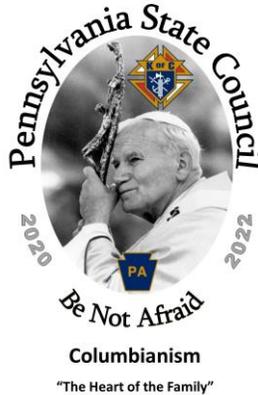


Knights of Columbus

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Administrative Assistant Report 2020-2021

The first year of this administration is coming to an end and will be remembered as **the year of change**. With the evil pandemic trying our very existence, we as Knights found ways to continue the legacy of Blessed Fr Michael McGivney. Yes Blessed Fr Michael McGivney! When we are down and out, God seems to enlighten us and give us a sign of new hope. With Blessed Fr McGivney, we all adjusted our lives using Charity, Unity, and Fraternity making sure we continued his dream of “Leaving No Neighbor Behind”.

As the newly assigned Administrative Assistant, I had to plan every aspect of my position as if we would be back to normalcy at any time. That is why invitations, registrations, and requests were sent out until a point at which each event could not be held. With not being able to meet in person we had to change direction and plan these meetings virtually. We were not prepared for this new type of platform and had to act fast.

For the organizational meeting, the first event of this administration, I had some knowledge of Zoom and asked the State Deputy to attempt doing the virtual event. With his approval, I began researching using zoom webinar as the platform. With a lot of luck, the meeting went well.

The next event to organize was the Supreme Convention. Supreme decided with all the new CDC guidelines, they would be having the Supreme Convention virtually. With the Pennsylvania guidelines in mind, the State Officers decided to have the State Family and Delegates attend the Supreme Convention, watching virtually, at the Penn Stater in State College, PA. With very strict rules of 25 or less in attendance, the hospitality by the Penn Stater was remarkable.

Knowing what it takes to do these webinars and with requests from Supreme to develop Degree Teams for virtual degrees, I suggested to the State Deputy to possibly form a new position for dealing with this technology. Information and technology seemed to be the lifeline during the pandemic. The State Deputy then formed a technology team consisting of the Administrative Assistant, Deputy Director for Information Services, Deputy Director for Public Relations, and a new position Deputy Director for Technology Services.

With this team in place, the mid-year District Deputy seminar seemed to be a go. It was planned with the Penn Stater to have separate meeting rooms with 25 in each with those who could not attend could do so virtually from home. It was all looking positive and then the next wave hit. The mid-year seminar ended up completely virtual.

Going through a virtual state convention by phone last year, we can be proud how much we have advanced this year. Our prayers are being answered as we now have the vaccine and starting to get to some normalcy. We have adjusted and we are achieving what seemed impossible at the beginning of this administration. The light is brighter at the end of the tunnel and we are ready to get out of that tunnel. When we get out, we need to come out ready to roll and be the evangelists we should be. This past year has been a wakeup call from God.

We have heard you and we will be the Knights that Blessed Fr McGivney has shown us to be!

I am so proud to be chosen to serve Pennsylvania as Administrative Assistant. I hope I can live up to what the State Deputy believes I can do and what I can do for the Knights in Pennsylvania. I am also very proud to be a brother knight with all of you teaching and showing me that Faith, Family, Community, and Life are so important to us all! This year of change has taught us how important we are to each other and that we can accomplish the impossible!

Vivat Jesus!

Gary Damich

Administrative Assistant
Pennsylvania 2020-2022