

FOURTH DEGREE ANNOUNCEMENT

Bishop Gallagher Assembly 1091

Bryan, Texas - U. S. A.

DECEMBER 2013 - JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

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.

"We Are Called"

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

Billboards in Bryan at College Avenue, FM 2818, and Texas Avenue



HONOR GUARD & 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>

December 24, Tuesday – THANK YOU Sir Knights for serving as honor guard at the Midnight Masses on Christmas Eve at your respective churches.

January 10, Friday – THANK YOU to the 11 Sir Knights for serving as honor guard at the 5:30 p.m. Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Mary Catholic Center in College Station in celebration of Monsignor Michael Sis, Bishop-elect of the San Angelo Diocese.

January 22, Wednesday – Sir Knights are requested to turn out as honor guard for the 5:30 p.m. Deanery Pro-Life Mass at St. Mary Catholic Center in College Station. Celebrant is Bishop Joe Vasquez of the Austin Diocese. Report at 5 p.m. for instructions. Everyone is invited to attend.

MEETINGS & OTHER EVENTS

December 26, Thursday – No Assembly meeting.

December 31, Tuesday – New Year's Eve. Attend mass. Thank Jesus Christ for the year's blessings.

January 1, Wednesday – Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. Holy Day of Obligation.

January 6, Monday – Feast of the Epiphany. The twelfth day after Christmas Day.

January 12, Sunday – Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

January 23, Thursday – Fourth Degree Assembly 1091 meal and regular meeting at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Church Parish Activity Center. Bring another Sir Knight with you. Meal to be prepared by SK Larry Ermis and SK Aggie assistant.

February 11, Tuesday – Joint Renewal of Vows for 4th Degree Assemblies 1091 & 2041 at St. Thomas Aquinas PAC. Social begins 7 p.m. to be followed by meal and ceremony. Spouses invited. \$12 per meal.



EXEMPLIFICATIONS

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

Saturday, March 22, 2014 – District VI one-day FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION at St. John Neumann Parish in Austin. 100 or more candidates are expected to attend Assembly 1099's 105th anniversary celebration. Tentative agenda: 8:30a.m. registration, 10 a.m. exemplification, 12:30 p.m. lunch, group photo at 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m. mass followed by social hour and 5 p.m. banquet. [Detailed information will be posted soon at <http://www.tkofc.org> and at the Austin Chapter Web site. At the State Web site, go to Announcements.] Recruit more Sir Knights. Refer to "Promoting the Fourth Degree" on second to last page of this newsletter.

Also plan to attend first and major degree exemplifications to support prospective and future Sir Knights.

Spring 2014 date to be announced – FIRST DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION at St. Thomas Aquinas in College Station. Candidates arrive by 6:30 p.m. for paperwork followed by orientation. Exemplification at 7:15 p.m. [September, October, and November exemplifications resulted in 32 new Knights in District 117.]

Date to be announced – MAJOR DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION (2nd and 3rd Degrees) hosted by council to be determined. Registration and other exemplification information will be posted at the State Council Web site - <http://www.tkofc.org>. [No major degree exemplification was scheduled in Brazos County this past fall. The last major degree was October 27, 2013 in Rockdale; the last major degree in District 117 was September 23, 2012.]

COMMUNICATIONS

FN Brian Park requests the support of all Sir Knights during the fraternal year.

CCC and District Marshal Frank Lara requests more participation at turnouts for honor guard duties.

Faithful Comptroller Johnny Hoelscher requests unpaid SKs to deliver their \$20 annual dues.

Pray for continued health for Msgr. John McCaffrey and Msgr. John Malinowski.

Pray for improved health for Sir Knights Clarence Lambrecht, Ross Rodriguez, and Roel Villarreal.

Pray for improved health for Sir Knight John Book's father (injured in a job-related accident this past November).

Pray for our military and our community's first responders who work 24/7 protecting us and our properties.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, 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 Oscar Palomares, Council 3205 GK Darrell Lovelette, Council 10555 GK Don Barnett, Council 10624 GK Michael Alonso, and Council 11759 GK Mike Swetish.

As of January 1, 2014, Assembly 1091's membership was 111. Thirteen Sir Knights are Honorary Life Members. Two Sir Knights have Honorary status. [71 Sir Knights paid calendar year 2013 dues. 31 SKs paid calendar year 2014 dues.]

The fraternal year's quota for Assembly 1091 is 7 new members (10% of paid membership). [Six new Sir Knights became members of our assembly during the 2012-2013 fraternal year.]

**HAVE YOU INVITED A THIRD DEGREE KNIGHT TO BE A SIR KNIGHT ?
HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO JOIN THE PATRIOTIC DEGREE IF HE IS NOT ASKED !
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 received the "Civic Award" and the "Our Lady of Guadalupe Provincial Award of Excellence" several years ago. [An outstanding community-wide activity must be completed to be considered for the "To Be A Patriot" award.]



WE PRAY FOR THESE & OTHERS IN THE MILITARY

SFC Michael W. Allen
PV2 Paul Henri Balanga
MM3 John Blair, Jr.
AE3(AW) Josh Borski
Sgt. Joseph Chance Bowman
MSgt. Tim Braden
Capt. Joseph D'Agostino
A1C Clinton Doriocourt
Capt. Johnathan Esparza
Capt. Jennifer Esparza
S/Sgt. Jeffrey Geronime
ET2 Justin Geronime
Sgt. Nchia Kedze Ghong
PFC Jacob Hernandez
Airman E3 Zachary Jimenez
Col. Michael G. Kelley
Sgt. Rusty Lanicek
M/Sgt Brian Locke
PFC Ricardo A. Luna
† Capt. Sean E. Lyerly †
M/Sgt Douglas E. McMillan



E5 Michael Neveu
Major Michael E. Ogden
Sgt. Christopher Orta
WO1 Jeffrey Pivonka
PFC Naomi Hernandez-Pledger
SPEC Ariel Quinones
L/Cpl. James Robinson
Sgt. Adrian Rodriguez
Sgt. Joel Rodriguez
Sgt. Michael Ruiz
Reservists Tristan & Kyra Sarles
Cpl. Daniel W. Schwartz
Major Aaron Southard
SSGT Laramie Sowder
Corp. Kyle Taylor
Captain Sean Taylor
Major Ryan Ussery
Sgt. Matt White
Sgt. Rick Lee Wolff
M/Sgt. Sherrie Yeates
Dillon Zemanek

LORD, HOLD OUR TROOPS IN YOUR LOVING HANDS. PROTECT THEM AS THEY PROTECT US. BLESS THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR THE SELFLESS ACTS THEY PERFORM FOR US IN OUR TIME OF NEED. WE ASK THIS IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR LORD AND SAVIOR. AMEN.



ASSEMBLY 1091 OFFICERS

Faithful Navigator Brian Park

Faithful Friar Msgr. John McCaffrey

Faithful Scribe Clarence Lambrecht

Faithful Comptroller Johnny Hoelscher

Inner Sentinel Roel Villarreal

Faithful Captain Steve Rathbone

Outer Sentinel Lionel Cobos

Faithful Admiral Jim Bilnoski

1st yr Trustee Larry Finch

Faithful Purser Larry Ermis

2nd yr Trustee Andy Ruffino

Faithful Pilot Mike Orozco

3rd yr Trustee Valentine Lopez

CONTACTS FOR FOURTH DEGREE INFORMATION

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Assembly 1091 Comptroller
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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, and Dependent Child or Grandchild)
- ☐ Tax-Deferred Fixed Rate Annuities (Non or Tax-Qualified Savings, No Fees)
- ☐ Long Term Care Insurance (Nursing Home, Assisted Living, and Home Health)
- ☐ Retirement Account Rollovers (401-k, 403-b, 457, IRA, Pension, and others)
- ☐ Estate Preservation (Minimize Tax Liability and Protect Assets)
- ☐ Scholarships (Local, State, and National Programs)
- ☐ Family Fraternal Benefits (Accidental Death, Orphan, and Spousal Benefits)

Doug & Jody can be called at (979) 968-5332, visited at 130 S. College Street in La Grange, or e-mailed 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, and a Third Degree member in good standing with his council. There is no waiting period between the third and fourth degrees. Ideally, every 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.



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 Brian Park). 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 (our Friar is Monsignor John McCaffrey) and Color Corps Commander are appointed by the Navigator. Assembly officers are addressed by using the title "Faithful" (for example, Faithful Navigator). Assemblies are numbered in the order they were chartered into the Order and named by the local membership (as discussed earlier, our Assembly 1091 is named after Bishop N. A. Gallagher).

Office	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 at masses, funerals, 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>.]



This newsletter is also available at the State Council Web site: <http://www.tkofc.org>.
 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> .

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