

January 1, 2021

Dear Brother Knight:

The purpose of this message is to solicit your input in the renaming of our council.

As you know from Grand Knight Jim Saenz's message of December 8, 2020, our fellow knights voted by a large margin (67 percent) to approve resolution 2020-001, which removed the name Edward Douglass White from our council and adopted the temporary name of Arlington Council 2473. The temporary name stays in place until a new name is approved by a vote of council members in good standing.

In September 2020 Grand Knight Saenz issued a call for volunteers to serve on a naming committee for the council, and in October he appointed the chairman and eight additional members whose names were listed in the November edition of *Knight Life*.

The mandate of this committee is not to rename the council: that will be done by council members. Rather, the committee has worked to design an orderly process through which potential new names for our council may be submitted, vetted, and presented to council members for a vote.

With that process now in place, it is now time for you, fellow Brother Knights, to submit your nominations for a new name for our council.

**Guidelines for Selecting Names for Councils:** In selecting a name, all Knights of Columbus councils are required to follow specific guidelines established by the Committee on Charters of the Supreme Council. For your reference, the complete guidelines are available on the Council web page.

These guidelines state that "no council shall bear the name of a living person" and set out five categories of acceptable council names. In consultation with the Grand Knight, the naming committee has decided further to eliminate two categories, resulting in the following list of eligible categories:

1. Religious Names (Holy Family, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Holy Trinity, All Saints)
2. Saints or Parish Names
3. Council Location Names (i.e., geographic area or official jurisdiction)

In an abundance of caution, and to prevent future challenges to or controversy about our council's new name, the naming committee will not consider names falling into the following two categories:

4. Hierarchy or Clergy Names
5. Deceased Knights or Prominent Catholic Laymen

**Additional Naming Criterion – No Duplication:** In addition to these guidelines, the Supreme Council requires that each council adopt a name that is not already in use by another council in

the same state. Council members are advised to refer to the document, *Virginia Council Names*, available on the Council web page, to ensure that any names they wish to place in nomination are not already in use in Virginia. Although you may not suggest any names already in the list of current council names, reviewing it can be a great source of ideas for our new name.

**Council Name Should Represent Our Catholic Values:** Our council's new name should represent our values as a Catholic organization, be rooted in the principles that guide us as Knights of Columbus (charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism), and reflect and enhance our reputation within the community. We want to give our council a name that is welcoming and inclusive and that we can be proud of for generations to come.

**How to Submit Nominations:** Council members who wish to submit nominations for the new council name shall submit their nominations in writing by March 1, 2021. *Nominations received after this date will not be considered.*

Please submit your suggestions by email to [kofc2473@gmail.com](mailto:kofc2473@gmail.com) or by postal mail to:

Knights of Columbus Council 2473  
c/o Naming Committee  
5115 Little Falls Road  
Arlington, VA 22207

**Supporting Documentation Welcome:** Council members are encouraged not just to submit names but to include a thoughtful statement that provides reasons why a particular nomination is appropriate for the Knights of Columbus and Arlington Council 2473. Additional supporting documentation – references to books, articles, web sites – are welcome and will be reviewed.

**The Voting Process:** The naming committee will review all nominations for our new council name (plus supporting materials) and will perform due diligence to ensure that they meet the eligibility requirements listed above. The committee will distribute a slate of up to five nominations to all council members in good standing for a vote. If no nomination receives a majority of votes in the first round of voting, the committee will distribute a slate of the top two nominations for a runoff vote. The name receiving a majority of eligible votes will become the new name of our council (pending approval by the Supreme Council).

Thank you for your help in establishing a new name for our council. We look forward to receiving and reviewing your nominations.

Arlington Council 2473 Naming Committee