



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



In the 2004 film The Passion of the Christ, the director borrows from Revelation 21:5, in a powerful scene where Christ meets our Blessed Mother on the way to His crucifixion. Mary, filled with pain and confusion, tries to make sense of what is happening to her child. At the climax of this powerful encounter, Christ touches her face and declares, “Behold, I make all things new!”

As I write this message in the dark, early morning hours of New Year’s Eve, I find myself contemplating Christ’s words as written in Revelation 21:5. As dawn brings the last day of 2023, and a new year is given to us with opportunities to love and serve our Lord’s Church on earth, how blest are we to receive this gift of a new year? And how in the year ahead will Christ continue to make all things new in our lives, our Order, and our beloved Fourth Degree?

Newness can be a challenge. We have all dealt with change in both our personal lives and in our committed lives as Knights, and we have often resisted change that is necessary to our continued growth and success. In a sense, we become complacent with the status quo because to change would require us to step outside our comfort zone. There is a remarkable scene in the 1992 film Far and Away where an adventurous husband, advanced in years, tells his change-resistant wife, “Pretend we’re starting out in life...instead of ending up.”

As 2024 begins, how can we as Sir Knights trust in God’s promise that His divine son continues to make all things new? As the Fourth Degree’s 125th Anniversary approaches in 2025, how can we seize this moment by starting out again in our journey as patriotic Knights; instead of simply ending up where we have always been because of the great unknown of change?

On the last Saturday of 2023, I sat in a church and watched our friends’ daughter walk down the aisle to marry her love. Weddings are always testaments to our sense of hope, and our willingness to change our individual needs to form a perfect union with another. Yes, there will be challenges ahead for this couple, but hopefully, those challenges will be far outweighed by much joy and blessings from God. Their wedding seems perfectly placed at the end of one year and the beginning of another. The ultimate ringing out of the old as we ring in the new.

Inspired by this young couple’s faith in an unknown future, let us draw strength and embrace courage. Let us recommit ourselves in this new year to reengaging our councils in the life of their assemblies as we begin planning to celebrate our 125th anniversary. As we do, let us not focus so much on where we have been or the past accomplishments of the Fourth Degree, but instead, use this moment to lay the groundwork for our next one-hundred-and-twenty-five years of patriotic service to our Church and our collective nations by trusting in Christ’s plan for salvation and knowing that He makes all things new again. Happy New Year!

Vivat Jesus!

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
--	---	--	--	--	---	---

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

Dates to Remember

January

If you have not done so you must select location and date 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

Crossword Answers from November Newsletter

1 down— Reddin	2 down—Galvin	3 down—Anderson	4 down—Earth	5 down—Scabbard
1 across—Stoddard	2 across—New York	3 across—Silver Rose	4 across—Beret	5 across— Name Badge

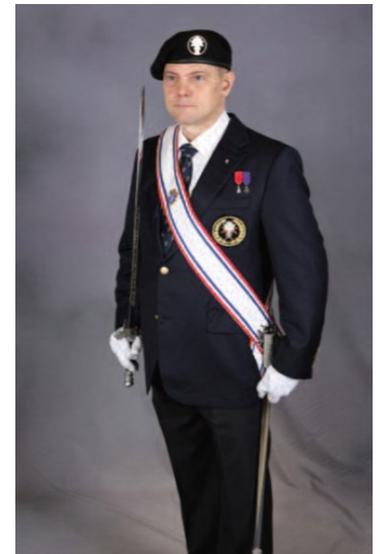
Assembly Training Challenge

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:

4 th -Degree Training Module Manual of the Sword Carry Sword

1. With the sword drawn, the position of attention is identical to that described in the previous paragraph except for 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)



**A sword used
properly is a sword
used with Respect
and Honor**



Why Boston gets a Christmas Tree from Nova Scotia every year.

Every November, a towering evergreen travels all the way from Nova Scotia to Boston to serve as the city's official Christmas tree.

The tradition dates back over a century, and the gifted tree serves as a token of thanks from the Canadian province for Boston's assistance after a disaster during World War I.

A historic symbol of appreciation

On Dec. 6, 1917, two military boats accidentally collided in the Halifax harbor, causing a devastating explosion. The blast killed more than 1,600 people, injured thousands more and destroyed part of the city along the shoreline. "The SS Mont Blanc was laden down with munitions, and it caught fire and exploded," said Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston. "And the explosion that resulted was the biggest man-made explosion until the atomic bomb came along." In the wake of the destruction, a major blizzard hit, hampering rescue efforts from nearby major cities. ...

But that didn't stop Boston from lending a hand. After receiving a request for assistance by telegram, the city sent medical teams and supplies by train. The following year, Nova Scotia sent its first gift tree to thank the city for the help.

Then, in 1971, they sent another to commemorate the occasion and bond between the cities. That kicked off the tradition we know today — the province has sent one every year since.

