



Supreme Master
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The Catholic Patriot

Supporting our Country, Community, and Church
With
Respect and Honor
Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree



Tempus Fugit!

*Worthy Sir Knights, those old familiar words remind me how time flies, as is evident by my not being able to pen my monthly remarks for the May newsletter until today, June 14, 2024, which is both Flag Day and the Army's 249th birthday! My apologies! Just last week, I returned from a two week trip to Europe, where the Knights of Columbus honored our wounded warriors by sponsoring the [64th Annual Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage](#). It was exceptionally moving to see our patriotic fervor on display by helping these courageous men and women who served our country find the peace and healing. However much work lies ahead for us to ensure the continued success of this program. In particular, **we need all of you to ensure that those wounded warriors in our ranks know about this unique opportunity**. We also need to continue to support the [Blessed Father McGivney Military Chaplain Scholarship Program](#) to ensure future generations of service members can receive the care of chaplains on the battlefield.*

I also had a wonderful visit with our Fourth Degree Knights in France and Poland, learning much about how they desire to grow in their service to the Church and the Order.

Although Memorial Day is behind us, let's continue to be vigilant in recognizing the sacrifice of so many who never came home. Let us dedicate our lives to honor their lives. And as we head into Father's Day weekend, let us ask St. Joseph to bless all Sir Knights who are fathers and especially pray for those men we call "Father", who ensure that we receive the gift of the sacraments! Let us also whisper a prayer for each of our fathers who shaped us and who are now enjoying an eternity with God.

As summer approaches, one fraternal year winds down and another begins. I pray for your continued success in the coming year. Keep endeavoring to exemplify the greatest aspects of patriotism while serving as the visible arm of the Order. I am proud of all you have done this past year, and I am excited to begin a new chapter in the history of the Fourth Degree as we approach our 125th Anniversary on Saturday, February 22, 2025.

Vivat Jesus!

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Charity + Unity + Fraternity = Catholic Patriots

This is a simple story of how the Charity and Unity of our provinces strengthened our Fraternity allowing our Patriotism to spread to the other side of the world. In January, Maciej Gadomski reach out to our Supreme Master about some help with swords. The Supreme Master engage all the Vice Supreme Masters from all the provinces for assistance. Each province was asked to round up unused swords to be sent to the Korean Knights. Almost as soon as they showed up they were put to use during a March for Life in Seoul. Pictures speak louder than words in this case, we should all be proud of what we achieved as Catholic Patriots.



Knights Braved the Canadian Cold to Show Patriotism

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Fourth Degree Assembly in Stephenville, NL braved the wind and the cold to officially raise the Canadian Flag in front of their Council Home on National Flag Day—February 15, 2024. When the ceremony was completed, all Sir Knights went inside and were served a nice hot breakfast. The Assembly also conducted its monthly meeting at the same time. The Assembly Chaplain, Faithful Friar Fr. Maurice O'Quinn, was also present and led all in prayer. There were 10 Sir Knights present.



Dates to Remember

July 22, 2024
District Master
Quarterly Training
"Planning for Success"

The first step to a successful year is having a great plan. No matter what level you are at, a plan is required to be successful. While there are some lucky people out there that things seem to just happen, remember this is not the lottery. Success takes hard work and planning.

We will also be discussing the (VAVS) Veteran Affairs Voluntary Service Program. Also known as Serving Those That Served.



Membership Musings

Membership is planning for the future of the your assemblies. Adding new members today gives you manpower for programs tomorrow. I would like to recognize some of our top performing provinces as of April 30th.

Ferdinand Magellan	69.85%
Our Lady of Guadalupe	62.94%
St. Junipero Serra	55.63%
DeSoto	52.17%
Fr. Michael J McGivney	51.58%
Bienville	50.76%



It Is Never Too Late to Honor Those Who Have Served

PGK Joseph Petruzzelli, 77 years old, USMC Sgt. (E-5) featured in the photos shaking hands with Michael P. Gizewski, State Secretary, Florida State Council (below) and being embraced by the many supporters, finally got his welcome home after serving in An Hoa, Vietnam, 28 miles southwest of Danang from 1966 to 1967, returning home just around Christmas 1967, where the welcome was not as great as the one he received at the April 6, 2024 Honor Flight Reception.

There were over 700 people at the Palm Beach International Airport, West Palm Beach, Florida, where his lovely wife of 56 years, Donna, attended with members of Council 15619, where he is a Past Grand Knight, having achieved Star Council. Representing the Knights of Columbus were the Palm Beach Region Drill Team, the Honor Guards of the

Palm Beach Assemblies: Divine Mercy Assembly 3698, Father Doherty Assembly 155 and Our Lady Queen of Peace Assembly 2709 and the Columbiettes, along with congressmen, police, and fire/rescue department personnel. Just a very festive celebration for the welcome home of the 85 veterans who flew into Washington DC to spend the day at the War Memorials.

The Veterans then flew back to West Palm Beach to the greatest welcome they could ever expect. The crowd started to roar when the bagpipes led the Veterans down the corridor to the awaiting gallery of people in tears of joy. There was not a dry eye in the whole airport. One veteran replied, "I waited my whole life for this moment. I thank God I lived to see it." Flags and banners waived for our patriots.





