

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION
OF 2020 CONVENTION

RESOLUTION NO. 1

WHEREAS, Pope Francis holds the seat of St. Peter and courageously leads the congregation of Catholic faith throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis asks us all to work to help those who fall in the shadows of life; and

WHEREAS, Pope Benedict XVI has served our Holy Catholic Church with pastoral leadership; and

WHEREAS, as Pope Emeritus, we wish him peace and offer our prayers in his retirement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we thank God for the services of Pope Benedict XVI and ask that the leadership of Pope Francis will be eternally blessed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

WHEREAS, Diocesan Administrator, Rev. James Bissonette of the Diocese of Duluth, has provided spiritual leadership and support to the Minnesota Knights of Columbus and this 2020 Minnesota State Knights of Columbus Annual Convention;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we extend to Rev. Bissonette our thanks and appreciation; and that we offer him our fullest cooperation and support in his work with the people of God in the Diocese of Duluth and throughout the State of Minnesota.

RESOLUTION NO. 3

WHEREAS, Archbishop Lori, Supreme Council Chaplain, has graciously given his guidance to the Minnesota State Knights of Columbus and generously donated his time, talents and spiritual leadership to our Order;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we extend our most sincere and heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Archbishop Lori for his continued service and spiritual leadership to our Order.

RESOLUTION NO. 4

WHEREAS, Carl A. Anderson is the Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, Brother Anderson is successfully leading our Order as Supreme Knight;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we extend our most sincere and heartfelt best wishes to Brother Carl A. Anderson for his continuing leadership as the Supreme Knight.

RESOLUTION NO. 5

WHEREAS, the District 2 Councils of Cross Lake, Cuyuna Range, Brainerd, Pequot Lakes and St. Mathias hosted the 119th Annual Convention of the Minnesota Knights of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, these brothers have contributed time, talent and efforts to the success of this convention;
and

WHEREAS, Jesse Kosloski, as convention chair has performed a valuable service to this convention;
and

WHEREAS, the District 2 Councils are indebted to all those persons, who through their time, energy, efforts and talent made this convention possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we in the assembled convention do hereby extend our most sincere thanks to the District 2 Councils and to every member of their convention committee who served so effectively.

RESOLUTION NO. 6

WHEREAS, with the permission of Bishop Kettler of the Diocese of St. Cloud, the Minnesota State Council of the Knights of Columbus has been most fortunate to have had as our State Chaplain, Fr. Gabriel Walz, and

WHEREAS, Fr. Walz has contributed to Minnesota Knights of Columbus in so many ways too numerous to list;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we assembled for the 119th Annual Convention of the Knights of Columbus do hereby express our deepest gratitude and sincere thanks to Fr. Walz for the many services he has provided as State Chaplain. We wish him well in his efforts of service to Holy Mother Church and people of God.

RESOLUTION NO. 7

WHEREAS, with the permission of Bishop Quinn of the Diocese of Winona - Rochester, the Minnesota State Council of the Knights of Columbus has been most fortunate to have had as our Associate State Chaplain Fr. Martin Schaefer; and

WHEREAS, Father Schaefer has contributed to Minnesota Knights of Columbus in so many ways;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we assembled for the 119th Annual Convention of the Knights of Columbus do hereby express our deepest gratitude and sincere thanks to Father Schaefer for the many services he has provided as the Associate State Chaplain. We wish him well in his efforts of service to Holy Mother Church and people of God.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

WHEREAS, Brad Jacobs has served as the District Master of the Fourth Degree in the District of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the District Master needs the cooperation of all the councils in Minnesota to enlarge their membership and carry out their many projects and activities of the Fourth-Degree Assemblies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this assembly express its sincere thanks and appreciation to the District Master of the Fourth Degree and his fellow Officers; and that we pledge our continued cooperation so that his term of office is most productive and beneficial to the Knights of Columbus.

RESOLUTION NO. 9

WHEREAS, the Fourth Degree of the Minnesota District has always had Masters serving with distinction; and

WHEREAS, Masters with superior leadership have been chosen to serve on a Supreme level; and

WHEREAS, Craig Larson is a former Master of the Minnesota Fourth Degree and has been chosen and is serving as a Vice - Supreme Master of the Marquette Province.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the assembly expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation to Craig Larson for his continued efforts and service in his official capacity.

