

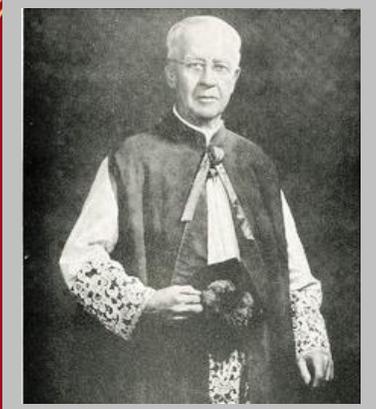


THE BLESSING WORD
 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
 MONSIGNOR PETER BLESSING COUNCIL #5273



SEPTEMBER 2020

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 9



MSGR PETER E. BLESSING
 L.L.D., D.D., V.G.

RI State Chaplain 1913-1957
 Our Council's Namesake

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER OFFICERS MEETING

PLACE: ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING
 DATE: WEDNESDAY, 9/9/2020
 TIME: 7:00PM

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

PLACE: ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING
 DATE: MONDAY, 9/14/2020
 TIME: 7:30PM

OCTOBER OFFICERS MEETING

PLACE: TBD
 DATE: WEDNESDAY, 10/7/2020
 TIME: 7:00PM

OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

PLACE: TBD
 DATE: MONDAY, 10/12/2020
 TIME: 7:30PM

MSGR. PETER E. BLESSING COUNCIL #5273 K OF C
 P.O. Box 1470
 COVENTRY, RI 02816
coventryknights@verizon.net
<http://www.coventryknights.org>
 Meeting Place:
 SS John and Paul Parish Center



Grand Knight's Corner

My Brothers All,

I pray you and your families are well and staying as safe as possible.

Our council members have once again responded greatly in participating in the Faith in Action Program. Paul Lemek, Program Director has plans well underway included adding the new programs; "Into the Breach" and "Leave No Neighbor Behind to the schedule. If any brother wants to become involved with the Faith in Action Programs just contact Paul Lemek by email or by phone and he will gladly accept your help. I can't be a successful leader without all your hard work! Thank you again.

During the past few weeks the Knights of Columbus have been under attack by the politicians running for office. We must stand strong as Brother Knights to defeat these individuals at the voting box this November. During the Republican Convention, speaker Abby Johnson Director of Planned Parenthood decided to resign from her position and become an advocate for pro-life. This decision was made after she viewed an abortion in person and gave a full description of it on national television. After listen to her it brought me to tears.

September 11, 2020, marks the 19th anniversary of the terrorist attacks that this nation will never forget. Many people lost their lives including 45 Brother Knights, one Brother was on the first plane that hit the tower. This tragedy brought our nation closer together in prayer, self-sacrifice and good deeds. Brothers, please take a moment of silence on Friday, September 11 for those who lost their lives that day at the hand of terror.

If you know of any Catholic gentlemen who would be interested in becoming a member, please let an officer of our council know. Bringing in new members will help bring new ideas to our council.

Please pray for peace in our country during this trying time and for an end to this pandemic. Please join us Monday, September 14th via Zoom meeting.
 God Bless & Vivat Jesus,
 Vivat Jesus!

David Legault
 Grand Knight

Supreme Knight

Carl A. Anderson

RI State Deputy

David Quinn

District Deputy (RI Dist. 6)

Michael Colvin

Insurance Agent

Jim Davis

Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight

Msgr. Peter E. Blessing Council

Officers:

Chaplain

Rev. Paul Lemoi

Grand Knight

David Legault

Financial Secretary

Neil Fidler

Deputy Grand Knight

Brian Mattias

Chancellor

Anthony Machado

Warden

Frank Laiter, Jr.

Treasurer

William Jakabek

Recorder

Thomas Gostomski

Advocate

Patrick Hurley

Inside Guard

James Hall

Outside Guard

Stephen Kukulka

Lecturer

Edgar Brouillard

One Year Trustee

John Pizzo

Two Year Trustee

Frank Laiter III

Three Year Trustee

Paul Lemek



Chaplain's Corner

Brother Knights,

As our weather begins to change to cooler nights and shorter days as we transition from Summer to Fall, some of the things that usually take place at this time will be differ because of the pandemic. Schools may or may not open as normal, but the process of education still continues, and we must be prayerful for the safety. of our students and teachers. We are still in unusual times and new situations are being faced each day. But there is one thing that remain constant: The love our God has for each of His children.

