



FOURTH DEGREE ANNOUNCEMENT

BISHOP GALLAGHER ASSEMBLY 1091

Bryan, Texas - U.S.A.

Month
of the
Immaculate
Conception

DECEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

The monthly newsletter is available at <http://www.stjosephbcs.org/documents/4thdegreeannouncements.pdf>.

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 of our Catholic churches.

Serve with Passion

COLOR CORPS ACTIVITIES

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

October 31, Sunday – THANK YOU Sir Knights for serving as honor guard at the Blessing of Graves at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Bryan. Sir Knight and Monsignor John McCaffrey appreciated our attendance.

November 7, Sunday – THANK YOU to the thirteen Sir Knights for serving as Color Corps at the Bryan Rotary Veteran's Parade. Also in attendance with the Sir Knights were three children and First Lady Nicole - FN Larry Finch's spouse. THANK YOU SK Roel Villarreal for coordinating the truck, trailer, and refreshments. Parade chair Mike Southerland appreciated our participation.



November 13, Saturday – THANK YOU to the five Sir Knights for serving as honor guard at the Baptism of Maria Cecelia Sanchez, daughter of SK Richard Sanchez and spouse Natalie. The families appreciated our participation.

December 11, Saturday – THANK YOU to the six Sir Knights for serving as honor guard at the Baptism of Abigail Finch, daughter of Faithful Navigator Larry Finch and spouse Nicole. The families appreciated our participation.



December 24, Friday – Sir Knights are requested to turn out in full regalia as honor guard for Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at their respective churches. Report to the church 30 minutes before mass for instructions.

MEETINGS & OTHER EVENTS

November 1, Monday – ALL SAINTS DAY. Holy Day of Obligation.

November 2, Tuesday – All Souls Day; Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed.

November 2, Tuesday – Election Day. THANK YOU Sir Knights for casting your ballots.

November 11, Thursday – VETERANS DAY. Remember all past and present military personnel.

November 21, Sunday – FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING. We celebrate the all-embracing authority of Jesus Christ.

November 23, Tuesday – THANK YOU Sir Knights for your attendance at the Assembly social and regular meeting.

THANK YOU SKs Steve Rathbone and Terry Douglas for chairing meal preparation and serving the delicious food.

November 25, Thursday – HAPPY THANKSGIVING to all Sir Knights and their families. Give thanks to Our Lord, Jesus Christ for making possible all that we have.

November 28, Sunday – ADVENT SUNDAY. Prepare the way for the coming of Jesus Christ.

December 8, Wednesday – FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. Holy Day of Obligation.

December 8 through 11, Wednesday through Saturday – Running of the Silver Rose from Laredo to Monterrey.

December 11, Saturday – FEAST DAY OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE.

December 25, Saturday – 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 injured and sick in the hospitals. Assembly 1091 wishes all Sir Knights and their families a BLESSED CHRISTMAS and joy during the new year.



December 28, Tuesday – No Assembly 1091 regular meeting. [A Christmas meal and social was being planned but a definite date and time was not scheduled as of the printing of this newsletter.]

December 31, Friday – NEW YEAR'S EVE. Attend mass. Thank the Lord, Jesus Christ, for the year's blessings.

January 1, Saturday – SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY. Holy Day of Obligation.

January 2, Sunday – FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY.

January 9, Sunday – BAPTISM OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST.

January 22, Saturday – Diocesan Annual Pro-Mass. Rosary recited at 10 a.m. at San Jose Parish in Austin, followed by the Pro-Life Mass. Thousands of Texans will then participate in the March and Rally at the Capitol.

January 23 and 24, Sunday and Monday – Vigil Mass for Life at Basilica of National Shrine at Washington, D.C.

January 25, Tuesday (TENTATIVE) – Assembly 1091 and Assembly 2041 "Renewal of Vows" meeting at site TBA. Social begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring your spouses or significant others. A catered meal will be served. Chair officers are to be in full regalia. Dress for others is tux and social baldric.

