternity," added Cohen, a parishioner of St. Pius X in Rodgers Forge. "It is good to see people you might only see once a year, but we are all brother Knights there for the greater good."

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MARYLAND SERVES AND ADVOCATES FOR THE POOR, VULNERABLE AND THOSE IN NEED NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE CATHOLIC, BUT BECAUSE WE ARE CATHOLIC.