



Knights of Columbus Newsletter Council #15373



September, 2021

From the Chaplain - Fr. John Harrold

This article originally appeared in Renewal Ministries' September 2017 newsletter.

September 14th is the feast of the Triumph (or Exaltation) of the Holy Cross. This feast commemorates the finding of the true Cross by St. Helena in 326.

The History of the True Cross

To give you some background of this feast, St. Helena, a convert to Christianity and the mother of the Roman Emperor

Constantine, went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, hoping to find the very Cross on which Jesus was hung. She succeeded; the identity of the true Cross was confirmed by a miraculous healing of a terminally ill woman. St. Helena had a church built on the site of Jesus' crucifixion, known as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Constantine dedicated this church on Sept. 13-14 in 335. Even today, the Stations of the Cross in Jerusalem, or the Via Dolorosa, end at this very spot. The true Cross was considered a most valuable treasure of the Church, and the feast honoring the Triumph of the Holy Cross has continually been celebrated until this day.

Reflections on the Triumph of the Cross

Why is this important? As I travel and speak in many places, I see the ravages of sin in the lives of so many, but I also see the incredible healing power of God when there is repentance. I meet many people who stumbled in the darkness, but have emerged into the light. And I find myself bowing down to the power and the triumph of the Cross.

During each Lent and Easter season, we worship Christ in a particular way as our Savior, who died for us on that Cross, that we might receive mercy and live forever with Him. But we need to more closely unite ourselves to the power of the Cross in all seasons. As the challenges of life face us—many times in major ways—I think the Cross, and the love and mercy that flow through every wound of Christ on that Cross, need to be part of our lives in a more tangible and frequent way. We need to learn how to unite our pain and suffering and with the only suffering that can heal and set us free. God allows our sin, its consequences, and the trials we bear because of the sin of others, to be united to His saving Cross for our healing and restoration. This is all a part of His great mercy.

From the From the Grand Knight's Table - David Swierkosz

In October of this year our council will be starting its eleventh year. Since it was formed, we have raised and donated over \$25,000 to various charities in addition to many man hours of labor in our parishes and local neighborhoods. Currently we have over 40 members on our roster. About 50% of them are active and support our various fundraisers and events. We are still looking for any men 18 and older who are interested in sharing their time and talents with the rest of us. Come join us on our journey and help serve and strengthen the church. Talk to me or any Brother Knight for more info. Thank you for your continued support.

Did You Know - Calvin Kulik

Did You Know..... that more than 100 years ago, beginning in the fall of 1918, the "Spanish Influenza" ravaged the world, much like today's Coronavirus, killing approximately 50 million people worldwide including more than 3000 members of KofC?

Then, like now, large gatherings of people were cancelled in an effort to keep people away from each other to try and mitigate the spread of the disease. Churches and schools were closed and sporting events cancelled. Masks were also recommended. The Knights cancelled meetings and events as well as parades normally held to celebrate Columbus Day. But the Knights also tried to care for the sick when possible. When the influenza swept through Camp Zachary Taylor outside of Louisville, Ky. the Knights USO "recreation huts" that were developed to aide the military during WWI were repurposed as "emergency hospitals." In Nome, Ark., these "emergency hospitals" helped care for more than 1,000 Native Americans who fell victim to the pandemic.

*In the fall of 1919, approximately a year after the pandemic began, like today, it seemed that cases were diminishing. The consensus was that the country had turned the corner on the disease; it had finally passed!! Society began a "return to normal." Schools and churches reopened and sporting events began. Unfortunately, by Feb. 7, 1920 the influenza returned ferociously. In his book of 2004, *The Great Influenza*, author John M. Barry wrote, "In 8 weeks in early 1920 eleven thousand influenza related deaths occurred in just NYC & Chicago, and in NYC more cases would be reported in a single day than on any 1 day in 1918.....The year 1920 would see either (sources differ) the second or third most deaths from influenza and pneumonia in the 20th century!"*

From the Newsletter Editor and P.R. Chairman - Ken Nath

As we make our best effort to return to something that approaches a normal existence. We need to be like we were in our youth, when we were forced out of our warm snug bed to face the day. We need to throw off the covers and get at the day. I hope to see us get some things going again and get us moving forward in spite of the obstacles that are put in our way. We need to seize the moment!!!

Upcoming events:

- Thursday, Oct. 7, at 6:30 PM - Officers meeting*
- Sunday, Oct. 10, Annual Columbus Day Dinner, Washington, PA, See Dave for details*
- Thursday, Oct. 14, at 7:00 PM - Regular meeting at St. Sylvester's*
- Monday, Oct. 18, at 7:00 PM - Greensburg CHAPTER meeting location to be announced.*

Current Officers:

Chaplain.....Fr. John Harrold
Grand Knight..... David Swierkosz
Deputy Grand Knight.....Vacant
Prog. Dir./Lecturer.....Brad Ronian
Recorder.....J R Martin
Membership Director.....Calvin Kulik
Financial Secretary.....Ralph Sabedra
Treasurer.....Steve Rado
Advocate.....Charlie Angell
Chancellor.....Vacant
Warden.....Chuck Colton
Inside Guard.....Andrew Cup
Outside Guard.....Andrew Hill
Trustee (3 year).....Calvin Kulik
Trustee (2 year).....Vacant
Trustee (1 year).....Ken Nath
Newsletter & P.R. Chairman.....Ken Nath
Dist. #115 Deputy.....Timothy Shields