

Knight^{of} St. John

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IN GOD WE TRUST

JUNE 2022

*"This is my beloved Son,
in whom I am well pleased"*



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President's address

Greetings once again to all my brothers and sisters across the world.

I am in hopes that this writing finds you all in good health and spirit in these times. If you are feeling like your life has been turned upside down, you're not alone. All of us have been affected by the various crises throughout our world.

Unfortunately, most of these crises are self-inflicted by mankind, and unless the people on top of the food chain and those who control governments change their ideals, the people at the middle and bottom of the food chain will continue to suffer.

Now is no time for us to become meek; we must truthfully determine the right direction for all and double down on our faith and ask our Lord to guide us through what comes before us. Prayer is the answer!

Our organization is not without problems either. Your Supreme Board of Directors have continued to meet quarterly by social media, and we will continue this practice for the near future. However, now is the time to plan for our meet-



ings in person, including our Supreme Convention in 2024, and we will continue to work toward that aspect.

As we have worked our way through these hard times, the challenges have only made us stronger. In the beginning I wrote of an avenue to protect the membership and their families, knowing that once they were given the light, our officers and members would find their own way. You are commended for your support and dedication to the principles of our order, the practice of Faith, Hope, and Charity. Whatever impasse that may come before us, we must remember our faithful teachings of our Lord, stay unified with

our church, and pray for peace and tranquility.

God bless you all!

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

Interim Supreme Secretary



I bring greetings to all members of the Knights of St. John International. My message this month is focused on two things: Per Capita and reports.

We are happy and excited that the order is growing, commanderies are bringing in new members, there are requests to create additional Grands. My message to all in leadership positions is that prompt payment of PCT is critical to the success of the organization. We have various outstanding PCT and I continue to get requests to create new commanderies. We need to ensure all PCT is paid up in full as soon as possible.

Reports are important for the Supreme Commandery to ensure we have up to date information on what is occurring in the local commanderies. It is important to have these reports submitted to the Grand Sec-

retary to provide to the Supreme Secretary to make sure we are current with all that is going on locally. It is very important because the Supreme Subordinate Secretary must submit quarterly reports based on all the collated activities for that period.

Finally, the Supreme Executive Board will be meeting to discuss various matters on how to ensure we continue to function in the future despite challenges from issues like a pandemic, etc.

I want to wish everyone a safe summer season and look forward to fellowshiping in person soon.

Fraternally,
Maj. Gen. Chijioke Okafor
Interim Supreme Secretary

Supreme Spiritual Director



May the grace and peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

Now that the Easter season is over, we must remind ourselves that the mission of Jesus Christ is laid upon us even more. The challenges are truly weighed upon us.

As Christ witnesses, we must turn to Him for strength, conviction, determination, and passion. We must put aside our titles, or created titles, and put on the title of witness for Christ. We will be ridiculed, coitized, and maybe even verbally and physically attacked. Satan is really using his power by working through his soldiers to destroy our true, one, holy, apostolate Church.

Recently a gunman came into St. Francis, a Catholic Church in the southwest part of Nigeria, and killed some of the parishioners who had gathered for Sunday worship and even destroyed some of the interior of the Church – an example of Satan trying to make his demonic point.

But remember, “the gates of hell shall never prevail.”

I encourage everyone to pray. Let our prayer be powerful and effective. I ask you to join me every day at noon to pray the Prayer to St. Michael. And may we keep in prayer the Churches throughout Nigeria, and all the Catholic Churches throughout the world.

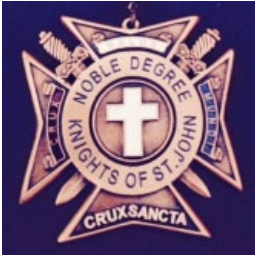
Our work can be overwhelming. Our challenge is to maintain our resilience to keep doing our work with care, energy and compassion. Stay strong in your faith and always wear your armor of truth, justice, and with conviction. Be that witness for Christ.

St. Michael, intercede for us.

St. John, intercede for us.

Peace and blessings.

Rev. Msgr. Federico A. Britto
Supreme Spiritual Director



Knights of St. John International

NOBLE AND EXALTED DEGREE OF THE HOLY CROSS



Saturday, August 27, 2022 at 11:30 a.m.

