

Knight Worthy News

St. Joseph Council 10627, High Bridge, New Jersey

January 2021

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The "Year of St. Joseph"

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St. Joseph as *Patron of the Universal Church*, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "*Year of St. Joseph*," from the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception December 8, 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021. Our council is dedicated to our patron, St. Joseph, and we need to remember his patronage of our faith, our home parish and our council.

Pope Francis adds a prayer to St. Joseph which he encourages all of us to pray together:



Hail, Guardian of the
Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed
Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his
only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

Crand-Knight's-Wessage

Dear Brothers,

he excitement and hope of a brand new year is upon us and we certainly need something special and good to look forward to. The reduction or wiping out of the Corona Virus would definitely be something that every person that I know, could get on board with. The talk of the new vaccines is promising; however, we still have a ways to go before the affect from the inoculation provides us with the return of our freedoms. So, what can we do while waiting for these medicines to take effect. To me, as a Christian, there is only one thing that we can do and that is pray. By now, especially as Knights, we all understand the power of prayer. We can all remember and sight instances that took place throughout our lives where prayer has made a significant difference. Sometimes the answer to those prayers was immediate and sometimes they took a while; but I have always found them to be answered. Even an unanswered prayer can be an answer. Therefore brothers, let us all make a resolution, for this coming year, to pray every day for a swift and safe end to this horrible and restricting disease. Let us use the power of our numbers while asking for a unified resolution to this pandemic and let us feel that we are doing our part to help.

Going back to Christmas, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and pride to our council for the parts our brothers played in helping to bring the mass to as many parishioners that wanted and needed to be there. In setting up the basement for Christmas Eve brothers Bill Cerwinski, Tom Corrado, David Corrado, Mario Bernardo, Kevin Loughney, Tom O'Farrell, and Bill Honachefsky Jr. helped to arrange the parish center for Christmas Eve mass. I know that there were Brothers helping to decorate the church for Christmas, however, I don't know specifically who was there but to those that helped your efforts certainly were appreciated.

Again, this is not an all-inclusive list, but I want to point out some of those brothers that worked at the masses as ushers and cleaners. Tom Corrado, Kevin Loughney, Steve Kallesser, Mario Bernardo, Tom O'Farrell, David Kinsky, Greg Van Nest, Ted Manahan, Tom Waldron, Kevin Speckin, Robert Hugelmeyer and Vincent McGourty. To the brothers one and all, the brothers listed and the brothers that I missed, your efforts didn't go unnoticed and were appreciated by Fr. James, Mary Jean our parish secretary, and the parishioners in attendance. Thank you one and all.

Please pray for Vincent Scarponi, Annette Wilmott, Greg and Allen Rathgens, Patty and Robert Ronca, David Codd, David Bernardo and Aidan McNamara. Also, look for the official and more inclusive prayer list, put out by our Secretary Steve Bauernfeind, which comes out twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month.

May **GOD** bless all of you and your families, and may all of you have a happy, safe and healthy New Year.

Vivat Jesus, Mario Bernardo, Grand Knight



Fraternal Matters

The Supreme Council has changed the meeting requirements for all councils. New guidelines were published to reflect what Knights want and need today to improve meeting experience and to respect members' time.

- Two monthly meetings are required: a Leadership Planning Meeting and a Membership Meeting.*
- Key elements were retained; others removed; new prayers have been incorporated** and new agendas developed for both types of meetings.

The revised meeting agenda formats can be found under the new **Leader Resources** web page on our council website.

**We will conclude our meetings with the "Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney" (below) and the "Prayer to St. Joseph" (on Page 1).

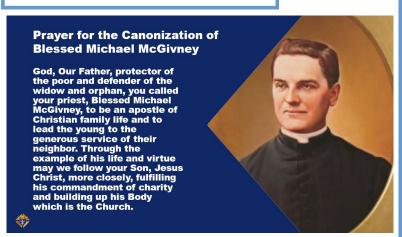


In addition to the new meeting agenda formats, our new web page contains a lot of new and updated information that should be of interest to all members including:

- ⇒ **St. Joseph Council Guides** for our council:
 - Council 10627-Operations Guidebook
 - Council 10627-Bylaws
 - Council 10627-Bylaws Supplement
 - Council 10627-Director & Activity Leader Responsibilities
 - Council 10627-Conducting Membership Meetings
 - Council 10627-Conducting Leadership Meetings
 - Council 10627-Closing Prayers
- ⇒ Supreme Council links that connect directly to PDFs on the www.KofC.org website so that as Supreme changes their information, it will be immediately available from our website.

Members are encouraged to review the information on the Leader Resources page:

www.kofc10627.org/leader-resources.html



- ◆ *Our 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 if each month) as soon as we can!!



2021 dues statements were sent to members on December 16. For the first time, the council used e-mail as the method to deliver statements (saving postage costs and ensuring immediate delivery of the statement). If you didn't receive your statement contact our Financial Secretary at (908) 832-2721!

Priests, Permanent Deacons, seminarians, Disabled Members, Honorary Life Members and Full-Time College Students are exempt from dues. If you are not exempt, you should have received your dues bill. After January 15—members who have not paid their dues are considered 'delinquent'.

Members were encouraged to receive the 'on-time' discount for dues paid before January 15. Instructions also were included about the PayPal option for paying dues.

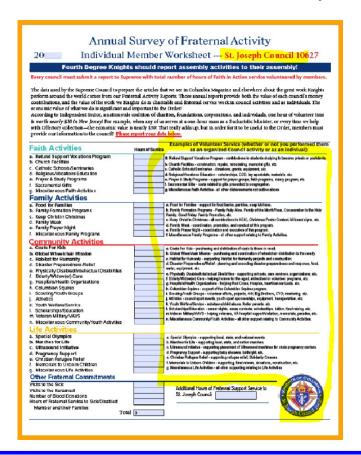
Please help your council— PAY DUES ON TIME!

Fraternal Activity Survey

The council must report the total number of volunteer hours of Faith in Action service by our members for the previous year. We need you to provide your volunteer time for 2020! The simplest way to report is using online submission form on the council website "Fraternal Activity Survey" tab.



OR you can download the Survey Form 1728 and send that to the Financial Secretary:





Member News

Past St. Joseph Council Chaplain Rev. Fred Otieno

sends his blessings to council members from Kenya. (Fr. Fred was our Chaplain from 2008 when he was at the Blue Army Shrine in nearby Washington from until he returned to Kenya with the Apostles of Jesus Missionaries.)

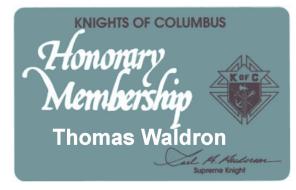
- ⇒ "Welcome home" to brother Jim Rispoli after his lengthy stay in Morristown Memorial hospital!
- ⇒ **Good luck and good health** to brother

 Dean Rapp and wife Fran with their relocation to Delaware!
- ⇒ We have several council members who've moved elsewhere. Some remain members in our council while others transferred to local councils. All continue to receive our newsletters. We regularly hear from PGK Bruce Teeling (in North Carolina), and recently from brothers George Heeran (North Carolina), Mike Mastro (Virginia) and Paul Petruzzi (Florida) who extended their well wishes to members and encourage us to continue our good work. We're glad they are doing well in their homes outside New Jersey!

Please contact Council Fraternal Concerns Activity Director to report any council member in need! william.honachefskyjr@hotmail.com



Congratulations to brother Knight Tom Waldron who has achieved Honorary Member status. The honor is awarded to members who reach the age of 65 and have 25 years or more of continuous service to the Order.



See all of our Honorary Members at www.kofc10627.org/honorary-members.html

Did you ever get up in the morning, look in the mirror and think THAT CAN'T BE ACCURATE?

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

the evening of December 19, brother Jim Murray and wife Joann gathered a dozen intrepid souls to spread Christmas cheer. We locations in Lebanon Township, Glen Gardner and the greater High Bridge area. Armed with nothing but two pages of Christmas car-

ols, lit up cell phones to see the words, and our best voices, the group sang Christmas carols, in 25 degree cold no less, to the residents at the following facilities:

- Hunterdon Hills Assisted Living on West Hill Road
- Newton's Guest Home on Spruce Run Road
- Parkside Apartments on Parkside Road
- The Group Home on Stillwell Road
- A homebound residential couple off of Route #513 S. in High Bridge



With the group's singing completed, a short trip to Gronsky's Milk House for hot chocolate concluded the night's activities. Struggling with facemasks, very cold conditions, and numbing fingers, the joy of sharing the Christmas season could not be deterred among the 11 adults and one child who sang their hearts out for almost two hours at these five stop-offs! Newton's Guest House had prepared an outdoor fire pit in anticipation of our arrival. Your humble correspondent says this will ensure a return visit to the guest house in future caroling forays!

"Joy to the World," "O Come All Ye Faithful," "O Holy Night," and many others were the seasonal carols presented to the residents through shuttered windows and hallways at the residences....the best that could be done under current COVID restrictions and the weather conditions.

