



Office of the Bishop

DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

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Christmas 2020

To the Knights of Columbus of the Diocese of Little Rock,

***“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown”*** (Isaiah 9:1-2)

You and I have walked in darkness, trusting in the light of our faith, for most of 2020. The coronavirus has turned our lives upside down. For the first time in anyone’s memory we have had to suspend temporarily the celebration of the Eucharist for 7 weeks starting in March and have only been able to resume public worship under very restrictive conditions, including mandatory use of masks and physical distancing. And the same is true for the modifications we have had to make in your activities and service as members of the Knights of Columbus. Meetings cancelled or conducted via zoom, fund-raisers postponed or conducted virtually, and so on. I especially want to thank you for the ways that you have supported our pastors in implementing all the protocols that have to be observed in order to celebrate the Eucharist publicly in our parishes. In some places Knights have stepped forward to greet people as they enter the church, squirting disinfectant into their hands and reminding people to wear their masks. We have had virtually 100% mask compliance and the Knights have been a big help with this! But sadly, all of us know someone who has caught COVID elsewhere and become very ill and many of us know someone who has died. A vaccine is on the way, which fills us with hope, but it isn’t here yet, so we feel very vulnerable and continue to walk in darkness.

The same is true in general society. The recent political campaign has left deep scars in the fabric of our society. Black lives matter but our society does not act that way, producing glaring disparities in education, health care, employment and law enforcement which I addressed in a letter I wrote last July. Bad actors try to hijack legitimate peaceful demonstrations. In politics divisive rhetoric and personal attacks have replaced the respectful civil discourse necessary for a cohesive society, with the result that as a nation we no longer listen to each other and so now we live in a land of gloom. Nationwide abortion took over 600,000 lives last year! Our country refuses to welcome immigrants and refugees. We need a Savior! And indeed, we have one!

“For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests!” (Isaiah 9:5)

As Christmas approaches, I want to thank you for how selflessly you have continued your faithful service as Knights of Columbus—you are truly ambassadors of hope! And let me assure you that brighter days truly do lie ahead. In Jesus the reign of darkness has ended and the adversities we face are simply opportunities to take up our cross and follow him, and thus share also in his victory!

Sincerely in Christ,

+Anthony B. Taylor
Bishop of Little Rock