



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Michael the Archangel Assembly 3410
Snellville, GA



The Assembly Voice

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FROM THE HELM OF: THE FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR



S.K. Tony Arrinelli



In the days of Christopher Columbus, the role of the navigator was to ensure the safe and efficient navigation of the vessel – planning routes, determining the ship's position, and monitoring its progress while avoiding hazards. In essence, the navigator acted as the "eyes" of the ship, guiding it safely through the seas and ensuring it arrives at its destination as planned.

The start of a new year (or fraternal year in our case) is a good time to review where we've been and decide where we want to go. I've been giving this a lot of thought, and I believe there are some tweaks we can do to improve our impact on our community.

There are specific differences between the roles and responsibilities of councils and assemblies. Councils are primarily focused on faith and charitable programs; assemblies should be focused on patriotic and civic programs. In the upcoming months we'll be creating plans for 2025 – 2026. We'll specifically be looking at what, if any, activities we will want to do around significant days such as elections, Veteran's Day, Flag Day, Memorial Day, and others. We'll also be focused on events for next July 4th – the 250th anniversary of our great nation. We'll be looking for guidance from Supreme and State – it's very likely there will be large-scale events planned.

The Georgia State Council had its summer planning meeting the weekend of June 27 – 29 in Conyers. We have new men in each of the top positions in the state – State Deputy, Secretary, Treasurer, Advocate, and Warden. By tradition Georgia leaders serve two year terms, after which they run for election for the next position up the ladder, with Warden's being elected every two years. This accomplishes two very important goals – leaders are well versed in the duties and responsibilities of leading the state, and we have a clear succession plan.

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Overcoming Miscommunication by Faithful Captain Robert Barnard



Clear and consistent communication is key to fostering unity among council members. Regular meetings, transparent decision-making processes, and open channels for dialogue can help ensure that every member feels heard and understood. Miscommunication often arises from assumptions or incomplete information, so prioritizing clarity in our interactions is essential.

Aligning Priorities

Each member of Council 13440 may have individual commitments and varying levels of availability. However, unity in purpose requires us to align our priorities with the broader goals of the council. Establishing clear objectives and emphasizing the importance of each member's contribution can help bridge gaps and create a cohesive approach to our activities.

Encouraging Engagement

Engagement is a critical component of unity. When members feel connected to the council's mission and see the impact of their involvement, they are more likely to invest their energy and time. Encouraging participation through meaningful opportunities and recognizing members' efforts can foster a sense of belonging and shared purpose.

Strategies for Strengthening Unity

Unity is not a static state; it requires ongoing effort and intentionality. By adopting strategies to reinforce our bonds and align our actions, Council 13440 can thrive as a united force for good.

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During this meeting the State officers laid out their plans and goals for the next fraternal year. Our District

Master Arnie Terrell laid out his goals for the DeSoto Province. The primary goal is to help assemblies achieve the Star Assembly award. For reference, there are 46 assemblies in the state. In 2023-2024 only one assembly earned the Star award. While not official, it looks as if in 2024-2025 we will have 19 assemblies earning awards (41%), including ours. Our leadership was also VERY involved in helping Assembly 3714 Our Lady of Guadalupe in Winder submit their application, and it's likely they will also earn the award. Arnie's goal for 2025-2026 is 75% of assemblies earning the award – that's 35 assemblies. We will do everything in our power to help achieve that goal!

I look forward to helping guide us through the next year. I value everyone's input, so if you have comments or suggestions please don't be shy. Reach out to me personally if you like. I believe we will sail together as a unified crew, navigating the unknown seas ahead, and will reach the end of our journey, Star Award in hand, as one of the best assemblies in the State. Thank you in advance for your help and support.
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Assembly 3410 Monthly Meeting

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Our 2025-2026 Officer Installation will be held next Thursday evening, July 17th, in Cogswell Hall

at St. Lawrence. The installation will begin shortly after the 6:30 Mass. This installation will mostly replace our July Business Meeting – we have one formality that needs to be addressed. I ask that ALL Sir Knights of Assembly 3410 attend the 6:30 Mass so we can celebrate the Eucharist together. Fr. Carlos will be the celebrant for that Mass, and – in Fr. Henry's absence – act as the Chaplain for our installation ceremony. I would like to have a good showing at both the Mass and the installation. Anyone and everyone is encouraged to wear the uniform (without the sword) if you have one.

