

Knights of Columbus  
Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536

February 2019

Worthy Sir Knights of Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536,



Welcome to 2019 and the new year! With the Christmas season behind us, the Church has a short stretch of Ordinary time. While we are in the midst of that, Lent is just around the corner, bringing us that much closer to Easter.

My wife and I spent some time in Europe just after the first of the year. We were able to visit Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, along with Westminster Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and St. Paul Cathedral in London. Two of these are Catholic, the other two are not. Even so, they are impressive edifices that, on a weekly basis, allow many people the opportunity to pray and worship.

At our last Assembly meeting:

- Both Dennis Lipski and Greg Rapelje were named Sir Knight of the Month. Both do a lot for the Assembly in the roles they have. They also do much outside the Assembly, including prison ministry (Dennis) and KofC Insurance agent (Greg). I appreciate the time they can give us and the contributions they make. Much thanks for their help!
- We opened a new savings/checking account required for Charity Poker nights (Millionaire Party as the Michigan State Gaming Commission calls them).

Our prayer list (<http://kofc1536assembly.org/prayer.html>) is still quite long. Those really in need of prayers in PFN Bill Arkesteyn and Lady Marie, PGK Tom Lee, PFN Steve Socha, Lady Joan Pawelak and my uncle Richard Suchyta. Winter is not the best time to be ailing, and many of those mentioned spent Christmas in the hospital. Your continued prayers and support for them, as well as others on the prayer list, are appreciated.

With 2018 coming to a close, I took a look at General Assembly meeting attendance. We have 171 members, and, for a variety of reasons, almost 70% of them were unable to attend a meeting. I know there are lots of reasons for this, and I am grateful for those that can attend. I am, however, concerned that I have not had the opportunity to meet a majority of the people in the Assembly. I also feel we are missing an opportunity to help serve those of our members that are in need.

Thinking of the prayer list and meeting attendance, Greg Rapelje, Ed Hurst, Jr., and I met to work on the Assembly Welfare Committee on February 5, 2019. My goal is to not only recognize and celebrate those things that should be recognized and celebrated, I also want to make sure none of our members is left behind or forgotten. This was our first meeting, and a couple of other people couldn't make it. Even so, more to come.

Along with keeping the welfare of the Assembly, and other Brother Knights, in mind, I was asked if our Assembly would stand guard over the relic of St. Jean Vianney should it come to Our Lady of Good Council Parish in Plymouth, MI. I readily agreed and have been working to see if such a visit would be possible. While I am hopeful, it has been difficult working through parts of the process. Supreme has indicated they have a lot of requests. More on this to come, as well.

Closer to home, we will have opportunities for members of our Assembly to lend a hand and help ourselves as well as others. With Lent approaching, we will once again be asked to help with cleanup after the Friday Fish Fry and Renaud Council hall. This is not hard work but does require about an hour of time on Fridays during Lent from 7pm to 8pm. I will once again be soliciting for help.

On Thursday, March 28, 2019, we will again help the Plymouth Elks and American Legion serve steaks to veterans. We provide a lot of manpower for this, and it is always a good time. On Sunday, March 31, we will be serving coffee and donuts at the John D. Dingall VA Medical Center. Both these events really help underscore the Patriotism value we, as Forth Degree Sir Knights, are so proud to extoll.

Our first Adopt-A-Highway trash pickup will be Saturday, April 13, 2019. Follow-up days will be July 13 and September 28. Many hands make light work, and we get a lot of good publicity for this. In fact, other Councils and Assemblies have picked up on this are getting their own stretches in various parts of Southeastern Michigan. This is pretty easy work and allows us to get out and go for a long walk (albeit picking up trash at the same time). Please consider coming out to help when the time comes. (And yes, I will send out reminders.)

On May 16, 17, 18 and 19, we will be working our very first (in a long time) Poker Party fundraiser at Krazy Kops (Vision

Lanes) in Westland. Joe Bradley has been pulling this together for months. We have two shifts on all four days: May 16 and 17 will be the early shifts (10am to 2pm and 2pm to 6pm); May 18 and 19 will be the late shifts (6:30pm to 10:30pm and 10pm to 2am). Joe is signing up people now to help and needs three people for each shift. Joe can be contacted at [jbradleyhome@comcast.net](mailto:jbradleyhome@comcast.net) or can be reached at 734.673.0004. You can also sign up online at <https://volunteersignup.org/D7C3B> (we use this online signup in our Council quite a bit). I can't emphasize the importance of this fundraiser, as it will allow us to do so much more for the charities we support.

The next Fourth Degree Exemplification is March 2, 2019. So far, it looks like we have at least four candidates. If you know of anyone that would like to be Exemplified to the Fourth Degree, please feel free to contact Dennis Lipski ([dmlipski@gmail.com](mailto:dmlipski@gmail.com)) or me ([gene.suchyta@gmail.com](mailto:gene.suchyta@gmail.com)). Growing our Assembly is important, as it keeps new people coming in and keeps the Assembly alive. Please talk to your Brothers at your Council meeting about why you joined and why it might be important for them.

I'm happy to say dues collection has been going well, and wish to thank those that have already paid. Our Worthy Financial Secretary, Greg Rapleje, reported that over 80% of our members are members in good standing for 2019! This is great to hear. For those that have not already paid, second notices are in the mail; please pay as soon as you are able.

At the end of January I filed the Survey of Fraternal Activity. I heard from surprisingly few people – not even 10% of our members. This makes it very difficult to understand all the good work we do. This report helps us maintain our tax-exempt status. It also helps us explain to people the work we do and how we help the community. If you have been following the national news, you know this is especially important when ill-informed people make unfounded accusations regarding our organization. While the paperwork has been filled in to the best of our ability and turned in, I ask that, if possible, you try to keep track of your hours for 2019 so that we can do a better job on this in January 2020.

Other events on the horizon that I believe are important to our Assembly are:

- 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).

Our friends at Renaud Council are having a Mardi Gras party on March 5. If you are looking for something to do on March 16 (the day before St. Patrick's Day), Council 16169 will be hosting a Reverse Raffle/St. Patrick's Day party at St John Neumann. For details on these and other KofC events, see the **News** section of our website at <http://kofc1536assembly.org/news>.

Finally, a member of the Assembly sent me an article from the newspaper regarding our Catholic values and how they are "out of step" with many of the ideas and agendas currently being pushed. It's hard to believe that values we hold as Catholics (the importance of life, for example, or the strength of a traditional family) can be the cause of so much misunderstanding and even hatred. It is not the first time Catholics have been persecuted, and likely won't be the last. I ask that you continue to stay strong in your faith, take action where you can and pray that God continues to give us strength.

As always, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next Assembly meeting, February 17, 2019, at Fr. Victor J. Renaud Council Hall.

Vivat Jesus!

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