# The Meadowlands Patriot

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

Issue #245 May 2024 Knights of Columbus

"What About Baldrics?" (Pg. 2) & We Have Stuff Goin' On! (Pg. 5)

## Faithful Navigator's Message!

Worthy Sir Knights,

As we all know May is the month of Mary. We as Sir Knights have a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus. We were all given a Rosary when we



joined the order. I encourage all of you to turn to Mary by praying the Rosary. This in turn will bring us closer to her son, Jesus.

As I complete my first term as your Faithful Navigator of our Assembly on June 30<sup>th</sup>, I want to let everyone know what a pleasure and honor it was to serve along side of you all on the many call outs and programs we were a part of. None of the many accomplishments we have achieved would have been possible without your efforts. I really appreciate all of the hard work, the time away from your families and the sacrifices you have made to make our Assembly a successful part of the Order along with the First New Jersey District.

I know we can all agree that we have implemented our principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and especially Patriotism to the highest degree. I hope to continue to lead you if I'm elected to a second term.

For those Sir Knights who have not been able to assume a more active role in our Assembly, I urge you to realize this is your opportunity to contribute your time, talents and willingness to promote our principles in the community. There is a place for everyone in our Assembly. I know that you can play a role in the advancement of our Assembly and Order.

None of our success would have been possible without the support of our families who make it possible for us to take an active role in our Assembly. To them, I personally want to express my appreciation for their patience and understanding.

And to you Worthy Sir Knights, I thank you for all of the help you have been to me and our Assembly!

Vivat Jesus!

SK David L. Newlin III
Faithful Navigator
Monsignor Peter B. O'Connor
Assembly 1543
194 River Road
North Arlington, NJ 07031
First New Jersey District Color Line
484-369-9784
Email: d\_newlin@yahoo.com

# A Message from the Supreme Master!

#### Let's Get Social!!!



As in social baldrics. Because there's been so many changes lately and despite best efforts to communicate these changes, it seems that the message never quite makes it down to membership the often gets jumbled along the way. So, I am committing this month's

Supreme Master's Message to explaining the the changes in a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) format. So, here we go!

- 1- Why did the Baldric go away?
  Answer It has not gone away.
  Instead, it will no longer be giving out to the new members at an Exemplification.
- 2- Why was this change made? Answer- With shipping and handling, the cost of the social baldric eats up approximately 20–25% of the Exemplification fee to provide a baldric that was seldom if ever be use again. For one, it does not go with the current uniform, as it was designed for wear with a tuxedo. Two, when it's giving to new members, completing the degree in a military, law enforcement or fire fighter dress uniform, it's not authorized and does not fit with the Uniform at all.
  - 3- Who can wear the social baldric?

Any Member. Most Answerimportantly, those members, who still use the tuxedo because they have not been able to acquire the Uniform yet actively participate in the Fourth Degree. This policy change is not intended to make such members feel excluded. New members have the option to buy one for wear at black-tie functions requiring a tuxedo, E.G., supreme conventions. State However, the use of a social baldric with a tuxedo is not mandatory but a way for a member to show pride in their Fourth Degree membership.

4- Can Districts or Assemblies purchase social baldric says gifts to new members?

Answer- Yes. Although, it would not seem to be a very practical financial decision, considering how few of them are used anymore.

5- What is the dress code for the Patriot Degree?

Answer- The preferred dress code is the new official uniform with Beret. However, if the candidate does not have the new uniform, they may wear a dark suit and tie.

- 6- May new candidates wear tuxedos for the Patriotic Degree? Answer- No- effective July 1, 2024. As it makes no sense to buy or rent a tuxedo for a degree. The expense of purchasing or renting could be used instead to offset the cost of a new uniform.
  - 7- Can mixed honor guard occur when some members still where their tuxedo and social baldrics,

and others where the new uniform?

Answer- No, as it does not lend to uniformity. Honor guards are limited to new uniform.

8- What is the District Master's Fund and how does this change impact it?

