

District Master's Message

Worthy Brother Knights and Faithful Sirs of the Georgia District,

On behalf of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, Supreme Master Michael McCusker, Supreme Board of Directors, Vice Supreme Master Daniel Barton, State Deputy Kevin York, District Friar Fr. Chris Hassel, District Marshal Ed O'Connor, District Marshal Pat McMahon, and on behalf of all your Regional Marshals, welcome to our Summer District Newsletter.



The Year in Review

The 2024/25 Fraternal Year was a great success for the District of Georgia. On the membership side, we led the DeSoto Province in recruiting and we were cited by our Supreme Master in a national message as being in the **top 5 in new membership percentage**.

The District of Georgia ended the Fraternal Year at **94%** of achieving our District quota. Another area of success was in our Patriotic and Civic Programs. The District of Georgia has **19 eligible Star Assemblies**. That is **41%** of our District Assemblies, and a few of you were only a new member or two away from joining the eligible list. The District also had **23 Assemblies submit the Civic Award Application** for achievement of four patriotic minded civic programs and we had **24 Assemblies submit the To Be A Patriot Award form** for their best program. I would also like to point out the growing success of the District is evenly divided between the Diocese of Savannah and Archdiocese of Atlanta Assemblies. This speaks volume to our statewide unified effort to serve.

On behalf of the District of Georgia Staff, our Worthy State Deputy, and our Vice Supreme Master, I want to thank you for your willingness to do more service.

The Glass Half Full?

Although 23 Civic Reporting Assemblies was great, that meant **23 did not submit the report**. The question might be why not? Is it leadership or a lack of Fourth Degree knowledge? I am often asked by Assembly leaders if I can share Civic minded program ideas. **Therefore, in an effort to get 100% Civic Award submissions, I am publishing the Patriotic and Civic minded programs in this newsletter. I ask for each Navigator to review the list with your Assembly and see what four programs you can use this Fraternal Year.**

What is the Fourth Degree?

The Fourth Degree is a separate entity focused on Patriotism and Citizenship. The Fourth Degree has a separate chain of command. Each District takes its Fraternal Year marching orders from the Supreme Master, Vice Supreme Master, and District Masters. As leaders, we are governed by the Supreme Board of Directors.

The Fourth Degree is “A part of, not a part from” the Membership Degree.

The Fourth Degree is the highest degree of the Order. When the Georgia Fourth Degree’s mission of Patriotism and Citizenship programs are added to the Membership Councils’ mission programs, it makes the Georgia Knights of Columbus whole, “One in Charity, One in Unity, One in Fraternity, and One in Patriotism”.

The Fourth Degree Assembly is **not** an extension of the Council but we should work to make our Councils stronger. Fourth Degree Sir Knights are council leaders, and workers in many council programs. Sir Knights know to answer the call to serve.

I’m asking each Assembly leader to work with the councils whom you serve, and find ways to assist in recruiting good Catholic males into our Order.

Always remember, you can’t be a Sir Knight until you first become a Brother Knight. Future Assembly and Council great leaders are out there, just waiting to be asked to join.

Georgia Assemblies' Patriotic & Civic Programs

Airport USO

Atlanta Veterans Day Parade March

Barbecue for Homeless Veterans

Blessed McGivney Military Chaplain Scholarship Fund

Bunkers in Baghdad (providing golf equipment for soldiers)

Cemetery Cleanup

Chalices for Active Chaplains

Christmas Baskets for Veterans & Active Soldiers

Christmas Community March

Christmas Wreath Sales

Community Eucharistic Processions

Community Hero Night for Sporting Events

Feeding Homeless Veterans

Flag Day Ceremonies

Flag Replacements

Flag Retirements

Frontline Faith

Get out the Vote

Guitars for Veterans (emotional support & rehab)

Honor Parishioner Veterans

Mardi Gras Dinner & Dance benefitting local VA Hospital

Meals for Active Soldiers in Training

Medal of Honor Character Development

Memorial Day Ceremonies

National Anthem for Sporting Events

National Anthem Color Guard

Novena for Faithful Citizenship

Parish Honor Guards (Catholic School Graduations, Funerals, & More)

Savannah Saint Patrick's Day March

Special Olympics Color Guard

Supporting Veterans' Hospitals

Supporting Assisted Living Homes

Treat the Troops Care Packages (cookies, candy, cards, etc.)

Warriors to Lourdes

Wheelchairs for Veterans

Wreaths Across America

Many of these patriotic and civic minded programs are repeated by many Assemblies. My personal favorites involve children, as our efforts help them recognize the great love for our country and our Catholic faith.

Leading the way to honor and improve citizenship is our mission. As you can see this list of programs is much different than those of Councils. I ask you to stay focused on our mission of *Patriotism* and *Citizenship*.

When you combine the Assembly “Visual Arm of the Order” with the Council's efforts to serve, it allows the Fourth Degree to help make Georgia Knights the “Strong Right Arm of the Church”.

In closing, our Supreme Master has tasked Districts to have 100% Star Assemblies. This Fraternal Year, I challenge each Assembly to these five steps;

1. Use the list above to find just four civic programs for your Assembly.
2. Grow your Color Corps.
3. Consider having a Fourth Degree Uniform Assistance Program.
4. Take advantage of the Assembly Color Corps Mutual Aid program.
5. Ask Brother Knights to join your assembly.

Always remember, Marshals and I are available to answer any questions and aid you in your service. Please don't hesitate to ask for assistance.

Vivat Jesus!
Fraternally

S.K Arnie Terrell
Master of Georgia District
DeSoto Province
Phone 810-626-8248

This past June, the Fourth Degree experienced incredible growth. In fact, in one month we doubled our growth from the previous June 2024. As we begin a new fraternal year, it is time to focus on how to maintain the momentum that the Fourth Degree has enjoyed over the past few years.

The key to our continued success is simple. Every assembly, a star assembly. If we focus on what is possible on the local level, then in the aggregate, we will achieve tremendous growth, excellence in programming, and a reinvigorated esprit de corps that will propel the patriotic arm of the Order into our next one-hundred-and-twenty-five years.

Membership growth is meaningless unless it works to benefit the Fourth Degree at its very roots where dedicated Sir Knights continue to serve as the visible arm of the Order day in and day out. It is not the Supreme Master or his Vice Supreme or District Masters who keep the Fourth Degree going. No! It is the everyday Sir Knight.

Earlier this month, I had a chance to collectively visit the assemblies that comprise the Diocese of West Tennessee, including my own assembly, which is Lee R. Hurst Assembly 2183. It was a bittersweet occasion because it marked the end of my nearly thirty years in Memphis, as my family is preparing to move to Connecticut next month.

In recent years, the Fourth Degree has struggled in West Tennessee. A dedicated Faithful Navigator, Mike Esposito, saw this collective gathering of assemblies as an opportunity to reinvigorate the Fourth Degree in the area. It is bold initiative such as this that makes the difference between an assembly and a star assembly.

So, as we begin a new fraternal year, if you are in a great assembly, make it even greater. If you are in a struggling assembly, be willing to challenge yourselves and to take bold initiatives to promote, build and grow the Fourth Degree. Whether or not you become a Star Assembly this year depends on one thing alone – your courageous willingness.

As the Revised Exemplification of Patriotism emphasizes, there are many great moments in time, but the greatest moment is the time allotted to us by God; the time in which God has placed you to make a difference. So, I encourage each of you to plan accordingly, dare boldly, and demonstrate a willingness to be open to God's plan for your assemblies in this our 125th year! If you do, then the star you see rising on the horizon will be your own!

Vivat Jesus!



Upcoming Exemplifications

August 23rd, 2025

*hosted by: Immaculate Conception Assembly 173, the Georgia Degree Team,
& District Master Arnie Terrell*

Schedule of Events:

8:00am: Honor Guard Reporting/Training

8:00- 9:15am: Registration

9:15am – 9:45am: Candidate preparation

10:00 - 11:30am: Exemplification

11:30 - 12:30pm: Banquet

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

1707 Bull St, Savannah, GA 31401

The deadline for all forms is 10 days prior to the exemplification. Please reach out to District Marshal Ed O'Connor with any additional questions.



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For me, I was exposed to the 4th Degree at my grandfather's funeral, and it touched me to join yet I waited as I wanted to go through with my father and brother. Time got away from me and they both passed away so I went alone.

You all may remember how you got involved and without asking or spreading the word at your church or council meeting others may not know your joys of being a Sir Knight.

