

Good of the Order Committee Report

To: The Officers and Members of the 115th Annual Meeting of the Louisiana State Council held on Go-To-Meeting Virtual Meeting.

Your committee on the Good of the Order met on Saturday, April 25 at 11:30am, and fully discussed at length the following activity areas. After due deliberation, the committee urges all council, district and state leaders to see that the following recommendations are fully implemented.

The committee would also ask that at future conventions, each member of the Good of the Order Committee, as appointed, be forwarded a copy of the previous year's Good of the Order report to prepare committee members as to what is to be discussed.

FIRST AND FOREMOST WE ARE CATHOLIC

The committee recommends the recitation of the Serran Prayer for Vocations, or another appropriate vocations prayer, at each council meeting and that the council chaplain should encourage the recitation of this prayer at all Masses. The committee further recommends that a prayer be offered at each council meeting for the beatification of our founder Father Michael J. McGivney. The council chaplain should be encouraged to be actively involved in council activities. In the absence of the council Chaplain, a deacon shall be asked to bring the message of our faith. The committee urges all councils to participate in the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP). Each council should consider sponsoring a speaker on vocations to the various parochial schools. Recognizing that some clergy may still be apprehensive to Knights of Columbus involvement, the committee recommends each council strongly consider implementation of the Parish Round Table Program and thus show evidence of our belief that VOCATIONS ARE OUR BUSINESS and that each Grand Knight has a dialogue with each Pastor of churches in his council area. Each council should consider having a speaker on evangelization, to encourage each member to promote the Catholic faith to non-Catholics, and to help fallen-away Catholics to become again active in the Church. One way this can be done effectively is by supporting evangelization through the RCIA program. We encourage the State Council to explore the program known as "Calling All Fifth Graders".

PRO-LIFE

The committee recommends increased efforts from the state level to provide more timely and specific information to the council level about upcoming activities such as Pro-Life Rallies. The committee encourages area, district and local Right to Life Masses and demonstrations. It is also recommended that continued active exposure to the public by each council be pursued. (eg. Knights of Columbus prolife plaque in each church parish, small statuary, prolife rose garden, and weekly prolife rosary.) The committee encourages each council to construct a monument to the unborn in a prominent place, preferably on the church grounds and those that have one to maintain and have programs to bring Pro-Life to parishioners attention. We urge right-to-life education, to fight abortion, and specific projects, such as enforcement by members and Grand Knights of letter writing campaigns from council members to state and federal governing bodies. We also urge the use of the vast amount of material that is available about the AIDS Virus, and promoting abstinence and chastity as a way of decreasing the threat of AIDS as well as decreasing abortions and moral decay.

The committee also recommends that councils become involved with local Right-To-Life organizations by way of participating in their events and getting on their mailing lists. The committee urges use of material available to them from the Supreme Council pertaining to Pro-Life. The committee also urges members to fight pornography at the council, family and school levels. The committee further recommends that the State Council provide updated information of current Federal and State legislation on Pro-Life and Euthanasia.

The Committee recommends each council appoints a Pro-Life Chairman or Chair-Couple; supports a youth Pro-Life Retreat as sponsored by the State Council; and offer a Pro-Life prayer at business meetings.

BISHOP GRECO MEMORIAL FUND

The committee recommends that all councils use the memorial cards to memorialize deceased council members. The card can be filled in with the name of the deceased and the name of the donating council. The card is mailed to the member's family. A suggested donation of \$25.00, however any amount is accepted, and sent to the Greco Foundation for the trust fund.

The committee also recommends that councils make a voluntary contribution of \$1.00 per member, on annual basis, to the Bishop Greco Memorial Fund. (The Bishop Greco Memorial Fund can be extended to all Knights and their family members as well as to members of the general public. It is not necessary that one be Catholic to receive Bishop Greco Memorial fund money.)

RETREATS

The committee recommends that each council have a guest speaker with Catholic Retreats as the subject, and schedule retreats for its members, individual as well as couples, encouraging husband and wife retreats

whenever offered.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

The committee recommends continual family involvement in council activities. The committee also recommends each council have a monthly Family Communion. The committee strongly recommends that widows of deceased council members be included and recognized in every aspect of the council's life and activity. This committee further recommends that the council members make themselves available to provide assistance to widows and receive a copy of the council news letter and provide transportation if needed.

YOUTH EXPANSION PROGRAM (Y.E.P.)