Answer- District Masters are not reimbursed by the Supreme Assembly except in very rare cases. As such, the Master must carefully plan travel to visit assemblies and to conduct degrees. Last year, the Board of Directors voted to increase the exemplification fee to \$90.00, meaning that a District may charge up to that amount. Masters often lose money carrying out their duties. Between travel and degrees, many use their own money to keep the Fourth Degree going. Simply put, this is not right! By increasing the fee and eliminating the social baldric for new candidates, it increases the Master's ability to conduct a meaningful degree, mass, and banquet without going in debt. Essentially, it provides relief to dedicated Sir Knights who are giving significant time and leadership to the Fourth Degree.

9- What is the change with the name badges?

Answer- Previously no name badges were worn with the current uniform, and this creates a bit of confusion. Especially in social settings were nobody knows the names of attendees from other assemblies, etc. To remedy this, members may now where a Fourth Degree name badge with

the current uniform, Only in a social setting, and never in an honor guard. Since the embroidered emblem is on the left breast and wearing of metals prevents wearing a badge on the left, the name badge may be worn on the right breast using either a pin or magnetic backing.

10- May I wear any name badge? Answer- No. It must be the name badge for your assembly or one that designates your current rank, including past or former FN, FF, DM, or VSM ranks. There is no requirement to purchase a specific name badge for wear and you may even add a magnetic backing to your current badge instead of incurring additional cost.

11- Are there any exceptions for wearing a Third Degree name badge? Answer- Yes- Current State Officers (including District Deputies) may wear the badge of their respective office. The same rule applies to current Supreme Officers and Directors. The Past Supreme Knights, Immediate and Past State Deputies, Former State Chaplins and Former Supreme Directors, may wear their respective badge indefinitely. I hope that these answers provide a better understanding of the recent change to policy. However, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Supreme Master's office at SupremeMaster@kofc.org.

Vivat Jesus' Supreme Master Michael McCusker

Our website: www.kc4d1543.org

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Memorial Mass in H. C. Cemetery with Cardinal Tobin
Monday, May 27 at 11 am,
10:15 am Muster!

Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm-Annual Election Mtg.- 194 River Rd at Queen of Peace KofC Hall

Send your newsletters and event notices to the F.N. at d newlin@yahoo.com

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

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



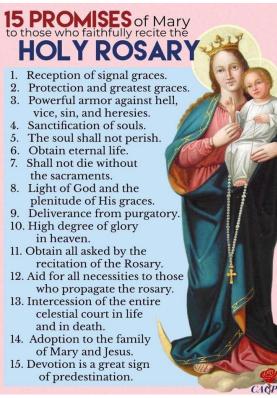
## Msgr. Peter B. O' Connor Assembly Needs You!!!

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

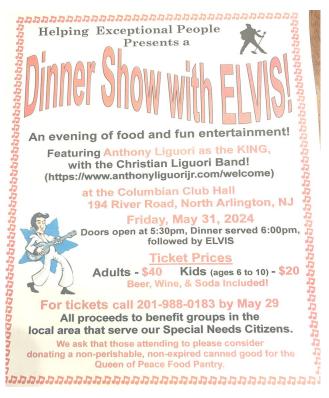
Yes, you must purchase a uniform that costs approx. \$450, but we will reimburse you \$200 from the assembly after you make at least 5 call outs. We will also provide you with a sword and baldric (sword holder). Those, who are Sir Knights, please consider joining the Color Corps and those who are coming into the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree, please join us.

Vivat Jesus! SK. Sal Manente Sr. Color Corps Commander salm50@aol.com.

<----- Getting a jump on annual Memorial Day Celebrations</p>
May 18<sup>th</sup> in Secaucus with brother S.K.'s and the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree banner.









Here comes our Color Line!



# **April Exemplification**



Congratulations to SK Aaron and Lady Astrith and SK Gerry and Lady Anne



State Deputy Raymond Sands congratulating Asst. Color Line Commander SK Lawrence Bogar



Posting the Colors at the Exemplification Banquet

#### 2024 NJ State Convention



Bishop Sullivan, Camden Diocese Officiated the Opening Mass



The Missing Man Table at the State Banquet



State Deputy SK Raymond Sands and Worthy Master Jim DeLuccia at the

Veterans / Christopher Columbus Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony