



Our Lady of Lourdes Assembly 2143



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July 2008

FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR'S MESSAGE

Sir Knights,

I want to thank you for electing me to the honorable position of Faithful Navigator. I hope that I can provide the leadership the Assembly deserves, and wants.

My goals for the coming year are few, but very important if we are to continue to grow our ranks.

1. Increase the activity level for the Assembly.(Dinners, visits to VA hospitals, etc.)
2. Add to our Color Corps, as it is the "visible" part of our Assembly.
3. Bolster our funds. Building up our accounts will enable us to contribute to the programs we wish to support.

I realize that as just one person, the load I can lift is limited; however, with the help of all the Sir Knights of the Assembly, there isn't much we cannot carry. This is "our" Assembly, it is what we are willing to make it; if we are not willing, it will fail.

I am open to any and all suggestions on projects, programs, and services that will reflect positively on our honored fraternity. You can talk to me at our meetings or send an email (gary.rhodes@kofc-a2143.org) or by phone at 732-687-0088.

Yours in Christ and friendship,
SK Gary Rhodes, FN

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Assembly Schedule
Meetings 8 P.M.
August 4, 2008
September 8, 2008
October 6, 2008

Faithful Captains Message

Brothers,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for electing the slate of Officers which elevated me to the Office of Faithful Captain. As your Captain, I am also the Assembly Program Director. To help carry out this responsibility, and offer the members additional opportunities to carry out the Patriotic portion of our Order's mandates, I would like to introduce three new programs, including a scholarship at Ocean County College for a returning veteran, a poster program for children at the various Catholic elementary schools in Ocean County that would deal with Patriotism, and third, a recognition program for merchants in our area who display, in an outstanding manner, Patriotism to our country.

If the Assembly agrees to begin these programs, I will need chairmen. Please volunteer to help increase recognition of our Flag and devotion to our Country. If anyone has ideas for additional programs, especially fundraisers, please let me know.

We need to start planning for Bernie Ernsts' Past Faithful Navigators recognition banquet. After asking Bernie what his wishes are, I would like to have his banquet sometime before the end of October. This is usually a gala affair, including formal wear, and I will expect an excellent turnout for Bernie.

I know we talked about having a fish fry as a fundraiser sometime in August, however, because of the fish odor, it would have to be held outside of the Church. I've looked into this and it would not be cost-effective because we would have to hire a caterer. This would be prohibitive given the limited amount of money currently in our treasury.

As an alternative, and given the number of good cooks in our Assembly, I would like to offer up a fried chicken dinner with all the trimmings at either St. Martha's in Pt. Pleasant or Holy Family in Lakewood. Certainly, the Church not selected for this dinner would be chosen for the next fundraiser. I will leave these location decisions up to the Assembly.

I also want to increase attendance at our meetings. To do this, I will ask the Assembly, as with all of my ideas, to consider giving away two bottles of wine. The brothers would be randomly selected through a drawing and must be attending the meeting.

I am very much looking forward to working with you to serve the Lord, our God in the new program year.

Vivat Jesus!
S.K. William Wright
Faithful Captain



Color Corps Commanders Report

Brothers,

As I write this, I feel I must comment on the lack of participation by the members of this Color Corps. It seems like the enthusiasm once felt by the members has wilted somewhat. When there is a callout lately, there is usually only a couple of our Color Corps there. At the last callout, granted it was short notice, but only Mark Brown and myself were there in Colors. Rene Castellano and Tom Lorenc were there also. Is there a problem?

It seems that when we have a callout, there is always something else to do. Now, I realize you have family and work commitments, and some of our Corps has health issues, but there are some that just don't come out, unless the callout is in their own backyard. We must enlist some new members of the Assembly to our Color Corps.

Anyone wishing to join our Color Corps. Please call me at (732) 477-6304, or email me at colorcorpscommander@kofc-a2143.org

John A. Gazis, P.F.N.

