

# FOURTH DEGREE ANNOUNCEMENT

BISHOP GALLAGHER ASSEMBLY 1091

Bryan, Texas - U. S. A.

## MARCH - APRIL 2013 NEWSLETTER

This newsletter also available at State Council Web site & at <http://www.stjosephbcs.org/index.cfm?load=page&page=154>

Archives of Knights in Action news articles are available at [http://www.kofc.org/un/en/knightsinaction/monthly\\_report/201101.html](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.*

### "We Are Called"

#### 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>

**March 17, Sunday** – THANK YOU to the five Sir Knights for serving as honor guard for the 8:30 a.m. corporate communion Mass at St. Joseph Church.

**March 28, Thursday** – THANK YOU to the six Sir Knights for serving as honor guard for the 6 p.m. Holy Thursday Mass at St. Joseph Church.

**May 27, Monday** – SKs are requested to turn out for Memorial Day Flag Raising at Mount Calvary Cemetery. Report in full regalia or tux and social baldric by 8 a.m.

#### MEETINGS & OTHER EVENTS

**March 26, Tuesday** – THANK YOU to the fifteen SKs for attending the assembly meeting. THANK YOU to SKs Johnny Hoelscher and Andy Ruffino for serving a delicious meal with ice cream provided by SK Larry Ermis.

**April 8, Monday** – Feast of the Annunciation. Day of the Unborn Child.

**April 13, Saturday** – Congratulations to Council 10624 and Kappa Theta Beta sorority for hosting the annual Hoedown Benefit at St. Anthony Parish pavilion. Proceeds went to the Gabriel Project.

**April 23, Tuesday** – Assembly meeting at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph PAC. Bring another Sir Knight with you. Pre-meeting meal to be prepared by SKs Mark Morris and Jim Bilnoski. Notice given of May meeting officer nominees and June meeting officer elections.

**April 26, 27, & 28, Friday, Saturday, & Sunday** – KofC 109th Annual State Convention in Corpus Christi. Sir Knights are invited to turn out for honor guard duties at the weekend masses.

**May 5, Sunday** – Cinco de Mayo & Feast Day of St. Joseph the Worker.

**May 5, Sunday** – St. Joseph Parish 33rd annual Festival at Tabor Road Pavilion. Food, fun, & fellowship for all begin at 11 a.m.

**May 12, Sunday** – Mother's Day. Pray for our living and deceased mothers.

**May 12, Sunday** – Ascension Sunday. Jesus Christ ascends to Heaven. Holy Day of Obligation.

**May 13, Monday** – Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima. Pray the Rosary.

**May 17, Friday** – Form 4s due to Assembly Comptroller for candidates attending June 1 Fourth Degree Exemplification.

**May 18, Saturday** – District 117 councils and assemblies assist with 6:30 p.m. Banquet meal for the State-wide Special Olympics Equestrian Event at the Brazos County Expo Center. Knights assemble at 5 p.m. to set up equipment for meal preparation. State contact: Sue Galkantas, 512.491.2943, [sgalkantas@sotx.org](mailto:sgalkantas@sotx.org). Contact District Deputy C. J. Romero, (979) 571-3710, [cjromero@gmail.com](mailto:cjromero@gmail.com), on how to help.

**May 19, Sunday** – Pentecost Sunday. Seventh Sunday after Easter.

**May 19, Sunday** – St. Anthony Parish 49th annual Bazaar/Homecoming at Tabor Road Pavilion. Food, fun, & fellowship begin at 11 a.m.

**May 27, Monday** – Memorial Day. U.S.A. Flag raised at 8 a.m. by Sir Knights at Mount Calvary Cemetery. Everyone invited.

**May 28, Tuesday** – 4th Degree Assembly 1091 meeting at 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph PAC. A pre-meeting meal will be served at 7 p.m. Officer nominations will be finalized.

## EXEMPLIFICATIONS

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

**June 1, 2013** – District VI one-day FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION at Temple. Deadline to register candidates is May 17. [Information to be posted at <http://www.tkofc.org>. At the Web site, go to Announcements.] Recruit new SKs; refer to "Promoting the Fourth Degree" on second to last page of this newsletter.

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

**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 an orientation. Exemplification follows at 7:15 p.m. [The previous first degree exemplifications for the fraternal year were held September 12, November 28, and January 30.]

**Fall 2013 date to be announced** – MAJOR DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION (2nd and 3rd Degrees) hosted by Council 1834. Dress is full regalia for the 8 a.m. corporate communion mass at St. Anthony Church on Parker Street in Bryan. Candidates and Sir Knights should arrive at the church by 7:30 a.m. The exemplification begins at 10 a.m. at a site to be determined. Sir Knights must not wear tux or regalia during the exemplification. Meal ticket cost to be determined. Exemplification will be posted at the State Council Web site - <http://www.tkofc.org>. [The last major degree exemplification in District 117 was held September 23, 2012.]

## COMMUNICATIONS

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

FN Jim Bilnoski requests suggestions for meetings, turn outs, and other events during the fraternal year.

Pray for improved health for Sir Knights Ambrosio Alderete and Roel Villarreal.

Pray for the repose of the souls of SK Terry Douglas and SK Jerry Dusek.

We mourn the loss of firefighters Eric Wallace and Gregory Picard and pray for continued recovery of firefighters Ricky Mantey, Jr. and Mitch Moran. Pray for all of our community's first responders.

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 William Rooney, and Council 11759 DGK Mike Swetish.

As of April 1, 2013, Assembly 1091's membership was 109. Fifteen Sir Knights are Honorary Life Members. Three Sir Knights have Honorary status. Fifty-one SKs have paid their dues for calendar year 2013.

The fraternal year's quota for Assembly 1091 is 7 new members (10% of paid membership).

**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 has received the "Civic Award" and the "Our Lady of Guadalupe Provincial Award of Excellence" over the years. [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.  
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  
Sgt. Jay Geronime  
S/Sgt. Jeffrey Geronime  
ET2 Justin Geronime  
Sgt. Nchia Kedze Ghong  
PFC Jacob Hernandez  
Airman E3 Zachary 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 †  
Cpl. Jordan Matthews



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  
Cpl. Patrick R. Reade  
LCpl. James Robinson  
Sgt. Adrian Rodriguez  
Sgt. Joel Rodriguez  
Sgt. Michael Ruiz  
SPC Jay Saculla  
Reservists Tristan & Kyra Sarles  
Cpl. Daniel W. Schwartz  
L/Corp. Douglas 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

## 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 (*deceased*)

*1-yr Trustee* Andrew Ruffino

*2-yr Trustee* Valentine Lopez

*3-yr Trustee* Charlie Ballew

## CONTACTS FOR FOURTH DEGREE INFORMATION

SK James "Jim" Bilnoski  
Assembly 1091 Faithful Navigator  
979.779.6430 ag75@juno.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  
254.778.5688 philleibowitz45@aol.com

## FIELD AGENT NEWS

### IRA, 401-K & OTHER CONTRIBUTION LIMITS RISE FOR 2013

There's good news for those of you who haven't contributed to or fully funded your retirement accounts for the 2012 tax year as you have until April 15<sup>th</sup> 2013 to do so. There's also good news for those who are looking to save more money in 2013. The contribution limits for tax year 2013 are increasing. The increase is small, but, the more you can save the better for your retirement years.

Contribution limits for IRAs in 2012 are \$5,000 for those under 50 & \$6,000 for those 50 & above. This limit will increase by \$500 for the 2013 tax year so those under 50 can contribute up to \$5,500 & those 50 & above can contribute up to \$6,500! Contribution limits for 401-Ks, 403-Bs & 457 plans are also increasing for the 2013 tax year by \$500 up to a maximum contribution of \$17,500 for those under 50 & up to \$23,000 for those 50 & above. Simple 401-K & Simple IRA plans have a lower limit, but, 2013 contributions will also increase by \$500 up to \$12,000. The maximum annual contributions to all defined contribution plans will increase by \$1,000 up to \$51,000 for tax year 2013.

While this increase is good news, it unfortunately doesn't apply to everyone. There continues to be earning limits on who can contribute to these retirement plans based on income, tax filing status & other rules. Prior to making contributions discuss your eligibility with your tax advisor or CPA.

If eligible to contribute to one of these retirement plans, contact your local Knights of Columbus Field Agent to decide which plan is right for you. The Knights have no cost, no fee retirement plans. This means 100% of your money is at work for you from day one & every day thereafter. The KofC Retirement Plans offer a guarantee of principal along with a minimum guaranteed return eliminating the possibility of losing a single penny of your retirement funds which is a good thing.

No front end fees, no yearly management fees, no chance of losing your principal coupled with a guaranteed minimum interest rate makes the Knights of Columbus a great place for you to entrust your retirement money to. This is also why it is a wonderful idea for you to rollover or transfer your pension, 401-K or IRAs to the Knights as well. The KofC is well positioned to assist you with your retirement funds. Contact your Knights of Columbus Field Agents Doug Supak and Jody Supak. They 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, be a member of the Order for at least 12 months (six months with waiver), 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 -  
Past FN Larry Ermis, 979-778-6771, [aggie68@suddenlink.net](mailto:aggie68@suddenlink.net).