

Knights of St John[®]

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IN GOD WE TRUST

December, 2014



KNIGHTS OF ST JOHN INTERNATIONAL 65th ANNUAL NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

April 24 to April 26, 2015

AMF PIN – 0 – RAMA LANES

1724 Genesee Street, Utica, New York 13502

Friday, April 24- Supreme Officers Match- 8 PM

Saturday, April 25- Doubles/Singles- 10 AM and *2 PM

Sunday, April 26- 4 Man Team Event- 10 AM and *1 PM

Entries Close- Friday April 3, 2015

*Please note the second shift will be used only if necessary.

All Entries **MUST BE POSTMARKED** by Saturday April 4, 2015

Headquarters Hotel

RADISSON HOTEL UTICA CENTRE

200 Genesee Street, Utica, New York 13502

Phone Reservations- 315-797-8010

Room Reservations \$99.00 per night (Double) plus tax, or \$119.00 per night (King) plus tax. Please Mention Group Name- **Knights of St. John Bowling** while making reservations.

Reservations Close on Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mass at the Hotel Saturday- 6:30 PM

*Note Captains from the last three tournaments have received applications.

If interested, please contact the chairman at 315-723-7585 or email commandery41sports@yahoo.com for an application.

Make your plans NOW!

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to:


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Carthage, OH 45822-9998**

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Effective July 2014 ~ July 2016

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BEFORE the copy deadline:

March Issue: by February 1st
 June Issue: by May 1st
 September Issue: by August 1st
 December Issue: by November 1st



SUPREME PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all of my brother Knights of St. John International throughout the world. As this article is being written, the knights and ladies in the United States are a couple of weeks away from the Thanksgiving holiday. The Knights of St. John International and the Ladies Auxiliary have a lot to be thankful for. We came off a very successful international convention in July in Columbus, Ohio. In October, the Knights Supreme Board had a very good meeting in Utica, NY. (Thank you Commandery #41 for all of your hospitality!) We have one more thing to give thanks for, and that is, even though it hasn't been wiped out yet, as of this writing, the Ebola epidemic is beginning to come under control. We pray that it will be conquered soon and we pray for all those who have died and those who have been otherwise affected by this disease.

I would like us to focus now on the upcoming Christmas season and the new year. Christmas has always been a time of celebration. We celebrate the birth of Christ who is our salvation. His birth was only the beginning of the end of our darkness however, since He had to die upon the cross to redeem us from our sins. Remember, without Easter, Christmas would have no meaning. But celebrate Christmas we do because we have seen the wonders that Christ has performed.

The new year is a time for reflection on the previous twelve (12) months; how we lived our lives; did we see Jesus in everyone and treat others as we want to be treated. Let us start in this new year to be concerned for the salvation of our neighbor's everlasting soul. Let us help our fellow men, women and children to follow in the footsteps of Christ and begin our journey that will lead us to His side after our life here on earth is over.

A few last thoughts.....

Remember, all inspection and muster reports must be turned in as

(Continued on page 15)



SUPREME SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Before I begin this article, I would like all of you to say a prayer for the soul of Brother Alfred T. Kamaya. Brother Alfred was the Recording Secretary of St. John Vianney Commandery #796 in Foya, Lafa, Liberia. He is the first reported Brother Knight who has died of the dreaded Ebola Virus. May God grant him eternal peace.

I have resigned myself to accept the fact that winter is coming to the Mohawk Valley and Adirondack Mountains, my little piece of heaven in Central New York State. Instead of bemoaning the fact that it is getting colder by the day and we are waking up to snow on the ground, I've decided to pull out the old insulated underwear and to enjoy the winter. At least Christmas is always worth waiting for. I remember what a special time it was for me as a child.

Everything centered around Christmas Eve. Santa was second place to the traditions that unfolded that night. I remember rushing home in the dark after finishing my paper route and spotting the first star in the sky. That was when Christmas Eve dinner was to start. They would wait for me, and my mother would have just gotten home from work. Thank God for my Babcia (grandmother), who lived with us, and even though crippled, managed to get most of the dinner on the stove.

It was a small group around the table. Babcia, my mom and two younger brothers (later it was my child-bridge and then our two children). The table was set with our finest china and in the center resting on a pile of straw was the "Oplatek" (the unleavened bread, just as we receive in Communion, but larger sheets, illustrated with imprinted Christmas figures.

There was first the prayer led by my Babcia, an eggnog toast and then

(Continued on page 15)



SUPREME SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Grace and blessings to you!

It seems our Convention in Columbus Ohio was only a short time ago. I still think about the energy, enthusiasm, and excitement of that week. It brought about renewed friendships, meeting new people, and nourishing our faith in the Church and in our order of the Knights of St. John International. I am always grateful to be in your midst. Our fraternity brings joy to me and elevates my spirit knowing that I am in the midst of faithfilled, God seeking, and joyful people. Thank you for who you are as Knights and Ladies of St. John International, and faithful members of the Roman Catholic Church.

We continue our mission, purpose, and goals in fulfilling our Corporal Works of Mercy. We continue proclaiming, professing, and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. Through our speech and action, we bring Jesus Christ closer to people and vice versa. Keep marching in the Light of Christ doing His will.

Soon we will be entering the season of Advent and Christmas. These seasons are a reminder to us that we must continue to bring our loving Savior Jesus Christ to every city, town, village, and country. These seasons of Advent and Christmas are reminders to us that we Christ tongue, feet, hands, and heart - carrying Him to everyone we meet, assist, care for, teach, mentor, and convert.

To all the Knights and Ladies of St. John International, Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Joyful New year.

God bless you,

***Msgr. Federico A. Britto
Supreme Spiritual Director***

Welcome to our New Members

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443 Bolgatanga, Ghana	Adoosey Nicholas, Atampugbire Uriah Aduko, Awininboya Fuseini Stephen, Emmanuel Baba Atanga, Joseph Soyelle, Richard Awinimi Alentis, Amonzem Romuald, Agambire Emmanuel Aduko, Lumumba Sam Anago
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499 Effiakuma, Takoradi, Ghana	Vincent Amissah, Cornelius Mwinwule, Benedict Obirim Saigoe
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September, 2014 thru December, 2014

Supreme Secretariat Announces New Undersecretaries

The Supreme Secretariat is proud to announce the appointment of two new Undersecretaries, Capt. Richard Morse as Undersecretary for Rituals and Capt. Dominick Pepe as our new Webmaster, Undersecretary for the Web. *Welcome aboard, brothers and may God bless your endeavors.*



Capt. Rich Morse is married and resides in Utica, NY. Retired from Remington Arms Co., he has been an active Knight of St. John since 2004, and has served his Commandery as President and holds offices in both the New York Grand and its 3rd District Battalion. Within a week of receiving his appointment, Rich was already assisting two Commanderies who are planning local rituals. He has received

his "Baptism by Fire" by assisting the Supreme Officers when they recently exemplified the 4th Degree upon our unattached, Our Lady Queen of Angels Commandery #608 in Los Angeles.



Capt. Dominick Pepe is married with two children, and resides in New Hartford, NY. He is a Mohawk Valley Community College and Delhi University Graduate who majored in computer programming and retail business. He is also retired. Dominick, who became a Knight in 1993, has held many offices in St. Anthony of Padua Commandery #385 and is currently Treasurer of the New York Grand. He

maintains the website for his parish, Our Lady of Lourdes Church and anxiously volunteered to assist the Supreme Commandery with our website. He is excited in what can be done to further improve our site.



JOHN E. GLYN-WILLIAMS

Recommended for Appointment as Supreme Deputy Organizer for the West Pastoral Region of Archdiocese of Toronto, Canada and for Diocese of Hamilton, Canada.

Brother John Glyn-Williams originally hailed from Guyana in South America. He attended the Humber College of Applied Arts, in Toronto, where he graduated with Architectural Design Technician Diploma, and later, Project Management Certificate.

Brother Glyn-Williams is a Charter member of St Jerome Commandery #710 of the Knights of St. John International, Brampton, Ontario Canada. He served as the charter 1st Vice President of the Commandery. He is an Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister, and part of the R.C.I.A. Team at St. Jerome's Parish. He belongs to several other organizations in the Church.

John and his wife (Primitiva) of 33 years are both 3rd Order Franciscans and are also Choir Members at Our Lady of the Airways Parish in Mississauga Ontario Canada. They are both facilitators at the Marriage Preparation Course for Engaged Couples at St. Jerome's Parish in Brampton, Ontario Canada. John and Primitiva have one son.



SUNDAY OBICHUKWU

Recommended for Appointment as Supreme Deputy Organizer for the Diocese of Peterborough, Canada.

Originally from Nigeria, Brother Sunday Obichukwu is a Toronto based Estate Developer. He is from a dynamic Catholic family dynasty, and belongs to the St. Padre Pio Parish, Kleinburg, Toronto Canada. Sunday studied Geology at University of Aberdeen in Scotland, having previously attended St. Paul's and All Hallows' Seminary in Nigeria. Sunday has held several leadership positions including being Student Union President, and also President of the Devotion of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus. He encouraged the formation of Block Rosary Centres in his hometown in Nigeria.

Brother Sunday Obichukwu is a Uniformed member of St. Jerome Commandery #710 of the Knights of St. John International (KSJI) in Brampton, Ontario Canada. He is happily married with five children



COL. PETER OZEMOYAH

Recommended for Re-Appointment as Supreme Organizer for Canada.

Peter Ozemoyah was initiated into Commandery #472 in the then Nigeria Grand Commandery. He was instrumental in the formation of Commandery #505, Minna Nigeria. When he moved to Chicago in 1998, he transferred his membership to Commandery #31, Greensburg Indiana, since the Order no longer existed in Chicago at that time. He started efforts to re-establish the Order in Chicago, but had to relocate to Canada. Since the Order also no longer existed in Canada, Peter subsequently transferred his membership to Commandery #382, West Seneca New York. His concerted efforts to re-establish the Order in Modern Day Canada finally yielded fruit with the Inauguration of Commandery #710 on 10th October 2010 (#710 on 10/10/10) by the then Supreme President, Gen. Tim Hoerst.

Peter also served and held various positions in lay organizations of the church including St. Vincent DePaul, Parish Choir, Lay Readers, Ushers, and Parish and Diocesan Council.

Buffalo Grand Commandery

Grand Presidents Comments – Brig. Gen. James J. Setlock

Fall is approaching as I write this article and leaves are falling in abundance leaving many clean-up chores to be done before winter arrives. With that being said, many new events and projects being planned are forthcoming.

The Buffalo Grand is preparing for our non-uniform 2nd & 3rd Degree to be held on November 30th 2014. Col. Pocobello has prepared letters and applications for many Commandery candidates who wish to partake of this important next step in our Order. The letters sent will explain in detail all requirements necessary for this Degree.

Commandery 391 hosted their 50th Commandery Anniversary and Mass honoring their deceased Brother Knights. It was well attended by all their Brother Knights and guests. Lt. Gen. Terrance McCann and Maj. Gen. George Check are to be commended for hosting this honorable event.

At the Supreme Board meeting in October, 2014, a new Ritual was overwhelming approved, “The Armor of God”. The Blessing of our uniforms will now become part of our new Rituals. Thank you, Maj. Gen. James Gibbons and 1st Lt. Vincent Binder for all your efforts in bringing this Ritual to our Order. Many other Grand Commanderies within the Supreme have expressed interest in making this Ritual part of their ongoing ceremonies.

Lastly, please remember to send in your monthly reports. The importance of these cannot be underestimated. Both Supreme and Buffalo Grand rely upon these reports from our Commanderies to ensure proper planning of various events and projects.

God, Bless all my Brother Knights, keep them in good health and free from all harm. God Bless America and Canada.

