



Msgr. Francis L. Sampson Assembly Cedar Rapids, Iowa NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011

Sir Knights:

The annual *Chalice Presentation Mass and Social* has been scheduled. The event is held jointly with the other two Assemblies in the area and our Assembly is the host this year. The date is Sunday, November 13th at the 5:30PM Mass at Immaculate Conception Church, Cedar Rapids. The presentation ceremony and dinner will follow in Scotus Hall. The catered meal will cost \$12.50 per plate so get your reservations in now to the Faithful Captain or Navigator. This is a very fitting occasion to remember our departed Brother Sir Knights.

We Remember

On November 11th we again celebrate Veteran's Day once known as "Armistice Day" commemorating the official end of World War I in 1918. This is the time of year that we remember those who served in our military and whose life on earth is now ended. The Church also marks the month for remembering all our faithful departed and our connection with the entire mystical body of Christ. It is indeed important that we take time to remember.

If I might ask for your indulgence to share some reflections that I think deal directly with this topic. My wife Carol and I recently traveled on vacation to the states of Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Family and friends who know me well can attest to my great love of American history and a particular interest in the Civil War. During this trip we toured the battlefields of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Manassas (all for the first time) and finally Gettysburg (a repeat). While it is easy for me to get taken up with troop movements, the positioning of artillery batteries, fortifications, buildings, roads, fences, etc., I am always amazed at the terrible destruction and loss of life that resulted from these actions. At a time when weapons of war far advanced military tactics the casualty rates were incredible. There is only one motive that would drive men who volunteered away from a life as farmer, shopkeeper, or student for such certain carnage; **Duty**. Whether their duty was to country or cause, it most certainly was their motive and in many cases their last determined thought. It is this reflection that I take with me as we remember veterans of all wars who gave the "last full measure of their devotion".



While on the subject of suffering in time of war, I pause to think of the great service that military chaplains give. On Sunday in Gettysburg we went to Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church. As I participated in the Mass my thoughts kept wandering to the fact that this very sacred place acted as a field hospital during and after the great battle. The wounded from both armies were laid in the pews as beds. I looked at the floor and wondered how long it took to remove the stain of blood? I looked up at the ceiling and wondered how many men's last earthly vision was the same as my present gaze. How many of the wounded benefitted from the ministry of a priest during this trying time?

The only monument or statue to a Chaplain at Gettysburg honors Father William Corby CSC, 88th NY Volunteer Infantry, 2nd Corps Irish Brigade, who gave the men General Absolution prior to going into battle. Father Corby eventually became President of the University Of Notre Dame in his post war years. I find it inspiring that our own Msgr. Francis L. Sampson, likewise with a Notre Dame connection, also answered his bishop's call to serve as a Chaplain in the military. May we always be grateful to the priests that answer the call to this important Ministry.



[Msgr. Sampson praying over the dead following D-Day action.]

Nick Volk, Faithful Captain/CCC

Color Corps Activities

The Assembly Color Corp was active during the past two months with participation at the Honor Flights at the Eastern Iowa Airport on 9/14 and 10/18. Sir Knights were also present for wakes and funerals of those from neighboring Assemblies.

Future Events

Saturday, March 24, 2012 is the date set for the 4th Degree Exemplification in Cedar Rapids at St. Jude. A planning Committee is being established with members from the three local Assemblies. As the State Convention is in Sioux City next year, this will be an opportune time to recruit additional deserving men into the Patriotic Degree. Start recruiting a new Sir Knight today! Our quota is seven.

The next business meeting will be held on Monday, January 23, 2012 at John XXIII at 7PM.

Rosary will begin at 6:40. Please note that the meeting night has returned to Mondays due to facilities scheduling. A calendar is available on our website: www.sampson3179.org

UPCOMING CALENDAR

WED Nov 9	Council #5544 Business Meeting @ 7PM, St. Jude
THU Nov 10	Council #11942 Business Meeting @ 7:30PM, Fairfax
FRI Nov 11	Veteran's Day
SUN Nov 13	Chalice Presentation Mass & Social, Immaculate Conception, Cedar Rapids @ 5:30PM
THU Nov 24	Thanksgiving Day
THU Dec 8	Council #11942 Business Meeting @ 7:30PM, Fairfax
WED Dec 14	Council #5544 Business Meeting @ 7PM, St. Jude
SUN Dec 25	Christmas Day
SUN Jan 8	Holiday Party at St. Jude 5-8PM
MON Jan 23	Business Meeting at John XXIII Parish Center @ 7:00PM