Please note that families are welcome and encouraged to attend the installation ceremony (and the Mass of course!). I look forward to seeing you all next Thursday evening.

Vivat Jesus

Building Relationships

Strong relationships among council members are the foundation of unity. Hosting social events, organizing team-building activities, and creating opportunities for informal

interaction can deepen connections and strengthen trust. When members feel genuinely connected to one another, collaboration becomes more natural and effective.

Shared Leadership

Unity thrives when leadership is inclusive and collaborative. Encouraging members to take on leadership roles and participate in decision-making processes can foster a sense of ownership and collective responsibility. Shared leadership allows us to leverage the strengths of our diverse membership and ensures that everyone has a voice in shaping the council's direction.

Celebrating Success

Recognizing and celebrating achievements, both big and small, reinforces the value of unity. Whether it's a successful charitable initiative or the resolution of a challenge, acknowledging our collective efforts strengthens the bonds among members and reminds us of the power of working together.



In the coming months, we will highlighting the Duties and Responsibilities of Assembly Officers. Where better to start than with the Faithful Navigator.

The Faithful Navigator of a Knights of Columbus (KofC) Fourth Degree Assembly serves as the chief executive officer and presiding officer of the assembly, with a wide range of powers and duties.

Here are some key duties and responsibilities of the Faithful Navigator:

Leadership and Governance:

- Presides over all assembly meetings: Enforces the rules and regulations of the assembly and the laws of the Order.
- Acts as Chairman of the Board of Trustees: Oversees the work of other officers like the Comptroller and Purser.
- Appoints committees: Including permanent committees outlined in the assembly's bylaws and special committees deemed necessary or directed by the assembly.
- Ensures proper communication: Arranges for sending emails regarding meetings and activities.
- Attends relevant meetings: This includes Assembly meetings, officer meetings (at least semi-annually), and state/provincial Fourth Degree meetings.

Administrative and Financial Responsibilities:

- Countersigns orders and checks: Drawn by the Faithful Comptroller and Faithful Purser for payments approved by the assembly or the Board of Trustees.
- Oversees financial matters: Ensuring the assembly's financial status is in order and signing all checks.

- Prepares the assembly calendar and budget:
- Appoints the Assembly Color Corps Commander: And is responsible for the training and deployment of the Color Corps.

Membership and Programming:

- Sets the focus for the assembly during the fraternal year.
- Appoints the Faithful Friar (Chaplain): With the approval of the Bishop of the Diocese.
- Appoints a Membership and Programming Director:
- Utilizes the Past Faithful Navigator committee as a resource:

Other Important Duties:

- Performs other duties as imposed by the Supreme Assembly:
- Establishes a Color Corps:
- Serves as an authority on the National Flag: Instructing members on its care and display.
- May be responsible for arranging a Memorial Mass:

In essence, the Faithful Navigator plays a crucial role in leading, managing, and ensuring the smooth operation of a Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Assembly



An article in the Georgia Bulletin the election of **Pope Leo XIV**, formerly Cardinal Robert F. Prevost, and emphasized that his *nationality as an American was not a major factor* in his selection by the College of Cardinals. U.S. cardinals, including Cardinal McElroy and Cardinal Dolan, explained that the focus of the conclave was on unity, leadership, and a commitment to continuing the spirit of Pope Francis—not on national or political symbolism.

Despite being born in the U.S., Pope Leo spent much of his life in missionary work in Peru and held key roles in the Roman Curia, making him, as Cardinal DiNardo noted, “a citizen of the world.” The cardinals rejected political interpretations of the election—such as a counterbalance to U.S. President Trump—and stressed that the Pope is meant to be a bridge-builder for the universal Church.

Cardinal McElroy and others stressed that the conclave sought someone to continue the pastoral and reform-oriented vision of Pope Francis, while also bringing their own voice to the role. Cardinal Tobin shared a personal moment during the election, describing how Pope Leo responded with deep humility and a sense of divine calling.

In essence, the article conveyed a message of spiritual discernment, international collaboration, and continuity with the reforms of Vatican II and Pope Francis. Would you like a breakdown of Pope Leo’s background or the

implications this might have for Catholic theology or the Church’s direction.



Pope Leo XIV, in a general audience at the Vatican, encouraged Christians to overcome despair by turning to Jesus, especially when life feels paralyzed by hopelessness. Reflecting on the Gospel story of Jesus healing a paralyzed man, the pope said Jesus meets people in their suffering and asks them to rediscover their desire for healing. He emphasized that healing begins with personal responsibility and hope, urging believers to recognize where they feel stuck and to bring those burdens to Christ, the “true home of mercy.”



