



Master's Message

Worthy Sir Knights All,

Vivat Jesus!

Shortly, we will embark on the Lenten Season, a time when we as Catholics, look inside ourselves and reflect upon our lives as Christians. This is a time when a personal sacrifice is offered for atonement and cleansing of our souls in preparation for Easter. What will you do in preparation?

As children, many, if not all of us, gave up candy during Lent. Not easy for any youngster to do. I dare say all of us are beyond that stage of our lives. Would you consider attending daily mass or visiting a Brother who may no longer be able to get out of the house? Maybe you could make a vow to pray a rosary for peace and the safety of our military men and women. We have many options, but truly make a concerted effort to do something that is a sacrifice and not an every day event. The Lord will bless you many times over and you will feel better about yourself.

January was a busy month. The State Deputy held two mid-year meetings which were fantastic! The traditional Saturday evening mass after both meetings were a special treat as the celebrant for each was the Bishop of the respective diocese. At both masses, the Fourth Degree provided and Honor Guard and I was fortunate to participate in both.

The Fourth Degree also participated in both Right To Life rallies held in Charlotte and Raleigh. I attended the Raleigh march and what a wonderful showing by our members. Thank you all for taking the time to show that the Knights of Columbus stand up for Life. Once again, we were treated to having both Bishop Burbidge and Bishop Jugis in attendance and march with the Honor Guard.

On January 22nd, the State Deputy and I attended the Right To Life march in Washington, DC, as many of you did also. Our Bishops concelebrated a 10:00 am Mass at the Basilica for the North Carolina delegation. There were very few seats available.

At the conclusion of mass, Bishop Burbidge inquired of several Fourth Degree members if it would be possible to have a Fourth Degree Honor Guard for this Mass in the future. Therefore, I ask the membership to begin making preparations for January 22, 2009 to attend the Mass and honor Bishops request. An Honor Guard would require a minimum of 40 men in regalia. More on this as the year progresses.

By the time you read this, everyone should have filed a Form 1728, Survey of Fraternal Activity which I have talked about for the past two months

VA Updates are now on the State web site, www.kofcnc.org, by going to communications and selecting the tab "VA UPDATES". The web site is slowly becoming more current and easier to use. If there is something you would like to see on the Fourth Degree portion, please let me know. Soon, I will be adding a calendar of Assembly Officer Installation dates including the name of the installing VSM, FVSM, FDM or myself.

Finally, I would ask all Faithful navigators to nominate a member of your assembly to be considered for the honor of Sir Knight of the Month. In the past months I have tried to alternate between assemblies in the East and West, and with your assistance, this will continue. Please take the time to nominate one or more of your members who deserve to be recognized.

God Bless, SK Robert J. (Bob) Grabasky, PSD - NC District Master



Captain William P. Lesak
Chaplain Corps, United States Navy
Command Chaplain

Captain William P. Lesak was born in Summit, New Jersey on November 18, 1947. In December 1972 he graduated from Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. On May 31, 1975 Chaplain Lesak was ordained a Roman Catholic priest for the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey. In 1976 he earned his Master of Divinity in Pastoral Theology from The Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, Seton Hall University. In May 1989 he earned his certification in Theological Studies in Religious Education at The Jesuit School of Theology at the University of California, Berkeley. In May 2002 he was awarded a Master of Education in Pastoral Counseling, Seton Hall University.

In addition to his parish responsibilities he worked extensively with couples as a canonical consultant and advocate on the Archdiocesan Matrimonial Court and Tribunal. He devoted most of his pastoral ministry as spiritual director to youth renewal programs conducting high school retreats throughout the Archdiocese. Chaplain Lesak served for 11 years as parochial vicar before entering the Navy.

Captain Lesak was commissioned Lieutenant Junior Grade on September 1, 1982. In August 1983 he completed the Basic Course at the Naval Chaplains School in Newport, Rhode Island before returning to his parish duties as a Reserve Chaplain. In October 1986 he was recalled to active duty. His active duty assignments include: Third Force Service Support Group, FMF, Okinawa, Japan (Oct86–July88); Post Graduate School, University of California, Berkeley (July88–May89); Naval Support Activity, Holy Loch, Scotland, UK (May89–Feb92); Pre-Commission, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CVN73 (Feb92–July92) and Plank Owner, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CVN73 (July92–Aug94); Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan (Aug94–Oct96); Senior Supervisory Course, Chaplain School, Newport, RI (Oct96–Dec96); United States SIXTH Fleet, Gaeta, Italy (Dec96–Dec98); Second Marine Division that included 22nd MEU (SOC), 6th and 10th Marine Regiments (Dec98–Dec00); Marine Corps Base, Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan (Dec00–Jan02); OPNAV (097), Director, Plans and Policy for the Chief of Chaplains, Washington, DC (Jan02–Apr03); Naval Sea Systems Command, Washington, DC (Apr03–Sept05) and Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, NC (Sept05–present).

Chaplain Lesak is an active member of Rotary International. He is an active member of the Knights of Columbus serving as the District Friar of the North Carolina District, 4th Degree and is also the Faithful Friar of the Angelo Battista Assembly No. 2894, Havelock, NC.

His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (gold star), Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal (gold star), the Navy Achievement Medal and various other service and campaign medals and ribbons.



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Reverend William Patrick Lesak
Captain, Chaplain Corps
United States Navy



Reverend William P. Lesak was born in Summit, New Jersey on November 18, 1947. In December 1972 he earned his undergraduate degree from Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. On May 31, 1975 Reverend Lesak was ordained a Roman Catholic priest for the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey. In May 1976 he was awarded a Master of Divinity in Pastoral Theology from The Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, Seton Hall University. In May 1989 he received his certification in Theological Studies in Religious Education at The Jesuit School of Theology at the University of California, Berkeley. In May 2002 he was awarded a Master of Education in Pastoral Counseling, Seton Hall University.

In addition to his parish responsibilities he worked extensively with couples as a canonical consultant and advocate on the Archdiocesan Matrimonial Court and Tribunal. He devoted most of his pastoral ministry as spiritual director to youth renewal programs conducting high school retreats throughout the Archdiocese. Reverend Lesak ministered for 11 years as parochial vicar before entering the Navy and served in the following parishes: Immaculate Conception Church, Elizabeth, New Jersey; Our Lady of the Lake Church, Verona, New Jersey and Saint Genevieve's Church, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Reverend Lesak was commissioned Lieutenant Junior Grade on September 1, 1982. In August 1983 he completed the Basic Course at the Naval Chaplains School at Newport, Rhode Island before returning to his parish duties as a Reserve Chaplain. In October 1986 he was recalled to active duty. His active duty assignments include: Third Force Service Support Group, Fleet Marine Force, Okinawa, Japan (Oct86–July88); Post Graduate School, University of California Berkeley (July88–May89); Naval Support Activity, Holy Loch, Scotland UK (May89–Feb92); Pre-Commission, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CVN73 (Feb92–July92) and Plank Owner, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CVN73 (July92–Aug94); Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan (Aug94–Oct96); Senior Supervisory Course, Naval Chaplain School, Newport, Rhode Island (Oct96–Dec96); United States SIXTH Fleet, Gaeta, Italy (Dec96–Dec98); Second Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina that included 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, 6th and 10th Marine Regiments (Dec98–Dec00); Marine Corps Base, Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan (Dec00–Jan02); OPNAV (097), Director, Plans and Policy for the Chief of Chaplains, Washington, DC (Jan02–Apr03); Naval Sea Systems Command, Washington, DC (Apr03–Sept05); Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina (Sept05–present).

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Sir Knight of the Month

Worthy District Master and SK Bob,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to submit names and reasons why we believe somebody should be selected as a Sir Knight of the Month for the District of North Carolina. I believe our Assembly has a perfect candidate.

This Sir Knight and his wife Connie moved to Statesville from Northern New Jersey and joined the St. Philip's Parish in Statesville. This Sir Knight joined the Knights of Columbus in 1997 and became a Sir Knight in 1999. Currently, this Sir Knight serves our Assembly as the Faithful Scribe and he serves the St. James Council as the Grand Knight.

This Sir Knight and his wife Connie took over the running of the food pantry at St. Philip's about 10 years ago. The food pantry feeds about 120 families a month donating about \$10,000.00 worth of food each month. They also provide Christmas presents for these families each year. This Sir Knight has also started a coat drive for these families as the children often don't have winter coats to go to school with. This Sir Knight is also one of our many cooks at our KofC pasta dinners every February.

