



SS John and James parish merges with St. Mary's in West Warwick, but the Knights of Columbus have already led the way in their fraternal efforts to unify their Councils.



# Winds of Change Are Here

Facing low Mass attendance, a shortage of priests, and declining sacramental activity, the oldest Catholic Church in the state has merged this month with one of its nearby counterparts, SS John and James, also in West Warwick.

Fortunately both churches will remain open and St. Mary's has now become a mission church for SS John and James. SSJJ is not without experience regarding mergers.

Unfortunately, SSJJ was born out of the merger of St. John the Baptist, and St. James churches. St. James no longer stands, and was demolished to make way for a new CVS. It was a time of tribulation for many in the community.

So one might ask, why should parishioners expect a better experience from this new merger? Well my brothers, the answer is twofold. A great priest and the Knights of Columbus

Rev. Nicholas Fleming, a brother knight who since 2016 has served as assistant pastor at SS. John and Paul Church in Coventry, now serves as pastor for both West Warwick faith communities. He is no stranger to our brother knights of Msgr. Blessing Council

5273 out of Coventry. The lines were very long to say goodbye to him at a recent sendoff party. He is still greatly admired there for his youth, fervor, reverence, charm and charisma.

As a brother knight he also brings a little extra meaning when speaking of unity. "This is what we would hope for, that the church would rally together and stand together as one," said Fr. Nicholas Fleming recently to the news media.

Fr. Fleming wasted no time in agreeing to replace Fr. Douglas Spina PhD, as chaplain to SS John and James Council 7238. Installed on July 8<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Fleming has supported every Faith in Action program presented to him so far. The parishioners, as well as the knights have a vibrant and supportive shepherd in Fr. Fleming!

St. Mary's previously hosted Mary Doran Council 8977. It was home to one of the great councils of RI. Mary Doran Council could boast of some great knights in its day, including Past State Deputy, and Former Vice Supreme Master, Saverio "Sav" Giusti.

With declining membership, and difficulty in maintaining the high level of



activity necessary to attract newer members in today's Catholic landscape, Mary Doran Council decided it was time to consolidate with other local councils.

Most of its members transferred to SS John and James Council, some to Msgr. Blessing in Coventry, and some elsewhere. That's not the end of the story however. Brothers from Mary Doran have become active and integral members of SSJJ council.

They have also leant their vast experience, and wealth of Columbianism "know how" to their new brothers. SS John and James Council has been around for over four years, and this influx of experience has been a mutual blessing to all.

The consolidation of these KofC councils over the last couple of years has shown that the winds of change can be a calming breeze as much as they can be dark or foreboding.

# Spotlight on Community!

Msgr. Peter Blessing Council 5273 from Coventry recently conducted KANDI drives at their churches. Finishing in June, I'm told they collected over \$1500 in donations through their efforts.

No stranger to success, this council always steps up their game when it comes to charitable outreach. At the awards dinner they held during the last Columbian year, Msgr. Blessing Council donated \$1000 to the Meeting Street School in Providence, as well as additional funds donated to the Special Education Transitions program at Coventry High School!



Kudos to our brother Knights in Coventry for helping the intellectually impaired of our local community!

Remember what Jesus teaches us brothers. Luke 14:12-14 Then he told the man who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, stop inviting only your friends, brothers, relatives, or rich neighbors. Otherwise, they may invite you in return and you would be repaid. Instead, when you give a banquet, make it your habit to invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Then you will be blessed because they can't repay you. And you will be repaid when the righteous are resurrected."



*The St. Anthony statue is prepared for the procession on the new cart. Due to the 100 degree temperature, knights used a short route through the neighborhood on the last day of the feast. July 21.*



## All Hands on Deck for Feast of St. Anthony in West Warwick

St. Anthony's Council 181 is ever focused on helping Fr. Victor Silva and their St. Anthony parish. These brother knights know how to get things done.

Every year in July, the Parish celebrates a great three day feast. Fr. Silva can always rely on the knights to assist in the many jobs required to pull it off successfully! Brother Knights work in the beer garden, raffle booths, kitchen, etc.

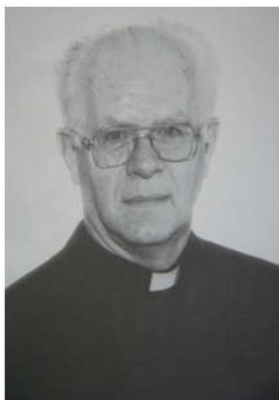
Knights also carry the statue in the procession, as well as the overhead canopy. This year the DGK Joe Carreira and Joe Coutu devised a cart to push the statue

rather than carry it. Great job brothers!

PGK David Wilson says Fr Victor constantly reminds the brothers that he is the coolest priest around, but that's because he has the knights to carry the canopy and maintain his coolness by staying out of the sun!



REV. RICHARD A. DONNALLY



Fr. Donnally Council delivers 950 lbs. of ham for the 2019 Easter Ham Drop to the Little Sisters of the Poor.

