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Lt. Gen. Thomas F.
Zdanowicz

1935-2023



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CHIJOKE OKAFOR, EDITOR
ksjisupremesecretary@gmail.com

MICHAEL DAYS, ASST. EDITOR
KnightsJournal@yahoo.com

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Monrovia - Brig. Gen. Patrick G. Brown
Monrovia, Liberia
Tel: +231886516759 / +231775708703
pgb841200@gmail.com

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Tel: +231886553787 / +231775873584
srd0362@yahoo.com

NIGERIA

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+234-817-585-1425,
jonahegbaodo@gmail.com

Abuja - Brig. Gen. Bonaventure Ugwuja,
+234-803-332-2123,
bonaugwuja@yahoo.co.uk

Awka - Brig. Gen. J.A. Ezeuchu,
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davidpolycarp@yahoo.com

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Liberia – Brig. Gen. Joseph Kandy Pupo II, Monrovia, Liberia
Tel: +231886594263 / +231776756134
subsecliberia@gmail.com; jkandypupo@gmail.com

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President's Address



Greetings! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the members around the world from your Supreme Executive Board of Directors. As we finish this year, we must all look back on our accomplishments and our shortcomings. I am very proud of our officers and members for their work on progressing through some historic times while preserving our principles and solidifying our unity and growth. We have proven that with unity there is strength, and that strength must be used to fulfill the obligations passed on to us from our forefathers, to follow our laws and sustain our order intact for years to come.

Presently, we are starting to process through a generational change. This change will not occur overnight, but it is inevitable; it will happen. We should praise the fact that we are blessed with the large number of youth that have chosen to be part of our order. Now is the time to start looking at the future and knowledge of our leadership. To accomplish this goal, the older members such as myself, must collaborate with the younger members so they may understand where we have come from, their perspective of what is transpiring today, and what they see for the future

of our organization. Putting your personal beliefs and goals aside, a willingness to listen and understand others' views, and compromise are key traits of a strong leader. If we can bestow these concepts into the thinking of the younger members, we will have the leadership we need to secure our future.

I do not wish to delay you getting to your preparations for your holiday events any longer, so I will sign off with my concluding thoughts. We must remember the so many in the world that will not have a meal, shelter, or a place to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We need to reach out to these people and assist in any way we can; we are all God's people.

Closing on a personal note, my wife Carol and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God bless us all.

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

Interim Supreme Secretary



Greetings to all members of the Knights of St. John International, and Happy New Year to ALL. Last year was a year of growth in the Knights of St. John, with the establishment of a new Supreme Subordinate, new Grands across the world and various commanderies. We are definitely excited to see the order return to normalcy as we head for a convention year. We ended the year on a somber note with the passing on to glory of our brother Supreme Secretary Emeritus Lt. Gen. Thomas Zdanowicz. His funeral was very well attended by the brotherhood, and he was given a proper Knights of St. John farewell.

We are glad to announce that we have secured Buffalo, N.Y. as the location for our 2024 Supreme Convention. All of the registration materials are currently being processed and will be communicated once finalized. My office is currently working on all the requests for visas and will be sending these out to your Supreme Subordinate secretaries to distribute.

As mentioned by the Supreme President in previous communications and has been communicated to all Supreme Subordinate Presidents, the format for this convention will be different. The will be on the business sessions to clear up all the backlog of items that needs to be addressed.

Only voting members and delegates will be seated at the business meetings. Observers will not be allowed to attend any of the business sessions. Observers that are present on site will be able to join the after-business meeting events, including Mass.

Brothers: the adherence to this is extremely important, as the space for our business meeting is limited to the appropriate head count for those who are delegates. Also, because

of the abbreviated convention days, the meeting time may extend into late evenings.

Reports should be emailed to me and copies distributed at the proper time during the meeting. We will not permit reports to be read in its entirety. Only summarized verbal version will be allowed.

I am also working on Per Capita Tax (PCT) calculations for everyone. Accurate end of year reports for 2023 are critical to ensure accurate PCT bills.

We have various outstanding PCT's and as I adjust to ensure the PCT reflects accurately the commandery strength, I urge all Supreme Subordinates/ Grand and Commandery leaders to ensure that funds are remitted to the Supreme. This being a convention year, it is very important that all PCT's be cleared up to ensure no challenges with seating delegates at the convention.

