



Arizona State Council
Knights of Columbus

FAITH IN ACTION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arizona Knights of Columbus Leadership Change

State Deputy Resignation and Restructuring of State Officers

PHOENIX – July 24, 2019, in a letter to the 17,000 members of the Knights of Columbus in Arizona, Tom Kalisz, the State Deputy for the Arizona State Council of the Knights tendered his resignation from his position in order to attend to personal matters. In the letter, Past State Deputy Kalisz thanked the membership for their trust in him and for their service to the State Council, their brother knights, and the people of Arizona. He closed his letter by asking his directors and chairmen to continue to support the State Council as they work to accomplish their goals for the new fraternal year.

“I would ask the State Council Officers to strongly encourage each of you to continue to fulfill your roles in support of our Mission this fraternal year. I ask that you continue to support the order with the same zeal and love that you have shown this past year,” said Kalisz.

In a special meeting of the State Officers held the same day, the resignation of Kalisz was accepted. A letter to the membership was issued the following day stating, “The State Council is sad to learn of the resignation of Tom Kalisz from the office of State Deputy for Arizona. We thank him for his many years of service to the Arizona Knights of Columbus, from District Deputy through State Deputy.”

The letter also stated that, after reviewing several alternatives, the remaining State Officers decided that, in accordance with the bylaws and rules of the Knights of Columbus, they would fill the vacancy and other offices in the following manner:

State Deputy – Mario Vassallo
State Secretary – Luigi Baratta
State Treasurer – Tom Kato
State Advocate – Kevin McCarthy

The vacancy of State Warden was filled by State Programs Director Larry Powers until the May 2020 State Convention and election of officers. Sean Halpain will remain in the role of Immediate Past State Deputy. The officers assumed their roles and responsibilities immediately.

The new State Deputy, Mario Vassallo, of Vail, Arizona, has served the Knights in various leadership roles throughout his membership including District Deputy and State Council offices to State Secretary, the post he was serving in most recently.



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“I want to thank each member of the State Council, the District Deputies, Directors and Chairmen, for agreeing to continue in their roles doing the good works of the Order,” said State Deputy Vassallo. “We will sorely miss Tom and wish him well. To my brother Knights in Arizona, it is a new day, our doors are open for business, we have people to help, programs to complete, and new members to recruit.” he concluded.

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, www.kofc-az.org, for more information. Photographs of the state officers are available upon request.

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