

Good morning everyone, I'm State Deputy Dave Whatmuff

Welcome to those who were able to attend the meeting here at the Hotel, to those watching our LiveStream on YouTube, and to those who are watching the recording of this meeting at a later time or date.

Welcome ... to this most unusual Organizational meeting! I say unusual because we are using methods that we have never used before, techniques and skills that we are learning and developing, and that we will continue to develop and use in the months ahead.

I know that we are not alone in this ... my own State Deputy training and workshops, normally done over the space of a full week at Supreme Headquarters in Newhaven Connecticut, were all done on podcasts and webinars. At the council level, you are having to learn how to conduct your meetings and business usual digital methods to meet at least some of your members "virtually", and the Regional and District meetings to come will do the same. We know that it is not easy, but we are developing the skills needed for this here at the State level, and we will be here to help you.

If you read my June article, you will know that my motto for the coming year is "Founded in Faith", and this is meant to indicate not just that our founder the soon-to-be Blessed Michael J. McGivney, founded the order in Faith ... but also to indicate that our Foundation, in an architectural sense, the base on which we stand, and which gives us our strength and stability ... is our Faith.

As you will hear today and in the coming months, my plan for this year includes an increased emphasis on those programs which develop and evangelize our Faith. This is our duty as Knights, and as Catholic Christians, and will be necessary if our Order is going to continue for the coming years.

Thank you, and once again welcome.

It is my pleasure and honor to now introduce our State Chaplain Fr. Gabriel Walz.