

... from the Texas State Council



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30-60-90 Day Outlook

November 2020

## 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:

Bold and faithful

"Take, O Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding and my entire will - all that I have and call my own. You have given it all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what You will. Give me only

Your love and Your grace. That is enough for me." (The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, # 234, trans. by David L. Fleming, S.J., Jesuit Conference, Inc., United States, 2016)

For the past several years I've been considering the possibility of making a 30-day Ignatian Retreat. I remember sharing the idea with my Priest Prayer Group over five years ago and being convinced of the value of some extended time in prayer for me and for my priestly ministry. At that time I had turned 50 years old and was about to celebrate my 25th Anniversary as a Priest. Every year since then I've thought about the possibility, but I never seemed to be able to come up with the time.

This year in the midst of the global pandemic the idea of making an extended retreat re-surfaced. Now I'm over 55 years old, have celebrated 30 years as a Priest and I try to make a complete offering of myself to God for the good of the people of the diocese and the salvation of all the souls in our area. During these past few months I've had some extra time to pray and reflect in the midst of the tremendous stress caused by the uncertainty and fear of the pandemic. A few of the reflections led me to realize that this may be the right time to make a 30-day Ignatian retreat.

On the day after Christmas I will be going to a retreat center in Boerne, Texas and will be there in silence until January 26. During that time I'll meet with a spiritual director each day for about 45 minutes and share about the spiritual insights from the prayer. I'm kind of excited about this – I've never made a retreat longer than 8 days before. During that month I will be praying especially for each of you, and as I always ask, please keep me in your prayers.

*Vivat Jesus!*

State Chaplain  
Most Reverend Bishop Brendan Cahill



Alfredo Vela  
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**Be Not Afraid**

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**Assistant State Chaplains Message:**

**To My Brother Knights:** Five years after I left to Seminary I returned to El Paso for Christmas. I went to my Grandmother's house and during the visit asked if I may go get a glass of water. She scolded me saying, "What?!? Just because you left five years ago you no longer live here? You know where the tap is, you know where the glasses are. Go get it yourself and bring me a mineral water."

This is the time of year that we have traditionally taken time to visit family, friends and loved ones we don't get to see with throughout the year. With the pandemic, economic and market stresses we may have to be apart from those we love, we may need to cook smaller turkeys, and purchase fewer gifts. For those members of the Order: do not be afraid, you may need to be apart but not distant from each other. Home, my Granma taught me, is an attitude of the heart not a reality of distance nor time. It's a quality of life shared; rooted in concern, empathy, and sympathy. This is when creativity and resourcefulness come in for a post-pandemic world. Phone calls, porch visits, Zoom, flowers and letters are few ways to connect. With our Church closures in El Paso I have celebrated funerals by live streaming them and have had people all over Mexico, Europe, and New Zealand "attend" the Mass. There were people in nursing homes, an oil rig and home chapels united in prayer for a loved one. We were apart from each other but not distant, quiet near to each other at that moment. And the constant conversations in the comment section were a bit distracting as people caught up with each other, consoled each other, shared stories about their loved one. Granted, as Catholics not receiving Holy Communion is a chasm and an emptiness. But God, like love, is greater than our hunger, frustration, and pain. He is never distant from those with the proper attitude of heart. The one that my Grandmother pointed out. The one I saw active in funerals that so many would have missed if it were not live streamed. I received a letter from one of them, a son in Iceland who said, "Thank you Fr Mark, following Pop's funeral brought closure to my heart and unity to our family."

**Leave No Brother Behind:** as GK or Program Director go down the Roster and call the brothers or drop off care packages to members. **Council 638** dropped off a note with a small bottle of hand sanitizer with an encouraging note. A simple act, but effective and meaningful for the Good of the Order. For the rest of us not suffering—gratitude for what we do have access to: Christ in the Eucharist, resources and loved ones. Give them the hugs and kisses denied so many others. Blessed Thanksgiving - see many of you at Mid-Year.

**To Knight Clergy:** At the council meeting ask your brother knights to help go down the parish list and call all parishioners, especially if they have not received communion in months. You may be able to deputize some as extraordinary ministers of communion to take them the Lord.

