

The Golden Plume
District of North Carolina
December 2011



Worthy Sir Knights and Brothers All,
Vivat Jesus!

District Master's Report

As we enter into the season of Advent, we prepare for the coming of the Christ child on Christmas day. I am more than a little upset with the growing trend of the use of the word holiday instead of Christmas. Once again, we are being forced to be “politically correct”. Or are we? If we all wished everyone a “Merry Christmas” maybe, just maybe, it would force others not to think and return our greeting in kind. After all, this is the celebration of the birth of Christ. Let’s not let the rest of society forget the reason for the season! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

- By now, all Faithful Navigators should have received an email from me explaining the latest program that Supreme has agreed to sponsor. (All three letters can be seen elsewhere in this issue) It is known as the “**Catholic Chaplains Seminarian Fund**”. Last month, the Worthy Vice Supreme Master explained it in his article. I hope you have read it. If not, go to the State Council web page and call up last month’s Golden Plume. If every Assembly would commit to sending a donation of \$100.00 per year for the next four years, I believe that the goal will be met. If individuals wish to donate, that is also acceptable. A check for \$5.00 here and another check for \$5.00 there, will not only help the program, but will also ensure that a number of seminarians will be assisted. Some will remain as chaplains while others will return to their home diocese. Everybody wins with the support of this program.
- Are you aware that there is a **VAVS (Veterans Administration Volunteer Service) program**, an initiative of the Fourth Degree? As the name implies, volunteers are always needed at the various VA hospitals and clinics in North Carolina and other states. If you are interested in assisting “Those Who Served”, please contact Sir Knight Tom DuPree, VAVS coordinator for the District of North Carolina. Tom can put you in touch with the VAVS representative in your area who can advise you on how you can help. Tom’s email address is twdupree@aol.com and his cell phone is 919-302-5550. This is a most rewarding ministry and our veterans love to see the volunteers.
- The **Biennial District Meeting with be held in Kernersville, Saturday, March 24th, 2012, beginning at 10:00 am.** This meeting is required by the Supreme by-laws. At this meeting three names will be selected to be forwarded to Supreme as nominations for District Master for the following two year period commencing September 1st, 2012. This is not an election, as the Master is chosen by the Supreme Master and the Board of Directors. Other items of District business will also be discussed. Every Assembly is strongly encouraged to have attendance at this meeting.
- There will be a **Regional Fourth Degree Exemplification held on Saturday, April 21st, 2012, in Waynesville, NC.** This will be a one day event with the degree beginning at 12:00 noon, followed by a light lunch. There will not be a mass after the exemplification. All activity should be completed no later than 3:30 pm, allowing all attendees to arrive home at a reasonable hour.

Continued on Page 2

District Master Continues...



- Please remember to mark your calendar for **January 13th, 2012 and January 14th, 2012.** These are the dates of the **Pro-Life marches in Charlotte and Raleigh, respectively.** Also, **January 23rd, 2012, in Washington, DC, is the date for the 39th Annual March For Life.** Think of the number of abortions that have occurred in that 39 year period in our country.
- During this special time of Advent, please remember to pray for all of our sick and deceased Brothers and their families, I would ask that you pray for our District Marshal, Howard Brink, as he is undergoing some major difficulties and trying to regain a life after a long illness.

It is my family's hope that each and every one of you and your family members enjoy a most Happy, Holy and Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year! If you are travelling during the Christmas season, please be safe.

God bless you all for all that you that you do for the Order, your church and your community.

SK Bob Grabasky, Master
Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree
North Carolina District



NC District Marshal
SK Howard R. Brink, PFN
August 12, 1947
December 12, 2011



Vice Supreme Masters Message

Worthy Master's and all Sir Knights',

November has been another busy month. Two Exemplifications were held in the De Soto Province.

The first was in Lilburn, Georgia, where 133 received their Fourth Degree, which included 14 Priests. Master Tom Giskey did a great job in getting this large compliment of Priests to receive their Fourth Degree. The ladies were entertained at a Tea and the formal banquet was well attended.

Thanksgiving weekend, the Florida District held an Exemplification in Orlando. A total of 294 received their Fourth Degree and this included 10 Priests. The 185 women present at their luncheon were entertained with a musical program. The formal banquet was attended by 730.

The next scheduled Exemplification will take place in February.

I call your attention to pages 8-12 in the November issue of the Columbian magazine. Please read the article concerning the Military Chaplain's Scholarship Program. Our Order will provide the seed money to establish this Program in the amount of \$1,000,000.00. Information on the Program was distributed to all State Deputies and Masters during October. All Districts in the De Soto Province were asked to have all donations sent to me. A spread sheet will be made so that I can advise each State Deputy and District Master as to how his State is doing on donations. Results have been very slow to this point. Donations have been received from all Districts except South Carolina. At this time, only Florida has achieved the one year goal of \$4,000.00 or more. We need to see some action from the other four Districts in the Province. Our military men and women need to have a Catholic Chaplain close by to celebrate Mass, provide reconciliation, spiritual guidance and last rites. Please be generous in your donations to make this Program a success. It is a five year program with each District asked to raise \$4,000.00 per year for a total of \$20,000.00. This includes donations from not only Assemblies but Councils as well as individuals. Of course, we would like to conclude the Program long before the five year goal. With each District in the United States contributing \$20,000.00, the goal of \$1,000,000.00 will be met. What will your District be doing for Vocations?

Joan and I wish each of you a very Blessed and Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Fraternally,

SK Gary L. McLain, VSM
DeSoto Province





Wounded Warriors

As Christmas draws near, I would like to remind all that we will be issuing the checks to the Wounded Warriors, for their trips home, on December 15, 2011. If you have not yet sent in your donation to this very worthy cause, please do so as soon as possible.

It is encouraging to hear that we are bringing a lot of our servicemen and women home by Christmas. Please keep these Service People in your prayers. Many will come home with some terrible memories, which can cause mental illness.

To date the KofC donations to the Wounded Warriors stand at a little over \$36,000. I am told that there is much more to come.

I cannot express my appreciation to everyone who has worked on the Program. I will give you all the Final Amount Donated in the January Newsletter.

God Bless You All.

Robert J. "Bob" Singer, FVSM
2506 Canal Drive
Wilson, NC 27896-1326
rjskofc@nc.rr.com
(252) 237-8007



NC District Sir Knights of the Month



Congratulations to the North Carolina District Sir Knights for the Month of December 2011.

Senator Albert J. Ellis Assembly No. 1541

In recognition of his many outstanding accomplishments, **Sir Knight John J. Caskey** is enthusiastically nominated for District Sir Knight of the Month. Sir Knight John supports his Order and Parish through many programs. He is a Perpetual Adorer at Infant of Prague who not only fulfills his obligation, but substitutes several times each month for absent Adorers.

He was instrumental in the recent Operation L.A.M.B. dinner by preparing and serving the meal, serving and cleaning up monthly for the Knights of Columbus breakfast, and assisting with the Assembly's art auction fund-raiser.

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

Kenneth S. Fischler
Past Faithful Navigator, Assembly #1541

Outer Banks Assembly No. 2989

Our assembly would like to nominate **Sir Knight Dan Beall** for the District Sir Knight of the Month. He is currently the Pilot of our Assembly.

Dan faithfully keeps the flags flying every day at Holy Redeemer by the Sea church in Kitty Hawk. He keeps the flags in repair and orders new flags as necessary through the assembly and also personally replaces the papal flags at his own expense as necessary.

Dan and his wife have a condominium which they have placed in the vacation for veterans program again entirely at their expense. Their first vacationer this month was a wounded warrior who had lost his leg.

Dan and his wife are among the principal fund raisers for the Outer Banks Crisis Pregnancy Center. He has distributed baby bottles to council members, which are to be filled up with change and returned to help fund the center. They were also very instrumental in raising funds for the purchase of an ultra sound machine for the center.

Dan truly exemplifies the very best example of our virtues of patriotism and charity and he is very deserving of this award.

Norman B. St. Laurent, FN
John W. Brennan, FC

NC District Sir Knights of the Month



Congratulations to the North Carolina District Sir Knights for the Month of December 2011.

Msgr. Francis K. O'Brien Assembly No. 2254

For his accomplishments and contributions, Assembly 2254 nominates **Sir Knight Paul Spire** for the North Carolina District Knight of the Month.

Sir Knight Spire serves as Faithful Admiral for Assembly 2254 and currently holds the position of District(10) Warden. He is also a past Grand Knight.

Practicing the principal of Patriotism, this Sir Knight is a volunteer at the USO located in the RDU Airport, participates in the Assembly's bingo games for the VA Hospital patients, coordinated efforts to send personal supplies to our troops overseas and is a member of the Honor Guard.

Sir Knight Spire is a member of the Second Degree and Fourth Degree Teams. He doesn't hesitate to respond to the needs of the Assembly or Council when needed. He is also helping to create a Columbiette Extension for the women in his parish.

This Sir Knight is an active member of Blessed Sacrament Parish and serves as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharistic.

Sir Knight Paul Spire is truly deserving of this acknowledgement.

Fraternally,
SK John Constantine,
Faithful Navigator





Knights of Columbus
Fourth Degree, North Carolina District



Robert J. Grabasky, Master
608 Pleasant Drive
Greensboro, NC 27410-5334
November 12, 2011

Subject: Military Chaplain Scholarship Donation (s)

Worthy Faithful Navigator and Brother,

Enclosed are two letters which will explain in detail the project which the Knights of Columbus have recently initiated. The first letter from the Supreme Master, Sir Knight Dennis J. Stoddard, is addressed to both the State Deputy and the District Master of all United States Jurisdictions. In this letter, the Supreme Master describes the back ground and reason that this endeavor has been initiated.

The second letter is from our Vice Supreme Master, Sir Knight Gary L. McLain and addressed to the District Master. A duplicate of this letter was also sent to the State Deputy. In his letter, The VSM explains exactly how the program works, the minimum dollar amount that each jurisdiction is requested to make each year for the next four years. He also describes how the checks are to be made out and where they are to be sent.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that I whole heartedly support this great project. The State Deputy, Sir Knight Gregory Kent is also in agreement and will roll out the package at the State Council Mid-Year meetings. Bear in mind, this Jurisdiction Program. This means that both Councils and Assembly's will participate in this one common program. In that regard, I have sent the proceeds from the Exemplification mass to the VSM toward the Jurisdictions goal in the amount of \$1,565.00.

How can you participate? Be creative or use one or more of the suggestions below:

- Do you still have a chalice fund on the Assembly books? Use that money.
- Pass the hat at Assembly meetings for this purpose, then send the check.
- Hold an event and donate the proceeds.
- Ask your pastor if you can hold a special collection.
- Ask your parishioner friends to make a donation.
- Ask the members to consider making a direct donation and give them the address where it is to be sent.

This program can be a winner for us all. We will gain both diocesan priests and Military Chaplains. What could be better than that!

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 336 299 7151 or email rjgkofc@bellsouth.net.

God bless you all.

Respectfully,

Robert J. Grabasky D.M.




Knights of Columbus

Fourth Degree
MEMORANDUM

Phone: Bus: (203) 752-4579
Fax: (203) 752-4224
E-mail: dennis.stoddard@kofc.org

DENNIS J. STODDARD
Supreme Master

**TO: U.S. STATE DEPUTIES
U.S. DISTRICT MASTERS**

**FROM: DENNIS J. STODDARD 
SUPREME MASTER**

RE: MILITARY CHAPLAIN SCHOLARSHIP

Date: OCTOBER 6, 2011

To support priestly vocations for the military, the Knights of Columbus has established the new military chaplain scholarship, reserved exclusively for seminarians who will, once ordained, serve both their home diocese and the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, as a uniformed chaplain.

Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Military Archdiocese has reported that he could not estimate the amount of good that this new initiative will have for the spiritual welfare of military personnel and their families.

The U.S. Military Archdiocese, which supplies Catholic chaplains, estimates that it needs 800 priests to fully serve all of the Catholic men and woman in uniform today, but they are only able to supply 280-barely a third of the number needed.

Through the Knights program, the military archdiocese contracts with each participating diocese to fund 50 percent of the cost of a seminarians five-year education-typically \$12,500 per year.

In return, the candidate agrees that, following ordination and three years of service at the parish, he will commit to serve as a military chaplain under the auspices of the military archdiocese for a minimum of three to five years.

The Supreme Council Board of Directors has charged the Fourth Degree of the Order of the Knights of Columbus to lead an Order wide campaign to raise \$200,000 per year for the next five years.

Our goal is to have each State Deputy and District Master in the Continental United States work together to raise just \$4,000 from their jurisdiction for this program. Many state jurisdictions currently have successful vocations programs and could easily donate \$4,000. Others can organize a statewide campaign and offer each council and assembly the opportunity to become part of this campaign by hosting an event or simply making a donation to the program.

Without doubt, a \$4,000 donation should not burden any of our jurisdictions. State Deputies and District Masters working hand in hand should have no problem meeting this challenge and can certainly surpass it. Please make checks payable to **Knights of Columbus**. In Memo area, write: **Military Scholarship**

A Vice Supreme Master serving as an area field coordinator for this program will be contacting you soon to assist you in designing your campaign for optimal success.

Cc. Vice Supreme Masters



Gary L. McLain
Vice Supreme Master
Knights of Columbus
DeSoto Province
36 Currant Avenue
Middleburg, Florida 32068
(904) 406-2718 garymc36@comcast.net

October 11, 2011

Worthy District Master:

The U.S. Military Archdiocese, which supplies Catholic chaplains to our military troops, estimates that it needs 800 Priests to fully serve all the Catholic men and women in uniform today. Unfortunately, there are only 280 currently assigned to the Archdiocese, barely a third of the number needed. In order to help with this dire need, the Knights of Columbus has established a new scholarship program to help fund the education of seminarians preparing to become Catholic chaplains in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The program will distribute \$1,000,000.00 in scholarship money to the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, over a period of five years at a rate of \$200,000.00 per year. Fundraising for the Orderwide project will be led by the Fourth Degree, the patriotic degree of the Knights. The scholarship money will be dedicated to the Archdiocese's "Co-sponsored Seminarian Program," which was initiated to recruit priestly vocations for the military to benefit the armed forces as well as participating diocese and religious orders throughout the country. Through this program, the Military Archdiocese contracts with each participating diocese to fund 50% of the cost of a seminarian's five year education – typically \$12,500.00 per year. In return the candidate agrees that, following ordination and three years of service at a parish, he will commit to serve as a military chaplain under the auspices of the Military Archdiocese for a minimum of three to five years.

I am one of five Vice Supreme Masters selected to serve as an area coordinator for this program. The jurisdictions in my area to coordinate are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

We have placed a goal of \$4,000.00 per year for each jurisdiction for the next five years, a total of \$20,000.00 per jurisdiction. The total goal of \$1,000,000.00 will be achieved with 50 states at \$20,000.00 each. Of course, we wish to achieve the total goal as soon as possible. Any donations received over the \$4,000.00 annual goal will be credited to the next year's goal of that jurisdiction. Each State Deputy will receive information from me disclosing how much was received from his jurisdiction and by whom.

The procedure will be as follows:

Donors will make a check payable to the "Knights of Columbus." In the memo section of the check please write "Military Scholarship." Mail all checks to Gary L. McLain, VSM, 36 Currant Ave., Middleburg, FL 32068. Upon receipt of the checks, a spread sheet will be completed for each jurisdiction, showing the donor, amount, check number, and date received. Spread sheet and checks will be forwarded to the Supreme Master's office where the checks will be deposited into the proper account. I will be forwarding a copy of the spread sheet to the State Deputy for appropriate use.

This is a very important program and we appreciate your cooperation by advising all Councils, Assemblies, Auxiliaries, and total membership in your jurisdiction the information concerning this program. It is a win-win for our Church, the Order and our men and women who are serving our Country.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (904) 406-2718.

Fraternally,

Gary L. McLain, VSM
cc: Supreme Master