We have two great feasts during the month of September. First, on September 8th we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She would be part of God's plan of salvation. Mary probably did not fully grasp her significant role in the salvation of humankind, or that she would be the one to bear the Christ Child, the Messiah. Like Mary we may not know what part we are to play in God's plan, but we can still choose to follow Christ and watch as God's plan unfold for us. This would be a good time to renew our dedication to praying the Rosary daily. Second, on September 14th we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The Cross is the symbol of our salvation but also of our hope. We are each called to carry our cross each day realizing the Christ is there to help us. Especially at the Eucharist where He gives us His Body and Blood as food for the journey. Lift up the Cross and proclaim the victory of Jesus' death and resurrection and watch as your faith grows ever stronger.

Still in the midst of the pandemic let us continue to pray for our doctors and nurses and all health caregivers as they continue to care for those who are suffering, pray that God may continue to bless and strengthen them in their vocations. Remember to stay safe, not just for yourself but for wellbeing of others. Vivat Jesus!

Father Paul Lemoi, Chaplain

PRAYER INTENTIONS

- Our Holy Father Pope Francis
- Our Bishops Tobin and Evans
- The Priests of the parishes we serve
- Father Richard Bucci
- Father Victor Silva
- PGK Angel Ferrer
- PGK/PFN Herb Knott
- PGK William Moskosky
- PGK Daniel Danis
- GK David Legault
- Chancellor Anthony Machado
- Brother Alan Ogrodnik
- Brother Rob Brodeur
- Brother Len Denommee
- Brother Paul Lacroix
- Brother Bo Kenahan
- Brother James Kmon
- Brother Matt Parent
- Brother Tony Favata
- Stephen Mattias
- Lucille Ferrer
- Bernadette Favata
- Veronica Brouillard
- Nancy Giolitti
- Mary Deary
- Michelle Legault
- Wyatt Canfield
- Eric Thatcher
- All US military personnel
- The Unborn
- All who are affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic

“Beware of false prophets who come to you disguised as sheep but underneath are ravenous wolves.” – Matthew 7:15

FIVE MYTHS ABOUT CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

By Robert Royal

At a moment when even George Washington and Thomas Jefferson are under attack, it was inevitable that the current unrest would also engulf Christopher Columbus. His case is unique, though, because unlike the others, few people — least of all those who took turns stomping on his statues — know much about him.

They assume that he brought slavery and genocide to the New World. Europeans did, of course, commit many sins. But they did not introduce new evils; all of them — including slavery and genocide — already existed among Indigenous peoples, as they did throughout the world.

One person who knew Columbus personally was the Dominican missionary Bartolomé de las Casas. He earned the name *defensor de los indios* (“defender of the Indians”) because of his passionate diatribes against exploiters of native peoples in the Americas. Las Casas did not spare Columbus from criticism, but he also defended him against those who blamed him for all the disorders and violence that followed the first contacts with Indigenous peoples.

The great explorer’s missteps, he said, were the result of ignorance and misjudgments about how to proceed: “Truly, I would not dare blame the admiral’s intentions for I knew him well and I knew his intentions were good.” It is good, then, to examine some of the contemporary charges against Columbus in order to assess him fairly.

Myth 1: He was a violent man.

Las Casas spoke of Columbus’ “sweetness and benignity.” Far from being a violent man, he often got into difficulties because he would be indulgent — toward natives and Spaniards — and would then take extreme measures against both when things got out of hand. He was a great navigator but a poor governor. By his third voyage, he was cautioning Ferdinand and Isabella about who they were allowing to sail to the New World. He needed, he said, 60 missionaries to preach Christianity to arrogant and abusive Spaniards, and another 60 upstanding men to help him run the colony.

Myth 2: He committed genocide.

There was no “genocide” during these early voyages, though many natives died from unfamiliar diseases and clashes between two very different cultures. The Americas had been people here, though they had had their own plagues, were especially vulnerable to diseases from outside. Nonetheless, the Spaniards never intended to commit “genocide.” In even a

were especially vulnerable to diseases from outside. Nonetheless, the Spaniards never intended to commit “genocide.” In even a cynical reading, a ready supply of native workers served Spanish interests.

Myth 3: He instituted the slave trade.

Columbus was not interested in the slave trade; his goal was to set up a trading post or, later, an agricultural colony on the island of Hispaniola, today’s Dominican Republic and Haiti. He did, however, take slaves as prisoners of war, or where he found violations of natural law, such as human sacrifice or cannibalism — the only reasons Spain permitted. Slavery was never the admiral’s intention, except as a — not very effective — way to maintain order in unprecedented circumstances.

