



July 2020

Worthy Sir Knights of Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536,

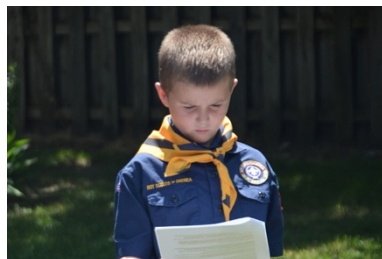
We are now in Ordinary Time. This is one of the longest of the church seasons and will take us through the fall. This is also the time in the Detroit Archdiocese when new priests are ordained (early June), new assignments and movements occur and some priests retire (July 1). We have been blessed with the reopening of churches (with capacity limits) that have allowed us to return to our places of worship, although the Archbishop has extended dispensation for physically going to mass through early September.

Even so, the United States is still struggling with overcoming COVID-19. The most recent order by our state governor has made wearing a face mask mandatory while in a store. While many people assumed the summer would bring relief, it seems to have increased the number of cases with many people still concerned about keeping themselves safe. Many states are also having issues with trying to keep cases under control.

As for our new normal, I tried something a little different at our most recent officer meeting – we met in person, using the upper hall at Renaud, as well as via GoToMeeting. I spoke to most of the people that were online and they felt it went well. With that in mind, I plan to do the July and August meetings, at least, the same way. This means you will have an opportunity to come to the hall for the meeting on July 19 or participate online. I've talked with my wife, and Sir Knights will be using the upper hall (we usually get more people at our meeting than at the Pope John Ladies meeting) and they will be using the lower hall. We believe that, given the size of the groups, we will be able to implement proper social distancing. Note that I expect that facemasks will be required. We will NOT be doing dinner in July – Kathy wants to talk with the ladies to see how that can be worked out and arranged and keep it safe for all involved.

Catching up on Sir Knight of the Month, I know I mentioned that Fr. Richard held the honor for March, and Richard Fullmerhouser for April. What I forgot to mention last month is that Tim Mirabitor was Sir Knight of the Month for May. Talking with Fr. Richard, Tim has been helping the retired priests at the village close to Madonna University. I know the priests there appreciate his work, as do we. *Congratulations, Tim!* As for June, that is when I award the Sir Knight of the Year. I can't remember why I didn't announce it at the June meeting, but I will announce it at the July meeting (in addition to a Sir Knight of the Month).

Catching up on other activities, a few of the officers, our Worthy Master Emeritus Frank Pawelak and I joined with two Cub Scouts from Pack 11169 Great Lakes Service Council in a Flag Retirement Ceremony. Although the ceremony was short, we retired somewhere between 10 and 15 flags on what was a very hot day. My thanks to those officers that attended, as well as the Stortini family and their two cub scout sons (the Stortini's are cousins of mine).



At the most recent officer meeting we discussed the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration which had been planned for August 1<sup>st</sup> and moved to October 10<sup>th</sup>. Given the current situation in the state our planning chairperson, PFN Jim Inch, the other officers and I decided we would put the celebration on hold and revisit it in early 2021, perhaps with an event in the late spring or late summer/early fall. With the restrictions in place and the comfort of many

people regarding large gatherings, we felt it was in our best interest to wait and see. Fortunately, other than time and planning, we did not make any commitments that impacted our finances.

Also at our most recent officer meeting we have decided to ask the District Master if we can do our Officer Installation on Sunday, September 20, 2020, prior to our regular General Assembly meeting. The District Master has indicated he is completing a calendar and will get back to me as soon as he can. Note that the Master has agreed to do installations online as well as in person, so I expect that, one way or another, will have a great turnout for the event.

As we go forward, we believe we have two volunteer opportunities in which members can participate. The first is the M-DOT Adopt-A-Highway trash pickup which is currently planned for Saturday, July 18, 2020, starting at 9:00am. We should be able to keep good social distance between everyone even if we have a dozen people. Some of us will gather at the Red Olive at the NE corner of Plymouth and Farmington roads for breakfast at 8:00am. This is completely optional. I know some people are still not comfortable with going to a restaurant. At about 9:00am we will gather outside the restaurant, put on our vests, get a photo and start picking up trash. With enough people, this should only take a couple of hours, though there have not been any trash pickups to date so there may be a bit out there.

The second opportunity is still tentative and is a Habitat for Humanity build for a veteran in the Taylor area. I am working the Habitat people on a date. I know it will be a weekday, very likely in August, and they ask us to be there from 9:00am to 3:00pm (I believe). If I can pull this together and we can get between 6 and 8 people to help, this would be a great way of living our Patriotic value for the Fourth Degree. More to come (I hope)!

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, though I am thinking this is not going to happen this year. Additionally, I have not heard anything further on the Elks Veterans Steak Luncheon.

The officers have agreed to do another Coats4Veterans collection this fall. We will have to vote on this (there is an expenditure involved) though last year the collection was very successful. I am looking forward to this again, though I will be asking for a little more help collecting some of the coats from the boxes on a regular basis. Specifically, we are hoping that, for each church at which we have a collection bin, one (or more) of our members will agree to collect the coats from the bin. More on this as we get closer, though I can tell you this will help a lot.

Although the officers and I discussed a lot at the last meeting, we did not discuss the calendar for the upcoming fraternal year. At this point, I am planning to be out of town for the General Assembly Meetings in October 2020 and the March 2021 meeting. I mention this as we may be changing the dates for those once I have an opportunity to discuss the situation with the officers.

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 look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Sunday, July 19, 2020, at 4:00pm!

Vivat Jesus!

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