



The Golden Plume
District of North Carolina
March 2008



Master's Message

Worthy Sir Knights All,

Vivat Jesus!

In a few short weeks we will be celebrating the Risen Lord! A new start for us all. It is still not too late to do something special as a Lenten offering for our salvation. Last month I suggested some ideas for Lenten sacrifice. If you have slipped and or forgotten, there are three weeks remaining to prepare for His resurrection.

In an effort to be less wordy, I have decided to use bullet point items rather than paragraphs. Let me know if this works better.

- Please remember that we will have a **District meeting on Saturday, April 12th**, starting at 10:00 am at Council 2546's home, 1820 Columbus Road (New Hope Road), Raleigh. Please advise me of the number of attendees prior to April 1st to enable our host, Bishop McGuinness Assembly #778 to have enough food for lunch.
- This year's major Exemplification will be held on Saturday, October 25th, at the Embassy Suites Hotel Greensboro Airport. Details will be forthcoming in April. Please start to invite all eligible Third Degree members to join our ranks.
- Bishop Burbidge has requested that we supply an Honor Guard on Saturday, April 12th, for a mass to be celebrated at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. The Bishop is leading a pilgrimage that day and will celebrate mass at 3:00 PM. Knowing there are several other commitments for that date, I would encourage any Fourth Degree member interested to attend in regalia. Please get up with the assemblies in your area and make an effort to fulfill the Bishop's request. I would ask the Faithful Navigators to advise me of the number of Sir Knight's who will be attending. Complete information is available at website [Pilg brochure FINAL English 1 Rev 1.pdf](#)
- Saturday, May 3rd, 2008 – the Saint Michael the Archangel Organization of Memphis, TN is organizing a prayerful event with a goal of one million rosaries to be said for Unborn Babies across the nation. In the eastern time zone, they request that you participate between 9 and 10 am. More information available at their website www.SaintMichaelTheArchangelOrganization.org Please consider getting yourselves and others to participate. GREAT Assembly project!



Master's Report Continued on Page 2



- Last month I requested input from all Faithful Navigators by submitting nominations for Sir Knights of the month. Thank you to the two Sir Knights who responded. QUESTION! Where are the rest of you? I am sure that there are many Sir Knights in our state who qualify for this honor and yet, I have received only two responses.
- Look at the upgraded State Council website and specifically the Fourth Degree button. If you find anything incorrect or have ideas of what you would like to see, please notify me.
- Thank you to all Assemblies who took the time to complete Form 1728, Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity. All but six Assemblies responded and I completed a report for those six who could not be bothered. The tax free status of the Order depends on submission of the mandatory report. We now have the distinction of being the only jurisdiction in the DeSoto Province with 100% compliance!

Finally, I take this opportunity to express my wishes to each of you and your loved ones for a very

Holy and Happy Easter

God Bless all of you and keep up your good work,

Bob

SK Robert J. Grabasky, PSD
North Carolina District Master



Sir Knight of the Month

This Sir Knight is extremely active with both Council and Assembly activities. He is a Past Grand Knight and Past Faithful Navigator of our local Council and Assembly. He has served as the Financial Secretary and Faithful Comptroller as well.

He serves as a member of the local Veteran's Administration's Hospital Volunteer Services Board of Directors and meets with the VA staff on a regular basis (usually once a month). He has for the past, at least, eight years coordinated with the VA Hospital for members of the Council and Assembly to provide prizes, snacks and drinks, as well as assist the patients during our quarterly playing of bingo in the Hospital's auditorium. He serves faithfully as a member of the Fourth Degree Chorale. He was a staunch advocate and lead planner for the Assembly's contribution (by the purchasing of a stone for the walkway) to the Airborne and Special Operations' Museum.

But it is not for these past accomplishments that we wish to recognize this Sir Knight, but for his most recent. As a member of the previously mentioned VA Hospital's Volunteer Services Board, he approached the director of volunteer services and asked if there was anything that the Assembly could do for the Hospital. The director asked if it would be possible that the Knights purchase a television set for one of the dayrooms. This Sir Knight enthusiastically took on the project, approached the Assembly with the idea, and then single-handedly contacted each Faithful Navigator in the District. Through his efforts, over \$1700.00 was raised for the television set. Being a savvy negotiator, he was able to purchase the television set for around \$1200.00 and graciously offered to donate the rest of the collected monies to Hyperbaric Chamber fund being collected for a family on Pope Air Force Base.

It is with humility and enthusiasm that we honor **Sir Knight John (Jack) C. McCloskey** of Cardinal Gibbons Assembly #783, Fayetteville, as the March 2008 Sir Knight of the Month.



Friendship



I'm sure you've heard the proverb, "Show me your friends and I'll tell you who you are."

C.S. Lewis in his book "The Four Loves" wrote about friendship and how most friendships begin. First, he says, a group of individuals find themselves together "talking shop." He calls this kind of coming together "companionship" or "clubbability," and, although this is not in itself friendship, it can lead to friendship. Friendship by definition begins when two or more individuals discover that they have something in common - what Lewis describes as "some insight or interest which others do not share." Friendship is born when one of the individuals says something like, "What? You too? I thought I was the only one." According to Lewis, all friendship arises from this "You Too?" experience. It is born the instant we detect that another individual shares our values, our beliefs and our vision of life, that is, when we realize that this other person sees the same truth we see (as Ralph Waldo Emerson says) or at least cares about the same truth (as Lewis says)

Fellow Sir Knights, isn't this what being a Knight is all about? Anyone can have friends. But faithful friends are brothers and much more than just friends. Faithful friends, I dare say, are people who share a common faith in doing good and who help us to be better people. Melannie Svoboda in her wonderful book "Traits of a Healthy Spiritual Life" offers five different ways in which friends help us to grow. May I suggest that we can apply these five ways in our 4th Degree Assemblies. First, friends help us to grow in self-knowledge and we know how important this is for us in our spiritual life as brother Knights. To know God is to serve God which is a noble calling. As James Schall, SJ, said, "The discovery of who we are is ultimately bound up with the discovery of another person." In other words, with friendship we discover not only things about our friends, we discover things about ourselves as we relate to those friends. We grow in self-knowledge as brother Knights by sharing a common bond of brotherhood with those around the world. We do this through our charitable service and witness to those less fortunate among us. Secondly, friends help by expanding our horizons. By this we mean doing things we never dreamt we could do before on our own unless a friend asked us. When was the last time a brother Knight asked you to join him in the Knights of Columbus march in DC in support of the "Right to Life?" Third, friends help by giving us encouragement. In his book "Touching the Holy", Robert Wicks tells how important such encouragement can be. To live in today's stressful and complex world "without the presence of solidly supportive friends is foolhardy and dangerous," Wicks says. "Warm friends represent the incarnational love of God in our lives," he concludes.

Friends also represent the unconditional love of God for us. Our friends, while encouraging us in our efforts to do good, also love and embrace us – warts and all. Fourth, faithful friends help by allowing us to love them back. This means that friends afford us the opportunity to express our love in specific and concrete ways - for example, shaking your hand, patting you on the back for a job well done, listening, sharing your excitement, consoling you in times of sorrow and grief. Faithful friends are forever reminding us what it means to love and to be loved by God. In this regard we can paraphrase those beautiful words of St. John's Gospel and say, "How can you claim to be friends with the God whom you cannot see, if you don't have friends whom you can see!" Fifth and finally, friends help us to grow in our ability to trust. With faithful friends we find ourselves sharing everything—our hopes and dreams, our fears and misgivings, our accomplishments and disappointments—trusting that our friends understand us and love us no matter what happens. In his book "The Friendship Game", Andrew Greeley says that one of the critical problems in today's world is the absence of trust. He concludes, people "cannot trust because they do not have enough friendship in their life. If there were more friendships in the world there would be more trust." The Knights of Columbus, my brothers, epitomize what it means to be a true and trusted friend, a brotherhood we are so privileged to share in Jesus Christ.

Fraternally,
SK Fr. William P. Lesak,
District Friar



VICE SUPREME MASTERS Report for March



First of all I want to thank all of the Districts in the DeSoto Province for putting DeSoto Province in first place in New Assembly Development, for this fraternal year. As of this date, we have started eight (8) new Assemblies in the DeSoto Province. I am sure we will start more before the fraternal year is done.

During February, I had the pleasure of attending an Exemplification in South Carolina. 104 New Sir Knights received this Exemplification. The exemplification was held in Columbia, SC, under the direction of District Master Roosevelt Cummings. I want to publicly thank DM Cummings and his wife Virginia for being such gracious hosts.

Here are the results of the Wounded Warrior Program conducted to send all Purple Heart Veterans, in special hospitals at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Fort Bragg Special Forces Base. A total of 120 Wounded Warriors were sent home for the Christmas Holiday, 50 Special Forces Soldiers, 66 Marines and 4 Navy Corpsmen. The Knights of Columbus, of the DeSoto Province, donated \$50,200 toward this patriotic project. My personal thanks to all who contributed. I personally believe that we can never repay these Wounded Warriors for what they have gone through to guarantee our freedom. The Military Order of the Purple Heart, through whom we worked for this program, did have funds left over from the Christmas Trips. This money will be used 100% for our Wounded Warriors, for emergency Leave Trips home, as necessary, and the remainder will be held for next Christmas. Let me make it clear, when I say that the K of C donated \$50,200, this includes the donations from several Ladies Auxiliaries, as well as donations from many catholic brothers and sisters, at special Church collections. One Parish sent over \$12,000 for this wonderful cause.

The latest report on Membership shows the DeSoto Province in need of many new members to meet our 2007/2008 Fraternal Year goals. Every District needs to gain more members. I encourage each District to conduct Additional Exemplifications. I have scheduled Exemplifications for Georgia and Florida in April 2008. Any help from the other District will be greatly appreciated.

REPORTS: this is a special interest to me. I believe that if you take an office in the Knights of Columbus, you agree to do all of the jobs required of that office. We are still missing some of the 2007/2008 Officer Reports from Assemblies. The Fraternal Survey was due January 31, 2008. As of today only North Carolina has 100% compliance on this report. I will be contacting District Masters and Assemblies officers until we get 100% compliance from all Districts. This is a MANDATORY Report.

I want to wish each Sir Knight a very Blessed Easter Season. If there is anything I can do to assist anyone in the province, please contact me.

Fraternally,

Bob

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





MAIL CALL!

This letter was received from Sir Knight Jack McCloskey concerning the completion of the TV project for the veterans in the VA hospital located in Fayetteville. Since receiving this message, Jack has decided to donate the residual funds to a family needing a hyperbaric chamber for their daughter (See Sir Knight of the Month in this issue):

Worthy District Master Bob,

The statewide K of C project to provide a high definition, big screen TV for the Fayetteville Veterans Affairs Medical center is now completed. Fayetteville Assembly 783 purchased a Panasonic 50 inch plasma set, (listed at \$1500) from the hhgregg store in Fayetteville on Friday January 25. The sale price was \$1100. The sale was tax-exempt and the only additional charge was \$59.99 for delivery, for a total cost of \$1159.99. Delivery and installation was completed on Friday February 1.

The Hospital staff provided the necessary parts and labor to wall mount the TV in the current Fourth Floor lounge. I was on hand to formally pass ownership of the TV to the Hospital's Director of Volunteer Services, MS. Norma Byrd. Photo coverage was provided and pictures will be available. Several patients were being served lunch in the lounge at the time. They enthusiastically voiced their approval and appreciation.

The cost of the TV plus delivery charge was less than was collected for the purpose. Rather than try to compute how much to refund each donor, I am recommending to Assembly 783 that all residual funds be donated to the State Council for the Lamb Foundation. I hope this meets with the approval of all concerned.

Sincerest personal thanks from me as your K of C representative on the Fayetteville VA Volunteer Advisory Council to all who provided financial or moral support to this project, which I modestly claim a complete success. Our veterans deserve the best we can provide. Many of us veterans who, but for the grace of God, might ourselves be patients benefiting from this project.

May God bless you all.

John C McCloskey

REMINDER TO VETERANS

The NC State website has a tab for VA information. As important information is received, it is added to the site. Please check often to see what is new. This includes information for our younger vets as well.

Thank you all for serving!

Bob Grabasky, DM





MAIL CALL!

Below is a thank you letter concerning the 2007 Wounded Warriors Christmas Leave Program. It is from the Commander of the North Carolina Chapter of the MOPH.

A Note from the Vice Supreme Master and District Master – Funds were also donated from the Districts of Florida and South Carolina which are included on the \$50,200.00 Dollars donated by the K of C. These funds came from both Assemblies and Councils in all three jurisdictions. Thank you all for helping to make a difference!

THANK YOU - \$173,000 Raised!

66 Marines, 4 Sailors and 50 Soldiers Go Home for Christmas!

December 27, 2007

Jesse G. Torres, Commander
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Department of North Carolina
Hillsborough, NC 27278

The Military Order of the Purple Heart



**Combat Wounded Veterans
Some Gave All, All Gave Some**

Within NC, we've concluded the Wounded Warrior Christmas Leave Program that raised \$173,000 and sent 4 Navy Corpsmen and 66 Marines from the Wounded Warrior Barracks of Camp Lejeune and 50 Soldiers from both Ft. Bragg's Warrior Transition Battalion and Womack Army Hospital home for Christmas - a grand total of 120! The excess, as we did last year, will roll over to 2008's Christmas Leave program and will fund any Emergency Leave Travel during 2008 from these three locations. This could not have been possible without your support and generosity. In spite of the negative news coverage, we did extremely well and were able to help a large number of our wounded troops. The fund raisers for this year have earned all the best accolades for a job well done - Jim Casti of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and Steve Tyson of New Bern (Century21). Also, I should include the Knights of Columbus (throughout NC) who donated \$50,200. Thank you all.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Yours in Patriotism,

Jesse G. Torres

Thanks to the generosity of patriotic Americans all over this country, more than \$173,000 was raised.

Steve Tyson and the Wounded Warrior Christmas Leave Program Finance Group extend a very grateful "Thank You!" to all concerned.