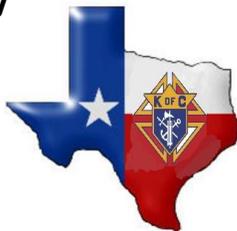


... from the Texas State Council



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30-60-90 Day Outlook

February 2021

Be Not Afraid



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From the Texas State Council:

Let's get it done. Back to Basics, No Excuses

Alfredo Vela, Texas State Deputy

State Chaplains Message:

Dear Brother Knights,

St. John Paul II dedicated the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Feb. 2) as the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. On this day, 40 days after Christmas, we celebrate the revealing of the baby Jesus as a "Light" to all the nations, and the joyous testimony of Simeon and Anna that God is faithful to His people. Many Diocese may have a special mass during the month of February thanking God for the gift of consecrated women who serve their diocese. Members of the many religious orders offer their testimony to the "Light" every day.

Each religious order has a unique history in its foundation and service, and a specific "charism" (gift) of service to God's people. One thing I've learned over the years is that if you ask a member of a religious order about their charism or their founder or foundress, you should be prepared for a long answer! While each order is distinct in its foundational gift, the members of each religious order, both men and women, offer their personal testimony through vows to live the evangelical virtues. The Catechism quotes the teaching of the Second Vatican Council about religious life:

"Christ proposes the evangelical counsels, in their great variety, to every disciple. The perfection of charity to which all the faithful are called, entails for those who freely follow the call to consecrated life the obligation of practicing chastity in celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom, poverty and obedience. It is the profession of these counsels within a permanent state of life recognized by the Church, that characterizes the life consecrated to God." (CCC 915).

The "Light" that we honor in the consecrated women in our diocese hopefully inspires each of us, a disciple of Jesus seeking to follow this path, to live more fully the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience. As the beautiful tradition of our church teaches, we are all called to be holy, spirit-filled saints.

Whatever our state in life, we also are preparing to enter into our annual season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17. It may be a good reflection to ask ourselves how we practice these virtues of poverty, chastity and obedience in our own lives, and teach about them in our families.

May we continue to focus on our shared prayer, our time at meals, and our time playing together; and may all we do bring us closer to the merciful love of Jesus, the "Light" to the nations. May God bless you and your families with the gifts of peace and joy; let's keep each other in prayer. *Vivat Jesus!*

Most Reverend Bishop Brendan Cahill
State Chaplain



Alfredo Vela
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Be Not Afraid

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Assistant State Chaplains Message:**Brother Knights:**

“Saints are made, not born.” Words I heard as a kid from my priest. “Holiness,” he went on, “is to choose throughout each day to act, speak, and think as God does. Sainthood is its outcome.” At our Organizational Meeting, our State Deputy declared, “Be not afraid— but no excuses!” he reminded me: “Saints are made, not born.”

Worthy District Deputies- Every man is called to be a Saint. Therefore, every man should be attracted to the Knights of Columbus. How so? Fr McGivney founded us as a means to achieve this degree of holiness. The Order helps Catholic men become Saints by its prayer and activity. But if your Grand Knights and Officers are not growing in holiness then they are impeding the work of the Holy Spirit and the Order. The Local Council will stagnate and not grow. Members will feel unsupported or out of place, miss meetings, and stop paying their dues. Officers will reflexively want to “purge the roster.” They will even want to drop up to five members at a time, which within the same fraternal year, is insanity! District Deputies—this is why the council’s Retention Committee is so vital! They insure things never get out of hand; they help the officers reflect on the needs of their brothers; they reach out *early* to that member who once had a passion to join. *“Father, they don’t even know where to begin.”* Parishes need Confession and CCD because people discover and choose sainthood; so too the Knight of Columbus. That is where you, beloved District Deputies, come in! In Chapter X of our Constitution you are directly appointed by our State Deputy to ensure Supreme and State resources are available to and utilized by your district’s councils. Worthy District Deputies, the state council with its state committees and our own State Deputy at your 6—you *will* help your districts excel. In turn, each Council will excel. Then, each brother Knight will become a Saint—just like our Blessed Founder. A shorter roster is not something to “celebrate” or be “relieved at.” The Conservation Report is not an “obstacle course” set by Supreme to drop a brother. Those protocols are a “safety net” that *has* proven effective for the Order. They guarantee that everyone is reached out to so that the wrong dormant brother is never dropped and *hopefully* a fire is relit under them. We’ve dropped a 75yr old veteran with a membership of 30+ years for dues— how was he, “dead weight?” What DD signed that form!?! Some do withdraw and others are in need of suspension (i.e. pedophiles) but think of the ones you successfully retain: *“Your brother was lost, but has been found. He was dead, but is once more alive!”* He is recruited, once more! Many FS/GK’s don’t even try and *that* is the scandal. Many DD’s don’t guide their councils or just sign forms. Many don’t care to be encumbered and leave that neighbor behind. A little secret DD—he should *not* be the FS, GK nor DD. If he cannot call, listen to, and visit a brother, he cannot be the one doing the reports. To him it’s just paperwork with boxes to check off and are not the tools, means, and metrics for council health. Remember that you yourself can call the member. If we believe retention work detracts from our council’s effectiveness, joy, and success, then we missed the cardinal lesson on Charity and have lost sight the compass’ needle. We won’t achieve excellence in the Order nor in Heaven. Fr. McGivney’s Order of Knights have received this legacy to hand on across every generation and jurisdiction. District Deputies, insure your councils have proper, motivated, and well informed Retention Committees. Re-recruited members are **KEY** to attract new members by their example and presence alone. Knights are also made, not born. Re-recruit: no excuses. *Vivat Jesus!*

Rev. Mark N. P. Salas
Associate State Chaplain

Be Not Afraid

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Education, Training, & Communications:

Our team is here to fulfill all your needs to be a Star Council. Visit www.kofc.org or www.tkofc.org at least weekly. Check out the Star Guide Section on the State website & download the latest version. Email all forms to the correct Supreme email address (located in the Star Guide) & to the Texas State Council at forms@tkofc.org. Copy all forms to your District & Diocesan Deputy.

February – 3rd Quarter 1/3 done. **Back to Basics.**

February 15 – Semi-Annual Audit Due – Form 1295

February 17 – Ash Wednesday

March – 3rd Quarter 2/3 done. **No Excuses!**

March 1st – All State Award applications due for each Director's Area;
International Wheelchair Day

March 10th – State Per Capita Due

March 28th – Palm Sunday

March 29th – Founder's Day

Conduct Church Membership Drives & Exemplifications

Elect State Convention Delegates & fill out all forms for State Convention

April – 4th Quarter begins. The Home Stretch. **Let's Get it Done!**

April 4 - Easter.

April 30 – First Day of Texas State Convention – Awards & 1st day of Training
Report Church Drives

Plan a live Financial Secretary Training

Begin Preparing Columbian Award – SP-7

Leave No Neighbor Behind reports as required –

<https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5521191/Leave-No-Neighbor-Behind>

For some of your Training needs click on this link: <http://craigmod.us/fstraining>

Feel free to contact me for any assistance. We have 6 months to put Texas at #1!

Vivat Jesus!

David Zeigler, Education, Training, & Communications (ETC) Director

Membership:**MEMBER RETENTION**

Retention is as Important as Recruiting

Imagine you're trying to fill a bucket with water. Every drop you put in should increase it's contents, but if there's a leak then you may end up losing more water than you gain. Think of the membership in your council in the same way – every new Knight you add won't help your membership increase and grow stronger if you lose existing members.

If your council has lost good Knights, develop a campaign to retrieve those members.

Organize a number of active members with good telephone personalities located throughout the area your council covers. Give each volunteer a list of lapsed members in his neighborhood, with details of when they joined, what committees each served on and what each did for the organization. Add to the list whatever personal data your records contain.

This information serves as a good starting point for conversation. Supply these workers with up-to-date information about the organization including present activities, future plans, a supply of current K of C publications, and Membership Document (#100) forms.

Recruit lapsed members just as you would new prospects. Sell the organization to former

members. Ask them what they enjoyed most about their participation in the past. Keep questioning on a positive basis. Emphasize the aspects of the organization the member is most likely to miss in allowing his membership to lapse.

Through efforts to retain current members and recruit new ones, we help the Order remain strong and growing.

Let's get it done. Back to Basics, No Excuses

Vivat Jesus!

Ron Alonzo, Membership Director

Programs:

• **February Reminders –**

- Submit the following this month – **All due March 1:**
 - Chaplain of the Year (see State Website for form)
 - State Service Program Award – one from each category: Family, Faith, Life, Community. Entry form located on Supreme website STSP.
 - Family of the Year – form is on Supreme website under Forms.
 - Send them all to the Program Director Pat Henz.
- Consider a Holy Hour and promote it for the entire parish.
- St. Valentine's Day – Conduct a special blessing for those celebrating anniversaries.
- Free Throw District / Diocesan level championships.
- Prepare Food for Families program during Lent.
- Submit the Family of the Month (for Jan) by Feb 15
- Submit any Fraternal Program Report (#10784) for each activity you had last month.

• **March Reminders –**

- Entries for Chaplain of the Year, State Service Program Awards, and Family of the Year are due MARCH 1st.
- State Free Throw Championship winners will be announced.
- Consider an Ultrasound and/or Wheelchair fundraiser.
- Submit the Family of the Month (for Feb) by March 15
- Submit any Fraternal Program Report (#10784) for each activity you had last month.

• **April Reminders –**

- This is the last Quarter of the Fraternal Year – what programs do you still lack for Star Council? Plan them now.
- Good Friday Family Program – April 2
- Get ready for the 117th State Convention
- Submit the Family of the Month (for March) by April 15
- Submit any Fraternal Program Report (#10784) for each activity you had last month.

Remember: Every Program is an opportunity for every Knight to put their Faith in Action and step Into the Breach.

Your Program Team is here and available to help you throughout the year.

Pat Henz, Program Director

Star Council Awards

Brother Knights,

As we enter into 2021 and the second half of our fraternal year, a very important order of business is the council’s preparation of the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity Report, form 1728. This form is due January 31, and is a requirement for the Star Council Award. To complete this form, all members should be polled to determine the number of hours of volunteer service they expended in 2020. All volunteer hours are compiled to the form 1728 by the council Financial Secretary, and submitted to Supreme. Online submission is the preferred method.

The completion and submission of this form gives the Knights of Columbus a way to defend it’s tax free status. The number of volunteer hours over all the order can be a sizeable number, and this helps to show all the good we do. Let’s insure all volunteer service hours are counted by submitting Form 1728.

Let’s get this done! No excuses!

Vivat Jesus!

Reed Fontenot, Star Council Awards Director

Council Growth

The Lenten season is fast approaching as we prepare for the celebration of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ. The penitential acts during this time provides the spiritual foundation continuing in support of Blessed Fr. McGivney’s prayer and vision of a Knights of Columbus presence in every Parish and Mission.

Here at the mid-way point of the Fraternal year, here is where each Diocese stands on meeting its Council Growth goals for the year.

Congratulations to each Diocesan Deputy and District Deputies on ensuring that Blessed Fr. McGivney’s vision of a Knights presence in every Parish and Mission is attained.

DIOCESE	New Councils		Reactivations		Round Tables		
	Goal	Total	Goal	Total	Goal	Total	
AMARILLO	1	0	1	0	8	0	
AUSTIN	1	0	1	2	17	18	met RT goal
BEAUMONT	1	0	1	0	9	11	met RT goal
BROWNSVILLE	1	0	3	1	19	32	Highest count Round Tables submitted
CORPUS CHRISTI	1	0	3	1	15	4	1st Reactivation
DALLAS	1	0	1	0	14	0	
EL PASO	1	0	1	0	11	1	
FORT WORTH	1	0	1	0	11	30	Highest % Round Tables submitted
GALVESTON/HOUSTON	1	1	1	1	19	0	1st Spanish Speaking New Council
LAREDO	1	0	3	1	8	0	
LUBBOCK	1	1	1	0	12	12	1st English Speaking New Council
SAN ANGELO	1	0	1	0	12	6	
SAN ANTONIO	1	0	3	0	19	5	
TYLER	1	0	1	0	13	3	
VICTORIA	1	0	0	0	13	1	
TOTALS	15	2	22	6	200	123	

Legend

in progress	
met goal (Full Protocol)	

The Council Growth Team is ready and willing to assist with your Diocesan Council Growth Activities.

BE NOT AFRAID and have NO EXCUSES, Let's Get it Done!

God Bless Texas!

God Bless the Knights!

Vivat Jesus!

Carlos X. Martinez, Council Growth Director

Texas State Council Charities

Lenten Challenge. The Charity Team is encouraging Texas Knights to consider honoring Blessed Michael McGivney with a contribution towards State Council Charities. Each Lenten Season we enter this time of year and are called to give up something or in some cases we are called to take up something new. Many times, we give up chocolate or soda or even red meat. We may choose to take up praying the Rosary more regularly or spending more time reading the Bible or dedicating time spent in Adoration. All great choices, well ... except the one about red meat, I really like my steaks. What if we were to do both in Charity's sweet name with a single act? By giving up a dollar a day, during the 40 Days of Lent, to donate towards State Council Charities, a member is not only giving up something, they also taking up something. One would not only give up \$40.00 towards a charitable contribution this act also affords the opportunity to take up a new way to support State Council Charity.

Any member taking up this opportunity to make a change in their life and support State Council Charities during this Lenten Season, we request you add "Lenten Challenge" on the memo line of any checks submitted or in the memo box of the Designation portion of the online contribution page on the State Council website.

Individual Student Grants. It is the time of year when the Texas State Council Charity, Educational Grants Committee is seeking grant applications. You can find the full details regarding these grants on the State Council website at the following link:

<https://www.tkoqc.org/starguide/charities/educational-grants>

The due date for these grant applications is March 1, 2021. As a reminder, the sponsoring council must be in Good Standing with the Texas State Council for an applicant to be awarded one of these grants, if so chosen.

Thank you for all the great work each of you are doing in the name of Charity.

BE NOT AFRAID! Vivat Jesus!

Derek W. Rabey, Charities Director

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