



Q2 2026 Newsletter

Supreme Master's Message

Once in confession my priest, who was also my friend, told me, "Michael, you are your own worst enemy."

He said this in the context of my drive for perfection, which he noted is impossible. He added, "There was only one perfect man in the history of the world, and he was hung on a cross."

Last Saturday, I contemplated this as I walked the Way of the Cross on the hills above the Lourdes Grotto, during the Knights of Columbus Warriors to Lourdes program, which is always held in conjunction with the International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes, France. During the walk, Father Brian Reedy, S.J., a Navy chaplain, spoke on this point, commenting, "We always attempt perfection and when we fail, we become our worst critics. How can we come to be more like Christ?"

"Christ fell three times under the weight of the cross that bore our sins. If Christ, who was perfect, struggled to carry his cross, then why do we condemn ourselves when we fall under the weight of our own crosses?"

Two days later, I stood in the basilica at Lourdes, carefully studying a replica of Arnolfo di Cambio's famous statue of St. Peter which sits in the nave of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. It shows Peter sitting on the papal throne, holding the keys to the kingdom of God. For the first time, I did not simply see him as St. Peter, but as a man who failed and failed often, ultimately denying Jesus three times. And yet, there he sits – our first Pope. Entrusted by God to lead the Church, despite his personal failures.

Worthy Sir Knights, none of us are perfect. We will all, time and again, fall under the weight of our individual crosses. We will encounter disappointment, frustration, and oftentimes pain not only as Christians but as Knights, and especially in leadership roles. As this fraternal year nears its end, I urge you to take an accounting of your accomplishments as Sir Knights, assembly officers, district masters, and even Vice Supreme Masters. (I will do the same.) Also consider your failures or shortcomings this past fraternal year with a determination to grow and learn from where you failed or struggled.

And then, once contemplated, forgive yourself, determined to pick up the cross again, willing to accept the help of the Simons among your brother knights.
Keep going! Keep faith!

For God, just like St. Peter, has a plan for each of us despite our imperfections.

Vivat Jesus!

Michael McCusker, *Supreme Master*



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.



Two years ago my message to you as a Master candidate was saying, we could do so much more. I saw Assemblies slow to come out of the shadows of the Covid pandemic. Our inward reclusiveness kept us away from our full call to serve both Patriotically and Civically. We were slow to promote the Fourth Degree Uniform, slow to grow our Color Corps, and slow to display the “*Visual Arm of the Order*”.

Today, as your District Master, I am pleased to announce, you have heard the message of change. You have heard the message from our Supreme Master, Vice Supreme Master and from me to grow the Color Corps, grow in service, and grow in membership. Just this year, Assembly's have gone from not having a Color Corps to having a large and vibrant one, able to serve their Parishes and community.

I am so very proud of each and every one of you. As I travel around the State, I am seeing many Faithful Sirs performing in their very first Color Guard or Honor Guard event. Faithful Sirs of all ages are getting the uniform of the Fourth Degree and lending their time and commitment toward service. Most recently in Savannah, we had a wheelchair bound Faithful Sir, joining the Color Guard marching in the Savannah St. Patrick's Day parade. For some of these men, it was their first time carrying our beloved flags.

As I got to know many of our Assemblies leaders, I would be remiss if I failed to acknowledge some of your sacrifices. Around the State of Georgia, we have leaders who are suffering great life threatening illnesses, or leaders who are caring for a health-struggling wife. I want each of you to know, I see you and I hear you. I greatly admire the strength you carry which enables you to continue to serve your brother knights, serve your parishioners, and serve your community. *You Faithful Sirs, are to be commended.*

In the Exemplification of Patriotism, I read a message which states, *“From our founding, Catholics have fearlessly stood in the arena of history, contributing their fibers of faith that wove our national destiny”*. This passage speaks directly to each of you, for you are men of principles, men of convictions, and men of conscience. Take pride in being a Sir Knight of the Fourth Degree, take pride in serving our Church and Country.

This year marks our Country’s 250th anniversary. You will hear about the One Nation Under God Pilgrimage Procession, and about the Beatification of the Georgia Martyrs. These three big events will give all of our Assemblies a once in a lifetime opportunity of service. This is why I have been pleading around the District for our Assemblies to grow their Color Corps. The time is now for outward service.

One of the first actions I took was to set up the Mutual Aid Program. Many of you have taken full advantage of it and made the program very successful. I hear the appreciations from our Bishops as they see a large Honor Guard. It’s success lies not with me but with each of you who respond in service to your neighboring Assemblies. In this service, I believe the Mutual Aid has given those who serve opportunities to form new friendships, and truly live our Fraternal bonding unity.



My call this Fraternal Year is to have 100% Civic Award recipients. This award form showcases only four Patriotic and Civic minded Assembly programs. I have also called for the District to have as many Star Assemblies as possible. Star requirements are our navigational compass which move us toward better service to Church and Country. I want each of you to know your Regional Marshals are here to assist you become successful.

This year, Supreme has announced a recruitment plan for us to follow. They ask for every 5 new brother Knight candidates into your Councils, at least one is guided along into the Fourth Degree. Supreme asks that recruiting Catholic males into the Order is not just a Council activity, but it is an Assembly's as well. We must work with our Council Brother Knights to grow and we must recruit where the Council refuses. We must be leaders in all aspects of the Knights of Columbus.

If you are from an Assembly that has been lagging behind, I ask for you to reconsider your actions, join the movement I am seeing around the state. Don't be left behind. If the time is not now, then when? Go to your Assemblies with an eagerness to serve and an urgency to lead. It is each of our duty to leave our office of duty in better condition than when we received it.