I have recruited 3 men in each of the past two years from the Narthex after mass. If you don't ask, they won't know and that is what you please must share.”

— **Michael Dunnermann**, *District Deputy 25*

2025 – 2026

District Marshals

Sir Ed O'Connor, *Archdiocese of Atlanta*

Sir Pat McMahon, *Diocese of Savannah*



Regional Marshals

Sir Ladd Rosipal, *Assemblies 1962, 2606, 3064, & 3085*

Sir Mike Basak, *Assemblies 2148, 2475, 2844, 3714, & 3441*

Sir Paul Tanguay, *Assemblies 173, 177, 3391, & 4034*

Sir Brian Musha, *Assemblies 174, 180, 3278, 3307, 3493, & 3799*

Sir Kevin Berkel, *Assemblies 175, 176, 178, 179, & 2022*

Sir Anthony Annarelli, *Assemblies 2161, 2688, 3410, 3770, 3923*

Sir Benjamin Cabeen, *Assemblies 2239, 2563, 2639, 3023, & 3185*

Sir Christopher Bell, *Assemblies 2771, 3086, 3164, 3217, & 3355*

Sir Bryan Lewis, *Assemblies 172, 2562, 3199, 3313, & 3856*

Savannah Diocese Assisting Marshals

Sir Paul Zock

Sir Brian Sartain

Sir Knights in Action



On July 2, 2025, a member of **Knights of Columbus Assembly 2563** placed flags on the graves of the veterans buried at St. Clare's Cemetery. It is the Assembly's way of honoring the Patriots who served our country. Nearly all of them served in one or more conflicts.



The **Santa Maria Assembly 3185** met with other patriotic organizations in Ellijay - the Lions Club, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the American Legion, the Gilmer High School 507th Civil Air Patrol, the Gilmer County Sheriff's Department, and the Fire Department in early April and proposed establishing a grand celebration of Flag Day, the highlight being the unfurling of a large 50'X100' flag as seen at half time at college football games and the Super Bowl. All agreed that was the right thing to do, and within less than 8 weeks this group put together a patriotic program, raised the \$3,900 rental fee for the flag, secured commitments for the 60 volunteers that would be needed to unfurl the huge flag and promoted the event.

Members of St. John Paul II Assembly 3355 participated in an Honor Guard for the 13th anniversary of the Kenya community at St Francis of Assisi in Cartersville, Ga. The celebrant was Bishop Cleophas Oseso of the Diocese of Nakuru, Kenya





Coweta Assembly 3199 consisting of Sir Knights from St. George Council 6622 and Sharpsburg Council 12862 were honored to be asked to participate in the Flag Retirement Ceremony on Flag Day June 14th at VFW Post 2667 in Newnan. Sir Knights in attendance were SK Mick Maguire FFN, SK Mike Barrow Faithful Captain, SK Ed Rainwater GK 6622 and wife Alicia , SK Brian Robinson and wife Pat and SK Tom Lanyi FN

Sir Knights from Immaculate Conception Assembly 173, Ave Maria Assembly 3391 and Fr Robert Girardeau Assembly 4034 provided an Honor Guard for the Ordination to the Priesthood in the Diocese of Savannah.



Archbishop John F Donoghue Atlanta Assembly 3313 held a flag retirement ceremony on June 14th at the Cathedral of Christ the King. Flags were collected from Retirement boxes at both Holy Spirit Catholic Church and the Cathedral of Christ the King

Members of **Patrick Walsh Assembly 174** placed over 1200 flags marking the graves of veterans in honor of Memorial Day at Mount Olive Memorial Gardens on Saturday, May 24 and retrieved the flags on Saturday, May 31.



Warriors to Lourdes gave special thanks to Rachel Huber, Jeremy Estrada, Mike Basak, Kevin York, Christopher Bell, Brad Burnett, ED O'Connor, Jim Clifford, Tim Bair, TJ McCaustland for spending the day helping see off this amazing cause.

Since 2013, the Knights of Columbus has partnered with the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, to sponsor the annual Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage.

On May 18th, **Sir Knights from Assemblies 3313, 3355, and 3086** served in an Honor Guard for a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Marist Fathers and Brothers who served Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church and Schools over the last 60 years.