**Prayer:** Lord, our Order's pillar of UNITY is more understandable now that many casual ways of being together have abruptly changed. Now we can clearly deepen and solidify our unity as a family, a council and as Knight of Columbus. Makes us one as you are One: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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 the Revised [www.tkofc.org](http://www.tkofc.org) at least weekly. Check out the Star Guide Section on the State

**Be Not Afraid**

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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.

**November** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 1/3 done. **Back to Basics.**

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>** - VOTE!

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>

Report your Church Drives

Diocesan Deputies start planning your Midyear Conference for January 2021

**December** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2/3 done. **No Excuses!**

**December 4-6<sup>th</sup>** – Midyear Meeting – Denton, TX – All Diocesan & District Deputies

**December 12<sup>th</sup>** – Our Lady of Guadalupe

**December 15<sup>th</sup>** – 1<sup>st</sup> Billing for New Fraternal Year should already be sent. The Retention Process has begun. Start gathering information for the Annual Fraternal Survey form #1728

**December 31<sup>st</sup>** – Quick Start Award deadline; DD Semi Annual Audit Form #944 Due

**January 2021** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter begins. **Let's Get it Done!**

**Midyear Diocesan Conferences**

**January 29** – March for Life – Washington D.C.

**January 31** – Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities – Form 1728 Due

**January 31** – Special Olympics Report – Form 4584 Due

Begin planning your March Membership Drives – order materials

Plan a live Financial Secretary Training

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:**

Last month many councils in our state conducted a Council Church Drive and now it is time to invite those prospects to your next council activity. More importantly propose these men to your admissions committee and if approved get them to an Exemplification and into your council. Take advantage of the Supreme "Become an online member FREE." Join now through December 31, 2020 for FREE first year membership. Visit [kofc.org/joinus](http://kofc.org/joinus)

**Use Promo Code MCGIVNEY2020**

Many Diocese/Councils held Exemplifications for the Beatification Celebration! Do not forget to follow up and send in the Membership Documents (Form #100) and Degree Exemplification Report Form 450.

As our Dioceses start to open up, plan on hosting monthly Exemplifications now. Many of us remember or at least I do, being asked to join the order, but more importantly being taken to a degree and my first council meeting by my proposer. A practice we still need today.

Did you know that you that can go through the online Exemplification with your candidate? It is a good practice to make sure they not only attend but complete the Degree Exemplification.

**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!

- **November Reminders –**
  - VOTE
  - Conduct District / Diocesan level Soccer Challenge
  - Judging for the Catholic Citizenship Essay.
  - Submit the Family of the Month (for Oct) by Nov 15
  - Conduct Keep Christ in Christmas programs.
  - Helping Hands / Feed the Hungry / Coats for Kids / Leave No Neighbor Behind – a lot of opportunity to help those in need.
  - Order Free Throw kits
- **December Reminders –**
  - Conduct Keep Christ in Christmas programs.
  - Don't forget your Seminarians this month. A nice Christmas care package goes a long way.
  - Conduct the Consecration to the Holy Family
  - Food for Families
  - Submit the Family of the Month (for Nov) by Dec 15
  - Submit Diocesan winners from the Soccer Challenge, Essay Contests, and Keep Christ in Christmas poster contests.
  - Silver Rose ends – Submit your Fraternal Program Report (#10784)
- **January Reminders –**
  - Pilgrim Icon Program starts – St. Michael the Archangel
  - Consider a Spiritual Reflection (Featured Program) one day retreat
  - March for Life / Novena for Life
  - Free Throw starts
  - Special Olympic Winter Games
  - Submit the Family of the Month (for Dec) by Jan 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,

Star council is a measure of a council that is doing everything right on many fronts. We are learning how to conduct effective, meaningful programs and recruit new brothers in a virtual world. It is important to work closely with your Insurance agents to spread the word on the great insurance products the order offers via our Fraternal Benefit nights.

For those men that have stepped up to serve in their local councils, it is vitally important to complete Safe Environment training. The Grand Knight, Program Director, Family Director and Community Director, in every council, are required to complete three one-hour training modules within thirty days of a notification email from Supreme. If this is not done, the

council directors will be vacated from office with a notification letter sent to the Grand Knight. The council will then need to submit a NEW 365 form. Please place close attention to this requirement.

