



The Palmetto State Bulletin



The Newsletter of the South Carolina State Council

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Merry Christmas!

By Deacon Bob Cox, State Spiritual/Faith Director

Greetings my Brother Knights and families! I pray that you all had a very Happy Thanksgiving Day, hoping you were able to share it with your families and/or friends! I also pray that your Advent Season has been a very spiritual season, full of prayer and anticipation of the Coming of Christ! With that being said, I will share some Christmas Scripture with you from Luke 2:6-21.

“While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, ‘Don’t be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David’s town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’

Suddenly a great army of heaven’s angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!’ When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us.’ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. All who

heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them. A week later, when the time came for the baby to be circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name which the angel had given him before he had been conceived.” (TEV)

So, at Christmas, we celebrate the love of a mother for her son and we remember the joy and willingness of God to save us. Let us celebrate the salvation that has been poured out to us by our loving Father and God, by giving us His Son. This is love, true love, between God and mankind. Let us celebrate the birth of Christ in a prayerful, spiritual, caring, and loving manner.

My wife Sue and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very blessed New Year!

Viva Cristo Rey! Deacon Bob Cox.

SCHEDULE OF STATE WIDE EVENTS

January 2021

- TBD Council Free Throw Championship
- 1 Holy Day of Obligation - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- 8 - 9 Proudly Pro-Life Weekend - Columbia, SC
- Jan 29 National Pro-Life March - Washington, DC

February 2021

- TBD District Free Throw Championship
- 6 Grand Knights Mid-Winter Meeting* - Doors open at 8:30 AM - St. John Neumann School Gym Columbia, SC
- 6 State Charity Ball - St. John Neumann School Gym Columbia, SC
- 20 SC District Fourth Degree 83rd Exemplification - St Gregory the Great - Bluffton, SC

March 2021

- 6 SC Catholic Men’s Conference - Cardinal Newman School - Columbia, SC
- 14 State Free Throw Championship - Cardinal Newman School, Columbia SC (Tentative)
- 17 St. Patrick’s Day
- 29 Founders Day

April 2021

- 1 Holy Thursday
- 2 Good Friday
- 4 Easter
- 16 - 18 100th Annual State Convention - Hilton Garden Inn- Summerville, SC

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From the State Deputy

Daniel Barton

Brother Knights,

I hope this edition of the Palmetto Bulletin finds you and your family well.

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of our Immediate Past State Deputy, Edward M. Griffin. Ed was a true friend, his friendship and mentorship will be missed by many within the state. Ed became a Knight of Columbus in 1959 and faithfully lived up to the three principal virtues of the Order in his daily life. Ed served in several council positions, as District Deputy, State Treasurer, State Secretary, and eventually State Deputy (2018-2019). I ask that you keep Ed, his wife Joyce, and the entire Griffin family in your thoughts and prayers.

While we are sad with the loss of a friend and still struggle with the social effects that COVID-19 is causing, we must look forward to a new tomorrow. This past weekend, we celebrated Gaudete Sunday and the Introit for the Mass begins with “*Gaudete in Domino semper: interun dico, gaudete.*” which means “Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, rejoice”. In the second reading, St Paul states “In all circumstances give thanks”. This might be challenging to accept, especially in our current times, but it is precisely now in times of our distress that we pray for blessings for ourselves and others. We must not fall into the trap of making the reception of these blessings a condition to continue to rejoice in the Lord. For if we do, we are no better than the people of Nazareth who praised the Lord as long as He said what they wanted to hear.

In less than ten days, we will celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. One of my favorite carols at this time of the year is Joy to the World. We should indeed rejoice in Christmas, as Christmas is all about happiness and being joyful. Joyful not for the gifts we will give, parties we might attend, or the over the top commercialization of this season. Rather, we must remember that this JOY is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit is at work in us, others will sense that joy and in turn, pass it along to those they meet.

Therefore, as fraternal leaders, let us all pass along that joy to our fellow brother knights, their families, and the larger parish-community. Let us all look forward to a brighter tomorrow with hope, filled with peace and joy and rejoicing in

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From the Vocations Director

Jim Weiskircher, Vocations Director

As our seminarians complete their finals this week, they will be returning to their home parishes for Christmas. It is important that every Knight that encounters a seminarian reach out and make them feel welcome and encouraged in their vocation. This has been a difficult year for them, because of the restrictions imposed on them because of the pandemic. Normally they are out in the communities surrounding their seminaries interacting with various ministries. This year they have been confined to their seminaries. They need to feel needed and we can make a difference by a gentle smile and offering prayers for their vocation.

It is long process to become a priest, usually 6-8 years in the seminary. Discernment is not an easy process. Sebastian Barbosa-Garcia, in his 2nd year of Theology, has asked for a leave of absence and will not be returning for the spring term. Please keep him in your prayers.

Our goal is to make sure that every college student has the support of 3 councils and those in pre-Theology and Theology have the support of 4 councils. We are in need of support for 2 seminarians to ensure that all are fully covered. Please consider sponsoring another seminarian if you can. Please let me know if you can help and I will supply you with a needy seminarian. My email address is jim.weiskircher1@gmail.com.





Patriot's Corner

Michael A. Allen, PSD
Master, South Carolina
District, DeSoto



“God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.” **1 John 4:9-10**

Brothers,

Picture this — an A-frame cabin in up in the mountains. Snow on the ground and trees covered in ice, making them look like glass. A roaring fire glowing in the artificial fireplace in the middle of the room. A huge glass wall offers a spectacular view of main street below, completely lit with lights and splendid Christmas decorations. All surrounded by a forest of glass trees magically shining under a full moon.

The Christmas tree on the right side of the room is fully decorated with a red tablecloth wrapped around its base, just begging for the bevy of presents that are soon to come. This is the scene as I sit in my overstuffed chair, sipping a hot toddy from my Happy Holidays mug, reading my new Christmas novel by my favorite author.

The book is a pleasant read, filled with the atmosphere of Christmastime. The story about a young couple caught up in an adventure with life-changing circumstances. A new beginning, finding love and hope for the future, during the Christmas season.

A beautiful image ... **but what about Christmas?**

As I sit reading, I listen to an Internet radio station playing Christmas music nonstop. I hear the familiar strains from artists of yesterday singing about stories of snowmen, a white Christmas, sleighs, and grandma having an accident with a reindeer. Again, I wonder...

This is a pleasant and entertaining Image ... **but what about Christmas?**

We decorate our homes, participate in Christmas traditions, but many times we find ourselves caught up in the image of Christmas. An image, that although fun, has nothing to do with what Christmas is all about.

Picture this — in a cave being used as a barn, a young couple is having a baby without a mid-wife, much less a doctor. Not even a bed for the young mother to lay on while she gives birth. Only a scratchy pile of hay which her anxious husband hurriedly pushes together to form a makeshift bed, covered

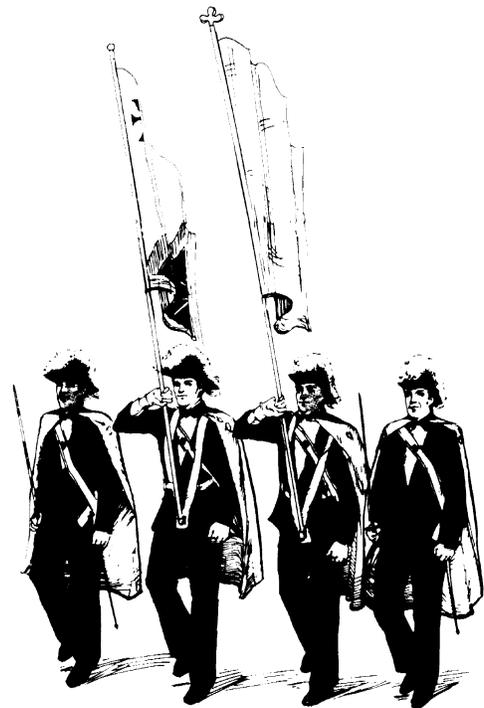
with his cloak, as his young wife squeezes his arm and grimaces, “Hurry! It’s coming! It’s coming! Hurry!”

