

### Newsletter



### John H Reddin Province

Vice Supreme Master Richard Espinosa

#### February 2022



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"VIVA CRISTO REY"



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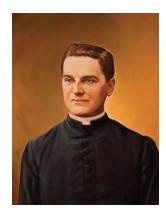
#### Faithful Citizenship Program



#### Faithful Citizenship Program

Faithful Citizens will receive a special e-newsletter that provides insight on various federal legislative, regulatory, and legal issues. Join your voice with 2 million fellow members. With Knights, you never act alone. Sign up below.





#### Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

Founder of the Knights of Columbus

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please report all favors received:
The Father McGivney Guild
1 Columbus Plaza
New Haven, CT 06510-3326 • USA
www.fathermcgivney.org

Painting by Chas Fagan © Knights of Columbus



#### Click here to join The Guild

#### Join in Praying for Our Founder's Intercession

aful around the world are turning to Blessed Michael McGivney for their personal prayer petitions. Visit the Father McGivne website where you'll find a list of the latest favors received, as well as a form to submit your own petitions.

Also, click here to download and pray a Litany of Blessed Michael McGivney.

Vice Supreme Master

Richard Espinosa coachespi@yahoo.com



Saint Jose, Littlest soldier of Christ, whose last bloody steps brought you to the arms of our Lady and our Lord. Keep healthy and strong the steps of our Lord's soldiers who remain here on earth, so that they may have your strength to endure and preserve to the end. Amen Viva Cristo Rey!

Saint Jose Sanchez Del Rio, Pray for the Patriotic Degree of the Knights of Columbus



#### Vice Supreme Master Richard Espinosa

My Brother Sir Knights Hope you and your families are doing well. As the Fraternal Year continues membership numbers are very low.

The following are the numbers for each district and the John H. Province. John H. Reddin Province Membership:

5% goal: 620, Intake as of 12-31-2021-116 New Members 18.71% of goal

	Membership	Quota	MTD Gain	YTD	%
New Mexico	2,243	157	0	10	6
Colorado	4,354	305	9	32	10
Utah	1,009	71	0	12	16
Arizona	4,784	335	5	62	18

Sir Knights and District Masters you can see we are far behind in membership. We need to pick up the pace since the pandemic is starting to spread have more virtual exemplifications. I know some jurisdictions have had in person exemplifications that is ok to but sure you are within the guidelines of the state covid mandate.

The other concern by the Supreme Masters is New Assembly Development. The Fourth Degree order wide has 8 New Assemblies 7 in the Philippines and 1 in the United States. Let's not be too late on developing a new Assembly. Get help from District Marshalls and Councils to start looking for new assemblies. The growth of membership is one that involves all brother knights getting involved in recruiting, work together to grow membership in the 4<sup>th</sup> degree. Thank you for your participation with the Patriotic Degree.

May our Lady of Guadalupe watch over us and Father McGivney bless his beloved Knights.

VIVA CRISTO REY Richard Espinosa Vice Supreme Master

#### Arizona Master

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#### **District Marshals**

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#### Arizona Master Drew Mansager

It started with an internet search for "Tucson KofC" by the Chaplain of the Indiana National Guard. It ended with a patriotic, fraternal, Tucson Christmas dinner for 30 Indiana National Guardsmen away from home.

"Because we're the oldest in Tucson, Gercke Assembly and Council 1200 are near the top of any search," said Financial Secretary Armando Membrila.

Archbishop Daniel Gercke Assembly 16 took up the request. The Indiana National Guard Chaplain has offered to help pay for the meal. We need your help on the ground," said Fr. Adam Ahern.

The visitors are a helicopter Aviation Maintenance Unit deployed to Tucson to help the Border Patrol Council 1200 and the Tucson Chapter (consisting of Tucson area Councils) contributed financially.

Then more and more pieces fell into place.

Gerke's Membrila approached the management of the former Council 1200 KofC hall. They donated use of the hall for the National Guard Christmas Eve dinner.

