

Closing Remarks of the Immediate Past State Deputy

Patrick L. Kelley

My Dear Brothers,

The time has come, after the last nearly 12 years, to finally hang up my Green Jacket for the last time. As I do so, my mind is filled with wonderful memories of the great times and challenges we faced together. While I treasure those moments and the folks who I shared them with I also cherish the current State Officers and members that stand at the threshold of the future of our Order in this Jurisdiction. I am proud of the honor bestowed upon me by You, my brothers, in trusting me to help lead the State Council in so many ways for these last dozen years.

We have lost several members in the last twelve years who, each in their own way, made a lasting impression on us all and the way we do business as a Charitable organization. I miss them deeply. I truly wish to recognize my wife Tess, Son James, and my often-traveling companion, my wonderful daughter Kim for all their companionship, support, and tolerance over the years.

Once again, I wish to repeat the eloquent words of my predecessor PSD Bob Baemmert and his thoughts as he left the State Council service at the end of his tenure as a State Officer.

These following words were originally written by Dr. Kent Keith and often quoted by Mother Teresa:

"If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives: Be kind anyway. If you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies: Succeed anyway. If you are honest and frank, people will try to cheat you: Be honest anyway. What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight: Build anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous of you: Be happy anyway. The good you do today will often be forgotten by tomorrow: Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough: Give your best anyway".

While the tone of this writing may seem sad, and in some ways, it is, It is also the key to recognizing the doors now beginning to open as these close. The future is still bright for us all and there is much to do in the name of Christ. Be strong my brothers. Wear your Catholicity bravely in public as well as in private. Be proud of who and what you are. Never forget you are a Knight of Columbus, the strong right arm of the church.

Bless you, my friends. Pat