

THE GIBBONS MISSION



Edition 40 —April 2020

**Publisher— Faithful Navigator
Editor/Producer—The Captain
Contact:
cardinalgibbons150@outlook.com**

**Knights of Columbus
CARDINAL JAMES GIBBONS 4TH. DEGREE ASSEMBLY—MEETS AT
HOLY FAMILY PARISH HALL AT GENDER ROAD & CHESTNUT HILL ROAD
7 PM FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH. ADVANCE NOTICE OF DATE
CHANGES WILL BE PROVIDED**

To access individual or all newsletters online—go to the Uknight website and select Assembly 150, then in left column select “Newsletters”. www.uknight.org/assembly.asp?A=150

Just One More!

Normally, my favorite person to quote is Scrooge, not this time. In any organization, numbers are needed, and that is true for the Knights of Columbus, at any level. We need volunteers on our committees. We need Knights to be Officers, we need Knights to advance to the Fourth Degree. We need Knights and Sir Knights to attend meetings and feel involved in the process. We need State Officers. We need Supreme Directors, VSM'S, we need as Desmond Doss said, “Lord, just one more.”

The other analogy that combines with Medal of Honor Recipient, Doss is a person carrying a cup of coffee.

Someone bumps into you and whatever is in that cup is spilled. The analogy is whatever is in the cup is Your character, your involvement.

The person has contacted you; your character is what attracts that person, your character is what he notices. Your persona will draw him in or push him away.

We want super charged individuals who will continue the message of Father McGivney. We want the Gimmick to employ to get those individuals. The Gimmick is you or the program of work you are involved that will enlist faith filled super charged men and their families. The potential Knight or Sir Knight or joining member must see in you and your actions reasons to join. The Council and Assembly must have a cup with quality and character in its activities. The reality of enlisting new members is we are the Gimmick, we must always reflect the best qualities of the Knights.

If he bumps into you what will he see spill out? Will he see someone like MOH Doss who is prayerful, faith involved, believing in what he is doing at all costs?

Will you be comparable to Doss on Hacksaw Ridge, trying to get those looking for help, praying, “Lord, help me get just one more, just one more.”

As the song says, Lord they will know us by our love, add to that our character and the Faith and family activities of the Knights of Columbus and we will have super charged individuals enlisting into the Knights of Columbus and activities.

ASSEMBLY 150 OFFICERS FOR 2019-2020

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Michael Handlin | Navigator |
| Robert E. Zeigler | Captain |
| John E. McCormick | Admiral |
| Vacant | Friar |
| Thomas D. Green | Pilot |
| Joseph E. Koskol | Scribe |
| Lawrence B. Maguire | Comptroller |
| Mark A. Kellar | Purser |
| Albert J. Ware | Trustee 3 Yr. |
| James S. Gardner | Trustee 2 Yr. |
| Gerald L. Safranski | Trustee 1 Yr. |
| William B. Marino | Inner Sentinel |
| Edward T. Godsell | Outer Sentinel |
| Albert J. Ware CC | Commander |



Third Degree Affiliated Councils

- | | |
|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 3751 | Blessed Sacrament/Corpus Christi |
| 4548 | St. Michael's / Holy Family |
| 6768 | Coffee Run/St. Mary of the Assumption |
| 11384 | San Pablo/St. Pauls' Wilmington |
| 11469 | Our Lady of Fatima |
| 11796 | St. John The Beloved |
| 12104 | Holy Angels |
| 12842 | St. David's / St. Margaret |

A MULTIPLE MONTH CALENDAR SPECIFIC TO THE ASSEMBLY OUTREACH AND ACTIVITY

APRIL 2020 DEDICATED TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

- 2 LSP Bingo TBA **CALENDAR DEPENDANT ON VIRUS**
- 5 Palm Sunday
- 6 CANCELLED DUE TO VIRUS—ASSEMBLY MEETING
- 7 Blessing of the Oils at Holy Cross Church, Dover, by The Bishop TBA
- 9 Holy Thursday
- 10 Good Friday
- 12 Easter Day
- 17 LSP Bingo TBA
- 23 LSP Bingo TBA
- 24 to 26—Delaware State K of C Convention TBA
- 30 LSP Bingo TBA

