

## 2023 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

### 1. Resolution in RE: DEDICATION OF THE CONVENTION TO ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS JOSEPH A. FIORENZA AND BISHOP EMERITUS JOHN W. YANTA

**BE IT KNOWN TO ALL MEN AND WOMEN** the Knights of Columbus in Texas and the Texas State Council dedicate the 119<sup>th</sup> annual convention to the Most Reverend Archbishop Emeritus Joseph A. Fiorenza for his leadership as Archbishop of Galveston-Houston and Bishop of San Angelo, and Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta for his leadership of the Diocese of Amarillo, and

**WHEREAS** Archbishop Fiorenza was born in Beaumont, Texas on January 25, 1931, to Sicilian immigrants Anthony and Grace Fiorenza, and dedicated his life to serving Texas and its people through the church, and

**WHEREAS** Archbishop Fiorenza was a proud graduate at the age of sixteen from St. Anthony High School in Beaumont, Texas, who as a senior in high school knew he wanted to be a priest and later graduated from St. Mary's Seminary in La Porte, Texas. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Wendelin Joseph Nold on May 29, 1954, and

**WHEREAS** from 1954 to 1979, Archbishop Fiorenza served the Diocese of Galveston-Houston as an assistant pastor at Queen of Peace Parish from 1954 to 1957, as administrator of the Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral from 1959 to 1967, as pastor of St. Augustine Parish from 1967 to 1969, as pastor of St. Benedict the Abbott Parish from 1969 to 1972, as pastor of Assumption Parish from 1972 to 1973, and as diocesan chancellor from 1973 to 1979, and

**WHEREAS**, Archbishop Fiorenza joined the Knights of Columbus in 1955, at age 24, and became a Sir Knight, a member of the Fourth Degree in 1987, and accommodated requests from the Knights of Columbus and supported the Order and its activities, and

**WHEREAS** he served as a professor of medical ethics at Sacred Heart Dominican College and Chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital in Houston from 1957 to 1959. In 1973, Pope Paul VI named him a Prelate of Honor to His Holiness, and

**WHEREAS** Archbishop Fiorenza participated in the Selma to Montgomery marches in Alabama during the Civil Rights Movement, and was an outspoken advocate opposing the use of the death penalty, especially among young people, and

**WHEREAS** on September 4, 1979, Archbishop Fiorenza was appointed by Pope St. John Paul II as the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of San Angelo, Texas, receiving his episcopal consecration on October 26, 1979, from Archbishop Patrick Flores, and

**WHEREAS** on December 18, 1984, Archbishop Fiorenza was named by Pope St. John Paul II as the Bishop of Galveston-Houston, installed by Archbishop Patrick Flores, and was elevated to Archbishop when the Diocese of Galveston-Houston was elevated to an Archdiocese

on December 29, 2004, and

**WHEREAS** during his twenty-seven years as a Bishop and Archbishop, Joseph A. Fiorenza served as a member of the Bishops' Committee for Black Catholics, Vice-President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops from 1995 to 1998, President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops from 1998 to 2001, Board Member for the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, a Trustee of the University of St. Thomas in Houston, and as a President to the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities, and a Member of the Administrative Board for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops beginning in 1995, and

**WHEREAS** in testament to Archbishop Fiorenza's service to the Galveston-Houston community, Bishop Joseph Fiorenza Park was dedicated in 1999 at the Westpark Tollway and Eldridge Parkway in Houston, Texas, the Queen of Peace Parish community center is named in his honor, and the Archdiocese operates the Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza Priest Retirement Residence Fund, and

**WHEREAS** Archbishop Fiorenza's collaboration with practitioners of many faiths for the betterment of society earned him a nickname as one of the "Three Amigos" along with Rev. William Lawson and Rabbi Samuel Karff, the three of whom are honored on the Brigitte and Bashar Kalai Plaza of Respect at the Midtown Campus for Interfaith Ministries, and

**WHEREAS** as Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, Joseph A. Fiorenza dedicated himself to building the new Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, a sacred space in downtown Houston where all were welcome to worship, which dedication was realized when the Co-Cathedral opened its doors to the people of Galveston-Houston on April 2, 2008, and

**WHEREAS** in 2005, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Archbishop Fiorenza was appointed chairman of a task force created by the U.S. Bishops to coordinate the Catholic response to recovery efforts in the devastated regions hit hard by the hurricane, and within days after it was formed, the task force's mission was expanded to address similar problems caused by Hurricane Rita,

**WHEREAS** Archbishop Fiorenza retired on February 28, 2006, after 27 seven years as a bishop, when Pope Benedict XVI accepted his resignation at the age of 75, and

**WHEREAS** in the years after his retirement, Archbishop Fiorenza continued to be an advocate for social justice issues and a supporter of interfaith collaboration for positive social change across all social and economic borders, and

**WHEREAS** Archbishop Emeritus Joseph A. Fiorenza passed away on September 19, 2022. A native Texan, Archbishop Fiorenza dedicated his life to the Lord for more than sixty-eight years as a priest, including twenty-five years as a Bishop, two years as an Archbishop, and sixteen years as an Archbishop Emeritus, serving devout Catholics in the State of Texas, and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council Knights of

Columbus, assembled in Dallas, Texas on May 5-7, 2023, hereby recognizes and affectionately honors Archbishop Emeritus Joseph A. Fiorenza, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution be placed in the official minutes of this 119<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas State Convention and that an attested copy of this Resolution & Proclamation be presented to Archbishop Emeritus Joseph A. Fiorenza's family as a lasting statement of the love, respect, admiration, and gratitude held by Knights of Columbus in Texas and the Texas State Council.

