



Reverend Vincent Robert Capodanno Sir Knights

December 2024 Virtue of Patriotism Assembly 3243 Volume 1 Number 3



Who Are the Fourth Degree Knights?

The **Patriotic Degree** reminds us of our duty to God & country.

They are the Knights on Main Street, the men you envision when someone says Knights of Columbus. They're present in their distinct regalia at civic and Church events, acting as honor guards and color corps, or standing in respect at the funerals of members or during adoration of the Eucharist.

But there is more to being a **Fourth-Degree** member of the Knights of Columbus than a uniform. They are the men who have chosen to embrace the Order's fourth principle of **Patriotism**, the men who lead the efforts to reach out to veterans and active military and to embody the fact that one can be a faithful Catholic and also be a faithful citizen.

When the Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882, three principles united its members: **charity, unity** and **fraternity**. At that time people feared that members of the Catholic faith owed their entire allegiance to the Church and could not be trusted as citizens of their country. **Patriotism** was added to the Order's principles in 1900, based on the idea that Knights are loyal to both God and country.

Members who wish to live out patriotism together can join "the **Fourth Degree**." Members of this degree have the special honor of holding the title "**Sir Knight**," participating in color and honor guards and organizing programs that promote Catholic citizenship. They also become part of a Fourth Degree Assembly in their area. There are more than 3,500 Fourth Degree assemblies around the world.

The "**Serving Those Who Served**" program is a major initiative of the Fourth Degree supporting Veterans Affairs facilities. The Knights of Columbus has representatives at almost every Veterans Affairs medical clinic in the United States, where they recruit and manage K of C volunteers in developing activities and programs that aid patients' most essential needs.

The Fourth Degree also supports priests, in particular those who go on to serve as military chaplains. Through a special scholarship program, the Knights help fund the education of seminarians preparing to become Catholic chaplains in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Fourth Degree assemblies help Knights to put their faith, and their love of country, into action. The fourth principle '**Patriotism**,' commits our members to the preservation of our Church, our Order and to the many nations where Knights serve.



Knights of Columbus
**FOURTH
DEGREE**
Patriotic degree of the Order.



SK Matt Feltman (far right) led the Council 9475 float in the Mt. Pleasant Christmas parade on Dec. 15. Assisting were SK Vince Terranova, (next to Matt) and Brother Scott Migli.



The Hamilton family, Tate, Shea and baby Mark portrayed the Holy Family in the Nativity Scene on the Council 9475 float.

Assembly 3243 Calendar of Events

January 2025

- South Carolina March for Life, Columbia SC (time TBD) __ 11
- Council 9475 Oyster Roast, Gold Bug Island 6:00PM __ 18
- Assembly 3243 Meeting, Beach House COK 6:30PM __ 22