Knight St. John

Published Quarterly

By the Knights of St. John International

Vol. 58. No. 3

IN GOD WE TRUST

SEPTEMBER 2021

"For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb." — Luke 1:15 on St. John the Baptist



The Knight of St. John is the official organ of the Knights of St. John International and is entirely devoted to their interests. The Knight of St. John is published under the supervision of the Supreme Board of Trustees.

Communications will not be published unless accompanied by the name and address of the author. Communications for the current issue should be sent directly to the assistant editor. Knight-sJournal@yahoo.com

The name "Knights of St. John International" and its logo are registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Ser. No. 78-713,532, Filed 9-15-2005.

The Knight of St. John (USPS 296880) is a quarterly publication of the Knights of St. John International.

SUBSCRIPTION \$6 PER YEAR

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President's address



reetings once again from your Supreme President. As we continue to work through the global pandemic, I want to assure you that the Supreme Executive Board of Directors have regularly met, via ZOOM, and have maintained the operations of our organization. We are very pleased to see that our officers and brothers are also very hard at work. We have had an influx of Charter requests for new Commanderies and some Grands, even two new Commanderies in the U.S. I personally hope and pray that we are following the safety guidelines as to protect our members and their families from any further spread of COVID-19, as we do the Lord's work.

Another issue of importance is the 2022 Supreme Convention. Unfortunately, we have been faced with major issues other than just the COVID-19 restrictions. As all should be aware of by now, the State Department of the United States has shut down travel from some overseas countries; a lot of which are the Countries where our members live. Blanket Visa's, as we have done in the past, are probably out of our reach at this time, and without a full delegation, we could not conduct the business that

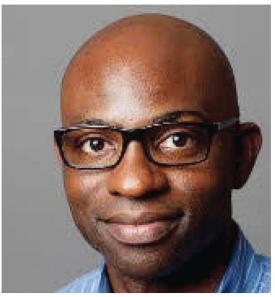
may properly come before our Convention. The Supreme Executive Board of Directors will be meeting in early November and the 2022 Convention will top the agenda. Once a decision is rendered by the Board, we will notify the membership as soon as possible.

Right now, we must continue to look forward and move our organization in the right direction. An order is just as strong as the members wish it to be. Now, more than ever, we must stand united and follow our Law's as the Constitution states. We need now, more than ever, to dwell into the house of our Lord and pray for world health, both in mind and spirit; pray for world peace, not only

for wars but for the consistent struggle of our Lord's people who have no shelter, food, medicine, etc., so they can live their lives in peace and tranquility. May God bless you all, and may we reach out a hand to help so many in need.

Respectfully, Gen. Frank Waseleski, Sr. Supreme President Knights of St. John International

Interim Supreme Secretary



reetings to All.

As I reflect on the months that have passed, I came up with a theme that can be useful for us all.

Purpose and Service are two
things that I have been reflecting
on. I think it is a good time for all of us to reflect on these, to help
remind us why we joined the Knights of St. John in the first place.

Do we have the right purpose in mind?

Are we focused on personal accolades and praises or is service and making the world a better place, through our organization, the primary focus?

Are we truly looking out for our fellow Knight or is joining the Knighthood a means to fulfil personal ambitions? A quote that resonates with me is:

"The purpose of life is not for personal happiness. It is to be useful, honorable, kind, compassionate, to make some difference in another person's life and hope that when the sun sets you have lived and lived well," wrote Ralph Waldo Emerson, the noted philosopher, abolitionist and poet.

"It is the action, not the fruit of the action, that's important. You must do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time. But that doesn't mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result," Emerson wrote.

I leave you as always with a verse from 1 Peter 4:10, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as

faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Let us rededicate ourselves with purpose, remove those things that are barriers from us being true brothers in Christ and continue the great work of the Knights of St. John International.

