



August 2020

Worthy Sir Knights of Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536,

As we progress through summer, I am aware that some of us are back in church, while others are still uncomfortable going back. I know God is watching over all of us, and I know He is helping us get through this. I also know that each church is trying to do what they can to keep up safe. Keep on praying and keep on supporting your church and do not lose faith – we will get through this.

One of the most recent orders from the governor has once again restricted indoor meetings to no more than 10 people, even with proper social distancing. In order to keep this mandate and still be able to transact the business of the assembly, I talked to the officers at the last business meeting and this is what we will do:

1. I am asking the Comptroller, Purser, Scribe, Trustees, Admiral, Captain and Pilot to physically attend the next meeting. That will limit us to no more than 10 people.
2. I am asking the remaining officers, as well as the rest of the members of the assembly, to join us online. Information on how to join us online was sent along with this Navigator News. (If you don't have or lost the information, you can contact me, just don't try to do it five minutes before the meeting starts as I am usually busy.)

Thanks, and I appreciate your understanding. I understand that people would like to be done with COVID-19, but I feel we still have an obligation to help keep each other safe.

The following items of note occurred at our last general assembly meeting:

- Dennis Lipski was named Sir Knight of the Year for 2019-2020. Dennis is our Color Corps Commander, helped a lot with the Coats4Veterans drive, volunteered to be our VA Volunteer Services representative for Michigan District 1 and still helps out at church as a sacristan. *Congratulations, Dennis!*
- Ed Hurst Jr. was named Sir Knight of the month for July 2020. Ed arranged for the fundraiser we had at Quiznos in addition to being our Faithful Scribe. At St. John Neumann council 16169, Ed was recently elected Grand Knight. *Congratulations, Ed!*
- We started the budget process. The process is to present the budget and have it voted on during the following general assembly meeting. This means that in August we will be voting to approve the budget.

Speaking of the budget, I do expect to make some amendments to it before approval, as at the business meeting we discussed some of the issues we and others are facing, and the changes the officers discussed seem appropriate.

Specifically:

- The Plymouth Elks cancelled their Veterans Steak Lunches for the rest of the year.
- The Detroit VA Hospital has pretty much cancelled all outside activities, including coffee and donuts. They do, however, have a couple of programs that could use monetary support.
- The good folks at Veterans Haven in Wayne are not taking collections for anything except food and financial help. This means we will NOT be doing **Coats4Veterans** this year, but we are going to try and help them.

By way of helping Veterans Haven, we are going to try and collect some money for them instead of doing the 50-50 raffle. Knowing that I am asking only a limited number of people to attend the August meeting, I am praying that September will allow us to open the doors once again (albeit with appropriate social distancing). With this as the background, in the months of August and September we are going to be taking up a collection for Veterans Haven. If one of the budget amendments is passed, we will also contribute the amount that we had planned to spend on the Coats4Veterans program. Hopefully this will provide them with a little boost to help them continue to serve the needs of the veterans in the area.

Speaking of veterans, there is something else for which I can use your help. Every three months I am supposed to report to Veterans Affairs how we have helped veterans in the area. Since most people don't regularly tell me about what they do, it tends to be limited to what we do as a group, including our donations. **I would really appreciate if you could drop me a line – a text or an email or even a letter – to let me know you did something for a veteran, if it cost you anything and/or how much time it took.** It could be anything from driving someone to a doctor appointment, trimming a tree, cutting their lawn, shopping for them... Again, this would be most helpful, and I would really appreciate hearing about anything you may have done through the year.

Our Color Corps is starting to become active once again. We had the opportunity to support two masses during the novena at Ste. Anne de Detroit in late July. We also had the opportunity to support the casket watch for Fr. Ed Balazy at St. John the Baptist in Dearborn Heights.



Dennis Lipski, SK of the Year



Ste. Anne de Detroit



MDOT Adopt-A-Highway

Our Adopt-a-Highway went well, with 10 members showing up to clean up Plymouth Rd between Farmington and Middlebelt. We had a bit of start as we found out the Red Olive didn't open until 9:00am, but Annie's across the street was very accommodating. After a hearty breakfast, we collected the trash and finished in about 90 minutes. Thanks to all that gave of their time to help!

The next Fourth Degree Exemplification, scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2020, is about 7 weeks from now. I sent an email to all members describing how this exemplification will be online because of the social distancing restrictions. As I write this, we had three people that could not make previous exemplifications for a variety of reasons. I have talked to each of them and they will likely participate in this event. We have also received four additional signed Form 4's, bringing the total to seven. I have talked to at least three other people that are inclined to join us as well. This could be largest group we have had joining our assembly in a long time. I plan to attend as many council meetings as I can over the next two months, with Dennis Lipski joining me for as many as he can. However, your help in recruiting would be appreciated. My contact information is at the bottom of this note as well as on the web site; please feel free to have interested council members contact me.

On August 1<sup>st</sup> our Assembly celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its charter. I sent an email to everyone on that day commemorating the event. (I am including the note for those to which I send this via US mail.) There have been so many people that have come through the assembly, and so many Faithful Navigator's upon whose shoulders I stand. We should all be proud of what the assembly has accomplished and what we will accomplish on the next 50 years.

One quick note on the calendar: The October general assembly meeting will move to the second Sunday of the month, that is, October 11, 2020. The time will stay the same – 4:00pm. I appreciate your understanding of this situation.

Finally, again, for the September meeting, I am asking the Comptroller, Purser, Scribe, Trustees, Admiral, Captain and Pilot to physically attend the next meeting. I am asking the remaining officers, as well as the rest of the members of the assembly, to join us online. I feel this will allow us to meet, conduct business, follow the Governor's orders, and keep everyone safe. Again, thanks for your understanding.

Vivat Jesus!

Eugene Suchyta, Faithful Navigator  
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