



Organizational Meeting
Friday, June 29, 2018 – 5:00-5:30PM
Hotel Acacia/Palo Verde Rooms
STATE DEPUTY'S CHARGE



Reverend Father, Worthy State Officers, Worthy Past State Deputies, Worthy District Deputies, Brother Knights, and our Ladies, whom without their support, we could not accomplish the great charitable acts that we do. Thank you for coming together this weekend as we plan our programs for the coming fraternal year.

The world around us is changing. Many of the changes are not for the good of communities and our neighbors. The unborn are murdered at alarming rates. Our aged and infirm are offered euthanasia as a “humane” alternative to natural death. Stem cells are harvested from aborted babies and used to create genetic atrocities. The definition of family have been corrupted. God has been removed from our children’s classrooms. Our faith and core beliefs are under attack. Our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East are being persecuted and killed, their places of worship destroyed. How do we right these terrible wrongs?

We do what we do and know best. We increase our faith life, we strengthen our family bonds, we support and build up our communities, and we defend life at all stages: from natural birth to natural death. In the past, the programs of the Knights of Columbus have been focused on six areas: church, community, family, youth, council, and life. These have served us well as we accomplish charitable works, with unity and fraternity, and great patriotism. As the world changes, so must the Knights of Columbus. We can no longer divide our energies among programs and activities spread over six program areas. Now is the time for us to unify our actions and focus our energies around just four powerful themes: Faith, Family, Community, and Life. This weekend we will break open these new themes and plan our programs and activities that will comprise them.

In deciding how to define the 2018-2019 fraternal year, I put forth a theme that incorporates our new program areas. So, this year the Arizona State Council will conduct its activities under the theme of “Faith in Action.” These three words are at the center of our universe as Knights of Columbus. We need to grow in our faith and give all that we do for the honor and glory of God and Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. As we grow our faith, we will build up our families and not allow our children to become victim to the empty promises of the secular culture. Rather, armed with faith, we take our programs out into the community to help those in need. We use our faith and beliefs to defend the sanctity of life and protect marriage and family life. The Knights of Columbus is the strong right arm of the Catholic Church.

The strength of the strong right arm of the Catholic Church is found in the local council that becomes the strong right arm of their pastor. With faith as our foundation, everything else falls into place, and put our Faith in Action.

Our motto for the coming year ties directly into and builds upon the theme, “Faith in Action – Knights Serving God, Serving the Community.” I pray that this theme will guide our actions as Knights of Columbus, with faith strengthened, to serve God, and take our good works into the community as we help our neighbors.

Every year, the State Deputy introduces a new logo and State Pin. This year’s design is meant to be a visual, daily reminder, of what we stand for and the depth of our commitment to serve God, our parishes, and our neighbors. The elements of this year’s logo and pin are encircled by the principles of the Order: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. Within this circle, the State of Arizona is found at the center emblazoned with the Emblem of the Order to represent the Arizona State Council. This year is dedicated to the image of Our Lady of Czestochowa. This is done to partially represent my origins in Poland and Our Lady is important to the people of Poland. I chose her because she represents hope and protection from evil and persecution, not just to Polish people, but to all people. When we feel the most oppressed, persecuted, or our very souls threatened from evil, we should always turn to Our Lady for Her divine intercession on our behalf. Working under the theme of Faith in Action, the cross is included so that we are reminded that all we are children of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The cross also symbolizes the gift we received through the death of Jesus Christ – forgiveness of sin and a path to everlasting life. Finally, included in the lower right portion of the logo are two small baby’s feet. These are included to remind us that we must always fight to preserve the sanctity of life from natural conception to natural death. Our theme, motto and pin will keep us focused in unity and fraternity to perform works of charity in service to all.

As part of our program focus for the coming year, we will include programs that will “Build up the Domestic Church.” We need to turn attention to our parishes and work with our Bishops and priests to strengthen local churches. This is also from where we will continue to grow our membership using traditional and e-membership tools to attract men to the order and its programs. Our Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson says, “That’s the whole rationale behind the “Domestic Church Program.” It’s behind, “Into the Breach.” New programs are designed to give men in the first half of their life the tools they need to protect their marriages, protect their family, and protect their kids. And, they’re not getting it anywhere else. And, we can offer it to them. And, when we offer it to them in a way that makes sense and a way they understand it, we can draw a lot of men. What they desperately need is someone to help them to protect their kids. And, that’s what McGivney was trying to do, protect these families.”

My brother State Officers and my brother District Deputies, we comprise the leadership team for the Knights of Columbus in Arizona. Together we will plan, not for the next year, or the year after, but for the long view of five or more years. Remember, we have a responsibility to offer membership in the Knights of Columbus to every eligible Catholic man. We do not recruit for the numbers alone; but rather we recruit so that we can protect the sacrament of marriage, protect life at all stages, protect our families, and protect our youth.

I am honored to be working with you this coming fraternal year and I look forward to all that we will accomplish in charity, unity, fraternity, and brotherhood.

Vivat Jesus!