



Invocation by
His Eminence
Gérald Cyprien Cardinal Lacroix
Archbishop of Quebec
Primate of Canada

*States Dinner of the 133rd Supreme Convention
of the Knights of Columbus
held at the
Pennsylvania Convention Center,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 4, 2015*

“We praise God, from whom all blessings flow”

Très chers frères et sœurs, bonsoir ! Warm and heartfelt greetings from Quebec and Canada, your northern neighbors! I am honored to have been invited to give the invocation this evening. I am also very pleased to be here with many of my brother Bishops and Archbishops from Canada, and I invite them to stand.

We Canadians owe so much to the Knights of Columbus, who throughout the years have helped us live our mission, serving the Church and the People of God, and helping us take good care of those most in need in our local communities. From the bottom of our hearts, *merci beaucoup !*

Let us pray and praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God, our Loving and Merciful Father, we turn to you this evening as we gather for this annual States Dinner. We are grateful for allowing us to be together in fraternal love. May our friendships be strengthened and our lives continue to grow in service and in love.

This evening, brother Knights of Columbus and their spouses from many provinces, states and countries share this generous table. Help us grow in unity. Teach us, Father, how to be in-

struments of peace and justice where we live and work. May this 133rd Supreme Convention renew us as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ.

The City of Philadelphia is the City of Brotherly Love since William Penn, the English Quaker, envisioned the area as a place where anyone of any color or background could live here in peace and harmony. We continue to dream and hope for a world of Brotherly Love. Stay with us, Lord!¹ Walk with us so that we can build a New World where love reigns in every heart, and harmony and unity in every family. As this City prepares to celebrate the World Meeting of Families next month and welcome our Holy Father, Pope Francis, renew us in our commitment to support, defend, evangelize, catechize and accompany the families entrusted to us.

Through the Word of God, the sacrament of the Eucharist and the other sacraments, you nourish our hearts and our souls and give us the strength to continue our journey. We thank you for the priests who serve our parishes and communities and help us grow in holiness.

We give you thanks for this meal. All this food arrives on our table thanks to the work of so many people, farmers, grocers, people who work in transportation, cooks, servers, and many more. For all of these dedicated men and women who work year round to feed the world, we give you thanks, Lord.

And so together we pray :

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts,
which we are about to receive from thy bounty.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Au nom du Père, et du Fils, et du Saint-Esprit. Amen.

¹ Luke 24 : 19.