Although we are at the end of the summer months the daylight still allows us to get out a bit more, and the world is gradually returning to normal. I reflect on the time where there was no end in sight, uncertainty was everywhere. We are a resilient group of people as we keep our eyes on the North star, our Lord Jesus Christ, who has guided us out of this pandemic toward the sunshine. We, of course, reflect and pray for all our brothers and sister we have lost along the way and know that they are in God's hands.

I am happy to say that many commanderies were able to meet by zoom or conference call and maintain their relationships with one another which is very critical in challenging times. As we move into the Fall months, we ae exploring various opportunities to fellowship in the future and encouraging fellowship with each other as safely as you can. I leave you with this verse Philippians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Fraternally

Maj. Gen. Chijioke Okafor

Interim Supreme Secretary

Supreme Spiritual Director



Looking at our world today, the social, moral, and political issues seem to flourish. These issues are taking root and sprouting before us without stopping. Refugees and migrants escaping their home homelands seeking shelter, refuge, and security in other countries. Global warming and other natural disasters destroying Mother Earth. The on-going concerns of kidnapping clergy and religious, especially in Africa, and Haiti who can't seem to get a break from earthquakes and hurricanes. There are issues of disrespect for human life and violence against people. People are suffering on so many

ay Jesus Christ, whose love and mercy is always

While these issues are alarming, we must never give up hope. As people of faith, we must continue to rely on the mercy of Our Lord God. We must continue to look to the cross of Jesus Christ for redemption, miracles, healing, and a change of heart.

levels.

It is important for the Church to be present in our world, to be a beacon of hope, healing, and comfort. It is also important for religious institutions and organizations such as the Knights of St. John International to be active and effective. Organizations like the Knights of St. John put God's plan and mission into action. We are also God's instruments of hope, healing, comfort, compassion, and encouragement.

Jesus Christ said: "If you wish to follow me, you must lay down your life and pick up your cross."

Many of us have endured the cross of Jesus Christ in so many ways. And many of us are in the forefront in keeping Christ's mission and plan alive.

I am grateful for your untiring service to our Order, and to our Church. May Jesus Christ continue to use us as his instruments demonstrating ourselves as beacons of hope, healing, and action. May we continue to help Jesus Christ, and our universal Church in putting out these horrible weeds that are destroying our world, and our Church. Keep professing your faith in speech and in action.

Peace and blessings, Rev. Msgr. Federico A. Britto Supreme Spiritual Director

Welcome to New Members

(June 2021 to September 2021)

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Comm #448	Monrovia/ Liberia	Chea C. Brapoh
Comm #606	Monrovia/ Liberia	Gabriel Ayao Ireland
Comm #435	Monrovia/ Liberia	Alphonso T. Jerbo
Comm #366	Monrovia/ Liberia	Ziamah Yokie Kollie
Comm #470	Monrovia/ Liberia	Cammue A. Mulbah
Comm #475	Monrovia/ Liberia	J. Wallace Bryant
Comm #448	Monrovia/ Liberia	John Fallah Kolleh
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Comm #448	Monrovia/ Liberia	Fred C. Farwenel
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(June 2021 to September 2021)

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Comm# 403	Koforidua Ghana	Michael Aboagye
Comm# 492	Tamale Ghana	Romanus Abosoba
Comm# 500	Dansoman/ Ghana	Francis Ahiafor
Comm# 517	Wa/ Ghana	Peter Kuunyagna
Comm# 604	Madina/ Ghana	John Bamiebo
Comm# 744	Nadowli/ Ghana	James Galma
Comm# 745	Kaleo/ Ghana	Philip Mwini-naa

In Memoriam

Brother Knight Devone Antonio Cooper

Prother Knight, Devone Antonio Cooper of Sacred Heart Commandery No. 309 La Plata, MD, was called to his eternal rest on July 6, 2021. Commandery No. 309, and all members of the Baltimore-Washington Grand Commandery, mourn the loss of a true and loyal Knight, respected servant, citizen and friend. He was a faithful Knight for more than seven years and ex-



emplified these ideals in his church, family, community and the Knights of St. John International. In fact, his maternal grandfather was Captain Francis X. Cooper who was awarded the Military Jewel of Honor in 2019 and had been a Knight for more than 72 years. Brother

Cooper loved attending meetings with him.

