

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
East Lansing Council 7816**

**Minutes for September 11, 2018 General Meeting
7:30 PM**

Grand Knight Paul Lacroix called the meeting to order and asked Inside Guard Mike Wooley to shut the doors. Outside Guard Richard (Luke) Gray confirmed that all present were in possession of their membership cards and currently in good standing. There were 28 members and two insurance representatives, Brothers Ronald Sneller and Brennan Hayden, present when the meeting was called to order by Grand Knight Paul Lacroix.

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

Roll call of officers was taken by Recorder Patrick Daniels. Chancellor Larry Meyer, Two-Year Trustee Paul Gadola, and Three-Year Trustee Mark Meyer were absent and excused.

August minutes have been published. Brother Francis Goeddeke made a motion to accept the minutes. Our Warden, Brother Russ Martin, seconded. All present in favor.

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

- Financial Secretary, Dave Myer, confirmed that he did not have any new admissions/applications to report.
- Statement from the Diocese of Lansing regarding Rev. Mark Ingot:

Rev. Mark Ingot, Pastor of St Thomas Aquinas Church and St John Student Center, East Lansing has been placed on administrative leave from the parish. A claim of sexual harassment was made by an adult co-worker on September 5, 2018. Bishop Boyea began an immediate initial internal investigation. He received a report on Monday, September 10, 2018 that the claim was believed to be credible.

The diocese is committed to maintaining a workplace that is free of harassment of any kind, including sexual harassment. Credible claims of violations to our harassment policies or our Code of Conduct will be met with immediate action that may include disciplinary actions up to and including termination.

If you, or anyone you know has been harmed by anyone representing the Church, contact appropriate law enforcement. You may also contact the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, Cheryl Williams-Hecksel, LMSW, by phone at 888-308-6252, or via email to: cwilliamshecksel@dioceseoflansing.org.

Until further notice, the temporary administrator of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish is Rev. Gary Koenigsnecht. Please pray for all involved.

Please direct any questions to Michael Diebold, Diocese of Lansing, Director of Communications, 517-853-7660, or via email to: mdiebold@dioceseoflansing.org.

- Parish staff was alerted to the situation about 10:30 AM this morning. Grand Knight noted that there is a lot of speculation and “wringing hands and hanging heads” right now, but it’s important to remember that the diocese and the Church is bigger than one man. We must continue to support our parish and we must support our priests.
 - Grand Knight also commented that many have looked to him and, in turn, the Knights for direction and support in this turbulent time.
- Upcoming speakers:
 - Yvonne Fleener with Helping Hands Respite Care spoke at Navigating the Golden Years at St. Thomas Aquinas School last Saturday, September 8. She will be coming to either the December or January meeting to speak with our members.
 - Past Grand Knight Peter Bertsch, Chairperson for Holy Cross, is planning to speak with us at either the November or December meeting. Brother Bertsch will be spearheading Holy Cross’s increased role(s) in Michigan’s Volunteers of America and would like to speak to the Knights about how we can support their efforts
- Note from the State Deputy:
 - State Council is encouraging a \$6 per member donation to go toward an endowment/scholarship fund for seminarians.
- Note from our District Deputy:
 - Made for Happiness Assembly Gathering is Saturday, September 22. They are in need of about 60 more ushers for the event. Grand Knight is going to request an update and some additional information, then forward it along to the council for volunteers.
- Clergy Appreciation Dinner is Thursday, October 11.
 - Bishop Boyea will celebrate Mass at 5:00 PM. Spaghetti dinner to follow at 6:30 PM.
 - Advance tickets are \$15 until September 15. After September 15, tickets are \$20.
- Our first Family of the Month, Brother John Dunn, was announced in the Labor Day bulletin (September 2)
 - Certificate has been prepared, but, in light of recent events, we are holding off on presenting at Mass.
- September Pancake Breakfast has been moved from Sunday, September 16 to Sunday, September 30.
 - Due to today’s announcement regarding Fr. Mark, Faith Formation committee is moving the Faith Formation Open House to Sunday, September 30.
 - Brother John Schwend asked if it was appropriate to move the pancake breakfast if the parish was already planning on it. The breakfast is a community event and an opportunity to bring people together.
 - Brother Daniels asked whether or not the Faith Formation committee is counting on us moving the breakfast.
 - Grand Knight confirmed that the understanding is that the Knights will move the date of the first pancake breakfast to coincide with the Faith Formation Open House, then revert to the second Sunday schedule in October.
- MSU ticket scanning update:
 - Brother Ed Kupec let everyone know that the next home Michigan State football game is Saturday, September 29. We have 18 security forms on file, but we’re looking for 10 to 20 more volunteers.

- Brother Art Weber noted that scanning tickets is considerably easier than working concessions and encouraged everyone present to complete a background form and sign up for a couple games.

OTHER REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

- Brother Anton confirmed that the semiannual report (1295) has been sent to District, State, and Supreme.
- August is typically pretty light, but assessments come early in the year; we had \$454.63 come in and \$3,275.68 in expenses last month.

Financial Secretary's Report

- Brother Myer noted that a member designated as delinquent sent in two years of dues. We had initially suspended thirteen members, but this takes us back down to twelve members suspended.
- We currently have 73 members on the insurance program.

Trustees' Report(s)

- One-Year Trustee, Art Weber, had nothing to report.

Other Reports(s)

- Brother Luke Gray noted that Denise Waytes, St. Thomas's Director of Liturgy, has reached out, encouraging him to build a small faith-sharing group for this upcoming Lenten season.
 - Brother Daniels confirmed that this would be separate from the Deacon Ziggy and Deacon Jim's men's prayer group. Brother Gray stated that is the intent.

OLD BUSINESS / UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Renaming the council

We still 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. The first ballot was cast at our July meeting. The first vote passed, but a second ballot is still needed.

At our August meeting our Worthy Financial Secretary, David Myer, made a motion to wait on a vote until the next meeting due to low attendance.

Three-Year Trustee and Past Grand Knight Mark Meyer also spoke, stressing the importance of notifying all members of the vote. Both Brother Meyer and Brother Gray proposed splitting the roster between volunteers and contacting all of our members. Brothers Goeddeke, Weber, Gadola, Gray, Myer, Meyer, Anton, and Daniels volunteered to make calls - and Grand Knight Paul Lacroix noted that the fruits of their efforts were clear, given the higher attendance this evening.

Grand Knight stated that he would re-read the resolution, then open the floor.

Third 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.

Grand Knight invited any and all present to speak on the matter, but those who take the floor will be limited to two minutes.

Brother Charles Stahl took the floor. Brother Stahl came to St. Thomas Aquinas in 1942 - a year before Fr. Jerome MacEachin was appointed in May, 1943. He was good friends with Fr. Mac and watched the parish flourish under his leadership. Brother Stahl fully supports renaming the council to honor him.

Brother Mike Green took the floor. Brother Green stated that Fr. Mac is the reason he's Catholic. He's had three children attend St. Thomas Aquinas Parish School. He believes that naming the council shows a great deal of well-deserved love and respect for Fr. Mac and he fully supports the resolution.

Brother Paul Stevens took the floor. Brother Stevens noted that Fr. Mac was chaplain to the Michigan State Police. Whatever the issue, whatever the time of day or night, Fr. Mac always made time to listen and offer his support and guidance to police officers.

Brother Patrick Daniels took the floor. Brother Daniels spoke to Brother Bill Stelzer while calling on the member roster. Brother Stelzer has asked whether absentee ballots would be allowed. Brother Daniels notified him that, as there was no motion put forward to solicit/allow absentee ballots on the first vote, we were not allowing absentee ballots for the second vote - but, if Brother Stelzer was unable to attend the meeting, that he willing to speak on his behalf if a short statement (either in support or opposition) was supplied before the meeting. The email would then be read on the record.

Brother Stelzer's response:

Thanks, Parrick.