We all know the stench of animals in a barn as representing most unsanitary of conditions. Yet, this is the event for which people all around the world celebrate with glitter and candy canes. What this poor desperate young couple did have, though, was the blessing and protection of God as His son was brought into the world.

This wasn’t a beautiful, pleasant or entertaining image ... **but this was Christmas.**

So, this year, as we watch our favorite Christmas movies, listen to our favorite beautiful Christmas music, and enjoy all the festivities that encapsulate our modern-day image of Christmas, remember that cave, used as a barn, where a poor young struggling mother brought forth the Son of God, the Savior of mankind, in the most difficult and unglamorous of situations. Remember how God helped them. And remember **the true image of Christmas**

Vivat Jesus,



From the State Protocol Chairman

Worthy Grand Knights, Faithful Navigators and Members of the State Council:

Protocol

By definition, protocol is a system of rules that explain the correct conduct and procedures to be followed in formal situations. We can add further that it covers anything that is proper and in good taste.

While it's Impossible to cite every rule governing all situations, by applying formal courtesy you will never go wrong in those situations not covered in the Protocol booklet.

We should always display proper consideration for the office represented by the person. In no way should we let dislike for a person influence our respect for the office he holds.

Councils and Assembly Meetings

The Grand Knight and Faithful Navigator must conduct their meetings in accordance with the Charter, Constitution and Laws of the Knights of Columbus, supplemented by your Councils or Assembly's by-laws and according to parliamentary procedure. The standard reference on the subject of procedure is Robert's Rules of Order. The order of business for conducting a Council or Assembly meeting is outlined in *The Method of Conducting Council Meetings* (#10318) and *The Method of Conducting Assembly Meetings* (#10325), both available from "knightsgear.com." Presiding officers should control all meetings so that they follow the set agenda by limiting any sidebar discussion.

When a member wishes to speak, he does so by rising from his seat, addressing the chair by saying "Worthy Grand Knight" or *Worthy Faithful Navigator*" and renders the salute. (Representing the tree of the Cross, the member makes a vertical motion, with his arm and vertically opened hand, from top to bottom). The presiding officer recognizes the speaker by announcing his name and rendering the salute in return. (Representing the arms of the Cross, the presiding officer makes a horizontal motion, with his arm and horizontally open hand, from left to right).

The presiding officer should at all times refer to and address the offices by their proper title. He is thus setting a good example for all members to follow.

All members who are not officers should be recognized by name as "Brother _____" or "Sir Knight _____" All questions or comments must be directed to the chair (the presiding officer), for example: "Worthy Grand Knight or Worthy Faithful Navigator may I ask the previous speaker to explain....."

The presiding officer always speaks in the third person such as "The chair rules that ..." or Your Grand Knight or

Faithful Navigator reports that

Members should speak of the chair in the third person: "Worthy Grand Knight or Worthy Faithful Navigator will the chair please explain the effect of the pending motion?"

State Deputy continued from page 2

the Lord always.

May God bless all of us as we continue this Advent season. Finally, on behalf of the State Officers, I would like to wish you and yours a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fraternally Yours,
Daniel Barton



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Andrew F. Jones

(803) 833-7478
9815 Brandybuck Dr.
Charlotte, NC 28269
Rock Hill



Brandon Chambers

(843) 224-3022
brandon.chambers@kofc.org
Goose Creek



Shane Goheen

(843) 457-5757
shane.goheen@kofc.org
Little River



Daniel Gomes

(864) 494-7891
daniel.gomes@kofc.org
Spartanburg



Paul Harrington

(843) 972-8678
paul.harrington@kofc.org
Mount Pleasant



Vince DeFelice

(864) 619-2544
360 College Dr.
Gaffney SC 29340
Greenville



Rob McColl

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