RESOLUTION NO. 10

WHEREAS, the St. Michael's Medal for Service Men & Women has been an ongoing program wherein the members of the Minnesota Knights of Columbus request them for their sons, daughters and members; and

WHEREAS, the program under the guidance of the State Chaplain Fr. Gabriel Walz has shown increased interest;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the councils continue to emphasize this program most effectively to the membership so that all Catholic Men and Women in the Armed Services are benefiting from this program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that greater emphasis be placed on this program to inform the council by description in the state publications.

RESOLUTION NO. 11

WHEREAS, the present State Officers: State Deputy Marc Peters, State Chaplain Father Gabriel Walz, State Secretary David Whatmuff, State Treasurer Dan DeCrans, State Advocate James Terwedo, State Warden Bou Gazley and Immediate Past State Deputy Bob Penas, have expended time and energy in carrying out their duties, attending many council functions, participating in meetings and other activities; and

WHEREAS, the District Deputies, have devoted much time and energy to represent the Order and the State Deputy in their respective areas and to provide guidance and assistance to their councils; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Don Trudeau the New Exemplification Degree Staffs have continued to improve their presentations of the Ceremonials; and

WHEREAS, the members of the old Knighthood Degree Staffs have been most efficient in their presentations and have traveled many miles and given much time to this service; and

WHEREAS, we wish to thank these knights for their faithful service to the Former Degree procedure:

North Central Region Staff, Conferring Officer Jim Mikelson
South East Region Staff, Conferring Officer Ricardo Acevedo
West Metro Staff, Conferring Officer Marc Peters
North East Metro Staff, Conferring Officer Phil Harter
South Metro Staff, Conferring Officer Joe Hajduk
North West Region Staff, Conferring Officer Craig Larson
South West Region Staff, Conferring Officer Rick Morgan

WHEREAS, Jesse Kosloski, State Membership Director and Joe George, State Program Director and along with their respective staffs have devoted much time and energy to provide guidance and assistance to our councils and members regarding membership recruitment and the many programs of the State Council; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Squires program provides a healthy and spiritual organization for our Catholic youth; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Ladies Auxiliary continues to support not only the many programs of the Catholic faith but are the greatest supporters of the work of the Minnesota Knights of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, the General Insurance Agents and their respective Agents continue to support our fraternal activities while providing timely and important information and benefits to aide our members in time of need and for their financial security; and

WHEREAS, the Student Loan Board continues to work hard to provide our members and their children with financial assistance for their post High School Education; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Knights Foundation continues to work for the future financial security of the Knights of Columbus efforts in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Marathon for Non-Public Education continues to create financial enthusiasm and longevity in the Catholic schools of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, many of our Brothers have agreed to serve and many have served on various special committees and convention committees, giving of their time and talents for the benefit of the Minnesota Knights of Columbus; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this 119th Annual Convention does hereby extend to all the above mentioned, its wholehearted appreciation and thanks for the services and dedication they have provided the membership during the past year.

RESOLUTION NO. 12

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in Webster v. Reproductive Health Services recognized states' legitimate interest in protecting prenatal life and their authority to adopt laws favoring childbirth over abortions, and

WHEREAS, abortion on demand yet remains our nation's legal policy because of the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion throughout the pregnancy have not been overturned, and

WHEREAS, this had led to erosion of respect for the right to life, which is bestowed by the Creator and cannot legitimately be denied by any nation or court allowing more than one and a half million unborn children in the United States to continue to die each year by abortion, and increasing numbers of women suffering abortion's physical, emotional and spiritual pain, and

WHEREAS, most Americans believe that abortion should be illegal except in certain limited circumstances; and an overwhelming majority agrees that unmarried minors should not obtain abortions without parental knowledge or consent, and

WHEREAS, because of the critical importance of this issue and the need for a timely response, we wish to reaffirm our convention that all human life is sacred whether born or unborn and along with the Second Vatican Council we declare that "from the moment of conception life must be guarded with the greatest care, while abortion and infanticide are unspeakable crimes", and

WHEREAS, we as leaders of the Catholic community in the United States acknowledge our right and responsibility to help establish laws and social policies protecting the right to life of unborn children, providing care and services for women and children, and safeguarding human life at every stage and in every circumstance, and

WHEREAS, we as members of the Minnesota Knights of Columbus find that abortion is of an overriding concern because it negates two of our most fundamental moral imperatives: respect for innocent life, and preferential concern for the weak and defenseless, and

WHEREAS, at the same time we recognize, that as we rightfully engage in this debate, that we must hear the issues, the struggles, and thus the anguish of women who face issues in a way that we never will; and thus, we must continue to teach clearly and forcefully the moral evil of abortion, along with speaking to them a word of understanding, encouragement, solidarity and support, and

WHEREAS, we call upon Catholics and all members of the Knights of Columbus to commit themselves vigorously to the implementation of all three elements of the Pastoral Plan which include education and public information, pastoral care of pregnant women and their children, and a public policy program in defense of human life in all its stages, especially the unborn.

