



Our Lady of Lourdes



Assembly 2143

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FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR'S MESSAGE

Deacon Vincent Ricciardi

It is our natural inclination to judge people, since it happens without our even thinking about it. We take one look and summarize a whole person—overweight, pretty, stylish, and sloppy. This habit comes from the mind's need to categorize the world in order to be able to function without becoming overwhelmed. When we judge, we are looking for pertinent information, trying to determine whether the person approaching is a threat, an ally, or someone we don't need to worry about. This way of looking at people makes sense in a dangerous context, but in our daily lives it leads to an overly simplistic reading of the people we meet.

If you have ever judged someone dismissively, only to have them become a dear friend once you got to know them, you know the hazards of the judgment cycle firsthand. An experience like that may have led you to soften your natural tendency to believe your first impressions. We will always notice things about the people we meet, but as we become more conscious of the shortcomings of judgment, we won't be satisfied with our surface observations. We may notice that someone is driving an expensive car, but we will decide whether to befriend her based on getting to know her over time. We will not rule out a friendship with someone with messy hair, especially if he turns out to have a great sense of humor and a kind heart. Liking or disliking a person is a choice you will naturally make, but it will be after you have gotten to know them.

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Assembly Schedule

Meetings 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 15, 2007
Monday, February 5, 2007
Monday March 5, 2007

FAITHFUL NAVIGATORS MESSAGE (cont)

Next time you notice yourself judging somebody, try to send love, light, or blessings to the person you were judging. Then try to listen to them openly or look them in the eye and learn something about them. If this is not easy for you, remember not to judge yourself either. Trust that with practice, you will successfully disable your habitual patterns. As you do, you will find a whole new dimension of perception opening up to you, allowing you to see beyond the surface and into the essence of the people you meet.

Last month, our Assembly welcomed 2 new members. Sir Knight William Wright, with Lady Kathleen, and Sir Knight Mario Pontecorvo, with Lady Julia, joined our Assembly. The Degree in Eatontown was beautiful, as it always is. Welcome Brother Sir Knights and Ladies.

I would like to congratulate Past Faithful Navigator Robert Murray for receiving the FIRST "Star Assembly Award of Excellence". I was honored to accept the award for the Assembly at the Exemplification Banquet. Thank you, P.F.N. Murray, for your hard work in the Assembly to accomplish all that you and your staff set out to do. Bravo!!!

It's CHRISTMASS time again!!! NOT happy holidays. Let us remember that Jesus did not judge anyone. Jesus came to save the world and to open up the gates of Heaven for us all. So in His name, wish everyone you meet a VERY MERRY CHRISTMASS and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Let us forget the words of happy holiday, holiday did not die for us, holiday was not nailed to a cross for us and holiday is not our SAVIOR.

God Bless and have a VERY MERRY CHRISTMASS and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Hope to see you all at our Ladies Appreciation Dinner Dance in February.

Next Meeting January 15, 7:30 p.m. at Holy Family in Lakewood. I can't tell you what there will be to eat, come and find out. So far everything has been very tasty.

Please continue to Prayer for our Military and their families.

**May God bless you and your families,
Deacon Vincent P. Ricciardi, Sr.
Faithful Navigator**

Faithful Captains Message

Last Knight Standing

Having recently served as a casket guard for quite a few Brothers the past four months, including twice while still in a wheelchair, I was struck at how very few Color Corp members we actually have to draw from on a moments notice. Basically, we have no depth in our backfield.

Sure, we can rally the troops when someone “really important dies”, but what about Joe Schmo? We can barely get 2 or 3 together.

Participation in the two parades, although scheduled, and announced a full year in advance, has likewise dwindled. This is not just in our Assembly, I have seen it in the other area Assemblies. I witnessed it first hand at last month’s Exemplification in Eatontown

Admittedly my current condition precludes even me from being capable of long marches or parades, but isn’t that the point? Many of the old-faithful have become too old; too sick; too infirm...or they have passed on. We are not lining up our replacements. We are, in effect, abandoning our post without having been relieved.

The problem begins with recruitment. We must participate in ALL the degrees. Talk to the new members as they move up through the ranks. Be visible!

It is unfortunate that, as they advance through the degrees, the candidates keep hearing over only three degrees. Yet, as we all know, there have been four degrees since 1900.

We need to talk it up at our Council meetings, how many sit on their hands month after month when the Grand Knight calls for a “Report on the Fourth Degree”? How many are aware that there are videos available from Supreme that can be shown during a social, especially when the family is in attendance.

We MUST get more men into the Assembly; we MUST encourage them to join the Color Corp; or you might just be the last Knight standing.

**Bernard J. Ernst
Faithful Captain**

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Council 3826 - Council 3826 is hosting a 10 day trip to the Panama Canal on the Coral Princess, **February 27 - March 10, 2007**. Itinerary includes: Cozumel; Grand Cayman; Limon; the Panama Canal; Cristobal; and Montego Bay. For information or reservations, contact Charles Serwin, P.G.K. (609) 978-0970

Council 8415 – Council 8415 hosts Simons Kitchen Tuesday and Friday nights. Simon’s kitchen is a free Fellowship dinner, served to all who wish to attend. Also, On December 12, the Council will be hosting a 1st Degree.

Council 7926 – The Council will also be preparing Christmas dinners for those that sign up at the Parish Office.

Faithful Comptrollers Message

Brothers,

Dues notices are being prepared to go out. Please return them with your dues as soon as possible. Traveling cards will be issued shortly after I receive Dues payment.

Our Assembly has 2 new members. Mario Pontecorvo, with Lady Julia, and William Wright, with Lady Kathleen at the Exemplification on November 12. The afternoon was great fun for both the new Sir Knights and their Ladies. At the Exemplification Banquet, Faithful Navigator Deacon Vincent Ricciardi accepted the Star Assembly Award for P.F.N. Robert Murray. The plaque will be on display at the Church of St. Martha, and it will move to its new home with P.F.N. Murray shortly. We are in the process of planning Bob's P.F.N. Dinner. As soon as we secure a date that Bob and his wife are available, we will pass it along to the membership. Please come out and show Bob how much we appreciate the job he did as Faithful Navigator.

The Assembly is in the process of planning a Ladies Appreciation Night. This will be in February. It is going to be a sit-down dinner, and is being planned as a way of saying "Thank you" to the Ladies of the Assembly. We want to acknowledge that without the Ladies and their support in our activities. S.K. Michael Tuohy has been asked by Faithful Navigator Ricciardi to chair this event.

Our next meeting will be held in the white building on the grounds of Holy Family Church in Lakewood.

I hope to see you all at the meetings and our events.

**John A. Gazis, P.F.N.
Faithful Comptroller**

COLOR CORPS COMMANDERS REPORT

Worthy Sir Knights,

We recently held the Annual Exemplification of the Fourth Degree in Eatontown on November 12. Everyone enjoyed the weekend. The color Corps came out in full force. The Mass and the Exemplification went off without a problem.

Our Assembly has 2 District Deputies as members. Each District Deputy will be hosting the Divine Mercy Icon for 2 weeks. The Color Corps is usually invited to escort the Icon into the Church. I will be calling our Color Corps after I get the dates from the D.D.'s.

We are always looking for new members of the Color Corps. Anyone wishing to join the Color Corps can call me at (609) 597-1197.

**Edward F. Kelly, K.H.S., P.F.N.
Color Corps Commander**

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

Michael J. Tuohy	Dec. 7
Brian J. Harper	Dec. 8
Steven R. Kelly	Dec. 20
Jesus Christ	Dec. 25
Joseph LoBianco	Dec. 26

JANUARY

Anthony J. Castellano	Jan. 19
John A. Rentschler	Jan. 19
Lionel J. Coty	Jan. 24
Thomas J. Lorenc	Jan. 25
John M. Valdora	Jan. 30