District Master, I am pleased and honored to present:

Sir Knight Ken Jewell
Knight of the Month

Fraternally,

Sir Knight Phil Klvana, Faithful Navigator
Msgr. Eugene Livelsberger Assembly No. 1713, Hickory

Worthy Faithful Navigator & SK Phil,

Thank you for taking the time to recognize SK Ken Jewell and I have selected him to be the Sir Knight of the Month for February 2008.

Fraternally,
SK Bob Grabasky, District Master



Notice:

This is a copy of a notice on the Supreme web site. It concerns the rollout of the new computer based program for Financial Secretaries and Faithful Comptrollers.

MEMBER MANAGEMENT APPLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT & RELEASE SCHEDULE

Member Management is the first step in fully replacing the current Financial Secretary Personal Computer system, more commonly known as FSPC. Under the Member Management phase, councils and assemblies will be able to manage the data of their members – change address, update degree status, maintain roster of officers and service program personal, etc. – while electronically transmitting these changes to the Supreme Council office. Thereby eliminating the need for councils and assemblies to file paper reports and changes, or using multiple applications to report changes via the Order’s website.

It is our belief that this new application, the first in many steps planned, will streamline the duties and responsibilities of our Financial Secretaries and Faithful Comptrollers. Grand Knights and Faithful Navigators will also have access to this application as well. Once fully released, only Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries, Faithful Navigators and Faithful Comptrollers will have access to the Member Management (and eventually the Member Billing application) at this time. Future enhancements are being planned to support the needs and requirements for District Deputies and state leadership. In the meantime, councils and assemblies are required to continue to mail paper copies to their respective state and District Deputies and District Masters, for example the Report of Officer’s.

RELEASE ROLL-OUT SCHEDULE

The following is the planned “roll-out” schedule for Member Management. The first to gain access to this new application will be Financial Secretaries and Faithful Comptrollers. You will note that Grand Knights and Faithful Navigators will be given access after all Financial Secretaries and Faithful Comptrollers have been granted access.

January 7, 2008

Connecticut Rhode Island

January 21, 2008

California New Brunswick Prince Edward Island
District of Columbia Newfoundland Virginia

February 4, 2008

Arizona Nevada Texas
Delaware New Hampshire Utah
Kentucky New Mexico Vermont
Maine Nova Scotia Wyoming
Mississippi South Carolina

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**MEMBER MANAGEMENT
APPLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT
& RELEASE SCHEDULE Continued**



February 18, 2008

Alabama	Louisiana	North Dakota
Alaska	Luzon	Ohio
Alberta	Manitoba	Oklahoma
Arkansas	Maryland	Ontario
British Columbia	Massachusetts	Oregon
Colorado	Michigan	Pennsylvania
Florida	Military Overseas	Saskatchewan
Georgia	Mindanao	South Dakota
Guam	Minnesota	Tennessee
Hawaii	Missouri	Virgin Islands
Idaho	Montana	Visayas
Illinois	Nebraska	Washington
Indiana	New Jersey	West Virginia
Iowa	New York	Wisconsin
Kansas	North Carolina	

Non-English Jurisdictions

Cuba	Mexico Northeast	Poland
Dominican Republic	Mexico Northwest	Puerto Rico
Guatemala	Mexico South	Quebec
Mexico Central	Panama	

March 3, 2008

All Grand Knights All Faithful Comptrollers

Voting Time!

With complete respect to our District Friar, I am placing the decision of which Picture and Biography will be used of Fr. Bill to the readership of this newsletter.

Please send me an email at lilski@ec.rr.com and let me know if you prefer the “Military” (Page 2) or the “Civilian” (Page 3) version of Fr. Bill.

The responses will be tabulated and reported in the next edition of the “Golden Plume”. So send in your vote and make your decision heard!

Fraternally,

SK Greg Ciesielski, PFN
NC District Secretary



Directory Update !

Please correct your 4th Degree directories of this change.

SK John T Klemmer, Faithful Comptroller
Fr. Joseph F. Baumann Assembly No. 2238
Correct his phone number to - **910-425-6723**



4th Degree Honor Guard in Hickory, NC for the Mid-Year Meeting Mass.
Bishop Peter Jugis, Bishop of Charlotte, Celebrated the Mass.
January 5, 2008 - Photo by Lew McCloud, NC State Photographer



Bishop Michael Burbidge, Bishop of Raleigh, with the North Carolina State Officers
and the 4th Degree Honor Guard in Greenville, NC for the Mid-Year Meeting Mass.
January 19, 2008 - Photo by Lew McCloud, NC State Photographer