

State Deputy's Message June 2019

Brothers,

Thank you for your great outpouring of solidarity during the 112th annual Arizona State Convention. Especially in your show of confidence in electing me to continue another year as your State Deputy and re-electing all the State Officers to another term. We look forward to the coming fiscal year in serving you as we continue to grow our ranks and provide charitable and fraternal programs to our church, our families, our community, and each other. I look forward to continued work with the District Master of the Fourth Degree with many patriotic programs, especially in helping veterans and first responders.

It is with great sadness that we will be losing our beloved Worthy State Chaplain, Rev. Patrick Crino. Due to a change in his responsibilities within the Diocese of Tucson, Fr. Crino announced he will be stepping down as State Chaplain effective June 30, 2019. This is a post he has served in for 22 years. We will miss his leadership, spiritual guidance, and sense of humor, but we will always be friends. The new State Chaplain will be named during the Organizational meeting at the end of June.

Our fraternal year is ending. There is much yet to be done this month to finalize the current year and prepare for next year. District Deputies, Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries must complete and submit various reports and forms by their respective deadlines. We must continue work hard to meet our membership goal and need 225 members by June 30. Don't give up now. Remember we promised the Supreme Director at the State Convention that each member who attended the convention would sign up at least one eligible man through e-membership by the end of June. The Supreme Knight is personally tracking our progress. Let's show him what Arizona can do. If the Diamondbacks can score 18 runs against the Giants, the Knights in Arizona can score big too.

Remember to include recruitment as part of every Council program and encourage every Knight to recruit at least one new member. Please contact Worthy State Warden and Membership Director Kevin McCarthy if you have questions or need help. He can be reached at statewarden@kofc-az.org.

During this year's convention we were honored to have four of Arizona's Bishops attend. On Friday morning our activities commenced with a celebration of the Holy Mass presided by Most Reverend Eduardo J. Nevares, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Phoenix. Most of Saturday's business meeting was attended by Most Reverend James Wall, Bishop of Gallup, NM. The Memorial Mass on Saturday was concelebrated by Most Reverends Thomas J. Olmsted, Bishop of Phoenix; James S. Wall, Bishop of Gallup New Mexico; and Edward J. Weisenburger, Bishop of Tucson. Brothers, this is the first time we have had bishops from all three dioceses in attendance during our state convention. It is truly gratifying they think so highly of the Knights of Columbus.

Saturday evening, we honored and remembered one of our former leaders, John Tobin, Past State Deputy. The State Council invited Past State Deputy Tobin's widow, Ronnie and her family to the annual awards banquet. There she was presented with a plaque in honor of all of John Tobin's sacrifices over all his years of membership on behalf of the Knights of Columbus.

This past year we collected through the Persons With Intellectual Disabilities "Tootsie Roll" drive over \$137,719 for distribution to various non-profit 501(c)3 organizations assisting persons with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics of Arizona received \$29,876 from this Program.

This year, \$5,018 was donated to the Fisher House that provides comfort homes where military and veteran families can stay free of charge while a loved one is in the hospital.

State Deputy's Message

June 2019

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My congratulations to all the program and major award winners for this fraternal year. More details will be found elsewhere in this newsletter or on the website.

What we learned during the convention is while there is much darkness and evil in the world, there is much light found in our efforts as Knights. We can cut a swath of brilliant light right through the middle of the darkness. Thank you for all your efforts this past year.

Make you plans to attend the 2019-2020 Arizona State Council Organization meeting over the weekend of June 28-30, 2019. It will be held at St. Jerome's Catholic Church, 10815 N 35th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85029. Check the website for details and registration information.

Vivat Jesus!

Tom Kalisz
State Deputy