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September 6th 2015,

Toronto, On.

Your Excellency, Reverend fathers, Brother Knights, distinguish guests, ladies and gentlemen,

What an honor for us today to be recognized for the work and effort given by you. You have supported individuals from another country, Jerusalem, someone that you have never met, and you did it because the right of education is vital today. You will be able to review their reports and will appreciate the fruit of your sponsorships.

Today, maybe we realize how an important role we all play around the world? During our 2015 Supreme Convention, Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, instilled in us, that the Knights of Columbus is committed in assisting our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East. Mr. Anderson announced a “Season of Truth” dedicated to raising awareness of their plight, and plight of other religious minorities in the region.

The Middle East has been victims of violence resulting in more than four millions deaths, and becoming the greatest crisis of refugees since WWII. These actions are affecting Iraqi, and Syrian Christians; who are now the victims of systematic cleansing and persecution. In Iraqi alone, more than one million Christians once were, now with this violence has reduced this number below 400,000.

This human catastrophe has drawn commentary from Pope Francis, who said this of the persecution:

“Today we are dismayed to see how in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world many of our brothers and sisters are persecuted, tortured and



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killed for their faith in Jesus. In this third world war, waged piecemeal ... a form of genocide is taking place.”

As Knights of Columbus and Christians, we cannot be part of what Pope Francis has called the “complicit silence” of many who hear of these atrocities and do nothing. We must act.

I now direct some attention to the wonderful efforts from this host council 15045 Jesus the King. Back in San Antonio Texas, your Grand Knight HikmatDandan walked across the Supreme Stage to receive your international youth service award in recognition of Jerusalem Students project. I was there when Bro. Dandan received your award, his eyes full of pride and joy; similar to when laying your eyes on your child for the first time. Your hard work, your dedication, patience, and for your many prayers, so that this project can lifted off the ground; congratulations.

I have been made aware of 2 or 3 new projects that this council is trying to get going, and again to help others from a different continent. You have people here in this council, community and parish that can make a difference, and this is because you are all leaders. We, the Knights of Columbus, need more leaders like yourselves. We need to make differences where no one else can make it happen. Our Supreme Convention 2016 will be hosted right here in Toronto Ontario. After evaluating your past achievements, I am certain you can find more success next year! Will you be part of it?



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Jesus the King 15045, and all the Jerusalem Students program's sponsors. As you will realize today, you have made a difference in someone's life. It does not matter how much or how little; you have made a difference. On behalf of our 55,000plus Knights of Columbus members here in Ontario, my State Board, and myself; we thank you.
Vivat Jesus,