



Knights Worthy News

St. Joseph Council 10627, High Bridge, New Jersey

A Catholic men's organization promoting Charity, Unity, Fraternity, Family and Patriotism

February 2021

Grand Knight's Message

Dear Brothers,

I hope that this writing finds all of you and your families healthy and prosperous. I pray that all of you can go to work, school and church safely, of course, wearing your masks and keeping the proper distances. Hopefully, these restrictions will only be for a few more months and we can start getting back to normal.

I have a few things that I would like to call to your attention. First, as I have stated previously, because we have not been able to hold our yearly fund raising activities we are being held to a very strict budget. We currently have just enough funds to get us through the year until we have our next Golf Outing. It is heartbreaking that we can't be more charitable to those that need it, and also for having to cut back on the scholarships that we have been so generous with in the past. Therefore, I would like all of you, that are capable, **to pay your yearly dues. We really need it this year.** I want you to take care of **family first**, but please don't forget your yearly obligation to the Knights. **The deadline for the dues is always January 15th** and it is a great deal of work for our Retention Officer and Financial Secretary to track down and contact brothers to get them to pay their dues after the due date. **If there is a financial problem** please let me know. I will excuse you, and I promise that it will go no further than the Financial Secretary and me.

I would also like to mention that brother **Kevin Loughney** does a fantastic job handling the K-Club that we all have so much fun with. **Kevin** works very hard on this project. Consequently, we give away money each week and a lot of money at the end. However, we are only breaking even at the moment. Again, I hate to complain, but we need this activity to make money to give back as charity. **Remember, charity is our main objective.** So brothers, please, if you were playing the K-Club in the past please start again and or continue to play. **It helps us so much.**

I must apologize because I know that I'm whining today. In these writings I always like to point out all the good things that the brothers are doing and working on, especially in the spirit of **time charity**. In other words, pointing out the brothers giving their **personal time for others**. I know that we all don't have a lot of time to give. However, we can all do the easy things to help the organization. Two very easy ways to help is to **pay your dues on time and fill out and submit Fraternal Activity Survey to report your personal volunteer time.** (Ed. Note: *It's too late to submit this year. Just remember to do it next January!*) These two things are important and by completing both in a timely fashion you can help to make the operating of the council so much easier.

I do hear brothers say that we are not having meetings. **This is not true** because since August we have been meeting on the last Thursday of the month except for holidays. The meetings are an hour with refreshments and are for officers and directors. However, anyone can attend and all are welcome. Of course masks are worn, proper distance adhered to and cleaning of the space before leaving is required. We will meet on **Thursday February 25th in the church hall at 7:30 pm.**

In our prayers let us pray for Vincent Scarponi, Annette Wilmott, Greg and Allen Rathgens, Patty and Robert Ronca, David Codd, David Bernardo, Aidan McNamara, Joseph Leary, Frank Kyrpczak, Frank Kyrpczak Jr., Fr. Hugh Grace, Fr. Gerard Lair, Bill Cerwinski, Greg Boyle, the family of Ed Santillo RIP and Vinnie Tavormina our State Deputy.

May **GOD** bless all of you and your families, and may all of you have a safe and **Happy Valentine's Day.**

Vivat Jesus,
Mario Bernardo, Grand Knight

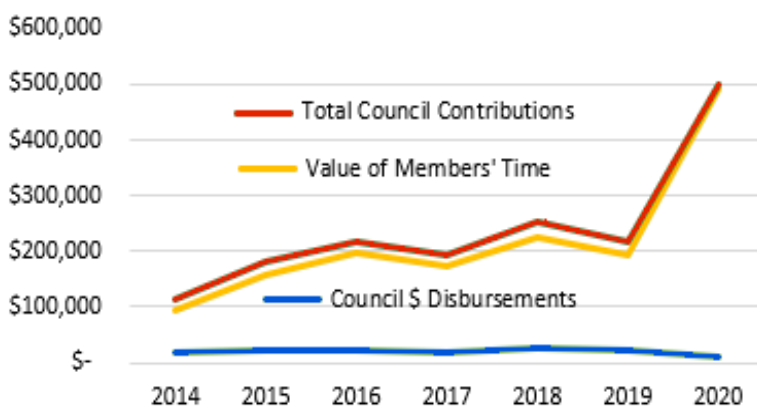


2020 = \$500,000!

2020 was an extremely difficult year for most of us, and the Covid-19 pandemic inhibited most organized council activities. The pandemic also affected the council’s ability to raise funds, which impacted our **direct charitable** donations to organized Faith in Action activities. (Council donations were **\$8,900** in 2020—compared to **\$20,000 +/-** annual donations in each of the last several years). But Covid-19 did not deter the council from meeting its commitment to Faith, Family, Community and Life! **In 2020, St. Joseph Council contributed more than one-half million dollars**, largely through our brother Knights’ personal efforts. For 2020, we established a **record number of hours that members spent in those activities — valued at \$493,000!** Add that to the council contributions and we’ve exceeded **one-half million dollars!** In just one year. The chart tells the story.

The HOURS members devote to activities is far more important than the MONEY the council disburses as contributions.

During the 7 years charted, the council disbursed **\$135,000** in contributions, but members time was valued at **\$1.6 MILLION**. And that does not tell the entire story! More members have reported their time each of the last few years. Yet, even in 2020, **sixty** members did not submit a Fraternal Activity Survey! It’s certain that many did good work, but just didn’t share their information with the council.



What we do and telling others is important!

Thanks to members who did submit your “Fraternal Activity Survey”

The Value of Members’ time is determined by www.independentsector.org/

Volunteers in the United States are 63 million strong and hold up the foundation of civil society. They help their neighbors, serve their communities and faith . They contribute in invaluable ways. The value of their service is based on the average earnings of private sector workers, excluding those who work on farms or in managerial occupations. The value is higher in NJ than most states—\$29.49 in 2019 when the national value was \$27.20.

2020 was an astounding year for our council members’ time, talent and treasure generosity !

Congratulations to all St. Joseph Council members!

What did YOU do in 2020?

What do YOU plan to do in 2021?

Food for Families



There has been an increasing flow of food donations by ShopRite customers during the pandemic necessitating more frequent trips to empty our donation racks. We would have been hard-pressed to manage this onslaught of generosity without our new, larger steel racks donated by Council 10627!

George Mehaffey has been collecting donations from the St. Joseph Church vestibule on a weekly basis. The total so far for January is 204 lbs.

If you would like to join us in this ongoing effort, please contact me at donbranflick@comcast.net

Don Branflick, Food for Families Activity Director

FAITH ACTIVITIES

St. John Neumann Parish

- The **Men's Spirituality Breakfast**, initiated by Brother Jim Murray, continues to be held indoors, with social distancing. The February breakfast & meeting will be Saturday, February 27th, at 7:44 a.m. If you can make it, let Jim Murray know at jmurray@eclipse.net
- **Lenten small faith groups** are now forming. The groups will meet weekly, at various starting times, through Lent (either in person, or via Zoom).
- The SJN "**Souper Bowl of Caring**" will again be held Super Bowl weekend (February 6-7th). Confirmation candidates will collect cans of soup and dollars before all Masses to be donated to a soup kitchen.
- The annual **Parish Auction and Dinner Dance** will be held outdoors this year, on Saturday June 5th, 2021. The rain date is Saturday June 12th, 2021. This has been SJN's biggest fundraiser, which was cancelled in 2020 due to Covid. It typically includes wine and beer tasting, a live and silent auction, and a dinner dance. Brother Steve Bauernfeind has spent many hours soliciting auction items during prior years.

Tom Klawunn, Chancellor
& SJN Parish Liaison



Support your council Join the K-Club!



K-CLUB 2021-1

The club runs for 20 weeks. We run it twice every year, Feb to July and then Aug to December.
Dues are \$40 each time.

Proceeds help fund our charitable programs.

The first drawing is **2/21/21** and the final drawing **7/4/21**

There are nineteen \$50 weekly winners and 10 final week #20 winners: 1st is \$400, 2nd - 3rd is \$175, 4th - 6th is \$100, 7th through 10th are \$50 winners

YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!!!

If you're already a K-Club member – please put your \$40 check payable to "St. Joseph K of C" in an envelope marked **K Club** and put in the collection basket or mail to rectory; OR use PayPal on our KofC council website at: www.kofc10627.org

If you have NOT already enrolled in the K-Club and want to participate, please contact Kevin Loughney (908) 797-0061 or GK Mario Bernardo (908) 797-6344

Thank you for helping our fund raising for charitable causes!



LIFE ACTIVITIES



Thanks to our council Life Activities Director (*at left*), a new “**Choose Life**” banner has been placed on the frame in front of the St. Joseph Parish Rectory. The banner replaces an older banner that we’ve used for several years.

Brother Rich has monitored the placement of banners on that frame for years, to ensure that we meet the obligations of the Town of High Bridge.

The sturdy aluminum frame is also used annually for the council’s **Keep Christ in Christmas** banner. (The frame was donated several years ago by St. Joseph parishioner George Mehaffey and erected by brothers Wayne McKay, Greg Boyle and parishioner Frank Gregory. Mehaffey, McKay and Boyle also teamed up to erect the frames on the front of St. Joseph Church used for seasonal banners and parish information.)

The new sign promotes the Life Choices Medical facility in Phillipsburg that provides critical support to pregnant women (examples below) and operates a mobile Women’s Health Center.



- Pregnancy Testing
- Pregnancy Options
- Pregnancy Counseling
- Family Planning
- STD screening and information
- Ultrasound Exams
- Abortion Information
- Accurate information on Adoption, and parenting

Additional information about Life Choices can be found at:



www.lifechoicesmedical.org

www.LifeChoices.org and

www.facebook.com/LifeChoicesPhillipsburg/

DEFEND LIFE DEFEND LIFE DEFEND LIFE

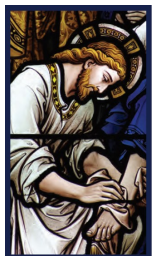
LIFE ACTIVITIES



The organizers asked participants to stay home and to join the March by viewing it 'live stream'. (Hopefully, you were able to do that.) Instead of hundreds of thousands in Washington this year, only a small group of pro-life leaders from across the country were invited to march.



NJ Right to Life sponsored an in-person *Peaceful Rally for Life* on January 22. The rally was supported by a coalition of Pro-Life groups working together and was followed by a peaceful march through the streets of Trenton. (*The National Guard was not called in.*)



“Every Life is Worth Living”

Heavenly Father, thank you for the precious gift of life.

Help us to cherish and protect this gift, even in the midst of fear, pain, and suffering.

Give us love for all people, especially the most vulnerable, and help us bear witness to the truth that every life is worth living.

Grant us the humility to accept help when we are in need, and teach us to be merciful to all.

Through our words and actions, may others encounter the outstretched hands of Your mercy.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.



Above: Marie Tasey, Director of New Jersey Right To Life, addressing the crowd of 400+ at the Trenton Rally.

Brothers Wayne Lloyd, Rich Mirocco, and Tom Klawunn at the Trenton Rally. (George Mehaffey photos)

Fraternal News



Rest in Peace Mathai Joseph Orapankal



On January 11, the father of our brother Knight, Rev. Abraham Orapankal, passed away. Mathai Joseph Orapankal was 94.

Regrettably, the Covid-19 pandemic prevented Fr. Abraham from travelling to the funeral in India.

Please keep Fr. Abraham and his family in your prayers.

Fr. Abraham is the Pastor of St. Matthias Church in Somerset having joined our council while he was the Pastor of St. John Neumann Church. He was born in the Indian state of Kerala. (Fr. Abraham's bio is available at www.stmatthias.net)



Rest in Peace brother Ed Santillo



**Edward Santillo
1959-2020**

Our fraternal brother Ed passed away in December after a long illness.