BUFFALO REGIMENT: Colonel's Comments: - Col. Dennis Potozniak:

As I finish my term as Regimental Commander, Second Regiment, Buffalo, N.Y., I wish to take a mo-



Capt. Tony Stang and 1st. Lt. Ben Perry at Commandery 204's Breakfast.

ment to say thank you to Vice Commander, Lt. Col. Al Hammer, Battalion Commanders, Maj. Lloyd D'Auria, and Maj. Bruce Kruezer, Paymaster, Lt. Col. William Patterson, and of course, my Regimental Adjutant, Capt. Michael Stiglmeir, for their service and help during my term. I thank ALL members of the Buffalo Regiment and the Buffalo Grand for their tremendous support. I cannot say thank you enough. I have been humbled by your constant answer to my call for special turnouts as well as our regular ordered ones.

With saying this and reaching the decision not to seek another term as your Regimental Commander, I wish to end this article submission with these comments.

I have said it many times and feel compelled to say once more. I truly believe our future for our Fraternal Order depends on us continuing to work and build on supporting one another and always remembering the principles of it. We must put aside the desire to think of ourselves and our ambitions, our personal agendas mainly, and putting collective efforts together working towards charity and supporting each other, without this I think we will fail as a whole.

With it we will succeed and become stronger. I believe, We will

follow the correct path and become stronger because we are Knights of St. John.

I again say thank you to all my Brother Knights. May Our Lord ALWAYS be with each one of us and our families every day of our lives.

Don't forget those who are ill or recovering from surgery.

Note: Let us know if a Brother Knight is ill or recovering from surgery.

We have quite a few Knights and spouses that are ill or recovering from surgery. They have been faithful members for many years and now can use our support. If you know of a member who is ill or homebound, give them a call, see what you can do to help them. They would appreciate your prayers, so that they all experience a speedy and a full recovery.

May the Heavenly Father bestow on them his healing power and give them, every grace and blessing in this life and everlasting joy in His presence.

Brothers, when contacted please turn out for Wakes & Funerals.

*Col. William Pocobello,
Buffalo Grand Secretary*

Please visit our present web site at: www.ksjibuffreg.com

Awka Grand Commandery

2014 Supreme Convention

The Grand President, BGen. G. N. Muotolu, and the Grand Secretary, Col. Peter Chuks Egwui, in company of delegates from the eleven Local Commanderies in the Grand, attended 2014 Supreme Convention in Columbus, Ohio. The Grand President attended the Supreme Board meeting. He also led delegates from Awka Grand Commandery to participate actively in the Supreme Convention Business meetings. BGen. G. N. Muotolu served in the Rituals Committee, BGen. C. N. C. Nwafor (delegate) served in the Good of the Order Committee, Col. P. C. Egwui was a member of Membership Committee (USA) and Capt Peter Uttazi served in the Cadet Committee.

Awka Grand Board Meeting

Awka Grand Board of Trustees, GBoT, met on 9th August, 2014, barely two weeks after the Supreme Convention at Columbus, Ohio. The meeting was hosted by Madonna Commandery #588 Agulu, about 10 km from the Grand Headquarters. The report of the Supreme Convention was presented to the Board in bound form. Each Local Commandery, Battalion District and Regiment received a bound copy. The Grand President directed each echelon to reproduce the report and make it available.

Awka Grand Retreat 2014

The Grand Retreat involving all Grand Officers, all Regimental officers, Battalion District Officers and all civil / table officers of the eleven Local Commanderies and nine LAUX under the Grand, was held between 22nd and 23rd August, 2014 at the Retreat Center, Okpuno – Awka. The attendance was massive and spiritual upliftment was great. The Spiritual Director, Rev. Fr. Barr. A. O. Ezeoke was the Retreat Moderator.

Awka Diocesan Priestly Ordination

The Diocesan Priestly Ordination of sixteen young deacons was performed by the Archbishop of Capetown, His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Stephen Brislin. All the eleven Local Commanderies and LAUX in Awka Grand Commandery were turned out to the occasion and the turnout was



very impressive. The Grand Retreat was concluded early enough for members to attend the Ordination Ceremony.

Episcopal Ordination of Most Rev. Jonas Benson Okoye

Awka Diocese with a population of over 850,000 Catholics, over 500 indigenous priests and more than 170 parishes is considered to be one of the most populous Dioceses in the world. Nearly 50% of the priests are on mission to Africa, Asia, Europe, USA and Latin America. The Diocese was inaugurated in 1978. From 1978 to date the Diocese has had four successive Auxiliary Bishops. The fourth Auxiliary Bishop, Most Rev Dr Jonas Benson Okoye, was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Awka Diocese to assist, Most Rev Dr. P. C. Ezeokafor, the Diocesan Bishop. The ordination was performed by the Most Rev Dr Augustine Kassuji, the Papal Nuncio to Nigeria in company of about 27 Bishops and over 300 priests. The Grand Commandery turned out all brothers and sisters to participate in the ceremony.

Most Rev. Dr. Simon Akwali Okafor, the Emeritus Bishop of Awka Diocese Laid to Rest

It was a mammoth crowd that gathered at St Patrick's Cathedral, the headquarters of Awka Catholic Diocese, to mark the exit of an icon, Most Rev. Dr. Simon Akwali Okafor, the immediate past Bishop of Awka Diocese and Bishop Emeritus. The late Bishop Okafor was consecrated Auxiliary Bishop of Awka Diocese in 1992. A few years later, he became the substantive Bishop when the then Bishop was elevated to the post of Archbishopric and transferred to head Onitsha Metropolitan Province. Until his retirement, on account of ill health, Bishop Okafor had transformed the Diocese into multiplicity

of Parishes thereby making places of worship within the doorsteps of all and sundry. He was a front line educationist having, as a priest, headed the State Education System and was a one time Secretary General of Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigerian (CBCN). May the soul of Bishop Simon Akwali Okafor and the souls of all departed rest in peace.

