



## Meeting Minutes January 16, 2023

- 1 **Call to Order** – DGK McCarry at 7:03 pm. This Council 11564 Meeting was held in person in the Saints Simon and Jude Room of The Meehan Center and virtually thru a GoToMeeting link. There were **12 Attendees**, 11 in person and 1 virtual. This meeting also followed the New Format for Council Meetings per “The Guidelines for Council Meetings” from KOC Supreme.
- 2 **Opening Prayer** – Tom Lopez, Faith Director, led us in The Our Father, and offered a special prayer in honor of MLK Day.
- 3 **Pledge of Allegiance** - Led by DGK McCarry and recited by all Knights.
- 4 **Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting – A Motion** to accept the revised Minutes of the December 19, 2022 Council Meeting was unanimous. Minutes are included on the Knights website at <https://ssjknights.org> under the Council Pages (with private Password login).
- 5 **Chaplain’s Message** – Father Gerlach, our Chaplain – not present
- 6 **Grand Knight’s Report**
  - Council follows the format directed by Supreme per “The Guidelines for Council Meetings” to include two meetings per month: an **Officers’ Planning Meeting** (held 1/12/2023) and a regular **Council Meeting**. This is designed to streamline the flow of the regular monthly Council Meeting. **All Knights are invited to attend both meetings.**
  - Given the success and profitability of our Bingo fundraising, Council will **focus more on recruitment and helping more at SSJ School.**
  - A retreat is planned at **Malvern Retreat House** for SSJ Knights and Parishioners for **March 10-12, 2023** as a Holy Family Retreat which Council should start publicizing in January 2023.
  - **Hospitality Sunday was January 15 following the 9:30 Mass, including a Pulpit Talk** at Mass. Knights recruiting for new members while attending the Hospitality resulted in 12 leads with 3 very interested in joining Council 11564 immediately and 9 requesting more information about membership.
  - Our activities will continue to focus on recruiting new members including at the “**Pizza, Prayer and Play**” event for **SSJ School and PREP families on January 26 (repeating on Feb 16)** from 6- 7:30 in Monihan Hall. Knights have been invited by Sr. Barbara Jude to help serving pizza, running a religious bingo game, and with cleanup while helping host this SSJ Parish family activity.
  - In January, **Council returned to a 7:00 PM start for both monthly Council and OPM Meetings.** The plan is to provide an hour Council Meeting with 30 minutes of spiritual activity for an earlier return home.
  - Council received wonderful thank you cards from SSJ Sisters for the KOC Christmas Dinner and from Sister Mother Incarnation at St Veronica Parish for the coats and cleaning supplies which Council provided.
  - On **February 19** Council will provide a cooked **Pancake Breakfast for Cub Scout Pack 168** in the SSJ School cafeteria following the 9:30 Mass. Knights will be needed for setup, cooking, recruitment, and cleanup. Please volunteer.
- 7 **Financial Report**
  - **Charlie DiValerio, Treasurer** - Following a clarification of the CD due 3/23/2023 interest rate of 0.5% there was a **Motion presented and all accepted the Treasurer’s Report of December 2022.**
  - Ending Bank Balance \$23,864 / Reserve Fund \$3,069 / Bingo Petty Cash \$300/ 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Fund \$202 / Fourth Degree Uniform Fund \$2,087 / Available Cash Funds \$20,593 .
- 8 **Membership Report** - Joe Gothie, on behalf of Jim Bushong, reported receiving 9 contact cards for membership with 3 checked to read, “I want to become a member” during the Hospitality event. All were sent an email acknowledgement including a link to the Council website and a link to become an online member of the Knights. There was a **Motion** which passed unanimously to vote 3 candidates into Council including Seth Lengel, Virgil Taylor, and Johann Sedlmair. Two additional transfers into Council are expected next month. Membership Director Jim Bushong will be provided with contact information for the other 9 prospects for follow up.

## 9 FAITH IN ACTION PROGRAMS - OTHER REPORTS - Program Director Jim McCarry

- Sister Barbara Jude has offered Council the opportunity to recruit with table and KOC flyers at a **“Pizza, Prayer, & Play” event night on Thursdays, January 26 and February 16, 2023 for SSJ School and PREP Families**. DGK McCarry will contact Sister to discuss how Council may help.
- **Man Up Philly 2023, an Archdiocesan Catholic Men’s Conference, will be held on March 4 at Cardinal O’Hara High School in Springfield, PA**. Council has budgeted \$500 for 8-10 men of SSJ Parish to attend at no cost with the hope they will become Knights.
- The **Pro-Life March in Washington DC to be held January 20, 2023** will march to the steps of the Capitol.

Council activity continues from the former **Leave No Neighbor Behind** program including livestreaming the 9:30 Mass, Rosary Recital on selected Sunday evenings, PREP sessions, donation to Community and SSJ Parish activities, and promoting Blood Donation at SSJ Parish and via appointment thru the Red Cross website at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) for the Red Cross Donation Center (Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat) on Gay Street, West Chester.

### FAITH

- **Adoration Night for SSJ Knights** is every Thursday 5-6 PM. Regular SSJ Parish Eucharistic Adoration in the Sacred Heart Chapel is 7:30 am until 8pm, Monday thru Friday.
- **Rosary Recital times** are daily before the 9 am Mass; **Respect Life Rosary** every Monday night; **Flame of Love**, Thurs at 7pm.

#### - Rosary dates :

- **The Five First Saturday Fatima Devotions to Our Blessed Mother** began again on November 5 following the 9am Mass and continue on **February 4, 2023**. Tom has a booklet describing this Devotion of Our Blessed Mother’s request and the specific requirements.
- On **January 22, Sunday at 7 pm** there will be a Rosary live streamed from the Chapel (Chapel camera is now operational !) to be led by the Knights. Knight volunteers to lead Rosary decades are needed and all Knights are encouraged to attend.

-Future Faith events include a Rosary in February, “Pizza, Prayer & Play” nights for SSJ School and PREP families on Jan 26 and Feb 16, a repeat Consecration to St. Joseph for Lent starting February 15 thru March 19, and Parish Retreat in March at Malvern Retreat House.

### FAMILY

- For **Family of the Month** Sister Barbara Jude recommended a family and individual, **Jacqui Taylor and Family**. The award will be presented following the 11:30 Mass on January 29. All Knights are invited to be recognized at the presentation.
- Thanks to all Knights, especially Paul Bellino, for encouraging KOC presence to recruit new members at **Hospitality Sunday on Jan 15 !** This was coupled with a Pulpit Talk on the same Sunday to encourage new younger membership and charitable involvement.
- Paul has assembled a summary sheet/poster listing of activities, charities, and organizations which **“Our KOC Council 11564 Supports”** which has been utilized at Bingo, Hospitality Sunday, and other Council parish activities. This list of **“what Knights do”** will be further publicized to advertise Council’s support of SSJ Parish and provide support in recruiting new young fathers as Knights. Nice job, Paul !

### COMMUNITY

- **Joe Gothie, interim Community Director, hopes for a replacement Director for 2022-23**. Knight volunteers and help are requested!
- **Jonathan Little**, our newest online transfer Knight, who was instrumental in helping start **livestreaming at Mass** at SSJ, has **refreshed the KOC Website !** Thank you, Jonathan !
- **Austin Tomlinson** has volunteered to help with live streaming which can now include spiritual events from the Chapel, now operational..
- The **Warm Coat Drive** held November 26-27, **collected an estimated 300 new or slightly worn coats**. Coat donations included 72 Council-purchased coats to St Veronica Parish and the estimated 300 coats to Casa del Carmen, both located in Philadelphia. On Saturday, Dec 3, Knights Joe G, Ed L, Paul B, John E, Tom L, and Steve K met and delivered the donated coats. A picture of Sister and the St Veronica group was included in the SSJ Bulletin for all Parishioners to see and read of their generosity. Pictures were also submitted for publication to Keystone Knight at PA State Council and will be provided to Columbia Magazine.
- The **Basketball Free Throw Contest, Council Round**, was held in the SSJ Gym on **Jan 14 from 11:30 – 1:30**. Despite much advertising turnout was disappointing as the Catholic JV and Varsity BB teams were away competing. Knights’ help present was plentiful ! The **District Round will also be held at the SSJ Gym on Feb 18 at 9-11:30 am** and Knights’ help is needed.
- **Man Up Philly, a Men’s Spirituality Conference, will be held March 4 at Cardinal O’Hara High School**, with a star speaker lineup including Timothy Cardinal Dolan and Mass celebrated by Archbishop Nelson Perez. Council will sponsor the first eight Parish attendees.

## LIFE

- **Rose and Rosary – Baptisms** –All Baptisms are now again at the same 1PM time on Sunday, and the Rose & Rosary are presented at that time. Thanks to John Schneberger for presenting R&R on Sunday, Jan 15. No additional Baptisms are scheduled for January. Please volunteer when future dates are announced!
- The **March for Life in Washington DC will be January 20, 2023.**
- The Chester County March for Life will be Sunday, January 22, 2023, 2:30 at St Agnes Church, West Chester, PA.**
- **Man Up Philly** will be held **March 4 at Cardinal O’Hara High School** in Springfield, PA
- The movie, **“Mother Teresa – No Greater Love”**, is now available for purchase as a DVD, perhaps for an SSJ Parish showing ?

## COMMITTEES :

- **Retention Committee - Gordon Jefferes** - not present
- **Health Services Committee - Director Bill Aaronson** – not present
- **Fundraising Committee - Paul Bellino**

- **BINGO** – Bingo was held **Friday, January 13** with GK Hillanbrand as numbers caller and MC assisted by a spirited Sr. Barbara Jude for two games. It was a fun evening for all 156 players present. **Next Bingo is scheduled for February 17.** Announcements will be requested for the SSJ Sunday Bulletin and KK / Knights Korner for Bingo. **Council hopes that future Bingo events might be held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday night.** (Maybe March 17 as a St Patty’s theme Bingo ?) Knights’ help is always needed for set up, check-in, sales, seating, 50/50, and cleanup.

- **Social Committee - John Ellis** - (Perhaps if the Eagles play in the Superbowl there might be a Council sponsored social in The Meehan Center open to all parishioners which has been reserved for Sunday, February 12 ?).

**FOURTH DEGREE - Gordon Jefferes** – not present.

**INSURANCE AGENT - Jim Siermine** -not in attendance. Monthly emails continue from Jim on KOC insurance and financial benefits. A new Agent is expected to start in January, and Council hoped he might have attended Hospitality Sunday on January 15 to sell insurance.

**DISTRICT DEPUTY - Frank Bruno, new District 19 Deputy – not present**

-Joe Gothie on behalf of DD Frank Bruno advised that a request was sent from DD Frank Bruno to the Council to have 3 attendees at the **District Assembly Meeting at Schuyler Hall on February 8 at 7:30 pm.** GK Hillanbrand, DGK McCarry, and FS Joe Gothie are planning to attend.

