Resolutions to the Delegates of the 112th Annual State Convention

**Of the Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus**

**RESOLUTION Number 12**

***Whereas,***

Members of the Knights of Columbus Councils in Mississippi have always endeavored to assist our priests and religious brothers and sisters serving in Mississippi;

***Whereas,***

Members of the Knights of Columbus Councils in Mississippi established the Bishop R. O. Gerow Memorial Fund for Priest Education in 1953 for the use of Diocese of Jackson and the Diocese of Biloxi for the education of seminarians;

***Whereas,***

There are many priests and religious brothers and sisters who have served Mississippi who have retired;

***Whereas,***

A retirement fund has been established for Diocesan priests serving in the Diocese of Jackson and the Diocese of Biloxi;

***Whereas,***

It has been determined that this Diocesan retirement fund is underfunded by an estimated $1,000,000 (1 million dollars);

**Whereas,**

A Retirement Fund for Religious was established in 1986 for retired Catholic religious and is sponsored by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, Leadership Conference of Women Religious, and United States Conference of Catholic Bishops;

**Whereas,**

In 2014, of 548 religious communities submitting data to the National Religious Retirement Office, only 40 were adequately funded for retirement; 203 were 20 percent or less funded;

***Whereas,***

The Knight of Columbus members in Mississippi desire to help assist in the funding of the retirement needs of the priests and religious brothers and sisters who have spent their careers faithfully serving the needs of the Catholic communities in Mississippi;

***Now, Therefore Be it Resolved,***

That the Mississippi State Council establishes--- at no cost to itself --- a statewide fund to help fund the needs of retired Catholic priests, brothers and sisters who have served in Mississippi;

***Be it Further Resolved,***

That the State Treasurer shall receive, deposit, account for, and disburse all monies contributed to this fund by the Mississippi State Council, councils, assemblies, ladies’ auxiliaries, individuals, or any other source. Disbursement of funds shall be annually at the Mississippi State Council Convention***;***

***Be it Further Resolved,***

That of the total amount donated into this fund annually, the annual disbursement will be made by the State Treasurer in two (2) checks as follows; 80% will be donated to the Retirement Fund for the Diocesan Priests and 20% will be donated to the Retirement Fund for Religious as stated in this resolution;

***Be it Further Resolved,***

That the officers of the Mississippi State Council may establish state guidelines for the administration of this fund and the State Deputy appoint a chairman to receive, account for and report on donations to this fund, on an annual basis in the State Convention Minute book;

***Be it Further Resolved*** ;

That this fund shall be known as the Bishop William R. Houck Mississippi Retired Religious Fund, in memory of his exemplary service to all Catholics and in memory of his constant support of the Knights of Columbus.

***Recommendation:***  Adopt as amended

***Action:***  Adopted

Submitted: State Officers