



FOURTH DEGREE ANNOUNCEMENT

BISHOP GALLAGHER ASSEMBLY 1091

Bryan, Texas - U.S.A.

Home Assembly of District VI Master Joe Moreno, Jr.

DECEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

<http://www.stjosephbcs.org/documents/4thdegreeannouncements.pdf>

Month of the
Immaculate
Conception

Sir Knights - You are bestowed the honor of Knighthood and continue in your journey in learning the lesson of PATRIOTISM. The major purpose of Fourth Degree membership is fostering the spirit of PATRIOTISM in members and the community and encouraging Catholic citizenship. As a Fourth Degree Knight, you are requested to be a part of the Assembly's Color Corps. As an honor guard, you are recognized widely by the distinctive attire of tuxedo, feathered hat (chapeau), cape, and sword. You are obligated to take part in civic events, such as parades and wreath-laying ceremonies, and in ecclesial functions at our Catholic churches.

COLOR CORPS ACTIVITIES

Be prepared to turn out for corporate communion masses, funerals, weddings, baptisms, and other events.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SK CHRIS NUGENT



November 1, Sunday – THANK YOU Sir Knights Joe Moreno, Johnny Hoelscher, Larry Finch, and Larry Ermis for serving as honor guard at the Maternal Bond Monument dedication at Mount Calvary Cemetery on All Saints Day. Monsignor John McCaffrey performed the dedication ceremony, with assistance from Father Vincent Nguyen. Representatives of KJZT #6 were also in attendance. The honor guard led the procession for the Blessing of Graves.

November 8, Sunday – THANK YOU to the eleven Sir Knights for serving as Color Corps at the Bryan Rotary Veteran's Parade. THANK YOU SK Johnny Hoelscher for providing the truck, trailer, and refreshments. Parade chair Mike Southerland appreciated our participation. **PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBYN KEEFER**

November 17, Tuesday – THANK YOU Sir Knights of Council 1834 for turning out in full regalia for the memorial service and social at the KofC hall. Families and friends of deceased Knights appreciated your thoughtfulness.



December 8, Tuesday – THANK YOU Sir Knights for turning out in full regalia for the 6 p.m. Immaculate Conception Mass at St. Mary Church in Hearne. Fr. Robert Herald discussed background of the Silver Rose during his homily.

December 24, Thursday – Sir Knights are requested to turn out in full regalia as honor guard for Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at their respective churches. Arrive no later than 15 minutes before mass for instructions.

MEETINGS & OTHER EVENTS

- December 8, Tuesday** – FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. Holy Day of Obligation.
- December 9 through 12, Wednesday through Saturday** – Running of the Silver Rose from Laredo to Monterrey.
- December 10, Thursday** – Men's Advent Supper at St. Joseph PAC at 6:30 p.m.. Make plans to attend.
- December 12, Saturday** – FEAST DAY OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE.
- December 22, Tuesday** – No Assembly 1091 regular meeting. The next meeting in January is for Renewal of Vows.
- December 25, Friday** – NATIVITY OF OUR LORD. Holy Day of Obligation. Celebrate Jesus' birthday anniversary with your families. Visit nursing homes and homeless shelters. Provide food to needy families. Visit the sick in the hospitals. Assembly 1091 wishes all Sir Knights and their families a BLESSED CHRISTMAS.
- December 31, Thursday** – NEW YEAR'S EVE. Attend mass. Thank the Lord, Jesus Christ, for the year's blessings.
- January 1, Friday** – SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY. Holy Day of Obligation.
- January 3, Sunday** – FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY.
- January 10, Sunday** – BAPTISM OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST.
- January 20 and 21, Wednesday and Thursday** – Vigil Mass for Life at Basilica of National Shrine on Wednesday and March for Life at Washington, D.C. on Thursday.
- January 26, Tuesday** – Assembly 1091 "Renewal of Vows" meeting. Social begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring your spouses with you. Meal will be catered. Chair officers in full regalia. Dress for others is tux and social baldric.
- January 26, Tuesday** – Diocesan Annual Pro-Mass at 7 p.m. at Christ the Good Shepherd Chapel on Coulter in Bryan.
- January 31-February 6, Sunday-Saturday** – Catholic Schools Week. Theme: "Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life."

