

# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021!



## THE BLESSING WORD

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
MONSIGNOR PETER BLESSING COUNCIL #5273



JANUARY 2021

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1



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

RI State Chaplain 1913-1957  
Our Council's Namesake

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

#### **JANUARY OFFICERS MEETING**

PLACE: ONLINE ZOOM MEETING  
DATE: WEDNESDAY, 1/6/2021  
TIME: 7:00PM

#### **JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

PLACE: ONLINE ZOOM MEETING  
DATE: MONDAY, 1/11/2021  
TIME: 7:30PM

#### **FEBRUARY OFFICERS MEETING**

PLACE: ONLINE ZOOM MEETING  
DATE: WEDNESDAY, 2/3/2021  
TIME: 7:00PM

#### **FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

PLACE: ONLINE ZOOM MEETING  
DATE: MONDAY, 2/8/2021  
TIME: 7:30PM

WITH CURRENT COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS IN  
PLACE, ALL MEETING VENUES ARE SUBJECT  
TO CHANGE.

MSGR. PETER E. BLESSING COUNCIL #5273 K OF C  
P.O. Box 1470  
COVENTRY, RI 02816  
[coventryknights@verizon.net](mailto: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.

With a stressful and troubling year behind us, let us focus our attention on a brighter and successful future in 2021. The development of vaccines to stop the spread of COVID-19 should lift many restrictions to allow councils to proceed with their planned events. We are at the midpoint of our fraternal year and I'm pleased with the accomplishments our dedicated members provided in various programs and events.

The Faith in Action Director, Paul Lemek and Program Directors; Neil Fidler, John Pizzo and Bill Jakabek provide tremendous dedication in all programs that were planned at the beginning at the fraternal year. As Grand Knight, I applaud these individuals for all their work as brother knights to continue our mission in this organization. I cannot be a successful leader without your hard work! I cannot stress enough; these programs are an important part to help spread the teachings of the church.

On Saturday, December 12, 2020, items for the ROVAC collection were taken to Council #1528 in East Providence. The council thanked Community Director, John Pizzo, and me for our continued participation to help our veterans during the Christmas season. Thank you, brothers, for your support to our veterans in Rhode Island.

New Guidelines for council meetings was presented during a webinar on December 17, 2020 to be implemented in 2021 by grand knights of each council. These guidelines will help streamline the most important parts of the meeting agenda and help keep meetings to an hour.

If you know of Catholic gentleman that would be interested in becoming a member please let an officer know. Bringing in new members will help bring in new ideas to the council.

Amid the pandemic and the guidelines set by our Governor, all meetings will remain virtual until all restrictions have been lifted. Please pray for peace in our country during this trying time and for an end to this pandemic.

Join us Monday, January 11th at 7:30pm via zoom meeting.

Thank you, brothers, for the work you do.

God Bless & 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

**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 Message

My Brother Knights,

The New Year of 2021 has just begun, with it brings our hopes and dreams for a better year. 2020 saw us living a new norm because of the Corona virus, wearing masks, social distancing, washing our hands more than usual. It saw us being separated from family and friends especially as they suffered from Covid-19. For some of us it meant a loss of loved ones and friends causing us to become more aware of the frailty of life.

On New Year's Day we celebrated the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, she is not only the Mother of God but also our Mother. So, we began a New Year seeking the comforting love of Mary, asking her to always intercede to her Son on our behalf. Many have made resolutions as we start this year may one of the be to pray the Rosary daily for the sanctity of human life. May we also resolve to read the Scriptures more reflecting on God's love for us.

During the month of January, we have two other major feasts of the Church, the Epiphany of the Lord, and the Baptism of the Lord which will bring us to the close of the Christmas Season. May we not leave the Christ child in the manglers of our Churches and our homes, but may we carry Him in our hearts and minds continuing to make Him known to the world by our words and deeds.

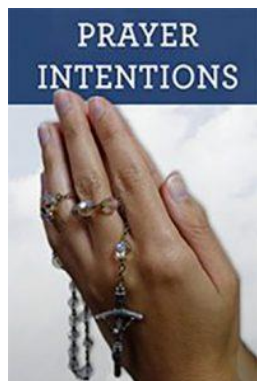
Our days are beginning to be bright longer each day giving us new hope and expectations. We are still dealing with the Corona virus (Covid-19) so please keep practicing all the protocols necessary to keep you and your families safe. We have new vaccines coming into play as we deal with Covid-19 giving us hope that one day we will conquer this disease. Please pray daily for all our first responders that Jesus and our Lady will be a source especially on long days of helping those suffering from this disease helping others to regain good health.

May the Blessings of the Holy Family, Jesus Mary and Joseph be in your homes and upon your families as we journey into and through 2021.

