

State Deputy's Message

October 2018

Brothers Knights,

When you watch or read the news, do you feel anxious or a little afraid? I do. Be it storm devastation in North Carolina, abortions on demand, Supreme Court Nominee drama, upcoming elections, homelessness, education issues, mass shootings, violence, hatred, or any other number of crises or actions that threaten life and property. In many of these examples we know in our heart that the hand of the "Evil One" is clearly at work. Aren't you glad that you joined an organization that is engaged in a daily battle with the devil: to protect life at all stages; respond to emergencies and help those effected by disaster; and work in our communities to bring about change to improve our neighbors' living conditions? I am, and I'm certain that you are as well.

Knights from around the country went to the aid of their neighbors in North Carolina to help them recover from the devastation of Hurricane Florence. Knights actively work to put an end to abortion both by physically praying, and by using the power of the ballot box. Knights help feed and clothe the homeless and the impoverished. Knights help those with intellectual and physical disabilities. Knights are in the pew, in the parish, and in the Church, aiding the pastor and fellow parishioners. Knights are dedicated to supporting our religious, priests, bishops, and our Supreme Pontiff.

To continue in our ministry to be the strong right arm of the church, we need to continuously inform ourselves on all issues Catholic and most importantly continue to grow our ranks.

Speaking of membership growth, so far this year, our state has done well at bringing in new members, but it needs to do better in order to meet our goal of 1,000 new members by June 30, 2019. As of September 29, 2018, 195 new members have received the Admissions Degree. Over the next nine months we will recruit 805 more; just 89 new members each month. This goal is very attainable, we just need to focus and recruit one new member at a time.

I know we can do this. In this first quarter alone, five of our brothers have been identified and recognized by the Supreme Council as being in the Top 25 list of Recruiters, Grand Knights and District Deputies. Look at their accomplishments and know that you can join them. They are:

Albert Ustaszewski, DD #18 – Top 25 Recruiter and Top 25 District Deputy
Dennis Sullivan, DD #26 – Top 25 District Deputy
James Reynolds, DD #14 – Top 25 District Deputy
Gary Kluthe, GK #17036 – Top 25 Recruiter and Top 25 Grand Knight
Javier Negrete, GK #1806 – Top 25 Grand Knight

District Deputy Ustaszewski district is at 81% of its recruitment goal and he has personally recruited 16 new members. Albert successfully led the development of a new council in Somerton, which will be called Immaculate Heart of Mary Council. Grand Knight, Javier Negrete's Council #1806 has added 189% of his council's fraternal year goal for new members. District Deputy Reynolds' District has recruited 50% of their goal. District Deputy Sullivan's district has recruited 43% of its goal for the year. Grand Knight Kluthe's council in Florence has recruited 175% of their membership goal. He was

personally responsible for signing up 10 new members on his own. These few Knights have accomplished great things. These men are Knights who will help lead us to recruitment success this year. I ask each Knight in the State to make it your goal to get your name added to the Supreme Council's Top 25 rolls.

In last month's message I described an incentive, saying that the top 10 recruiters would be sent to Minneapolis to attend the Supreme Convention next August. To clarify, I was describing the Supreme Top 25 incentive program. It will send the top 10 Recruiters *Order-wide* and their spouses to the Supreme Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota and will sit at the Supreme Knight's reserved tables during the State Dinner. The top recruiter *Order-wide* will receive the Top Recruiter Plaque during the Awards Session. I apologize for any misunderstanding. Please check out the membership page for all available Arizona State Council membership incentives, or ask Ken White, Membership Director at membership@kofc-az.org.

This past month an exemplification of the Foundation and Knighthood Degrees was held at Fray Garces Council #3855 in Glendale. It was an honor to bestow Knighthood upon 32 men that day. It was also a great honor to recognize Past State Deputy Larry Costanzo as the Class Honoree for the degree.

