

The Navigator's Report

November 2009



Navigator's Log

Brother Sir Knights -

This month I would like to welcome our new Sir Knights who made the recent Exemplification in Richmond: Charles Pimentel (Santa Maria Council); Craig Delaney (Pope John Paul II Council); Gerard Fay (St. Mary of Sorrows Council); Bernard Atta-Boateng and Francis Addo (Our Lady of Guadalupe Council). The honoree for the degree was Michael Diewald. At the banquet, our very own Sir Knight Gregory Skorupski was recognized by District Master Richie Head as Sir Knight of the Year for the Virginia District – congratulations Greg! The Assembly also received the Civic Award for our activities during the last fraternal year. I would like to thank the Sir Knights that made the trip to Richmond: PFN Cy Alba, PFN Dennis Markurat, SK Greg Skorupski, SK Fred Hundemer, SK Joe Lynem, SK John Berg, SK Dennis Brown, SK Tim Murtha, SK Greg Bacani, and SK Dan Turgeon. It's always a lot of fun seeing old friends in the hospitality suites; and the new exemplification ceremony is something to be seen! There will be another

exemplification in the spring if you missed this one.

Our next meeting on November 18th will be a social meeting to welcome our new Sir Knights and their ladies to Fr. Malloy Assembly. You and your ladies/guests are invited to enjoy a pre-Thanksgiving turkey dinner with all the fixings. Dress will be regalia (social baldric) for officers; and regalia (social baldric) or coat and tie for members; and dinner dress for ladies. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. with the recitation of the Rosary. Please give the Faithful Captain Dennis Brown (dennis.brown@ssa.gov) your head count by November 13th.

The Fourth Degree is the patriotic arm of the Order, and through the many activities of the Color Corps we exemplify the principle of patriotism. As you can tell from the Commander's Corner the Assembly has remained very active the past two months. I would like to thank the Sir Knights that participated in one or more of our activities which included: the Eucharistic Congress and the Diocesan pilgrimage to

the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary of Sorrows Feast Day, the wake of SK Julian Niemczyk, Columbus Day Celebration at Union Station, Laying of a Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, the Fourth Degree Exemplification, and the Queen of Apostles foyer dedication. If you have not yet joined the Color Corps please give it serious consideration.

However, it is not only through the Color Corps we can show our patriotism. I am in search of a member who is willing to become the Patriotism Chairman for our Assembly. I think there is much work we can do; and if you are not inclined to march with the Color Corps this might be the ideal activity for you. Please let me know if you are interested as I would like to fill this position soon.

Fraternally yours,
George Billy
Faithful Navigator

Assembly Officers

F. Navigator— SK George Billy

F. Admiral—SK William Weich

F. Captain— SK Dennis Brown

F. Pilot— SK Dennis Makurat

F. Comptroller—SK Lawrence Novak

F. Purser—SK Timothy Donovan

F. Scribe— SK Timothy Murtha

F. Outer Sentinel—SK Al Avellino
SK Fred Hundemer

F. Inner Sentinel—SK Joseph Lynem

F. 1 Yr Trustee— SK Marion Kuhlman, PFN

F. 2 Yr Trustee— SK Thomas Kelley, PFN

F. 3 Yr Trustee— SK Richard Lee, PFN

Faithful Friar—Fr. David A. Whitestone



The Captain's Corner SK Dennis Brown

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is almost here, followed 3 days later with the First Sunday of Advent on November 29, and then two great Marian feasts, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 8 and Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12.

As I write, our Diocese is nearing completion of the 40 Days for Life campaign. My parish has today (October 30) in front of an abortuary around the corner from Bishop Ireton High School. By the time you receive this Captain's Corner, we Virginians will know whether several prominent Pro-Life politicians were elected. Pray for our political leaders! Our patriotic duty!

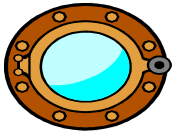
This month, our Assembly welcomes five new Sir Knights and their wives/families/guests at our November 18 Assembly meeting. We will have our traditional turkey dinner with all the fixin's. We also extend a special invitation to Sir Knights and ladies who have not attended an Assembly meeting lately. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow Knights and renew acquaintances.

Please help me plan for the Sir Knight's Café by calling Valerie Brown or me at 703 978-6195 or at Dennis.Brown@ssa.gov Regardless of reservations, please come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson has co-authored a new book, *Our Lady of Guadalupe: Mother of the Civilization*

of Love. In this book, Anderson and Msgr. Eduardo Chávez, postulator of St. Juan Diego's cause for canonization, trace the evangelization of the Americas from the 16th century to the present and discuss how Our Lady's message continues to be an important catalyst for religious and cultural transformation.

Question: Who is Dr. Andrea Ambrosi? Postulator of the Cause for Venerable Michael J. McGivney. The Archdiocese of Hartford has formally sent a new report to the Vatican with details about a reported miracle attributed to the intercession of Fr. McGivney. If you are ill, pray for the intercession of Fr. McGivney for your own sake and also for the sake of all fellow Knights and their families who are in need of God's help due to illness.



The Pilot's Portal SK Dennis Makurat

In addition to Patriotism, the 4th Degree has shown me the important role that Catholics have played in the exploration and development of our country. Our Catholic Heritage is indeed something in which we can take pride.

Some of you may be aware of the many Catholics, especially priest, that were an essential part of our early history. I knew a few but I have learned of many more.

Since I grew up in Wisconsin, I was well aware of the role Father Marquette and Louis Joliet had in the exploration of that part of our land. I had also heard the stories of St. Isaac Jogues.

But I have found there were a lot more that I knew little or nothing about. These include priests such as Father Louis Hennepin, Father Claude Allouez, Father Silvestre de Escalante, Father Juan de Padilla and explorers such as Cadillac, DeSoto, and LaSalle among others.

