



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

LOUISIANA STATE COUNCIL

March 12, 2020

Dear Brother Knights:

The Louisiana State Council is monitoring the coronavirus situation and its impact on the Order and our jurisdiction. Since the virus is spread by personal contact, containment efforts stress social distancing by restricting travel, meetings and other gatherings. Accordingly, both the Supreme Council and Louisiana State Council most strongly recommend the following actions to protect brother Knights and others:

- Cancel all personal contact meetings, including business meetings, until further notice.
- Cancel all planned events, where people would gather, until further notice.
- Cancel all travel for Knights of Columbus business until further notice.

Enclosed herein is the letter from the Supreme Knight, which includes suggestions for you to continue council and assembly operations without face to face contact. The State Council strongly recommends the council and assemblies follow the same practices and guidance.

The Louisiana State Council met to discuss this matter, and the State Council activities will be guided by the Supreme Knight's strong recommendations. Safety of our members, their families and the community are our top priority, and the State Council will not compromise that priority.

Accordingly, the State Council has taken the following immediate actions:

- **State Free Throw Contest:** Postponed to a date yet to be determined. Please advise all Diocesan winners of the Free Throw contests that the State Competition will not be held on Saturday, March 14.
- **Diocesan Meetings:** Cancelled. The Diocesan Meetings and Exemplifications scheduled in March will not be conducted in-person as originally planned. The State Council is looking into the option of using Go-To-Meeting video conferencing to hold the Diocesan Meetings online at the same date and time as originally scheduled.
- **Formation and Knighthood Degrees:** Cancelled. Previously scheduled Major Degrees are cancelled until further notice.

- **Exemplifications of Charity, Unity and Fraternity:** The new Exemplification can continue to be conducted after Mass, if allowed by the Parish, as there will be no additional exposure or risk other than already experienced during Mass. Furthermore, the new Exemplification can be conducted with the video option in homes or via the internet in Go-To-Meeting capabilities. State Ceremonial Chairman Bill Marcantel and the State Council is working on an option to hold exemplifications using Go-To-Meetings video conference. We must continue to recruit new Members. Questions should be directed to Bill Marcantel by phone at (337) 526-8472 or by email to JosephWMarcantel@gmail.com.
- **Other State Events and Activities:** Decisions on other State events and activities are pending until further notice.
- **Louisiana State Council Coronavirus Response Team.** We have established a Response Team that will meet on a weekly basis to review issues associated with the coronavirus. The Diocesan Administrators will be the contact for this Team in each Diocese. Communication to/from the State Council will be distributed via this network on issues concerning the coronavirus.

As Fraternal Leaders, we need to keep informed of the status of the Coronavirus by monitoring the Center for Disease Control and World Health Organization websites. Additionally, the Louisiana Department of Health (ldh.la.gov) website can keep you updated on local health issues in Louisiana.

The situation and effects of coronavirus are real and serious. As Fraternal Leaders, we need watch out for the safety and well-being of our members, their families and the community. Be vigilant throughout this pandemic, stay informed, practice good personal hygiene, and stay in communication with your Brother Knights.

As more information from Supreme Council is received, the State Council communicate that information to you.

Please share this correspondence will all council and assembly officers and members.

As always, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong. Your every act should be done with love and charity.

Vivat Jesus!

*Rennan J. Duffour*

Rennan J. Duffour  
State Deputy

Enclosure