



The Golden Plume

District of North Carolina

April 2008

Master's Message



Worthy Sir Knights and Brothers All,

Vivat Jesus! Here we are in April and Our Lord has risen. Spring is here and new life abounds all around us. It is truly a time for rejoicing and celebration. Youngsters will be receiving their first Eucharist and I am sure many of you will be participating in Honor Guards for these celebrations.

The following are important events concerning the Fourth Degree in the coming month's

- **April 12 - District Meeting** to be held in Raleigh at the home of Council 2546, 6301 Columbus Club Drive, beginning at 10 AM. If you are using a GPS or getting directions from the web, I would suggest that you use 6301 New Hope Road as the destination. By going to Randmcnally.com, they will show Columbus Club Drive on the detail map. To date, I have been notified of only 24 attendees, representing 45% of the Assemblies in the District. This is a Supreme mandated meeting and I have heard from Assemblies in the mountains and on the coast, who have a great distance to travel. I would appreciate being notified by those who have not responded if you will be attending or not. The host Assembly, #778, deserves the courtesy so they can provide enough food for those attending.
- **April 12 – Bishop Burbidge's Pilgrimage** to Washington, DC. I am please to announce that we will have 13 Sir Knights in regalia for the Bishop's Mass at 3:00 PM. Thank you to the Sir Knights who will participate at the Bishop's Mass. Swords are not allowed in the Basilica. I will be communicating shortly with the Faithful Navigators of the Assemblies who will have representation as to the particulars for this occasion.
- **May 2 – 4 – State Convention** – If you are attending, please bring your regalia to participate as an Honor Guard at the Convention mass. The State Chaplain Padre Leon is a strong supporter of the Knights and the Fourth Degree, so come and honor him and thank him for his support. In addition, our District Friar, SK Father Lesak, will also be attending the convention. Let's get out to show our appreciation for our clergy. We will also have the honor of having our Vice Supreme Master, SK Robert Singer in attendance.
- **October 25 – Fourth Degree Exemplification** to be held at the Greensboro Airport Embassy Suites hotel. I hope to have more detailed information concerning this event at the District meeting. The hotel and I have had difficulty in scheduling an appointment to meet and finalize the details.
- **State Web Site – kofcnc.org** – should be checked regularly for updated information. On the main page, we have added information from the Supreme council concerning filing Form 990 with the Federal Government. **This is a requirement, not an option!**

In closing, I thank all of the Assembly Officers for keeping me up to date with events, changes in membership and changes in officer contact information. If your Assembly has not been receiving emails from me, please check the Fourth Degree directory for accuracy. If there are changes, there is a form on the state web page, Fourth Degree tab, to make the necessary corrections.

God bless,
SK Bob Grabasky, PSD, District Master



Vice Supreme Master's Monthly Letter



Worthy Sir Knights,

This has been a very good year, to date. The only problem area has been getting the Fraternal Surveys in on time. We are still missing some, Georgia = 4, South Carolina = 1 and Florida = 19 missing. My congratulations to DM Bob Grabasky of North Carolina for having 100% of his Assemblies reports in.

April looks to be a terrific month with Exemplifications in both Atlanta, Georgia on April 12 and in Cape Canaveral, Florida on April 26. I do hope that each state Assemblies has done their part in recruiting new members for these Exemplifications.

April is the month for the District Bi-Annual Meetings, at which District masters for the upcoming two years will be nominated. Each District can nominate up to three candidates. Let me make it clear, the nominations only let me and the Supreme Master know who is being recommended by the District. The actual appointment of a District Master is entirely up to the Supreme Master and the Supreme Knight, based on qualifications.

As you are aware the Supreme Master has asked every District to hole at least two Exemplifications each year. We are not living up to this request in some districts. I really appreciate the work Georgia and Florida have done to exceed their Exemplification expectations.

Every Assembly should be nominating their 2008/2009 Officers this month, with elections to be held in May. It is mandatory that EVERY ASSEMBLY complete their Report of Officers and send copies to Supreme, District Master and the Vice Supreme Master. These are due e by July 1, 2008. This is the only way Supreme knows who to send important information to. As with the Fraternal Surveys, I will be following this reporting very closely. Please make my job easier.

If anyone has any need for assistance with anything, you can always call on myself or your District Master for this assistance. We are always glad to help.

Wishing you all a very successful fraternal year.

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



St. Joseph's Catholic Church



In 1840, Judge William Gaston was the major contributor for the construction of a Catholic Church built in Mt. Holly, North Carolina. It was named St. Joseph's Catholic Church and it was completed in 1843 and stands today, 155 years later, as the oldest, still standing Catholic Church in North Carolina. William died in 1844 without ever seeing what his gift had built. Each year on St. Joseph's day the Knights of Columbus participate in the yearly mass that is celebrated at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

The following poem was recently received by my wife, Maryann, State Regent of North Carolina, Catholic Daughters of the Americas from a State Regent in another state. After reading it, I changed the wording slightly to adapt it for the Knights of Columbus. At a time when we are all looking to fill positions in our councils and assemblies, I think it is very appropriate. Maybe the Faithful Navigators would like to read it at their next meeting and print it in their newsletter.

HE POINTED HIS FINGER AT ME

They asked me to be an officer of the KofC

I said, "Oh no, I couldn't do that.

My plate is already full."

But God pointed His finger at me.

I said, "I'm just a small town guy

Someone else may do better, you see."

He said, "My disciples were simple folk."

And He pointed His finger at me.

I said, "My family demands all my time,

So the happier they will be."

He said, "You'll grow in patience and love."

And He pointed His finger at me.

I said, "I can't". For I get so nervous,

So nervous I can scarcely see."

But He promised He would calm my fears,

As He pointed His finger at me.

"But in KofC there is so much to do,

And with them I do not always agree."

Tolerance and understanding He promised

As he pointed His finger at me.

I said, "My talents are few

A leader I'll never be."

He said, "But they shall be multiplied."

And he pointed His finger at me.

I said, "I'd like to use my leisure time,

to gain popularity." He said,

"God's love is more important than man's."

And he pointed His finger at me.

So I said a prayer and answered "Yes,"

To this fine opportunity.

My life has been blessed in many ways

Since He pointed His finger at me.

If you are called, the Lord's work to do,

Say "Yes, I give all to Thee."

And you, too, will be glad as I have been glad,

That God pointed His finger at me.





*Sgt. Maj. Leonides Nieves, Jr.
United State Marines Corps*

June 1978 - April 2008

*Thirty years of Faithful Service
To God, Country and Corps*

Thank You Leo!

Sir Knight Leo Nieves is retiring after thirty years of service to our country and all of us in the District wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

SK Bob Grabasky, District Master



The Commanding Officer
Marine Aircraft Group 14
Requests the pleasure of your company at the
Relief and Appointment Ceremony
During which

Sergeant Major Leonides Nieves Jr, USMC

Will Retire and relinquish his post to
Sergeant Major Michael S. Timmerman, USMC
On Friday, the 25th of April 2008
At eleven o'clock in the morning
VMGR 252 Flightline
Marine Corps Air Station
Cherry Point, North Carolina

R.S.V.P. by 21 Apr 08

Military Attire: Service Charlies

Civilian Attire: Appropriate Attire

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