Worthy Brother Knights,

As we approach the halfway point of the Columbian year, thank you for your continued dedication to our faith, our families, and the communities we serve. Your efforts bring our principles to life and make a meaningful difference throughout California.

With Veterans Day approaching, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Brother Knights and all who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Your service, courage, and sacrifice have helped protect the freedoms we cherish.

Through the leadership of Worthy Immediate Past State Deputy Ken Rose, the generosity of our members during the last Columbian year, and our partnership with the American Wheelchair Mission, we are working to provide transport chairs to Honor Flight organizations throughout California. We are contacting these organizations to determine their needs. If you know of an Honor Flight organization that could benefit from transport chairs, please let me know. Thank you to everyone who has helped make this effort possible.

Our **State Soccer Challenge will take place on November 21** at St. Patrick's School, 900 West Branch Street, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420. Registration begins at **8:30 a.m.**, and competition begins at **9:15 a.m.** For additional information, please contact Jeff Lambert at jeff_lambert79@hotmail.com.

Please join me in congratulating **Robert Farinelli and his family, from Council 8709 in Lodi, our October Family of the Month**. On behalf of our State Family and the entire California State Council, thank you for your example of faith and service. Brother Knights, please continue submitting nominations so we can recognize the outstanding families in our councils.

Looking ahead to December, councils should begin planning **Journey to the Inn, also known as Las Posadas**. This meaningful celebration recalls Mary and Joseph's search for lodging before the birth of Jesus and offers families an opportunity to reflect on faith, hospitality, and the true meaning of Christmas.

I encourage our English-speaking and Spanish-speaking councils to work together to bring this tradition to their parishes. Consider combining your celebration with our Campesino Program and inviting local farmworkers and their families to participate. For more information or assistance, please contact State Service Program Director Joseph Hill.

Our **first Program of the Month is the Campesino Program**. If your chapter has not yet arranged a distribution, now is the time to identify a location and begin coordinating. If you have already secured a location, please share those details with our chairman, George Arias, at kofcproud@gmail.com. Early communication will help us organize our efforts and reach more families.

Our **second Program of the Month highlights Helping Hands and Coats for Kids**. As temperatures drop, many children in our communities need warm winter clothing. This is an

opportunity for councils to work with local schools, parishes, and community organizations to identify children in need and provide assistance.

Councils can participate in Coats for Kids by purchasing coats through Knights Gear or obtaining new coats from other sources. Please keep records of your distribution and consult the applicable Columbian Award requirements when reporting your council's participation.

Our poster and essay contests are also underway. Please ensure that entries are submitted to the appropriate state chairmen by the December deadlines. These contests give young people an opportunity to share their faith, creativity, and ideas, and your encouragement can make a difference in their participation.

Please also remember the **Frank Nigro Intellectual Disabilities Drive**. Make sure your council has completed its participation form and submitted it to the Foundation. Your involvement helps support individuals with intellectual disabilities and the organizations that serve them.

Every program we conduct is an opportunity to improve someone's life. As well as a membership drive. Whether we are providing a coat, supporting a veteran, assisting a farmworker's family, or encouraging a young person, our service should reflect the charity and care at the heart of our Order.

That commitment also includes protecting those we serve. Please make **full Safe Environment compliance** a priority. Review your council's status, complete all required training and screening, and ensure that applicable requirements are met before conducting programs.

As Thanksgiving approaches, may we take time to thank God for His blessings, cherish our families, and remember those who need our prayers and support. **I wish you and your families a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.**

Thank you, Brother Knights, for all you do. May God bless you, your families, and the work of our Order.

Viva Jesús!

Joseph Hill
State Service Program Director