I would like to thank those Supreme Subordinates, Grands, and Commanderies that are paid in full. We need to ensure all PCT payments are paid in full as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to spending time with brothers at the convention in Buffalo and will have all the registration materials available within a few weeks.

Brothers, I thank you for your patience with all the requests, kindly know that all letters, charters, commissions etc. are ready, being worked on and will be completed and delivered in due time.

Fraternally,
Maj. Gen. Chijioko Okafor
Interim Supreme Secretary

Supreme Spiritual Director



Dear Brother Knights,

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

I want to share the theme of trust and faith with you. This theme I share with you is important especially today. It is a special focus during this time of year, this season of Christmas.

It begins with John the Baptist, to Mary, Mother of Jesus, to the shepherds and to the Magi. What they all had in common is trust and faith in God. We are reminded that all good things come to those who trust in God. This theme is relevant for us today. With the corroded shape of our world today, we are strongly encouraged to have trust and faith in God. He truly will make a way for all who believe in this.

Our world is experiencing wars, poverty, natural disasters, disrespect for human life, and the list goes on. Like John the Baptist, the Apostles, and saints who became witnesses for Christ, we must do the same. We

must be Christ witnesses for the Church, for the faith, and for our worthy organization.

Pope Francis has called every Catholic to become a Missionary Disciple. The Church depends on this concept and action. We must witness in the name of Jesus Christ. We must not take this role lightly. John the Baptist, Joseph, the Magi, and the Apostles accepted this role, with conviction and energy.

May we accept this role as a Missionary Disciple, leading and guiding people to the Kingdom of God. We must do our part as followers of Christ and our role as members of the Knights of St. John International.

As we enter into the beautiful season of Christmas, please be assured of my prayers for you and your families.

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

Lt. Gen. Sir Thomas F. Zdanowicz

October 17, 1935 – December 14, 2023

*Supreme Secretary Emeritus
Past New York Grand President
Noble Grand Master of Rochester Temple*

An iconic Knight of St. John International goes home to be with our Lord

Lt. Gen. Thomas F. Zdanowicz, age 88, passed away in peace and tranquility on Thursday, December 14, 2023, in the comfort and dignity of his home with his wife and loving family by his side.

Thomas was born in Utica on October 17, 1935, the first child of the late Frank Leo and Catherine Eva (Jecen) Zdanowicz. He was educated in local parochial schools, St. Stanislaus Elementary and Utica Catholic Academy High School. He went on to study at the New York Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences in Utica, the forerunner to Mohawk Valley Community College.

Tom answered the call to serve his country in the United States Air Force, training at Sampson A.F.B. and Technical School at Scott A.F.B., Illinois. He was then stationed at Kadena A.F.B, Okinawa, assigned to the 1962nd Airways and Air Communications Squadron with the 5th Air Force. This was during the height of the Cold War between China, Taiwan, and the United States. Okinawa served as the Central Communications Center for the entire Far East, and Tom took responsibility for maintaining the base's Air to Ground Communications Center, including the Control Tower and Air Route Traffic Control facilities. After two years, he was transferred back to the Air Training Command and returned to Scott Field, IL. as a Microwave Communications Instructor.

While in the Air Force, Tom married his childhood sweetheart, the former Jeanne Ferrese on June 29, 1957, at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Utica. After a brief honeymoon, they returned to Illinois until Tom was honorably discharged from the Air Force in November of 1957.

Upon returning to Utica, and after a short stint at the General Electric, Radio Receiver Plant, and the Wonder Bread Bakery Co., Tom was then employed at ROAMA for the U.S. Air Force as a Field Engineer, specializing in the repair and maintenance of Instrument Landing Systems (ILS). In this capacity, he traveled extensively to air bases throughout the northeastern United States, the Maritimes, Labrador, and Thule, Greenland.



When he and Jeanne Started their family, the travel demands of his job were more than he desired. Tom made a career change and became an insurance claims investigator, a job he loved, and which was well suited to his outgoing personality. He trained for two years with the National Grange Mutual Insurance Co., and then worked for 22 years with Merchants Mutual Insurance Co. and for 15 years with the Utica National Insurance Group before his retirement in 1997. He was past President of the Utica Claims Association and a member of the International Insurance Arbitration Commission.