Site: St. Michael the Archangel Church
1212 Kelly Street
Union, New Jersey 07083

Primary Celebrant: Most Reverend Elias R. Lorenzo, OSB
Auxiliary Bishop of Union County
Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Newark

Here are the details:

- Knights who have been in uniform for 10 years, or a member in good standing for 15 years, are eligible.
- An application signed by the commandery's Worthy President and the Financial Secretary is required.
- Brother Knights must be accredited before the exemplification at 9:30 a.m. on August 27 in St. Michael's church chapel.
- Total cost is \$223 and includes all expenses, including Noble Cross, label pin and gloves.
- All payments must be by check from the local commandery to KSJI District 4. Deadline to register is Friday, July 15.
- Rooms have been reserved at Robert Treat (Best Western) Hotel, 50 Park Place, Newark N.J., (973) 622-1000. Single room is \$110 per night; Double room is \$135.00. To receive the negotiated rate use "Knights of St. John" code before August 12th

Application form is on page 8

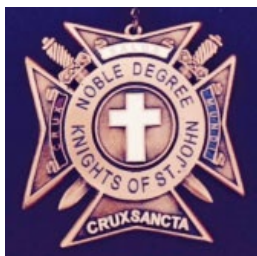
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Knights of St. John International

NOBLE AND EXALTED DEGREE OF THE HOLY CROSS



“In God We Trust”

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

In the Noble and Exalted Knights of the Holy Cross Knights of St. John International

I, _____ of _____
(Name) (Street Address)

_____, _____, _____
(City) (State) (Zip code)

a member of Commandery # _____, of the _____ Grand Commandery, do hereby
apply for Investiture into the Noble Degree of the Holy Cross of the Knights of St. John International.

I swear as a brother knight that I am a member in good standing and that I meet all the qualifications as
required by Chapter II, Section 18 of the Supreme Constitution of the Knights of St. John International.

1. KSJI 1st Degree Initiation: _____, _____
MM/DD/YY Local Commandery name & number

2. KSJI Uniform Knight: _____ or, KSJI Non-Uniform Brother Knight: _____ Glove Size: M / L
(Yes/No) (Rank) (Yes/No) (Circle One)

3. Are you in good standing with the KSJI: _____ Sponsor: _____
Sponsors will be provided unless a personal sponsor is desired.

(Signature of applicant)

(Date)

All uniformed members must wear their uniforms with sword and belt. Non-uniformed members taking the Noble
Degree must wear dark suit and tie or sport coat. Wearing of Cap & Sash is authorized for non-military.

We, the undersigned President and Financial Secretary of Commandery # _____ do hereby certify that
the above applicant is a member in good standing in Commandery # _____ and in our opinion is
qualified and worthy to be initiated into the Noble Order of the Holy Cross.

Signed: _____
Worthy President/ Date: Financial Secretary / Date

Investiture Fee of \$35:00 is to be included with this application

<http://ksji.org>

In Memoriam

The Life of Reverend Robert Swann Pittman

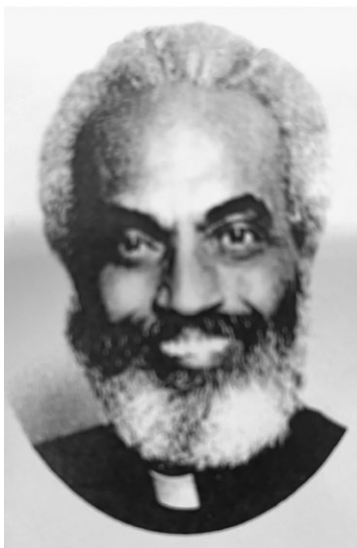
June 22, 1928 – April 24, 2022

Brother Knights:

It is with great sadness that I inform the Knights of Saint John International of the passing of our brother, Father Robert Swann Pittman, SSS, who transitioned into the loving arms of our Heavenly Father on the 24th of April 2022 at age 93.

Father Pittman spent more than 50 years in the priesthood, served as a missionary in Mozambique where he was instrumental in getting fresh water to the many remote areas. He also served in Swaziland, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, and Nigeria. He studied at the Angelicum in Rome, was accepted into the novitiate in Barre, Maine and served in England where he taught seminarians and children preparing for their First Holy Communion.

He began his studies at the Divine Word Seminary in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, and went on to earn his master's degree at the University of Maryland, and Ph.D. in Greek and Latin at Catholic University. His final trip outside of the United States was to Rome to witness the Canonization of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first Native American saint in North America. Father Pittman was widely known in Southern Maryland as he often celebrated Mass throughout the region, particularly in parishes with only one priest in residence. He resided and managed the Body of Christ Farm in



Robert Swann Pittman.

