

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

## SAINT JUNIPERO SERRA PROVINCE OF THE FOURTH DEGREE



### CENTRAL DISTRICT

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Faithful Sir Knights.

Many asked if they missed last month's newsletter, you in fact did not. I typed one out and failed to notice I did not mail it till the end of the month. On the upside it was a huge repeat of June, and now we have exciting new content namely: An Exemplification of the Fourth Degree in Selma, CA! This is a live degree, as has been requested by many of you. The exact extent of the activities is yet to be known. So far, the degree and refreshments are all that is planned. As we know more about attendance and any possible restrictions we may have, more will be announced and possibly planned. As a side note with the dark cloud of the Delta variant lurking around us. I ask that you be cautious, safe, and most of all respectful to each other regarding mask use and social distancing. About forms 186 and 1315 are past due. For you, all stars that completed both, thank you. For the rest of our beloved District, I will help and encourage you soon. Now on with the program!

Our Calendar

September 25<sup>th</sup> Fourth Degree Exemplification Folsom, CA

November 6<sup>th</sup> Fourth Degree Exemplification Selma, CA

January 31 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity. (#1728) \*

April 1 Applications for Refund Support Vocations Program (#2863)

May 31 To Be a Patriot Award (#TBP-1)

June 30 Civic Award (#2321)

\*Mandatory form

## Unfortunate news regarding checks

I was informed by the Kings County Sheriff Office that some of my mail as well as a few of my neighbors was found alongside a rural road. I have installed a locking mailbox and have filed a report with the USPS. I must request that Assemblies that had candidates in Bakersfield see if their check cleared and if so, was it deposited at Bank of the West. If it is deposited anywhere other than Bank of the West let me know immediately. If it was not cashed, please stop payment, and reissue the check minus postage and any bank fees that may be incurred.

## New Assembly Development

With the reopening of our great world. Now is a great time to assess if all our members are being represented properly. This examination should not be critical, obtuse, or offensive. However, it should look at the levels of comfort provided to our Sir Knights. Maybe a new assembly rooted in a different area to save drivetime, or possibly an Assembly in a different language may be of great comfort. If so, let me know. I am currently forming a Hispanic Assembly and believe there are opportunities for several more in our District. I would be more than happy to discuss this as openly or as confidentially as you would like. Remember our members are our greatest asset, and all decisions must be made considering what is best for them.

## Proposed Exemplification dates and locations

Again, these are not hard dates or locations, they are merely suggested months and geographic areas, so please don't panic if the location changes such as the Selma Degree originally being proposed in Fresno, it's only a 13-mile difference and 1 ½ miles off HWY 99. As Assembly's come forward which they are they will be taken off this list and added to the calendar such as Selma has. If any Assembly has a venue in mind, please let me know regardless of the time of availability. I may be able to make it work. I have a list of requirements for a live degree.

JAN 2022 North Coast (Monterey)

APR 2022 Lancaster

JUN 2022 San Joaquin Chapter

OCT 2022 Fresno

JAN 2023 Central Coast

APR 2023 Bakersfield

Jun 2023 San Joaquin Chapter

## Uniforms

I still get many questions about uniform use and protocol. So, till further notice this Uniform section will be republished monthly including the requirements, chain of command and authority at call outs for you to read, cherish and inwardly digest at your leisure.

The Uniform of the Fourth Degree:

KofC Blazer

Dark Grey Slacks

White Shirt

KofC Tie

Miniature Jewels

Jewel of Highest Office currently held.

Black low quarter dress shoes (No cowboy boots, or sandals)

Black belt or Suspenders

The Regalia of the Fourth Degree:

Uniform of the Fourth Degree

Service baldric with sword

White gloves

Plain ½" Fourth Degree Pin (133)

No name tags

Tuxedos with social baldric are authorized for presentation teams such as Exemplars, Chalice Presentation, Eulogies, and formal dinners. The event requires a sword, it requires the new uniform.

Social Baldrics may be worn with a Tuxedo or Dark suit at formal dinners.