WHEREAS, we affirm that life begins at conception, we must also believe that the end of life must be natural thus affirming that any form of assisted suicide by medical or legislative means is also an affront to the Catholic religion and to God; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Knights of Columbus support long and short range public policy goals which include (1) constitutional protection for the right to life of unborn children to the maximum degree possible; (2) federal and state laws and administrative policies that restrict support for the practice of abortion; (3) the continual refinement and ultimate reversal of Supreme Court and other court decisions that deny the inalienable right to life; (4) initiate supportive legislation to provide morally acceptable alternatives to abortion, and social policy initiatives which provide support to pregnant women and prenatal care and extended support for low-income women and their children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Knights of Columbus ask people to commit themselves to daily prayer and sacrifice so that our nation might soon witness the end of the scourge of abortion and ask the patroness of our nation, Mary, the Mother of God, who herself said "yes" to life, intercede before her son for the restoration of respect for all human life in our day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Supreme Knights of Columbus office prepares an annual list of companies and organizations that donate funds to Planned Parenthood and make this list available to each State Council for state distribution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all members of the Knights of Columbus and their families commit to life from conception to natural death, that through their faith and voices demand that no medical or legislative means be legitimized in practice or law to allow for any form of assisted suicide.

RESOLUTION NO. 13

WHEREAS, the State Council of the Minnesota Knights of Columbus depends on the financial support of the individual councils through a per capita assessment; and

WHEREAS, the State Officers have shown financial responsibility and stability in the fiscal management of the State Council; and

WHEREAS, the State Officers continue to commit themselves to prudent financial decisions as they relate to the good of the Order.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the per capita assessment of \$8.00 per member of every council, except for "honorary life" members and those members with a disability waiver from the Supreme Council, remain the same for the 2020-2021 year.

This Resolution is hereby adopted by the Officers of the Minnesota Knights of Columbus State Council, and thus forwarded to the 2020 State Convention Delegates for consideration by said Delegates.

RESOLUTION NO. 14

WHEREAS, the Supreme Council supports vocations at the Council level to the priesthood through the RSVP program, and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Council supports vocations to the priesthood and religious life with Pennies for Seminarians and the Jim Campbell Funds, and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus recognize the shortage of priests and religious vocations, and

WHEREAS, the State Council will promote vocations programs throughout the state, and

WHEREAS, the State Council will promote Vocation programs in every Council for the State of Minnesota,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Council and all local Council will work to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

This Resolution is hereby adopted by the Officers of the Minnesota Knights of Columbus State Council, and thus forwarded to the 2020 State Convention Delegates for consideration by said Delegates.

RESOLUTION NO. 15

IN SOLIDARITY WITH OUR PRIESTS

WHEREAS, since the Order's very founding in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney, a priest of the diocese of Hartford, our Order's unwritten yet guiding principal, had respect and support of the priesthood and love of priests who had guided our relationship with those ordained to wear the Roman collar; and

WHEREAS, this reverence for priests derives not from any edict of the founder, but from earliest admiration of the manner in which Father McGivney lived his priestly calling and carried out his ministry, to the point that he was beloved in his time as "a positive saint"; and

WHEREAS, both as Catholics and as Knights, we feel a special affinity for those who, in the spiritual order, we call "Father", the men of God who taught us our Faith by word, by example; and, when necessary, by admonition; who strengthened and matured our Faith by their ministry of word and sacrament, especially in the forgiveness of our sins and the Eucharist, and who, by their life of prayer, inspire us to strive, even as they, to become closer each day to Our Lord and His Blessed Mother; and

WHEREAS, over its history the Order has been honored by the willingness of thousands of Bishops and Priests, here unnamed but enshrined in the memories of generations of Knights, to offer us their guidance, encouragement and spiritual direction in the office of State or Council Chaplain to whom we owe a debt of undying gratitude; and

