

## **TEXAS STATE COUNCIL 2026 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS**

### **1. Resolution in RE: DEDICATION OF THE CONVENTION TO HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV**

***BE IT KNOWN TO ALL MEN AND WOMEN*** the Knights of Columbus in Texas and the Texas State Council dedicate the 122nd annual convention in Dallas, Texas, to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, and

***WHEREAS***, His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, born Robert Francis Prevost on September 14, 1955, in Chicago, Illinois, is the pope and leader of the Roman Catholic Church; and

***WHEREAS***, Pope Leo XIV was elected to the papacy on May 8, 2025, succeeding Pope Francis and becoming the first American pope in history, a moment of great significance for the Church in the United States and throughout the Western Hemisphere; and

***WHEREAS***, as an Augustinian priest he began his missionary service in Peru in 1985, dedicating himself to the pastoral care of the faithful and to the building up of the Church in that land; and

***WHEREAS***, during his years in Peru he assumed growing responsibilities, serving as chancellor of the territorial prelature of Chulucanas, directing an Augustinian seminary in Trujillo, teaching canon law, and exercising ministry as parish priest, seminary prefect, and judicial vicar, thus uniting missionary zeal with the formation of future clergy and the administration of justice in the Church; and

***WHEREAS***, he was later entrusted with the leadership of the Diocese of Chiclayo, where he helped guide the local Church through times of political and ecclesial tension and contributed to investigations and reform efforts that sought truth, justice, and healing within the Church in Peru; and

***WHEREAS***, his demonstrated gifts for governance and service to the wider Church led to his election in 2001 as prior general of the Order of Saint Augustine, a role in which he served two terms and became known as an effective and fair administrator of a worldwide religious family; and

***WHEREAS***, he further assumed national responsibilities as second vice president and council member of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference, and then global responsibilities when he was called to Rome as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, assisting in the discernment and appointment of bishops throughout the world; and

**WHEREAS**, his service in Rome was recognized by his creation as a cardinal in 2023, and his long experience as missionary, religious superior, diocesan bishop, and curial prefect prepared him providentially for his election as pope; and

**WHEREAS**, as supreme pastor of the Church, Pope Leo XIV has articulated a vision that continues and deepens the evangelical priorities of his predecessor, especially in the areas of care for the poor, the integrity of creation, and the dignity of work and family life, drawing from his missionary experience and service in the Americas; and

**WHEREAS**, his election and early ministry as pope have inspired renewed hope among the faithful, especially in the New World, and call the Knights of Columbus to renewed zeal in charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism in communion with the Successor of Peter;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 2026 Texas State Council Knights of Columbus Convention is hereby dedicated in honor of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, in grateful recognition of his historic election as the first American pope, his decades of missionary service, and his increasing leadership in the governance of the universal Church; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Texas State Council and all subordinate councils be urged to pray regularly for Pope Leo XIV, to support his intentions, and to foster deeper fidelity to the Magisterium of the Church in all their works of charity and evangelization; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be transmitted to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV through appropriate ecclesiastical channels as a sign of the esteem, loyalty, and prayers of the Knights of Columbus of the State of Texas.

## **2. Resolution in RE: IN SUPPORT OF THE AID AND SUPPORT AFTER PREGNANCY (ASAP) RESOURCE PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Church are and have always been supportive of and dedicated to the sanctity of all human life from conception through natural death, and

**WHEREAS** the ASAP program was founded to coordinate and multiply efforts of the Knights of Columbus to support pregnant women, babies and mothers through support and service to pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes, and

**WHEREAS** pregnancy resource centers provide assistance to more than 2 million beneficiaries each year, and are in dire need of continuing financial and material support to continue their pro-life mission, and

**WHEREAS** support provided through ASAP consists of both financial support in the form

of direct donations, fund raising drives, and open houses, as well as material assistance including donations of baby items, clothes, and other items urgently needed by pregnancy resource and maternity aid facilities, and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council has instituted a matching program, supplementing every \$500 donation from a Council, Assembly, District, or Diocese, with an additional \$100 donation from Supreme Council to the same qualifying organization, and

**WHEREAS** last year, the Knights of Columbus collectively donated more than \$500 million through ASAP to support pregnancy resource and maternity centers worldwide, and

**WHEREAS** our First Lady, Margo Alonzo, has dedicated the Texas Ladies' fundraising program to the support of ASAP's mission during State Deputy Ron Alonzo's administration, and

**WHEREAS** the Texas Knights of Columbus are committed to leading the Order in support for pregnant women, mothers, and babies,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council Knights of Columbus, assembled in Dallas, Texas on April 24-26, 2026, hereby recognize the important work of the ASAP mission, honor all pregnant women, babies and mothers, and recommit to the support of all life from conception through natural death, and that this resolution be placed in the official minutes of the Convention.

Submitted: State Officers

### **3. Resolution in RE: PRAYERS FOR ALL PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS**

**WHEREAS** Christianity began over two-thousand years ago in the Middle East, with the early Christians even then suffering persecution and martyrdom for their beliefs, providing an enduring example of strength of faith spanning two millenniums and leading to countless Saints; and

**WHEREAS** Christians in the Middle East have been reduced to less than 1-2% of the population, fleeing their homes, abandoning their country to save their lives because they are Christians; and

**WHEREAS** Christians in China are facing an escalation of persecution solely based on their Christian faith, with forcible detentions including, Pastors, and Christians and their families; and

**WHEREAS** the 2025 World Watch List documented 50 countries where being a Christian or following Jesus is dangerous. Additionally, this worldwide persecution is estimated to affect

over 380 million people who “now experience high, very high, or extreme levels of persecution and discrimination—that’s 1 in 7 Christians worldwide;” and “3,944 Christians sexually assaulted, harassed, or forcibly married to non-Christians, 54,780 Christians beaten, threatened, or physically and mentally abused, 209,771 Christians forced to leave their homes, to go into hiding or exile, 4,744 Christians detained, arrested or sentenced for faith-related reasons, 28,367 attacks on Christian homes, shops and businesses, and 4,476 believers killed for their faith” according to Open Door researchers; and

**WHEREAS** the U.S. and international news media have attacked Christians and Catholics; and

**WHEREAS** many nations have either remained silent or refused to assist the refugees in the face of the unspeakable and brutal violence and persecution; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus established the Christian Refugee Relief Fund (now called Persecuted Christians Fund) in 2014, enabling aid to displaced Iraqi and Syrian Christians and other persecuted Christians;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Texas State Council recognizes and offers our prayers and support for Christians and their families being persecuted across the globe, for defending and living our Christian faith and the fundamental freedoms we stand for; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council wishes the very best of God’s continued and abundant blessings upon all persecuted Christians worldwide.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council and all subordinate Councils in Texas will continue to support our Supreme Knight and the Supreme Council’s efforts to provide moral and financial support for our displaced Christian brothers and sisters and pray for all the victims of the current persecution; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council calls upon the President of the United States to work with the Congress, State and local governments, and the leaders of other nations to find a compassionate solution that would allow legitimate victims of this current persecution to find safety and shelter in this country and others while still maintaining an effective deterrent from those who would seek to commit acts of violence and terror; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all the delegates attending the 144<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Submitted: State Officers

