

... from the Texas State Council



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March 2022

## 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:

"Prayer for Peace and Conversion of Hearts"

The bishops of the Ukrainian Catholics in the US wrote the following appeal on February 12. As I write this letter I don't know what will happen between today and the day you read this letter. What I am sure of is our need to offer prayer, fasting and acts of mercy for peace in Ukraine and throughout the world. With a heart united with my brother bishops of the Eastern Rites I hope that we can offer some of our Lenten observances this year in communion with the spirit of this appeal:

"Over the last weeks, the world has become fully aware of the fact that democratic Ukraine and its freedom-loving people are increasingly surrounded by hostile military forces prone for invasion. A full escalation of the eight-year Kremlin-led war will bring about devastating bloodshed and untold human suffering. Deaths could be in the tens of thousands and refugees in the millions. The economic and political shockwaves of the social devastation and material destruction in Ukraine will be worldwide. There is ample access to analysis that explains the potential of a disaster with global repercussions.

We appeal to you, not as politicians, nor strategists. We entreat you as persons of faith in God: "Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever" (Ps 125:1). As pastors we appeal to you and to all people of good will to pray for peace and justice in Ukraine.

Given the immediacy of our appeal, we ask that each pastor and community, each family and each person participate in this vigil in whatever way is possible for them. May our churches be open throughout the day, may the prayer of the Church interchange with personal contemplation. Conduct and participate in services, pray the Jesus Prayer, the Marian Rosary, the Paracletis, sit with the Scriptures. Fast in order to focus on the hope that only God gives.

May our eyes be upon the Lord, may God's Word be upon our lips, may our hearts be full of hope. "Cast all your anxieties on Him, because He cares about you. Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that your fellow believers throughout the world undergo the same sufferings." (1 Pt 5:7-9).

Ukrainian faithful of all confessions have witnessed miracles. In recent history we saw the collapse of the Iron Curtain, the dissolution of the Soviet prison of nations, the liberation of our Churches, which occurred without war and bloodshed.

We put our trust in God and ask for divine intervention. "Some boast of chariots, and some



Alfredo Vela  
State Deputy

**Be Not Afraid**

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of horses; but we boast of the name of the Lord our God. They will collapse and fall; but we shall rise and stand upright" (Ps 20:8-9). We pray for the safety and courage of the people of Ukraine. We admire their faith and fortitude. We beseech the Lord to preserve the country and its people from further invasion.

Pray and be full of hope. Share that hope. Know the Lord and God's love for the world!  
+Borys Gudziak

Archbishop of Philadelphia, Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States  
Head of the Department of External Church Relations, Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM  
Eparch of Stamford  
+Benedict Aleksiychuk  
Eparch of St. Nicholas in Chicago  
+ Bohdan J. Danylo  
Eparch of St. Josaphat in Parma  
+Andriy Rabiy  
Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia"

+ Most Reverend Bishop Brendan Cahill, TSC State Chaplain

**Associate State Chaplains Message:**

Beloved, in light of the current events and the global crisis which could irreparably devastate our country and world, we remember the words that our worthy State Deputy chose as his motto: "Be Not Afraid!" These words call us to have the courage to live each day manifesting the greatest charity possible to others in solidarity and imitation of the Foot-Washing Christ of the Last Supper before his death on the Cross. This week alone I had had families with miscarriages, premature twins, and a healthy first-born son. This month alone I have had families lose a 22-year-old mother married for a year and a half, a 44-year-old mother of three who did not survive the second round of cancer, and a 64-year-old dad of two who died instantly in a motorcycle accident. This year I have buried a 10-minute old baby, and a 104-year-old. The words from our ceremonies still haunt me at each anointing, mass, and house visit, "While insurance with the Knights of Columbus is voluntary, death is not." i.e. *Memento Mori*. Lifetime shared with our beloved is never enough and more precious than any material reality.

Fraternity in Christ is universal not just to those who love us but also to those who crucify us. This is only possible because our affection, attitude and act of love are a fruit harvested from the Tree of Life – from Christ Himself – lifted on high to draw all things in himself. Beloved, know that every cross is call to service, solidarity, and adventure. Therefore, every single one of our Crosses will bear fruit, but realize that the fruit harvested from our crosses are not for us but for others: "no one has greater love than this: to live our lives as an offering (ransom) for others."

The threat of nuclear fallout has returned. Be not afraid, live each day as the gift that it is. Savor and respond in each encounter with the freedom that it may be the last before we or they see Christ face to face. Then, and only then, if nothing happens or anything happens your love; your attitude, words, and actions will not change. God's love and presence is the same yesterday, today, and forever As Texas Knights of Columbus: we are never deterred, discouraged, or dissuaded from Charity, Unity, or Fraternity. We will echo Christ's words to all of Texas and the World at our State Deputy's side: BE NOT AFRAID!

God bless the Texas Knights of Columbus, God Bless the Church in Texas. 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](http://www.kofc.org) or [www.tkofc.org](http://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](mailto:forms@tkofc.org). Copy all forms to your District & Diocesan Deputy.

