

## ***Rally for Religious Freedom***

The Knights of Columbus stood up for religious freedom in Oregon in the 1920's against the KKK when the Klan to outlaw Catholic schools. In recent years they stood up again when they lobbied Congress to declare the persecution of Middle Eastern Christians as genocide. Once more, it is time to rally against religious oppression and urge our state leaders to grant churches at least the same rights as they allow supermarkets. It is time for Oregon's Catholic men to say "**ENOUGH**".

On Saturday, November 28, we will be holding a rally at the state Capitol in Salem, with the sole purpose of urging our governor to relax the mandates for limited church occupancy in this state. As you may be aware, the governor returned to unreasonable low occupancy numbers for churches, while allowing much greater numbers in supermarkets, retail stores and big box stores. A maximum occupancy of 25 attendees for Mass when a church holds 400-500 or more seems quite unreasonable and oppressive. The Archdiocese has done a great job of issuing safety guidelines for parish churches, and parishes has fulfilled these safety guidelines diligently. However, the governor has chosen once again to restrict Mass attendance, even now as we are about to enter the Advent Season. The Constitution of the United States forbids laws prohibiting the free exercise of religion, and yet, that is what Oregon's governor is trying to do. We must take a stand, alongside our shepherds, and demand religious freedom.

The rally will take place at 1PM at the state Capitol in Salem. I am urging all Grand Knights to rally your council members and join us there. Inform also your fellow parishioners, and your protestant neighbors, as this affects all of us. For several years we have heard about ***Into the Breach***. Now is the time for the Knights to step forward, into the breach, and make your voices heard.

**What this is:** This is a rally to affect change to the Governor's unreasonable occupancy mandates in our churches. Please wear your masks and observe other Covid protocols.

**What this is NOT!:** This is not an anti-mask rally, an anti-vax rally, a 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rally, an impeachment rally, a political rally or anything else of the sort. Please do not confuse the issue by bringing signs or banners with any other message other than Freedom of Religion.

The sole purpose is to allow Oregon church goers to return to their pews.

As Christians, we have been patient throughout this crisis, and what we are asking is certainly not unreasonable. For those church goers at risk, the Archbishop's dispensation is still in effect. But for the rest of the churchgoers in Oregon, observing the same safety protocols as stores and businesses, churches should not be deprived of the right to worship in public. This is the first blast of the trumpet. If we answer the clarion call now and with great numbers, the next one may not come for a long time. If we ignore this call today, the next critical point may be just around the corner.

So, get the word out to everyone you know, **today!** Plan your response, car pool, dress warm, bring signs and bring your rosaries. We have already seen Bishop Sheen's warning become clear and evident: "***a religion that doesn't interfere with the secular order will soon discover that the secular order will not refrain from interfering with it.***"

Please contact me with any questions, or for more information, or for what your council can supply in the way of assistance and logistics.

Ray Prom  
Oregon Faith Director  
[promray58@gmail.com](mailto:promray58@gmail.com)  
503-440-2382