Your District Deputy and any member of the Star Council Awards Team are here to help! Call us anytime!

Let's get this done!

Vivat Jesus!

Reed Fontenot, Star Council Awards Director

### **Council Growth**

The Beatification of Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney brings a renewed vigor to pursue his vision and goal of the Order, GROWTH. Growth in support of the needs of the Catholic Church and Community. Please call on us for guidance and support.

Major Diocesan incentives are in place for the remainder of this calendar year:

Meet your New Council, Reactivation and Round Table goals by Dec 31. You receive the Triple Crown award.

**Congratulations Worthy Lubbock Diocesan Deputy Arlie Markusen** for establishing the **1<sup>st</sup> NEW COUNCIL** for this Fraternal Year. **Council 17583 St. Isidore Parish Abernathy, Tx.**

New Council Development Goal is ONE per DIOCESE. Please contact Roger Hovis for guidance and support.

Council REACTIVATIONS are a key component in support of Council Growth for our great state. The current goal is 22 for the Fraternal year. Our first Reactivation meeting protocol is in the Corpus Christi Diocese **St. Joseph Council 5348 at ST. Theresa of the Infant Jesus Parish Premont Texas CONGRATULATIONS Worthy Corpus Christi Diocesan Deputy Rudy Ortiz.** Please contact William Tartaglia for assistance and guidance on Reactivations.

Round Tables submission is at 57%, with 5 Councils having met their goal. Congratulations to the following Worthy Diocesan Deputies:

Ed Tydings – Austin Diocese

Charles Trahan – Beaumont Diocese

Jose Garza – Brownsville Diocese

Bill Tillotson – Fort Worth Diocese

Arlie Markusen – Lubbock Diocese

**Br. Dan Aguilar** is available to assist. Please continue to work on submitting your **Form #2629** for all active Councils with Round Tables.

The Spanish Speaking growth train is gaining momentum in support of **Hispanic Development**. Please review with your local Parish community to identify the opportunity to initiate and implement a Spanish Speaking Council in your Diocese. Remember, No Excuses, when introducing a Knights presence in your local Spanish Speaking Parish. The Hispanic Development Team, **Br. Guillermo Munoz and Br. Armando Gonzalez** are ready to assist and guide with new Council Development.

The College Fall Recruitment Growth Competition was led by **Council 10624 Texas A&M University. Congratulations GK Joseph Pettibon, OUTSTANDING!** A Tailgate Party with our Worthy State Deputy is currently being scheduled. Please call on **Br. Jacob Mangold** to assist with **College Council Development**. These young men are the future of the Order and their membership is critical for continued growth. The foundational experience is invaluable, let us continue to support College Council Development.

In Honor of our Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney let continue to grow in Faith and Service to Identify, Evaluate and Develop a New Council!

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

God Bless the Knights! God Bless Texas!

Vivat Jesus!

Carlos X. Martinez, Council Growth Director

### **Texas State Council Charities**

My Brother Knights,

"Charity is the cement which binds Communities to God and persons to one another." *St. Vincent de Paul.*

As members of the Knights of Columbus we are called to live out the first and foremost principle of our Order, Charity!

The good works accomplished by our members impacts not only those we see but also can impact so many others we may never encounter.

We challenge every council across the great state of Texas to take on a new charitable activity. One they have either never taken on before or one which they have not taken part in for some time. This could be collecting and donating funds to the American Wheelchair Mission; funds which go towards aiding an immobile person gain mobility. This could be conducting an outreach effort encouraging individual council members to contribute to the Bishop Thomas J. Flanagan Fund; funds which go directly towards supporting retired priests in every diocese. Conduct a food drive to collect items for those in need ahead of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. The goal of this challenge is to get our councils conducting charitable works which provide the opportunity to actively live out our first principle.

We continue to challenge all councils, which have not yet contributed, towards their State Council Charity goal, in any amount, to do so as soon as possible. Every dollar contributed makes an impact for the good across this great state. Together, we can, we have, and we will continue to make a difference in the lives of those in need and truly live out the vision of our founder, the now Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney, by providing for the protection of Christian Families. Visit [www.tkofc.org](http://www.tkofc.org) to pay your Charities online.

BE NOT AFRAID! Vivat Jesus!

Derek W. Rabey, Charities Director

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