

# Knight<sup>of</sup> St John

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**Muster and inspection cancelled, page 16**

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## *Supreme President's Message*



### **On Racism and Ethnic Prejudice in the World**

The “Roman Catholic Union of the Knights of St. John / Knights of St. John / Knights of St. John International” was formed on the East Coast of the United States of America in 1875 AD. The movement quickly spread across the U.S., later to Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, Togo, Sierra Leone West Africa in addition to Great Britain, Germany and Trinidad.

Its initial purpose included the healing of body, mind and spirit of its members and family following the then recently ended U.S. Civil War (which sought to end the repression of African American and Indigenous peoples), and to support and revitalize the work of the Catholic Church. These ideals continue today. So, by the nature of its worldwide membership from its inception to the current day, these knights realize a richly diversified representation.

Unfortunately, this diversity did not guarantee respect for each member and group as to the color of one's skin, or the respect for indigenous traditions. The sin of racism does not except the Knights of St. John. Jokes and derogatory conversations attack fraternal Charity (KSJI 3rd Degree) and the dignity of all others. Pervasive values and culture that hold that some lives are worthmore than others violate the human dignity upon which our Faith and Knighthood is based. We ask for for giveness.

Prayer along with working toward Conversion in our everyday lives -- our families, communities, Church, and certainly our Knights' Commanderies -- is our first priority. We will forcefully work toward ending ethnic prejudice. We condemn the devastating sin of racism in all of its forms. “Racism is a Life Issue” (“Open Wide Our Hearts,” USCCB 11 / 2018 ).

We, as the Knights of St. John Executive Board of Directors, commit to publishing regular educational and appropriate directives in our Journals and other publications regarding race relations. We will promote policies that will combat racism and its negative effect within our commanderies. For we are all called to our final reward in heaven, where “a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people and tongue stands before the throne and before the Lamb” (Rev. 7:9).

We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form ... (Pope Francis). We pray that we may walk humbly with God and all our brothers in renewed unity (KSJI 2nd Degree), for there is no place for racism in the hearts of any person, especially a Knight of St. John. Holy Spirit, lead us to a transformation of heart. Amen.

**General Frank Waseleski, Sr. Supreme President**

<http://ksji.org>

## *Interim Supreme Secretary's Message*



Brother Knights, I bring greetings and prayers in these unprecedented times. It is with humility and honor that I continue the great work of Lt. Gen Thomas Zdanowicz, who has worked with me and continues to advise as I take on this journey. I ask that everyone be patient with the secretariat as we try to smoothen things and get a consistent rotation with activities.

Rest assured; we are working hard in the background on various requests from the brotherhood and will do our best to fulfil them. Our prayers are with everyone and hope that brothers continue to observe the mask and social distancing as much as possible until we can safely exit out of this pandemic.

In closing, I will leave all with a passage from “Roman 8:38-39:”

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Amen

Fraternally,

**Brig. Gen. Chijioke Okafor, Supreme Secretary**

# Supreme Spiritual Director's Message



Dear Brother Knights and Ladies Auxiliary of St. John:

Peace be with You!

I wish to pose a question to you.

“Who do we say we are? Who do others say we are?”

This question should sound somewhat familiar to us but asked differently. The question familiar to us was asked by Jesus Christ to his disciples:

“Who do people say that I am?” Then Jesus narrowed the question to his disciples when he asked them: “Who do you say I am?”

Their response to Jesus satisfied him. They answered:

“You are the Christ, the Son of God and the Savior of the world.”

Jesus’ preaching, teaching, healing, and presence transformed many into believers and followers of Him. As Knights and Ladies of a wonderful, international, Catholic order in the Church, the original question I posed is an important one:

“Who do we say we are?” It is wonderful to see us wearing our Knights and Ladies of St. John International uniforms, especially during liturgical functions. It is also important for others to see that we wear them with a purpose: upholding the faith of the Catholic Church and the mission of our order.

I share this with you because we are living in trying times where the Church is the target of on-going attacks: violence upon innocent people, abductions of our youth, human trafficking, abortions and the threat of wars against nations.

Our presence, as a Catholic body of men, women, and youth, is very important today. Doing works of charity, professing our faith with pride, teaching who Jesus is, and inviting others to come to know Jesus as we do, is very critical. We need to continue standing up for our faith, help to restore hope to the hopeless, and show others that the Knights and Ladies of St. John International is a wonderful, Catholic, dogmatic, and faith-filled organization.

“Who do we say we are?”

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**Msgr. Federico A. Britto**

**Supreme Spiritual Director**



# New Members

(July 2020 to September 2020)

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Adam Lloyd Bruce, Marcus Dennis Halcomb

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Anthony Erukeme, Owerri Grand President

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Ignatius Fulflay

Comm. #467 Zwedru, Grand Gedeh, Liberia

Johnny O. Gage

Comm. #472 Garki, FCT, Nigeria

Robert Elebor

Comm. #489 Warri, Delta, Nigeria

Emmanue Okeril

Comm. #526 Monrovia, Montserraso, Liberia

Augustine Brooks

Comm. #541 Lokoja, Kogi, Nigeria

Anthony E. Atebije

Comm. #555 Benin, Edo, Nigeria

Rokings Igunbor

Worthy President

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Nicholas Chizea

Worthy President

## Accra East Grand Commandery



### **Rev. Father James Owusu Yeboah, SMA Superior of Ghana, with Candidates and Degree team Accra East Grand Commandery Exemplifies 57 Candidates to 2nd & 3rd Degree**

The Accra East Grand Commandery has exemplified 57 candidates in the 2nd and 3rd Degree obligations in a solemn ceremony held on 29th August 2020 at the Queen of Peace Catholic Church at Madina. Queen of Peace Catholic Church falls under the jurisdiction of the 14th District of Accra East Grand Commandery. This exemplification ceremony is the fifth since the Grand Commandery was inaugurated. The ceremony coincided with the feast of the beheading of our Patron Saint, St. John the Baptist.

The exemplification was preceded by two lectures. The first lecture was dedicated to the Beatitudes and was delivered by Col. Emmanuel Plange, Grand 1st Vice President, who took the candidates through each of the 8 beatitudes, explaining each and its relevance to them as Catholic gentlemen.

The second lecture on Unity and Charity was delivered by the Immediate Past Grand President, Brig. Gen. Anthony Chinebuah. The lecture hinged on some of the basic tenets of the Order including the need to tolerate one another. He indicated that although we are from different backgrounds we can foster oneness among ourselves through Union with Christ, Union with our members and Union with other members of the Church. He also emphasized that with reference to the Knights of St. John International, teamwork is paramount.

Attendance at the exemplification Mass was limited to the candidates, a few sisters and guests and the performing team in compliance with the COVID-19 protocols. The Mass was officiated by Very Reverend Father James Owusu Yeboah, SMA Superior of Ghana.





**Grandmaster Brig. Gen. Bekoe Palmer Buckle opens the ceremony.**

The Grand Master for the ceremony was the Accra East Grand President, Brig. Gen. Bekoe Palmer Buckle. Also in attendance was the 1st Vice President of the Supreme Subordinate Commandery, Ghana, Brig. Gen. William Adjei, who led the candidates to take the 2nd and 3rd degree oath.

After Mass the candidates took a group photograph followed by a short period of socialisation. Below are some pictures from the event.

Reported by:

Colonel Dominic Darkwa

Accra East Grand Secretary

## Buffalo Grand Commandery



Since the last publication of the Journal, the Western New York Region has slowly started to come out of the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions imposed by the State Governor. We were able to return to Mass in limited numbers the second weekend of June. As parishes slowly begin to get back to near normal, our Commanderies are also beginning to regain some of their functions. While most large-scale gatherings are still prohibited, Commanderies are trying to make the most of the situation. All Commanderies within the Grand continue to communicate with members and families during this time to ensure that all Brothers are doing well and are being taken care of during this time of pandemic. We continue to pray for the healing of our nation and the world, and the health of our members, and our holy and noble order.