The Regiment

The Regimental Commander, Col. G. C. Okeke, reported that the 3rd quarterly Regimental Board was held on 13th September, 2014 at Awka Grand Hall. In that meeting, the Board was able to put in place all necessary arrangements to host 2014 Memorial Mass.

The Regimental Commander further reported that the 2014 Muster and Inspection for all the Local Commanderies in the Grand was in progress and that nine out of the eleven Local Commanderies have been mustered and inspected.

Charity

Within the period under review, Awka Grand made charity donations in cash to Churches and individuals to the tune of about \$8,882.00.

Awka Grand Secretary Honored

On 11th October, 2014 at Choice Hotels Awka, the Grand Secretary of Awka Grand Commandery, Col. Peter C. Egwui, was honored by Institute of Human and Natural Resources (IHNR) by inducting him as a Fellow of the Institute. He was honored along four others. By this award, Col. Egwui becomes a Golden Legend of the Institute. The Institute organized the Conference / Seminar and Induction to mark 100 years of Nigeria as a nation.

*Col. P. C. Egwui
Awka Charter Grand Secretary*

Michigan Grand Commandery

The summer and fall of this year has been a busy one for the officers and members of the Michigan Grand Commandery, with a Board meeting following the Convention in a few short months.

I attended the Supreme Board meeting in Utica, New York. It was nerve wracking trip, with a major mechanical failure along the way. I made it to the Hotel Utica at the moment the engine died. I found a mechanic, and was grateful for the help of Terry McCann and Tom Zdanowicz who drove me around dealing with the repairs. Tom Zdanowicz gave me an entertaining tour of his home town, from historic buildings to his childhood neighborhood and his parish church. It may seem a small thing, but this is true brotherhood, finding yourself in a bind and having fellow Knights ready to assist you in any way they can, from the Supreme Board to the Local Commandery. After two days of productive meetings, we toured a historic neighboring brewery, a reminder of the German heritage of the neighborhood. We were warmly welcomed at historic St. John's Church for Mass later on Saturday; the pastor was glad to have us on a day when the Diocese was taking an attendance count at every parish, a large part of the congregation takes off the to Catskills on Columbus Day weekend.

Uniformed members turned out on September 27th to form an honor guard for His Excellency Archbishop Allen Vigneron at a special German language liturgy at St. Joseph Church in Detroit, part of the Oktoberfest. This was our first opportunity to introduce ourselves and meet personally with the Archbishop and Father Fox, his secretary; both were very gracious and welcoming.

We look forward to maintaining what has begun as a cordial relationship with the Archbishop, who shares with the



membership in Michigan a commitment to the three historic churches of Our Lady of Divine Mercy parish in the heart of Detroit Sweetest Heart of Mary, St. Josaphat and St. Joseph.

The Detroit Regiment sponsored the annual Memorial Mass, celebrated by Grand Spiritual Director Fr. Gregory Tokarski, at Sweetest Heart of Mary Church in Detroit. Prior to the liturgy, we witnessed a very special ceremony installing Fr. Gregory as Chaplain of Sweetest Heart Commandery No. 171, General Frank Wasileski officiating. Commandery President Captain Cliff Wenner presented Fr. Gregory with the Cross of the Noble Degree, a special honor awarded by the Michigan Temple. Fr. Gregory wore the Noble Degree Cross proudly during the liturgy. Following the installation and award of the Noble Degree, Brigadier General Eugene Sniezyk presented the new Charter for Sweetest Heart of Mary Commandery No. 171 to Fr. Gregory. Father then spoke briefly thanking us for our confidence in him, for awarding him the Noble Degree, and promising to assist the Knights in the work of evangelizing, growing the parish and serving the Church. The memorial service for the

Knights and Ladies Auxiliary followed, officiated by Colonel Brian Stehlin, Regimental President, Colonel Donald Stehlin, and Carole Sniezyk. Muster and Inspection followed the Mass. I wish to thank Fr. Gregory for his kindness and attention to us, and all the uniformed and Brother Knights who turned out for this very impressive day of ritual and tradition, culminating in the Holy Eucharist.

The Detroit Regiment made a donation in the amount of \$10,000 to Bovenschen School in Warren, Michigan, a site devoted to special needs students ranging in age from 2 1/2 years to 26 years of age. These funds were used to purchase a TAPit, an interactive learning touch screen which can be adjusted in any direction to accommodate physical and learning issues of students; it is as easy for a wheelchair-bound student to use as one who can stand and touch the screen, since the screen can be brought to horizontal or vertical positions, at any height. Sandy Jaracz, daughter of Donald Stehlin, is one of the dedicated special education teachers at Bovenschen School. Her students are severely multiply impaired, meaning that they have physical impairments as well as cognitive and learning issues. Sandy and other teachers will use this device, along with two others in the building regularly. The Detroit Regiment funded half the cost of another unit last year. On November 5th, Dale Gossiaux, Donald Stehlin, Eugene Sniezyk and myself visited the school to see Sandy's students use the TAPit. We received beautiful thank-you cards made by students.



*Brig. Gen. Sean Dey
President, Michigan Grand*

New York Grand Commandery

A Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our Brother Knights and their families from all of us in the New York Grand.

The 2015 New York Grand Convention will be held at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark, NJ and is being hosted by Commandery #680 and Auxiliary #592. Informational letters are being sent out; the information is also available on the Grand's web site: frontiernet.net/~nygrand.

From Rochester

The following Knights and Ladies are ill or recovering from surgery, Most Rev. James Moynihan, Frank and Elizabeth Meleca, Tom Meleca, Charles Perri, George Schum, James Duignan, Al Keidel, Kenneth Scholl, Charles Stitch, Chester Ventura, Tony Perrotta, Joseph and Joyce DeFranco.

Please keep these and all our Brother Knights and Ladies who are ill or recovering from surgery, and all those ailing at home, in hospitals and in nursing homes in your prayers.