CNS photo/Vatican Media
Pope Leo XIV blesses a woman in St. Peter's Square after his general audience at the Vatican June 18.



Let Religious Freedom Ring

In its 2024-2025 term, the Supreme Court addressed several cases with significant implications for religious freedom and the relationship between church and state. A key ruling involved a unanimous decision affirming that denying a Catholic charity a tax exemption granted to other religious groups constitutes religious discrimination. The Court also ruled in favor of parents seeking to opt their children out of public school instruction that conflicts with their religious beliefs, specifically in the context of LGBTQ+ themes in the curriculum. However, the Court also addressed internet-related cases, retreating from some First Amendment principles in those specific instances.

Key Religious Freedom Cases and Decisions:

Catholic Charities Tax Exemption:

The Court unanimously sided with Catholic Charities in Wisconsin, ruling that denying them a tax exemption, while granting it to other religious groups, was discriminatory. This case highlighted the issue of religious exemptions and whether they should be applied uniformly.

Public School Opt-Outs:

In a 6-3 decision, the Court ruled in favor of parents in Montgomery County, Maryland, who sought to opt their children out of certain public school instruction, including

LGBTQ+ themed content, due to religious objections. This decision emphasizes the protection of religious beliefs in educational settings.

Mahmoud v. Taylor:

This case, often cited in discussions about the opt-out decision, involved the conflict between public school curriculum and religious beliefs. The case focused on whether public schools could be compelled to accommodate religious objections to certain lessons.

Oklahoma Statewide Charter School Board v. Drummond:

The Court did not reach a decision in this case, which involved a Catholic virtual charter school's application to become the first religious charter school. This case highlights the ongoing debate surrounding religious institutions in public education.

Religious Liberty in Public Spaces:

First Liberty Institute is currently involved in a case concerning a man who was prohibited from sharing his faith in a public park, raising questions about religious expression in public spaces.



The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood.

The feast of the Precious Blood of our Lord was instituted in 1849 by Pius IX, but the devotion is as old as Christianity. The early Fathers say that the Church was born from the pierced side of Christ, and that the sacraments were brought forth through His Blood.

"The Precious Blood which we worship is the Blood which the Savior shed for us on Calvary and reassumed at His glorious Resurrection; it is the Blood which courses through the veins of His risen, glorified, living body at the right hand of God the Father in heaven; it is the Blood made present on our altars by the words of Consecration; it is the Blood which merited sanctifying grace for us and through it washes and beautifies our soul and inaugurates the beginning of eternal life in it."

The Church reminds us of the first drops of blood that flowed for our redemption on the day when Jesus was circumcised.

It is night on Mount Olivet, and the moon is shining. We see the holy face crimsoned with blood during the agony in the garden.

Unhappy, despairing Judas casts the blood-money down in the temple. "I have betrayed innocent blood!"

In the scourging chamber we see the Lord in deepest humiliation, under raw strokes the divine Blood spurts out over the floor. Christ is led before Pilate. Pilate shows the

blood-covered Body to the crowds: *Ecce homo!* We go through Jerusalem's streets following the bloody footsteps to Golgotha. Down the beams of the Cross blood trickles. A soldier opens the sacred side. Water and Blood.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch



Comical Closer

A pair of Irish ditch diggers were repairing some road damage directly across the street from a house of prostitution.

They witnessed a Protestant minister lurking about, then duck into the house.

"Would ye look at that, Darby!" said Pat. "What a shameful disgrace, those Protestant reverends sinning in a house the likes of that place!" They both shook their heads and continued working.

A short time later they watched as a Rabbi looked around cautiously and then darted into the house when he was satisfied no one was looking. "Did ya see that, Darby?" Pat asked in shock and disbelief, "Is nothing holy to those Jewish rabbis? I just can't understand what the world is coming to these days. A man of the cloth indulging himself in sins of the flesh. T'is a shame, I tell ya!"

Not much later a third man, a Catholic priest, was seen lurking about the house, looking around to see if anyone was watching, then quietly sneaked in. "Oh no, Darby, look!" said Pat, removing his cap and crossing himself, "One of the poor girls musta died...."

Several Cartoons to Follow



"That's my boy!"