Lawrence "Larry" Costanzo is originally from New York State. In his youth, he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biology and received a Master of Arts Degree in Public Administration. In 1962, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force. During his long and distinguished military career, he was stationed in various places in the United States and abroad. He retired June 1, 1988, after more than 26 years of active duty. In retirement, he worked as a consultant and as a Materials Manager for Arizona State University West.

Larry is active in his parish, serving as President of the Parish Council, Chairman of the Finance Committee, Eucharistic Minister, and Minister of the Word. He has served as a board member and Vice President of the Arizona Fraternal Congress, and as a board member and President of Arizona Radio Family Rosary. He is currently State Chairman for the Arizona Rosary Celebration.

He joined the Knights of Columbus in 1959 and has belonged to several different councils over the years. After moving to Arizona, he joined Council 7114 in Glendale. Over the years, he has served in council, assembly, state, regional, and supreme offices including: Grand Knight, Faithful Navigator, Vice-Supreme Master of the John H. Reddin Province, District Deputy, State Deputy, Supreme Warden, Supreme Master of the Fourth Degree. He has been a member of all four degree teams and is a Conferring Officer for the Third Degree. In October 2010 he was invested in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem.

Larry Costanzo exemplifies every precept of the Knights of Columbus: patriotism; service to the church; a husband and father to his family; and is a fraternal example to his brother Knights of Columbus. For these and many other reasons he was named as class honoree for this group of newly installed Knights.

On the September 11, I had the honor to represent the Arizona State Council at a 9-11 memorial mass and event in Nogales. It was well attended by local Knights and members of several branches of the military, and many local civic leaders. On 9-11 we know that many of the victims had little choice, but personal sacrifices of those first responders who had a choice, yet still went into the crippled

buildings hoping to save just one life, and the many who ultimately lost their own in the process they are the heroes of our time. To them, we should say thank you and God Bless you.

I mentioned before that Knights can influence public policy at the ballot box. This November there will be an election. How you vote is up to you. However, as Catholics we have an obligation to uphold the sanctity of life, the sacrament of marriage, and true family values. On October 13, 2018 from 8 a.m. to Noon at the Phoenix Diocesan Pastoral Center, the Diocese of Phoenix, several lay organizations, and the Knights of Columbus will sponsor *Catholics in the Public Square*. This event is designed to help us understand our civic and Catholic obligations and how best to promote them so that those we elect to office will mirror our values and represent our constituency in public office. Remember, the Knights of Columbus does not support any particular political position or party affiliation. As Knights, however, we can and must publically support the "Five Non-negotiables." They are: abortion, euthanasia, fetal stem cell research, human cloning, and the redefinition of marriage. As you study the candidates for office and the issues, see which measure up to our standard, then vote your conscience. As Knights of Columbus, we will always support our priests and our Bishops. We will always uphold the sanctity of life. We will always support the Sacrament of Marriage between one man and one woman. We will always lead and guide our families in accordance with Church doctrine.

Looking at our programs, please remember that the Arizona Rosary Celebration will take place October 20 and 21 in Tucson and Phoenix. I expect that every Knight and his family will attend. Starting October 1, the Arizona State Council will begin the Marian Holy Hour Program. This year Arizona has been given four copies of the icon of Our Lady of Persecuted Christians. Two will be available for Phoenix and Northern Arizona, and two will be available for Tucson and Southern Arizona. These are available to each Council or District to conduct a Holy Hour of Prayer with the icon. Let us all be mindful of the suffering of our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East as they are openly persecuted for being Catholic or another Christian denomination and pray for their redemption.

Thank you, brothers, for all you do. When one of us is called to the Lord, we are there for his family. When the parish needs us, we are there to support our pastors. When our community needs help, we are there. When Special Olympics calls, we respond. When a life needs protection, we are there. This is what we do. This is who we are. We are Knights of Columbus!

Vivat Jesus!

Tom Kalisz
State Deputy
Arizona Knights of Columbus