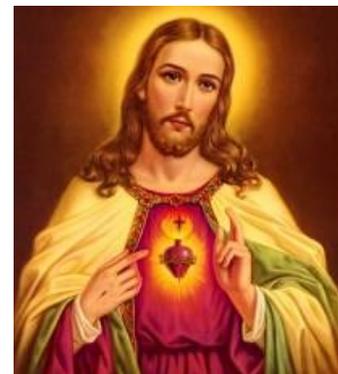


MAY 2020 DEDICATED TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

- 4 Monthly meeting of the Cardinal Gibbons Assembly at Holy Family—7 PM
- 7 LSP Bingo 6:45 PM
- 8 **WWII Reconciliation Day for those losing their lives in that conflict**
- 10 Mothers Day—please remember them
- 13 Feast of Our Lady of Fatima
- 14 LSP Bingo 6:45 PM
- 16 **Armed Forces Day** **THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR IS TENTATIVE**
- 21 LSP Bingo 6:45 PM
- 25 **Memorial Day in honor of all who have served in the Military**
- 28 LSP Bingo 6:45 PM

JUNE 2020 DEDICATED TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

- 1 Assembly Meeting at 7 PM at Holy Family
- 1 Visitation of the Blessed Virgin
- 4 LSP BINGO AT 6:45 PM —YET TO BE DETERMINED
- 14 Solemnity of the Feast of Corpus Christi
- 14 Flag Day in the USA
- 18 LSP BINGO AT 6:45 PM—YET TO BE DETERMINED
- 19 The Feast of the Sacred Heart
- 21 Father's Day
- 25 LSP BINGO AT 6:45 PM—YET TO BE FINIALIZED



Veterans Hospital Bingo Assist Schedule for New Castle County Fourth Degree Assemblies on Saturdays in 2020

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|------|
| ♦ APRIL 11 | ARCHBISHOP EDMUND J. FITZMAURICE | 148 |
| ♦ MAY 9 | CARDINAL JAMES GIBBONS | 150 |
| ♦ JUNE 13 | BISHOP THOMAS J. MARDAGA | 2014 |
| ♦ JULY 11 | ARCHBISHOP EDMUND J. FITZMAURICE | 148 |
| ♦ AUGUST 8 | CARDINAL JAMES GIBBONS | 150 |
| ♦ SEPTEMBER 12 | BISHOP THOMAS J. MARDAGA | 2014 |
| ♦ OCTOBER 10 | ARCHBISHOP EDMUND J. FITZMAURICE | 148 |
| ♦ NOVEMBER 14 | CARDINAL JAMES GIBBONS | 150 |
| ♦ DECEMBER 12 | BISHOP THOMAS J. MARDAGA | 2014 |

1601 KIRKWOOD HWY. WILMINGTON DE [ELSMERE]



YOUR PRAYERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING

Pope Francis, Bishop Malooly, priests, deacons, brothers, sisters, lay ministers, and seminarians, all here in the Wilmington Diocese and world wide.

- ◇ Those serving in the armed services, veterans, peace officers, EMT's, firemen & the President of the United States.
- ◇ All K of C members and their families both living and deceased.
- ◇ All the sick and disabled faithful and those affected by the PANDEMIC VIRUS
- ◇ For the special intentions of Diane Lawler & Family, James Gardner, Al Ware and their spouses.
- ◇ Pray for all expectant mothers that they may support the life of their unborn as God's Creation.
- ◇ Pray for the persecuted Christians in the Mid-East.
- ◇ Prayer can be offered anywhere, anytime....it comes from the heart and soul

OUR READERS MAY TIRE OF THE SUBJECT OF "ABORTION", HOWEVER THIS EDITOR WILL NOT TIRE IN THE DEFENSE OF THE "LITTLE HUMAN PERSONS" WHO HAVE NOT DONE WRONG BUT ONLY SEEK TO LIVE.

BRIEFLY PUT: THERE ARE POLITICIANS OF ONE PARTY WHO WILL NOT CONSIDER LEGISLATION TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT. THESE SAME POLITICIANS AND ALSO JUDGES, WHO DO NOT CONSIDER SMALL PEOPLE... CHILDREN, BABIES AND THOSE WHO HAVE NOT EXITED THE WOMB AND YES...THOSE WHO HAVE BIRTHED ALIVE....AS HUMAN PERSONS. THESE PEOPLE DISMISS THE UNBORN AND MANY TIMES THE BORN AS MERE GARBAGE. THESE PEOPLE IN POWER BELIEVE THAT ABORTION IS A "CONSTITUTIONAL" RIGHT AND THAT "ABORTION" IS 'MEDICAL CARE'. DEFINE MEDICAL CARE? WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF "ABORT"? ABORT MEANS TO "STOP". STOP WHAT?? TAXPAYERS ARE EXPECTED AND FORCED TO FUND THIS CONVOLUTED FORM OF "MEDICAL CARE". THESE UNWANTED SOULS ATTAIN HEAVEN AUTOMATICALLY, BUT WHAT A WAY TO GET THERE!!!

THERE ARE POLITICIANS WHO PUBLICALLY CLAIM TO BE CHRISTIANS AND CATHOLICS TO BOOT AND AT THE SAME TIME TOSS OUT THE 5TH. COMMANDMENT AS IRRELEVANT THEY REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE HUMANITY IN THE FORM OF SMALL PERSONS, PERSONS WHO HAVE NOT YET ESCAPED THE CONFINES OF THE WOMB, AND EVEN THOSE WHO ARE BIRTHED ALIVE. THESE POMPOUS STATEMENTS ARE UTTERED BY HYPOCRITES, IGNORANCE AND HATRED. YES, THIS EDITOR WILL NOT SHUT UP REGARDING THE SCOURGE IN THIS DEMOCRACY. THERE IS ENOUGH HATRED ON OUR STREETS IN THE FORM OF RANDOM MURDERING....THAT IS SUPPOSED TO BE ILLEGAL THERE BUT LAWS AND COURTS DECLARE "ABORTING" TO BE LEGAL IN REGARD TO INNOCENT BABIES. SOMETHING IS REALLY WRONG IN THIS SUPPOSED ENLIGHTENED DEMOCRACY.



**Continued from March Edition—THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY—
1 —ADMONISH SINNERS**

This work of mercy — “tough love,” you could call it — is one of the hardest to practice in the western world today. Why? Because we live in the “I’m-OK-you’re-OK” culture. As such, I have my own personal set of values, and you have your own personal set of values, and we are each free to practice those values to our heart’s content just as long as we do not do grievous bodily harm to others in the process (although that limitation is waived when the “others” in question are unborn children, the chronically ill, and elderly).

If you really want to be unpopular — indeed, if you really want to risk getting a punch in the nose — try admonishing someone today for, say, swearing in public or wearing provocative clothing or talking loudly in church. Try objecting to the widespread availability of pornography, or try engaging in non-violent protests outside an abortion clinic, or try explaining to a gay friend that his or her lifestyle is unnatural and that he or she will never find true fulfillment, peace, or healing but through Jesus Christ.

Nine times out of 10, the end result of these attempts to “admonish sinners,” no matter how gently and compassionately they are performed, is that one is branded an intolerant bigot. After all, what could be a worse, what could be a more politically incorrect attitude in an I’m-OK-you’re-OK culture than to tell others, “You’re not OK: you’re harming yourself and others, at least spiritually and psychologically, if not also physically and sociologically?”

The problem is that we live in a society dominated by people who have not made any real psychological or moral progress since they reached adolescence. Thus, they stumble through life with an adolescent understanding of love. To be “loved,” to them, means to be affirmed in everything they want to do that does not cause anyone else (except unborn children, the chronically ill, and elderly) grievous bodily harm. Imagine telling someone like that, “Hey, I think you are doing something wrong; I think what you are doing can lead to your spiritual self-destruction and, perhaps, to the spiritual destruction of others, too.” They’ll likely complain that you are practicing intolerance and bigotry. Yet, it is to spiritually adolescent people like this — to a whole society dominated by such people — that we are called to “speak the truth in love,” as St. Paul put it (see Eph 4:15), with both courage and compassion.

