

... from the Texas State Council



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30-60-90 Day Outlook

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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: "I will go where you send me"

Dear Brother Knights,

On my calendar I've started to include the Tuesday morning meetings of the *praesidium* of the Legion of Mary at the Cathedral. My decision to become once again a spiritual director for a local chapter of the Legion of Mary came out of my prayer on the Ignatian retreat in January. One of the

exercises in the retreat is called writing a personal "election", or "choice", coming out of days praying about the ministry of Jesus. Each day, for thirty days, I spent five one-hour prayer sessions meditating on different scenes – following the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius ("Draw Me Into Your Friendship. The Spiritual Exercises: A Literal Translation and a Contemporary Reading." David L. Fleming, S.J., The Institute of Jesuit Sources, St. Louis, 1996). The prayer was really intense and I thank God for the prayers and support of so many while I was totally disconnected from TV, cell phone and the outside world.

The first part of the retreat focused on the choice between good and evil, the reality of Satan and hell and reflection on my personal sinfulness and the sin of the world. From there the different prayer periods focused on God's plan for the salvation of people leading to the choice of Mary to say "yes" to be the mother of the Savior. Then step by step the prayer periods walked through the childhood, young adulthood and the ministry of Jesus along the Sea of Galilee and in Jerusalem.

On one of these days with the ministry of Jesus I felt the presence of all the people of the diocese of Victoria at the Sermon on the Mount. I've been trying to think of how to explain this to you, but I felt the presence of Jesus Himself preaching Matthew 5 to all of us and we being sent out to bring healing, hope and truth to the world. I also felt His mother Mary being close by his side, as she was present throughout His ministry. In my mind I went to every parish and mission and prayed: "Blessed are you..." I could see many of your faces and spoke with you by name.

Shortly after this prayer experience I had my daily meeting with my spiritual director. She mentioned that someone had sent me flowers and a package. The package included a spiritual bouquet from the diocese of Victoria and many of the ministries I support. Overwhelmed, I shared with my director that this seemed to confirm the sense of being sent. Also, looking back on my life it is a sense of being sent by Mary to bring Jesus to the world.

Experiences like this led to the writing of my election: "Mary, I am all yours, I will go where



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you send me. Sweetest Jesus, I hide within Your wounds – grant me knowledge of and rejection of all worldliness and vanity. As a sign of my election I will ask Deacon Luan if there is a praesidium in need of a spiritual director for the Legion of Mary."

May you and your families be blessed with the merciful love of Jesus in this Lenten season, may we be brave in bringing this mercy to the world, and may we be united in keeping one another in prayer! *Vivat Jesus!*

Most Reverend Bishop Brendan Cahill
State Chaplain

Assistant State Chaplains Message:

Worthy District Deputies: Our Order has always adapted since 1882 when Irish immigrant dads from St. Mary's were dying. Fr McGivney's vision extends to ***all*** in ***any*** circumstance. This pandemic has changed the world for green and seasoned officers. We need you to help us adapt and succeed. Our tool for success is the *Star Council Guide* and the Star Tracker. Councils are close to the Award but they don't know or believe it. They can catch up with your coaching. Councils are afraid of failure, frustrated by circumstance, or discouraged from success. Supreme helped us by lowering membership to 5% growth with a 20 member cap; invested in Online Management before the pandemic; ask us to promote Fraternal Benefit Nights; and train to identify abused children. Many feel ambushed and don't know how to adapt the guide. It's not too late! Here are the key targets:

1. Safe Environment: Kids are waiting on KofC Officers to identify their muffled whimpers because groomers find newer ways of gratifying child abuse. Man up! Call your Grand Knights, Program, Community and Family Directors ***now*** and guide them through the online class and background check.

2. Insurance: Document three ways you told every Dad and Husband about fraternal nights to ensure they're prepared. More people sharing a little money over a long time equals a lower cost with a bigger value.

3. Forms: Your way to thank and get more help for all that the men contribute is by documenting it for State and Supreme. Keep us all on the same page and the same side. Unity. Our names go on plaques as an abbreviation of their names. Walk your GK and FS through the online system. It is not as intuitive as a paper form, help them.

The **185: Report of Officers** and **365: Report of Program Personnel** list the best of the Order for the future of the Order. Help councils identify the correct type of men for these positions.

The two **1295: Semiannual Council Audit Reports** show if council expenses and income are balanced as a non-profit fraternal order of service (i.e. a Knighthood.) This form keeps the GK, FS, Treasurer, and Trustees informed, in check, and protected against temptation, complacency, or gossip. Learn councils' health.

The **Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity 1728** is a view of members' activity and local needs. **Section One** enables State and Supreme to infuse resources into what your council really enjoys and responds to. **Section Two** ensures the quality of life for members by visiting, meeting, and socializing. Fraternity.

The **Columbian Award Application SP-7** ensures a balanced approach to the life of the council (Faith~Family~Community~Life) and lists new programs that we can take on as an Order.

The **Fraternal Programs Report Form 10784** is the key form that helps us fill out 1278 and SP-7. Guide your Councils through the online **17084** and make it a habit to do it as part of teardown before going home.

4. Membership: As DD you promised to **accomplish** this important work of the State Deputy for the Order; or find a replacement. You are the best KofC recruitment ad because

Be Not Afraid

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you're tasked with applying Fr. McGivney's vision in Districts 001 to 247. *You have to be the best Knight from each council under you!* Men are helping at food drives, relief efforts, and church activities. Men feel the call to action in a world that panics, shuts down, and hurts. Please don't let that call be answered with missed chances to recruit, insure, protect, or document. Knights of Columbus aren't another thing to do, but an identity deepening the work we *already* do.

Lastly: Please, ensure your Grand Knights succeed and enjoy their time. Reasons for missing Star Council do no good. Let's keep that poison out of Texas! I love you all because of what you have collectively **done** for the Church, the Order, and the Disadvantaged in prosperity and adversity. I see Fr McGivney's passion and legacy as your own in so many motivating and inspiring stories and strategies. May God bless the good work begun in you; now, bring it to completion. Let's get your councils to star districts.

Be Not Afraid! No Excuses. Vivat Jesus!

Rev. Mark N. P. Salas
Associate State Chaplain

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.

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

Form a Nominating Committee for Next's Officers

May – 4th Quarter 1/3 done. **Back to Basics.**

May 1 -2 – Texas State Convention Continues in Houston

Elections for Next Fraternal Year Officers

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:**Church Recruitment Drives**

A church recruitment drive is the easiest way for your council to ask a qualified Catholic man to join your council. A successful church recruitment drive is dependent on careful planning and collaboration with your parish priest.

A church recruitment drive is meant to compile a list of prospective members' contact information. It is imperative that your council follows up with the prospective member within a few days and invites him and his family to learn more about the charitable activities your council conducts in the parish and community.

Recruiting Former Members

Former Knights are men who are familiar with the Knights of Columbus. They left the Order for various reasons but represent a pool of prospects. Your council should not overlook in striving for membership growth.

Exemplification Team Contest

An Exemplification Team Contest that will be held at the State Convention. What better way to prepare than to host as many Exemplifications as possible between now and the Convention!

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

Vivat Jesus!

Ron Alonzo, Membership Director

Programs:

Program Director's Reminders:

The success of any council comes from the success of its programs. Successful programs bring new members. Without these two, a council begins to fail.

The key to any successful program is planning. Get your planning done now!

• March Reminders –

- Entries for **Chaplain of the Year, State Service Program Awards, and Family of the Year** are due **MARCH 1st**.
- Conduct the new **Blessed Michael McGivney Prayer Hour**. All resources can be found on Supreme website.
- Consider an Ultrasound and/or Wheelchair fundraiser.
- Prepare Food for Families program during Lent.
- 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
- Conduct a Holy Hour – in person or virtual
- 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.

