



**Knights of Columbus
New Jersey State Council
Vincent Tavormina
State Deputy**



Worthy Grand Knights and Brothers,

I wanted to reach out to you to: a) offer my prayers and support to you and your Council; and b) to update you on some information from Supreme.

I was on a conference call last night with the State Deputies from the Atlantic Division, and I want to share with you some of what was discussed.

- The most important thing is to stay safe and follow the instructions given to us by local authorities and the State of New Jersey. The business of the Knights will still be here when this is all over.
- Please do not obsess over membership numbers. This is not to say that membership isn't important. It is. And, we certainly won't turn anyone away if they decide to join us in the next few weeks. But that should not be your focus. The first bullet point, above, should be. I am not going to be poring over membership numbers wondering why Council XXXX has not brought in any members.
- That being said, times like these are what define us as Knights. If you happen to be talking to someone who isn't a Knight, there's no harm in mentioning what your Council may be doing to help the elderly, or buying groceries for a neighbor, etc. That may just be the impetus for that person to join a great, helping organization.
- Supreme is developing a way that, during this period, candidates can take the combined Degree by webinar. More info as it becomes available.
- As I mentioned in Wednesday's email, we will be doing a virtual convention online. Between Supreme and our Convention Committee, we are working to put together the details.
- Attached is a PDF file containing some ideas on how to conduct your nomination and election of Council Officers.

Let me add that it is more important than ever to continuously check your email for correspondence from the State. Lacking the ability to meet, this is how we will get the word out.

It is also very important, as a leader of your Council to reassure your members. Check on them occasionally, especially the elderly, to make sure they have what they need and to let them know you are thinking of them. None of us has been through anything like this before, but we'll get through it, no matter how long it takes.

In closing, I hope we can take comfort in His Word:

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. "

- Isaiah 41:10-12

Vivat Jesus,

Vinnie Tavormina
State Deputy