

Outline of Permissible Political Activity

The Knights of Columbus® was founded as and continues to be a politically active fraternal organization. Its Founder, the Venerable Michael McGivney was an ardent, vocal political activist for his parishioners and for Holy Mother Church, and so should we be. The Knights of Columbus is not, however, a **partisan** political organization. **We do not support this, that or any other partisan political party.** We do, and must as part of our evangelization, be engaged in the political process. We do support our beliefs, practices and each other. Even our Bishop is engaged in the political process sending lobbyists and his own Chancellor to Concord to advocate for certain positions. Bishop Peter will be in Concord next week to meet with and to personally lobby for political positions on bills affecting Religious freedom, life and death, just punishment, just tax policy. We, in our Councils, can do no less. As Pericles is often credited with saying: Εάν δεν δίνετε προσοχή στην πολιτική, η πολιτική σίγουρα θα σας δώσει προσοχή! Or: Εάν den dínete prosochí stin politikí, i politikí sígoura tha sas dósei prosochí! Or: **If you don't pay attention to politics, politics will certainly pay attention to you!**

Perhaps the issue is with what the term “politics” means. Simply, politics is the art of arguing for a particular position based upon a set of beliefs. To use the definition of Daniel Webster’s cousin, Merriam: *1 a : the art or science of government. b : the art or science concerned with guiding or influencing governmental policy. c : the art or science concerned with winning and holding control over a government. 2 : political actions, practices, or policies.* Partisan politics on the other hand is advocating the policies and beliefs **of and for** a political party. **The Knights Of Columbus® does not support any political PARTY.**

Most know of the role of the Knights in adding to the socialist Pledge of Allegiance previous used the words *under God*. That simple phrase, which we all repeat at every Council meeting, changed a nationalist socialist pledge into the wonderful inclusive and recognizing of Divine Providence pledge we enjoy today. That brothers was political action!

Have any of you heard about the March for Life in your Council or at Church? That, brothers, is a political activity. The signs available from Supreme advocating the March for Life are political signs. Signs advocating Religious Freedom from Supreme, or testifying in support for the Little Sisters of the Poor before Congress are political activities. Taking verbal abuse and being assaulted by the Senators from California and Hawai'i are also political activity, although not the heartwarming kind.

About 80 years ago our brothers, in nearby Mexico, were stood in front of walls and shot for displaying our insignia, making the sign of the cross in public, assisting at a clandestine Mass or even saying *Cristo es rey!* Some of our martyred brothers became Saints for their defense of the Church: *On October 15, 2006, Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia (1878–1938) was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in Rome. In 2000, six other Knights, known as the Mexican martyrs who were killed during the repression following the 1920s revolution, were declared saints by Pope John Paul II.* That is political action, albeit fatal.

Prominent persons, of any party, who attack our Order or Holy Mother Church should be called out, even in our Council Meetings. The goal is not to make fun of them, but to teach each other of the dangers of adherence to a political doctrine without remaining faithful to our shared faith. For example, the name of the political party affiliation should be avoided if at all possible, but say naming a senior member of Congress who makes the Sign of the Cross before ushering in a debate and publically supporting expanding abortion should be mentioned. Many are not aware, but the former Senior Senator of Massachusetts was quietly removed from the Order because of support for abortion. Our diocesan Shepherd gives us guidance, prayer to find the correct path and a willingness to disavow this, that or the other party when necessary to remain safely in the Bark of Peter is needed. As Scripture tells us, let us “be alert, as a watchman in the night” and let us sound the alarm against those that attack by word or deed. To do so we must be non-partisan but politically active, locally, at the State House and in Washington.

+Please say a prayer for our brothers who serve in Concord. It is difficult as they are besieged by anti-Catholic, anti-Christian venom almost daily. Even in Ways and Means, a tax policy committee, derogatory remarks are constantly made about the Knights and the Church. Please say a prayer for our federal representatives that their hearts will be changed and they will see the error of the agenda they are promoting that is so detrimental to our infants, our children, our Church and our nation,+