

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
1 COLUMBUS PLAZA
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06510-3326

March 29, 2021
Founder's Day

Joseph E. Flaherty III
State Deputy
Alabama State Council
Knights of Columbus

Worthy State Deputy and dear Brother Flaherty:

For the first time as Supreme Knight, it is an honor and joy for me to greet you and all my brother Knights as the Alabama State Council holds its annual state convention.

Your meeting comes after a year unlike any before it. I know you and your fellow delegates will review the toll that COVID-19 has taken on our families, our parishes, our councils and our world. Hopefully still more time will be spent on our ongoing response, especially through the *Leave No Neighbor Behind* initiative, which has enabled councils around the world to answer the challenge of COVID-19 with our perennial principle of Charity. I am very proud of the work that has been accomplished despite the adversity we have faced.

Amid the darkness of the past year, the Beatification of our Founder was a bright and most welcome light. As we rejoice at Father McGivney being raised to the honors of the altar, his Beatification brings increased responsibility for you, for me and for every Knight to be ever more devoted to our principles of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. We must strive to always grow in personal holiness and to be worthy heirs to the spiritual legacy of Blessed Michael McGivney.

I am deeply grateful to you, your fellow state officers, district deputies, council officers, general and field agents, and to each brother Knight who has worked so hard this past year to advance the mission of the Knights of Columbus in Alabama. I am honored to serve alongside you as your Supreme Knight, and look forward to working together in the days ahead.

May Our Lady of Guadalupe guide your deliberations, and may Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us!

Faternally,

Patrick E. Kelly
Patrick E. Kelly
Supreme Knight