



4TH NEWS

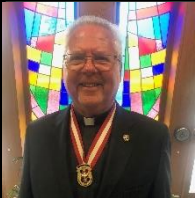
BISHOP PAUL F. REDING ASSEMBLY 1981

50-635 Fourth Line, Oakville, Ontario L6L 5W4
Marian Council 3881 | Mary Mother of God Council 14446
www.kofc1981.ca



CHARITY | UNITY | FRATERNITY | PATRIOTISM

MAY 2024



FAITHFUL FRIAR REV. LOUIS LENSSEN CRSP

Are you being Called?

Looking for material for this month's newsletter, I came across a note from the Ordo – Liturgical Calendar -2023-2024. It suggests the Pope's prayer intention: "we pray that religious women and men, seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel."

Also, May 1 starts with the International Worker's Day. "This can be a day to recognize the value of human work, defend the dignity of working people, encourage all to be responsible in their work, and celebrate the role that human work has in God's plan for creation."

It also shares with us St. Joseph the Worker as an optional memorial in our Liturgy.

It seems to me that there is a message that brings workers together, whether spiritual or corporeal. We support each other in the vocation of choice. As a priest in a religious community (Cleric Regulars of St. Paul, also known as Barnabite Fathers) it gives me a comforting relationship, knowing I am being prayed for as I undertake the direction of the Holy Spirit, the sharing of the Gospel message in a community setting.

As a former welder, in material concerns, it brings me to a whole new way of life. Who would have thought that I would change my vocation from "earthly concerns" to a "religious one." 50 years later it became very clear that there were parishioners praying for me to open my mission in life from one extreme to another.

Think for a moment of the Spirit guiding us to pray for someone to find themselves in order to be able to minister to others. The Knights of Columbus does this by supporting seminarians financially as well as through prayer and other promotional activities. The Serra Club also supports vocations to the priesthood and religious life by acknowledging Servers in parishes who minister at the Altar and others services as well as acknowledge those who celebrate silver and Golden anniversaries at Large dinners.

One thing I found over the years is that the Holy Spirit is always active in everyone's lives. We don't always see it, but when the time comes, we use that gift to minister to others. You could say that the Holy Spirit is our guide through life, assisting us to be as St. Paul says, "Be all things to all people."

Open our minds and hearts to answer His call.

In Christ's Peace, Faithful Friar, Fr. Louis Lenssen

NEXT MEETINGS:

Executive only:
(CANCELLED)

Everyone welcome:

May 15th, 2023
(IN PERSON:
635 4th Line, Unit 50)



Inside the 4th News:

- [1.](#) Faithful Friar
- [2.](#) Faithful Navigator
- [3.](#) Faithful Captain
- [3.](#) Faithful Scribe
- [3.](#) Faithful Trustees
- [3.](#) Faithful Admiral
- [4.](#) Faithful Pilot
- [5.](#) Faithful Sentinels
- [5.](#) Faithful Comptroller
- [6.](#) Faithful Purser
- [6.](#) Assembly Celebrations
- [7.](#) Executive Officers
- [8.](#) Member Showcase
- [11.](#) Exemplification Details
- [12.](#) Calendar - May



FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR SK DAVID FISHER PGK FDD



The Bishop Paul F. Reding Assembly 1981 is set to hold its upcoming election of officers during the General Assembly meeting in May, which will commence as the first item under new business. Here's an outline of the election procedure:

Terms of Office: Elected officers will serve a one-year term starting from July 1. Among the Trustees, whose terms are staggered over three years, only one position is up for election this year.

Voting Procedure:

- A majority of the votes cast by attendees is required for election.
- If only one candidate is nominated for an office and no further nominations come from the floor, the Election Chairman will declare that candidate elected by acclamation.

Ballot Counting: Where a vote is needed, the two returning Trustees will be responsible for counting ballots.

Handling Vacancies: Any vacancies that arise in elective offices will be filled through an election at the subsequent regular business meeting, after notifying the members.

