

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
East Lansing Council 7816**

**Minutes for July 10, 2018 General Meeting
7:30 PM**

Grand Knight Paul Lacroix stated the doors shall be closed. Our Past Deputy Grand Knight, Brother Centofanti, served as Guard in the absence of our Inside and Outside Guards. In the absence of our Warden, we did not verify that all present were currently in good standing.

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

Thirteen members were present when the meeting was called to order by Grand Knight Paul Lacroix. Roll call of officers was taken by Grand Knight. Deputy Grand Knight Jakovac, Chancellor Meyer, Warden Martin, and Inside Guard Wooley, and Outside Guard Gray were absent and excused. (Brother Gray joined us later in the evening.)

June minutes have been published. April minutes have been drafted and forwarded for review.

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

- No new admissions/applications to report.
- After some discussion with Fr. Mark, we will be reinstating the Family of the Month program.
 - We will be following guidelines set forth by Supreme. We will be posting in the bulletin, asking for nominations from the parish. The council will consider nominated families and take a vote.
 - The Family of the Month will be presented by the Knights at the Mass the family typically attends.
- Parish Picnic will be at Patriarche Park on Sunday, July 22.
 - Three-Year Trustee and Past Grand Knight, Brother Meyer, confirmed that we had seven Knights committed as of right now, but he expects more to sign up as the date draws closer; we typically need five or six Knights for setup, ten to serve, and six to stay for cleanup. Grand Knight stated he would be sending a reminder.
 - One-Year Trustee, Brother Weber, will be handling the food order. He will check our inventory and pick up the rest from Gordon Foods.
 - On a related note, Grand Knight confirmed that parts have been ordered for the freezer.
- Parish office confirmed that they have not received any calls for Family Vocation Night at the Lugnuts, August 10.
 - Brother Leo Christel asked whether the Knights purchased a block of tickets. Grand Knight confirmed that we have not, and the parish will handle ticket information (so we are not on the hook or out anything on tickets).
- Our Worthy District Deputy has asked East Lansing Council to host a Major Degree this fall.
 - We've reserved the St. Thomas Aquinas gymnasium for Saturday, October 13.

- We have many 1st Degree Knights in our council; this will be a great opportunity for them to advance.
- Our Worthy District Deputy has also asked East Lansing Council to host an Admission Degree.
 - Date to be determined... We are currently considering August 2018 or May 2019.
- Date of officer installation has yet to be determined.
 - We're currently working with Fr. Mark and the parish office to find a date that will work.
 - Brother Weber offered a reminder to contact our District Deputy regarding installation.
- Grand Knight salvaged several bricks from the old convent. He presented one to the council, with certificate of authenticity, for display.

OTHER REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

- First meeting of FY19...
- Treasurer John Anton said that he is currently working on closing books for FY18 with our Trustees, Brothers Meyer, Gadona, and Weber. Brother Meyer has been provided 29 checks for distribution.
 - In follow up, Past Deputy Grand Knight, Brother Centofanti, asked whether all checks that are sent are actually deposited/cashed. Brother Anton confirmed that most are cashed quickly, but he does get an occasional call from the bank on checks older than six months, but it's rare (and he always authorizes disbursement).
 - Brother Weber added that checks to seminarians go through the seminary, causing a delay. If this is a concern, we can ask that seminarians attend a meeting and we will present it directly to them.
 - Brother Anton noted that charities can sometimes set checks aside for a couple months.
- Brother Anton confirmed that, after reviewing accounts and donations with our Worthy Trustees, we are up to about half of our intake going to charities this year.

Financial Secretary's Report

- Financial Secretary Dave Myers stated that 12 members have been suspended.
- Relating to the Major Degree in October, Brother Myers said that he would send letters to 2nd and 3rd Degree candidates.
- Deacon David Zygmontowicz ("Deacon Ziggy") is the new State Evangelical Leader (and Brother Myers is an assistant). He said that Deacon Ziggy did a great job with his presentation at the State Council meeting last weekend; best one Brother Myers has seen in a very long time.

Advocate's Report

- Worthy Advocate, John Ingraham, had nothing to report.

