

NEEDHAM KNIGHTS NEWS

Newsletter for the Needham Knights of Columbus
Fr. Daniel J. Kennedy Council 1611 - July 2021



Dear Brothers,

As I sit down to write this first Newsletter as Grand Knight, I'm marveling at the extraordinary year our council has just completed. In spite of the global tragedy that was COVID 19, our council never missed a single monthly council meeting, we raised the funds to distribute 4 Scholarships, we conducted two huge food drives SAFELY during the holidays, and donated over \$13,000 to local foodbanks to help them meet the extraordinary demands put on them by COVID. The year ended with an amazing Packathon to help the good people of Haiti at a scale many of us didn't think possible. Every member of this council deserves congratulations, and the leadership actions and decisions were well thought through and achieved the perfect balance of helping those in need while keeping our own members and supporters safe. Please pray for me that I will be guided by the example of the leadership team from this past year so that this emerging year will also be a great success.

It is an honor to be trusted to take on this role and I will work hard to help guide the wonderful collaborations that have become the trademark of this council, with so many bringing their skills, abilities, enthusiasm, and hard work to bear to help our neighbors in need as we grow in our faith.

This month I will be holding leadership team meetings to begin to define our priorities for the year and create a rough schedule of events and fund raisers. I will be sending out invitations to several of you and your contributions to these discussions are welcomed.

In addition to the new team of officers now in place, two new and important seats have been filled. Our new Membership Director is PGK Bob Timmerman, and DGK Robbie Timmerman has volunteered to take on the role of co-chair of the Tootsie Roll Drive. Many thanks to Bob and Robbie for embracing these key roles vacated by Ken Gustin, who will stay on as Communications Director.

We enter this new year with many new Brothers. Please join me in welcoming them. Their new ideas and enthusiasm for our mission will continue to shape our council and its efforts. I encourage them to get involved as they get to know us better.

I pray that you all have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Vivat Jesus!

Chris Kent
Grand Knight

PACKATHON

On June 12th and 13th our council hosted a Packathon which featured over 250 volunteers, who assembled, packed, and shipped over 95,000 meals to the good people of Haiti through CRUDEM. I would like to congratulate Brother Michael Gillis for his leadership in this extraordinary and unprecedented effort! It seems many people asked if this could be an annual event. We're pleased to explore that idea in the upcoming months. Many thanks to all who volunteered including loading and unloading the truck, and a special thanks to Ted and Betsy Harrigan, Ron and Beth Hadley, Ken Gustin and the entire team from Feed the Hunger, without whom we could never have achieved such a wonderful success. Great job to everyone!

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

At our council's June meeting we presented scholarships to three outstanding students. One thousand dollar scholarships were awarded to Johanna White, Daniel Warner, and Andrew Hawkom. Our intent was to award scholarships to two young men and two young women, but as we had only one young woman apply, the second scholarship will be pushed to next year when we will award two scholarships to young women and one to a young man. Congratulations to Brother Bill Dermody and the rest of the Scholarship Committee for their excellent work on this year's program.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

There will be no council meeting in August. Our next council meeting will be Wednesday, September 1st, which will start at 6:30 PM and include dinner, assuming COVID does not find a new foothold and begin to surge in the fall. We are looking for volunteers to cook dinner. Please contact Chris Kent at wck02494@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER

During the last week of the past Fraternal year we welcomed one more new member to our council. Join me in welcoming David Demirjian (father of Brother Mike Demirjian). It is gratifying that our council reached 111% of our membership target, and we did so because so many took the call to invite friends and family to join us in our mission to heart. Many thanks to all who recommended someone as a potential new Brother, most recently PGK Bob Timmerman. A final interesting note, we now have three new Father/Son teams in our council (Chris and Ted Tomosivitch, Brian and Ryan Lavelle, and David and Mike Demirjian).

STAR COUNCIL AWARD

I'm delighted to be able to announce that we have been unofficially notified that we have achieved Star Council status. Congratulations to PGK Bob Timmerman and the entire leadership team for achieving this extraordinary status during such a tumultuous year. This is a truly remarkable accomplishment!

Congratulations to you all, as this does not happen without the full support and involvement of so many. A special thanks to Brother Ron Hadley for his excellent efforts in researching, collecting, and documenting activities in the necessary reports required to be named a Star Council.

RESOLUTION TO EMAIL ISSUES

For anyone still experiencing email issues related to receiving our Council's emails please be certain to add the following contact to your email contact list: ken.gustin@husmilton.org This will prevent future emails from us from going into your spam filter/trash/gmail Promotions Tab/etc. All future emails from us should then land directly in your inbox with no obstructions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW OFFICERS

Please join me in welcoming several first time Officers to our leadership team. It's wonderful to see our new members taking on leadership roles. This is a true indication of the vibrancy of our council and ensures a bright and productive future. This is an important trend which will continue as our new members begin to get involved. In addition, we have several Officers from last year moving into new seats in the leadership ranks. The experience you bring to your new roles is invaluable for us all. Thank you for your continued service to the council. The New Officer Installation Ceremony is being planned for this Fall. While a date has not yet been set you will be notified of the details once they have been scheduled.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we begin to think about the upcoming Fraternal year we are looking at fund raisers like Music Bingo and Trivia Nights, a Blood Drive, two Holiday Food Drives, our Tootsie Roll Drive, our Membership Drive, a Holy Hour, monthly Movie Nights, and more, all before the end of this calendar year! Plus, there are sure to be a few surprises as well. We're excited about finally being able to gather face to face again, and plan to make the most of it.

OFFICERS FOR THE 2021-2022 FRATERNAL YEAR

Chaplain	TBD		
Grand Knight	William Chris Kent	617-530-0004	wck02494@gmail.com
Deputy Grand Knight	Rob Timmerman III	781-492-1041	robtimmer18@gmail.com
Warden	Gregory M. Tilley		
Chancellor	James F. Clark		
Recorder	Ryan Sullivan		
Treasurer	Ron Hadley		
Financial Secretary	Bob Mullen		

Advocate	Michael Gillis		
Inside Guard	Paul Whyte		
Outside Guard	Jim Malzone		
Trustees	Tim Harrigan, Paul Deeley, and Dan Brennan		
Membership Director	Bob Timmerman II	781-589-4227	rtimmerman1021@yahoo.com