**AND**

**WHEREAS** Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta was born on October 2, 1931 in Runge, Texas, and

**WHEREAS** Bishop Yanta was ordained a priest in 1956 in the Diocese of San Antonio, Texas. He served as assistant pastor of St. Ann's Catholic Church in San Antonio where he was instrumental in forming a youth ministry and Catholic Youth Organization, and

**WHEREAS** Bishop Yanta became pastor at Sacred Heart and then St. James parishes in San Antonio and founded the San Antonio Neighborhood Youth Association, where he also served as the Executive Director for six years,

**WHEREAS** he further served the faithful of San Antonio by leading the Archdiocesan Office for the Laity where he directed the Better World Spiritual Renewal program for three years, and

**WHEREAS** Bishop Yanta served as Editor of Today's Catholic Newspaper and was co-founder and first executive director of Catholic Television of San Antonio, and

**WHEREAS** Bishop Yanta was consecrated an Auxiliary Bishop of the San Antonio Archdiocese on the feast of the Holy Family, December 30, 1994, by Archbishop Patrick Flores with Bishop Nossol of Opole, Poland, and Bishop Grahmann of Dallas as co-consecrators and Cardinal Maida of Detroit as the homilist at the ceremony in Panna Maria, Texas, and

**WHEREAS** Bishop Yanta was installed as the Bishop of Amarillo, Texas, on the feast of St. Patrick, March 17, 1997, where he served for eleven years, and

**WHEREAS** Bishop Yanta's service in Amarillo was noted by his service in rebuilding the Diocese and pro-life advocacy, as well as service on committees dealing with migration and refugee services, farm workers, and marriage and family life for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and

**WHEREAS** after Bishop Yanta completed eleven years of service as Bishop of the Diocese of Amarillo he returned to San Antonio to continue his efforts for the development of the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria, as well as leading study groups, promoting the Rosary, and being a mentor to other leaders in the community, and

**WHEREAS** Bishop Yanta was proud of his heritage and was the first Texan of Polish descent to become a Bishop and was a charter member of the group of priests founding the Polish American Priests Association of Texas in 1970, and

**WHEREAS** Bishop Yanta founded the Polish American Congress of Texas in 1971, serving as President for five terms; attended the Ksciuszko Foundation Summer Session at Jagellonian University, Krakow, Poland, in 1971, and the University of Kansas Summer Program at Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland, in 1972, and

**WHEREAS** Bishop Yanta was the originator and leader of the first-ever tour of Silesian Polish Texans back to the Opole areas of Upper Silesia of Poland in 1973 and also coordinated Pope John Paul II's visit with Panna Maria parishioners and Texas Polonia in 1972, and

**WHEREAS** he was general chairman of the first Polish American Priests Association Convention in 1990 in San Antonio, was elected the first National President of PAPA in Chicago in 1991, and also founded the Polish American Council of Texas in 2011, and

**WHEREAS** Bishop Yanta was awarded in 2019 the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit by Polish President Andrzej Duda for his life-long work on behalf of American Polonia, and

**WHEREAS** Emeritus Bishop John W. Yanta passed away on August 6, 2022, at the age of 90, and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council Knights of Columbus, assembled in Dallas, Texas on May 5-7, 2023, hereby recognizes and affectionately honors Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution be placed in the official minutes of this 119<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas State Convention and that an attested copy of this Resolution & Proclamation be presented to Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta's family as a lasting statement of the love, respect, admiration, and gratitude held by Knights of Columbus in Texas and the Texas State Council.

Submitted: State Officers

## **2. Resolution in RE: PRAYERS FOR ALL PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS**

**WHEREAS** Christianity began over two-thousand years ago in the Middle East, but the conflicts and uprisings of the Arab Spring have unleashed atrocities and even martyrdom on Middle East Christians; and

**WHEREAS** Christians in the Middle East have been reduced to less than 4% of the population, fleeing their homes, abandoning their country to save their lives because they are Christians; and

**WHEREAS** Christians in China are facing an escalation of persecution solely based on their Christian faith, with forcible detentions including, Pastors, and Christians and their families; and

**WHEREAS** the 2022 World Watch List documented 50 countries where being a Christian or following Jesus is dangerous. Additionally, this worldwide persecution is estimated to affect over 340 million people who “now experience high, very high, or extreme levels of persecution and discrimination; a 1-year increase of more than 70 million more Christians since 2020 who now live where Christianity is ‘illegal, forbidden, or punished,’” and “4,761 Christians killed for their faith, 4,488 churches and other Christian buildings attacked, and 4,277 believers detained without trial, arrested, sentenced, or imprisoned,” according to Open Door researchers the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul; and

**WHEREAS** the U.S. news media have attacked Christians and Catholics, including the Coventry High School students in 2019; and

**WHEREAS** members of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee and individual Senators continue to attack federal court nominees over their faith, including attacking Catholic beliefs of Pro-Life as extreme and the Knights of Columbus as a terrorist organization; and

**WHEREAS** many nations have either remained silent or refused to assist the refugees in the face of the unspeakable and brutal violence and persecution; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus established the Christian Refugee Relief Fund (now called Persecuted Christians Fund) in 2014. As of December 31, 2021, the Knights of Columbus has raised \$33,128,923 in aid for the Persecuted Christians Fund enabling aid to displaced Iraqi and Syrian Christians and other persecuted Christians;

**WHEREAS** His Holiness, Pope Francis has urged the international community to respond to this immense humanitarian tragedy; and

**WHEREAS** His Holiness, Pope Francis has spoken of the significant contributions Christians have made to the Middle East and the importance of their continued presence in the region; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Texas State Council recognizes and offers our prayers and support for Christians and their families being persecuted across the globe, for defending and living our Christian faith and the fundamental freedoms we stand for; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council wishes the very best of God’s continued and abundant blessings upon all persecuted Christians worldwide.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council and all subordinate Councils in Texas will continue to support our Supreme Knight and the Supreme Council’s efforts to provide moral and financial support for our displaced Christian brothers and sisters and pray for all the

victims of the current persecution; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that the Texas State Council calls upon the President of the United States to work with the Congress, State and local governments, and the leaders of other nations to find a compassionate solution that would allow legitimate victims of this current persecution to find safety and shelter in this country and others while still maintaining an effective deterrent from those who would seek to commit acts of violence and terror; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all the delegates attending the 141<sup>st</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Submitted: State Officers

### **3. Resolution in RE: APPRECIATION FOR OUR BISHOPS AND CLERGY**

***WHEREAS*** the Knights of Columbus, an organization of Catholic men founded by a priest, has always held the priests of our Church in especially high regard and has always invited and welcomed all priests into our membership, and out of profound respect for their unique position and authority as representatives and leaders of the Church, has always held open our meetings and ceremonies to priests even if they were not members; and

***WHEREAS*** Texas State Council Knights of Columbus is deeply grateful for the many benefits rendered to our organization and the 119<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention by the Bishops and clergy in the State of Texas; and

