

Knights of Columbus
Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536



February 2021

Worthy Sir Knights of Pope John XXIII Assembly #1536,

Although we are currently in Ordinary Time, we are quickly moving into the Lenten season, with Ash Wednesday, on February 17, 2021. Many times, people “give up” something for Lent, though many are trying to “do something more.” Indeed, Lent is a time for us to reflect on our lives and, unlike many of those New Year’s Resolutions that have fallen by the wayside, make real changes that can make a real difference to us, our families and the people around us.

Notice is hereby given that our Worthy Master Emeritus Frank Pawelak and our Worthy District Marshal George Roumaya will be the committee that will be taking nominations for Assembly offices as well as running the Assembly election.

Notice is also hereby given that we will be taking nominations for Assembly offices at the following General Assembly meetings: Sunday, March 21, 2021, 4:00pm; Sunday, April 18, 2021, 4:00pm; and, Sunday, May 16, 2021, 4:00pm. The election will be held at the May 16, 2021, 4:00pm General Assembly meeting after nominations are closed.

About 75% of our members have paid their 2021 dues, and both Greg Rapelje, our, comptroller, and I appreciate the prompt payment. If you have not already paid, Greg will soon be sending out second notices. If you have paid and you receive a second notice, please contact Greg at 734.474.8398 or gregrap@juno.com. With the mail being what it is lately (I just received another Christmas card postmarked in December) it is possible that it was slow getting to Greg. You can also either contact Greg or me if you are experiencing some extenuating circumstances and need a little more time.

Regarding the optional information for which I asked in the letter I had sent to all members with the annual dues, I appreciate all the updates members provided. I have entered as much as I can in Supreme’s Membership Management database so that the records will updated for the council, as well. Some members chose to provide only month and year for spouse birthdays and/or anniversaries. While I appreciate the desire for privacy, Membership Management needs the entire date, including the year, for the information to be entered. So, while I have kept the information you gave me, I could not enter that in Supreme’s database.

Members returned to Greg and me about 50 sheets with updates to the Membership Management database and/or Fraternal Hours they wished to have credited to the assembly. With this information, our Annual Survey of fraternal Activity form was sent in with just under \$10,000 in contributions and a little over 3400 hours of fraternal service. While the contributions were down from the previous year (mainly due to the Coats4Veterans drive in 2019), the hours submitted is about 50% more than last year!

The next Fourth Degree Michigan District 1 meeting is Saturday, February 6, 2021, at 10:00am on Zoom. I have forwarded the meeting information to all the Sir Knights of our assembly. All are invited to attend. I expect the meeting will last about 90 minutes. If anyone needs the information to participate, please contact me via phone, text or email (see below).

So far, this fraternal year, we have added 40 Sir Knights to our assembly. I appreciate all the help in recruiting, especially from Chris Scanlan, past faithful navigator and our admiral. Asking around, it has been a long time since we added that many Sir Knights in one fraternal year. This is a great addition to the assembly. A number of the new Sir Knights have regularly been attending meetings and have also been getting involved.

The next Fourth Degree Exemplification of Patriotism will take place on Saturday, March 6, 2021, at 10:00am. This also will be on Zoom. If you know of anyone that wants to join our assembly, please have them contact me, or, please forward their contact information to me.

On February 1st we started collecting crossword puzzle books, word search books, games and puzzles for the John D. Dingall VA Hospital in Detroit. We will be collecting items the entire month of February, and I have asked the councils I regularly visit to help. Many (I think all) have agreed and are encouraging their members to participate. Items can be brought to the assembly meeting on Sunday, February 21 (even if you can't stay for the meeting). They can also be brought to just about any council meeting I regularly attend or dropped at my house (contact me if you need the address – there is a box on the front porch). I already have a pretty good size pile of stuff, and please keep it coming!

For the foreseeable future (think this fraternal year which ends on June 30), I plan to meet live as well as online, much as we have been doing for the past few months. COVID restrictions have been relaxed a little, which makes it a little easier, though I know many people are still feeling uneasy leaving the house and being with so many people they don't see on a regular basis. Meeting in person as well as online helps accommodate as many people as possible. HOWEVER, that does complicate an election. IF we only have one person running for each position, then it really isn't a problem. If there is a contested election, we'll have to figure out how to vote and make it work.

Lady Kathy has told me she is still trying to figure out if the Pope John Ladies will be meeting this month. Regardless of the decision, we will NOT be doing dinner.

One of our newest Sir Knights, Bill Dolunt, past grand knight of George F. Monaghan council 2690, has volunteered to run a golf outing fund raiser for the assembly. Bill, Joe Bradley and I met just before the officer meeting to discuss the plan and the details. Bill has run a number of golf outings for Monaghan. Since our poker fundraisers have been shut down for a year, this will provide some breathing room in the budget. Golf outings, being outside in a large area, are felt to be COVID friendly. We are working on a date and I expect to be able to announce something further in the March or April Navigator News. We are trying to secure a June date, so all those that are down in Florida right now honing their skills on the links should be back to participate this outing.

For those that ordered shirts and badges, Chris Scanlan will have those at the next meeting on February 21. The meeting starts at 4:00pm and Chris gets there a little early. If you have ordered a shirt or a badge, please come pick them up (and pay for them if you need to) even if you cannot stay for the meeting. After the meeting, Chris and I will start contacting folks to try and move the shirts and badges into members hands as well as collect any money for these items that might be outstanding. If you have any questions about what you ordered or if you owe any money, please contact Chris at 734.674.1364 or cjscanlan@aol.com.

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 csmbj@protonmail.com or 734.673.0004.

Our next general assembly meeting will be Sunday, February 21, 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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