



## DIocese OF DULUTH

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May 2020

Dear Brother Knights,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2020 Knights of Columbus State Convention. It would have been our privilege to welcome you to the Brainerd Lakes Area in person but it remains a privilege to share this welcome with you virtually.

The advent of the COVID-19 has, for the moment, changed how we live our lives. For the common good, we are not able to gather in groups outside our families, either in Church or many other places we are used to gathering. However, we continue to live our Catholic Faith. Priests say Mass without a congregation. The faithful attend Mass and other devotions online and we continue to pray.

We pray first for the victims of the virus. We pray for all who are ill, especially those separated from their loved ones. We pray for all their caregivers, and we remember those who have died and all who mourn. In many ways, Easter and this accompanying season, hold out the promise of new life in the risen Lord, more poignantly than ever. In these days, we appreciate the blessings of family, friends, health, the Mass, receiving the Lord in Holy Communion and publicly celebrating the Resurrection.

Hopefully, the sacrifices we offer up during this time of sequester, may open us up to a strengthening of faith, hope and charity. As the scriptures remind us, "In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may redound to praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:6-7

Since its beginning, the mission and work of the Knights of Columbus has met each challenge with living faith and abiding trust in God, our loving Father's providential guidance. May your days in conference be unifying, uplifting and blessed. May your prayerful worship and service continue long after this current challenge is a distant memory.

Yours in Christ,

Reverend James B. Bissonette  
Diocesan Administrator