Tom and Jeanne were deeply in love and boasted that their marriage was made in heaven. Tom and his bride celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary this past year. They were especially proud of their two children, Tom, Jr. and Susan Maria, whom they loved dearly. Tom and Jeanne were involved with the Marriage Encounter Movement for many years as the "Executive Team Couple," sharing their love, their highs, and even their lows with hundreds of couples who were seeking to make their good marriages better. During that time, they were members of the Covenant Community located at the Newman Center of Utica College. This involvement was a profound spiritual experience for Tom until the community disbanded.

He and his Jeanne loved all sorts of music and theater. From line dancing to country western music, to the jitterbug, they enjoyed the arts in all its forms. They were members of the Utica Broadway Theatre League, known as Broadway Utica, from its inception in 1957, and still hold their front row seats. Tom starred in the Paduan Players production of "The Music Man" in the role of Harold Hill. In a review of the show, the Observer-Dispatch's theater critic's headline read, "Tom Zdanowicz IS the Music Man." He played various roles in the production of "My Fair Lady," and he had the adult lead in the Utica College/City of Utica production of "Take Me Along," a role that was originally written for Jackie Gleason. Tom studied classical piano at the Parker School of Music, and for many years sang with the Hamilton College Oratorical Society.

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Lt. Gen. Sir Thomas F. Zdanowicz



The procession and honor guard at the beginning of The Mass of Christian Burial

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Tom gave back to his community in so many ways. He was past President and a Board Member of the Utica Jaycees, and for his dedication, he was honored and named Jaycee International Senator #11218. Tom's biography is included in the 1970 edition of "Outstanding Young Men of America." He served on the Board of Directors of Your Neighbors, the Association for Developmentally Disabled Children, Mayor Frank Dulan's City Beautification Committee, and was appointed to the Urban Renewal Committee by Mayor Michael Caruso. He taught a practical politics program for the Utica Chamber of Commerce and ran for the office of the Utica School Board and for the President of the Common Council in 1972. Proud of his Polish heritage, he was also a member of the Kopernik Association and the Polish Community Club.

Tom volunteered for many years with the Peacemaker Program and served as its President and on its Board of Directors. While with this organization, he was made a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) by Justice Frank Cook and represented abused and neglected children in the Herkimer and Oneida County Family Court Systems. He also served them as an arbitrator for the New York State Lemon Law.

Tom was a Fourth Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus #189. In 1993, he became a member of St. Anthony of Padua Commandery #385, Knights of St. John International, a semi-military fraternal Order of Catholic Gentlemen. Tom served that Order as Commandery President, Commander of the Military Rank, New York Grand President, and was elected for life as the Supreme Secretary/Adjutant General with the rank of Lt. General. He retired from that office in 2020 and was still active as Supreme Secretary Emeritus. He was exemplified in all five degrees of the Order, the last being the Noble and Exalted Degree of the Holy Cross. He was also honored by his Commandery with the "Jewel of Honor." Tom worked closely with members throughout the world and visited Commanderies in London, England, Hamburg, Germany; and traveled throughout Togo, Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. During those trips, he met and dined with the President of Liberia, Secretary of State and Speaker of the Senate in Nigeria, and a Supreme Court Justice and Secretary of Tourism in Ghana. Throughout his travels,

a visit to the local bishop, cardinal, or the papal nuncio was a must. On his first trip to Nigeria, Tom was made High Chief of the Igbo Tribe and given the name Ichie Ezedioramma 1, which means "wisest advisor to the king."

Tom was a deeply religious man. Originally a member of St. Stanislaus B.M. Parish, he later joined the parish of St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church, where he served as a lector and extraordinary minister of the Holy Eucharist. For 25 years, he attended yearly retreats at Christ the King Retreat Center with members of St. Anthony's parish. He completed the Diocese of Syracuse's Formation for Ministry Program and was commissioned as a lay minister by the Most Rev. Bishop Thomas Costello in 1984. He was a representative to the Diocesan Parish Council and served his parish as a member of its Parish Council and as a Trustee.

