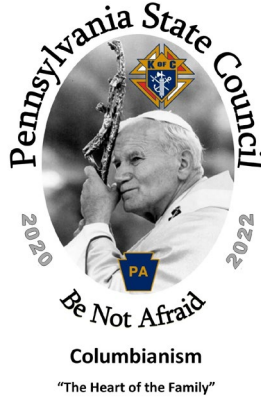


Knights of Columbus

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Brothers,

I would like to start by thanking our Worthy State Deputy Ken Grugel for appointing me as the State Membership Director. It has been an honor and privilege to work with all the State Officers this past year. I look forward to next year with enthusiasm and hope. It has been a difficult and strange year. All of us had to learn to adapt to the changes that occurred because of the COVID virus. We learned how to conduct Zoom meetings and hybrid meetings. When we did meet in person, we had to wear masks and social distance. Now we are starting to open and get back to normal. That is why I have hope.

This year has been a struggle for membership as well. Our councils were shut down and many were not meeting, but we kept fighting and with the added bonus of free online membership we did very good. Doug Fleming, eMembership Director, did a great job of keeping the councils informed and helping them convert eMember to their rosters. We attained 154% of our eMembership goal and increased our conversion rate from 25% to 44%. Great Job Doug!

While the online membership did great our councils had some difficulty recruiting members due to the lockdown. Our total membership intake currently is 1234 new Brothers, which is 75% of our goal. We need 424 members to make our goal and reach Circle of Honor. We can do it if every council brings in 1 new member before June 30th.

The State welcomes our newest council St. William Council 17675 in Philadelphia and a big thanks to District Deputy Nick Marcantonio for his work to make the council a reality. There are many opportunities to expand our Order into new parishes and communities.

I am filled with hope for the new year. I see a great opportunity for our Order to grow in ways that we can't even imagine. We've had the last year off and now is the time for all of us to get back to the good work of our Order. It was recently noted that "we are everyday people, helping people every day". I couldn't agree more with that statement, it is at the heart of what we do. Let's get to work helping people every day!

Vivat Jesus!

Michael J. Kish FSA
State Membership Director