It is certainly not easy to do. It takes the virtue of prudence as well: finding just the right moment and just the right words, and saying them in a way that clearly affirms the human dignity of the person you are admonishing, even as they challenge him or her to fulfill his or her highest potential.

Saint Faustina set an excellent example for us in this regard. In her convent in Poland she sometimes discerned the call of the Holy Spirit to practice such “tough love.” She actually became known in her religious community for her boldness in admonishing even older and more educated sisters in religion for their sins of malicious gossip, and some of them, in the end, grudgingly respected her for it.

SPIRITUAL WORK OF MERCY—# 2 INSTRUCT THE UNINFORMED

This means, first of all, accepting our God-given responsibility to be the primary source of religious education and formation for our children. Some Catholics may be surprised to learn that it is not the local Catholic school or CCD program upon whom this responsibility primarily rests. Rather, it is the parents.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that “parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children” (2223), and parents are told that through the grace of matrimony, they “receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children” (2225). This includes, from an early age, reading to our children and grandchildren Bible stories and stories of the lives of the saints, as well as great Christian works such as *The Chronicles of Narnia*. It means providing them with a steady diet of good Christian CDs and videos and weeding out all the dubious ones from our collection that can only cause the loss of their innocence and the confusion of their developing moral characters.

In other words, “Veggie Tales” are in; *Pokemon* is out!

It means tight restrictions on the cultural rot flowing into our homes through the TV set (“The Devil’s tabernacle,” as Mother Angelica once called it) and the Internet. It means praying together as a family, too – perhaps by offering a family Rosary or Chaplet of The Divine Mercy or by reciting as prayers the lyrics of good Christian hymns at bedtime.

We do not have to turn our homes into monasteries and convents, but we do have to heed the exhortation of St. Paul: “Do not be conformed to this world, be transformed by the renewal of your mind” (Rom 12:2).

Beyond our homes, of course, the need for instruction in the true faith is equally urgent. Often there is no more effective (and no less threatening) way to share the Catholic faith with our non-Catholic friends than to do so in the natural course of friendship itself. For Christmases or birthdays, why not give your friends or family members a favorite Catholic book that clearly explains the faith? Most non-Catholics (and non-practicing Catholics) are so full of misinformation about what the Church actually teaches and about the role of the Church down through history that even if a good book given away does no more than break down a few of the prejudices they may hold about Catholicism, then count it as a work of mercy well done.

Try one of these books as gift ideas (all in print at the moment): *Fundamentals of the Faith*, by Peter Kreeft; *Theology for Beginners*, by F.J. Sheed; *Catholic and Christian*, by Alan Shreck (a book that is especially good to share with Evangelical Protestant friends); *Orthodoxy*, by G.K. Chesterton; or *Mere Christianity*, by C.S. Lewis. Finally, read the books yourself first.

As St. Peter taught us, “Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence” (1 Pet 3:15).

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY....CONTINUED

Third and Fourth: Counsel the Doubtful and Comfort the Sorrowful

What a tremendous gift it is from The Divine Mercy when you find someone who really listens to you, who really lets you pour out your heart and share your troubles and miseries, and who then really takes your whole situation in prayer to the Lord before presuming to dole out advice to you. Plenty of people are quick to give out half-baked, ill-considered advice! But how many people do you know who really listen to you and to the Holy Spirit before they speak?

You can become that person for others if you learn to really listen to the Holy Spirit in your own life first with the help of a spiritual director. Read the New Testament every day and listen to the Lord speaking to you there. Find a good spiritual director and listen to the Lord speaking to you through his or her wise counsel. Then, having learned to listen, you will be ready and able to listen deeply to others.

We can find a good example of this in the life of St. Faustina. In her religious community, she was apparently such a good listener she earned the nickname "the dump" from her fellow sisters because they were always dumping their problems on her (see her Diary, 871). It's not hard to discover from her Diary where she learned this art of listening. She learned it from listening to the Holy Spirit in prayer and from the same Spirit speaking to her through the guidance of her spiritual directors, such as Fr. Joseph Andrasz, S.J., and Blessed Michael Sopocko.

Fifth: Be Patient With Those in Error

This is a tough one. In God's merciful love, we certainly ought to share the Catholic Faith with those who are far from Him because they need His mercy so badly. (Don't we all!) It is an act of merciful love to share the faith with those who need it and to pray for them. On the other hand, we must be patient with God's work in other people's lives. We must never harass, pressure, or manipulate anyone. There is a famous bumper sticker that reads, "Please be patient: God is not finished with me yet!" That sums up pretty well what our attitude should be. Our job is but to sow the seeds of faith in the hearts and minds of those who are in grievous error. But change has to come in God's own time. Even if we never see for ourselves the fruit of our efforts, God will surely do His part to water with the grace of conversion the seeds we have planted, when and if people are ready to receive that gift. Until then, we are just to be patient with those in error, to share the truth with them as best we can (acknowledging all the while our own limited grasp of God's revealed truth and limited capacity to adequately express that truth to others), and to pray for them, trusting in God's mercy and patience with us all.

Sixth: Forgive Offenses

“Vengeance is mine, I will repay,” says the Lord” (Rom 12:19). If there is any vengeance that needs to be “dished out,” in this life or the next, the only One qualified to do it is the Lord, for He alone knows the secrets of all hearts. Thus, we must always let go of any desire in our hearts for vengeance, and in that sense at least, to forgive our enemies. That means stopping ourselves from exacting “petty vengeance” as well, which includes the use of detraction or slander or gossip to get back at people for the evil they may have done to us.

In short, we are not to curse the darkness, but to pray for those in darkness. (See Mt 5:44.) Whatever temporal harm they may have done to us, those who are evil are in danger of the greatest harm of all: everlasting loss and condemnation. What they have caused us to suffer pales in comparison to what they will suffer eternally if they do not repent.

However, forgiveness is probably the most misunderstood of all the works of mercy. It does NOT mean blindly letting oneself be victimized. You have a duty to protect yourself and your loved ones from harm, for you are all children of God whom He made in His own image and for whom He gave His life on the Cross. That’s how valuable and precious you are in the eyes of our merciful Savior!

Forgiving our enemies, therefore, is entirely compatible with reasonable acts of self-protection. For example, forgiveness is entirely compatible with having criminals arrested and placed behind bars where they cannot do further harm to the innocent. Forgiveness is even compatible with the use of lethal force by the police or the military, as a last resort, in fending off violent criminals or aggressive foreign powers. (See Catechism, 2263-2267.)

Clearly, the duty to forgive your enemies is compatible with protecting yourself and your loved ones from harm and demanding high standards of conduct from those close to you, including your own close family members. To prevent and block the spread of evil in these ways is actually a work of mercy, not only toward yourself and your loved ones, but even toward the perpetrators of evil. The perpetrators, after all, often have little chance of ever coming to repentance without the help of the “reality therapy” meted out by those charged with the social responsibility of defending the innocent. In other words, to love and forgive your enemies is not necessarily to let them trample all over you. When there is no effective way to defend oneself or others from harm, then that may be the time and the place meekly to carry the cross of persecution. But that time and place is certainly not every time and every place!

Seventh: Pray for the Living and the Dead

Every day we are to bring our needs, the needs of our loved ones, and the needs of the whole world into the merciful Heart of Jesus. Saint Faustina herself often did this, bringing them into Christ’s “most compassionate Heart” (see Diary, 1209-1229).

Our works of mercy, both corporal and spiritual, will always appear inadequate compared to the needs of the world around us. But our Lord does not ask us to meet every need. We are only asked to do what we can and leave the rest to Him as He works out His loving plan for each human soul. Remember the “five loaves and two fish principle.” Saint Andrew said to Jesus, “There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are they among so many?” (Jn 6:9). That meager supply, when offered in faith to Jesus, was found to be enough to feed multitudes. So will our seemingly meager efforts to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, guided by His Spirit and offered up to Jesus. He can work miracles with such little offerings. Some of those miracles we will never even see with our own eyes until we meet Him face-to-face in heaven. It is then when He will give us the grace to see what He sees; it is then when He will turn His loving gaze upon us and we will hear those blessed words from His own lips: “Well done, good and faithful servant!” (Mt 25:23)