***WHEREAS*** the Texas State Council is further honored with the Diocese of El Paso's ordination and installation of the Most Reverend Bishop Anthony C. Celino as auxiliary bishop on March 31, 2023, and

***WHEREAS*** we wish to always renew and do hereby reaffirm our pledge to continue to be the strong right arm of the Catholic Church and to always support and defend our Bishops, priests, and other members of the clergy and religious; and

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Texas State Council Knights of Columbus in the 119th Texas State Council convention duly assembled in Dallas, Texas, does hereby express our deepest gratitude to all Bishops and clergy, and particularly to His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, our State Chaplain and his Excellency the Most Reverend Michael Sis, Bishop of the Diocese of San Angelo, our Associate State Chaplain, Reverend Mel Bessellieu; along with each of the Bishops for the Dioceses of Texas; the Council and Chapter Chaplains, the Assembly and District Friars of Texas, and all clergy who aid in making the spiritual aspect of our meetings and this convention more meaningful, our sincere appreciation and our thanks for their inspiration, cooperation, and counsel.

Submitted: State Officers

**4. Resolution in RE: MEMORIAM**

*WHEREAS* Almighty God has called home many of our Brother Knights since our last convention;

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* that this convention pause during our Memorial Mass to join our Worthy State Chaplain, Bishop Michael Sis, and Associate State Chaplain Reverend Mel Bessellieu in prayer for the repose of the souls of our departed Brothers whose names are listed in the “In Memoriam” booklet, and of all Brother Knights who have passed away in prior years; and

*FURTHER RESOLVED* that each Grand Knight assume the responsibility of notifying the members of his Council and calling the Brothers together at the time of the death of a member of his Council to have a Mass offered for the repose of his soul; and

*FURTHER RESOLVED* that each Council holds appropriate Commemorative Exercises and Masses during November to pay tribute to their deceased Brothers.

Submitted: State Officers

**5. Resolution in RE: HONORING SUPREME MASTER MICHAEL MCCUSKER AND SUPREME MASTER EMERITUS DENNIS STODDARD**

*WHEREAS* Brother Michael McCusker was elected by the Board of Directors to serve as the Supreme Master for the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus in February 2023, and

*WHEREAS* Supreme Master McCusker has been a member of the Knights of Columbus since 1988, and is a current member of St. Michael the Archangel Council 17578 and Deacon Lee R. Hurst Assembly 2183 in Memphis, Tennessee, and

*WHEREAS* he served as the State Deputy for Tennessee from 2019 to 2021, and was elected to the Supreme Board of Directors at the Supreme Convention in Nashville, Tennessee in August 2022, and

*WHEREAS* Supreme Master McCusker served in the U.S. Army Reserves and in the Tennessee National Guard for more than two decades, including a deployment to Afghanistan from 2005 to 2006, and was awarded a Bronze Star as well as an Army Commendation Medal, and

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* that the Texas State Council Knights of Columbus, assembled in Dallas, Texas on May 5-7, 2023, hereby congratulate Supreme Master Michael McCusker on his election and wish success to both him and the entire Fourth Degree.

**AND**

**WHEREAS** Brother Dennis Stoddard joined Bishop W. Thomas Larkin Council 4727 in Jacksonville, Florida, in October 1977, serving in all chair offices before being elected Grand Knight in 1982, and

**WHEREAS** he served as the charter Faithful Navigator of Father Timothy Vakoc Assembly 3213 in Fernandina Beach, Florida, and

**WHEREAS** Brother Dennis was elected State Warden for the Florida State Council and subsequently served as State Advocate, State Treasurer, State Program Director and ultimately State Deputy in 1999, and was thereafter elected as a Supreme Director in 2002,

**WHEREAS** Brother Dennis Stoddard faithfully served the Order and the Fourth Degree as Supreme Master of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus for thirteen years, and

**WHEREAS** Brother Dennis served with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office for 27 years, worked as an elementary Catholic school teacher, and served in the Marines from 1965 to 1969 including service in Vietnam, and

**WHEREAS** he is also a Knight in the Pontifical Order of Pope St. Sylvester and a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher, and

**WHEREAS** Brother Dennis is married to Lady Linda Stoddard and they have two children and four grandchildren, and

**WHEREAS** Brother Dennis was elected to the position of Supreme Master of the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus in 2010, and

**WHEREAS** he successfully navigated the transition to the updated Fourth Degree Regalia and the Fourth Degree's response to the Coronavirus Pandemic, and

**WHEREAS** in recognition of his distinguished record of accomplishments, the Board of the Directors has granted him the title of Supreme Master Emeritus, and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council Knights of Columbus, assembled in Dallas, Texas on May 5-7, 2023, hereby express their deep thanks and affection to Supreme Master Emeritus Dennis Stoddard for his years of faithful service to the Order.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 141<sup>st</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Orlando, Florida.

**6. Resolution in RE: APPRECIATION OF HOST COMMITTEE**



**WHEREAS** Knights of Columbus members of the Dallas State Convention Committee are graciously serving as hosts to the 2023 State Convention of the 119<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Texas State Council Knights of Columbus; and

**WHEREAS** such Committee, as our host, has extended to us warm, sincere greetings and hospitality as well as consistent cooperation in all requirements, making the duties of the officers and staff easier to discharge;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council Knights of Columbus hereby extends to the officers and members of the Dallas State Convention Committee and their wives our sincere appreciation and profound thanks for the cordial welcome, excellent workmanship, and fine hospitality shown to all members in attendance.

