

Happy Autumn Brothers and welcome to the cooler weather.

Today is October 25th and as I write to you today, I have just finished reviewing the membership roster for our council. I have a few facts I would like to share with you. On our present roster, we have 251 members, with an average membership of 22+ years and over 5600 collective years of service. The statistics are fantastic and speaks volumes for what our Knights of Columbus have done over the years for our faith, our parish, and our community. To everyone reading these words, I say, "Thank You!" Thank you for all you have done and continue to do. Without your efforts in working with our youth, in time given to our church, being a voice of vocation and calling, the very community we live in could look vastly different. Every brother in council 1414 is a testament to good works and real faith in action. Even now, during these trying times, our contributions can be helpful. Anymore, it almost sounds cliché to say that 2020 has been a challenge to our parish community. Regardless of our isolations, quarantines, and social distancing, our minds and voices are free. Free to plan and anticipate the days when gatherings can resume, when we can all come together and be that faith in action. In the weeks ahead, our leadership team will be working to solicit your advice and ideas on how to continue to be active and remain safe from the threats of this illness. You will be receiving a survey from council 1414 leadership asking you for ideas and thoughts you may have for programs, and activities while we remain safely apart as well as for when we surpass this pandemic and come back together. Please consider how we can continue to be a voice and positive influence for our parish youth, how we can continue support for Gibault, and our Community, initiatives such as the Pro-life movement and our church. Care will be taken so that the survey will only occupy a few minutes of your time. Your responses can make all the difference.

I highly encourage everyone to connect with the parish through the new Flocknote system. Visit this link <https://saintbartholomew1.flocknote.com/> to connect. You will receive notices and the bulletin via email. It is a great way to stay connected to your parish.

As a reminder, Masses are live streamed at Mass time on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/c/StBsChurch> (subscribe) and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/mychurchhome/>. They are also available anytime afterwards. Attending the mass on the sofa in the living room gives me a nice sense of normalcy these days. I highly encourage it.

We continue to meet at 7:00 pm via Zoom every 1st and 3rd Monday of each month for Council and Planning activities. The Fourth Degree meets also at 7:00 pm via Zoom on the 2nd Monday of every month. Please read the newsletter for the login/call in info. All are welcome to attend Council meetings. If you have been away and have been considering how to reconnect, the zoom calls can be a nice way to get in touch with your council. We miss you while you are away.

We will begin forming an online calendar and info area in Google for enhanced communications. Please stay tuned for progress on this.

This December look for a virtual "Spaghetti with Santa". Children, their parents, and even grandparents may be able to have a tele-visit with Santa. We are working on this with our Christmas connections at the North Pole!!! Stay tuned for further details and planning.

Lastly, in heading into the first leg of the holiday season, I know I personally have much to be thankful for. One example is the great amount of support that I receive from the others at our council. In my prayers this year, I am truly thankful for everything our leadership team does. If this newsletter serves as your primary connection to Council 1414, then on behalf of all members, we wish you and your family a very Happy and warm Thanksgiving. Stay safe out there.

Vivat Jesus!

Kevin P. Morris
Worthy Grand Knight
Council 1414