The committee urges each council to actively support the Youth Expansion Program by annually exceeding it's YEP quota, and by supporting in Catholic youth organizations / activities. The committee recommends that all members in each council be asked to make a personal contribution to our Youth Expansion Program and councils should not depend on fund-raisers only. Each council should consider either making it a part of the dues or adding to their billing a \$10.00 voluntary contribution by each member. The committee recommends that all councils participate in the CYLA Program and that efforts be made to properly recognize the applicants and winners on the council level.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE-HEALTH SERVICES

The committee recommends each council sponsor an educational program on substance abuse by the law enforcement agencies to local junior and senior high schools. The committee urges all Knights to recognize local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. The committee further recommends that councils establish blood donation drives, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training programs and community blood pressure surveys.

FRATERNAL MEMBERSHIP-NEW COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT

The committee wishes to compliment the former first degree and major degree teams in the Louisiana Jurisdiction for their excellent exemplifications which have acted as catalysts in encouraging all councils to obtain new, active members. The committee wishes to remind all members that it is our Supreme Council's desire that we have a KC presence in every church parish and that we should aid all efforts to form a new council or a Parish Round Table. It is also recommended that all members proposing new members into our Order assume responsibility for insuring the first-degree member receives his major degree as soon as possible, and remains an active member. Also, we would like to thank all councils that have sponsored a first degree team in the past and we strongly recommend that every council make an attempt to establish a new team to conduct the new exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity, and that all ceremonies be performed with the proper dignity. The committee recom-mends that every council make an effort to bring in new members, but that no less effort be expend-ed to retain the members they now have. Council leaders and members should promote patriotism and encourage members of the third degree to join the fourth degree. Councils should make an effort to support a Columbian Squires Circle which can be a future source of membership and Ladies Auxilia-ry. The committee recommends the promoting of young members and make officers and active members promote young ideas. "Turn over the power". Make the KC's a place for young and old to blend and provide babysitters whenever possible. The committee also recommends that all councils send out bulletins monthly or quarterly, and that copies of the bulletin or newsletter be sent to five councils in the state, on a random basis, for the purpose of spreading and stimulating new ideas. The committee recommends that each council explore the new E-Membership program that is being im-plemented by Supreme Council.

INSURANCE

In view of our Founder Father Michael J. McGivney's purpose to form a Fraternal Benefit Society so that the widows and children of members in the group when the member dies would not find themselves in dire financial straights, Knights of Columbus Insurance was instituted. As the insurance program not only provides this coverage but also helps to finance many of the programs of the Knights of Columbus, we encourage all members to become insurance members, especially State and Council leaders. The committee recommends that all councils have adequate liability insurance as recommended by Supreme.

PROTOCOL

The committee recommends that members of the clergy and Knights of Columbus State Family and officers be properly recognized as to their titles or positions at all Knights of Columbus meetings and functions. Also, we remind members of all the important aspects of protocol as explained in the protocol booklet. The committee also recommends that the State Officers reinstate the policy of visiting subordinate councils and protocol be strictly adhered to.

SERVICE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CITIZENS

The Louisiana Knights of Columbus are to be complimented for the tremendous support of the annual statewide fund-raising program benefiting the learning impaired. Each council is called upon to continue this important work and to utilize to the fullest the involvement of families and Ladies Auxiliaries in the fund raising

campaign. The committee recommends that councils use publicity to promote the Knight of Columbus donations by secular and religious newspapers. It is recommended that councils become more involved with activities of the learning impaired citizens at the local level and present the funds to them in a personal manner. The committee also urges councils to actively support the Special Olympics Program, as well as St. Mary's Training Facility in Alexandria.

SUPPORT OF THE ELDERLY AND INFIRMED

The committee urges each council to become actively involved in providing support for the elderly and infirmed citizens of our communities through such activities as weekly or monthly bingos at the retirement or health care facility, also Christmas-Thanksgiving Dinners, sponsoring Masses and communion services at the facility or just plain visitations. The committee also recommends that councils try to promote these programs at all times of the year, not only holidays and special occasions.

SUPPORT OF FOODBANKS AND FEEDING OF THOSE IN NEED

Many people in our communities and across the state and nation struggle through hardships such as pandemics, natural disasters and economic downturn to provide food and other necessities for their families. All councils are therefore encouraged to provide both support and outreach to Catholic charities such as Cross Catholic Outreach, the Knights of Columbus Food for Families, and local foodbanks to promote ongoing food distribution. Councils are also encouraged to donate regularly to both council and state relief funds to assure that funds exist when emergencies arise.

CONCLUSION

The committee urges all councils to implement to the fullest extent, the foregoing recommendations. In order to obtain the fullest implementation of these recommendations, the committee urges the State Deputy to insure that all councils receive and display a copy of this report, and that a summary of this report be published in the June issue of the LOUISIANA KNIGHT. As a chairman of the Good of the Order committee, I would like to thank all committee members for their attendance, input, and participation at our meeting Saturday morning. I would also like to thank the State Deputy for the privilege of serving on this committee.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Jacob Hesselschwardt
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Council 4873, Chairman

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