



FOURTH DEGREE ANNOUNCEMENT

BISHOP GALLAGHER ASSEMBLY 1091

Bryan, Texas - U. S. A.



NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is also available at the State Council Web site & at <http://www.stjosephbcs.org/documents/4thdegreeannouncements.pdf> .

Archives of Knights in Action news articles are available at http://www.kofc.org/un/en/knightsinaction/monthly_report/201101.html.

To submit Knights in Action news to Supreme, complete the online form at <http://www.kofc.org/un/kia/index.action?lang=en>.

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.

Color Corps Protocol Web sites: <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/fourth/protocol.pdf> & <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/fourth/color/index.html>

November 6, Sunday – THANK YOU to eight Sir Knights for serving as color corps for the Bryan Rotary Club Veteran's Day Parade in Bryan. THANK YOU to SK Johnny Hoelscher and SK Roel Villarreal for decorating the trailer that all SKs rode on during the parade. The Rotary Club appreciated participation by the Knights of Columbus. [See photos on next page.]



November 15, Tuesday – THANK YOU to thirteen Sir Knights for serving as honor guard for the Council 1834 Memorial Mass celebrated in honor of deceased Knights at the KofC Hall in Bryan.

December 17, Saturday – Sir Knights are requested to turn out in full regalia as honor guard at the 4 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Joseph Church. Report to the church at 3:30 p.m. for instructions.

December 24, Saturday – 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 at 11:30 p.m. for instructions.

MEETINGS & OTHER EVENTS

November 22, Tuesday – THANK YOU for your attendance at the Assembly 1091 meeting. The pre-Thanksgiving meal was prepared by SK Johnny Hoelscher, SK Larry Ermis, and their spouses.

December 7, Wednesday – Pearl Harbor Day. Pray for the military.

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

December 12, Monday – FEAST DAY OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE.

December 15, Thursday – Clergy Appreciation Banquet at St. Thomas Aquinas PAC at 6 p.m.

December 25, Sunday – 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 27, Tuesday – No Assembly 1091 regular meeting.

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

January 24, Tuesday – Assembly 1091 regular meeting. Social begins at 7 p.m. Bring another Sir Knight with you. Meeting meal to be prepared by FN Jim Bilnoski and another SK. [Regular meeting scheduling is pending announcement of joint renewal of vows meeting with Assembly 2041.]

2011 VETERANS DAY PARADE



EXEMPLIFICATIONS

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

April 14, Saturday – District VI one-day FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION at Sealy. When available, detailed information will be provided at <http://www.tkofc.org> [at the Texas Council home page, scroll down to Navigation and select Announcements].

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

JAN-FEB 2012 DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED – FIRST DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION at St. Thomas Aquinas - Zurek Hall hosted by Council 3205. Candidates must arrive by 6:30 p.m. for paperwork followed by an orientation. Exemplification follows at 7:15 p.m. [The September and October exemplifications resulted in 28 new Knights joining the order in District 117.]

FALL 2012 DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED – MAJOR DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION (2nd and 3rd Degrees) to be hosted by Council 11759. Dress is full regalia for the 8:30 a.m. corporate communion mass at St. Joseph Church in Bryan. Candidates and Sir Knights should arrive at the church by 8 a.m. The exemplification begins at 10 a.m. at Council 1834 Hall. Sir Knights must NOT wear tux or regalia at the KofC hall. Meal ticket cost is \$7. See the State Council Web site - <http://www.tkofc.org> - for more information. [On September 18, 2011, thirty-five Knights received their 2nd & 3rd Degrees in Bryan.]

COMMUNICATIONS

Continue to pray for improved health for Sir Knight Terry Douglas, Grand Knight of Council 11759 and Outer Sentinel of Assembly 1091.

FN Jim Bilnoski is planning an assembly officer meeting for January 2012, possibly on the second Tuesday.

FN Jim Bilnoski requests your ideas for special meetings and alternative meeting sites for this fraternal year.

May the souls of all the Faithful Departed from Assembly 1091, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Assembly 1091 and Assembly 2041 request support in promoting the Patriotic Degree from the Grand Knights in District 117: Council 1834 GK Roel Villarreal, Council 3205 GK Ron Gay, Council 10555 GK Don Barnett, Council 10624 GK Ryan Skrobarczyk, and Council 11759 GK Terry Douglas.

As of December 1, 2011, Assembly 1091's membership is 114. Fourteen Sir Knights are Life Members. Two Sir Knights have Honorary status. Sixty-eight Sir Knights paid their dues for the 2010-2011 fraternal year.

The fraternal year's quota for Assembly 1091 is 7 new members (10% of paid membership). [Fifteen new SKs joined our assembly in 2010-2011.]

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.]

WE PRAY FOR THESE AND OTHERS IN THE MILITARY

SFC Michael W. Allen
PV2 Paul Henri Balanga
MM3 John Blair, Jr.
Josh Borski
Sgt. Joseph Chance Bowman
T/Sgt. Tim Braden
PFC Ross Carrabba
Capt. Joseph D'Agostino
S/ARMN David Dominguez
A1C Clinton Doriocourt
Capt. Johnathan Esparza
Capt. Jennifer Esparza
SPEC Justin A. Garner
Sgt. Jay Geronime
S/Sgt. Jeffrey Geronime
EF3 Justin Geronime
Sgt. Nchia Kedze Ghong
PFC Jacob Hernandez
SPEC. Justin Hubacek
HM E-2 Kyra Jimenez
Col. Michael G. Kelley
SP4 Rusty Lanicek
M/Sgt Brian Locke
Sgt. Juan Antonio Lopez
PFC Ricardo A. Luna
SSGT Timothy Luza, Jr.
† Capt. Sean E. Lyerly †
LCpl. Gabriel Marteil



M/Sgt Douglas E. McMillan
Captain Misty Munoz
E5 Michael Neveu
Major Michael E. Ogden
Sgt. Christopher Orta
WO1 Jeffrey Pivonka
PFC Naomi Hernandez-Pledger
SPEC Ariel Quinones
Sgt. Michael Ramirez
LCpl. Patrick R. Reade
LCpl. James Robinson
Sgt. Adrian Rodriguez
Sgt. Joel Rodriquez
PFC Marcus Ruiz
Sgt. Michael Ruiz
SPC Jay Saculla
PFC Daniel Stadler
Cpl. Daniel W. Schwartz
L/Corp. Douglas W. Schwartz
SSGT Laramie Sowder
L/Corp. Kyle Taylor
1st Lt. Sean Taylor
Major Ryan Ussery
Sgt. Matt White
Sgt. Rick Lee Wolff
M/Sgt. Sherrie Yeates
Dillon Zemanek

ASSEMBLY 1091 OFFICERS

Faithful Navigator James "Jim" Bilnoski

Faithful Friar Msgr. John McCaffrey

Faithful Comptroller Johnny Hoelscher

Faithful Captain Frank Lara, Jr.

Faithful Admiral Larry Finch

Faithful Purser Larry Ermis

Faithful Pilot Steve Rathbone

Faithful Scribe Clarence Lambrecht

Inner Sentinel Roel Villarreal

Outer Sentinel Terry Douglas

1-yr Trustee Andrew Ruffino

2-yr Trustee Valentine Lopez

3-yr Trustee Charlie Ballew

CONTACTS FOR FOURTH DEGREE INFORMATION

SK James "Jim" Bilnoski
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SK Phil Leibowitz
District VI Master
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FIELD AGENT NEWS

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

Field Agents Doug Supak and Jody Supak are available to discuss the following products and services exclusively for you and your family:

- ☐ Financial Needs Analysis (Free Financial Report)
- ☐ Life Insurance (Member, Wife, Dependent Child or Grandchild)
- ☐ Tax-Deferred Fixed Rate Annuities (Non or Tax-Qualified Savings, No Fees)
- ☐ Long Term Care Insurance (Nursing Home, Assisted Living, Home Health)
- ☐ Retirement Account Rollovers (401-k, 403-b, 457, IRA, Pension, etc.)
- ☐ Estate Preservation (Minimize Tax Liability & Protect Assets)
- ☐ Scholarships (Local, State, and National Programs)
- ☐ Family Fraternal Benefits (Accidental Death, Orphan & Spousal Benefits, etc.)

Doug & Jody can be reached at (979) 968-5332, 130 S. College Street, La Grange, Texas or at supakins@cmaaccess.com.



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 James "Jim" Bilnoski). 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>.]



To place Knights of Columbus information in this newsletter, contact Assembly 1091 Newsletter Editor - Purser and Past FN Larry Ermis, 979-778-6771, aggie68@suddenlink.net.