WHEREAS, in these days, good and holy priests have been demoralized by the many demands made on their time and energies through diminishing numbers and commitment long hours of work in ministering to their people; by loneliness, especially when they must serve in one-priest parishes, or cover several parishes; and deeply hurt and bruised in spirit by the aberrations committed by a few of their number, sensationalized in the media, and destructive of the image of priests as trusted Shepard's of souls; and

WHEREAS, the Order of the Knights of Columbus, cognizant of its tradition of respect for the special dignity of priests, wishes to convey to them our sentiments of esteem, regard, loyalty and support, especially in these days when priests of unimpeachable moral integrity, of faithful witness to Christ and of commitment to their vocations are tarred by the brush used on their fallen brothers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we Knights of Columbus, do hereby renew our pledge of loyalty and support for the priesthood, and rededicate ourselves to affirming, by our friendship and availability, the men of the cloth who have left home and family to follow Jesus and to serve His people as ministers of Word and Sacrament; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as an Order and as individuals, we strive always and everywhere to let our priests know that they are appreciated, that they are loved, and that we stand, foursquare, in solidarity with them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as evidence of this commitment, we will redouble our efforts to work for an increase in vocations by planting the seed in our families, by continuing to provide moral and financial support for seminarians, and by praying that many more will answer the Lord's call for laborers in the vineyard.

This resolution is hereby adopted by the Officers of the Minnesota Knights of Columbus State Council, and thus forwarded to the 2020 State Convention Delegates for consideration by said Delegates.

RESOLUTION NO. 16

WHEREAS, John Marrella, who is the Supreme Advocate of the Knights of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Knights of Columbus is extremely fortunate and honored to have him as our Convention guest and banquet keynote speaker;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State Council, along with the Delegates of this Convention, extend our most sincere thanks to Brother Knight John Marrella for his guidance, service and commitment to the Good of the Order.

RESOLUTION NO. 17

WHEREAS, Father Michael J. McGivney is the Founder of the Order of the Knights of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, the Spirit of Father McGivney has been the inspiration of our Order for over 100 years promoting our work through charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, the Supreme Council began the cause of sainthood inviting Father Gabriel B. O'Donnell, O.P., to serve as promoter of potential cause; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Father McGivney Guild was formed to promote study and devotion to Father McGivney.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Columbus continue to pursue the cause of sainthood for Father Michael J. McGivney and encourage all Brother Knights to pray for his elevation to the honors of the altar; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that we encourage membership in the Father McGivney Guild by all Brother Knights and ask them to join by contacting the Guild at the Supreme Council office.

This resolution is hereby adopted by the Officers of the Minnesota Knights of Columbus State Council, and thus forwarded to the 2020 State Convention Delegates for consideration by said Delegates.

RESOLUTION NO. 18

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus Insurance Program was a major cornerstone of the initial mission of our founder, Father Michael J. McGivney; and

WHEREAS, each field and general agent plays a significant role in the growth of councils and protection of Knights of Columbus families; and

WHEREAS, insurance products continue to be developed to meet the needs of our families and the ever-changing societal issues that face our families; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to encourage more Catholic men to join the KC insurance team to promote the Order, create new councils, invite new members to join and ensure the financial security of our families.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we thank every field agent and general agent for their commitment to the principles of our order and their continuing efforts to build our Order and the Families that comprise it.

RESOLUTION NO. 19

WHEREAS, the Middle East is home to many different races, nationalities, and religions; and

WHEREAS, the Middle East is currently under extreme crisis in the forms of war, political division, economic turmoil and religious intolerance; and

WHEREAS, Middle Eastern Christians are suffering to a point that their persecution is an act of genocide; and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus had taken the lead to generously help in humanitarian relief of more than 11 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, Our Holy Father Pope Francis, many European Parliaments, and the United States commission on International Religious Freedom have officially labeled these acts upon Christians as Genocide.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all people and organizations join with the Knights of Columbus to urge the United States State Department to increase their actions against the Middle Eastern Christian Genocide and thus create certain legal protections and options that might otherwise be unavailable.

