



January 2020

Worthy Sir Knights of Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536,

And the angel of the Lord said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

We start 2020 with great hope for peace on earth and goodwill toward men (or all, depending on the translation). We also take this opportunity to look back on 2019 and consider the year in retrospect... It is difficult to look back without thinking of those that God, in His grand design, choose to take unto Him. We will miss Sir Knights Steven Socha, Gordon Vess, Eugene Osowski, Robert Allie, Bill Arkesteyn, Anthony Fielek, Carl Provencal, Joe Brescoll and Charles Quinn. We are, however, comforted that they are with Christ and are now far better off than they were in their final days with us.

I feel 2019 was a very busy and successful year for our Assembly. The two poker fundraisers has put our assembly on very solid financial footing and allowed us to increase our charitable contributions. The Coats for Veterans collection we led with help with the American Legion and VFW was more successful than I had imagined it would be. Finally, although the number of Sir Knights in our Color Corps is now much smaller than what it used to be, those that are in the Color Corps show up regularly, we have been able to help some people purchase the new uniform and the Color Corps is slowly growing.

We also closed out two big issues at the end of the year at the December meeting: we elected Joe Bradley as our new Faithful Pilot and we also voted and passed all of the resolutions which will go to the District Biennial meeting. I appreciate the efforts everyone went through for both of these, and also wanted to thank both Sal DeSanto and Juan Maldonado for running for Pilot. (Just a reminder that elections for all offices will be in a few short months!)

Josh Earles was the last Sir Knight of the Month for 2019. Since joining our Assembly, as well as the Color Corps, Josh has attended more than 10 Color Corps events.



Finally, we had two significant events in December that help to underscore the Patriotic value of the Fourth Degree. First, a few of us helped the Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks pack and wrap Christmas gifts for veterans. Second, many of our Color Corps participated in Wreaths Across America at St. Hedwig Cemetery in Dearborn Hts. with Msgr. Schulte Assembly #0492. It was great to have so many people come out to honor those that have served our country.

I mentioned in the December Navigator News the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity. I can't mention enough how important this is. Using the information from this report, the Knights of Columbus maintains its 501(c)(8) and 501(c)(3) status. The report is due at the end of January, and I **need YOUR help** in completing it. 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.

By now you should have received a bill from our Worthy Comptroller Greg Rapelje. Note that he sends one to everyone, even those that are Honorary Life members. This gives members 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 to you. My ask is that you return the 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. (We spend a surprisingly large amount on postage.)

The next Fourth Degree Exemplification will occur on March 7, 2020. This is only about 10 weeks away and will go by very quickly. Your help in recruiting at your council meetings is vital to keeping our Fourth Degree assembly alive and vibrant. Last year we exemplified 12 new members, which is outstanding. We have at least two people that will be exemplified in March, though it would be great to have six to eight. While I plan to attend council meetings in January and February, I cannot get to them all. Please talk to your council members about joining the Fourth Degree.

The 50th Anniversary of the Assembly will be August 1, 2020, and we plan to celebrate. PFN Jim Inch is in charge of the 50th Anniversary planning team. He has been doing preliminary work on it for about a year, and we are only about six months away from the event. We need to pull together to make it happen. If you are interested in helping, please contact him at jiminch66@gmail.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. 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. If you are thinking about going, please RSVP with On The Border at <https://www.groupraise.com/events/124568>. Note that this is their requirement, not ours. We need 20 people to RSVP by January 13 or they will cancel our fundraiser.

Our next charity poker fundraiser will be May 14 to May 17. This is the week-end before the State Convention. We had a lot of people sign-up to help last fall, which was great. In a few weeks I will be putting together the sign-up for this. Please mark these dates on your calendar — many hands make light work!

Our Worthy Friar Fr. Richard has agreed to do a Memorial Mass on Sunday, February 16 at Renaud Council Hall starting at 3:30pm. Note that this does not replace Sunday Mass; it is meant to remember and honor those Sir Knights of our Assembly that have preceded us to eternal glory. I will send out another reminder before the Mass. Much thanks to Faithful Admiral Chris Scanlan for helping to make the arrangements.

I recently sent an email asking for continued prayers for PFN Denny McCann and Lady Kathleen. 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>.

Finally, please help me welcome Sir Knight John Maclean to our assembly. John recently transferred in and is a Past Faithful Navigator, as well. *Welcome, John!*

Our next meeting is Sunday, January 19, 2020 at 4:00pm at Renaud Council Hall. As always, I look forward to seeing you there!

Vivat Jesus!

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