

TO: His Excellency Bishop Richard B. Higgins, National Chaplain Msgr. Edward Coyle, National Commander Arminda Crawford, National Officers and Members

FROM: Francis J Kowalski, National First Vice Commander

DATE: March 15 – 16, 2017

I would like to thank everyone who sent me rosaries for Fr. Paul Cruz. I have received a total of 1,500 rosaries. Because of this success, I would like to recommend this as a new program for the First Vice activities. We can also send these rosaries to other needed places, whether overseas or here in the United States. The posts and states can send them directly and report them to the National First Vice Commander in their reports.

I would like to thank the posts and departments for sending in their reports. I received 14 post reports and 2 department reports. All First Vice Commanders, please remember your second half reports are due June 20, 2017.

Also, please continue to fly your flag, every day, or at least on the following days: National Day of Prayer May 4, National Founders Day May 19, Armed Forces Day May 20, Memorial Day May 29, Flag Day June 14, and Independence Day July 4.

Just a little information for you. With the elections being over Catholics in Congress make up one-third of the House and one-quarter of the Senate. Twenty seven percent of Republicans are Catholic and thirty seven percent of Democrats are Catholic. I got this information from my Diocesan newspaper The Monitor. These statistics were collected by the Pew Research Center.

Also, in New Jersey, we have a new Archbishop for the Diocese of Newark. He is Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin. He becomes the sixth Archbishop of Newark and also the first Cardinal to head a diocese in New Jersey.

Let us all try to make this a great Lenten season. You don't necessarily have to give something up, you can take something up. Visit the hospitalized, help a neighbor, ask a friend or neighbor, who hasn't been to church in some time, to attend mass with you, etc.

May God continue to bless America.