



December 2019

Worthy Sir Knights of Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536,

Advent is upon us. This is the time of waiting... We anticipate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ in the lowly surroundings of a manger in Bethlehem. As Isaiah foretold, "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." Let us strive to keep Christmas every day, not just December 25.

Some quick notes about the November and December meetings:

- In November, Ed Shaheen and Dennis Lipski were both named Sir Knight of the Month. Each of them made significant contributions to our extremely successful Coats for Veterans drive, and I am very grateful for what they did. In December, Josh Earles was named Sir Knight of the Month. Since transferring to our assembly, Josh has been able to attend 10 Color Corps events!
- Also, in November, we read into the minutes 6 resolutions which were read again and passed in December. These resolutions have no impact on our bylaws; rather, they will be passed on to the Master at the biennial district meeting for consideration by the District. If they pass there, they go up to the vice supreme master, then possibly to the Supreme Master.
- Finally, we took additional nominations for Pilot in October, November and December and held the election in December. Joe Bradley was the winner and will fill the term ending June 30, 2020. I want to again thank John Filipiak for his work as Pilot and also thank Sal DeSanto and Juan Maldonado for agreeing to run. With elections coming up for all offices in May, I expect we will have a great slate of candidates!

We have one final veteran related opportunity between now and the end of the year. On Saturday, December 14, starting at noon, our Color Corps will be participating with others in Wreaths Across America at St Hedwig Cemetery & Mausoleum, 23755 Military Road, Dearborn Heights, MI. We will be in the garage on the north side of the property. Joining with Msgr. Schulte Assembly 492, we will help honor veterans that are buried at St Hedwig. This is a great opportunity to close out 2019 and live the Patriotic value of the Fourth Degree!

Because of the November snowfall, the Memorial Mass for Renaud Council 3292 that they were going to share with us was cancelled. Although they offered to allow us to join them in their reschedule, I decided we would reschedule for some time in early 2019. At our December meeting, we had some great suggestions on how we might accomplish this. I hope to have more information either later this month or sometime in January regarding what action we will take.

At the November meeting I asked for some help with a couple of things, and I am grateful for the help that Sir Knights are providing. Sal DeSanto, one of our newest Sir Knights, has offered to take on the twice per year Detroit VA Hospital coffee and donut serving activity. I appreciate his willingness to take this on. Additionally, OJ Lenze, Ed Hurst and Vince Ventura agreed to help me make phone calls each month to a few of the Sir Knights from which we don't hear a lot or don't see at meetings. While it will take us a while to get through everyone, I do hope that we will make contact with as many people as we can to make sure we are meeting any needs they may have.

With the start of the new year comes a small round of forms, the most important being the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity. **This is where I need YOUR help.** For the last two years I have received very little information from anyone regarding what they have done that would be applicable to the assembly. While I realize most hours are spent at the council level, I know people also do things which would be considered for the assembly. Last year, only 8 people sent me hours. I would be most appreciative if you could inundate me with the hours you spend on charitable work for which you would like to report at the assembly level. Supreme has a form for this – you can find it at https://www.kofc.org/un/en/forms/council/individual_survey1728a_p.pdf. You can record hours for both the council and assembly using this form – just make sure both get a copy. Our next meeting is January 19, 2020; please bring it to the meeting or send it to me via mail or email. Receiving the information by January 19 will give us a few days to get the total to Supreme by the end of the month.

Our Worthy Comptroller Greg Rapelje is in the process of mailing the bills. Note that he sends one to everyone, even those that are Honorary Life members. This gives people an opportunity to contribute to Guest House, Holy Cross

Services, the Military Chaplain Scholarship fund and a number of other items that may be important you. My ask is that you return they payment promptly so that we can continue to move forward. Note that Greg will usually hold a membership card until the next meeting so that he can have an opportunity to hand it to you as opposed to mailing it.

The officers looked over and agreed to the proposed 2020 calendar. The only General Membership meeting changes for 2020 are in June (Father's Day) and December (proximity to Christmas). In those two months, the General Membership meeting will be the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm (at the same time we would usually have the officer meeting). For January, June and December, we are not planning to have an officer meeting.

Since my last Navigator News, two Sir Knights, Carl Provencal and Joe Brescoll, passed on to eternal glory. Our Color Corps was present for both the casket watch, the chalice presentation as well as funeral for both. To date, this year, 8 Sir Knights have been called home to be with Christ.

Both Hans Hansen and Chet Ostrowski have had recent health concerns; please to continue to pray for them as well as the others that are on our prayer list on the website at <http://kofc1536assembly.org/prayer.html>.

Our Color Corps was pretty busy in November. We had assignments that included elevation of Fr. Toma Azizo to Chorbishop by Bishop Yousif Benham Habashand, the Red, White and Blue Mass at St. Aiden in Livonia and a pastor installation by Bishop Battersby a The Church of the Divine Child in Dearborn. Our Color Corps numbers are slowly increasing and we were able to represent well at these events.



I mentioned in my last Navigator News that **The Supply Room** (TSR) is the domestic supplier for the Fourth Degree Official Regalia (uniform). They are now taking orders for the new uniform, the cost of which is \$449.00. In October we announced an incentive program for up to 5 people to help reduce the cost of the uniform and had five people fairly quickly take advantage of that. In November we announced another incentive for up to three additional people. As I write this, 2 people have taken advantage of that. It may very well be that, by the time you read this, the third opportunity will also be taken. You can order the new uniform at <https://www.kofcuniform.com>.

To help replenish the Color Corps funds as well as possibly offer additional incentives, our Worthy Scribe has arranged another **On The Border** fundraiser for all day Thursday, January 16, 2020. (On The Border is located at 35613 Warren Rd, Westland, MI.) This is pretty easy – you just show up, tell them you are there for **Give Back Night** and you eat! (Since this is not something we included in the budget, the officers felt comfortable using this for the Color Corps.) The last time we did this we did fairly well. We hope to be able to run a few of these so we can keep the Color Corps on solid financial footing.

Our next meeting is Sunday, January 19, 2020 at 4:00pm at Renaud Council Hall. Have a blessed and merry Christmas as well as a happy new year!

Vivat Jesus!

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