

ALLOUEZ ABSTRACTS



ALLOUEZ COUNCIL 658, K OF C

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APRIL 2020

ROCK ISLAND, IL VOL MMXX, NO. 04



APRIL

Upcoming Events

1-30 PRAY, PRAY, & PRAY

12 Happy Easter!

13 **Spring Blood Drive, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X MUST HAVE APPOINTMENT (See Page 3) 2 to 6 pm**

GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Brother Knights, Families and Friends

Covid-19 enough said. This flu like illness has put everything we do into a tailspin. All events have been or are being moved to other dates. The same is happening for April. It appears the shutdown will continue thru the end of the April. With that in mind we will not be having a general meeting in April. Things are in the works for a tele-a--conference call for the officers. More to come on that later.

All has not been bad though. The ladies from the Knights auxiliary has given us a check for a little over \$1500 for repairs to the convent. Way to go ladies. We are viewing several projects for repair in our sister's home. This will definitely speed up the process.

Upcoming events for 2020:

- March 13th & 27th Fish fry/postponed
- April 25th Knight of Knights/postponed
- Apr. 4th Trivia night/postponed
- Apr. 13th Blood drive/ **still on**
- Apr. 23rd Dinner with our Clergy/postponed
- May 9th Italian Dinner and Social/postponed
- Food Bank distribution April 22nd/cancelled

Remember, let Jesus be your model & let the Holy Spirit be your guide!

Vivat Jesus! *Chuck Gibbs* Chuck Gibbs, GK



QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS/VOLUNTEER: CONTACT A COUNCIL OFFICER:

Grand Knight: Chuck Gibbs 563-343-3373 cgibbs8285@hotmail.com **Deputy G.K.:** Rick Cervantes

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3yr Trustee: Louie Alongi 309-786-9625 alongilouiev@gmail.com

*Appointed

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FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

Due to the *Governor's Lockdown policy for the State of Illinois released today*, our next scheduled Assembly meeting on **April 2nd (first Thursday, even months)** at **Riverfront Grille**, 4619 34th Street, off of Blackhawk Road in Rock Island ***has been postponed***. I will wait to reschedule based on where we are on the whole Coronavirus issue in the near future. As of this date I only had (9) RSVP's, so buffet was in jeopardy anyway, we may need to go to order off of menu if we don't get enough members to sign up for the buffet, or move to Pizza & Subs.

As we all know now, the **Rock Island Saint Patrick's Mass & Parade** scheduled for **Sat. March 14th** were cancelled and may be rescheduled in the month of June. Stay tuned....

At our **February** Assembly meeting we heard from our **Uniform Committee** in regards to how do we get the Honor Guard to the New Uniform and what we can use in the interim until we get there. The following is a summary of the committee proposal. There is no going back to the use of the Cape & Chapeaux for it is officially retired, but we can facilitate our Senior Sir Knights and still provide an Honor Guard for our official duties at Funerals, Rosaries, Chalice Presentations, Masses, and other duties by allowing the use of the Tux or Black Suite, with Service Baldric & Sword and White Gloves without the Cape & Chapeaux. While I certainly encourage all Honor Guard members to consider buying the new uniform, we will in the interim utilize this alternate as we will still provide this important part of our Assembly Duties. ***It is my understanding***

that we can order the Beret separately, so maybe we should all order it at a minimum to augment our Honor Guard.....to be discussed at our next meeting.

We have determined that the reduced price (\$449.00) source for the new uniform which is **The Supply Room (TSR)** located in Oxford, Alabama, is the only legitimate and authorized source for the new uniform. It is a domestic provider and you must deal directly with them in ordering the uniform and the color beret patch. **The Supreme Master's Office will not accept any more order requests.** I have included the web site of **TSR** for your convenience: <https://www.kofcuniform.com> their toll free telephone number is **833-562-4327**. But remember you will need to have it altered and you will need a white shirt that's not included in that price. TSR is submitting a white shirt and a black overcoat for approval by the Supreme Master, and will have these items available upon approval, probably sometime this month.