Submitted: State Officers

**7. Resolution in RE: CANONIZATION OF FATHER MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY**

**WHEREAS** since 1978 the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus has been pursuing the cause for the canonization of our founder, Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney; and

**WHEREAS** in 2008, Pope Benedict XVI approved a decree recognizing the heroic virtue of Father Michael J. McGivney, and whose declaration significantly advances his progress toward sainthood giving Father McGivney the distinction of “Venerable Servant of God”; and

**WHEREAS** the Church continues to study and investigate the life and work of our founder Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney, which also includes examining a possible miracle manifested through the intercession of Blessed Father McGivney; and

**WHEREAS** on January 10, 2006, the book titled Parish Priest Father Michael McGivney and American Catholicism, a biography of our founder, was published and made it to the New York Times Best Sellers list; and

**WHEREAS** to further promote devotion to Blessed Father McGivney, in 2013 the Texas State Council commissioned the first devotional icon of our beloved founder, the original of which hangs in the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven and copies of which are available at [www.tkofc.org](http://www.tkofc.org); and

**WHEREAS** the Father McGivney Guild has been established to help further the goal of saintly recognition for this worthy priest, and currently has a membership of over 150,000 individuals;

**WHEREAS** his Holiness Pope Francis recognized Father McGivney’s miracle and thereby Beatified Father McGivney, on October 31, 2020, raising Father McGivney to Blessed; and

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Texas State Council, Knights of Columbus in Convention duly assembled in Corpus Christi, Texas, do hereby fully support the Supreme Council in this cause, and continue to pledge our ongoing prayers for the canonization of this great and noble priest and encourage Texas State Council members and all Catholics to join the Father McGivney Guild and pray for his canonization; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that the Texas State Council encourages local councils to maintain and make available copies of our founder's biography for all Knights to read and share, and display a framed copy of the devotional icon in all council chambers and to give the icon as appreciation gifts to our bishops, pastors, chaplains and others in recognition of special service accomplishments; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 141<sup>st</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Submitted: State Officers

#### **8. Resolution in RE: IN SUPPORT OF A CULTURE OF LIFE**

***WHEREAS*** the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus and the Texas State Council have demonstrated a deep, historic, and consistent opposition to all governmental actions and policies that promote abortion, embryonic stem cell research, human cloning, euthanasia, assisted suicide, and other offenses against life; and

***WHEREAS*** the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus and the Texas State Council have continued to reaffirm an uncompromising commitment to the sacred nature of God's gift of Life, to Natural Law, and continued encouragement to members, Councils, and their families to continue advocating and promoting life—from natural birth to natural death—and to work within our communities to promote a Culture of Life that respects all human beings, particularly women and the unborn; and

***WHEREAS*** the Knights of Columbus have supported our bishops in opposition to capital punishment; and

***WHEREAS*** the Knights of Columbus' Ultrasound Program has provided approximately 1,644 ultrasound machines in 50 states, with Texas being one of the leading jurisdictions providing 104 ultrasounds machines — said ultrasounds provide the parents and families of unborn children a window into the mother's womb that allows them a clear glimpse of God's gift of life; and

***WHEREAS*** the Texas State Council continues to support federal and state investigations into Planned Parenthood's immoral and illegal activities and continues to favor the passage of any legislation that would ban the illegal and immoral use or sale of any human fetal body parts or tissue; and

**WHEREAS** the Texas State Council supports and commends the Texas State Legislature and the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Texas for passing the “Heartbeat bill-SB8” in the 87<sup>th</sup> to protect our most vulnerable – unborn children; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus has a long history of supporting public demonstrations and rallies for the cause of life, particularly in Texas, specifically the Pro-Life Masses, Marches, Hikes-for-Life, and candlelight vigils.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council continue to support laws and other governmental actions prohibiting abortion, destructive embryonic stem cell research, euthanasia, and continues to call for legislation and regulations that require parental notification and consent for minors seeking an abortion, and will continue to seek the restoration of full legal protection for the lives of the unborn, the sick, persons with disabilities and the elderly; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Knights of Columbus will continue to uphold and advocate the traditional teaching of the Church concerning the death penalty, as explained in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and that we call upon the Supreme Convention to include opposition to the death penalty in any pro-life resolution it considers and passes; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we pledge to continue the activities of the Knights of Columbus at all levels to inform, educate and motivate both our members and the public at large, including public officials who take a so-called “pro-choice” position, regarding the dignity and sanctity of human life at all stages and the evils of abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, the death penalty, and other offenses against life; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we affirm our policy of not inviting to any Knights of Columbus event, persons, especially public officials or candidates for public office, who do not support legal protection of unborn children or who advocate the legalization of euthanasia, and not bestowing upon them honors or privileges of our Order of any type; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call upon the United States Congress to act swiftly and decisively in denying all public funding and support for Planned Parenthood, and submitting this legislation to the President of the United States upon whom we call to sign it into law; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we commend and congratulate the Texas Legislature—and the Legislatures and Assemblies of the other States and Commonwealths of the United States—to continue investigating Planned Parenthood and that it acts swiftly and decisively in denying any and all public funding and support for Planned Parenthood and submitting this legislation to the Governor of Texas, upon whom we call to sign it into law; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we staunchly oppose any and all efforts by the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, and any State Legislature, State regulatory agency, and any local, county, or municipal government that would force private or public employers, health plans, health institutions and providers to offer services that deprive individuals and institutions of their freedom of conscience by taking away the liberty to follow

ethical, moral or religious beliefs; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that while recognizing the natural rights of parents and the dignity of children, we urge the United States and Texas governments to streamline social services regulations and laws to facilitate adoption so that suitable families may welcome children who need stable parental care; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Knights of Columbus continue to support in every manner possible the Gabriel Project, Project Rachel, and other similar ministries which provides women and men facing crisis pregnancies and post-abortion problems love, physical care, counseling, spiritual, emotional, and financial support; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 141<sup>st</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Orlando, Florida, and a copy to the Texas Legislature, the Governor of Texas, and the Texas delegation to the U.S. Congress and the President of the United States.

Submitted: State Officers

**9. Resolution in RE: CALLING FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION IN PRO-LIFE MARCHES FOR LIFE**

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus has a long history of supporting public demonstrations and rallies for the cause of life, particularly in Texas, specifically the Pro-Life Masses, Marches, Hikes-for-Life, and candlelight vigils; and

**WHEREAS** the March of Life that occurs in Washington D.C. unites, educates, and mobilizes pro-life people and organizations from across the United States; and

**WHEREAS** other states have held and conducted their own Marches for Life, particularly Texas, which holds its own March for Life in downtown Austin, Texas, where pro-life Texans march to the Texas State Capitol and demonstrate peacefully for the cause of life; and

**WHEREAS** since 2015, the officers of the Texas State Council of the Knights of Columbus, along with members and leaders of Texas Knights of Columbus councils, have marched in the Texas March for Life, alongside the Bishops, priests, and other pro-life supporters; and