Tom was most proud of the honor bestowed upon him and his Jeanne by Pope Francis on November 23, 2013. The Vatican proclaimed them as Knight and Lady of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher. The investiture was exemplified at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan by their Eminences Timothy Cardinal Dolan and Edward Cardinal Egan of the Archdiocese of New York, Eden Cardinal O'Brien (Pope Francis' legate to the order), and six other Bishops in attendance. The evening was made even more special because it was witnessed by their children and their spouses, their grandson, and clergy from their parish church. In October 2021, Tom was promoted to the rank of Knight Commander with Star at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Tom and Jeanne travelled to many places together - from the oldest cities of Europe to the islands of Hawaii, to the golden beaches of Jamaica and most notably, the ancient city of Jerusalem.

Tom viewed life as a continual adventure. And each adventure was eagerly anticipated, thoroughly enjoyed, and relished over and over again as he shared each adventure with those he loved.

Tom believed that "Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body. But

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Lt. Gen. Sir Thomas F. Zdanowicz

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rather, in the end, one should skid in broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming ‘Wow! What a ride!’”

Tom leaves to mourn him his beloved wife, Jeanne “Du”; his son and daughter-in-law, Tom and Rhonda Zdanowicz; his daughter and son-in-law, Susan and John “J.K.” Klein; four grandchildren, Dana and William True, Candice Barefoot, Kevin and Kelsey Barefoot, and Jecen Zdanowicz; nine great-grandchildren, Brooklyne True, Ariana and Jasmir Krupic, Brayden True, Elicia Barefoot, Nautika Morales, Takice Johnson, Wyatt Parker Barefoot, and June Raegan Barefoot; a brother and sister-in-law, Francis and Sylvia Zdanowicz; sisters-in-law and brother-in-law, Sharon Zdanowicz, Kathleen and Charles “Budd” Osborn, and Donna Ferrese; and many loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins. Tom also leaves some very special friends, his “Merchants Girls,” Karen Burton, Wendy Seeger, Marianne Czupryna, and Clemmy Vivacqua; and his Wednesday morning coffee buddies, Guy Cristallo, Ron Weise, and the late Joseph Ruffule. (You are going to have to solve the world’s problems without Tom’s help now.)

He was predeceased by his parents; brother, Joseph Zdanowicz; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Frank and Rose Ferrese; and his in-laws, Marie and Fred J. Grimaldi, Jr., Thomas Ferrese, and Rosemarie and Frank Percacciante.

Tom’s family would especially like to acknowledge Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc. and the healthcare workers for their compassionate



Jeanne Zdanowicz, the General’s bride, holding the Resolution presented from the New York Grand

care for Tom.

To perpetuate Tom’s love for his church, please consider memorial contributions in his memory to St. Anthony and St. Agnes Church, by mail to 422 Tilden Ave., Utica NY, 13501.

Visitation was held on Wednesday, December 27, 2023, at St. Anthony and St. Agnes Church, 422 Tilden Ave., Utica NY, 13501. Members of the Knights of St. John International honored our beloved Knight at the conclusion of the viewing, and served as honor guards at the Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life on Thursday, December 28, 2023. The New York Grand presented Mrs. Zdanowicz and family with a resolution noting that “our Order has lost a faith-

ful brother, a mentor to many Knights, a Knight filled with unmatched knowledge of the Knighthood.” Interment took place in St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Cemetery.

“Deus lo vult.” ~ “God wills it.”

No doubt, the Lord will bless this amazing man and keep him: “Du,” Tom, Dad, Papa, Grandpa, “Unc,” General.

Fond memories and messages of encouragement may be shared at www.EannaceFuneralHome.com.

Special thanks to the Utica Observer Dispatch (Gannett), Lt. Gen. Zdanowicz’s family, the Eannace Funeral Home, and Under Secretary/Website Brig. Gen. Dominick Pepe and former USA Supreme Subordinate Secretary Francis Kolie.



Dozens of Knights from the NY Grand, and beyond, gathered for the wake and funeral

In Memoriam

RESOLUTION

In Loving Memory of

Ret. Lt. Gen. Sir Thomas F. Zdanowicz

Supreme Secretary Emeritus

Past New York Grand President

Noble Grand Master of Rochester Temple

Christ has promised that everyone who believes in Him has eternal life and that “I shall raise Him on the last day.”

