



Knights of Columbus

**F O U R T H
D E G R E E**

Patriotic degree of the Order.

Report of the Fourth Degree

James Witzman
District Master



“FOUNDED IN FAITH”

2020 – 2021 Year in Review

Accomplishments

- ✠ District Degree team developed a first ever Virtual Fourth Degree Exemplification Ceremony for Minnesota.
- ✠ Held one (1) In-person and two (2) Virtual Fourth Degree Exemplifications.
- ✠ Rewrote “Renewal of Obligations” ceremony to include the new Consolidated First, Second and Third Degree Obligation.
- ✠ Restarted the District Newsletter to improve communications.
- ✠ Created the position of District Secretary to help coordinate future Exemplifications.
- ✠ Filled the position of Veterans Liaison for the Minnesota District.
- ✠ Supported out Veterans by collecting a record number of “Socks for Vets” with over 2,900 pair collected.



2020 – 2021 Year in Review

Membership

- ✠ Began Fraternal year with 3,998 members in 42 Assemblies.
About 10% of State Membership.
- ✠ Exemplified 176 new Brother Sir Knights.
- ✠ Awaiting final year-end numbers from Supreme for Deaths, Transfers, Suspensions & Withdrawals.
- ✠ Anticipate we will end the Fraternal Year with a Net 0 or a slight loss.



2021 – 2022

Fourth Degree Initiatives

Integrated Recruiting with Councils

- ✠ Last Fraternal year, I asked each Assembly to notify the local Council whenever an Honor Guard is held in their parish and ask that Council to provide council members to greet parishioners on their way out of church, prepared to discuss membership in the Knights of Columbus.
- ✠ This Fraternal year, I am asking each Fourth-Degree member to recruit one (1) new member into their council; ensure that they are included in Council meetings and activities; and help them become knowledgeable of whatever leadership opportunity they choose. We don't want them falling into that "I guess they really didn't need me" group.



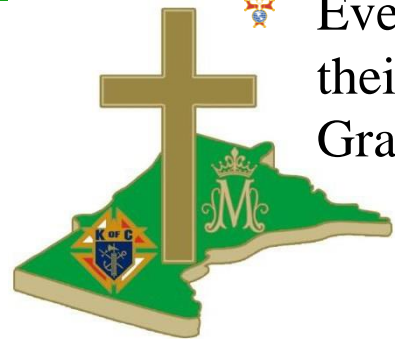
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2021 – 2022

Fourth Degree Initiatives

Integrated Recruiting with Councils (cont.)

- ✠ Reluctance by Grand Knights to promote the Fourth Degree.
 - ✠ They believe they will lose active members.
 - ✠ Fourth Degree Members actually strengthen their local Council.
 - ✠ Majority of Council Officers are 4th Degree.
 - ✠ Most State Leadership are 4th Degree.
 - ✠ All are still active in their local Council.
- ✠ Councils and Assemblies need to partner to grow the order!
- ✠ I need your help to ensure that every council includes a report of the 4th degree at each meeting.
- ✠ Every Assembly Navigator is being asked to ensure each Council in their Assembly has a Fourth Degree Liaison assigned to assist the Grand Knight and Membership Director.



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2021 – 2022

Fourth Degree Initiatives

Integrated Recruiting with Councils (cont.)

If together we deliver and make this Initiative a success

- ✠ Imagine what 4,000 new Brother Knights would mean our Councils?
- ✠ Imagine what 250 new Sir Knights would mean to our Assemblies?
- ✠ **Without Strong Councils we cannot have Strong Assemblies!**
- ✠ This is not about numbers, it is about strengthening our ability as an organization to better serve our Church and our Clergy!!



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2021 – 2022

Fourth Degree Initiatives

Veteran's Affairs Volunteer Services Program

- ✠ Knights are being called to serve our veterans through the “**Serving Those Who Served**” program. Our goal is to have an active corps of Knights serving as volunteers at every Veterans Administration medical facility in the nation.
- ✠ In the District of Minnesota, we have Two (2) major VA Medical Centers in Minneapolis and St. Cloud. We also have 13 VA Clinics around the state where Volunteers are needed on a regular basis.
- ✠ Our Goal is to have Assemblies (in partnership with their local Councils) adopt a nearby VA facility as part of their Patriotic Programs and ensure that we have VAVS representatives at each of these facilities by the end of 2021.



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Exemplifications

✠ Summer “Super Degree” Exemplification – July 17, 2021

✠ Hosted by Fr. Tim Vakoc Assembly # 3335

Holy Family Maronite Church, Mendota Heights, MN

The schedule for the day will be:

- ✠ 08:00–08:30 am Registration for the Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity.
- ✠ 08:30–09:30 am Ceremonial **Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity.**
- ✠ 09:00–10:00 am Registration for the Exemplification of Patriotism.
- ✠ 10:00–12:30 pm Fourth-Degree Ceremonial **Exemplification of Patriotism.**
- ✠ Lunch to follow – Host Assembly barbeque.

✠ Fall Exemplification – October 29-31, 2021

✠ Hosted by Bishop Cretin Assembly # 535

Best Western, New Ulm. MN

✠ Spring Exemplification – Apr 29-30, May 01, 2022

✠ Hosted by Thomas Scott Assembly # 549

Breezy Point, Brainerd, MN





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FOURTH
DEGREE

Patriotic degree of the Order.

Questions?



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MINNESOTA



Knights of Columbus

FOURTH
DEGREE

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Vivat Jesus



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