



The Golden Plume
District of North Carolina
November 2007

Master's Message



Worthy Sirs,

Vivat Jesus!

I would like to congratulate all of our new Sir Knights who attained the Honor of becoming Fourth Degree members at the exemplification held in Concord on Saturday, October 20th at the new Embassy Suites Hotel. Congratulations also go to the Faithful Navigators and their Officers of the 29 Assembly's for presenting 177 candidates for the exemplification, which included five priests. A magnificent class!

Those in attendance, whether as a candidate or observer, were treated to an outstanding Exemplification, as the team, under the direction of SK Ron Carney, PSD, FDM, performed flawlessly. My thanks to the team members for their dedication and attention to the details of our ceremonials, which is no easy task. Your performance was one of the best I have yet to see. There were a number of positive comments for your presentation. Thank you again.

I also extend my thank you to the hard work, support and guidance of our now Vice Supreme Master, SK Bob Singer and his wife Marge. They were there every step of the way ensure that your new Master was successful. And to our District Secretary, SK Greg Ciesielski and his wife Lisa, without whose help I would certainly been constantly fumbling.

Finally, to the Color Guard and all of the District staff, both old and new for all of their hard work and without their unselfish assistance, the Exemplification would not have occurred as beautiful as it was. These men and ladies carry out their duties willfully and discreetly and all have my utmost trust in their abilities. Thank you all.

Our Honoree for the Exemplification was Supreme Director SK John Harrison, PSD. John, as always, gave a very humble and informative acceptance speech. It is always a pleasure to have SK Harrison with us. As an added treat, John's son Greg also became a Sir Knight that day. A proud day for any father.

At the Sunday morning Faithful Navigators meeting, I outlined Supremes, and my, guidelines for the wearing of pins when in regalia, the "Dome Project", the Wounded Warriors program, and several other items. I hope your FN's will inform the membership at their next meeting. The list of the guidelines mentioned above are printed elsewhere in this edition.

Happy Thanksgiving to All Sir Knights & Their Families

God Bless You All and God Bless America!

Bob Grabasky, District Master



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Sir Knight of the Month



The Sir Knight of the month for November is a man who is a member of all four degree teams in the State. He superbly performs his roles on the First, Second, Third and Fourth Degree teams and is always available to assist teams outside of his council and or district. There was one incident when he was teaching on the west coast, flew to North Carolina to perform his degree role and returned to California for a Monday continuation of the course. That is the dedication this Sir Knight has to degree work.

Additionally, given his heavy traveling schedule due to his job, he writes a monthly column for his council's newsletter on Catholicism. This Sir Knight is very well versed in the bible and keeps abreast of the current events that take place within our faith and then writes an article to enlighten others.

He will shortly be retiring and looks forward to becoming more involved with both his council and Assembly. I'm sure his Brother Sir Knights eagerly look forward to that time, since this Sir Knight is a bundle of energy and knowledge.

It is my distinct pleasure to name

Sir Knight Robert V. Duckworth, PFN - Triad Assembly 2282

As our November Sir Knight of the Month.



From the VSM,

I want to congratulate all of the new Sir Knights who received their Exemplification on October 20, 2007. This was one of the largest classes North Carolina has experienced.

I believe that this was the best job ever done by the North Carolina Exemplification Team. My congratulations to them for such a great job.

I would like to reiterate my comments at the Banquet regarding the Wounded Warrior Fund and the Dome Fund.

Every Assembly should do their part on assisting our Wounded Warriors get home for Christmas. A small donation from each member would make a huge difference.

For the Dome Fund, Supreme has asked the Fourth Degree to raise \$500,000 for this project. If each Assembly would send in \$3.00 per member we would have no problem reaching this goal. Remember the Basilica is our National Headquarters for our Catholic religion. We MUST Support this project.

My plan is to keep in contact with ALL Assemblies in North Carolina in the future. You have made me what I am today and I truly appreciate it. If I can do anything to assist you just let me know.

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



From the Supreme Master and District Master

The Supreme Knight's charge to the Supreme Master was and remains; **“There will be one Fourth Degree; it will be part of the Third Degree Knights of Columbus, not apart from it. It will have one uniform, one drill and one exemplification ceremony. There needs to be a concerted effort to get younger members into our Color Corps, the visible arm of the Order. Our Color Corps must not only claim to stand in defense of the church, but they must look physically capable and prepared to do so if they are called upon”.**