SOMETHING TO PONDER DURING THE HOLIDAYS THE GIFT OF GIVING KEEPS GIVING



Never Hurts To Ask

Supreme Master Michael McCusker attended an Exemplification of the Patriotic Degree at North Dakota State University on Saturday, December 2, 2023, in Fargo, North Dakota. College Council 9126 attended the Annual Meeting of College Councils in New Haven this past September. At the meeting, SM McCusker told the college councils "If you have a Fourth Degree event, please let me know, and if available, I will try to attend." Grand Knight Ryan Hlucny took this offer to heart and soon sent an invitation. The degree was a great success, bringing eighteen young members to the Fourth Degree! Additionally, two new Sir Knights joined from Assembly 543 in nearby Moorhead, Minnesota. The weekend also allowed the Supreme Master to visit the newly constructed St. Paul Newman Center at NDSU. The exemplification was sponsored by West Fargo Assembly 3589. Many thanks to Vice Supreme Master Brian Heger, Grand Knight Ryan Hlucny, and especially Father James Cheney (Newman Center Chaplain) for their demonstrated leadership in what was a great weekend!

constructed St. Paul Newman Center at NDSU. The exemplification was sponsored by West Fargo Assembly 3589. Many thanks to Vice Supreme Master Brian Heger, Grand Knight Ryan Hlucny, and especially Father James Cheney (Newman Center Chaplain) for their demonstrated leadership in what was a great weekend!

A Vigil was held on December 12 around the memorial monument on Harvey Road, St. John's, NL at the site of the Knights of Columbus Hostel fire of December 12, 1942 during World War II. During the fire, a total of 99 people died, 80 of them Canadian, British and American servicemen, and 19 civilians. Another 109 persons were critically injured.



This annual Vigil is sponsored by Terra Nova Council, and organized by Archbishop Howley Assembly Fourth Degree. Despite the strong winds and cold temperature, there was a large turn out to commemorate the 81st Anniversary of the tragic fire.

Faithful Friar Msgr. Barton led the gathering in prayer, Faithful Comptroller Gary Farrell emceed the event, and the Church Lads Brigade (CLB) provided the music, which included O Canada.



Sir Knights with Bay of the Holy Spirit Assembly 2573 in Daphne, Alabama, presented a donut and coffee social to over 55 veterans of the William F. Green State Veterans' Home in Bay Minette, Alabama on December 15, 2023. Fun and fellowship was had by all.





A Gift That Keeps Giving

In December 2023, Assembly Richard Gauthier # 3506 and the team of the Master of District 4 of the province of Champlain, raised the sum of \$1,625.00 with the aim of providing a wheelchair adapted to a child in need. Once again, the Knights of Columbus were able to make a difference in the life of a family in need. It was a great joy to see all the emotion of the mother when she received the adapted chair which was a beautiful Christmas gift.

Spotlight on a Catholic Patriot



Retired Colonel Roland J. Tiso, Jr.

Colonel Tiso and his wife Judie have been members of St Stephen Parish in Riverview, Florida, since 1994. They moved to Florida following his graduation from the Army War College. He was assigned to U.S. Central Command at MacDill Air Force Base and spent the next 10 years either assigned to the Headquarters or in assignments in the Middle-East.

When he retired from the Army in 2004, he continued to work as a defense contractor again bouncing between Central Command Headquarters and assignments in the Middle East. Throughout it all, Roland and Judie remained parishioners at St Stephen. Their two daughters received their sacraments and religious instruction at St Stephen and Judie taught music at the St Stephen School for four years. She ran the children's choir for several years and sang in the adult choir. Sometime after he was retired from the Army,

Roland joined the Knights of Columbus Council 14084. He is an active member of the Council and serve on several ministries including the Hospitality Ministry and others in support of various fund raising events.

Colonel Tiso published a book called *IN STRANGE COMPANY*, an America Soldier with Multinational Forces In the Middle East and Iraq. Colonel Tiso's account of this time offers unique insights into the challenges of planning the Iraqi campaign and the intricacies and challenges of multinational service through the lens of his assignments as a war planner at U.S. Central Command, Senior Military Adviser of the Arab Peninsula Shield Force and the Polish-led Multinational Division (Central-South), and Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations (C-3) of the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team tasked to develop the New Iraqi Army. His observations cast significant light on the missions these units undertook and the challenges they confronted.

His firsthand account of operational planning for war in Iraq captures the concerns of the military planners and senior commanders to liberate and stabilize the country, enabling the reader to better understand the challenges of operational war planning, coalition warfare, the difficulty of stabilizing Iraq after the fall of Baghdad, the development of the New Iraqi Army, and ultimately a deeper understanding of America's "long war" in Iraq.

[Amazon.com: In Strange Company: An American Soldier with Multinational Forces in the Middle East and Iraq eBook : Tiso, Roland J., Zinni, Anthony C.: Kindle Store](#)

