

**ANNUAL REPORT OF SUPREME MASTER
JOSEPH P. SCHULTZ
98TH SUPREME ASSEMBLY MEETING
QUEBEC, CANADA
AUGUST 7-8, 2008**

Once again, it is truly an honor and privilege to be here to convene the 2008 Supreme Assembly Meeting here in Quebec CA. You should be well aware that the Supreme Assembly is composed of the Supreme Knight, Supreme Master, Supreme Secretary and you, the 19 Vice Supreme Masters. I would like to thank the Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson and the Supreme Secretary, Don Kehoe for sharing their time with us during this meeting. I would also like to acknowledge the presence of Assistant Supreme Secretary Ron Tracz, Vice President-Fraternal Services, George Hanna, Director Fraternal Membership & Council Growth, Lou Barbour, and Program Coordinator-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 you Vice Supreme Masters, 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 2nd term stand at the threshold of what should be one of the most fulfilling experiences a Knight of Columbus could experience. An opportunity to help 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 19 of you who carry the title and responsibility of Vice Supreme Master. You are a unique fraternity of Knights of Columbus leaders. 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.

new assembly per district. This is realistic and can be done, but again, the operative words are work and believe. Vice Supreme Master's, work at encouraging and convincing 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. From past performance we have seen that this approach can and will work, but there is still that "Good Old Boy" fraternity that can't break away from the status quo. 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.

The bulk of the personnel picture lies in the fact that at the end of this coming year we will be appointing 62 new Masters and looking at another 49 for reappointment. Your recommendations, opinions, and complete cooperation in these selections are of paramount importance. It is interesting to note that 23 Masters who are eligible for a second term will not be reappointed. Of these, 13 have declined the position for personal reasons and 10 have not been recommended by their Vice Supreme Masters. To me this is an indicator that the leadership positions in the Fourth Degree are being taken more seriously at all levels. The appointment of 62 new Masters, 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. These Sir Knights have no bad habits, no idea of the quotas they will be

challenged with and no idea of what you Vice Supreme Masters expect from them. The task is before you now, they are brand new, mold them into the working team you want to make your Province successful.

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".

I am quite pleased that we have made great strides in the last couple of years, thanks to your attention and efforts. Some of our members have been upset with changes that are being instituted or enforced. I think that is to be expected. Notwithstanding some complaints, we have seen a vast improvement in the overall appearance and performance of the Color Corps. Our biggest challenge is still not only to enforce our changes and rules but to explain them and the rationale behind them. Please keep up your good work in this area. We 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.

"Serving Those Who Served" program: This program is now under the auspices of the Fraternal Services department. Our role remains the same as we are now considered as the working agent force. The change should be transparent to the workers in the field. I want to strongly recommend that if you

are not familiar with this program you need to become so as soon as possible. Each of you should know the requirements in your Province and what is being done to meet those requirements. The new Masters, in particular, must be well briefed on the program and their duties. FVSM 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, 32 Brother Knights which includes two former Squires and one civilian have lost their lives in this conflict. This represents no change from last year.

Now on to how we are doing and what have we accomplished this year. I believe we have established 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.

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 officer 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.

Areas where we have made substantial progress:

- a) The rewrite of the 4th Degree Laws and Rules is completed and has been approved by the Board of Directors. It is currently at the printers.
- b) The Drill Manual is completed and as of the writing of this report it is awaiting presentation to the Board of Directors. Once approved it will go to the printer.
- c) We have been working on the problem of not getting the navigator packages out in a timelier manner. I believe we have a solution starting this year. The target date for distribution is 1 August.
- d) The directive on miniature medals is now published in the Protocol Handbook and the Drill Manual. It spells out location, spacing and order of precedence.
- e) We conducted a major program for the Veterans Day weekend this past year (November 11). It involved the give away of 500 wheelchairs to needy veterans in each of four major cities. Those cities are Los Angeles, Dallas, Chicago and Washington DC.
- f) The revisions to the Fourth Degree Exemplification (US version) are now completed and await approval and presentation to the Board of Directors by the Boards Ceremonial Committee Chairman.

There is one ongoing program that needs attention:

This project is the mosaic dome in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C. The 3,780 square-foot mosaic is made up 2.4 million colored tiles and depicts 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 a period of 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 on where we are on this project will be the subject of a separate report.

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 words "work" and "believe" - - it is a new year. Once more, 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