



Supreme Master
Michael McCusker
 suprememaster@kofc.org

The Catholic Patriot

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

Worthy Sir Knights,

As the year nears its end and we prepare for Thanksgiving and Christmas, we pause to consider the blessings of this year. I pray that this holiday season finds you well and brings your family together. As we begin to travel the road to Bethlehem to welcome once more our savior, we should not forget where His journey will lead him. We should pause to reflect on Christ's upbringing in Nazareth and how that shaped him.



If you have watched The Chosen series, which stars our Brother Knight Jonathan Roumie, then you have often heard the incredulous comment that He comes from Nazareth. In scripture, even Nathaniel asked, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" John 1:46. Fortunately, Philip responds, "Come and see."

The attitudes expressed about Nazareth center around the fact that it was considered a small town of no significance. The name itself has been interpreted as a "shoot" according to St. Jerome and The Catholic Encyclopedia. In other words, a branch; small and insignificant. And yet, from this humble setting comes forth the Son of God to restore mankind's relationship with God.

I ask you to pray and reflect this holiday season on Nazareth. Ask yourself to consider where or when your assemblies have been perceived over time as insignificant, especially in a time when we continue to see declining membership in our ranks. Inspired by the example of Nazareth and eagerly looking toward our 125th Anniversary in February 2025, let us recommit ourselves to making the Fourth Degree relevant among the councils and in our community, endeavoring to increase its presence not just on an assembly level, but in the lives of each council and their respective parishes. Let us not be discouraged but encourage and remember that every patriotic program has the power to inspire others to greater service, and from that commitment, we will begin to see a rebirth in the Fourth Degree.

Vivat Jesus!



Veterans Day, honoring **Sir Knight Wilson T. Wiley** as the oldest Veteran in District Heights, Maryland, he is 101-years of age. **Mayor Cynthia Miller** spoke admirably of our Veterans and those who serve. She presented **SK Wilson T. Wiley** with a beautiful crystal statuette for his service. **SK Wilson T. Wiley** is an Honorary Life member of the Knights of Columbus, a member of the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422 and the Bishop James E. Walsh Assembly 1548.

Director of Ceremonials Micheal Thumm, FVSM thummer75@md.metrocast.net 301-904-4373	Director of Communications Matthew Maly, PSD,FVSM mattmaly602@gmail.com 405-708-1978	Director of Membership Bret Ladenburger, PSD ladenburgerkofc@gmail.com 307-760-1003	Director of Programs Ron Boyce, PSD rboyce39@aol.com 503-730-1986	Director of Training Michael Porter, PSD,FVSM mjknight9282@aol.com 615-308-6777	Director of Assembly Development Dale Hofer, PSD dalekofc@gmail.com 205-938-3253	Administrative Assistant Justyna Padilla justyna.padilla@kofc.org 203-752-4437
--	---	--	--	--	---	---

Meet Our New Staff Member!

Director of New Assembly Development - Dale Hofer, PSD

I would like to start off by saying that I am greatly honoured to be part of this group and I would like to thank the Worthy Supreme Master Michael for thinking of me.

My primary task is to track what is going on with growth in our assemblies and to keep everyone informed on that status. To have accurate data, I will be relying heavily on the VSM's for their input on the statuses of their respective provinces.

I have done some preliminary analysis of the database I have received and will be working with our Worthy Supreme Master on more what he and the VSMs want to see in the report.

Sincerely,

Dale Hofer, PSD.



Members of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Assembly 1653 in Canada

Participated in the Stephenville High School memorial service referencing Remembrance Day.



Let's Talk Training

The next quarterly District Master training will take place virtually on January 22, 2024 at 8:00 PM CDT

The Training will focus on the District Master's upcoming Biennial Meeting for 2024.

The link to the meeting will be sent out by Darryl Barrios in January to all Vice Supreme Masters, and District Masters.

Any questions can be directed to me:

Michael J Porter, 4th Degree Director of Training at: mjpknight9282@aol.com

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 sessions that help prepare the members for call outs of all kinds.

This month's suggestion: We hear a lot of banging in some honor guards. Work on the proper way to draw, & replace your sword, and how to hold the scabbard while in an honor guard. There is an easy technique while marching, sitting, and kneeling during a mass to keep the noise to a minimum.

Dates to Remember

December

Select location of Bi-Annual Meeting & send out invitations to assemblies. Remember Assembly Delegate Elections must occur in February. Be sure to communicate selection process and how to submit resolutions to be considered during meeting.

January 22, 2024 Quarterly Training

"Preparing for Biennial Meeting 2024"
Planning and Implementation

April 2024 Biennial District Meetings

It's hard to believe that December is almost here and 2023 is almost over. A few more days and we will celebrate once again the birth of Jesus Christ, our savior.