RESOLUTION NO. 20

WHEREAS, Pope Francis has called for a new alliance between the Church and the family; and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus has instituted a new order wide initiation entitled “Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening our Parish,” so to foster greater unity and collaboration among Catholic families within the Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus shall support programs to strengthen family life leading to a deeper understanding of the family as domestic Church; increasing commitment to serve the Churches mission of a new evangelization through the parish; increasing the development of thousands of new parish based councils.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all Knights of Columbus members, their Councils, and families live the Catholic faith more fully so that each home is truly a domestic Church, reflecting the holiness of the Universal Church in every Knights of Columbus household.

RESOLUTION NO. 21

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus has held that charity is the first and foremost mission of the Order; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Knights of Columbus State Council has established and promoted various charities and programs to assist members and non-members in bringing benefits to people most in need; and

WHEREAS, Individual councils through their membership can create fundraising opportunities to greatly enhance the effective mission of our state sponsored charities; and

WHEREAS, these individual fundraising opportunities can be established through the dues collecting mechanisms as established by the Order and through the financial secretaries of each local council.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it is recommended that each KC Council through its Financial Secretary and the use of the annual billing formats, create separate line items for state sponsored charities that members can fill in additional financial amounts to add to their annual dues statement and thus support sponsored charities in a greater manner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these state sponsored charities include, but are not limited to: KC Student Loan Fund, Minnesota Knights Foundation, Pennies for Seminaries, Jim Campbell Fund, Global Wheelchair Mission, Coats for Kids, Food for Families, Pro-Life Ultra Sounds, Habitat for Humanity, and Special Olympics, to name a few.

This resolution is hereby adopted by the State Officers of the Minnesota State KC Council to be brought before the delegates of the 119th annual convention of the Minnesota Knights of Columbus.

RESOLUTION NO. 22

WHEREAS, the old First, Second, and Third Degree initiation format has been the foundation for many years to bring in new members of our Order; and

WHEREAS, it was a 3-hour program to instill the principals of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity through valuable lifelong lessons, physical and verbal examples of faith, personal examinations of faith, and secret promises of commitment to the Order; and

WHEREAS, the future of the Order depends upon growth, and true growth that can be only accomplished by providing an entry path that is inviting and accessible to prospective members and their families; and

WHEREAS, the new Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity stay true to the Order's traditions and values while addressing the needs of our times, allowing family, friends, and potential new members to witness firsthand our Order's principals and why this matters as we interact with our faith, our church, and our families.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all members of the Knights of Columbus fully embrace the new format of this exemplification; that each council in the state create a local team to make this new initiation personal and inviting to new members and their families; and that the new team & local council work with their local priest/chaplain to integrate this exemplification in furtherance of building the domestic church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota State KC Council, along with all the District Deputies and program chairmen will work with and through its Ceremonial Director Don Trudeau to ensure the best results of this exemplification for the total good of the Order.

This resolution is hereby approved by the Minnesota State KC Council and presented to the 119th Annual Convention for consideration by its delegates for approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 23

WHEREAS, Bishop Paul Sirba, was born in Minneapolis, attended Nativity of Mary Grade School in Bloomington, Academy of Holy Angels in Richfield, College of St. Thomas, and the St. Paul Seminary, and was ordained a Priest on May 31, 1986; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Sirba served the parishes of St. Olaf in Minneapolis, St. John the Baptist in Savage, and Maternity of Mary in St. Paul along with working in the Spiritual Formation department of St. John Vianney and as Spiritual Director at the St. Paul Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Sirba was appointed Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and subsequently on December 14, 2009, His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI appointed him as the ninth Bishop for the Diocese of Duluth; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Sirba was a loyal and dedicated Brother of the Knights of Columbus, rising to the highly respected position of State Chaplain for years 1994 and 1995, being the first State Chaplain to go on to become a Bishop, and served on the Minnesota Knights Foundation Board of Directors for over 10 years; and

WHEREAS, The Good Lord called Bishop Sirba home on December 1, 2019 at the age of 59 on a Sunday morning while he was about to say Mass, which was his greatest pleasure in life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all Knights of Columbus and their families; all Catholics, especially those in the Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis and the Dioceses of Duluth where he served so faithfully; all seminarians, especially those young people looking to enter the religious life; and all people of God that have been blessed by Bishop Sirba's presence through prayers, good works and his undying love for all, take a moment of thoughtful prayer now and anytime in the future when his intercession is needed for us to be a fulfilled child of God in our daily duties.

This resolution is hereby adopted by the Minnesota State KC Council to be presented to the 119th Annual Convention of the Knights of Columbus for their thoughtful consideration and passage.