To facilitate the purchase of the new uniform for those willing to do so, but may not have the immediate resources, the Assembly will make a two year loan up to \$480.00 with a payback within two years and a monthly payment amount determined by the amount of the loan divided by 24 monthly payments. Our Comptroller and Purser will work together on this effort. Make your request to Comptroller Bud Phillis and he will make a voucher to Purser Mike Daly to write a loan check to you and set up the repayment schedule with you. **My thanks to the Uniform Committee; Louie Alongi, Mike Daly, Bud Phillis and John Wuerzburger for their work on this process.**

The scheduled 4th Degree Exemplification in the Southern District (which we are part of): March 21st, 2020 Double Tree Hotel, Mount Vernon, IL. has been postponed. The next scheduled one is in Peoria on Nov.14th at the Spalding Renewal Center. **The next scheduled 4th Degree Exemplification in the Northern District: May 9 2020, St. Edna's, Arlington Heights, IL.** There is also a possible Exemplification in the Northern District in Savanna, IL. this fall, although this one doesn't seem likely. *Remember, we must comply with submittal requirements and deadlines, and all funds will be forfeited if the candidate cancels.*

Please know that I'm praying for each of you and your families during this very difficult time. Psalms 91 might be of comfort to you, stay safe and healthy and we will see each other again soon. This too will pass.....try to pray the Prayer for Protection in Time of Pandemic Novena found elsewhere in this newsletter. God Bless!!!

Jack Swan

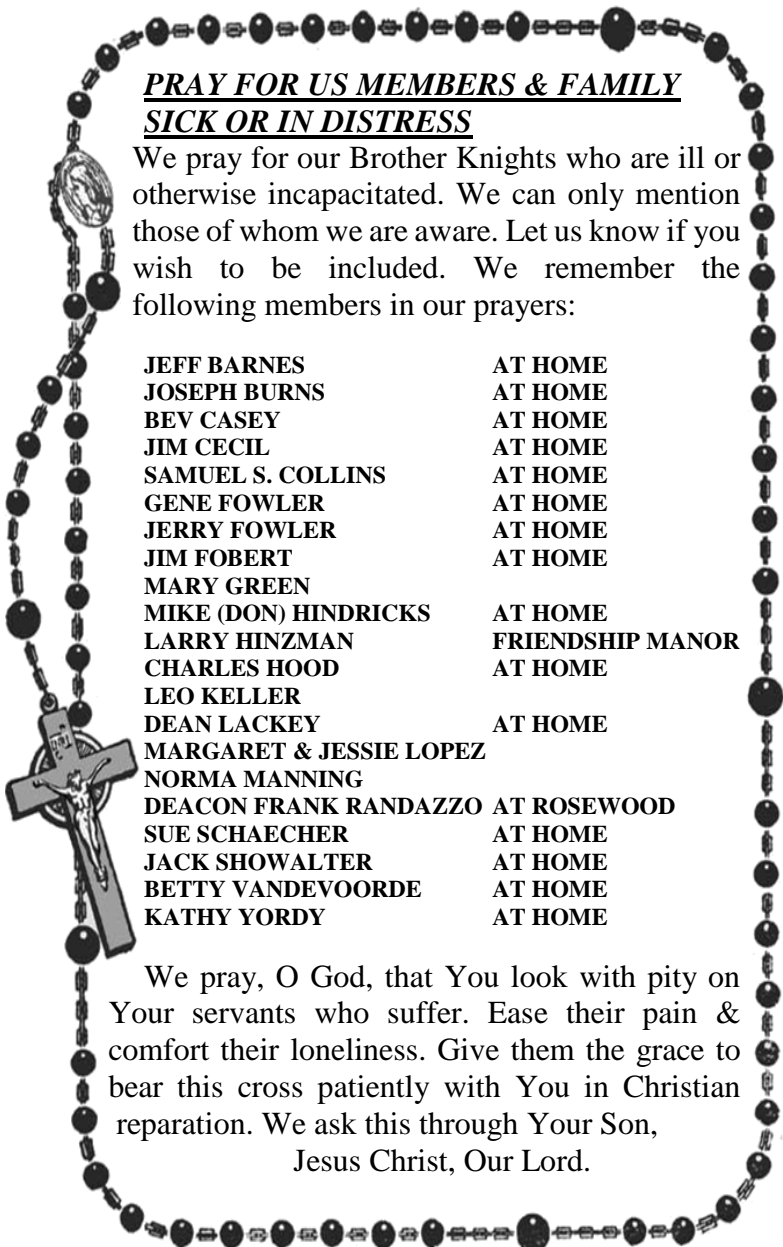
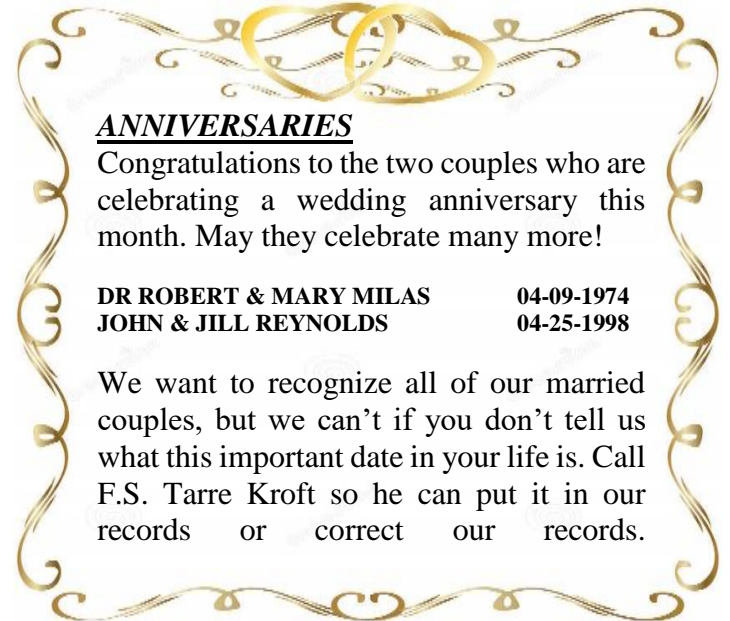
Faithful Navigator, Father Bader Assembly #1922
kofc658@gmail.com 309-593-2756



25 brother Knights are celebrating a birthday this month. May they live as long as they want & never want as long as they live!

KURT SCHMIDT	JAMES DEDECKER
TARRE KROFT	MICHAEL TARPEY
PETER FIEWEGER	RMR TIMOTHY GRANET
BENJAMIN HOUTEKIER	KEVIN RAFFERTY
REX SCRANTON	LEO PINTON
CHARLES BISHOP JR	PAUL EGAN
CHRISTOPHER M MANDLE	MATTHEW KLAUER
DONALD BECK	MICHAEL CROWDER
DAVID HUBBS	MICHAEL TERRY
TERRY SCHROEDER	THOMAS LAWRENCE
ALVIN MARTIN	ANDY SHRAKE
STEPHEN SCHAECHER	DENNIS PAULEY
EUGENE FOWLER	

Please call F.S. Tarre Kroft if our records need updated.





ST. PIUS BLOOD DRIVE

We're looking forward to seeing you at our April 13th St. Pius X Catholic Church Blood Drive.

You can find us in Farrell Hall! Early Q is encouraged and **all appointments need to be scheduled**. For more details on this online health questionnaire visit:

www.bloodcenter.org/donate/earlyq/

In these times, donation is still very safe and very needed by patients. Blood donors are exempt from the Stay at Home executive order. **Click HERE to learn more about the measures the Blood Center is taking for your safety.**

If you have an appointment already, thank you! If not, to schedule an appointment to ensure social distancing, please call Louie Alongi at 309-235-6796 or the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center at 800-747-5401.

Thank you for helping patients in need.



DEACON'S QUESTION BOX

[See the Abstract Archives for a list of past questions.](#)

What is Incorruptibility and Does it Impact the Cause for Sainthood?

Incorruptibility is the state where the natural decomposition process of a body has either not happened in the expected manner or has been significantly extended. There are quite a few saints around the world whose bodies, limbs, or, in a few cases, organs are in a remarkable state of preservation and where there is no natural explanation such as embalming to account for it. Examples would be the bodies St. John of the Cross and St. Theresa of Avila or the tongue of St. John Vianney.

The Church is very careful before declaring a body incorrupt. In all such occurrences, an in-depth investigation is conducted to make sure there were no pre-burial processes that could have caused this and that no natural environmental conditions were present that may have caused this condition. Pre-burial processes would include embalming or air tight coffins. Sometimes the condition of the crypt itself can slow or prevent normal decay. The Church also recognizes there may be processes going on that we don't even understand yet.

