

July 2018

Brother Knights:

“It was the best of times....it was the worst of times.” For those that have studied classic literature, you will recognize those words as the beginning of the classic novel, “A Tale of Two Cities” written by Charles Dickens. Well the month of July has been like that for me personally.

I lost my father this month. He was 95 and never a sick a day of his life. He and mom were able to share a 70th wedding anniversary before mom passed away approximately two years ago. Dad recently fell and broke a hip. While the surgery went well, he never really bounced back and slowly began a journey to leave this earth and be reunited with God and mom in heaven. I am so grateful God granted Dad a peaceful death. That was the worst of times for me in July.

The best of times involves me once again having the privilege of serving our council as Grand Knight. Having been Grand Knight in the past, I know it is a job that often involves a lot of behind the scenes effort and lots of politics. But I can also tell you it's a great feeling watching a group of men come together for a united cause. In this case, it is individual Knights coming together for the sake of our faith, church and council. Knowing I had a small role in that helps make the time and effort worthwhile.

This year will be different that in year's past. Our metrics on which we base our success or failure has changed. In the past, if an activity failed to raise an expected amount of money, it very well may have been thought of as a failure. Now, when we have an event, the primary focus will be “Was it a quality event?”. By quality event, did we have several Knights working together or just one or two? Did the event draw in parishioners or ministries other than the Knights so that the community of Saint Mary's was enhanced? Did the event further the mission of the Knights regarding Unity, Fraternity and Charity?

Already there are signs that things are indeed different this year:

- Our very own Rector, Father Tim, is taking an active interest in our council this year. He was at our July council meeting and should his schedule allow, will be at other council meetings in the future.
- Our Officer Installation took place inside the Cathedral. What better place than in front of God to pledge our support as officers? Both Father Tim and our Worthy Chaplin, Father Jay, attended the installation.
- All officers were provided a copy of the book “The Five Dysfunctions of a Team”. This is a business leadership book promoted by Father Tim. Our officers are learning what it means to be on a team and what being a team member entails.

As a member of the council, I hope you begin to see a difference in the way the officers interact with each other and with membership. We know we have had challenges in the past and will continue to do so in the future. It is my hope those challenges are handled appropriately and efficiently. One way you as a member can help with this effort is to bring any areas of concern to either myself, the Deputy Grand Knight, or one of the Trustees. We can't work on fixing a problem if we don't know we have a problem in the first place. And you don't always have to bring up problems. If you see something you are glad the council is doing, let us know that as well. Encouragement goes a long way.

As we begin the journey of our 2018-2019 fraternal year, please let us know if there is a program or event you believe the council should be involved in. All I ask is that you do some initial research first and have a basic plan to offer. We are happy to review your idea and if we believe it has merit, will do what we can to help make it happen.

Remember, this is your council. The more you get involved, the more you will get out of it. Hope to see you at our next council meeting or Sunday breakfast.

Vivat Jesus,

SK David Matocha
Worthy Grand Knight