December is a good month for the Warriors to Lourdes Program, it is a smaller pilgrimage within the International Military Pilgrimage, which began in 1946 to promote reconciliation and peace after World War II. Ever since, for one weekend in May, Lourdes France has become a place of prayer and healing for active-duty military and veterans representing more than forty nations. The Knights of Columbus and with the partnership of Archdiocese of Military Service U.S.A. provides the opportunity and means for our non-wounded, wounded, ill and injured U.S. warriors to participate in the Warrior to Lourdes pilgrimage for a period of prayer and spiritual guidance. All expenses for approved non-wounded, wounded, ill, or injured military personnel as well as their designated caregiver, is covered by the Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc.

This is a chance to reach out to the State Deputy in your jurisdiction to see if they could set up a Warriors to Lourdes designated fund in their Charity account where assemblies and councils can send their fund directly to this program. Because these Charity accounts are 501c3 individuals or companies who wish to make a large donation allowing them to obtain tax credit.

This is an incredible opportunity for the assemblies and councils to hold a joint breakfast or dinner with the proceeds going towards this program or a special collection for a specific weekend in December with the 4th Degree wearing their regalia at mass for collecting donations with the approval of the parish priest.

An idea from the Idaho District Master David Ellingsen was discussed at the Archbishop Blanchet Provincial Meeting. The Bishop Kelly Assembly 185 in Coeur d'Alene donates American Flags to anyone who has a US flag that's worn out and tattered. This would be a terrific opportunity to get a donation from those who received a new flag informing them the profits will be going toward the Warrior to Lourdes Program. I would recommend handing out the trifold brochure (5059 WTL Brochure) information with the QR code for donation with the flag.

If you know a Warrior who wishes to apply to join or if you would like to volunteer as a companion for the pilgrimage, please visit the Warriors to Lourdes website (www.warriorstolourdes.com) and fill out the 2024 Warrior to Lourdes Application by January 15, 2024.

Companions are invited to attend and may be offered needs based financial assistance on a case-by-case basis with a validated Chaplain's certification of need. The AMS-K of C package rate for companions and volunteers traveling from the United States to Lourdes is \$3,000.00 for double occupancy and \$3,300.00 for a single occupancy room. All applications and payments are due by January 15, 2024. The applications are reviewed by the K of C pilgrimage leadership team and

To make a donation, scan the QR code below on your mobile device or make checks payable to **Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc.** Please include "Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund" on the memo line of your check and mail it to:

Knights of Columbus Charities
1 Columbus Plaza
PO Box 1966
New Haven, CT 06509-1966

Questions about donations?
Call 860-694-5713.



medical director for selection. All applicants are notified on the status of their application beginning February 15, 2024. If you have any questions, please email the at Lourdes@kofc.org.

Please let me know what your local assemblies are doing to help our Warriors attend this pilgrimage.

Ron Boyce, PSD, 4th Degree Director of Programs

Welcome to the Membership Director Musings.

My name is Bret Ladenburger, first and foremost, I want to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to all the Brother Knights and their families for your time and effort that you contribute to the Knights of Columbus. You make a difference.

I would like to provide you with a bit of my own history and a smidge bit of vision that I have for our 4th Degree.

My wife, Courtney, and 2 daughters, Megan and Sarah, reside in Casper Wyoming going on 20+ years now. I have been a Knight of Columbus since 1994 with both my father and both grandfathers also members. I served my Brother Knights of Wyoming as State Deputy in 2019 -2021.

The vision I see for our 4th Degree is to gain membership so that the Knights become more visible with our Honor Guards, Color Corps and the programs supporting our patriotic virtues. Many ask how we can do this, and I say with heart and prayer. Check back in for more details and ideas.

God Bless and Vivat Jesus.

Bret Ladenburger

Director of 4th Degree Membership

ladenburgerkofc@gmail.com



The Dalton Assembly 1645 conducted an installation of officers in the presence of Relics of Blessed Michael McGivney at St. Joseph Church, Riverhead, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland.

Exemplification held in Kansas, Worthy Supreme Master among the guest of dignitaries. The class of 95 candidates was held in Wichita Kansas on Veterans Day at the Doc B-29 Hangar. Honoree was Father Emil Kapaun. His nephew Ray Kapaun was the guest speaker at the Banquet.



