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Knights of Columbus
Fourth Degree
Fr. Louis Hennepin Province



October 2020

Dear Sir Knights and Ladies,

This year has been tough on so many people in so many ways. Having to wear masks everywhere we go, social distancing is encouraged, holding virtual council and assembly meetings, viewing virtual 3rd and 4th Degree exemplifications, watching Sunday Mass at home, all in the name of COVID-19. The passing of loved ones due to COVID-19 or natural causes is also difficult. This past month we unfortunately had the passing of two Masters within the Fr. Hennepin Province: recently appointed on September 1st SK Jack Ritchie, Ohio 2 and FM SK David H. Buick, the father of immediate FM SK David A. Buick both from Michigan District 2. Please keep the Ritchie and Buick families in your prayers.

With the passing of recently appointed Master of OH District 2, SK Jack Ritchie, it became necessary to appoint a replacement. Supreme appointed SK Michael Gauder as the new Master for the Toledo and Cincinnati Diocese (OH D2). I ask that you provide SK Mike with the same support and respect afforded a Master. We welcome SK Mike and Lady Carol to the Fr. Louis Hennepin Province leadership team.

This year's 110th Supreme Assembly Meeting was held via conference call on September 22nd. In attendance was the Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, Supreme Secretary Michael O'Connor, Supreme Master Dennis Stoddard, Assistant for Military and Veteran Affairs Charles Gallina, and the 20 Vice Supreme Masters throughout the Order. Highlights from the meeting included:

- The last fraternal year saw 122 fewer Exemplifications held which resulted in a reduction of 669 4th Degree members Order wide due to the COVID-19 virus. Current membership as of June 30, 2020 stood at 367,697.
- New Assemblies started was also lower by nine from the previous year, 44 down to 35.
- The 4th Degree ceremony will be updated to make it more relevant to what is happening today. When it is released, it will be available for the entire family to view. The released date is TBD. Until then, the current ceremony will remain secret.
- Supreme is in the process of releasing a DVD for future virtual Exemplifications. The released date is TBD. The DVD will be mailed out to the VSMs and District Masters.
- Masters are asked to ensure that there is 4th Degree representation at all VA facilities within their District.
- There were 29 resolutions submitted by Assemblies. Your DM was provided the breakdown as to the status of each resolution.

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- For those Color Corps who march in cold weather (Thanksgiving and Christmas parades), “The Supply Room” anticipates releasing a wool overcoat (same color as the sports coat) in November. They are currently manufacturing an inventory before officially releasing it. The price is unknown at this time.
- **“To Be a Patriot Award”** was sent to the VSM of the three winners, those being:
 - **That They Never Be Forgotten** - Jackson Assembly 2186, Jackson, Michigan
 - **Moral Injury Conference** - Monsignor Bruno Hubertus Assembly 1791, New Braunfels, Texas
 - **Bikes for Veterans** - Father Joseph O’Callahan S.J. Assembly 2820, Las Vegas, Nevada

At last year’s Provincial meeting, I decided to put into practice what I preach to the District Masters as it relates to **“Thinking Outside the Box”**. The Masters were presented a challenge as to which State would be able to achieve the highest on-time form submission percentage and membership quota. This challenge had three goals; 1) getting forms submitted on time (selfish on my part), 2) team building by working together for a common goal, and 3) bragging rights for that State. It was nip-and-tuck during the entire fraternal year but due to the large class size (147 candidates) at Ohio’s virtual exemplification this past June, they sealed their fate. Congratulations to the OH Masters - FMs Bill Howe and Ed Ponder and Master Duane Lord.

Speaking about virtual exemplifications, if you had or will have a candidate that is unable to make your District’s virtual exemplification, you have the ability to have your candidate attend other virtual exemplifications being held within the Province and across the United States. Please contact your District Master for the dates of these future exemplifications.

When submitting next year’s forms, I would ask you to scan them and submit them via email to the addresses below. Some of these form can be filled out electronically and submitted to Supreme but remember to save a copy for yourself and send a copy to your Master and myself. Supreme does not send us a copy.

- **Fraternal Survey** – Form 1728 fraternalmission@kofc.org, Dist. Master, (VSM) spwasmund@aol.com
- **To Be a Patriot** – Form Your District Master
- **Officers Chosen** – Form 186 membershiprecords@kofc.org, Dist. Master, (VSM) spwasmund@aol.com
- **Civic Award** – Form 2321 fraternalmission@kofc.org, Dist. Master, (VSM) spwasmund@aol.com
- **Assembly Audit** – Form 1315 suprememaster@kofc.org, Dist. Master, (VSM) spwasmund@aol.com

Please stay healthy and safe.

Fraternally Yours and God Bless,

Clifford F. Wasmund

Vice Supreme Master