



# PA Central District Summer 2016



Worthy Faithful Navigators, Comptrollers and brother Sir Knights,

Thank you for a successful fraternal year. Your hard work and efforts have paid off to the benefit of our departed Sir Knights and their families, our bishops and priests, veterans, chaplains and countless other charitable groups. Thank you! Now get ready to do it again this fraternal year. The need is there and never ceases – neither do we!

To our returning and new Faithful Navigators, I am here to serve you, so please do not hesitate to contact me for help. **If you have not done so, please contact me as soon as possible to schedule your officer installation.**

We welcomed 79 new Sir Knights at the exemplification of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree on June 11, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center Fogelsville, PA. I have received a lot of positive feedback having the exemplification on Saturday and will do so again next year. The time is now to get these new Sir Knight involved in your assembly activities. Our degree team was truly superb, confirmed once again by the many observer and new Sir Knight accolades as they departed the degree chamber. Finally, our Vice Supreme Master, Supreme Master and Supreme Treasurer expressed their sincere gratitude for our donations to support military vocations and the 2017 Warrior Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

This is an exciting and challenging time to be a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knight. Sir Knights are not men who say it can't be done. We have a positive and can-do attitude found in all patriotic Americans that overcomes all obstacles and gets the job done. Combined with our faith, we can be an unstoppable force for all that is good.

On behalf of my wife Karen and our family, enjoy your summer and time well spent with family and friends.

Fraternally,  
John Fitzpatrick, Master

## **Exemplification of the 4th Degree**

**Saturday June 10, 2017**

**Holiday Inn Conference Center, Fogelsville**

***Plant the seeds of Patriotism***

**Ask a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree Knight to join the 4<sup>th</sup> degree**



Congratulations  
to our  
new Sir Knights  
and  
Exemplification  
Honoree  
SK Thomas Rafferty!



# All for One and One for All

Father Bernard J. Ezaki

*Whoever wishes to become great shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to become first among you shall be the slave of all.*

--Mark 10:43-44--

I once had the privilege of living in a rectory with Father Joel Kiefer. Before being ordained a priest, he spent six years in the army. He tells great stories about his life as a cadet at West Point. Here's one.

Once, Cadet Kiefer and the rest of his squad had just finished a long march, and they were hungry. They all filed into the mess hall and sat down at their places, obediently awaiting permission to eat. Father Kiefer describes what happened next:

Our squad leader baited us by asking the whole squad at the table, "Who's hungry?" We all responded in the affirmative. Then he said, "Who's really hungry?" This time, three of us answered positively. The others who didn't respond had, by this time, caught on to his "formation" tactics. Our squad leader asked a third time, "Who's hound-dog hungry?" (In other words, "Who's really, really, hungry?") Only I, Cadet Kiefer, responded in the affirmative. He gave me alone permission to eat. After a number of huge mouthfuls, he asked me how the food was and proceeded to tell my squad mates how "special" I was. I was the last to notice his technique of "ratting out the pig." I ordered arms (put my fork down) and refused to eat, even though he told me to do so. A few mouthfuls of grub taught me the lesson of team.

Cadet Kiefer got the message. He should never have allowed himself the privilege of eating a meal without making sure the rest of his squad was given the same opportunity. Each member of the company must look out for the wellbeing of the others. That's how battles are won. That's how soldiers survive. The next time Joel was given permission to eat while the rest of his company looked on, he responded: "Sir, I will not eat until the rest of the men are allowed to eat, Sir!"

Many people today believe that it's a wimpy thing to be a Catholic. Yet a confirmed Catholic is nothing less than a soldier of Christ. The Church on earth is rightly called the Church Militant, because we are fighting the battle of earthly life and combating the forces of evil. That's why, in the Rite of Confirmation prior to Vatican II, the bishop gave the person who was being confirmed a slap on the cheek. This was a reminder to be a faithful soldier of Christ, to be brave in the fight against evil.

Not surprisingly, the same rule that Cadet Kiefer learned at West Point applies also to us as members of the Army of Christ. We are not to seek our own comfort, glory, or safety at the expense of others. Instead, we must look out for one another. That's how evil is conquered. That's how souls are saved.

## Calendar of Events

### July 31 – Annual Audit due

August 2-4 - Supreme Convention, Toronto

October TBD - District meeting, pending date of VSM provincial meeting

October 12 –Red Mass, Cathedral of St Catharine of Siena, Allentown, 7 PM

November TBD - Red Mass, St Peters Cathedral, Scranton

December 17 – Wreaths Across America

### January 31 – Fraternal Survey Due

May 13-15 – State Convention, Erie

June 3 – Allentown Diocese Priest Ordination

June 10 – Exemplification of 4th Degree, Holiday Inn Fogelsville

June 14 – Flag Day

June 30 - Civic Award, Report of Officers, RSVP, Food for Families due

**An act of kindness throws out roots in all directions,  
and the roots spring up and make new trees.**

*Amelia Earhart*

### **Catholic Navy SEAL given Medal of Honor for heroic action in Afghanistan**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Catholic Navy SEAL with a strong devotion to St. Michael the Archangel was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama at the White House Feb. 29. The 36-year-old Ohio native, Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator Edward C. Byers Jr., rescued a civilian hostage in a remote area of eastern Afghanistan in December 2012.

The nation’s highest military honor was awarded to Byers for, as a military aide read, “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a Hostage Rescue Force Team member in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom Dec. 8-9, 2012.” “His bold and decisive actions under fire saved the lives of the hostage and several of his teammates. By his undaunted courage, intrepid fighting spirit, and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of near-certain death, Chief Petty Officer Byers reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.”

The Washington Post and other news outlets reported that Byers, who is assigned to the SEAL teams based in Little Creek, Virginia, said that for years he has prayed to St. Michael the Archangel, drawing strength from the saint described in Scripture as the one who defends the people of God from their enemies. Byers was quoted by the Post as saying that during a career of serving in combat, he has always worn a St. Michael the Archangel patch “on my back. ... Every single mission I’ve ever done, I’ve always said a prayer to St. Michael to protect and watch over us.”

According to reports, Byers is the sixth Navy SEAL in history to be awarded the Medal of Honor and the first living SEAL to receive the honor since the Vietnam War. Byers has demonstrated “true heroism” and his actions “will continue to inspire all of those who love our country and serve it so selflessly,” said Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services.

“It is obvious that his patriotism and prayer are motivated by his strong Catholic faith. May his story strengthen all of us in our conviction to do what is right and just. It is an honor to join the chorus of those who are praising this SEAL and all of his fellows,” the archbishop said in a March 2 statement.

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To our Lovely Ladies...

When your husband joined the Knights of Columbus, he joined the largest Catholic, Family, and Service Fraternity in the World. What does all that mean?" Simply put, he's doing a good thing! The Knights of Columbus is a Service organization, dedicated to supporting our parishes and community. We believe in the Family, and need our family's involvement and support. With these as its high ideals, it is the responsibility of his assembly to run programs and activities that support our parishes, Community, Family, Youth; promotes patriotism, and meets the needs of your Assembly.

Let's clarify an incorrect belief about the Knights of Columbus. While Knights keep secret their degree ceremonials, it is NOT a Secret Organization! If your knight isn't sharing with you everything else, then ASK HIM! Make him explain to you and his family about his Knights involvement. What activities, events and programs are being planned by the assembly; how the assembly is meeting the needs of the pastors and parish communities; and what family and youth events are coming up. And for any other question you may have, simply ASK HIM! He should welcome your interest and involvement!