Trustees' Report(s)

- Three-Year Trustee, Mark Meyer, thanked Brother Myers for all of his efforts in tracking down members with outstanding/delinquent dues.
- Two-Year Trustee, Brother Gadola, had nothing to report.
- One-Year Trustee, Brother Weber, had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS / UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Renaming the council

We have a resolution on the table to rename the council in honor of Rev. Msgr. Jerome V. MacEachin. The resolution was presented by (now) Three-Year Trustee and Past Grand Knight Mark Meyer at our June meeting.

Outside Guard, Brother Gray, asked that Grand Knight Paul Lacroix re-read the resolution.

Second reading of the resolution:

RESOLUTION TO RENAME EAST LANSING COUNCIL #7816 IN HONOR OF THE REV. MONSIGNOR JEROME MacEACHIN

WHEREAS, Fr. Jerome MacEachin was appointed to St. Thomas Aquinas in May 1943 after a fatal heart felled the Rev. Cecil Winters. Fr. Mac, as he was fondly known, saw the need to expand the parish. In 1948 property was purchased on Alton Road. A school was opened in September 1949 with 95 students in six grades. Fr. Mac oversaw the building of a convent, school additions including a gym that served as the temporary church, the present church and the rectory; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Mac's effort at St Thomas Aquinas and beyond can be described as both prayerful and tireless. He continued to serve as Diocesan Superintendent of Parochial Schools through July 1954 when he assumed the role as chair of the Elementary Division of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA). While diocesan school superintendent, Fr. Mac led the development of the diocesan school curriculum, created a common report card for grading, and spent hundreds of hours traveling thousands of miles throughout the country promoting and helping Catholic dioceses and parishes create Home School Councils; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Mac served as a chaplain of the Newman Center at Michigan State College and as Instructor in Religion teaching thousands of students in hundreds of accredited classes in Theology, Liturgy, Philosophy and History; averaging nearly 400 students annually. There are some fond memories of Michigan State students being told by Fr. Mac that he had enrolled them in his class, while other students recall being told by their parents that Fr. Mac had signed them up. He also served as the chaplain for Coach Duffy Daugherty and his Spartan football teams. It was during that time on Aug. 8, 1954, that Pope Pius XII elevated Fr. Mac to the Papal Household as a Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor; and

WHEREAS, With the blessings of Bishop Albers, Fr. Mac and his assistant, Fr. Robert Kavanaugh, traveled thousands of miles throughout Michigan with student and alumni leaders meeting parents, alumni, and student groups to raise the funds for what would become St. John Church and Catholic Student Center. The opening and dedication of the church and Catholic student center took place on Jan. 12, 1958, with Fr. Kavanaugh serving as its pastor; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Mac was able to focus on an answer to another prayer, one that was his favorite - the building of St Thomas Aquinas Church on his other campus -- Alton Road. Fr. Mac continued

his untiring efforts with the planning, fundraising, and construction our current church its attached rectory (now parish offices). Ground was broken in 1966 and the church was completed in 1968; and

WHEREAS, previous efforts to name the council after Fr. Mac were either voted down or rejected by Supreme (because you cannot name a council after a living person), this resolution seeks to carry out the wishes of a majority of its charter members, including its first Grand Knight, Brother John Hensel; and

WHEREAS, this resolution proposes that both East Lansing and #7816 remain part of the council's name, and thus the council would become known as Rev. Monsignor Jerome V. MacEachin East Lansing Council #7816.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution be published to all council members; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that at the next business meeting, on Tuesday July 12 **[July 10]**, 2018, a vote be taken by members of Knights of Columbus East Lansing Council #7816 to approve the renaming of its council to include the name of the Rev. Monsignor Jerome V. MacEachin; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be submitted to the State Deputy for his consideration; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon approval by the State Deputy, that this resolution be submitted for adoption by the Supreme Council.

PRESENTED IN THE BISHOP BARAGA ROOM (COUNCIL CHAMBERS) THIS 12TH DAY OF JUNE 2018 IN EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN.

Procedure dictates that we vote on the resolution currently under consideration. Grand Knight invited all present to speak on the matter, but those who take the floor will be limited to two minutes.