Greeting from Fourth Degree Ceremonial Director Micheal Thumm

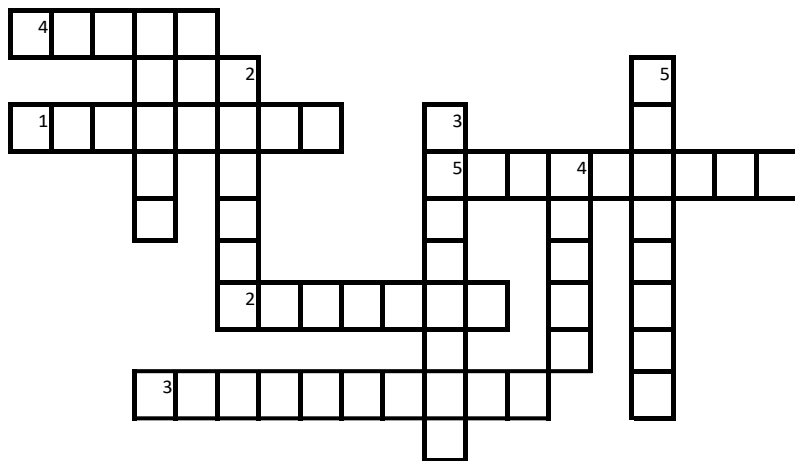
I was given certain tasks to work on. And as we progress, this position will evolve into doing many other things I'm sure. First of all, I am here to assist the Vice Supreme Masters in any ceremonial area, primarily to help you schedule, plan, and conduct ceremonials. The use of the spread sheet to track Exemplifications is a great tool in getting us all to move forward in this area. If you haven't yet scheduled exemplifications throughout your province, then it's time to get that effort moving forward. So far we have scheduled 129 Exemplifications for this Fraternal Year and brought in 1,351 new sir knights that I am aware of. If you haven't told me the results of your exemplifications, then please do so. I continue to work on updating the Drill Manual to make it more simple, clear, and specific, and in line with the Marine Corps Drill Manual where appropriate, per the Supreme Master's guidance. Also, I stand by to assist with the rollout of the updated Fourth Degree Ceremonial. For answers to questions on Name Badge and the Exemplification Fee update, see the Supreme Master's [MEMO](#) just released. In the future, expect a ceremonial for the hand down of the Provincial Sword! I'm here to help with all things ceremonial!



VSM Anthony Nazario held Provincial Meeting for the Ferdinand Magellan Province. VSM Nazario has a very successful team with many District Master achieving quotas for the year.

The Ferdinand Magellan Province has been one of the leading provinces for few years now.

Congratulations!!



Down

- 1 Last Name First Supreme Master
- 2 Last Name - Master serving from 1941 to 1945
- 3 Last Name-Author of These Liberties We Hold Sacred
- 4 On 4th Degree Pin
- 5 Used for holding a Sword

Across

- 1 Last Name of Master 2010 to 2023
- 2 State of first 4th Degree Exemplification
- 3 Program to Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 4 Worn on head with respect and honor
- 5 Can be worn with uniform during socials only

If answer is two words don't leave space. All answers come from Knights of Columbus materials. Answer to the puzzle will be listed in December newsletter, so stay tuned.

Communication Director Matthew Maly's Two Cents

Communications is a two way street, what comes out is based on what goes in. Send your information on assembly activities to kofc4thnews@gmail.com. It is our goal to provide you with the newest information on the 4th degree and events going on within our provinces.



MICHAEL R. McCUSKER
SUPREME MASTER

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FOURTH DEGREE

Phone: (203) 304-0550
Email: Michael.McCusker@kofc.org

MEMO TO: VICE SUPREME MASTERS
DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2023
RE: EXEMPLIFICATION FEE & NAME BADGES

1. *For Distribution to all Assemblies through their District Masters.*
2. At the meeting of the Supreme Board of Directors in July 2023, the Laws and Rules Governing the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus were amended by increasing the exemplification fee from \$70 to \$90.
3. There has not been an increase since 2006. By comparison, \$70 in 2006 had a buying power of approximately \$106 today. Due to inflation, the \$70 exemplification fee now has a buying power of approximately \$47.
4. The increase is necessary to prevent District Masters from incurring a financial loss in conducting exemplifications.
5. It is strongly encouraged that exemplifications be held in a parish setting, relying upon the support of the local assembly and its councils to provide a quality banquet at an affordable price, avoiding catering and rental hall expenses when possible.
6. Effective immediately, a Knights of Columbus name badge may be worn on the Fourth Degree uniform only in social settings. Wearing the name badge is not authorized when participating in color corps/honor guard functions.
7. The name badge shall be the member's assembly name badge with a magnetic backing worn on the right breast since the emblem and miniature medals prevent wear on the left breast. The exception to assembly badges would be state council officer badges or badges indicating Fourth Degree officer positions.
8. Where medical reasons prevent the wear of a magnetic backing (e.g. a pacemaker), the member may use a badge with a pin backing.
9. Any questions should be directed to SupremeMaster@kofc.org.

Michael R. McCusker