

## Knights Newsletter February 22, 2020

Brother Knights,

Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent is next week. I know Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, but I asked myself what I have done to prepare for Lent. Not as much as I should have, but there is still time. I thank God daily for all he has given me, including all my brother Knights. I also ask daily what is it he wants me to do. I ask him to show me his plan for me so I may follow. Let me be open to what God is saying to me. What are you doing to prepare for Lent?

Since my last newsletter we welcomed a transfer into our council, Stephen Kamykowski. Welcome Steve! We are currently at 170 members. Our new exemplification of charity, unity and fraternity will be held for the first time after the 12:30 Mass on March 1. This is open to family, friends and the public. We have 5 new candidates going through this exemplification plus several other First Degree Knights. If you have not yet achieved your Second and Third Degree, this is a great opportunity to achieve full Knighthood. The entire ceremony will take 30 minutes. All Knights and families are invited to observe.

The Knights recognized **Marshall Grazioli** as our **Knight of the Month**. Marshall holds the officer position of Lecturer and is the Knights Faith in Action Director - Life. Marshall is a Respect Life Ministry Lead and part of the Christian Service Committee. Marshall chaired the council and district KofC Free Throw Contest. He is a part of the Baby Bottle Boomerang campaign for Family Life Services. Marshall chaired the trip this month to Forgotten Harvest where he worked in the morning with the group from SJN and worked the afternoon shift with the Knights and their families packaging food products for local charities to be distributed to needy families.

The Knights recognized the **Dan and Nicole Skotak family** as our **Family of the Month**. The family attends Mass weekly, are regular attendees of the family ministry and the family has participated in the Special Olympics Halloween Dance. The family has also participated in Kids against Hunger at St. Edith's parish. Dan and Nicole are catechists and teach a 5th and 6th-grade split class. Dan and Nicole have participated in Alpha and Dan has participated in the TMIY program. Dan is a member of the Knights of Columbus and has participated in Adoration security, Special Olympic Games, and other Knight events. Nicole is a member of the SJN Women's Organization. Their daughters Abby and Anna attend religious education classes and Vacation Bible School. Abby is an Altar Server, a member of the children's choir, is a children's cantor and plays softball at All Saints School. Six-year-old Anna is very proud of her Catholic faith and is learning prayers in Latin. She has already learned the Sign of the Cross and the Pater Noster.

Father Paul has asked for Knights to go to a three day **Cursillo** retreat. For more information go to this link.

<http://cursillodetroit.com/> here is their Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Detroit-Catholic-Cursillo-Movement-154225497982455/about/> the next retreat is April 16-19. Please let me know if you are interested.

Thank you to the brother Knights who sent in their **fraternal activity** works sheets. We tallied 8700 hours of fraternal activity and we had \$18,043 in charitable donations for the 2019 calendar year. That's awesome!

Last fraternal year and this fraternal year we donated a total of \$1,000 towards an ultrasound machine. The Detroit area Knights have just learned their application has been approved and Supreme will match 50% of our total donations. They are going to place the ultrasound machine at Family Life Services of Washtenaw County. This is great news.

Our **Pancake Breakfast** held on February 1 raised \$1,181 in donations towards our seminarian Nick Brown. At our membership meeting we approved increasing the donation to \$1,500 to brother Knight and seminarian Nick Brown.

Thank you to all the brothers who helped out to make this happen. Special thanks to Dave Kennedy and Larry Redman for leading this event.

Our trip to **Forgotten Harvest** on February 8 was a huge success. We had 20 Knights and wives attending. Special thanks to Marshal Grazioli for leading this event.

The **K of C Free Throw Contest** and subsequent District Free Throw Contest were a big success. Our council had 3 District winners that went on to the Regional competition. Two of the winners, Grant and Braydon Lynn, are the grandsons of Brother Knight Leo Tykoski. Congratulations to all and thank you to Marshall for leading this event and all Knights who helped out.

This weekend is the final weekend to collect returned bottles with donations for the **Baby Bottle Boomerang** for Family Life Services. Last year we collected over \$3200. We gave out more bottles this year than last year, so we expect the final count will be higher. Thank you to all the Knights who helped out and to Chip Ostermeyer and Marshall for helping lead this event.

At the next membership meeting on March 10 we will open **nominations for all officer positions**. Please consider running for an office or just come to the meetings to support your candidates. We will also have nominations at the April membership meeting and then hold the **election**. Reach out to me if you have any questions on responsibilities.

Our huge fundraiser is coming soon, the **St. Pats Party and Reverse Raffle**. We have sold 123 tickets and we are well behind our pace from last year when we sold out at 300. Please consider joining us and bring your family and friends. We will continue to sell tickets after all Masses for the next two weekends. If you are out of town, please let me know and we can hold tickets for you. This is a critical fundraiser for us to be able to make our donations. Thank you for your help and support.

At the February membership meeting we approved a donation of \$375 to purchase a table for 10 at the **Vocations Dinner** on April 26 at DeCarlo's in Warren. The guest speaker is Father Paul. Please come out and support him. I will be attending along with my wife Pam. Please let me know if you and your wife wish to attend. There will be a gift card raffle and a 50/50 raffle.

We will be leading **Stations of the Cross** on Friday March 20 at 7:00 pm. We will need Knights to hold the cross and proceed to each station. Please plan to attend. Stations will be led by Brother Joe Camill.

#### Upcoming Events

- Adorations Security February 28/29
- New Exemplification March 1 after the 12:30 Mass
- St. Reverse Raffle March 7 @ 5:30 pm
- Membership Meeting /Officer Nominations March 10
- Hospitality Weekend March 14/15
- Stations of the Cross March 20
- MI/Tootsie Roll Drive March 27/28
- Corporate Communion March 29 10:30 Mass

Thank you all. God Bless Dan