#### **4. Resolution in RE: APPRECIATION FOR OUR BISHOPS AND CLERGY**

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus, an organization of Catholic men founded by a priest,

has always held the priests of our Church in especially high regard and has always invited and welcomed all priests into our membership, and out of profound respect for their unique position and authority as representatives and leaders of the Church, has always held open our meetings and ceremonies to priests even if they were not members; and

**WHEREAS**, His Excellency Most Reverend Wm. Michael Mulvey, STL, DD, served as the eighth bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas, from his appointment by Pope Benedict XVI on January 18, 2010, and consecration on March 25, 2010, until the gracious acceptance of his resignation by Pope Leo XIV on December 1, 2025, a tenure of nearly sixteen years of dedicated pastoral leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, Bishop Mulvey was born on August 23, 1949, in Houston, Texas, the second of six children of Daniel H. Mulvey Jr. and Marjorie Jane Patterson Mulvey, and received his entire early formation at Catholic schools in Houston, including St. Theresa and St. Cecilia Schools and St. Thomas High School, before graduating from St. Edward's Catholic High School in Austin in 1967; and

**WHEREAS**, He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from St. Edward's University in Austin in 1971 and then pursued his priestly vocation in Rome, studying at the Pontifical North American College and earning a Bachelor of Sacred Theology from the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in 1974 and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in 1976; and

**WHEREAS**, Bishop Mulvey was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Austin on June 29, 1975, by Pope Paul VI in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City, one of 359 priests ordained by Pope Paul VI on that historic occasion, and thereafter served the faithful of Central Texas across multiple parishes and assignments; and

**WHEREAS**, His priestly service encompassed a wide array of roles reflecting his gifts for formation, education, and pastoral care, including associate pastor at parishes in Taylor and Austin, chaplain at Bishop Louis Reicher Catholic High School in Waco, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Waco, director of spiritual formation at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in College Station, and pastor of St. Helen Parish in Georgetown and

**WHEREAS**, Bishop Mulvey also devoted significant years to the international Focolare movement, serving as director of its Center for Spirituality for Diocesan Priests in Florence, Italy, and later as director of the Focolare Center in Hyde Park, New York, deepening his commitment to priestly spirituality and unity within the Church; and

**WHEREAS**, He served the Diocese of Austin in senior administrative roles as chancellor beginning in 2004 and as vicar general beginning in 2007, and in 2009 was elected diocesan administrator of the Diocese of Austin following the appointment of Bishop Gregory Aymond as Archbishop of New Orleans, demonstrating his capacity for governance and steady leadership in a time of transition; and

**WHEREAS**, As bishop of Corpus Christi for nearly sixteen years, Bishop Mulvey shepherded a diocese covering 10,951 square miles of South Texas and serving more than 209,000

Catholics, and upon the announcement of his retirement, himself welcomed his successor with the pastoral words that “Christ continues to guide and shepherd His Church” and that the transition was “a moment of grace for the Diocese of Corpus Christi;” and

**WHEREAS**, Bishop Mulvey’s service was marked not only by episcopal governance but by personal acts of charity and compassion, including his 2019 donation of peripheral stem cells to a woman with cancer through the Be the Match Registry, exemplifying the servant leadership he brought to every dimension of his vocation;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we honor and commend His Excellency Most Reverend Wm. Michael Mulvey, STL, DD, for his decades of exemplary priestly service and his nearly sixteen years of faithful episcopal leadership as the eighth bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we recognize Bishop Mulvey’s significant contributions to the Church and to the people of South Texas, and express our deep gratitude for his years of pastoral guidance, spiritual formation, and selfless service to the faithful of the Diocese of Corpus Christi and beyond.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Bishop Mulvey upon his retirement and elevation to Bishop Emeritus, and offer our prayers and best wishes for his peace, good health, and long life, with the gratitude of a diocese and a community he served so faithfully and so well.

**WHEREAS**, His Excellency Most Reverend Mario Alberto Avilés, C.O., was appointed by Pope Leo XIV and installed on January 28, 2026, as the ninth bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas, at a solemn installation Mass held at Most Precious Blood Church in Corpus Christi, attended by 25 bishops and over 100 priests from across the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Bishop Avilés was born on September 16, 1969, in Mexico City, Mexico, the son of Rafael and María Guadalupe, and was shaped in his faith from childhood by the values and devotion instilled by his parents, whom he publicly thanked at his installation Mass, saying, "Thank you, mom and dad, for everything you have given me, but above all for the gift of faith;" and

**WHEREAS**, He professed his vows to the Congregation of the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri in 1986 and pursued his priestly formation in Mexico City, later studying at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum in Rome, where he earned a Bachelor of Philosophy and a Bachelor of Sacred Theology in 1998, and subsequently earned a Master of Education Administration and Supervision in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, Bishop Avilés was ordained to the priesthood on July 21, 1998, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle in San Juan, Texas, by Bishop José Raúl Vera López for the Oratorians; and

**WHEREAS**, Following his ordination, Bishop Avilés served the faithful of the Rio Grande Valley for nearly two decades in parish ministry as parochial vicar of St. Jude Thaddeus Parish in Pharr and as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Hidalgo, Texas, from 2002 to 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, He also served in educational leadership as director of the Oratory Academy of St. Philip Neri and the Oratory Athenaeum for University Prep in Pharr, and served the broader Congregation of the Oratory as procurator general from 2012 to 2018, reflecting a deep commitment to formation, service, and governance and

**WHEREAS**, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Avilés as auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Brownsville on December 4, 2017, and he was consecrated a bishop on February 22, 2018, by Bishop Daniel E. Flores at Our Lady of San Juan, where he served with wisdom, pastoral care, and administrative skill for eight years; and

**WHEREAS**, The Diocese of Corpus Christi, covering more than 10,900 square miles of South Texas and serving a Catholic population of 209,726 faithful, welcomed Bishop Avilés as its new shepherd, with Bishop Avilés pledging to serve faithfully, foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life, uphold the dignity of every person, and walk together with the people of the diocese in fulfilling God's will;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we honor and commend His Excellency Most Reverend Mario Alberto Avilés, C.O., for his lifelong dedication to the Catholic faith, his years of exemplary priestly and episcopal ministry, and his appointment as the ninth bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Bishop Avilés on this new chapter in his ministry and express our gratitude to the Diocese of Brownsville for sharing with us so devoted and capable a shepherd.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we offer our prayers and best wishes to Bishop Avilés as he leads the Diocese of Corpus Christi, confident that he will serve as a faithful shepherd after the heart of Christ, guarding the deposit of faith, nurturing the vulnerable, fostering vocations, and leading the people of South Texas with wisdom, humility, and pastoral zeal.

