



## My Brother Knights,

We live in difficult times, but are they any more difficult than others? Father Schweiger's recent homily that touched on this had me sitting there, shaking my head in agreement. My great-grandfather was in the Army and served in France during World War One. I'm a historian and personal family history is perhaps my most ardent area of research. I have a letter that my great-grandfather wrote to my great-grandmother in 1918. One comment that always piqued my interest, one that took on new meaning in 2020, poignantly shows his Irish-American Catholic spirit, "The Germans couldn't kill me and I'll be damned if this disease is going to kill me." He was of course speaking about the Spanish Flu pandemic that killed 30-50 million people.

In addition to being a Navy veteran, I'm also a retired Department of Defense civilian. I was stationed in Germany from 1989 to 1992. I have many fond memories of my four years abroad, certainly being in Berlin for the fall of the wall on November 9<sup>th</sup> among them, but the one mirrored by this pandemic has to be the night in January of 1991 when the air bombardment campaign for the first Gulf War began. Active duty military were put on alert, either being called immediately to their squadron or waiting for further instructions in their housing units on-base or in one of the local communities. Their families were restricted to quarters. As a civilian, I didn't face such restrictions but I did feel the importance of having a heightened awareness to my surroundings and the possible dangers that could exist. We already had plans, date night. It was the European premier for the movie 'Home Alone.' Dinner at our favorite gasthaus followed by enjoying the movie was planned. It was also my attitude that altering our way of life was a sign that the terrorists had already won. I will never forget being the only two people in the largest of five theaters at the Landstuhl Kino, in the shadow of the largest military hospital in Europe and just across the Autobahn from Ramstein Air Base, headquarters for the entire U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

The point I want to make here is that God is always in control. It's not always easy to see this, but I think it's important that we don't lose sight of His infinite power. I look around the world and see varying degrees of restrictions on our human rights. I think we've been fortunate here in Nebraska that we haven't had drastic controls put on our right to worship God as we always have. I appreciate Father Beardslee and his work to broadcast Sunday Mass, but I am thankful to have the ability to attend Mass in person. I'm still working on being comfortable receiving the Sacrament in the palm of my hand. My previous parish in Iowa isn't so fortunate. The Diocese of Des Moines wouldn't allow in-person Mass for quite some time. They recently returned, but parishioners are required to sign up for the few precious slots. Other parts of America and other parts of the world still have restrictions that prohibit personal attendance at Mass. The pandemic is real; I lost a close relative who had health issues that made the virus deadly for him. I have lost a few friends in similar situations. We should all be taking proper precautions, but constantly living in fear isn't my idea of living at all.

Human touch beats high tech every time. Fellowship and community is not only very important to me, it's how God wired us, to be together. That's been my approach as your Grand Knight, to continue to provide the programs and lay ministries that our Order is built upon. We have taken proper precautions at meetings and events. We Zoomed when in-person gatherings were temporarily suspended. We made adjustments as needed and innovated to meet the needs of our community, such as the drive-through food collection drives. As I've stressed for several months now, we truly have endeavored to Leave No Neighbor Behind. And as an elected officer, as with any elected position, I serve at your pleasure. Consent of the governed is not limited to public officials.

In closing, I just want to say that it is my honor and privilege to serve you. If, at any time, council or parish activities we are involved with give you pause or appear questionable, I ask you to speak up and make your concerns known. There is no benefit in closing off the lines of communication.

Vivat Jesus, Jim

### Calendar of Events 2021

February 3, Membership meeting, 7 PM  
February 12, Pitch tournament in Social Hall, 7 PM  
February 17, Ash Wednesday  
February 19 & 26<sup>th</sup>, Fish Fry from 5-7. Call Steve Becker  
402-429-0106 OR Jeff Babl 402-601-7823 to help.  
There is a limit to the number of volunteers per night  
this year due to COVID precautions.

**Family of Month: Greg & Kim Philson**

**Knight of Month: Patrick Dority**

### Birthdays for February

Adrian Carlson	2/2	Harlan Leibel	2/14
Charles Horstman	2/4	Randall Noble	2/15
Robert McDonald	2/4	Stanley Fraas	2/19
John Oliveros	2/6	Marti Krings	2/22
Michael Hosek	2/9	Jacob Sloup	2/22
Todd Hoebelheinrich	2/10	Lyle Wilsey	2/24
Daniel Weyers	2/12		

***Please remember to 'Leave No Neighbor Behind'***

## KNIGHTS COUNCIL 13576 NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2021

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