

Knights of Columbus
Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536

December 2020

Worthy Sir Knights of Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536,



Much in the world has happened since last I wrote. In particular, the election is over and we will have a new President of the United States this January. And, while he is Catholic, some question how Catholic he is. I remind you that that our order does not support candidates and their political agendas. I also remind you that prayers can be powerful and that we can make a difference by praying for those things in which we believe.

Additionally, Advent has begun. By the time you read this, it will either be (or will have just been), the Second Sunday of Advent. We eagerly await the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, who's birth in Bethlehem was foretold by the prophet Isaiah.

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

- Master Emeritus Frank Pawelak was named Sir Knight of the Month. I asked Frank to cover a couple of meetings for me and also asked him to complete the Knighting ceremony at a couple of councils. I appreciate Frank's help as I was out of town visiting my youngest daughter for a couple of days. *Congratulations, Frank!*
- A number of our new Sir Knights were in attendance and were introduced and welcomed!
- The District Master attended the meeting and announced the following awards for our assembly: Civic; Red White and Blue; and Star Assembly.
- The District Master also announced we are the home assembly for the District Sir Knight of the Year and District Lady of the Year, Dennis Lipski and Joyce Hansen.

When we eventually get the "all clear," the District Master plans to join us for a meeting "in person" to present the district awards. I want to thank all in the assembly for their work and help in allowing us to earn this level of recognition.

Also, I want to offer up my apologies for the rather sudden cancellation of the December meeting. When I was informed that Tom Lee's viewing would be the same night as our meeting, I knew I couldn't be in two places at once. Even though the funeral home limited the number of people at the viewing, I felt it was important for me, as the navigator of the assembly, to be present for the family. While I considered having John, the pilot, or Chris, our admiral, run the meeting, a quick look at the agenda showed that there really wasn't much to cover. In short, I appreciate your understanding in this matter. As in the past, we will hit the ground running in January.

Speaking of those next meetings, I have no idea where we will be regarding Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) orders. I am hopeful that people will "do the right thing" and that COVID cases will be down. Or, the vaccine will be available and people will be taking advantage of it. That said, I will be sure to email, US mail (to those without an email address) and post on the website how these meetings will take place. My anticipation is they will be both live and online, but we will see...

When I wrote to you last month, I mentioned that there have been a number of COVID cases involving members of the assembly. I can report that, to the best of my knowledge, all those that have contracted the virus have either recovered or are on the road to recovery. Some experienced almost no symptoms, while others struggled for quite some time. Fortunately, the prayers we have been able to offer up for those that were affected have allowed them to get healthy and continue the Lord's work.

This being December, our comptroller, Greg Rapelje, is preparing to send out the bills. These are being delayed a little because the new members from the September exemplification are still not in Membership Management (Greg and I have been checking every day). Greg will get the bills out when he knows he can run the bills without too much complication.

When you receive your bill this year, there will be two inserts. The first will be the **Life Celebration** document (which is also available on the website). Please discuss the contents of it with your loved ones – it describes the actions we in the assembly will take to celebrate your life when you pass away. After the discussion, please keep it with your important papers. It has all the phone numbers of all the officers of the assembly. Getting in touch with any one of us will ensure that we can take those actions that you and your loved ones will allow us to take.

The second insert is a letter from me asking for two things: first, fraternal hours you want credited to the assembly; second (and optional), updates to the Member Management database. Regarding the fraternal hours, every year I ask members to let

me know how many hours they spend on fraternal and charitable activity that they would like credited to the assembly. For the last few years, I've received at most 15 responses. While we keep pretty good track of group activities, such as Color Corps events and Elk Steak Luncheons, we have no idea of the other acts of kindness that you do on a regular basis, such as helping a neighbor rake the leaves or driving a veteran to church. These hours get turned in to Supreme and it helps with the 401(c)3 status.

The optional part is updates to some of the information in Supreme's Member Management database. The information I've included and for which I have asked for updates is a small part of what is in there. However, it is the information that, in many cases, is sadly lacking. Having this information would help us better understand, and celebrate, significant events in the lives of our members. Of course, this is optional, and really up to you if you want to pass along this information.

My ask is that even if you have no fraternal hours to turn in, and even if you choose not to provide any additional information on the Member Management data, you include this sheet in the envelope when you return your dues. This will go to our comptroller, Greg, and he will pass on to me the information as appropriate. Thanks in advance for helping with this.



SK of the Month Master Emeritus
Frank Pawelak



New Sir Knights at George F.
Monaghan council 2690



New Sir Knight Deacon Pat Conlen at
St. John Neumann council 16169

You may recall we had 31 new Sir Knights join us in September and one in October. I am happy to report that we had 5 additional Sir Knights join us in November. From George F. Monaghan council 2690 we had Daniel Dluski, Donald Knapp, Donald Knapp, Jr., and GK Roy MacDonald. From St. John Neumann council 16169 we had Deacon Pat Conlen. Please join me in welcoming them to the Fourth Degree and to our humble assembly.

Our assembly Memorial Mass was held on November 30, 2020, at St. John Neumann. We had, I felt, a great turnout from Sir Knights and Ladies of the assembly. Additionally, St. John Neumann council 16169 had an Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity following the mass. Many of our assembly choose to stay, showing support for those that were initiated into the Knights of Columbus. After the Exemplification, I knighted Deacon Pat. The new candidates experienced a lot!

This year's final Exemplification of Patriotism will be Saturday, December 12, and will be online. I anticipate having one or two candidates for this. The Exemplification will very likely be run from New Mexico, with a possibility of Saskatchewan, Canada. If you know of someone that would like to join the assembly, please contact me as soon as you can.

Our charity poker chairman, Joe Bradley, is interested in having someone learn how to be a chairperson for a charity poker weekend. There is some mentoring that will need to occur, and Joe is not completely stepping out. He does, however, want to make sure someone else knows what to do so that he can go out of town occasionally. If you are interested, please contact Joe at csmjb@protonmail.com or 734.673.0004.

Finally, some of you may have seen an email from Supreme with new council meeting guidelines. While this does not apply to assemblies, I anticipate the changes will come our way soon enough. I plan to work with the officers to make sure the transition to the new format, when it comes, is smooth and welcome by all.

Our next set of meetings will be in January 2021. Both Lady Kathy and I wish all Sir Knights and their Ladies and families a most blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!

Vivat Jesus!

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