EXEMPLIFICATIONS

Refer to the State, Diocese, District, and Assembly KofC Web sites for more information on scheduled degrees.

March 20, Saturday – District VI Fourth Degree Exemplification at St. Helen Parish in Georgetown. Visit the State Council Web site calendar at <http://www.tkofc.org/index.php?name=CPGNuCalendar> after the new year begins for the day's agenda and more information (as it becomes available).

Plan to attend the following degree exemplifications and support our prospects who will become future Sir Knights.

February 10, Wednesday – First Degree Exemplification at St. Joseph PAC. Candidates arrive by or before 6:30 p.m. Exemplification begins at 7:30 p.m. [On September 16 and 20 and November 10, the 1st First Degree Exemplifications saw 60 new Knights join the order.] The First Degree Exemplification is posted at the State Council "calendar" site - <http://www.tkofc.org/index.php?name=CPGNuCalendar>.

Fall 2010, Sunday date to be scheduled with degree team during the summer – Major Degree Exemplification hosted by Council 11759. Dress is full regalia for the 8:30 a.m. corporate communion mass at St. Joseph Church. The exemplification begins at 10:30 a.m. at Council 1834 Hall. Stay tuned to the State Council Web site (<http://www.tkofc.org>) in year 2010 for more information on the exemplification. [On September 20, 2009, forty-five Knights received their 2nd & 3rd Degrees in Bryan.]

COMMUNICATIONS

No mail communications were received during November.

Other 4th Degree communications are in the District 117 NEWS newsletter at <http://www.stjosephbcs.org/kofc.shtml>.

WE PRAY FOR THESE AND OTHERS IN THE MILITARY

Sgt. Joseph Chance Bowman
A1C Clinton Doriocourt
SPC Jay Geronime
Sgt. Nchia Kedze Ghong
Col. Michael G. Kelley
M/Sgt Brian Locke
Sgt. Juan Antonio Lopez
PFC Ricardo A. Luna
SSgt Timothy Luza, Jr.

† Capt. Sean E. Lyerly †
M/Sgt. Doug McMillan
LCpl. Gabriel Marteil
WO1 Jeffrey Pivonka
PFC Ariel Quinones
LCpl. James Robinson
Sgt. Adrian Rodriguez
Sgt. Joel Rodriguez
SPC Jay Saculla

PFC Daniel Stadler
Cpl. Daniel W. Schwartz
PFC Aaron Waller
Sgt. Matt White
Sgt. Rick Lee Wolff
1st Lt. Forrest Womack
M/Sgt. Sherrie Yeates
S/Sgt. Michael Zeig

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Assembly 1091 and Assembly 2041 request support of the following Grand Knights in promoting the Patriotic Degree: Council 1834 GK Clarence Lambrecht, Council 3205 GK Russ Kellen, Council 10555 GK John Sifuentes, Jr., Council 10624 GK Christopher Drury, and Council 11759 GK Chris Nugent.

As of December 1, 2009, Assembly 1091's membership is 95. Eleven Sir Knights have Honorary Life status. 56 SKs have paid their dues for the fraternal year.

The fraternal year's quota for Assembly 1091 is 9 new members (10% of paid membership). [Our assembly has not brought in a new Sir Knight since October 5, 2008.]

HAVE YOU ASKED A THIRD DEGREE KNIGHT TO BE A SIR KNIGHT ?

AWARDS PROGRAM



The "To Be A Patriot" (single best activity) and "Civic Award" (four varied programs) applications are due annually on June 1 to the District Master. [Assembly 1091 has received the "Civic Award" and the "Our Lady of Guadalupe Provincial Award of Excellence" over the past few years. The Civic Award application was completed and mailed to Supreme this past June by SK Larry Ermis. An outstanding and community-wide activity must be completed in order to be considered for the "To Be A Patriot" award.]

ASSEMBLY 1091 OFFICERS

Faithful Navigator Larry Finch

Faithful Friar Msgr John McCaffrey

Faithful Comptroller Johnny Hoelscher

Faithful Captain Mike Orozco

Faithful Admiral Louis De La Cruz, Jr.

Faithful Purser Larry Ermis

Faithful Pilot John McGuill

Faithful Scribe Steve "Mike" Swetish

Inner Sentinel Steve Rathbone

Outer Sentinel Wes Thompson

1-yr Trustee Val Lopez

2-yr Trustee Charlie Ballew

3-yr Trustee Roel Villarreal

CONTACTS FOR FOURTH DEGREE INFORMATION

SK Larry Finch
Assembly 1091 Faithful Navigator
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SK Johnny Hoelscher
Assembly 1091 Comptroller
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SK Joe Moreno, Jr.
District VI Master & Assembly 1091 PFN
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PROMOTING THE FOURTH DEGREE

Through their leadership and dedication, Fourth Degree Knights have earned their place as the most visible arm of the Order. Having a close relationship with a Fourth Degree assembly will benefit your council and its members. Not only are Fourth Degree members less likely to lapse or go inactive, but they also know the importance of active members and what they mean to projects, events, volunteering, and so on. To bridge any gaps that may exist between your council and assembly, agreeing on a Fourth Degree representative or liaison is a good idea. This way, the council will have a go-to person who can represent the assembly and take any questions or concerns that may arise when organizing, scheduling, or meeting. Along with the Fourth Degree representative serving the council, it is a good idea to periodically, if not regularly, to invite the faithful navigator to report on assembly activity at council meetings and to recruit members for the Fourth Degree.

To qualify for the Fourth Degree a member must be 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the country in which he resides, be a member of the Order for at least 12 months, and a member in good standing with his council. Ideally, every Third Degree Knight should become a Fourth Degree Knight to make the Order's presence in the community more visible and to assist councils in recruitment efforts.

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

Our military personnel voluntarily act as protectors of our nations, standing on the front lines while keeping us safe behind them. The Knights of Columbus acknowledges this unselfish act of patriotism by promoting the "Serving Those Who Served" program. Members of the Order should honor and assist these men and women. To honor military personnel for their services, assemblies and councils can give their time volunteering at veterans' hospitals, clinics, and health care facilities. This is a great way to show veterans that their efforts and sacrifices are not forgotten. Councils can also send greeting or birthday cards to hospitalized veterans and military personnel stationed away from home. Let the veterans and current members of the military know that the Knights of Columbus appreciates their service and sacrifice. Take time to honor or assist them in a way that is worthy of their military service.

The Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service, VAVS, is the vehicle that assemblies use in the "Serving Those Who Served" program. Through this service, the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Veteran's Hospital volunteers are organized by having one of their members become a certified representative at the hospital. Our certified members attend hospital meetings and organize efforts for K of C volunteers. The Knights of Columbus currently has a VAVS Committee at almost every VA medical center and clinic in the United States. These committees consist of at least one certified representative and up to three deputy representatives from the Knights of Columbus. In the United States, the VA hospitals, clinics and facilities need all types of volunteer services — from program planning to visiting veterans. For more information on this outstanding program, please contact your Fourth Degree district master or locate the closest VA Medical center.

Assemblies and councils can also honor military personnel and veterans throughout the year by presenting them with Patriotic Service Award certificates. These certificates are available from the Supreme Council Supply Department. Also available is the Armed Forces Certificate that can be presented to members of the military as an expression of gratitude for service to the defense of "mankind's basic rights to a life of freedom and dignity."

HISTORY OF BISHOP N. A. GALLAGHER ASSEMBLY

In the early years of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus of the State of Texas, the state was divided into the Southern district and the Northern district. Five Sir Knights were assigned to the Southern district with headquarters in Houston. They were Father J. B. Gleissner, Frank Zubic Sr., Raymond Valouch, Gus Schultz, and H. B. McDowell.

