CONNECTION: KEY TO PRESIDENT’S REMARKS AT 2019 FALL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The following remarks were provided at the 2019 Fall Leadership Summit’s opening keynote by 2019-20 Council President Kevin McGowan, Brighton, on Sunday, September 22, 2019.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to talk to you today and work on your behalf this year.

A very warm welcome to all of you, my colleagues, friends of The Council, members of the Brighton High School (BHS) Jazz Band and their director Mike Struzik and BHS music teacher Therese Schmid and most warmly to my wife Betsy; our kids Peter, Charlie and Emma; my parents Bob and Betty; and our Board President Mark Kokanovich and Vice President Julene Gilbert and her husband Barry. I’m so glad you could all join us for this exciting opening and for the sure to be inspiring words of Father Boyle tomorrow morning. Thank you all for your support.

My mom, an inspiration to me, is a retired Buffalo teacher, my wife, also an inspiration, is the Pupil Personnel Coordinator (PPS) at the Hillel Community Day school in Rochester, likely never envisioned a round of applause from a room of “supers,” so thank you. Tell the book club, mom, it was all for you!

Colleagues, the state of The Council is very, very good. That is for many reasons; the hard work of the staff, the excellent leadership provided by our Executive Director Chuck Dedrick, but also those leaders who have come before us and positioned us for greatness. Can I please ask that all of our former presidents in the room, please stand and be recognized by your colleagues. Thank you!

I had the opportunity recently to give a talk to a community group and my parents were there...my boys could not be...and later asked, how did it go...my father quickly said, well boys, he took parts of speech 37, 16, 22 and 41...all-together, it sounded great...so dad here goes, but I promise new parts.

Now, lest you think you stumbled into open “mic” night, let’s get down to business.