

Brothers, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as the Grand Knight of our council for fraternal year 2022-2023. I am both honored and humbled. Thank you to PGK Shawn for his two years of service to our council through COVID. His personal sacrifice and commitment to our council was and continues to be greatly appreciated. While I cannot predict or guarantee the accomplishments and challenges we will face this year, I can guarantee that I will give my best and fullest efforts to serve you in this manner and promote the ideals of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity.

Our mission is one of service: service to each other; to Saint John the Apostle Catholic Church; and to our greater community, locally, across the Commonwealth of Virginia, the US, and world. This level of service is dependent on each of us giving our best efforts. Following this ideal, I designated a scriptural theme for the year: Proverbs 27:17 - "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." To help us keep this verse alive in our charitable hearts throughout the year, I distributed business cards with this theme and two additional bible verses related to service for each of us to keep in our wallets and to pray each day. Brothers, through this prayerful contemplation, let us open our hearts to hearing and following the direction of the Holy Spirit in our lives and for our council. God will lead us in the right direction.

Many hands make the labor light. Our council has a good number of members, but only a fraction that truly carry the weight of our programs. I am calling on each brother to reach out to two other brothers, who have not been actively involved in our council, and ask them to join us in this great mission. We accomplished much through the past and aided many, but we can do so much more if we collectively put our hearts, minds, souls, and bodies to the task. In this regard, I asked our Worthy Deputy Grand Knight to prepare a list of those in our council who have not been active lately and to distribute two names to each member who participated over the last year. This is one of the ways that 'one man sharpens another'.

Further, we are moving forward with developing two new fundraising activities to generate much needed monies to fund our charitable projects. I also asked one of our newest members to start a new group, The Knights Guard, to promote fraternity and brotherhood amongst our members. We have a full slate of officers, directors, program members, and volunteers for this year to take on the task of rebuilding from the scourge of COVID and bring us back to the vibrant council that we have always been.

Thank you to all our families, without whom we would not be able to do the programs we accomplish each year. Our families sacrifice time spent with us to make this all happen and contribute directly by donating their time and talents to our programs. They are our strength and support and are greatly loved by all of us. May God grant special blessings to each of them this fraternal year.

Brothers, I look forward to the upcoming year and all of the wonderful things our council will do in Charity, Unity, and Fraternity under the direction of the Holy Spirit. I am blessed to make this journey with each of you and your families. Iron Sharpens Iron, One Man Sharpens Another, and we sharpen each other. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ fill each of our hearts and may the Holy Spirit give us strength, courage, wisdom, understanding, and fortitude to fulfill our mission of service for the greater glory of God.

Peace my friends,
Vivate Jesus,

Patrick Mayette
Grand Knight Council 13467
2022-2023 Fraternal Year

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