

# **St. Thomas Council Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2021**

## **Meeting Called to Order**

The regular St. Thomas Council #13861 meeting was brought to order by Grand Knight Denis Breton at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 9, 2021. There were 21 members present.

## **Motion to Make Meeting an Open Meeting**

Matt Pettine motioned that this meeting be an open one due to Alden Treadwell, an Eagle Scout candidate, making a presentation. Terry Sylvanus seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

## **Alden Treadwell Presentation**

Alden Treadwell, a Boy Scout in Troup 327, is an Eagle Scout candidate. For his Eagle Scout project, Alden Treadwell will design and build a Chimney Swift tower. The Chimney Swift bird is on the Endangered Species list. The tower will be erected in Springvale off the Blanchard Road. The tower will provide a habitat for the Chimney Swift, as habitats for this bird are becoming scarce. Alden outlined how the tower will be built. Matt Pettine motioned that the council contribute \$200 for Alden Treadwell's project. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

## **Decade of the Rosary**

Acting Chancellor Steve Belanger led the council in a decade of the rosary for Pro Life.

## **The Lord's Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance**

Grand Knight Denis Breton led the council in reciting the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Officer Roll Call**

The Officer Roll Call was taken and recorded by Recorder John Chandonnet. Attendance was as follows:

Grand Knight	Dennis Breton	Present
Deputy Grand Knight	Don Leeman	Present
Chancellor	Ron Robichaud	Excused
Chaplain	Fr. Bill Labbe	Excused
Financial Secretary	John Greenlee	Present
Recorder	John Chandonnet	Present
Warden	Kevin LaChapelle	Excused
Treasurer	Matt Pettine	Present
Advocate	Jeff Russell	Present

Outside Guard	Rene Robichaud	Present
Inside Guard	Rob Martin	Present
Lectorer	Br. Jerome Lessard	Present
One Year Trustee	Herb Littlefield	Present
Two Year Trustee	Gerry Newport	Present
Three Year Trustee	George Kanelos	Excused

### **Recognition of Distinguished Gueste**

Grand Knight Denis Breton recognized:

- Brother Jerome Lessard
- District Deputy Ray Sargent

### **Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Don Leeman made a motion to accept the August 12, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Manny DeAmaral seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The meeting minutes were accepted as presented.

### **Chaplin's Report**

No report given.

### **Grand Knight Report**

- Grand Knight Dennis Breton reported the following:
- The cash calendars are in. They sell for \$10 each.
- Crossing guards arte needed at St. Thomas School.
- Council Yearly Planners are available for all officers.
- Received a thank you letter from St. Thomas School Principal Jessica Rice for the donated proceeds from the convent furniture sale.

### **Treasurer Report**

Treasurer Matt Pettine stated the following disbursements and receipts:

Starting Balance: \$10,706.81

Disbursements:

Shipping \$ 3.50

Supplies	52.99
Fam of Month – Walmart	100.00
Maine Per Capita	1367.28
Road to Hope	285.06
Knight of the year plaque	31.65
Gift of Fr Alex	220.95
Jerry Newport (Christmas)	100.00

Receipts:

50/50	\$ 22.00
Donation	22.00

Ending Balance:	\$ 8,589.38
Bells:	2,367.00
Party:	(100.00)
General	\$ 6322.38

Don Leeman made a motion to accept the Treasurer report as presented. Gerry Newport seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

**Financial Secretary Report**

Financial Secretary John Greenlee reported:

- 153 Total Members
- 68 Insured Members
- 79 Associate Members
- 6 Inactive
- 3 Honorary Members
- 35 Honorary Life Members
- 4 Disability Members

Don Leeman made a motion to accept the Financial Secretary report as presented. Gerry Newport seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The Financial Secretary report was accepted as presented.

### **Membership Report**

Membership Director Terry Sylvanus reported two new members:

- Richard Cote
- Matthew Landry

Deputy Grand Knight Don Leeman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

### **Program Director Reports**

- Faith Program Director Kevin Neely was absent, no report was given.
- Community Program Director John Chandonnet reported:
  - a. 333 Faith Service Hours
  - b. 1067 Family Service Hours
  - c. 1232 Community Service Hours
  - d. 17 Life Service Hours
  - e. For a total of 2,649 Service Hours
- Life Program Director Ray Sargent reported:
  - a. There was a Maine Special Olympics fund raiser at Old Orchard Beach on Saturday, August 21, 2021. Ray Sargent thanked Rick Southwick, Dennis Breton and Romeo Zuniga for helping.
  - b. There will be a Baby Bottle Drive in October.
  - c. There will be another Hands Around the Church ceremony in January 2022 in remembrance of the passing of Roe v. Wade.
  - d. The St. Thomas Council will be serving coffee and refreshments following the 9:00 service on Sunday, October 3rd.
  - e. The St. Thomas and Springvale councils will organize a fundraiser.
- Family Program Director Dennis Guay reported:
  - a. The St. Thomas Council received a check in the amount of \$700 for working the concession at various Sanford Mainers games..
  - b. The St. Thomas Council also received a check in the amount of \$1,200 for working the gates and parking lots at the Acton Fair.

### **Deputy Grand Knight**

No report given.

### **Old Business**

No Old Business.

### **New Business**

The following items of New Business were conducted:

- Dennis Guay noted that there will be a Tootsie Roll Drive at Shaws on September 18th and 19th. Volunteers are needed.
- Gerry Newport noted that raffle tickets to fund the Childrens Christmas Party will go on sale at Shaws on September 25th and 26th. Volunteerrs are needed.
- Deputy Grand Knight Don Leeman proposed that the podiums be refinished. Four volunteers will be needed to sand and varnish.
- Advocate Jeff Russell thanked all those who donated food items to the Parish Food Closet.
- Terry Sylvanus motioned that the council use the \$150 received from the Maine State Council for selling cash calendars to purchase 15 cash calendars. Rob Martin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

### **District Deputy**

District Deputy Ray Sargent reported:

- There will be a 4th Degree Exemplification on Saturday, September 11, 2021 in Frenchville, Maine.
- There will be a Memorial Mass to honor all deceased knights on Sunday, November 7, 2021 at Notre Dame Church in Springvale, Maine.
- The Memorial Mass will be held on Sunday, November 7th at the 7:30 am service at Notre Dame Church. Coffee and refreshments will be served at the Springvale Social Club following the service.

### **Report of the 4th Degree**

- W. Robert Bachelder 4th Degree Assembly Faithful Navigator Don Leeman noted that he is looking into an alternate uniform ruling where Honor Guard can still wear the old style tux.
- The 4th Degree Assembly is also exploring possible fundraisers to assist prospective Honor Guard in purchasing the regalia.

### **Lector Presentation**

Brother Jerome Lessard delivered the following presentation:

- The virus is lingering, with new variants and recurring “breakthroughs”
- Until the entire world’s population is vaccinated...it remains a health issue.
- Anyone can get the virus, anyone can be a spreader
- I need to accept the fact that the “old normal” may never come back. How should I live my new life, create my new normal? Spiritually, how will this affect the way I live my Christian life, a call to love God, others, self?
- What can I learn from social isolation, virtual living, online religious practices?

### 1. Start with the love of self

- I need to get in touch with my feelings and emotions, to be accepted as natural, not sinful
- How to live with this uneasiness, fear, panic, despair, loss of control, general anxiety, disorientation, stinging losses even occasional depression?
- If not faced, these may remain a threat to the way I may act towards others, e.g. lashing out in anger. Accept the feelings without judgment before GodFatherready to embrace a suffering child.
- The call to love one’s self may mean to enjoy my own company, to being alone, to slowing down.
- To reflect on what is needed to be better physically and to enjoy mental health.
- Try entering your sacred space, and find the God living there, calling us to live life to the full in our new normal.

### 2. Love of others I need to stop the tendency to self-preoccupation.

- What is the loving thing to do? Pope Francis: Vaccination is an act of love get tested, get the booster, wear a mask. Avoid crowds
- Support vaccine projects, help people with their issues,
- Read widely, think critically, rely on intelligent information
- Fr. Bill’s Sunday message...find community in a time of isolation, confront negative loneliness and yield to our natural need to belong.
- It is an opportune time
- to reflect on what is needed to improve family relationships?
- to listen to people, increase face-to face time, leisurely family dinners

- to express gratitude for health providers
- to share experiences and resolutions: what gives me life? How are others adjusting?
- To deal with divisions caused by arguments of over health, religious and political practices and ideologies.
- Basic lesson: we are interdependent, each one is fragile, we do need each other in a spirit of solidarity.

### 3. Hope in a loving God

- What is God's will for in all this? How is God dealing with me now?
- Plan to live creatively, accept the new opportunities, even career opportunities.
- New doors are opening offering a better future, a new reality, possibly calling for a massive shift in routine.
- Ours is a new freedom, an opportunity to take on something and dropping some unhealthy activity. What to keep, what to change? I may have to redesign some customary activities.
- How will I transition from virtual Masses? Make use of spiritual practices, develop a strong personal spirituality, take up Bible study and spiritual reading?
- There are benefits from slowing down... enjoy nature around you (area parks), a quiet life, more time for prayer.
- In my examination of life I may find items that need to be resolved, actions to atone, home repairs to attend to, diet changes to take up, exercises to implement.
- LESSON: There is a "spiritual vaccination". We should emerge from this crisis better people, perhaps even fundamentally changed.
- Transitioning to a new normal should be life-giving.
- May God bless our efforts as we develop our NEW NORMAL.

*VIVAT JESUS !*

Source: St. Anthony Messenger, Sept., 2021 "The Light of Faith in the Darkness of COVID-19"

### **Knight of the Month for September**

St. Thomas Council awarded Knight of the Month for September 2021 to Br. Jerome Lessard who has been a knight in the St. Thomas Council for the past nineteen years.

Brother Jerome, a Brother of Christian Instruction in Alfred for the past several years, inspires us fellow knights with his words of spiritual wisdom at our monthly council meetings. Recently,

Brother Jerome was awarded Council Spiritual Advisor of the Year at the Maine State Knights of Columbus Convention in May 2021.

Congratulations to our September Knight of the Month, Brother Jerome Lessard, for his spiritual inspiration to the St. Thomas Council!

### **50/50 Raffle**

- Steve Belanger won the 50/50 raffle for the month of September. The amount was \$19, which Steve donated back to the council.

### **Good of the Order**

The following prayer petitions were presented:

- Jesus Zuniga
- Eleanor Leeman

### **Closing Prayers**

Both the Father J. McGivney prayer and the Bill Sheehan prayer, which were recited by the council, were dedicated to the above prayer petitions.

Blessed Michael J. McGivney Prayer:

*God our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow your son, Jesus Christ more closely in fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his body which is the church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your Holy Will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here we make our request) through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Bill Sheehan Prayer:

*Glory be to you Father, Creator of the world. Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the world. I exalt you Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the world. Please bless, heal and save all those on our K of C prayer line.*

**Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**

### **Next Council Meeting**

The next Officer's zoom meeting will be held on Sunday, October 3, 2021  
The next council meeting will be held on Thursday, October 14, 2021.