



The District Sentinel



IN SERVICE TO ONE ... IN SERVICE TO ALL
The Voice of the 4th Degree Michigan District #4

Vol. 1 Issue 1 3rd Quarter 2013

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MASTER'S MESSAGE



Worthy Sir Knights and Lovely Ladies,

It is very exciting to participate in the very first Newsletter for Michigan District 4. The days are just flying by. The Christmas and New Year holiday season is behind us and we are now into the Lenten season with Easter

just around the corner. Since I was appointed interim Master for the period of April 1, 2012 – August 31, 2012 and then Master for the period of September 1, 2012 – August 31, 2014, a lot has happened. District 4 held an Exemplification on June 18, 2012 at the Retreat House in Spring Lake with 15 candidates becoming new Sir Knights. A new Assembly, St. James the Apostle Assembly #3360, was formed on June 28, 2012 in the Stanton/ Greenville area. A District meeting was held at Sacred Heart Parish Center in October, 2012. Another Exemplification was conducted on November 3, 2012 in Bad Axe, Michigan with 45 new Sir Knights joining the Fourth Degree. Bishop Allen J. Babcock Assembly #487 hosted this Exemplification.

Looking forward, the next District meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2013 at Sacred Heart Parish Center in Mt. Pleasant. Registration will begin at 9:00 AM with coffee and donuts being served. The meeting will begin at 10:00 AM and a lunch will be served at noon.

District 4's next Exemplification is scheduled for April 20, 2013 at Holy Family Parish Center in Caledonia. It

will be hosted by Msgr. Thomas O. Martin Assembly #2210. A fall Exemplification is planned for November

9, 2013 at the Double Tree Hotel and Conference Center in Bay City and will be hosted by Bishop Murphy Assembly #0491.

This will be preceded by a District meeting in October with a date to be determined. Regarding our Patriotic Degree, The VA hospital in Saginaw is in need of 5 more Amigos for the veterans residing there. District 4 already has 3 Amigos funded by 3 Assemblies and one Council. Please do what you can to help the District fund the remaining two Amigos.

Last, but not least, please continue to promote the sale of ads in the program book and help the Ladies of the District by providing a theme basket for their raffle. This all helps defray the cost of an Exemplification. Looking forward to seeing you at the Exemplifications and District meetings.

Fraternally,

Bob Krauseneck – Master
Michigan District 4

"Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." John 6:35



Knights of Columbus
FOURTH DEGREE
Patriotic degree of the Order.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 1st New Years Day
- January 1st Annual Dues and Fraternal Survey
 are due and should be sent to Faithful Comptroller**
- January 6th Feast of the Epiphany
- January 21st Martin Luther King Day

- February 2nd Ground Hog Day
- February 12th Lincoln's Birthday
- February 13th Ash Wednesday**
- February 14th Valentines Day
- February 15th President's Day

- March 10th Daylight Savings ends
 Turn clocks forward 1 hour at 2:00 AM
- March 17th St. Patrick's Day
- March 20th First Day of Spring
- March 23rd District #4 District Meeting**
 Sacred Heart Parish Center, Mt Pleasant
 319 E Illinois St, Mount Pleasant, MI 48804
 9:00 AM registration 10:00 AM start
- March 25th Annunciation of the Lord**
- March 25th ... Knights of Columbus Day of the Unborn**
- March 28th Holy Thursday
- March 29th Good Friday
- March 29th Founders Day**
- March 30th Holy Saturday
- March 31st Easter Sunday

Please Remember in
 Your Prayers



Vice Supreme Master George Dann, Lady Corky Scholtens, The Prevo Family, SK Juan Rodriguez, SK Dan Lewis, SK Raymond & Lady Rosemary Reinhold, SK Fred Groendyk Sr., SK Gene Kendra, SK Matt Hartmann, SK Robert Gerhardt, and State Program Director Dave Bergema. And for the souls of SK Benjamin Brown and former K of C insurance agent, James M. Taylor.

Pope Francis I, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Fr. Don Tufts, Fr. Phil Sliwinski, Fr. Phil Witkowski; all our priests & clergy, and all of our service men and women here and overseas.



FRIAR'S FORUM

My Dear Brother Sir Knights and Ladies,

As time goes on, the pace of life continues. Schools, programs, and a schedule of meetings and commitments also continue. Winter is in full swing. The Lenten Season is upon us and everyone is looking forward to Easter. In the midst of our "busyness", Dioceses are working to consolidate churches, parishes are busy with their programs and meetings, and Knights of Columbus Councils and Assemblies continue their meeting and activities schedule. It is a very busy time.

