Good Morning

My name is Paul Kelsey as some of you know, I am a former Grand Knight and former Star District Deputy, so I have lived several of your lives, in a sense. My position this year is a new State Position, which was announced at the summer meeting entitled, “State Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation, FKA State Catechesis Director”.

It also gives me immense pleasure to share my time as well with Supreme Regional Growth Consultant Bill Chasse’. If you’ve ever received an email from Bill, at the bottom it states that “invite for the Church, the more we invite the stronger the church will be”.

And so, it is very fitting that we are sharing this time together.

I would like to thank the State Deputy and The State Chaplain for their words of wisdom last night, regarding the purpose of the Knights of Columbus and our true meaning as an organization. In doing so, I hope it will help all of you to better understand my position.

I would like to open my presentation with a prayer: Good and Gracious God, thank you for this opportunity to gather at this mid-winter meeting, for success and open hearts and minds we pray: Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever.

Amen

Before moving into the heart of my presentation, I would like to take a moment to reflect on Catechesis. As you know, we have heard from the State Deputy that among this membership of brothers, there are those who do not fully grasp what it means to know their faith. Those who do not understand the meaning of true presence, or with limited expectation that missing a Sunday mass of obligation is considered a mortal sin. In knowing the true meaning of your faith, you can ultimately understand the importance of it all.

This leads me to what I found this past November in which, I published a great series with a simplified explanation about the Eucharist and the true presence, entitled “Catechetical series of the Eucharist by Bishop David M O’Connell of the Diocese of Trenton New Jersey.

Now, if you all would, please take out your cell phone…. because I know you all have them and please go to the home page for Mikofc.org, click on the red button at the top of the page, click on statewide news and scroll down to the bottom of the page. Using the “next” button, locate the series on the Eucharist. Please bookmark this and listen to the five small audio series offered, giving the basis of Catechesis in which, I found to be well done and hope will benefit you all as well.

As you know, this group and brotherhood is not formed with one singular person, which is why the Evangelization and Faith Formation (EFF) was created. Joining myself in this position, I am joined by Greg Brunson, the current Faith Director and Benji Borelli General Agent.

In June of last year, the State Deputy while in New Haven, Connecticut had agreed to participate in a “pilot program” that *Supreme* was developing. Well, little did we know, we would fast forward….and we would have Michigan, and twenty other state jurisdictions asked to send representatives to New Heaven for training for this program this past October.

I ask you to keep in mind our training was 3 1/2 days but to meet the needs of this meeting, my presentation has been condensed to 15 to 30 minutes. More substance may be obtained from the team at any time at the end of this presentation, as well as the Diocesan meetings in January when presented to our Grand Knights. I can also personally email you information or answer questions that remain after this morning.

The training has become what is now known as EFF. This was designed to put specific emphasis on the concept of what is called the *Cor-Meeting*. The *Cor-meeting* is to provide opportunity for Catholic men to one (Encounter Christ), second (To strengthen their bonds of brotherhood) and thirdly (to share their faith, as brothers, and to bring souls to Jesus Christ). The *Cor-meeting*’s intention is to help all knights maintain the purpose of their knighthood and foundation of their Catholic faith at the forefront of their mind

At this time, I would like to share a video presentation on the perspectives of members of the pilot team. The *Cor Meeting* concept and PowerPoint presentation will also shed light for additional detail.

Father McGivney intended the council to be a means of forming and strengthening the faith of our members, so it impacts and directs all that they do, however the Cor meeting is not a program. Every program however that the council offers will benefit from the Cor Meeting, as knights are emboldened and enlivened through prayer, formation, and fraternity of the meeting to more intentionally engage in the function and goals of council programs and events. It helps turn service work into mission work, while still achieving the same corporal end, but with a focus on bringing souls to Christ.

The evangelization and Faith formation initiative is Central to McGivney’s vision for the order. You all have been given a newspaper article published by the Waterbury Evening Democrat dated Monday June 11, 1900, written 10 years after McGivney’s death. I ask you to truly read this article. I grant you; it is not easy to read as it was essentially written in 19th century grammar. However, the power point does highlight what you should take away.

This initiative is especially important in meeting member needs and recruiting new members and the future growth of our order.

This pilot program is a 3–5-year initiative. This initiative is optional, but we are extending an invitation for councils to be a part of this pilot. This program will start small and be rolled out slowly while we all learn along the way.

During the summer meeting, the Diocesan Chaplains present, wanted my role to talk about Catechesis, Eucharistic revival, *Into the breach* video/discussions, adoration, etc. This pilot initiative considers all that and more. A planned McGivney retreat is still under development.

I would like to stress 2 things:

1. The Cor Meeting is Optional, in fact many councils may already have in place the Cor -meeting Concept and have moved to small group discussions which is an important by product of the Cor Meeting.
2. Pastor approval especially if held at the parish. The pastor is primarily responsible for the formation of the souls of his parish and therefore should be consulted and involved: a great idea is to work with his evangelization team

Bottom line the Cor-meeting should contain 3 facets:

* Prayer
* Formation-priest assigned to work with the Supreme Evangelization team gave exhortation on the life of Fr. McGivney.
* Fraternity

\*\*\*\*explain how this was done in New Haven.

The meeting as best proposed at this time is usually at least 60 minutes and generally works best as a 3rd monthly meeting.

At the Diocesan Meetings in January further information will be given regarding Council set up specifics.

To promote the good works of our order we need to have a better understanding of our faith and what we believe, to identify human dignity as a foundation for moral life and to share the good news of the gospel concerning the fulfillment of God’s saving plan in the person of Jesus Christ. Liturgical education, formation in prayer and methods of prayer, education for community life and I trust with the Assistance of our State Chaplain and Diocesans Chaplains to better understand and evangelize moral formation.

“Thy Kingdom Come” - Jesus’ message from the very beginning was that of the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God was the subject of many of Jesus’ parables either stated as such or clearly implied. Do you believe that? I hope so because he #commands us to believe it. Jesus is calling individuals who do not go with the flow of this world, who step out of their comfort zones and in faith, do the work of God. And so, this morning let us close my portion with a story relayed by Vice President of Evangelization and formation Damian O’Conner. (Verbal and visual)

Vivat Jesus

Blessed Michael McGivney pray for us.