Brother Jim Murray helps coordinate the Men's Spirituality Group at the Catholic Community of St. John Neumann in Califon the last Saturday of each month during the year at 7 am. Many council brothers have taken in the spiritual event over the past few years which, periodically, has a local Men's Cornerstone activity offered as well. Many thanks to brother Jim Murray who has no shortage of Christmas spirit in this challenging year of 2020.

Steve Bauernfeind



To brothers Jim, Steve and the other carolers,

An outstanding activity for those in need of some Christmas love! Next year, let's see if we can get more council families involved. Great job!!

Mario Bernardo, GK

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Knights Continue Flag Project with Scouts, Scouts Seek Needy People to Help

The last quarter of 2020 saw the Knights of this council continue to work with Scouts BSA Troop 121 of Clinton to maintain the flags displayed on overpasses over Interstate 78 and Route 31. One torn flag was replaced at the overpass by Cryan's Tavern in Annandale, and at the time of this newsletter's publication one flag from the Potterstown Road overpass was taken down to replace the ropes that keep it on place. It will be displayed again before January 1.

Currently, I am co-teaching the *Ad Altare Dei* religious emblem program to Scouts in Hunterdon County on behalf of the Diocese of Metuchen.

Each Scout must participate in five service projects. One of those projects (associated with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick) involves assisting an elderly or infirmed person. As one might imagine those in need and their families are not crazy about accepting help from schoolaged Scouts at this exact moment in time, even for outside projects. This is leaving these noteworthy Scouts in a lurch, as the US Conference of Catholic Bishops has not

modified the award requirements and is (my opinion) unlikely to do so.

If you know of a person in need of (safe) assistance, please contact me at steve@gracieharrigan.com as we have willing and able helpers!

-Steve Kallesser, Scouting & I-78 Flags Activity Leader



FAITH ACTIVITIES

Thanks to brother Rich Mirocco who continues to monitor the parish sign placements and ensure they comply with the town's ordinances!



AED
Automated External Defibrillator

The council continues to monitor the AED unit we installed in St. Joseph Church. Activity Leader Mark Ku-

charski reports that the batteries have been replaced and that once the pandemic subsides, he and brother Phil Titus will schedule training session for the parish. (Previously scheduled sessions had to be cancelled.)

Book Review: Irreversible Damage

"...since parents have conferred life on their children, they have a most solemn obligation to educate their offspring. Hence, parents must be acknowledged as the first and foremost educators of their children." -Gravissimum educationis, 3. (Second Vatican Council)

"Even parents that come in and say, 'I don't want my [daughter] to be called [a boy's name].' That's nice, but their parental right ended when those children were enrolled in public school." -5th grade teacher C. Scott Miller to Abigail Shrier, in an interview

From time to time, crazes – a cultural enthusiasm that spreads like a virus – occur. The effects of such crazes range from neutral to negative, but parents need to be concerned when such crazes include, encourage, or glorify self-harm because of the susceptibility of youth (having little or no experience to discern the ultimate effects) to latch on to a craze. Adolescent girls, as a group, have shown particular vulnerability to crazes spread through peer contagion that involve self-harm (e.g. bulimia, anorexia, cutting, etc.).

What sets transgenderism apart from previous crazes is that it is being created by and fueled through relatively new technology, schools, state legislatures, and all facets of today's health care system. Its possible effects, even on youth who take medication for the short-term, include delay in brain development, endocrine system failure, and permanent sterility. Long-term effects and complications are too gruesome to be listed here.

Prior to 2013, gender dysphoria was a very rare condition that primarily affected males. The expected incidence was about one in ten thousand males, and in pediatric cases approximately 70% of those resolved without serious intervention. The expected incidence in females was dramatically less, perhaps two or three in a hundred thousand females. By 2017, the CDC was reporting rates of transgenderism in US high schools at two per one hundred students, indicating an increase of between 200 and 600 times the expected amount. The vast majority of this new surge are adolescent girls who, according to their parents, have never exhibited any of the clinical symptoms of gender dysphoria prior to self-diagnosing themselves.

The author shows that the origin for their self-diagnosis is usually by being exposed to gender theory at school with reinforcement through friend and social groups, or through social media such as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Gender theory (as opposed to the truth of a person's innate biological sex) is introduced as part of anti-bullying programs at elementary-, middle-, and secondary-school levels, usually through materials provided by, developed by, or strongly influenced by homosexual/queer lobbying groups. Social media "influencers" distribute positive messaging that identifying and taking action as a transgender person is a risk-free activity and that self-diagnosis can definitively be made based solely on the youth's feelings at that time.

