

**ANNUAL REPORT OF SUPREME MASTER  
JOSEPH P. SCHULTZ  
97<sup>TH</sup> SUPREME ASSEMBLY MEETING  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE  
AUGUST 9-10, 2007**

Once again, it is truly an honor and privilege to be here to convene the 2007 Supreme Assembly Meeting here in Nashville Tennessee. You should be well aware that the Supreme Assembly is composed of the Supreme Knight, Supreme Master, Supreme Secretary and you, the 20 Vice Supreme Masters. I would like to thank the Supreme Knight and the Supreme Secretary for sharing their time with us during this meeting. I would also like to acknowledge the presence of Assistant Supreme Secretaries, Don Kehoe and Ron Tracz; Director-Council Growth, Lou Barbour; Vice President-Fraternal Services, George Hanna; and Program Consultant-Fraternal Services, Steve Hinckley. To all of these brothers, I would like to say thank you for your support and your efforts here today and throughout the years.

To the Vice Supreme Masters, you who are leaving office and those of you entering your second term, thank you for your continuing dedication and leadership efforts over the past years and for a job well done. You Sir Knights who are beginning a new term, stand at the threshold of what should be one of the most fulfilling experiences a Knight of Columbus could experience. An opportunity to lead, mold and develop the future of the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus. Of our 1.7 million Knights, there are only 20 of you who carry the title and responsibility of Vice Supreme Master. I wish you well and look forward to your continuing success.

Now to get to my report itself. Gentlemen, I would like to tell you where things are, as I see them, for the Fourth Degree. I'll address several subjects and, for each one, I'll try to cover where we are, what we are doing, what our

plans and goals are, and how I expect us to reach those goals. I also hope to share with you some of the new programs we are considering.

Obviously, as always, our primary mission is to enhance, perpetuate and maintain the good name, the good works and the visibility of the Knights of Columbus. The first priority then is to increase our membership and expand our presence. Fourth Degree membership at the end of the past fraternal year stands at 300,884, representing a net increase of 2,973 members over the previous year. That means we attained last years goal of 300,000. This year we will strive for a gross intake of 10 percent quotas for assemblies, districts and provinces. This will be explained in detail later during this meeting. These goals are realistic and attainable if you consider the number of prospects we have to work with; the operative word, however, is "WORK"! Work at all levels, from the Supreme Master, to the Vice Supreme Masters, to the Masters, to the Navigators, and to the individual Sir Knights. Work at asking a man, work at selling the Fourth Degree, work at being what you volunteered to be, work at believing in the program.

This year we had three provinces meet and exceed their membership quotas. Congratulations to Vice Supreme Master Frank Scandone of the DeSoto Province for achieving 103% of quota, to Vice Supreme Master Larry Costanzo of the John Reddin Province for 102%, and Vice Supreme Master James Gay of Archbishop Blanchet Province for 101% of the assigned quotas. Noteworthy performances were also recorded by Vice Supreme Master Richard Schulte of Our Lady of Guadalupe Province with 82% and Vice Supreme Master Jim Scroggin of the Junipero Serra Province for achieving 81% of quota.

The area of new assembly development has been encouraging this past year. We had established a quota of one new assembly per district for a total of 117 new assemblies. We brought in 84 new assemblies for a quota attainment of near 70%. This is the best performance we have had in the last 10 years. It

proves that the system we established this past year can and will work. That is good but there is still a lot of work to be done. This coming year we will keep the same quota which is one new assembly per district. This is realistic and can be done, but again, the operative word is work. Vice Supreme Masters, work at encouraging your Masters to come up with the new assembly candidates. Work with them at examining those assemblies that have large membership populations (250 or more), encompass 5 or more councils and have members traveling 25 miles or more to attend meetings. These are prime targets for possible new assembly establishment. Work at convincing assemblies that establishing new assemblies is a healthy and viable way to grow the Order.

To the following Vice Supreme Masters, my sincerest congratulations for making quota in this past year.

Panfilo Pacubas	Ferdinand Magellan Province	23 new assemblies
Frank Scandone	DeSoto Province	17 new assemblies
Richard Schulte	Our Lady of Guadalupe Province	7 new assemblies
George Mallison	Hennipin Province	6 new assemblies
Larry Costanza	John Reddin Province	5 new assemblies
Frank Schlueter	Fr. Padilla Province	5 new assemblies
Dennis Green	Fr. Sorin Province	3 new assemblies
James Gay	Archbishop Blanchet Province	3 new assemblies

Personnel wise, the biggest news is the appointment of our seven new Vice Supreme Masters who will assume their office on 1 September. To you Sir Knights; Saverio Giusti, Ralph Rossi, Paul Lambert, Robert Singer, Robert O'Connor, Ross Willour and Gregory Van der Hagen, our heartiest congratulations and strongest wishes for a successful and satisfying tour of duty. That, of course, means that seven of you are leaving our ranks. To you, Sir Knights Lynn Cayford, Charles Gallina, Deacon Michael Marback, Frank Scandone, Lawrence Costanza, James Scroggin and John Bachand, we wish to express our deepest gratitude and thanks for your devotion to your duty, your time and effort in your tasks and your continued and ongoing efforts on behalf of the Fourth Degree of our Order.

The rest of the personnel picture lies in the fact that at the end of this coming year we will be appointing about 50 new Masters and looking at another 57 for reappointment. Your recommendations, opinions, and complete cooperation in these selections are of paramount importance. This in turn will present a challenge to you Vice Supreme Masters in that training, guidance, encouragement and your support must be given to the new appointees to make them aware of Supreme policies and your provincial policies, which are now in effect. You have a short year to prepare for this task. I suggest you start now.

Where our mission is concerned, I will repeat what I have said in the past. My tour as Supreme Master started for me with the Supreme Knight giving me his vision and my marching orders of what the Fourth Degree must be. That charge is just as valid today as it was then and is the plan we will follow during this year. We will work at it this year as we have in the past and we will pursue its successful accomplishment. The charge is as follows; "there will be one Fourth Degree; it will be a part of the Third Degree Knights of Columbus, not apart from it. It will have one uniform, one drill and one exemplification ceremony. There needs to be a concerted effort to get younger members into our Color Corps, the visible arm of the Order. Our Color Corps must not only claim to stand in defense of our church, but they must look physically capable and prepared to do so if they were called upon".

We have made great strides in the last couple of years. Some of our members have been upset with changes that are being instituted or enforced. I think that is to be expected. Our biggest challenge is to not only enforce those changes but to explain them and the rationale behind them.

The mission seems clear to me. I hope it is as clear to you. As I have said in the past, it can be reduced to two words, "TIGHTEN UP". Work to tighten up on terminology – speak the same language; work to tighten up on uniformity – wear the same uniform, look the same; work to tighten up on drill – one drill procedure, one sword manual; work to tighten up on reporting and responsiveness, be on time and accurate.

The visible arm of the Order, the Fourth Degree Color Corps has been, is, and will continue to be our pride and joy. But that Color Corps has high standards that must be maintained. It must be well polished, well drilled, well commanded. It must be what the general public thinks we are; "A well groomed, well disciplined, strong principled group of catholic men who are ready to stand and be counted when called upon to do so". You and I and everyone in this room must set the example of what is expected of the Color Corps. We must all believe in the program and be a living example.

Moving on to one of our larger, most important and ongoing endeavors, I would like to mention a few things about our "Serving Those Who Served" program. This is a patriotic, necessary, worthwhile and charitable program. It is difficult to administer and maintain because it is not a one time effort; it is ongoing, day in and day out. We need to monitor it carefully and rotate our people periodically to ensure ongoing attention to the task at hand. I want to strongly recommend that if you are not familiar with this program you need to become so as soon as possible. We can't supervise and monitor what we don't understand ourselves. Each of you should know the requirements in your Province and what is being done to meet those requirements. No matter what your political or personal convictions are and no matter how you feel about our political leadership, we owe a debt to the men and women who go into harms way and suffer injury and death to preserve our right to express and live by our personal convictions. VSM Chuck Gallina will cover some details about this program later in the meeting.

We continue to monitor the casualty listing generated by the conflicts in the Near East. To date, 30 Brother Knights (including one civilian) and two former Squires have lost their lives in this conflict. To date, 1266 names have been submitted to our office for Brother Knights who have served or are currently

serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. "To A Patriot" award certificates have been sent to all members whose names we have received.

Now on to how we are doing and what have we accomplished this year. We will continue with what I hope is a better communication standard among ourselves with the telephone conference calls. We will strive for a conference call at least quarterly and more frequently, if necessary. I thank all of you for your efforts to be available during these calling periods.

We have tried to create an incentive program with recognition awards for good performance, starting with the new assembly development awards at the district level to compliment the Provincial Awards. Next is the Membership Quota Award at the provincial level and the award certificate that will be given this year to District Masters who have achieved their quotas. More on these awards during our discussion period.

While we have published the K of C Flag Manual, there hasn't been much call for it from the supply department. Please pass the word throughout your provinces about its availability and encourage its use.

Other programs that I would still like to get off the ground include:

- a) A Flag Program for presentation at schools; presented by Color Corps covering subjects such as Flag Protocol, history of the pledge, demonstration on folding, distribution of handouts, etc. This program should be no more than 15 to 20 minutes long and geared to elementary and junior high school level students.
- b) establishment of a flag protocol office in every assembly
- c) A program for the observance of Founders Day, which should develop throughout the Order as the one big day for all Knight of Columbus. I envision the celebration of Mass, Color Corps participation, films on Fr. McGivney, recruiting drives, social

events, award presentations, and the entire parish community invited to celebrate with us. Remember we may soon be celebrating the feast day of a Saint.

- d) Rewrite of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Laws and Rules is just about completed and being prepared for presentation to the Board
- e) The Drill Manual is in its second rewrite and should be published shortly
- f) We are working on the problem of not getting the navigator packages out in a timelier manner. I believe we have a solution starting this year
- g) The directive on miniature medals is undergoing another revision from the Graphics Department. It will spell out location, spacing and order of precedence. This is being worked on, together with a review of the policy on the wearing of pins. You will see a sample today.
- h) There is a major program currently underway for the Veterans Day weekend this year (November 11). It will involve the giving away of 500 wheelchairs to needy veterans in each of four major cities. Those cities are Los Angeles, Dallas, Chicago and Washington DC. The prime need in this project is for manpower and detailed coordination. Details are being drawn up now and will be distributed to the VSM's involved in the near future.
- i) The final project and perhaps the most challenging involve the mosaic dome in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C. The 3,780 square-foot mosaic will be made up of 2.4 million colored tiles and will depict artistic renderings of four scenes associated with the life of Christ. Supreme Knight Anderson has asked that the Fourth Degree assist in the funding of this project. Our contribution goal is to raise \$500,000 over the next two years. I think this is a most fitting undertaking for us to be involved in considering our

long standing relationship with the Shrine. Or to use Supreme Knight Andersons words," This is a wonderful opportunity for our Fourth Degree Knights to finish the job begun by their predecessors in our proud Order who were there when the first stone was laid for this magnificent house of prayer." Details will be forthcoming on this project soon.

These are some of our projects at the Supreme level. I ask that all of you consider patriotic programs at your provincial level. Share your successes with each other. Talk to each other about your successes and ideas.

In conclusion, our mission is to concentrate on the word "work" - - it is a new year. Let's hit the bricks running - - all going in the same direction, all pulling on the same rope, all believing in our programs.

Thank you for your efforts in the past and good luck to all of you for the year that lies ahead of us.

VIVAT JESUS