

March 2021 Council Newsletter – Insurance Article

This month marks one year under COVID-19 restrictions. I remember when the news of shutting our Supreme Office was announced and thinking this situation would last a couple of months and everything would soon return to “normal.” The reality is much different. Just over a year later and I am mostly working from my home office and I now believe it will become the “new normal” for many professions. At the beginning of the pandemic, I was concerned how I would be able to help my brother Knights and their families without meeting in person. Thankfully, we were quickly provided with a safe way to meet with members virtually using our computers and the internet. We were also provided with several new tools to ensure that our members and their families were continuously served at the highest quality.

Using these new tools, I am now more efficient. I no longer get stuck in Austin traffic and need to call or text my next appointment “I’m running late”. I am now able to conduct more meetings at your most convenient times. It’s probably less stress for you to simply sit down in front of your computer, click on a few buttons and we can have a confidential conversation about your financial needs, wants and desires. For both insurance applications and service issues I can quickly and accurately complete all the documents I might need online including signatures. That stated, I really miss the personal home meeting environment where we shared so many fantastic stories such as that particular photo or painting or what about that antique coffee cup or your home improvement project(s) or meeting your mom, dad or children. We shared so many unique, precious moments that I will never forget.

A **very different** year for everyone anywhere in this world, indeed. We missed much of the solemnity of Holy Week and Easter with many of us either social distancing at church or live-streaming Mass; by summer we were able to get outside as long as we didn’t get too close to other people. Vacations were pretty much out of the question with families doing a “stay-cation” instead. By fall we became proficient shopping in virtual stores and “curb service grocery pickup”. Most Knights Councils learned new ways sell pecans, bar-b-que meats, and conducting virtual business meetings. The virus also did not stop us doing good works such as collecting blood units, rallying for Life, picking up trash or running charity fundraisers. Our Faith remains strong and we participated in online rosaries, virtual prayer parties and online faith development webinars. Even a virtual Retreat! The “drive through” or “social distance” confessional may be revolutionary. We surely are Different, but I submit far from Defeated!

In the spring of 2020, Texas Knights also began a new way to provide financial education and planning for our parishes by hosting expert speakers at Fraternal Benefits Webinar Events. Membership recruiting and exemplifications moved to instantaneous, on demand and online lessons for the entire family. Our monthly council meeting formats were refreshed and hopefully a bit more up to date and relevant. Different for sure.

We’ve now come full circle into 2021. The vaccine is on the way. Some of you have already received it. Looks like there is fresh HOPE; but we still must be vigilant, still must protect each other. Still plan Friday Lenten Fish Dinners – **TO GO**. We will probably have Texas extreme summertime heat; but I pray we never experience a repeat, Texas winter storm. Ever! Well...maybe in another 100 years. Please Lord, please not on Fat Tuesday or Ash Wednesday next time. Seriously, these past twelve months provided me with a much deeper appreciation for the Knights of Columbus Organization! I am even more thankful to all of you. You can be sure you have an Insurance Agent that prays for your health and safety! Vivat Jesus.