

Report  
of the  
State Deputy  
to the  
123<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania  
State Convention

May 22, 2021

Kenneth E. Grugel, PhD

My Brother Knights,

As President Ronald Reagan was fond of saying on several occasions, “Here we go again.” No, I am not talking about politics, but rather that here we are once again having a Virtual State Convention rather than meeting in person as we have done for so many years prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. With that said, the condition of the State Council is strong, and we have achieved so very much this fraternal year in spite of hosting our State convention, mid-year training, and our District Deputy seminar online. Without your assistance none of this would have been possible.

Our Faith-In-Action Program was instituted just a few months prior to the outbreak of the Pandemic in 2020 and it could not have come at a better time. This spring our Supreme Council developed a program guide which illustrated how to conduct the majority of the FIA programs virtually. Our councils, under the leadership of State Program Director Jim Maochi, FDD embraced this new method of conducting programs to keep the FIA Program up and running.

Last January 2020, Supreme Council introduced our new Charity-Unity-Fraternity Degree. Within several weeks after assuming his role as State Membership Director, Mike Kish, FSA Virtual Degree teams were started in most regions of the state. Those monthly degrees, along with the countless in-person degrees presented by our councils and e-Membership has allowed us to be within a stone's throw of obtaining Circle of Honor status for our Jurisdiction.

Good communication is the key to a successful organization and as we move more and more into a virtual mode of conducting the business of the State, we are fortunate to have a Media Team that provides such a professional and consistent service. Rick Terroni, FDD is our editor of the Keystone Knight and Public Relations Deputy Director, Jim Nardone, FDD serves as our webmaster and Deputy Director for Information Services, and new to the team this year is Brian Hallock, Deputy Director of Technology Services who keeps you informed with e-mail blasts on weekly training events, degrees, and special announcements from State Council.

Complementing our team of State Officers, Chairmen and Directors, Finance and Education Foundation Boards, we are fortunate to have two Brothers who keep us informed of what is new from Supreme Council and provide us with much needed training to enhance our Jurisdiction. They are: Territorial Growth Director Eric Johnson PSD, and Steve Cohen PSD. Their commitment to Pennsylvania has helped us navigate through the uncharted waters of this pandemic.

In spite of the pandemic, we have had a very successful year and provided an array of programs and community activities throughout the state. There were 21 training programs offered on a variety of topics, a January breakfast meeting for Grand Knights hosted by the State Deputy, 3 new Ultra- sound machines donated to women's care centers, donations made to assist hurricane disaster relief and the winter storm in Texas. A new council was instituted in Philadelphia, and a Novena held to honor our founder, Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney. It is also worthy to note that 8 of our councils celebrated their 100-year anniversary's.

I would also like to thank our Immediate Past State Deputy, Mark Jago, FIC for his assistance with my transition into the role State Deputy. He has proven to a valuable mentor and friend this past year.

Yes, my Brothers, this past year was different from all others in the history of the Order and that of our Jurisdiction, but we persevered, and we are stronger for it. We exemplified our principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity in a way no other time in existence has seen. And in spite of all that we have been through, "Here we go again" into a new and better fraternal year for the Pennsylvania Knights of Columbus.

May God grant you and your families peace, happiness, and good health.

Vivat Jesus!

Kenneth E. Grugel, PhD  
State Deputy