**WHEREAS**, His Excellency Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia was appointed by Pope Leo XIV on July 2, 2025, and installed on September 18, 2025, as the sixth bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Austin, Texas, at a solemn two-hour bilingual Mass celebrated at St. William Catholic Church in Round Rock, Texas, before a congregation of 1,500 faithful, with Cardinal Christopher Pierre, the papal nuncio to the United States, and Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, retired archbishop of Galveston-Houston, serving as principal concelebrants; and

**WHEREAS**, Bishop Garcia was born on August 30, 1960, in Cameron, Texas, where he was raised as the eldest of four children, and is a son of Central Texas whose deep roots in this community reflect a lifelong bond with the people and the faith of the Diocese of Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, He pursued his priestly formation at Saint Mary's Seminary at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, earning a Bachelor of Arts in 1984 and a Master of Divinity in 1988, and was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Austin on May 28, 1988, at St. Monica Church in Cameron by Bishop John E. McCarthy; and

**WHEREAS**, Following his ordination, Bishop Garcia served as associate pastor at multiple Austin parishes, including St. Catherine of Siena, Cristo Rey, and St. Louis King of France, and

subsequently served in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston at St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Humble before returning to Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, Bishop Garcia served for nearly two decades as founding pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Austin, guiding the community through its formation and multiple building projects, including the construction of a permanent church and sanctuary, and during this same period earned a Master of Arts in Liturgical Studies from Saint John's School of Theology in Collegeville, Minnesota, in 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, Beyond parish ministry, Bishop Garcia served the Diocese of Austin in numerous leadership roles, including the vocation office, the priests' personnel board, the college of consultors, chair of the presbyteral council, and dean of the Austin North Deanery, and in 2014 was appointed vicar general and moderator of the curia by then-Bishop Joe S. Vásquez; and

**WHEREAS**, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Garcia the first auxiliary bishop of Austin on January 21, 2015, and he was ordained to the episcopate on March 3, 2015, at St. William Catholic Church in Round Rock, a historic role as the first auxiliary bishop in Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Garcia bishop of Monterey, California, on November 27, 2018, and he was installed there on January 29, 2019, where he served faithfully for six years and, in his own words, "learned what it means to shepherd a local church," gaining episcopal experience that has prepared him well for his return to Central Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, In his installation homily, Bishop Garcia called upon the faithful to recognize the hunger of the world for justice and mercy, to defend the dignity of every person created in the image of God, to reject racism and indifference toward the immigrant and the marginalized, and to make the Church a place of welcome, pledging to be a voice for the overlooked and to lead a diocese that spans 25 counties, more than 21,000 square miles, and serves over 678,000 Catholics across 127 parishes, missions, and university Catholic centers;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we honor and commend His Excellency Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia for his decades of dedicated priestly and episcopal ministry, his deep roots in the Diocese of Austin, and his appointment as the sixth bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Austin, Texas.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Bishop Garcia on his return home to Central Texas and express our gratitude to the Diocese of Monterey, California, for sharing with us so experienced and devoted a shepherd.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council Knights of Columbus in the 122<sup>nd</sup> Texas State Council convention duly assembled in Dallas, Texas, does hereby express our deepest gratitude to all Bishops and clergy, and particularly to his Excellency, the Most Reverend Wm. Michael Mulvey, Bishop of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, our State Chaplain, and the Reverend Father Tommy Chen, our Associate State Chaplain, along with each of the Arch-Bishops and Bishops for the Dioceses of Texas; the Council and Chapter Chaplains, the Assembly and District Friars of Texas, and all clergy who aid in making the spiritual aspect of our meetings and this convention more meaningful, our sincere appreciation and our thanks for their inspiration, cooperation, and counsel.

Submitted: State Officers

**5. Resolution in RE: MEMORIAM**

*WHEREAS* Almighty God has called home many of our Brother Knights since our last convention; and

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* that this convention pause during our Memorial Mass to join our Worthy State Chaplain, Bishop Wm. Michael Mulvey, and Associate State Chaplain Reverend Tommy Chen in prayer for the repose of the souls of our departed Brothers whose names are listed in the “In Memoriam” booklet, and of all Brother Knights who have passed away in prior years; and

*FURTHER RESOLVED* that each Grand Knight assume the responsibility of notifying the members of his Council and calling the Brothers together at the time of the death of a member of his Council to have a Mass offered for the repose of his soul; and

*FURTHER RESOLVED* that each Council holds appropriate Commemorative Exercises and Masses during November to pay tribute to their deceased Brothers.

Submitted: State Officers

**6. Resolution in RE: APPRECIATION OF HOST COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS**

*WHEREAS* Knights of Columbus members of the Dallas State Convention Committee are graciously serving as hosts to the 2026 State Convention of the 122<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Texas State Council Knights of Columbus; and

*WHEREAS* such Committee, as our host, has extended to us warm, sincere greetings and hospitality as well as consistent cooperation in all requirements, making the duties of the officers and staff easier to discharge;

*WHEREAS* our conventions would not be possible without the numerous contributions and assistance of countless volunteers, family, and friends of the Knights of Columbus;

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* that the Texas State Council Knights of Columbus hereby extends to the officers and members of the Dallas State Convention Committee and their wives our sincere appreciation and profound thanks for the cordial welcome, excellent workmanship, and fine hospitality shown to all members in attendance.

