

NEEDHAM KNIGHTS NEWS

Newsletter for the Needham Knights of Columbus
Fr. Daniel J. Kennedy Council 1611 - May 2020



My Brothers,

These are certainly challenging times for all of us. Never have we experienced anything of this magnitude and seriousness. I trust that you are all well and that you are taking the necessary precautions that have been given us to stay safe. The challenges of this pandemic will unfortunately be felt for a long time. The adverse effects of this are being felt worldwide with economic woes, unemployment increases, strains on the healthcare system and professionals and the financial struggles of our churches, just to name a few.

We need to PRAY, stay positive and look out for and help our families, brother Knights and friends. The month of May is dedicated to Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. Pray to Her as often as you are able for the safety of our families and an end to the pandemic.

Fraternally,

Bob Timmerman, Grand Knight

PRAYERS

We pray for the repose of the soul and for the family of Lydia Heck, the beloved wife of our brother Abe Heck, who passed away on April 6th.

We also pray for the repose of the soul of our beloved Monsignor Francis "Father Frank" McGann, who passed away on April 24th. Thank you to all who were able to come out on Saturday 5/2 to pray tribute to Monsignor as he left Needham for the last time.

NEW MEMBERS

Please join me in welcoming the following new brothers who participated in the online Exemplification that was held on April 16th. Father James Koury, Patrick Dean, and Peter Antonelli received all three degrees. Others including: John Mulcahy, Keith Portonova, Peter Wright and Jim Clark advanced to third degree members. Congratulations brothers!

SCHOLARSHIPS

After some discussion, the scholarship committee has decided to postpone awarding any scholarships this year. Due to the challenges of the Coronavirus, it was logistically impossible to field applications, process them and select recipients. Next year we will offer 4 scholarships. Two will be awarded to high school graduate Class of 2020, who will be finishing their first year of college and two will be awarded to high school graduates of 2021.

LEAVE NO NEIGHBOR BEHIND

I am pleased to announce to you that as of Friday, May 1st we have collected over \$4,500 for this initiative and that we have sent \$2,000 to both the Needham Community Council Food Pantry and the Greater Boston Food Bank. It is humbling to have received donations from our brother and families and the greater community of Needham. We will continue raising money for this program as long as there is still the need to do so. We received some good press on this both on the Needham Patch and in the Hometown Weekly Newspaper.

STATE RAFFLE TICKETS

Every year the Massachusetts State Council holds a raffle that all councils are expected to participate in. The proceeds of the raffle are used to help offset an increase in the per capita dues that every council is assessed. The drawing will be held as part of the online State Convention on Sunday May 17th. It is going to be a little tricky this year to sell the tickets (\$15.00 per book) but I think we have a good way to set this up and keep within the social distancing guidelines. We will have a member posted in our parking lot at the end of a long enough table on two occasions when you can drive down and buy a book of tickets. A Separate email will come out with the days and times.

MUSIC BINGO

Through the powers of PGK Mike "Sarge" Riley and ZOOM, we will be hosting a Music Bingo night on next Saturday, May 9th, beginning at 7:30 and going until we have completed 3 games. Please invite your family and friends to sign up and join in for some fun. There is a \$5.00 charge per Bingo card. You can pay via VENMO (@Rob-Timmerman) or by mailing a check to the council. All proceeds will go to benefit our **Leave No Neighbor Behind** initiative. In a separate email we will send out more information and the link to pre-register for Saturday nights event.

Registration for Saturday night will be open from Tuesday 5/5 and will close on Saturday 5/9 at 12 noon, in order to process the entrants and send out their respective cards.

JUNE MEETING

We will hold our June Business meeting on Wednesday June 3rd beginning at 7:30 via ZOOM. We are still working on the logistics and looking into the guidelines for being able to hold election of council officers for the 2020-2021 Fraternal year.

More information will follow.

OUR PARISHES NEED YOUR HELP

Restrictions on Mass attendance has had a dramatic impact on our parishes financially. Many parishes are hurting right now as a result, so if you are not signed up for automatic online giving it would be a great help if people could do so immediately. Just go to your parish website to find easy instructions that take just a few minutes. Belts have been tightened all over the Archdiocese, but without the weekly collection things are going to get much worse.

COUNCIL AWARDS

From the "Every Cloud Has A Silver Lining Department": Given that state imposed restrictions have dramatically limited every council's ability to conduct activities, targets for the three council Award categories have been reduced. As a result, our council is looking strong in all three categories. Tabulation of activities will be happening in May and June and submitted as usual at the end of the year. More on this later.

INSURANCE ZOOM CONFERENCE

We are considering hosting an Insurance conference via ZOOM for new and existing members and possibly making it open to other councils as well. The large scale charitable activity done by the Knights of Columbus (disaster relief, major global initiatives, etc.) are funded by the K of C insurance programs. As such, this is both a valuable asset for our members but also enables enormous charitable giving projects. Details are being worked on.

STAY SAFE!

Finally, I want to offer my encouragement to comply with state requirements around social distancing, hand washing, and wearing face masks in public at all times. Stay safe! We have a number of members who are considered part of the populations which are most vulnerable to become infected. By following these simple steps, we are both protecting ourselves as well as our neighbors and brother Knights and their families.