I want to thank each of you for your service and for what you do to make the Georgia District grow.

Vivat Jesus!
Fraternally,

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



At the Biennial Meeting, Assembly 172 Color Corps Commander **SK Patrick Waldron** was named the Sir Knight of the Year for his many efforts to support the fourth degree in the District of Georgia.

At the State Convention, Regional Marshal **SK Bryan Lewis** and his family were named the Family of the Year.





2024 – 2025

STAR ASSEMBLY AWARD WINNERS

Immaculate Conception Assembly 173

Patrick Walsh Assembly 174

Bishop Gross Assembly 176

Fr. Peter Whelan Assembly 178

John F. Kennedy Assembly 180 **

Archbishop Thomas A. Donnellan Assembly 2148

Fr. Gerald Whalen Assembly 2239

St. Maximilian Kolbe Assembly 3085

Good Shepherd Assembly 3164

Santa Maria Assembly 3185

Coweta Assembly 3199

Archbishop John F Donoghue Atlanta Assembly 3313

St. John Paul II Assembly 3355

St. Michael the Archangel Assembly 3410

Fr. Walter L. DiFrancesco Assembly 3493

Our Lady of Guadalupe Assembly 3714

Fr. Roger J. Plante M.S. Assembly 3770

Fr. Vincent Capodanno Assembly 3799

St. Joachim Assembly 3923

**** DISTRICT TO BE A PATRIOT AWARD WINNER**



You are invited to An Upcoming Exemplification

Celebrating 250 years of the United States of America

August 22nd, 2026

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

Schedule of Events:

8:30am: Honor Guard Reporting
9 - 10am: Registration
10 - 10:30am: Candidate Preparation
10:30am - 12:15pm: Exemplification
12:15 - 1:15pm: Luncheon

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

1707 Bull St, Savannah, GA 31401



- To ensure certificates are correct, a completed [Form 4](#) and funds should be received no later than 10 days prior.
- The ceremony and lunch are open to family and friends. Guests who wish to join for lunch (\$12/person) should pre-pay: <https://square.link/u/ClhqWhZe>



Georgia Martyrs to be Beatified October 31, 2026

VENERABLE SERVANTS OF GOD PEDRO DE CORPA AND COMPANIONS

Be One of the 100!

Beatification Mass for the Georgia Martyrs

Save the Date and be a part of history as we look to provide an Honor Guard 100+ strong for the Beatification mass for the Georgia Martyrs

Details:

Oct 31, 2026

Savannah Convention Center, Hutchinson Island

If you have any questions, please reach out to
Savannah District Marshal Pat McMahon
district.marshal.sav@gakofc.org
912.667.5857



Sir Knights In Action



After beginning on Sunday, May 24, in St. Augustine, Florida, pilgrims participating in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage spent four days in Georgia. Savannah District Marshal **SK Pat McMahon** led the Color Corps participation as Knights processed ahead of the Blessed Sacrament beneath a canopy.



On Sunday, April 12th, 2026, **Fr. Emmeran Bliemel O.S.D. Assembly 1962** provided an Honor Guard during the Divine Mercy service held at St. James the Apostle parish in McDonough, Georgia.

Faithful Navigator **SK Robert Murtha** & Past State Deputy **SK Jim Clifford** can be seen posting the honor guard.

For over 20 years, Knights of Columbus Councils from around Georgia have supported Special Olympics Georgia athletes in countless meaningful ways. The Winter Games Opening Ceremonies were supported this year with a Color Guard of Sir Knights from **St. John Paul II Assembly 3355**.





Following our District's most recent fourth degree exemplification, **Mother Teresa Assembly 2562** led by Color Corps Commander **SK Dennis Mahon** provided an Honor Guard for St. Vincent de Paul parish in Dallas, Georgia as they celebrated a first communion mass.

Sir Knights in uniform represented the Georgia Knights of Columbus in the Savannah St Patrick's Day parade. State Deputy SK Kevin York and District Master SK Arnie Terrell were interviewed live as they prepared to start the parade.

The Color Guard was led by Savannah District Marshal and **Immaculate Conception Assembly 173** Color Corps Commander **SK Pat McMahon**.



Lanier Assembly 2844 provided a Color Guard for the Georgia Swarm Heroes Night game on April 12th, 2026. The guard was led by Color Corps Commander **SK Davey Reyes**.

Additionally, Regional Marshal **SK Bryan Lewis** preceded the National Anthem singing a rendition of God Bless America.

As part of the Vigil Mass at the 124th Annual State Convention, Sir Knights from across the state travelled with their uniforms and provided an Honor Guard 18 men strong.



Sir Knights from Archbishop John F Donoghue Atlanta Assembly 3313 served at the Cathedral of Christ the King for the Easter Vigil presided by Archbishop Hartmayer. The cathedral parish family welcomed 90 men and women into the church. It was a packed house and the Knights were ever flexible and served the parish when asked to help take up the collections before right mass started.

Georgia Knights of Columbus responded when called upon to provide an Honor Guard for the funeral of Fr. Richard Wise.

Sir Knights from **Assemblies 172, 175, 2606, 3313, and 3355** came together on short notice to serve at the funeral mass at the Cathedral of Christ the King.



Want to see your assembly represented in an upcoming newsletter?

Be sure to share pictures and a brief description of the event to

4civicprogram.dir@gakofc.org

**Remember to submit Civic Award
Applications by June 30.**



**Knights of
Columbus®**

