

STATE OF THE JURISDICTION REPORT BY STATE DEPUTY PATRICK L. KELLEY
As of 5/01/2020

My Dear Brother Knights,

Welcome to the 117th and first Virtual Convention of the Washington State Council.

We live in interesting times to say the least. While the COVID-19 Pandemic has certainly changed the way we do business our intent and principles remain the same. Many of the activities that we usually engage in all year long are based on physical activities like breakfasts, dinners, picnics, Parish gatherings and the like, but all of these have been suspended to better slow the spread of this disease and well we should. It clearly is in our own personal best interest to support these restrictions as most of us, by age and perhaps physical condition, are already in the “most vulnerable” category. But, what of those that depend on our activities to support them. Have we abandoned them to save ourselves? No, we have not. Our Programs are not only “what we do” they are how non-members know us. Continuing to shepherd all the K of C Supreme and local Programs has been our extraordinary General Programs director, Dr. Scott Hulse our State Warden. Thank You, Scott.

Thanks to Chairman Ron DeGroot, our Life Programs Director, seven Ultrasound machines have already been placed this year and possible another one after that as well. Support continues to go to groups that help People with Disabilities through funds generated by the Tootsie Roll program. Our charitable council grants from the Tootsie Roll program continue to be sent to the qualifying “people with disabilities” groups without disruption. This is truly an extraordinary effort by not only the councils involved but also our Chairman Scott Charleboix who also continues to serve as a DD at the same time. We surpassed raising \$1 Million Dollars through this council as of January 17 this year. Four Councils from one District and one from a neighboring District combined their efforts and money to rent busses to take Parish Right to Life supporters to the Olympia March for Life this year.

Community efforts include Escape to peace, a Ministry that helps fight Human Trafficking and another program that brings the Gospel to Prisoners in Washington Jails. Coats for Kids program is being revamped by Supreme so we expect greater participation in the coming year. And many other wonderful programs and events have already taken place as well which I hope and trust will be reported individually to the State Programs Director on an Award application for this year. Remember, what we do, our programs, are how they world know us. It is our actions that speak louder than our words that will continue to draw people to our church and our Order as well.

Parish support has been offered and where physically possible delivered. Food banks support both financially and physically when possible have continued as have our Medical equipment loan programs at given locations, largely by KC Help and some small individual council programs. These are crucial to the support of our communities.

Faith In Action programs have seen an increase in Spiritual Reflection, RSVP, Family Prayer, and Into the Breach programs.

This is proof that despite the current conditions, we as an order have not closed our doors to those in need. We all know that giving is a reward in itself not the challenge. We often tend to think we need be the fire-hose of activity to show the communities around us that we exist and do all that we claim, but in realty our best and continued strategy is to be the sprinkler instead. You know, a fire-hose has a lot of pressure and volume while it is in use, but it does stop and afterwards we often see that a goodly portion of what we intended to help was washed away instead. Better we should continue to be the

ongoing trickle of water that soaks the ground with help that is always there rather than just make a splash and then disappear when still needed.

Our Order remains strong and our members, always the servants and never the masters, will continue to be here as we have for over 138 years. Our value and strength is in the long term efforts and the continuance of support for our Church and Communities. Our unwavering support and belief in our Faith and our clergy, who lead us, underpins all that we are and all that we do.

As we all grew up, how often when we failed at something do we hear from others: “well, you didn’t “want to” bad enough or else you would have succeeded. So, I ask you today, how big are your “want to”? Do you really want your Council to continue after you can no longer do all the things that it takes to keep a successful Council going? Do you really “want to” see your Parish grow and from that growth see your Council grow as well? Do you really “want to” find ways to support your Council, your Parish and your Pastor now that the obvious ways are closed to us?

The answer to this question and all the others lies within your own ability to truly achieve what you “want to” by putting your best foot forward and doing all that you can. As long as you put forth the best effort you can, then God will do the rest. He has purposed all of us to support and build his church here on Earth or we would not be doing the things we are today. Let God’s purpose for your life shine through today. Pray and he will give you the ideas you seek.

Stay in faith and we will come out stronger and larger than we were before we ever heard of a virus that kills without reason.

We are the face of Jesus in our world today and that should never change. Let us continue to do all the things we do best. Touch base with your brothers and families. Check to see that they are ok or offer them the assistance they need, or just chat. Be the light that shines in our Parishes in the dark times and above all find ways to support our Priests and Religious in this time of need.

Lastly, let us not forget the need for new members to keep our Jurisdiction strong and helping all the less fortunate we can well into the future. I truly pray that everyone will offer the opportunity for all good Catholic men over the age of 18 to join us in God’s service.

Respectfully,

Patrick L. Kelley
State Deputy