



# THE PATRIOT



Maryland District  
Proudly Serving the Fourth Degree since 1904

March 2021

Volume 7 Issue 7



Worthy Sir Knights, Ladies, and  
Friends,

Easter will soon be upon us. I pray Lent is spiritually enhancing for you and your family. March is full of special feast days. We celebrate St Joseph in this Year of St. Joseph as announced by Pope Francis. The Holy Father hopes that “every member of the faithful, following his example (St Joseph), may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfillment of GOD’s will.” There are so many traditions associated with St Joseph’s feast day – St Joseph’s table, St Joseph Altar, bread, fava beans, leaving a place at the table for someone in need. St Joseph is a great example for us as Knights and Catholics as a worker and as guardian and protector. You might consider checking out Father Calloway’s book, Consecration to Saint Joseph. March also brings us the Annunciation of the Lord on March 25. Many will also remember St Patrick on 17 March. We remember St Casimir and St Basil as well.

The Maryland District traditionally presents an Exemplification of the Fourth Degree around this time of year. We will do that virtually on Saturday, 13 March at noon. Everyone should be logged into the degree by 11:45. This is our major Exemplification for the fraternal year and we really need candidate numbers like we used to have, 150 to over 300. The District’s goal this year is 219 and even that will not keep up with our losses so please get out and bring men into the Fourth Degree and the Order. Across the Order, there are Exemplifications of the Fourth Degree being conducted nearly every weekend. So if a Knight cannot attend on 13 March, let District Master Fritz Leach and District Secretary Bill Copes know when the man is available. We need to step up our recruiting.

Faithful Navigators, remember that your Civic Award submissions need to be to Supreme not later than 30 June. Most all Assemblies should be able to submit them already. Don’t delay. Submit them sooner rather than later. At the end of June, the end of the Fraternal Year, many different forms are being submitted to Supreme for

the current year and the next year. So you can imagine the onslaught of forms and mail hitting Supreme all at the same time and the very real possibility that a form becomes misplaced. If the Civic Award is not received by 30 June, the Assembly will not receive credit and that would be a shame after all the efforts that Assembly members put into patriotic and civic programs.

Generally, you can use the four programs you submit in the Civic Award to select your best program for the To Be A Patriot Award that MUST reach District Master Fritz Leach not later than 30 April, no exceptions. Both forms are available at [kofc.org](http://kofc.org). Supreme has not updated the forms for 2020. Just use the form that is available at [kofc.org](http://kofc.org). Once Master Leach receives your To Be A Patriot Award application (Form TBP-2), he evaluates each submission and sends the best in the District to the Vice Supreme Master (VSM) not later than 15 May. The VSM then evaluates each District’s submission and forwards the best in the Province to Supreme not later than 31 May.

Every Assembly should submit the Civic Award and the To Be A Patriot Award application even if you may not achieve your recruiting goal. Take credit for your Assembly’s efforts.

I am very proud of all of you. In this COVID challenging time, Assemblies continue to conduct patriotic and civic programs, continue to bring in new members, continue to support your communities and parishes, support veterans and first responders, support Brother Knights and their families, and your neighbors. Well done!!!

Vivat Jesu’

Fritz Leach  
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443-691-4408

“Maryland Knights - Serving GOD and Country”

## *From the Desk of the District Master*

### **Thanks for all your thoughts and prayers.**

Master Fritz Leach asked for prayers for his 84 year old mom who fell and fractured her clavicle while also suffering from double pneumonia and COVID. Mom is now out of the hospital and in rehab. They expect her to be in rehab for about a week then back at home. Thank you so much for all your thoughts and prayers.

## *Faithful Friar's Message*

March 19<sup>th</sup> is the feast of St. Joseph, and, particularly in this year which Pope Francis has dedicated to St. Joseph, he is an important figure to reflect upon. For we Sir Knights, committed to serving our Church and our country, we need good examples. In St. Joseph we find a good and just man, a man of faithfulness and commitment, a man of prayer open to doing God's will. We know the expression "actions speak louder than words," and that is certainly true in the case of St. Joseph, for while none of his words are recorded in Scripture, his readiness to follow through on what God asked of him is certainly recorded.

We know Joseph was a good man for he was espoused to Mary and chosen to be the foster father of the Messiah. Troubled by Mary being with child, the message he received in a dream calmed his worries and strengthened his conviction. Prompted to lead the Holy Family from Bethlehem to safety, he did so with courage. Gospel scenes that place him in the temple show Joseph to be a man of faith and prayer. It is no wonder St. Joseph is called upon as protector of the Church, as a special patron for workers, and as one to pray to for a happy death.

May we ever grow as men of faith and conviction, doing God's will, and appreciated not only for what we speak but also, and especially, for what we do. May this Season of Lent be a time for renewal and spiritual growth.

Vivat Jesus!

SK Fr Donald Grzymiski, OFM Conv.

## *District Marshal Report*

Brothers and Sir Knights,

Boy, oh boy! It sure felt like February was a short month. It feels like I just wrote last month's input a few days ago. Wait a minute, IT WAS A SHORT MONTH – only 28 days! Anyway, a little humor to start off with. I bet I made at least some of you chuckle.

