



**Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus
Bienville Province, Tennessee District
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Newsletter III November 10, 2009

Brother All;

November 11, 2009 is Veteran's Day. We owe our troops serving overseas as well here at home all the respect and compassion we have. They are what make's our Country the Greatest Country in the world, the United States of America!! Those men and women who have gone before us giving there all so we might be free, God Bless America. Go watch or march in a parade on this day, say thank you to all the service men and women you see at any time or any place, they deserve it.

We are moving toward the half year mark of our fraternal year, you have submitted your election of officers and audits, now is the time to start gathering numbers for the Fraternal Survey, which is due at Supreme by January 31, 2010. This report is what keeps the order's tax-exempt status, our voluntary hours of service and monetary donations to various organizations. This report can be submitted anytime after December 31, 2009, so don't wait till the last minute.

October was a very busy month, two exemplifications bringing 2 Priests and 29 other men into the Fourth Degree, and attending the Bienville Province meeting in Chattanooga on October 24. The meeting went well, two awards, Bishop Stanley Ott, went to Louisiana, and the Patriot award went to Alabama. Due to your hard work over the 2008-09 fraternal year, I was awarded the Master of the Year for the Province, which is made up of five states, AL, MS, LA, AR, and Tennessee.

Our new Vice Supreme Master, George "Skip" Gentle from Birmingham, AL, replacing Mike Horten who was the VSM the past four years conducted the meeting. It was very informative and we had a special guest, Col. Chuck Gallina, who heads up the VAVS program for Supreme. Chuck gave a good presentation on the needs of our Veteran's and how to help at the VA facilities, weather it's a hospital or clinic. If you have either of these facilities in your area, do what you can to help out, they need all kinds of things in the hospitals, books, games, playing cards, and most of all, someone to talk to who cares. Become that someone, step up, after all, they stepped up when called and now need our help.

I have posted on the Tennessee web site all the remaining exemplifications for the year, starting in February, please look to see when and where, and recruitment starts now for all of them. Just ask a third degree knight in your council to join us as the Patriotic Arm of the Order. The host assemblies will be getting out there letters on each exemplification soon, meal costs will vary, but the exemplification cost is set by Supreme at \$70.00 and that will remain steady.

One thing was brought to our attention at the Bienville meeting, pins on your lapel. You can wear a flag pin and your fourth degree pin on the left lapel, the Flag highest and to the outside,

the Fourth Degree pin to the inside, and just a bit lower when in your tux. I would practice this when wearing a sport coat or suit also. Uniformity was stressed when dressed out.

One other thing that was pointed out about regalia, some of you still have some out dated equipment, i.e., chapeau's and capes. If your Chapeau has the black lines on the sides that is not to be worn, you will need to purchase a new one, and if your fourth degree emblem is anywhere on your cape beside your left shoulder, that is an outdated cape and must be replaced also. Both Lynch and Kelly and the English Company have the proper color schemes for all the capes and chapeau's, if yours is faded and not the proper color, see about a replacement. Assemblies are responsible for replacing the Color Corp Cape and Chapeau, and the District Master is responsible for the Marshal's.

I would like to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving, be safe when traveling, thank God for all of our blessings, try to assist those less fortunate and keep our troops in your prayers as well as there families.

One other point brought up by our VSM, prayer. Skip advised us of something they are doing in Alabama, and I feel we should do the same. Say three (3) Hail Mary's at different times of the day, One for Right to Life, One for Vocations, and One for your own intentions as well as for our Military and their Families. Prayer helps in all things, and these need to be addressed.

Remember, December 1, 2009 is Light up for Christ at 8:00pm, (this is 1 week earlier) light your tree, turn on your porch light and say a prayer. Keep Christ in Christmas; wish everyone you come in contact with a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Be proud to be Catholic, be proud to be a member of the Knights of Columbus. Joan and I are, and I hope each and everyone has a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

God Bless,

Bill Gunter
District Master-TN