



# Needham Knights News

Father Daniel J. Kennedy- Needham Council 1611 May, 2018



*Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, truly present in the  
Holy Eucharist,  
I place my trust in you!*

Dear Brother Knights:

Vivat Jesus!

In recent weeks, we have had some very important and consequential events at our Council. Congratulations to all who have participated in our many events and made things happen.

We ended April with a blockbuster fundraiser for the Ching family education fund. Many thanks to Chris Kent, Mike Riley and Bob Timmerman for their leadership and numerous members of the council and family members for your support and assistance to our brother Matt Ching. Following is the article describing the event submitted for publication in the Columbia magazine by our field Agent Matthew Ziniti.

Father Daniel Kennedy Council 1611 of Needham, Massachusetts hosted a trivia night at their council hall, with Boston sports radio personality, (98.5 FM) PGK Mike Riley. Initiated by brother Knights and supported by the Needham community, \$15,000 was raised that night. Over 175 people attended the fund raiser and countless others donated auction and raffle items. This event will help assist a Brother Knight of the council, whose wife passed away suddenly from complications of the flu, leaving him to raise two young sons, ages 8 and 10. All money raised will bolster the educational fund set up for the boys at the time of their mother's death in January of this year.

As Knights, we are privileged to be able to carry out our most sacred duty, to care for our members and their families in times of distress. Great job all. We received a beautiful thank you and tribute to Jenny from Matt. Matt and his family will always have the support of his K of C brothers.

## May

The month of May, dedicated to Our Lady, was celebrated by the council at a Mass at St. Joseph. The Mass included a great turnout of our membership who processed with Mary's statue to the altar for Mass. After Mass we went to Mary's garden where the traditional crowning of the Blessed Mother took place. It was an honor to join with the First Communion class and their parents to honor Our Lady. It was a beautiful ceremony and so joyfully carried out by the young ones. The ceremony was cut one hymn short, because the pastor announced that donuts were available. That was a sign to the young audience to head for the food. I'm sure Our Lady was fine with that. Many thanks to DGK Ted Harrigan for his leadership and faithful support of this traditional council event. Following is Ted's reflection:

Just a word of thanks to all who made the May procession a success today. First, a tip of the hat to PGKs Bill Topham and Tony O'Donoghoe, and to Bill's daughter Betsy. About ten years ago Tony and Bill re-built the bier, together with an ingenious, MacGyvered clamping system that has firmly and safely held Mary through years of setup and takedown. Then Bill's daughter, Betsy Goodband, sewed up a customized blue drape to cover the plywood platform. Lovely, just the right touch. Let's remember to thank those who went before us!

We had a great turnout of Knights – thanks to all for showing the strong face of our council! I'm glad we had a couple of young fellows serving as lead bearers this year – new brother Chris Rose (one of six Rose family members) and Chris Nichols, whose daughter was one of the processing First Communicants.

The procession and the Mary's Garden crowning went off without a hitch. Susan Horne, Debbie Coyle and Melissa Harrigan were most appreciative of our help, and asked me to thank the members.

We also received the following feedback from Melissa:

... Thank you for all that you and the Knights do to make such a special day. It is such a blessing to have you in our parish and to include the children in the procession and crowning. It is always so beautiful to see the Knight's elevating our Blessed Mother and honoring her so reverently. Thank you!

Thank you brothers for your participation.

The May meeting was excellent. Thanks especially to Dan Brennan and Paul Bacigalupo for preparing a very fine dinner. Dan is an experienced hand, but Paul is new to this and both did great. Many thanks guys. Your brothers are grateful. We also enjoyed the return of our formerly ailing Brother Ken Gustin. Ken has been released from quarantine and he is now back, a man in full. He has been so helpful and creative this year that he was awarded the Grand Knight Award. As the Grand Knight stated at the meeting, his name will adorn our walls for the next 105 years. We also gave Ken an embroidered K of C jacket. Congratulations Ken and thank you for all your efforts to contribute to the success of our council and our community.

We received about 20 scholarship applications for the new college scholarships that will be awarded in June. It makes me wonder if help with college education is a critical need not being met by and for the Catholic community. If so, we may want to consider expanding our support for scholarships in the future. The committee, under Bill Dermody's leadership, is considering the applications and will be announcing the winners.

A slate of officers for the new fraternal year beginning in July was presented to the membership by Chair DGK Ted Harrigan. The slate will be voted on at our June meeting. Thank you men for stepping up and taking leadership roles. The new Officers names will appear in the next issue of the "Needham Knights News".

Father John reminded us of the current need to pray for peace in Korea. We are at a critical crossroads in this conflict dating through most of our lives. Let's ask the Blessed Mother's intervention for Peace in this Month of May.

The Council's day at Briarwood drew strong participation as usual. Thank you Marty Cunniffe for your leadership. It is truly a blessing to be able to honor the older members of the community. On the same day, several members of the council attended and supported the Little Sisters of the Poor fundraising dinner at the Sisters Home in Somerville. The Sisters mission is to care for the elderly poor and they do a marvelous job. It is inspiring to be with them and learn about and experience their loving care for those at the end of life. The K of C was prominent in their program and the Sisters were very grateful for the Council's donation to their fundraiser.

Memorial Day will soon be upon us and Bob Timmerman is leading the effort to place flags on the graves of our departed brothers on May 23. I encourage everyone to come to St. Mary Cemetery at 5:30 PM at the entrance to distribute the flags. Rain date, Saturday morning May 26. Keep in mind that we stand on the shoulders of the Knights that came before us. A remembrance is our obligation. Thank you Bob for leading this effort.

## June

This month the meeting will be on Wednesday June 6. Dinner at 6:30, meeting at 8:00. Ken Gustin and Chris Kent will be barbecuing at 6:30, always a treat. The scholarship winners and their families will be our invitees, so that will add to the mix. Our guest speaker will be Vaughn Williams, Associate Athletic Director at Boston College and a Needham resident.

For Charity this month, I would request all to bring food to the meeting for the Needham Community Council. Food Pantry. Recall the executive director telling us the most difficult time for the food pantry is in the summer when many organizations do not meet and collect food. Accordingly, let's help stock up for the summer and make sure our less fortunate neighbors are served. The Center needs all sorts of packaged foods and paper goods, etc. Look at your own grocery list and you will get many ideas. Also we will have a basket and cash will be gratefully received and we will see to it that food is procured.

This would be a great meeting to bring your friends and neighbors, fellow parishioners, coworkers, etc. that may have an interest in joining our order. PGK Ron Hadley has had a busy and successful year so far. Let's give him our support in one final push before the fraternal year closes. Thank you Ron for your leadership.

This month, the Men's discussion Group meets on June 2. As we have been discussing evangelization, it appears that the men's discussion group may be a good vehicle for outreach

to the community at large. Invite any man that may have an interest, We don't limit attendance to our members only. Meetings are every first Saturday at the Hall starting at 7:00 AM. Thank you DGK Ted Harrigan for your faithfulness to this ministry.

Briarwood in June will be June 23<sup>rd</sup>, a change in regular date due to a conflict. Please mark your calendars. Same time schedule, 2:00 to 3:00 PM. All are welcome to greet and entertain the residents.

Dan Brennan is planning a visit to Father Bill's Homeless shelter to serve dinner to the residents this summer. If interested in participating, let Dan know. Thank you Dan for your leadership.

The Treasurer issued nice checks to each of our local Catholic schools. Thank you brothers and especially Paul Whyte and Martin Kerrigan and all who worked on the St. Patrick's Day party for the schools. Catholic Schools have been enormously successful over the past number of years in educating our young people for life. We cannot take for granted their continuing existence. Let's find ways to work with them to assure a great future.

We also provided a nice check to Deacon Paul Wargovich from our Super Bowl Party. We will be providing checks to a couple of other seminarians in the fall. Vocations are a top priority for the Knights. Saturday was Ordination day for the Archdiocese and we were with Cardinal Sean on Saturday Night at the Little Sisters dinner. He had just ordained 9 new priests and he was quite happy. Even better, 14 are scheduled for ordination next year. Priests are critical to the building of the Faith going forward. Our support is part of the picture and is our legacy for generations to come. Thank you brothers.

### **Sick and vigil**

Fr. John has been receiving treatment for cancer and Brother Dan Kennedy has been coordinating support for Father with rides to and from treatment. Following is an update. If you can help, please let Dan Know. Thank you Dan, and all who have helped by stepping up to support a Brother Knight in time of need.

Dan writes.

All things considered Fr John seems to be tolerating treatment well. The docs anticipated an adverse reaction of some sort but, so far, just a minimal reaction. Once again Fr John wants Brother Knights to know how indebted he is to them. He especially enjoys the 'car-ride conversation'. Thank you.

On another score, to relieve his mind, would the brothers be good enough to call him the night/day before to confirm pickup time.  
(Cell 781-254-6928)

Lastly Ted, would you ask the brothers if they are available during the month of June (1-14).

Please God that will conclude his radiation and chemo treatments.

Thanks again for the stellar support he has received from so many Brother Knights.

God Bless,  
Dan

## **New Initiatives**

We have been requested by Supreme to nominate a member and his spouse to be the designated couple to coordinate evangelization activities of our council. The Knights would like each council to designate a "Building the Domestic Church Chaircouple." The couple would be responsible for coordination of council activities with our parishes and help the entire family to better understand their Catholic faith and put that faith into practice every day. It sounds like a very important and challenging assignment, but one of great impact. Let me know if you and your spouse would be interested in volunteering. You will be in contact with the Fraternal Mission Office of the Supreme Council.

We have had interest from both Needham pastors for the Knights help in supporting the parishes in outreach. This is a critical role and I urge you to prayerfully consider it.

## **Charity**

The council has been very generous this year supporting a number of causes and I am very grateful for the generosity. We need to continue to consider needs that are very compelling from a Christian and societal standpoint.

- A. Support for Puerto Rico is an ongoing need. We recently sent a \$1000 check to Catholic Charities of Puerto Rico. This is the second donation from the Council, but must keep in mind that the needs are great. The people are suffering and forcing people to leave for the mainland does not sound like a humanitarian solution. Thanks for all you have done.
- B. The Knights of Columbus have been very successful in supporting Iraqi Christians. Christian families have been decimated, driven from their villages and persecuted by ISIS. Currently the life of Iraqi Christians is dire, but improving. The Knights of Columbus are one of the few organizations that have been effective in delivering aid to Christians on the ground. We have been receiving regular appeals to help in this effort, and I think we should consider how best to respond within our limitation, but nevertheless meeting our responsibilities as Christians and Catholics. Please give this issue some thought and let's decide how we can participate most effectively.
- C. Many thanks to all who have supported The Little Sisters of the Poor at their annual fundraising dinner. By all accounts it was a great success. The Sisters are dedicated to assisting the elderly poor in our communities. Also the residence has space available if anyone is aware of an elderly poor member of the community in need of either skilled nursing or rest home care (assisted living). If you have interest, please contact me at [deeleepaulj@gmail.com](mailto:deeleepaulj@gmail.com).

## **Membership.**

Consider inviting prospective members to our upcoming meetings. I'm sure there are many men in our circles that would enjoy the charity, unity and fraternity of our order.

Many thanks to Ron Hadley, membership chair, for his leadership.

Note that all of our events, with times and other details, are on the council website, [www.needhamkofc.org](http://www.needhamkofc.org). We also have a facebook page, please connect and like us. Thanks to Ken Gustin for these communication improvements. They will help us in many ways, especially increasing our visibility in the community and gaining new membership.

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May is the month we honor the Blessed Virgin and I am tempted to write about Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. After all, Mary appeared in North America long before more recent European apparitions. Instead, I am going to share a prayer authored by Thomas More, who must have had a sense of humor, before he was convicted of treason and beheaded. He is reputed to have said upon his execution, "I die the King's good servant and God's first." His insights are as applicable today as they were in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.

Grant me, O Lord, good digestion  
And also something to digest  
Grant me a healthy body, and the  
Necessary good humor to maintain it.  
Grant me a simple soul that knows  
To treasure all that is good and that  
Doesn't frighten easily at the sight of evil, but  
Rather finds the means  
To put things back in their place.  
Give me a soul that knows not boredom  
Grumbling, sighs and laments  
Nor excess of stress, because of that  
Obstructing thing called "I"  
Grant me, O Lord, a sense of good humor.  
Allow me the grace to be able to take a joke  
To discover in life a bit of joy, and  
To be able to share it with others. Amen

St. Thomas More

Fraternally,

Paul

Grand Knight