

Knights of Columbus
Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536

February 2020

Worthy Sir Knights of Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536,

We start the month in Ordinary Time... We end the month starting Lent with Ash Wednesday... Lent leads up to greatest feast in the Catholic Church – Easter! But first we must make our way through Lenten fasting, abstinence and penance.



As I write this, I received notification of the passing of Past Faithful Navigator Chet Ostrowski. Chet had been ill for quite some time. Funeral arrangements are Friday, February 7 at Fred Wood Funeral Home in Livonia with the Funeral Mass on Saturday, February 8 at St. Colette on Newburgh Rd in Livonia. Please pray for Lady Margaret as well as for the repose of Chet's soul.

I want to thank the many people that have already sent in their dues for 2020. Our Worthy Comptroller, Greg Rapelje, tells me we will be sending out about 30 second notices, which means a little over 140 members have already paid. Greg and I appreciate the timeliness of your payment, as it helps us work through all the financials to keep the assembly running smoothly. If you have not sent in your dues as of yet, we would appreciate your prompt payment. Thanks!

Our next General Assembly meeting will be Sunday, February 16, at Fr. Victor J. Renaud Council Hall. Our Faithful Friar, Fr. Richard, has agreed to do a Memorial Mass for our fallen Sir Knights starting at 3:30pm. The Mass will be upstairs, where the ladies usually meet, as all are invited. Please plan to come early to celebrate this Mass with your fellow Sir Knights and Ladies. Note that this Mass is **NOT** intended to fulfill your Sunday obligation. We will start the General Assembly 5 or 10 minutes after the Mass has ended and we have put away everything that needs to be put away.

With the start of Lent also comes a Friday Knights of Columbus favorite: Fish Fries! Our brothers at Fr. Victor J. Renaud Council will start on February 28 and continue every Friday up to and including Good Friday from 5pm through 7pm. As part of the contribution we make to the council and the hall, we help with cleanup afterwards. We need three or four people every Friday starting at about 6:45pm. This is not hard work. We have a signup sheet online which you can get to from the **News** page on our website, <http://kofc1536assembly.org>. You can also volunteer by emailing, texting or calling me (my contact information is below).

We are also starting to take volunteers for our next set of Charity Poker Nights at Crazy Kopz (Vision Lanes), 38250 Ford Rd, Westland, MI, which will be Thursday through Sunday, May 14, 15, 16 and 17. We already have some people that have signed up, which our chairman, SK Joe Bradley, appreciates. We have lots of opportunities for those that are experienced and can be a shift chairperson as well as those that are not as experienced or would prefer to be workers. Additionally, we have a couple of short shifts (only about 90 minutes long) on May 16 and May 17, Saturday and Sunday, to help with the rush that occurs around 6:30pm. We have an online signup for this as well, which you can also get to from the **News** page on our website. Alternately, you can email, call or text Joe at jbradleyhome@comcast.net or 734.673.0004.

The next District Fourth Degree Exemplification is Saturday, March 7, at DeCarlo's Banquet and Convention Center, 6015 E 10 Mile Rd, Warren, MI. We ask for people to start arriving at about 9am, with the Exemplification starting at about 10:30am. Dinner is at about 1pm. We currently have five brothers from surrounding councils that plan to be Exemplified. If you would like to attend, or, you know someone that would like to be Exemplified, please contact me immediately via email, phone or text. We need to have all the money for this no later than our next General Assembly meeting on Sunday, February 16.

The District Biennial meeting will also be in March (date to be determined, though very likely March 21). The location will likely be the Fr. John M. Lynch KofC Hall, 870 N Main St, Clawson, MI (very likely, but could change). There is no cost to attend, though I would like to know who is coming. If you plan to attend, please email, text or call me to let me know.

The election process will start in March. We will take nominations in March, April and May, with elections at the close of nominations in May. Please consider running for one of the offices. It is with the help of many people that our assembly is strong and does great work in the community.

On March 26th we will return to the Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Rd E, Plymouth, MI, to help serve steak lunches to veterans from Detroit and Ann Arbor. We start at about 11am. This is always a great event and we usually have at least a dozen Knights of Columbus from our assembly and the surrounding councils helping to serve. This is really easy work and helps to demonstrate the Patriotic value of the Fourth Degree.

On April 5th we will be at the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center, 4646 John R St, Detroit, MI, to serve coffee and donuts to the veterans after the Protestant and Catholic services. We need at least four people to make the event a success, though we can certainly use more. One of our newest members, SK Sal DeSanto, has offered to lead this. Another new member has also agreed to join us for the day. That means we need only one more person. Please volunteer at one of the meetings or email, text or call me if you plan to join us.

PFN Jim Inch is leading the planning of the 50th Anniversary of the Assembly Celebration we plan to have on Saturday, August 1, 2020. Jim has been doing preliminary work on it for about 18 months, and we are only about six months away from the event. We know we will be at St. John Neumann, 44800 Warren Ave, Canton, MI, and we will start with 4:30pm Mass. We expect to have dinner, some speeches (can't avoid it) and some music and dancing. We need to pull together to make it happen. If you are interested in helping, please contact him at jiminch66@gmail.com.

A couple of months ago SK's OJ Lenze, Vince Ventura and Ed Hurst agreed to help me make phone calls to some of assembly members from whom we have not seen nor heard in a while. Having talked with them, and from my own personal experience, it is very hard to make contact with some people. Although we have street addresses, email address and phone numbers, most of the contacts we try to make go unanswered. While this can be frustrating, we are still committed to try and reach out to those that cannot make the meetings and that we don't see at our council meetings. If one of us sends you a note or leaves you a message, please try to get back in touch with us. We want to make sure we are meeting the needs of the members of our assembly as best we can.

At about the same time as Supreme announced the new domestic supplier for the Fourth Degree uniform with a lower price, we started a program to help some members purchase the new uniform. To date we have been able to offer eight opportunities. In late January, the eighth one was taken. This program has helped increase the number of members we have for the Color Corps. At our last event (a Mass at Holy Family in Novi), eight Sir Knights from our assembly participated. Our Commander, Dennis Lipski, and I will continue to discuss the finances of the Color Corps and determine if we can make any additional offers. (Fundraisers, like the one we had in January and On The Border, help.) If we can, an announcement will be made at a General Assembly meeting, and I will send an email to all members when I return home after the meeting that evening. I appreciate all the members that have purchased the new uniform, and I look forward to a continued increase in our Color Corps ranks.

Lady Brenda Buchanec, PFN Denny and Lady Kathy McCann continue to deal with a number of health issues for which your prayers are most welcome. Please continue to pray for them as well as everyone else that is on our prayer list which can be found online at <http://kofc1536assembly.org/prayer.html>.

At the end of January, the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity was sent to Supreme. The information on this report is used by the Knights of Columbus to maintain its 501(c)(8) and 501(c)(3) status. From the information I received, the assembly and its members donated over \$20,000 in cash, chalices an in-kind contributions, as well as provided almost 2500 hours of service. This is great work done by the folks in our assembly, and I appreciate the information you were able to send me so that I could complete the survey.

As mentioned above, our next meeting is Sunday, February 16, 2020 at Renaud Council Hall. Our Memorial Mass will be in the upstairs hall starting at 3:30pm, with the General Assembly meeting to follow a few minutes later in the downstairs hall. Dinner will follow at the low price of \$5 per person. As always, I look forward to seeing you there!

Vivat Jesus!

Eugene Suchyta, Faithful Navigator
Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536
www.kofc1536assembly.org
gene.suchyta@gmail.com
734.748.2644