Submitted By,
Colonel Theodore J. Short
Commandery No. 309

Malcolm, Maryland, where he also taught children about the Lord's love and the gift of the Eucharist. A first love of his was in helping the handicapped and those less fortunate, which led him to become a foster parent to several young men and women with disabilities.

After serving 50 years as a priest, he completed his autobiography titled, "I Looked Up and Heard God Calling Me" in which he wrote that his years at Bay St. Louis was the happiest days of his life. Knights from Commanderies, 115, 309, 373, and 386 and, Ladies Auxiliaries, 301 and 359 attended the Memorial Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, in Waldorf, Md. Commandery #309 humbly asks that all Knights within the Baltimore-Washington Grand Commandery, bow in silent meditation and prayer to our Heavenly Father for the repose of the soul of our dear Brother, Father

The Life of James Samuel Briscoe

September 9, 1947 to March 19, 2022

Brother Knights,

It is with great sadness to inform the Knights of Saint John International of the passing of our brother, James Samuel Briscoe who transitioned into the loving arms of his Heavenly Father on Saturday March 19, 2022.

Brother Briscoe served the Sacred Heart Commandery No. 309, La Plata, MD, as a faithful member in several capacities for twelve years. He distinguished himself as a servant of God through his generous donation of his time, his talents, and treasures for the benefit of his Church, his community and those in need.

He also served on the Board of Trustees for 3

years. He received his Second and Third Degrees respectively and was a member of the KSJI Uniform Club. He was also a lifelong faithful and devoted member of Saint Peter Claver Catholic Church, Ridge, MD.

Commandery 309 ask that all within the Baltimore-Washington Grand Commandery, bow in a silent meditation and pray to our Heavenly Father for the repose of the soul of our dear Brother. Rest in Peace, Brother James Samuel Briscoe. AMEN.

Submitted by,
Colonel Theodore J. Short
Commandery No. 309



Baltimore-Washington Grand Commandery

Remembering the Late Colonel John Frederick Friday, Jr.



The entire membership of the Baltimore-Washington Grand, Knights of St. John International, was saddened to learn of the passing of our dear Brother, Colonel John Frederick Friday, Jr., on March 1, 2022. John had been a member of Incarnation Commandery No. 296, Washington, DC for 24 years and proudly wore his uniform to show his faith and devotion for Holy Mother the Church.

John was a Past 2nd Vice President of the Baltimore-Washington Grand Commandery; Past Commander of the First Regiment of Washington; Past President of Commandery No. 296; and was delegate to the Regiment, Grand and the Knights St. John International Bi-Annual Conventions. He was a member of the National Capitol Temple, Noble and Exalted Degree of the Holy Cross; and a member of the Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle Chapter No.

15, Fourth Degree Chevaliers. John was an active member of the Church of the Incarnation and attended Mass on a regular basis until his health started to fail. He was also an active member in the Holy Name Society, and most notably as a very active volunteer by counting and certifying the Incarnation weekly offertory.

During his tenure as Commandery No. 296 President, John obtained the approval of our members to make monthly donations to the St. Vincent DePaul Society at our parish. We continue to make these donations and to date, the commandery has donated more than \$110,000 to this worthy organization. Our Brother John exemplified all the goals and ideals of our Noble Order and was named Grand Knight of the Year for 2012.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held for John at the Church of the Incarnation on March 15, 2022. Members of the Grand Knights and Ladies' Auxiliary, family members, and friends were in attendance to pray for the repose of John's soul. Full military honors were given John with uniformed Knights and members of the Holy Name Society serving as pallbearers and as the guard of honor.

Major General Chijioke Okafor, Interim Supreme Secretary and Major General Martin Bella, Supreme Trustee, extended their heartfelt condolences to his family. John is survived by his devoted, loving and caring wife, Anna H. Friday; son Kevin Friday; daughter, Kathy Jones; four grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and many friends.

Words cannot adequately describe just how much his extended family in the Knights of St. John International mourns the loss of a true and loyal Knight. We thank God for giving us an opportunity to share time with John.

Baltimore-Washington Grand Commandery

St. Thomas Commandery No. 218 Presents a Special Gift

Last December was a very exciting time for the members of St. Thomas Commandery No. 218 and Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Washington, DC. Commandery No. 218 presented Holy Redeemer with a very special gift.

