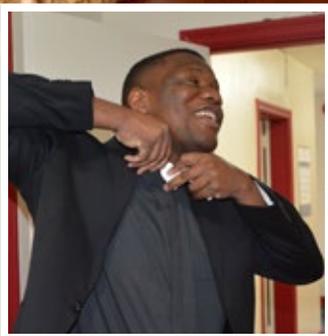


The Josephite Harvest

www.Josephites.org

Volume 130 No. 1 | Winter 2017

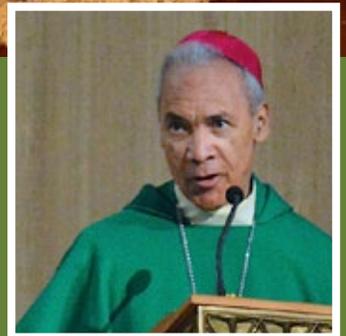
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Join the Thirty Days Prayer to St. Joseph

Knights' junior leaders bring faith, vision to U.S. and beyond

BY ERIK ZYGMONT

Severe poverty in Haiti and the scourge of diabetes are two problems that will be attacked with renewed vigor, thanks to Carrington Guillory and Kennedy Wiltz, who were elected leaders of the Junior Knights and Junior Daughters, the respective junior divisions of the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary.

Mr. Guillory, 16, was elected to his second two-year term as Junior Supreme Knight at the biannual Junior National Convention, July 9-12 in Kansas City, Mo.

"It's been a family thing coming down the generations," Mr. Guillory said, noting that his great-grandfather, grandfather and father have all been active in the Knights, whose founders

Mr. Guillory's entire family, in fact, including his mother and siblings, participate enthusiastically in the Knights and Ladies Auxiliary.

His older brother, Creighton, serves the organization's Louisiana State District as an Emerging Leader, facilitating the transition from the junior division (ages 7-18) to the senior division. His sister, JonMarie, serves as liaison for the Emerging Leader in the Central States District.

Carrington Guillory and his parents are parishioners at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Lake Charles, La., where he has been an altar server and recently became a lector.

"It means a lot," Mr. Guillory said of his faith life. "Since I've been young, my mom and family

have taught me it's the most important thing in our lives."

He is putting his faith into action with plans to raise funds to build six homes in Kobonal, Haiti, for families living in extreme poverty, by the end of his second term in 2019.

"In my first term, we raised enough to build the first house," he said, explaining that the project is in partnership with Cross Catholic Outreach, a ministry that targets the poorest of the poor around the world. "The goal is to build a small village of homes."

Ms. Wiltz, 14, has been involved with the Junior Daughters since she was 9, and said she was "very honored and humbled" to be elected to her first term as Junior Supreme Lady.

She said the organization has helped her "become a better leader," particularly during her recent campaign.

"I had to speak at a lot of events," said Ms. Wiltz, a parishioner of Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Houston, a Josephite parish. "I have a sweet, little voice, but I learned to overcome that and project my voice strongly."

Furthermore, the campaign helped her develop spiritually as well, she added. "I had to pray a lot about the things I did and the people I talked to," she said. "I had to know God was with me in every decision I made."

Like Mr. Guillory, Ms. Wiltz's family includes a long list of Knights and Ladies, including both her parents and members of their extended families.

"She's a legacy Claver, and that's something that's really strong in our organization," explained Katie Guidry-Johnson, National Counselor of Junior Daughters. "We're able to pass this on to our kids."

Ms. Wiltz plans to tackle diabetes, a disease which has affected many friends and families, but also hunger and bullying.

She hopes to launch a junior division food bank day, possibly in June, and start an anti-bullying blog.

"I was bullied in elementary school," Ms. Wiltz said. "I feel like even though it was a hardship for me, I can change other's lives by giving good advice."

Supreme Knight James Ellis, who also serves as CEO of the Knights of Peter Claver, said the juniors, who number approximately 2,500 across the U.S., are well equipped to pursue their goals. "They'll often come in being just kids, but we teach them leadership skills, including how to use parliamentary procedure and Robert's Rules of Order," he said. "They know how to run meetings and set goals."

That's not all they learn. "From a young age, we teach our juniors the power of our faith – the power of the Catholic Christian faith," Supreme Knight Ellis added.



Cardinal urges fight against racism

By Mark Zimmermann

The sin of racism must be recognized, confronted and overcome, Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl said in a new pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Racism Today."

"Intolerance and racism will not go away without a concerted awareness and effort on everyone's part. Regularly we must renew the commitment to drive it out of our hearts, our lives and our community," the cardinal wrote.

"The mission of reconciliation takes on fresh emphasis today as racism continues to manifest itself in our country, requiring us to strengthen our efforts. We are all aware of incidents both national and closer to home that call attention to the continuing racial tensions in our society," Cardinal Wuerl said.

He noted that the nation's Catholic bishops have established an Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism made up of clergy, laywomen and laymen "to speak out against this divisive evil that leave great harm in its wake."

The cardinal added that, "It is our faith that calls us to see each other as members of God's family. It is our faith that calls us to confront and overcome racism."

He cited the story of creation from the Book of Genesis and Catholic teaching in the Catechism of the Catholic Church on the equality and human dignity of all people.

"What makes us equal before God and what should make us equal in dignity before each other," Cardinal Wuerl noted, "is that we are all sisters and brothers of one another, because we are all children of the same loving God who brought us into being."

Racism, he said, is a "sin against our neighbor" that offends God and goes against the unity of the body of Christ, a unity that all Christians share by means of their baptism.

The letter's release coincides with the Catholic Church's celebration of November as Black Catholic History Month. The cardinal noted how the "stain of racism" has affected people in every continent throughout history, often manifesting itself in marginalization, discrimination and oppression to indigenous people or newcomers.

Eliminating racism might seem "too great a task for any one of us or even for the whole church," Cardinal Wuerl said. "Yet we place our confidence in the Lord. In Christ, we are brothers and sisters to one another."



Junior Grand Knight Carrington Guillory shares a smile with Bishop Glen Provost of the Diocese of Lake Charles, La.



Junior Supreme Lady Kennedy Wiltz (left) pauses with Junior Texas State Treasurer Jayla Jackson at a recent community project.