

## 2019 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

### 1. Resolution in RE: DEDICATION OF THE CONVENTION TO THE CORPUS CHRISTI DIOCESE BISHOPS – PAST AND PRESENT

**WHEREAS** Religious missionaries, played a large role in the development and growth of early South Texas. People of faith from the pioneer era to the present day have answered callings and shaped the face of the South Texas Catholic Church; and

**WHEREAS** Pope Pius X raised the vicariate to the Diocese of Corpus Christi in 1912 and the following year, named Paul Joseph Nussbaum a native of Philadelphia as its first bishop.

**WHEREAS** Bishop Nussbaum instituted many devotional practices and aided many destitute Mexican priests and women religious who were pouring into the diocese due to the Mexican Revolution, World War I and a 3-year drought; and

**WHEREAS** in 1921 Pope Benedict XV named Emmanuel Boleslaus Ledvina, a native of Evansville, Indiana, the second bishop of the Diocese of Corpus Christi. Bishop Ledvina served vigorously for 28 years until he resigned in 1949 due to illness. Bishop Ledvina increased the number of priests fivefold to 160; he built more than 50 new churches, 53 mission chapels, and 47 rectories. In 1940, Bishop Ledvina oversaw the construction of Corpus Christi Cathedral and in 1947–1948 he built a rectory and chancery office. Bishop Ledvina was well known for his work on behalf of Mexican American Catholics; and

**WHEREAS** Bishop Mariano Simón Garriga, a native of Point Isabel, succeeded Bishop Ledvina as the third bishop of the Diocese of Corpus Christi. Bishop Garriga was the first Texas-born bishop of a Texas diocese. He had served as Bishop Ledvina's coadjutor since 1936. During Bishop Garriga's administration, he encouraged Catholic education throughout the diocese and many parochial schools were established. He brought the Jesuit Fathers to the Diocese and had them staff the Corpus Christi Minor Seminary which he built in 1960, the site of the present Corpus Christi Catholic Center. It was also during his tenure that the Shrine of Our Lady of San Juan de Valle was built, the Benedictine Priory was elevated to an Abbey, and during the years of his administration, Bishop Adolph Marx was consecrated an Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Corpus Christi; and

**WHEREAS** upon the death of Bishop Garriga in 1965, the Diocese of Corpus Christi was divided, creating with the four counties of the Rio Grande Valley the new Diocese of Brownsville. Bishop Adolph Marx was assigned as the first Bishop of the Diocese of Brownsville, with Bishop Thomas J. Drury, a native of Ireland, succeeding Bishop Garriga as the fourth Bishop of the Diocese. Bishop Drury served during the difficult years following the Second Vatican Council. Among his accomplishments during his 18-year term was the establishment of the Diocesan Pastoral Council composed of laity, religious and priests to advise him on the needs of the diocese; expansion of the diocesan departments from two to 32; and creation of the Permanent Diaconate. Serving until 1983, Bishop Drury established a diocesan newspaper and authorized the beginning work toward acquiring a license for a diocesan radio station; and

**WHEREAS** Bishop Rene H. Gracida next served as the Shepherd of the Diocese from July 11, 1983, through April 1, 1997. At the beginning of his administration, the final structure of the Kennedy Memorial Foundation was determined, strengthening the finances of the diocese. During his time in office, the Diocese also began a greater involvement in the area of communications, two radio stations and a television station, all part of what is known as Diocesan Telecommunications. He also extended the ministries of the Diocese into areas, which needed attention, continued to establish parishes and missions, especially in the colonias of Laredo. During his time as ordinary of the diocese, Bishop Gracida issued a decree establishing the Western Vicariate of the Diocese of Corpus Christi. The decree states that the vicariate was created to promote the pastoral good and unity of all the people of God in this area, “especially in the view of the possible erection of a new diocese in that region in the not so distant future.”; and

**WHEREAS** On June 26, 1995, Bishop Roberto O. González, was officially welcomed to the diocese as the coadjutor bishop. He became the sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Corpus Christi on April 1, 1997. During his time as shepherd of the diocese, Bishop González worked toward consolidating the diocesan infrastructure and uniting the faithful throughout the diocese. He stressed that the present era is one of hope as the universal and local Church prepares for the anniversary of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ in the Great Jubilee Year 2000. Bishop González became Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Corpus Christi and Archbishop of San Juan de Puerto Rico on May 8, 1999; and

**WHEREAS** in 2000, three and one-half counties on the Rio Grande were lost to the new Diocese of Laredo and on March 17, 2000, Bishop Edmond Carmody was installed as the seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Corpus Christi. Bishop Carmody was very concerned with three major issues of the city – school dropout, diabetes and the homeless. In December 2005, it was announced that John Paul II High School would open August 1, 2006 beginning with the 9th grade and adding a grade each year, the first graduating class was on May 29, 2010. The creation of John Paul II High School was the vision of Bishop Carmody to provide an opportunity for parents to give their children a Catholic education while experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit. He worked with the Diabetes Association to help people become aware and educated on the causes of the disease and also worked with the Walk for Diabetes fundraiser. In October 2003, he was instrumental in building a day shelter for the homeless called Mother Teresa Day Shelter where the homeless go for showers and get clean clothes. It also serves as an address for the homeless as they seek jobs. Bishop Carmody was an avid supporter of the National Conference for Community and Justice; and

**WHEREAS** on March 25, 2010, Bishop Wm. Michael Mulvey was ordained and installed as the eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Corpus Christi. Early in his tenure, Bishop Mulvey led the Diocese in prayerfully and gratefully celebrating its Centennial. Concern for the poor, incarcerated and homeless are a priority in his episcopacy through expansion and support of Catholic Charities and Mother Teresa Shelter. The youth and young adults of the diocese have also been at the heart of his work. He has regularly visited the Catholic schools of the diocese for Masses, dedications, and Catholic Schools Week. He has placed a special focus on Religious Education classes in parishes. He has also expanded and developed programs and new facilities for young adults at the Texas A&M - Kingsville Newman Center, Texas A&M - Corpus Christi Newman Center and Coastal Bend College Newman Center. Furthermore, Bishop Mulvey has been a driving force behind the construction and implementation of the St. John Vianney Residence for Priests, a home for retired priests to live in the community. Currently, he is in collaboration with priests, deacons, religious and lay representatives from around the

diocese to develop a Pastoral Plan which will allow the Diocese to clarify and focus its vision and mission.

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Texas State Council Knights of Columbus, assembled in Corpus Christi, Texas on April 26 to April 28, 2019, hereby dedicate this 115<sup>th</sup> State Convention for the outstanding religious leadership and charitable and fraternal leadership to the Knights of Columbus and Our Church; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that all Council Grand Knights, Program Directors and Lecturers pray the rosary prior to their Council meetings in May and June for Bishop Mulvey, and all past Bishops of the Corpus Christi Diocese, and that all Councils ask their Chaplains, Assembly Friars, Parish Pastors, priests and clergy to have a Mass said for our present Bishop Mulvey and all past Bishops of the Corpus Christi Diocese.

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 their families; and

***WHEREAS*** the 2018 World Watch List documented 50 countries where being a Christian is dangerous to follow Jesus. Additionally, this worldwide persecution is estimated to affect over 215 million “now experience high, very high, or extreme levels of persecution; that means 1 in 12 Christians live where Christianity is ‘illegal, forbidden, or punished,’” 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; and

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

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

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

**WHEREAS** 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

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus established the Christian Refugee Relief Fund in 2014 and has since delivered more than \$18 million in aid to displaced Iraqi and Syrian Christians and other persecuted Christians;

**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 delegates attending the 137<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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 to the 115<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention by the Bishops and clergy in the State of Texas; 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;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council Knights of Columbus in the 115<sup>th</sup> Texas State Council convention duly assembled in Corpus Christi, 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, his Excellency the Most Reverend Michael Mulvey, Bishop of the Diocese of Corpus Christi our host Ordinary, our State Chaplain and his Excellency the Most Reverend Joseph Strickland, Bishop of the Diocese of Tyler, our Associate State Chaplain, Monsignor Louis Pavlicek; 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 Joseph Strickland and Associate State Chaplain Monsignor Louis Pavlicek 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 hold appropriate Commemorative Exercises and Masses during the month of November to pay tribute to their deceased Brothers.

