

SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING REPORT



The biennial Supreme Council Meeting was hosted by Council 47 in Bryanston from Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th September. The proceedings opened on Friday with mass in the church at 18:00 concelebrated by parish priest Fr Michael Fitzpatrick and Fr Klaas Moloto from Cl 52 Polokwane, followed by a welcoming function in the Emmaus Centre. Delicious food was served by Norma and Vilma Caterers. After the meal Colm Kenny introduced the “Men in Red” Welsh male voice choir who gave some beautiful renditions of songs including *Joseph’s Dream Coat* and *Jerusalem*, where the whole hall joined in the chorus.

On Saturday morning the Supreme Council meeting was formally opened in the hall of the nearby Breschia House School. In welcoming everyone, Supreme Knight Anthony Beale was concerned to note that a number of councils were not represented – CII 23, 26, 27, 30, 44, 46, 48, 50 and 51. He hoped that in future it would be possible for all councils to be present.

Fr Peter Cullen in his spiritual address spoke about Noah preparing for the flood. Coincidentally, the previous evening Colm Kenny had given a modern story about Noah, funny but sad. Fr Peter asked us to allow the story of Noah to challenge our Christian attitude towards society.

Raymond Perrier of the Jesuit Institute spoke on Hope&Joy. He reminded us that the Vatican II document *Gaudium et Spes* means Joy and Hope. The second Vatican Council nearly fifty years ago focused on how the Church should be part of the modern world. Raymond returned next day to lead a session of discussions on topics related to Hope&Joy, which can be used for discussions at GAs, as well as being shared with other parish groups.

Pastor Errol Naidoo of the Family Policy Institute and Mark Eames of Awestruck Studios gave two very memorable presentations after lunch on Saturday.

Pastor Errol has an office very close to Parliament in Cape Town. He highlighted our constitutional right to be heard, and said that, unlike other religions, Christians very rarely exercised that right.

Accordingly a number of undesirable bills had passed into legislation because Christians had not stood up for what they believe in. He said that if the Christian majority in South Africa, around 85% of the population, stood up and objected to what is wrong, then South Africa would be a better place.

Mark Eames gave a dynamic presentation illustrating that there are around 3.8 million Catholics in South Africa, of whom perhaps 600 000 are regular church-

goers. The question was how to reach the other 3.2 million Catholics. Mark showed how vast numbers of people were using the social networks, in particular the youth, who are the future of the Church. Awestruck Studios was established to make use of the new social media to communicate the message of Christ and His Church. The Order will continue to support Awestruck Studios which has the means to disseminate Christ's message to youth via social media like Facebook, Twitter, U-Tube and, in future, a new Church-based social network.

Put Christ back into Christmas chairman Dennis Gregory said that campaign been started in Pietermaritzburg 54 years ago. There are many ways, in addition to cards, of reminding everyone of the true meaning of Christmas. This year's cards cost R2 200 per box of 100 packs of eight cards – less than R3 for a card and envelope.

On care of the aged, Alan Woodrow Park I and III in the Eastern Highveld are running very well. Knights in Middelburg give support to St Joseph's Home, on which Norman Hayton reported on challenges and successes. In the Free State Alan Woodrow Park II, St Francis Haven, is running well in Welkom. John Blackburn reported that a number of single rooms are being converted to double rooms for couples. Rents include three meals a day, cleaning and laundry and are kept very reasonable at R1 680 single, R2 365 double and R3 000+ for flats. In Gauteng the main development is St Peter's Garden Village in Pretoria, Alan Woodrow Park IV. PSK Donald Grant was satisfied with the progress and was pleased to note that about eight BB were now resident there, and that Council 4's council chamber was being well used.

PSK Vic Barra reported on IACK and noted that seven BB from SA would be present at the biennial meeting of the Alliance in Ireland. SK Anthony congratulated Vic Barra on his election as IACK president.

Ken Bland invited anyone interested to join the Knights Caravanners and Campers Association which has been running for 25 years. The next event is on the weekend of 14th to 16th October.

RGKK gave highlights of their reports, which had been tabled.

As RGK Claudio Freschi of Gauteng has been elected Deputy Supreme Knight, his current DRGK Rob van der Walt becomes RGK of Gauteng. CI 2 bible diary project is in its third year. Jorge Ferreira reported that all diaries were sold and that annual sales numbers are increasing. With the encouragement of RRC Fr Russell Campbell, many diaries are given to prisoners seeking spiritual help.

In KZN a highlight was the Knights' involvement in Cardinal Napier's 70th birthday celebrations. CI 28 GK Tony Romans thanked RGK Terry Whitfield for the involvement and support of KZN BB at the funeral of Jimmy Hackett. RGK Terry in turn thanked the BB of the Eastern Cape for assisting a couple after an accident near East London.

FS/NC RGK Iain Dando highlighted two episcopal ordinations, in Kroonstad and Kimberley, where the Knights had played a role. He urged everyone to focus on brotherhood.

Western Cape RGK John McFarlane commented on the recruitment drive at Ocean View. This could strengthen CI 37 which had only three active members, all of whom were present at this convention.

Eastern Cape RGK Len Wild was optimistic about the reopening of the council in Uitenhage.

Eastern Highveld RGK Ken Fizell said that the opening of a council in Secunda was moving slowly.

There were also reports from the chairmen of other committees – Alan Diesel on Investment Advisory, Mel Antonie on Knights Insurance Brokers, Robin Lydall on *The Link* and Heraldry and Insignia, Vic Barra on membership, Brian Sutcliffe on Ritual and Database and Graham Johns on Revcom, who distributed a bookmark with a prayer to St Michael the Archangel. He appealed to councils to remember the Revcom campaign in their charity distributions.

The Supreme Knight congratulated CI 47 on an excellent job done in planning and executing this Supreme Convention.

The Supreme Council meeting closed at 1 pm followed by group photographs and then mass in the church. After lunch most of the visitors had dispersed but for those who could stay there was a farewell spit braai for the guests and the hard-working BB and ladies of CI 47.

The next Supreme Council meeting will be organised by CI 21, Maryvale in 2013. All councils agreed that there was a tremendous spirit at the 2011 convention. It will be wonderful if all councils are present at the 2013 meeting and they can start preparing now to be able to do so