Nominations:

- Nominations for candidates can be made from the floor at the May meeting. Floor nominations must be seconded. Nominators are allowed three minutes to speak in support of their candidate.
- Candidates must be present to accept the nomination unless they have an excused absence. In case of an absence, they must submit their acceptance in writing (either via email or paper form) to the Faithful Navigator and Scribe before the meeting.

Candidate Speeches: Candidates who are nominated and standing for election are permitted three minutes each to present their candidacy to the members.

Here is the current slate of Officers who were nominated at the April meeting for 2024-25:

- Navigator | David Fisher PGK, FDD (inc.)
- Captain | Andrew Eckstein PGK, PFN, FDD (inc.)
- Admiral | Martin Kosterman PGK, PFN, FDD (inc.)
- Pilot | Ray Stephenson PGK, PFN (inc.)
- Comptroller | John Garofano (inc.)
- Purser | Brian Thornton (inc.)
- Scribe | Raul D’Gama Rose (inc.)
- Inner Sentinel | Patrick Compagnon (inc.)
- Outer Sentinel | Nevin Broz (inc.)
- Trustee 2027 | John Casullo

Appointed or returning positions:

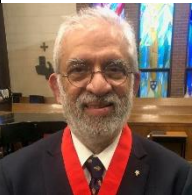
- Friar | Fr. Louis Lenssen, CRSP
- Membership Director | Michael Mark
- Commanders | Raul D. & Andrew E.
- Trustee 2025 | Ron Kwapis
- Trustee 2026 | Renfred D’Souza, PFN



FAITHFUL CAPTAIN SK ANDREW ECKSTEIN PGK PFN FDD

Assembly Program Updates:

Planned Assembly Event	Date, Time and Location	Call to action
Bishop Reding Assembly #1981 General Meeting	Wed. May 15, 7:30-8:30pm (in person) Marian Hall, 635 4 th Line, Unit 50	All Assembly members invited and encouraged to participate



FAITHFUL SCRIBE SK RAUL D'GAMAROSE

No report submitted for this Newsletter. Please reach out directly to SK Raul if you have Assembly correspondence, any Motions to submit at an upcoming meeting or any reports to be included in the Minutes.

Thank you to our **Faithful** Scribe, SK Raul D'Gamarose



FAITHFUL TRUSTEES SK RENFRED D'SOUZA PFN, SK RON KWAPIS, SK JOHN CASULLO

No report submitted for this Newsletter. Please reach out directly to SKs Renfred, Ron and/or John if you have any questions regarding our Assembly audit, ongoing financial health of the Assembly or voucher validation.

Thank you to our stalwart Trustees, SK Renfred D'Souza, SK Ron Kwapis, SK John Casullo



FAITHFUL ADMIRAL SK MARTIN KOSTERMAN PGK PFN FDD

No report submitted for this Newsletter. Please reach out directly to SK Martin if you have any questions regarding Assembly operations, historical context or service opportunities.

Thank you to our **Faithful** Admiral, SK Martin C. Kosterman.

Special note: We have highlighted SK Martin within our Member Showcase as a shining example of dedication and service within the Knights of Columbus for our next Newsletter. This feature aims to illuminate what a life committed to our principles looks like, through the lens of Martin's contributions and journey.



FAITHFUL PILOT SK PAUL RAY STEPHENSON PGK PFN

IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS:

SIR KNIGHTS:

- SK Conor Boyd
- SK Liberato DiBacco
- SK John Casullo
- SK George Howie
- SK Renfred D’Souza PFN
- SK Paul Waters
- SK John Skanes
- SK Bob McCarney PGK, PFN
- SK Joe DiPaolo
- SK Kevin Gleeson PGK, FDD, PSD

DECEASED:

- SK John Howard (Feb 4, 2024)
- SK Sundeep Khosla (Dec 24, 2023)
- SK Milton Duffey (Aug 16, 2023)
- SK Wayne Kendall PGK FDD (Jun 17, 2023)
- SK Ron Civitarese (Apr 25, 2023)
- SK Leo Russell PFN (Mar 17, 2023)

FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

- Joseph Broz, bro. of SK Nevin Broz
- Mary Hayward, dau. of SK Ron Sullivan PGK, PFN
- Loretta Floris, wife of the late SK Jacob Floris PGK, PFN
- Laura Kupferschmidt, wife of SK Gerry Kupferschmidt PGK, PFN
- Maria Bonfield, wife of SK Peter Bonfield
- Mary Laratta, SIL of SK Jacob Floris PGK PFN
- Brother Rocco Lavallo, FIL of SK Guiseppe Peritore PGK
- Irene Compagnon, wife of SK Patrick Compagnon

DECEASED:

- John Thornton (Mar 27, 2024), bro. of SK Brian Thornton
- Helen Edwards (Feb 28, 2024), wife of SK Larry Edwards
- Cecilia Boyd (Jan 7, 2024), sis. of SK Conor Boyd
- Len Collins (Aug 16, 2023), bro. of SK Don Collins PGK PFN

CONTACTS FOR INPUT OF SICK AND DECEASED:

SK Paul Ray Stephenson, Faithful Pilot, Bishop Paul F. Reding Assembly, 905-875-1815 | prastep@yahoo.ca

The following have been contacted either through Grand Knights or directly to ensure the flow of information:

Marian Council 3881 - Br. Brian Thornton, 905 483 9630 | bat@cogeco.ca

Note to Above Listing: We the Knights of Columbus support the privacy of Member, Family and Friends when compiling the PRAYER list. If you wish us to place a name on the list, please ask the person who we are praying for if they want to be put on the list and whether they wish their ailments to be disclosed. Indicate when and if they wish to be removed from the list!

Assistance with Assembly Awards Committee: Help honor the exemplary efforts of our fellow Sir Knights!

We are seeking a dedicated member to join the Awards Committee alongside our Past Faithful Navigator, Sir Knight Renfred D’Souza. This is a unique opportunity to contribute to recognizing outstanding achievements within our Assembly.

Roles and responsibilities will include assisting in the selection of candidates for the Assembly awards, evaluating contributions and recommending winners for prestigious recognitions such as Sir Knight of the Year and Outstanding Contributions to the Patriotic Events of the Assembly.

If you have a keen eye for merit and a commitment to our values, please consider joining this important committee. Your involvement will have a lasting impact on our community and provide well-deserved recognition to our most distinguished members. For those interested, please contact Sir Knight Renfred D’Souza directly, from our website for more details.



FAITHFUL SENTINELS SK PATRICK COMPAGNON, SK NEVIN BROZ

At our recent assembly meeting, we lightheartedly joked about the "medical" issues some of us are facing. The term "Club Diabetes" was coined, prompting laughter among the group. But, do we ever truly consider the breadth of issues and suffering tied to our collective hardships?

I am a fan of the current TV show "The Chosen," which I have followed since its debut. This mini-series portrays the life of our Lord and is both fantastic and freely available (you can download the app). In Season 3, Episode 2, the Apostle known as Little James or James the Less is troubled by Jesus' continued miracles—healing the sick, casting out demons, and restoring sight to the blind—while James himself continues to suffer from an ailment. He eventually confronts Jesus about his personal grievances. Jesus shares some insight into His reasoning, assuring James that he will be glorified in heaven.

We are often comforted by the notion that God does not burden us with more suffering than we can bear.

Six months ago, a friend—who I consider a sister—asked me a poignant question. To provide some context, she has been a part of my life through many challenging times, including a war. Reflecting on my experiences, she asked, "Now that you've lived through all that, if you could, would you change your past to avoid the suffering and pain?"

Following my father's death, many people paid their respects, a normal part of life. But then my slightly older brother died a year and a half later, followed by my mother seven months after that. Rumors of a curse plagued us. During this time, one of our priests approached me, suggesting that my trials were a blessing and a gift—a perspective I struggled to understand at first. Later, two of our nuns also assured me separately that what my family and I were enduring was a blessing and encouraged me not to give up, reminding me, "God will not give you more than you can handle."

So, in response to my friend's question about changing my past, I immediately said no. Everything I've experienced has shaped me, strengthened me, and made me the man I am today. Even with my illnesses, I do not seek a cure. Why? Because once cured, would you remember the hard times as vividly? Would you remain humble? Would you still feel compassion for those who continue to struggle with illnesses, addictions, or physical impairments? The truth is, "God knows us better than we know ourselves." Sometimes, it's just a matter of opening our eyes and hearts a bit more to see the blessings in our trials.

Faithful Outer Sentinel, SK Nevin Broz



FAITHFUL COMPTROLLER SK JOHN GAROFANO

Worthy Sir Knights, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank those who have recently paid their membership dues for the 2024 fraternal year. To all those who have not paid yet (and also to those who have outstanding dues from prior years), I am planning to send out another dues notice in the next couple of weeks. It will be a more individualized email so hopefully it will be less likely that people might miss it.

Faithful Comptroller, SK John Garofano



FAITHFUL PURSER SK BRIAN THORNTON

No news is good news! Please reach out directly to SK Brian if you have any questions regarding the financial operation of the Assembly or any dues payments or billing issues.

Thank you to our **Faithful** Admiral, SK Brian Thornton

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May Birthdays

Peter Bonfield
Norman Dupuis
Lawrence Edwards
Rod Rafauli
David Reitzel
Ray Stephenson
Henry Thissen
Paul Waters

May Anniversaries

Pat and Irene Compagnon
Angus and Fran Hogan
Guiseppe and Rita Peritore
Mario and Loretta Rodriguez
Anthony and Suzie Salis



EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

BISHOP REDING EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 2023/2024

- Faithful Friar | Fr. Louis Lenssen, CRSP
- Faithful Navigator | David Fisher PGK, FDD
- Faithful Captain | Andrew Eckstein PGK
- Faithful Admiral | Martin Kosterman, PGK, PFN, FDD
- Faithful Pilot | Ray Stephenson PGK, PFN
- Faithful Comptroller | John Garofano
- Faithful Purser | Brian Thornton
- Faithful Scribe | Raul D’Gama Rose
- Faithful Inner Sentinel | Patrick Compagnon
- Faithful Outer Sentinel | Nevin Broz
- Faithful Trustee 2024 | John Casullo
- Faithful Trustee 2025 | Ron Kwapis
- Faithful Trustee 2026 | Renfred D’Souza, PFN
- Membership Director | Michael Mark
- Faithful Commander | Raul D’Gamarose & Andrew Eckstein

OTHER OFFICERS:

- Assembly Newsletter Editor | John Garofano
- Webmaster | David Fisher, PGK, FDD
- Communication Director | Vacant
- Diocesan Chairman | Vacant
- “To Be A Patriot” | M. Kosterman PGK, PFN, FDD

- District Master | Martin Marko, PGK, PFN, FDD



MAY MEMBER SHOWCASE

Honoring a Life of Faith and Service: The Journey of Sir Knight Alex Rueda

In the heart of Oakville, Ontario, resides a story of resilience, faith, and unwavering dedication. Meet our newest Assembly member, Sir Knight Alex Rueda, a man whose journey is as inspiring as it is impactful, whose life embodies the values of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism that define the Knights of Columbus.

A Journey of Faith and Learning

From his early years, Alex Rueda's life was steeped in faith and education. Raised in the Catholic tradition, Alex's upbringing was marked by the guidance of his family and the nurturing environment of his educational pursuits. From the halls of elementary and music school education to the world of academia, where he earned advanced degrees, Alex's journey was characterized by a relentless pursuit of knowledge and a deep connection to music, particularly the soul-stirring strains of classical compositions.

An Encounter with Faith and Community

Amidst life's trials, including a battle with advanced-stage cancer, Alex found solace and renewal in his faith journey. A spiritual encounter outside the St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish sparked a spiritual re-awakening, leading him to the welcoming embrace of the Mary Mother of God Parish. Here, amidst the warmth of community and the guidance of devoted mentors like Brother Scott Bell, Tony Gizzie and John Murphy, Alex discovered the Knights of Columbus—a brotherhood built on the pillars of faith, unity, and service.