**WHEREAS** local communities and parishes hold and conduct their own Marches for Life along with other pro-life groups and organizations.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council encourages Councils, members, and their families to continue to support and participate in the March for Life conducted in Washington D.C., the Texas March for Life conducted in Austin, Texas, and any other march for life or public demonstrations and rallies for the cause of life; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that the Texas State Council and the Knights of Columbus call upon Councils to continue to work with their bishops, pastors, priests, and parish leaders in organizing, administering, and assisting with local Marches for Life conducted in their respective communities; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 141<sup>st</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Submitted: State Officers

**10. Resolution in RE: SUPPORT FOR THE INSTITUTION OF TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE**

***WHEREAS*** marriage is a natural institution based on ancient human values that has been recognized as a unique and deeply rooted social, legal, and religious institution; and

***WHEREAS*** marriage reflects the natural biological complementarity between a man and a woman, which is woven into the social and religious fabric of every major culture and society; and

***WHEREAS*** marriage is a natural institution that predates the state, the state is therefore obligated to recognize, respect, and protect it; and

***WHEREAS*** our Holy Father, Pope Francis, when speaking on the subject of marriage and the family, has said, “Children have a right to grow up in a family with a father and a mother capable of creating a suitable environment for the child’s development and emotional maturity;” and

***WHEREAS*** his Holiness Pope Francis declared in his Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* “that only the exclusive and indissoluble union between a man and a woman has a plenary role to play in society as a stable commitment that bears fruit in new life;” and

***WHEREAS*** the Holy Father also stated that “Marriage is a precious sign, for ‘when a man and a woman celebrate the sacrament of marriage...he impresses in them his own features and the indelible character of his love;” and

***WHEREAS*** the Holy Father also stated in *Amoris Laetitia* that “By their witness as well as their words, families speak to others of Jesus. They pass on the faith; they arouse a desire for God, and they reflect the beauty of the Gospel and its way of life;” and

***WHEREAS*** the Texas State Council Knights of Columbus and the Knights of Columbus Councils in Texas and their members wish to support and stand in solidarity with our Supreme Council, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, the United State Conference of Catholic Bishops, our

Texas Bishops, and our clergy and religious regarding the fundamental and traditional recognition and definition of marriage as a holy and sacred union between one man and one woman, with that union being open to the creation of life.

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Texas State Council at its 119th annual meeting in Dallas, Texas that the Knights of Columbus stand firm in our conviction that the only valid marriage that can exist is the exclusive and indissoluble union between a man and a woman; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that we call upon all federal, state, and local government officials to enact legislation that will protect the sanctity of marriage and the sanctity of a family committed to bringing new life into the world; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 141<sup>st</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Orlando, Florida, and a copy to the Texas Legislature, the Governor of Texas, the Texas delegation to the U.S. Congress and the President of the United States.

Submitted: State Officers

## **11. Resolution in RE: IN DEFENSE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

***WHEREAS*** the right to religious freedom is based upon the inherent dignity of the human person, which is known through both reason and divine revelation; and

***WHEREAS*** the right to religious freedom is guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Texas State Constitution, and other documents recognizing religious freedom; and

***WHEREAS*** religious freedom means that all persons are to be free from coercion in matters of belief and conscience and that no person should be forced to act in a manner contrary to his or her own beliefs or conscience; and

***WHEREAS*** in *Dignitatis Humanae*, the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on Religious Freedom, we reaffirm the Catholic Church's consistent teaching that religious freedom is an inalienable right that should be recognized in the governing laws of each country in such a way that it is acknowledged as a basic civil right; and

***WHEREAS*** religious freedom is not a benefit that a government confers out of a sense of mere tolerance, which can be removed, but rather is an inalienable right, rooted in the transcendent dignity of every human being; and

***WHEREAS*** Pope Francis has called religious freedom, "a fundamental right of man," that is "not simply freedom of thought or private worship," but "the freedom to live according to ethical

principles, both privately and publicly, consequent to the truth one has found;” and

**WHEREAS** religious freedom is at the very heart of human rights because it encompasses freedom of speech, assembly, and conscience, which together form the basis of civil society and respect for the individual; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus since its founding has worked to defend religious freedom for Catholics and all people, and has done so out of our commitment to our faith and our unshakeable belief that religious freedom is a basic civil right; and

**WHEREAS** the Order’s work on behalf of religious freedom included efforts in the U.S. Supreme Court case *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, which affirmed the right of children to a Catholic education in opposition to the efforts of the Ku Klux Klan; and

**WHEREAS** our work for religious freedom also included activities to protest the persecution of Catholics in Mexico in the 1920s, as well as efforts to combat the anti-religious worldview of Communism, Socialism, and the inclusion of the phrase “under God” in the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance to distinguish the United States from anti-religious governments; and

**WHEREAS** regulatory actions by local, state, and federal agencies have sought to force private Catholic employers—such as Catholic universities, colleges, schools, orders, convents, congregations, dioceses, and the Knights of Columbus—to provide all employees with insurance coverage that includes abortion-inducing drugs, contraception, and sterilization; and

**WHEREAS** the numerous threats to religious liberty that have appeared in recent years are among the most serious intrusions on religious liberty we have seen in our lifetimes; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that as citizens and as Knights of Columbus, we will remain steadfast in our support for the free exercise of religion as it is enshrined in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Texas State Constitution, and other documents recognizing religious freedom; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we stand firm in our conviction that the full guarantee of religious liberty cannot be limited to “freedom of worship” as some have attempted, but must include full “freedom of religion,” which necessarily encompasses the public dimension of religion, the freedom from persecution or discrimination based on conscience and belief, and the fact that believers are called to play an active role in building the social order; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we stand in solidarity with our bishops in their call to the Catholic faithful, and to all Americans, to join together to oppose coercive regulatory schemes, orders, mandates, and also to protect religious liberty and freedom of conscience; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call on the U.S. Congress to consider and pass a robust First Amendment Defense Act, which would protect the free exercise of religious beliefs and moral convictions of persons by preventing the federal government from taking discriminatory action

against such persons in the areas of government contracts, benefits, tax treatment, accreditations and licensures; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that we call upon all government officials in Texas to enact legislation that will protect the right of religious institutions and individuals to be free from government coercion in all matters; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that we will join with others of goodwill to March for Religious Freedom each year in Austin, the capital of Texas, to demonstrate our resolve and to demand that government officials respect this God-given right; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that our struggle for religious freedom at this decisive moment in our history is not only for our sake but for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all future generations, so that they too may know a country that is “one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all;” and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 141<sup>st</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Orlando, Florida, and a copy to the Texas Legislature, the Governor of Texas, and the Texas delegation to the U.S. Congress and to the President of the United States.