Submitted: State Officers

**7. Resolution in RE: CANONIZATION OF FATHER MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY**

*WHEREAS* since 1978 the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus has been pursuing the cause for the canonization of our founder, Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney; and

*WHEREAS* in 2008, Pope Benedict XVI approved a decree recognizing the heroic virtue of Father Michael J. McGivney, and whose declaration significantly advances his progress toward sainthood giving Father McGivney the distinction of “Venerable Servant of God”; and

*WHEREAS* the Church continues to study and investigate the life and work of our founder Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney, which also includes examining a possible miracle manifested through the intercession of Blessed Father McGivney; and

*WHEREAS* on January 10, 2006, the book titled Parish Priest Father Michael McGivney and American Catholicism, a biography of our founder, was published and made it to the New York Times Best Sellers list; and

*WHEREAS* to further promote devotion to Blessed Father McGivney, in 2013 the Texas State Council commissioned the first devotional icon of our beloved founder, the original of which hangs in the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven and copies of which are available at [www.tkofc.org](http://www.tkofc.org); and

*WHEREAS* the Father McGivney Guild has been established to help further the goal of saintly recognition for this worthy priest, and currently has a membership of over 150,000 individuals, and of these, 7,964 in Texas;

*WHEREAS* his Holiness Pope Francis recognized Father McGivney’s miracle and thereby Beatified Father McGivney, on October 31, 2020, raising Father McGivney to Blessed; and

*WHEREAS* additional possible miracles are being investigated in hopes of advancement of Father McGivney’s cause for canonization, and

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Texas State Council, Knights of Columbus in Convention duly assembled in Dallas, Texas, do hereby fully support the Supreme Council in this cause, and continue to pledge our ongoing prayers for the canonization of this great and noble priest and encourage Texas State Council members and all Catholics to join the Father McGivney Guild and pray for his canonization; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that the Texas State Council encourages local councils to maintain and make available copies of our founder’s biography for all Knights to read and share, and display a framed copy of the devotional icon in all council chambers and to give the icon as appreciation gifts to our bishops, pastors, chaplains and others in recognition of special service accomplishments; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 144<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Submitted: State Officers

**8. Resolution in RE: IN SUPPORT OF A CULTURE OF LIFE**

***WHEREAS*** the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus and the Texas State Council have demonstrated a deep, historic, and consistent opposition to all governmental actions and policies that promote abortion, embryonic stem cell research, human cloning, euthanasia, assisted suicide, and other offenses against life; and

***WHEREAS*** the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus and the Texas State Council have continued to reaffirm an uncompromising commitment to the sacred nature of God’s gift of Life, to Natural Law, and continued encouragement to members, Councils, and their families to continue advocating and promoting life—from natural birth to natural death—and to work within our communities to promote a Culture of Life that respects all human beings, particularly women and the unborn; and

***WHEREAS*** the Knights of Columbus have supported our bishops in opposition to capital punishment; and

***WHEREAS*** the Knights of Columbus believe that the life is given by God and should not be taken for any reason, that the gift of life and suffering can be a testament to faith and devotion to God’s plan, and that euthanasia is an unwarranted departure from God’s plan; and

***WHEREAS*** the Knights of Columbus’ Ultrasound Program allows the Knights to fund the purchase of Ultrasound machines to provide the parents and families of unborn children a window into the mother’s womb that allows them a clear glimpse of God’s gift of life; and

***WHEREAS*** the Order is committed to providing continuing support and encouragement to mothers and fathers who choose life through the Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) program; and

***WHEREAS*** the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Church strongly encourage adoption and believe that every child is wanted, loved, and deserving of a forever home; and

***WHEREAS*** the Texas State Council continues to support federal and state investigations into Planned Parenthood’s immoral and illegal activities and continues to favor the passage of any legislation that would ban the illegal and immoral use or sale of any human fetal body parts or tissue; and

***WHEREAS*** the Knights of Columbus has a long history of supporting public

demonstrations and rallies for the cause of life, particularly in Texas, specifically the Pro-Life Masses, Marches, Hikes-for-Life, and candlelight vigils.

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Texas State Council continue to support laws and other governmental actions prohibiting abortion, destructive embryonic stem cell research, euthanasia, and continues to call for legislation and regulations that require parental notification and consent for minors seeking an abortion, and will continue to seek the restoration of full legal protection for the lives of the unborn, the sick, persons with disabilities and the elderly; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that the Knights of Columbus will continue to uphold and advocate the traditional teaching of the Church concerning the death penalty, as explained in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and that we call upon the Supreme Convention to include opposition to the death penalty in any pro-life resolution it considers and passes; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that we pledge to continue the activities of the Knights of Columbus at all levels to inform, educate and motivate both our members and the public at large, including public officials who take a so-called “pro-choice” position, regarding the dignity and sanctity of human life at all stages and the evils of abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, the death penalty, and other offenses against life; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that we affirm our policy of not inviting to any Knights of Columbus event, persons, especially public officials or candidates for public office, who do not support legal protection of unborn children or who advocate the legalization of euthanasia, and not bestowing upon them honors or privileges of our Order of any type; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that we call upon the United States Congress to act swiftly and decisively in denying all public funding and support for Planned Parenthood, and submitting this legislation to the President of the United States upon whom we call to sign it into law; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that we commend and congratulate the Texas Legislature—and the Legislatures and Assemblies of the other States and Commonwealths of the United States—to continue investigating Planned Parenthood and that it acts swiftly and decisively in denying any and all public funding and support for Planned Parenthood and submitting this legislation to the Governor of Texas, upon whom we call to sign it into law; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that we staunchly oppose any and all efforts by the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, and any State Legislature, State regulatory agency, and any local, county, or municipal government that would force private or public employers, health plans, health institutions and providers to offer services that deprive individuals and institutions of their freedom of conscience by taking away the liberty to follow ethical, moral or religious beliefs; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that while recognizing the natural rights of parents and the dignity of children, we urge the United States and Texas governments to streamline social services

regulations and laws to facilitate adoption so that suitable families may welcome children who need stable parental care; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Knights of Columbus continue to support in every manner possible the Gabriel Project, Project Rachel, and other similar ministries which provides women and men facing crisis pregnancies and post-abortion problems love, physical care, counseling, spiritual, emotional, and financial support; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 144<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Submitted: State Officers

**9. Resolution in RE: CALLING FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION IN PRO-LIFE MARCHES FOR LIFE**

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus has a long history of supporting public demonstrations and rallies for the cause of life, particularly in Texas, specifically the Pro-Life Masses, Marches, Hikes-for-Life, and candlelight vigils; and

**WHEREAS** the March of Life that occurs in Washington D.C. unites, educates, and mobilizes pro-life people and organizations from across the United States; and

**WHEREAS** other states have held and conducted their own Marches for Life, particularly Texas, which holds its own March for Life in downtown Austin, Texas, where pro-life Texans march to the Texas State Capitol and demonstrate peacefully for the cause of life; and

**WHEREAS** since 2015, the officers of the Texas State Council of the Knights of Columbus, along with members and leaders of Texas Knights of Columbus councils, have marched in the Texas March for Life, alongside the Bishops, priests, and other pro-life supporters; and

**WHEREAS** local communities and parishes hold and conduct their own Marches for Life along with other pro-life groups and organizations.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council encourages Councils, members, and their families to continue to support and participate in the March for Life conducted in Washington D.C., the Texas March for Life conducted in Austin, Texas, and any other march for life or public demonstrations and rallies for the cause of life; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council and the Knights of Columbus call upon Councils to continue to work with their bishops, pastors, priests, and parish leaders in organizing, administering, and assisting with local Marches for Life conducted in their respective communities; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 144<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Submitted: State Officers

