



Needham Knights News

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



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

Dear Brother Knights:

Vivat Jesus!

Our fraternal year end is fast approaching and as Frank Sinatra sings it: "It has been a very good year." As I look back, I do believe we have maintained our strong Father Daniel Kennedy Council traditions and started new initiatives to respond to the needs of our inner family and the broader community.

I want to salute our officers, committee chairs, special awardees and working brothers for so many great memories of the current year's achievements. You are to be congratulated. Also, with numerous new members and improved attendance, the monthly meetings were fun to attend. Let's keep working to build on the efforts of our predecessors to make the values of our order, Charity, Unity and Fraternity real in our Council, Parishes and Community.

Regarding the future, in our May meeting, a slate of Officers were approved for the upcoming fraternal year. The Officers were recommended by of the Nominating Committee and voted in accordance with procedure at the May and June meetings. Thank you to all who have agreed to serve. Following is a listing of the Officers for the upcoming fraternal year:

Grand Knight	Paul Deeley
Deputy Grand Knight	Ted Harrigan
Chancellor	Chris Kent
Warden	Paul Bacigalupo
Inside Guard	Paul Whyte

Outside Guard	Robby Timmerman
Advocate	Mike Gillis
Chaplain	Fr. Peter Stamm
Trustees	Marty Cunniffe, Dan Brennan, Mike Fraini
Recorder	John Kent
Treasurer	Tom Fern
Financial Secretary	Bob Mullen

Congratulations to all and thank you for your service.

Personally, I am honored to have received your support and confidence to serve as Grand Knight for a second and final year.

As I write today, Maureen and I are in the process of celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary. In addition to the family gathering and fun festivities the event inevitably brings me back to 1968 and I want to briefly share some of the history of that time. I believe it offers a lesson for us in these divisive days in our public discourse.

The year began with a country currently very much in the news. In January, 1968, North Korea captured the USS Pueblo with 83 Navy personnel on board. Those sailors were kept in captivity for almost the entire year. And that was just the start of the year.

Also in January, the Tet offensive, so called, occurred in Viet Nam. The US had been sending huge numbers of soldiers to fight the Viet Nam war with limited success. The guerrilla offensive that was unleashed in 1968 drained the enthusiasm of the US to continue the fight and we abandoned the project gradually later. But in the meantime there were huge protests over the war all over the country and the protests didn't reflect the best that is America. Service members were unable to wear a uniform in public.

In March, Martin Luther King was assassinated in Memphis. It was a horrible event. Urban riots broke out all over the country. Pretty much disastrous for those cities and affected institutions where students were taking over the president's offices at universities, etc.

Later Robert Kennedy was assassinated and the political class was in turmoil.

Needless to say, the totality of these events had a far more striking effect on political discourse than in 2018. And yet two people, among many, had enough confidence in the future of the US to start a new life together.

And the confidence was warranted as over the years the ship that is our nation righted itself. There were commissions, and reviews and policies were adjusted throughout the

country and fortunately, the country regained its moderation. Possibly we lived our last 50 years in a great period of US history and one that shows our system in resilient and self-correcting. This should give hope to all you young people that are wondering if the future is still positive, that we don't know exactly what we face in the future, but our governance system has prevailed.

Also, just so it's not all negative on 1968, at the very end of the year, Apollo 8 lifted off and orbited the moon. On Christmas Day, the Commander Frank Borman read from the bible, and then said, "From the crew of Apollo 8, we close with good night, good luck and Merry Christmas, and God bless all of you- all of you on good Earth.

And so, I urge all to be confident in the future and work as we have, for peace, security, justice and mercy in our times.

June

Our June meeting was very successful with a great turnout of brothers, and we hosted the two scholarship winners and their families. Many thanks to Ken Gustin and Chris Kent for a nice barbecue, a great end to our year. Our speaker, Vaugh Williams of Boston College, added a nice personal and inspirational message. The scholarship winners were outstanding and their parents should be very proud of their son and daughter. Katherine Fazekas, Ursuline grad, gave us a brief summary of her volunteer activities and the underlying purpose of her efforts. It was quite effective and moving. Joseph Nedder, Rivers School grad, provided an explanation for his volunteering at the Parish for the music ministry and summarized his comments with a beautiful rendition of a song he wrote and composed about Jesus. Very moving. Congratulations to both and best wishes at Holy Cross and Northwestern respectively in the fall.

The scholarship program was well received and exceeded expectations for the number of very qualified applicants. The committee, Bill Dermody, Tom Harkins and Chris Kent, did a great job. Thank you brothers. Their task was compounded by the quality of applicants and the number, 19 very qualified young people. It leads me to think this is an unmet need in our immediate community and one we should focus more of our efforts on. Obviously the cost of education is a challenge for families and as a community we need to find ways to help. I also want to acknowledge the many excellent applications from students that would be winners under most circumstances. The committee had to make a decision and many who were not chosen were well qualified and would have been good selections.

Also kudos to Kelly Lavelle, daughter of Brother Kevin Lavelle. Kelly was awarded the Knights of Columbus State Scholarship. Congratulations to Kelly and the Lavelle family.

At our meeting, we acknowledged Brother Dan Kennedy's award as recipient of the Archbishop Williams medal from St. John's Seminary. Dan was recognized for his dedication to the mission of St. John's Seminary and his support for vocations in our community. Congratulations Dan and best wishes from your brother Knights.

We also awarded the PGK Bob Timmerman Knight of the Year Award to this year's winner, Chris Kent. Bob Timmerman made the award personally and we have engraved Chris' name on the plaque and it will remain on our walls for the next 105 years of Council history.

Chris has been an amazing volunteer and leader this year. He has headlined and participated in all of our activities. He is always enthusiastic, a great collaborator and a friendly presence. We also gave Chris a nice embroidered K of C jacket. Congratulations Chris. Chris has also joined the leadership team as Chancellor for the upcoming fraternal year.

Due to your generosity, we brought several cartons of food to the Needham Community Council Food Pantry. As the director of the Community Council reminded us, summer is their most difficult period for adequate supply, so your efforts are appreciated

We welcomed two new members to our order this month, Peter Dorsey and John Meade. Congratulations gentlemen and welcome. This means that we have exceeded our goal for new membership and I congratulate all who have contributed to the new membership rolls. The purpose of our recruitment effort is not to meet a goal, but more to add to the vibrancy and capabilities of our council, to renew ideas, and bring people together to build up the faith in our communities and to enrich our own lives. All ages are welcome, men can benefit from Charity, Unity, and Fraternity at any age. Please continue to speak to your friends, neighbors, family members and fellow parishioners and make sure they know they are invited and welcome to join us.

The membership approved a program and funding for evangelization at our hall starting on Tuesday, June 26 at 8:00 PM. This is the first of ten succeeding Tuesday night showings of the Bishop Barron series on Catholicism. The audience is any person interested in the Catholic Church. Ken Gustin has led this effort and has widely advertised it. Please join us on a Tuesday evening this summer. Thank you Ken for your leadership.

Brother Father John McGlaughlin urged us to schedule a public rosary for Peace at the Korean War Memorial on Sunday evening June 10, the eve of the summit meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. We had a great showing with about 40 people attending. Thanks to the help and leadership of Fr. John, DGK Ted Harrigan, Ken Gustin and all who helped get the word out. It appears that our prayers were answered and the tensions are lifting between countries at war for more than 70 years. Let's continue to pray for a permanent solution to this very dangerous situation in our time. Frequent recitation of the rosary will respond to the Blessed Mother's request at Fatima.

Fr. John wants to thank all the brothers who assisted in bringing him to treatments and helping him in his time of need. We will keep Fr. John in our prayers and hope for a speedy recovery. Thanks to Brother Dan Kennedy for his coordination of the response.

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. And our Saturday meetings will continue though out the summer.

Summer

The June meeting was our final meeting of the fraternal year, so there will not be formal meetings during the summer. There will be some leadership meetings. We need to make plans for next year, set a budget, prioritize our resources, our activities, and come up with some new projects and community building, faith building projects. I will send out an email when such

meetings are scheduled and I will invite any and all to attend. If you are local and have time, please come, contribute and be part of a great Fr. Daniel Kennedy Needham Council story.

DGK Ted Harrigan continues to lead the Men's Discussion Group over the summer. Meetings are each First Saturday starting at 7:00 AM. I encourage everyone to participate. It's a great way to share our faith.

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. 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.

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. 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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Having mentioned Our Lady of Fatima in my text, let me share the prayer celebrating the 100th anniversary of the apparition at Fatima, Portugal.

Lord Jesus Christ, your most holy Mother appeared with the message of conversion and peace at Fatima.

By our meditating on the mysteries of your life in the Most Holy Rosary, we hope to obtain the promise of peace in our lives and in our world.

May your Mother turn our hearts and lives again to you so that we may work with your help and her prayers to bring peace to our world.

We ask this of you who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

Fraternally,

Paul

Grand Knight