

District Master Report

SK Brad Jacobs MN DM

MN State Convention, May 16th, 2020

First off, I want to thank our SD Marc for the opportunity to talk a little bit about the 4th degree today. While the 4th degree in MN boasts over 4K members and has 43 Assemblies, less than a third of eligible brother knights take that last step to join our ranks as 4th degree Sir Knights. How come?? Many times I hear the same excuses that we hear from those who won't join the knights at all. I don't have time. I don't want to belong to something that I won't be able to be active in. Well, the charge of the 4th degree is Patriotism. Every day we as Knights of Columbus are called to be a living example of our Catholic faith in the public square and in our families. It's that extra commitment to be an active catholic citizen gentlemen! To go thru an exemplification and learn about the connection between our Catholic faith and our Country.... It means something... it makes a difference. Taking this final step in the knighthood journey makes you that much more dedicated to the principle of Patriotism. That's why it's so important. I'm going to assume most of you in the room are 4th degree. If you're not, how come? It's never been easier or less expensive to join the 4th degree. A dark suit and \$70 is all it takes. Also, if you can take the extra step of purchasing a uniform and assisting in honor guards, all the better. The Church and our clergy depend on us!

Activities from July 1, 2019 – April 15th, 2020

- With the invaluable assistance of my District Marshal I assisted with all the 4th degree events at the Supreme Convention. Attendance was good and a nice representation was there participating from the various Assemblies throughout the state. The one area of concern was the Adoration Chapel assistance which was woefully lacking.
- Worked on details, taking registrations and monies, etc for Fall Exemplification.
- Worked with the Bishop Kelly Assembly on conducting the Fall Exemplification. 43 new candidates joined the 4th degree in Winona. The best numbers in over 5 years
- Closed out everything from Fall Exemplification 2019. The event was very successful in regards to the most important aspect which was new candidates but coordination and execution were challenging. That will always vary depending on personnel and experience.
- The uniforms continue to be an issue but the total ban of old regalia as of July 1 has had a very positive impact and I predict a short timeline until all of the state's Assemblies are on board and utilizing the uniforms.
- Talked with Chase on the Lake regarding Spring Exemplification.
- Attended the annual Marquette Province meeting in Belleville IL.
- Talked with Fairmont council and also St Vincent's Osseo about hosting the Summer Super Degree. It will be the 3rd weekend in July
- Worked closely with event staff on the Honor Guard for the CSCOE Mass at the Convention Center.
- Took part in an Assembly Memorial mass with Nicollet Assembly
- Continued organizing and updating files. Also continuing to try to keep the web page up to date and plan to place more information on there going forward. I am sending another letter to the Assemblies in the next month covering various issues including checking the website, recruitment, etc.
- Assisted the Duluth Assembly in facilitating the Honor Guard for Bishop Sirba
- Put together Per Diem/Ft St Charles billing and mailed out to all Assemblies.

- Attended local Honor Guards and KC meetings
- Arranged Annual 4th Degree Exemplification Team Dinner Meeting in Shakopee
- Met in Bemidji with the St John Paul II Assembly to discuss last minute items needed for the Spring 2020 Exemplification mailing.
- Assembled Spring Exemplification information and sent out to State Assemblies
- Included Biannual meeting information in mailing for upcoming 4th degree biannual meeting to be held on Friday, April 17th at Chase on the Lake.
- Did major updating of 4th degree page on state website adding pics, etc. Also, updated the Exemplification page including all the relevant documents for the spring event.
- Presided over 7 Renewal of obligations ceremonies.
- Spoke with Bishop Cretin Assembly in New Ulm regarding hosting the Fall Exemplification 2020
- Traveled to New Ulm to meet with the Assembly and hotel rep to lock down the details for the Fall Exemplification. Was very encouraged to see 8 Sir Knights along with their wives attended this initial meeting. The Hotel is ideal and they are all thrilled to host it.
- Continually taking in registrations for the Spring Exemplification in Walker as well as answering emails and calls asking questions about the event.
- Cancelled the Biannual Meeting and Spring Exemplification due to COVID-19 and started the process of conducting the necessary business via email and USPS. The Spring Exemplification has been rescheduled to April 17, 2021 at the same location (Chase on the Lake) in Walker.
- Processing submissions for the District Master position for the upcoming 2020-2022 years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brad Jacobs

Master, District of Minnesota