

Report of State Ceremonial Activities

The state of ceremonial activities in the District of Columbia is slow, but steady, amid the coronavirus pandemic. With the return to regular activities on the horizon, the future of the Order and its welcoming new members as well as educating established members is bright.

Most of this fraternal year's activities have been held virtually including our ceremonials. With new meeting guidelines, virtual installations, and virtual degrees - we have been able to accomplish the good works of the Order and bring Blessed Michael McGivney's vision to life.

The State Council has been able to host two Exemplifications of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity at the St. John Paul II National Shrine - one of which was live-streamed. Councils are encouraged to host their own degree exemplifications following Mass once the restrictions in the Archdiocese and city begin to be lifted.

As a reminder to all of our Brother Knights, the Order's Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity allows the Order to publicly welcome Knights into the Order and immediately bring them into the 3rd Degree before their family members and fellow parishioners. This focus on faith, family, and community are completely consistent with our Order's teachings of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity which are well-exemplified in this degree. This is the future of our Order for so many men and their families, while also providing a public opportunity to show our faith and service in our parishes - encouraging more men and families to join us by the very act of hosting the exemplification. This new public degree may - and is encouraged to - be hosted and held by any Council in the Order in good standing.

As was noted in my last report, with the decentralization of our ceremonials, the position of State Director of Ceremonials should change with the new needs of the Order and of its Councils. My suggestions for the future include:

- **Training for Ceremonials** – The State Council is in need of annual training programs for Officers and Brother Knights on the basics of our foundational ceremonies – namely the Council Meeting and the Combined Exemplification of our Degrees. As we continue to grow our Order with new Councils and rebuild and rehabilitate older Councils we must recognize that in these circumstances there is little or no institutional knowledge from which to draw. As well as being a great refresher course for all officers, this will greatly help with uniformity of excellence in the KofC experience for all of our Brothers.

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- **Ceremonial Materials** - The State Council and Subordinate Councils should work to develop their own Ceremonial Kits for use in the public ceremonies of the Order. Fortunately the costs are very low - bringing it into affordability for Councils of all sizes.
- **Retirement of old Ceremonial Kits** - The State Council will gladly accept any old ceremonial items wishing to be retired by a Council. If your Council has old robes and odds-and-ends of old Ceremonial Kits - the State Council will gladly accept them and take care of them for special use by our College Councils for their degrees.
- **Protocol** - With fewer things to manage with a streamlined ceremonial, it is my belief that the State Director of Ceremonials should be training and serving as a resource and director of protocol (where appropriate) for the State Council.

I encourage you all here assembled, albeit virtually, to help us spread the vision of our Founder, Blessed Michael J. McGivney, by exemplifying the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity to those men who you would one day call Brother Knights! Help us exemplify our degrees in EVERY parish in the District of Columbia in 2021 and make a lasting impact in the lives of your Brothers and in the life of our Order!

Fraternally Yours,

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State Director of Ceremonials
District of Columbia State Council