Submitted: State Officers

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

**WHEREAS** Knights of Columbus members of the Corpus Christi State Convention Committee are graciously serving as hosts to the 2019 State Convention of the 115<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 Corpus Christi 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

**6. Resolution in RE: BEATIFICATION OF FATHER MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY**

**WHEREAS** since 1978 the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus has been pursuing the cause for the beatification of our founder, 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 Father Michael J. McGivney, which also includes examining a possible miracle manifested through the intercession of 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 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;

**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 beatification 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 beatification; 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 137<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Submitted: State Officers

## **7. 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 any and 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 1000 ultrasound machines in 50 states, with Texas being one of the leading jurisdictions providing over 60 ultrasounds—said ultrasounds providing 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 also 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 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 own 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, 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 on the United States Senate to enact the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act and that after a formal conference with the House, Congress submit a strong pro-life bill to the President of the United States for his consideration, on whom we call to sign into law; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that we call upon the United State 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 call upon 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 act 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 are in need of 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 137<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, 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

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

**WHEREAS** marriage is a natural institution based on ancient human values that have 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** 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 115<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Corpus Christi, 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 137<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and a copy to the Texas Legislature, the Governor of Texas, the Texas delegation to the U.S. Congress and to the President of the United States..

Submitted: State Officers

## **9. 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 which 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, 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;

**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 on the basis of 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 commend the U.S. House of Representatives for passing the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act of 2016 and the Conscience Protection Act of 2016, measures essential to protecting the free exercise of religion; and we call upon the U.S. Senate to pass this legislation and the President to sign it into law; 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 good will 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 137<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, 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

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

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

**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 137<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, 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

## **11. 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program, for which our Supreme Knight and Supreme Master have committed the Order to raise \$1.5 million, and the annual Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes; 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 2018 raised \$80,000 for the support of the Archdiocese of the Military Services Cosponsored Seminarian Program, and from 2018 to 2020 the First Lady of Texas has recommitted to continue support for this vital 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 67 active military councils around the world and have five war-zone roundtables in Iraq and Afghanistan with another 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 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 100,000 hours of volunteer service at over 134 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers last year.

**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

**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;

**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 137<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Submitted: State Officers

## **12. 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 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 23 first responders and their families who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty in Texas this past 2018; 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 137<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Submitted: State Officers

### **13. 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 231 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 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 be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 137<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota and that the Supreme Council encourage the Supreme Convention to adopt this or a similar resolution that honors our Flag.

Submitted: State Officers

#### **14. 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 good will, 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 137<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and a copy to the Texas Legislature, the Governor of Texas, the leadership of the Texas Municipal League, the Texas Association of Counties and the City Councils of Austin, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Fort Worth, the Texas delegation to the U.S. Congress and to the President of the United States.

Submitted: State Officers

**15. 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 Venerable 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 more than \$111 billion of life insurance in force on its members and their families; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus has sold more than 7,500 annuity contracts in 2018; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus also had annual sales of Long-Term Care insurance of more than \$4.9 million in 2018; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus also had annual sales of Disability Income insurance of more than 1,300 policies in 2018; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus had more than \$600 million in new Annuity Deposits; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus has become a pillar of financial strength with more than \$25 billion in assets, and with annual revenues of over \$2.2 billion; and

**WHEREAS** in 2018 the Knights of Columbus paid out \$250 million in dividends and over \$500 million in death benefits and sold more than \$8.88 billion in life insurance to its members, with more than \$613 million purchased by the membership in Texas; and

**WHEREAS** Texas is the jurisdiction in the Order with the most insurance in force, with just under 120,000 policies in force from less than 40,000 insurance members and their families totaling now more than \$8.5 billion; and

**WHEREAS** nearly 40 percent of Texas Knights are insurance members of the Order;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council at its 115th annual meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas, does commend the outstanding efforts of our nine general agents and our field agency force in Texas; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council and its nearly 109,000 members pledge during this year of the 137<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Order to place an additional one billion dollars in new life insurance in force before the end of 2019; 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.

Submitted: State Officers

**16. Resolution in RE: SOLICITATION AT STATE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

**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 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