**10. Resolution in RE: SUPPORT FOR THE INSTITUTION OF TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE**

***WHEREAS*** marriage is a natural institution based on ancient human values that has been recognized as a unique and deeply rooted social, legal, and religious institution; and

***WHEREAS*** marriage reflects the natural biological complementarity between a man and a woman, which is woven into the social and religious fabric of every major culture and society; and

***WHEREAS*** marriage is a natural institution that predates the state, the state is therefore obligated to recognize, respect, and protect it; and

***WHEREAS*** Pope Francis, when speaking on the subject of marriage and the family, has said, “Children have a right to grow up in a family with a father and a mother capable of creating a suitable environment for the child’s development and emotional maturity;” and

***WHEREAS*** Pope Francis declared in his Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Amoris Laetitia “that only the exclusive and indissoluble union between a man and a woman has a plenary role to play in society as a stable commitment that bears fruit in new life;” and

***WHEREAS*** the Holy Father also stated that “Marriage is a precious sign, for ‘when a man and a woman celebrate the sacrament of marriage...he impresses in them his own features and the indelible character of his love;” and

***WHEREAS*** the Holy Father also stated in Amoris Laetitia that “By their witness as well as their words, families speak to others of Jesus. They pass on the faith; they arouse a desire for God, and they reflect the beauty of the Gospel and its way of life;” and

***WHEREAS*** the Texas State Council Knights of Columbus and the Knights of Columbus Councils in Texas and their members wish to support and stand in solidarity with our Supreme Council, our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, the United State Conference of Catholic Bishops, our Texas Bishops, and our clergy and religious regarding the fundamental and traditional recognition and definition of marriage as a holy and sacred union between one man and one woman, with that union being open to the creation of life.

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Texas State Council at its 122<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting in Dallas, Texas, that the Knights of Columbus stand firm in our conviction that the only

valid marriage that can exist is the exclusive and indissoluble union between a man and a woman; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call upon all federal, state, and local government officials to enact legislation that will protect the sanctity of marriage and the sanctity of a family committed to bringing new life into the world; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 144<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Submitted: State Officers

## 11. Resolution in RE: IN DEFENSE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

**WHEREAS** the right to religious freedom is based upon the inherent dignity of the human person, which is known through both reason and divine revelation; and

**WHEREAS** the right to religious freedom is guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Texas State Constitution, and other documents recognizing religious freedom; and

**WHEREAS** religious freedom means that all persons are to be free from coercion in matters of belief and conscience and that no person should be forced to act in a manner contrary to his or her own beliefs or conscience; and

**WHEREAS** in *Dignitatis Humanae*, the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on Religious Freedom, we reaffirm the Catholic Church's consistent teaching that religious freedom is an inalienable right that should be recognized in the governing laws of each country in such a way that it is acknowledged as a basic civil right; and

**WHEREAS** religious freedom is not a benefit that a government confers out of a sense of mere tolerance, which can be removed, but rather is an inalienable right, rooted in the transcendent dignity of every human being; and

**WHEREAS** Pope Francis has called religious freedom, "a fundamental right of man," that is "not simply freedom of thought or private worship," but "the freedom to live according to ethical principles, both privately and publicly, consequent to the truth one has found;" and

**WHEREAS** religious freedom is at the very heart of human rights because it encompasses freedom of speech, assembly, and conscience, which together form the basis of civil society and respect for the individual; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus since its founding has worked to defend religious

freedom for Catholics and all people, and has done so out of our commitment to our faith and our unshakeable belief that religious freedom is a basic civil right; and

**WHEREAS** the Order's work on behalf of religious freedom included efforts in the U.S. Supreme Court case *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, which affirmed the right of children to a Catholic education in opposition to the efforts of the Ku Klux Klan; and

**WHEREAS** in conformity with the support for religious freedom for Catholics and those of all faiths who value peace and the progress of humankind, the Order cannot condone antisemitism or other violent persecution of anyone based on their faith or heritage; and

**WHEREAS** our work for religious freedom also included activities to protest the persecution of Catholics in Mexico in the 1920s, as well as efforts to combat the anti-religious worldview of Communism, Socialism, and the inclusion of the phrase "under God" in the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance to distinguish the United States from anti-religious governments; and

**WHEREAS** regulatory actions by local, state, and federal agencies have sought to force private Catholic employers—such as Catholic universities, colleges, schools, orders, convents, congregations, dioceses, and the Knights of Columbus—to provide all employees with insurance coverage that includes abortion-inducing drugs, contraception, and sterilization; and

**WHEREAS** the numerous threats to religious liberty that have appeared in recent years are among the most serious intrusions on religious liberty we have seen in our lifetimes; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that as citizens and as Knights of Columbus, we will remain steadfast in our support for the free exercise of religion as it is enshrined in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Texas State Constitution, and other documents recognizing religious freedom; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we stand firm in our conviction that the full guarantee of religious liberty cannot be limited to "freedom of worship" as some have attempted, but must include full "freedom of religion," which necessarily encompasses the public dimension of religion, the freedom from persecution or discrimination based on conscience and belief, and the fact that believers are called to play an active role in building the social order; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we stand in solidarity with our bishops in their call to the Catholic faithful, and to all Americans, to join together to oppose coercive regulatory schemes, orders, mandates, and also to protect religious liberty and freedom of conscience; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call on the U.S. Congress to consider and pass a robust First Amendment Defense Act, which would protect the free exercise of religious beliefs and moral convictions of persons by preventing the federal government from taking discriminatory action against such persons in the areas of government contracts, benefits, tax treatment, accreditations and licensures; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call upon all government officials in Texas to enact legislation that will protect the right of religious institutions and individuals to be free from government coercion in all matters; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we will join with others of goodwill to March for Religious Freedom each year in Austin, the capital of Texas, to demonstrate our resolve and to demand that government officials respect this God-given right; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that our struggle for religious freedom at this decisive moment in our history is not only for our sake but for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all future generations, so that they too may know a country that is “one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all;” and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 144<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Submitted: State Officers

