

Worthy Sirs and Brothers All,

Today our country faces a situation that we have not seen since Father McGivney founded our Order. The potential for illness and death from the Coronavirus is unlike any of the previous health crises like H1N1 or Ebola. Our Supreme Knight has strongly recommended that we take 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.

The Supreme Council has suggested several ways to continue council operations without face to face contact. Here are some suggestions:

- o Conduct meetings by conference call, Skype, Google Groups or other methods.
- o Use a webinar service for large meetings like monthly business meetings.
- o Allow member votes by email or text to approve bills and candidate admissions.
- o Use the email feature of Officers Online for member communications.
- o Set up a call tree to contact members and ascertain their wellbeing.
- o Conduct degree ceremonies in homes using the combined Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity video or the First Degree video.
- o Use applications like "Go fund me" to digitally raise funds for causes.

Therefore, based on the suggestion of the Worthy Supreme Knight and with the advise and consent of the Chair Officers, the State Exec and the Worthy District Master, I direct that all Virginia Councils and Assemblies do the following:

- Cancel all personal contact meetings, including business meetings, until further notice.
- Cancel all planned events, where people would gather, until further notice.

The State Council will continue to monitor and assess the situation and will, on 1 April 2020, inform all of you of our direction to either continue the ban on personal contact meetings or, if the situation has improved, remove the ban.

As of this writing, the Biennial Meeting of the Fourth Degree, the April 18th Fourth Degree Exemplification and the State Council's Annual Meeting have NOT been cancelled. The Worthy Master intends to hold the

Biennial Meeting electronically. He will share more details with you on this as the plans are completed.

Lastly, If you are sick, stay home. If you are in one of the high risk categories, avoid large gatherings. But, be men of faith, men of action, men of charity, but most of all, be leaders in each of your communities and Parishes. This is a time that we, as men, must rise-up and step forward leading our families away from fear and towards faith. Be not afraid, instead be strong. Do wellness checks on the elderly persons in your communities, Parishes and Councils. Encourage Brothers in your Councils to help in supplying food pantries with those items flying off the shelves at our stores. People have purchased tons of hand sanitizer, toilet paper (why?) and bottled water. But these are just the items those on the periphery of society, those we help at our Parish food pantries, need and need now. Remember that Charity is at the heart of our fraternal work and our faith. Let Your Light Shine!

**Fraternally,**

**Bob Szerszynski**  
State Deputy

**State Council of Virginia**

