

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



In Service to One; In Service to All



Grand Knight: Henry Van Vroenhoven 905-648-0754, [vanvr@sympatico.ca](mailto:vanvr@sympatico.ca)

Deputy Grand Knight: Michael Moss 905 928 2750, [m63moss@gmail.com](mailto:m63moss@gmail.com)

## GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT



**Hello Brother Knights.** We have had a number of zoom meetings. I would like to thank David Fisher for offering his technical knowledge in setting up these Zoom Executive and General monthly meetings. I would also like to thank Mike Floren, Mike Reilly, Glenn Herrell and Myles D'Arcy for the dismantling of the Nativity Creche and loading it on the truck and returning it to Bishop Tonnos High School for storage. I would also thank Mike Creaghan and Cliff Bowman for arranging Bishop Elect Wayne Lobsinger's thank you gift of a high quality bottle of wine and a monetary donation to the Mazenod Door program in his name. We were very fortunate to have him as our pastor in this very difficult time and we wish him God's blessings as he pursues a most important spiritual leadership role. Thanks to Cliff Bowman and Nick Last for their assistance in helping me complete the semi annual Council Status report in a timely fashion. The overall assessment was positive and we should be proud of the outcome.

We also are delighted to have Father Paul Edmondstone as our parish administrator and wish him all the best and are looking forward to assisting him in any way we can. Father Paul has agreed to join our Council as Chaplain and will plan to attend our next general meeting

Our next general zoom meeting will be on Wednesday February 10th at 7:30 p.m. Check the email you will receive for the link and plan to join us.

Fraternally Yours

Henry Van Vroenhoven, GK

### ***Events and Issues:***

**Tastes of Ancaster:** Scott Rastin, there are no plans at this time for the continuation of this event for 2021

**Golf Tourney:** Paul Henderson said no planning activity scheduled as yet. It too may not occur in 2021. This event will be reviewed on a regular basis to determine the feasibility as we progress through the Coronavirus issue.

**Supreme Silver Rose Campaign** - This involves sharing the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe and promoting respect for life by participating in a meaningful pilgrimage. The Silver Rose program demonstrates the unity between Knights of Columbus Councils in Canada, through a series of prayer services promoting the dignity of all human life and honouring Our Lady. We have been approached to engage with other councils to host an event to display Our Lady to the general public on any date between February 27th to March 28th. This may be conducted in the form of a virtual event. Henry will lead this initiative and will consult with Father Paul.

**Hamilton Out of the Cold** - Brother Myles D'Arcy brought forward a request from the organization to assist in loaning out our hot boxes which we are in storage. These boxes will be used for the packing and transporting of hot meals from St. McNab church to the 78 Vine Street Hub. They asked if we can provide a vehicle and driver to deliver them.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** - Father Paul will offer a Eucharistic Holy Hour each Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. live-streamed on our YouTube Channel. It is a wonderful opportunity to spend some time with our Eucharistic Lord, to receive His blessings and to pray for healing for our world. Tune in for this wonderful hour of prayer until the end of the Lockdown when we can once again gather in the Church to Adore the Lord.

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY**



Happy New Year to all our Brother Knights and their families and I hope that this year brings us free of this coronavirus so we can get back to some normal existence. We are now heading into the last six months of our fraternal year.

Condolences go out Br. Mike Lavell and the Lavell family from our council on the passing of his mother Audrey Mary Lavell on December 21, 2020. A perpetual mass card has been sent out to Br. Mike from our council.

Condolences go out to Br. Edward Sobiera from our council on the passing of his wife Leona on December 29, 2020. Condolences go out also to Br. Paul Sobiera and his family as Leona was his mother and to Br. John Sobiera and his family as she was his grandmother. A perpetual mass card has been sent out to Br. Edward from our council.

Congratulations to our newest member of our council Br James (Jim) Galvin who took the virtual exemplification on January 18<sup>th</sup> and is now a Third Degree member of our council.

Congratulations also to Br Dan Marranca who is now also a Third Degree member of our council following his virtual exemplification on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

Our council is looking for new members to join our council, so if you have a friend or family member who is interested in joining the Knights of Columbus please let our membership director know. New members need to be eighteen years of age and a practicing catholic. You can contact me at [nlast@cogeco.ca](mailto:nlast@cogeco.ca) or **289-238-8017**.

If you change your e-mail, mailing address or phone number please let me know as this information needs to be changed on the council website the Supreme website and I also need this information to contact you. This is very important that this information is kept current as the newsletter and many important broadcasts are sent out by e-mail and the phone to let you know about upcoming events or meetings. Contact me at [nlast@cogeco.ca](mailto:nlast@cogeco.ca) or **289-238-8017** for any changes.

Any insurance questions you may have our Field Agent for Knights of Columbus Insurance is Grant Okpere at 289-426-2277

Two reports have been completed the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity, and the Semiannual Council Audit Report.

**There will be a virtual 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification in the evening on Monday February 15<sup>th</sup>** hosted by the Master of District 8 SK Martin Marko. Candidates need to be a Third Degree Member in Good standing. Let me know if you are interested in attending. I can be contacted at [nlast@cogeco.ca](mailto:nlast@cogeco.ca) or **289-238-8017**.

The coronavirus is still a major problem in the Hamilton area as it has been on the increase at the present time. Starting on January 14 a new stay home order was put in place for 28 days to try and reduce the numbers of those getting the coronavirus. There are too many not following the rules that have been put in place. Stay safe wear your mask, social distance and don't attend large gatherings.

SK Nick Last PFN

**For the Good of the Order**

Remember in your prayers Audrey Mary Lavell who passed away on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 mother of Br. Mike Lavell.

Remember in your prayers Leona Sobiera who passed away on December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 wife of Br. Edward Sobiera.

Keep SK Mike Hanmer in your prayers as he is recovering from the coronavirus.

Keep Br. Kevin Kelly in your prayers.

Remember our troops and their families in your prayers

If you know of any of our Brother Knights or members of their family who are sick or have passed away. Please let somebody know from the Good of The Order.

SK Joe Laposa PGN PFN FDD 905-648-6610  
SK Nick Last PFN 289-238-8017

## ST. ANN PARISH YouTube CHANNEL

St. Ann Parish has a YouTube Channel. Here you will find a video of the Daily (Monday – Friday) and Sunday Masses from St. Ann Church. The Mass is live-streamed, so you can watch as it is happening. See Mass intentions to the left for this week's schedule. Donations to help cover the cost of this endeavour are greatly appreciated. Please call the Parish Office to enquire as to how to help. The link to watch the Mass is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiR7MKdwrp8gQcPm7EaCboQ/featured>

Also St. Ann's Parish is also on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/stannparishancaster/>

Make sure you are on the Parish email list so that you receive the weekly bulletins.

## Executive for the 2019-2020 year

**Grand Knight:** Henry Van Vroenhoven, 905-648-0754, [vanvr@sympatico.ca](mailto:vanvr@sympatico.ca)

**Past Grand Knight:** Todd Hornby, 905-648-5183, [thornby3@cogeco.ca](mailto:thornby3@cogeco.ca)

**Deputy Grand Knight:** Michael Moss 905 928 2750, [m63moss@gmail.com](mailto:m63moss@gmail.com)

**Chancellor:** Gregg Husband, 905-648-5376, [gregghusband@hotmail.com](mailto:gregghusband@hotmail.com)

**Financial Secretary:** Nick Last, 289-238-8017, [nlast@cogeco.ca](mailto:nlast@cogeco.ca)

**Advocate:** Ron Broadfoot, [lemmy70@cogeco.ca](mailto:lemmy70@cogeco.ca)

**Treasurer:** Cliff Bowman, [c\\_ybowman@yahoo.ca](mailto:c_ybowman@yahoo.ca)

**Recorder:** Lionel Ferro, [ferrolionel@hotmail.com](mailto:ferrolionel@hotmail.com)

**Warden:** Moe Forget, [forgetmj@mcmaster.ca](mailto:forgetmj@mcmaster.ca)

**Lecturer:** Michael Creaghan, [michaelcreaghan2@gmail.com](mailto:michaelcreaghan2@gmail.com)

**Outside Guard:** Otto Gris, [annagris@sympatico.ca](mailto:annagris@sympatico.ca)

**Inside Guard:** Glen Herrell, [gherrell5@cogeco.ca](mailto:gherrell5@cogeco.ca)

**1 Yr Trustee:** John DiLiberto, [johndvp@gmail.com](mailto:johndvp@gmail.com)

**2 Yr Trustee:** Paul Henderson, [henny4037@gmail.com](mailto:henny4037@gmail.com)

**3 Yr Trustee:** Mike Floren, [mafloren22@gmail.com](mailto:mafloren22@gmail.com)

**Worthy Council Chef:** Alan Wong, [algewo4348@gmail.com](mailto:algewo4348@gmail.com)

## **DIRECTORS**

We have a number of director positions open. This is your opportunity to take a more active role in the council. Please contact Henry if you would like to take on one of the positions. Henry Van Vroenhoven 905-648-0754, [vanvr@sympatico.ca](mailto:vanvr@sympatico.ca) or Michael Moss 905 928 2750, [m63moss@gmail.com](mailto:m63moss@gmail.com)

## ***Lecturer's Talk: Michael Creaghan***

### ***“WHAT'S HAPPENING to the MIDDLE CLASS” ?***

I just finished reading a book called “ The Velvet Rope Economy” by Nelson Schwartz. It is a scary investigation of the super rich in America and the demise of the middle class. Since the economic meltdown in 2008 - 2009 the real income of the middle class in America has gone down substantially. During the same period of time the wealth of the top 1% to 10% has increased exponentially. Successive Republican governments from Reagan on down have cut taxes to the rich, allowed excessive write offs, not taxed capital gains and allowed the venture capitalists a free ride. Main street does not even recognize Wall street as only about 40% of Americans hold equities and most of those are in their pension plans (401K).

On top of all this, there is a total disregard in the increase in the National debt. For the poor and most Middle class Americans there is now an increasing lack of affordability and accessibility to good food, proper medical, good education, housing, fair and equitable justice and public transportation. The cost of participation for kids in sports and the arts is unattainable for too many children. The price of tickets for major sports and entertainment is out of range to all but the top 10% of earners and exclusive seating available to only the top 1%. It is about immense wealth in fewer hands. The question has to be asked. Is there a moral limit to excessive wealth and greed? Is there an erosion of community and the sharing of the common good? Does everyone have a responsibility to look after their neighbour? Do the wealthy have the right to jump the line in all areas?

According to The Velvet Rope, this 1% is motivated by Envy, Exclusivity, Ease, Access and Security. We don't see too much compassion, fraternity and humanity in these determinants. This is not a condemnation of the wealthy but rather that excessive wealth is being made and spent at the expense of others. America became great because she had a thriving middle class which is now in jeopardy. Defining who comprises the middle class is difficult. All studies talk

of middle class families and not individuals. Since this is still the largest group in America it is further broken down into lower, middle and upper middle. The percent of adults living in middle class households has decreased from 61% in 1971 to 51% in 2019. The upper middle and the top 10% real income has gone up substantially.

The middle and lower middle real income has gone down significantly. The poor are slightly poorer. With exception of 2008 where the bank crashes caused significant losses the real changes in household income have been gradual. Placing a dollar figure on family income is difficult as the real cost of living varies substantially depending where a family lives. The most obvious loss of income is in the Rust Belt States in the northeast. This is only part of the story. Loss of income results in loss of tax revenue both federally and at the state level. Infrastructure spending is decreasing for roads, schools, hospitals, community parks and recreational facilities. Municipalities are fearful of raising property taxes and the cost of floating bonds to pay for new infrastructure is becoming very costly if at all possible.

Cities often get around this by expanding outwards building new subdivisions. The developer puts in the roads and utilities and builds the houses. The new tax revenue pays for repairing and replacing all the old infrastructure. This looks good on the books but all it does is delay the costs of repairs 20 years down the road when that subdivision needs new roads and utility replacement. No municipalities want to show a surplus on their books which makes no sense. In towns and cities where there is low population growth and an aging population the problem is more serious. Raising taxes or decreasing services is the only solution. Hospitals which operate at a loss are often sold to venture capitalists. The venture capitalists only motive is profit so they cut costs and services. If they are still losing money they close the hospital. Without a tax hike, schools cut staff and programs. In wealthy neighbourhoods the PTA is able to raise funds to pay for teacher aids, music programs, library and sports programs and this is often in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. For the wealthy, paying for programs is cheaper than a tax hike on their property. They only have to pay for these programs while their kids are in school and it is far cheaper than sending their children to private schools. This is fine for the wealthy but what about the majority of other students.

The schools now can no longer pay for the school's arts, band or sport programs. Either cut the programs or the students' family have to pay. Paying is not a hardship for the wealthy but is a real burden on less well off families. Coaches have to turn away students because their parents cannot afford the fees. A family in a middle class community had three children in the local high

school. The kids all loved sports and the cost was going to be around \$5000 for them to play. The school made all programs that were previously part of the school budget are now, you pay to play. On a family income of about \$80,000 it was impossible. The kids had to compromise and each select one sport which cut the costs by a few thousand. In Canada, school art, music and sports programs are on the decline even though school coaches are volunteers and not paid. For kids to play In high level sports outside of school most families cannot afford the costs. Those families that can are paying tens of thousands of dollars for their children to play. One of our Knights has four children, two played high level hockey and two were in competitive figure skating. It was so expensive that he had to re-negotiate his mortgage to pay the costs.

Where is our value system? When wealth becomes the only motivator, what does it teach our children? What will become of our neighbourhoods, community and country? From an article by Gwynne Dyer in the Hamilton Spectator on January 5th,2021. He was critical of the excessive and ever increasing spending by the US military. The American military budget for this year is \$740 billion. To put this number into perspective it is \$2,235 for every American man, woman and child. By comparison , Canada's defence budget is \$23.4 billion which is by comparison \$622 for every man, woman and child in Canada. Boys and their toys!! Michael Creaghan, January 2021