

The Golden Plume

District of North Carolina

July 2008



Master's Message

Worthy Sir Knights and Brothers All,

June has been a month that has very busy for many Assemblies across the state. We have had Veterans Day and flag destruction ceremonies, parades, Special Olympics, the passing of Monsignor James Jones, a 100th church anniversary and a number of Assembly Officer Installations. To all who have participated, Thank You! You have taken the time to show others that the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree is alive and well in North Carolina, and express your Catholicity and Patriotism.

As of this date, June 28th, a number of Assemblies have not yet submitted their Form 186, Officers Chosen For The Term, to the Vice Supreme Master and me. I have to believe as well, that they have not been submitted to Supreme either. The due date for this submission was Monday, June 30th. Without this form being completed, the Faithful Navigator will not be receiving his communications from Supreme nor will the Assembly be credited with having held elections. It is not difficult! It can be filed electronically from the Supreme web site and copies sent to both the VSM and DM at the same time.

Speaking about new officers for Assemblies, many of you have not yet planned your installations. There is a calendar on the State Council we site, under the Fourth Degree button, showing dates that have been confirmed for this purpose. It is not necessary for you to pick a date that I am available for installations since there are a number of Former Vice Supreme Masters and Masters who are willing to assist with installation ceremonies. Select a date, notify me of the details and I will arrange for someone to be there. Also, when arranging for an installation of officers, please remember, that I will also be bringing the District Marshal or one of the Assistant District Marshals to assist.

In some cases, it may be beneficial for more than one Assembly to join together for their installation. This is a great form of fraternalism since it gives the spouses an opportunity to visit with other Sir Knight wives as well. We often work with members of neighboring Assemblies but it's not often that the wives are included. Something to think about.

Are you having difficulty getting enough men in regalia for an event? Did the Color Corps Commander invite neighboring Assemblies to assist? Let me know what the event is and I will see if I can help get additional men to augment your Honor Guard. We recently had such a situation in Henderson for the 100th anniversary of St. James parish. Please see the note I received from the Faithful Navigator of Assembly 778, SK Tom Dupree on page 4.

Communication is so important to the success of our organization. If there is something going on in your area, the Bishop is going to be at your parish, the anniversary of a member of the clergy, etc., please let me know. If I, the VSM or another FVSM or FDM is available, maybe we could have some presence to show our support for the Fourth Degree. We can't attend if we are unaware that something is going on.

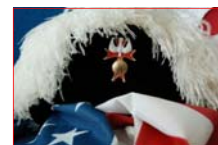
Are you recruiting for the Fourth Degree Exemplification to be held on October 25th at the Embassy Suites Hotel Greensboro Airport? There should be further information contained in this months publication. The cost for a candidate is still \$70.00. For this fee, the candidate receives his social baldric, the Fourth Degree emblem lapel pin and one (1) banquet ticket. Please remind all candidates that the tuxedo shirt must have a standard collar.

Please mark your calendars for the Charlotte Diocese Eucharistic Congress to be held October 3rd and 4th at the Charlotte Convention Center. We will need as many Sir Knights in regalia as possible. We are assigned a position in the procession immediately preceding the Eucharist, which is carried by Bishop Jugis through the streets of Charlotte. Please, make plans to attend. Former District Master Ron Carney once again agreed to chair this great event. I'm sure you will be seeing more information from Ron in the near future.

Finally, The Veterans Administration has announced that they will be opening 44 new Outpatient Clinics across the country within the next 15 months. Two of these new facilities will be opened in North Carolina. Robeson and Rutherford County's are designated for these new clinics. No opening dates have been published as of this time.

For all traveling during the month of July, be safe!

God bless,
SK Bob Grabasky, District Master





Sir Knight of the Month



This SK was a charter member of Msgr. Francis K. O'Brien Assembly 2254, Burlington, NC and has been a very active member to this day. He has been a member of Blessed Sacrament Parish since relocating to Burlington by AT&T over 30 years ago.

This SK has never held a leadership position with the 4th Degree due to his responsibility to an adult relative out of state. He would always say "I cannot promise where I will be tomorrow but if here will help". He has chaired numerous committees; especially our fund raisers and never one to say "no" will turn right around and chair another special committee to help out.

The 4th Degree is the Patriotic Arm of the Knights of Columbus and this SK will wear his Regalia for any and all occasions as required by the Color Commander and Faithful Navigator. This past November during a special event, he wore the Regalia to our annual Memorial Mass and Dinner and then wore it the next morning to two Masses as a special presentation was made at each Mass in memory of our Veterans.

Speaking of a special event – this event was the brain child of this SK – a tribute to all Parish Veterans – alive or deceased. His plan was for the Assembly to sponsor a photo type album with name, branch of military, years served, and a picture of the Veteran in a clear plastic sleeve and the album placed in front of the altar for Veteran's Weekend Masses. The project received a tremendous boost when over 270 parishioners submitted their forms with photos of beloved family Veterans. The Assembly received many thanks for a great remembrance for all Veterans and a promise to prepare one again for next year.

This SK is not idle – as he chairs the Pius X Council 3498's 5th Wednesday lunch at the local Homeless Shelter, has chaired the Bishop's Annual Appeal for the Parish, was chairman of a committee to rewrite and rework the Parish Council, then stepped aside to let someone else be Chairman. At the same time the Parish Council was being redrawn, this SK was chairman of the new Church Committee, the building site part and it was tough dealing with Army Corps of Engineers and NC State Dept. of Natural Health and Resources due to wetlands on the property.

I should also mention that he is a Minister of Hospitality at 5:00 PM Mass every Saturday and attends 8:00 AM Mass daily. This SK and a few elders of the Church would sit around a table on the patio of the rectory, after daily Mass, having coffee with the Parish Rector and this habit became so popular that the crew has now formed a special committee know as the "Coffee Clatch" to help Fr. Bob with special activities.

This SK lives in Graham, NC with his wife Kathleen and enjoys his train sets in his "spare time".

It is with great pleasure that Msgr. Francis K. O'Brien Assembly 2254 nominates our brother,

SK Charles V. Hirsch

as Sir Knight of the Month for July 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

SK Jack Murray, F.N.

District Master Comments: Sir Knight Charles V. Hirsch, on behalf of all of your Brother Sir Knights of the District of North Carolina, thank you for being who you are and congratulations for being our Sir Knight of the Month for July 2008.

District Master SK Robert J. Grabasky, PSD



Message from the Vice Supreme Master



Another Fraternal Year comes to a close. Overall the DeSoto Province has had a terrific year. We made 240% of our goal for New Assemblies. The Exemplifications were all very good, although we did not meet our goal of holding two Exemplifications for each District. Georgia, under the leadership of DM Herb Broughton held his two exemplifications and was the only District in the Province that made their membership goal. The Florida District, under the direction of DM Gary McLain held four (4) Exemplifications, all of which were excellent. Puerto Rico conducted their Exemplification on June 22, 2008 so I do not yet have their report, but I appreciate their holding this exemplification. Puerto Rico also started two (2) new Assemblies during the Fraternal Year.

The one area that the Province is failing in is REPORTS. Even though the District Masters reminded each Assembly of their failures, still some still failed to complete their required reports. The deadline for Form 186, Report of Officers for 2008/2009 was June 30, 2008. As of June 30 I show Florida with 37% missing Form 186, Georgia missing 61.5% Form 186, North Carolina missing 22.2% Form 186 and South Carolina missing 57% Form 186. This is completely unacceptable. I can assure you that some of the Assemblies who did not file their Form 186 will complain because they are not notified about information, by Supreme. The Form 186 is the only way Supreme can tell who the officers of an Assembly are.

The Civic Award forms were due at Supreme by June 30. I have only received a few copies of Civic Award Applications.

As we go into the 2008/2009 Fraternal Year let's make it every Assembly's goal to get all reports in on time, with copies sent to Supreme, the VSM and the District Master. Each Navigator is responsible for insuring these reports are done, on time.

We already have several Exemplifications scheduled for the fall of 2008, the first being in Coral Springs, Florida on August 23, 2008. I will do my best to attend all of the Exemplifications in the Province.

I will be attending the Vice Supreme Master's Annual Meeting in Quebec City on August 7 & 8, 2008. My plans now are to hold the Provincial Meeting for the District Masters on September 13, 2008. I will notify each Master of the location as soon as I can firm up Hotel Reservations.

Again I want to thank all of the District Masters in the DeSoto Province for their performance during this past Fraternal Year. I am looking forward to an even better year for 2008/2009.

Fraternally,

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



**Sir Knights in Regalia
The Visible Arm of the KofC**



See What Can Be Done!

The following message was received from Faithful Navigator Tom Dupree of Bishop McGuinness Assembly 778, Raleigh. What prompted this was a conversation and request to help at the Assembly's Officer Installation Ceremony at St. James the week preceding the celebration noted below.

Greetings SK Robert (Bob) Grabasky, District Master

Vivat Jesus!

On behalf of Bishop McGuinness Assembly, I would like to personally thank you for your support in our recruitment of Sir Knights in regalia for the 100th Anniversary Celebration of St. James Parish in Henderson, NC on Sunday, June 22, 2008. We had 22 Sir Knights including, SK Joseph (Joe) Dick, PSD, FDM; District Marshal SK Howard Brink, PFN, Assistant Dist. Marshal SK Wayne Kleven, PFN, SK Hadon Ware, Color Corps Commander, PFN, SK John Nussbaum, RDD 2, SK John Kilpatrick, PFN, SK Tom DuPree, FN along with Sir Knights from Henderson, Melbane, Burlington, Wendell, Rocky Mount, Fayetteville, and Raleigh.

The Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop, Diocese of Raleigh, and Rev. William (Bill) Upah were very appreciative of the support of the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus in supporting the parish celebration.

Please share this with your staff and our Sir Knights in your next newsletter.

Fraternally,
SK Thomas (Tom) DuPree, FN



I spied...

Father George A. Gunst
Assembly No. 2713
Swansboro, NC



A combined Community Flag Burning Ceremony was held June 14th, 2008 at St. Mildred Catholic Church, Swansboro. The 4th Degree Assembly along with the local American Legion Post 78 participated with members of the community attending. Faith Navigator Nick Nastasi presided. Father John Monihan led the prayers. Sir Knight John Nastasi, Sir Knight Don Broussard assisted with the ceremony. SK Joe Fountain and SK Craig Turnbull were in the Combined Honor Guard.

Picture courtesy of State Photography SK Lew McCloud