### Grand Holy Hour and Prayers

In a virtual meeting of the Grand officers and Local Commandery Presidents in June, a Holy Hour was called to specifically pray for the civil unrest in our country and the world, and an end to the COVID pandemic. The Holy Hour and Prayers event was held on Saturday June 13th and had a reasonable turnout of men to spend an hour in prayer together. Father David Richards, the Administrator of Our Lady of Pompeii, home of Commandery 377, hosted the event comprising an hour of adoration, the Rosary and Divine Mercy prayers. As a result of the success of this first prayer event, the Grand decided to continue doing this on the first Saturday of each month, rotating it among the parishes in the diocese. The second Holy Hour and Prayers was held on Saturday August 1st and was presided over by Father Sam Giangreco at St. Ambrose Parish.

### The Passing of Bishop Edward Kmiec (Bishop Emeritus of Buffalo Diocese)

On July 12th the Grand received word that the former bishop of Buffalo Diocese, Bishop Emeritus Edward Kmiec was called home to the Lord. Bishop Kmiec was the 13th Bishop of Buffalo and was a great friend and mentor to the Knights of St. John during this time as ordinary in Buffalo. He also served as the Grand Spiritual Advisor for many years. On July 16th, Knights of the Grand stood guard while the Bishop laid in state at the St. Joseph's Cathedral. Many thanks to Brothers from Commanderies 135, 204, 381, 382, 391, and 408 who stood guard. Also, thanks to Capt. Timothy Redinger and Capt. Vince Binder, who in addition to standing guard on July 16th, provided Honor Guard for Cardinal Timothy Dolan (Metropolitan for New York), Bishop Edward Scharfenberger (Apostolic Administrator of Buffalo), and other visiting bishops who were present at the Mass of Christian Burial on July 17th.



### Local Commandery Activities

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Commandery 382 held a small summer fellowship gathering at their parish outdoor pavilion in June for the Knights, spouses, and children. The event was a success and allowed men to gather and see each other after several months of the New York State Stay-at-Home order. Over thirty-five men showed up for the event.

St. Katherine Drexel Commandery 135 met for a regular meeting in August. The meeting was largely for the discussion of how the Commandery events for the coming months would be affected by the COVID shutdown, and to award two men with the Jewel of Honor. These jewels were supposed to be awarded at the annual Battalion Mass and Breakfast in March, which was cancelled. Congratulations to Captain Michael Stiglmeier and Captain John Ernst. They have almost 100 years of combined service to the church through their efforts in the Knights.

St Jerome Parish Brampton (home of Commandery 710) had fundraising to help individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Brothers of the Commandery raised \$500 towards the parish initiative.

# *Owerri Grand Commandery*

## **Grand President Brig. Gen. Erukeme**

On Monday, June 8th the earth trembled, cried hot and cold tears. But heaven rejoiced as Owerri Grand lost her Grand President to the cold hands of death. One of her best Grand Presidents so far judging by his inputs and outputs of work in areas of infrastructures, discipline, as well as Prudential management of resources.

Brig.Gen. Erukeme died not just as a biblical foolish rich man, but as a rich man, who lived through his enormous wealth and experiences, the three “t’s” of time, treasure and talents in his quest to earn paradise.

No wonder he kept telling people that he would make it to heaven, certainly as a Knight of St. John.

His burial came at the end of many days of tributes. He was memorialized at the CKC Cathedral Church Aba, District 13.

In addition, there was a day of tributes at the Owerri Grand Hall where brothers and sisters offered much praise to the late Grand President. He was praised for his indelible footprints in terms of his selfless services to God and humanity, and his fearlessness as a Brigade Commander, who defended the church and the defenseless.

A Vigil Mass followed at St John Catholic Parish, Neni, Anaocha LGA Anambra state, Nigeria. One could only witness a sea of priests, sisters, three Bishops and big wigs of Anambra politicians. Of course, there were plenty of Knights in attendance.

The homilist, Bishop Peter Okpalaeke, of Ekwulobia Catholic Diocese, capped his homily, extolling the

Ecclesiastics: “vanity upon vanity, all is vanity.” He said the departed Grand President lived for the needy, thirsty, hungry, homeless, and sick.

The Brigadier General was buried at St. James Catholic Church, Neni Anambra state, Nigeria after KSJI rituals over the body moved to church for the funeral concelebrated pontifical requiem mass. The mass witnessed a good number of Catholic Bishops, priests, sisters, Knights of all orders and many others.

The homilist anchored his homily on “whatever you sow, that you shall reap.”

No doubt our late Grand President, who sowed charity, who treasured his life and focused on heaven will be in paradise, his heart’s desire.

**Lieut. Vincent Azubuike.**

**Editor, Supreme Journal, Owerri Grand**



1. The priest incenses the casket of Brig.Gen. Erukeme.
2. Sisters escort the brigadier general's bereaved sister.
3. Brother Knights salute their late grand president.









**Announcement**  
**Cancellation of General Order #1**  
**Due to Coronavirus – 2020**

**Date:** September 21, 2020

**To:** Brig. Gen. C.J. Okafor  
Interim Supreme Secretary  
Knights of St. John International

**From:** Gen. Frank Waseleski, Sr.  
Supreme President  
Knights of St. John International

Dear Secretary Okafor:

Greetings! I have been reviewing the status of the world-wide pandemic and it is bleak. Many countries seem to be entering a second wave of the coronavirus; the United States has never gotten through the first wave, and cases have reached over thirty-one (31) million world-wide with almost one (1) million deaths, and right now there is no end in sight.

From the beginning, we as the Supreme Executive Board of Directors, have committed ourselves to the protection of the health and safety of our members and their families, and we will not change that position. Therefore, I will not issue General Order #1, Muster and Inspection, for the year 2020, and request you place this communication out to all appropriate officers, the Journal, and our website. At this time, it is inappropriate to ask our members to meet in mass numbers and increase and possibility of them contracting the coronavirus or transmitting it to their families.

In closing, I ask all our membership to continue to follow the guidelines put out by the doctors and protect yourselves and everybody around you. We all must pray for relief from this pandemic and pray for the sick and deceased. God bless and stay safe.

Respectfully,

**Gen. Frank Waseleski, Sr.**  
**Supreme President**

## Journal Address

Local commanderies, grand commanderies, districts, and regiments, send your articles to be published in the Knight of St. John Journal to:

**KnightsJournal@yahoo.com**

Articles must be submitted before the deadline:

**December Issue: November 1st**

**March Issue: February 1**

**June Issue: May 1**

**September Issue: August 1**

**Please send photographs *as a separate file attachment*, not inserted into the report or email. Please include caption information and provide a phone number** for the person submitting in case we have a question or need additional information. Articles may be a **Microsoft Word** document, attached to an email, or pasted into an email. Please do not type in ALL CAPS for headings, etc.

## It's a Digital World

All Knights will receive a digital copy of the journal that will be sent to your email address. Printed copies will no longer be available.

To register, please type in **bit.ly/KnightsSignUp** in your browser field. You will be asked for your email address, your name, and commandery number.

For those who do not choose to send us your e-mail address, you can always print a copy from our website, **ksji.org**

This significant change, approved at the Supreme Executive Board meeting in July 2019, will allow us to open up more avenues to making our "Knight of St. John" a colorful quarterly. It will also give us the ability to send timely updates, when necessary.

*The Staff of "Knight of St. John"*

## 2nd & 3rd Degree Lapel Pins

are now available from the office  
of the Quartermaster, B/G Matt Trossman.  
They can be ordered from him at  
**quartermaster@etczone.com**





