



KNIGHTLY NEWS

A Quarterly Digest

April 2020

Ridgewood Knights of Columbus, Council 1736

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A Time
to *Appreciate*
Our
Many
Blessings

Grand Knight's Report
CHARITY, UNITY, FRATERNITY, PATRIOTISM

by **Grand Knight Ramon Hache** April 2020

By the time you read this, it would be a little more than a month since the last time we met as a Council. It feels like the whole world has changed since then. Four Sundays since our parish closed its doors. Four Sundays without celebrating the Eucharist. This is the reality of the impact of COVID-19.

Four weeks ago, none of us could have even remotely imagined we would be where we are today. After all, the U.S. economy was unstoppable. The unemployment rate was at the lowest level in more than 20 years. How did we get to April without March Madness? How can we have spring without baseball?

And here we are today. Ironically, the entire world is facing the same problem and yet the best solution is not for everyone to come together but for everyone to be apart.

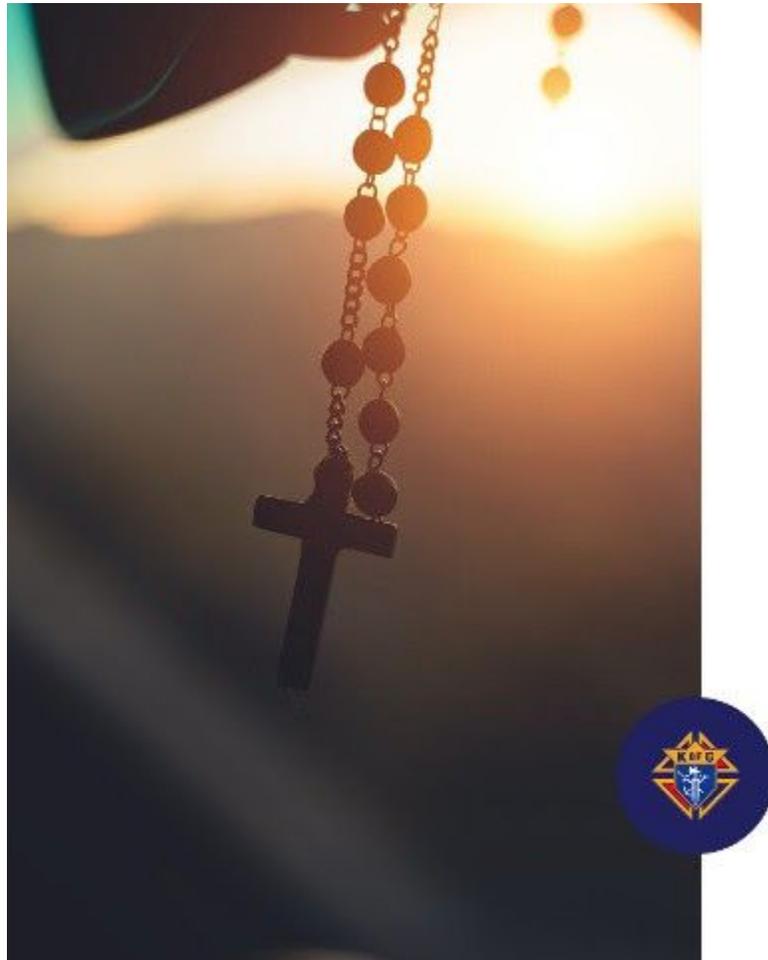
From the confines of our homes, we have been exposed to very powerful imagery. People wearing masks, the streaming data of rising numbers of those infected and unfortunately of those who have died. And who can forget the solitary figure of the Holy Father walking alone through the rain and then giving prayer to an empty St. Peter's Square.

The dark days of today, as unthinkable as it may seem, have also brought with them some blessings. Among these, more time for prayer and reflection, time to be at home with our loved ones, as well as the opportunity to think about and **appreciate the many blessings in our lives**. There has also been an outpouring of empathy and support for those in need. We now miss being in the presence of those whom we oftentimes ignored when they were physically next to us. Although we have been driven physically apart from one another, we have become more united in sentiment and prayer. It is from that spiritual unity that we can draw hope for brighter days ahead.