Vivat Jesus!  
 Father Paul Lemoi  
 Chaplain

*"You crown the year with your generosity, richness seeps from your tracks" – Psalms 65:11*





- Our Holy Father Pope Francis
- Our Bishops Tobin and Evans
- The Priests of the parishes we serve
- DD Michael Colvin
- PGK Angel Ferrer
- PGK/PFN Herb Knott
- PGK William Moskosky
- PGK Daniel Danis
- GK David Legault
- Chancellor Anthony Machado
- Brother Matthew Piatek III (recently deceased)
- Brother Richard Houle, Sr. (recently deceased)
- Brother Alan Ogrodnik
- Brother Len Denommee
- Brother Paul Lacroix
- Brother Bo Kenahan
- Brother James Kmon
- Brother Tony Favata
- Brother Matt Parent
- Lucille Ferrer
- Bernadette Favata
- Veronica Brouillard
- Nancy Giolitti
- Mary Deary
- Stephen Mattias
- Michelle Legault
- Wyatt Canfield
- Eric Thatcher
- Beryl Greene (recently deceased)
- Sister Helen Provost (recently deceased)
- All US military personnel
- The Unborn
- All who are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic

### **BLESSING COUNCIL DELIVERS FOR ROVAC!**



On December 12, Grand Knight David Legault, Community Director John Pizzo and his son Johnny delivered Blessing Council's donations for the ROVAC program to Santa Claus at East Providence Council. Those donations are given as Christmas presents to Rhode Island veterans who have served our great nation. Well done Brothers!

### **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**



Happy Birthday to the following Brother Knights:

Thomas Gostomski	January 1
David Canfield	January 2
Stephen Kukulka	January 7
Patrick Hurley	January 12
Dale Cross	January 18
Earl Mahar	January 21
Anthony Machado	January 24
Anthony Favata	January 25
Philip Vanasse	January 27
Scott True	January 30
Richard Sullivan	January 31

*"So for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation: the old order is gone and a new being is there to see." – 2 Corinthians 5:17*

**FAITH IN ACTION – FAMILY ACTIVITIES**

My Brothers All,

Here is the status of Family Activities for the Columbian Year 2020-21:

**1) Food for Families**

We have two requirements that need to be satisfied ...1) Donating a minimum of \$500 dollars to a local Food Bank, and 2) Contribute a minimum of 100 total man-hours in preparation/distribution/or service of meals.

We have satisfied the first requirement by way of our \$500 donation to the "Our Daily Bread" program sponsored by Saints John & Paul Church. In order to satisfy the second requirement, I need feedback from all Council Members that may have helped out (in any way) at any local/regional Food Bank this year. Faith in Action Director, Brother Paul Lemek sent out an email recently to all current Council Members asking them to get back to me with the following information ... a) Council Member Name b) Food Bank Name and location (town or city) c) Approx. total # of hours of participation given d) Additional helpers (Spouse, children, friends, relatives, etc.) So far, I have received feedback from 4 Worthy Brothers. Members ... please respond back to me as quickly as possible. My email address is biljak53@gmail.com

**2) Consecration to the Holy Family**

Besides all the obstacles that COVID-19 has thrown our way, this Program has been completed!!! On December 12th 13th, 19th and 20th, literature concerning the suggested steps that families could take in preparation for their Consecration to the Holy Family was made available to all Parishioners at both OLC and SVDP Churches, as was a copy of the actual Consecration to the Holy Family Prayer Card. On those same dates, an announcement also appeared in the joint OLC & SVDP bulletin, and a verbal announcement was made by Father Jacek from the altar during all Masses. This past weekend, December 26th & 27th, the Church celebrated the Feast of the Consecration of the Holy Family, and unfortunately, Father Jacek, who had recently contracted Covid-19 (he's doing well with what appears to be a mild case) was not able to celebrate any of the Masses. The good news is that all the fill-in Priests were able to recite the Prayer during all weekend Masses, at both Parishes.

**3) Good Friday Family Promotion**

The plan right now is to invite all Parishioners from the 4 Churches that our Council is associated with, to attend a presentation of The Living Stations of the Cross, which hopefully will take place on Wednesday evening, March 31, 2021 at the Gym at OLC. More info will be forthcoming as we get closer to that date.

Vivat Jesus!  
Bill Jakabek  
Family Director

**FAITH IN ACTION - LIFE ACTIVITIES**

My Brothers All,

The following Life Activities have been completed for the Columbian Year 2020-21:

- We have donated \$500 to the Mother of Life Center
- We have committed several hours praying rosaries at Planned Parenthood (RI) and other sites in the Diocese for the "40 Days for Life" program.

Going forward, we will be having a 9-day Novena for Life starting on Saturday, January 23, to Sunday, January 31. This will coincide with the March for Life in Washington D.C. on January 29.

