



## THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PHOENIX

April 7, 2021

Dear Brother Knights and Members of the Arizona State Council:

May the Lord bless you and your families as you gather in Phoenix for the 114<sup>th</sup> State Convention for the Knights of Columbus.

As we continue to rejoice in this Easter Season, we give thanks to God for the many wonderful programs of the Knights that help to strengthen men and their families in the living of their Catholic faith, from fostering a deep spirituality and formation among its members to bearing witness of God's love in their own parish communities.

This year's convention theme, "Living Our Faith Through Service and Charitable Deeds", speaks to us that our faith in the Easter mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection will lead us to imitating Christ's radical love. The Easter Candle is an ancient Christian symbol representing the Risen Christ. Its light lives from sacrifice. The Candle shines inasmuch as it is burnt up. It gives light inasmuch as it gives itself. The Risen Christ has touched each of us and we have received the light of faith. This light of faith is a powerful force from God that does not destroy but seeks to transform us into children of God, children of Light. And inasmuch as we put heart and soul into the giving of ourselves and sacrificing ourselves for love of God through loving service to others, the light of our faith will ever shine. This is precisely the type of faith that St. Paul calls "faith working through love" (Gal 5:6). Pope Francis reminds us that the truth of our faith must overflow into charity: "Faith transforms the whole person precisely to the extent that he or she becomes open to love. Through this blending of faith and love we come to see the kind of knowledge that faith entails, its power to convince and its ability to illumine our steps. Faith knows because it is tied to love, because love itself brings enlightenment" (Lumen Fidei no. 26). Be assured of our prayers that these days of spiritual reflection and fellowship strengthen your faith and renew your commitment in service to your families and communities.

Praying God's blessing upon you and your families, we are

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Thomas J. Olmsted  
Bishop of Phoenix

Most Rev. Eduardo A. Nevaes  
Auxiliary Bishop of Phoenix

ENCOUNTERING THE LIVING CHRIST

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