A former Tucson alumni president donated a Christmas tree and table decorations. Another Tucson area alumni provided Christmas Eve dinners, at cost. When a Knight of Columbus Tucson councilman heard of the National Guard dinner, he donated Veteran "thank you" medallions for each Guardsman.

Other financial donations were used to purchase gift cards for the Guardsmen's Christmas gifts. They will also receive an individual Christmas card from Council 1200, Assembly 16, KofC Men's club and "friends."

"As the Patriotic Degree, we were happy to support these Guardsmen who were away from home at Christmas time," said Faithful Navigator and Former District Deputy David King.

Similarly, Rob Padia, DD 22, along with San Xavier del Bac Assembly 14, in Phoenix, and Vincent Paul Curcio Assembly 3327, in Gilbert, have been providing meals to Arizona National Guard recruits once a month, along with members of multi-religious groups, on their drill weekend, usually the third Saturday of the month.

Past meals have included pulled pork, chicken, mac and cheese, bean and corn salad as well as burgers, hot dogs or pizza.

The program is set up through the Chaplains at Papago Military Reservation, but serving areas may be expanding to Buckeye and Tucson. Last month, a Christian Bike Club from Buckey served the meal.

DD Padia is looking to attract more support for the National Guard dinners from nearby Assemblies and Councils.

Although there may be some re-organizing in January, contact DD Padia at robspad99@hotmail.com or rpadiakofc@gmail.com if your Council or Assembly would like to support this Patriotic activity.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

The <u>registration</u> link to the virtual Fourth Degree Exemplification on February 12 is available at <u>kofc-az.org/patriotic-degree</u>. There is plenty of work to do, especially obtaining signatures on a candidate's Form 4. Faithful Navigators and proposers, please be mindful of your responsibilities for following through.

Also, thank you for your recruiting efforts. I have received inquiries almost weekly from throughout Arizona, north to south.

\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### **March for Life 2022: Diocese of Tucson**

Hundreds gathered in support of protecting the sanctity of life January 22, 2022. The march started with a mass at St. Augustine Cathedral and ended at Holy Hope Cemetery.



Click on the photo to watch the video

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#### Colorado Master David Davis

This past fall a special Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe visited Colorado. This Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary tour was sponsored by The Lepanto Project in partnership with the Colorado State Knights of Columbus. This is an exact replica of the original image of Our Lady which she left on the Tilma of Saint Juan Diego in December of 1531. The image is among four blessed at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico by the Rector of the Basilica, Monsignor Monroy, to bring conversions, reverence for life, sanctity of the family, and solidarity of the Church in America. The Missionary Images are known to have been associated with many miracles and healings.

The tour itself was preceded by a display at a Marion Conference in Denver on October 1st, where 4th-degree Knights from several Assemblies served in an Honor Guard and processed to the Mass altar with a large statue of Our Lady.





Since then, several Knights councils have provided support for the traveling missionary image to their parishes. Our Lady of Guadalupe was honored at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Denver on October 7<sup>th</sup> at the opening Mass of the missionary image tour; Archbishop Samuel Aquila presided.

Later that week she was featured at the Diocese of Colorado Springs' annual Respect Life dinner, and the next morning at another Mass at the Cathedral of St. Mary's.

Among the numerous other parishes that hosted the missionary image up through Thanksgiving week, at St. Francis of Assisi church in Castle Rock on All-Saints Day, Knights from St. Joseph Assembly 2628 and Council 8909 provided an Honor Guard for the procession of the Our Lady of Guadalupe image into the sanctuary.





The Knights led a rosary during the veneration hour prior to Mass, after which the miraculous story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and historical events following that appearance were narrated by the director of the Lepanto Project.







Among the many other 4-Degree Sir Knights and Assemblies that provided prominent support to honor Our Lady both at the Denver Marian Conference and two-month Colorado Guadalupe missionary image tour were: Titus Conwell, Assembly 2294 Color Corps Commander; Bob Scheich, Faithful Navigator from St. Joseph's in Golden; Assembly 2551 at Our Lady of Fatima parish; Assembly 3814 at Our Lady Queen of the Vietnamese Martyrs; and the Council and Assembly at Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish.

New Mexico Master
Clint Deeley
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NM Central
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DM Trainer

DM Caesar Archangel

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NM Program & Membership Rudy Archibeque rudyarchibeque@gmail.com

### New Mexico Master CJ Deeley

Sir Knights,

Blessings to you All!

We are into 2022 and unfortunately, we are still in similar circumstances as Feb 2021.

We recently had to postpone the Exemplification in Roswell. This was due to a peak of COVID again as a precaution to everyone. If you read the Prayer list that goes out from our WSEA daily; you can see, we have Sir Knights and Brothers needing our prayers. But we can do more than prayers, we can evangelize our Catholic Faith and promote the Knights of Columbus. We no longer can sit back and think that someone else is going to promote the Catholic Church and the Knights; it must be each one of us! Many of us have been watching the NFL Playoffs rooting for our favorite teams and enjoying the game. Think of the Knights as the Offensive Line protecting our Priests and our Catholic Church, evangelizing the faith. Also, with this same analogy, think of us as the Defensive Line, we men are protecting our families, our parishes, and our Catholic Faith from the evils of today. So, the question to everyone, if it is not, you protecting our catholic faith and families, who will it be? Get men that are 18 y/o or old and get men that are practical in the catholic faith. Get them excited on why they want to join the Knights. Once we have Knights, we can then ask them to become Sir Knights.

Thank you to all the Sir Knights that have supported the Rosary's, Funeral Masses for our Knights and family members that have passed on to the Church Jubilant! Also, thank you to the Sir Knights that were able to support the Sanctity for Life Mass in Santa Fe.

Upcoming, events for February and future months; Presidents Day, Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>; Anniversary of the Fourth Degree, Tuesday, February 22! February 26, Rescheduled 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification (virtual), 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification, March 12<sup>th</sup>, Las Cruces Area, Biennial Meeting, Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Albuquerque. NMSC State Convention Apr 29-May 1, Albuquerque.

As mentioned previously, the Supreme Master has asked for help in supporting Seminarians of the Archdiocese of Military Service. There are three Activeduty military bases in the State of New Mexico with multiple military bases in Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah. Some of these bases barely have a Catholic Chaplain (Priest) present to support the military assigned to all these bases. There are currently 200 Catholic Chaplains to support all the US Military Worldwide. Unfortunately, Deacons are not able to support this need.

I humbly request each Council and Assembly donate at least \$50 to compile and send to our Worthy Supreme Master. Please consider this support and send your donation to the NMSC!

If your Assembly has not met, please meet. If you are having trouble meeting for whatever reason, please get with me or one of our District Marshals to assist your Assembly in meeting and promoting the good works of the Knights. Additionally, if your Assembly has not completed its Report for New Officers Chosen for 2021 or Audit, or the Fraternal Survey, please do so as soon as possible These are required forms to keep the Assembly in Good Status with the Supreme Council and keep its IRS EIN intact.

Begin getting your Assembly, Civic Awards, "To Be A Patriot" Awards and Star Assembly packages together. Please adhere to the timelines, so your Assemblies can be properly acknowledged for its good works!

Remember, through Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism, we as Knights show our Families, Parishes and Priests that this is an organization to be part of and fight to keep growing strong!

Pray for our Parishes, Our Priests, and our civic leaders.

Vivat Jesus! Viva Cristo Rey!

CJ Clinton J Deeley District Master-NM

#### N.M East Ed Martinez

Lady Chris and I hope you and your family had a good Christmas season; we pray for all to have a better year with strength and courage in the days ahead. We are into the second half of our Fraternal year; ordinary time is here and soon we will be into the season of Lent. All based on the passage of time such as these noteworthy events ending 2021, from Eastern NM.



On November 21, 2021, we were honored to have in attendance Rev. Fr. Michael Niemczak at a Third-Degree Exemplification with lessons in Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. Conducting the event was Grand Knight Sean Little Council 4205 at Clovis, NM Sacred Heart Church. Candidates were; Deacon Rev. Franklin Iwuagwu, Cody Little, and Henry Ruiz.



On Sunday, December 12, 2021, celebrating a Corporate Communion Mass in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Clovis, NM were Honor Guards from Assembly 1686; WMFD C.J. Deeley, WFN Max Pino, WFC Sean Little, WFA Joe Batista, WFSK Billy Garcia, and WFSK Jim Hicks.





Friday, December 24, 2021, at Cannon Air Force Base Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Bishop Neal J. Buckon and Father Pedro Jimenez celebrated Christmas Eve Nativity of the Lord Mass and administered the Sacrament (rite) of Confirmation.

Honor Guards participating from Assembly 1686 were: WMFD C.J. Deeley, WDM Ed Martinez, WCCC Chris Hill, WC Eric Kirby, and WSK Jim Hicks.

May God Bless you and your family every day of this new year with good health, peace, and happiness. Vivat Jesus! Viva Cristo Rey!

District Marshal Ed Martinez East New Mexico

#### N.M South SK Ricky Medina

My Brother Knights and Families:

I don't know about you, but January sure went fast! And now as we prepare for February events in your Assembly, mainly upcoming Patriotic (4<sup>th</sup>) Degree Exemplifications. I encourage all my fellow Knights to support the recruitment in the councils to then recruit for the 4th Degree. We cannot be a Patriotic Degree without being Council members first. So, let's start preparing candidates for this degree, get the word out.

In the January Newsletter, I mentioned I would give an update on the District Wide, Honor Guard callout of Southern NM for Monsignor Robert Getz of Las Cruces. A total of 12 Knights answered the call, Thank You Brothers.



L -R Sir Knights; Tony Herrera (0689), David Gomez (3330), Fred Flores CCC (3330), Rudy Calzada (3330), Rick Blair (3330), Damian Hall (0689), Jack Vilardi (0689), Michael Dixon (0684), Alberto Grijalva (3330), Mett Seltzer (3295), David Armendar (0689)

Assembly 3330 has only 8 Knights that make up the Color Corp, Assembly 0684 has only one Knight with Regalia, both Assemblies are in Las Cruces. The percentages were not very favorable, only 3 of the 9 Knights were able to make the call, but by the grace of God, Knights from nearby Assemblies supported the callout.

We needed a minimum of 8 Knights to make up the Honor Guard, Per the Color Corp Drill Manual, for a Priest/Clergy, 4 Honor Guards are required to stand guard at the casket and a minimum of 4 more Honor Guards are in ready for the changing of the Guards. We almost fell short of that goal. My 4th Degree Brothers I encourage you all to join the Color Corp, acquire your Regalia so you too can participate with your fellow Knights to honor a brother Knight or Priest. Remember we do this for their families, and they do

appreciate it. Ask yourself will there be an Honor Guard at your funeral?

#### **Raffle for Turning Point:**

Robert G. Gamboa, Council 9527 of Las Cruces: GK Randy Boyer and members are selling Knights of Columbus Superbowl Raffle Tickets to raise funds to benefit Turning Point. They are raffling a 70" Samsung HD TV, Drawing will be held February 6, 2022. Sales have been very promising.

#### Robert G. Gamboa Council 9527 Helps Put Local "Coats for Kids" Over Their Goal.

On December 2, 2021, Robert G. Gamboa Council 9527 received a donation from St. Vincente de Paul which, when added to all other donations In Las Cruces, put the total to over \$15,000.00. Mark Hochstetler from **Community Action Agency** was present to accept the donation and informed us that the **Anderson foundation** will match for a total city-wide amount of \$30,000.00. Our council's donation of \$500 and proceeds from the Knight's booth at the Pachanga car show this past September, as well as other sources was \$1500.



L-R SK John Byers, Mr. Mark Hochstetler; Community Action Agency Rep, WGK SK Randy Boyer, SK Narciso Olguin; Council Chairman "Coats for Kids".

Vivat Jesus, Viva Cristo Rey

#### **N.M Central Chuck DuBois**

My Brothers All.

With the number of call outs that we have done in the last two month, I would encourage my Brother Knights who have not purchased the new uniform to do so now. When we show up to a Brother Knights' Rosary and Mass, we do this to support the family and friends of the departed. I know that the new uniform has a cost that some Brother Knights may not be able to afford, but the Assembly can step up and help.

The convention is a few months away, and Color Guards will be needed for the posting of Colors, so let's see a number of Brother Knights in the new uniform ready to go.



Click for more information and to order

Vivat Jesu!

Chuck R. DuBois District Marshal Central NM 505 400-3917

#### SK Steve Budenski New Mexico VAVS Representative

Greetings Sir Knights and families,

As VAVS Representative in New Mexico at Raymond G. Murphy Veterans Medical Center want to bring the current veterans news to them in our wonderful Knights of Columbus organization and Community.

I get online emails on activities and updates to veteran's medical care and activities. www.myhealth.va.gov is sending new messages to your phone When you send your message, you may wonder, "Did someone answer me yet?" You can easily update your My HealtheVet preferences to get an email notification when you receive a new Secure Message. As a VAVS representative at Raymond G Murphy Medical Center, please contact me or the myhealth.va.gov Coordinator at 505-265-1711.

I like to emphasize that veterans and their family along with caregivers can get the covid 19 boosters.

Military skills translator can be found at military.com to evaluate civilian skills from military skills.

https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits. Note the link to order free home Covid tests

A call out for veterans that Blood supply low please contact your local Red Cross to donate or setup a blood drive locally. This is part of the leave no neighbor behind program.

From <u>Army pay</u> and benefits to updates on <u>Army uniforms</u>, deployments and information from around the service, find your U.S. Army news and information on Military.com.

The U.S. Army was created on June 3, 1784 by the Congress of the Confederation at the end of the Revolutionary War. "To fight and win America's wars," the Army exists to organize, equip, and train forces "for the conduct of prompt and sustained combat operations on land."

The U.S. Army operates with an active component and two reserve components: the United States Army Reserve and the Army National Guard. There are just under 500,000 soldiers serving actively in the U.S. Army today and another 550,000 serving in the reserve components.

In New Mexico National guard may be mobilized for schools -"We have a proposal I don't think exists anywhere in the nation about what we can do about getting bodies who productively and safely can support our schools to stay open," New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, a Democrat, <u>said</u> at a press conference last week.

It is unclear what staffing shortages troops could possibly fill at public schools. Guardsmen serve in one of many occupations in the military, including infantry, mechanics and pilots.

There is no position in the <u>Army</u> or Air National Guard that can qualify troops to be teachers, and a spokesperson for Grisham said using troops is a work in progress.

Happy New Year! Your 1099R for tax year 2021 is now available to be viewed and/or printed online.

Log into your Services Online account at <a href="www.servicesonline.opm.gov">www.servicesonline.opm.gov</a> and click on the 1099R Tax Form link available in the main menu. There you will be able to view your 2021 1099R data. Click on the icons in the upper right-hand corner to either save or print your form.

Thank you for participating in the electronic delivery program of your 1099R.

Retirement Services

Excerpt from DAV Blog DAV - Mission News (ihelpveterans.org)

Iraq Veteran Finds Hope In DAV

As Army Veteran Jessica Farrell watched the Twin Towers fall on September 11, 2001, she knew she had a new purpose in life. She needed to serve her country. She enlisted as soon as she graduated from high school. Several reenlistments later, including a deployment to Iraq, Jessica was medically discharged from the Army. She felt adrift. That's when she found DAV. "If you're lost, DAV is where to go to look for help," says Jessica. "They have the knowledge to help you with different issues. They have resources to assist with navigating the VA system, learn about different school opportunities, support channels, and other opportunities."

VAVS Representative Steven M Budenski 505-489-1218

PS Any veterans who like to know more about a Catholic man doing charitable works with your church and community contact me above. Thank You

#### **New Mexico Color Corp in Action**





















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### **Utah District Master February 2022 Input for Provincial Newsletter**

#### Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2022

This new year has begun and the Christmas season within the church concludes on the feast of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan river by St John. So now Happy New Year to all and we can pray that our pandemic will wain by summer. We are back on ordinary time waiting the coming of the Lenten/Easter Seasons.

#### **Utah 4th Degree Scholarship**

The Fisrt 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Scholarship for the state of Utah is being funded and will be awarded at the Utah State convention on May 7, 2022. This scholaship is open to all 4<sup>th</sup> Decree knight and their dependents. It can also be awarded multiple years for those pursueing cetrifactes and degrees. Active 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knights them selves are encoujraged to apply.

#### In person 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplificaatons

In person 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplifications started up again in November 2021. The next Exemplification is scheduled for February 12, 2022 at St Olaf's Parish in bountiful Utah. Candidates and forms are being accepted at this time

#### St Patrick Day Parade

If thing hold up the St Patricks Day Parade will be held this year in Salt Lake City in the Gateway main Street on Saturday March 12, 2022. This celebration/parade has been been a victim of COVID last year. Numerous rescheduling events did not happed. If all goes well the we have the wearing of the green once again.



A Prayer for Our Country

#### A Prayer for Our Country

O Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, at this most critical time, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care.

Most Holy Mother, we beg you to reclaim this land for the glory of your Son. Overwhelmed with the burden of the sins of our nation, we cry to you from the depths of our hearts and seek refuge in your motherly protection.

Look down with mercy upon us and touch the hearts of our people. Open our minds to the great worth of human life and to the responsibilities that accompany human freedom.

Free us from the falsehoods that lead to the evil of abortion and threaten the sanctity of family life. Grant our country the wisdom to proclaim that God's law is the foundation on which this nation was founded, and that He alone is the True Source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

O Merciful Mother, give us the courage to reject the culture of death and the strength to build a new Culture of Life. *Amen*.



God bless you, and God Bless America!

SK. Richard "Dick" Hall Utah District Master John H. Reddin Province

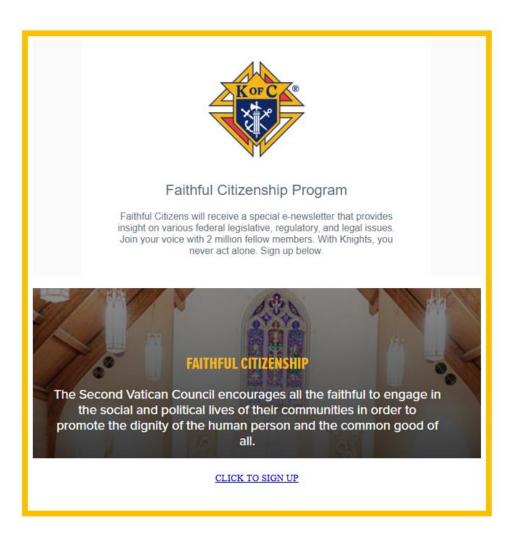


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Color Corp Drill Manual click to download



#### Faithful Citizenship Program



### **Uniform Talk The Color Corp of the Patriotic Degree**

#### **Purpose of the Color Corps**

When knighthood was in flower, knights carried the sword to defend their God, their Church, their country and their fellow man according to the code of chivalry. Today, Sir Knights wear regalia and carry the sword to honor Christ and His apostles, especially on religious and civic occasions specified in this manual. Hence, the primary purpose of the Fourth Degree is to encourage active Catholic citizenship and foster the spirit of patriotism in members and the community at large.

The Color Corps members exemplify all the principles of our Order:

**Charity** - by the gift of their time and energies necessary to practice, perfect and perform the ceremonials and sword drill;

**Unity** – by the united efforts of Sir Knights to practice and perfect a coordinated drill for the good of the Church and the Order;

**Fraternity** – by expressing an "Esprit de Corps," sharing a common desire for drill excellence and camaraderie; and

**Patriotism** – by performing precision drill as a salute to God and to country and visually exhibiting a love for both.

The public appearance of Fourth Degree Knights as a Color Corps at religious and civic functions is an important activity of each assembly. By these public demonstrations, their loyalty and patriotism bring credit to themselves and to the Knights of Columbus.



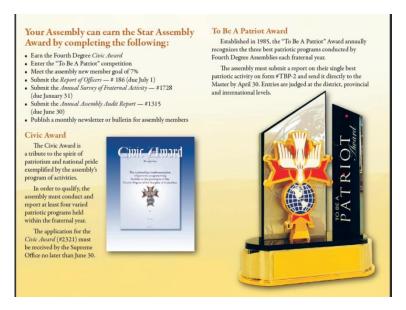
4th Degree Uniform
Click to Order



Color Corp Drill Manual
Click to download

#### **Star Assembly Award**

Assemblies that excel in membership recruitment, sponsoring patriotic programs in their communities, report to the Supreme Council office and keep their members and others informed of assembly activities are eligible to earn the Star Assembly Award.





#### **Culture of Life**

### WSJ OPINION

#### What It Means to Be Pro-Life

Faith-driven pregnancy resource centers are becoming more prominent.

By Patrick E. Kelly Jan. 20, 2022 6:30 pm ET

Hundreds of thousands of pro-life advocates will gather in Washington on Friday for the annual March for Life. Every year it is one of the biggest demonstrations in the nation's capital, but some of the movement's most dedicated members won't be there. They'll be where they usually are, day in and day out—at pregnancy resource centers caring for mothers and children, born and unborn.

Pregnancy resource centers have existed since before the Supreme Court ruled on *Roe v. Wade* nearly 50 years ago, but their numbers have soared since abortion on demand was declared a constitutional right. Between 2,500 and 4,000 centers exist nationwide, supporting millions of pregnant and new mothers every year. Many if not most are faith-based.

What motivates the people who run and volunteer at these organizations? Love, hard as that may be to believe in these cynical times. Over the years I've met staff and volunteers driven by a deep affection for mothers and children. Being pro-life isn't an abstract concept; it's deeply personal and inherently connected with those they serve. They believe that every life, every soul, has worth and value. While people from a range of religions are involved, Christians are motivated by Christ's words from the Gospel of Matthew: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Whatever their religious tradition, the faithful have built these centers from the ground up. They give their time, talent and treasure to support expectant mothers' needs, including medical care such as testing and ultrasounds, diapers, formula and infant onesies. Every day, churches drop off checks and boxes of goods at their doorsteps. Volunteers show up on weekends and weekdays alike to stock shelves, enter data, hand out cribs and car seats, listen to mothers and fathers baring their souls, and pray with those struggling to choose life. The result is often a lifelong relationship and support for children—and even a conversion for entire families.

Many people call these organizations "crisis" pregnancy centers. The phrase is too limiting, but it speaks to a profound truth. When a teenage girl discovers she's pregnant, when an expecting mom escapes her abusive boyfriend, when a single mother has no money for diapers, these centers take them in. Seemingly unbearable situations become hopeful through tender care, comforting words, and abundant generosity.

It's nearly impossible to know how many mothers have been helped and babies saved thanks to these centers, though the number could be in the millions. Yet as any of their staff would tell you, they haven't saved enough. At least 62 million babies have been aborted since *Roe*, and every pregnancy resource center employee and volunteer is fighting to prevent that number from rising.

Their work to show expectant mothers the humanity of their children through ultrasounds is especially powerful. (The Knights of Columbus, which I lead, this week placed our 1,500th ultrasound machine in a pregnancy resource center, in New Brunswick, N.J.) When it comes to helping parents choose life, few things are more powerful than the sight of their unborn child.

Abortion's defenders tend to denounce these centers. The Guttmacher Institute, formerly affiliated with Planned Parenthood, complains they are "typically staffed by volunteers and employees who lack medical training and licensure." It's a strange criticism from those for whom a "successful" medical procedure always ends in the death of a human being. In any case, it misses the point. The people who work at these centers serve the whole person—medically, financially, emotionally and spiritually. That's something no abortion clinic can do, and it helps explain why their numbers are dwindling while the number of pregnancy resource centers grows.

Such centers are likely to become even more prominent with time. Along with everyone participating in the March for Life, their staff and volunteers are hoping and praying the Supreme Court overturns Roe in the *Dobbs* case later this year. Such a decision would empower states to restrict abortion and protect unborn life—something that 61% of Americans support, based on new Marist polling sponsored by the Knights of Columbus—and that means more mothers and children will be in need of love and support. Pregnancy resource centers will be there.

Mr. Kelly is supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus.

Appeared in the January 21, 2022, print edition.



#### Celebrate the Gospel of Life

O Mary,
bright dawn of the new world,
Mother of the living,
to you do we entrust the cause of life:
Look down, O Mother,
upon the vast numbers
of babies not allowed to be born,
of the poor whose lives are made difficult,
of men and women
who are victims of brutal violence,
of the elderly and the sick killed
by indifference or out of misguided mercy.
Grant that all who believe in your Son
may proclaim the Gospel of life
with honesty and love
to the people of our time.
Obtain for them the grace
to accept that Gospel
as a gift ever new,
the joy of celebrating it with gratitude
throughout their lives
and the courage to bear witness to it
resolutely, in order to build,
together with all people of good will,
the civilization of truth and love,
to the praise and glory of God,
the Creator and lover of life.

Joannes Paulus MI

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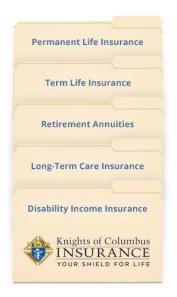
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#### A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC



The ancient fresco of Madorna del Soccorso (Cur Lady of Help) in St. Peter's Basilica was restored with the support of the Knights of Columbus to mark the Year of Path (2012-2013). Photo courteey of Fabbrica di San PletroM. Falcioni.

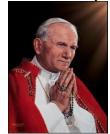
you always brighten our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain while remaining steadfast in faith. O loving Mother, you know what we need, and we are confident you will provide for us as at Cana in Galilee Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician, for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable, and for those who have died. Intercede also for those charged with protecting the health and safety of others and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure. Help us, O Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who took upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows so as to lead us, through the Cross, to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

Under thy protection we seek refuge, O Holy Mother of God. In our needs, despise not our petitions, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Adapted from the prayer of Pope Franci

KNIGHTS OF 🍪 COLUMBUS

#### Saint John Paul's Prayer for Peace



Lord Jesus Christ, who is called the Prince of Peace, who are yourself our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "Peace to you," grant us peace.

Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice, and brotherly love.

Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace.

Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace.

May all peoples on the earth become as brothers and sisters.

May longed for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all.

- Pope John Paul II



#### Knight's Prayer



Our Lady, Queen of the Knights, bless all the activities of our Order. Keep us true to our pledge, to extend the kingship of thy divine son on earth. Through Thine intercession, win for us the grace, ever to exemplify in our public and private lives, the virtues that should characterize those especially dedicated to the service of the heavenly court. Make us always aware that as your Knights, we are constantly observed, our faith judged, and our Order appreciated.

Accept, O Mary, this renewed pledge of fealty and devotion, of Thy Servants, the Knights of Columbus.

http://www.kofc11768.org/?page\_id=19

## St. Michael the Archangel

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL,
DEFEND US IN BATTLE.
BE OUR PROTECTION AGAINST
THE WICKEDNESS AND
SNARES OF THE DEVIL.

May God Rebuke Him we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

### Take a Break for a Little Bit of Patriotism



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#### Thank You!

To submit articles for the Newsletter please send them to jhrpnews@gmail.com by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month for the next month's publication. Please send in a word (.doc) format and photos in a .jpg format.