A Commitment to Service and Growth

Driven by a profound sense of purpose, Alex immersed himself in the work of the Knights of Columbus, embracing its mission as his own. His vision for the Bishop Paul F. Reding Assembly is one of vibrant growth and unwavering commitment to the community. Through participation in the Honour Guard and active engagement with youth initiatives, Alex seeks to inspire others to live out their faith boldly and authentically.

Faith in Action: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism

For Alex, the values of the Knights of Columbus are not just ideals to uphold but principles to live by. From his experiences as a cancer patient, where he witnessed the power of charity and fraternity, to the proud moments of patriotism as he stands in solemn tribute to his country, Alex's journey is a testament to the transformative power of faith in action.



SK Alex Rueda

Inspiration and Encouragement

As Alex reflects on his journey, he is quick to acknowledge the profound impact of his fellow Knights, particularly Brother Scott Bell and SK David Fisher, whose dedication and passion have served as beacons of inspiration. Their mentorship and example have fueled Alex's own commitment to service and growth within the Knights of Columbus.

Looking Ahead: A Legacy of Service and Devotion

As he looks to the future, Alex's aspirations within the Knights of Columbus remain steadfast. With a desire to deepen his involvement in the Honour Guard and to continue nurturing the spiritual growth of his family, Alex's journey is far from over. With each step forward, he carries with him the lessons learned, the values embraced, and the unwavering faith that defines his path.



Fr. Jerry Punnassery, SK Alex Rueda, Brother Alex Rueda Jr., Glenn Rueda, & SK David Fisher

Closing Thoughts about Alex

In closing, Sir Knight Alex Rueda extends his heartfelt gratitude to the Bishop Paul F. Reding Assembly 1981 for the privilege of sharing his journey. His reflections serve as a reminder of the power of faith, community, and service to transform lives and enrich communities. As he continues to walk the path of the Knights of Columbus, Alex's legacy of faith and service shines brightly, illuminating the way for others to follow.

Vivat Jesus! David Fisher – Faithful Navigator

APRIL MEMBER SHOWCASE

Martin Kosterman: A Pillar of Dedication and Service

For a quarter-century, Martin Kosterman has exemplified the spirit of the Knights of Columbus, leaving an indelible mark on all who have had the privilege of knowing him. From his humble beginnings as a member of Marian Council 3881 to his steadfast commitment to the Bishop Reding Assembly 4th Degree, Martin's journey is one of unwavering dedication and service.

"I have known Martin for the past 25 years since joining the Knights of Columbus. He was on the degree team when I completed my 1st degree 'Charity' back in 1989 in the days when we wore a blindfold, while whispering 'Secrecy' in your ear during the ceremony," says Andrew Eckstein PGK, PFN, FDD.

Martin's journey began in 1989 when he guided new members through their initiation into the Knights, his booming voice resonating through the halls of parish halls. His presence on degree teams and installations has become legendary, with his thunderous voice commanding attention without the aid of microphones.

A true Knight of charity, Martin has tirelessly supported numerous fundraisers and events, always ready with a joke and a laugh to uplift his fellow Knights. Whether sharing breakfast at Sunset Grill or lunch at "Dirty Bird," Martin's camaraderie knows no bounds.

Despite invitations to join other councils, Martin's loyalty to Marian Council has never wavered. As Grand Knight, he led with wisdom and integrity, setting an example for future leaders. His contributions to council rules and procedures have been invaluable, ensuring the smooth operation of the council for years to come.

In addition to his council duties, Martin has served with distinction on the Bishop Paul F. Reding Assembly executive, culminating in his tenure as Faithful Navigator. His leadership in Color Guard events exemplifies the core principles of the Knights, fostering fraternity and unity among members.

"Congratulations, Martin, your friendship and dedication to our Knights of Columbus is highly respected and admired," concludes Andrew Eckstein FDD, PGK, PFN.

