

Dear Brother Knights,

The New Year begins on January 1, with the feast of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, “our Lady’s greatest title”. It falls within the Octave of Christmas and is the oldest feast of Mary celebrated in the Catholic Church. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the “Prince of Peace”, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honors Mary as the “Queen of Peace”. Since 1967, January 1 has also been designated as the “World Day of Peace”, further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world. The Holy See reserves this day for intense prayer for peace, education towards peace and those values inextricably linked with it, such as liberty, fraternal solidarity, the dignity of the human person, respect for nature, the right to work, the sacredness of human life, and the denunciation of injustices which trouble the conscience of man and threaten peace.

In January, we also celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. How fitting this is, because Dr. King drew inspiration from both his Christian faith and the peaceful teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. He used the power of words and acts of nonviolent resistance, such as protests, grassroots organizing, and civil disobedience to achieve seemingly-impossible goals. He went on to lead similar campaigns against poverty and international conflict, always maintaining fidelity to his principles that men and women everywhere, regardless of color or creed, are equal members of the human family.

January 18 begins a week of prayer for Christian Unity and January 23 is a day of prayer for the legal protection of the unborn child. It is my hope and wish that 2017 will be filled with peace and joy for each of you and that we work together respecting the dignity of everyone and work for peace in every one’s life. I also want to congratulate our Knight of the Month for December Nick Pollmann and our Family of the Month, the Cliff Grammich, Sr. Family and thank them for all they do for our Council.

Vivat Jesus,

**Joe Moffa**, Grand Knight

*“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.*

*Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*