January 30-February 5, Sunday-Saturday – Catholic Schools Week. Theme: "A+ for American Catholic Schools."

EXEMPLIFICATIONS

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

Spring date TBA – District VI One-Day FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION at site TBA. Visit State Council Web site - <http://www.tkofc.org> - for information as it becomes available.

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

February 16, Wednesday (TENTATIVE) – FIRST DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION at St. Mary Student Center hosted by Council 10624 and conducted by Council 3205. Candidates must arrive by 6:30 p.m. for paperwork followed by an orientation. Exemplification begins at 7:30 p.m. [On September 15 in College Station and November 10 in Bryan, two First Degree Exemplifications resulted in 47 new Knights joining the order in District 117.]

Fall date TBA – MAJOR DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION (2nd and 3rd Degrees) to be hosted by Council 1834. Dress is full regalia for the 8 a.m. corporate communion mass at St. Anthony Church in Bryan. Candidates should be at the church by 7:30 a.m. The exemplification begins at 10 a.m. at Council 1834 Hall. SKs must not wear tux or regalia at the KofC hall. Stay tuned to State Council Web site - <http://www.tkofc.org> - for more information. [On October 3, 2010, thirty-seven Knights received their 2nd & 3rd Degrees in Bryan.]

COMMUNICATIONS

Congratulations to FN Larry Finch and spouse Nicole on the Baptism of their daughter, Abigail, on Dec 11, 2010.

FN Larry Finch expresses appreciation to the Sir Knights for turning out at all the events that the assembly participated in during the first half of the fraternal year.

We pray for improved health for Msgr. John McCaffrey and Deacon Pat Gallagher of St. Joseph Church.

Assembly 1091 wishes all Sir Knights a Most Holy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

WE PRAY FOR THESE AND OTHERS IN THE MILITARY

PV2 Paul Henri Balanga

Sgt. Joseph Chance Bowman

Sgt. David Braden

PFC Ross Carrabba

A1C David Dominguez

A1C Clinton Doriocourt

SPEC Justin A. Garner

EF3 Jay Geronime

Sgt. Nchia Kedze Ghong

Col. Michael G. Kelley

SP4 Rusty Wayne Lanicek

M/Sgt Brian Locke

Sgt. Juan Antonio Lopez

PFC Ricardo A. Luna

M/Sgt. Doug McMillan

LCpl. Gabriel Marteil

Captain Misty Munoz



E5 Michael Neveu

WO1 Jeffrey Pivonka

PFC Ariel Quinones

Sgt. Michael Ramirez

LCpl. James Robinson

Sgt. Adrian Rodriguez

Sgt. Joel Rodriguez

Sgt. Michael Ruiz

SPC Jay Saculla

PJ Ted Sierocinski

PFC Daniel Stadler

Cpl. Daniel W. Schwartz

Sgt. Matt White

Sgt. Rick Lee Wolff

M/Sgt. Sherrie Yeates

S/Sgt. Michael Zeig



MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Assembly 1091 and Assembly 2041 request support of the Grand Knights in District 117 in promoting the Patriotic Degree: Council 1834 GK Clarence Lambrecht, Council 3205 GK Ron Gay, Council 10555 GK Don Barnett, Council 10624 GK Dustin Janak, and Council 11759 GK Chris Nugent.

As of December 1, 2010, Assembly 1091's membership is 104. Eleven Sir Knights have Honorary Life status. Sixty (60) Sir Knights have paid their dues for the 2010 calendar year.

The fraternal year's quota for Assembly 1091 is 9 new members (10% of paid membership). [As reported in last month's newsletter, five Sir Knights were added to our assembly during the 4th Degree Exemplification in Harker Heights on October 9, 2010.]

**HAVE YOU INVITED A THIRD DEGREE KNIGHT TO BE A SIR KNIGHT ?
ONCE A SIR KNIGHT, ALWAYS A KNIGHT !**

AWARDS PROGRAM



"To Be A Patriot" (single best activity) and "Civic Award" (four varied programs) applications are due annually on June 30 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. [Please note that an "outstanding and community-wide activity" must be completed to be considered for the "To Be A Patriot" award.]