In the midst of this busyness, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has called us to observe a "Year of Faith", from October 11, 2012 – November 24, 2013. I cannot think of a better time for this observance than now. In the midst of the busyness at each of these levels of our lives, personally, nationally, as a Church, and as an Organization, we need to be renewed and strengthened in our faith. It is faith that assists us in making good decisions, strengthens us through the difficult times, keeps us united to Jesus and secure in the Lord, gives us true joy and peace, keeps our lives fixed on lasting values, and leads us to holiness. We must see the "Year of Faith" as a special time to nourish the powerful force of faith in our life.

It is also important to realize that we already have the means by which to strengthen our faith during this year. We just have to be willing to use these time honored means. Prayer, spiritual readings, reflections, classes, Scripture, and the Holy Eucharist are great resources of nourishment for our faith. Attend a parish mission. Take a Scripture Study course. Go on retreat. Attend Mass one extra day a week during this year. These resources are available in area parishes if your parish does not offer them. Use them.

The "Year of Faith" is an important year to observe, not only as a church, but as individuals and as families. It is not meant to add to the busyness of life but to give us the strength to live in the midst of the busyness of life. I invite you to embrace the upcoming "Year of Faith" as a time to be truly, deeply, renewed and committed to your Catholic Faith. Will your faith life look any different once we come to the end of this Year of Faith on November 24, 2013? It will if you make it a "Year of Faith" in your life.

Fr. Bill Rutkowski



District Events of Note

The next Michigan District #4 Exemplification will be held on **Saturday April 20, 2013 in Caledonia, Michigan**. The honoree will be **Fr. Mark F. Bauer** and the host assembly will be the **Msgr. Thomas O. Martin Assembly #2210**.

- Take the time to Google or MapQuest the various locations so you have an understanding of where events are being held and directions to get to them.
- Candidate must have a **CURRENT 3rd Degree Membership Card** and be a member of the Knights of Columbus.
- The Exemplification, Ladies program, Mass and Master's Banquet will all be held at the **Holy Family Parish Campus located at 9669 Kraft Ave, Caledonia, Michigan 49316**.
- The host hotel is the **Baymont Inn & Suites**, which is located at **8282 Pfeiffer Farms Dr, Byron Center 49315, MI 49512**. You may also call **616-583-9535** for reservations.
- **Proper attire will be black tuxedo jacket, white tuxedo shirt with LAY DOWN COLLAR, black slacks, black socks, and black POLISHED shoes.**

WING TIP COLLARS AND BLACK TENNIS SHOES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE!

It is the responsibility of the **NAVIGATOR ... the COMPTROLLER ... and the SPONSOR** to make sure your candidates are informed and properly dressed!

Ladies of the Fourth Degree and Candidates wives

When a Knight of Columbus goes through his Fourth Degree, his lady is invited to attend the festivities that are held specifically for the Ladies of the Fourth Degree and new candidates' wives.

The Luncheon is held during the exemplification ceremony, and we ask that the ladies come in business casual dress. For the Master's Banquet held in the evening after Mass, the dress code is semi-formal (as the newly knighted Sir Knights will be in tuxedos). There will be rooms designated for the ladies to change, and ample time to get ready for Mass and the banquet. It is our hope, as District Staff Ladies that everyone enjoys this beautiful day.

Congratulations to the new Sir Knights and their lovely Ladies!

Ladies of Michigan District Four Staff.



Right to Life Issues

The Response of Catholics to the HHS Contraception Mandate

The question is not restricted to Catholic institutions and hospitals. It is not, on the one hand, a violation of the right of conscience if Catholic institutions are required to pay for artificial birth control (including abortifacient birth control), yet not, on the other hand, a violation of that same right if other Catholic employers are required to do the same. More to the point, if our religion prohibits a Catholic institution to pay for artificial birth control, it also prohibits individuals to pay for it or provide it.

It is critical that this aspect of the issue be understood. The Catholic prohibition against artificial birth control applies to individuals as well as institutions. Thus, a Catholic businessperson may not, consistently with his religion, pay for artificial birth control, and this holds true regardless of whether the federal government will impose sanctions for the failure to do so.

