



SAINT-MALO



Newsletter - Sep/Oct 2020
0860 Assemblée Cartier Assembly 0860
Fall Edition

Faithful Navigator's Message

Greeting Sir Knights

I hope you and your families are doing well under the present circumstances and hope all sir knights and their family will come through this period well and unscathed. Praying for each other continually is encouraged, as it is not always known who is suffering in silence. Perhaps you know of a sir knight who is in need of our prayers.



I would like to take this opportunity, to thank the Executive and Members for their support over the past fraternal year.

To say the least, it has been an interesting and challenging time for the 2019/2020 fraternal year, with the emergence of the COVID 19 virus in mid-March. It has brought about much change and, it seems, there are continual adjustments to be made in our daily activities, in order to stay healthy and safe.

In September of 2019, Cartier Assembly hosted a joint Installation of Officers Ceremony with four other assemblies in the Ottawa area - including Archbishop J.L. Wilhelm Assembly #2783, Smith Falls. It was good to see a number of spouses in attendance, as well.

An unexpected electrical contracting bill for updates in the shared chambers - assembly and council - resulted in a small budget shortfall for the past fraternal year. However, the assembly remains in a solid financial position. With the change in dues assessment from the calendar to fraternal year, close attention will be paid to the current proposed budget.

The annual November Memorial Mass took place, with a social following immediately afterwards. This was the second year for a combined Mass for deceased assembly and council members and honoring deceased members of St. Patrick's Basilica Parish.

The Assembly December general meeting and Christmas social was held the first Thursday of the month. The third Thursday of the month is the Assembly's general meeting date, but in December it is too close Christmas - a very busy time of year.

Early in 2020, planning included a start to updating of the Assembly Bylaws; and, preliminary outlining of plans for our 100th Anniversary Celebration (January 2022), with an exemplification and banquet in June of 2022.

With the COVID 19 pandemic, elections in May were conducted by phone and online contact with the membership. The process was kept as normal as possible, with the usual call for nominations. Three new members were added to the executive.

Prior to COVID 19, a number of honor guards were held. After the start of the pandemic, activity has been severely limited, there being attendance at one or two funerals.

Assembly business has been regularly attended to by the executive officers, via virtually meetings. Life, although far from normal during this pandemic, moves on. Assembly matters are being dwelt with as best as can be expected and within a reasonable time frame. Regrettably, events lost were the Archbishop's Dinner, Ladies Night and Year-end Social.

I would like to welcome, our newest members of the executive: our new Faithful Friar, Rev. Fr. Pierre Champoux, a long-time member of the Assembly; Andre Richer as third year Trustee; and, Michel Lavoie our Newly Appointed Faithful Patron. I would be remiss if I didn't thank Fr. Lindsay Harrison as our retiring Faithful Friar for his continued guidance, and S/K Michael Ferrigan for his support and stellar dedication as retiring Faithful Patron.

I welcome our newest Sir Knights and bid a fond farewell to the members we have lost due to death, as well as best wishes to those who have transferred or retired from the 4th degree.

For the upcoming fraternal year: a balanced budget will be presented at the September general meeting and voted on in October; finalization of the updated assembly bylaws ; most importantly, increasing attention to the planning of our 100th anniversary celebration; and, placing as much emphasis as possible on the recruiting of new members to the 4th degree. The number of sir knights with the new regalia is slowly increasing, but if you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to ask.

I look forward to the current fraternal year with faith and hope that, through prayer and perseverance, we can experience another successful year!

Fraternally,

SK Finley Kavanagh, Faithful Navigator

P.S. An important event took place on Friday Sept. 4th, not only was it a day of prayer and fasting for the people of Lebanon as requested by Pope Francis, but also a film crew was here at St. Patrick's Basilica filming the Honoris and the Knights' devotion to Fr. Michael J. McGivney hopefully to be finished editing for Oct. 31st the date Fr. McGivney will be Beatified in Connecticut. The commemoration will include the reading of an apostolic letter from Pope Francis.