Assuming that some of you are also unfamiliar with some of these and other Catholics that played an important role in bringing our nation to what it is today, I plan to pass on

some of what I have learned about these great men.

The first name that intrigued me was Father Louis Hennepin, a Franciscan. He had always loved to travel and in 1675 he sailed to what is now Canada with an expedition lead by LaSalle. In his four years in the new world, he explored the Great Lakes and provided the first written description of Niagara Falls. He traveled down the Illinois River (which he named) and then up the Mississippi as far as he could go, ending at the Falls of Saint Anthony which he named in honor of St Anthony of Padua. The falls are now encircled by the city of Minneapolis. There are a number of lakes and rivers in this area that he also named. His writings provided a detailed description of the features of the area and excited and encouraged those who came after him.

His memory is kept alive by the many streets, parks and landmarks that bear his name in New York, Minnesota and Illinois.

Again, if you are aware of anyone needing our prayers, please send email me the information at makurat@bmsi.com or call me at 703-591-0911 ext 2 during the day or 703-383-0233 in the evening.

The Commanders Corner SK Timothy Murtha

Every event I participate in as a Sir Knight and Commander is a unique opportunity for me to grow as a Commander, a Sir Knight, and a Catholic. I'll use the events that occurred this past September illustrate this. In September, I participated in the Mass for Fr. Capodanno (Sep 3d), the wake for S.K. Victor Reyes (Sep 5th), the Eucharistic Congress (Sep 12th) and the Feast of Mary Queen of Sorrows (Sep 15th).. I also plan to participate in the wake of S.K. Julian "Jay" M. Nemczyk on Sep 30th.

Each of these events has taught me something. At the mass for Fr. Capodanno, I learned how to get to the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on a weekday and calm myself enough to participate in the service. I was inspired by the reading of Fr. Capodanno's Medal of Honor narrative – how this Catholic Priest served the Lord and his flock with complete disregard for himself, doing the Lord's work as opposed to that of the world. I also observed the DC District Marshall in his command of the 55-60 SKs who participated in the service.

The Wake and funeral of SK Victor Reyes was 4 and 5 September. Honor Guard duties at a wake are simple – a SK is posted at the head and foot of the casket standing at carry sword for a 15-minute interval. The commander leads the relief in, working the detail through

the mourners as ceremoniously as possible, stopping in front of the casket and having all "present swords", then posting the relief and returning to the SK "assembly room" with the retiring guards. As a guard, I prayed a rosary silently while posted, never getting all the way through all 5 decades be-

fore the relief showed up. As a commander, I watched a clock – timing reliefs & teaming up the next relief, through the scheduled rosary (where we all attend) and again rotating the guard to the end of the viewing. The SKs in the "assembly room" talk. About a lot of different stuff: about the wake; about the deceased SK and interactions with him; about the Nationals; about upcoming events; about Cadillacs; about careers and families. I learned about SK Reyes and the SKs who honored him, I watched as people moved respectfully out of the path of the honor guards as we posted, and felt and heard the appreciation of the family at our presence.

The Eucharistic Congress was 10 and 11 September, at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It began with the arrival of a holy relic, a piece of the actual tilma of St. Juan Diego. The relic was placed in a monstrance, held by a SK, flanked by 2 SKs in regalia, and supported by two SKs acting as ushers for the faithful who wanted to have items touch the tilma. Simultaneously, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was ongoing throughout the day, with two SKs in regalia guarding the altar. All of these SKs were replaced at 10-15 minute intervals. While these events were ongoing, lectures and sacred music alternated in the upper church, culminating in a mass presided

by Cardinal Justin Rigali, followed by a lecture by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. Saturday's events were similar, with culminating in a mass celebrated by the Papal Nuncio to the United States and a procession of the Blessed Sacrament around the Shrine. I spent all day Saturday at the Shrine, commanding the relief for adoration all afternoon and commanding the detail carrying the canopy covering tilma and later, the Papal Nuncio & the Eucharist at the end of the mass.

I did not know what the tilma was until Saturday – and I got to touch it, just before it departed the Shrine. I also had no clue what a monstrance was – guess I didn't pay as good attention in religion class as I thought...I also didn't know there were so many types of nuns - and so many different habits. It was good to see many young women committed to the faith.

The Feast of Mary, Queen of Sorrows, taught me about commanding an honor guard, specifically, tailoring the participation based on the celebrant's desires, while remembering that we are there to enhance the service, not be a distraction. Fr. Barkett gave us the option of remaining in the pews for the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, or kneel in the front row and escort the Eucharist to the tabernacle. SK Dick Lee

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turned to SK Carl Kaczmarek and asked – can you kneel? When Carl said yes, we actively participated – kneeling through the Benediction and escorting the celebrant and the Eucharist to the tabernacle. Fr. Barkett expressed gratitude for the great support of the Knights!

Thanks to the SKs that participated in these events: Faithful Navigator, SK George Billy, SK Dennis Brown, SK Dave Todd (PFN), SK Dick Lee (PFN), SK Bill Weich (PFN), SK Greg Skorupski, SK Gerry Rutkowski, SK Bill Baker, SK Gerry Hovan (PFN), SK Carl Kaczmarek (PFN), SK Al Avellino, SK Greg Bacani, SK Fred Hundemer, SK Dan Turgeon, SK Larry Brindza, SK John Berg, SK Tim Tilson, and SK Randy Bordelon

In late-September and October we participated in the Columbus Day Parade and Wreath laying (Oct 12th), as well as the wake for SK Julian "Jay" M. Nemczyk (Sep 30th) and the support for the Diocesan Pilgrimage at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on October 10th. Please watch the website for future “pop-up” events.

Again, my thanks to all who serve, and my hope that you will consider it...