The Catholic bishops have taken the position that compliance is not possible, even if the political and legal fight is lost. They say this because they understand that we will make ourselves ridiculous if, after asserting that the HHS mandate compels us to violate our religion, we simply comply after all political and legal remedies are exhausted. A requirement of our religion is just that, and cannot be altered or overturned by government fiat. It also applies regardless of whether we are operating a charity or engaged in an ordinary for-profit business.

This does not exclude finding ways to legitimately avoid the imposition of sanctions, provided everything is done out in the open and according to law. But payment for artificial birth control is not an option for any Catholic serious about his religion.

In the last analysis, for us, this issue is not ultimately about what politicians should be in power or how the Supreme Court should rule. It is about how we who are members of a Church that has been nourished by the blood of martyrs ought to respond to the threat of government sanctions. If we can be bludgeoned into compliance with the threat of mere monetary sanctions, the contrast between those martyrs and us will make a ridiculous picture indeed.



You CAN'T be BOTH a Practicing Catholic AND Pro-Abortion!

CIVICS 101

Our First President

As the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, the services and achievements of George Washington are unique in the world's history. He was much more than the Commander-in-Chief. He was the one necessary person, whose calm, unswerving, determined sense of patriotic duty to country and ability, put real backbone into the Revolution and kept it from collapsing or merging into a civil conflict under the hardships and unexpected privations encountered during the eight years of war. Without General Washington at its head it could never have succeeded. His faith in the cause and his devotion to the ideals it embodied made him the symbol of America - the spirit of the Revolution.

Washington assumed service and responsibility in the Virginia militia; and by the time he was serving as aide to British General Braddock (French and Indian War) he made the assertion, "My inclinations are strongly bent to arms." Each of the different tasks that fell to his hand seemed to contribute to the store of knowledge useful to him in the next one to follow. The Braddock campaign taught him many of the weaknesses in the military system of training British Regular officers and men.

Witnessing all of the horrors of Braddock's defeat, more of a massacre than a battle, George Washington's personal courage had its baptism of fire and bore the acid test of every experience with honor. With two horses shot out beneath him and four bullets through his coat, he not only continued his duties as aide but when General Braddock was mortally wounded and most of the other officers either killed or wounded, it was the young Colonel Washington that took command of the remnant of the brilliant English Army and brought it and the wounded leader out of the terrifying forest ambush of Indians to safety.

In the General Congress, Patrick Henry was asked to name the greatest man in the congress. His reply, "If you speak of eloquence, Mr. Rutledge of South Carolina is by far the greatest orator; but if you speak of solid information and sound judgment, Colonel Washington is unquestionably the greatest man on the floor."

One of the first steps of the new Congress was to adopt the army gathered about Boston, calling it the Continental Army to distinguish it from that of England, which they called the Ministerial Army. It then became necessary to choose a leader - a commander-in-chief to handle it. Although there were several who wanted the position, it was George Washington that they called upon to lead. He was elected Commander-in-Chief on June 15, 1775.

The rigor and hardships of Valley Forge would have vanquished any other man but George Washington. Owing to the inefficiency of the commissary department,

fully 2,898 soldiers in camp at Valley Forge were unfit for duty because they were barefoot and destitute of clothing. At times there were not three days provisions for men or horses in camp and often not sufficient for one day. It was in the midst of this poverty and privation that Baron von Steuben began his work of drill and discipline. He aroused the officers and the men.

The greatest task that fell so heavily on the Commander-in-Chief was that of keeping his army actually in existence. Here his great business training and ability showed itself. The British could and did repeatedly beat the Continental Army but they could not beat George Washington. Neither abuse, attack, defeat nor discontent could make him resign, and as long as he was in the field he was the rallying point for whatever fighting spirit could still be aroused.

The soldiers felt perfect confidence in the wise leadership of their Commander-in-Chief. His splendid courage, foresight and marvelous ability to endure won the final liberty of the long suffering Colonies. The end of the long struggle for liberty came on October 19, 1781, with the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. On November 20, 1782, Great Britain acknowledged the Independence of the United States and on September 3, 1783, a treaty of peace was signed at Versailles in France and America was free.

General Washington, wise and unselfish Commander of a tattered citizen soldiery, wrung victory from the seasoned legions of Europe under discouragements that would have crushed any, save an indomitable spirit. Of his leadership and skill Von Miltke is quoted as saying in Berlin in 1784: "You have in American history one of the greatest captains of all times. It might be said of him, as it was of William the Silent, that he seldom won a battle but he never lost a campaign."

