

August 2019



Worthy Sir Knights of Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536,

With summer in full swing, many people are enjoying the warm weather and spending time with family and friends. Even so, we are still called to do God's work, sometimes in ways we can't fathom. A phone call, a visit... There are many ways we can keep the Lord and Savior in our lives.

The officers and I have been working on the 2019-2020 Fraternal Year budget. A draft was presented at the last Assembly meeting. Given the suggestions from those present as well as additional work by the officers and me, the budget that will be presented in August will keep us on a firm financial footing while expanding our charitable giving. Most of this is in large part due to the Charity Poker fundraiser we did this past spring as well as the one we plan to do in September (more on that later in this Navigator News).

If you receive the emails I send, you've probably noticed a lot of prayer requests. As with most of you, my schedule and level of busy-ness ebbs and flows from day to day and week to week. Even so, this past spring I had some issues which caused me to miss sending out some prayer requests – one or two I completely missed and a couple others were very tardy. Since then, I've been trying to make sure that when I receive a request from someone I get it out in the next day or two. While I know this can seem like a lot at times, I think that those that are making the request have a greater feeling of comfort that fellow Sir Knights are keeping a loved one in their prayers.

Many of you know that I visit Councils in our area to talk with Sir Knights that can't make our Assembly meeting, as well as recruit for the Assembly. SK and PGK Tom Lee was at a recent Council meeting I attended. Many of you know the health issues with which Tom has been dealing for years. He commented that his doctor in Denver is amazed that Tom is still with us, as Tom's condition is worse than other people the doctor has treated but has not been able to save. Tom feels he still alive because of the power of prayer and all of us praying for him.

Regarding others in the assembly:

- Laura Scanlan is doing very well after her surgery.
- Vince Ventura is still undergoing some therapy for his vision. I spoke to Lady Gaynell and she said he was doing very well.
- Bill Wendling is up and around, though moving slow. I saw him at his Council's last meeting.
- PFN Bill Arkesteyn has been having a rough time. He has had a couple procedures and should be in rehab by now.
- SK John Tomei reported that his dad, John Tomei, came through his surgery with flying colors.
- My mom, Monica Suchyta, had cancer surgery about a month ago. Although her recovering is slower than hoped, most of the recovery issues are not related to the surgery.

As always, please keep these, as well as the others on our prayer list at <http://kofc1536assembly.org/prayers.html>, in your daily prayers.

Mid-July featured the installation of the officers for the 2019-2020 fraternal year. Our friends at St. Francis of Assisi Assembly #2136 played host this year. We were also joined, once again, by Sir Knights of Msgr. Schulte Assembly #0492. It is always nice to share some time with Sir Knights from surrounding assemblies.



August 3<sup>rd</sup> saw members of our Assembly, as well as spouses and family members, enjoying some food, conversation and games at our annual picnic. This year we used the grounds at Fr. Victor J. Renaud Council Hall. I felt this worked out well, and we had a couple of members of Plymouth's Fire Department join us for a while. Thanks to those that helped cook (mostly George, but a few others pitched in) as well as those that brought food to share. Good food and good times!

On September 8 we will be serving coffee and donuts at the John D. Dingall VA Medical Center in Detroit. This takes very little time and is very rewarding. I will be asking for volunteers to help at our next meeting.

Our next Charity Poker fundraiser will be September 19, 20, 21 and 22 at Vision Lanes in Westland. There are three ways you can sign up:

- The August General Assembly meeting
- Contact Joe Bradley (email at [jbradleyhome@comcast.net](mailto:jbradleyhome@comcast.net) or call at 734.673.0004)
- Online at <https://volunteersignup.org/W7CEI>

This is not hard work and we have a lot of fun doing it, as well. Please consider giving a few hours... Time spent and money raised at events like this allow us to support charities that help fulfill the mission of the Fourth Degree.

The week-end following the Charity Poker will be our last Adopt-A-Highway trash collection on September 28. This past July we had 13 people help which included both members and their families. With this many people, it only took a couple of hours to complete the task. Please consider coming out to help. Also, children or grandchildren 12 years of age or older can earn community service hours for this.

Back to the budget for a moment... It can sometimes be difficult, when looking at any budget, to really figure out what is going on. The budget for the 2019-2020 fraternal year is intended to be very close to the previous fraternal year budget with the exception of increases to charitable giving.

Our intention is to double what we give to:

Seminarian RSVP Program	Plymouth Elks Veterans Lunches	Warriors to Lourdes
USO "Call Home" program	Archdiocese Military Service	AOH Charity Ball
Blum's Landing	Desert Angels Postage	Wreaths Across America

We will increase our contribution to the Prison Ministry, though it will not quite double (but it is what was requested).

We also plan to support the additional following charities:

Michigan Freedom Center	Fisher House Foundation	The Gary Sinise Foundation
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I feel all these charities fit well with the mission and Patriotic value of the Fourth Degree. These will be in the budget and, as always, anyone can ask questions, make additional suggestions, etc. And, yes, we will take a vote on this.

Work on the Coats for Veterans project is progressing. Dennis Lipski and I met with Richard Adis (a Sir Knight from our assembly as well as the commander of the local VFW post) and John Lockwood (a Third Degree knight and commander of the American Legion post). We discussed the overall plan as well as started working on some advertising material. More to come, especially the dates and how you can help.

The next Fourth Degree Exemplification is September 14, 2019 at DeCarlo's Banquet Center with registration starting at 9am. Please encourage your fellow Knights and council members to join. We believe we will have at least four people being exemplified and joining our Assembly, though there is always room for more! I have kits available that include a Form 4, an information brochure from Supreme as well as the agenda for the day. I am visiting as many council meetings as I can this month, and have asked other Sir Knights to help cover meeting I cannot attend.

PFN Jim Inch is in charge of the 50th Anniversary planning team and is still looking for help. The 50th Anniversary of the Assembly will be August 1, 2020, and we plan to celebrate. Jim has been doing preliminary work on it for over a year, 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).

As always, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next Assembly meeting, August 18, 2019, 4:00pm, at Fr. Victor J. Renaud Council Hall. (Note: We WILL NOT be having dinner after this meeting, as the Pope John Ladies are not meeting.)

Vivat Jesus!

Eugene Suchyta, Faithful Navigator  
Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536  
[www.kofc1536assembly.org](http://www.kofc1536assembly.org)  
[gene.suchyta@gmail.com](mailto:gene.suchyta@gmail.com)  
734.748.2644