As requested again our Chain of Command

1. God Lord Almighty/ Jesus Christ of Nazareth/ Saints as Applicable.
2. Supreme Master Dennis Stoddard
3. Vice Supreme Master David Ryan
4. District Master Dwight Wilson
5. District Marshall (in the absence of the District Master)
6. Faithful Navigator
7. Color Corps Commander (for call out events only, he serves at the leisure of his Navigator)

In the event I am not present and multiple Marshalls are involved with the same event I will appoint a Senior Marshall as the situation dictates, who will have operational authority. In the event multiple Assemblies are involved in an event, I or my local Marshall will appoint a lead Assembly. All issues regarding the Fourth Degree are to be decided by this Chain of Command. I of course will be happy to listen to any disputes or complaints.

### Insurance for Assembly's

It has been brought to my attention once again that there are Assemblies out there operating without liability insurance. Sir Knights in this unfortunate litigious world you can not operate an Assembly without Insurance. As a newly elected Captain in my own Assembly many years ago, I was confronted with this reality. It isn't a reason for panic or blame. It's just a simple issue of contacting me. With no blame or fault this issue can be resolved. Please don't be embarrassed to ask about your policy as an Assembly leader. Most importantly don't be embarrassed to ask for a remedy if you find that you don't have one. This matter can be resolved very easily if it is addressed before it becomes an issue. I have the contact information of an insurance agency that has written most of the policies in our District. You can be legally covered in less than 24 hours in most cases. This will include the required Diocese rider that provides the required coverage for the Diocese to allow facility use for Knights events. These policies should be held by your individual Councils as well. Contact me with any questions.

### RSVP

In this time of minimal fundraising, I know available monies are scarce for some Assembly's. However, our shortage of Priests is still a dire matter. I have long been a proponent of the RSVP program. As Chapter President my Chaplain was the Diocese Vocations Director. He advocated the RSVP program with most of his breath. The same rules apply to Assembly's as they do to the Council's. Donate \$500 to a Seminarian, send in a Form 2863A accompanied with a copy of the check and you will receive a \$100 reimbursement. Simple!

### VAVS

Veterans Administration Voluntary Service (VAVS) is a program where one is certified through the Veterans Administration to, "Serve those who have Served". As a Veteran

myself I have nothing but praise for the work of our VA System, and yes as a College Student after RELAD I have used it as my primary health care. If you already volunteer at the VA please let me know. For those of you interested please be mindful the **VA is requiring Covid vaccination**. Serving our Veterans is an excellent display of Patriotic service. f

### Installation of Officers

Inform me of dates and locations for the Installation of Assembly Officers. As in the past combining Assemblies for a larger event is preferable if possible. I would love to perform as many of the Installations myself as possible. I'm currently flush with requests as Assemblies are allowed to meet in person. If you have a date in mind, please hit me up.

### In Closing

I hope all is going well. I know we are off to a slow start, but we are restarting! Along with having the opportunity to invite Sir Knights back to meetings and activities. We also could invite new Brothers to full Knighthood. With the change in our degrees of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. As mentioned by our Worthy Vice Supreme Master the Patriotic Degree is the sole Degree where a brother is Knighted with the Sword of Liberty. I promise to Schedule Exemplifications as much as possible to accommodate all seeking this privilege. All it takes is 20 candidates to schedule a degree. I also must ask you all to keep in your prayers this fire situation in our state. My Mothers home is currently 5 miles from the Hayfork fire, whereas she is safe and has the means to move on. Many don't, please remember the Compass of Virtue. For those members that may be new and are not familiar with the Compass of Virtue and its peculiarities. Please ask an older member or myself, I typically carry one with me on District business. Lastly below is a link to the Supreme website that contains all forms, and manuals applicable to the Fourth Degree. Stay safe Vivat Jesus.

<http://kofc.org/en/members/for-patriotic-degree/materials.html#/>

Semper Paratus,

Dwight J. Wilson

Master

Central District

St. Junipero Serra Province