## **12. Resolution in RE: PRAYER FOR ALL GOVERNMENTAL LEADERS**

**WHEREAS** in November 2024, the people of the United States elected a President, members of the House of Representatives and various Senators; and the people of Texas elected new members to the Texas Legislature and judges to courts at the county, district, and appellate levels; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council calls upon all Councils, Assemblies, and Chapters to pray for our President, Governor, and all our elected officials at the federal, state, county, city, and local levels, that the Holy Spirit may counsel, insight and wisdom to keep the United States of America and our state and local communities on a path consistent with the Divine Will that we invoke daily when we pray the Lord’s Prayer – the “Our Father;” and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council encourages all members and their families to register and continue to vote in all federal, state, and local elections; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Knights of Columbus supports the election and appointment of officials at the federal, state, and local levels of government who support and believe in a culture of life and the protection of religious freedom; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council encourages all members and councils in Texas to pray for our President, Governor, and all elected representatives, legislators, judges, and other government officials in hope that they will work together to defend life and to honor the religious and conscience concerns of all American citizens; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that we, the Knights of Columbus and the Texas State Council, encourage all members and Councils to continue to encourage peaceful and respectful dialogue between all Americans and that we, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, find ways to bridge our differences in a respectful manner; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 144<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Submitted: State Officers

**13. Resolution in RE: SUPPORT FOR OUR ARMED FORCES**

***WHEREAS*** the Knights of Columbus and the Texas State Council direct support for the armed forces dates back to the early 20th Century including the original KC Huts program and in the formation of the United Services Organization (USO); and

***WHEREAS*** our support for the armed forces continues to the present day, most notably through our support of the Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS) Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program, and support for the annual AMS—K of C Warriors to Lourdes Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes; France and

***WHEREAS*** the Texas State Council and its subordinate councils have supported the Frontline Faith Project, which distributes recorded Catholic prayers, lectures, and teachings to our troops, and has reached out in a special effort to cooperate with the local units of the Catholic War Veterans of America; and

***WHEREAS*** the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council insurance program is the only domestic insurance company which pays the face amount of the policy upon the death of one of the members of our Armed Forces killed in combat rather than have a “war exclusion” clause as do other domestic insurance companies;

***WHEREAS*** the Knights of Columbus maintains 50 active military councils around the world and have one in the war-torn Horn of Africa; and

***WHEREAS*** our Brother Knights, along with thousands of other servicemen and women, are presently deployed in hostile and unstable regions around the world in efforts to combat terrorism, maintain order and promote peace; and

***WHEREAS*** the families of those courageous servicemen and women now deployed are praying for their safe return; and

***WHEREAS*** many of these men and women have heroically given their lives or sustained

a serious or debilitating injury while deployed in the service of their country; and

**WHEREAS** we are committed to “serving those who served” through the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services program, with Brother Knights donating thousands of hours of volunteer service at over 100+ Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers.

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus has demonstrated its commitment to “wounded warriors” by direct service, financial support, and partnering with other civic organizations and foundations to benefit those service members who have suffered traumatic injuries or wounds in the field of battle; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus has distributed hundreds of thousands of rosaries and copies of *Armed With The Faith*, a prayer book for service members; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council, all Knights of Columbus Councils and Assemblies in Texas reaffirm our unequivocal gratitude, support, and encouragement for the men and women of the armed forces who defend our liberties and freedoms and that we will never waiver in our commitment to recognize the contributions of every service member on Active Duty, in the Guard, in the Reserves, and all veterans and retired service members; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we prayerfully support and encourage the families of those servicemen and women who are deployed away from home; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we continue to pray for the mission success and the safe return of all our military personnel; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we now pay tribute to those men and women who have served, especially those who have suffered serious combat wounds or injuries, and we pray for the souls of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in the service of their country; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council, Councils, and Assemblies in Texas will continue to support the Archdiocese of Military Services financially and with our prayers; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 144<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Submitted: State Officers

**14. Resolution in RE: SUPPORT FOR OUR FIRST RESPONDERS**

**WHEREAS** Section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 defines first responders as emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled support personnel that provide immediate support services during prevention, response, and recovery operations; and

**WHEREAS** the legal definition of emergency response/first responders generally includes Federal, State, and local government emergency, public safety, fire, law enforcement, emergency response, emergency medical (including hospital emergency facilities) and related personnel, agencies and authorities; and

**WHEREAS** first responders are generally considered and recognized to be local law enforcement officers, which in Texas include federal officers and Border Patrol agents, police officers, sheriffs, deputies, constables and dispatch and other support personnel, and firefighters, emergency safety responders such as medics, ambulance support persons; and

**WHEREAS** first responders serve by responding to events situations that require assisting, rescuing, and possibly defending members of the community from dangers and hazardous events that many times place first responders in harm's way; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus pray for the souls of first responders, law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, and their families who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty in Texas; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus remain committed to continued support our first responders and their families through the "Shield a Badge with a Prayer" Program, Red, White and Blue Masses.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council and all Knights of Columbus Councils in Texas reaffirm our unequivocal gratitude, support, and encouragement for the men and women and their families who are first responders who protect us from harm with unselfish and professional dedication and that we will never waiver in our commitment to recognize the contributions of every first responder and their families; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that all Texas Councils continue to remain steadfast in supporting and praying for our first responders and their families through the Shield a Badge with Prayer Program and by scheduling, promoting and attending Red Masses, White Masses, and Blue Masses; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we prayerfully support and encourage the families of those first responders; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we continue to pray for the safe return of all our first responders; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we now pay tribute to those men and women who have served, especially those who have suffered serious injuries, and we pray for the souls of those who

have paid the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in the line of duty; and

***FURTHER RESOLVED*** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 144<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Submitted: State Officers

**15. Resolution in RE: SUPPORT FOR THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES**

***WHEREAS*** on June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress established a national flag, resolving “that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a field of blue, representing a new constellation”; and

***WHEREAS*** the banner adopted by the Second Continental Congress, hereinafter referred to as the “Flag,” has become the national symbol for the United States of America, the constellation of stars in the field of blue changing and evolving as new States entered the Union; and

***WHEREAS*** in the 250-year history of the United States, the Flag has come to embody and reflect all aspects of American life, being displayed on government and privately owned buildings, flown by military and civilian vessels, displayed at political, social, educational, and religious events on a national, state and local level, carried by soldiers and explorers and raised by students and athletes at schools and athletic contests; and

***WHEREAS*** throughout the history of the United States, the Flag has witnessed many of America’s greatest, dramatic and tragic moments—the bombardment of Fort McHenry in 1814, the assault on Fort Sumpter in 1861, the funeral procession for Presidents Abraham Lincoln in 1865, and John F. Kennedy in 1963, the Olympic gold medal run by Jesse Owens at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the battle on Iwo Jima in 1945, the Civil Rights Marches in the 1960s, the American landing on the Moon in 1969, the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001, the chaotic Afghanistan retreat, and many other events at different times in our nation’s history; and

***WHEREAS*** many of our ancestors—particularly our immigrant grandfathers and grandmothers—when coming to the United States from their original homelands, were greeted by the Flag when first stepping onto American soil; and