As the saying goes, it is always darkest before the dawn. The Easter season illuminates us with the light of hope. Our Lord and Savior, through his sacrifice, not only tells us that God understands our suffering, but that He gave us victory over sin and death. As disciples of Christ, we understand that the spiritual realm is much more powerful and enduring than the ephemeral physical world. Therefore fear is temporary but hope is eternal.

I look forward to rising with you from this difficult time with renewed spiritual strength and gratitude. This will happen sooner rather than later. In the meantime, please be well, be healthy and most importantly, be hopeful. God bless.

Vivat Jesus!





As we continue to practice physical distancing and pray that the curve of positive COVID-19 cases begins to flatten, our once-usual social lives have been put on hold. For our Council, the first evidence of this was the decision to postpone our **St. Patrick's Dinner Dance** in March. The event was produced annually for more than three decades.

Our **Shake the Can** fundraiser to support those with intellectual and developmental disabilities will likely be postponed as well. Basically, anything that would require a physical presence is being put on hold indefinitely or done virtually wherever possible. The same goes for Degree ceremonies.

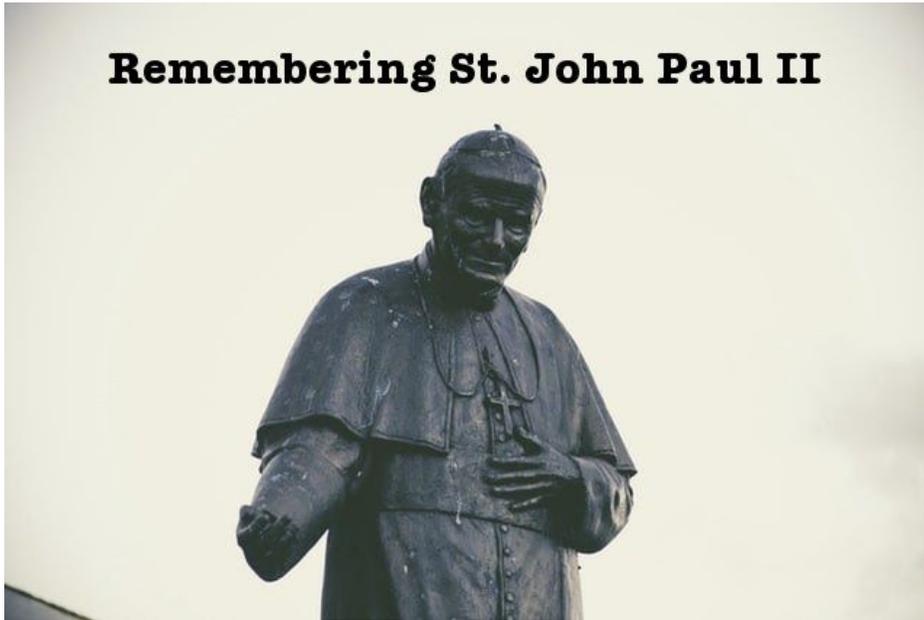
Even though the St. Patrick's Dinner Dance didn't happen, event manager Jeff Voigt reports that the Council still **raised more than \$7,000** from the raffle drawing for the trip to Ireland. Suzanne Z. from Glen Rock was the winner. As usual, proceeds from the raffle will benefit many worthy, local charities.

And discussions are under way to transform the party into a combined St. Patrick's Day/Columbus Day/Oktoberfest celebration later this fall. The intention would be to have Irish music, Italian food, and German beer—a great combination of cultures and tastes! This, of course, is dependent on whether the COVID-19 restrictions are still an issue.

In the meantime, let's remember to check in with each other regularly. A quick hello or kind word from a fellow Brother might be the thing that brightens a person's day in these times of isolation.

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Remembering St. John Paul II



On the 15th anniversary of the Holy Father's death, the Knights chronicle his relationship with the Order.

The Knights of Columbus has developed close-working relationships with pontiffs [dating back to 1920](#), but the relationship with St. John Paul II was different. It started when he was first installed. The Order covered the costs of the telecast of the installation of Pope John Paul II in October 1978, and would continue funding the broadcast of other pastoral events throughout his papacy.

One of significance came during the pontiff's historical trip to Communist-controlled Poland. Communist leaders unsuccessfully tried to prevent St. John Paul II's visit to Poland, in part because of the Knights of Columbus. The Knights helped fund a documentary, that was smuggled into the country, to inspire the Polish people and prepare them for the Holy Father's visit. When St. John Paul II visited his homeland, an estimated 13 million people attended one of his public events and inspired the Polish people's love of freedom that eventually led to the fall of the Iron Curtain.

The Knights would later on support three films about [St. John Paul II: John Paul II in America: Uniting a Continent](#), [Liberating a Continent: John Paul II](#) and the [Fall of Communism](#) and [John Paul II in Ireland: A Plea for Peace](#).

But even after the Holy Father's death, the Knights of Columbus are carrying on his legacy. The Order sponsors the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Washington, D.C., and the Pontifical School of Theology in Kraków. They also support the [Saint John Paul II National Shrine](#) in Washington, D.C. as well, which chronicles the life of the Holy Father along with housing some of his relics.

This is an excerpt of an article on [kofc.org](#). [Click here to read the full article](#).

5 Tips for Better Video Calls



Physical distancing means many in-person meetings have become virtual. Even our Council's April meeting was conducted over a video call.

For those of us who've never or rarely participated in a video call, here are some helpful tips and reminders:

- 1. Dress appropriately.** Video means you'll be seen, so look presentable. That means you should wear a shirt, shave, and probably comb your hair. Just sayin'.
- 2. Test before the call.** Make sure your device's camera and microphone are working. The last thing you want is to join a meeting without the ability to communicate.
- 3. Use the mute button.** Mute yourself when you're not speaking. No one wants to hear your phone ringing, dog barking, kids screaming, or the episode of *Judge Judy* on your TV.
- 4. Know your surroundings.** Angle the camera so everyone can see your face and be mindful of what's visible behind you. Avoid messy/cluttered areas. Remove questionable or potentially offensive objects. Don't call in from the bathroom.
- 5. Keep security in mind.** No matter which video-calling platform you use, avoid discussing sensitive business or financial information. Who knows who might be listening?

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Standing Ready During Difficult Times

A Message from Your KofC Insurance Agent



Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

The mission of the Knights of Columbus today remains the same as when it was founded in 1882: to protect Catholic families financially and to help strengthen the Catholic faith of our members.

While the current medical, social, and economic issues we face are unsettling, it's not the first time we have risen to meet such challenges. Our Order has stood strong through past crises such as the Spanish flu in 1918, the Great Depression, and the financial crisis of 2008.

Just as we stood together during those times, we stand ready in our own difficult times to provide life insurance, annuities, long-term care and disability insurance. Knights of Columbus Insurance agents are fully equipped and eager to help you understand how the current climate may affect your personal finances and how our products can help.

Your agent is available to speak with you over the phone (when appropriate) or through a virtual meeting using Skype or similar software. Agents are ready to answer questions, assist with service-related issues and help show you how you can reduce your financial risk.

As the Knights of Columbus turns 138 years old, it is an opportune moment to thank our founder, Father Michael McGivney, for his foresight in founding an Order that consistently provides reliable financial protection for Catholic families. You do not face the current challenges alone. Our commitment to helping you and your family remains strong.

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Facebook Feature

Brother Knight Josip Zubac gets a shout out from OLMC.



[Click here](#) to see the original post on OLMC's Facebook page.

[Be sure to like and follow Council 1736 on Facebook, too.](#)

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“Tough times never last, but tough people do.”

~ **Robert Schuller, former Christian televangelist, pastor, motivational speaker, and author.**

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