George Washington was offered to the opportunity to be a king, but instead acted in the interest of our country. We had just fought to rid ourselves from the whims and dictates of one man with total power over all. The question we must ask ourselves today is whether we have the same love of our country to place our country before ourselves ... before others ... and before political parties and do what is right for our country and in return for us all!



COMMANDER'S CORNER

How does YOUR regalia look?

We have all heard the statement that the 4th Degree is the "visible arm of the Order" or that the 4th Degree is the "window to our Order". But how seriously do we take this honor? We have heard the jokes about the Color Corp member who falls out wearing black tennis shoes or a pink cape, but can these same jokes be made about YOU or the other members of your assembly's Color Corp?

Inevitably, there are those who will read this and still believe this article doesn't pertain to them or their Color Corp members. If you were to show up to work looking like you slept in your clothes, what would happen? How would you feel about an employee or subordinate dressed like he was going to a beach party instead of being dressed in a suit and tie to meet a potential client?

Is your tuxedo cleaned and pressed when you fall out for a Corporate Communion, parade, or Exemplification? Do you as a Navigator or Color Corp Commander lead by example? How does your cape look? Is it wrinkled? Is it yellow instead of white? Is the Color Corp Commander's cape a rich purple or is it sort of a pastel purple or violet? Are your black shoes polished if you are not wearing tuxedo shoes? By the way, you cannot polish tennis shoes. Are the plumes of your chapeau matted down and gray? Are your gloves clean and white?

The Color Corp commander serves at the pleasure of the Faithful Navigator and he represents not only the Faithful Navigator, but the District Master, Vice Supreme Master, Supreme Master and all 1.8 million members of the Knights of Columbus; do you as a Navigator expect your Color Corp Commander to critique and inspect your members as they fall out for an Honor Guard detail? Is there a regular inspection of your Color Corp members beyond that bi-annual certification by the District Master?

Let us all resolve to begin laying the foundation for a smarter, sharper Color Corps / Honor Guard team that will motivate 3rd Degree members to become 4th Degree members and non members to become a part of our Order. We ARE the visible arm of the Order. How we conduct ourselves and act while in regalia can either harm or help the image of the Knights of Columbus.

Before you say one word in public, before you post the American flag or before you lead a procession, you and your fellow Sir Knights will be judged on your appearance. Many simple and cost effective things can be done to make sure that this first impression will be a lasting and inspiring one.

Many assemblies have a regular fall out for their Color Corp members to practice the various commands and to

inspect regalia. If your assembly does not already do so, schedule a practice session for all Color Corp members an hour before or an hour after your regular monthly meeting. During this time, have a general inspection of your equipment and clothing. Inspect capes for stains, faded colors, or wrinkles. Check swords to make certain that service baldrics fit appropriately and the swords do not easily fall off the baldric. Make sure that baldrics are clean, that the white is "white" and not gray and that there are no stains on the baldric. Gloves should be inspected to insure they are in good repair and that they are a bright white. Check to make sure that the plumes of your chapeau are fluffy and not matted down.

Have members check each others equipment and then have the Color Corp Commander inspect the equipment himself. Any equipment deemed to be in need of replacement should be taken out of service and the member stand down, and only be used as a reserve until he has replaced the defective equipment. If for instance, during a fall out for a casket guard, perhaps the member can borrow the equipment from another member present in order to take a turn as an Honor Guard at the casket. Not all members may be able to fall out for an event, if a Color Corp member is not able to attend an event perhaps he would be willing to loan his equipment to another member waiting to replace his own.

Many members have had difficulties the last few years with their personal finances and may not be able to immediately replace defective equipment. If an assembly has a contingency fund to help members who are in financial distress, the assembly might consider helping the member by way of an interest free loan. An assembly may also wish to hold a fundraiser to purchase items that can be loaned out, but would remain the property of the assembly. Most assemblies already stock extra sets of gloves and pins to use if a member forgets or loses an item. It is not a huge leap to purchase a couple extra swords, capes, and chapeaus to have in reserve in case of emergencies.

Finally, when falling out for an event, the Color Corp Commander might wish to have available a lint brush, an extra pair of gloves, an extra service baldric, and pins. The Navigator or Color Corp Commander should make contact with all members at least 48 hours in advance not only to have an accurate head count of members falling out, but to also remind members to inspect the regalia and to steam capes so they appear fresh and unwrinkled, this way all members will look their best.





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED