

**Fr. George Farah and parishioners of Jesus the King Parish,
fellow Knights and guests.**

The invitation for my presence here today is certainly surrounded by the honour of being a part of a ceremony which recognizes the generosity of all of you who made this wonderful undertaking possible.

I am sure that many of you know that –“Jerusalem Students” as the project has come to be known, was undertaken by Jesus the King Council # 15045, which in turn won the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council, International Youth Service Award at our Supreme Convention in San Antonio Texas in 2013. A translation of that would simply say that it was the best in its class in Columbianism around the world.

This initiative was, and continues to be, a practical way of strengthening the Christian faith in the Holy Land and as well maintain those values which each of us here in Canada have come to treasure.

Jerusalem Students provides young people with an opportunity to attain the educational tools necessary; which in turn allows them to progress to university studies, graduate, and in due course to move on with their lives having the potential to raise successful Christian families of their own.

You might want to note that out of 34 sponsored students, 26 were in fact sponsored by Knights of Columbus councils, or by individual knights.

On behalf of our State Deputy Kevin Daudlin and our Supreme Knight Carl Anderson I would like to thank all the individual sponsors, and the K. of C. councils as well as the individual

knights who fall into both categories in sponsoring students;-- but especially those of you who are present here today.

You as sponsors, through your efforts are reversing what has become a trend for diminishing numbers of Christians in the land where our Lord Jesus Christ walked and preached.

I would like to thank Father George for all his encouragement and support that he has; and still continues to offer to Jesus the King Council which has made Columbianism in Canada very proud for all that they have accomplished with this wonderful project.

I am told that this initiative is just the beginning of what might become a sponsorship undertaking for Christian students all over the Middle East. I am sure that Our Lord Jesus is with you in all that you undertake, ---- and with him on your side your success is truly guaranteed.

May God continue to bestow his blessing on you in your work surrounding this undertaking and may this project and the many future projects that you continue to develop, flourish equally as well.

God bless all of you for all that you are doing.

*Sir Knight Jerry Hayes
Council Director
Ontario Knights of Columbus State Board*