Myth 4: He had only worldly interests.

People often claim that Columbus was motivated by “God, gold and glory,” but assume God was just a cover for worldly interests. In fact, his religious devotion was sincere. Among other things, we know from his writings that he felt that he had been given a role in spreading the Gospel to all nations, which had to happen before Christ could return. In later years, he often dressed as a Third Order Franciscan.

Myth 5: He did not accomplish anything extraordinary.

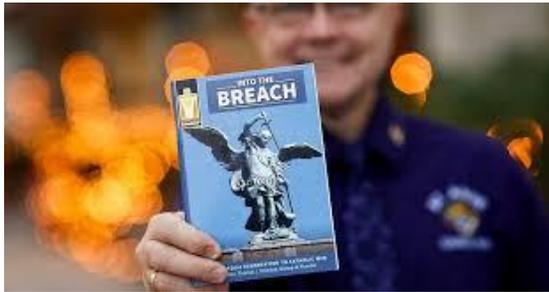
Many also claim that Columbus did not “discover” the New World. Those living here already knew where they were, the argument goes, and didn’t need to be discovered. This is a half-truth. Indigenous peoples, of course, knew their own lands. They did not know that they were part of a larger world.

One reason we especially honor Columbus is that he began the process toward the one interconnected world that we now inhabit. Vasco da Gama sailed around Africa and reached “the Indies” five years after Columbus arrived in the New World. But great as that feat was, he only found a new route to long known lands. Columbus, by skill, imagination and sheer grit gave us the world.

Columbus is often dismissed today on other grounds — usually by people who have come to hate “Western civilization” and, frankly, traditional Christianity. They want to blame him for everything wrong on these shores since 1492. Following that logic, though, he deserves some credit — and gratitude — as well, for the many good things that also followed his discoveries.

“Learn to do good, search for justice, discipline the violent, be just to the orphan, plead for the widow.” — Isaiah 1:17

FAITH ACTIVITIES - INTO THE BREACH



In 2015, Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted issued a challenge to the men of his diocese—to step into the breach. His exhortation, *Into the Breach: An Apostolic Exhortation to Catholic Men*, identifies the crisis of faith facing the Church today and presents a vision of the role of Catholic men in combatting it. Inspired by Bishop Olmsted’s vision, the Knights of Columbus and the Diocese of Phoenix have joined together to produce a 12-episode video series, also titled *Into the Breach*. Each episode focuses on a different aspect of authentic Catholic masculinity and features interviews with well-known Catholic commentators and follows the personal story of a man whose life illuminates each theme.

As Faith Director, I will be presenting each of the 12 episodes on a weekly basis on Thursdays starting on Thursday, October 1, and ending on Thursday, January 7. There will be some Thursdays such as Thanksgiving and at Christmas time where we will not be conducting sessions. During each session, we will view each video and then discuss using the *Into the Breach* study guide. We will try to keep these sessions to an hour as best we can. Schedule as follows:

- Oct 1 – Masculinity
- Oct 8 – Brotherhood
- Oct 15 – Leadership
- Oct 22 – Fatherhood
- Oct 29 – Family
- Nov 5 – Life
- Nov 12 – Prayer
- Nov 19 – Suffering
- Dec 3 – Sacramental Life
- Dec 10 – Spiritual Warfare
- Dec 17 – Evangelization
- Jan 7 – The Cornerstone

At current time due to COVID-19 restrictions, I will be conducting these sessions via online Zoom meetings. However, if restrictions change over the course of the 12 sessions, I will investigate conducting these sessions in person.

Vivat Jesus!
Neil Fidler, Faith Director

FROM OUR WORTHY DISTRICT DEPUTY

Greetings Worthy officers and brothers of Msgr. Peter Blessing Council! I pray you are all well.

Good news brothers, the Council's Safe Environment requirements have been fulfilled. Thank you to the Faith in Action directors for volunteering to take these roles, and I encourage you all to volunteer and assist in the year ahead. Remember, it is in Unity that we are strong! In addition, all forms have been submitted, again my thanks!

Here's even more good news! It was announced at the State meeting that in addition to Supreme per capita being suspended; State per capita will also be suspended! This is a great financial relief for the council.

Surprisingly, membership is off to a decent start. Your Council has recruited one new member this year, and only needs four more to achieve Star Council. I want to encourage you all to try to bring in new men to your council. Typically, new members come from church drives, and program events. Being that those activities will be more difficult this year given Coronavirus restrictions, please do your best to draw on your personal relationships and acquaintances for new candidates. It's never been easier to recruit a member online, and allow him to do his degree on-demand 24/7. Remember we are all on the recruitment team!