Submitted: State Officers

## **12. Resolution in RE: PRAYER FOR ALL GOVERNMENTAL LEADERS**

***WHEREAS*** in 2020, the people of the United States elected the President, members of the House of Representatives and various Senators; and the people of Texas elected new members to the Texas Legislature and judges to courts at the county, district, and appellate levels; and

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Texas State Council calls upon all Councils, Assemblies, and Chapters to pray for our President, Governor, and all our elected officials at the federal, state, county, city, and local levels, that the Holy Spirit may counsel, insight and wisdom to keep the United States of America and our state and local communities on a path consistent with the Divine Will that we invoke daily when we pray the Lord’s Prayer – the “Our Father;” and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that the Texas State Council encourages all members and their families to register and to vote in all federal, state, and local elections; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that the Knights of Columbus supports the election and appointment of officials at the federal, state, and local levels of government who support and believe in a culture of life and the protection of religious freedom; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that the Texas State Council encourages all members and councils in Texas to pray for our President, Governor, and all elected representatives, legislators,



judges, and other government officials in hope that they will work to defend life and to honor the religious and conscience concerns of all American citizens; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that we, the Knights of Columbus and the Texas State Council, encourage all members and Councils to continue to encourage peaceful and respectful dialogue between all Americans and that we, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, find ways to bridge our differences in a respectful manner; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 141<sup>st</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Orlando, Florida, and a copy to the Texas Legislature, the Governor of Texas, and the Texas delegation to the U.S. Congress and to the President of the United States.

Submitted: State Officers

### **13. Resolution in RE: SUPPORT FOR OUR ARMED FORCES**

***WHEREAS*** the Knights of Columbus and the Texas State Council direct support for the armed forces dates back to the early 20th Century including the original KC Huts program and in the formation of the United Services Organization (USO); and

***WHEREAS*** our support for the armed forces continues to the present day, most notably through our support of the Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS) Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program, for which our Supreme Knight and Supreme Master have committed the Order to raise \$1.5 million, with the Fourth Degree having already raised over \$2.2 million, and support for the annual AMS—K of C Warriors to Lourdes Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes; France and

***WHEREAS*** the Texas State Council and its subordinate councils have supported the Frontline Faith Project, which distributes recorded Catholic prayers, lectures, and teachings to our troops, and has reached out in a special effort to cooperate with the local units of the Catholic War Veterans of America; and

***WHEREAS*** the Texas Women’s Project from 2016 to 2020 raised \$140,550 for the support of the Archdiocese of the Military Services Cosponsored Seminarian Program, to produce additional Catholic chaplains desperately needed to serve the spiritual needs of men and women and their families while serving in the Armed Forces of the USA; and

***WHEREAS*** the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council insurance program is the only domestic insurance company which pays the face amount of the policy upon the death of one of the members of our Armed Forces killed in combat rather than have a “war exclusion” clause as do other domestic insurance companies;

***WHEREAS*** the Knights of Columbus maintains 50 active military councils around the world and have one in the war-torn Horn of Africa; and

**WHEREAS** our Brother Knights, along with thousands of other servicemen and women, are presently deployed in hostile and unstable regions around the world in efforts to combat terrorism, maintain order and promote peace; and

**WHEREAS** the families of those courageous servicemen and women now deployed are praying for their safe return; and

**WHEREAS** many of these men and women have heroically given their lives or sustained a serious or debilitating injury while deployed in the service of their country; and

**WHEREAS** we are committed to “serving those who served” through the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services program, with Brother Knights donating more than 94,000 hours of volunteer service at over 100+ Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers during 2021.

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus has demonstrated its commitment to “wounded warriors” by direct service, financial support, and partnering with other civic organizations and foundations to benefit those service members who have suffered traumatic injuries or wounds in the field of battle; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus has distributed hundreds of thousands of rosaries and copies of *Armed With The Faith*, a prayer book for service members; and

**WHEREAS** the Texas State Council and its subordinate councils have supported the Frontline Faith Project, which distributes recorded Catholic prayers, lectures, and teachings to our troops, and has reached out in a special effort to cooperate with the local units of the Catholic War Veterans of America; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council, all Knights of Columbus Councils and Assemblies in Texas reaffirm our unequivocal gratitude, support, and encouragement for the men and women of the armed forces who defend our liberties and freedoms and that we will never waiver in our commitment to recognize the contributions of every service member on Active Duty, in the Guard, in the Reserves, and all veterans and retired service members; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we prayerfully support and encourage the families of those servicemen and women who are deployed away from home; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we continue to pray for the mission success and the safe return of all our military personnel; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we now pay tribute to those men and women who have served, especially those who have suffered serious combat wounds or injuries, and we pray for the souls of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in the service of their country; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council, Councils, and Assemblies in Texas

will continue to support the Archdiocese of Military Services financially and with our prayers; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 141<sup>st</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Submitted: State Officers

#### **14. Resolution in RE: SUPPORT FOR OUR FIRST RESPONDERS**

**WHEREAS** Section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 defines first responders as emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled support personnel that provide immediate support services during prevention, response, and recovery operations; and

**WHEREAS** the legal definition of emergency response/first responders generally includes Federal, State, and local government emergency, public safety, fire, law enforcement, emergency response, emergency medical (including hospital emergency facilities) and related personnel, agencies and authorities; and

**WHEREAS** first responders are generally considered and recognized to be local law enforcement officers, which in Texas include federal officers and Border Patrol agents, police officers, sheriffs, deputies, constables and dispatch and other support personnel, and firefighters, emergency safety responders such as medics, ambulance support persons; and

**WHEREAS** first responders serve by responding to events situations that require assisting, rescuing, and possibly defending members of the community from dangers and hazardous events that many times place first responders in harm's way; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus pray for the 43 first responders and their families – 34 law enforcement officers, 6 firefighters, and 3 paramedics – who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty in Texas this past 2022; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus remain committed to continued support our first responders and their families through the “Shield a Badge with a Prayer” Program, Red, White and Blue Masses.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council and all Knights of Columbus Councils in Texas reaffirm our unequivocal gratitude, support, and encouragement for the men and women and their families who are first responders who protect us from harm with unselfish and professional dedication and that we will never waiver in our commitment to recognize the contributions of every first responder and their families; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that all Texas Councils continue to remain steadfast in supporting and praying for our first responders and their families through the Shield a Badge with

