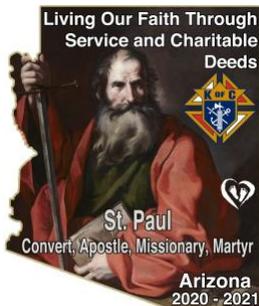


2020-2021 Arizona State Pin and Theme



Arizona Knights of Columbus **Living Our Faith Through Service and Charitable Deeds**

At the start of every fraternal year, it has become customary in Arizona that the State Deputy introduces a new State Pin and theme. While introducing the 2020-2021 State Pin, State Deputy Mario Vassallo said, "The State Pin this year depicts part of the religious heritage that I brought with me from Malta, the island where I was born and raised. St. Paul is one of the patron saints of Malta. I would like St. Paul to be a role model to us brother knights in Arizona during this fraternal year."

The State Pin has the outline of the State of Arizona and shows the picture of St. Paul who is one of the greatest apostles but also was a convert, a missionary and a martyr. The pin also shows the logo of the Knights of Columbus and two small baby's feet which are included to remind us that we must always fight to preserve the sanctity of life from natural conception to natural death. At the top of the pin is this year's theme *Living Our Faith Through Service and Charitable Deeds*. Our theme is an expression of what the goal of every Knight of Columbus should be. We are men of faith who demonstrate our faith by being of service to our priests, parishioners and neighbors and perform charity with those members in our community who are in need.

This is the story of how the Maltese people converted to Christianity and fell in love with the great apostle St. Paul.

In the year 60 A.D. St. Paul was taken prisoner and transported to Rome to be tried in court as a Roman for being a Christian. St. Luke was also on the same ship that travelled through the Mediterranean Sea. This is how St. Luke describes the shipwreck close to the island of Malta in the Acts of the Apostles (27:39 – 28:10):

³⁹ When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could. ⁴⁰ Cutting loose the anchors, they left them in the sea and at the same time untied the ropes that held the rudders. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the beach. ⁴¹ But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf.

⁴² The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping. ⁴³ But the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. ⁴⁴ The rest were to get there on planks or on other pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land safely.

28 Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta. ² The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. ³ Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. ⁴ When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, "This man must be a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, the goddess Justice has not allowed him to live." ⁵ But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects. ⁶ The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead; but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god.

⁷ There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and showed us generous hospitality for three days. ⁸ His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. ⁹ When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured. ¹⁰ They honored us in many ways; and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed.