

Community Director

Brother Knights,

Let us all pray and do anything we can to assist in our communities for the good of all during this health crisis. What should your council be doing...please read the Leave No Neighbor Behind initiative outlined on the Supreme website.

There is a blood shortage so perhaps a call to the Red Cross to see if your council could host a safe blood drive. I called Red Cross and they are complying with all CDC requirements...temperature is taken before anyone enters facility...spacing is required and everything is wiped down after each donation. The Northwest Indiana Red Cross in Merrillville said they are booked solid for May and June with six teams going out everyday...most events are fully booked with appointments and the no show rate is at an all-time low. If your council wants to call and set up a July blood drive, now is the time. Check with your pastor if using a church facility as the Indiana Bishops had issued a no gathering order...but my pastor indicated the Bishops would allow if social distancing and CDC guidelines were followed. I want to congratulate Council 451 as they just held a blood drive on April 19th and collected 71 units!!!

If your council is looking for ways to help your community, you probably do not need to look any farther than your Saint Vincent DePaul society as helping people is their business. I just saw an urgent request from the Saint Vincent DePaul of Indianapolis. Go to their website at www.svdpindy.org/volunteer or www.svdpindy.org/give and help them out any way you can. My council continues to haul nearly two thousand pounds of food every week to various food pantries in our area and just made a trip to Kentucky with a load for the Missionaries of Charity. The need is always there, but more now than ever. Check with the United Way in your area as they coordinate volunteer needs for hundreds of organizations in every area of the state. Their websites are loaded with volunteering opportunities. Also, don't hesitate to donate funds to the "Leave No Neighbor Behind Fund" established by our Supreme Council. Read all about the Leave No Neighbor Behind initiative on the Supreme website! Almost any activity your council does in this time of pandemic would count as a Helping Hands Community activity! So let's go to work!

Please contact me with any of your questions and we can find answers.

VIVAT JESUS!

Joe Erpelding

Community Director

Community@Indianakofc.org