

FOLEY 2660 A SWAN'S SONG AS THE TORCH PASSES

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Foley's Forum
Bishop Foley Council 2660
Serving Dearborn since 1927

A SWAN'S SONG AS THE TORCH IS PASSED

Five years ago, when I was elected Grand Knight, I never knew where we would go as a council. We were still housed in the basement of St. Clement Church in East Dearborn. Our membership meeting comprised of maybe ten to twelve members which included the officers. There were not many events or programs, we just seemed to be existing to exist. Within the year we were forced to vacate the premise because the parish was closing. We had a matter of weeks to find a place to meet. We moved furniture and supplies and unloaded things we were no longer going to use. We quickly found a home at the Polish Catholic Church on Beech Daly. We had a one-year lease. During that time, our membership began to grow, and we achieved Star Council for the first time. Our Council won the State Youth Program Award for our Chess Tournament and we saw more members want to join our council. Six months into our lease, Fr. Jim approached me about becoming a parish-based council. It took a good 5 months to make it come together and in July 2017 we held our first meeting at Divine Child Parish. Since then we have grown together increasing membership, increasing visibility, and growing in faith and brotherhood. Since being here at Divine Child working together, we achieved Double Star Council Award 2 years in a row, and even with the world seemingly turned upside down, we will achieve Star Council for this year.

Awards are great and together we worked hard to achieve them, but what our council has accomplished goes far beyond awards and is far more gratifying. I watched as our council not only grew in membership, but in fraternal unity. Our Catholic faith is the one common bond that makes us brothers. The men of this council have worked side by side at Fish Frys, Chess Tournaments, Garage Sales, Free Throw Contests, Christmas Parties and gathered socially to build our fraternity. It is most likely that before becoming a Knight, you did not know the man that worked next to you during an event. These are men you began to know and appreciate who they were and where they came from. I genuinely think, that when we see a brother Foley Knight at Mass...we somehow feel and recognize the fraternal bond that makes us Knights of Columbus. That my brothers is the greatest reward I have received...to look around the church, to look around our meeting space, to look around the community and see brother knights who I consider my brothers in charity, unity, fraternity, patriotism and most significantly FAITH.

As a father is proud of his family, I am so proud of all we have done together, side by side as a brothers of the Bishop Foley Council. Together by our witness and example, we have grown this council from its all-time low of about 126 members back in 2015 to nearly 190 men today. I am not naive to believe that times were always perfect. There were surely times when I was short with some of my Foley Brothers and brothers from other councils. I may not have had time to deal with a problem properly or did not give you the answers you were looking to hear. Sometimes it got stressful, even for

me...especially during the uncertain times when we were planning the Fish Frys. Some say being a Grand Knight for five years is too long, I agree! A three-year term would have been ideal, but with two moves and a new pastor I felt the responsibility to see the council through the transitions. Although stressful at times for me, I hope for the membership, the transitions were seamless. There was also the fact that no one was stepping forward to take the reins. Fortunately, Steve Lentz has agreed to lead the council for the next few years. I have the utmost confidence in Steve and the team he has put together, I know you will support him the way all of you have supported me these past five years.

My brothers, my friends - thank you for all you have done for this council and for allowing me to lead you as your Grand Knight. God bless all of you and our council. As my term of Grand Knight expires at the end of the month and my attention is turned to new responsibilities, the pen of Foley's Forum will pass to the new Grand Knight...so as I sign off, I bid you all - VIVAT JESUS!

Dominic Raona
Grand Knight
Bishop Foley Council
2015-2020



Prayer for our Nation

God our Father, giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care. You are the rock on which this nation was founded. You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Reclaim this land for your glory and dwell among your people.
Send your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Remind your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing your will.

Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, patroness of our land, grant us the courage to reject the "culture of death." Lead us into a new millennium of life. We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

Source: BostonCatholic.org