



Meeting Minutes May 15, 2023

- 1 **Call to Order** – GK Hillanbrand at 7:05 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 **22 Attendees**, all in person. This meeting also followed the 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.
- 3 **Pledge of Allegiance** - Led by GK Hillanbrand and recited by all Knights.
- 4 **Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting** – A **Motion** to accept the revised Minutes of the April 17, 2023 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 – although not present, his presence was with us given Father’s “A heart felt word of thanks” letter of May 9, 2023 circulated to all SSJ Parish Ministries with gratitude for participation during Lent, Easter, and all of May.
- 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 5/10/2023) 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 fortunate success in recruitment, Council will focus on best utilization of the core group of Knights, revive attendance of inactive Knights, encourage more participation, and work for retention to foster sharing and unity.
- 7 **Financial Report**
 - **Charlie DiValerio, Treasurer** – A **Motion** was presented and all accepted the **Treasurer’s Report of April 2023.**
 - Ending Bank Balance \$24,676 / Reserve Fund \$2,929 / Bingo Petty Cash \$300/ 4th Degree Fund \$202 / Fourth Degree Uniform Fund \$1,046 / Available Cash Funds \$21,545.
- 8 **Membership Report** - Jim Bushong advised he is still working on two additional candidates for membership and two transfers.
- 9 **FAITH IN ACTION PROGRAMS - OTHER REPORTS - Program Director Jim McCarry**
 - Council activity continues with 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 for the Red Cross Donation Center (Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat) on Gay Street, West Chester.
 - DGK McCarry reported that the **Chester County Care Connect fundraiser** was a great success with 300 Pro-Life attendees.
 - Donations for **Roses** following Masses on **Mother’s Day** resulted in \$855 collected for Pro-Life to Guiding Star Home in Germantown to help pregnant mothers and children up to 18 months of age.
 - Sister Barbara Jude might need Knight manpower volunteers for **Vacation Bible Camp, “Stellar 2023”.**

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 following the 9am Mass and continued on **April 1, 2023.**

June 3 is the next Fatima Rosary (to be preceded by the Communion of Reparation Vigil on First Friday, June 2, 7:30pm -2am).

- SSJ Council Knights led the Patriotic Rosary, **Wednesday, May 3 at 11am at the Veterans Memorial in Newtown Square.**
- A **Rosary** for and on **Father's Day** is planned for **Sunday, June 18** at 7pm in the Chapel which will be livestreamed.

-News of a **possible Eucharistic Miracle** was reported by Tom as included in "Our Sunday Visitor" newspaper, April 9-15, 2023. Fr. Joseph Crowley from St. Thomas Catholic Church in Thomaston, CT shared news that "one of our Eucharistic ministers was running out of hosts and suddenly there were more hosts in the ciborium. God just duplicated himself in the ciborium." Fr. McGivney was Pastor at this parish. This extraordinary manifestation has been presented to the Vatican.

-**Saturday, June 24** is the second annual **local "Biking For Babies" ride** to support crisis pregnancy centers. The ride starts at 7:30 am at SS Philip and James Church using the Chester Valley Trail for 10-25 miles, rider's choice. Registration of \$50 cost is completed thru the bikingforbabies.com website. The goal is to triple the number of riders to 150. Council made a \$500 contribution. Local riders and staffing by Knights and friends are needed. Please contact Tom Lopez if you might help.

FAMILY

- **Family of the Month, Adam and Susan Wheeler**, are expected to be honored following the 7:30 Mass on May 21. As always, all Knights are invited to be recognized at the presentation. Brother Paul has asked the IHM Sisters to recommended candidates for future consideration. To date 31 Families-of-the-Month have been recognized and awarded by Council.

COMMUNITY

- Joe Gothie, interim Community Director**, requested any member who is interested in becoming the Community Director for the 2023-24 fraternal year beginning in July to contact him and offered his assistance and support for the transition.
- The **IHM Nun Run** will be held **Saturday, June 3 at 8:30** to benefit Camilla Hall, the convent home and health care center for the IHM Sisters. There was a unanimous **Motion** to reallocate \$500 from the Leave No Neighbor Behind Fund to support this IHM cause.
- **June 5 is the CYO Golf Fundraiser** and Council donated to a tee sponsorship.
- **Vacation Bible Camp "Stellar 2023"** at SSJ is **June 19-23** and Council will check with Sr. Barbara Jude for t-shirt and manpower needs.
- Deacon Anthony** will celebrate his **first Mass following his Ordination to the Priesthood at SSJ on May 21 at 3pm.** Representation by the Council and/or the Assembly's Color Corps at the May 21 mass has been requested by the Parish. Council also provided a check for \$750 towards the luncheon following Father Anthony's first Mass.
- Council will again provide gift cards as awards to SSJ School students for academic accomplishment at graduation.

