



Needham Knights News

The monthly newsletter of the Father Daniel J. Kennedy – Needham Council 1611 August, 2018



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

Dear fellow knights:

Council leadership has been busy over the summer preparing for the upcoming fraternal year. In today's letter I will update everyone on discussions to date on priorities and plans.

Looking back over last year, there are many achievements we can take pride in. We have honored our legacy and lived our values through many charity events, fraternal gatherings and faith building events. We gained momentum in bringing in new members. Membership Chair Ron Hadley, through his excellent leadership processed 13 new members during the year. And so as we set forth another year in the life of the council we want to build upon our history, and break new ground to continue the renewal of our commitment to charity, unity and fraternity.

This will be achieved if everyone participates and engages in one or more of our activities. Consider a leadership role. The body will be weak, if the leadership resides in a few. We can all start the year by inviting a friend, a neighbor, fellow parishioner to join us. New membership will move us toward new ideas, new thinking and a robust series of events to engage our membership and contribute to the life of our community.

Budget Committee

The budget committee under the chairmanship of our very capable Treasurer Tom Fern, met during the summer.

We reviewed the state of our finances and, although healthy financially, we spent about \$ 1,000 more than received last year, thus reducing our reserves. The reserve is adequate, but a continuation of annual deficits will eliminate the reserve in short order, and we will be unable to respond when more difficult times face us in the future. This would be imprudent. Accordingly,

we will schedule more charitable fundraisers and try to fund our charitable support through current fundraising.

We should also review the current dues level. Last year, the State K of C raised its per capita charge and there are other strains on the dues payment stream. Accordingly we will consider a modest dues increase at our meeting in September. It has been a number of years since the current dues level has been fixed and it needs review. We would never want to make dues a barrier to new membership, so please keep that in mind as we discuss and debate the subject.

The committee recommended we continue to sponsor two trivia nights with the beneficiaries, K of C charities. These would be scheduled for fall and spring. We also discussed adding an additional event, a wine and cheese tasting, scheduled on a weeknight in late October, early November. These events require volunteer leadership and I would appreciate prospective chairs and committee members to let us know of their commitment.

The wine and cheese event is to try to diversify our support and attract a younger audience. Accordingly it will be advertised to support the Scholarship program and we will try to interest parents of current students to participate.

Meetings

Our first meeting will be on September 5, 2018. Dinner at 6:30, rosary at 7:40 and meeting at 8:00. Dinner under control of acclaimed chef, Chris Kent. Budget discussions on the agenda. Our charity for the first meeting will be the Needham Community Council. It may come as a surprise, but more than 300 families access the community council in our town. We have been bringing over food every week through collections at the Bishop Baron Catholicism series. There are clear needs for our support and as always the K of C will step up. Thanks for all your help for our community members that need a lift.

Please let me know of your availability to volunteer as chef for council meetings. We are in need of speakers for future meetings. Let me know your suggestions and ideas. Thanks in advance.

Catholicism Series

All summer, we have been showing the Bishop Baron Catholicism series in our hall on Tuesday nights. If you have not participated, weekly showings continue. Please join us. Many thanks to Ken Gustin and his helpers to create an audience and sustain it through the summer. The episodes are very well done and well worth your attention.

Men's Group

The Men's Group is ably guided by our own DGK Ted Harrigan. It meets the first Saturday of each month, rain or shine, even on holiday weekends. Ted is there at 6:30 am, to set up coffee and light breakfast. The group officially starts its meeting at 7:00 am and ends promptly at 8:00 am allowing plenty of time to get to the First Saturday mass at St. Joseph's should you wish to attend. During the hour, the meeting is centered on a robust discussion of the Sunday mass readings and how the readings affect our daily lives as Catholics. The group is not limited to just

members of the council. You need to be there to really understand what a wonderful group this is, so try it out. You will not be disappointed.

The Men's Group meetings are as follows:

September 1, 2018

October 6, 2018

Briarwood

Come join us as the council continues one of its most important community events. All are welcome to this event that is so special to the residents at Briarwood. The event is the third Saturday of each month. All talent levels are welcome. In my experience, no resident has complained about the sound. Thank you to Marty Cunniffe and all the other Knights and their guests who brighten up the spirits of the Briarwood community each month. Upcoming dates are as follows:

September 15, 2018

October 20, 2018

Many thanks for the confidence shown in me and my fellow officers. We are all working toward our priorities of charity, unity and fraternity.

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In recent days we are hearing about unfaithful members of the priesthood. We hold dear in our hearts victims of clergy abuse and we pray for their intentions.

Let's remember in our prayers the good priests and church leaders that minister in humility and faithfulness.

As members of a Catholic Order, let's be vigilant that our own activities are consonant with the will of the Church and offer no opportunities for abuse of any kind.

Sincerely

Paul Deeley, Grand Knight