



“The weight of the Cross is burdensome for those who carry it, but not for those who embrace it.”
Santa Maria Venegas

MAY 2023

INFIRMED BROTHERS

As we do in all our newsletters, we ask that you stop reading this letter at this point and take the time to say an Our Father for those members listed below. Remember your brother Sir Knights as follows: Marty DeBattista, Ron Sullivan, Jim Laud, Ed Laco, John Ryczaj, Mike Mako, Frank Stachura, Frank Sumichrast, William Berrier, Dan Serafin, Eric Olson, and John Bodnar. If you know of a brother who needs our prayers specifically when we pray for the infirmed, please let us know. We also pray for them at all our meetings. We depend on the councils to let us know which of their members are ailing.

We also pray for the health of our priests both in this newsletter and at every meeting. Our continuing relationships with our priests involve not only our work together but also our spiritual relationship, friendship and our shared belief in our Lord and our Holy Catholic Church and her teachings.

FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR COMMENTS

We all have memories of friends and families; April was a month that caused me to reflect on the memories of the people that I have crossed paths with. I had the honor to stand guard at the wake of Deacon Robert Bonta at Nativity in Portage, and for Butch Bukovac in Lowell. I attended the wake and funeral of Marylee Pollaro, the wife of one of our newest members Joseph Pollaro. As I stood guard and attended wakes and funerals of these and countless others, and as the friends and families file past the deceased, I felt privileged to feel the love and hear some remarks that came from deep down within the hearts of those that knew them. Lest we never forget those we love.

L like many of you was able to attend the stations of the cross at PP. The weather was nice, and our brothers Sir Knight Mike Velasco and Sir Knight Fr. Holy did a great presentation. Some members of the SEAS Council 7473 were able to participate in praying the rosary during the 40 days for life and throughout the year. I encourage you and your families to spend time on the hill in front of PP as long as these people are taking the lives of the innocent babies.

Remember our Lord Gave up his life for the forgiveness of our sins.

PRIESTS AND DEACONS

As Catholic gentlemen we are needed to support our priests and seminarians by our actions and most importantly with our prayers. Please pray for our SMVA brother Sir Knight Priests: Reverend, Dominic Bertino, Reverend Jefferey Burton, Reverend Andrew Corona, Reverend Richard Holy, F.C. Reverend Stephen Loncar, Reverend Douglas Mayer, Reverend Mark Mazza, Reverend Jacob McDaniel, Reverend Thomas Mischler, Reverend Jon Plavcan, Reverend Benjamin Ross, Reverend Chris Stanish, Reverend Ed Tlucek and our deceased Brother Reverend Frank Torres.

Our newest member is of course The Most Reverend Bishop Robert J. McClory the first Bishop ever to have been exemplified into our Assembly! We owe our brothers from Abraham

Lincoln Assembly our thanks for stepping aside and making it possible for Bishop McClory to enter our Assembly. You see, both our Assemblies sent applications for the Gary Bishop's 4th Degree status. We thank our brother Sir Knights FN Patrick Glavin and PFN David Negrete who so graciously told us to bring him into OUR Assembly. Much thanks Brothers for such a magnanimous gesture! Deacon Philip Conduit is also a longtime member, needs our prayers and assistance. Do you know any of them? Then reach out to see if you can help them in some way.

OUR BEAUTIFUL ROSARY

The word "Rosary" comes from the Latin meaning of "garland of roses." When Christians recite the twelve prayers that form a decade of the rosary, they meditate on the mystery associated with the decade. If they merely recite the prayers, they're missing the essence of the rosary. It isn't just a recitation of prayers, but a meditation of the grace of God. It is the meditation on the mysteries that give the rosary its staying power. The Joyful Mysteries are these: the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38), the Visitation (Luke 1:40-56), the Nativity (Luke 2:6-20), the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:21-39), the Finding of the child Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41-51) each mystery is explicitly scriptural. Both Catholics and non-Catholics, as they learn more about the Rosary and make more frequent use of it, come to see how its meditations bring to mind the sweet fragrance not only of Mary, the Mother of God, but of Christ himself.

Many times we have been a witness to the recitation of the Rosary as if it had to be said hurriedly so that other "more important things" can be reached. The same may be said of the three prayers, "Our Father", "Hail Mary" and the "Glory Be." Every stanza, every word has a deep meaning. To speed through any and all prayers is to ignore the true meaning of those prayers and can not bring of God to us.

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day this year occurs on Monday, May 29. Many lost their lives and many more suffered other indignities and pain in times of war. Those sacrifices are what gave you the good life that you enjoy today! Soldiers and sailors experienced unbelievable hardships which are not even understood or appreciated by those who did not serve in a war. Veterans Day and Memorial Day should be a time of great mourning for those who have done so much for you!