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. Al DeFra presented R&R on May 7 and John Schneberger for Baptisms on May 14. **Baptisms are scheduled for June** and Knights are still needed to step up to present the Rose and Rosary.
- The movie, "**Mother Teresa – No Greater Love**", is now available for purchase as a DVD, perhaps for an SSJ Parish showing ?
- Roses for Mothers' Day, May 14, 2023**, were presented by Council Knights with donations to benefit the Pro Life Union.
- Baby bottles as a fundraiser to benefit Mothers Home** will be campaigned from May 21 thru Father's Day, June 18.

COMMITTEES :

- **Retention Committee - Gordon Jefferes** - Encouraged Council to contact inactive Brother Knights to return.

- **Health Services Committee - Director Bill Aaronson** – not present

- **Fundraising Committee - Paul Bellino**

- **BINGO** – Bingo was held **Friday, May 12**, and will be followed by **Friday, June 16 and Friday, July 21, but not in August.** May 12 was a grand success in raising approximately \$2,800 but especially in conducting bingo without the help of the game screen due to technical difficulty. SSJ Parish truly likes and enjoys this social activity !

Council hopes that future Bingo events might continue to be held every 3rd Friday night subject to the availability of the Meehan Center. Knights' help is always needed for set up, check-in, sales, seating, 50/50, and cleanup.

-Thru the generosity of **ShopRite of West Chester** in providing **gift cards totaling \$500**, all 1,000 tickets were sold at \$2 each or 3 for \$5.00 **raising \$1,800 for Sr. Barbara Jude's Baby Formula Program** (an unplanned fundraiser) ! Mac McCracken organized this fundraiser which included drawings for \$250, \$150, and \$100 ShopRite gift cards at Bingo on May 12. Thank you, Mac ! A **Motion** was proposed which passed to donate the \$1,800 to the Baby Formula Project for Sr. Barbara Jude.

-The effort of **Tara Foret** in requesting a standing **group of SSJ Parishioners to volunteer for parish activities** when needed was recognized. The first test opportunity will be for the **SSJ Parish Picnic on Sunday, June 4**, where Monsignor Dunleavy who is retiring will be celebrated. Our Knights Council will again donate and distribute bottled cold water for this Parish event. Knights will be expected to volunteer.

- **Social Committee - John Ellis** - Snack items resupply will be needed for the next bingo.

FOURTH DEGREE - Gordon Jefferes

-**Assembly meets Monday, June 5 at 7:30** and SSJ Council 4th Degree Knights were encouraged to attend.

-On **June 24 Exemplification for Fourth Degree** will be held at Flaherty Council in Glenside, PA.

INSURANCE AGENT - Jim Siermine -not in attendance. Monthly emails continue from Jim on KOC insurance and financial benefits.

DISTRICT DEPUTY - Frank Bruno, District 19 Deputy

-DD Bruno congratulated Council 11564 in attaining 9 new members (6 quota) toward Star Council qualification for FY 2022-23.

-Encouraged Council Knights to view the webinar on May 25 for "Practical Tips for a Strong Finish" to this fraternal year.

-On **Saturday, June 24 there will be a Fourth Degree Exemplification** in Glenside, PA. Line Guards are needed to accompany candidates. Color Corps participants are also still needed.

-Reminded that earning 4 credits in each **Faith in Action Program** would award Council the Columbian Award towards Star Council.

-**Council Elections** are to be conducted by June 15 and results reported by June 30, 2023.

TRUSTEES' REPORT - Dennis Kolesinskas, Bill Robinson, Ed Lack - no report

- as presented under "Unfinished Business".

Voting for Officers will be conducted at the May Council Meeting.

GK Hillanbrand encouraged all Knights, especially new Knights, to consider nomination as progression thru the ranks is desirable.

10 Unfinished Business

- GK Hillanbrand has emailed Fr Gerlach an "**SSJ KOC Scholarship Award**" proposal which resulted in a meeting with SSJ Parish IHM Sisters. Scholarship awards, a donation to the SSJ School Annual Fund, security enhancements for SSJ School, and the \$5K cost of religious education materials were all discussed as possible contributions. The focus of the conversation evolved into how Council Knights may best help SSJ School and how SSJ School may help Council. The KOC Committee included GK Hillanbrand, DGK McCarry, Trustees Ed Lack and Dennis Kolesinskas.

- On **May 21 at 3 pm Deacon Anthony will celebrate his first Mass** following his Ordination as a Priest at SS Simon and Jude. He has invited Council 11564 and his other Santa Ana Council of Lansdowne to be present and for the Assembly's Color Corps to be present as Honor Guard. The Color Corps presence will be directed by DD Frank Bruno. (New Color Guard uniforms or dark suits with white gloves and light blue ties will be required. Social baldrics will be permitted per the Assembly). A signup sheet was circulated with 10 Knights committed to attend.

- **Officer Nominations and Elections for Council 11564** – PGK and Trustee Dennis Kolesinskas conducted the **Nomination and Election of Officers for the 2023-24 FY**. Nominations are presented in April with final nominations and voting at the May Council Meeting, all completed by June 15. Terms are for one year with priority for consecutive one year terms. Officer selection is only open to 3rd Degree Knights in good standing. Officer Duties are outlined on the Council website at ssjknights.org. If there is only one Nominee for an Officer position, then the candidate nominee is accepted and elected by acclamation.

Officer Nominations and Elections concluded :

Grand Knight - Jim McCarry - accepted

Deputy Grand Knight – Gordon Jefferes - accepted (DGK typically serves as Program Director).

Chancellor - Jim Bushong - accepted

Warden - Ken Kelly - not present but accepted (and witnessed by current Officers)

Inside Guard - Carlos Guzman - accepted

Outside Guard - Seth Lengel - accepted

Recorder - Tyler Costello - accepted

Treasurer - Charlie DiValerio - currently and accepts to continue

- Advocate - no nomination (no officer for several years – Parliamentarian)
- Trustees - 3rd Year Trustee - Sam Hillanbrand - accepted
- 2nd Year Trustee - Dennis Kolesinskas - accepted
- 1st Year Trustee - Ed Lack - accepted

Appointed Officers not subject to Council Nominations :

- Chaplain - Fr. Michael Gerlach - Appointed by Grand Knight. Will contact to see if Father will consent to continue as Chaplain.
- Financial Secretary - Is an appointed position by Supreme Knight for a 3 year term which Joe Gothie continues thru November 2025.

The new Grand Knight is to appoint the **Faith-in-Action Directors for FY 2023-24** by 6/30/2023 and to file a report in writing with Supreme. **Tom Lopez** was chosen by GK-elect McCarry to be **Lecturer** for Council 11564 effective July 1, 2023.

11 New Business

- Council will present two year-end **Fr. Meehan Awards Plaques** to boy and girl **PREP students** on Wednesday, May 17 based on the criteria of being good Catholic students. Knights will be present to provide these awards.
- Knights will attend the **PREP Teacher and Security wrap-up meeting** to be held Tuesday, May 23 by Sr. Barbara Jude. Council will provide pizza and beverages, and have an opportunity to speak to teachers in offering Council support as needed thru the PREP year.
- Rose and Rosary kits'** assembly followed tonight's Council meeting which will provide sufficient supply for the next 6 months for Baptisms.
- Name Badges** have been proposed by Paul Bellino for Knight attendees at Council Meetings for better familiarity.
- KOC navy color polo shirts** are to be ordered and provided to all new Knights as membership welcoming gifts for future activities.

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 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, Jocelyn Gruver, Ron Avellino, Joe Martino, Sally Martino, John McCann and Family, Ray Magliano, Bob Magliano, Joann Alleva, Bob Ritter, Emily Rocco, Binnie Estrada, Paula Reilly, Anne Cane, Drew Turack, Rob McCarry, Suzann Wickersham, Sheryl Fanelli, Gregory Krajnik, Robert Bellino, Officer Chris Fitzgerald and Family, Bishop David O'Connell, Louis F. Gentry, Christopher Kelly, Deacon Jim Lyon, MSU Students, Sarah Whelan, Maryann McCracken, Frances Cabrini, Bo Brazill, Louise Duane, Eileen Friend of John Larkin's, Dr. Rosalie Mirenda, Cathy McFarland, Dale Bartlett, Brother Dominic Golato, and George Gosin

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 and continue in your healing !
- **Officers' Planning Meetings** are held the week before our Council Meeting and any Knight may attend, not just Officers.
Next OPM will be Thursday, June 15, 2023, 7:00 – 9PM.
- **Next Council Meeting - Monday, June 19, 2023 at 7:00 PM** in **The Meehan Center and Virtual.**

14 Closing Prayer – Faith Director Tom Lopez read the “Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney”.

15 Adjournment – 8:40 PM



Saints Simon And Jude
Knights of Columbus

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