



Office of the
State Public
Relations Director

Arizona State Council Knights of Columbus



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Passing of Monsignor Richard O'Keeffe

Beloved Pastor, Priest, and Spiritual Advisor to Local Knights of Columbus

YUMA - May 3, 2019: Catholic Community Services in Yuma reports that Monsignor (Msgr.) Sir Knight, Richard O'Keeffe, passed away May 2, 2019. He was 84. O'Keeffe was born in Kildare, Ireland. Msgr. O'Keeffe served the Roman Catholic Church in Yuma for over 60 years as that parish's pastor, until his retirement in 2010. He was named Episcopal Vicar, Pastor Emeritus, following his retirement. O'Keeffe also served as a chaplain at the Yuma Proving Ground. Within the Diocese of Tucson, he was previously assigned to parishes and schools in Tucson, Douglas, San Manuel, and Willcox.

O'Keeffe was a friend of parishioners and politicians alike. He was a strong supporter of Catholic Community Services and Yuma Catholic High School. He was a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus and served as the Yuma Council's and Fourth Degree Assembly's Chaplain, Friar, and spiritual advisor. He was very active in local Knights of Columbus activities.

Tom Kalisz, State Deputy for the Knights of Columbus in Arizona, said, "Msgr. O'Keeffe was a proud member of the Knights and has worked for many years with the Knights in support of our mission of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. We are all saddened by his passing. He will be sorely missed."

According to local reports, Msgr. O'Keeffe was recovering and undergoing rehabilitation because of an accidental injury received during a Yuma Catholic High football game in 2012.

The Catholic Outlook for the Diocese of Tucson announced the following services:

Visitation for Msgr. O'Keeffe will be held Sunday, May 12, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 505 South Ave. B, Yuma, followed by rosary at 7:30 p.m. and ending at 9:00 p.m. There will be two funeral Masses Monday, May 13, in the church at 8:00 a.m. and at 2:00 p.m.

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. A photograph of Msgr. O'Keeffe is available upon request.

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