I continue to hear of members stepping up and buying the Color Corps uniform. Don't forget, it is STILL a bargain at only \$449 no matter how you order it, as a package or piece by piece. And remember, the shipping is being Paid by Supreme! So, thank you to all who are stepping up, and I hope that before long, we are able to turn-out together for an event. Keep up the good work! I believe the more of us who are seen in uniform, the more who will want to join us. If you need help with your beret or any other uniform questions, I am here to help.

There are four Assemblies who still have a Renewal of Obligations scheduled for this month of March. Remember, these are supposed to be done in the months of January, February and March each year. So, if your assembly has not contacted the Master to schedule your Renewal, there is still time. The Master and I have just in the last week of February actually done one Renewal hybrid as he and I attended one assembly's in-person meeting with the video feed set up for those members who attended online, and another assembly which was totally in-person, and VERY well attended. I believe I counted 19 members including Father Donald, their Faithful Friar! Sorry Father Donald, I chose not to print your last name because I am not sure of the spelling. Whatever the method your assembly wants to use, it can be done!

The Color Corps has a few opportunities to turn-out this month, but the numbers must be kept small due to facility restrictions, such as 25% in churches in some areas still. As more folks get the vaccines and as the restrictions loosen up, we will be able to have more and more turn-out options. Please, stay safe and well .... **“Wear the damn mask”** .... keep your distance, wash your hands. You all know the drill. Just a little while longer, Please. I think we will all take away some good from this pandemic. I know I will, a renewed respect for one another for starters!

### A couple things worth repeating:

- 1) Exemplification of the Fourth Degree, Saturday, 13 March 2021 @NOON. Candidates should

begin logging on at 11:00am. Please get your Form 4s to District Secretary, Marshal Bill Copes. A form 4 can be filled-in online if need be.

- 2) Maryland State Convention originally scheduled for 1 May 2021 at the Princess Royale in Ocean City has been changed to a virtual ceremony.

Tommy Ebaugh  
 Maryland District Marshal  
 Provincial Marshal, Calvert Province  
 443-226-8812

### Upcoming Events

<b>9 Mar</b>	Renewal of Obligations, Assembly #3769, 8pm
<b>9 Mar</b>	Renewal of Obligations, Assembly #381, 7:30pm (Virtual or Hybrid)
<b>13 Mar</b>	Maryland District Exemplification of the Fourth Degree (Virtual). Candidates Log-in beginning at 11am. Degree begins at 12 noon sharp!
<b>14 Mar</b>	St. Philip Neri Church re-dedication, 11:00am, 6405 S. Orchard Rd. Linthicum
<b>17 Mar</b>	St. Patrick's Day
<b>17 Mar</b>	Founder's Day Mass and Awards Ceremony, 1 PM Mass, Our Lady of the Fields Church, 1070 Cecil Ave. So., Millersville, Md. 21108
<b>25 Mar</b>	Renewal of Obligations, Assembly #2595, 7:30pm (Virtual)
<b>28 Mar</b>	(Virtual) Gilchrist's Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran's Celebration. This event is open to all who served DURING the Vietnam Era, not just in Country!
<b>4 Apr</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
<b>17 Apr</b>	Virginia District Fourth Degree Exemplification, Fredericksburg, Va. Or Virtual. (time: TBD).
<b>15 May</b>	(Tentative) PA Central District Fourth Degree Exemplification, White Haven, PA
<b>16 May</b>	<b>Provincial Event</b> – AMS Memorial Mass, 4:30pm, Great Upper Church, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017.
<b>22 May</b>	Diaconate Ordination, Basilica of the Assumption, time TBD
<b>6 Jun</b>	PA West District Fourth Degree Exemplification, Doubletree by Hilton, Cranberry Township, PA.

<b>19 Jun</b>	Priestly Ordination, Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, time TBD
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### Maryland District Assemblies in Action

**Knights of Fatima Council #3502**  
**Christopher Columbus Assembly #3502**  
**St Joseph Assembly #3502**

#### Flag Pole Dedication Our Lady of Fatima Church



*Left to right front row: SK Buzzy Stockman, SK FR. Mariano Varela, Mr. John Davidson, SK Jim Bocklage. Back row left to right Br. Rick Greenfelder, SK Gino Wendler, Br. Joe Cortile, SK Chris Stachlinski*

Our Lady of Fatima Church now has a new flag and flagpole to fly it from, thanks to the efforts of a group of dedicated and patriotic Sir Knights from Our Lady of Fatima Council, St. Joseph and Christopher Columbus assemblies.

For ten years the flagpole needed repairs. During inspection it was found that that flagpole would require replacement. Thanks to generous private donations a new

pole was purchased and installed by the Knights. The new flagpole is located at the very center of the front of the church and stands 34 feet high. A solar light was installed at the very top to provide light to illuminate the flag during hours of darkness.

