

Worthy Masters and All Sir Knights:

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and have your sights on a very healthy and prosperous New Year. Activities have almost stopped throughout the Province for the holidays, but now is the time to get cranked up again if we intend to meet the membership goals set by Supreme.

We have not yet met the goal for new Assemblies in the Province. I ask each District Master to attempt to institute a new Assembly in his District during the next six months. There are several possibilities in each of our Districts. All you have to do is inquire of the possibility. Remember, it only takes 30 members to form a new Assembly.

The most recent Membership Report received from Supreme is for the month of November. This Report shows our Province has only achieved 24% of its membership goal for this fraternal year. Supreme's goal is 1,892 new members for the Province. We have brought in a total of 452 new members as of November 1, 2011. This means we need to bring in three times this amount in the final six months. It can be done. No, it will be done. The end result will be the effort made by each District Master. I have confidence in each of you. Make your personal contacts with the Faithful Navigators and ask them to stress the need for new members. The Fourth Degree liaison member needs speak at Council meetings to talk up the Patriotic Degree and recruit these new members. Provide the Councils with information concerning the location, time, date, expense and schedule for the Exemplification. Follow up with contact to the Grand Knight.

Please focus on the ongoing program of the Military Chaplain Scholarship Fund. I am happy to report that I now have received donations from each District in our Province.

We need to obtain \$20,000.00 from each State jurisdiction. It is a five year program asking for \$4,000.00 per year from each jurisdiction. This will provide the \$1,000,000.00 seed money to the Military Archdiocese USA toward expenses for training seminarians. The Department of Defense has 800 positions for Catholic Chaplains but there are currently only 280 filled to serve all of our Armed Forces. The program asks participating Dioceses to provide half the tuition for the seminarian, and after Ordination, the new Priest serves the participating Diocese for three years and then enters the military for a three to five year term. He can then elect to return to the Diocese or remain in the military. Remember this is a combined effort by everyone, i.e. State Councils, Assemblies, Councils, Auxiliaries, and personal donations. Please give this program a prayerful response.

Make checks payable to "Knights of Columbus" and put "Military Scholarship" in the memo section on check.

Send your checks to me at Gary L. McLain, VSM, 36 Currant Ave, Middleburg, FL 32068.

I will provide a spread sheet to each State Deputy of all donations and forward the checks to Supreme for deposit on a monthly basis. This successful program will help our Church and those serving our Country in the Armed Forces. I know I can count on your generosity for this program.

The next Fourth Degree Exemplification is scheduled for February 4, 2012, in Bonita Springs, Florida. This will be the third Exemplification in Florida for this fraternal year. There will also be an Exemplification on February 25, 2012, in Columbia, South Carolina. I hope to see two large classes for these Exemplifications. It takes everyone's help to fill these classes, so let's get out there and recruit.

The Survey of Fraternal Activity is now due and each Assembly is required to fill out a Report. There are no exceptions. As noted on the bottom of the Report the original is mailed to Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Services with copies to the Vice Supreme Master, Master and Assembly File.

Once again I wish each of you a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Fraternally,

Gary L. McLain, PSD  
Vice Supreme Master  
De Soto Province