



WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus, St. Gregory Council, No. 6700 Gastonia received its charter from the Supreme Council on June 1, 1975, and has met at Saint Michael's Catholic Church since its inception – originally at Saint Michael's School, and now at the Parish Center; and,

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus is a charitable, fraternal organization of Catholic men, ages 18 or older, whose guiding principles are charity – in terms of both dollars and time – unity, fraternity and patriotism; and,

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus is the world's largest lay Catholic family service organization, and following in the footsteps of their forebears more than a century ago, today's Knights and their families stand shoulder to shoulder in support of one another. Through their acts of charity and the examples of their lives, they stand in service to all as witnesses to the "good news of the Gospel"; and,

WHEREAS, the Council's gross collections through 2024 totaled more than \$600,000 for Operation L.A.M.B (Least Among My Brethren Foundation of N.C.), benefiting organizations, such as, Holy Angels, Special Olympics, Gaston Skills, ARC of Gaston County, Webb St. School (Special Needs), among others; and,

WHEREAS, the Council has supported numerous organizations and causes, including Catherine's House, local food pantries, the Coats for Kids Program, Global Wheelchair Mission Partners, Scouts, and victims of Hurricane Helene by providing food, clothing and other essential needs; and,

WHEREAS, the Council's first major undertaking was the restoration of Saint Joseph's Church in Mt. Holly, the oldest Catholic Church in the State, which had been unoccupied for many years. Members refurbished grave sites and other church properties, and upon completion, the Bishop celebrated Mass at the Church. Since that time, Belmont Council 11076 has continued to maintain and preserve the Church; and,

WHEREAS, the Order is a "can-do" organization and over the past decade, Knights worldwide contributed more than one billion hours of volunteer service and more than \$2 billion to a wide range of Church, community and charitable activities and programs; and,

WHEREAS, the Order funds the necessary satellite uplinks to broadcast papal messages and ceremonies throughout the world, paid for the Restoration of St. Peter's Basilica facade, and financed the restoration of the Maderno Atrium leading to the Holy Door, which is opened by the Pope at the beginning of a Holy Year, the most recent being Jubilee 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners commends and recognizes

*The Knights of Columbus, St. Gregory Council No. 6700*

on the occasion of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, June 1, 2025, and for its ongoing dedication to raising funds for Operation LAMB, and providing support to charitable organizations and vulnerable populations in the County and across North Carolina!

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Chad Brown, Chairman

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Jim Bailey

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Bob Hovis

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Cathy Cloninger, Vice-Chair

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Tom Keigher

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Allen R. Fraley

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Scott Shehan

To be Adopted the 28<sup>th</sup> Day of October 2025