***WHEREAS*** throughout the history of the United States, men and women of all races, ethnicities, and backgrounds have pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor in the service of the United States, their sacrifices symbolized and represented by the Flag; and

***WHEREAS*** while Americans can at times disagree on many issues, all Americans know that the Flag is our universal identifying national emblem; and

***WHEREAS*** it has become a respectful tradition that all Americans honor the Flag in

gratitude for the sacrifices made by all Americans in making our nation the home of the free and the refuge of those seeking the dream Dr. Martin Luther King so eloquently described and those seeking the sanctuary for life, liberty, and equality Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln so eloquently described; and

**WHEREAS** the Knights of Columbus have always honored and respected the Flag, as exemplified by the Order's successful efforts to add the phrase "Under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Texas State Council and its subordinate Councils remind all members to always show proper respect and reverence for the Flag of the United States of America, particularly by standing when the Flag is unfurled at any public event and for the National Anthem, and to continue to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at all meetings; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Knights of Columbus rededicate themselves to encouraging the public display of the Flag at our churches, parish grounds, homes, places of business, and at social gatherings; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we encourage our families, fellow parishioners, and countrymen and women in a charitable and fraternal manner to always show respect for the Flag by standing upon presentation of the Colors and for men to remove their hats during the playing of the National Anthem or the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance as a sign of respect for our all who built, supported and sacrificed to make our Country great and saluting the Flag by either giving a military salute or by placing one's hand over their heart; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution is sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 144<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Denver, Colorado, and that the Supreme Council encourages the Supreme Convention to adopt this or a similar resolution that honors our Flag.

Submitted: State Officers

## **16. Resolution in RE: TO SUPPORT THE ANNUAL COMMEMORATION OF COLUMBUS DAY IN THE AMERICAS**

**WHEREAS** Christopher Columbus was the first European to sail west in search of the Orient and to discover the American continents as a result, returning multiple times to explore and establish settlements in this New World, opening it to the enduring influence of Western civilization and also providing for the development of trade, commerce and prosperity; and

**WHEREAS** the Admiral of the Ocean Sea was not focused as a profiteer or adventurer, but rather as a faithful Catholic – a "Christ-bearer" – intent on spreading the Good News to the indigenous peoples as evidenced by his request to Pope Alexander VI for missionary priests to accompany him on his initial journey with these words "I trust that, by God's help, I may spread

the Holy Name and Gospel of Jesus Christ as widely as may be”; and

**WHEREAS** in the same spirit of evangelization, Father Michael McGivney and a small group of men chartered the Knights of Columbus to spread the Good News in a new way to address the challenges of the industrial era, by serving the temporal and spiritual needs of families and faith communities with programs that provide financial security and strengthen the social fabric with acts of charity; and

**WHEREAS** four hundred years after Columbus’ triumphant expedition, and ten years after the chartering of the Knights of Columbus, Pope Leo XIII recognized the important contribution of Columbus in his encyclical, Quarto Abeunte Saeculo, writing: “it is fitting that we should confess and celebrate in a special manner the will and designs of the Eternal Wisdom, under whose guidance the discoverer of the New World placed himself with a devotion so touching”; and

**WHEREAS** in this modern era the Knights of Columbus continue to respond fervently to the call to evangelize the cultures in which we have been placed by God, adapting to meet the acute challenges of consumerism, hedonism, sexual libertinism, and a profound loss of respect for the God-given values of human life, religious freedom, and traditional complementary marriages and families; and

**WHEREAS** in the spirit of acknowledging his extraordinary contributions, regional celebrations have been held since 1792, and a special public holiday was established in 1934 in the USA to celebrate the singular and enduring influence of the accomplishments of Christopher Columbus; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that as Knights of the great Christopher Columbus, and all Christian men and women of goodwill, we will continue to celebrate the example of Christopher Columbus as a visionary and evangelist, both on the holiday set aside to honor his accomplishments and throughout the year, by placing our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, at the center of all our endeavors; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that Knights of Columbus in Texas will endeavor to celebrate the Columbus Day Holiday by attending Mass together and sharing a fraternal meal; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that we will, without diminishing the unique contributions of native peoples to the remarkable cultural tapestry of the Americas, encourage our public officials to preserve the intended spirit of the public holiday tradition with its cultural and patriotic implications, and not allow it to be undermined or diminished by neglect, dilution, or replacement; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that all Knights of Columbus endeavor and commit to speaking out in our communities before local, municipal, county, and state governmental agencies in support of the continued celebration of the accomplishments of Christopher Columbus and educate others regarding the positive aspects of his efforts, discovery, and legacy; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for

the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 144<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Submitted: State Officers

**17. Resolution in RE: THE ORDER'S INSURANCE BENEFIT PROGRAMS**

*WHEREAS* the Knights of Columbus was founded to provide crucial relief for widows and orphans of Catholic men with the foresight and courage to join the Order; and

*WHEREAS* our founder, the Servant of God Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney's vision initiated an institution that has become one of the largest fraternal benefits insurance companies in the United States; and

*WHEREAS* the Knights of Columbus has earned the highest accreditation possible from two of the best known, and most respected insurance rating agencies, A. M. Best and Standard & Poor's, and as a World's Most Ethical Company by the Ethisphere Institute; and

*WHEREAS* the Knights of Columbus Insurance program offers all members and their families the tools to prepare for the future and ensure financial stability, including life insurance, annuities, long-term care insurance, disability income, with over \$100 billion of life insurance in force; and

*WHEREAS* nearly 35 percent of Texas Knights are insurance members of the Order; and

*WHEREAS* the Knights of Columbus Financial Advisors ensure that all investments are socially responsible and adhere to the guidelines set forth by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, allowing the Order to provide "value with values" through faith-based investing; and

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* that the Texas State Council at its 122<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting in Dallas, Texas, does commend the outstanding efforts of our general agents and our field agency force in Texas; and

*FURTHER RESOLVED* that the Texas State Council does affirm as its policy that all fraternal publications, including advertising for fraternal and fundraising events, including those of the Texas State Council, its subordinate councils, assemblies, and chapters are prohibited from accepting advertisements and news items relating directly or indirectly to the sale or servicing of life or disability income or long term care insurance or annuities, other than advertisements or news items promoting the Order's insurance programs, and that violation of this rule by any publication from any subordinate council, assembly or chapter will constitute cause to prohibit the use of the name and emblem of the Order by those subordinate councils and/or their publications.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 144<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Submitted: State Officers

**18. Resolution in RE: PRAYERS FOR CONVERSION ON PRO-LIFE ISSUES OF ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS**

