

Minutes of the Bergen Federation Meeting held on January 29, 2026, in Rochelle Park.

**Meeting called to order** by President Guy DiNapoli at 8:00 PM

**Opening prayer** led by President DiNapoli

**President DiNapoli welcomed everyone to the meeting**

**Roll Call of Officers**, all present

**State Treasurer Russell Petrocelli** was present

**District Deputies**, all present

**23 Councils Represented at the meeting**

**Minutes from the last meeting are published on the website and were approved.**

**Guest Speaker:** Vito Mazza, Chairman of the Bergen Chapter talked about a Columbia Magazine article regarding "Hope made Flesh". About fishers of men and to support Families and young people.

Vito also announced a change in the Chapter's bi-laws regarding raising the Chapter benefit payments to \$500.00 per request, maximum of 2 payments per year to a needy brother.

**Treasurer Report:**

Golf \$7,622    PIP \$8,347.25    Convention \$2,183.06    General Expense \$294.45

Balance in check book as of 1/29/26, \$18,447.26.

**Vice President Report:** VP Ed Wilkin reported that the convention information is in your handouts tonight. A non-refundable check for \$185.00 secures your room and dinner for Friday night 5/15/26. Additional nights are to be paid to the Bristol Plaza upon arrival. Reservations are due by 4/15/26 to Ed.

Past President Queregna reported that we are once again looking for sponsors for the Friday night dinner, \$100.00 per to offset the cost of the dinner. There will be a poster with the names of the sponsors at the event. Thank you for your support.

**Presidents Report:** President DiNapoli asked Matt Chiochi to give a report on the communion Breakfast. We have 40 paid reservations as of tonight and we are looking for at least 75 people to attend to meet our guaranty with the Fiesta.

This year's fundraiser will be a beefsteak dinner scheduled for March 26, 2026, at the Fair Lawn Council. Tickets are \$50.00 per person. The Federation is looking for prizes to offer in a tricky tray that night. All donations are appreciated.

President DiNapoli thanked Grand Knight for hosting the meeting, The Grand Knight thanked all for coming and hopes all had a good dinner.

**Old Business**

**PIP Dinner:** PSD Bob Hatler gave an update on this year's PIP Dinner, to be held on November 3, 2026, at the Grove. Price is the same as last year, \$75.00 per person. The Cardinal and all Bishops are attending along with some Seminarians. More info to be sent via email to all Grand Knights soon. Bob also will be asking for seed money again to offset costs from each Council. Bob thanked everyone for their participation.

**Felician School party support:** Past Presidents Vaughn and Queregna reported on the Christmas party held at the Felician School for Exceptional Children. It was very moving and both thought that having the event coordinated by the Federation makes sense going forward. This would let more Brothers and Councils join a meaningful cause. More info at the next meeting.

**New Business:**

**Election of Officers for 2026-2027:**

Past President Brad Vaughn gave the proposed slate of Officers for the new Columbian year as follows:

President Edward Wilkin DD

Vice President Matthew Chiocchi DD

Secretary Peter Revie DD

Warden Anthony Ventri PGK

3-year Trustee Guy DiNapoli GK

2-year Trustee Bradley Vaught FDD

3-year Trustee Steve Martin DD

Treasurer George Thompson DD

**State Secretary Russell Petrocelli's Report:** A great turnout tonight here in Rochelle Park and thanks to the Council for hosting the meeting.

The Call to Convention has been sent out via email to the Councils as well as any Per Capita that has not been paid yet. I am glad to report that Membership is up this year, thank you for your efforts in this area. I need an EFF director from Bergen County to assist the State Council in this area, if interested, please speak to me.

We are His Witness and the status of the Archdiocese going forward. Cardinal Tobin and his team are reviewing the results and are holding back the final report until later this year so that all comments and concerns can be addressed. Please understand that we need to support the Cardinal and all Priests in this area.

I hope to see you all at the Communion Breakfast on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Good of the Order:** a list of brothers sick and in distress was read and we also prayed for our deceased brothers.

**Closing Prayer** was led by President DiNapoli

**Meeting Adjourned** at 9:15 PM

Submitted by Silvio Sartori FDD, Bergen Federation Secretary