The Church recognizes the possibility of a miracle in this preservation. But they do not count it as a miracle for the sake of beatification or sainthood. Rather they would take this as a confirmation of holiness but not a proof of holiness. The Church is more interested in the person's virtue. So there is no direct effect on the process of declaring a saint. In fact, there are examples of incorruptible bodies of individuals that would not be considered particularly holy.

True incorruptibility fits the definition of a miracle. That is, something we can observe that defies the explanation of science or logic. And we can learn from this. The incorruptibles remind us that we have a faith that is both physical and spiritual. Jesus' incarnation is both supernatural and physical at the same time. We can learn that the spiritual and physical worlds are really intertwined in ways that

we cannot describe. But this interaction shows us that what we do with our bodies affects our souls and what we do spiritually affects our bodies. That is one reason why most medical institutions have spiritual care available.

Finally, the incorruptibles remind us that miracles happen, that this world is not quite as predictable as we may think or like, that God is at work in the world, and that at any moment He might surprise us with new evidence of His power and love.



Feel free to drop me a question for this column. Questions may be dropped off on the head table at a Council Meeting or sent via email to Deacon Russ Swim, Assistant Chaplain, rpswim@mchsi.com, phone 786-3097.



PRO-LIFE MESSAGE

Making Sense of a Crisis in a Post-Christian Era

There is a moving black-and-white photo taken in San Francisco in 1918 during the Spanish flu pandemic. The photo shows a crowd of men and women, soberly dressed, standing and kneeling on the steps of the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption. In the foreground, a lone man kneels on one knee, his head bowed solemnly, with one hand grasping the wheel well of an old car for support.

The Spanish flu was a highly contagious and deadly form of the flu that spread rapidly around the globe. When all was said and done, the dead numbered as many as 50-100 million. Furthermore, unlike the virus that is making the news these days, the Spanish flu did not spare the young or the healthy; nobody was safe. Because of the fear of contagion during the 1918 pandemic, authorities in many jurisdictions either completely banned all public events or recommended that public events be held outdoors. Hence, the presence of the worshippers on the steps of the church.

Perhaps it was not "wise"—in one sense of the word—for the people in that photo to be there, in a crowd, in the midst of an outbreak of an infectious disease. Wise or not, however, this photo stands to me as a powerful witness to the universal human tendency in times of great trial to come together and to turn our hearts and minds as one toward the transcendent, to seek wisdom from the Almighty, to humble ourselves in the face of the great mysteries of suffering and death, to worship Him who made heaven and earth, and to beg for His mercy.

Or rather, the *almost* universal human tendency of mocking Prayer, another photo has been making the rounds these past few days. It shows Vice President Mike Pence and the group of advisors who make up the president's Coronavirus Task Force bowing their heads in prayer before a meeting to discuss how to handle the epidemic. Unfortunately, this photo has received much attention, but not, as you might think, because people found it comforting that our national and political leaders are seeking divine aid in the midst of a crisis. Quite the contrary.

One writer for *New York Times* magazine, Thomas Chatterton Williams, posted the photo on Twitter, writing: "Mike Pence and his coronavirus emergency team praying for a solution. We are so screwed." His tweet was liked and shared tens of

thousands of times. Other writers accused Pence of trying to “pray away” the virus or of “trying to stop a virus with prayer.” “I have yet to attend a scientific meeting that begins with a Christian prayer,” wrote Dr. Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at Columbia University, on Twitter.

Responses like these show just how post-Christian our society has become and how ill-informed people are about the basics of Christian teaching, philosophy, and theology. For some reason, it is now taken as unquestionable that there exists a *dichotomy* between prayer and empirically informed practical measures: That is, many people now view it as *self-evident* that we can *either* pray *or* take reasonable, scientifically grounded action. But we can’t possibly do both.

In the first place, this is plain dishonest. Regardless of what one thinks about the details of Pence’s response, clearly he isn’t just trying to “pray away” the virus; the prayer, rather, was merely preliminary to a meeting with experts that resulted in tangible and practical proposals based upon epidemiological principles aimed at stemming the spread of the virus. In the second place, these criticisms are based upon a grossly erroneous understanding of how Christians conceive of the relationship between the natural and the supernatural.