*Publicity Chairman
Brig. Gen. George Hoffman Jr.*

New York Grand Retreat:

Knights and Ladies Auxiliaries under New York Grand Commandery participated in the 2014 Annual Day of Recollection at the Sacred Villa of Our Lady Retreat House, Mount Pocono, PA on Saturday, September 14th, 2014.

The Theme of this year's Pilgrimage was "Catholic Knighthood". Col. Monsignor Anselm Nwaorgu, NY Grand Spiritual Director, delivered the homily. He called for reflection



Members of New York Grand Commandery and Ladies Auxiliaries in the Villa of Our Lady Retreat House.

on the importance of Catholic Knighthood and reminded all that Knighthood is a call to serve God and the Church, and not just a title. Among the participants are Brigadier General George Hoffman Jr., President, New York Grand Commandery, KSJI, Lady Ruth Hoffman Jr. (former NY Respected President of the Ladies Auxiliaries, and Lady Marcelinna Akanno, current Respected President. Other participants were drawn from Commanderies 626 NY, 676 Trenton, and 680 Newark NJ. There were reflections, adorations, confessions and Benediction. Please go to <http://frontiernet.net/~nygrand> and click on Photos for Full Documentary of the Pilgrimage.

District Four Delegates Meeting and Elections:

The Third Quarterly Delegates meeting of District Four of the New York Grand Commandery was hosted by Commandery 676 Trenton NJ at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament

– Our Lady of the Divine Shepherd, 716 Bellevue Avenue, Trenton, NJ on September 28, 2014. At this meeting, District 4 general elections were held and the newly elected officers were sworn in immediately. The elections which drew over 40 participating members from the three Commanderies of the District, were observed by officers from the New York Grand Commandery namely: Brig. Gen. George Hoffman, Jr (Grand President), Maj. John R. Russo, Sr (First Vice President) and Capt. Tom Dwyer (Judge Advocate). Message of goodwill was delivered on behalf of the Supreme President by the New York Grand President, Brig. Gen. George Hoffman, Jr.

Commandery 680:

On August 3, 2014 Most Rev. Archbishop Bernard Hebda had his maiden visit to the Blessed Sacrament Church, Newark New Jersey. Archbishop Bernard Hebda is billed to take over from the retiring Most Rev. Archbishop John J. Meyers of the Archdiocese of Newark. Archbishop Hebda homilied the Eucharistic Celebration and he was assisted by Col. Monsignor Nwaorgu. He was accorded a rousing welcome and reception by the Parishioners of the Blessed Sacrament Church and the Igbo Catholic Community. Of course, Knights of Commandery 680 and Ladies Auxiliary 592 were on the ground and according him a guard of honor with procession.



Archbishop Bernard Hebda with Monsignor Mwaorgu (middle), KSJI 680 and LAUX 592 officials.

*Fraternally submitted,
Sir Titus Osuagwu
Media and Information Officer,
District Four, New York Grand*

Liberia Grand Commandery

Christ the King Comm. 475 & Aux. 399 Respond to the Call for Help ... Donate Food Items to ELWA Hospital; Celebrate Silver Jubilee

Brothers and Sisters of Christ the King Commandery #475 and Auxiliary #399 recently lend a helping hand to combat the growing setbacks in the country's overwhelmed healthcare delivery services, especially since the outbreak of the Ebola pandemic in the West African sub-region in July this year; as 1st Lt. Augustine P. Gebeh reports.

In commemoration of their Silver Jubilee Anniversary, the Knights and Ladies at Christ the King undertook to feed the hungry sick in their community. The gesture replaced the festivities which had usually characterized the occasion in previous years.

Speaking to the Knights of St. John Journal, Worthy President Emmanuel Kailie said the decision to focus this year's landmark anniversary commemoration on almsgiving was a unanimous one from both the Brother and Sister of Christ the King. He said "we are called to charity as Knights and Ladies and giving the current situation in our country, the need to answer this call

cannot be over emphasized. Elaborate festivities and celebrations amid this plague is quite unwise a decision."

The combined 399/475 delegation made the donation at the ELWA hospital in Paynesville, near the Liberian Capital Monrovia. The delegation assured the ELWA family that they are not alone in this fight, but that the Knights of St. John International is offering prayers and supplications for Divine intervention to curb the spread of Ebola. "Greater Love has no man, than to lay down his life for a fellow man. Many of our health workers have lost their lives recently, trying to save the lives of their patients. These acts of valor will never be forgotten, and only God can repay such selflessness," Bro. Kailie averred.

Receiving the items on behalf of Dr. Brown, Head of the Hospital's Ebola Unit, the Administrator thanked the Knights of St. John for the thoughtfulness. She called on other well-meaning Liberians and other residents and aid agencies to emulate the examples of KSJI. "It does not have to be big", she said, "we need all the help and assistance we can get at this time. The hospital

is struggling and will highly appreciate donations like these and others like Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Little is much when God is in it" the Administrator gratefully concluded.

In a related development, Bro. Nathaniel Toe reports that the Monrovia Grand Commandery (MGC) has donated several bags of rice and an assortment of other food items to the Star of the Sea Commandery in West Point, Monrovia, Liberia.

The gesture came as a quick impact response to provide desperately needed food items in the wake of the quarantining of that part of the city. Making the donation, Brigadier General Moeinti E. Young, Grand President of the Monrovia Grand Commandery, said it was the organization's way of identifying with Star of the Sea and other West Pointers in the time of national health crisis.

Receiving the donation, Deputy Grand Cadet Organizer, Ernest Tweh lauded the MGC for the gesture and promised to extend the kindness to other needed residents in the township.