Faithful Comptrollers Message

Brother Sir Knights,

As of this writing, some of our Brothers haven't sent in their dues yet. I sent out dues notices again, trying to get everyone caught up to date. Third notices will be going out this month, and shortly after that I will have to drop the non-dues paying members. This is not what we want to do, but I write the members, and called some, but got no response from them. I will write and call them all again. Hopefully they will remit their dues and start being involved in the Assembly.

The Assembly needs this money to perform the charitable acts we try to do every year. This money also helps us at the Exemplification in November.

To those that have sent their dues in already, thank you for your promptness.

We have a new board of Officers, and I feel we will make some strides this year in putting our name in front of the communities we serve as an Assembly. To do this, we need your help. Your participation in the Assembly is vital to the tasks before us. We need your input, and ideas, to grow as an Assembly. Please come to meetings and make your voice heard. If you want to attend a meeting, but can't due to transportation issues, feel free to call me and let's see what we can work out.

Our Installation of Officers will be held Saturday, August 16, at the Church of St. Martha. The Assembly Members and Officers will attend 5p.m. Mass, and the Installation ceremony will be after Mass. After the Installation, dinner will be served in the All-Purpose room. Please come out and meet the new Officers.

On the weekend of November 8 – 9, 2008, the Second New Jersey District will hold the annual Exemplification Weekend at the Eatontown Sheraton. The new Master of the Second New Jersey District will be in Office as of September, and we would like to have a large class of candidates this year. The Honoree this year will be the current Master, Steven Richardson. Let's try to have a large class and show the District, and Former Master Richardson our support.

I hope you all have a wonderful Summer, and remember to help out those in need during the coming months.

John A. Gazis, PFN
Faithful Comptroller

Faithful Officers

| <u>Office</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>E-Mail</u> |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Faithful Navigator</i> | S.K. Gary Rhodes | faithfulnavigator@kofc-a2143.org |
| <i>Faithful Captain</i> | S.K. William Wright | faithfulcaptain@kofc-a2143.org |
| <i>Faithful Pilot</i> | S.K. John Romando | faithfulpilot@kofc-a2143.org |
| <i>Faithful Purser</i> | S.K. Robert Kehoe | faithfulpurser@kofc-a2143.org |
| <i>Faithful Comptroller</i> | S.K. John A. Gazis, PFN | faithfulcomptroller@kofc-a2143.org |
| <i>Faithful Admiral</i> | S.K. Bernard Ernst | faithfuladmiral@kofc-a2143.org |
| <i>Faithful Scribe</i> | S.K. James Spataro | faithfulscribe@kofc-a2143.org |
| <i>Faithful Inner Sentinel</i> | S.K. Mark Brown | |
| <i>Faithful Outer Sentinel</i> | S.K. Brian Harper | faithfulsentinel@kofc-a2143.org |
| <i>Faithful Trustee</i> | S.K. Rene Castellano | faithfultrustee3@kofc-a2143.org |
| <i>Faithful Trustee</i> | S.K. Richard Mastronardi | faithfultrustee2@kofc-a2143.org |
| <i>Faithful Trustee</i> | S.K. Deacon Vincent Ricciardi, PFN | faithfultrustee1@kofc-a2143.org |

From the Desk of Deacon Vince

The Death and Rebirth of Self

Sometimes a part of us must die before another part can come to life. Even though this is a natural and necessary part of our growth, it is often painful or, if we don't realize what's happening, confusing and disorienting. In fact, confusion and disorientation are often the messengers that tell us a shift is taking place within us. These shifts happen throughout the lives of all humans, as we move from infancy to childhood to adolescence and beyond. With each transition from one phase to another, we find ourselves saying good-bye to an old friend, the identity that we formed in order to move through that particular time.

Sometimes we form these identities in relationships or jobs, and when we shift those areas of our life become unsettled. Usually, if we take the time to look into the changing surface of things, we will find that a shift is taking place within us. For example, we may go through one whole chapter of our lives creating a protective shell around ourselves because we need it in order to heal from some early trauma. One day, though, we may find ourselves feeling confined and restless, wanting to move outside the shelter we needed for so long; the new part of ourselves cannot be born within the confines of the shell our old self needed to survive.