Holy Redeemer has a great legacy for Black Catholics in northeast Washington and was the fourth Catholic Church founded for African Americans in the District of Columbia after Saint Augustine's, Saint Cyprian's, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The original structure of Holy Redeemer is the only remaining of these early Catholic Church

edifices still standing today and having an active strong faith-community. One of the first major benefactors for the building of the Church was Saint Katharine Drexel, founder of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. She gifted \$8,000 in 1921 for the building of this Church. Holy Redeemer was dedicated in October 1922.

Major Reginald Tobias, Commandery No. 218 President, presented a gift of \$10,000 to Father David A. Bava, Pastor of Holy Redeemer, during Sunday Mass on December 5, 2021. Sometimes history does repeat itself because they gifted \$10,000 to Holy Redeemer in April 2007.

Please remember in prayer our Brothers and Sisters who are ill or confined to their residence or to a private nursing home. They will appreciate your telephone calls, personal visits (if possible) or cards to show that they are not forgotten. God Bless everyone, stay safe by protecting yourself and others, and pray for our Brothers and Sisters who have passed.

Submitted by,

Brig. Gen. Ronald C. Taylor

Baltimore-Washington Grand Commandery



Father David A. Bava and Major Reginald Tobias



Photo: The Roman Catholic Diocese of Washington.

Buffalo Grand Commandery

There was much to celebrate in the Buffalo Grand since the last edition of the Journal was published. First and foremost, the men of the Buffalo Grand celebrated the joyous occasion of Easter, with traditional turnouts for Holy Thursday and Easter Masses providing the capstone for our long Lenten journey.

With Easter comes spring, and with turnouts for First Communion and Confirmations the men of the Buffalo Grand kept busy. This year a special turnout was arranged at St. Mary's in Lancaster NY. In the last journal we reported on the sudden passing of Captain Joe Janca from Commandery 391. Joe's granddaughter was making her First Holy Communion on Saturday, April 30th, and a special detail of Knights from the Regiment turned out for the occasion in support of her and the Janca family, as Joe could not be there himself. A great job by the eight men who took time out of their day to honor the memory of Joe Janca and to be there for his granddaughter.

Also on Saturday, April 30th at St. John Vianney parish in Orchard Park, NY, home of Commandery 387, 17 men took the 2nd and 3rd Degree. It was a great celebration of our faith and dedication to our holy and noble order. Despite some minor changes at the last minute, the degree team of Lt. Gen. Thomas Deluca (135), Colonel Ed Orrange (387), Captain Charlie Brown (387), General James Setlock (381) and Captain Timothy Redinger (135) assisted the men in advancing in the Knights in front of friends and family. In addition to the 17 men who took the degree, many other brother knights from around the Grand joined us in prayer and celebration of the event.



Reverend Daniel Ulmer (135) and Reverend Mark Iuta (387) took the 2nd and 3rd degree on April 30 along with the other 15 men from the Grand.

A special thank you to the host commandery for a job well done and for their gracious hospitality before, during, and after the degree.

We congratulate these men and continue to pray for them as they embrace the tenants of our faith and order and continue to be representatives of Christ in our parishes and communities.

Continuing with the theme of celebration in our Diocese, on Sunday May 1, led by Bishop Michael Fisher, the Diocese of Buffalo celebrated its 175th Anniversary at St. Joseph's Cathedral. Sir Knight Michael Wierzba (135) and Lt. Colonel William

Patterson (204) augmented with two of our brother knights from the Knights of Columbus provided an honor guard to the Bishop, procession of clergy, and parish representatives. A special thanks to these two men for representing our order in the best way possible to the faithful of the Diocese on this special occasion.

The month of May always ends with a special celebration on Memorial Day, as the 2nd Regiment gathers at Parade Rest, our imposing monument in the Old French and German Cemetery in Cheektowaga, NY to pray for the repose of the souls of the men we have lost over the last year. This will be the first field Mass held by the Regiment since the 2109 field Mass.

Submitted by:

Cpt. Timothy D Redinger, OESSH

Commandery 135, Commanding
Buffalo Grand Communications Director
SSC-USA Webmaster

Sir Knight Michael Wierzba and others provide escort and honor guard at the 175th Anniversary Mass.





Togo Grand Commandery

Exemplification to 2nd and 3rd Degrees

Launched in January 2022, the registration for exemplification in the 2nd and 3rd Degrees of the Order of Knights of Saint John International in Togo recorded the candidacy of 57 Knights from the various commanderies under the jurisdiction of the Togo Grand Commandery.

