



Stephen E. Bolton
State Deputy 2020-2021



Brothers All,

Thank you, Brother Knights, for taking a few minutes to read this year-end reflection and call to finish forward and Happy New Year!

The motto of the Marine Corps is the very worthy “Semper Fidelis,” which means “Always Faithful.” This motto fuels and directs their energies to be always faithful to each other, to the Corps, and to America. In his book, *The Way of the SEAL: Think Like an Elite Warrior to Lead and Succeed*, Mark Divine divulges the unwritten motto of the SEALs which is “Semper Gumby,” meaning “Always Flexible.” This motto, a reference to the rubber-toy comic hero who can bend and mold to fit any situation, suggests one reason why SEALs are known to operate in and adapt to the most chaotic scenarios— God bless them and all our women and men in uniform for what they do.

Why do I bring this up?

As we begin our New Year, allow me to turn back ‘just for a moment’ to reflect when I began my term as your State Deputy for our Columbian Year 2020-2021. Our country was getting knee deep into the pandemic scare, economic downturn, massive civil unrest etc., and people everywhere were looking for the adult in the room to stand up.

Despite the fact this was not the year anyone envisioned nor imagined; I could not have been more proud of the countless Knights who, just as our elite military forces, remained faithful and flexible adapting their mindsets and actions to leave no neighbor behind. They stood up and stepped into the breach with countless acts of charity and personal sacrifice.

Amid the storms, something happened that I ‘never’ thought would happen, “we were told that we could not participate in-person with our traditional Sunday Mass.

First, our deepest gratitude and respect go out to my predecessor and our Past State Deputy, Worthy Dave Abbott for leading us through the shock of that reality. He also adapted rapidly and led us to not waste time and instead to building up our domestic churches by participating in weekly Spiritual Communion Services at Home, to supporting our pastors who offer or need help setting up “virtual” masses, and much more...All the while, we prayed for the glorious day when we could return to normal worship where we could stand together in our churches and parishes.

We were there for our pastors, for others and...for one another.

In all these scenarios, we were regularly reminded the virtual Masses were not substitutes for participation in a traditional Sunday liturgy and Mass. As human beings we need our Catholic Community to help to nurture our beliefs in the Eucharist and in the teachings of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

That appropriate time is here and we need to remain faithful and look forward.

Whether 3, 6 or 9 months away, the doors of the Church will swing wide open again and we must prepare now. We must begin 2021 moving forward, embracing the next set of challenges.

Our Pastors and our Church, our Catholic Family, has always been there for us, and we owe it to our Church to be there for them now. As Knights of Columbus, we intend to lead the way in helping our pastors prepare for the great return to normal, the great return to the One True Faith, to Holy Mass, the Celebration of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Stay tuned over the upcoming weeks as we lay out the mission and plans to assist our pastors to receive their flocks more fully back home in the churches and parishes.

Prayers in the Pew Monthly

Speaking of family and moving forward, we begin our New Year by focusing on life and the beginning of life as we look forward to the annual January walks and marches for life. Please find and share **January 2021's edition of [Prayers in the Pew Monthly](#)**. You will discover the power of the Act of Contrition in our battle against sin and to save souls. The material will prepare us to celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord (Feast of the Three Kings), Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul and much more.

Take special note to:

- Recite the Act of Contrition
- Special Feature: Editorial Cartoon [‘at the Pearly Gates’](#).
- Implement the Featured Faith in Action Program of the Month, “Novena for Life”. *More announcements in the coming days.*
- Embrace the first of the year’s Spiritual Challenge from our California State Chaplain, Fr. John Neneman to learn and teach your children the Act of Contrition.

In closing my Brothers, know I am immensely grateful for all of you and count on my prayers for you, your families and your homes.

Please continue to be safe out there and remember that fear is useless. What we need is Faith. Be Bold!



Yours in Service,
Stephen E. Bolton
State Deputy 2020-2021

PS: Please send this message out to everyone including our council officers, council chaplains, and “all parishioners”.