- Given the preceding statement, The Color Corps will ALL be dressed alike when in formation. That is a tuxedo shirt with standard collar. Where a vest worn in place of a cummerbund, the baldric will be worn outside the vest. The current issue of Laws and Rules Governing the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus and the Color Corps Drill Manual clearly describe the official dress. It should be noted that black tie means black bow tie. White dinner jackets are not to be worn in the United States.
- Pins: The plain, unadorned Fourth Degree pin (of the style approved by the Supreme Council for new members) may be worn on the left lapel. The plain, unadorned Fourth Degree pin (of the style approved by the Supreme Council for new members) may be worn on the left lapel. The only other pin authorized to be worn is a small pin of comparable size to the Fourth Degree pin depicting the wearer's national origin (flag). This pin will be worn above the pin of the Order. (The pins and their size must be identical for everyone in the corps line. If not, all participants will remove all pins and place them in their pockets. No exceptions).
- Jewels of Office: Jewels of office may be worn with regalia by Knights currently holding those offices either in the Third or Fourth Degree. When the jewel of office is worn, the baldric must also be worn. **(Neck jewels for Past officers are no longer allowed to be worn.)**
- Miniature Jewels: Past and Former miniatures provided by the Supreme Office Supply Department and those awarded in Papal Orders are the only ones authorized. No other miniature jewels, medals, devices or awards may be worn with Fourth Degree regalia. **(At the current time, this includes U.S. Armed Forces miniature medals and devices.)**
- Personal Grooming and Appearance: Good standards of grooming must be observed at all times. Eccentricities in hair styling or in facial hair grooming are not acceptable. No earrings will be worn by members of the Color Corps or Honor Guard.
- Finally, without exception, the policies of the Ordinary of the diocese and/or the pastor of the parish shall prevail and shall be carried out totally.



DIRECTORY UPDATES



Other items from the Faithful Navigator's Meeting of October 21, 2007

District Directory -

District Marshal Howard Brink's email is:

VIDERI02@aol.com

(That is VIDERI (zero) 2.)

Fourth Degree Team Members

District Team Captain Ron Carney

Change email address to -

ronc1265@charter.net

Assembly 780, Charlotte

Add Faithful Friar information -

SK Fr. Richard N. Hanson

5800 Lansing Drive

Charlotte, NC 28270-5356

704-366-0772

Assembly 1820, New Bern

Change FC's email to -

wpake@cox.net

Assembly 2238 Hope Mill

Add Faithful Navigator email -

davilaauto@earthlink.net

Assembly 2713 Swansboro

Add Faithful Navigator email -

nick2567@hotmail.com

Assembly 3076 King

The correct Assembly name is:

Foothills Trinity Assembly

Assembly 3076 King

Add Faithful Navigator email -

ncyankee@alltel.net

Assembly 3076 King

Add Faithful Comptroller email -

cindy_art@alltel.net

I have a limited amount of extra directories. If you need another, please email me at lilski@ec.rr.com and ask for one.

SK Greg Ciesielski, PFN
NC District Secretary



- Current Fourth Degree membership is 300,884 members. This is a net increase of 2,973 over the previous year. This year we are striving for a 10% gross increase for assemblies, districts and provinces.
- Last year the DeSoto Province led the Order with 103% increase.
- The new assembly quota has been established at 117 for this year. Last year there were 84 new assemblies established for a 70% quota attainment. This was the best performance we have had in the past 10 years. DeSoto Province added 17 new assemblies, second only to the Philippines. VSM's will be working with DM's to examine those assemblies in their jurisdiction having large membership populations, encompass 5 or more councils and have members traveling 25 or more miles to attend meetings. These are prime targets for possible new assembly establishment.
- Please consider making a donation to the Wounded Warriors fund. This money is used to send our military amputees home for Christmas. If your assembly would care to donate, make checks payable to "M.O.P.H Wounded Warrior Leave". This year we have more men and women than last year. Please consider helping.
- The "Dome" project at the National Basilica in Washington was also discussed. You have all received literature about the project. Consider making a donation to the Supreme project as well.

Fraternally,

DM Bob Grabasky, PSD
VSM Bob Singer, FDM, PSD



Exemplification Mass Collection

Through your generosity at the Exemplification Mass collection, you donated a total of \$1,645.00. THANK YOU!

As has been tradition, these offerings are given to charitable causes in the name of the North Carolina Fourth Degree. At Sunday's Faithful Navigator's meeting, it was agreed that the following donations would be made:

Wounded Warriors received \$1,000.00

Assembly 783 Received \$645.00 toward the purchase of a large screen TV for a new day room at the Veteran's Hospital.

Both checks have been issued.

Exemplification Certificates

Please check the spelling on the Exemplification Certificates for accuracy and or omissions. If there is a problem, please notify the District Master immediately and replacements will be mailed to the Faithful Navigators.

Regalia

With Christmas right around the corner, why not consider asking a loved one to start you off with a piece of regalia. Birthdays, Valentine's Day, Anniversaries are all opportunities to receive a piece of regalia as a gift. In this way, the cost is spread out and the gift means so much more.

Remember the words of our District Friar Emeritus, Father Robert Lawson, "You are not a full Fourth Degree Knight until you have regalia and wear it". We are the visible arm of the Knights of Columbus. Become a member of the Honor Guard.



2007 4th Degree Exemplification Concord NC 20 Oct 2007

Contact Lew McCloud at lew.mccloud@gmail.com to order your copy of this photo.