1st Lt. Augustine P. Gebeh

Makurdi Grand Commandery

History was again made in Makurdi Grand Commandery as a Co-adjutor Bishop was appointed for Makurdi Catholic Diocese. He is Most Rev. Wilfred C. Anagbe. The Grand President Brigadier General Simon Aondona turned the Grand Commandery out at the venue of consecration of the Bishop. It was surprising that even at a short notice the Grand Commandery turned out on October 4 2014 in a large number to witness the occasion. In a congratulatory message the Grand President felicitated with the Catholic Bishop of Makurdi Diocese Most Rev. A.A. Usuh, the clergy and the entire lay faithful of Makurdi Diocese and wished the new Bishop a successful administration of his new office.

The Knights of St. John International, Makurdi grand

commandery exist in parishes within the five Catholic Dioceses namely: Makurdi, Otukpo, Lafia, Katsina Ala and Gboko where our members are serving in different in various capacities helping to build the Church and ensure its full development. The cordial relationship that exists among us and the people of these Parishes both the clergy and the lay faithful was applauded by the Makurdi Grand President. The Grand President Brigadier General Simon Aondona pledged loyalty to the hierarchy of the Catholic Church and wish to continue to co-exist peaceful with the other lay apostolic organizations in the parishes where we operate.

We congratulate the newly elected Supreme Officers: The Grand President Brigadier General Simon Aondona and the entire

members of Makurdi Grand Commandery wish to congratulate the Supreme President General Dale Gossiaux and all the other elected officers. In a special way, we celebrate with Lt. General Dan Okekenta for his election at the just concluded election in Ohio to the position of Supreme 2nd Vice President. We have not forgotten the quality leadership you exhibited during your tenure as Abuja Grand President which saw a massive growth from which turned out today to be the present Grand Commandery. We join the other Grand commanderies in Nigeria to wish you all a successful tenure.

*Col. Godwin A. Nen-na
Makurdi Grand Secretary*

Abuja Grand Commandery

Update of Activities for Abuja Grand Commandery; June 2014 thru October 2014

JGBOT - The Abuja JGBOT meeting for the month of July held on the 5th of July 2014 at the KSJI Hall, Our Lady Queen of Nigeria, Garki, Abuja.

Joint Supreme Subordinate Board Meeting - The Joint Supreme Subordinate Board meeting for the month of June took place on the 27th of June 2014 at Enugu and was chaired by the Supreme Subordinate President, Maj. Gen. Anslem Okafor.

Supreme Convention - Abuja Grand Commandery and the Abuja LAUX were well represented at the Supreme convention held this year in Columbus Ohio, USA from July 20th to July 27th, 2014. The Grand President, Grand Respected president and several other brothers and sisters were present at the convention.

Reception for Lt. Gen. Dan Okekenta - Lt. Gen. Dan Okekenta was promoted to the office of 2nd Vice Supreme President of the KSJI. A reception was hosted in his honour on Sunday the 21st of September 2014, to celebrate and there was a huge turnout of brothers and sisters to celebrate with him.

2014 Cadets/Juniors Long Vacation Retreat - A long vacation retreat was organized for the Cadets and Juniors Auxiliary of Commanderies 595 and 208 of Abuja



The Grand President Brig. Gen. NNN Nwanesi and his Lady, Sister Ebere Nwanesi.

Grand Commandery Knights of St. John International. It was a most impactful outing for the young ones.

Commandery Reports - It has been observed that not all local Commanderies submit their reports. This is not too impressive as local Commanderies need to send in their reports regularly so as to enable the Grand Secretary to stay updated on all activities within the Commandery.

Odinkenmelu KSJI Squad Celebrate Thanksgiving Mass - Newly initiated brother and sister Knights of Major General Robert Odinkenmelu Squad in Command-

ery 595 and LAUX 534 CKC Kubwa Abuja had their thanksgiving Mass at St. John-Mary Vianney Quasi Catholic Parish Kubwa Ext III, Abuja recently.

The newly admitted members, among others were: Bro and Sis George Mker, Bro and Sis Innocent Oti, Bro and Sis Emmanuel Amaglo, Bro and Sis Eric Togbe.

These are the most recent activities of the Abuja Grand Commandery.

*Respectfully submitted by
Anselm O. Onyemekwu
Abuja Grand Secretary, KSJI.*



Enugu Grand Commandery

Agba International School Project

The Enugu Grand concluded agreement with the Daughters of Divine Love (DDL) Sisters to act as managers and run the KSJI International College, Agba, Ebonyi State. The DDL Principal already assumed duties on Wednesday September 17, 2014. The handing over ceremony was preceded with Holy Mass celebrated by the grand spiritual director, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Clement Obasi. The new Principal, Rev. Sister Carol of Daughters of Divine Love (DDL) Congregation, Enugu, the Vicar General and a Council member were given a guided tour of the College and facilities by the Enugu Grand President Brig. Gen. P. S. Nwajagu accompanied by the Grand LAUX Respected President



KSJI Enugu Grand Officers, Spiritual Director and DDL Vicar General at the handing over to the Principal of KSJI International College Agba, Sister Carol on September 17, 2014.



Enugu Grand President seen Handing over the Principals Official Car

Noble Sister Cecelia Omeje and other officers of Enugu Grand. The occasion climaxed with the handing over of the principal's official car to her. The college is now poised to take its leadership role with the change in management. Earlier in the year, the Board of governors of the College was inaugurated, also

the joint grand board of trustees agreed in July 2014 to run the college as both a boarding and day school.

Burial of Sr. Dora Akunyili

One of the greatest evangelization activity of the Knights of St John international in recent times, which incidentally is a landmark event of Enugu Grand commandery was the passing on and burial of our Sister Dora Akunyili of LAUX 339, Enugu. Sr. Akunyili, an amazon, a woman of the highest integrity, Professor of Pharmacy, ex-Director General NAFDAC, two times Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, ex this ex that, attracted two catholic arch bishops, twenty eight bishops and over two hundred Priests at her burial Mass. Members of the KSJI also turned out in their highest uniform in large numbers with the Supreme Subordinate President, Major General Anselm Okafor and other top dignitaries of the order present.

~ PLEASE NOTE ~

Due to the ever-growing number of members who submit articles and photos to be printed in the Knight of St. John Journal and an endless number of computer programs available, new procedures are now being used.