Before opening the floor, Grand Knight recognized Brother Leo Cristel and his concerns with renaming the council. He also reminded all present that the plaque on the Bell Tower expresses (in part) his love for Michigan State University, the Michigan State Police, and the Knights of Columbus.

Brother Christel took the floor, stating that Fr. Mac was unconnected with the Knights and, again, that we should consider naming the council for Bishop Sullivan, as it was Bishop Sullivan who established our council. He went on to speak to the many tributes to Fr. Mac in the area - buildings and halls named for him, charity dinners, etc. - and noted that his memory is widely celebrated, but this isn't something that needs to happen.

Recorder, Brother Daniels, offered a rebuttal. He stated that, regardless of the original intent of the council, everything Brother Cristel said speaks to the impact Fr. Mac had on the community, Catholic and otherwise.

In response to Brother Cristel stating that Rev. Msgr. MacEachin had "no connection" to the Knights, Grand Knight reminded the council that Fr. Mac is on the charter for the council. In

addition, a time capsule was retrieved from the cornerstone of the old convent during demolition. The capsule included a 1951 issue of The Columbian addressed to Fr. Mac (so, then, there is another connection).

Brother Swords took the floor, stating that he sees no reason to rename the council - but, if it must be renamed, he believes it should be named for someone who was instrumental in the formation of the council and involved in council activities.

Brother Gardner, who was a charter member, offered rebuttal, stating other councils honor those who contribute to the community and to the parish, not necessarily whether or not the individual was involved in the council itself.

Outside Guard, Brother Gray, stood and took the floor. He asked whether it was common to name a council for an individual or a town.

Brother Cristel stated that matter was addressed in his letter to the council - that council "names in Michigan are evenly divided between cities, parish names, and individuals" - and expressed his disappointment that his letter in opposition to renaming the council was not read with the resolution.

Grand Knight reminded Brother Cristel (and all present) that his letter in opposition was sent out to the council via email along with the resolution. He also noted that the letter in support from Brother Gardner (that was also included in the email) was not read this evening.

After Brothers Anton and Ingraham shared very personal stories involving Fr. Mac, Grand Knight called for a vote. In the absence of our Warden, our Worthy Advocate and Outside Guard, distributed slips of paper to all present, then collected them. As they retired to the rear of the Bishop Baraga Room to tally votes, Brother Daniels confirmed fifteen members were present at the time of the vote (as opposed to thirteen present when the meeting was called to order, as Brothers Gray and Swords came late).

MSU ticket scanning

The Knights of Columbus will be scanning tickets at home football games for Michigan State University. Brother Ed Kupec is spearheading this effort (again). Brother Kupec confirmed that he's received 18 consent forms, along with two or three verbal commitments.

Brother Kupec has spoken with MSU and we can add volunteers as they become available - but we will need five-days' notice (at the very least).

Renaming the council (cont.)

The majority of those present voted in favor of re-naming the council for Rev. Msgr. Jerome V. MacEachin. As it passed the first vote, there will be a second vote held at the August 14 general meeting.

Brother Paul Stevens made a motion to destroy the ballots. Brothers Ingraham and Meyer seconded. All present in favor (no opposition spoken).

Three-Year Trustee and Past Grand Knight Mark Meyer encouraged all in attendance to speak to their fellow Knights and persuade them to attend for the second and final vote next month

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; Past Recording Secretary John Molloy; Anne Graff, wife of PGK Chuck Graff; Debbie Engan, sister of PGK Graff; Tammy Pruitt, niece of PGK Graff; Brother Mike Wooley; Pauline Wooley, mother of Brother Mike Wooley; Phyllis Izdebski, mother-in-law of Brother Mike Wooley; Jim Wooley, brother of Brother Mike Wooley; Brother William Derengoski; Brother Paul Miller; Brother Gary Hauser; Shirlean Hauser, wife of Brother Gary Hauser; Brother Leo Christel; Mary Lou Christel, wife of Leo Christel; and Brother John Ingraham. Also, all men and women serving in the U.S. Forces and members of the Rosary-Altar Society and St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Fifteen members present when the meeting was closed. Closed by offering a prayer for vocations and the Hail Mary. The first verse of the the Closing Ode was sung. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 14, 2018, at 7:30 PM in the Bishop Baraga Room.

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