We may feel a strange mixture of exhilaration and sadness as we say good-bye to a part of ourselves that is dying and make way for a whole new identity to emerge in its place. We may find inspiration in working with the image of an animal who molts or sheds in order to make way for new skin, fur, or feathers to emerge. For example, keeping a duck feather, or some other symbol of transformation, can remind us that death and rebirth are simply nature's way of evolving. We can surrender to this process, letting go of our past self with great love and gratitude, and welcoming the new with an open mind and heart, ready for our next phase of life.

As a Deacon I have been told, to follow Jesus have to die to myself in order to allow Jesus to be more present in myself. That Jesus must shine through and I must not allow myself to be seen. Simply, we must become the New Jesus of today! Awesome when you stop and think of what if we could be the new Jesus. Then reality sets in and wonder how many people would believe we come in his name? Believe it or not many Deacons would have a very hard time becoming the New Jesus. Many could not give up what they have accumulated over the years. Just imagine asking the deacon to leave his family and go out to find the lost sheep.

Dying to one self is hard enough, trying to transform from here to there. Doubt sets in and then confusion. We as deacons begin to question ourselves is this what I am call to? Am I worthy of serving Jesus? Who am I to spread the words of the gospel? Only when we come to prayer do we hear the Lord telling us Good and Worthy servant I am proud of your service, continue on and know that I am with you always. Our dying is over for this period of our life until a new transformation comes into our lives and the cycle starts over.

My dear Brothers and Sisters never fear the changes that comes to you from God, they are learning times to share with one and other. Remember, "Where there are two or three are gathered I am there among you" Jesus is always with each of us. When we are at our lowest Jesus is there to carry us.

As our summers get well under way, please be careful while driving, you know what you are doing, but you have no idea what the other guy is doing. While at a picnic or outings make sure there is a designated driver if you are going to drink, we want you to have all the good spirit you want, but in prayer or at church not from a bottle. Each of you are precious to us, your family and most of all to God. So please think before you drive or consume too much.

May almighty God bless you and your families. May the good Lord watch over you and keep you safe. May the blessing of God the Father, God the Son and the God the Holy Spirit remain with you always.

Deacon Vincent P. Ricciardi, Sr., E.A.D.M., PFN

July 2008

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|-----------|
| | | Jul 1 7:30pm Council 8415 Business Meeting | 2 Council 11527 Business Meeting | 3 | 4 Fourth of July | 5 |
| 6 | 7 8pm Assembly 2143 Meeting | 8 | 9 | 10 A.C. Bus Trip ~ Harrah's Council 7926 Business Meeting | 11 | 12 |
| 13 7am-11am Family Breakfast ~ 7926 | 14 Ocean County Chapter Meeting | 15 6:30pm- Council 8415 Social Meeting | 16 Council 11527 Social Meeting | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 A.C. Bus Trip ~ Taj Mahal Council 7926 Social Meeting | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

August 2008

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|--|---|-----|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 8 pm Assembly 2143 Meeting | 5 <u>Supreme Convention</u> 7:30pm Council 8415 Business Meeting | 6 <u>Supreme Convention</u> 8pm Council 11527 Meeting | 7 <u>Supreme Convention</u> | 8 | 9 |
| 10 7am- 11am Family Breakfast ~ 7926 | 11 Ocean County Chapter – Installation @7926 8 pm | 12 | 13 | 14 A.C. Bus Trip ~ Trump Marina Council 7926 Meeting | 15 | 16 Assembly Installation of Officers 5p.m. Mass |
| 17 | 18 | 19 6:30pm- Council 8415 Social Meeting | 20 Council 11527 Social Meeting | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 A.C. Bus Trip ~ Taj Mahal Council 7926 Social Meeting | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | Sep 1 Labor Day | <u>2</u> | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |