



The Golden Plume
District of North Carolina
August 2007



Master's Message

Worthy Sirs,

Vivat Jesus!

The new Fraternal Year got off to a good start. First I was able to submit the paperwork for a New Assembly, made up of the King, Mount Airy and Booneville Councils. This is another case of the Sir Knights from these Councils wanting to cut their driving time down to attend meetings. I would expect this to be finalized in August.

I was very proud of the Honor Guard for the State Training Meeting, in July. Also the Color Corp who presented and retired the colors both at the Training Meeting and at the Banquet. A showing like this cannot help but impress our non-Sir Knight Brothers to want to become a part of the Fourth Degree.

I was also very proud of our performance in the 2006/07 Fraternal Year in both Membership Gain and New Assembly Development. Our total membership gain for the fraternal year was 301 members. This was from two North Carolina Exemplifications and several men from the western part of the state going to Tennessee for their Exemplification. We also had a good number of reinstatements during the year. The membership gain amounted to 122% of our Supreme Goal. This led the DeSoto Province. The DeSoto Province also led all Provinces in Division I (Over 19,000 Sir Knights total) Only one Province (with only 3,975 Sir Knights total) beat the DeSoto Province in membership percent gain.

All of the above said, you can see that North Carolina was a leader among all of the districts in the Order.

On July 18, 2007 I received information that I would be the new Vice-Supreme Master of the DeSoto Province effective September 1, 2007. I will be replacing VSM Frank Scandone. I, as well as the District of North Carolina, would be remiss if we did not recognize VSM Scandone's excellent leadership of the DeSoto Province. VSM Scandone set high standards and goals, which caused all of the Districts in the province to have excellent performance this past year. I can guarantee I will do my best to make VSM Scandone proud of our performance under my reign as Vice-Supreme Master.

My replacement has not yet been named, but when he is, I will be there to help him get off to an excellent start. You can be sure I have too much pride in North Carolina to not stay involved in keeping it one of the best Districts in the Order. I still offer my assistance to anyone who thinks I might be of some help to make their Assembly better.

Don't forget our Exemplification, October 20, 2007 at the Embassy Suites Hotel at Concord Mills, NC. We need to have a great Exemplification as North Carolina's own Supreme Director, John Harrison, will be the Honoree for this Exemplification.

Assembly No. 2208, Charlotte, has accepted the job of hosting the Exemplification. They assure me that we will have the best hospitality room ever. They are also going to have Baby Sitting for those with small children. This will be available during the Banquet. This should make it possible for some of the younger Family Knights to take their Exemplification. The baby sitting will be accepting donations to cover the cost of the entertainment for the children. Remember the goal for this Exemplification is 200+ new Sir Knights. This will take the efforts of every Assembly to accomplish this goal.

Continued on Page 2

Master's Message continued -



One of my last official duties is the naming of a new Faithful District Friar. Effective September 1, 2007, Father William "Bill" Lesak, Captain, U.S. Navy, and the Chaplain at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station in Havelock, will be our District Friar. No, Father Lawson is not fully retiring; he is being named District Friar Emeritus. I can never thank Father Lawson enough for all he has done for the Knights of Columbus, as well as for me personally. He has faithfully served both the State Council and the District for many, many years. I ask all of you to keep Father Lawson in your prayers.

I want to remind everyone that again this year we will be assisting our servicemen, who are in the Hospitals at Camp Lejeune and Fort Bragg, with serious injuries, including most of them being amputee victims, as a result of their representing our great country in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. I would appreciate each Assembly to start NOW by collecting individual donations to send these Amputees home for the Christmas Holiday. There are 200 Amputees in the two hospitals now and probably will be more before Christmas. Last year we only had a couple of weeks to raise money for this purpose. We did an excellent job for the time constraint, with around \$9,000 donated. This year I ask that we ask our members and friends for personal donations to this cause, and then ask the Assembly to make an Assembly Donation. All of the donations for this cause are tax deductible. Have all checks made payable to "Military Order of the Purple Heart". Send all checks to me and I will forward them to the proper people to be used for this great cause. I can assure you that 100% of the donations will go to help these Amputees. Not one cent will be used to direct this program.

In closing I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of the Sir Knights in North Carolina for the dedication to the Knights of Columbus, especially the Fourth Degree. It is due to your dedication and work on our programs, along with your recruiting efforts that made it possible for me to have a great record as District Master and be considered for the Vice Supreme Master's Position. I will always be keeping you all in my prayers and praying for continued success for our Order.

Fraternally,

Robert J. "Bob" Singer, PSD
North Carolina District Master
Vice-Supreme Master (Select)



Vice-Supreme Master
SK Frank X. Scandone, PSD, FDM

Thank you for your leadership, service
and devotion to the DeSoto Province and to the Order.





SIR KNIGHT OF THE MONTH JULY, 2007



The July Sir Knight of the Month could have been Sir Knight of the Month most any month for his service to the North Carolina District and to me personally.

This Sir Knight has been a Knight of Columbus for over 20 years and a Fourth Degree Sir Knight for 18 years. Not only has he been a member of the K of C for the above mentioned years, but he has been very active in both his Council and his Assembly, serving in most offices in both.

There has never been a task that I asked him to do that he has every complained about or refused to do. This included a lot of Office work, which he excels at.

When I was appointed as District Master, I went to this Sir Knights home and asked him if he would be willing to serve as my District Secretary. He readily accepted and although his health was not the best he never backed down from all of the secretarial duties of this office.

Many do not realize all the work expected of a District Secretary. First of all, he was in charge of the registration at all of the Exemptions over the past three years. He also gathered all the information and prepared the District Directory and the Exemption Program, each year. Then when I suggested that we should honor a Sir Knight, each month as Sir Knight of the Month, he volunteered to prepare the certificates for each monthly honoree.

I guess I should mention that as District Secretary, there is no salary or even an expense account. Only when I insisted did he ever present me with a bill for the expenses he incurred while preparing any of the above mentioned items.

During his spell with cancer and during his chemo treatments, he continued with his secretarial duties with no complaint.

Without his assistance my job as District Master would have been much harder and I would probably not had the time to accomplish many of the things which I did accomplish.

My sincere thanks goes out to the July Sir Knight of the Month,

Sir Knight Gregory R. Ciesielski, PFN, District Secretary

Greg I hope you can continue to be as helpful to my successor as you were to me.



Knights of Columbus
F O U R T H
D E G R E E
Highest degree of Knighthood.



**North Carolina Fourth Degree
Exemplification**



Honoring

Supreme Director John A. Harrison, PSD

October 20, 2007

Embassy Suites Hotel

PHONE (704) 455-8200

Concord Mills, North Carolina

(Located between I85 and Lowes Motor Speedway, Exit #49)

**Candidates - \$70.00 (set by Supreme)
Includes pin, baldric and candidates banquet**

**Guest Banquet - \$47.00
Ladies Luncheon - \$20.00**

**Candidate Form 4/with Assembly check to
District Master by October 1, 2007**

**Candidate must be Third Degree Member.
Candidates with 6 months but less than one year of
Membership in the First Degree must have a Waiver.
Form 4 to Master by October 1, for Waiver.**

**The Hotel Suite Rate is: \$129.00/Day
Includes Full Cooked Breakfast for 2, with each Suite
Managers Hospitality Hour each evening**

**Goal is for 200 Candidates,
Recruit, Recruit, Recruit**