

# The Patriot's Sword

#### Bishop Thomas E Gill Assembly # 1955 Knights of Columbus

Archbishop Francis Norbert Blanchet Province Federal Way, WA

The Knights of Columbus...a Catholic, Family, Fraternal, Service Organization



Volume 2004, Issue 1 March 2004

#### The Navigator's Log



We live in the Worst of Times and yet it is the Best of Times. The worst is that our Church is going through such very hard times. Our Priests are under extreme scrutiny. Our Church leadership is under tremendous

pressure and we the laity are torn between it all.

However, it is the best of times. It's a time when we, the Knights of Columbus, the Strong Right Arm of the Church, must rise to the defense of the Church and our Priests. We must be in solidarity with our priests and be supportive of our Church leadership. It's a time for all of us to show our colors. It's a time for all of us to show our love for the good Priests that live up to their commitment to God and Church. I must caution you, however, that in our zeal to support our Priests we must not interfere with the lines of authority within the Church...especially when it deals with the discipline of a priest by the Bishop. Our role is that of supporting the rules, regulations, and policies of our respective Bishops. We as Knights should not publish anything, including e-mail, and should be cautious of any statement, action or inaction that could be construed as counter to our Bishop.

Gentlemen, when we wear that Emblem of the Order, we bear the responsibility and consequences of speaking for the Knights of Columbus. All statements made in public, and even in private, must be made with care as not to bring misunderstanding of what we stand for as an Order.

As the Faithful Navigator, I encourage all Sir Knights in our Assembly to make a public statement in support of our priests and our Bishop. Not only should that statement come in words in this newsletter, but also in the actions of our everyday lives. With the start of the Lenten Season, I encourage my brother Knights to take this message to heart and to show support for all our priests. A simple thank you for all the work they do for our Parish communities and us will go a long way.

Vivat Jesus

Mike Rutland, Faithful Navigator

### The Captain's Corner



Brothers, did you know that the Fourth Degree was first approved in August of 1899, when the Order was in its infancy? To qualify in those days for the Fourth Degree, a Knight had to have been a member for 3

years and to have served the Order, the Church and the community "with distinction". The first 4<sup>th</sup> Degree exemplification was held in New York on February 22, 1900. 1,100 Knights received their degree at the Lenox Lyceum, a large frame building erected to display a mammoth painting of the Civil War. On May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1900, another 750 Knights received the Fourth Degree in Boston.

The Ceremonial of the Fourth Degree was originally organized around the theme of Catholic citizenship. The boast was: "I am a Roman Catholic", or I am an American citizen" or proudest yet: "I am an American Catholic citizen". A Catholic theologian of the time was quoted as saying: "the Knights of Columbus stand for what is clean, moral, wholesome, and effective in American manhood when that is crowned with the teachings of the Holy Mother Church, and as a result, they must achieve in time the social uplift of the entire American people."

Another interesting fact concerned the original Fourth Degree uniform. The following description came from a New Haven newspaper of the time: "the uniform of the Knights of Columbus (will consist) of a black Prince Albert coat, back trousers, black felt hat, with an ostrich feather encircling the crown, similar to that worn by Columbus as represented in his pictures, a reversible cape, black on one side and scarlet on the other, white cross and waist belt, sword and gauntlet." The uniform also included a red, white and blue baldric, which had pinned to it an emblem of the U.S. Constitution. Sir Knights wore a sword with a cross-handle grip signifying Christian Knighthood. From it's foundation, the Fourth Degree provided honor guards for religious and civic ceremonies. It's important to remember that before the age of television and radio, civic parades and

religious processions played a much more important role in America's public life than they do today. Catholics of that era literally wore their Catholicism on their sleeves.

Also of interest: the Knights played an important role in the eradication of anti-Catholicism and were devoted to the ideals of religious freedom and patriotism. Only 25 years after the order was founded in New Haven, Councils of the Knights were located in every state of the Union and in most provinces of Canada, Mexico and the Philippines.

We should be proud of our Catholic heritage and of the important role the Knights of Columbus played in the birth of this great country!

\*\*Reference for above article: "Faith and Fraternalism: The History of the Knights of Columbus 1882-1982" by Christopher Kauffman

David Caton, Jr., Faithful Captain

#### **Exemplification Schedule**

We still have two opportunities to add to our ranks this year. Bremerton, WA, on 17 April 2004 and Spanaway, WA on 24 April 2004.

