

Knights Newsletter March 19, 2020

Brother Knights,

These are challenging times for us all. We are really in uncharted territory. But I also see this as a blessing for me. With all of my activities, responsibilities and events, I sometimes pushed God to the side. I liked to think God was my highest priority in my life, but was he really? With the current situation with social distancing, and not leaving my house, I find myself spending more time in prayer, spiritual reading and reflection. Daily Mass can be live streamed, as Father Mark has started doing this. Just go to the SJN Facebook page. It's only 30 minutes out of your day. I encourage you to create a section of your house for prayer and pray as a family. It could be a small altar or even a shelf. Go there to pray and spend time with the Lord, sometimes just in silence. The AOD has given us some spiritual resources, which you can find at aod.org. I'll forward some of these to you. The Knights have published "A Prayer for Protection in Time of Pandemic," which I will also send to you. Keep the faith, help others when you can, and seek refuge in the Lord.

We recognized Dan Bihn and Chuck Lang as **Co Knights of the Month**. Dan and Chuck were the co-chairs of our 2nd annual St. Patrick's Party and Reverse Raffle Fund-raiser where we raised over \$10,000 for charity. Dan participates in and supports several Knight Events throughout the year. Dan is also involved in leadership positions with the Boy Scouts for many years. Chuck is heavily involved in leadership positions with the Rotary Club and Salvation Army. Chuck has also been involved in leadership positions with the Boy Scouts.

We recognized the Cameron and Nicole Gibelyou family as **Family of the Month**. Cameron and Nicole were nominated by our associate pastor, Father Mark Livingston. Cameron's family attends Sunday Mass and Friday Adoration weekly. They prioritize making Sundays a day of rest and pray together each night as a family. Cameron and Nicole have a "book club" where they set aside time at least once each week to discuss Catholic spiritual reading and their life of faith together. Cameron teaches at the University of Michigan, where he founded and organizes a group called CSUM, Catholic Scholars of the University of Michigan. The members discuss how to integrate their Catholic faith into their work. He has also given invited public talks for venues like Theology on Tap and community centers, on a wide variety of topics. Nicole coordinates the email list for the Family Ministry at St. John Neumann. She is the founder and organizer of Spiritual Oasis, a parish-independent Catholic young family community. She has also published a book entitled "Praying through Baby's First Year", that is available on Amazon.com. Joshua, age 3, is an active member of (and key inspiration for) Pray and Play at SJN, where he attends daily Mass on Thursdays, plays, and makes color cards for various needs, including food pantry baskets, nursing homes and first responders.

Congratulations to our award recipients. At our March membership meeting, we held **nominations for officer positions** for the 2020-2021 fraternal year. Nominations are below. We will do nominations again, and then elections, at the April membership meeting. If anyone else wishes to run for an office, please let me know. We fill two Outside Guard positions and we will have a contested race for Inside Guard.

Grand Knight Ed Hurst Jr.

Deputy Grand Knight John Guth

Chancellor Chuck Lang

Recorder Ron Kretschmer

Treasurer Ken Svoboda

Advocate Joe Bradley

Warden Jeff Battistella

Inside Guard Bob Rugenski and Wally Stang

Outside Guard1 John Safran

Outside Guard2 Bob Liebau

Trustee Third Year Dennis Oszust

We had one winner from SJN at the **Regional Free Throw Contest**. His name is Andres Munguia. He will participate in the State contest, when it is held.

We collected \$5,641 at the **Baby Bottle Boomerang**, for Family Life Services. Special thanks to Chip Ostermeyer for leading this event and Marshall Grazioli and others who helped out. This was over \$2,000 more than we collected last year.

The council received a **Fast Start Membership Growth Award** at the St. Deputy's Tribute Banquet on February 29. We had achieved 280% growth against our membership goal, as of December 31. Thank you all for encouraging others to join us.

Thank you to all the brothers who helped out at the **24 hour Adoration** on February 28/29. All slots were again filled.

We did hold our first **Degree Exemplification** on March 1. I previously emailed the names of those who joined. Thank you to all who participated and supported the ceremony. It was well received by all.

Our **St. Patrick's Party and Reverse Raffle** on March 7, was again a huge success. We raised over \$10,000 for our charitable causes. This really took a team of brothers to pull this off so successfully. Thank you to all who attended, supported, and helped.

We have cancelled all March events, including our **MI/Tootsie Roll Drive** on March 27/28 and Palm Sunday weekend. I will update you later if we need to cancel April events.

God Bless

Dan