There will be a virtual District Meeting on September 30 th at 7:00 PM. All Grand Knights, Deputy Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries, Program, Membership, and FIA Directors should attend, as well as any other Knight who is interested. We will discuss progress, address issues and share best practices, among other things. It'll last one hour and will be held from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Details will be available soon.

Lastly, I want to encourage you all to pray the rosary regularly, now more than ever. As Knights of Columbus, as patriots, and as Catholics we face a strong spiritual and temporal enemy. St. Michael defend us from the wickedness and snares of the enemy!

Vivat Jesus!
Michael Colvin, DD
RI District 6

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following Brother Knights:

David Thatcher	September 4
John Murray	September 7
Bo Kenahan	September 10
Joseph Larsh	September 13
George McLaughlin	September 14
Timothy Maynard	September 17
Rev. Brendan Rowley	September 20
Harold Trafford	September 22
Hugh Fitzpatrick	September 25

VETERANS PARK IMPROVEMENTS

My Brothers All,

I wanted to update you all on the Veterans Park improvements which is part of an Eagle Scout project by Eagle Scout Candidate Chris Godfrey. When I arrived at the park on Saturday, August 22, after work, the Scouts had nearly completed everything. I assisted with some of the final touch ups, and all work was completed before the Scouts departed that night. As you can see from the photos, the park looks amazing! The Scouts even installed a "mailbox-like" container where people may dispose of a used American flag.

I presented Christopher with the check from the Council for supplies as we voted for in the August membership meeting, and I expressed our appreciation for his work. If you have not seen the park yet, please take some time to drive by for a look. It will be worth your time.

Vivat Jesu,
John Pizzo
Community Director

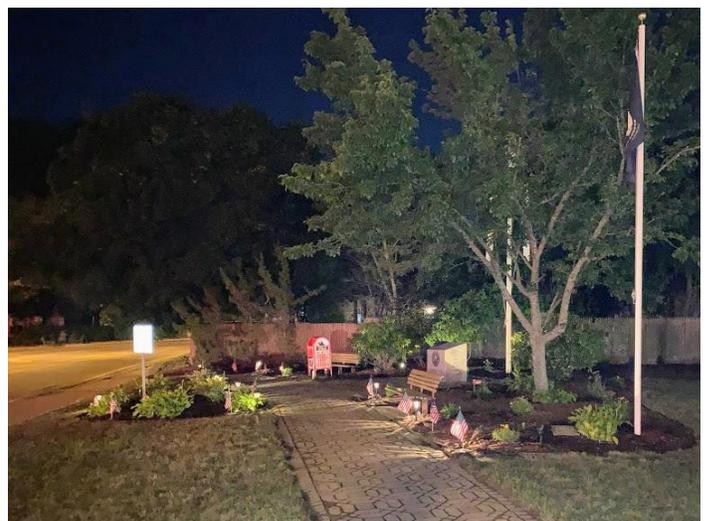


FAITH IN ACTION AND LIFE ACTIVITIES

My Brothers All, we had a productive Faith in Action meeting last month. Each director settled on the events they will undertake this fraternal year. Please help support them as best that you can. That is why we became Knights of Columbus - to grow in our Faith, defend life, support our parishes and our community.

For Life activities, we hope to take part in a local or state March for Life in January.

Vivat Jesu!
Paul Lemek, Program Director



“Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace which the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.” – John 14:27

A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC



The ancient fresco of Madonna del Soccorso (Our Lady of Help) in St. Peter's Basilica was restored with the support of the Knights of Columbus to mark the Year of Faith (2012-2013). Photo courtesy of Fabbrica di San Pietro/M. Falconi.

O Mary,
you always brighten our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain
while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother,
you know what we need,
and we are confident you will provide for us
as at Cana in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,
the Divine Physician,
for those who have fallen ill,
for those who are vulnerable,
and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with
protecting the health and safety of others
and for those who are tending to the sick
and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who took upon himself our
sufferings and carried our sorrows,
so as to lead us, through the Cross,
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

*Under thy protection we seek refuge,
O Holy Mother of God.
In our needs, despise not our petitions,
but deliver us always from all dangers,
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.*

Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis

KNIGHTS OF  COLUMBUS

“As long as the enthusiasm is there, the basis on which it is acceptable is what someone has, not what someone does not have.” – 2 Corinthians 8:12