Prayer Program and by scheduling, promoting and attending Red Masses, White Masses, and Blue Masses; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we prayerfully support and encourage the families of those first responders; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we continue to pray for the safe return of all our first responders; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we now pay tribute to those men and women who have served, especially those who have suffered serious injuries, and we pray for the souls of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in the line of duty; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 141<sup>st</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Submitted: State Officers

**15. Resolution in RE: SUPPORT FOR THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES**

**WHEREAS** on June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress established a national flag, resolving “that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a field of blue, representing a new constellation”; and

**WHEREAS** the banner adopted by the Second Continental Congress, hereinafter referred to as the “Flag,” has become the national symbol for the United States of America, the constellation of stars in the field of blue changing and evolving as new States entered the Union; and

**WHEREAS** in the 245-year history of the United States, the Flag has come to embody and reflect all aspects of American life, being displayed on government and privately owned buildings, flown by military and civilian vessels, displayed at political, social, educational, and religious events on a national, state and local level, carried by soldiers and explorers and raised by students and athletes at schools and athletic contests; and

**WHEREAS** throughout the history of the United States, the Flag has witnessed many of America’s greatest, dramatic and tragic moments—the bombardment of Fort McHenry in 1814, the assault on Fort Sumpter in 1861, the funeral procession for Presidents Abraham Lincoln in 1865, and John F. Kennedy in 1963, the Olympic gold medal run by Jesse Owens at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the battle on Iwo Jima in 1945, the Civil Rights Marches in the 1960s, the American landing on the Moon in 1969, the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001, the chaotic Afghanistan retreat, and many other events at different times in our nation’s history; and

**WHEREAS** many of our ancestors—particularly our immigrant grandfathers and

grandmothers—when coming to the United States from their original homelands, were greeted by the Flag when first stepping onto American soil; and

**WHEREAS** throughout the history of the United States, men and women of all races, ethnicities, and backgrounds have pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor in the service of the United States, their sacrifices symbolized and represented by the Flag; and

**WHEREAS** while Americans can at times disagree on many issues, all Americans know that the Flag is our universal identifying national emblem; and

**WHEREAS** it has become a respectful tradition that all Americans honor the Flag in gratitude for the sacrifices made by all Americans in making our nation the home of the free and the refuge of those seeking the dream Dr. Martin Luther King so eloquently described and those seeking the sanctuary for life, liberty, and equality Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln so eloquently described; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus have always honored and respected the Flag, as exemplified by the Order's successful efforts to add the phrase "Under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council and its subordinate Councils remind all members to always show proper respect and reverence for the Flag of the United States of America, particularly by standing when the Flag is unfurled at any public event and for the National Anthem, and to continue to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at all meetings; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Knights of Columbus rededicate themselves to encouraging the public display of the Flag at our churches, parish grounds, homes, places of business, and at social gatherings; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we encourage our families, fellow parishioners, and countrymen and women in a charitable and fraternal manner to always show respect for the Flag by standing upon presentation of the Colors and for men to remove their hats during the playing of the National Anthem or the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance as a sign of respect for our all who built, supported and sacrificed to make our Country great and saluting the Flag by either giving a military salute or by placing one's hand over their heart; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution is sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 141<sup>st</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Orlando, Florida and that the Supreme Council encourages the Supreme Convention to adopt this or a similar resolution that honors our Flag.

Submitted: State Officers

**16. Resolution in RE: TO SUPPORT THE ANNUAL COMMEMORATION OF**

## **COLUMBUS DAY IN THE AMERICAS**

**WHEREAS** Christopher Columbus was the first European to sail west in search of the Orient and to discover the American continents as a result, returning multiple times to explore and establish settlements in this New World, opening it to the enduring influence of Western civilization and also providing for the development of trade, commerce and prosperity; and

**WHEREAS** the Admiral of the Ocean Sea was not focused as a profiteer or adventurer, but rather as a faithful Catholic – a “Christ-bearer” – intent on spreading the Good News to the indigenous peoples as evidenced by his request to Pope Alexander VI for missionary priests to accompany him on his initial journey with these words “I trust that, by God’s help, I may spread the Holy Name and Gospel of Jesus Christ as widely as may be”; and

**WHEREAS** in the same spirit of evangelization, Father Michael McGivney and a small group of men chartered the Knights of Columbus to spread the Good News in a new way to address the challenges of the industrial era, by serving the temporal and spiritual needs of families and faith communities with programs that provide financial security and strengthen the social fabric with acts of charity; and

**WHEREAS** four hundred years after Columbus’ triumphant expedition, and ten years after the chartering of the Knights of Columbus, Pope Leo XIII recognized the important contribution of Columbus in his encyclical, Quarto Abeunte Saeculo, writing: “it is fitting that we should confess and celebrate in a special manner the will and designs of the Eternal Wisdom, under whose guidance the discoverer of the New World placed himself with a devotion so touching”; and

**WHEREAS** in this modern era the Knights of Columbus continue to respond fervently to the call to evangelize the cultures in which we have been placed by God, adapting to meet the acute challenges of consumerism, hedonism, sexual libertinism, and a profound loss of respect for the God-given values of human life, religious freedom, and traditional complementary marriages and families; and

**WHEREAS** in the spirit of acknowledging his extraordinary contributions, regional celebrations have been held since 1792, and a special public holiday was established in 1934 in the USA to celebrate the singular and enduring influence of the accomplishments of Christopher Columbus; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that as Knights of the great Christopher Columbus, and all Christian men and women of goodwill, we will continue to celebrate the example of Christopher Columbus as a visionary and evangelist, both on the holiday set aside to honor his accomplishments and throughout the year, by placing our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, at the center of all our endeavors; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that Knights of Columbus in Texas will endeavor to celebrate the Columbus Day Holiday by attending Mass together and sharing a fraternal meal; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we will, without diminishing the unique contributions of

native peoples to the remarkable cultural tapestry of the Americas, encourage our public officials to preserve the intended spirit of the public holiday tradition with its cultural and patriotic implications, and not allow it to be undermined or diminished by neglect, dilution, or replacement; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that all Knights of Columbus endeavor and commit to speaking out in our communities before local, municipal, county, and state governmental agencies in support of the continued celebration of the accomplishments of Christopher Columbus and educate others regarding the positive aspects of his efforts, discovery, and legacy; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 141<sup>st</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Orlando, Florida, and a copy to the Texas Legislature, the Governor of Texas, the leadership of the Texas Municipal League, the Texas Association of Counties, City Councils, the Texas delegation to the U.S. Congress, and to the President of the United States.