In 1936, Joe Havel, Frank Havel, Frank Schultz, Jerome Zubik, Sam Restivo, and Father Tim Valenta joined the Fourth Degree in Houston. This provided enough membership to institute an Assembly in Bryan. On June 8, 1940, the charter was drawn up with the Houston Assembly officers doing the honors. Bishop N. A. Gallagher was chosen for the Assembly name because Bishop Gallagher was the Bishop of Galveston who ordained Father Gleissner as a priest. Father Gleissner became the first Friar, and Louis Bolmanski became the first Faithful Navigator.

As the membership in the state grew, the state was divided into districts in accordance with the Diocese boundaries. Assembly 1091, being in the Austin Diocese, became part of District VI. Three local Sir Knights were privileged to serve as Masters in the Austin Diocese. They include Jerome "Jack" Zubik, Colonel Walter Parsons, Frank Scanlin, and Joe Moreno, Jr.

FOURTH DEGREE ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

The Fourth Degree is the highest degree of the order. Members of the degree are addressed as "Sir Knight." The primary purpose of the Fourth Degree is to foster the spirit of patriotism and to encourage active Catholic citizenship. Fewer than 20% of Knights join the 4th Degree, which is an optional degree. A Knight must be active in his council for one year before he can join a Fourth Degree Assembly (the time requirement may be reduced to six months under special circumstances).



Assemblies (such as our Assembly 1091) are distinct from councils and are led by a separate set of elected officers. The Supreme Board of Directors appoints a Supreme Master (currently Joseph P. Schultz), and twenty Vice-Supreme Masters to govern the Fourth Degree. Each Vice-Supreme Master (our VSM is Paul Weigl, Jr. of Oklahoma) oversees a Province (our province is Our Lady of Guadalupe) which is then broken up into Districts (our assembly is in District 6). The Supreme Master appoints District Masters to supervise several assemblies (our District Master is Joe Moreno, Jr., and his assistant is District Marshal Frank Lara).

Each assembly is led by a Navigator (our Navigator is Larry Finch). Other elected assembly officers include the Captain, Admiral, Pilot, Scribe, Purser, Comptroller, Sentinels, and Trustees (refer to previous listing of Assembly 1091 officers). A Friar and Color Corps Commander are appointed by the Navigator. Assembly officers are properly addressed by using the title "Faithful" (for example, Faithful Navigator). Assemblies are numbered in the order in which they chartered into the Order and are named by the local membership (as discussed elsewhere in this newsletter, our Assembly 1091 is named after Bishop N. A. Gallagher).

Only Fourth Degree Knights may optionally purchase the full regalia and join the Assembly's Color Corps. The Color Corps is the most "visible arm" of the Knights as they are often seen during masses, at parades, and other local events wearing their colorful regalia. Official dress for the Color Corps is black tuxedo, service baldric, white gloves, cape, and naval chapeau. White tuxedos may also be used on certain occasions, especially at the Supreme and State levels. Baldrics are worn from the right shoulder to left hip and are color specific by nation. In the United States, baldrics are red, white, and blue. A service baldric includes a holster for a sword and is worn over the coat while a social baldric is worn under the coat. The colors of the cape and chapeau denote the office that the Sir Knight holds within the Fourth Degree. Faithful Navigators and Past Faithful Navigators are permitted to carry white-handled silver swords. Masters and Vice-Supreme Masters, as well as Former Masters and Former Vice-Supreme Masters, are recognized by their gold swords.

Rank	Color
Vice-Supreme Master	Blue Cape and Blue Chapeau
District Master	Gold Cape and Gold Chapeau
District Marshal	Green Cape and Green Chapeau
Faithful Navigator	White Cape and White Chapeau
Assembly Commander	Purple Cape and Purple Chapeau
Color Corps Members	Red Cape and White Chapeau

The need for a patriotic degree was first considered in 1886; a special plea was made at the National Meeting in 1899. The first 4th Degree exemplification was in 1900 with 1,100 Knights participating at the Lenox Lyceum in New York. Today, the order has more than 2,500 Assemblies. [Source: [http://www.answers.com/topic/knights-of-columbus.](http://www.answers.com/topic/knights-of-columbus)]

