



*The Golden Plume*  
*District of North Carolina*  
*January 2010*



**District  
Master's Report**

Worthy Sir Knights and Brothers All,  
Vivat Jesus!

**District Master's  
Report**

Happy New Year to all of you your loved ones! I hope 2010 will be a holy, healthy and prosperous year for all.

Closing the calendar year on 2009, I know that all Assemblies and members have been extremely busy. Thank you for publicizing the Order by participating in many various events in your regalia. We are all aware that the Catholic population recognizes the Fourth Degree as the Knights of Columbus. We are the ambassadors of the Order.

The church has reached the half way point in "The Year of the Priest" and I see a great deal of activity both by Assemblies and Councils, working together to honor our clergy. There have been masses, rosaries and celebrations already held and I know of future plans for the balance of this special time.

The balance of this months article is somewhat of a repeat of things mentioned last month with added information. Please take the time to look over the following points to see what has been added.

**Mark Your Calendars:**

Your Assembly Supreme report for Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity, Form #1728 in the Forms booklet, will be due **January 31, 2010**. Please do not wait until your January meeting to begin working on the data. I expect 100% participation for the North Carolina Assembly's. EVERY Assembly holds more than two meetings, members visit sick Sir Knights, make bereaved visitations, are ushers, readers and Eucharistic ministers, to name a few. Complete this part of the report and send it in. You owe it to your members. I have already received two completed forms and I thank those Assembly officers.

If I do not receive a copy of your report 5 days before the due date, I will file one for you stating only that you held 2 meetings during the year. **DO NOT FILE THE REPORT ELECTRONICALLY! IT MUST BE MAILED!** The electronic filing for the Fourth Degree **DOES NOT WORK!**

**PRO-LIFE** - There will be two marches in North Carolina. The first will be in Charlotte on Friday, January 15, 2010. More information available on the State web page [kofcnc.org](http://kofcnc.org). The following day will be in Raleigh, Saturday, January 16, 2010. More information is available on the North Carolina Right to Life web site [www.ncrtl.org](http://www.ncrtl.org). On Friday, January 22, 2010, the National Right to Life march in Washington, DC. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS.**

**Continued on Page 2**



**District Master's Message cont.**

**Regional Exemplification** in the western part of the state. It will be held on Saturday, April 24, 2010, at Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Waynesville, NC. The Exemplification will be a one day event. Candidate fees are \$70.00. The class will be limited to 45 candidates. I would suggest that you get your information together and mail it to the Master to ensure the candidate has a reservation. A light lunch will be served after the Exemplification at a cost of \$15.00 for all non-candidates. No additional cost to candidates as the lunch is included in their fee.

The Biennial District Meeting will be held on March 17, 2010 at the Council home of Piedmont Council 939, 2730 Horse Pen Creek Road, Greensboro, NC and hosted by the Abbot Vincent G. Taylor Assembly # 779. The meeting will start at 10:00 am with a light lunch served. I would expect to be done and on the road by no later than 2:00 pm. This meeting is required by the Fourth Degree By-Laws and I would hope that each Assembly will have at least one representative in attendance. One item of business will be the recommendation of at least three Sir Knight names to Supreme for the position of District Master. As you know, this is a two year appointment and my current term will end in September 2010. This will not be an election, only a recommendation to the Supreme Master. The Supreme Board of Directors will make the final decision on the appointment.

Wounded Warrior Leave Program was once again a huge success this past year, thanks to the Assembly's, Councils and individuals that opened their treasuries and wallets to support this great program. I do not have the final numbers but I believe the Vice Supreme Master will comment to that in his article. I do know that we at least equaled, if not surpassed, last years (2008) total donation. Thank You All!

As always, thank you for all that each of you do for your Assemblies, the Order and this District Master. You continually make North Carolina stand out in the entire Fourth Degree.

God bless you all and keep up the great work you are doing.

Fraternally,

SK Robert J. (Bob) Grabasky, PSD  
Master of the District



## Sir Knights and Regalia



The recent incident in Rome during the Holy Father's procession before mid-night mass and what could have been a more serious attack than it was precipitates my following comments:

**When we as Sir Knights are in regalia, we are there to visibly protect the Eucharist and our clergy. We do not “perform” but rather are present to honor and protect.**

With that in mind, we have to look the part. By that, I mean that we must give the appearance that we are both willing and able to protect the Eucharist and clergy. If we look sloppy, what image do we portray?

Be proud to wear your regalia. Keep it in tip-top condition. Press the cape prior to an event if it needs it. Have your service baldric dry cleaned if is soiled. Put a coat of polish on your shoes. Gloves should be pristine and not have holes.

Most of the above is common sense, but sometimes it's nice to be reminded. Take a few extra steps when getting dressed for an event and look over your regalia. Practice replacing your sword in the scabbard. Do this in front of mirror. Nothing looks worse than heads dipping down to look for the scabbard slot.

Commanders, you should be holding practices prior to events so the participating members are aware of what routines will be followed. Being prepared the key to any successful event! We want all Sir Knights to enjoy their participation.

Remember, the Marshall and I are willing to come and help anyone that would like to have demonstrations. All it takes is an email or telephone call.

SK Bob Grabasky  
District Master





*Senator Albert J. Ellis Assembly # 1541*  
*Sir Knight of the Month*

In recognition of his many outstanding accomplishments, Sir Knight Edward D. Blizard Jr. is enthusiastically awarded Senator Albert J Ellis Assembly's Sir Knight of the Month for the month. Sir Knight Edward has served his Assembly in many billets to include Faithful Navigator. As the current Faithful Comptroller he has had the daunting task of updating not only the Assembly's financial accounts, but the roster as well. Through determination and many tireless hours, he has created an electronic file of all Sir Knights that has greatly improved communication within the Assembly. His dedication to the Order, his Assembly, and his fellow Knights, along with his commitment to Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism, make Sir Knight Edward D. Blizard Jr. truly deserving of this award.

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Kenneth S. Fischler  
Faithful Navigator, Assembly #1541

Sir Knight Blizard, thank you for all that you do and represent as a Sir Knight.

Bob Grabasky, DM



**Knights of Columbus**  
 Father Stanley Grubitz Assembly 2379  
 1453 N. Road St.  
 Elizabeth City, NC 27909



Sir Knight of the Month:

In recognition of his many outstanding accomplishments and contributions,

## **Sir Knight James A. Jackson**

is enthusiastically recognized as the Father Stanley Grubitz Sir Knight of the Month. Sir Knight Jim is one of the most active members of the assembly in the promotion of our primary principle: Patriotism. As a retired U.S. Army Sergeant Major, Sir Knight Jim actively seeks opportunities for the assembly to participate in Color Guards, Honor Guards, Memorial Observances, Parades, and other Celebrations where the display of the United States flag is done with respect and admiration. Sir Knight Jim is also highly regarded in the local community as a guest speaker for patriotic events. He was the coordinator, Master of Ceremonies, and guest speaker for this year's 9/11 memorial service, bringing together at least 5 separate civic organizations in a joint ceremony. Sir Knight Jim is also very active in several Military Support organizations. He visits the local Senior Citizens home several times a week, ensuring all residents' needs are attended to, bringing with him the reputation of the Knights of Columbus as supporters of the needy. He coordinates two blood drives a year, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and conducted at the local VFW, bringing those two organizations together. He is a constant presence in church services as a Eucharistic Minister and/or Lector, taking communion to several nursing homes. Additionally, he spends a great deal of time finding furniture and clothing for the needy.

His dedication to the Order, his Assembly, and his fellow Knights, along with his commitment to Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism make Sir Knight James A. Jackson truly deserving of this award.

**Jason Martin**  
**Faithful Navigator**

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Sir Knight Jackson, thank you for all that you do and represent as a Sir Knight.

Bob Grabasky, DM



## VICE SUPREME



## MASTER'S JANUARY NEWSLETTER

I hope this newsletter finds each of you and your families having had a very Joyous and Enjoyable Christmas. I was able to spend the Christmas season in Oklahoma, visiting two of my daughters and their families. Being with family makes the Christmas season more special to me. I guess the only part of this season that I did not appreciate was the many "Holiday Parades", held by local city fathers, throughout the Province. We must never lose sight of the real meaning of Christmas. We must stand up for our faith, even if some of our public officials seem to cower to the minority of the population. We cannot allow this country to be anything but a Christian Nation.

I had a broken computer for the December Newsletter, therefore I missed getting some of my thoughts included. First I want to express my appreciation to the Georgia and Florida for their excellent job of conferring a Fourth Degree Exemplification, in Atlanta and Orlando. Georgia gained 196 New Sir Knights and Florida gained 255 New Sir Knights. 14 of Florida's New Sir Knights were Priests. This was the largest class of Clergy I had ever witnessed.

We also held our 2009 Provisional Meeting on November 14 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. At this meeting I was able to convey to all of the District Masters, in the Province information I gained at the Annual VSM meeting in New Haven, as well as other information I had learned from The Supreme Office. I feel that this meeting was very fruitful and I appreciate the District Masters input.

**REPORTS:** Do not forget that EVERY ASSEMBLY is required to complete and file their Survey of Fraternal Activity for 2009. This report is due at Supreme, VSM Office and District Master's home by January 31, 2009. NO EXCEPTIONS.

**DOME FUND:** I have written about this for several months. We still have a number of Assemblies in the DeSoto Province, who have made NO DONATION to date. The Supreme Master has issued a letter to each District Master regarding their states performance. We are still short nearly 100,000 of the \$500,000, the Fourth Degree Committed to furnish for the Dome Project. This commitment was to the Supreme Knight. I beg each Assembly to do their part in correcting this problem. If the records, as given to you do not match your records, send me your information along with cancelled checks to back up your records. I will get this straightened out at Supreme.

**WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM:** I want to thank every Assembly who have contributed to this very worthwhile program. On December 8, I was able to attend a reception for 50 of the Wounded Warriors in New Bern, NC. There were some 250 people present to let these warriors know that we appreciate their service to our country. This was a fund raising event for the Christmas Home program. To date the Knights of Columbus, in the DeSoto Province have raised nearly \$45,000. This is short of our goal of \$75,000 but due to the economic conditions of our country, I can understand. On December 18 during visits to the two hospitals, the MOPH gave every Wounded Warrior his gift of a trip home for the Holidays. We will be short on funds collected, this year, so please even if your donation is a little late, it will still be used for this program. Donations should be sent to me at: Robert J. Singer, VSM 2506 Canal Drive Wilson, NC 27896. All checks should be made out to MOPH. Receipts will be mailed to donors, for TAX purposes.

We will still need a good number of new Sir Knights during the last 6 months of the year, to meet our goal. Also, although New Assemblies are coming in at a good rate, we still can use more to continue to lead the Order in this category.

Again if I can be of any assistance to anyone, don't hesitate to contact me. Also your District Master will be glad to assist with any question you may have.

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

## Directory Updates

**Assembly 779** - Greensboro  
Color Corps Commander  
New email - [tomlee@triad.rr.com](mailto:tomlee@triad.rr.com)

**Assembly 2538** - Roanoke Rapids  
New Faithful Navigator is -  
SK Donald J. Martin  
114 Sunset Circle  
Henrico, NC 27842-9432



## 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Church Rename Assembly in honor of Rev Robert T. Lawson

The 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Church, Southport held a dinner/ ceremony in November to recognize the renaming of the Assembly in Memory of Rev. Robert T. Lawson who passed away last year. Father Bob was a former pastor of Sacred Heart Church and was instrumental in the founding of the local council ten years ago. He played a statewide role as Chaplain of the North Carolina Knights of Columbus. Leading the evening's program were Faithful Navigator Gene Preziosi, Rev Doug Lawson (Father Bob's brother and also a Past Pastor of Sacred Heart), and North Carolina State Deputy Dave Jones.