**February 15<sup>th</sup>** – Semi-Annual Audit Due – Form 1295

**February 15<sup>th</sup>** - Form 10784 Family of the Month (for January) due

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Online FS Training. To register, click on link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsdumgqTgoGNA595O2yh3-CBZ8tHW\\_c1m](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsdumgqTgoGNA595O2yh3-CBZ8tHW_c1m)

Diocesan Freethrows

Get your State Award applications ready & sent in by **March 1**. (See Star Guide)

Schedule Church Membership Drives & Exemplifications for Spring

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

**March 1<sup>st</sup>** – All State Award applications due for each Director's Area;  
International Wheelchair Day

**March 1<sup>st</sup>** – Educational Grant Application Due

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>** – **April 14** - \$40 for Lent

**March 5<sup>th</sup>** – State Basketball Freethrow – San Antonio

**March 10<sup>th</sup>** – State Per Capita Due

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** - Form 10784 Family of the Month (for February) due

**March 18<sup>th</sup>** – Online FS Training. To register click on link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMocOiqpjkvHdWmue6qC433o5s93kZk1Cmo>

**March 29<sup>th</sup>** – Founder's Day

Conduct Church Membership Drives & Exemplifications

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

**March 31** – Supreme Incentive for District Deputies to reach 100% of Membership

**April 2022** – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter begins. **Let's Get it Done!**

**April 15<sup>th</sup>** – Good Friday Family Program & Form 10784 Family of the Month (for March) due

**April 17<sup>th</sup>** - Easter.

**April 29<sup>th</sup>** – First Day of Texas State Convention – Awards & 1<sup>st</sup> day of Training

**April 30<sup>th</sup>** – **All** SAFE Environment training due to qualify for Star Council

Report Church Drives

Plan a live Financial Secretary Training

Begin Preparing Columbian Award – SP-7

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

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** – Council Elections begin (submit Report of Officers – Form 185)

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** - Form 10784 Family of the Month (for April) due

**May 24<sup>th</sup>** – 7 pm - Online FS Training. To register click on link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0od--gqz8tHdB2nq0HDBMTyo9fo8\\_ukA2g](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0od--gqz8tHdB2nq0HDBMTyo9fo8_ukA2g)

**May 30<sup>th</sup>** – Memorial Day

Continue Preparing Columbian Award – SP-7

For some of your FS Training needs click on this link:

<http://craigmod.us/fstraining>

Leave No Neighbor Behind reports as required –

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

Spend some time surfing the Supreme Website. Click on this link <https://www.kofc.org/en/who-we-are/about-membership/benefits-of-membership.html> to learn about your Membership Benefits.

Spend some time surfing the Texas State Council Website. Click on this link: <https://fundraising.tkofc.org/donate/project/state-council-charities> to pay Texas State Charities.

Feel free to contact me for any assistance.

Vivat Jesus!

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

### **Membership:**

#### **Recruitment**

We had a good February and because of your hard work, Texas is currently at 67.56% of its Membership Goal. We need to recruit 1,295 before June 30, 2022, for us to make it back into the Circle of Honor. Our Recruitment Goal for both March is 420.

#### **Church Drive/Parish Blitz**

We have been preparing and planning for the Spring/March recruitment drives. A church recruitment drive is the easiest way for your council to ask a qualified Catholic man to join your council. 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.

#### **All Councils/Districts Active**

With just 4 months left in this fraternal year, work on getting all councils active in recruitment. Many of your councils/districts could be eligible for Star Council/District. Don't let them miss out, get active in recruitment.

#### **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:**

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 1<sup>st</sup>**.
  - State Free Throw Championship March 5<sup>th</sup> in San Antonio
  - Conduct the **Blessed Michael McGivney Prayer Hour** or **St. Joseph Pilgrim Icon**. All resources can be found on Supreme website.
  - Consider an Ultrasound and/or Wheelchair fundraiser.
  - Prepare Food for Families or Helping Hands program during Lent.

**Be Not Afraid**

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- Submit the Family of the Month (for Feb) by March 15
- Submit any Fraternal Program Report (#10784) for each activity.
- **April Reminders –**
  - Last Quarter of the Fraternal Year – what programs do you still lack for Star Council? Plan them now.
  - Good Friday Family Program – April 15
  - Conduct a Holy Hour – in person or virtual
  - Get ready for the 118<sup>th</sup> State Convention
  - Submit the Family of the Month (for March) by April 15
  - Submit any Fraternal Program Report (#10784) for each activity.
- **May Reminders –**
  - The Seminarians will be leaving school for the summer, 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 April) by May 15
  - Submit any Fraternal Program Report (#10784) for each activity.
  - 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. Happy New Year!

Vivat Jesus!

