

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AND DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO
REGARDING DIOCESAN SAFE ENVIRONMENT REQUIREMENTS

TO: California State Officers, and District Deputies and Grand Knights in the Diocese of Sacramento

FROM: Michael J. O'Connor, Supreme Secretary, Knights of Columbus, and Kathy Conner, Chancellor, Diocese of Sacramento *MJOC* *KC*

DATE: December, 2016

IN RE: Sacramento Diocese Safe Environment Requirements and Knights of Columbus in the Sacramento Diocese

The Knights of Columbus are grateful to the bishops and pastors of the Sacramento Diocese for allowing its members to hold their council meetings in the parishes of the diocese. The Knights of Columbus strongly encourages its members to volunteer in the life of their parish, taking an active part in parish ministries, activities, fundraising, and social events.

Knights of Columbus and the Sacramento Diocese share a strong commitment to protecting the young people and other vulnerable persons whom they serve.

It is the policy of the Knights of Columbus to require its members to comply with the safe environment policies, procedures, and requirements established by the diocese in which they serve. As the Sacramento Diocese requires all Knights of Columbus members who wish to volunteer in their parish to complete diocesan safe environment requirements, ***members who wish to volunteer in parish activities and/or Knights of Columbus activities on parish property must comply with all such diocesan requirements.*** This includes the Fourth Degree Color Corps. The Sacramento Diocese's safe environment requirements are twofold: Shield the Vulnerable Training and Live Scan fingerprinting.

Members who attend only council meetings and choose not to volunteer in any parish activities and/or Knights of Columbus activities on parish property are not required to take Shield the Vulnerable Training and undergo Live Scan fingerprinting. Grand Knights who choose to forgo any volunteer opportunities in parish and/or Knights of Columbus activities and to only conduct council meetings in the parish are not required to take Shield the Vulnerable Training and undergo Live Scan fingerprinting.

Those members who decide to do more than attend council meetings and who choose to volunteer in the work of the parish or the work of the Knights of Columbus on parish property should fully cooperate with the Diocese of Sacramento's Safe Environment Office. Katita Schloemann, Safe Environment Coordinator, is available to assist members in satisfying the diocesan requirements. Katita can be reached at (916) 733-0227 or via email kschloemann@scd.org. **Grand Knights are asked to submit a list of names of those Knights that wish to continue to volunteer in parish or Knights' activities to Ms. Schloemann by February 1, 2017.**

The diocesan deadline for compliance has been extended to March 1, 2017.

The decision to volunteer in a particular parish activity and/or Knights of Columbus activity on parish property, and therefore undergo Shield the Vulnerable training and Live Scan fingerprinting by the Sacramento Diocese, is a personal decision that belongs solely to each member of the Knights of Columbus. Although volunteering in the life of the parish is strongly encouraged, a member's decision to decline such involvement should be respected.