



## **COMMITTEE ON CHARTERS GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING NAMES FOR COUCNILS**

*Sections 97 and 98 of the Charter Constitution & Laws of the Order outline the general rules regarding the naming of Knights of Columbus councils. A council shall not bear the name of a living person and the approval of the name of the council rests with the Committee on Charters.*

*To assist in the selection of a council name, these guidelines are provided for your consideration.*

### **RECOMMENDED PRIORITY FOR THE SELECTION OF COUNCIL NAMES:**

#### **Religious Names:**

ex: Holy Family, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Holy Trinity, All Saints

#### **Saints or Parish Names:**

ex: St. Mary's, St. Patrick's, St. Stanislaus, St. Aedan's, St. Francis

#### **Hierarchy or Clergy Names:**

ex: Cardinal O'Connor, Pope Paul IV, Father Michael McGivney, Father John Doe  
*(Names proposed in this category require the approval of the Ordinary of the Diocese and a biography submitted with the request to the Supreme Secretary.)*

#### **Deceased Knights, Prominent Catholic Laymen Names:**

ex: Luke E. Hart, John H. Reddin, Al Smith, R. Sargent Shriver

#### **Council Location Names:**

ex: Harrisburg, New Haven, Denver, Whispering Pines

### **GUIDELINES FOR COUNCIL NAME CHANGES**

The Committee on Charters considers the changing of the name of the council an important action and should not be taken lightly, especially considering the historical significance to the council. Maintaining a religious name is generally preferred to a secular name. Each request will be handled on an individual basis.

The process for requesting council name changes includes:

- Draft a resolution calling for the name change;
- Read the resolution at one (1) council business meeting;
- Publish the resolution to all council members;
- Vote on and approve the resolution at the following council business meeting;
- Forward the resolution to the State Deputy for his consideration. The request should explain the rationale for the name change and the biography, if applicable. If the individual is a priest, the approval of the Bishop is required with the request.
- If the State Deputy approves the request, he will forward it to the Supreme Secretary with his endorsement (*The Board of Directors will not consider a name change request unless endorsed by the State Deputy.*)
- If the request meets the guidelines established by the Committee on Charters, the Supreme Secretary will present the request to the Board of Directors for their consideration, approval or rejection at the next available business meeting.

For more information regarding council names or name changes, contact the Supreme Council Department of Membership Records, the Department of Fraternal Services or the Supreme Secretary's Office.