

Knights of Columbus  
Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536



December 2018

Worthy Sir Knights of Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536,

*For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;  
And the government will rest on His shoulders;  
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. [Isaiah 9:6]*

I know I am a little late getting this out. Apologies for that – it's been a little busy around the house.

At our last Assembly meeting:

- Our Scribe, Ed Hurst, Jr., volunteered to join the Assembly Welfare Committee. (Ed is doing similar work at the St. John Neumann Council.)
- John Filipiak was named Sir Knight of the Month. Not only is John our Pilot and always willing to help out, he frequently steps in when one of the sentinels is unable to join us. He also took on leadership of the last Adopt-A-Highway cleanup that occurred in September. Much thanks to John for his help!

Yes, December was a pretty short meeting. Even so, as the calendar winds down for the year, it means a new year is just around the corner, and that means we have a lot to do in the new year.

But before I get to that, I wanted to thank everyone for their prayers and continued support of those on the prayer list. December can be a very tough time for people, especially those dealing with the death of a loved one. In the past month, we've received a number of prayer requests, including for Eric Mayernik, Tom Lee, my uncle Richard Suchyta, Deanne Marie Ruginski, Brent Smith and Pietro Arciero, as well as for the repose of the souls of SK John Stencel, Joan Orlando and Joan Lenze. As Catholics, we all believe in the power of prayers and what it can do for those in need. Even though I sometimes get behind on items for the website, I always try to get prayer requests posted within a day or two of receiving them (at the latest). Most of them are posted same day. As a reminder, you can find them on our website at <http://kofc1536assembly.org/prayer.html>.

The first big item of business requiring all of our attention is annual dues. Our Faithful Comptroller, Greg Rapelje, either has or will soon send the 2019 Annual Dues statement to each member. While I know some have already paid, and others are really good about paying quickly, there always seems to be a handful of people that wait for the second (or third) notice. This creates a bit of work for both Greg and me, as well as the people I ask to help us follow-up. I would ask that you please pay as promptly as you can. I would also ask that if there is some issue preventing you from paying, please contact Greg at [Gregory.Rapelje@kofc.org](mailto:Gregory.Rapelje@kofc.org) or me at [gene.suchyta@gmail.com](mailto:gene.suchyta@gmail.com). Rarely is there an issue with which we cannot work.

The second item of business that our Worthy Comptroller and I will need to cover in 2019 is the **Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity**, due to Supreme at the end of January. This is how we tell Supreme about the hours we have spent in 2018 doing the good works we do. One survey should be completed for both the Assembly and the Council for which you belong. I would ask that you take a few minutes to think about everything you have done this year, and what you wish to report through the Assembly. These activities may or may not be Knight related, and may or may not be church related. These are all the good works done through the year to support your church, Boy Scouts, St. Vincent DePaul, food pantries, Lions Club, blood drives, etc. The survey has a number of categories and can be found at the Supreme web site at [http://kofc.org/un/en/forms/council/individual\\_survey1728a\\_p.pdf](http://kofc.org/un/en/forms/council/individual_survey1728a_p.pdf). If you can fill out the form and send it to us, that would be great. If you want to email me something at [gene.suchyta@gmail.com](mailto:gene.suchyta@gmail.com), that would be great, too. If you plan to send it to me, please do so by January 19, 2019. Alternately, you can bring it to the January 20 meeting. Greg and I will be tallying it then.

The third big item that will require attention is Fourth Degree Exemplification which will occur on March 2, 2019. This is only about 10 weeks away and will go by very quickly. I have a number of people on a list that I plan to send to some of the assembly officers as well as those that volunteered to be on the Admission Committee. We did not have any new Sir Knights in the fall of 2018. This is how we keep our assembly alive and vibrant. I plan to get a little more aggressive in recruiting new people to our ranks, but I will need your help to make it happen. Also, if you know someone that is expressing interest in becoming a Sir Knight, please feel free to let me know, and I (or someone else) will follow up with them.

Later in the year, we will have a few activities that either affect us as Catholic gentlemen, are important to us as members of the Fourth Degree or are activities in which the entire Assembly should participate. They are:

- Plymouth Elks Veterans Steak Lunch, Thursday, March 28, 11:00am. This past November we served over 150 steak lunches to veterans from Detroit and Ann Arbor. We also had about a dozen Sir Knights show up to help. This is pretty easy and only takes a couple of hours. Please be sure to mark your calendar and attend if you are able.
- John D. Dingell VA Medical Center Coffee and Donuts, Sunday, March 31, 8:30am. This is another great way to show support for those that have served our country. This is also pretty easy and we are usually home by noon.
- Adopt-A-Highway trash pickup on April 13, July 13 and September 28, 2019. Attendance at this has been dropping, and many hands make light work. It is always a great experience for those that attend, and ultimately it only takes a couple of hours. Again, please be sure to mark your calendar and attend if you are able.
- Poker Fundraiser, Krazy Kops, May 16, 17, 18 and 19. This will be our first set of Poker Days (unless something comes up sooner). We will need people to help with this, and it is not that hard. Please try and set aside some time to help with this.
- Ordination Mass at Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Saturday, June 8, 2019, 10:00am: We expect the seminarian we have been supporting, Derik Peterman, to be ordained a priest at this mass. It would be great if we had Sir Knights in attendance at the Mass to show our support for Derik and congratulate him.
- Corporate Communion at St. John Neumann in Canton, Sunday, June 30, 10:30am. Our Assembly will be joining St. John Neumann Council 16169 for their Corporate Communion, and this may also be a District Corporate Communion for District 14. Note that, as of right now, this is the last day that Fourth Degree Sir Knights can wear regalia at a Color Corps event. I know I have a commitment which will prevent me from attending, though I would indeed be there if I could.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Assembly will be August 1, 2020, and we plan to celebrate. PFN Jim Inch is in charge of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning team. He has been doing preliminary work on it for about 6 months, and he is at the point where he needs people to help make this successful. If you are interested, please contact him at [jiminch66@gmail.com](mailto:jiminch66@gmail.com).

Members of the Assembly have been active supporting veterans and the community. Since the last Navigator News (in November):

- We helped serve over 150 steak lunches to veterans at the Plymouth Elks on November 8;
- We donated sweatshirts and other items to Holy Cross Services;
- A number of us attended both Veterans Day and Pearl Harbor Day remembrance services in Plymouth;
- We helped the Plymouth Elks wrap gifts for veterans on December 1;
- We had a Memorial Mass for fallen KofC members (including Sir Knights) at Our Lady of Good Council (along with Fr. Victor J. Renaud Council 3292) at which our Color Corps was present; and,
- Our Color Corps joined Msgr. Schulte Assembly #0492 for Wreathes Across America at St. Hedwig Cemetery.



Helping at the Elks Veteran's Steak Luncheon



Wreathes Across America, St. Hedwig Cemetery



We had a busy, and successful, 2018.

With the Christmas season is upon us, Lady Kathy and I wish all a Merry and Blessed Christmas and best wishes for a Joyous New Year! And, as always, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next Assembly meeting, January 20, 2019, at Fr. Victor J. Renaud Council Hall.

Vivat Jesus!

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