



The Golden Plume

District of North Carolina

January 2008



Master's Message

Worthy Sir Knights All,

Vivat Jesus!

CHRISTmas has come and gone and once again, we have celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

January 1st, 2008, brings us a new year and with it, new opportunities and challenges. I would like to encourage each of you to keep the spirit of Christmas joy in our hearts throughout the New Year. We all have many reasons to be thankful. God gives us challenges because he loves us. The reasons are not always obvious, but I believe everything that happens is due to His Devine plan. Let's all try, as Catholic gentlemen, to bring a little more kindness to our world, even when it is most difficult.

This brings me to the tasks that needs your immediate attention:

As mentioned in December, Annual Fraternal Surveys of Fraternal Activities, Form 1728C, are due to Supreme before January 31, 2008. There can be no excuses for not submitting this form. Please send copies to the Vice Supreme Master Bob Singer and me. If you file it electronically, be sure to print copies prior to submitting to Supreme. Once submitted, it **CAN NOT BE PRINTED!** While this form may appear redundant, since many activities duplicate those of your council, it must me filed. The excuse, "We included our numbers with the council's numbers", is not acceptable. Assemblies are required to report for themselves.

Pro-Life March – Raleigh, January 12, 1:00 PM:

ALL Sir Knights are invited to participate, in regalia, for the Pro-Life Rally and March in Raleigh. It will be held in Nash Square, beginning at 1:00 PM. After the invocation and guest speaker, the Fourth Degree will lead the march past the state government building and Governor's offices. Please make this a good showing for those who can speak for themselves.

Wounded Warrior's Leave Fund update:

The Vice Supreme Master will be giving a complete report and I do not want to steal his thunder. However, I do want to express my sincere thank you to everyone, the Assemblies, Councils, the pastors who were supportive, the Florida District, and all who gave donations to this most worthy cause. The North Carolina Chapter of the MOPH advised that one third of their donations came from the Knight of Columbus. What a wonderful outpouring of support for our wounded military men and women. May God bless each one of you.

Bi-Annual Assembly District Meeting Scheduled:

The District meeting has been set for Saturday, April 12, 2008 at the Council home of Council #2546. This meeting is a requirement of the Supreme Council. One of the purposes of this meeting is to nominate and present three names to Supreme for a District Master for a term of two years. As you are aware, my appointment was to complete the Vice Supreme Master's term due to his elevation. Please be prepared to send at least one delegate from your Assembly to this meeting and names for nomination of Master. Additional details will be forth coming in February and March.

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Master's Message Continued

E-Mail Addresses, Data Changes:

If your Assembly is one of the few that has not provided an e-mail address for communications, please ask an Assembly member with email to strongly consider taking on this responsibility. Postage is costly. Thank you to all who have been sending in the data change copies to me. These are important. Also, if an assembly officer has a change of address, phone number and especially email, please notify the District Secretary and myself as soon as possible.

In closing, I extend to each of you and your families my best wishes for a Holy, Healthy, Prosperous and Happy New Year.

Fraternally,

BOB

SK Bob Grabasky, PSD
District Master,
Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree, North Carolina District



Sir Knight of the Month – January 2008

The Great Smoky Mountain is one of the youngest assembly's in the DeSoto Province. This SK is a Charter Member of the assembly, the Charter Faithful Purser, and was selected as Commander of the "Fourth Degree Color Corps of The Great Smoky Mountain Assembly #3001" by the Faithful Navigator.

Along with his duties as Faithful Purser, this SK has assisted the FN with his knowledge of the workings of the Knights of Columbus, as a Past Grand Knight and a Former District Deputy. He has also taken many of his hours to recruit and train our assembly color corps members.

He and the Fourth Degree Color Corp have had the honor of taking part in four (4) functions honoring Bishop Peter J. Jugis, Bishop of Charlotte, and at the Funerals of two (2) of our departed Sir Knights. The Corps recently carried an 8' banner that read, "Keep Christ in Christmas", in the Maggie Valley Christmas Parade, December 1, 2007. The Corps was also available to honor and guard Bishop Peter J. Jugis at the Instillation of Fr. Jack Denny as Pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church on Sunday, the 9th of December.

I believe that SK Daniel L. Lange has extended the VISIBLE ARM of The Knights Of Columbus into the far corners of Western North Carolina and for these reasons, I believe that he worthy of being honored as Sir Knight of the Month, January 2008.

CONGRATULATIONS!



SK Daniel L. Lange





Vice Supreme



Master's Report

Worthy Sir Knights,

I would like to wish each Sir Knight in the DeSoto a very Happy and prosperous New Year. I can tell you that we had a very successful 2007 and I am looking forward to even a better 2008.

I would like to bring you up to date with the "Wounded Warrior Christmas Trips Home" project that I have worked hard to make a success. I was notified last year that the Military Order of the Purple Heart had a program to send all of the Wounded Warriors, from the Iraq and Afghanistan Conflicts, who were confined to the military hospitals, built especially for them, at Camp Lejuene Marine Base and Fort Bragg Army Base, home for Christmas. This was a request these wounded servicemen had made.

In 2006 the Knights of Columbus raised \$9,000 for this cause. For 2007, having been appointed Vice Supreme Master, I introduced this program to the entire DeSoto Province. I want to say that I am extremely happy with the results of the 2007 campaign. The latest report I got from the M.O.P.H reads as follows:

"The Wounded Warrior Christmas Leave Program has raised a total of \$165,000 and sent 4 Navy Corpsmen and 66 Marines from the Wounded Warrior Barracks of Camp Lejuene and 50 Soldiers from both Ft. Bragg's Warrior Transition Battalion and Womack Army Hospital home for Christmas – a Grand total of 120 Wounded Servicemen. ALL remaining monies will roll over into the 2008 Christmas Leave Program and will fund any Emergency Leave Travel during 2008 from these locations. This could not have been possible without your support and generosity. The Knights of Columbus donated \$51,540 to this great cause. (This includes monies donated by some Ladies Auxiliaries)."

I cannot thank each District enough for their donations. Due to some negative news coverage, I did an extensive investigation as to the use of ALL of the Wounded Warrior Christmas Leave Funds. I can assure you that 100% of the funds are being used for these Wounded Servicemen. All labor for this program was donated labor. If you have any questions regarding this program, please let me know.

Now for a lighter side of the past year and the upcoming 2008, I had the opportunity to attend two Exemplifications in Georgia, One Exemplification in Florida and One Exemplification in North Carolina, since September 1, 2007, when I became Vice Supreme Master. I have on my schedule at this time two additional Exemplifications in Florida, 1 additional Exemplification in Georgia and at least One Exemplification in South Carolina. I have asked each District to have at least two exemplifications this fraternal year.

I want to thank each of the Districts; I have visited for the kind consideration they have shown to myself and my wife. We have been accepted in each District as "old friends" and feel a part of each District.

Last Fraternal Year the DeSoto Province was a leader in the Fourth Degree in both Membership Gain and number of Exemplification, per District. I thank you each for this great accomplishment and hope you have set your goals to repeat in membership and exemplifications again this year.

If I can be of any assistance to any of you, don't fail to contact me. I am here to serve you.

Fraternally,

SK Robert J. "Bob" Singer, PSD, FDM
Vice Supreme Master, DeSoto Province