As Faith in Action Director, I would like to thank the Directors for their hard work and many accomplishments so far and to all Brother Knights that helped out and took part in our many events. Please plan to take part in upcoming events that our Directors will be organizing. We are on our way to receiving the Columbian Award again

Vivat Jesus!  
Paul Lemek  
Program and Life Director

**FAITH IN ACTION – FAITH ACTIVITIES**

My Brothers All,

I have just submitted the paperwork to Supreme for our participation in the RSVP program for the 2020-21 Columbian Year. Our council has supported Seminarians Patrick Ryan (a council Brother Knight) and Aidan Blanchette with donations of \$500 each as well as our continued support and prayers for their success at the seminary. This activity is a preferred activity for the overall Faith in Action program meaning that it counts as two points towards the four required for the Faith category. Also, and our council will receive a check for \$200 as well as a nameplate for our RSVP plaque.

Additionally, our Into the Breach program has gone extremely well. Our last installment of the program is scheduled for this coming Thursday, January 7, at 7PM. We have had some excellent conversation over the past three months for a total of twelve topics. I would like to thank all Brother Knights who have attended for their participation. One Catholic gentleman who is not a Brother Knight has attended many of the sessions and is a potential candidate for Knighthood. Into the Breach is also considered a preferred activity which counts as two points, so in addition to our RSVP participation, Blessing Council has fulfilled the necessary requirements for Faith.

Vivat Jesus,  
Neil Fidler  
Faith Director

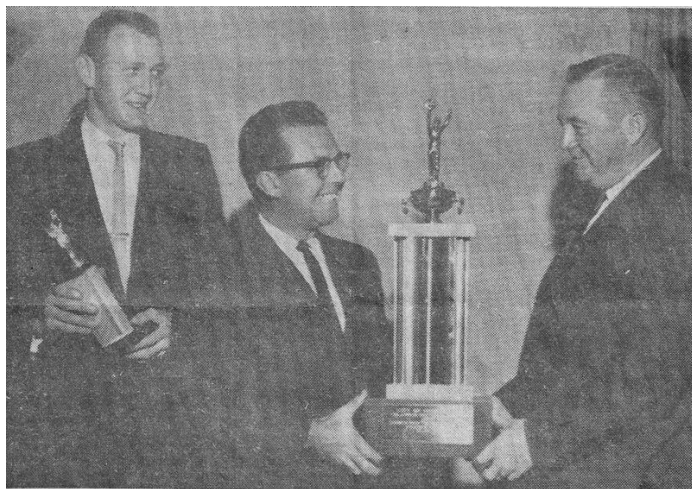
*"Seek out Yahweh, seek his strength, continually seek out his presence! Remember what wonders he has done, what miracles, what rulings he has given." – 1 Chronicles 16:11-12*



## BROTHER RICHARD HOULE, SR. 1938-2020



Brother Richard Houle, Sr., went to his final reward on December 23, 2020. Brother Dick and his father Roy were charter members of our council. Brother Dick had just celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> year in January 2020. One of his original duties per our archives was as the 1962 Columbus Day parade chairman for the council in which he and our first Grand Knight Charles Dwyer were presented trophies for most original float and greatest participation (see photo below). Brother Dick was also a master carpenter for many years retiring in 1989. He and his father performed a great amount of carpentry work in preparing our old council hall in 1967 when it opened. Please pray for the repose of Brother Dick's soul and for his entire family during their time of grief.



COVENTRY KNIGHTS won two awards in Columbus Day parade for most original float and greatest participation. Grand Knight Charles Dwyer of Msgr. Peter Blessing Council, Knights of Columbus, accepts award from John McGarry, right, parade chairman, as Richard Houle, council parade chairman, looks on at left.  
—Times Photo

## SUPREME CHAPLAIN'S CHALLENGE January 2021



**They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. (Gospel for Jan. 3, Mt 2:10-11)**

It is quite a magnificent scene: Intellectuals from a faraway land, not even of the Jewish faith, travel to pay homage to the newborn king. Their gifts acknowledge the child's kingship and foreshadow the sacrifice he was to make. They are also a sign of what a gift this newborn king is to the entire world. We must also recognize every child as a gift to the world, created in the image of God himself. May we recommit ourselves with renewed vigor to protect and cherish the life and dignity of every human person.

### Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

I challenge you to take a concrete, tangible action to support the cause for life in your community, by donating money or supplies to a pregnancy resource center, praying outside an abortion facility or joining your parish's pro-life group. Second, I challenge you to participate with your brother Knights in the Faith in Action Novena for Life program or, if possible, the March for Life program.

### Questions for Reflection:

Do you see the image of God in every child, in every person, or do you sometimes look at others as objects to be used? What does taking action to defend life show you about how individuals can impact the world? What more can you do to support the cause for life, whether the contribution is great or small or consists of prayer or works?

*"Anyone of discretion acts by the light of knowledge, the fool parades his folly." – The Proverbs 13:16*



## 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

*"And whatever you say or do, let it be in the name of the Lord Jesus, in thanksgiving to God the Father through him." – Colossians 3:17*