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades.

The Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history and required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries. By the late 1860s, Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers. On May 5th 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. The 30th of May, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades (Hence the original name "Decoration Day") who died in defense of their country during that period's conflict, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the

anniversary of any particular battle or skirmish. Each year on Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time. Perhaps you will remember that at 3 pm this month.

INSIDER STOCK TIP

Once in a great while we come across an “insider” tip from our stock market friends. We have been told that a big merger is coming up and when it does, buy as much of their stock as possible. Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush, and W.R. Grace Company will merge and will become: HALE, MARY, FULLER, GRACE.

MAY DINNER-MEETING

. Due to extenuating circumstances, the May meeting will be changed to **MONDAY MAY 15th**. As has been our tradition, the May meeting will be preceded by a buffet dinner prepared by Rich and Jacquie. It is a celebration of Mother’s Day and members are asked to bring their wives or a guest(s) to partake in this celebration/meeting. The cost is only \$20.00 per person. For reservations it is necessary for you to phone Rich at 219-983-2209 before Friday May 12h. The Rajsakis have worked so very hard for each of our dinners and we are so grateful to have them be so dedicated to the success of our Assembly. If you haven’t been at a dinner/meeting before, **COME-ON OUT WITH US THIS MONTH!!!!** It’s a GREAT meal, a good meeting and a lot of socializing with your Brother Sir Knights and their families. The doors open at 6 pm at the St. Bridget Parish gym in Hobart. The national official Mother’s Day this year is May 14th. Take your Mom, your wife, your siter or any other Mother that you might know, out for a nice meal (But come to ours on the 15th, also) Mothers deserve so much more than we as men can ever return, let’s give them what little bit that we may offer to bring them a little happiness.

A LOSS FOR OUR ASSEMBLY

Our newest member Brother Sir Knight Joseph Pallaro of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Council 7473 lost his wife of 70 years Marylee. The wake and funeral were attended by members of SMVA as well as Council 7473. The wake was held at the Bartholomew funeral home io Valparaiso with the Funeral Mass at Elizabeth Seton Parish. Thanks go to the Sir Knights who took the time from their lives to pay honor to Brother Joe. Pray for the repose of the soul of Marylee Pollaro.

IMPORTANT DUES NOTICE LAST TIME

Our regular necessary **monthly** expenditures include stipend for a seminarian, printing of the newsletter, postage for the newsletter, and Calling Post which comes to **\$135.74 per month**. We try to economize by first posting the dues in our newsletters that way we can save by not sending out a notice for every member but rather to only those who haven’t paid after reading the newsletter. There is also postage for those who need their membership card but do not come to any meeting to pick it up, thereby saving another \$.60. Other expenses during the year are Masses for members, ½ the cost of our Faithful Friar’s trip to the March for Life in D.C.,

certificates and folders for deceased Sir Knights, the SMVA Family picnic, dinner and expenses for State Master for the Officer's Installation Dinner, donations to various charities and many other items.

As you can see, the debt that we have far exceeds the \$15.00 we charged for operations. We have, in the past, had fund raisers during the year such as selling hot dogs in front of a supermarket and conducting "Soup and Salad" dinners. We had to stop that because much like the Councils, not enough members participated in working these events. (Sound familiar?) We still want to ask for an extra contribution to the Bishop's Burse which we give for the support of our seminarians. The increase in dues is long overdue and we regretfully ask for your cooperation.

The next request for dues will come in the form of a snail mailed letter which will be sent to each member who owes this year's dues, asking if they are still willing to be a member of the Santa maria Venegas Assembly and asking them to write a check for the dues owed and a free will donation for the Bishop's Burse.

The new dues are, \$30.00 for operations and \$10.00 for your memorial fund for a total of \$40.00. Make check to SMVA #2712, memo "dues" and bring to the next meeting or mail to Comptroller, 3993 Willowood Court, Crown Point, 46307.

HONOR GUARD DATES

Keep these dates in mind:

May 7, 2023, 2:00 pm Diocesan Infant & Pregnancy Loss Memorial mass, St James in Highland, muster at 1:30 pm.

May 28, 2023, 2pm - Adult Confirmation - Holy Angels Cathedral

June 3, 2023, 10:30am Priestly Ordination. Robert Ross. Transitional Diaconate, Steven Caraher, Zachary Glick, Holy Angels

June 4, 2023, 11am, Wedding Anniversary Mass - Holy Angels.

June 11, 2023, Eucharistic Procession St. Edwards Church, Lowell. (Time To Be Determined)

September 4, 2023, Indiana's oldest running Labor Day Parade, Lowell. (Time TBD)



Participate in St Clement Council's Taco Dinner. Support your brothers.