• May Reminders –

- The Seminarians will be leaving school so don't forget them. Send them a note and some money to help them through the summer.
- Are any of your Seminarians getting ordained? Have the council show

him that you support him and will be praying for him.

- Have you conducted at least four programs in each of the Life, Family, Community, Faith categories? You have two months to get them done.
- Submit the Family of the Month (for March) by April 15
- Submit any Fraternal Program Report (#10784) for each activity you had last month.
- Submit your Columbian Award SP-7 now. If there are any issues, you have time to get it corrected.

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 now enter the final stretch of the Fraternal Year (four and half months left) it should be everyone's goal to make Star Council. It is a deliberate process to plan your year to demonstrate your council is one of the best. In the Fall we focused on Form 365 and Safe Environment. Now we need to ensure you have submitted your Form 1728. Do you have the right plans in place to conduct meaningful and impactful programs for your SP-7? Do you have the right plans in place to grow your ranks with new members? Sure, it is a challenge in these current times, but by thinking outside the box working virtually you can get this done. Wouldn't this be something to brag to your members that in one of the most challenging Fraternal Years in recent memory that you made Star Council?

Every State Officer, Major Director and members of the Star Council Awards team are here to help! You are our customers so reach out to any of us for assistance. Our contact information is just a click away in the Star Guide at tkofc.org.

Let's get this done! No excuses!

Vivat Jesus!

Reed Fontenot, Star Council Awards Director

Council Growth

During the Lenten season we make sacrifices in preparation of our Risen Lord. Just as we prepare it is the time for us to execute on our Blessed Fr. McGivney's prayers of a Knights of Columbus presence in every Parish and Mission.

We are now deep into the second half of the Fraternal year and below are the results thus far by Diocese of the Growth activity.

Congratulations to all the Diocesan Deputies and District Deputies on ensuring that Blessed Fr. McGivney's vision of a Knights presence in every Parish and Mission is attained as they work on establishing and Reactivations Councils.

REMEMBER the Incentives are for your Diocese activities for each New Council, please ensure that these meet full protocol.

New Council - \$300

Texas State Council Growth Diocesan Report

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
BEAUMONT	1	0	1	0	9	11
BROWNSVILLE	1	0	3	1	19	32
CORPUS CHRISTI	1	0	3	1	15	4
DALLAS	1	0	1	0	14	0
EL PASO	1	0	1	0	11	1
FORT WORTH	1	0	1	0	11	30
GALVESTON/HOUSTON	1	1	1	1	19	0
LAREDO	1	0	3	1	8	0
LUBBOCK	1	1	1	0	12	12
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

We are now in the final four months of this fraternal year. We have much work left to do in the name of charity. How can this Lenten Season be used by us as an opportunity to make ourselves and our world better than before? Recently, Pope Francis stated, "He distrusts a charity which costs nothing and does not hurt." We are called to give from our poverty. Sharing not of our abundance but out of our poverty. This can be done with our time, our talent, or our treasure.

The desire of the Charity Team is to see all Councils within Texas, State Council Charities active before we gather at this year's State Council Convention. If your council has not yet taken the opportunity to contribute towards your assigned Charity Goal, we encourage you to do whatever you can to support the Texas State Council and your Bishop. Please remember, 70% of all funds contributed towards your Diocesan Charity Goal comes right back to your Bishop to be used for their charitable works. The other 30% is retained by the State Council Charity Board to address needs throughout the state. Needs such as Special Olympics Texas, Disaster Relief, Catholic Archives, and Financial Assistance Grants, to name a few. The amount of good which can be completed is dependent upon the contributions made by each council within the state.

Start planning now to send a delegate, or two, to this year's convention. This is one you will not want to miss. Our State Deputy has an entirely new program planned. Come and join in on the celebration, meet members from across the state and you may even learn something new about our honored Order.

If there is anything you need assistance with related to any of the areas under the Charity Directorate, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the Charity Team. All our contact information can be found in the Star Guide.

BE NOT AFRAID! Vivat Jesus!

Derek W. Rabey, Charities Director

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