God Bless you and your family.

Finley Kavanagh

From the Desk of the Faithful Friar

Sir Knights:

2020 will be known as the year the world stood still, as the CORONA-19 pandemic took its toll on every aspect of our lives, on a global scale. The good news? Jesus Christ is not bound by the pandemic, and He continues to call disciples to follow Him, and priests to serve His People in the Church. These are some of the things happening:



1. **College Council** - Carleton University now has its first Knights of Columbus College Council, called St. Jude's Council.
2. **CCO and Campus Chaplaincy** - I've linked up with Patrick Peori of CCO Carleton, to discuss how campus chaplaincy and CCO can work together during pandemic.
3. **RSVP program** - Knights of Columbus councils in the Ottawa area are free to help seminarians from the Cornwall or Alexandria area, or any other area within the boundaries of the newly formed Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall. RSVP cheques can be sent to the English or French pastoral services of the Archdiocese, and the cheque will be given to the seminarian of choice.
4. **Seminarians** - With Fr. Jonathon Kelly being recently ordained (Aug. 6 Holy Redeemer), the seminarians in the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall for 2020-21 are:
 - a. Diego Rebeles, Transitional Diaconate, Oct. 4. 5:00pm. ND Cath.
 - b. Steven Gaudet, 4th Theol, St. Peter's
 - c. Connor O'Hara, 3rd Theol., St. Augustine's
 - d. Marc Gaudet, 3rd Theol., St. Peter's
 - e. Kevin Burgess, 3rd Theol., St. Peter's
 - f. Francis Leroux, internship under Fr. Hasina Rakotoarisoa
 - g. Michael Nacheff internship under Fr. Kevin Maloney, St. Francis de Sales, Cornwall
 - h. Polux Jean Baptiste internship
5. With the immanent closure of the Diocesan Centre (1247 Kilborn Place) being set for early December, I've transferred my Vocations office to an off-site location. I can be reached at the same numbers (c613-558-1445 or vocations@archottawa.ca)

Fr. Pierre Champoux,

Faithful Friar, Cartier Assembly

Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall

Faithful Comptroller's Report

Greetings, sir knights.

With the on-set of the corona-19 virus pandemic and there being no live executive or general meetings (September being the exception), I was of the opinion things would be quieter than normal. Not so! There is much work going on which sir knights may not be aware of and likely do not want to be bored with all the details. Suffice it to say, the work of the assembly continues just as if there were no pandemic.



Notably, though, a narrative has been completed on the workings of Member Billing, for the advantage of the Faithful Navigator, Faithful Purser and Trustees. Understanding how the system works allows for a more informed working relationship for those mentioned above, in dealing with the finances of the Assembly.

Dues assessment notices are in the midst of a transition from calendar year to fraternal year. Sometime after the 15th of December 2020, a six-month dues assessment will be sent out, followed by a full year assessment after the 15 June 2021. Particular attention will be given to this transition, as there are a number of sir knights who have already effectively made the transition.

The assembly is moving along in catching up with outstanding dues assessments. Retention is most important and is the desire of the assembly. Collection of dues is not an easy job, and I so appreciate the willingness of sir knights to engage in a dialogue to address their needs as well as that of the assembly.

When the ammonium nitrate storage building(s) at the port of Beirut exploded, eventually two-hundred were reported killed and sixty-five hundred persons were injured, not to mention the extensive property damage in the billions of dollars and the homelessness caused by this event.

Plan International Canada Inc. ran a relief fund where each donation would be doubled in value. Cartier Assembly contributed \$150.00 towards this cause. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the entire Lebanese people and their families, including our brother knights here in Ottawa.

New membership remains a priority. Between transfers and candidates, the assembly will shortly welcome four new members. Membership currently stands at two-hundred and twenty-five sir knights. If you are aware of a prospect, please contact the assembly in a timely fashion. The attitude of moving ahead in spite of the pandemic and any restrictions set - now or in the future - must prevail. Let us not drag our feet. If you have a question, please do not delay. Ask!

Fraternally,

SK Henry Kinsella, Faithful Comptroller
Cartier Assembly 860

First Pandemic Face-to-Face General Meeting

The first Cartier Assembly General Meeting of the 2020/21 Fraternal year was held on September 17th, 2020, in the Scavi of St. Patrick's Basilica. This was the first face-to-face meeting since February. The COVID compliant layout and the meeting itself was very well organized thanks to the care of SK Michael Ferrigan and SK Tom Kavanagh.

Father Pierre Champoux, as Faithful Friar replacing Father Lindsay Harrison, delivered his first report to an Assembly General Meeting. He emphasized support to seminarians in the Archdiocese of Cornwall-Ottawa through the RSVP program. The Faith Navigator, SK Finley Kavanagh, advised that the Installation of Officers will likely be on-line this year. After reports from the Faithful Comptroller and Faithful Purser, he continued a well-thought-out agenda and led a concise yet useful discussion on the various items. These items included updates on the Assembly Bylaws rewrite, planning for the 100th Anniversary and Exemplification in 2022, the Memorial Mass in November and the proposed Budget for FY 2020/2021. The detailed 3rd degree presentations from Council representatives were interesting and gave good insight into the approaches taken to ensure the operations of the Council were still relevant and deemed worthwhile by members in the stressful COVID-19 environment. We were happy to see loyal members who were present despite understandable anxiety caused by the current COVID-19 situation. Unfortunately, the sum of all present did not meet quorum and approval of certain financial items had to be deferred.

The wide separation between seats, the distance to the furthest seat, the loss of sound in such a large chamber, and the noise of a fan running in the kitchen area may have caused some difficulty in hearing words spoken at the head table. These factors will have to be considered in planning similar meetings in the future. SK Ferrigan prepared and served coffee and water after the end of the meeting in an elegant, COVID compliant and most pleasant way. All in all, an interesting, worthwhile and rather different evening.

Mike Proctor
F. Scribe

Articles of Interest

Documentary Filming of the Honoris

The Knights of Columbus Supreme Council have announced a new film on the life of The Venerable Michael J McGivney.

They hope to have it out for viewing prior to October 31, 2020. As soon as any confirmed schedule is made known, the information will be posted.

It would appear Supreme is including various centres that honour our Venerable Founder. The professional film crew utilized on behalf of Supreme were in the Scavi at St. Patrick's Basilica on September 4, 2020, for filming and interviews.

Bro. David Peters, State Deputy and Bro. Bruce Poulin (Ottawa), State Treasurer, were in attendance along with Msgr. Kevin Beach. Msgr. Beach, a member of the Honoris Committee, was kind enough to arrange the opening of the Scavi. Strict guidelines were in place to protect all who were present. This included all representatives and attendees from various quarters, as well as support staff for the film crew. A hearty 'thank you' to all who lent their time and presence, in making a tedious and lengthy day, a very successful one.

Vivat Jesus

S/K Michael O'Neill

Honoris Committee Chairman

Eva Konopacki's Gallant, Nine-week Resistance in Occupied Poland

Seventy-six years ago, she was an 18-year-old high school student and a soldier in the Polish Home Army, the occupied country's largest underground resistance movement. —(Andrew Duffy, *Ottawa Citizen* July 29th, 2020)

On the front page of the *Ottawa Citizen*, Wednesday, July 29, 2020, appeared the picture of Eva Konopacki, a retired teacher, and a 94-year old resident of Ottawa. Her husband, Thaddeus Konopacki, was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He took his 1st degree November 1960 (Council 5558) and his 4th degree October 1969 (Assembly 860). Sadly, he passed away December 2014.



The newspaper headline read "Warsaw Uprising of 1944 'a national thing,' survivor says. The article was a most interesting and enlightening story of Eva Konopacki's personal story of her direct involvement in the nine-week war against the Nazis, serving as part of the 50,000-strong Home Army.

Previously, there was an article posted by The Canadian Press - Aug 28, 2009 - and referenced Poland's highest military honour, the Silver Order of Wituti Militari, being bestowed upon Eva for her exemplary act of personal bravery. Eva had been providing signals support to the Resistance, installing and operating telephone systems and continually repairing lines cut by the relentless shelling. When the lines could no longer be restored, she acted as a courier conveying messages through the rubble between elements of the Resistance. When soldiers taking cover in a fortified convent came under bombardment from Nazi armour, the commander of Konopacki's troop was most reluctant to order soldiers to duty because of the continuing shelling and instead asked for volunteers to personally contact survivors in the building and



determine their status. "I preferred to do something rather than to sit," Konopacki says, explaining her decision to take-on the task at hand.

After the Resistance surrendered, Eva was captured and spent time at the Gross-Lubars camp near Magdeburg and later, Stalag VIC Oberlangen. Freedom came on April 12, 1945. Following the war, Eva Konopacki completed her high school education in Italy, earning a history degree at the National University of Ireland. She received her teaching certificate and moved to Trinidad and taught high school.

In 1954, Eva immigrated to Canada, arriving in Montreal. There she met her husband, Thaddeus, an architect. He, himself, was an officer of the Warsaw Underground Army (AK), spent time in a prisoner of war camp and was later decorated with the Cross of Valour. Thaddeus immigrated to Canada in 1951, with Montreal being his destination.



Eva and Thaddeus, over the sixty years of their marriage, lived a most full, storied, and charitable life. There are too many stories to tell in such a short narrative.

Thankfully, considering her age of 94, Eva Konopacki remains relatively healthy and full of zeal. Recently, Eva's daughter Margaret, a videographer, created a video called *CRAZY BRAVE - My Mothers Story - Ewa Poninska-Konopacki*. If you query this title on You Tube, the thirty-three minute video will be available to you.

At a time when the number of WWII veterans are now greatly reduced, to have and experience the testimony of an Eva Konopacki, is a great blessing. Thank you, Eva!

In God's time

9/25/2020

by Father Jonathan D. Kalisch, OP | Director of Chaplains and Spiritual Development

<https://www.kofc.org/en/news-room/chaplain-report/index.html>

We are invited to reflect on the holy life of Father Michael J. McGivney at this moment in history.

Michael McGivney came of age just as soldiers were returning from the most bloody war fought on American soil. The eldest son of an immigrant family, he put off studying for the priesthood to support his family by working for three years in a spoon factory. Later, he attended the seminary, learning a foreign language to better serve the local people. The untimely death of his father foreshadowed a focus on family life that would become the hallmark of his priestly efforts.



When he became a parochial vicar, he was assigned to serving a parish in massive debt. He was just 29 years-old at the time, but he served his community well — by founding what would become one of the largest lay organization in the Catholic Church.

He was a priest whose zeal for souls led him to convert a convicted murderer. He was a preacher whose message of hope, charity and truth inspired the conversions of Yale undergraduates and the daughter of a Protestant clergyman. He was a man whom soldiers followed; a leader whose vision created room for new leaders to serve in new roles in the Church. He enjoyed baseball and skeet shooting, encouraged young adults to join drama and abstinence societies. He refused to permit the breakup of families.

As we prepare to celebrate the beatification of Father McGivney, I encourage you to preach about these aspects of the life of our holy founder. The Vatican-approved miracle on behalf of Mikey Schachle, the son of a brother Knight and General Insurance Agent Dan Schachle, provides additional focus for spiritual and pastoral engagement. Where possible, I hope you will work with your council to promote local and virtual events highlighting the life of Father McGivney, as well as lead a novena before his beatification.

May Father McGivney continue to intercede for each of us, and may his life and virtue call us to renewal of our own priesthoods.

Vivat Jesus!

Father Jonathan D. Kalisch