Martin's dedication to Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism is unmatched, earning him the admiration and respect of his fellow Knights. As we celebrate his years of service, we salute Martin Kosterman for his unwavering commitment to the Knights of Columbus.

Vivat Jesus! David Fisher – Faithful Navigator

With writing assistance from SK Andrew Eckstein FDD, PGK, PFN



**SK Martin Kosterman,
PGK, PFN, FDD**

MEMBER SHOWCASE



SK Martin can be seen in the front row, fourth over from the left, in a black robe with a yellow accent for his role as the Defender of the Faith I the Fourth Degree Exemplification Ceremony.

Note: SK Alex Rueda can also be seen on the far left in the front row. Can you pick out any other Assembly 1981 members?

Celebration of Golden Jubilee: Honoring Fr. Louis

Mark your calendars! We invite all members of the Bishop Paul F. Reding Assembly and the wider community to join us at St. James Parish for a special celebration in honor of Fr. Louis on his golden jubilee of priestly ordination. The event will take place on Sunday, June 9th, during the 11:00 AM Mass. A festive luncheon will follow at St. Joseph Ukrainian Banquet Hall.

Fr. Louis, our Assembly's Charter **Faithful Friar**, has been a beacon of faith and devotion throughout his 50 years of service. Known for his gentle and caring nature, he has touched many lives within our community and beyond.

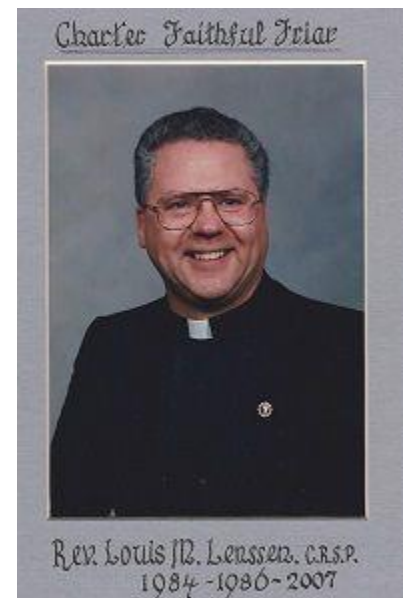
We Need Your Stories!

As part of the celebration, we are collecting stories, anecdotes, and reflections on the blessings, miracles, and inspiration Fr. Louis has brought into our lives. Please share your experiences and insights that highlight the impact of Fr. Louis's service.

Your Input Is Valuable

We also welcome suggestions on how best to recognize Fr. Louis's contributions to our Assembly and the order over the past five decades. Let's make this jubilee a memorable event that truly reflects the esteem we hold for Fr. Louis.

Tickets (\$30) and further details will be available in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for more information!





Knights of Columbus



8th Ontario District
24th Patriotic Fourth Degree Exemplification
Hosted by Assembly 2580

Saturday, June 22, 2024

LOCATION: St. Ann Church
11 Wilson Street Ancaster, Ontario L9G1N1

ELIGIBILITY: Third Degree member in good standing.

FEES: \$110 lay candidates fee includes Fourth Degree pin, baldric, & lunch
\$45 clergy
\$50 lunch social ticket – includes refreshments.

CANDIDATES OFFICIAL DRESS:

- A black or dark suit jacket with a tie, plain white shirt; or a tuxedo; black dress shoes with black socks.
- Members of the Clergy and Deacons should wear their clerical attire.
- Class A uniforms for members of the Armed Forces, police officers and firefighters, are proper attire for all Exemplification events.

EXEMPLIFICATION SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Registration of Candidates at St. Ann Church in Ancaster
9:00 a.m. Mass
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Degree Exemplification
12:15 p.m. Lunch Social starts

Any questions or concerns, please contact,

Martin Marko
Master 8th Ontario District
Cardinal McGuigan Province
Phone: 905-401-5646
martin.marko.master.8th.ontario@gmail.com

MAY 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Ascension of the Lord 	10	11
12 Mother's Day 	13	14	15 General Meeting (Marian Hall) 	16	17	18 Armed Forces Day 
19 Pentecost 	20 Victoria Day 	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day 	28	29	30	31	