

Worthy Masters and All Sir Knights:

November has been another busy month. Two Exemplifications were held in the De Soto Province.

The first was in Lilburn, Georgia, where 133 received their Fourth Degree, which included 14 Priests. Master Tom Gissey did a great job in getting this large compliment of Priests to receive their Fourth Degree. The ladies were entertained at a Tea and the formal banquet was well attended.

Thanksgiving weekend, the Florida District held an Exemplification in Orlando. A total of 294 received their Fourth Degree and this included 10 Priests. The 185 women present at their luncheon were entertained with a musical program. The formal banquet was attended by 730.

The next scheduled Exemplification will take place in February.

I call your attention to pages 8-12 in the November issue of the Columbian magazine. Please read the article concerning the Military Chaplain's Scholarship Program. Our Order will provide the seed money to establish this Program in the amount of \$1,000,000.00. Information on the Program was distributed to all State Deputies and Masters during October. All Districts in the De Soto Province were asked to have all donations sent to me. A spread sheet will be made so that I can advise each State Deputy and District Master as to how his State is doing on donations. Results have been very slow to this point. Donations have been received from all Districts except South Carolina. At this time, only Florida has achieved the one year goal of \$4,000.00 or more. We need to see some action from the other four Districts in the Province. Our military men and women need to have a Catholic Chaplain close by to celebrate Mass, provide reconciliation, spiritual guidance and last rites. Please be generous in your donations to make this Program a success. It is a five year program with each District asked to raise \$4,000.00 per year for a total of \$20,000.00. This includes donations from not only Assemblies but Councils as well as individuals. Of course, we would like to conclude the Program long before the five year goal. With each District in the United States contributing \$20,000.00, the goal of \$1,000,000.00 will be met. What will your District be doing for Vocations?

Joan and I wish each of you a very Blessed and Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Fraternally,

Gary L. McLain, VSM
De Soto Province