ASSEMBLY 1091 OFFICERS

Faithful Navigator Larry Finch

Faithful Friar Msgr. John McCaffrey

Faithful Scribe Steve "Mike" Swetish

Faithful Comptroller Johnny Hoelscher

Inner Sentinel Steve Rathbone

Faithful Captain Mike Orozco

Outer Sentinel Wes Thompson

Faithful Admiral Louis De La Cruz, Jr.

1-yr Trustee Val Lopez

Faithful Purser Larry Ermis

2-yr Trustee Charlie Ballew

Faithful Pilot John McGuill

3-yr Trustee Roel Villarreal

CONTACTS FOR FOURTH DEGREE INFORMATION

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Assembly 1091 Faithful Navigator
979.492.8207 ltfinch@aol.com

SK Johnny Hoelscher
Assembly 1091 Comptroller
979.822.1821 johnnyhoelscher@yahoo.com

SK Phil Leibowitz
District VI Master
P. O. Box 156
Temple, Texas 76503
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FIELD AGENT NEWS

A GUARANTEED INVESTMENT

Today I was wondering why our annuity business is doing so well – Up about 100% over previous years. Not that I am unhappy or troubled by business being good. But what I pondered is this: Why now and not all the time? What is it about market downturns that cause people to suddenly think that they need a position that includes a stable guaranteed product like the K of C retirement annuity? Doesn't the market always turn down sooner or later? So why not establish a guaranteed alternative to balance those savings?

As I pondered, I enlisted the help of my friend and co-worker Tony Minopoli, our chief investment officer, to consider the following scenario -- Two 55 year old men in the United States on Jan. 1, 1999, have \$50,000, and are looking for a place to invest it for 10 years. One decides to invest it in the S&P 500 Index and leave it there, paying taxes on dividends as they are paid, and spending more than a little time worrying about what will happen to his investment. The other puts his money in a tax-deferred retirement annuity with the Knights of Columbus, with all the guarantees that come with it. He leaves it here for 10 years, and spends absolutely no time worrying about it.

Ten years later, both men are now 65 years old and considering retirement, so they check on their \$50,000 investments. Our S&P fellow, Tony tells me, would have an account value of \$43,494.17 – and he paid taxes along the way on those dividends and he lost money. Our K of C tax-deferred annuity fellow would find a balance that has swelled to \$78,152.41 -- and the power of deferring taxes has not been factored in.

I have nothing against money in the market. But I do wonder why more of our members and their families don't take advantage of our guaranteed retirement annuity product. You get a great return, deferred taxes and retirement planning – and you get to sleep at night. Not a bad deal!

So regardless of where you think the market is headed right now, why not build yourself something you can count on because it is guaranteed? Establishing an annuity is a simple, quick and easy process & is ideal for your IRA, ROTH IRA, 401-k, 403-b & Pension Funds. Then relax and rest easy. We'll do the rest.

Contact your local Field Agents Doug or Jody Supak to assist with your savings and retirement needs. Doug or Jody can be reached at (979) 968-5332 or at supakins@cmaaccess.com

***KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS INSURANCE ...
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE!!!***

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 good to periodically, if not regularly, 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 membership 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. Four local Sir Knights were privileged to serve as District 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 VI). The Supreme Master appoints District Masters to supervise several assemblies (our District Master is Phil Leibowitz).

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).

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

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 in the Fourth Degree. Faithful Navigators and Past Faithful Navigators carry white-handled silver swords. Masters and Vice-Supreme Masters, including Former Masters and Former Vice-Supreme Masters, are recognized by gold swords.

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>.]



Sir Knights wanting to place additional Knights of Columbus information in this newsletter should contact the Assembly 1091 Newsletter Editor - SK Larry Ermis, 979-778-6771, aggie68@suddenlink.net.