The spiritual significance of any crisis is profound. Some tend to think of God as a powerful, but ultimately limited being—the “old man with a beard”—who is “out there” somewhere, who Christians hope will occasionally pop into the picture and work some supernatural magic in response to their prayers. This is an absurd caricature.

It is true, of course, that Christians do believe that God occasionally manifests His power by performing miracles that violate the normal physical laws (i.e., miraculous cures). In times of plagues and natural disasters, people of faith quite naturally turn to God in prayer, pleading for the mercy of a miraculous intervention. History and scripture are filled with extraordinary examples of how God deigns to listen to the humble cries of His people.

However, Christians also believe that, in most cases, God’s will and presence are manifested in creation through the orderly unfolding of natural causes according to the innate natures and principles with which He has endowed them. Because God is omniscient and omnipotent, He doesn’t need to “tinker” with His creation to reveal His will; rather, His will is manifest *through* those natural causes. We know from Scripture and history that God *uses* natural disasters and plagues as means to call His people back from their sinful disobedience to mindfulness of Him and His laws.

When “Catholic” comedian Stephen Colbert mocks the notion that a pandemic of a deadly virus could amount to a divine call to repentance—“a righteous cleansing of punishment for his lust and vanity,” he joked—he is making an elementary error. The underlying assumption is that, because we now know plagues and diseases are caused by microorganisms and can be prevented and cured through modern medicine, there cannot possibly be any spiritual dimension to these natural events. That’s just outmoded medieval superstition.

I am no prophet, nor am I an expert on the coronavirus, but the absurdity of this approach can very easily be shown. The fact is that thousands of people are dying from coronavirus, and thousands more will likely die before the pandemic runs its course. Regardless of how bad the pandemic does or does not become, and regardless of whether or not we think it is a sign of God’s divine wrath or retribution, the simple fact is that its presence among us unquestionably serves to burst the bubble of our daily complacency and cocooned Western comfort. It reminds us of the inevitability and proximity of suffering and death and forces us to recall to our minds the great spiritual questions that urgently demand satisfactory answers. Questions like: What is the purpose of my life? Is there a God? Have I been living my life the way I should be? What happens after death? What is the meaning of suffering?

There’s an old saying: “There are no atheists in a foxhole.” That might not strictly be true, but it exposes a deep truth: Times of crises do tend to concentrate our minds with laser-like focus on the things that matter most and to open our minds to truths that we might have scoffed at in times of ease and comfort. At the heart of this experience, there does indeed exist a single, urgent, and biblically grounded demand: *Repent, turn back to God. Let us as Catholic Knights do just that, regardless what academia thinks.....*

Jack Swan, Pro-Life Director



ITALIAN DINNER POSTPONED

The Italian Dinner scheduled for 5/9 has been postponed due to the continued Virus concerns. The Dinner will try to be scheduled in September or October 2020. Thank you.

Arrivederci!

Louie Alongi, General Chairperson
K of C & Italian-American Society



KOFC DISTRICT COMPETITION FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

On the morning of Saturday, March 7, seven youth shot 15 free throws at St. Anne Catholic Church’s Cleary Hall in East Moline. All these youth moved onto the regional competition in Rockford which was on March 14. Thank you for your participation & way to go! Also, thank you to the many brother Knights who helped rebound & cheer on these young athletes.

Pictured left to right: KofC District Deputy David Yordy, Samantha, Miles, Gretchen, Nate, Campbell, Harper, Noah, & Family/Youth Director Andy Olson



APRIL 2020**SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS 2020****4th Degree ½ Earlier**

- 4 **POSTPONED** Trivia Night
 5 **POSTPONED** Coffee & Conversation, St. Pius X After 8 am & 10:30 Masses
 6 **POSTPONED** Officer's Meeting, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X 6:30 pm
 9 **POSTPONED** Council Meeting, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X Light Meal 6 pm & Meeting 7 pm
 12 Happy Easter!
 13 Spring Blood Drive, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X 2 to 6 pm
 18 **POSTPONED** Men's Reflection, presenter Msgr. Merdian, St. Pius X 9 am
 22 **CANCELLED** Midwest Food Bank, QCCA Expo Center, RI [[Sign Up](#)] 9 to 11:30 am
 23 **POSTPONED** Dinner with Our Clergy, Riverfront Grille Social 5 pm & Dinner 6 pm
 25 **POSTPONED** Night of Knights Mass 4:30 pm, Social 6 pm & Dinner 6:30 pm

To Be Determined. Jesus I Trust in You!**MAY**

- 3 Coffee & Conversation, St. Pius X After 8 am & 10:30 Masses
 4 Officer's Meeting, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X 6:30 pm
 9 **POSTPONED** Italian Dinner with Music, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X 4 to 7 pm
 14 Holy Hour led by Father Spannagel, St. Pius X Holy Hour 5:00 pm
 Council Meeting, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X Meal 6:00 pm & Meeting 7 pm
 20 Midwest Food Bank, QCCA Expo Center, RI [[Sign Up](#)] 9 to 11:30 am
 25 Memorial Day Mass, Calvary Cemetery 9 am
 28 Confirmation Italian Dinner, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X TBA
 31 Care Link Collection After All St. Pius Masses
 5th Sunday Rosary, St. Pius X 10 am

JUNE

- 1 Officer's Meeting, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X 6:30 pm
 7 Coffee & Conversation, St. Pius X After 8 am & 10:30 Masses
 Civic Awards Dinner, Holiday Inn, Rock Island 5 pm social hour & 6 pm Dinner
 11 Council Meeting, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X Light Meal 6 pm & Meeting 7 pm
 17 Midwest Food Bank, QCCA Expo Center, RI [[Sign Up](#)] 9 to 11:30 am

JULY

- 6 Officer's Meeting, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X 6:30 pm
 9 Council Meeting, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X Light Meal 6 pm & Meeting 7 pm
 9&10 Hole Marshalls for John Deere Classic
 22 Midwest Food Bank, QCCA Expo Center, RI [[Sign Up](#)] 9 to 11:30 am

AUGUST

- 3 Officer's Meeting, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X 6:30 pm
 13 Council Meeting, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X Light Meal 6 pm & Meeting 7 pm
 19 Midwest Food Bank, QCCA Expo Center, RI [[Sign Up](#)] 9 to 11:30 am
 30 Care Link Collection After All St. Pius
 Masses 5th Sunday Rosary, St. Pius
 X 10 am

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Officer's Meeting, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X 6:30 pm
 10 Council Meeting, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X Light Meal 6 pm & Meeting 7 pm
 23 Midwest Food Bank, QCCA Expo Center, RI [[Sign Up](#)] 9 to 11:30 am

OCTOBER

- 5 Officer's Meeting, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X 6:30 pm
 8 Council Meeting, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X Light Meal 6 pm & Meeting 7 pm
 21 Midwest Food Bank, QCCA Expo Center, RI [[Sign Up](#)] 9 to 11:30 am

NOVEMBER

- 2 Officer's Meeting, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X 6:30 pm
 7 Deceased Member Mass, Sacred Heart, RI **5:15 pm**
 12 Council Meeting, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X Light Meal 6 pm & Meeting 7 pm
 14 4th Degree Exemplification, Peoria, IL
 18 Midwest Food Bank, QCCA Expo Center, RI [[Sign Up](#)] 9 to 11:30 am
 29 5th Sunday Rosary, St. Pius X 10 am

DECEMBER

- 7 Officer's Meeting, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X 6:30 pm
 10 Council Meeting, Farrell Hall, St. Pius X Light Meal 6 pm & Meeting 7 pm
 16 Midwest Food Bank, QCCA Expo Center, RI [[Sign Up](#)] 9 to 11:30 am



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A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC



O Mary,
you always brighten our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain
while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother,
you know what we need,
and we are confident you will provide for us
as at Cana in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,
the Divine Physician,
for those who have fallen ill,
for those who are vulnerable,
and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with
protecting the health and safety of others
and for those who are tending to the sick
and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who took upon himself our
sufferings and carried our sorrows,
so as to lead us, through the Cross,
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

*Under thy protection we seek refuge,
O Holy Mother of God.
In our needs, despise not our petitions,
but deliver us always from all dangers,
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.*

Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis

The ancient fresco of Madonna del Soccorso (Our Lady of Help) in St. Peter's Basilica was restored with the support of the Knights of Columbus to mark the Year of Faith (2012-2013). Photo courtesy of Fabbrica di San Pietro/M. Falcioni.