All articles submitted via email should be saved in a **Microsoft Word format (without photos)** 12 point TimesRoman.

All photos should be of highest resolution possible and **attached** to an email **DO NOT embed photos in Word files**; captions may be included at the end of the submitted article or in the email message.

PLEASE LIMIT ENTRIES TO ONE (1) PAGE MAXIMUM.

Articles submitted after the deadline (see page 3) will be included on a space available basis.

Thank you for your assistance.

*Col Innocent Diyoke
Grand Secretary*

Port Harcourt Grand Commandery

Evangelization at Oleh – Sept 7, 2014

The entire Grand Commandery was turned out for a thanksgiving / evangelization outreach in Oleh, Delta State, beyond the borders of the Commandery, in honour of our Grand President, Brig Gen. George Ikioumoton, who had completed his course of studies in Law in delta State University. The Supreme Subordinate President, Maj. Gen. Anselm Okafor, graced the occasion.

At the end of Mass, brothers and sisters, individually and collectively, led by Supreme Subordinate President, raised **N1million** in support of the parish, St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Oleh. The pleasantly surprised parish priest, promised to assist the Order, plant a Commandery in his Parish.

Commissioning of Officers of District 48,49, and 50

Officers of the new created Districts of the Grand, namely: District 48, District 49, and District 50. District 48, the largest, comprising Port Harcourt, Rumuokoro, Etche, Deaneries, was led by Maj. Rotimi Amaechi, and Captain Peter Okoh, as the District Fist Vice Commander, Captain Laz Okey Okoroha as the District Inspector, Walter Otunyo as District Adjutant. Major Gabriel Pidomson is the District Commander for District 50, with Barinem Vulasi as District Adjutant. Major Freddy Bonny is Commander of District 49, and 1st Lt Geoffrey Pattens as District Adjutant. Brig Gen. George Ikioumoton, who performed the commissioning, exhorted the new officers to live up to their calling and positing. Commanders of our six new Commanderies were also commissioned into various ranks: Lt. Cyril



Col Steve Ekwelibe, First Vice Grand President



Maj. Gen. George Ikioumoton, Grand President, Port harcourt

Emiri (#779), Lt Felix Udeh (#800), Lt Anselm Odinkemelu (#801), Lt John Oyor (#804), Lt Paul Pabor (#805).

Following the approval of Resolution #1 at the last Convention, Maj. Steve Ekwelibe and Capt. Augustine Onyeozu, Grand First and Second Vice Presidents, respectively, were decorated with the rank of Colonel. This was the high point of the evening activities.

Investiture into Marching and Full Dress Uniforms

19 brothers who were exemplified into the 2nd and 3rd Degrees of the Order were invested with the marching uniform, at Mater Misericordiae Catholic Church on Oct 13, 2014.

Rev. Fr. Josephat Maduabuchi, the Spiritual Adviser to Commandery #800 celebrated the Mass. Capt. Peter Okoh, and others were invested into the full dress uniform. On another occasion,

brother Javis Morris Archibong, Henry Akpati and Julius Nnaji, in a colourful ceremony were invested into the full dress uniform. The newly invested expressed their joy and gratitude to the Commandery for the honour done them.

Muster /Inspection of District 48

District Muster cum Grand Inspection of District 48, was carried out on Sept 20, 2014 at the Evangelization Center of Atali. St Mary’s Commandery #460, Our Lady of Lourdes Commandery #634, Mater Misericordiae Commandery #800, Holy Family Commandery #779, All Saints Commandery #801, and Annunciation Commandery #802. Commandery #633 and Commandery #635 who could not participate in a similar exercise in their District (D50). It was a colourful event. A full report is being compiled.

*Col Daniel Onuoha
Grand Secretary*

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2014 will soon come to an end, so let me take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to make our Journal the newsletter that it is today.

From my wife Connie, and myself, from our home to yours ~ may you and yours have a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a most Prosperous New Year.

*Brig. Gen. James Schafhausen
Supreme Under Secretary/Journal*

(Supreme President from page 4)

soon as possible to Inspector General James Gibbon, II. I would like to see as many commanderies and districts report as possible.

At the recently completed board meeting, a new undersecretary position was created. The Undersecretary of the Web-site will now work on the site and we should begin to see changes in the near future.

Finally, let us keep in our hearts and prayers all of our fallen brothers and sisters. They helped lay the foundation and groundwork for our current organization and deserve our prayers.

Until the March issue, from the Supreme Board, May you have a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

*Fraternally in Christ,
General Dale Gossiaux
President, Supreme Commandery
Knights of St. John International*

(Supreme Secretary from page 4)

walking around the table, each of us with a piece of the "Oplatek" sharing it, hugging and wishing all the very best for the new year. With that over, we sat back down and the feast began. My mother always insisted that prunes be included in the menu, but I never touched them. They were part of a fruit compote in place of salad. Then came the Borsch. It was a soup made of beets and Babcia spent the day making it. To make it even more elegant, you could add heavy cream to it. My favorite part was the pickled herring (from a big barrel in the cellar), smoked whitefish and fried haddock. We then attacked the "Pierogi" (a Polish dumpling with various fillings) that had been frying on the stove. We usually concentrated on those filled with potato & cheese, cheese only, and some sauerkraut-filled. Homemade Polish babka bread spread with slabs of butter and coffee completed the meal.

When dinner was over, we kids settled down to just relax, or the young ones took a nap because we were all going to Midnight Mass. While my mother was washing

dishes, we sang Polish Christmas Carols. I can still hear her singing "Lulaizie Jezuniu", a lullaby to Jesus.