Devone Antonio Cooper was a friend to many, and he would famously respond, "I got your back," in anyone's time of need. Devone always assisted others with a smile on his face and a pleasant attitude. He had worked as an Administrative Coordinator for National Public Radio.

Sir Knight Cooper was born January 2, 1970, in La Plata, MD and was baptized at Sacred Heart Catholic Church there. Even in his death, Brother Cooper's last act of kindness was to assist others in living a better quality of life through the Organ Donor Program.

The commandery's Charter and Colors will be draped for six consecutive meetings as a mark of respect and we pray that the All Merciful Lord will give him a befitting place among His Angels and Saints

Submitted by Col. Thomas J. Short Commandery No. 309

Brothers mourn their mother

ary Schmitt had just celebrated her 94th birthday on September 12th and we were in the midst of preparing a special article about her for this month's Knights Journal.

To our great sorrow, the Lord called her away from her suffering to rest eternally in His bosom, on September 17, 2021. She and her family were dedicated to the Knights of St. John. Mary joined the Ladies Auxiliary #156 at St. Joseph's Church in Utica, NY in 1943, when she was only 16yrs. old.

The then Mary Graf, met and fell in love with a very handsome and active Knight of St. John, S/K Joseph A. Schmitt. They married at St. Joseph's Church on October 20th, 1951. Together, they led an active life in service to their Church. Along the way, they raised a family of Knights, three of whom are still very active in the Order. Those proud Knights of St. John are Supreme Sports Director, Brig. Gen. Joseph F. Schmitt, Capt. Eddie Schmitt & 1st Lt. George Schmitt.

A Memorial Service was held for her with a joint representation of Knights and Ladies. At her funeral Mass the following morning, her Ladies and a delegation of Knights from Comm.# 41 & Comm. #385 attended the services and provided an escort out of the Church. The chaplains of both Knight Commanderies con-celebrated her funeral Mass.

Her husband, Joe, worked for many years as an Engineer for the New York Central Railroad. As Mary's casket was



Joe & Mary Schmitt

about to leave the church, a train whistle could be heard, loud and clear from the choir loft. Her Joe was waiting to take her away.

Requiescant in Pace

In Memoriam

Lady Helen Boe

he Holy Cross Catholic Church in Trenton, New Jersey, was packed on Saturday, August 7. Hundreds had gathered to offer a formal farewell, an heartfelt homegoing for to Lady Helen Boe who had died suddenly and had left in shock all who admired her and loved. The Ladies Auxiliary 598 and Commandery 676 of the Knights of St. John were joined by dozens of other fellow Knights and Ladies from the New York Grand, and beyond,

including friends, relatives and parishioners. Lady Boe was an original member of the Our Lady of ConsolataAuxiliary #370 that was based at All Saints Parish in Harbel, Liberia. She officially transferred to Auxiliary 598 in June 2015. She served on various committees both on the Grand and District level and received her Noble Degree in December 2019 and was committed to the order until her death.





L-R: Respected President Loretta Nwoke, LAUX 557/Queens, NY and Respected President Nettie Davies Kollie LAUX 598/Trenton, NJ

Ranking Knights of St. John who attended included from L-R: Maj. Gen. Martin Mahn Bella Supreme Trustee, Brig. Gen. Francis B. Kollie Secretary, SSC-USA, Brig. Gen. Michael Days Asst. Editor Knight of St. John, Col. Dave Wilson NY Grand Sec., and 1st Lieut. Meaway Luo from Commandery 615 in Philadelphia

Courtesy: Brother Lawrence Ibe, Corresponding/Recording Secretary, Commandery 680, of Global Patriot Newspapers.



Courtesy: Brother Lawrence Ibe, Corresponding/Recording Secretary, Commandery 680, of Global Patriot Newspapers.