Korean & Vietnam War Census Program

The Fourth Degree will conduct a census of the membership to establish a record of service in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Following the World Wars, the Order documented war service by its members in the archives at the Blessed Michael J. McGivney Pilgrimage Center however similar efforts were not conducted following either the Korean or Vietnam Wars.

The Korean War commenced in 1950, making the approximate minimum age of surviving veterans ninety-one years old. The approximate minimum age of surviving Vietnam veterans serving from 1965-1973 is 68-76 years old. Both the Korean and Vietnam Wars marked a significant departure in how troops served and returned from war, as service was no longer for the duration. Gone were the hero's welcome on return. Vietnam veterans returned to a hostile and divided nation, where they were either overlooked or criticized for their service.

For Assemblies working in conjunction with their assigned councils in conducting the census of their membership please use the most current form; Korea/Vietnam: <https://forms.office.com/r/BL1Zd93Lms> (Ctrl + Click to open)

Where possible, documented service of deceased members needs to be recorded. Inclusion in the census shall be limited to veterans meeting the requirements established by Congress for the Korean Service Medal. You must have served from June 25, 1950, to July 27, 1953, and was on permanent assignment or on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days and performed duty within the country of Korea. For the Vietnam Service Medals, you must have served from July 3, 1965 to March 28, 1973 or from April 29-30, 1975, or served on temporary duty in the theater for at least 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days or have served in combat with a unit directly supporting a military operation in Southeast Asia (Vietnam and the contiguous waters and airspace in Thailand, Laos, or Cambodia; or the airspace thereof and in the direct support of military operations in Vietnam).

Certificates recognizing service will be delivered to surviving veterans via their councils. District Masters, it is recommended that you reach out to all your Faithful Navigators to collaborate with their local Grand Knights to hold a party or dinner for those Veterans receiving the certificate. There should also be a Fourth Degree Honor Guard present during the certificate presentation. Let us show our appreciation to those veterans in our council who served in these two wars and to let them know that their sacrifices are not forgotten. ***Deadline for submitting is February 28, 2025.***

Ron Boyce, PSD, Fourth Degree Director of Programs



Michigan Knights Walk The Talk



The Michigan State Convention was held on Mackinac Island May 22 through May 24, 2024.

Sir Knights from all four Michigan Districts were on hand for all events, including a Eucharistic Procession from Ste. Anne's Church to the Grand Hotel, as well as for a Living Rosary held on the lawn of the Grand Hotel.



Remember, as your Fourth Degree Ceremonial Director, I am here to assist the Vice Supreme Masters in any ceremonial area, primarily to help you schedule, plan, and conduct ceremonials. The use of the spread sheet to track Exemplifications is a great tool in getting us all to move forward in this area, and for the Supreme Master to use in his development of his strategy for moving the Fourth Degree forward. Continue to schedule exemplifications throughout your province, and let me know of them, to make this tool truly useful. So far, we have scheduled 294 Exemplifications for this Fraternal Year and brought in 6,513 new sir knights that I am aware of. Please continue to tell me the results of your exemplifications, soon after they occur. The Supreme Master is reviewing my draft of the updated drill manual. Also, I stand by to assist with the rollout of the updated Fourth Degree Ceremonial, and with the 125th Anniversary for the Fourth Degree on February 22, 2025! In the future, expect a ceremonial for the hand down of the Provincial Sword! I'm here to help with all things ceremonial! Send me your questions and let me know what you need! Keep up the great work!

Micheal Thumm, FVSM
Director of Ceremonials



Connecticut Knights Honor Blessed Michael J. McGivney

On Saturday, April 27th, Diocese of Bridgeport's Bishop Frank J. Caggiano celebrated a Mass in honor of Blessed Michael J. McGivney for the Knights of Columbus in the Bridgeport Diocese at the Cathedral of St Augustine. After the Mass, the Supreme Council gifted the diocese a first class relic of Blessed Michael J McGivney, presented by Vice-Postulator Brian Caulfield. With over 300 in attendance, Connecticut State Council officers were represented along with members of all councils from the Bridgeport Diocese as well as others from around the state. State Council Chaplain Father Jeffrey Romans, with many other council chaplains, concelebrated the Mass. There were 39 members from the Connecticut District in the honor guard.

On Saturday, April 13, 2024, the Knights of Columbus Bay of the Holy Spirit Assembly 2573 hosted a Fourth Degree Exemplification at Christ the King Assumption Hall in Daphne, Alabama. The Exemplification was held in honor of Father Gabe Mills, Parochial Vicar of Christ the King Catholic Church in Daphne and an Assembly 2573 Sir Knight.



The Exemplification brought in thirty new Sir Knights to the Order from across Alabama and the Florida panhandle, including three United States Navy Sailors from Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida. Following the Exemplification, an Awards Luncheon was held for the Sir Knights and their families. Assembly 2573 SK Chef Bob Coppolleta catered the luncheon for eighty-four attendees. Awards were distributed by District Master Michael Weist.



Fourth Degree Training

Carry Sword

From the Drill Manual:

1. With the sword drawn, the position of attention is identical to that described in the previous paragraph with the exception of the right hand.
2. The right hand is used to hold and control the sword as described herein for the position of Carry Sword. (See Figures)