This project was recognized with the presentation of a certificate of appreciation presented by Mr. John Davidson, President of the Maryland Sons of the American Revolution., Colonel John Eager Howard chapter. Fr. Varela also expressed his and the parish's appreciation for another job well done by the Knights of Columbus.

## The Ship That Disguised Itself as an Island to Evade the Japanese in WWII

Camouflage for ships and other naval vessels was widely used in both the First and Second World Wars, but the crew of one Dutch ship – a Second World War minesweeper of the Royal Netherlands Navy named HNLMS *Abraham Crijnsen*, which was operating in the Java Sea – took the concept of naval camouflage to the next level. They successfully disguised the ship as a tropical island and thereby escaped the Imperial Japanese Navy.

The precursor to *Crijnsen*'s daring plan of evasion was the Battle of the Java Sea, which was fought on February 27th, 1942. In this naval battle the Allied fleet suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of the Imperial Japanese Navy. After the defeat only four Dutch ships survived in the Java Sea, and in the days following the initial naval encounter, the Imperial Japanese Navy sunk three of them. The last remaining ship – *Crijnsen* – was a *Jan Van Amstel*-class minesweeper, 184 feet long, with a displacement of 525 tons. A slow-moving vessel, *Crijnsen* was pretty much a sitting duck for any Japanese aircraft or naval vessels that might spot her, and being only lightly armed wouldn't be able to put up much of a fight if it came down to a battle.



HNLMS *Abraham Crijnsen*

The minesweeper's only chance of survival in the now-Japanese-dominated area was to escape, as rapidly as possible, to the safety of Australia. The problem, of course, was that there was no way the slow *Crijnsen* could outrun any Japanese naval vessel. The only option was to somehow sneak past the Japanese without being spotted... and in order to do this the crew of the minesweeper came up with one of those plans that are so crazy that they just might work: disguising the ship as an island.

Taking a few factors into consideration, the plan wasn't really as insane as first impressions make it out to be. The Java Sea around Malaysia and Indonesia is dotted with well over 18,000 islands, from huge ones like Borneo to tiny ones with barely more than a handful of trees on them. And while *Crijnsen* wasn't a large ship, the minesweeper was large enough to possibly be passed off as a tiny island.

To achieve the seemingly impossible feat of turning a ship into a geographical feature, the 45 members of the crew stopped off on the nearest island and immediately began cutting down as much vegetation as they could. The main threat of being spotted was from the air, and to effectively camouflage themselves they needed to cover the entire surface area of the ship with foliage.

With much effort they managed to do this, totally covering *Crijnsen*'s deck with vegetation, and arranging it in as convincing a manner as they could to imitate jungle canopy. Any metal that was exposed was painted in hues of gray to imitate rock formations. Once the feverish work had been completed, *Crijnsen* actually did resemble an island quite convincingly – from a distance, anyway.



Close-up of the foliage used to camouflage the superstructure of the ship

Of course, one major difference between ships and islands is that one moves and the other doesn't. Therefore, to maintain the illusion that HNLMS *Abraham Crijnsen* was in fact a little tropical island, the ship anchored close to the shores of actual islands during daylight hours and remained completely stationary.

As soon as darkness fell, however, *Crijnsen* would set off, agonizingly inching her way toward Australia and out of the hostile zone of the Java Sea. After a journey of eight difficult days, *Crijnsen* finally made it to the safety of Australian waters. Somehow, against all odds, the crazy plan of turning the minesweeper into a tropical island had actually worked, and the Imperial Japanese Navy had been none the wiser to the fact that an Allied ship had slipped through their clutches. In doing so, *Crijnsen* thus became the only Dutch vessel of her class to escape the Java Sea, and was the last Allied naval vessel to escape the area, which then came fully under Japanese control.

*Crijnsen's* story didn't stop there, though; once she reached the safety of Australia, she was commissioned into the Royal Australian Navy. In the RAN, *Crijnsen* was reoutfitted and then reclassified as an anti-submarine convoy escort.

After the war *Crijnsen* was recommissioned to the Royal Netherlands Navy and used to patrol the Netherlands East Indies, until returning to Europe and being decommissioned from the RNN in 1960. HNLMS *Abraham Crijnsen* remains the only ship to have evaded the enemy by being disguised as an island during WWII.



*Abraham Crijnsen at the Dutch Navy Museum in Den Helder*

## Maryland District Web Site And Yahoo Group

Subscribe to the Maryland Fourth Degree Yahoo Group by sending an email to <https://groups.io/g/KCMaryland4thDegree> to join the Master's Yahoo Group.

If your Assembly has events that you want to advertise for others to consider for their participation, send the information or flyer to Mike Forehand at [michael4hand@yahoo.com](mailto:michael4hand@yahoo.com). for inclusion in the District Newsletter.

## Archbishop Lori encourages prayer against coronavirus

### A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC



O Mary,  
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 Francis*

The ancient fresco of Madonna del Soccorso (Our Lady of Help) in St. Peter's Basilica was restored with the support of the Knights of Columbus to mark the Year of Faith (2012-2013). Photo courtesy of Fabrika di San Pietro-M. Palloni.

KNIGHTS OF  COLUMBUS