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Faithful Navigator Report — SK John Massey

Reverend Father and Worthy Sir Knights,

January was quite busy and just flew by! We had fallouts for SK Lee Latimore’s memorial service and a funeral service for a SK Robert Franzetti, a brother Knight from the Bishop McCarthy assembly. January wrapped up with Right to Life Day, with fallouts for the mass celebrated by the bishop, followed by the March for Life. The next day we had five SKs fallout for the Bishop at St. Catherine’s as he celebrated the confirmation mass for 55 young adults.

It seems we just finished the Christmas season then here comes Lent! Ash Wednesday is on February 14th this year, so you should be able to save money on the Valentine’s Day dinner.

Our next regular business meeting will be Monday, February 12th at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Catherine Parish Center. The officer meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

Our next 4th Degree exemplification will be March 2nd at St. Luke’s in Temple. We will have an admission meeting for candidates at St. Catherine’s on February 17th at 3:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. Please talk to current 3rd Degree members about our 4th degree Assembly and help grow our Assembly.

We will be holding elections for the next fraternal year in May, please talk with any of our officers if you are interested. SK Giacomo has already let me know he will not be able to continue as our Faithful Scribe, so there will be some new officers needed.

Faithful Captain SK Oscar Martinez sent an email requesting ideas to improve participation at our monthly meetings and fallouts. If you haven’t responded, please take time to give us feedback and tell us how we can help improve our assembly.

Vivat Jesus!!

John Massey

Faithful Navigator

Bishop Louis J. Reicher Assembly 1099

Bishop Reicher
 Assembly 1099



**Happy Birthday
Sir Knights !!!
May you have many more**

Rev Jamie	Baca
Mario	Garcia
William	Hoagland
Lawrence	Larson
John	Malone
Rev Donald	Moss
Vernon	Pohlmeier
Joseph	Richter
Marvin	Shepherd
Rev Joseph	Tomei

Saint of the Month—SK Giacomo Leone

St. Brigid of Ireland

Feastday: February 1

Patron: of Ireland, dairymaids, cattle, midwives, Irish nuns, and newborn babies
Birth: 451 - Death: 525

From Catholic-Online, Edited by G. Leone

Saint Brigid was born Brigit, and shares a name with a Celtic goddess from whom many legends and folk customs are associated.

There is much debate over her birthparents, but it is widely believed her mother was Brocca, a Christian baptized by Saint Patrick, and her father was Dubthach, a Leinster chieftain. Brocca was a slave, therefore Brigid was born into slavery.

When Dubthach's wife discovered Brocca was pregnant, she was sold to a Druid landowner. It is not clear if Brocca was unable to produce milk or was not present to care for Brigid, but legend states Brigid vomited any food the druid attempted to feed her, as he was impure, so a white cow with red ears sustained her instead.

Many stories of Brigid's purity followed her childhood. She was unable to keep from feeding the poor and healing them.

One story says Brigid once gave her mother's entire store of butter, that was later replenished after Brigid prayed.

When she was about ten years old, Brigid was returned to her father's home, as he was her legal master. Her charity did not end when she left her mother, and she donated his possessions to anyone who asked.

Eventually, Dubthach became tired of her charitably nature and took her to the king of Leinster, with the intention of selling her. As he spoke to the king, Brigid gave his jeweled sword to a beggar so he could barter it for food for his family. When the king, who was a Christian, saw this, he recognized her heart and convinced Dubthach to grant her freedom by saying, "Her merit before God is greater than ours."

After being freed, Brigid returned to the Druid and her mother, who was in charge of the Druid's dairy. Brigid took over and often gave away milk, but the dairy prospered despite the charitable practice, and the Druid eventually freed Brocca.

Brigid then returned to Dubthach, who had arranged for her to marry a bard. She refused and made a vow to always be chaste.

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Saint of the Month— Continued

Legend has it Brigid prayed that her beauty be taken so no one would want to marry her, and the prayer was granted. It was not until after she made her final vows that her beauty was restored.

Another tale says that when Saint Patrick heard her final vows, he accidentally used the form for ordaining priests. When the error was brought to his attention, he simply replied, "So be it, my son, she is destined for great things."

