



September 2026 Newsletter

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District Master's Message

Worthy Faithful Sir Knights,

Some of you may know this already but for a Master's term, the Fraternal Year technically starts on September 1st. Although each Master is eager to begin the Fraternal Year on July 1st, he must tread carefully with any changes until the Supreme Master has reappointed him. I am most grateful for my renewed opportunity to lead in service the Georgia District for the next two years.

This Fraternal Year, I have decided to make leadership and structural changes in the District. It is my hope these changes will better assist Assembly leaders. Officers of the Fourth Degree are given the charge to serve their Councils, Parishes, and Community. The changes I will highlight will give you the best opportunity toward this charge.

Leadership Structure

You can find this on the Georgia Knights of Columbus Website under Fourth Degree. Please take a moment to look at the Georgia Knights of Columbus Website, www.gakofc.org.

The Georgia District is a part of the DeSoto Province lead by Vice Supreme Master Sir Daniel Barton.

Georgia District Leadership

District Friar is Fr. Christopher Hassel (Associate State Chaplain)
District Marshal for Atlanta Archdiocese and Admin Marshal is Sir Ed O'Connor
District Marshal for Savannah Diocese is Sir Pat McMahon
District Secretary is Sir John Dunn
District Marshal for Ceremonials and Training is Sir Ladd Rosipal (State Advocate)
Marshal for District Programs is Sir Tony Annarelli
Marshal for District Communications is Sir Bryan Lewis
Exemplification Captain is Sir Mike Palka



This Fraternal Year, I have gone away from assigning Marshals to Assemblies. Instead, I have Marshals assigned to Dioceses and will respond as needed in their region. So yes, they may show up at your Assembly meeting. If they do, please take advantage of their visit. They will relay back any concerns you may have and they may pass on information to help make you more successful. Feel free at any time to invite them to your meetings.

Atlanta Diocese Marshals

North Regional Marshal is Sir Ben Cabeen
North Atlanta Regional Marshal is Sir Dennis O'Riley
Southeast Atlanta Regional Marshal is Sir Todd Morrow
Southwest Atlanta Regional Marshal is Sir Tom Lanyi

Savannah Diocese Marshals

South Regional Marshal is Sir Kevin Berkel
Augusta Regional Marshal is Sir Brian Musha
North Savannah Regional Marshal is Sir Paul Tanguay
South Savannah Regional Marshal is Sir Patrick White

Fraternal Year Mission & Focus

The mission for each Assembly is to better serve their councils, parishes, and community. For those of you who have multiple councils, this may be a challenge. I encourage your leadership to craft out a fraternal year plan showing how and when you can be in each community to serve the council and parish. The focus is to truly be the visual arm of the Order. Faithful Commanders, you have in your duties the ability to make your Assembly the visual arm of the Order. In such, Marshals are looking for accountability in your performance. I strongly urge you to work with your Navigator to identify programs where your Color Corps can serve.

Resources & Tools

District Secretary Sir John Dunn is available to assist Faithful Comptrollers. Besides being the District Secretary, Sir John is also his assembly Comptroller.

Marshal Bryan Lewis is available to assist each Assembly promote and publish their service events. The resource of a good District Communications Marshal will assist the Assembly become more visual.

Marshal Tony Annarelli has already contacted every assembly. He is tasked with having to identify your four Civic programs and your one To Be A Patriot program. He will work with your Assembly to assess its strength and ability toward achieving the programs, and he review your Civic Award form for Supreme approval.

Marshal Ladd Rosipal has already contacted every assembly. He has put forth training tools and video to assist your Color Corps team. New this fraternal year are QR codes. These codes are tools used to track your Assembly's service. I have always said, an active color corps can earn the four civic award programs. Using the QR codes, Marshal Ladd can forward your service accomplishments to Marshal Tony Annarelli and Marshal Bryan Lewis. These Marshals can place your service event in the appropriate civic program and identify ways to promote it. I encourage you to take advantage of these District leaders.

Recruitment Change

I have asked Council Grand Knights and District Deputies to invite the Faithful Navigator, Captain, Admiral, and Commander to every Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. They may even ask your Assembly to provide a Color Guard at the Exemplification. I don't expect all four leaders to attend together but one of them should attend. Please share the workload. You should be seated with the other dignitaries. The main focus is to give you an opportunity to meet each 3rd Degree candidate, speak on the virtues of the Patriotic Degree, and retain communications with the candidate, as you guide them toward your programs and upcoming Fourth Degree Exemplification of Patriotism. Please remember, the Council Grand Knight is still in charge of his Exemplification. You are just being offered a networking opportunity.

In closing, I want to thank you all for the service you are doing to make the Georgia District a leader in the DeSoto Province. Your efforts are a positive reflection in the Fourth Degree and a positive reflection for all knights in Georgia. I know your Worthy State Deputy and Vice Supreme Master appreciate your service. If your Assembly has not yet scheduled an Installation of Officers with me, please do so as soon as possible. I hope to see many of you October 31st for the once in a lifetime, faith in action, Beatification of the Georgia Martyrs.

Vivat Jesus!

S.K Arnie Terrell

Master of Georgia District

DeSoto Province

Phone 810-626-8248

Excerpts from **THE CATHOLIC PATRIOT**

A monthly Supreme Fourth Degree Publication

“St. John Paul II taught that ‘truth is not simply given to man; he must earn it and conquer it through his own effort, assisted by God’s grace.’ This is the standard by which we must measure our patriotism as devout Catholics and Sir Knights...

A well-formed patriotism calls for a willingness to look beyond our own limited world views by constantly challenging us to probe the depths of misinformation to find truth. Like the Founding Fathers, a patriot must endeavor to be enlightened by the inalienable truths revealed to us by our Creator. Embracing them with a humble spirit of gratitude allows each of us to live lives dictated by a truth that calls us to act with justice as God demands by reasonably and impartially treating one another with fairness, even when our opinions differ. That is the true mark of a patriot. “



Supreme Master, [The Catholic Patriot, Aug. 2026](#)



“For your convenience, the latest Drill Manual version now resides on the supreme web site! ... Please make sure that all who perform Color Corps duties are familiar with the Drill Manual contents, so that we can continue our work towards uniformity in our drill!

A few reminders for your Color Guard: March in step with the correct interval, as a unit. The guards carrying swords need to carry them as explained in the Drill Manual, with arm straight and tight into their side, not out in front with a bent arm. Look sharp out there!”

Mike Thumm, FVSM
Supreme Fourth Degree Director of Ceremonials

Greetings in Christ, Fellow Sir Knights!

We have begun a new year for our District, a new year for your Assembly, and 126 years since the establishment of the Fourth Degree. You continue to lead in your parishes and community what it means to be a Sir Knight by how you live. Not just by the example of Color Guards and Honor Guards that people see very visibly because of the uniform and the professionalism that is represented, rather by the way you live Patriotism in your life by being a faithful Catholic and a faithful citizen.

On the Knights of Columbus website, it is stated that “John H. Reddin of Denver, the first supreme master, wrote in *The Columbiad*, ‘The Fourth Degree is a distinctive factor in the social and moral life of the country...It seeks by the spread of intelligence and of the knowledge of the moral code of the Catholic Church to make a lasting foundation for civil society and civil government.’” The faith and morals that the Catholic Church teaches, the faith and morals that the Catholic Church steadfastly proclaims, the faith and morals that the Catholic Church defends with great vigor, are paramount to civil society and government – providing a firm and lasting foundation that the Supreme Master wrote about. These should be lived out each day as Sir Knights—as Men of God!

Example of the proclamation of that faith and morals in society, is seen with the foundation of the Knights of Columbus by Blessed Michael McGivney, and within the Fourth Degree particularly. However, there are examples of the Catholic faith and morals being within the foundation and fabric of society even before Blessed McGivney. Particularly, we see that faith and morals being lived out in a society 300 years before Blessed McGivney with the soon to be Blessed Pedro de Corpa and Companions, the Georgia Martyrs.

This October 31st, these martyrs who died here in our State of Georgia in 1595, will be beatified in Savannah, GA. It is a great, unique, and rare opportunity for us as Sir Knights to attend and witness the beatification of these 5 men who lived, worked, and gave their lives in defense of Catholic faith and morals, particularly in defense of marriage. I encourage you to attend this event! Whether you are serving in the Honor Guard or just in attendance, it is a rare, once in a lifetime event probably for most of us, to attend a beatification, let alone a beatification in Georgia! It is an opportunity to live as we are called to live as Sir Knights and Men of God.

I hope to see you there to witness to the world how important this moment is.

May this year, through the programs and activities of your Assembly, within your parish and community, live out Patriotism as Catholic Men of God each day! Know of my prayers for your Assembly and your family.

May God Bless you Abundantly!

Fr. Chris Hassel
District Friar



Quarterly Training Spotlight: Marching with Precision

Effective training is the cornerstone of a successful Fourth Degree Color Corps. Rather than trying to master every section of the Drill Manual at once, assemblies can achieve greater success by focusing on one skill area each quarter. This approach builds confidence, improves proficiency, and ensures consistent performance during public events. This quarter, our training focus is **Steps and Marching (pages 31-35)**.

Marching is one of the most visible aspects of Color Corps service. Whether participating in a Mass procession, funeral escort, civic ceremony, or honor guard detail, the ability to move as a disciplined and coordinated unit reflects positively on the Church, the Order, and the individual Sir Knights. The manual emphasizes the importance of precision drill, regular practice, and consistent execution to present the best possible image of the Knights of Columbus (pages 8 and 40).

Key marching skills to practice include:

- **Forward March** (pages 31 and 50-51): Step off smartly with the left foot and maintain 30-inch steps at a cadence of 112-120 steps per minute while keeping proper posture and alignment.
- **Halt** (pages 31-32 and 51): Execute a crisp stop by taking one additional step and returning immediately to the position of attention.
- **Mark Time** (page 32 and 51): March in place while maintaining cadence, an important skill for maintaining formation and spacing.
- **Column Right and Column Left Movements** (pages 33-34): These directional changes require maintaining cadence, proper alignment, and smooth execution as the formation changes direction while continuing to march as a coordinated unit.

These movements are not only essential for ceremonies but also form part of the **Basic Movements Certification requirements found in Appendix A: Training & Certification (pages 50-53)**. Mastery of marching fundamentals provides the foundation for more advanced Color Corps training and performance.



As you train this quarter, remember that excellence is built through repetition and teamwork. Every synchronized step demonstrates the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. By focusing on marching fundamentals today, we ensure our Color Corps continues to serve with dignity, precision, and pride.

Have thoughts on additional training you would like to see presented or covered in a future training session or newsletter, please send those to ladd.rosipal@gakofc.org

Upcoming Exemplification

November 14th, 2026

*hosted by: Fr Vincent Capodanno Assembly 3799, the Georgia Degree Team,
& District Master Arnie Terrell*

Schedule of Events:

8:30am: Honor Guard Reporting/Training

9:00- 10:00am: Registration

10:00 – 10:30am: Candidate preparation

10:30am - 12:15pm: Exemplification

12:15 - 1:15pm: Luncheon Banquet

Christ our King and Savior Catholic Church

6341 Lake Oconee Parkway, Greensboro, GA 30642

The deadline for all forms is 10 days prior to the exemplification. Please reach out to District Marshal Ed O'Connor with any additional questions.



New Prepaid Lunch Policy

With Fourth Degree Exemplifications now open to the public, estimating the number of lunches to prepare has proven difficult for our hosting Assemblies, resulting in either preparation of too much food, or having to turn away family members asking to purchase a ticket on the day of the event. **To provide an accurate number, we are transitioning over to prepaid-only lunches.** Family and Assembly guests or observers who wish to join for lunch (\$12/person) must **pre-pay by check mailed to the District Secretary or by using the adjacent QR code or link below.**

Candidate lunches are guaranteed and included as part of their Exemplification fee.



For questions, please contact District Secretary John Dunn
(districtsecretary@gakofc.org)

<https://square.link/u/ClhqWhZe>

Sir Knights in Action



St. Michael the Archangel Assembly 3410, with help from other assemblies in the state, provided an Honor Guard and Color Guard at St. Lawrence on the Fourth of July.



In honor of America's 250th anniversary, the 2026 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage journeyed under the theme "One Nation Under God"—an invitation to realign our lives, communities, and nation under the sovereignty of Christ. The pilgrimage began near the site of the first Mass celebrated in what is now the United States and travelled the Eastern Seaboard before concluding in Philadelphia over Independence Day weekend. **The District of Georgia was honored to be represented by 20 Sir Knights from 7 Assemblies in the Diocese of Savannah, participating in 5 Masses of Thanksgiving and 9 Eucharistic Processions across Georgia.** From St. Marys and Brunswick to Savannah, they joined bishops, clergy, and the faithful in a powerful public witness to the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Sir Knights from **Divine Mercy Assembly 2771** and **St. John Paul II Assembly 3355** provided an Honor Guard for the Kenyan Catholic Community in America National Convention. The convention was held July 30-Aug 1 at Transfiguration Catholic Church in Marietta. The main celebrant was Bishop Henry Juma Odonia Bishop of Catholic Diocese of Kitale





On August 22, **twelve Sir Knights from four Assemblies** came together to serve as an Honor Guard for two Confirmation Masses at Catholic Church of St Ann.

Archbishop John F Donoghue Atlanta Assembly 3313 celebrated patriotism and Flag Day by conducting a respectful Flag Retirement Ceremony for more than 150 unserviceable American flags. The event combined reverence for our nation's symbol with education about the history of the American flag, the United States, and the Pledge of Allegiance, including the Knights of Columbus' role in adding the words "under God." Attendees were also inspired by the firsthand reflections of a 102-yr-old WWII veteran, whose service exemplified the sacrifices made to preserve our nation's freedoms.



Georgia Knights of Columbus stand together outside the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 12 after the Mass to consecrate Atlanta. The local Mass followed a national consecration by the U.S. bishops of the nation ahead of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

*Want to see your assembly represented in an upcoming newsletter?
Be sure to share pictures and a brief description of the event through
our [District Event Recap & Media Submission Form](#)*

A 100+ man Honor Guard will serve at
BEATIFICATION *of the*
GEORGIA MARTYRS

October 31st, 2026 in Savannah, Ga

*The **11am mass** will be presided over by Cardinal Frank Leo of Toronto
at the **Savannah Convention Center**. More information will be shared
as it becomes available. Learn more at TheGeorgiaMartyrs.org*



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Columbus®**

