

The Knightly News

COUNCIL 4522

CHARTERED 1958



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



Monthly Newsletter

January 2021

Important Dates This Month

Wednesday, Jan 6th – Officer's Meeting, 7:30 PM ZOOM
 Tuesday, Jan 12th – Christ House, 2:00 PM Set up @ Council Home
 Wednesday, Jan 13th – General Business Meeting, 7:30 PM ZOOM
 Free Throw Contest, QofA School Gym **TBD**
 Sat/Sun, Jan 23rd/24th – Membership Drive, All Masses Queen of Apostles
 Friday, January 24th – March for Life
 Sunday, Jan 31st – Corporate Communion Mass, Queen of Apostles, 10:00 AM Mass

DUES NOTICES for 2021 HAVE BEEN SENT and are DUE NLT JAN 31st!

Please pay your dues as soon as possible!

The financial health of the Council depends on your timely remittance of dues!!

This edition of the Knightly News is dedicated in memory in SK Leo Weston 1928 - 2020

Grand Knight's Message

In the name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I wish you and your family an incredibly happy and blessed New Year. We are indeed blessed with life despite the pandemic crisis. God is with us and will continue to guide us and our families, however, we must remain vigilant in prayer and adherence to the precautions.

I want to use this opportunity to thank all the brother Knights who stepped up to assist in the various ministries in the parish especially those serving as Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, etc. As an extension of the arm of the Priest, you are doing your duty as a Catholic gentleman. May I please ask you to invite and encourage other brother Knights to join in any of the Ministries and most especially as a brother Knight? Discuss your services to the parish and parish community to other Catholic gentlemen that they may decide to join the Order.

My brothers, we have begun the last half of the fraternal year. In about a month an election chair will be appointed who will oversee the Council's election of officers for the 2021/2022 fraternal year. I encourage you to engage in prayer now as to the office you will be interested to serve in the Council next year. It will be important that we have multiple candidates for each office who willingly want to serve Council 4522.

In our approved activity calendar, we are scheduled to have a Retreat between February and March. Highly likely we would not travel to the Pope John Paul II Shrine because of COVID-19 restriction; however, we can still have a day of prayer and reflection at the parish. We will need to meet with our pastor/chaplain to discuss a date and structure. We owe it to ourselves to enrich our spiritual lives. It is how we remain close to God and experience the fire of love in our soul.

Fraternally,
GK Patrick Okoronkwo

Knight of the Month

This month's Knight of the Month is Worthy Trustee and SK Jay Moore. SK Jay provided labor (and help from others) and transportation for three consecutive days as the Council prepared the annual Christmas baskets for families identified by the Poor Sisters of St. Joseph. Trips to the local Giant, ACCA, the Council home and finally to the PSSJ campus, along with all the lifting, sorting, and more lifting, all led to a highly successful and enjoyable annual event. Many thanks to SK Jay, son William and Lady Meredith for the support and Congratulations to SK Jay as this month's Knight of the Month!



Family of the Month

Congratulations to the Restivo family, Brother Danny and his wife, Meredith as this month's Family of the Month. Danny and Meredith were instrumental in supporting the Council's annual Christmas Basket event. A large part of the event is the delivery of the children's coats—as part of the overlapping, Coats for Kids campaign the Council sponsors each year. Danny and Meredith spent several hours sorting the coats, making sure the best available coat (size, sex, color) went to each of the nearly 40 kids identified by the Poor Sisters of St. Joseph. Brother Danny then returned the next day to move the coats and baskets over to PSSJ and delivery them to the appreciative families. Another successful event accomplished—only through the time and dedication of families like the Restivos! Thank you and Congratulations!!

QofA/KofC 4522 Winter Awards Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest

Noah Linn, an 8th grader at Queen of Apostles Catholic School, took this year's Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest honors with his narrative: "How trusting in God during a difficult time has helped you or someone you know find the strength and hope to endure it." COVID-19 restrictions prohibited the Council from awarding Noah in person, but his winning entry garnered him a \$150 gift card, which he received from Principal Anne Arias on December 17th, just in time for Christmas! Jaden Sabit finished a close second and was awarded a \$100 gift card and John Mielke closed out the top three, earning himself a \$50 gift card. Congratulations to all these outstanding authors! Noah's winning submission appears below.

My story of trusting in God in a difficult time was the first time I received the Sacrament of Penance. I was in second or third grade, and I thought the priest was going to tell my teachers, friends and parents all of my sins. I didn't want to go because of this. I worry a lot, so this was especially stressful.

The week before my first Confession, I started praying to God about it. I prayed to God to relieve my stress and anxiety, and to make the confession go smoothly. I began praying a lot more than usual, and I thought about Confession a lot. I just wanted to confess and be done with it, but I didn't want to go to Reconciliation. As the days got closer, I started to worry more and more about it. I was convinced that the priest would tell everybody my sins. On the day of the Sacrament of Penance, I thought of an idea. I would just confess my sins, but not the one I was worrying about. I was nine years old at the time so it's not a bad sin. I was so proud

of myself for thinking of the idea. When there was only one person in front of me, I started to wonder what God would think of this. I remembered all the praying that I had done, and wondered if it was a waste of time, because I was not going to confess the sin I was stressing about.

I prayed one last time before going into the confessional, and all of a sudden, I had the courage to do it. I had prayed for the stress to be relieved, and God gave me the courage to confess my sin. As I confessed, I thanked God for the gift of courage he had put in me. When it was done, I felt fresh. I was so happy to have been relieved of my chest. I was no longer stressed, and I was so happy for it. I had never felt better than the time I walked out of the confessional after my first Reconciliation.

The moral of this story is God will help you in a way you would least expect it sometimes. Another moral is you can always pray to God, and when it feels that He is not there, He is always there. God helped me to learn that whenever I am in need, or in a bad situation, I can pray and even if it feels like God is not there, I know that he is. The day of my first Reconciliation helped me learn to really pray and to thank God for all the things I take for granted.

God gave me the courage to endure my stress and anxiety, and He helped me grow as a person both physically and spiritually. I am still thankful to this day to God for helping me overcome this fear that I had. I have come to enjoy confession, and I love going now. The moment in my life where I was afraid to go to Confession has made me into a better person because I learned to pray to God better, and I learned that God can work in mysterious ways, and ways you would least expect. This has been my experience.

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

Students at Queen of Apostles Catholic School also participated in the annual Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest. While we didn't get the number of participants we had hoped for, the ones we did receive and judged were outstanding including our overall winner, submitted by David De Costa and pictured here.



David, now a “Threepeat” winner, was presented with a \$25 gift card for his talented artistry. David’s rendition was memorialized on a postcard including a “Consecration to the Holy Family” prayer and included in Queen of Apostles’ Christmas Card, mailing to the parishioners. Congratulations David!

Annual Christmas “Basket” Campaign



This year the Council provided boxes filled to the brim for 17 needy families identified by the Poor Sisters of St. Joseph. In addition to the dry/canned goods (graciously provided by the ACCA Food Pantry), each family received a 10-12-pound ham, a sack of potatoes, a sack of onions and one of oranges as well. Those items were provided by Mr. Dave Posey, General Manager at the Annandale Giant, at a great discount to the Council. The Council once again coupled the Christmas Baskets with donations from our “Coats for Kids” campaign. All of the families received at least one kid’s coat for a child in the family...as we handed out over 50 coats in total. Leaving a few behind for the Sisters to give out during the rest of the winter months, the remaining coats were donated to children attending Timber Lane Elementary School in Falls Church.



Each year, the Christmas Baskets event is a significant “lift” and could not be accomplished without the efforts and contributions of many. A multitude of thanks goes to the beforementioned ACCA Food Pantry (Jean Rackowski, in particular), Mr. Posey at the Annandale Giant, Mother Maria and the PSSJ and of course, the Council “elves” and their helpers: WGK Patrick Okoronkwo, SK Joe King, SK Jay Moore and his son, William—along with Meredith P., Brother Knight Danny Restivo and wife, Meredith, and FS Roger Williams and wife, Sue. God Bless you all for your charity!

In Memory of SK Leo Weston



The Council lost beloved Brother and SK Leo Weston on November 28, 2020 due to multiple non-COVID medical issues. At 92 years old and just short of 61 years of continuous service, Brother Leo was our most senior “active” Knight. An Inside Warden for years and always available anytime a call for help went out, Brother Leo is already missed for his dedication to the Knights, the parish, and the Catholic Church. Always with his witty sense of humor and wry smile, he was a pleasure to work alongside at any function. Council 4522 and the Fr. Walter Malloy Assembly, 1894 saluted SK Leo at his funeral with a Color Corps Honor Guard—proud to serve with him—proud to call him a Brother Knight and friend. God Bless you Leo!



Color Corps Members standing at attention for SK Leo Weston

March for Life 2021

COVID put the brakes on SO MANY events during 2020—it continues to threaten important milestones in 2021 as well, but as of this writing, plans for March for Life 2021 are being finalized—and our support will be called upon once again to ensure it is a success. We need at least three volunteers to help marshal the March for Life parade downtown. Having enough marshals is important to having a safe event. In the last several years authorities have added manpower requirements for first aid, clean-up, marshaling, and keeping Marchers from engaging with counter-protesters. This is in addition, to the number of activities in and around Queen of Apostles in support of this national event.

