

The Meadowlands Patriot

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

Issue #246 July 2024
Knights of Columbus

I Got Elected, What Do I Do Now??? (Pg. 4)

Faithful Navigator's Message!

Worthy Sir Knights,

I now conclude my first year as your Faithful Navigator. I wanted to share some thoughts regarding my first year. It has been an amazing experience for me serving in the Color Corps, Color Line and leading our Assembly as our Faithful Navigator.



With the help of all of you we have achieved many things. We have increased our ranks of Sir Knights through new Knights and Transfers.

We stayed true to our Mission of Patriotism by supporting our Veterans by contributing to the following causes:

Wounded Warrior Project, Tunnel to Towers, The Honor Flight, Send a Warrior Home, New Jersey Mission of Honor for Cremains, Father McGivney Military Chaplains Fund, VFW, New Jersey Veterans Home at Paramus, Local Boy Scout Troop 222.

We supported many Patriotic Programs: Supply and Fly the Flag at Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church in Secaucus, Flag Deployment in Kenelworth, Sponsor a Veterans Breakfast on Veterans Day,

Donate Clothes to the many area Veterans Homes, Help many local Veterans with their expenses, Perform work on Veterans home at no charge example – Plumbing and HVAC and various other home projects and needs, Placed a Wreath at the New Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Wall in Wayne, NJ., Sponsor a Resolution for the Month of November to become Veterans Month, Sponsor Flags to Honor Local Veterans with their pictures along with branch and dates of service – Installed on Paterson Plank Rd. in Secaucus.

Finally, I would like to thank each and everyone of you that have stepped up and taken on Leadership Positions along with those who help out with our special projects and events.

Worthy Sir Knights I am honored to call you all friends and brothers. Let us all continue our good works.

Vivat Jesus!

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Faithful Navigator
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A Message from the Supreme Master!

*Our Lives, our Fortunes
and our Sacred Honor!*

Worthy Sir Knights,



For many July Fourths, I have sat on my front porch swing back in Germantown, Tennessee. It is an old wooden swing with several coats of paint that has traveled from our first home to our third home, over the past twenty-six years, and will soon

make another journey to a new home in Connecticut.

The ritual is always the same. I sit on the swing with a cup of coffee and a home made blue-berry muffin. I sit there, enjoying both, as I once again read over the words of our Declaration of Independence. And then, I come to those final words:

“And for support of this Declaration, with a firm resilience on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, Our Fortunes and Sacred Honor”

For me, this is no random practice of patriotic fervor, but a reminder of a Fourth of July long ago in 2005: the day I left home for Afghanistan. The day I hugged my wife, Theresa, and our then two children, Madeleine and Joseph, and said goodbye; not knowing if I would ever see them again. All on July 4th because the Army has terrible timing it seems. Or do they?

Looking back, if one has to go to war, can there be any more compelling me to go than on his or her nation's birthday? Can there be a more powerful reminder of all that is at stake and of all that has been sacrificed to get to this moment? And if we are patriots, does it not remind us that long ago we were called to pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor to serve a cause greater than individual selves?

For all the sadness of July 4, 2005, eventually, there was also July 8, 2006, when at 0300 Hrs. on a Sunday morning, my flight home landed in Bangor, Maine. We exited the plane in the pitch-black darkness of a Maine night, tiredly marched across the tarmac and into the terminal, where the night was suddenly devoured by the bright lights of the terminal where hundreds of those dedicated, amazing volunteers in Bangor, came out in the dark of night to ensure we were properly welcomed home. A few moments later, still physically tired but spiritually re-energized, I had my first

meal back in the United States: a cup of coffee and a Maine blueberry muffin. Even now, waves of great and complicated emotions sweep over me as I recall that moment.

As Patriots, May we always remember that God calls each of us in so many ways to love and serve both our Church and our country. Let us, time and again, resolve to pledge all we have to each other and to our Church, and to our respective countries

Vivat Jesus!

Supreme Master

Michael McCusker

SupremeMaster@kofc.org

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Thursday, September 12th at 8 pm
Membership 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**

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 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 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 4th Degree, please join us.

Vivat Jesus!

SK. Sal Manente Sr.

Color Corps Commander

salm50@aol.com

Our website:

www.kc4d1543.org

Fourth Degree Officer Responsibilities

The Laws and Rules Governing the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus specifically set the duties of Assembly Officers. This is to help our New and Current Officers along with all of Sir Knights be informed.

FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR

The Faithful Navigator is the chief executive officer of the assembly and acts as the Presiding Officer, with all the powers and duties incident to such office.

He appoints committees, countersigns orders and checks. He annually appoints or reappoints the Assembly Color Corps Commander. In his absence, or inability to perform such duties of office, the Faithful Captain shall perform such duties and exercise such powers.

FAITHFUL FRIAR

The Faithful Friar is the Spiritual Advisor of the Assembly. He is expected to make a report at Assembly Meetings on religious matters. The Faithful Navigator, Faithful Captain, Faithful Admiral, and Faithful Pilot appoint a Priest annually in accordance with such

rules established by the Bishop of the Diocese to serve the Assembly.

FAITHFUL CAPTAIN

The Faithful Captain shall, in the absence of the Faithful Navigator, perform the duties and exercise the powers of that office. He shall also, to assure a good attendance at meetings and other functions, have charge of social and other activities under the Good of the Order. (Refreshments)

FAITHFUL PILOT

The Faithful Pilot shall have charge of all properties of the Assembly excepts monies, accounts and record books of the officers, but including ceremonials; shall be responsible for arrangement of the Assembly Chamber and shall direct and be responsible for the activities of the Sentinels.

FAITHFUL COMPTROLLER

The Faithful Comptroller (Fin Sec) shall keep a roll and the records of the members with the date of their initiation in the Fourth Degree. Collect and receive all monies due the Assembly and all funds obtained from any source and transfer the same to the Faithful Purser and obtain a receipt from

him. He shall keep accounts of the charges (dues) and receipts of each member; he shall issue to each member not indebted to the Assembly for dues, a Fourth Degree Membership Card, duly signed and attested as above, which shall entitle a member admittance to any meeting of the Fourth Degree within the period specified on said card and upon further compliance with the rule requiring that the member produce a current Third Degree membership card. He shall upon request by a member transferring to another assembly, issue a transfer card, signed by the Faithful Navigator and attested by the Faithful Comptroller. He shall keep such necessary Official Records and forms as furnished by the Supreme Secretary. Notify the District Master of the names of all candidates awaiting initiation. Is the custodian of the Seal of the Assembly and affixes same to all proper papers.

FAITHFUL SCRIBE

The Faithful Scribe shall keep a record of the minutes of all regular and special meetings in a bound book furnished for that purpose by the Assembly.

FAITHFUL PURSER

The Faithful Purser (Treasurer) is the custodian of all funds obtained from any source. Makes deposits and keeps records. Pays all orders drawn on him by the Faithful Comptroller and Faithful Navigator. Makes records available to the Board of Trustees as required.

FAITHFUL INNER & OUTER SENTINELS

The Faithful Inner and Outer Sentinels shall be responsible to see that all in attendance at meetings are in possession of appropriate valid Third- and Fourth-Degree membership cards and shall perform such other duties as directed by the Faithful Pilot.

FAITHFUL ADMIRAL

The Faithful Admiral (usually the Immediate Past Faithful Navigator) is appointed annually; shall preside in case of the absence of both the Faithful Navigator and Faithful Pilot and may have such powers and performs such other duties as herein prescribed. In the absence of the Faithful Friar, performs his duties at assembly meetings.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees (normally three) are elected initially for 1, 2 & 3 years, thereafter three years. Together with the Faithful Navigator they are the Board of Trustees. The Board is responsible for auditing the record books of the Faithful Comptroller and Faithful Purser annually (June 30).

The Trustees shall before each meeting carefully examine all bills and present same to the Assembly with their recommendation; the approval of at least two members of the Board of Trustees shall be required for the payment of any bills or statements.

Worthy Sir Knights & Brothers,

In 2019, the Order entered an agreement with The Supply Room (TSR) in Oxford, Alabama, to serve as the sole manufacturer of the official Fourth Degree uniform. Per the current licensing agreement and the requirements of the Supreme Board of Directors, the manufacturing, production, and sale of the uniform is required to undergo a request for proposal (RFP) every five years.

After reviewing RFPs from TSR and another manufacturer, the Order chose to remain with TSR for an additional three years. Under the new agreement, the cost of the uniform will increase from \$449 to \$475. This new cost will take effect September 1, 2024. The new price is less

than the price quoted in the other RFP that the Order received and is below the inflation rate from 2019 to 2024.

Please note that the current TSR pricing is still available through August 31, 2024. Uniforms can be purchased online by visiting kofcuniform.com. I encourage you to avail yourself of that opportunity, especially ahead of the 125th Anniversary of the Fourth Degree on February 22, 2025.

Thank you for your continued service to our Order, especially to the 4th Degree!

Purchase the Uniform!

Vivat Jesus!

Michael McCusker

Supreme Master

Email: SupremeMaster@kofc.org

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.

