



Organizational Meeting
Saturday, June 30, 2018 – 9:00 A.M.
Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish Hall
STATE DEPUTY'S REMARKS



Reverend Father, Worthy State Officers, Worthy Past State Deputies, Worthy Vice-Supreme Master, Worthy District Master, Worthy District Deputies, Brother Knights All. I want to take a moment to acknowledge our Ladies separately. Thank you, ladies, for being here with us this weekend. Without your support, we could not accomplish acts of faith and charity. Brothers, (GAVEL RAP X 3) please stand and acknowledge our ladies (APPLAUSE). (ONE RAP of the GAVEL) Please be seated. Thank you for coming together this weekend as we plan our programs for the coming fraternal year.

There is so much work for us to do next year and the years to come. Each of you has important parts to play. District Deputies, as my representatives, will lead and guide your assigned councils. State Directors and Chairmen, you are the backbone of the programs we will focus on, and on growing our membership. Grand Knights, Deputy Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries, and Council Officers, you are responsible for the leadership and welfare of your council. You are charged with executing membership plans and directing programs so that your council will achieve its goals. Grand Knights, in time of need, turn to your District Deputy for help. District Deputies, these are your councils, aide them in all things.

Ladies and gentlemen, who will the parish priest turn to when he needs help? Who will the seminarian turn to for assistance? When our own Bishop sends men "Into the Breach," who will be the first to go? Who is going to save the unborn from abortion? Who will stand firm and protect the Sacrament of Marriage? Who will protect families? Who will stand up for God as he is persecuted, defamed, and attacked? (LONG PAUSE) Three words, Knights of Columbus. Yes, the Knights will stand up to the bullies, abortionists, those who defile marriage and the definition of family, and those who attack our faith and our beliefs. The Knights of Columbus will support our seminarians, priests, deacons, religious, bishops, and our Pope.

We will do what we know best. We will increase our faith life, we will strengthen our family bonds, we will support and build up our communities, and we will defend life at all stages: from natural birth to natural death. To accomplish this, the Supreme Council has revised the traditional program model of "Surge with Service," and has instituted a new program model called "Faith in Action." The previous program areas: church, community, family, youth, council, and life, have served us well. However, as the world changes, so must the Knights of Columbus. It is time for us to unify our actions and focus

our energies around four powerful themes: Faith, Family, Community, and Life. Under these four program areas, we will continue our work on all our usual programs, plus one Supreme mandated program in each area. The requirements for the Columbian Award are simplified as the council will need only to complete just four programs each area. This weekend we will break open this new model and plan our programs and activities that will comprise it.

Last night I introduced to the District Deputies our theme, motto and pin for this coming fraternal year. For those of you here today, next year's State Council theme will follow the new Supreme program model of "Faith in Action." These three words are at the center of our universe as Knights of Columbus. They point the way for us to grow in our faith. 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. Armed with faith, we will take our programs into the community and help those in need. Armed with our faith and beliefs we will defend the sanctity of life and protect marriage and family life. With faith as our foundation, everything else falls into place, and we will put our Faith in Action.

Our motto for the coming year builds upon the theme, "Faith in Action – Knights Serving God, Serving the Community." This motto says it all and clearly puts us on the right path and will guide our actions as Knights of Columbus, with faith strengthened, serving God, and taking our good works into the community to help our neighbors.

Every year, the State Deputy introduces a new logo and State Pin. This year's design is meant to remind us of what we stand for and our commitment to serve God, our parishes, and our neighbors. On the outside of the logo and pin are the principles of the Order: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. Inside the circle are four symbols, the State of Arizona emblazoned with the Emblem of the Order representing the Arizona State Council. I've dedicated this year to the image of Our Lady of Czestochowa. It represents my origins in Poland and because Our Lady represents hope and protection from evil and persecution, not just to Polish people, but to all people. The cross is included so that we are reminded that all we are children of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In the lower right portion of the logo are two small baby's feet included to remind us that we must always fight to preserve the sanctity of life from natural conception to natural death. It is my hope that our theme, motto and pin will keep us focused in unity and fraternity to perform works of charity in service to all.

Many of our programs, this coming year, will support building up the Domestic Church. We will assist our parishes and work with our Bishops and priests to strengthen local churches. This is where we grow our membership using traditional and e-membership tools to attract men to the order and its programs. In my State Deputy training, Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson told us that's the whole rationale behind the "Domestic Church Program" and "Into the Breach" is to provide programs and tools to men in the first half of their life to help them protect their marriages, protect their family, and protect their kids. Where can they find this kind of support? They can turn to the Knights of Columbus, and we can offer it to them. And, we will offer it to them in a way that makes sense and a way they understand it. What they desperately need is someone to help them to protect their kids. And, that's what Father McGivney was trying to do, protect these families.

My brothers, we are the leaders 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. We will offer membership in the Knights of Columbus to every single 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. Thank you, ladies', for coming, I hope to see again this evening. Brothers, are you ready to join me as we prepare for the coming fraternal year? Great! Let us go forth into the breach!

Vivat Jesus!