

**Pope John Paul II
Assembly #2914**

MAY 2026

**PJP II Assembly
#2914**

District 31

Our Lady of Hope
Catholic Church

St. Thomas More Room

2nd Tuesday

Holy Family

Council #6831

St. John the Apostle
Church

Leesburg, VA

St. Francis de Sales

Council #11136

Purcellville, VA

Our Lady of Hope

Council #12791

Potomac Falls, VA

PIETATEM

NEWSLETTER



Seven New Sir Knights and a Wealth of Inspiration

By James Ryan, Faithful Scribe



The Magnificent Seven: new Sir Knights from John Paul II Assembly – and some friends

Any Sir Knight who would like a refresher course on our Fourth Degree and what it stands for – a spiritual vitamin shot to reinfuse and reinvigorate his enthusiasm for Catholic patriotism and all its glorious history – would do well to attend an exemplification.

St. Catherine of Siena Church in Great Falls hosted a splendid one on May 30, with 53 gentlemen stepping up to assume the proud title of Sir Knight.

Among those were seven from our Assembly:

Bryan Teodoro, Holy Family Council, St. John the Apostle
Joseph Thumma, Holy Family Council, St. John the Apostle

**Robert Jackson, Holy Family Council, St. John the Apostle
Robert Romich, Holy Family Council, St. John the Apostle
Robert Hodges, Our Lady of Hope Council
Alberto Santillan, St. Francis de Sales Council
James Roth, St. Francis de Sales Council**

Another new Sir Knight was good old Father Willard, our former Parochial Vicar from Hillsboro. (When inquired after his hometown, he would reply, well, if West Virginia is “almost heaven,” and if Hillsboro is almost West Virginia, then what does that make Hillsboro?)

For the new Sir Knights, St. Catherine’s was almost heaven, and pretty close to it, as speaker after speaker extolled the virtues and legacies of our proud Patriotic Degree.

The ceremony was appropriately encompassing and bipartisan, quoting Presidents George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, William Howard Taft, John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan.)

There were so many fine words spoken they would fill up a volume, but here are some excerpts:

The fourth degree is the physical presence of the order and the church in the world.

The diversity of people illustrates God’s face in the world. We pledge to make America more beautiful still. “Here on earth, God’s work must truly be our own,” as President Kennedy, a fourth-degree Knight himself, said in his inaugural. We offer a genuine witness to our brotherhood, being bringing us toward one nation under God.

Today we begin an odyssey. It’s not just a passion, but a quest for patriotic American principles. To be a Catholic patriot, we understand that that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God, as President Kennedy reminded us in his 1961 inaugural address. Patriotism is a love for everything good about our land.

We must avoid the danger of seeing the good in only one nation and disregarding the rights of others.



The Expositor of the Constitution said: loyalty to an individual or to one political party is not the American way. Not here.

American soldiers take an oath to support our free and Democratic government and Constitution, not to individuals or parties. (He dramatically held up the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, appropriately, under a crystal-clear image of Jesus the Savior and King.)

“We the people”: the speaker read the entire preamble. These blessings are unprecedented in the world. These are enumerated rights. For example, the right to free assembly.

Reflect on our awesome responsibility to transmit these blessings of liberty to our posterity.

It all begins with Columbus. Recall the movement to honor him in the nation’s capital. The dedication of the Columbus Memorial at Union Station in 1912 was celebrated with a huge parade and addressed by President Taft. Taft’s praised the voyage to America by “the greatest mariner in history” and the explorer for opening nearly half of the geographical world to the Christian civilization and progress. High ideals, superhuman efforts.

Consider the Columbus monument at Columbus Square in New York: Columbus planted the cross of Christ in the Americas – the seed of faith. Catholics baptized this continent.

Consider the contributions of Catholics to the making of America.



Maryland, well known in the beginning as a sanctuary for Catholics, was a sanctuary for Protestants and others as well. This principle ultimately led to the First Amendment.

1683: the Charter of Religious and Privileges in New York, the first colonial document to establish religious freedom, was issued by a Catholic governor. To find the spirit of the cherished words of the First Amendment, look no further than Catholic America.

Every Catholic in America stood up for the cause of independence. Consider the Carrolls and their contributions. Other early American Catholic patriots included some Indians.

Be faithful custodians of our nation's liberties, like our predecessors – especially those who gave their lives, the full measure of devotion.

Poet Joyce Kilmer, a brother Knight, wrote a moving paean to self-sacrifice just before he was killed in World War I.

Good Samaritan Catholics: in the Gilded Age, widely considered to be a selfish one, Catholics built many hospitals and performed many other acts of charity.

Praise be to the holy women who alleviated hardship and disease, such as Mother Cabrini, Mother Seton and many others.

***E pluribus unum*: the Catholic Church has done more to advance American ideals than anyone.**

When you look at the flag, you see the nation itself in the unity of its design.

President Ronald Reagan, whose father was a Knight, explained the meaning of the flag and its elements in a 1986 address: it represents the saga of our growth – across the continent and even to the moon. Through it we affirm the brotherhood of man.

Lincoln's second inaugural in 1865: "with malice toward none, with charity for all ..." A poetic statement of our ideals.

We can't remain sidelined in the fight for justice.

We don't present a narrow sectarian interest, but a common good out of love for our neighbors and nation. Be good shepherds – give life to others.

George Washington said: religion and morality are indispensable. They are the great pillars of human happiness.

Be directed by principle, conviction and conscience.

The Edict of Milan by Emperor Constantine in 313 A.D. laid the foundation for the evangelization of the New World.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas: No image is more venerated in the new world. Juan Diego, an inspiring witness – the first in a long line.

So Constantine and Juan Diego laid the foundations of evangelism in east and west.

Pray the luminous mysteries often. Reflect on the things that make America the envy of the world.

Joseph Story said: you possess a noble heritage that could perish in an hour, so guard it well.

Heed the words of John F. Kennedy from his undelivered speech that he was to deliver in Dallas of the day of his assassination – his last official words and closing thoughts in this world:

“We are, by destiny rather than by choice, the watchmen on the walls of freedom ... we may achieve in our time and for all time the ancient vision of ‘peace on earth, good will toward men.’ That must always be our goal, and the righteousness of our cause must always underlie our strength. For as was written long ago: ‘except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.’” (Psalm 127:1)

We celebrate not just a ceremony, but a transformation. You’re setting out on a new voyage of patriotism and faith.

When the public sees you, it sees first discipline, reverence and the church itself. Lead with humility and service.

Father McGivney said: From our Catholic faith springs our love of country.



From the slideshow: the Catholic pilgrim / explorer, always questing for God and our ideals, always forward

In Memoriam

That well-known Latin phrase means “into memory.” Four of our worthy brother Knights have already been engraved into our memories. More recently their names were engraved into a chalice:

WILLIAM "BILL" KALBSKOPF III

NEIL ARENA

JOSEPH "JAY" TIPPETT

DANIEL PATRICK WHALEN

On May 30 at OLOH, Knights and friends performed a chalice ceremony that had been long delayed for the fortuitous reason that we didn't have enough names of fallen Knights yet. But we finally did, and dedicated the chalice, which will have the ultimate honor of holding the Blood of Christ. Thus these men and their names are going not only into memory, but into service to the Church.

The ceremony is a rich and thoughtful one – the script runs to over 20 pages. Personnel involved include Chief Lector, the Poet, the Chalice Bearer, the Deacon/Friar, the Honor Guard (all the Color Corps Members in Official Regalia Dress), and the Guards of Honor.

Among other touching words and sentiments gracing the ceremony, the Poet reads:

Wild the sea clamors from its echoing caves, but other voices rise
above the waves;
As now you are, O friends, so once were we. As now we are, so one
day you shall be.
And still they rise and plead and hurry by, sobbing and breaking
in that long sad cry – PRAY FOR US.
Father of all, be merciful to all.
Hold not this faithful servant long in thrall,
Open to him Thy blessed dwelling place, hide not too long the
glory of Thy face.
Mother of Pity, hearken to that cry,
Cleaving the clouds and quivering to the sky.
PRAY FOR US.



In Honor of Sir Knights
of Pope John Paul II
Assembly 2914:



Bill Kalbskopf
Neil Arena
Joseph "Jay" Tippett
Daniel Whalen





Bob Fay slicing & dicing at the chalice ceremony reception



FN SK Eddie with the Whalen family



**Bill Kalbskopf family photo along with
St. John members and other friends**









PIETATEM

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