



June 2020

Worthy Sir Knights of Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536,

This past weekend was the Feast of Corpus Christi. A very Catholic feast day that has been celebrated for hundreds of years. With it comes the close of the Easter season and all that it brought. A long stretch of what the Catholic Church refers to as “Ordinary Time” will take us through the balance of summer and into fall.

I know from talking with other assembly members as well as friends and relatives that many people would like to get back to “normal” (or perhaps “ordinary time” of a different sort). These past three months have been interesting, to say the least. I feel it is unfortunate that a number of our activities were cancelled and did not allow us the opportunity to either take part in a charitable event or take part in the celebration or recognition of others that served the United States as part of the US military. I also understand we are an assembly that has many members considered “at risk” for COVID-19, and as such I firmly understand the need for people to return to “normal” at a pace that is comfortable for them.

Even with all that has happened, the Color Corps of our assembly has been able to do a few small activities as we try to carry forth the mission of the Fourth Degree. On May 13, 2020, Commander Dennis Lipski, Pilot Joe Bradley and I were able to present one of our chalices to then transitional deacon, now Father, Drew Mabee. Father Drew was a member of Our Lady of Good Council and was ordained on June 8, 2020. Father Drew appreciated receiving the chalice and planned to use it frequently. This particular chalice was engraved with PFN Chet Ostrowski’s name. In addition to the three of us from the Color Corps, we were joined by Margaret Ostrowski (Chet’s widow), one of Chet’s grandsons and John Galindo, DGK of Chet’s home council Dr. Thomas A. Dooley 5492.



Also, on the same day, May 13, the three of us (Dennis, Joe and I) replaced the indoor flag at Ste. Anne de Detroit. Msgr. Kosanke was very grateful to receive the flag and helped us remove the old and install the new.

Finally, on June 13 and June 14, 2020, we responded to an invitation to participate in Corpus Christi Masses and processions at St. John XXIII in Redford. Both Fr. Greg Piatt and Deacon Steve Morello are now members of our assembly, and they felt that since we all share the “John XXIII” name that it was only right for us to participate. This being an outdoor mass, we opened participation to everyone in the Color Corps. We were also fortunate in that on June 8 the Archdiocese of Detroit removed the face-covering requirement as long as physical distancing was maintained.

Officer elections occurred during the May General Assembly meeting. The results are:

- Navigator – Gene Suchyta
- Captain – John Russell
- Pilot – Joe Bradley
- Comptroller – Greg Rapelje
- Scribe – Ed Hurst, Jr.
- Purser – Lou Brotchner
- Inner Sentinel (2) – Glenn Rapelje and Patrick Lowry
- Outer Sentinel (2) – Josh Earles and Bob Rugenski
- Admiral – Chris Scanlan
- 3-Year Trustee – Ed Shaheen

I am humbled and honored that I have been reelected as Faithful Navigator and will do my best to serve the assembly in that capacity.

Our assembly has had online meetings in April, May and June. I plan to have the July meeting at the Council Hall, assuming I get clearance from the folks at the hall. (They are the people that arrange for cleaning and that kind of stuff, so it really does have to be OK with them.) I also plan to have the meeting online, as well, for those that may not feel comfortable being in a large group. This might be a little tricky as we will have to keep social distancing measures in place, so we will see what we can do. I am hopeful, though, that we will be able gather as a group fairly soon.

At the next officer meeting we will confirm the calendar for the next six months and also make sure we understand what we plan to do for the upcoming fraternal year. This will include a discussion of the 50th Anniversary Celebration (which has, so far, been moved to October) as well as activities and actions we may want to take (including another coat drive). For large items, approval from the assembly will be sought.

As things currently sit, the next activity we have planned is the MDOT Adopt-A-Highway, currently set for Saturday, July 18, 2020, at 9:00am (optional breakfast at 8:00am at the Red Olive at the NE corner of Plymouth and Farmington roads). I believe this will still occur. This will be our first charitable activity in a long time, and I am hopeful we will have a great response. Having between 12 and 14 people participate in this really helps the trash pickup go quickly.

The Detroit VA Hospital is still "locked down," if you will. Our spring coffee and donuts activity was cancelled, and as of right now our August activity is also cancelled. If this changes, I will let you know.

Our May Charity Poker fundraiser was cancelled. Currently, the Governor's orders have all charity poker games cancelled through June 12, 2020. Although casinos in Detroit will be able to reopen, they are limited to 15% capacity, 6-foot social distancing and also have no poker rooms. Speaking only for myself, I feel this puts our September activity at risk, and may also put some of our charitable giving at risk. Our chairman for this, Joe Bradley, continues to monitor the situation such that we can be prepared to take appropriate action when we know more.

Coming much faster than any of us would expect is the next Fourth Degree Exemplification, scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2020 at DeCarlo's. Please talk to those brother knights that are Third Degree and ask about their interest in joining the Forth Degree. I can tell you from experience that having your name engraved on a chalice and presented to a priest can be a powerful recruiting tool.

I wish you all a happy Father's Day, and I look forward to the next fraternal year as your Faithful Navigator!

Vivat Jesus!

Eugene Suchyta, Faithful Navigator
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