



K O C O A

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Brother Knights of Arizona
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Phoenix Priest Appointed Associate State Chaplain for Arizona Knights

Reverend Gary Regula, Pastor of Saint Jerome Catholic Church to Help Provide Spiritual Support to the Arizona State Council and the State's 17,000 Knights

State Deputy Tom Kalisz, chief executive of the Arizona State Council of the Knights of Columbus, announced the appointment of Reverend Gary Regula as the Associate State Chaplain for the charitable fraternal service organization. Father Regula is the pastor of St. Jerome Catholic Church and School, located on 35th Avenue, North of Peoria Avenue in Phoenix.

The Knights in Arizona are currently served by Reverend Patrick Crino, Pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Tucson, and current State Chaplain. Father Regula, as Associate Chaplain, will work with Father Crino to provide guidance and spiritual support to the leadership of the Knights and to each Knight found in every city and town in Arizona.

Father Regula, originally from Chicago, was ordained for the Diocese of Phoenix in 2000. He has served as Parochial Vicar at San Francisco de Asis Catholic Church in Flagstaff and then as Pastor at Santa Teresita in El Mirage and St. Benedict in Phoenix. In 2013 he was asked by Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted to take over as Pastor at St. Jerome.

“I am what they would refer to as a delayed vocation, as I worked after high school as a Journeyman Machinist before doing my undergrad studies at Loyola University in Chicago,” said Fr. Regula.

According to State Deputy Kalisz, he (Fr. Regula) was first noticed by Knight's leadership while he served in Flagstaff and worked with the local councils there to help them grow spiritually and increase their membership. This past Summer he was invited to speak to the Knights during their State Organization meeting.

When asked about his appointment, Fr. Regula said, “I am honored to be asked to serve the Knights of Columbus State Council in this role. The Knights I have had the privilege of working with in the various parishes are men of faith and service.”

Tom Kalisz, as State Deputy said, “Arizona is such a large state to be served by one State Chaplain. Fr. Crino may not always be available to assist the State Council due to his parish obligations in the Diocese of Tucson. Father Gary is both a priest and a Knight and will make a great additional to our State Council family.

Worthy Associate State Chaplain Fr. Regula offers the following:

“I would ask that, as we are in this season of Christmas (and the Knights are so good at reminding us to keep Christ in Christmas), we do all that we can to see Christ in everyone that crosses our path. This is important now more than ever as there is so much division in our country and even in our church, but if we remember that we are all united in Christ’s mission then it will be easier to extend our hand to all that reach out in need and we will be able to see the presence of Christ in everyone if we look in their eyes and remember that we are all made in the image and likeness of our God.

Merry Christmas and may the coming year be one of blessings for us and for all.”



The Knights of Columbus is the World’s largest Catholic family fraternal service organization. It was founded by Father Michael J. McGivney, an Irish Priest, in 1882. Working under its founding principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism, the Knights boast nearly 2 Million members worldwide. Last year K of C members donated \$185.6 million in donations and 75.6 million hours of service provided worldwide. Arizona ranks in the top ten, in charitable works among the Knights of Columbus.

For additional information, contact John S. Garcia, State Public Relations Director at telephone (602) 525-4424. Visit the Arizona State Council website for more information: www.kofc-az.org.