



Supreme Master  
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# The Catholic Patriot

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



April 16<sup>th</sup> marks the 108<sup>th</sup> birthday of Servant of God Father Emil Kapaun, making April an excellent time for both Assemblies and individual Sir Knights to consider contributing to the Order's United in Charity Fund, which provides funding for the [Father McGivney Military Chaplain Scholarship Fund](#). Since 2011, the Order, through your generous support, has contributed more than \$2,000,000 to seminarians studying to become military chaplains.

During my tour in Afghanistan from 2005-2006, the availability of chaplains was scarce. We very seldom had Mass until a nearby German chaplain offered to come every Sunday evening to offer Mass, and this was only for the last few months of my deployment.

When Easter 2006 approached, I prayed that God would send us a chaplain. He answered my prayers, but not in the manner I expected. Imagine my surprise, when the chaplain assigned to us was a Pentecostal preacher and native of the West Indies. Initially, I was disappointed, but I trusted in God's will and not mine. And so, at dawn on Easter Sunday, our camp aglow in a bon fire we had built to illuminate our frosty sunrise service, the chaplain delivered a sermon that remains with me until this day.

He spoke of Mary Magdalene, and Mary, mother of James and Salome, coming to the tomb on that first Easter. In his heavy, emotion filled, Caribbean accent, he spoke of how sad they were as they approached with their oil to anoint Christ's body, saying "They came to the tomb full of grief, surrounded by sorrow, and they came in this manner because they had not listened to Christ's words to them while still living. ***In essence, they came to the tomb on Easter Sunday as Good Friday people.***"

And then he asked, "How often do we live our lives as Good Friday people? Ignoring all that Jesus has told and promised us? Let us live instead as Easter people!"

I pray that this Easter finds you filled with joy and living as Easter people! Sadly, my job involves answering far too many letters, calls, and emails from many Brother Sir Knights who continue to live as Good Friday people, too focused on the past to hear God's call in the present to love and serve His Church as the patriotic arm of the Order. For those of you who have embraced the recent changes in the Fourth Degree, I thank you for being examples of Easter people, and this month, I ask that you pray for those Sir Knights who continue to resist change that is nearly a decade old. Remind them that they are loved and valued. Assure them that there is still much work remaining, and that we long for them to rejoin us in the vineyard of the Lord.

God bless you and Happy Easter!

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## Membership Musings

Worthy Sir brother Knights,

We have reached the midway point of our fraternal year, and I hope that you are doing well. On March 2<sup>nd</sup> I was able to participate in an exemplification in which we brought in 18 new members into the Order. It was a large turnout for the Wyoming District of DeSmet Province. It was the first time in Wyoming history that we hosted a Supreme Master at an exemplification. Thank you to our Supreme Master for showing how important each new member is no matter where they reside. We also thank our Vice Supreme Master Brian Heger and the Marshalls that attended for making it a successful weekend in Wyoming.

I share this information to emphasize the importance of proper planning for impactful exemplifications that will further membership growth. It's also important to note that by planning far enough out, you may be able to twist certain individuals' arms to attend your exemplification and be able to have a "first" in your area!

Lastly, I would like to give a shout out to our Provincial leaders at this midyear standpoint. The top 5 provinces for growth are: Our

Our Lady or Guadalupe	52.24%	St. Junipero Serra	50.14%	Ferdinand Magellan	49.89%
DeSoto	41.21%	John H Reddin	35.46%		

I look forward to seeing additional growth in the Order over the next 6 months. I am always here for any questions you may have.

God Bless .

Fraternally,

PSD, Bret Ladenburger  
Director of Membership

Master Leo Sosa, Jr. congratulates the Class of 26 New Sir Knights from the AB-NWT North District, Simon Fraser Province, exemplified on February 24, 2024 at Corpus Christi Church, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The new Sir Knights will be welcomed by their respective Assemblies: St. Joseph Assembly No. 0005, Assemblée Maurice Beaugard O.M.I. No. 2095, Pope John Paul I Assembly No. 2754, St. Michael Assembly No. 2795, Father Joseph R. MacDonald Assembly No.2963, Corpus Christi Assembly No. 3924. Congratulation to Our New Sir Knights!

On Saturday, March 16, 2024, The 2024 Biennial District Assembly Meeting of the AB-NWT North District, Simon Fraser Province was held at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, 2707 34 St NW, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. District Master Leo Sosa,



Jr. thanked the guests, ladies and delegates present at the meeting. He emphasized that their presence showed their commitment to uphold the ideals of the Fourth Degree, its roles in their respective parishes and communities. Furthermore, Master Leo welcomed the head table guests, Vice Supreme Master Willis Winter (who delivered the message of the Supreme Master Michael McCusker), State Deputy John Onyskiw, Reverend Father Jim Corrigan (who celebrated the Mass after the meeting), Deacon Arden Playford (who delivered the message of Archbishop Richard Smith of the Edmonton Diocese), PSD Vince

Reyes (who facilitated the presentation and discussion of the proposed District Resolutions), and PSD and Former District Master Ferdie Mendita (who delivered the message of the Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly).

# Have You Ever Asked Yourself Why We Do What We Do?

Sir Knights Ken Landry and Cliff Mitchell witnessed a powerful Exemplification of our new Sir Knight Roland Maillet, now a member of the Bishop Grouard Assembly No. 0008 in Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada. The Exemplification was conducted on-line on March 7, 2024 by the Alberta North West Territory North District No. 40 Master Leo Sosa, Jr., and with Supreme Master Michael McCusker and Vice Supreme Master Willis Winter in attendance. The Exemplification was also witnessed by Sir Knight Roland's wife, Lady Ana Liza as well as Lady Joyce Mitchell. This special Exemplification was held at Points West Hospice where Sir Knight Roland was a patient. Sir Knights Ken Landry and Cliff Mitchell, who have witnessed many exemplifications, found this to be a very profound and moving experience.



Sir Knight Roland expressed heartfelt gratitude to Master Leo and of course, it was a powerful addition to have Supreme Master Michael McCusker and Vice Supreme Master Willis Winter observing. Sir Knight Roland joined the third degree with Council 3241 in 2007 and has looked forward to joining the Fourth Degree for some time.

At the conclusion of the degree, Sir Knight Roland said, **"I know now where I am going, and of all the things I've done in my life, this is the most precious."**

Sadly, Sir Knight Roland passed away early on March 13, 2024, after his courageous battle with cancer. Our prayers are with Lady Ana Liza and all his family.

*"May eternal rest be granted to Sir Knight Roland may perpetual light shine upon him . May the souls of the Faithful departed by the mercy of God Rest in Peace."*



## Assembly Training Challenge



Monthly challenge: Ask your Faithful Navigators to set up monthly training from the Drill Manual and the Manual of the Sword. This can be short 10-15 minute sessions that help prepare the members for call outs of all kinds.

Michael J. Porter, PSD, FVSM, Director of Training

*This month's suggestion:*

### 4 th -Degree Training Module – Processions

With State Conventions on the horizon, it's a good time to have your processions in order.

For a procession into church for a Mass, for a Third-Degree function, the suggested order of procession would be as follows:

1. Field Agent(s)
2. District Warden
3. Assembly Officer(s)
4. Council Officer(s)
5. Faithful Navigator(s)
6. Marshal(s)
7. Grand Knight(s)
8. Chapter President(s)
9. General Agent(s)
10. State Director(s)
11. Former District Master(s)
12. District Deputy(s)
13. Former Vice Supreme Master(s)
14. Past State Deputy(s)
15. Master of the District \*
16. State Officer(s) \*
17. Vice Supreme Master(s)
18. Former Supreme Officer(s) & Director(s)
19. Supreme Director(s)
20. Supreme Master
21. Supreme Officer(s)
22. State Deputy
- \* 23. Supreme Knight
- \* 24. Members of the Clergy

(\*At a Fourth-Degree function, the District Master, and State Officers exchange positions, as do Former Masters and District Deputies.)

Remember that the State Deputy is the most important Knight in all processions unless the Supreme Knight is in attendance.

