

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
East Lansing Council 7816**

**Minutes for January 9, 2019 General Meeting
7:30 PM**

Opened meeting by praying The Lord's Prayer, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and singing the first verse of The Opening Ode.

Nineteen members, two of them being Deacons David Zygmuntowicz and Jim Kasprzak, were present when the meeting was called to order by Grand Knight Mark Meyer. Warden Russ Martin confirmed all in attendance were in possession of their membership cards. Roll call of officers was taken by Brother Daniels. Brother Stevens was absent and excused. Brother Centofanti was also absent, but not excused.

Brother Ingraham was notified that December minutes are currently pending.

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

- New admissions and applications.
 - Brandon Schumacher has been approved for membership.
 - We're currently trying to find an Admissions / First Degree for him
 - Brother Jeff Nestor is transferring from St. Martha's.
 - Brother Myers has received his Form 100.
- Late Knight Breakfast was Tuesday, December 12.
 - Anthony Russo, a freshman at Michigan State, expressed interest in the Knights. He was given a card and the Grand Knight plans to meet with him prior to providing him with a Form 100.
 - We had 80 - 95 student present and plenty of food.
 - Special "thank yous" to Brothers Menacher, Dunn, Hamilton, and Gadola.
- Upcoming St. Thomas and St. John Men's Retreat is Friday, January 12 through Sunday, January 14 at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt.
 - Registration is Friday at 6:00 PM. Dinner at 7:00 PM.
- Next Pancake Breakfast is Sunday, January 14.
 - Our Worthy Navigator, Brother Foxx, will be on hand with waffles again.
 - Our theme will be the seminarians and Miguel Colunga going on the Desert Formation Experience (pilgrimage to the Holy Land) in May. This breakfast will support Miguel.
 - Estimated cost is \$1,400, \$200 per day.
 - Miguel has asked to speak after each mass. He also hopes to address / thank those who attend the breakfasts.
 - The breakfast was mentioned in the bulletin last week. We're hoping it'll go in the bulletin again this week, but there hasn't been any confirmation. Brother Graff has asked Denise Zakerski to put up flyers.
 - Deacon Kasprzak recommended that the pastors not only point folks towards the breakfast after mass, but, if they're available, come to the breakfast and hang near the donation jars.
 - How much will we contribute?

- Brother Farfan echoed Deacon Kasprzak's suggestion of involving the pastor(s). He also made a motion that, rather than donating after costs are covered or doing a set amount, we set a floor (a minimum amount) of \$500 that we will absolutely contribute, then add net profit as well. Motion was seconded by Brother Gadola. Motion passed.
- Council Free Throw Contest will be January 27 or 28.
- Our First Fish Fry will be on Friday, February 16 - meaning the first "Fish Thaw" will be Monday, February 12.
 - Brother Weber is in need of a co-coordinator (or two) to assist with Lenten activities, namely getting someone to St. Thomas by 12:00 PM on Fridays.
 - Brother Graff suggested "Fish Captains" to share duties on specific dates.
 - Hoods have been cleaned, but the facilities director, Paul Lacroy, has not yet received a bill. Once received, we will split the bill with the school.
 - We've had another party inquire about selling baked goods at fish fry events. Sarah Hoover inquired about selling baked goods as a fundraiser to benefit neuroblastoma (nerve cancer) research.
 - Brother Weber suggested we reach out to Girl Scouts and see about splitting dates between the two (as Girl Scouts do not hold bake sales at every fish fry event).
- Brother Richard Drake passed, quite suddenly, at home December 19.
 - Drake family was Family of the Month in October.
 - Richard's wife, Daniela, reached out to Grand Knight Mark Meyer, needing assistance finding legal advice (as Brother Drake did not have a will).
 - Brother Farfan inquired as to the reason for assistance, wondering about Brothers in Need or GoFundMe being possible options to lend aid.
 - Grand Knight Meyer stated he did not know, but he does know that Brother Drake left behind a son and young daughter.
 - Brother Anton suggested speaking with Daniela and getting an idea of her needs.
 - Brother Schwend seconded Brother Anton, suggesting a Meijer gift card to aid with groceries or household items.
 - Brother Weber stated that we have contributed \$250 to families of fallen Knights in the past and could consider doing so again.
 - Brother Fox mentioned that the Brothers in Need fund is there for financial assistance to fellow Knights and their families, recommending we speak with Brother Mike DuMont (our resident Field Agent).
 - Deacon Zygmuntowicz, is no longer a licensed attorney, but he offered to speak with Daniela and possibly offer her some guidance.
 - Grand Knight Mark Meyer stated the matter would be discussed at the next officer's meeting on January 23 and brought back to the council in February.
- Brother Adamo has reserved Patriarche Park for Sunday, July 22 (and Brother Anton has already handled the fee).
- The Annual Fr. Mark Golf Outing will be the Saturday before the Parish Picnic, July 21.
 - Golf outing will be co-chaired by Grand Knight Mark Meyer and Brother Bill LeVeque.
- Joint Council and State Charities Raffle tickets are available for \$5.00.
 - 1st / Charity Prize - 8 day Western Mediterranean Cruise for 2, Overnight in Rome W/Vatican Tour (Civitavecchia) Italy, Monte Carlo (Cannes), France, Ajaccio, Corsica, Palma De Mallorca, Spain, Sardinia (Cagliari), Italy. Includes roundtrip flights, ocean view balcony room, transfers, cruise, taxes, and port charges. Plus \$50 on board credit and \$5,000 cash.

- 2nd / Unity Prize - 9 Night Canada/New England Cruise for 2, Cape Liberty, Bayonne, Boston, Massachusetts, Portland, Maine, Bar Harbor, Maine, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Saint John, New Brunswick (Bay of Fundy). Includes roundtrip flights transfers, cruise, taxes, and port charges. Plus \$50 on board credit and \$3,000 cash.
- 3rd / Fraternity Prize - 7 Night Western Caribbean Cruise for 2, Ocho Rios, Jamaica, Grand Cayman, Cozumel, Miami. Includes ocean view room, roundtrip flights transfers, cruise, taxes, and port charges - and \$1,000 cash.
- 4th / Patriotic Prize - Philadelphia for 2, tour pass with 27-stop hop-on hop-off sightseeing tour. Includes roundtrip flights, 3 nights at the Marriott Hotel Downtown, and a 3-day tour pass - and \$500 cash.
- 5th and 6th Prize - \$1,000 each
- 7th - 10th Prize - \$500 each
- 11th - 20th Prize - \$250 each
- 21st - 30th Prize - \$150 each
- State Deputy Dinner honoring Ken Unterbrink will be at DeCarlo's Banquet Center in Warren on Sunday, February 25.
- State Convention will be Thursday, May 24 to Saturday, May 26.
 - Asking for names and nominees as we need to have delegates (and alternates) chosen by Saturday, March 17.

OTHER REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

- Current income totals \$3,670.50 and expenses are \$6,549.02; net -\$2,878.52.
 - Brother Anton noted that, again, it's common for expenses at the start of a fiscal year to outweigh income in the first quarter income due to frontend costs - especially considering the increase in cost of our liability insurance - and we're just entering the second quarter.
 - Grand Knight Mark Meyer said that he has spoken with Lynn Stuart from Michigan State and confirmed that the check from scanning tickets has been processed.

Financial Secretary's Report

- Brother Myers confirmed that first notices went out in December.
 - Second notices going out next week.

Trustee's Report(s)

- Brother Weber noted that the first KoC Fish Fry of the season is coming up fast - and requested that all in attendance block out some time for Mondays and Fridays during the Lenten season.
- Brother Graff wanted to express personal thanks for everyone who helped with Pancake Breakfast events this year.
- Brother Gadola had nothing to report.

Advocate's Report

- Brother Ingraham suggested all present consider attending the annual men's retreat at St. Francis in DeWitt.

- Details at www.stfrancis.ws or by calling Brother Ingraham, 517-230-9445 or the retreat center, 517-669-8321.

Chancellor's Report

- Brother Meyer had nothing to report.

OTHER BUSINESS / UPDATES

Brother Mike Gardner, one of our charter members, joined us this evening. Brother Gardner sent a letter in October in support of the council adding Reverend Monsignor Jerome MacEachin to its name - not simply replacing "East Lansing" - in October.

Brother Gardner stated that on its formation, many felt it would be appropriate to name the council for Fr. MacEachin (Fr. Mac) - but discovered that they were unable to do so as a council can only be named for someone who has passed away. He stated that Fr. MacEachin is well known throughout the East Lansing and Lansing communities, specifically mentioning the plaque at St. Thomas and the Father Mac Scholarship Fund at Lansing Catholic Central. He also clarified that the intent is to honor Fr. Mac, not cause any controversy.

Brother Bill Swords, another charter member, joined us this evening. He stated that he does not recall any controversy that would (or should) prevent the council from honoring Fr. Mac and is not opposed to changing or adding onto the council's name.

Grand Knight Mark Meyer stated that the matter will be discussed further at the officer's meeting on January 23.

Deacons Jim Kasprzak and David Zygmontowicz spoke to the council about two seminars they are hosting for parishioners, one during Lent and one that is ongoing. Deacon Kasprzak reminded us all that marriage is a Christian vocation. He and Deacon Zygmontowicz (Deacon "Ziggy") are leading a series on prayer for married couples, beginning the Thursday after Ash Wednesday, February 15. The couples prayer sessions will be 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM - and they will have childcare on hand. Deacon "Ziggy" invited all to attend "Soul Food with the Deacons," an opportunity to meet and share positive and negative experiences with our faith. "Soul Food" is held every Saturday, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM in the Fireplace Room at St. Thomas.

Deacons Kasprzak and Zygmontowicz both want to express that they - along with our priests - want to know what they can do to help us with our marriage vocations.

Brother Schwend asked about the possibility of a session or class about preparing for marriage vocation prior to engagement (or marriage). Deacon Kasprzak mentioned that they did something along those lines during Lent last year. He recommended Brother Schwend speak to Katie Dillard, Director of Campus Ministry.

Deacon Kasprzak mentioned that Richard Budd, a member of our diocese, was invited by Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, to the Marriage Dynamics Institute New Haven, IN to discuss challenges we - and our marriage - face in our spiritual lives.

NEW BUSINESS

Brother Ed Kupec spearheaded our Michigan State University fundraiser, scanning tickets at home football games. He has submitted a proposal to our Grand Knight, Mark Meyer, that the funds raised go towards a fraternal event, an appreciation dinner for all 2017 volunteers (and their spouses or +1s). The dinner would be catered - no Knight workers - and would be "by invitation only" to the 2017 volunteers from (but not limited to) the church picnic, pancake breakfasts, fish fry events, MSU ticket scanning, and other efforts.

Brother Kupec suggested a Tuesday evening - which is typically the least busiest night in the parish - and also suggested we look at late-March (after Easter). The dinner will both celebrate the volunteers' efforts and bring more attention to why we do this. Remaining funds would be used to aid or offset other funding needs for the council.

Grand Knight Mark Meyer informed the council that Kelly McVeigh with Pregnancy Services asked about St. Thomas participating in a "Baby Bottle Blessings" fundraiser. Parishioners can pick up bottles, put loose change in it over time, then bring them back to the church / parish. Funds would go to Pregnancy Services. Brother Graff mentioned that this could be the theme for the February breakfast.

OTHER REPORTS (cont.)

Faithful Navigator

- Brother Tom Fox complimented Brother Gardner's reasoning for honoring Fr. MacEachin, adding that the Lansing Catholic High School football field / practice fields are also named for Fr. MacEachin (The Father Mac Fields).
- Updated us on the article about the raising of the new flag at St. Thomas; now over 10,000 hits.
- Tickets will be available next month for the annual concert.
- Brother Fox noted that Assembly #3334 is planning to support the Annual Fr. Mark Golf Outing this summer.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Prayers were requested for: Pope Francis and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; Bishop Earl Boyea and Bishop Emeritus Carl Mengeling; Fr. Jake Foglio; PGK Paul Gadola; Past Recording Secretary John Molloy; Anne Graff, wife of PGK Chuck Graff; Debbie Engan, sister of PGK Graff; Tammy Pruitt, niece of PGK Graff; Pauline Wooley, mother of Brother Mike Wooley; Phyllis Izdebski, mother-in-law of Brother Mike Wooley; Jim Wooley, brother of Brother Mike Wooley; Brother Peter Birch; Richard Scalla; Brother William Derengoski; Frank Tuma (choir); Brother Bob Schneider; and Anne Mulder. Also, all men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and members of the Rosary-Altar Society and St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Closed by offering a prayer for vocations and the Hail Mary and the first verse of The Closing Ode was sung. Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2018, at 7:30 PM in the Bishop Baraga Room.