After having attended the required basic training on the central themes of “Charity” and “Unity” and then actively participated in the preparatory triduum, the candidates were initiated into the 2nd and 3rd Degrees on Saturday, May 21, 2022, during a splendid Mass at the Saint Kisito Parish of Tokoin Doumassesse, Lomé. This Eucharist was presided over by the Archdiocesan Chaplain, Rev. Father Sébastien Boccovi, representing the National Chaplain and concelebrated by three other Priests namely:

- Father Narcisse Wognon, parish priest of Saint Kisito Parish and member of the Immaculée Conception (Immaculate Conception) Commandery No. 501, Nyekonak-poè.

- Father Auguste Happy Egah, Director of Radio Maria Togo and member of the Saints Martyrs de l'Ouganda (Holy Martyrs of Uganda) Commandery No. 465, Tokoin; and

- Father Jean-Claude Afanou, member of the Sacré-Cœur Junior Commandery No. 502, Tokoin Saint Jo.

This ceremony was both honored and witnessed by the Grand President, Brig. Gen. Dr. Victor Vovor and the immediate Past Grand President, Brig. Gen. Aristide E. Agbodjan.

The homily focused on the two core themes of the 2nd and 3rd degrees – charity and unity – dear to any group, and in this case our noble Order.

At the end of this ceremony, the new initiates were invited to a communion banquet to end these months of devotion in style.

Sincere thanks to the Great Board of Togo for their dedication and for the organization, conduct, and success of this blissful ceremony.

Submitted by
2nd Lt. Espoir Woameno,
Commandery No. 879,
Bè-Klikamé, Lomé.

St. Patrick Commandery # 976



Half Assini, Ghana Inaugurated

The inaugural ceremony of St. Patrick Commandery # 976 of the Knights of St. International, Half Assini was held on Saturday, 19th March, 2021 at a solemn ceremony at St. Patrick Catholic Church premises. The ceremony commenced with the 1st Degree Ritual under the direction of the 1st District Commander of Cape Coast Grand Commandery, Major Francis Ackom-Boadu.

Major Ackom-Boadu formally welcomed the Cape Coast Grand Commandery President, Brigadier General Joseph Kwamina Brainoo, and his entourage and members of Our Lady, Star of the Sea Commandery # 397, Takoradi. The entourage were made up of the 1st Vice President, Colonel Samuel Smart Adeaba, the Grand Secretary, Brigadier General Charles Kofi Arthur, Assistant Grand Secretary, Captain Theophilus Brako and the Grand 1st Trustee (Pro term Judge Advocate), Captain John Kobina Addisu.

In his remarks, the Brigadier General said that he was happy to be at the meeting to inaugurate the Charter and initiate new members since that was his first Charter inauguration as President of the Grand Commandery. He said the seed that was planted about fourteen years ago by

members from Our Lady Star of the Sea Commandery # 397, Takoradi, has yielded the desired fruits and called on the Local Commandery not to rest on its oars but to continue to assist St. Patrick Commandery to grow and spread the evangelization mission to other parts of their catchment area. He likened the Charter Inauguration ceremony to the creation of Catholic Diocese and ordination of a Catholic Bishop. He further stated that the traditions of the Order is rooted in the customs and traditions of the Catholic Church.

The Charter, granted by the Supreme Commandery of the Knights of St. John International, empowers the Local Commandery to conduct business and initiate members and was read by the Brigadier General Charles Arthur.

The Grand President in the name of the Supreme President in the United States of America declared the Charter of St. Patrick Commandery # 976 duly inaugurated.

In a separate ceremony, the Parish Priest, Rev. Father Michael Owusu and Brother Knight Mark Arthur were installed as the Spiritual Advisor and President of the Local Commandery, respectively. Some candidates were also initiated.

Rev. Father Owusu thanked Officers and brothers for gracing the oc-

Continued on next page

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casion by their solemn presence. He also thanked all members who made the establishment of the St. Patrick Commandery # 976 a reality.

The inaugural Thanksgiving Mass was held Sunday and was celebrated by the Rev. Father Owusu. In his homily, Father Owusu asked all societies in the Church to see the Order of Knights of St. Johns International as partners in accomplish-

ing the mission of the Catholic Church and not competitors for supremacy in the Parish. The arrival of the group, he said, is to complement the efforts of all the existing societies in the Parish for the growth of the Church.

Submitted by:

Captain Theophilus Brako

Assistant Grand Secretary

Cape Coast Grand Commandery





Knights of St. John

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