## Dates to Remember

### April 2024 Biennial District Meetings

#### April 22, 2024 Quarterly Training

“Preparing Program Award Submittals”

All assemblies are doing great at programs. It is a shame that we don't hear about all of them in your annual program reports. This training will assist District and Vice Supreme Master in developing tools to help your assemblies create a successful Award Submission. We will also discuss on your role in getting submission to Supreme in timely manner.



Communications is the key to success. Sometimes information can become distorted when it is delivered multiple times. Below are some clarifications on subjects that need to be clearly communicated:

1. A revised Patriotic Degree is in the final stages of development and testing. It is anticipated to go into use on or about February 22, 2025, in conjunction with the 125th Anniversary of the Fourth Degree.
2. Effective July 1, 2024, social baldrics will no longer be given out at exemplifications. Wear of the social baldric is grandfathered in for members without the new uniform for wear with their tuxedo at social gatherings. New members may purchase one, if so desired, for wear in settings requiring a tuxedo.
3. Effective July 1, 2024, the official Fourth Degree uniform is the preferred attire for exemplifications. Candidates may also wear dark suits. Tuxedos may not be worn by candidates.
4. In **SOCIAL SETTINGS ONLY** members may wear their Fourth Degree name badges on the **RIGHT** breast aligned with top left pocket. Badges must have magnet or pin backing.

Matt Maly, PSD, FVSM,

Director of Communications

# Food for Veterans and Families



Increases in food costs, housing, and energy have resulted in an increase of homelessness in our cities, with a significant number of veterans being affected. According to a new report from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veteran homelessness increased by 7.4% last year for the largest surge in 12 years, as revealed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. On a single night in January 2023, there were 35,574 homeless veterans in the US. This year's results revealed that 20,076 veterans are currently sheltered homeless, an increase of 2.6% from 2022. Meanwhile, approximately 15,507 veterans went unsheltered, representing an increase of 14.3% from 2022. Unsheltered veterans represented nearly 80% of the overall increase in homelessness seen in 2023. The Department of Defense also recognizes that 24% of all active-duty military have food insecurity issues.



Fourth Degree assemblies are encouraged to collaborate with local St. Vincent de Paul organizations, Food Banks, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), VAs, and our local councils in bringing relief to our homeless veterans. Another option is for assemblies to find out if one of your local National Guard units is being deployed and offer to do a food drive for those families.

Knights of Columbus are committed to helping to end hunger through the [Food for Families Program](#), which has donated millions of dollars and millions of pounds of food toward this cause. Council/Assembly and parish families will raise funds to support their local food pantries, food banks and soup kitchens. For every \$500 or 1,000 pounds of food donated, the Supreme Council will refund \$100 back to the council/assembly, up to a maximum of \$500 per council/assembly per fraternal year. Though in-kind donation of food is valuable, leaders of hunger-relief organizations often comment that financial contributions can be stretched even further and allow nonprofits to procure the exact items needed by the organization and its clients.

Ron Boyce, PSD, 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Director of Programs



St. Patrick's Day Parade in Philadelphia on March 10th, where the Knights of Columbus was one of the award winning marchers. Present in the front row is Supreme Master Michael McCusker (center) his son Joseph McCusker (fourth from left), PA Central District Master Brian Hallock (third from left), and PA Eastern District Master Jim McCarthy (second from left).

**KELLEY PROVINCE:** Dalton Assembly 1645 of Harbour Grace commemorated Canadian Flag Day (February 15) with a Mass at St. Joseph's Church with Father Emmanuel celebrating. Faithful Navigator Eugene Hurley read a Flag Day Proclamation before Mass.



The Fourth Degree Color Corp provided the Honor Guard. Flags were distributed as the congregation sang *O Canada*. Following Mass, cake and refreshments were served. Three State Officers, including State Deputy Gary Gallagher were in attendance.

**BIENVILLE PROVINCE:**  
Eucharistic Procession at  
St. Stephen Catholic  
Church in Old Hickory,  
Tennessee



Fifteen Sir Knights from Assemblies 1627 and 1081 led 400 parish members from the church outside and around the property and back to the church. The procession was followed by Eucharistic Adoration in the church. This is one more way the Knights can serve as Catholic patriots. Being very pleased with the turn out, Father Davis has already scheduled next year's event.