## A New Council In District VI Welcome Fr. Donnally #322

Welcome to our latest addition to District VI, Fr. Donnally Council 322 in Cranston. Fr. Donnally Council is located at St. Mark's Parish at Garden City. They operate out of the Mother Cabrini Parish center located there.

In addition to being the home of the Fr. Donnally Council 322, St. Mark's parish is also the home of the Arthur S. Rebello Assembly #2808. Fr. Donnally has earned numerous Star Council and Service Awards for the many activities they perform for the Church

and community in the name of charity.

This year, with the gratitude of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Fr. Donnally Council generously delivered 950 lbs. of ham for the 2019 Easter Ham Drop. This delivery along with the generous donations of so many thoughtful donors, who stopped by their home with ham and candy, filled their freezers with more than 160 hams! Kudos to our brothers in Garden City!

I know I speak for everyone in the district when I say we're interested to learn more

about what your council has in store for the new Columbian year. The new Faith in action model started by the order last year provides us with many new ideas to help our councils expand their works, and help our communities grow in all areas!



## SS John and James Holds Installation and Mass

The knights of Council 7238 recently held an Installation of officers with mass at St. Mary's in West Warwick. About half of the offices changed hands. Of special note, Fr. Douglas Spina PhD turned over his jewel of office to the new chaplain, Fr. Nicholas Fleming. It was quite a moving moment, and one of my favorite installations in which I've participated, since joining the order. Congratulations to the new GK Jeremy Pezza, Fr. Fleming, and all the officers of SSJJ 7238, Vivat Jesus!





Brothers, friends and family, you're all invited to join us and spend time together as a family! This is open to you, your friends, and family...and it's free!

The State provides hot dogs, burgers, and drinks. Games will be available, but please bring yours too. **You are asked to bring a non-perishable food item that day which will be donated to an RI food pantry.**

Email the State Family Director Michael Guerra at [mikegonemad@gmail.com](mailto:mikegonemad@gmail.com) in order to gage an accurate headcount by Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. you can also call 401-374-1487. Please include the number of people attending in your party. **SEE YOU THERE!**

DEGREES AND DEGREE TEAMS



Councils, please remember that you're expected to conduct at least one 1<sup>st</sup> degree per quarter, and at least 4 per year. I will be happy to help, or assist with your ceremonies, and I will do my level best to conduct 2<sup>nd</sup> degree ceremonies in tandem with your 1<sup>st</sup> degree if desired.

I'm also hoping to build a dedicated district degree team that is willing to meet occasionally to practice. If you are interested please contact me by phone at 401-641-6881 or by email at [district6.rikofc@gmail.com](mailto:district6.rikofc@gmail.com).

FAITH IN ACTION – SAFE ENVIRONMENT

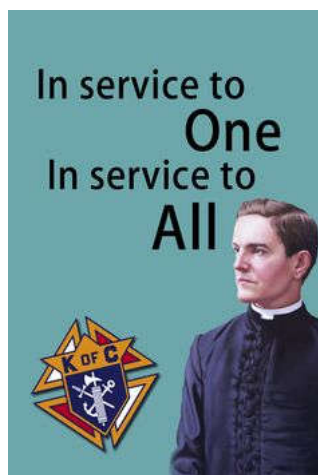


Brothers, remember that one of the most immediate and important jobs in July, is that your form 365 is submitted with ALL REQUIRED APPOINTMENTS completed. Your councils must specify **Program Director, Community Director, Family Director, Membership Director, & Retention Chairman.**

The Grand Knight, Program Director, Community Director, and Family Director must complete their Safe Environment training within 30 days of their appointment confirmation. In addition, the Family Director and Community Director must also undergo a background check. This is done in conjunction with the online training.

If these guidelines are not followed a council is disqualified from attaining Star Council. This past Columbian year, five councils in RI achieved the membership and insurance thresholds to achieve Star Council. Only one succeeded! Why? They were the only Safe Environment compliant council of the five. It is imperative that your Grand Knights take immediate action, designate the directors, and submit form 365 as soon as possible. If directors fail to act within 30 days, They are disqualified from further attempts and a new member must be appointed to the position!

FR. MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY – PRAY FOR US!



JULY – FORMS AND FILINGS



URGENT- DUE SOON!

1. **Service Program Personnel Report (#365) – DUE 8/1** Be sure to submit this form to allow program directors access to the Fraternal Training Portal, Safe Environment, and other resources on [kofc.org](http://kofc.org).
2. **Semiannual Council Audit (#1295) – DUE 8/15**



Installation of Officers

The district deputy should install council officers as close to the start of the fraternal year as possible. This can be done as casually or formally (preferred) as desired. It can be done in a church (preferred) or in a council hall.



Goodbye Old Regalia!

As of July 1<sup>st</sup> the old 4<sup>th</sup> degree regalia can no longer be worn. It's a grand old uniform, but we knights are sworn to obey the legal orders of the officers appointed over us. It will be missed! Vivat Jesus!