Once everything was cleaned up, we dressed warmly and headed for Church. It was about 11:00 P.M. and we walked the four blocks to our parish Church. My next younger brother and I would be serving Mass, but my Mom and little Joey, my youngest brother, wanted to be sure to get a seat. It would be standing room only. At 11:30 P.M. the choir would start their "Kolendy" (Polish Christmas Carols). The big feature in that was my Godfather, Uncle Andy, would be playing his violin during "Kolendy" and at the Mass. He had his own polka band and everyone knew him from the various weddings he played at ... but to see him in Church, playing, cast an entirely different picture of him. I was so proud.

When Mass was over, we walked home in the snow, with our neighbors. A treat was waiting for us. No, it wasn't Santa Claus. We had fasted from meat all day, and now the fresh

ham that Babcia put into the oven earlier in the evening would be done. That's when we dove into a ham spiced with allspice, cloves and garlic. Hot sandwiches on rye bread with a glass of ginger ale was my special treat. When my brothers went to bed, I helped Mom put their Santa gifts under the tree and headed for bed.

The next morning, Santa came and went, but what we anxiously looked forward to was that big ham dinner and all our uncles and aunts coming to dinner and/or visit. It was family. Family enjoying and sharing this great holiday. As children we knew what Christmas truly meant. It was enjoying the celebration of Christ's birth and sharing that love of Christ with everyone around you.

May your Christmas be one where you are surrounded by those who love and care for you, knowing that this is what Christ expects of us as we celebrate His birth.

*Merry Christmas,
Tom Zdanowicz*

In Memoriam

Commandery:

40 Rochester, NY
98 Columbus, OH
100 Schenectady, NY
100 Schenectady, NY
100 Schenectady, NY
172 Richmond, IN
308 Rochester, NY
308 Rochester, NY
308 Rochester, NY
313 Maria Stein, OH
346 Saltpond, Ghana
385 Utica, NY
385 Utica, NY
385 Utica, NY
405 Tema, Ghana
428 Aflao, Ghana
439 Tumu, Ghana
472 Garki, Nigeria
488 Somanya, Ghana
495 Mataheko, Accra, Ghana
628 Bole, Ghana
630 Ashaiman, Ghana
678 Kdaru, Nigeria

John Statts
Msgr. Ralph Huntzinger
Patrick O'Connor
Dominick Falso
Rev. Michael J. Hogan
Jerome Kutter
Rt. Rev. James M. Moynihan
Joseph A. Tumminelli
Donald Santangelo
John Bruns
Nana P.K. Appiah
Joseph W. Burke
Paul Maphia
Raymond LaComb
Anthony Eshun
Martin Amekor
Isaac Wibonto
Charles Nwosa
Peter K. Amakyi
Isaac Orman
Domalara Cosmas
Christopher K. Appu
Emeka Eglum

September, 2014 thru December, 2014

MUSTER & INSPECTION ORDER

Reports must be filed before January 17, 2015

(OFFICIAL)

September 1, 2014

General Order No. 1

To: Major General James M. Gibbons II, KSJI, Supreme Commandery, Inspector General.

You are hereby respectfully commanded to order a Muster & Inspection of all Local Commanderies. Said Muster & Inspection to be held not later than January 17, 2015.

You will submit a full and detailed report of the results of said inspection not later than July 1, 2015.

By Command of General Dale Gossiaux, KSJI, Supreme Commandery, President.

Attest: Lt.Gen. Thomas Zdanowicz, KSJI, Supreme Commandery, Adjutant General.

Knights of St. John International

Military Department

Office of the Inspector General

76 Sunset Creek Drive, West Seneca, NY 14224, USA

September 1, 2014

To: All Supreme Subordinate Presidents, Grand Presidents, Brigade, Regiment, Battalion, District Commanders and Unattached Local Commandery Presidents:

In compliance with General Order No. 1, issued by General Dale Gossiaux, dated September 1, 2014; you are hereby respectfully commanded to order a Muster & Inspection of all Local Commanderies within your jurisdiction to be held no later than January 17, 2015. Said Muster & Inspection to be conducted as prescribed in the official Knights of St. John International Drill Regulations (Reprinted, June 2008), Sections 486-496. KSJI Muster & Inspection Report Forms 1 & 2 (KSJI MIR Forms 1 & 2) will be sent to you and you will send two copies of KSJI MIR Form 1 to each Local Commandery Commander, within your jurisdiction, to prepare the muster roll for their Local Commandery. The Local Commandery Commanders will present the two KSJI MIR Forms 1 to the Muster and Inspecting Officer(s). The Muster and Inspecting Officer(s) will complete the Muster Roll for each Local Commandery annotating on the two KSJI Forms 1 those members present or absent. The Muster and Inspecting Officer(s) will then complete the Inspection of each Local Commandery annotating on the two KSJI MIR Forms 1 the inspection of uniform items. One completed KSJI MIR Form 1 will be retained by the Local Commandery Commander for future reference and one sent to each District Commander, or in Brigades to the Colonel of each Regiment. As soon as these reports are received from all Local Commanderies, the Colonel or District Commander will transfer the information contained therein to the KSJI MIR Forms 2. When the KSJI MIR Forms 2 is complete, the Colonel or District Commander will have a number of copies made. The Colonel or District Commander will submit the KSJI MIR Forms 2 to their Supreme Subordinate Commandery or Grand Commandery who will compile all of their subordinate commands KSJI MIR Forms 2 for follow on submission to the KSJI, Supreme Commandery, Inspector General no later than January 17, 2015. The Colonel or District Commander will send one copy of the KSJI MIR Forms 2 to each Local Commandery Commander, within the reporting officer's jurisdiction, with the instruction that same is to be read to the members of the Local Commandery in order that they may know how their Local Commandery compares with the other Local Commanderies within their command. An additional copy will be sent to the Colonel or District Commander's Supreme Subordinate President, Grand President, Brigade, Regiment, Battalion and District Commanders. KSJI, Unattached Local Commanderies will submit the KSJI MIR Forms 1 & 2 to the KSJI, Supreme Commandery, Inspector General not later than January 17, 2015.

By Command of Major General James M. Gibbons II,
KSJI, Supreme Commandery, Inspector General.