We, the officers, and members of the New York Grand Commandery of the Knights of St. John International, mourn the death of our beloved Ret. Lt. General Thomas F. Zdanowicz. Tom was born here in Utica on October 17, 1935, to the Union of Frank Leo and Catherine Eva Zdanowicz. He was a dedicated Catholic who served the Church in several capacities. Lt. General Z, as he was affectionately called by many, was married to his childhood sweetheart Jeanne Ferrere in 1957 until his death. Tom joined the Noble and Ancient Order of the Knights of St. John International in 1993 and served for over thirty (30) years; his energy and worth of knowledge helped to transform the Order, creating Locals, Grands, and Supreme Subordinates Commanderies around the World. Brother Tom Zdanowicz traveled extensively to spread the good works of the Order worldwide.

Therefore, be it known to all local, Grand, Supreme Subordinate, Supreme Commanderies, Auxiliaries, The Noble and Exalted Order of the Holy Cross that our Order has lost a faithful brother, a mentor to many Knights, a Knight filled with unmatched knowledge of the Knighthood.

Whereas the Knights of St. John International lost a true Knight, a valued member, and a leader on December 14, 2023, in Utica, New York; Brother Sir Zdanowicz moved through the ranks and files of the Order, including President of St. Anthony of Padua Commandery #385, New York Grand President, elected lifetime Supreme Sec-

retary, and Noble Grandmaster of the Rochester Temple of the Noble and Exalted Holy Cross. He was the face of our Noble and Ancient Order under whose leadership the number of Commanderies increased from 600 to about 1000 Commanderies,

Ret. Lt. Gen. Zdanowicz was a selfless and tireless outspoken leader who advocated the advancement of the Knights through the length of the World for which he traveled extensively establishing commanderies, Grand, and Supreme Commanderies.



Whereas Noble Knight and Supreme Secretary Zdanowicz served the Catholic Church all his life in numerous capacities to uplift the Church and the community.

Therefore, it is resolved that we, the members of the Knights of St. John International extend our most sincere condolences to the family of the Late Ret. Lt. General F. Zdanowicz, and be assured that we will forever keep his memories in the History of the Knights of St. John International. The New York Grand Commandery hereby presents a copy of this Resolution to the Sister Jeanne Zdanowicz and the Zdanowicz family.

Be it further resolved that this resolution be recorded in the recorded book of each Local Commandery and District within the New York Grand and shall be visible at all held meetings for one year.

May the Soul of our Brother Thomas F. Zdanowicz and those of our faithfully departed through the Mercy of God, rest in Peace, Amen.

Done under our signatures this 27th day of December, in the year Two Thousand and Twenty- Three AD.

Col. Rudolph A. Weedor
Secretary
New York Grand Commandery

Brig. Gen. Charles Abiakwe
Grand President
New York Grand Commandery

Msgr. Anselm Nwaorgu
Spiritual Advisor
New York Grand Commandery

In Memoriam

Ret. Lt. Gen. Sir Thomas F. Zdanowicz

Brothers of the Knights of St. John International, The Executive Board is taking a moment to express appreciation and remembrance of Lt. Gen. Thomas Zdanowicz, a person who was much more than a colleague to us. Tom was a mentor to many brothers across the world, a friend, and a guiding force in our order. At his funeral we were reminded of Tom's extraordinary life and the indelible impact he left on everyone.

Tom Z. had a huge personality that was both larger than life and vocal figure. From the onset, he made an unmistakable mark on the office of the Supreme Secretary with his detail oriented and exceptional skills, unwavering dedication, and an enthusiasm like no other.

One of Tom's most admirable qualities was his vision and pragmatism, despite all his social accolades and achievements, he always remained grounded and

approachable with a sense of humor that often-turned challenging moments into opportunities for collaboration, fellowship, and laughter. His jokes and witty remarks are something many of us will miss and always treasure.

To Tom Z, we say thank you – for the wisdom, the laughter, and the passion. You were not just a part of the executive board; you were a part of our lives.

Your journey with us may have concluded, but your legacy continues to inspire others to live and serve the Knights of St. John with the same zeal and integrity you exemplified.

