



The Flag - The Sword - The Cross

*Knights of Columbus – Fourth Degree
Minnesota District – Marquette Province*



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Masters Minute

Lent is in full swing and Easter is right around the corner. Have you participated in or scheduled Honor Guards for Stations of the Cross or Palm and Easter Sunday's? If not, reach out to your Faithful Guard Commander or Navigator to find out what is planned. Volunteer to speak with your parish priest to extend the offer to provide honor guards to support the dignity and solemnity of the Eucharist especially during this Holiest of Seasons, COVID-19 or not.

I would like to congratulate Assemblies 536, Bishop Francis W. Kelley (Winona) and 3335, Fr. Timothy Vakoc (So. St. Paul) on achieving the **Civic Award** for 2020.

The Civic Award is a tribute to the spirit of patriotism and national pride exemplified by the assembly's program of activities. In order to qualify, the assembly must conduct and report at least four varied patriotic programs held within the fraternal year

Please join me in congratulating the members of these Assemblies for their successes.

More information on Assembly Awards can be found in the District January Newsletter or on the www.kofc.org website.

I want to thank the Assemblies who have taken the time to fill out and submit the 1728 Form: Survey of Fraternal Activity. We are about 74% completed as a district. I am missing reports from the following Assemblies: 525, 528, 530, 533, 534, 542, 543, 547, 1637, 3271, 3604. This important form totals the charitable service hours and dollars that were donated over the past year as it helps to provide the Supreme Council with a summary record of the Activity of your Assembly, and Documents the Charitable Nature of the Order of the Knights of Columbus to maintain our Tax-Exempt status with the IRS.

Even if you haven't been very active this year, please make sure that you send in this form. It is available to be submitted online by either the FN or FC of an Assembly. It will only take a few minutes to gather numbers and enter them into the Form. Please also send me a copy so that I know that it is filed.

The Spring Virtual Hybrid Exemplification is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2021 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm and will follow the same process and guidelines the district staff developed for the Winter Virtual Hybrid Exemplification held in January. The Degree Team will be performing the ceremonial live while candidates will gather locally in small groups with their respective new Assembly and view the ceremonial virtually. Refer to the Spring Exemplification update later in the newsletter for more information.

Remember – “Sir Knight” is not just a title, it is “An Honor”!

James M. Witzman, Master

Spring Exemplification

Due to the on-going Corona Virus Pandemic, the 2021 Spring Exemplification that was scheduled for April 16-18, 2021 in Walker, MN at Chase on the Lake has been changed from an in-person to a virtual exemplification. Although the Covid-19 restrictions were loosened in January, they are still too restrictive to allow us to meet and maintain the safety of our membership.

As we continue to focus on things we can do, the 2021 Spring Exemplification will be held on the same Saturday, April 17, 2021 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm with candidates gathering locally in small groups with their respective new Assembly and viewing the ceremonial virtually.

This Exemplification will honor our Former Vice Supreme Master of Marquette Province, Paul D. Isherwood. Paul served as Vice Supreme Master from 2015 to 2019 and recently lost his battle with cancer.

If you or someone you know are new members or members who are not yet 3rd Degree, they/you can complete the 3rd degree by participating in the new 35-minute Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity that the Minnesota State Council is doing on Zoom the first three (3) Wednesday's each month. (This zoom can be located on www.mnknights.org).

It's never been easier or less expensive for candidates to join the 4th Degree. Candidates must be 3rd Degree Knights, complete a form 4 application and pay the registration fee (\$50 for candidates and \$30 for Priests), however, in honor of the recent Beatification of Blessed Michael McGivney Priests will be Exemplified for Free and Deacons at a reduced cost of \$30. Now is a great time to get all of the clergy in the District active in our Assemblies.

Candidates no longer need to buy, borrow or rent a tuxedo. Attire for a candidate is black or dark suit with a white shirt and necktie (tuxedo may be worn also) Any candidate serving in the armed forces of his country, fulltime police and firefighters may wear their Class A or dress uniform. Clergy and Seminarians wear their normal dress.

4th Degree Members should wear the Uniform of the 4th Degree or are welcome to observe the Exemplification wearing a black or dark suit with a white shirt and necktie. All candidates and observers need to register through their Faithful Navigator.

The Exemplification of the 4th Degree is still regarded as a Secret Ceremonial by Supreme Council rules. Membership cards will be required and verified to ensure that only candidates and qualified 4th Degree Members are present during this ceremonial.

We are in very challenging times, but we all need to do our part to grow the Fourth Degree and strengthen our Order. Only through the efforts of each Assembly in the District, can we grow our membership and make this Exemplification a great success. Let us set a record for Sir Knights joining our ranks and help a brother Knight complete the process.

“NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE FOURTH DEGREE”.

Meet your New District Secretary



The COVID-19 Vaccine continues to roll out and there is more talk of hope and getting things “back to normal” this year. With that hope comes the belief that we will soon be able to resume in-person Exemplifications and other District gatherings. To effectively support this, I have appointed Dave DuPaul, Past Faithful Navigator of Fr. Timothy Vakoc Assembly #3335 to assist me as our new District Secretary.

The District Secretary’s primary responsibility is to provide oversight and guidance to exemplification Host Committees and ensure the exemplification weekend is carried out smoothly by filling in for the Master while he is in meetings or hosting dignitaries. He is also responsible for recording minutes at District Meetings as well as Provincial Meetings when hosted in his District.

Below is a short biography of Dave’s involvement in the Knights of Columbus:

An Insurance member since 2006, he is a Past Grand Knight of Saint Paul Council #397 and a Past Faithful Navigator of Fr. Tim Vakoc Assembly #3335 where he currently serves as their Color Corp Commander. At the State Level, Dave serves as chair of the RSVP, Vocations and Box of Joy Children in need committees as well as the College Council coordinator. He is the Former District Deputy #56 as well as Former Round Table Chair, Former New Council Development Chair and Former State Program Director. Dave also served as the Hierarchy Transportation Chair for the 2019 Supreme Convention in Minneapolis.

Please join me in welcoming Dave as our District Secretary.

Final Salute

01/29/2021 Fr. Galtier 542 Shakopee
02/11/2021 Msgr. Meagher 1637 Bloomington
02/12/2021 Nicollet Assembly 526 Minneapolis
02/12/2021 Fr. Pierz Assembly 530 St. Cloud

SK Guido JE. Smith
SK Reverend Mr. Thomas J. Winner
SK Thomas E. Donnelly
SK Richard R. Herbst

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Please send me information for any member of your Assembly that passes away, that they may be included here. Also, let me know if they held any leadership positions such as FDD, PGK or PFN so we can properly recognize them.

Assembly Activity Report

No Reports for February.

Please send me information on activities of your Assembly – especially your Patriotic Programs so that they can be shared with all other Assemblies.

Questions and Answers

Questions received from around the District.

Q: I am part of the 4th degree and as a result of the changes to the regalia, many of us have a cape and chapeau that we don't know what to do with. Do you have any recommendations?

A: You might cherish your old Regalia given all the memories they hold and many of our older members, even though they may possess and wear the new uniform, have made provisions for their funeral to be buried in their Tuxedo and have their personal Regalia on display. Or maybe you — or your spouse — are tired of them taking up space in the closet. When the time comes to unclutter, what should you do with those old Tuxedos, Capes & Chapeaus?

Dispose: The easiest way to get rid of anything is to dispose of it, and there are a handful of ways to do this. The first is to simply throw them in the trash. It is cautioned that if you decide to trash the Regalia, you need to remove any insignia and names on them. Some individuals even go as far as cutting or ripping them to avoid any reuse. Others have found it best to burn their old Regalia to avoid any bad press against the Knights of Columbus through its improper use.

Donate: If you aren't comfortable with trashing your Tuxedo, consider donating it. One of the more convenient places to donate is at a thrift store. It is not recommended to donate your old Regalia to avoid improper usage.

Q: I do not have the new uniform. If I do not purchase one to join the Honor Guard, what else does the Fourth Degree do?

A: (excerpt from the KofC.org website) The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus seek to embody the Order's core principle of patriotism and exemplify true Catholic citizenship. Sir Knights, as Fourth Degree Knights are called, in addition to performing Honor Guards, have been active in such programs as Serving Those Who Served, To Be a Patriot, Get Out the Vote and Flag Protocol. In addition, assemblies have optional programs that honor the memory of deceased Fourth Degree Knights. The Chalice Program is one of the most enduring programs that memorializes a deceased Fourth Degree Knight and helps a priest acquire a precious chalice. Another involves presenting a crucifix with the emblem of the Order to the family of the deceased Fourth Degree Knight.

More information on these programs can be found on <https://www.kofc.org/un/en/members/for-patriotic-degree/index.html> or speak with your Faithful Navigator and let him know you are willing to be involved in one of these programs.

District Calendar of Events

🌸	Mar 01, 2021	Renewal of Obligations – Nicollet 526 - Minneapolis, MN.
🌸	Mar 06, 2021	State Officer Meeting – St, Cloud, MN
🌸	Mar 17, 2021	St. Patrick’s Day Mass with Archbishop Hebda – St. Paul, MN
🌸	Apr 17, 2021	Spring Virtual Exemplification
🌸	Apr 21, 2021	Renewal of Obligations – Msgr. Meagher 1637 - Bloomington, MN.
🌸	Jun 07, 2021	Installation of Officers – Nicollet 526 - Minneapolis, MN.
🌸	Jun 08, 2021	Installation of Officers – Christ the King 2649 – Buffalo, MN,
🌸	Jun 14, 2021	Installation of Officers – Good Shepard 2604 – Lino Lakes, MN,
🌸	TBD	Installation of Officers & Renewal of Obligation Bishop Fitzgerald 548 - Byron, MN
🌸	TBD	Installation of Officers & Renewal of Obligations St. Peter 545 - St. Peter, MN.
🌸	TBD	Renewal of Obligations – Archbishop Murray 538 – Glencoe, MN.
🌸	TBD	Renewal of Obligations – Fr. Pierz 530, Msgr. Keaveny 537 & Msgr. Scott 549 – Brainerd, MN

Upcoming Exemplifications

🌸	Jul 17, 2021	Summer Exemplification - TBD
🌸	Oct 29-31, 2021	Fall Exemplification - Best Western, New Ulm. MN (Bishop Cretin Assembly)
🌸	Apr 22-24, 2022	Spring Exemplification – TBD
🌸	Jul 16, 2022	Summer Exemplification – TBD
🌸	Oct 28-30, 2022	Fall Exemplification – Marshall, MN (Marshall Assembly)
🌸	Apr 21-23, 2023	Spring Exemplification – Minneapolis, MN (Nicollet Assembly)



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