



## David Peters – State Deputy

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393 Rymal Rd. West, Suite 201, Hamilton, ON L9B 1V2  
Tel.: 905-388-2731 Toll free: 1-800-759-0959 Cell 416-568-1978 Fax: 905-388-8738  
stateoffice@ontariokofc.ca

Worthy Brothers,

In accordance with the Supreme Councils directives and following the Ontario State Board teleconference call last evening, here is an update to the present situation, which affects Ontario and its membership and what you must follow.

**Enclosed is an update to the COVID 19 situation...**

With the safety of our members in mind and the recommendations of the Ontario Chief Medical Health Officer and Premier Ford's declaration of a State of Emergency in Ontario, the **2020 Ontario State Convention** is officially **CANCELLED**, more information will follow in this regard.

**If you have a room reservations, please call the Sheraton Hotel and cancel them at this time. There will be no charges to your credit card.**

**With regards to the Ontario State Convention Registration, we ask that you give us a few days to come up with a process to follow for refunds.**

### **2020 Golf West Registrations**

- **The True Fraternity swing into spring - 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Ontario Golf tournament scheduled to be held on April 30, 2020 is cancelled, and refunds will be issued to each participant.**

**In addition, the State Deputy would like to reiterate the IMPORTANCE of the following:**

- **Cancel all personal contact meetings, including business meetings, all provincial sporting events, until further notice.**
- **Cancel all planned events, where people would gather, until further notice.**
- **Cancel all travel for Knights of Columbus business until further notice.**

### **In the Interim please do this:**

- **Conduct meetings by conference call, Skype, Google Groups or other methods.**
- **Use a webinar service for large meetings like monthly business meetings.**
- **Allow member votes by email or text to approve bills and candidate admissions.**
- **Use the email feature of Officers Online for member communications.**
- **Set up a call tree to contact members and ascertain their wellbeing.**

**Here are some pro-active initiatives that the Ontario State Board is recommending:**

### **Council Programs in a Time of Pandemic**

- We encourage councils to communicate with their members and fellow parishioners during this difficult time.
- Use your telephone tree, or if you don't have one, set it up as soon as possible.
- Your council and parish may have people who are vulnerable due to age or medical conditions and they may be afraid to leave their homes. Identify these people and arrange to have them called.

**Here are some things that you can do to help them:**

- **Call them regularly to see how they are doing and to relieve social isolation. Pray with them.**
- **Offer to run errands for them to the grocery store or pharmacy if they are running low on food or medication. Be sure to follow all recommended hygiene and social distancing procedures if you meet them!**
  
- **Let them know about council or parish news, especially televised or online alternatives to Mass attendance or devotions.**

## **Food for Families**

**There are reports that food banks are running low due to a decrease in donations.**

**In order to help alleviate this situation, the Ontario State Council will be donating \$5,000 to Feed Ontario to help them restock.**

**In addition, we will match council donations up to \$10,000. Those councils wishing to participate can do so online at <https://ontariokofc.ca/programs/faith-in-action/community/feed-ontario/>**

Or you can send a cheque addressed to the Ontario Charities foundation identifying that its for the program FEED ONTARIO. Please send your cheque to the following address.

Knights of Columbus  
Ontario State Office  
Suite 201 – 393 Rymal Road West,  
Hamilton, Ontario L9B 1V2.

We would also like to remind councils and their members of the need for food donations to their local food banks.

## **Ontario Charities Lottery 2020**

The Alcohol and Gaming Organization of Ontario has been approached and are receptive to moving the draw to a later date in the year from the existing date of 29 May 2020.

We are awaiting guidance from the provincial agency and will notify our membership when we have a new firm draw date for this years lottery.....

### **KOFC Liability Coverage - COVID 19**

If you are directly impacted by COVID-19 let your Field Agent know or call the regional KOFC General Agents Office. For all other general inquiries please direct your questions to your regional Membership Information Officers (MIOs).

### **Healing Prayers**

Brothers, please find enclosed two prayers, one is from Pope Francis in the PDF below. Let us all offer our prayers to the Lord, so that he keeps us all safe during these difficult times.



Healing Prayers -  
Corona Virus - English

Fraternally yours,

*David Peters*

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State Deputy