

## First Quarter update

Dear brother knights,

This is Minnesota State Deputy Dave Whatmuff with a quarterly update from the state office.

This Covid pandemic has been crippling for us all. It's affected our politics, it's affected our education, it's affected our sports, it's affected our family gatherings, and worst of all it's affected our worship. Many of our churches are only just opening for public worship, and even they are limited as to how many they can have in the congregation. Knights are needed more than ever before in this time. Our parishes need us ... to help with maintaining the social distancing at mass, with cleaning the pews and other areas to ensure the health and safety of worshippers, providing hand sanitizing stations, and many other needs ... I urge you to contact your pastor and offer your help in whatever areas are needed.

Many councils in rural areas do not meet in the summer due to farming needs, and would only now be coming back together. Due to the pandemic, even these are reluctant to meet for fear of infection. Of course, I understand this, my wife Marty and I are in our seventies, and Marty is a survivor of cancer and open-heart surgery, so we are the last people to take any risks.

As I'm sure you're aware, many events such as our state convention have been changed to be "virtual" or a hybrid of personal and virtual, and this has forced us to get familiar with technology, such as Zoom or GoToMeeting, that we have not used before. I know this is difficult, especially for us older folks, some of whom need our grandkids' help to even check our email! But this is a great opportunity to involve our new members, many of whom are young men who grew up with this technology, and to whom this is "bread and butter". Even if you don't have young members who can do this, I know that you have kids or grandkids who can ... ask them for help, and who knows, they might get interested enough to become a member!

So please, let me urge you not to let this thing beat us! In many cases the old ways are not possible, so we have to be flexible and find new ways to conduct our business.

Beginning the 4th of October, we will be hosting an “Into the Breach” program from the State Council. Normally this program would be run at the council level, and involve groups of men gathering together, perhaps in a room at the church, to discuss issues that we catholic men face, which challenge our faith and family in this secular world. Our State program will invite men to watch one of the Supreme videos and then breakout into discussion groups, all using the Zoom meeting application. Please check it out on our state website [mnknights.org](http://mnknights.org), where you can register for the program ... and don't worry if you have missed the start of the program ... we'll tell you how you can “catch up”.

This is just an example of how we can be flexible and use computer and cell phone technology to run our meetings and programs. I hope this will inspire you to find your own ways to run your meetings and programs.

Supreme has made changes to the rules and regulations for council elections and other business, and you can find lots of great information about this on the Supreme website [kofc.org](http://kofc.org). Look for “Fraternal Operations during COVID-19”. You can also find help on our state website [mnknights.org](http://mnknights.org) under the Resources>Training menu.

One of the biggest challenges during this pandemic is finding ways to contact prospects to invite them to join us in our great order. Here is State Membership Director Patrick Farrelly with help on how to accomplish this ...

Thank you, Worthy State Deputy!!!

This is truly a challenging time for us all!! These times will either leave us shuttered and without a future like our many restaurants forced to close their doors, or they will find us invigorated and inspired, having helped our parishes and communities weather the biggest storm in recent memory.

We are called to choose our reality, and reject a future where our Order and our Church are diminished or disappear. We are Knights of Columbus, Knights of Charity, Knights of Unity and Knights of Fraternity. An invitation

to our order is an invitation to BE someone special, a man living for others, making a sincere gift of our lives to help people we do not even know. So too, our calling as Knights and leaders of Knights is a call to service. We act because who we are compels us to action.

Let's leave that upper room of fear and despair and preach the gospel with our lives, confident in the love of Jesus Christ and the care and protection of His mother – our mother Mary, to whom our Order and our Country are entrusted.

We all know the many things we cannot do, the people we are not seeing, the places we are not going, the programs we are Not doing. But who can see the things we CAN do but are not yet doing?

We can call our brother Knights and encourage them. We can treat them like they brothers they are and offer to help them. We can ask them to stand with us in finding new ways of serving. God knows our world needs us. God knows He is calling us.  
Are we going to answer that call?

Let's continue to meet, whether electronically using a tool like zoom or in parking lots and neighborhood parks. Let us organize safe activities and try new programs. Let us communicate, share notes and ask each other for help. Let us prove the strength of Unity together. None of us is alone or will ever be alone if his 42,000 brothers will pull that oar with him, help him when he stumbles or encourage him when things just seem impossible.

