

September 2016

Division President's Report to the State Board

Frank Herbert-Pat Cady Division, Alexandria, VA

The Frank Herbert-Pat Cady Division has approximately 62 dues-paying members. We recently made a change to our meeting venue. We now meet on the third Monday (generally) in the upstairs room at Murphy's, a Grand Irish Pub, on King Street in Alexandria. Our meetings had been growing in attendance and we needed more space than what was available at St. Mary's Lyceum. So far, the change in venue has met with widespread approval from the Brothers and our meeting attendance has grown significantly.

We have embarked, as a Division, on several service projects to help our local community.

Christ House is a shelter for homeless men in Alexandria and is run by our Diocese. They feed dinner to somewhere between 60 and 75 of the local homeless population (men, women and, sadly, children) every night. Our Division has volunteered to purchase, prepare and serve dinner quarterly for the next year. So far we have done this three times and the Brothers involved say that they get much more out of it than they put in, and much more than the poor souls they serve. We intend to continue this service project and increase our involvement with Christ House going forward.

We have embarked on a raffle as a fundraiser for our Division's charitable endeavors. We are raffling off a trip to Ireland with the winner to be drawn next March.

We have also designed and commissioned a Christmas ornament to be sold during the next few months. This ornament has a 2016 date on it and depicts the façade of our church, St. Mary's, in gold leaf. We hope that this will be a success as we'd like to do it annually (as do places like Mt. Vernon and others) so parishioners will want to collect them. I will report back on our success at a future meeting. We are planning for the proceeds of this raffle to be dedicated to a project or projects at Christ House.

We are sponsoring and leading a parish-wide Bible study program that will commence sometime next month. We are paying for all teaching materials and will provide the leaders for the program. As it now stands, we will offer this program twice a week (to give people some flexibility) and expect it to last 20+ weeks.

On August 25, we organized a trip to see the Washington Nationals play the Baltimore Orioles. We had 37 Brothers and family members attend, as well as our Chaplain (and Pastor) Fr. Hathaway and Fr. Barnes. It gave us a great opportunity to spend some time together and to get to know two members of the St. Mary's clergy.

I believe our Division is well-positioned to grow in the future and perform additional service to our Parish and our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill McCarthy

President

Frank Herbert/Pat Cady Division