

State Deputy Message for July 2018

Worthy Grand Knights and Brothers,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 fraternal year. In May, during the State Convention, we had the election of new State Officers. They are: myself, Tom Kalisz, State Deputy; Mario Vassallo, State Secretary; Luigi Baratta, State Treasurer; Tom Kato, State Advocate; Kevin McCarthy, State Warden; and Sean Halpain, Immediate Past State Deputy. Reverend Patrick Crino will continue as our State Chaplain. I want to also acknowledge Nate Raso, General Agent; Bryant Sayers, PSD, District Master of the Fourth Degree; and Michael Kingman, PSD, FDM, Vice-Supreme Master for the John H. Redden Province, of which Arizona is a part. The leadership team includes: our 32 District Deputies; Larry Powers, State Program Director; Ken White, State Membership Director; and all the Program Directors and Chairmen. My thanks and appreciation to each for agreeing to help lead our State Council to abundant success.

This weekend, we held the State Organizational meeting for this fraternal year. There was much information shared with our District Deputies, Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries, and Faithful Comptrollers. This year there will be many changes in our program model, membership techniques, and goals. We are counting on each council and assembly officer and each brother Knight to do his part to help the Knights of Columbus in Arizona grow.

Going into the future, we have to ask these questions, what is at stake in being a Knight? What is at stake in the future of this organization? Why is it so important that the organization grows? When in need, who can the parish pastor turn to? Who will the seminarians on their journey to the priesthood turn to for aid and support? How can our church grow if we don't grow? Brothers, the answers are simple: the Knights of Columbus are the ones that have to grow. The Knights of Columbus will stand firm and say things are going to get better, because we're going to make things better. That's what Fr. McGivney did. That's what we will do. We will build up the Domestic Church ourselves. We will be charitable. We will stand together in unity and fraternity. We will be the leaders. We will clearly communicate who we are; why we stand for faith, marriage, life, family, youth; why we do the programs and activities we do; and why it is us who they can turn to and count on. Remember, it is not what you say, by what you do, and by who you are.

I recently returned from the Supreme offices in New Haven. During the visit, I was given our Supreme Goals for the state for this year. They have asked us to recruit 950 new members. They want us to produce 30 Star Councils. We've been asked to add two New Councils, to reactivate three, and to establish 25 Round Tables. Brothers, I know we can do this. I am so confident that we can achieve our Supreme Goals, that I set higher goals for this year. These are the Arizona State Council Goals for the 2018-2019 fraternal year: 1,000

New Members, 50 Star Councils, 10 Star Districts, 3 All Star Districts, 11 New Councils, and 30 Round Tables. I know it won't be easy, but they are attainable with some effort, but it is what we need to do to ensure that the Knights in Arizona continue to grow and flourish.

To accomplish our goals, we will continue to do what we do and know best. We will work to increase our faith life, we will engage in activities to strengthen our family bonds, we will support and build up our communities, and we will defend life at all stages. To help us achieve this, Supreme has introduced a new program model that replaces the Surge with Service model. Instead of six program areas: church, community, family, youth, council, and life, we will operate under four expanded areas of: Faith, Family, Community, and Life. This new model is called Faith in Action.

As part of our program focus for the coming year, we will include programs that will "Build up the Domestic Church" at the parish level. We need to turn attention to our parishes and work with our Bishops and priests to strengthen local churches. This is 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 said this is about the new program model, "... the 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 Fr. McGivney was trying to do, protect these families."

This year, I have dedicated our good works to Our Lady of Czestochowa because the image of the "Black Madonna" represents Mary's hope and protection from evil and persecution, not just for Polish people, but for all people. I introduced a new State pin for this year (seen here). A detailed description of the pin will be found in the KOCOIA newsletter. Our theme this year incorporates the new Supreme program model: "Faith in Action." This theme fits perfectly with the State Motto: "Faith in Action – Knights Serving God, Serving the Community." As I mentioned before, this is who we are, this is what we do, and we do it all for the glory of God.

Exceptional communication, quality information, and readily accessible resources, are needed so that all Knights throughout the state can have the tools they need to help them get the job done. That is why this year we will say good-bye to our old website that has served us well for many years: www.azknightsofcolumbus.com. We are launching a new website with a fresh look containing information, forms, tools, and useful resources. Two designs were introduced at the State Convention, many good comments and suggestions were received, and the final version has been designed. The new address is www.kofc-az.org. This site will evolve as our State Council grows and changes. To help with

communication, we are bringing back the State Newsletter KOCOA. This will be published monthly and sent out via e-mail. A link will be found on the website, so we can gather your contact information and ensure you receive your copy. Finally, I have asked my fellow state officers, district deputies, directors and chairmen to respond quickly to any request from brother knights. I expect that this new communication and resource platform will help us attain our goals.

As Knights, we know what it means to be a member of a community of Catholic Brothers. We're not just friends, not just social contacts, not just business associates, not just neighbors, but Catholic brothers. We have a firm sense of brotherhood that has to do with Charity and Unity. As Catholics, we understand that the source of that charity and the source of that unity is the Eucharist. It transcends anything that any secular association could offer. As Knights of Columbus, let us lead the charge, "Into the Breach!"

Vivat Jesus!

Tom Kalisz – State Deputy