



Arizona State Council Knights of Columbus



Organizational Meeting
Friday, June 28, 2019 – 5:30-6:00 p.m.
Hotel Acacia/Palo Verde Rooms
STATE DEPUTY'S CHARGE

Reverend Father, Worthy State Officers, Worthy Past State Deputies, Worthy Vice-Supreme Master, Worthy District Master, Worthy District Deputies, Brother Knights, and our Ladies, whom without your support, we could not accomplish the great charitable acts that we do. Thank you for coming together this weekend as we plan our programs for the coming fraternal year.

If you attended the State Convention, or read last month's KOCO, or by word of mouth, you may already know that Fr. Pat Crino had to step down from his role as our State Chaplain. This is a job he has performed for over 22 years. Bishop Weisenburger has added to his responsibilities within the Diocese of Tucson that requiring that he step down from many of the organizations he supports. Our loss is their gain. We will all miss him dearly.

Now, it is my great pleasure to announce the appointment of the new Worthy State Chaplain, Reverend Gary Regula. Fr. Gary is the Pastor of the host parish for our organizational meeting, St. Jerome Catholic Church. Father Gary will provide the State Council with spiritual guidance and support. My thanks to Fr. Regula for saying yes to Our Lord to become a priest, for saying yes to the Knights of Columbus, and for saying yes to me to be our new State Chaplain. You will hear more from Fr. Gary later this weekend.

BREAK FOR APPLAUSE

Every day we hear how bad our world has become. We see it every day. We are witness to the daily trauma: killings, assaults, robberies, thefts, drug and alcohol related car crashes, child and elder abuse, and other crimes by people against people.

No longer do large segments of society have trust and respect for law enforcement, firefighters and first responders.

Our political parties no longer show concern for their constituents, but only for party platforms and to pay back financial backers with laws and rules that do more harm than good.

The unborn are murdered before birth, during birth, or minutes after birth, at alarming rates. Many state laws now allow these barbaric practices. Our aged and infirm are offered euthanasia as a “humane” alternative to natural death. Stem cells are harvested from aborted babies and used to create genetic atrocities.

The sacredness of marriage between one man and one woman and the definition of family have been corrupted. God has been removed from our children’s classrooms and replaced by mandated curriculum glorifying “alternative lifestyles” and gender redefinition. Our faith and core beliefs are under attack.

Our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East are being persecuted and killed, their places of worship destroyed.

How do we right these terrible wrongs?

We do what we do and know best. We increase our faith life, we strengthen our family bonds, we support and build up our communities, and we defend life at all stages: from natural birth to natural death, we exemplify our God’s love in every word and deed.

As the world changes, so must the Knights of Columbus. That’s why last year the Supreme Council revised our program model so that we do not divide our energies spread over six program areas. Now, we unify our actions and focus on just four powerful themes: Faith, Family, Community, and Life. They all tie together and support each other.

Our motto and theme for this year have embodied the Supreme program model “Faith in Action – Knights Serving God, Serving the Community.” During the 2019-2020 fraternal year I want our motto and theme to build upon that foundation. This morning I said that our Pope and Bishops expect us to bring every eligible Catholic man into the Order. They see that members of the Knights of Columbus are engaged and active Catholics. They see that Knights work hard to build up the Domestic Church, lead strong families, take care of their neighbors, and defend life and religious liberty. They can depend on the Knights standing firm and say things are going to get better, because they know they are going to make things better. That’s what Fr. McGivney did, that’s what we will do.

So, our new motto and theme will be “Knights Serving God - Serving the Community. This Is Who We Are - This Is What We Do.”

We need to serve God, grow our faith, and give all that we do for the honor and glory of God, His son Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. We will grow our faith. We will build up our families and not allow our children to become victim to the

empty promises of the secular culture. Armed with faith, we will take our programs out into the community to help those in need. We use our faith and beliefs to defend the sanctity of life and protect marriage and family life.

The Knights of Columbus is the strong right arm of the Catholic Church. Each parish community and its pastor are the firm foundation upon which the Catholic Church is built. With faith as our foundation, everything else falls into place, and put our Faith in Action. As Knights, we serve God. As Knights we serve our community. As Knights this is what we do because it is who we are.

Every year, the State Deputy introduces a new logo and State Pin. This year's design is meant to be a visual, daily reminder, of what we stand for and the depth of our commitment to serve God, our parishes, our order, the most vulnerable, and our Blessed Mother. The elements of this year's logo and pin are encircled by the principles of the Order: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. Within this circle, the State of Arizona is found emblazoned with the Emblem of the Order representing the Arizona State Council. An image of Our Lady of Guadalupe represents Mary as patroness of the Order and of the Diocese of Phoenix. Through Her apparition to Juan Diego in 1531, Mary brought millions into the Church to worship her Holy Son. She embodies hope and protection from evil and persecution. The cross is included to remind us that we are all children of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our theme, motto and pin will keep us focused in unity and fraternity to perform works of charity in service to all.

Beginning July 1st, my greatest priority for the fraternal year is to uphold the sanctity of life. The culture of darkness thinks that it has won. Not true.

Lawmakers and abortionists alike openly congratulate each other as they open wide the doors to the legalized murder of babies. They laugh and celebrate as they enact laws to allow babies to be slaughtered in the womb up to the day of birth, during birth, and immediately after birth. They call this women's healthcare, or reproductive health. They make it sound like the baby is a disease or a cancer, but it is not. It is a baby, alive, with a heartbeat, with a soul, and able to feel pain. They cut the baby, dismember him or her, crush his or her tiny skull, or sometimes they administer caustic poisons. They end this baby's life. They kill the baby. They take away this baby's childhood, education, vocation, and contributions to mankind.

Our prolife programs will focus on fundraising for ultrasounds for crisis pregnancy centers and centers that aid women and babies in the womb. We will raise awareness about the grave impact abortions have on the mother and families long after the baby is killed. There are many good resources that we can support to help

the mothers through the post-abortive emotional trauma. We can erect monuments to the unborn. We can peacefully pray at abortion clinics asking for the lives of babies to be spared, for entry into heaven for the souls of the babies who are killed, forgiveness for the mother and abortionist, and conversion of heart of the abortion center workers.

Worthy State Officers and District Deputies, we comprise the leadership team for the Knights of Columbus in Arizona. We make our plan, not for this year or next year, nor the year after, but for the long view of five or more years. We offer membership in the Knights of Columbus to every single eligible Catholic man. We recruit so that we can grow in our faith, protect the sacrament of marriage, defend life at all stages, guard our families, and keep our youth safe.

I am honored to be working with you this coming fraternal year and I look forward to all that we will accomplish in charity, unity, fraternity, and brotherhood. Serve God. Serve our fellow man. We are Knights of Columbus. This is who we are. It's what we do.

Vivat Jesus!

Tom Kalisz, State Deputy

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