



The Golden Plume
District of North Carolina
December 2008



District Master's Message

Worthy Sir Knights and Brothers,

Vivat Jesus!

This is a bitter sweet article to write due to the loss of our beloved Father Robert T. Lawson, yet we are at the brink of the season of Advent and the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

First and foremost, I want to let everyone know how proud I am to be your District Master. The numbers of Sir Knights that participated in the services for Father Lawson was awesome, to say the least. The cooperation and camaraderie of the participants was a true showing of what I have always believed that the Knights of Columbus is all about.

Everyone rose to the fact that things needed to be done. Sir Knights volunteered. Commanders stepped forward. Everyone wanted everything to be correct and it showed. The Honor Guard was flawless. Not only at the church services but the cemetery as well. Thank you all.

I know there were many who could not attend for many reasons and that is normal. I also know that your prayers were with Father and his family. I will not name anyone for fear of missing someone, although I have named three who were outstanding in their efforts. (see Sir Knights of the Month).

On a different note, as we prepare for the coming of the Baby, let's all pray for one another and for those less fortunate than ourselves. Also for our men and women who serve around the world in our armed forces so that we can enjoy our freedom. Also, we should offer prayers for our president elect, regardless of your political beliefs, and for our outgoing president.

We will all go on and make the best of what we have. Be thankful for our families. Pray that those who have employment problems, that they be solved. We have a very understanding God who loves us all. Turn to him and seek his assistance.

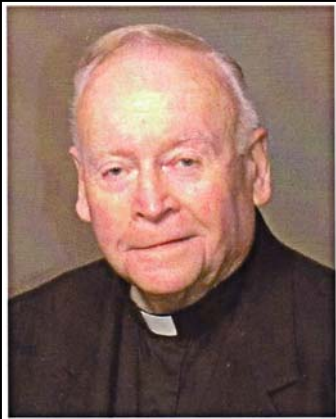
Let us also pray that the new year will see the canonization of our founder, Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney. He is a very powerful interceder so do not be afraid to ask for his assistance.

Finally, from our family to yours, we wish you and yours a very holy and happy Christmas season and a very holy, healthy, prosperous and happy New Year.

May God bless you and your families,

SK Robert J. "Bob" Grabasky, PSD
NC District Master





**Reverend
Robert T. Lawson**
Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.

The Rev. Robert T. Lawson, 84, died Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2008, in Pinehurst.

He was born Dec. 9, 1923, in Goldsboro, to Thomas J. Lawson and Gladys Burnette (Wilson) Lawson. He attended Catholic University of America. Before entering the seminary to study for the Diocese of Raleigh, Father Lawson was a Xaverian Brother. He studied for the priesthood at St. John Seminary in Brighton, Mass., and was ordained a Catholic priest for the Diocese of Raleigh on the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord, Feb. 2, 1962, at Immaculate Conception Church in Durham. He actively served as a priest of the Raleigh Diocese for 46 years even after his retirement in 1999.

During his priestly life, Father Lawson served in many ministries in the diocese. He served as coordinator of William Gaston Catholic High School in New Bern, chaplain at Pembroke State College and St. Andrews College, coordinator of Our Lady of the Hills Camp in Hendersonville, diocesan director of CCD, superintendent of schools, administrator of Cardinal Gibbons High School, diocesan director of Cursillo and Charismatic Prayer Group and served as advocate for the Diocesan Tribunal.

Father Lawson's ministerial assignments in the Diocese of Raleigh included: Christ the King, Kings Mountain (now part of the Diocese of Charlotte); Our Lady of Lourdes, Raleigh; Sacred Heart Cathedral, Raleigh; St. Mary, Laurinburg; Our Lady of Guadalupe, Newton Grove; St. Mary, Garner; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rocky Mount; St. Mary, Goldsboro; and Sacred Heart, Pinehurst, where he retired as pastor emeritus in 1999.

Father Lawson was a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus and served as the State Chaplain and District Friar to the Knights of Columbus in North Carolina.

He also served his community as a Catholic priest as a member of Lion's Club International, where he served as District J Governor in North Carolina.

He is survived by two sisters, Marie Lawson Jernigan and husband, Sam, Jr. of Goldsboro, and Dolores Lawson Harris and husband, Jack, of San Francisco, Calif.; three brothers, John Walter Lawson of Clemson, S.C.; Father Joseph Douglas Lawson, of Southport, and Mark Edward Lawson, of Asheville. A host of nieces and nephews also survive him.

Reception of the Body will be held Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008, at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Pinehurst at 3 p.m. with the Rev. William L. Pitts and the Rev. James M. Labosky. A Vigil for the Deceased will be held at 4 p.m. with Father David Brockman, Vicar General Diocese of Raleigh and the Homily will be given by Monsignor Jeffrey A. Ingham, dean of Fayetteville Deanery. The Prayer of the Holy Rosary will be held at 6 p.m. with Father Marcos Leon, state chaplain for N.C. Knights of Columbus.

The Funeral Mass will be held on Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, at 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Pinehurst with The Most Rev. Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Raleigh as principal celebrant and The Most Rev. F. Joseph Gossman, Bishop Emeritus of The Diocese of Raleigh as principal con-celebrant.

A reception will follow at Sacred Heart in Founders Hall. Burial will take place at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery in Goldsboro following the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions should be directed to Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, P.O. Box 1768, Pinehurst, NC 28370.





December 2008 Sir Knights of the Month

As all of you know, we lost our faithful friend and gallant supporter of not only the Knights of Columbus but the Fourth Degree as well. Father Robert T. Lawson has been called home to our Lord on November 19, 2008, after a long and difficult fight. Father Lawson will long be remembered for his constant words after the many Exemplifications he witnessed. After congratulating the new Sir Knights, he would always tell them, "...but you are not full Fourth Degree Knights until you have regalia". Father always championed regalia and loved to have an Honor Guard at his masses.

This month I would like to recognize three Sir Knights for their extraordinary and outstanding assistance during a most difficult time. Without their assistance and constant updates concerning Father's health, we, the Fourth Degree of North Carolina would not have been as well prepared to serve at his arrangements.

The Sir Knights so honored this month are

SK Joseph Brunner, PFN
SK Anthony Cappola, PFN
and
SK Raymond Gatti, PFN

all of Assembly 2069, Southern Pines. Sir Knights Cappola and Gatti kept us well informed of Father's deteriorating health. Sir Knight Cappola and his wife Haydee opened their home to Father's family, the Chorale and friends after the Sunday services. We are all grateful to them for their constant vigil and friendship.

Sir Knight Brunner, the Color Corps Commander for the Assembly, worked to set up an all night vigil while Father's body was in repose Sunday night at Sacred Heart Church. He also worked very closely with the District Marshal during all of the services that were held.

Thank you to this trio for everything they did during this most trying time.



Keep It Bright For Liberty's Sake!

SPECIAL INFORMATION
TO BE SHARED



The following information was received from our Vice Supreme Master, SK Robert J. Singer, after a VSM conference call with our new Supreme Master, SK Lawrence Costanza on November 13, 2008:

- Supreme is still experiencing problems with electronic reports, therefore, hard copies must be mailed to Supreme as well as all copies to the VSM and DM.
- All should have received their Faithful Navigator packages and the Laws and Rules book with a RED cover by now. If you have not received yours, please advise the District Master.
- The Revised Drill Manual is to be out in Early December.
- 4TH Degree PIN – Only one approved is the one issued by Supreme! No pin with rhinestones, whether received when you took your Fourth or purchased later, is to be worn!
- Mini Medals - Only K of C or Papal medals are to be worn. Military medals are NOT approved.
- Dome Fund – Approximately one-third of the assessment has been received. All funds are due to Supreme by June 1, 2009. This is an assessment, not a donation.
- To Be A Patriot Awards – Supreme is revising the due dates so the winners can be announced at the Supreme convention in August with awards being sent after that. Submissions must be in the hands of the District Master no later than May 15th. No exceptions!
- Fraternal Surveys and Civic Awards – We need 100% participation. EVERY Assembly does something! Submit an entry! You never can tell, you may be a winner! You owe it to the members.
- VAVS is now under Fraternal Services and all reports are to be sent to Fraternal Services. The Fourth Degree will continue to be the representatives for this program.
- Fourth Degree membership as of October, 2008 is 304,366. There have been 27 new Assemblies added so far this year, with 2,970 new members and 3,467 losses. Losses are mainly due to deaths.
- Pledge of Allegiance – NO “Born and Unborn” to be added! ALL MEANS ALL.
- Calls to the Fourth Degree Office at Supreme – The ladies in the office are very knowledgeable and always willing to help. Treat them with respect as Sir Knights should. You get more with honey than with vinegar.

All of the above are from Supreme and are not subject to debate OR individual preference.



District Master Grabasky



Supreme Master Costanza



Vice Supreme Master Singer

An Open Invitation to All Sir Knights



Worthy Faithful Navigators:

January 22, 2009 is the day for the March for Life in Washington D.C. North Carolina participates, not only in the march, but at the Mass for Life in the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception located at 4th St. and Michigan Ave. N.E. The Mass this year is scheduled for 11:30 A.M. and will be Celebrated by Bishops Jugis and Burbidge of North Carolina.

Following the Mass last year we were approached by our Bishops and asked why the Fourth Degree did not lead them in for Mass. We told them we would be there for them this year. As a result, we need to inquire of all of our members as to the number of Fourth Degree Sir Knights who would be attending the march, and who would be willing to bring their Regalia for Mass.

NOTE: SWORDS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE BASILICA. Service Baldrics will be worn.

The one main concern so far has been the wearing of the Tuxedo for the march. You may wear it if you want, but there will be ample time to change into street clothes following the Mass. I would suggest wearing your tuxedo trousers and shirt enroute to Washington and then dress for Mass just prior to arrival at the Basilica. We will make prior arrangements for a dressing room at the Basilica, after the Mass.

I do not need to tell you how important this is to our Bishops. Please ask all of your Sir Knights to make every effort to attend, and in Regalia.

Sir Knight Joe Brunner is coordinating this effort and all inquiries should be forwarded to him. He will be out of town until the 21st of December. Email jbrunnernc@hotmail.com or call (910) 315-1812 with the number of your Sir Knights who will be attending.

SK Robert J. Grabasky, PSD
NC District Master

Also, do not forget this event that needs your full cooperation and attendance if possible.



2009 Annual Rally and March for Life - Raleigh NC

January 17, 2009

1:00 p.m. - Nash Square

(corner of Hargett and McDowell Streets, Raleigh, NC)

Join other pro-lifers to stand up for life and to display proudly your Council or Assembly banner in support of life.

Vice Supreme Master Newsletter



It is with heavy heart that I write this newsletter. On Wednesday, November 19, 2008, Father Robert T. Lawson, the Sir Knight of Sir Knights in North Carolina was called home to his Master. Father Lawson had served as my State Chaplain, and also my Faithful Friar, during my terms as State Deputy and District Master. He also had served many other State Deputies. There was never a bigger backer of the Knights of Columbus, in North Carolina, than Father Lawson. He was responsible for starting 31 Councils in North Carolina and also very active in starting several Assemblies. He always told new Sir Knights that to become a full Sir Knight you need your Regalia. I ask all to keep Father Lawson in your prayers.

November has been an active month for the DeSoto Province. I read all of the Bulletins I receive and it is great to see all the activity going on in the Province. I encourage all to keep up the great work.

On November 29 I attended a terrific Exemplification in Orlando, Florida. 228 New Sir Knights received their Fourth Degree at this exemplification. I have to say that I have never seen a Degree Team do a better job than this Florida Team did for this exemplification. This class was as diversified as any I have ever seen. Included in the class was 2 former Chief Squires, each 18 ½ years old. On the other end of the spectrum was a 94 year old candidate. Also included was a Father, his son, a priest and another son, who had just got married the previous day. The Priest was from Switzerland and had returned to the U.S. to marry his brother. We also had another Priest who received his degree, whose parents were present from Poland. Also included in this class were five candidates from St. Lucia, who took their Fourth Degree. This makes 14 Sir Knights living in St. Lucia. They, and their Bishop, would like to get enough Sir Knights to start their own Assembly. Each of these five new Sir Knights had already purchased regalia so they can serve in Honor Guards when they go back home.

Another subject dear to my heart is the Wounded Warrior Program. This year we have 229 Wounded Warriors located in the two hospitals in North Carolina. The donations are a little slower this year than last year, but in talking with Assemblies I am told that many are soliciting in their parishes in early December. I want to thank the District Master of Florida, Gary McLain, for his \$1,000 donation to this worthy cause at the Florida Exemplification Banquet.

Even though these Wounded Warriors are from every state in the Union, they happen to be in NC military hospitals. All donations should be made out to M.O.P.H. (Military Order of the Purple Heart) and sent to me; Robert Singer, VSM, 2506 Canal Drive, Wilson, NC 27896. All contributions are Tax Deductible.

I want to thank all of the Donors from last year who contributed a total of \$58,300 to send home 120 Warriors. The Knights of Columbus was the largest contributor to this cause last year. Let's do it again this year.

As always, if I can be of any service to any of the Assemblies or any Sir Knight, please contact me and let me know.

I want to wish everyone a very Happy Holiday.



Vivat Jesus,

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