Encourage your priests. They need us. We need them. If there was ever a time to help your pastor, now is the hour. Help them see that encouraging men to join the Knights is encouraging them and their families to be faithful Catholics. Now is not the time to give up on Delta drives – it is the time to get behind them to help reach the faithful, encourage them not to despair and join us in finding what service is possible!!

Delta drives simply reach out to the parish – the public – and invite men and families to join us. They generate prospects by encouraging men to strengthen their servant's heart as Knights. Any intentional activity that uses published invitations before and after, includes a compelling message of invitation and allows us to collect the contact information from those interested is a Delta drive. Wear gloves if you need to. Wear masks

indoors and outside. Be safe but don't give up before you make the attempt.

Be a light in the darkness. Be a Knight. Invite others to also. Follow up with every interested man and go out for coffee, attend a fraternal benefit seminar or coats for kids distribution. Show him who you are and what it is to be a Knight. We can only fail if we fail to make the attempt.

It is time we embraced our goals and planned to accomplish them together!! The pandemic forces us to adapt – to be more intentional and methodical about finding and inviting prospects. Church directories and council generated prospect lists can be split up for teams who then compete to see who can invite the most members. These teams reach out and call prospects to tell them they have been selected as men who have what it takes to be a Knight, then invites them to coffee or lunch to discuss it. Then 2 or three men meet with the prospect and talk it over, hopefully resulting in new members joining online.

Use online membership to your advantage. Prospects can join on line for 50% off the first year with discount code MNKOFC. We are holding degrees every week on zoom and supreme has a schedule of degrees as well, all of which can be found on our State website MNKnights.org.

Finally, brothers and sisters – we are in an election year. Please do whatever you must to ensure your vote is counted. Vote your conscience, whether Democrat or Republican, but vote. Every citizen should consider it their honor and sacred duty to cast his or her ballot. We must honor the sacrifices made by so many of our fathers and brothers, so that our freedom may live on.

God Bless you, brothers! For the greater glory of God!

Thank you, Patrick ... inspiring words indeed!

Let us not forget in all things, that we are “Founded in Faith” ... our faith is our foundation, and we can accomplish nothing without the help of the Holy Spirit, so whatever you do, do it with faith and do it prayerfully.

We have added a page to the state website to help provide the opportunity for prayer for our brothers and sisters. If a Brother Knight or his family need our prayers, or you know of someone in need of prayer, send us a request

using the Contact feature, and we will add your request to the page. This can be found under [Knightly Prayers](#) in the Home menu.

At the start of the year, State Chaplains Fr. Gabriel and Fr. Marty joined me in encouraging you to run programs from the Faith in Action model, especially those from the Faith and the Family categories, that draw us closer to God in a meaningful and tangible way. As we said at the time, most of these programs can be run within the local and state guidelines for health and safety, and this is still true. If you didn't see this video, it is still available on the state website ... look under the Home menu and select Quarterly Updates, and you can find a link to the [video](#).

We could not consider this update complete without mention of the joyous and wonderful event occurring on October 31st. I refer of course to the Beatification of our founder Fr. Michael J. McGivney. This will be televised live on EWTN and I urge you to watch this and perhaps arrange some kind of celebratory council event to commemorate this occasion. Any new councils formed during October will receive a special version "Fr. McGivney" charter for their council. Let me also urge you to join the Fr. McGivney guild ... membership is free, the spiritual benefits are priceless! Details on the state website.

As you may have heard me say, this pandemic is a dream come true for the forces of evil ... and our worst nightmare that we never thought would happen, for us. Make no mistake, we are in a battle ... the battle of our lives, a battle for our souls ... and we Knights are in the front lines. We can only hope to hold the line if we can enlist new young members to fight alongside us, otherwise we will be lost!

We cannot allow that to happen!

Vivat Jesus!

*Help on holding meetings and programs under the Resources>Training menu and on KofC.org*

*Information about Fr. McGivney under the About menu*

*Knightly Prayers under the Home menu*

*Into the Breach under Programs>Faith Programs or click on the scrolling banner*