

Report of District #4, District of Columbia
2021 State Convention
SK Joseph Basalla, PGK

Georgetown University Council #6375

Georgetown University Council, like many colleges across the country, navigated the uncharted territory of working with a remote student population during the last fraternal year. Even with this new potential setback, the hard work and dedication of the members of council #6375 led to great success. To date, Georgetown has exceeded their membership quota for this year, recruiting a total of 11 members. The council also engaged in communal service for the local community by coordinating a virtual diaper drive to support the Northwest pregnancy center. The members of #6375 also went to great lengths to engage members virtually and maintain the bond of fraternity even in the face of a pandemic. In the middle of the fraternal year, as is the custom at #6375, members elected new officers and welcomed Dominic Parrente as their new Grand Knight who has served with great diligence. With this in mind, Georgetown Council #6375 looks forward to the next fraternal year with the hope of returning to in person programming as it is safe and allowed.

The Catholic University of America Council #9542

Catholic University was unique among the DC College Councils as Catholic University had some students on Campus for the past academic year. This allowed the University to hybrid program as it was safe and permitted. The Council capitalized on this by

welcoming 12 new members to date.¹The Council also worked to engage the local community. Of note is the council's work to make known the suffering of Christians around the world through their annual "Solidarity in Suffering" week which featured speakers, prayer opportunities and a viewing of the film "Silent". Recent council elections welcomed a breadth of members both in class years and disciplines, setting up the council for a successful next Fraternal Year.

George Washington University #13242

George Washington Council #13242, like Georgetown university, faced the dilemma of a complete campus closure in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. Regardless, Grand Knight Brendan Boyle worked hard to ensure the success of his council. Even remotely, the council was able to recruit 4 new members and engage the current membership. #13242 wisely used their meeting times for additional faith development for members. Of particular note, is the council's use of the Order's "Into the Breach" series which was shown and discussed following council meetings. With the Fraternal Year drawing to a close, George Washington Council #13242's hard work has prepared them for a successful coming fraternal year.

O'Boyle Council #11302

Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle Council #11302 responded greatly, as knights are called to do, to the situation of the Capitol Hill parishes, which form the Council. As the parishes

¹ Forms are still being processed by Supreme with, at the time of reporting, only reflect 7 new members.

reopened for in-person worship, the council responded by offering whatever assistance they could provide. This service continued throughout the year with special efforts at Christmas and Easter with ushering and setting up the churches for worship. Of particular note is the council's "Polar Plunge" to support the Special Olympics. Through this effort, the council raised over \$500 and engaged social media to capture the moment each office took their "plunge" for charity. O'Boyle council looks forward to a strong end to this Fraternal Year and a strong beginning of the next Fraternal Year.

St. John Paul II Shrine Council #16773

Navigating the closure of the St. John Paul II Shrine, Council #16773 still found great success in the past Fraternal Year. Bringing in a total of 3 new members, #16773 earned the status of Star Council. Of particular note, the council members also offered support to the Coats for Kids distributions held at the Shrine in Northeast Washington, as well as at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Southeast Washington. With a success in recruitment and community engagement, the council looks forward to a strong new Fraternal Year.

I would also like to highlight the efforts of all the councils in District #4 to safely and properly celebrate the Beatification of Father, now Blessed, Michael McGivney in the Fall of 2020. Councils hosted watch parties, sponsored novenas, and engaged their council and communities in honoring our newly Blessed founder.