Rest in peace, Tom Z.
Fraternally,

Maj. Gen. Chijoke Okafor
on behalf of the Supreme Executive Board

Knights of St. John International

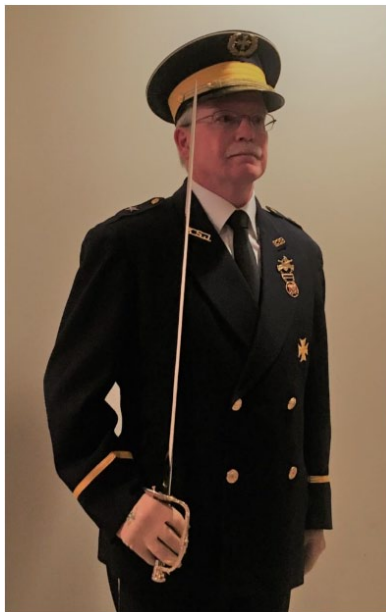


Left to right: Lt. Gen. Thomas Zdanowicz, Gen. Dale Gossiaux, Lt. Gen. Terry McCann, Lt. Gen. Tom DeLuca, Gen. Tim Hoerst, Gen. Frank Waseleski, Sr., Maj. Gen. Chijoke Okafor

Supreme Subordinate Commandery – USA

Maj. Gen. Brian F. Stehlin - President

Merry Christmas
 & HAPPY NEW YEAR



The SSC – USA officers would like to wish all the members of the Knights of St. John International a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

President - Brian F. Stehlin

1st. Vice President - Paul Amuchie

2nd Vice President –Mark Elpers

Secretary - Dan Nobbe

Treasurer - Titus Osuagwu

Trustee – Jay Pfeiffer

Trustee – Paul Jasper

Judge Advocate - Dale Gossiaux

Spiritual Director - Father Alex Osei

Communication Officer (Website) - Andrew Voce

Owerri Grand Commandery

Awards of Recognition Galore



Grand President being decorated by Non Indigenes Association

Owerri Grand Oval Office: Grand President Brig. Gen. Noble Brother Dr. Moses Ajeka received an award of fellowship plaque in September from Non Indigenes Association Owerri Imo State Branch members who paid Owerri Grand Knights of St John International a courtesy visit.

They came to form a synergy between the Knights of St John International, Owerri Grand and the Catholic Church by fostering peaceful coexistence anchored on love, and unity. The Grand President and Grand Secretary Col. Donatus Onyenanu expressed gratitude for their visit, enjoying them to imbibe the spirit of oneness and openness knowing fully well that God is not divided. The association is composed of Muslims in Owerri Imo State.

Feast of The Three Archangels: Saints Raphael, Gabriel and Michael were keenly observed by Owerri Grand, as well, as the Grand Military Department organized a military training workshop for her military elements across the Local Commanderies, Districts and Regiments.

In his homily, Grand Spiritual Director Rev. Fr. Kizito Onyeka extolled the qualities of the three Saints whose roles in the salvation of mankind earned them the title Archangels. The military training workshop lasted for two days.

Grand Secretary Receives Award of Recognition.

In October, Grand Secretary Col. Donatus Onyenanu received an award from his Local Commander #564 Isiala Mbano. The Commandery deemed it worthwhile to honor their member who had held several positions in the Commandery before going to work in the Grand Commandery. In addition, Bro. Onyenanu has served as Grand Financial Secretary before occupying his present position. He was initiated into the Ancient and Noble Order of Knights of St John International in October 2010 and is a member of Seat of Wisdom Squad.

2023 Memorial Mass

On November 4th all of the Districts across Owerri Grand held a memorial mass for the souls of the departed brothers and sisters, cadets and juniors as well as our loved ones.

During the mass, heads bowed, full colours lowered at half mast, and candles lit to honour our departed colleagues. The SSP Nigeria Noble Brother Prof. Remy Uche and Owerri Grand President Noble Brother Dr. Moses Ajeka. were present at the District 8 memorial mass.

In the Spirit of Charity

May we remember our sick brothers and sisters, give them a present, pray for them, visit them and give them calls.

Submitted by: **Lieutenant Vincent Azubuike**

*Owerri Grand Editor
Supreme Journal*



Grand Secretary showing his award by his Commandery



Owerri military elements in a military training

Queen of Angels Commandery 608 Los Angeles, Calif.

