



September 2020

Worthy Sir Knights of Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536,

I'm sure many of you feel as though you are being put to the test... Should I go to Church, or continue to watch on TV? I'm being bombarded by political ads, and it will only get worse the next two months... There is so much protesting and civil unrest... And yet, God is still with us, and the Holy Spirit is working through us to get us through all of this (even the election). As long as we keep ourselves centered on our faith, we will make it through and be stronger soldiers of the Lord.

Top of mind for me is our next general assembly meeting, scheduled for September 20, 2020, at 4pm at Renaud Council Hall. I am very much aware of the executive orders from the state governor and how they apply to us. (As I write this, the last one published is 2020-180, if you are keeping score.) That said, we will have our officer installation, as planned, at the hall. I will also have GoToMeeting available for those that would prefer to join us from home. Details on how to join us is included with this Navigator News in a separate document.

At our next meeting, in keeping with a decision we made at the last meeting, we will be collecting donations for Veterans Haven in Westland. You may recall that, last year, we collected and donated coats to them. This year they are taking collections only for non-perishable food and money. Anything we collect from members will be added to what we planned to be spend on the coat drive and donated to them. I would ask that, if you do plan to come to the meeting in person, please be generous.

With that out of the way...

Notice is hereby given that the October General Membership meeting will be on the SECOND Sunday of the month, October 11, 2020, at the usual time of 4:00pm.

I will be out of town the third week-end in October. At the officer meeting, there appeared to be no reason we couldn't move the meeting to the second Tuesday in October, so we did. Please mark your calendar.

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

- Dan Crowley was named Sir Knight of the Month. Dan is a charter member of the assembly – one of only three remaining – and is still active with us. *Congratulations, Dan!*
- The 2020-2021 Fraternal year budget was approved with a number of changes that modify our giving to better align with things we can and can't do because of COVID.
- We approved the purchase of 6 chalices, as we were down to only two that were not committed. These chalices have already come in and we will have them picked up after the upcoming September meeting (when we write a check for the balance we still owe).

Speaking of chalices, on August 24, 2020, George Roumaya, Chris Scanlan, Dennis Lipski and I presented one of our chalices to Rev. Marcus Shammami of the Chaldean diocese. Fr. Marcus was ordained on July 4, 2020, and was in need. This chalice was engraved with the names of SK Orville Roberts and SK Jim Hughes, PFN. Fr. Marcus was very grateful to receive it.

I am anticipating another opportunity to present one of our chalices to a needy seminarian. I have made arrangements with transitional deacon John Dudek to try and do this in December when he is home for Christmas. John is currently attending Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Boston, as he is an older seminarian. More to come as we get closer and get a firm date.

Fall exemplification is just around the corner – Saturday, September 26, 2020. Because of COVID, this exemplification will be online using Zoom (similar to GoToMeeting). As I write this, I believe we have 29 (!!) brothers signed up to be exemplified to the Fourth Degree. (Chris Scanlan and Ed Hurst, along with me, have been busy recruiting.) YOU can participate as well, and for no cost! You don't even have to wear a suit – a council or assembly shirt will suffice. Details on how to join us are also included with this Navigator News in a separate document.

Our Color Corps has been getting more and more active, which is great to see. In August, we helped with two funerals, the State Officer installation and Corporate Communion and Officer Installation for St. John Neumann council 16169. If you know of any group that would like to have us participate in an event, please have them contact our Commander, Dennis Lipski, at dmlipski@gmail.com.



Fr. Marcus Chalices Presentation



SK Fred Sleeman, FDM, Funeral



St. John Neumann Officer Installation

Our next activity in which people can help will be Adopt-a-Highway on Saturday, October 3, 2020, at 9:00am. Because the Red Olive was not open at 8:00am the last time we did this, there was a bit of confusion on where breakfast was. We'll work that out in the next couple of weeks and I will send a reminder email with the details. That said, if you want to help and plan to skip the optional 8:00am breakfast, we will likely still be meeting in the Red Olive parking lot at 9:00am. Again, details to follow.

I feel it is unfortunate that we had to postpone our 50th anniversary celebration. I do, however, feel the action was in the best interest of everyone. We plan to look at this again in 2021, and perhaps we will have something in the late spring or late summer.

The District Fall Harvest Meeting, planned for the first week-end in November, is currently "up in the air" with regard to if it will be in person or online. This also means the Packing Party, held concurrently with the meeting, is also up in the air. Our District Master Mark Brezenski plans to make a decision by the end of September on what action he plans to take. I will let you know when the decision is made what action we will take.

Our Worthy Master Emeritus, Frank Pawelak, has told us that all the Elks events scheduled through the end of the year – including the Elks Steak Luncheon and the Christmas Wrapping, have been cancelled. Further, the Detroit VA Hospital is not allowing any outside visitors to bring in things like coffee and donuts. So, in short, all these activities in which we would normally participate are also on hold.

Our Charity Poker Fundraiser scheduled for September 24 through September 27 will likely not occur. Currently, the state is not granting any charity poker licenses. While unfortunate, we understand and are making plans for 2021. I've asked our Charity Poker chairperson, Joe Bradley, to see if perhaps we can schedule 4 events next year in hopes of catching up, if you will.

Finally, as mentioned above, our next meeting will be on Sunday, September 20, both in person at Renaud Hall as well as online. Mark Brezenski, our District Master, will be on hand at 3:30pm for officer installation. The meeting will start at 4:00pm. At the meeting, we will be collecting for Veterans Haven in Westland, and I ask that you be generous in giving to them. (Note: The Pope John Ladies will not be meeting on September 20.)

Thanks, and I look forward to seeing you Sunday, September 20!

Vivat Jesus!

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