



**Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus
Bienville Province, Tennessee District
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Newsletter II, July 2009

Worthy Faithful Navigators and Sir Knights All:

Welcome to the 2009-2010 Fraternal Year that began on July 1. Those of you newly elected Navigators; I welcome you as leaders of your respective assemblies. Those that have been re-elected, welcome back for another term.

Now that we have completed the three kick-off meetings in the three Dioceses' it's time to put to work what we have learned. I would like to thank all the fourth degree knights that attended each meeting, we had just a few assemblies that didn't have the officers there, but I believe almost all 24 assemblies had representation, that's a good thing.

We have a good start to the fraternal year, all assemblies have completed the election of officers and they were submitted on time, thank you. Now we need to get the audits completed, they are due at Supreme on August 1. So far, I have only received 10 of the 24. There is still time to be on schedule, see what you can do in the next few days to make it happen.

Right now we have two exemplifications in the works, Memphis on October 10, and Clarksville on October 17. Please contact your councils and talk up the dates and places. I would like to see classes of 50 + at both, and it can be done. Recruit now, don't wait till October, the host assembly and council need numbers, both for setup of the chamber and also the Mass and dinner that evening. After October, we don't have one scheduled until March. I have sent out the schedule to all navigators and comptrollers, please convey the information to all your councils also. I will attach both the letters to this e-mail so copy's can be made.

At the Fourth Degree Meeting in May at the State Convention the Master Fund was voted on and approved for the fraternal year. This is a voluntary donation by each assembly of \$1.00 per member, based on your July 1, 2009 roster. This fund was started in 2001 by District Master Paul Nelson to assist the Master and his Marshal's in their duties around the state to install officers and attend the various functions and exemplifications. I would ask all of you to please consider a donation to the fund. The Master gets no help from Supreme, and what little is left over after an exemplification goes to the purchase of equipment for the upcoming ones, so what is donated really helps on our personal expenses.

We are the Patriotic Arm of the Order, we are the visible ones in regalia doing Knights of Columbus Honor Guards for our Bishops and Priests, wakes, and other related Patriotic events when ask. When you see a need for an Honor Guard, don't hesitate to ask if one is needed, be the good steward and leader we are meant to be.

One last thing before closing, at each Kick-off meeting I was ask by our State Deputy to talk about the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag in our Fourth Degree presentation. Our Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson and our Supreme Master, Larry Costanzo sent a letter to all State Deputies, Vice Supreme Masters and District Masters asking us to address the Pledge and the 31 words in it. It ends with liberty and justice for all.

As you are well aware, we have been adding “born and unborn” at the end of the pledge. When we took our first and second degrees we took a pledge to obey our superior officers, and both are the most superior. The reason for this request is that the Knights are involved in two lawsuits, along with other civic originations to keep “Under God” in the pledge, and they don’t want anyone to point fingers at the Knights for adding the additional words at the end of the pledge.

As I told the men at all the meetings, say it to yourself in the solitude of your heart. Each of us has said it for so long, it’s hard to stop, but it can be done. Just like everything we do, it just takes effort on our part. There isn’t anyone who will chastise you for saying it, and you will not be “kicked out” of the order. Like everything in our lives, it takes time and effort, we are God’s children, and so are those babies in the womb, we need to pray harder and be more compassionate to all we come in contact with.

Vivat Jesus, and God Bless,

Bill Gunter

District Master-TN