Submitted: State Officers

**17. Resolution in RE: THE ORDER'S INSURANCE BENEFIT PROGRAMS**

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus was founded to provide crucial relief for widows and orphans of Catholic men with the foresight and courage to join the Order; and

**WHEREAS** our founder, the Servant of God Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney's vision initiated an institution that has become one of the largest fraternal benefits insurance companies in the United States; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus has earned the highest accreditation possible from two of the best known, and most respected insurance rating agencies, A. M. Best and Standard & Poor's, and as a World's Most Ethical Company by the Ethisphere Institute; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus now has \$126.1 billion of life insurance in force on its members and their families; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus sold 4,275 annuity contracts in 2022; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus also had annual sales of Long-Term Care insurance of \$2.7 million in 2022; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus also had annual sales of Disability Income insurance of 465 policies in 2022; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus had \$524 million in new Annuity Deposits; and

**WHEREAS** in 2022 the Knights of Columbus paid out \$196 million in dividends and sold

\$6.6 billion in life insurance to its members; and

**WHEREAS** Texas is the jurisdiction in the Order with the most insurance in force, with 121,943 policies in force from 39,931 insurance members and their families totaling \$10.1 billion; and

**WHEREAS** nearly 35 percent of Texas Knights are insurance members of the Order; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council at its 119th annual meeting in Dallas, Texas, does commend the outstanding efforts of our general agents and our field agency force in Texas; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council does affirm as its policy that all fraternal publications, including advertising for fraternal and fundraising events, including those of the Texas State Council, its subordinate councils, assemblies, and chapters are prohibited from accepting advertisements and news items relating directly or indirectly to the sale or servicing of life or disability income or long term care insurance or annuities, other than advertisements or news items promoting the Order's insurance programs, and that violation of this rule by any publication from any subordinate council, assembly or chapter will constitute cause to prohibit the use of the name and emblem of the Order by those subordinate councils and/or their publications.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 141<sup>st</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Submitted: State Officers

## **18. Resolution in RE: PRAYERS FOR PRESIDENT'S CONVERSION ON PRO-LIFE ISSUES**

**WHEREAS** Joe Biden was elected as President of our nation and took office in January 2021; and

**WHEREAS** President Biden has expressed his limited and highly conditional support for implementing life-affirming policies across a wide spectrum of critically important pro-life issues; and

**WHEREAS** President Biden has previously expressed his intent to work for the passage of laws and to implement public policies which are clearly inconsistent with the Natural Law and the teachings of the Church, potentially destructive of family cohesion, and which deny basic human rights and the God-given value and dignity of each human life from conception to natural death;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Knights of Columbus in Texas will vigorously oppose the erosion of protections currently contained in the law for the unborn and other vulnerable members of our society and will work ceaselessly for increased protections in general laws and in public



policies; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Knights of Columbus in Texas will continuously offer prayers for a conversion of heart for our President to a more generous and genuine support of all pro-life issues; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 141<sup>st</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Submitted: State Officers

**19. Resolution in RE: PRAYERS FOR ALL AFFECTED BY COVID-19**

**WHEREAS** the Texas State Council prays for all those who God has called home due to the pandemic and the affected families left behind; and

**WHEREAS** the Texas State Council prays for all those brother knights and their families who have been affected by COVID-19, and

**WHEREAS** the Texas State Council prays for all clergy who have tended to those affected by COVID-19, and

**WHEREAS** the Texas State Council prays for all the first responders who have been tirelessly serving those infected; and

**WHEREAS** the Texas State Council prays for all health care providers who have been tirelessly treating those infected, and all people who have been called home; and

**WHEREAS** the Texas State Council thanks and commends all the clergy, first responders, and health care providers who have risked their own lives to treat and minister to patients at great personal risk; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Knights of Columbus in Texas offer our heartfelt thanks, gratitude, and prayers to all clergy, first-responders, health care professionals who have provided medical care and service to the hundreds of thousands of Texans affected by the pandemic, and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Texas Knights of Columbus meeting at the 119<sup>th</sup> annual convention in Dallas, Texas, offer our deepest condolences and prayers to those people who have been called home and to their families and friends who were left behind.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 141<sup>st</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Submitted: State Officers

**20. Resolution in RE: PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY**

*WHEREAS* the Knights of the Texas State Council, pray for the nation's commitment to peace, after unprecedented years of violence and unrest; and

*WHEREAS* the Texas State Council and all of the Texas State Council brothers pray for the healing of our country, that has pitted brother versus brother, state versus state in an unprecedented attack against fellow countrymen; and

*WHEREAS* the Knights of Texas pray that elected leaders embrace and protect the U.S. and Texas Constitutions, including the first amendment that guarantees free speech and "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;" and

*BE IT RESOLVED* that the Knights of Columbus in Texas, meeting at the 119<sup>th</sup> annual convention in Dallas, Texas, prays the elected leaders be examples of honor and unity through their support of our Constitution, while accepting difference of opinions between citizens in accordance with the founding of our country, and the Great State of Texas.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 141<sup>st</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Submitted: State Officers

**21. Resolution in RE: No Solicitations or Displays at the State Convention or other Texas State Council Functions Except by Written Authorization of the State Deputy**

*WHEREAS* in the past there have been numerous and varied solicitations conducted at activities sponsored under the auspices of Texas State Council of the Knights of Columbus, by groups of individuals seeking financial contributions, program participation, or donations of volunteer time or funds, and these activities are often sponsored by the standing and special committees of the State Council for the fraternal benefit, education or enjoyment of those participating;

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* that no solicitation or displays will be allowed at the State Convention or at other State Council functions except by written authorization of the State Deputy. It shall be the duty of the State Officers to enforce this resolution.

Submitted: State Officers