Annual Retreat Theme: Prayer is our request for help

Commandery 608 held its annual retreat at Saint Anselm Catholic Church in Los Angeles. We had a very successful retreat on September 30. It gets better each year and continues to be a very spiritually fulfilling experience. The turnout was also very impressive.

The Retreat was facilitated by Rev. Fr. Fidelis Omeaku, who is also our Chaplain. He started with a brief definition of prayer.

What is prayer? Prayer is a request for help or expressing thanks addressed to God or an object of worship. There are five elements of prayer: Worship, Adoration, Thanksgiving, Praise, and Supplication.

Prayer is our conversation with God, where we praise him, adore him, and make our request. Every day we wake up in the morning, we must thank God, we praise and adore him.

Catholic prayer, he said, comprises five components: Adoration, Contrition, Supplication, Intercession, and Thanksgiving.

In the Catholic faith the adoration of God is a component of prayer that expresses the worshiper's deep and abiding love for God. Catholics believe that expressions of adoration assure God that our



prayers are heartfelt. The act of adoration is born of Catholics belief in God's divinity, infinite wisdom, and perfection.

The ritual of novena in which the person praying asks the same favor of God over a period of nine days, is one example of supplication in the Catholic faith. Supplication is a humble request, but to Catho-

lic supplication is also known as petitioning in another form of trust in which the supplicant humbles himself or herself. Communion; Receiving communion can forgive venial sin.

Contrition requires us to ask God forgiveness of our sins. We ask God for pardon for our sins.

In addition, intercession requires praying for others, as we asked others to pray for us, in the same vein when we asked Saints to intercede for us. We are asking the Saints to pray for us. Father Omeaku challenged the brother Knights and LAUX ladies to understand what it is to be a Knight, the importance of prayer as a Knight.

Brother Nicodemus N Nwuda
Historian
Queen of Angels Commandery 608



News from Maryland



The Knights of St. John Commanderies 309, 373 and 370 and Ladies Auxiliaries 301 and 351 were honored to serve and celebrate Sunday, December 10th and the Second Sunday of Advent Mass with Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, 100 Village Street, Waldorf, Maryland. Cardinal Gregory came to close the Centennial Memorial Year of Father

Narcisse Martin. Following the Mass, he attended the first performance by the Children and Youth of a Play about the life of Father Martin who spent the last 29 years of his life as the local Shepherd for the areas of Waldorf, Baden and Aquasco, Maryland from 1894-1923.

Submitted by:
Col. J. Short

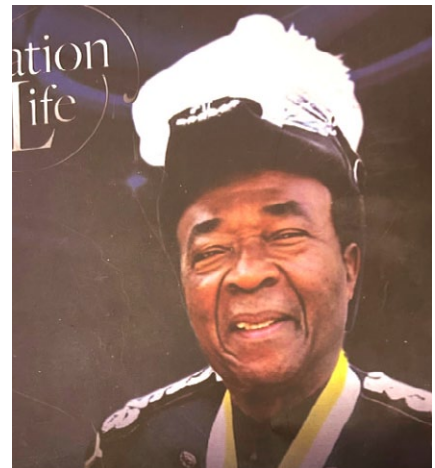


Knights of St. John

Michael Days, Asst. Editor
324 Hamilton Ave.
Trenton, NJ 08609-2717
KnightsJournal@yahoo.com

Visit ksji.org for the latest updates.

In Memoriam



Noble Sir Knight Maurice Onyema Mbata

Knights and Ladies from throughout the region turned out in full force for the Requiem Mass for Noble Sir Knight Maurice Onyema Mbata on January 27, 2024 at the St. Cyprian Catholic Church in Philadelphia, where the KSJI Supreme Spiritual Director, the Rev. Msgr. Federico Britto, is pastor and concelebrated the Mass.

Mbata became one of 19 Knights initi-

ated in the inaugural class of Commandery #676 on November 14, 2009 at the then Blessed Sacrament-Our Lady of Divine Shepherd Parish in Trenton, New Jersey. At his death Brother Mbata was one of the commandery's trustees and had served as the recording secretary. He was much loved and respected. He was married for 48 years to our Sister Lolo Lady Rose Mbata, a member of the Ladies Auxiliary #598.