Commonly, the first indication to a parent that something is going on is a period of doing poorly in school or with personal relationships. This is followed by change in appearance (adopting a boy's hairstyle or clothing choices), and then a demand by the youth to be referred to by a different name and entirely new pronouns (he/him instead of she/her). Once the parents' jaws are lifted from the floor, their most common step is to contact a therapist.

Parents will be greatly surprised by something known as the "affirmative-care" standard adopted by most therapists at the behest of almost every medical professional society. This means that the therapist, rather than evaluating the patient and making a professional diagnosis will accept the self-diagnosis of a youth as Gospel truth, setting the stage for escalating issues. The harm induced by such a therapist is virtually incalculable.

In the meantime, the youth will have received accolades and support from online and in-person groups celebrating their stance. This attention serves to paint the youth in a corner, but also grow to increasingly isolate the youth from their parents. Such online groups serve to provide advice on how to convincingly lie to parents and medical professionals, and obtain sex-change devices and drugs from facilities on an "informed consent" basis – many times without a doctor's referral, evaluation by a local therapist, or parent's permission. As any trained volunteer who works with youth on behalf of the Church could predict, such online groups are crawling with pedophiles and others with ill intents. The cult-like behavior within this movement is noteworthy and has had a chilling effect on reporting on the subject both in scientific, technical, and popular writing. School policies, often reflecting policies in state law or the state's Department of Education, will likely hide children's behavior from their parents.

Irreversible Damage (by Abigail Shrier, 2020, Regnery Publishing) should be the most important book of the year for parents, grandparents, Catholic teachers and catechists, and all those who work with youth on a paid or volunteer basis. For parents, this book offers lessons learned from other parents on how to try to prevent your daughter (or son) from being swept up in this craze, important information on how to react if they are, and also after-the-fact guidance if steps have been taken by the parents, the child, or others to move them down this path. The primary audience is parents of daughters. This book is ABSOLUTELY NOT for youth. The author uses a number of anecdotes and experiences that are not for the faint of heart. It is a difficult read due to the emotional and sometimes explicit physical material presented, knowing that so many youth have been harmed in this way.

It is important to note that this book is written from a secular basis, without reference to religion. This was a conscious decision by the author in order to reach a maximum audience. Regardless, the distinction between a Catholic education tethered to Scripture and Tradition, and public or secular private education guided by the whims of this world couldn't be clearer. This book is a strong reminder to parents to ask questions about anti-bullying materials being presented at their current or prospective school, since parents can opt-out their children from sexual education, but not anti-bullying programs.

Importantly, the author makes a clear distinction between those who legitimately have this serious disorder and those who are compassionately providing medical care, and those who are caught up in the craze and those who are profiting off of their self-harm. Given the actual cause of their mental distress may go completely ignored for years or decades, those "professionals" and others involved are culpable for shattering the bodies, minds, and families of thousands and thousands of youth, including some in our area. That so many public and private institutions continue to drive the conditions needed to sustain this craze in the name of diversity and inclusion and anti-bullying, in the reviewer's opinion it is unlikely to subside in the near future.

St. Joseph, Pillar of families, Pray for us.

-review by Steve Kallesser, of St. Joseph Council #10627



Happy Birthday!

Rev. James Kyrpczak January 1 Sean McKay January 3 Robert Hugelmeyer January 5 Kevin Gilligan January 6 Aleida Gavigan January 8 Ross Clark January 10 Jo Ann Murray January 11 Deborah Gearity January 12 Jacquie Niederle January 13 Annette Mahoney January 15 O'Brien Speckin January 16 Jim Codd January 17 Kevin Speckin January 17 Linda Patterson January 19 Jennifer Rispoli January 19 Jim Cardenas January 21 Kevin Teeling January 23 Fran Goddard January 23 Pam Springstun January 23 Beverly Knoll January 25 Bill Honachefsky, Jr January 27 Hunt Patterson January 27 Ken Whalen January 27

Happy Anniversary!

Rich & Mauricia Nacamuli January 17 Vince & Shirley Scarponi January 21

(Area Code 908 unless otherwise noted)

Officers:			
Grand Knight	Mario Bernardo	797-6344	
Chaplain Fi	r. 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	2) 715-0057	
Kevin Loughney, PGK		797-0061	
Tom Corrado, PGK		328-9440	
Faith In Action Program Directors:			
	Ta Ca		

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

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 Thursday of each month.
We'll resume regular
Membership Meetings as
soon as we can!!

All the News That Fits.

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