FEBRUARY

Thomas R. Bishop	Feb. 7
Reynold F. Castellano	Feb 13

Assembly Officer's

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
<u>Faithful Navigator</u>	<u>S.K. Vincent Ricciardi</u>	<u>faithfulnavigator @kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Faithful Captain</u>	<u>S.K. Bernard Ernst</u>	<u>faithfulcaptain @kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Faithful Pilot</u>	<u>S.K. Gary Rhodes</u>	
<u>Faithful Scribe</u>	<u>S.K. Robert Kehoe</u>	<u>faithfulscribe @kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Faithful Admiral</u>	<u>S.KS.K Frank Cicalese</u>	<u>faithfuladmiral @kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Faithful Comptroller</u>	<u>S.K. John Gazis, P.F.N.</u>	<u>faithfulcomptroller @kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Faithful Purser</u>	<u>S.K. Albert DelTufo</u>	<u>faithfulpurser @kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Faithful Inner Sentinel</u>	<u>S.K. Mark Brown</u>	
<u>Faithful Outer Sentinel</u>	<u>S.K. Bryan Harper</u>	<u>faithfulsentinel @kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Faithful 3 Yr Trustee</u>	<u>S.K. Warren Frey</u>	<u>faithful3yrtrustee@kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Faithful 2 Yr Trustee</u>	<u>S.K. Richard Mastronardi</u>	<u>faithful2yrtrustee@kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Faithful 1 Yr Trustee</u>	<u>S.K. Bryan Dickerson</u>	<u>faithful1yrtrustee@kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Color Corps Commander</u>	<u>S.K. Edward Kelly, K.H.S.</u>	

WARRENS WORLD

How old is Grandpa???

Stay with this -- the answer is at the end. It will blow you away.

One evening a grandson was talking to his grandfather about current events. The grandson asked his grandfather what he thought about the shootings at schools, the computer age, and just things in general.

The Grandfather replied, "Well, let me think a minute, I was born before: television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, Frisbees and, the pill.

There were no: credit cards, laser beams or ball-point pens.

Man had not invented: pantyhose, air conditioners, dishwashers, clothes dryers, clothes were hung out to dry in the fresh air and man hadn't yet walked on the moon.

People got married first, . . . and then lived together.

Every family had a father and a mother.

Until I was 25, I called every man older than me, "Sir".

And after I turned 25, I still called every man older than me, "Sir"

We were before gay-rights, computer- dating, dual careers, daycare centers, and group therapy.

Our lives were governed by the Ten Commandments, good judgment, and common sense.

We were taught to know the difference between right and wrong and to stand up and take responsibility for our actions.

Serving your country was a privilege; living in this country was a bigger privilege.

We thought fast food was what people ate during Lent.

Having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins.

Draft dodgers were people who closed their front doors when the evening breeze started.

Time-sharing meant time the family spent together in the evenings and weekends-not purchasing condominiums.

We never heard of FM radios, tape decks, CDs, electric typewriters, yogurt, or guys wearing earrings.

We listened to the Big Bands, Jack Benny, and the President's speeches on our radios.

And I don't ever remember any kid blowing his brains out listening to Tommy Dorsey.

If you saw anything with 'Made in Japan ' on it, it was junk.

The term 'making out' referred to how you did on your school exam. ?

Pizza Hut, McDonald's, and instant coffee were unheard of.

We had 5&10-cent stores where you could actually buy things for 5 and 10 cents.

Ice-cream cones, phone calls, rides on a streetcar, and a Pepsi were all a nickel.

And if you didn't want to splurge, you could spend your nickel on enough stamps to mail 1 letter and 2 postcards.

You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600, . . . but who could afford one?

Too bad, because gas was 11 cents a gallon.

In my day: "grass" was mowed, "coke" was a cold drink,

"pot" was something your mother cooked in and "rock music" was your grandmother's lullaby.

"Aids" were helpers in the Principal's office, "chip" meant a piece of wood, "hardware" was found in a hardware store and "software" wasn't even a word.

And we were the last generation to actually believe that a lady needed a husband to have a baby. No wonder people call us "old and confused" and say there is a generation gap... and how old do you think I am?

I bet you have this old man in mind...you are in for a shock!

Read on to see -- pretty scary if you think about it and pretty sad at the same time.

This man would be only 59 years old