*WHEREAS* a troubling number of our elected representatives have previously expressed intent to work for the passage of laws and to implement public policies which are clearly inconsistent with the Natural Law and the teachings of the Church, potentially destructive of family cohesion, and which deny basic human rights and the God-given value and dignity of each human life from conception to natural death;

*BE IT RESOLVED* that the Knights of Columbus in Texas will vigorously oppose the erosion of protections currently contained in the law for the unborn and other vulnerable members of our society and will work ceaselessly for increased protections in general laws and in public policies; and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that the Knights of Columbus in Texas will continuously offer prayers for a conversion of heart for our President to a more generous and genuine support of all pro-life issues; and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 144<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Submitted: State Officers

**19. Resolution in RE: PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY**

*WHEREAS* the Knights of the Texas State Council, pray for the nation's commitment to peace, after unprecedented years of violence and unrest; and

*WHEREAS* the Texas State Council and all of the Texas State Council brothers pray for the healing of our country, that has pitted brother versus brother, state versus state in an unprecedented attack against fellow countrymen; and

*WHEREAS* the Knights of Texas pray that elected leaders embrace and protect the U.S. and Texas Constitutions, including the first amendment that guarantees free speech and "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;" and

*BE IT RESOLVED* that the Knights of Columbus in Texas, meeting at the 122<sup>nd</sup> annual convention in Dallas, Texas, prays the elected leaders be examples of honor and unity through

their support of our Constitution, while accepting difference of opinions between citizens in accordance with the founding of our country, and the Great State of Texas.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council for the consideration and edification of all delegates attending the 144<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Submitted: State Officers

**20. Resolution in RE: Recognition of Motorcycle-based Activities in Support of the Knights of Columbus**

***WHEREAS***, Knights of Columbus members who ride motorcycles have, throughout North America and increasingly abroad, gathered together to organize motorcycle-based activities in the charitable and fraternal spirit of the Knights of Columbus and in support of Knights of Columbus programs; and

***WHEREAS***, motorcycle-riding members use motorcycle-based activities to further membership growth, retention, and development in the Knights of Columbus; and

***WHEREAS***, the activities undertaken by motorcycle-riding Knights of Columbus members include support of the Silver Rose program as well as other programs under the direction of the participating State Councils; and

***WHEREAS***, the purpose of these activities is to enjoy camaraderie among other Knights of Columbus who are motorcycle riders; to assist the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Church, the Bishops of each Diocese, charitable organizations, individuals in need, and the community; to promote the principles of the Knights of Columbus; and to encourage faith, fellowship, and service;

***BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Texas State Council identify opportunities for members who ride motorcycles to participate formally in certain state council activities, with details to be worked out by the state deputy in accord with the guidelines provided by the Supreme Council.

Submitted: State Officers

**21. Resolution in RE: Amendment to Texas State Council Bylaws, Article III—OFFICERS AND DUTIES, pertaining to State Officer honoraria**

***WHEREAS***, the Texas State Council bylaws, Article III, Sections 3,4, 5, 6, and 7 provide that an honorarium be paid to the State Deputy, State Secretary, State Treasurer, State Advocate, and State Warden annually, and,

**WHEREAS**, the Texas State Council desires to eliminate the honoraria paid to said State Officers, by amending the Texas State Council Bylaws, by deleting or removing the provisions in Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, Article III, pertaining to the payment of each such honorarium,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Knights of Columbus in Texas, propose amending the current bylaws, Article III – Officers and Duties, as follows:

- I. By deleting the first sentence in paragraph (E), SECTION 3. STATE DEPUTY, which reads as follows:

“The honorarium paid to the State Deputy shall be \$5.00 per Subordinate Council per annum, which shall be paid by the State Council.”

The second sentence of paragraph (E) shall be revised to read as follows:

“All reasonable and customary expenses of the State Deputy incurred while attending the Supreme Convention shall be paid by the State Council.”; and

- II. By deleting Paragraph (C) of SECTION 4. STATE SECRETARY, which reads:

“(C) The honorarium paid to the State Secretary shall be \$2.00 per Subordinate Council per annum, which shall be paid by the State Council.”

The succeeding paragraphs (D), (E), and (F) in Section 4 shall thereafter be re-designated as (C), (D), and (E), respectively; and

- III. By deleting Paragraph (C), SECTION 5. STATE TREASURER, which reads:

“(C) The honorarium paid to the State Treasurer shall be \$2.00 per Subordinate Council per annum, which shall be paid by the State Council.”

The succeeding paragraph (D) in Section 5 shall thereafter be re-designated as (C); and

- IV. By deleting Paragraph (D), SECTION 6. STATE ADVOCATE, which reads:

“(D) The honorarium paid to the State Advocate shall be \$1.00 per Subordinate Council per annum, which shall be paid by the State Council.”

and

- V. By deleting Paragraph (B), SECTION 6. STATE WARDEN, which reads:

“(B) The honorarium paid to the State Warden shall be \$0.75 per Subordinate Council per annum, which shall be paid by the State Council.”

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council Board of Directors for consideration and approval.

Submitted: State Officers

**22. Resolution in RE: Amendment to Texas State Council Bylaws, Article V—FINANCE, Section 8, pertaining to MILEAGE AND PER DIEM**

*WHEREAS*, the Texas State Council bylaws, Article V, Section 8 provides that a banquet ticket shall be furnished to members as part of their registration packet, and,

*WHEREAS*, the Texas State Council desires to discontinue providing such banquet tickets as part of the registration packet by amending the Texas State Council Bylaws, by deleting or removing the pertinent language in Sections 8,

*BE IT RESOLVED* that the Knights of Columbus in Texas, propose amending the current bylaws, Article V, as follows:

By deleting the second sentence of paragraph (B), Section 8. MILEAGE AND PER DIEM, which reads:

“All members, per Article II, Section 4, shall be furnished a banquet ticket as part of their registration packet.” Paragraph (B) shall thereafter read, “(B) The State Council shall be responsible for the State Banquet.”

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Supreme Council Board of Directors for consideration and approval.

Submitted: State Officers

**23. Resolution in RE: No Solicitations or Displays at the State Convention or other Texas State Council Functions Except by Written Authorization of the State Deputy**

*WHEREAS* in the past there have been numerous and varied solicitations conducted at activities sponsored under the auspices of Texas State Council of the Knights of Columbus, by groups of individuals seeking financial contributions, program participation, or donations of volunteer time or funds, and these activities are often sponsored by the standing and special committees of the State Council for the fraternal benefit, education or enjoyment of those participating;

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* that no solicitation or displays will be allowed at the State Convention or at other State Council functions except by written authorization of the State Deputy. It shall be the duty of the State Officers to enforce this resolution.

Submitted: State Officers