

Dear Brother Knights:

As many of you know, there have been some changes to the annual Christmas celebration in Leavenworth, Washington, which have caused concern among our members and others who in the past have participated in this festive celebration of the Nativity of our Lord. The purpose of my communication today is to set the record straight regarding participation at the Village of Lights: Christmastown December 5th St. Nikolas, Nikolaus or Nicholas event and ask for your ongoing support.

First, I want to thank Ben Herreid, member of Council 13597 and business co-owner of Larch and Wildflour restaurants in Leavenworth, Washington, for his passionate concern.

While I'm not going to get into a discussion regarding decisions that were made by the City of Leavenworth, the Chamber of Commerce and eleven other businesses to encourage demonic characters into the beautiful Bavarian community of Leavenworth, WA, (in the name of tradition), I am going to affirm our resolute position that the Knights of Columbus will continue to proclaim the Gospel and the great good news that God Himself entered our fallen world to redeem us.

As Knights of Columbus, we'll do this through the witness of our own lives: by enthusiastically performing acts of charity, faithfully attending religious celebrations, and joyfully inviting others to know and love Christ as we do. This is a providential moment for the Order to stand firm against the secularization of the holiday season by proclaiming the true meaning of Christmas. In the many communications I have received from concerned Washington State Knights, and others, I encourage members to support efforts in finding our way back to this joyous celebration. My hope is that the Washington Knights will rise to the occasion.

Stand firm and proclaim his name to our brethren. Let us keep our eyes on the God-man, Jesus Christ: following the shepherds with haste to Bethlehem, "to see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord has made known unto us;" singing with the Blessed Mother, "The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name;" and proclaiming with Joshua, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Wishing you all a blessed Advent and a very merry Christmas.

Kim Washburn, State Deputy
Washington State Council
Knights of Columbus