



# THE HISTORY OF MAINE IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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## Chapter TWENTY EIGHT: Louis E. Ayoob 1944-1947

Our 35th State Deputy, Louis E. Ayoob, was born on Independence Day, 1910 in Fort Fairfield, Maine. He is the son of William J. Ayoob and Sadie Ferris. He attended the Fort Fairfield Schools, one year at Maine Central Institute, at Pittsfield: and one year at Boston University. On August 26, 1932, he married Mary Ann George and they had two children: a son, William J., and a daughter, Gail T. Brother Ayoob owned and operated a men's clothing store in Fort Fairfield until 1961. For a hobby he did a little fishing but had little time for this after giving first preference to the Order.

Brother Ayoob's activities have been one of great sacrifice for the Order. Joining the order at Houlton in 1934, he transferred the same year to Fort Fairfield. During the year 1934-1935, he was the lecturer of the council; 1935-1937 Deputy Grand Knight; 1937-1939, Grand Knight and a delegate to the Supreme Convention at Seattle, Washington. From 1939 to 1940 he served as Faithful Navigator of the Fourth Degree. During the year 1940-1941, he was District Deputy of the eleventh district and a member of the State Committee on Columbian Squires. From 1941 to 1944 he served as State Secretary. At then Bangor convention in 1944 he was a candidate for State Deputy. His opponent was Harold Moriarty, of Lewiston. Brother Moriarty had been Grand Knight of his council for two years, District Deputy for twelve years and State Warden for two years. Therefore, he was a formidable candidate. Brother Ayoob is of Lebanese extraction, and it is regrettable to state that his nationality was a whispering issue against him. Brother Ayoob won the election and justified the confidence his supporters placed in him. He is credited with helping to start the State Seminarian Trust Fund. He instituted one council during his administration; Msgr. Houlihan Council No. 2983, of Portland.

While serving as State Secretary, he organized the councils in Aroostook County into an association in 1941 and has served as its president until 1957. Since retiring from State Deputy, he accepted the office State General Program Chairman in 1947 and continued in this position until 1957. In 1940-1941 he served as Faithful Navigator of the Fourth Degree, while in 1948 he was appointed State Master until 1951. In 1950, he was selected by the Supreme Council to be Vice Supreme Master of the Cabot Province.

Brother Ayoob has always enjoyed being Master of the Major Degree and has presided over more than 110 such degrees. He is often referred to as "The Politician of the Order" due to his activities in supporting candidates for State Office. In checking the records it shows that in nearly every case he has picked the winners.

Louis was an outstanding athlete in his school days, having played baseball and basketball for four years while at Fairfield High School. He played on the team that represented the State of Maine at the basketball tournament at Chicago in 1927 and was captain of the basketball team in 1929. He also made the M.C.I. prep school basketball team and state foul shooting champion.

He belonged to the Elks fraternal organization and served as President of the local Chamber of Commerce for two years.

In 1960 Brother Ayoob was a candidate in the June primaries of the Democratic ticket for Representative to the State Legislature. His Republican opponent defeated him in the state election in September. However, Representative Harold Hopkins died and a special election was held in November. Mr. Ayoob defeated his Republican opponent and served in the remaining of the 100th legislature. In June primaries, Mr. Ayoob was a

candidate in 1962 on both tickets. Mr. Ayoob's election was all the more remarkable due to the fact that Fort Fairfield was Governor Reed's home town and a Republican stronghold.

### **FOURTH DEGREE MASTER #6: Maurice F. Shaughnessy of Biddeford**

Maurice F. Shaughnessy served as District Master from 1945 to 1948. He held degrees in Brunswick, Augusta, Fort Fairfield, South Portland, Waterville and Brunswick.

### **STATE CHAPLAIN 1933 TO 1953: Father Joseph E. McCaffrey**

### **Bishop of the Portland Diocese: Most Rev. Joseph E. McCarthy, D.D. 1931-55**

**State Convention** for 1934 was held in Bangor on May 21, 1944

**State Convention** for 1945 was held in Waterville on May 27, 1945

**State Convention** for 1946 was held in Waterville on May 27, 1946

**State Convention** for 1947 was held in Brunswick on May 24-25, 1947