



# Arizona State Council Knights of Columbus

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## Office of the State Deputy

March 20, 2020

My Brothers,

Challenging times call for courage, requiring many difficult decisions. In the exercise of my duties as your Arizona State Deputy, I have, through the counsel of our State Officers, chairmen and mentors, made the necessary decisions to ensure the continued success of our Order in the great jurisdiction of Arizona.

To that end, it pains me greatly to inform you that the State Council will not hold its 113<sup>th</sup> State Convention as planned from May 15<sup>th</sup> through May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Tucson El Conquistador. Whether or not such a measure has been previously taken is far beyond our collective memory. However, it is a necessary step to ensure the continued health of our membership, the El Conquistador staff, and the community in general, and was the strong recommendation of the Supreme Council.

At this time, we are working on developing a strategy on how we can conduct our Annual State Convention, as required by Chapter II, Section 13 and Chapter VIII, Section 56 of the Supreme Charter, Constitution and Laws. Details will be shared with you in the next week or so. We will be working on a plan to reimburse those who have already paid their registrations fees and meals. Those who made reservations with the El Conquistador should call the hotel and cancel. The hotel management informed me that, if you may decide to keep your reservation, they will gladly honor the group rate available for the Convention.

Although we are not able to gather as we normally would either on a state or local level, ***this does not mean that we should not continue to actively engage qualified candidates to join our Order.*** I strongly encourage prospective candidates to join online at [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus) This will allow them to begin enjoying the benefits of our Order without further delay, as we determine how to bring them in full membership into our Order. Our Worthy State Membership Director will be sending a separate message with ideas of how we can recruit during this trying time.

If these days teach us anything, they remind us that time and control are not necessarily ours but, instead, the mysterious workings of God in Heaven. Let us use this time of self-distancing, quarantine and exile to remind all of us that we are never truly alone when joined in a common purpose for God's will. Let us use this time to slow down, to take an accounting of our lives, to be more attuned to the needs of others and to bring other men to know and love Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church as Knights of Columbus.

As we recently heard from our Worthy Supreme Knight, this is the third pandemic that the Knights of Columbus has faced in its history. The first was in the late 1800s, shortly after the birth of our Order, and was the main reason why Father McGivney died so young. The second was the Spanish Flu

Epidemic of 1918. In each instance, we banded together as Knights, persevered and continued our work in defending our Church, protecting our priests, and providing charity to all in need. The challenge we face now is no different than that of our predecessors, and the outcome will be the same; a stronger, more dedicated and unbreakable fraternity of Catholic gentlemen dedicated to our Father's work on earth as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

Soon, this affront on our personal sense of security will come to an end. The trumpet will sound again and we will be called upon to continue pursuing the vision of our founder, the Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney as his Knights of Columbus. Let us never forget, even as we journey through not just this crisis but also Lent, that we are above all things an Easter people filled with the hope of the risen Christ through whom all enemies are defeated, all challenges overcome, and all fears abated.

Please know that my first thoughts each morning are of you and your families and that does not change throughout the day. You are with me always, even as I whisper my last prayers each night, you are there with me. Saint John Neumann daily prayed "***Father I know there is nothing that will happen to me today that you and I cannot handle together***".

God bless you and your families, as we, together with God, handle this.

Vivat Jesus!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "MVassallo".

Mario Vassallo  
State Deputy