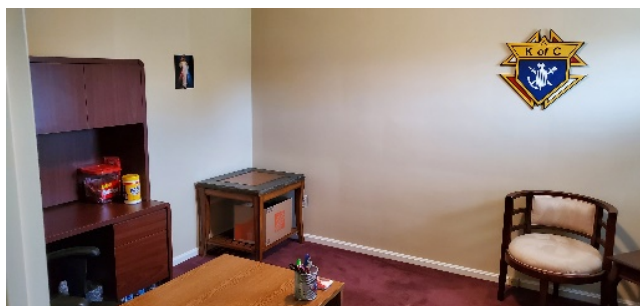


The theme for this year is *TOGETHER STRONG: LIFE UNITES!* "In a world marked by division, unrest, and fear, the pro-life movement brings together people from all walks of life, each with their own unique mission to promote the inherent dignity of the human person."
~Jeanne Mancini, President of March for Life

As one would expect, during these unsettling times, things are fluid with the March for Life and most other aspects of life. As more details are made available, they will be provided via Council email distribution.

"Adjunct" Council Space Takes Shape

The typical deliberate pace of the Diocese, a thwarted new home purchase, COVID, reassignment of pastors, change of strategic plans at the parish, and who knows what else have all stalled, indefinitely, the relocation of the Council from our current "home" in Annandale to the Queen of Apostles campus in Alexandria. Rest assured, conversations do continue with the Diocese and all parties are sure in the end, the Council will have a permanent home on the campus. In the meantime, new



Pastor and our Chaplain, Fr. Diaz realizes that in order to continue to grow the Council and be of utmost service to the parish, we [the Council] needs to have an immediate and established presence on campus. To that end, he has graciously provided a fully furnished Knights of Columbus office in the parish center, along with a brand-new joint use conference room, aptly commissioned as the Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney Conference Room. The Council appreciates his support and looks forward to working alongside Fr. Diaz to strengthen the Council and facilitate a plan to provide us with a permanent home on campus.



A FAMILY PRAYER

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate the splendor of true love,
to you we turn with trust.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too may be places of communion
and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic
churches.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again experience violence, rejection
and division:
may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready
comfort and healing.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
make us once more mindful
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its
beauty in God's plan.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer.
Amen.*



January Birthdays!

Anthony J Pasquale	01-01
Paul J Eubanks	01-04
Thomas J Byrnes Esquire	01-05
Steven T Zust	01-06
PGK Carroll Glass	01-09
Joseph B McFadden	01-09
David C Cook	01-14
David A Connolly	01-16
Innocent Nukuri	01-18
Michael C Opachko	01-21
Rev Ignacio De Ribera Martin	01-26
Louis J Lombardo	01-26
Michael Matthews	01-27
Edmund G O'Brien	01-27
Paul G Vrabel	01-28
James L Bailey	01-28
Stanley A Burger	01-28
James P McGlynn	01-28
Edward F Kearney	01-29
PGK Billy D Stewart Jr	01-30

Pope Proclaims 2021 Year of St. Joseph

Earlier this month, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis dedicated 2021 to Saint Joseph. Joseph, the father of Jesus of Nazareth, is an understated figure of the Christmas story, and yet for Christians he plays a pivotal role in bringing salvation to the whole world.

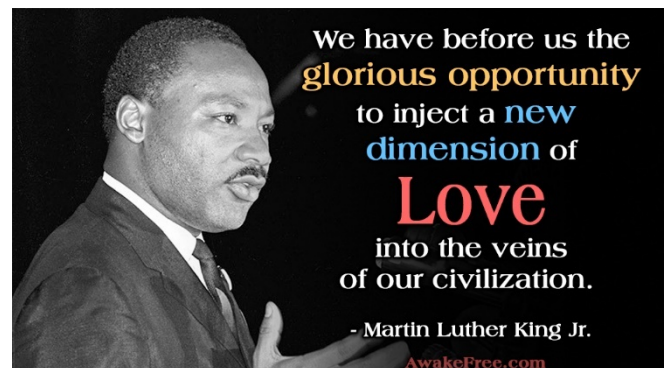
In a new Apostolic Letter entitled [Patris corde](#) ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, with humility, courage, strength and faith. Amid a worldwide pandemic creating havoc in many communities, families, and parishes, we can see the importance of "ordinary" people outside the normal spotlight of attention. These humble servants exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence." We should look to the image of Saint Joseph as the ideal caring parent to better understand how we can help our neighbor.



As Pope Francis said, "Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture."



Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
January 1, 2021



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 18, 2021

Reminder

All editions of The Knightly News, past and current, are available on the Council website at www.kc4522.com

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The submission deadline for the February 2021 Newsletter is January 20th

MAY THE HOLY NAMES OF JESUS BE PRAISED AND HONORED BY ALL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND MAY IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY RULE IN ALL OF OUR HEARTS UNTIL WE ATTAIN TO EVERLASTING LIFE! AMEN! ST. JOSEPH AND ST. DOMINIC, ORA PRO NOBIS!

For questions or comments, please contact the Editor, John Cosgayon at jncos95@outlook.com.
Additional information and points of contact are posted on our website at www.kc4522.com.

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