Please keep Ed's widow Lori Beth and family in your prayers.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Brother Robert Wise has been re-elected chair of the Raritan Valley Community College Board of Trustees.



Please contact
Council Fraternal
Concerns Activity
Director to
report any council
member in need!



wiliam.honachefskyjr@hotmail.com

- ◆ *Council Leadership Planning Meetings will be on the 4th Thursday of each month (7:30 pm in the St. Joseph Church Hall).
- ◆ *We'll resume regular Membership Meetings (on the 2nd Thursday of each month) as soon as we can!!

**BEHIND EVERY ANGRY
WOMAN, STANDS A
MAN WHO HAS
ABSOLUTELY
NO IDEA WHAT
HE DID WRONG!**

This little peice of equipment is a manure gun, honest to God! It would be a perfect, non lethal, weapon against rioting and looting. What are your thoughts?



THE UPDATED CHURCH

Latin's gone
Peace is too:
Singin' and shoutin'
From every pew.

Altar's turned 'round,
Priest is too;
Commentator's yellin'
"Page twenty-two."

Communion rails goin'
Stand up straight!
Kneelin's suddenly
Went outa date.

Processions are formin'
In every aisle!
Salvation's organized
Single file.

Rosary's out
Psalms are in.
Hardly ever hear
A word about sin.

Listen to the lector;
Hear how he reads;
Please stop rattlin'
The rosary beads.

Padre is looking puzzled
Doesn't know his part;
Used to know the whole deal
In Latin by heart.

I hope all of changes
Are just about done;
That they don't drop bingo
Before I've won!

Vatican II, that opened Catholicism to the richness of other traditions of worship began in 1962 and ended in 1965. It was not without its critics and was, for many Catholics of the time, a period of adjustment. The above poem surfaced from deep down in someone's 'dreck box'. **Enjoy it or don't!**

(If you're not 55 or older, you weren't even alive then and may not 'get it'!)





Happy Birthday!

John Gearity February 3
 John Gargas February 15
 Don Branflick February 14
 Mylene Mariano February 17
 Cindy Titus February 20
 Mark Kucharski February 22
 Mark Ayotte February 22
 Ann Whalen February 23
 Jim Wilmott February 23
 Mike Uss February 28

Happy Anniversary!

Peter & Kathy Sandrian
 February 13
 Mario & Deborah Bernardo
 February 18
 Sean & Monika Boyle
 February 20

All the News That Fits.

(Area Code 908 unless otherwise noted)

Officers:

Grand Knight	Mario Bernardo	797-6344
Chaplain	Fr. James Kyrpczak	303-6243
Deputy G. K.	Jim McCloskey	328-5176
Chancellor	Tom Klawunn	246-3722
Advocate	Greg Boyle	730-8737
Recorder	Steve Bauernfeind	638-4285
Fin. Sec.	Robert Young	832-2721
Treasurer	Rich Mirocco	638-4504
Warden	Andy Kin	617-5621
Inside Guard	Tom O'Farrell	246-7507
Outside Guard	Chris Dietrich	797-0243
Past GK	Tom Corrado	328-9440

Trustees:

Bill Cerwinski, PGK	(732) 715-0057
Kevin Loughney, PGK	797-0061
Tom Corrado, PGK	328-9440

Faith In Action Program Directors:

Faith	Tom Corrado	328-9440
Family	Chris Dietrich	797-0243
Community	Jim McCloskey	328-5176
Life	Rich Mirocco	638-4804

Fraternal Programs Directors:

Program	Jim McCloskey	328-5176
Membership	Tom O'Farrell	246-7507

Dist. Deputy:	Dan Murphy	635-4120
Ins. Agent:	Gerry Tatarka	(973) 713-3394

Website: www.kofc10627.org

**We've resumed 'live'
 Leadership Planning
 Meetings on the 4th Thurs-
 day of each month.
 We'll resume regular
 Membership Meetings as
 soon as we can!!**

Knight Worthy News is published monthly and distributed via E-mail. Send letters & comments to: gaboyle1@comcast.net
 Find St. Joseph Council at: www.kofc10627.org