



**Knights of
Columbus®**



Centennial Council No. 8079

Report from 122nd Annual State Convention of the Knights of Columbus Washington State Council May 2-4, 2025

At the Convention's Opening Mass in the Marcus Pavilion of St. Martin's University in Lacey, Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle Frank Schuster emphasized that no matter how the world wants people to think the church is dying, the truth is the church is young and alive. There were 1.5 million attendees at the World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal in 2023. The event planned for Seoul, South Korea in 2027 is expected to double that number. The Eucharistic Revival in Indianapolis held in July 2024 brought together 50,000 Catholics here in America.

The Director of Bishop White Seminary Fr. Daniel Barnett quoted Pope Francis that "We don't live in an era of change; we live in a change of era." Father Barnett compared the image of a canoe versus a sailboat. The canoe has a flat bottom, but the sailboat has a keel that is not visible. Direction is determined by the rudder, and the sail is necessary for movement. The keel keeps the sailboat from turning over. Likewise, the Church needs a very deep keel; Christ is the keel. We need to sink our roots deep, and the key is not to capsize. He didn't promise that we wouldn't be challenged. If there is no turbulence, then we're not going anywhere. If we're paddling in the sailboat, something is wrong. We must extend our sails upward. The rudder is moved in the opposite direction, counterintuitively. The real strength is in the Holy Spirit.

What we do on mission, comes from who we are or our identity as Christians, which is based on our relationships with God and each other. In the past year, we've donated 17,000 coats for kids valued at \$350,000, assisted 7,000 families with 12,000 pieces of medical equipment valued at \$3.9 million, and donated \$5 million to the Aid and Support after Pregnancy (ASAP) program.

Rainier J. Reyes
Grand Knight