**TRUSTEES’ REPORT - Dennis Kolesinskas, Bill Robinson, Ed Lack**

-PGK Dennis Kolesinskas advised the Trustees are responsible for **future Council Officers and Succession**, and that a slate of proposed officers would be needed for the April-May 2023 Council Meetings. Leadership as well as new members are needed, and discussion at the OPM considered how do we gather inactive Knights to even attend monthly Council meetings or to accept small projects. A list of Knights as potential and possible officer candidates should be reviewed at the next OPM. **Semi-annual Council Audit is due February 15.**

## 10 Unfinished Business

- A Council or SSJ Parish Retreat Weekend at **Malvern Retreat, March 10-12, 2023.** This will be the Holy Family Retreat which would be an SSJ Parish activity sponsored by Council.
- A Tootsie Roll Sale in March with Cub Scout Pack 168** is planned which is opportunity for mutual aid and benefit to each’s program.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Degree Uniform** commitments are expected from 4 Knights including Al DelFra, Jim Bushong, John Larkin, and Brian Popma which will utilize all remaining donations from Brother Al Greto in the **Fourth Degree Uniform Fund.**
- At the 1/12/2023 OPM Trustee Kolesinskas expressed concern for Council cash availability and utilization as a non-profit. Considerable discussion suggested possible funds use especially as **small/multiple “SSJ KOC Scholarship Award” Scholarships** presented at SSJ School graduation for students to attend a co-ed Catholic High School. Paul Bellino suggested a meeting in February to explore the best direction(s).

## 11 New Business

-**SSJ School will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala on Friday, January 20 in The Ballroom at Ellis Preserve, Newtown Square, PA.** The School Board and Home and School Association are seeking sponsors, donations, and attendees with costs ranging from \$1,000 to \$10K. Since

there is already \$1,000 budgeted by Council to The SSJ Annual Fund, this amount will be donated to this important fundraiser which will provide name recognition for Council 11564 on the H&SA website, in the sponsorship booklet, and at the Gala site [ssj60.com](http://ssj60.com). Council will also “gift” a fragrance basket valued at \$500.

- On **February 19** Council will provide a cooked **Pancake Breakfast for Cub Scout Pack 168** in the SSJ School cafeteria following the 9:30 Mass. Knights will be needed for setup, cooking, recruitment, and cleanup. Please volunteer.

## 12 Good of the Order

- **The following were presented for special prayers by SSJ KOC 11564 Knights** : Brother Deacon Joe Ruggiero, Brother Deacon Jim Owens, Brother Bill Robinson, Brother Al Greto, Brother Jim Bushong, Brother Bill Aaronson, Brother Charles McGuigan, Brother Hank Fisher, Trish Ruggiero and Family, Janet Sasin & Family, Maureen DeMaioribus & Family, Kathy Cellini & Family, Dolores DiGregorio & Family, Deacon Paul McBlain, Deacon Bill Shearer, Jenna Desmarais, Peter VanderHeide, Lee Gamma, John and Maureen Doran, Bob Magliano, Sara Purcell, Daniel Gallagher, Evan Anderson, Judy McCracken, Tonianne Santangelo, Lauren Dior, John McClanahan, Anna Piella, Ron Ellis, Teresa Toscani, Ross Family, Carole Shea, Jocelyn Gruver, Ron Avellino, Joann Alleva, Bob Ritter, Emily Rocco, Mary Lee, Paula Riley, Anne Cane, Drew Turack, Rob McCarry, Suzann Wickersham, Sheryl Fanelli, Gregory Krajnik, Robert Bellino, Joe and Sally Martino, Binnie Estrada, Leo Coyle, Phil D’Elia, Nick Juele, John McCann and Family.

## 13 Grand Knight’s Summary.

- With so many **Knight activities** GK Hillanbrand continues writing and emailing a **weekly summary to all Knights**, a great reminder for all with our busy calendars ! Thank you GK Hillanbrand !
- **Officers’ Planning Meetings** are held the week before our Council Meeting and any Knight may attend, not just Officers.  
**Next OPM will be Virtual, Wednesday, February 15, 2023**, 7:00 – 9PM.
- **Next Council Meeting - Monday, February 20, 2023 at 7:00 PM in The Meehan Center and Virtual.**

## 14 Closing Prayer – DGK McCarry read the “Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney”.

## 15 Adjournment – 8:03 PM



