

State Deputy's Message April 2019

Brothers,

We are halfway through our Lenten Journey. This is our time to repent, Fast and give alms. We leave behind all our earthly concerns, deny ourselves, fast, and reconcile ourselves with the Lord, and give without thought. Jesus has begun his public ministry, chosen his first disciples, and is on the road to Jerusalem where he will institute the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist during the Last Supper, be arrested, scourged, crucified, and die for our sins. But, wait! There's more. On the third day, his tomb is found empty because, as he told his disciples many times, the Son of Man will rise from the dead. I wish you and your families a most joyous Easter!

Don't forget. The convention is just around the corner. The website for the State Convention on May 17-19, 2019 is active and can be found at <https://www.azkofcstateconvention.org>. Register and make your hotel reservations early. Get your council delegates elected and credential requests submitted. Also, submit your convention registration, reserve your room, and purchase an advertisement in the program book. I look forward to seeing all my brothers at the Convention.

It is sad to report that our membership numbers for the year are far below where they should be at this point in the year. At last check, we are just past the mid-point of our goal. With just three months remaining, we have much work to be done. Beginning March 25 through April 9 four membership townhalls are taking place to provide councils and districts with additional tools to help enhance recruitment efforts. Check the website for more information. Remember to include recruitment as part of every Council program and encourage every Knight to recruit at least one new member. Our goal is still attainable with your commitment and hard work. My thanks to Worthy State Warden Kevin McCarthy for taking over as the State Membership Director. Please contact Kevin if you have questions or need help. He can be reached at membership@kofc-az.org. Additionally, Bobby was appointed as the Membership Chairmen Assistant, Booby Nielsen is from Tucson Council 8077. He can be reached at bnielsen200@gmail.com.

I challenge you Grand Knights and District Deputies to claim your spot at the top. Grand Knights join your brothers: Gary Kluthe of Council 17036 at 450% of goal and Manual Chimal of Council 14804 at 325% of goal. Is there not one of you who can recruit more than the 19 members recruited by Albert Ustaszewski from Council 8305? Remember to submit membership forms as soon as possible so that your efforts can be counted. These brothers are the ones remaining on Supremes' membership incentive leaderboard. Let's fill the Supreme leaderboard with Arizonans!

This past month it was my honor to recognize Worthy Associate State Chaplain, Reverend Gary Regula. Fr. Gary is the Pastor of St. Jerome Catholic Church in Phoenix and Chaplain of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Council 7465. As a priest and Knight, Fr. Gary truly exemplifies the principles of the order and embodies the precepts of the Catholic Church and virtues of Knighthood. His spiritual guidance and support of the Knights and member of his local and the State Council; are immeasurable. For these reasons I named him as the Class Honoree for March's Formation and Knighthood degrees in Phoenix. Congratulations Fr. Gary!

This coming month, please focus on the remainder of your Lenten journey, celebrate a joyous Easter, prepare for the State Convention, and continue to recruit as part of the spring membership drive. Let's meet our membership goal. Don't allow one Catholic man to be without knowing the benefits of membership in the Knights of Columbus.

Vivat Jesus!

Tom Kalisz
State Deputy