Little is known about Saint Brigid's life after she entered the Church, but in 40 she founded a monastery in Kildare, called the Church of the Oak. It was built above a pagan shrine to the Celtic goddess Brigid, which was beneath a large oak tree.

Brigid and seven friends organized communal consecrated religious life for women in Ireland and she founded two monastic institutions, one for men and one for women. Brigid invited a hermit called Conleth to help her in Kildare as a spiritual pastor.

Her biographer reported that Brigid chose Saint Conleth "to govern the church along with herself."

She later founded a school of art that included metalwork and illumination, which Conleth led as well. It was at this school that the Book of Kildare, which the Gerald of Wales praised as "the work of angelic, and not human skill," was beautifully illuminated, but was lost three centuries ago.

There is evidence that Brigid was a good friend of Saint Patrick's and that the *Trias Thaumaturga* claimed, "Between St. Patrick and Brigid, the pillars of the Irish people, there was so great a friendship of charity that they had but one heart and one mind. Through him and through her Christ performed many great works."

Saint Brigid helped many people in her lifetime, but on February 1 525, she passed away of natural causes. Her body was initially kept to the right of the high altar of Kildare Cathedral, with a tomb "adorned with gems and precious stones and crowns of gold and silver," but in 878, during the Scandinavian raids, her relics were moved to the tomb of Patrick and Columba.

In 1185, John de Courcy had her remains relocated in Down Cathedral. Today, Saint Brigid's skull can be found in the Church of St. John the Baptist in Lumiar, Portugal. The tomb in which it is kept bears the inscription, "Here in these three tombs lie the three Irish knights who brought the head of St. Brigid, Virgin, a native of Ireland, whose relic is preserved in this chapel. In memory of which, the officials of the Altar of the same Saint caused this to be done in January AD 1283."

A portion of the skull was relocated to St. Bridget's Church and another was sent to the Bishop of Lisbon in St. Brigid's church in Killester.

Saint Brigid's likeness is often depicted holding a reed cross, a crozier, or a lamp.

[Saint Brigid Hearth Keeper Prayer Page 6](#)

Knights of Columbus Bishop Reicher
Assembly 1099

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The 4th Degree Patriotic Order of the Knights of Columbus is open to Third Degree Knights. Contact your Council Financial Secretary if you are interested or email the Faithful Navigator or Captain.

**Pay Dues or Make Donations Online
Now Available**

<https://kofc1099.org/dues/>

From the Editor

Contact the Editor: Greg Nelson gnelson8156@gmail.com

Webmaster for the Assembly Brandon Kraft bk@kraft.im

Meetings for Bishop Reicher Assembly 1099

Meeting Schedule:

The Second Monday of the Month at 7:30 pm

St. Catherine of Siena

4800 Convict Hill Road

Austin, TX 78749

Parish Activity Center

2nd Floor Room 213

Patriotic Americans

Fr. Joseph O'Callahan, S.J. -- The Bravest Man

Written by SK Lawrence P. Grayson



Mrs. O'Callahan, "your son is the bravest man I ever saw." What went through this mother's mind as she listened to Capt. Leslie Gehres, commander of the USS Franklin? Her son did not fit the stereotypical image of a hero. He was more scholarly than athletic, more likely pictured in front of a classroom than in the midst of a combat zone. But a hero he was.

Joseph Timothy O'Callahan was born on May 14, 1905, in Roxbury, Massachusetts. Upon graduating from high school, he joined the Jesuits and was ordained in 1934. For the next six years, he taught mathematics, physics, and philosophy at several of the Order's colleges.

In August 1940, with war raging in Europe, Fr. O'Callahan enlisted in the Naval Reserve Chaplains Corps. Several assignments followed before he reported on March 2, 1945, to the aircraft carrier USS Franklin, to serve as chaplain to its 3,200 men. The ship was part of a task force whose mission was to track down the Japanese fleet and destroy it.