I am unable to attend the meeting on September 11 and am aware that only votes from those attending will be counted but I support the name change of the council to Monsignor Jerome V MacEachin East Lansing Council # 7816.
Sincerely, Bill Stelzer

Our Worthy Warden, Russ Martin, and Inside and Outside Guards, Mike Wooley and Luke Gray, distributed slips of paper to all present, then collected them. As they retired to the front of the Bishop Baraga Room to tally votes, Brother Daniels confirmed 28 members of East Lansing Council 7816 were present at the time of the vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Email from Supreme in support of Judge Brett Kavanaugh

Brother Bill Swords wished to address the council and discuss the email from Supreme, urging all Knights to contact their senators and tell them to support the confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court. Brother Swords was dismayed that Supreme would urge all Knights to side with a particular individual or political party. Urging prayers for a speedy resolution and offering a call to action for Knights to think about this, pray for this, and then inform your senators of your wishes - whether for or against Kavanaugh's confirmation - would have been appropriate. It is absolutely not appropriate to urge outright support for an individual.

Per our guidelines (and per proper decorum) regarding etiquette and discussion of politics, we must talk about issues, not candidates. We are warned not to openly endorse one specific candidate or party and, instead, encouraged to share information. We are told time and time again to talk about the issues, not the candidates - and the confirmation of a Supreme Court justice should be no different.

Brother Daniels openly agreed with Brother Swords and asked if a response to Supreme from the council would be appropriate. Brother Green agreed that the email was inappropriate - but also urged caution in asking the council as a whole to address/respond to the matter. Brother Daniels responded, stating a general letter from the council could address general unease, but we could also draft a letter and send it out to the council for anyone who wishes to add their name. Grand Knight suggested the matter be tabled for discussion at our next officers' meeting.

Worthy Financial Secretary, Dave Meyer, agreed that the letter was out of line and urged anyone upset about it to draft a letter (as he intended to do).

OLD BUSINESS / UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont.)

Renaming the council (cont.)

Votes for renaming the council from East Lansing Council #7816 to Rev. Monsignor Jerome V. MacEachin East Lansing Council #7816 tallied by our Worthy Warden, Russ Martin, and Inside and Outside Guards, Mike Wooley and Luke Gray.

Yes:	24
No:	3

Abstention: 1

Second vote on the resolution to rename the council in honor of Rev. Monsignor Jerome V. MacEachin passed.

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

GUESTS / GUEST SPEAKERS

Insurance representative, Brothers Ronald Sneller and Brennan Hayden

Brother Ronald Sneller introduced himself. He's based in Clarkston, but services the Lansing, Flint, and Detroit areas, representing 75 councils and 1,300 families.

Brother Brennan Hayden was then introduced by Brother Sneller. Brother Hayden has an MBS from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland and is the third agent added to the Lansing area.

Brother Hayden noted that there are a lot changes happening right now, specifically citing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. If someone says they're 100% set for retirement, that's terrific. If someone thinks that they might be okay, they may not be. If someone just plain doesn't know, they need to call him.

Brother Stevens asked if either Brother Sneller or Brother Hayden were licenced fiduciaries. Brother Sneller said that they do not sell securities, so they are not.

Brother Sneller added to Brother Hayden's comments, stating that all of these changes bring uncertainty and uncertainty brings stress. Changes to tax laws, changes to healthcare, changes to the financial security of not only individuals and businesses, but to cities, states, and countries... Brother Sneller closed by saying that if anyone has any questions, he and Brother Hayden are here to help and to provide guidance.

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; Fr. Mark Inglot; Fr. Gary Koenigsknecht; Fr. Jerry Ploof; Adrienne Meyer, mother of PGK Mark Meyer; 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; Brother Christopher Niemela; 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. We're also offering prayers for healing for the clergy and parishioners of the Catholic Church here and around the world, especially those affected by recent events and revelations.

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 8:38 PM.

Our next general meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 9, 2018, at 7:30 PM in the Bishop Baraga Room.

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