

The Meadowlands Patriot

Msgr. Peter B. O'Connor Assembly #1543,
First New Jersey District

Issue #242 February 2024
Knights of Columbus

Remember the S. S. Dorchester! see page 3.

Faithful Navigator's Message!

Worthy Sir Knights,

As we are about to enter into the Lenten Season, we as Sir Knights will start reflecting on the events leading up to Christ's Crucifixion. Through this season we need to be diligent in our prayers, fasting, and almsgiving, focusing intensely on our self-discipline. We may also take up something, like helping out more at home or making an effort to be nicer to everyone around us. Remember that this is a time of reflection, asking for forgiveness, and preparing to celebrate Jesus's resurrection at the feast of Easter.



May we all be truly thankful for this opportunity to better prepare ourselves for the sacrifice given by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

At this past Master's Meeting our Assembly was the recipient of the prestigious Civic Award, which was presented by our Worthy District Master James DeLuccia. The Civic Award is

presented annually as a tribute to the spirit of patriotism and national pride exemplified in the patriotic activities conducted by Fourth Degree Assemblies.



I want to thank all of you for your dedication to the Assembly and the Order. Let us continue all of our good works. Without you, none of this is possible!

Vivat Jesus,

SK David L. Newlin III
Faithful Navigator
Monsignor Peter B. O'Connor
Assembly 1543
North Arlington, NJ 07031
First New Jersey District Color Line
484-369-9784

Msgr. Peter B. O' Connor Assembly
Needs You !!!

Gentlemen, very shortly we will be involved with another Exemplification such as you attended when you became a Sir Knight. Start asking individuals who are already brother knights to advance themselves and join us in the 4th Degree.

What we also are in need of are Color Corps Members. We, the members of the Color Corps, are the ones who are the visible arm of the Knights of Columbus. Our numbers have dwindled down over the years and we are in need of new members. Our Color Corps is down to 7 members and it is very difficult to cover the activities that we normally cover. We are speaking of Ceremonials at church, Patriotic affairs, Parades, etc. As one Sir Knight said, "you go to church on Sunday what is the difference which one you go to?" That is because many of our call outs are on a Sunday.

Yes, you must purchase a uniform that costs aprox. \$450, but we will reimburse you \$200 from the assembly after you make at least 5 call outs. We will also provide you with a sword and baldric (sword holder). Those, who are Sir Knights, please consider joining the Color Corps and

those who are coming into the 4th Degree, please join us.

Vivat Jesus!

SK. Sal Manente Sr.

Color Corps Commander

salm50@aol.com.

Did you send your dues to Comptroller Neal McGarrity yet? Address is 814 Ninth Street, Secaucus, NJ 07094. Make checks payable to Knights of Columbus. You can also pay at the meeting.

To submit photos or articles for the next issue, please email to SK Charles Schumacher, PFN at: info.kc4d1543@gmail.com before the 30th of the previous month.

Our website is up, mostly!

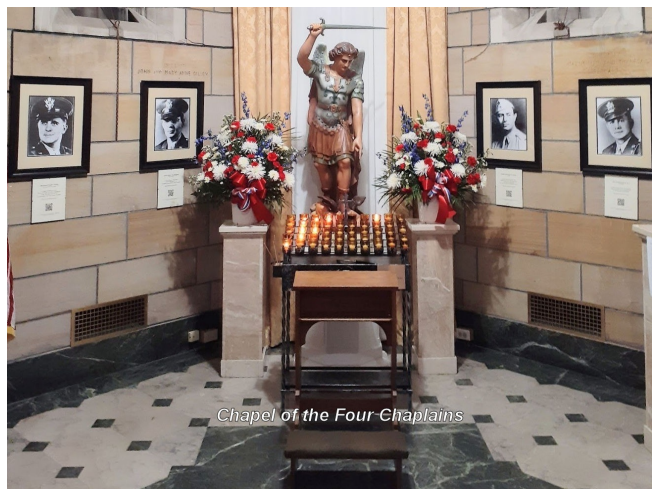
www.kc4d1543.org

PLEASE, send your newsletters and event notices to the F.N. at
d_newlin@yahoo.com

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Thursday, Feb. 8th at 8 pm-
Membership Mtg. 194 River Rd
Queen of Peace KofC Hall

Thursday, March 14th at 8pm
Same thing, different day!!!



The following is excerpted from an article by Richard Sisk and Tiffini Theisen Jan. 2024 <https://www.military.com/history/honoring-the-four-chaplains.html>

Feb. 3 marks the anniversary of the sinking of the United States Army Transport *Dorchester* and the selfless acts of four Army chaplains aboard during World War II.

The four chaplains, also known as the "Immortal Chaplains" or the "Dorchester Chaplains," represented three faiths: Catholic, Jewish and Protestant.

The Four Chaplains Story:

The 368-foot steamship *Dorchester*, operated by the War Shipping Administration, was part of a convoy that left New York in January 1943 bound for the Army Command Base at Narsarsuaq in southern Greenland.

To sail from Newfoundland to Greenland, the ship would have to navigate icy seas and pass through waters infested with German U-boats.

After midnight on Feb. 3, 1943, the *Dorchester* was torpedoed by a U-boat in the Labrador Sea off Greenland and went down in 20 minutes, according to official records.

Of the 904 aboard, 675 drowned or died of hypothermia in the frigid waters. It was believed

to be the worst single death toll for a U.S. convoy during WWII.

The *Dorchester's* loss is remembered most for the sacrifice of the "Four Chaplains" -- two Protestants, a rabbi and a Catholic priest. They were all Army first lieutenants who went down with the ship.

The four chaplains had spent much of their time calming nervous young soldiers, even putting on evening variety shows to help pass the time.

When the torpedo hit, the chaplains guided men below decks to the lifeboats and handed out life jackets.

"Just before our ship went down, these chaplains took off their own life preservers and gave them to us," one of the survivors, 19-year-old Daniel O'Keefe of the U.S. Merchant Marine Service, said a few weeks after the tragedy. "They were standing on the deck praying hand in hand as our lifeboat drifted out of sight."

Survivor John Ladd also recalled the chaplains giving away their life vests, according to the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation. "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," he said.

Another survivor, William Bednar, told *The Baltimore Sun* in 1997: "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying and swearing. I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage to the men. Their voices were probably the only things that kept me sane."

Who Were the Four Chaplains?

The Four Chaplains were Lt. George L. Fox, a Methodist minister from Pennsylvania; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, a Reform rabbi from New York; Lt. Clark V. Poling, a Reformed Church in America minister from Ohio; and Lt. John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic priest from New Jersey.

The four became friends after they were all sent to Camp Myles Standish in Massachusetts en route to overseas duty.

Their fate was sealed when they were all assigned to the USAT Dorchester, a former luxury liner filled to capacity in February 1943 with 751 troops.

They were each posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart.

There were attempts in Congress to award the four chaplains the Medal of Honor, but the efforts did not succeed under the strict guidelines for awarding the medal.

Instead, a Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1961.

Lt. John P. Washington

John P. Washington was born to a large Irish family in New Jersey. As a child, he loved music, took piano lessons and sang in the church choir.

A graduate of Seton Hall, he later studied at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington, New Jersey, before being ordained as a priest.

He served as assistant pastor of St. Stephen's Church in Kearny, New Jersey.

He joined the Army in May 1942 after the Navy rejected him due to his poor eyesight, according to the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation.

The 1st District Color Corps at the 4 Chaplains Monument in Kearny at St. Stephen's Church.