U.S. Supreme Subordinate Commandery **BIENNIAL CONVENTION**

Brothers Knights,

The date of the second biennial convention of the Supreme Subordinate Commandery of the United States is set. It will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton at the Columbus, Ohio Airport from Saturday November 13, 2021, through Sunday, November 14, 2021. Delegates should plan to arrive on Friday, November 12, 2021.

Please pass this information to all local and district commanderies within your Grand. We are appealing that you encourage more of your members to come share in this great experience of learning as well as meeting and hanging out with other brother knights from various grands and commanderies from across the United States and Canada.

Thanks much to the Cincinnati Grand Commandery for the great job, especially Jim Schafhausen and Emmanuel Toe.

The room rates provided by the hotel are \$109.00 for a King-bedroom non-smoking suite and \$119.00 for 2 Queenbedroom non-smoking suite. Right now, we have 40 rooms available on Friday. And another 40 would be added on Saturday. We hope to secure more rooms if more brothers express an interest in attending.

Early registration is \$45; registration at the convention is \$50. Additional guest reservation is \$35 per person.

Please feel free to use the forms found in this quarter's journal, and copy them, if necessary.

Also, feel free to contact me or Jim if you have any questions or concerns.

> Yours in Knighthood, Brig. Gen. Francis B. Kollie Secretary, SSC-USA





REGISTRATION Supreme Subordinate Commandery ~ United States

The Supreme Subordinate Commandery ~ USA convention will be Saturday, November 13, 2021. Delegates are expected to arrive on Friday, November 12, and check-out on Sunday, November 14.

2021 KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN, INT. SUPREME SUBORDINATE COMMANDERY~USA Convention Registration Form

Please register me for the 2021 Supreme Subordinate~USA Convention

Name:
Title, Officer,
Delegate
Commandery #:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Price of advanced registration - \$45.00 Price of registration at Convention - \$50.00
Make check payable to: SSC-USA
Mail to: Brig. Gen. Francis Kollie,
Secretary-SSC-USA
176 Knapp Avenue
Hamilton, NI 08610

CONVENTION HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS

The convention hotel is the Embassy Suites located at 2886 Airport Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43219.

To reserve your accommodations, make your call to 800-362-2779 no later than October 20, 2021. Please identify yourself as a member of the Knights of St. John International and mention the Group Code: KSJ.

Check-in time 4:00 PM Check-out time - 12 Noon

The rate schedule for the 2021 convention is as follows:

\$109.00 – King Bedroom or \$119.00 for a 2-Queen Bedroom. Includes breakfast and the Hotel's Evening Manager's Reception.

The rate does not include the applicable state and local taxes, currently 17.5%

2021 KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN, INT. SUPREME SUBORDINATE COMMANDERY~USA CONVENTION ADDITIONAL BANQUET REQUESTS

Saturday, November 13, 2021

Please confirm extra _____ reservations at \$35.00 per person.

Make check payable to: SSC-USA









Mass Processional

The Knights of St Johns International's newest: Commandery #973

othing succeeds like success. The new Commandery #973, based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, hosted its formal beginning on the weekend of July 16 th, 2021 with more than a few of the Supreme leadership and the leaders of the U.S. Supreme Subordinate. The new commandery is led by Lt. Anthony Ryan.

The Supreme President, General Frank Waseleski, was represented by Supreme 1st Vice President Lt. Gen. Thomas Deluca. Also in attendance were Lt. General Thomas Deluca (Supreme First Vice President), Gen. Sir Dale G. Gossiaux (Past Supreme President), Lt. Gen. Terrence McCann (Supreme Treasurer), Maj. Gen. Martin Bella (Supreme Trustee), Maj. Gen. Aagon F. Tingba, Jr. (Supreme Counsel), Maj. Gen. Sean Dey (Supreme Inspector General), Maj. Gen. James Schafhausen (Supreme Subordinate President-USA), Maj. Gen. Brian Sterlin (Michigan Grand President), Brig. Gen. Francis Kollie (Supreme Subordinate Secretary-USA), Herb Riedling (Supreme Guard), Col. Titus Brown Osuagwu (Supreme Cadets Chairman), Tim Ridinger (SSC-USA Information Officer).

In his remarks to the Inductees of 2nd and 3rd Degrees, while presenting the Commandery Charter, Lt. Gen. Thomas Deluca urged the brothers to continue to distinguish themselves in the church and in the community with exemplary behavior as Knights.

In addition, Col. Titus Brown Osuagwu, Supreme Cadets Chairman, distributed the service flyers and handouts to the youth and urged the commandery's officers to work hard to organize the potential cadets there.

> --Courtesy of Brother Titus Brown Osuagwu, JP, KSJI NEWS & amp; MEDIA



Swearing in of cabinet members and military officers of Commandery #973





23rd Grand Convention of the Grand Commandery of Togo

In accordance with the Constitution of the Knights of Saint John International, the Grand Commandery of Togo held its 23rd Grand Convention on July 30, 31 and August 1, 2021, at the Centre Monseigneur SESHIE in Kpalime, Togo.

The 150 delegates arrived mostly on July 29th to register with the convention opening on July 30th and they were welcomed with several presentations, including an address by Brigadier General Dr. Victor Vovor, Togo's Grand President and a word of thanks by Noble Lady Pérégrine Acakpo-Addra.

In addition, the convention was graced by the administrative, civil, military, and traditional authorities of Kloto, a delegation of the Knights and Ladies of the Order of Marshall and the Ladies Auxiliary of Saint John International of Togo.

The official opening ceremony was rounded off by the blessing given by His Grace Mgr. Benoît Alowonou, which allowed room for the main works.

These works encompassed the presentation of the different reports of the members of the board of the Togo Grand Commandery, the study of the subjects on the agenda and the election of the new board of Togo Grand Commandery.

The newly elected officers of the Togo Grand Commandery, for the 2021-2023 term, are:

Grand President: Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Victor Y. Vovor **1st Vice Grand President:** Col. David Atayi-a **2nd Vice Grand President:** Col. Cyriaque Haden

Grand Secretary: Col. Paul Agbezo

Grand Financial Secretary: Capt. Irené Ganlonon Grand Treasurer: Sir Knight Eric Espoir Akli Judge - Advocate: Sir Knight Nestor Mathey-Apossan

1st Grand Trustee: Maj. Michel Egah 2nd Grand Trustee: Capt. Rocky Sossou 3rd Grand Trustee: Maj. Médard Kponvi Grand Messenger: 2nd Lt. Lionel Wabl

Grand Sergeant-at-Arms: Maj. Claude d'Almeida **Grand Warden:** Sir Knight Antonio-Godwin Haden

The installation of the new board by the Immediate Past President, Brig. Gen. Aristide Agbodjan, the word of the newly Grand President elect, the congratulations and encouragement from Mgr. Alowonou who attended the entire convention.

Continued on next page



Cutline

Continued from preceding page

In the evening, all the participants were invited to a communion banquet which took place in the gardens of Hotel du 30 Août, Kpalimé.

The convention closed with a Mass of Thanksgiving concelebrated by His Grace, Mgr. Benoît Comlan Messan Alowonou, Bishop of Kpalimé and President of the Conference of Bishops of Togo. The participants left in joy and cheerfulness.

We wish a fruitful and blessed mission to the new office of the Grand Commandery of Togo, under the supreme guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Submitted by **2nd Lt. Espoir Woameno,** *Cdry 879, Bè-Klikame, Lomé*



Cutline



2nd and 3rd degree recepients

New York Grand 2nd and 3rd Degrees Exemplification

he New York Grand Commandery carried out the exemplification exercise of her deserving brothers into the 2nd and 3rd degrees of the Order on Sunday, July 18, 2021.

The event took place at the Roman Catholic Parish of the Transfiguration (St Ann's Church), in Newark, New Jersey. One of those initiated was the Rev. Josephat Kato Kalema. Father Kalema also urged the brothers to continue to distinguish themselves in the Church with exemplary behavior as Knights.

The Knights exemplified hail from four commanderies in the New York Grand -- #615 in Philadelphia, #676 in Trenton, N.J., and #680 and #960, both in Newark, N.J.

Present to both witness and carry out the initiation were: Brig. Gen. Richard Morse, Grand President, Col. David B. Wilson Sr., Secretary, Col. Martin Ukeje, 1st Vice President, Col. Alexander Jaeploe, 2nd Vice President, Major Patrick Mombo, Major Christopher Nwanze, Capt. Rudolph Weedor, 1st. Lt. Sebastian Ike, 1st Lt. Oliver Nnadi, 2nd Lt. Cyril Amadiegwu, and 2nd Lt. Chinedum Uche.

Text courtesy of Col. Titus Brown Osuagwu, Supreme Cadets Chairman and photos courtesy of Brother Lawrence Ibe, Corresponding/Recording Secretary, Commandery 680 of Global Patriot Newspapers



Sir Knight Emmanuel Ibe receiving his pin and certificate from Brigadier General Richard Morse, New York Grand President

Port Harcourt Grand Commandery

Great Joint Grand Board Meeting Like a butterfly, in brilliant multi colors, emerging from its cocoon, full of energy, and poised to taste every flower in the garden, Port Harcourt Grand Commandery emerged from its COVID-19 debacle to attend its non-virtual First Joint Board of Trustees meeting on June 12, 2021, at Holy Family Catholic Church, hosted by Commandery #779.

The attendance was impressive from the Knights and the Ladies Auxiliary. The Grand Spiritual Director, Rev. Dr. Joseph Kabari, presided over the liturgy and the opening prayers, followed by the opening formalities.

Before going into the published agenda, a Junior, Sister Flora Kenkayaro, was permitted by the Grand President to address the Joint Board. She had been working on the Garnet Care Foundation Project, concerned with rehabilitation of orphans and empowerment of young girls. She invited the Grand Commandery to assist her by participating as individuals or as a corporate body. Her presentation was brilliant, her subject matter fascinating and her intentions noble. There followed a vivacious discussion on her appeal with contributions

from the delegates of the Knights and LAUX. In the end, the Joint Board approved and adopted Garnet Care Foundation Project as the vocational project for Port Harcourt Grand Commandery. Brother Martins Azike was appointed Coordinator for the Grand Commandery. Each Local Commandery was instructed to appoint its own coordinator for the project.

Other decisions taken by the Joint Board include the increase of the Death Benefit Scheme premium from N5,000.00 to N7,000.0; the adoption of a prayer composed by the Liturgy Committee for a successful conduct of elections in December; payment of dues by members who are eighty years old and over; and initiates whose wives refuse to join the Order to be denied access to exemplification.

In addition, 63 brothers were exemplified into the Second and Third Degrees of the Order on June 25, 2021.

Education

By the end of June, seven brothers and two sisters completed the certificate Course in Theology from the Catholic Institute of West Africa (CIWA). Six other brothers had also completed their course work in their Diploma Course in Theology, and are now working on their Long Essay to conclude the program. CIWA is an affiliate of Federal University of Calabar.

Intent on equipping our brothers with the requisite knowledge as peace makers in conflict (family, Church, business, village), the Grand Commandery has negotiated with the Garden City Business School for a certificate program for Knights of Port Harcourt Commandery. Worthy Presidents, Respected Presidents, Grand officers, and all in leadership position are expected to benefit the three month Course.

Awards

Port Harcourt Diocese Laity Council, during its celebration of its 40th anniversary, July 24, honored five Grand officers for self-less service to the laity. The recipients are Brig. Gen. Steve Ekwelibe, Grand President; Very Rev. Fr. Joseph Kabari, Grand Spiritual Director; Rev. Fr. Polycarp Henetu, District 48, Chaplain; Col. Hope Worlumanekwe, Grand First Vice President; and Col. Daniel Onuoha, Scribe, Bishop Edmund Fitzgibbon Chapter of Chevaliers.



Diploma in Theology Students with the Head of Department (CIWA)



Knights of St. John

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