### **Biennial District Meeting**

Will be held Saturday March 20, 2004, at the Best Western Hotel Lakewood Motor Inn, 6125 Motor Ave SW, Lakewood, WA. There will be a Social in the hotel's Conference Room on Friday, 19 March. The District Meeting with registration at 9:00 AM followed by Opening Ceremonies at 10:00 AM. Lunch will be from 12:00 to 1:00 PM. The meeting will resume at 1:00 PM and conclude at 4:00 PM. Mass will be at St. John Bosco in Lakewood at 5PM. St Patrick's Dinner Dance will follow. The Ladies Program will start after lunch. The ladies will tour the Museum of Glass. The cost of the tour is \$8.00.

#### The Comptroller's Record

Sir Knights, have you paid your dues for 2004? Sometimes in our hurried lives the smallest details are often overlooked. Please take a moment and ask yourself did I? If not, send your \$20.00 to:

SK Timothy H. Philomeno, FC PO Box 24763 Federal Way, WA 98093

## Wanted: Phone Tree Captains

We are updating our phone tree and need Sir Knights to step up and be phone tree captains. The more we get, the less the number of Sir Knights you will need to call. Your only duty is to call the Sir Knights on your list and pass along any announcements given to you by the Faithful Navigator. We would like to get enough captains so there would only be 4 or 5 for each to call.

If you can commit to this, please email me at tphilomeno@sparling.com or call me at 253.661.2296

## **District Meeting Resolution**

At the January meeting the Assembly voted to submit a resolution at the Biennial District Meeting. Joe Penwell suggested the theme be Patriotic and have something to do with supporting our troops during these difficult times. I accepted the task to draft that resolution. Below is resolution that will be submitted at the District Meeting:

Knights of Columbus Bishop Thomas E. Gill Assembly 1955 Resolution

WHEREAS, The principles of Knights of Columbus are Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism, and

WHEREAS, The Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus is the Patriotic Degree of our Order, and

WHEREAS, Members of the Fourth Degree in the Jurisdiction of Washington epitomize the principles of patriotism, and

WHEREAS, There is nothing more patriotic then serving in our nations military in defense of the freedoms we enjoy in this country.

BE IT RESOLVED, That all Fourth Degree Assemblies in the jurisdiction of Washington offer a special prayer for all the men and women serving in the military, especially for those serving in Afghanistan, Iraq and Haiti at every assembly meeting until our service men and women return home, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Fourth Degree Assemblies located near military installations offer their services where practical to the families of deployed military members to help them through these tough times, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Master of the Fourth Degree for the Jurisdiction of Washington petitions the Supreme Master of the Fourth Degree to adopt this resolution at the national level.

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# Happy Anniversary!

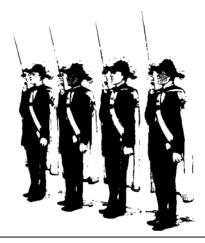
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If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed in the Patriot's Sword, or would like to receive this newsletter electronically please send your information and email address to either the Faithful Navigator or Faithful Comptroller using the e-mail address' listed below or send it in to the return address listed on the mailing page of this newsletter.

#### 2003-2004 Assembly Officers Directory

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Knights of Columbus Official Web site: <a href="http://www.kofc.org/index\_eng.cfm">http://www.kofc.org/index\_eng.cfm</a> Washington State Council's web site: <a href="http://www.kofc-wa.org">http://www.kofc-wa.org</a>



	Calendar of Events	
	March 2004	
17 <sup>th</sup>	St Patrick's Day	
20 <sup>th</sup> - 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Biennial District Meeting	Best Western Lakewood Motor Inn, 6125 Motor Ave SW, LAKEWOOD
24 <sup>th</sup> - 7:00 PM	Assembly Meeting	St Philomena's Parish Hall
	POC: Mike Adams - 206 824-5934	1790 S 222 <sup>nd</sup> Street, Des Moines
	April 2004	
9 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday	
11 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Sunday	
25 <sup>th</sup> - 7:00 PM	Assembly Meeting	Kent Museum
	POC: John Mergens - 253 854-2828	855 East Smith Street, Kent



Knights of Columbus PO Box 24763 Federal Way, WA 98093-1763

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED