

Faithful Navigator's Report – March 2020

Worthy Sir Knights,

First, let me welcome the eleven new members who joined our Assembly in February. Eight Brothers from the Mary Our Queen Council and one each from the St. Andrew and All Saints Councils were exemplified on February 22nd. One new member transferred into our Assembly from Arizona. Their names will be included in future communications from our Faithful Scribe Lou Hlad. Please know that we are glad to have you join us, and we look forward to meeting each of you at upcoming events!

My last Faithful Navigator's Report spoke of the beginnings of Lent and the Fish Fries or Lenten Fish Dinners that laid ahead. We were looking forward to the forty days of Lent leading to the sacrifice Jesus made by dying on the cross to remove each of our sins, and his rising from the dead three days later, to sit at the right hand of his, and our, Heavenly Father. Unfortunately, our world has been turned on its head with the outbreak of a global pandemic. Still, in spite of the sudden increase in the presence of the COVID-19 in the US, seventeen Sir Knights bravely attended our March 12th business meeting! Thank you!

While we still look forward to the miraculous events we annually remember during Holy Week, we will commemorate these events in our homes, with just our families present, rather than in our parishes, as we normally do. For those who have not yet heard, **the Archdiocese of Atlanta has cancelled all public masses and related events through April 19th, Divine Mercy Sunday**. This includes all Holy Week events including the Rite of Initiation of new Catholics, normally celebrated during the Easter Vigil mass. Many parishes are video streaming private masses (just a Priest with a lector and maybe a few musicians) that we can all watch online and some masses are available on TV as well.

The issue of our next meeting has raised many questions. "How do we hold a meeting when most of us are secluded in our homes?" and "Is a meeting even necessary at this time?" are two questions that quickly come to mind.

Following discussions with some of the officers, I have decided that **our April meeting at All Saints, scheduled for this coming Thursday, April 2nd, is cancelled** and will not be rescheduled. Making this decision involved many considerations, including the possible need for time-sensitive action on certain matters and the recommendation from Supreme that we should continue to hold a meeting, in some format.

While the option to hold a face-to-face meeting in April was certainly gone, doing either a conference call or video meeting was another option. Sir Knight Steve Strong has been hard at work creating a online process for use by the All Saints Council and our Assembly, should either choose to conduct a meeting electronically. I was asked to be part of the testing and his system works great! Thank you, Steve!

To determine if an Assembly meeting was needed in April, I asked our Faithful Scribe Lou to review his audio tape of the March meeting to determine whether there were loose ends remaining from March or anything pressing that was discussed in anticipation of April. Thank you, Lou!

Following receipt of his summary, I arranged for checks to be sent for approved donations and expenses, and confirmed that the Nominating Committee (made up of our three Trustees) is hard at work preparing a vetted and recommended slate of officer candidates which will be available for publication in the coming days. The Biennial Meeting of the Fourth Degree, scheduled for a face-to-face event in Albany, has been cancelled and reformatted to become an electronic-only meeting a

week earlier. No travel, expenses, or “gatherings of more than 10 people” will be needed. PFN Nick Mattera, FComp Dave Lemcoe, and I will serve as delegates, and Steve Strong is our alternate, in case he is needed.

Because all of the loose ends from March were tied up, and because there is nothing pressing that must be discussed in April, the decision was made to cancel the April meeting. If there is something you believe I need to be aware of, please call or email me.

My goal is to resume our meetings on Thursday, May 14th at Mary Our Queen in Peachtree Corners. This meeting will be very important, because Council elections will be held that night. While I anticipate holding this meeting in our usual face-to-face format, and strongly encourage a large attendance to both welcome our new Brother Sir Knights and to select our new Assembly leadership for 2020-2021, it is possible we will be limited to holding the meeting online. Fortunately, Steve has already made that possible for us!

As I close this report, please let me address the issue of unpaid dues. Since my last report, nearly half of the delinquent members stepped forward to pay their dues. However, about the same number remain delinquent.

For these remaining 50-ish Sir Knights, if you have not yet paid your \$30 annual dues, please do so. They should be sent to our Faithful Comptroller Dave Lemcoe as soon as possible. He has several payment options for you, including cash, checks, and PayPal. Contact Dave at 678-687-5707 or dlemcoe78@yahoo.com with any questions. (If you decide to pay using PayPal, please select the option to pay “Friends and Family”, rather than “Goods and Services”. This way, fees do not apply, and we receive your entire \$30. You do not need to create a PayPal account, and there are no additional costs or fees for you to pay.) Remember, paying your council dues has nothing to do with also paying your assembly dues. Councils and Assemblies are separate entities, and have separate finances as well. Many members are confused by this fact.

Last month, I mentioned that steps would soon be taken to suspend and terminate the membership of those who remain in arrears. Please know that, given the current unknowns we are all facing, no such steps will be taken in the near-term. I understand there are situations where Sir Knights want to pay their dues now, but they are financially unable to do so. If this applies to you, please contact me directly, so this issue can be handled privately. Neither the Faithful Navigator nor the Faithful Comptroller wants to take suspension or termination actions against any member. However, without communication from each of these unpaid members, steps will need to be taken, in the future. Even if you cannot pay your dues, please contact either Dave or me. Thank you.

Anita and I offer our best wishes to you and to your families for a very Happy Easter and a fast recovery from the strife that currently faces us all! Please stay safe and stay healthy during these turbulent times. The end of our strife is approaching. We just can't tell how soon it will arrive!

Vivat Jesus,

S. K. Bob Mitchell
Faithful Navigator
Father Charles J. Watters Assembly 2688