



Knights of Columbus  
**F O U R T H**  
**D E G R E E**  
*Patriotic degree of the Order.*

**Msgr. Francis L. Sampson Assembly**  
**Cedar Rapids, Iowa**  
**NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 2014**



*From the Faithful Navigator*

**Sir Knights:**

I apologize for the lateness of this newsletter. I hope you will still find it informative. I am sure that all of you will agree with me that we are thankful that the recent elections are now behind us. I am amazed at the amount of advertising that we are bombarded with both in television, radio spots and direct mailings. It seems like it only gets worse with each election.

Regardless of election results, I am still saddened when we find out that voter participation nationally just hit its lowest rate since 1942, which was during WWII, at roughly 38%. In Iowa I guess we can say we did much better at slightly above 50%. It should bother us that in reality from 19-25% of eligible voters actually elect our legislators and executives. Is that really how true democracy works?

We all have a duty to encourage if not insist that our family members, relatives, neighbors and co-workers exercise their RIGHT to vote. Do not accept the arguments, "my vote doesn't count", "they're all corrupt", "It doesn't matter what I think", etc. You have heard them all. Their abandonment of the most basic RIGHT of a free and representative society to vote is not an encouraging sign for the future of our country. Let us all do what we can to cultivate a culture of active participation in our citizenship.

Fraternally,

Nick Volk, FN

**Veteran's Day Activities**

On Veteran's Day, November 11, the local assemblies met for a fitting memorial service at Veteran's Coliseum, Cedar Rapids. This was the first time since 2007 that the event was held there. All branches of the Armed Forces were recognized. Veterans of wars were asked to stand including members who have been held as POWs. Thanks to Jim Neiman, Gene Tang and Nick Volk for your attendance. Thanks also to the Veteran's Commission for the invitation to be a part of this year's event.





*Presenting to Monica Stallman, sister of Sir Knight Rob Stallman, is Faithful Admiral John McGinness and CCC Jay Fields.*

### **Chalice Dinner/Memorial Mass**

On Sunday, November 9, the Assembly jointly with Bowen and Gallagher Assemblies held our annual Memorial Mass and Chalice Dinner. This year's event was held at St. Patrick's, Cedar Rapids at the Noon Mass. We recognized our recent departed Sir Knights: David Fry, Rob Stallman and James Nannemann. They had requested as tangible memorials: Mass Travel Kit, Communion Pyx, and Ciborium, respectively. We also remember our other departed Sir Knights: Father Tom Schwinn; John Graff and Leo Morrissey at this time. Eternal Rest, O Lord!

### **Membership/Recruitment**

Faithful Comptroller Russ Stocker will begin sending dues notices for 2015 during the month of December. Please try to remit you payment in a timely manner. You are again reminded that your 4<sup>th</sup> Degree membership is contingent upon being in good standing with your Council dues as well. Finally, there will be multiple opportunities to join the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree in 2015. This includes the Exemplification at the State Convention in Coralville on Friday, April 10th. Let's start recruiting now!

### **District Officers**

The Supreme Council has appointment PSD Joe Ramirez as the new District Master for Iowa. With this appointment there are other new positions as well. They are as follows: David Miller as District Marshall and Ed Pancrazio as District Secretary. Msgr. Gerald Stessman continues as District Friar.

### **UPCOMING CALENDAR**

<b>THU</b>	<b>Nov 27</b>	<b>Thanksgiving</b>
<b>TUE</b>	<b>Dec 9</b>	<b>Council #11942 Business Meeting 7PM @ St. John XXIII</b>
<b>WED</b>	<b>Dec 10</b>	<b>Council #5544 Business Meeting @ 7PM, St. Jude</b>
<b>THU</b>	<b>Dec 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>

***PLEASE NOTE! NO MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER, 2014 DUE TO THE HOLIDAY SEASONS!***