Pat Henz, Program Director

### **Star Council Awards:**

We have four months in the Fraternal Year and this will pass quicker than you think. Time to re-assess your council performance for Star Council:

- Membership - are we at least 75% way towards our goal? If not, perhaps it is time for a Church Drive with Father's assistance?
- Fraternal Programs - all your programs should be reported on the new 10784 as this has replaced a number of documents. You need 16 programs with four in each of the categories of Faith, Family, Community and Life. Some are featured and count as two credits. Are you 'On-track' to meet your program goals?
- Forms - you should already have submitted the 365 and 1728 by now. All that is left is the SP-7 to report you programs for the year by June 30.
- Fraternal Benefit Nights - work with your insurance agent to conduct and gain credit for this! You need two during the year!
- Supreme Assessment - this is NEW and covers the period from Jan 1 to June 30. Your council needs to satisfy this bill in order to avoid suspension. It will NOT be mailed but rather you can find at [kofc.org](http://kofc.org), Officers Online, Reports Tab, Financial Statement report. These were posted on 1/1/2022.
- Safe Environment - the Grand Knight sets the tone with being trained. Next, the Program, Community and Family Directors need to complete training. If they did not finish they will be removed from their roles and a NEW 365 must be sent to Supreme. If you have ANY questions call the Office of Youth Protection @ 203-752-4558 or email at [oyv@kofc.org](mailto:oyv@kofc.org).

Once you are on your way don't stop there! Qualify for the Lone Star Award for Excellence or the Lone Star Award for Excellence with Distinction! What needs to happen:

- Earn Star Council.
- Send 1-2 delegates to the State Convention in Corpus Christi April 29 - May 1.
- Submit a council program for a State Award, apply for an educational grant OR nominate a Family of the Year - deadline is **March 1st!**
- Report Special Olympics activities via the form 10784 due now!
- There are some other requirements but these are the big ones.

District Deputies. Are you on track for Star District? Remember:

- Make your membership goal (70% of the combined goal of your councils)
- ALL councils must have two Fraternal Benefit Nights
- At least ONE council must earn Star Council
- Submit the 944 reports on the health of each council twice - December and June.  
You can still do this!

That's all of it! Let's get this done! No excuses!

Vivat Jesus!

Reed Fontenot, Star Council Awards 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.

What if we were to do both in Charity's sweet name with a single act? Will you take up the "Lenten Challenge?" 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, but 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 challenge 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.

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? Pope Francis previously 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.

Please recall the challenge set before us by our Worthy State Deputy. His challenge was for Texas to reach 85% of the State Charity Goal before the State Council Convention convenes in April. Achieving this mark (85% or greater) will allow all Districts and Councils, which are Charity Active, the opportunity to attempt to dunk the Major Director of their choosing in a Dunk Tank at the Friday Evening Tail Gate event.

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 come 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. 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, Charity Director

### **Council Growth:**

Continuing to Answer Blessed Fr. McGivney's Prayers of a Brother Knight in every Parish and Mission. Great Growth activity across the State My Brother Knights! Let's continue to build on the momentum!

**New Councils:** Please continue to work on establishing a New Council in support of the Pastors and Catholic Communities lacking a Knight's presence. The incentive remains \$450/New Council established for the Diocesan Deputies Incentive program for the **next 2 New Councils. Congratulations!!** - Forth Worth Diocese - Nuevo Consejo 17902 San Jorge, San Jorge Church Fort Worth, Texas; Diocesan Deputy Bill Tillotson; District Deputy Obie Obregon #25

**Reactivations:** Brothers, you are doing a tremendous job in reactivating the eligible suspended Councils. There are multiple on the edge of Reactivation. They just need the last stride to cross the Reactivation Finish Line! Please follow up with your Pastors on the Parishes that are looking to Reactivate their suspended or dormant Councils. Let's continue to build on the momentum to work to Reactivate them!

**College Councils:** March Madness is heating up and so is the opportunity to grow our College Councils, please work to sustain and grow the successes of the College Councils. These men are the Future of the Order.

**Supreme Per Capita:** Supreme per capita resumed. Please ensure your Financial Secretaries are up to date with the ONLY method of communication to receive the assessments due for your COUNCILS. ***Council Statements will only be available on Officers online, Go To: Member sign in; Enter Council number; Click on Reports to; Click on Financial Statement***

Please continue to support the prayer of Blessed Fr. McGivney for a Knights presence in every Parish and Mission.

See next page for Council Growth by Diocese.

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 Growth Diocesan Report**

DIOCESE	New Councils (per protocol)		Reactivations (per protocol)		Round Tables	
	Goal	Total	Goal	Total	Goal	Total
AMARILLO	1	0	1	0	8	3
AUSTIN	1	0	1	0	17	13
BEAUMONT	1	0	1	0	9	7
BROWNSVILLE	1	0	3	0	19	36
CORPUS CHRISTI	1	0	3	(1)	15	1
DALLAS	1	0	1	0	14	0
EL PASO	1	0	1	(2)	11	2
FORT WORTH	1	1	1	0	11	19
GALVESTON/HOUSTON	1	(3)	1	(2),1	19	37
LAREDO	1	0	3	(3)	8	0
LUBBOCK	1	0	1	0	12	14
SAN ANGELO	1	0	1	0	12	6
SAN ANTONIO	1	(2)	3	1	19	9
TYLER	1	0	1	0	13	15
VICTORIA	1	0	0	0	13	4
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>Legend</b>						
in progress	met goal ( Full Protocol)					

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