On March 18, with the U.S. ships about 100 miles from Japan, American planes took off in waves beginning at first light. Their role was to engage and destroy the Japanese air power, and then locate the enemy vessels which were scattered throughout inland waters. Before each flight, Fr. O'Callahan visited the various pilot ready rooms, praying with the men and giving them general absolution. The U.S. pilots dominated the skies but did not locate the enemy ships until just before dark. The strike against them would have to wait until the next morning.

March 19 began as the day before. The first wave of planes left the carrier at 5:30 AM. Shortly afterwards, as the second wave was being readied, with full tanks of fuel and loads of rockets and bombs, a Japanese plane evaded the American air cover. It flew over the Franklin releasing a bomb that penetrated the flight and gallery decks and exploded on the hangar. Within seconds, gasoline ignited, and a wave of searing flame raced down the three football-field length of the hangar, gaining impetus as it proceeded from exploding planes. Some 800 men were dead.

Fr. O'Callahan retrieved a vial of holy oil and his helmet marked with a large white cross as he made his way through passages filled with flames and smoke to the open area above. On the hangar deck, bombs, and rockets, engulfed in a mass of flames, were exploding at a rate of about one per minute.

Father continued upward to the flight deck. Here nearly 90 percent of the 1,000-foot apron was aflame. The clear portion was full of burned, mangled, bleeding bodies. He spent a few moments with each of those who were alive, praying, absolving, anointing. Explosions tore apart the steam lines and the boilers shut down. By 9:30 AM, the ship was powerless and listing. Twenty minutes later, a rear service magazine of five-inch shells exploded, raining debris onto the deck.

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Patriotic Americans —Continued

The fury brought disorganization. Key officers were dead, and many chiefs, if alive, were dispersed or trapped. Flames, explosions, and noxious smoke smeared faces and uniforms making it almost impossible to recognize anyone from a distance. One thing stood out, however, the white cross on the chaplain's helmet. It had the power to inspire.

Depleted hose crews needed help. Father rallied a group of men to join him on the hoses. When the fire marshal entered smoke-filled portions of the ship looking for breather masks, the priest was with him. When a live, thousand-pound bomb was spotted on the deck, the chaplain stood by for moral support while a team defused it; then he mustered a group of men to drop it overboard. When the fires were pushed back from the forward gun turret and its ready-ammunition magazine, hundreds of five-inch shells stored there had to be jettisoned before they exploded. Fr. O'Callahan had men form a chain, taking his turn in the line, to pass the hot shells from the magazine to the edge of the ship where they were dumped. He then joined a crew to flood a lower-deck magazine whose ammunition could not be easily unloaded.

When the fires on the hangar deck began to subside, Father led a hose crew through a smoke-filled, dark passage to the area. On the flight deck, as the fires receded, six loose, but live, thousand-pound bombs were discovered. The chaplain was there encouraging the men as a hose crew worked to cool the bombs so others could defuse them.

That evening, the engineers were able to return to their stations, and by 9 AM on the 20th, the Franklin was moving under its own power. Burial parties were formed to take care of the hundreds of dead. All day and night, the priest and the Protestant chaplain held a brief prayer service for each man as he was assigned to the sea. On April 3, one month after it left, the ship, entered Pearl Harbor. For his courageous acts, Fr. O'Callahan was awarded the Medal of Honor, the first chaplain since the Civil War to be so honored.

Released from active duty in November 1946, Father O'Callahan returned to Holy Cross College as a professor of philosophy. He died in Worcester on March 18, 1964, the eve of the nineteenth anniversary of his heroic acts.

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Saint Brigid Hearth Keeper Prayer

Courtesy of SaintBrigids.org

Brigid of the Mantle, encompass us,
Lady of the Lambs, protect us,
Keeper of the Hearth, kindle us,
Beneath your mantle, gather us,
And restore us to memory.
Mothers of our mother, Foremothers strong.
Guide our hands in yours,
Remind us how to kindle the hearth.
To keep it bright, to preserve the flame.
Your hands upon ours, Our hands within yours,
To kindle the light, Both day and night.
The Mantle of Brigid about us,
The Memory of Brigid within us,
The Protection of Brigid keeping us
From harm, from ignorance, from heartlessness.
This day and night,
From dawn till dark, From dark till dawn.





2024 Pro-Life March



2024 Pro-Life Mass