

Knights of Columbus
Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536



January 2021

Worthy Sir Knights of Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536,

Happy New Year!

The Christmas season has ended and we are moving into a short period of ordinary time. The birth of the Christ child represents the start of a new beginning for all peoples on the earth, with the promise of salvation extended to the gentiles. We Christians are living the promise of salvation from the Living God!

Again, I apologize for the cancelled December meeting. We didn't have a lot going on, the MDHHS had orders in place limiting gatherings, and I felt I needed to be at Tom Lee's funeral. With all of that, I thought cancelling the meeting was the best option.

For the next general assembly meeting at 4:00pm on January 17, 2021, I expect to have the meeting in person as well as online. Even though COVID vaccinations are being rolled out, most people will not have the opportunity to receive it, and MDHHS restrictions may still be in place. With that in mind, we will continue to use the upstairs hall and those that choose to join in person will need to wear masks and participate in proper social distancing. I feel that as long as we don't exceed 25 people (the limit for funerals), we should be OK. As for the online piece, I will send that out a few days before the meeting.

At the next meeting, we will need to vote on two members that were Exemplified to the Fourth Degree on December 12, 2020, but we have not voted on as of yet. These are Michael Pipp from Monaghan and William "BJ" Juodawlakis from Daniel Lord. Both men seem to me to be upstanding individuals and I am sure we will complete the formality of voting on them.

Also, at the next meeting, I plan to discuss an opportunity to support the VA Hospital in Detroit. Our VAVS representative, Dennis Lipski, sent me a lengthy list of items for which they are in need. I would like to collect NEW puzzles, games, playing cards, crossword puzzle books, word search books – those kind of things. I think this will be a great way for us to support the veterans in our area even with COVID restrictions that are in place.

A quick note about emails... I send a lot. Sometimes I send texts (though only to those that have provided information for that). They were coming from my personal email, gene.suchyta@gmail.com. Lately, however, I have switched to sending from fn@kofc1536assembly.org. I have been having some issues with gmail, which is why I switched. However, Comcast (Xfinity) occasionally blocks emails from the new address. I am working with Comcast to resolve the issue, so those with a Comcast email may continue receiving them from my personal address. I apologize for not giving you earlier notice or explaining this.

One unfortunate side effect, I have discovered, is that emails from the new address may be going to your **Junk** or **Spam** email folder. If you haven't received anything from me in a while, you may want to check to see if my communication is ending up in your **Junk** or **Spam**.

All member will, hopefully, have received their bills in the mail. Note that I have had a few people contact me about them, then they received them the next day. Our Comptroller, Greg Rapelje, sent them out in mid-December. They have been slow in coming. If you have not received yours yet, please contact Greg at gregrap@juno.com. He can help you with whatever you need.

Further, with your bill, you should have received 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. 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. The hours we send to Supreme helps the Knights of Columbus maintain their 401 status. I happy to say Greg and I have received a number of these already returned with their dues. I appreciate all the information I receive from each of you and thank-you for sending this information to us.

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. Even if you don't have assembly fraternal hours to turn in, and even if you choose not to provide any additional information on the Member Management data, please include this sheet in the envelope when you return your dues. Greg, will pass on to me the information as appropriate. Thanks in advance for helping with this.

With Christmas in December also came Wreaths Across America. Once again our color corps joined with Msgr. Schulte at St. Hedwig Cemetery in Dearborn Heights. We were also joined by our Worthy Vice Supreme Master, Clifford Wasmund, which was unexpected though welcome.



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.

The next Michigan District 1 Fourth Degree Exemplification of Patriotism is scheduled for Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 10:00am on Zoom. Yes, this will again be virtual, as no one knows what the gathering rules will be in March. If you know of someone that would like to join the assembly, please contact me. The District Master is anticipating that the September exemplification will be live. Because DeCarlo's is closed, an alternative site is being selected. Knights Club in Port Huron is the tentative site. More to come as the year progresses, I'm sure.

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.

Additionally, we discussed some additional fundraisers at the officer meeting this month. We had a couple of suggestions along with people willing to lead them. We'll discuss these a little more at the January general assembly meeting and make a decision.

Finally, we will start taking nominations in March for all the officer positions. Elections will be in May. Please consider running for one of the offices. We have a lot of new members, and it would be great to see some of them decide that leadership of our great assembly is an activity of which they would like to take part.

Our next general assembly meeting will be Sunday, January 17, 2021 at 4:00pm. I will send the zoom meeting information closer to the meeting. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible!

Vivat Jesus!

Eugene Suchyta, Faithful Navigator
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