



Grand Knight's Message

SK PGK Leo McCormick



Brothers, Families and Friends,

April 2019

Welcome to the Month of the Blessed Sacrament. This is most appropriate for April, Lent is ending, Easter is upon us, and Spring has sprung. Life is being revitalized. Hopefully, we too feel revitalized, having dedicated ourselves during Lent to a renewed time of sacrifice, prayer, and giving of our time, talent, and treasures.

Our Council had a busy month with some additions to our already busy schedule: Lenten Fish Fry – St. Patrick's Day Dinner – recruiting drives – Silver Rose ceremony – Lady's High Tea – 1st Crab and Shrimp Feast - 54-Day Rosary Novena for Life - District 13 meeting – Formation (2nd) Degree - Outstanding Young Man / Young Woman competition winners – saying goodbye to a great man and Brother Knight, SK Jay Landreth.

We look forward to April's events, some we've already accomplished: April Business meeting – 1st Sunday Bingo – 1st VA March for Life in Richmond – 1st Responder's Appreciation Dinner delivery – Corporation Board meeting. We will have: Admissions (1st) Degree, 11 April – April social showcasing the icons of Tony Skiscim, 25 April – pancake breakfast at St. Louis (no pancake breakfast Easter Sunday at Good Shepherd) – Friday nights Bingo (except 19 April) – Family Movie Night (Miracles from Heaven) – Spiritual Reflection Program on Saturday mornings.

With our busy Council and personal schedules, we may be tempted to return to life as usual before Lent. This is a temptation we all face as Easter arrives and we can "relax." However, if we do revert back and don't continue the disciplines we've started or restarted, then our efforts were all for naught. Lent is a time for renewed self-restraint from the temptations of life, to help us rein in our passions and recognize the sacrifices Jesus made for each of us during His Life, Passion, and Resurrection. Hopefully, we've grown closer to Him during Lent and desire to continue building that intimacy through dedicated time with Him after Lent. I propose a regular reflection on the term I used to describe April, "revitalizing" to help us stay devoted to our Lenten habits beyond Lent.

To vitalize means to endow with life, to make more lively or vigorous. So to re-vitalize is to endow with new life, to make something grow, develop, become successful again. This was Christ's purpose, to give us new life while on Earth and to make eternal life in Heaven possible. John 10:10b states, "I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly." An expansion of St. Irenaeus's famous quote: "The glory of God is man fully alive, but man fully alive is man glorifying God."

While we work to live our revitalized lives, I offer one last recommendation that harkens back to my article last month about forgiveness and mercy. The Sunday after Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. The Church offers a Plenary Indulgence, with the usual conditions observed (link below). This is to recognize the very special promise Our Lord revealed to St. Faustina, recorded three times in her diary, "to grant complete forgiveness of sins and punishment on the Feast of Mercy" (link below). This goes well beyond normal confessions and indulgences. Through confession and worthily receiving our Lord in communion on this Feast, we can receive this inestimable gift from Jesus. We can begin anew, with revitalized life this Easter Season. May God grant us His grace to accept His gift of revitalized life and mercy, and readily share these gifts with others. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen. (http://www.divinemercysunday.com/plenary_indulgence.htm, http://www.divinemercysunday.com/mercy_sunday.htm)

Vivat Jesus!
Leo