



PA Central District Summer 2015



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 107 new Sir Knights at the exemplification of the 4th Degree on Flag Day, June 14, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center Fogelsville, PA. The time is now to get these new Sir Knight involved in your assembly activities. Our degree team was superb, confirmed 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 2016 Warrior Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

This is an exciting and challenging time to be a 4th Degree Knight. Volunteers are still requested for the 2015 Supreme Convention in August and the World Meeting of Families & Pope's visit in September.

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

Fraternally,
John Fitzpatrick, Master

Save the Dates!

Exemplifications of the 4th Degree

Sunday, October 25, 2015

Assembly 1945

State College, PA

Saturday, June 11, 2016

Holiday Inn Conference Center

Fogelsville, PA

Are you, or do you have a relative who is, a member of the military or a first responder and would like to share your experiences? Email a short article and picture to me and I will include in an upcoming newsletter

ADORATION - INSPIRATION

Father Bernard J. Ezaki

And taking him aside from the crowd, he put his fingers into the man's ears... And his ears were at once opened
--Mark 7:33,35--

On Sunday, June 10, 2001, I delivered a baccalaureate homily which contained a pretty strong denunciation. Afterwards, a rather irate individual read me the riot act. "How dare you say what you did!" I was told. "Who gave you the right to say that?" I was filled with self doubt. In my thirteen years of priesthood, no one had ever reprimanded me for anything I had said from the pulpit.

The following morning, after the 6:30 AM Mass, I sat before the Tabernacle. I prayed silently: Jesus, was I wrong to say the things I did? Was what I said over the top? Was my homily in any way displeasing to You?

All of a sudden, I felt a strong urge to get up and take a walk around the block. There was no voice or blinding light. (I am already blind.) It was simply a powerful impulse. Take a walk around the block, the urge seemed to tell me. People have sometimes told me to take a hike. No one had ever told me to take a walk.

Well, I got up and left the church and started walking. Wouldn't you know? As I rounded the corner from Catasauqua Road to Kelchner Road, a car pulled over, and its driver hailed me. "Father," he said, "I just want you to know that yesterday's baccalaureate homily was one of the best I have ever heard. Keep up the good work!" Needless to say, my self-doubts vanished.

To this day, I still marvel at the timing of all of that. What a remarkable coincidence! Or was it? Yet as I ponder, I have come to realize two things: First, I have had a number of such remarkable experiences—nothing mystical, simply affirmations or promptings. Second, each of these experiences came about as a result of my spending time praying before the Blessed Sacrament. Wow! Why has it taken me so long to make this connection?

Spending time in prayer before the Eucharist is the best means I know for obtaining affirmation, inspiration, and direction.

In Mark 7:31-37, Jesus takes a deaf-mute man apart from the crowd and heals him. Now I have no doubt that the event took place exactly as the evangelist describes it. Yet from this I think it is fair to say that when we regularly go apart from the crowd to spend time with Jesus before the Blessed Sacrament, He will open our ears so that we will understand His will and open our mouths so that we proclaim His Gospel.

Please don't get me wrong. We should never come to God in prayer with explicit demands for favors. Opening our hearts before Jesus in the Eucharist, however, is the best way I know to receive whatever blessings Our Lord has to offer.

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear (Mark 4:9)."



Calendar of Events



July 31 – Annual Audit due

August 4-6 – Supreme Convention, Philadelphia

September 22-27 – World Meeting of Families, Philadelphia

September 27 – Papal Mass, Philadelphia PA

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

October 25, Exemplification of the 4th Degree, State College

October 28 –Red Mass, Cathedral of St Catharine of Siena, Allentown, 7 PM

November TBD - Red Mass, St Peters Cathedral, Scranton

December 12 – Wreaths Across America

January 31 – Fraternal Survey Due

April 10 – Biennial Meeting, location TBD

May 13-15 – State Convention, Erie

June 4 – Allentown Diocese Priest Ordination

June 11 – Exemplification of 4th Degree, Holiday Inn Fogelsville

June 14 – Flag Day

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

Looking for ways to help our veterans?

Whitehall Township, PA, soldier Adam Keys finally got to come home....

The 31-year-old U.S. Army sergeant returned from his tour in Afghanistan five years ago after a roadside blast rocked the armored vehicle that he was riding in with four others, including his childhood friend, Jesse Reed. Keys was the only one to survive, though at the time, he was barely surviving. He lost both legs and his left hand in the aftermath.

After spending months in a coma and enduring more than 130 surgeries, Keys passed another milestone Wednesday: entering his new "smart" home in Crownsville, just outside Annapolis, Md. For the first time since he was injured, Keys won't be living at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. He'll be on his own in a house where everything down to the window blinds and cabinet shelves are automated and controlled by computers.

"This is gorgeous," Keys said as he entered the custom-built house. "Goodness, goodness, goodness."

The house was built with help from several veterans assistance organizations and corporate donors, including the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation. The organization, named for a New York City firefighter who died Sept. 11, 2001, at the World Trade Center, honors soldiers and first responders killed or seriously injured in their duties.

Actor Gary Sinise*, who was nominated for an Academy Award for his role as Lt. Dan Taylor in the movie "Forrest Gump" and who since 2003 has fronted a musical group that raises money for veterans causes, headlined a 2012 benefit show in Easton that helped raise money for the house.

* - The Knights provided \$200,000 to the Gary Sinise Foundation to help build a computer-equipped "smart" home for U.S. Army Cpl. Kyle Hockenberry, who lost both legs and his left arm in an improvised explosive device (IED) attack in Afghanistan.

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