



# THE HISTORY OF MAINE IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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## Chapter FORTY-TWO: Charles L. Beaudoin 1975 – 1977 Old Orchard Beach

Our 39<sup>th</sup> State Deputy was born on June 21, 1919 in Springvale, Maine. Charles L. Beaudoin is the son of J. Edmund Beaudoin and Ann Marie Michaud. He was a primi baby and admitted to the Trull Hospital in Biddeford and was confined for 6 months in an incubator. His grandparents, Edward Beaudoin and Blanche (Cartier) Beaudoin, watched over him that duration. His grandfather got attached to him so much that he talked his father into letting him bring up Charles. He remained with them until they died. They became his parents. Charles attended St. Andres School in Biddeford under the guidance of the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary and the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. He was graduated from grammar school in 1950. He was graduated from Old Orchard Beach High School in the class of 1954. During his four years at O.O.B. high school, he was active in school activities and served as class treasurer for four years and earned letters for three years in football.

While in High School, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in Portland and was called to active duty in the Marine Corps September, 1954. He remained on active duty until 1958. He was released from active duty and reentered the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and served until December of 1974. He retired with the rank of Commissioned Warrant Officer (4). He was awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart, and Good Conduct Medal, Korean PUC and the USMCR Medal.

His career started in the Knights of Columbus while he was assigned to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina when he joined the Infant of Prague Council #3537 in Jacksonville, North Carolina. His longtime friend, Brother Raymond Rouselle, a former Biddeford Boy and resident of Jacksonville, was instrumental in his joining the order. His entry date to the order was June, 1956. He transferred to his home council, the James J. Mullen Council #2266 of Old Orchard Beach. Upon his release from active service, he was elected to his first office in his council as Recording Secretary. In 1964 he was elected Grand Knight and remained in that office for 2 years and was then appointed Financial Secretary by Supreme Knight John W. McDewitt. He was initiated into the Fourth Degree in October of 1957 in Winslow, Maine under the guidance of Past State Deputy Former Master William Provencher. He was the assembly scribe for 4 years and its Color Corp Commander for 6 years.

Charles married Pat Beaudoin on June 24, 1961 at St. Margaret's Church in O.O.B. and were blessed with a daughter born on March 14, 1963 named Michelle and a son, David, born on Patriots Day, April 19, 1965.

He was appointed District Deputy for District #2 of the Maine State Council by State Deputy Anthony Cevasco of Rockland and remained in that capacity for one year when he was elected State Warden for the Maine State Council in 1971. While holding the office of State Warden, he was given the task of running the Central Office. He and his wife Pat ran the central office for many years. He was later elected to the offices of State Treasurer, State Secretary and finally State Deputy in 1975.

Charles was elected a member of the O.O.B. Town Council in 1963 and remained in that capacity for the next 5 year. He served as chairman of the town council for 2 years, 1970 to 1971. He was instrumental in hiring Past State Louis Ayoob as its Town Manager and they became personal friends.

Charles was elected as a member of the St. Margaret Parish Council in 1973 and served as council president from 1974 to 1976. He was appointed on the Northern York County Deanery representing the parishes from Biddeford, Saco, Old Orchard Beach, Kennebunk and Limerick to the Chancery Office. He was appointed by His Excellency Bishop, Edward C. O'Leary to the Diocesan Eucharistic Committee. He had the pleasure of attending the Elevation of our former Bishop Peter L. Gerity to Archbishop of Newark, N.J and was invited to dinner with Cardinal Madeiros, Archbishop of Boston and Archbishop Jean Jadot, the Apostolic Delegate to the United States from Washington D.C.

During his two terms as State Deputy Charles L. Beaudoin formed two councils, #6728 in Brewer and #7013 in Hampden.

Past State Deputy, Charles L. Beudoin died at the age of 45 on November 6, 1981 at the Portland Hospital after a long illness.

## **FOURTH DEGREE MASTER #10: Robert Ouellette 1955-84 Brunswick**

Following his three terms as State Deputy from 1952 to 1955, Robert J. Ouellette was appointed as District Master and served in that office from 1955 to 1984. This was a total of 29 years as District Master of Maine.

## **STATE CHAPLAIN 1967 TO 1987: Rev. Antonio A. Gosselin**

Father Antonio A. Gosselin was born of Alphee Gosselin and Angelina Moreau in Lewiston, Maine on October 19, 1916 and was baptized on the same day in St. Mary's Church. His elementary schooling was done at St. Mary's school under the direction of the Good Ursuline Sisters of Waterville. From September 1930 to June 1938 he attended St. Hyacinth's College near Montreal where he completed his classical studies with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Montreal. In September 1938, Bishop McCarthy assigned him to St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto where, for four years, he pursued his theological studies. Father was ordained a priest by Bishop McCarthy on May 30, 1942 in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland, Maine.

His first assignment was as assistant pastor at Most Holy Trinity Church in Saco and served for 9 years. His later assignments were at Notre Dame in Waterville for 9 years, as pastor of St.

Theresa in Stockholm for 7 years, St. Theresa Church in Oakland for 16 months and finally to St. Hyacinth in Westbrook.

In the early 1940's Father Gosselin joined the Knights of Columbus in the Bishop Fenwick Council #2239 in Saco, Maine. In July 1967, Bishop Gerety appointed him as the twelfth State Chaplin for the Maine State Council. Fr. Gosselin served faithfully for twenty years and resigned in 1987.

## **Bishop of the Portland Diocese: Most Rev. Edward Cornelius**

**O'Leary – 1974 to 1988.** Born on August 21, 1920, Edward Cornelius O'Leary pastor was named the ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Portland on October 16, 1974 and was consecrated as Bishop on December 18, 1974. He was a native of Bangor and attended a seminary in Ottawa. Bishop O'Leary was ordained to the priesthood in 1946 and was a much appreciated pastor and chancellor, serving at parishes around Maine through his appointment as auxiliary bishop in 1970. During Bishop O'Leary's tenure, the Church in Maine experienced both an increase in popularity and a decline in the number of priests, leading to the first planning process to manage those trends. Bishop O'Leary appointed women for the first time to positions of leadership in the Office of Catholic Schools, the Diocesan Tribunal and the Chancellor's Office. Like Bishops Healy, Walsh, and Feeney before him, Bishop O'Leary took frequent public stands on a number of social issues of importance to the Church. He retired for reasons of health in 1988 and received the title of Bishop Emeritus of Portland. In that role, he continued to assist the current bishop until his death on April 2, 2002

**State Convention** for 1971 was held in Rockport (Treadway Samoset) May 23-24-25, 1975

**State Convention** for 1972 was held in Rockport (Treadway Samoset) May 28-29-30, 1976

**State Convention** for 1973 was held in Rockport (Treadway Samoset) May 27-28-29, 1977