

Our Lady of Guadalupe Province
First District of Texas



**Archdiocese of
Galveston-Houston**



Diocese of Beaumont

Date: December 17, 2024

Subject: District Master's Report for November and December 2024

To: Sir Knights of the First District of Our Lady of Guadalupe Province

When we come to the end of the year, things really start picking up. So much so, I did not get my November report out to everyone. I am going to try to kill two birds with one stone by covering both months of November and December in this report.

To start off I hope your Thanksgiving Day was filled with all things good, along with your family and friends. We are a blessed people, and God has shed His Grace on us as his sons and daughters as well as on our country. We praise and give thanks to Almighty God for our Shepherd Cardinal DiNardo, all our Bishops, Parish Fathers, Deacons and Consecrated Religious of the First District. "God is Good-All the Time. All the Time-God is Good". I pray that God will continue to Bless you and yours and guide your path always. God Bless!

We ended the month of November with 25th Silver Anniversary Mass at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Many Sir Knights participated in the Honor Guard as well as being part of the special guests for this celebration of the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony. Family is the basic core of our faith and the world. We give thanks to all these men and women for their dedication to each other and family through their dedication to God.

We started December with the Mid-Year meetings in Dallas. We had three great speakers in Our State Chaplain, His Excellency Bishop William Mulvey, Our Supreme Master, Michael McCusker and Advisor to the Supreme Knight, Jonathan Reyes. The State meetings always cover indices of where we started the year, where we are now and how we are going to meet these goals. Our speakers pretty much left these topics to our State Directors and Committeemen. Their messages were more on each of us as knights in the Body of Christ. Does our road to Emmaus lead us to a better understanding of Christ so that as knights we are better disciples in our service to each other, our parishes and our communities.

The Knights of Columbus is a Christo-Centered organization starting in our councils, districts, dioceses, states, and the entire order. The Supreme Knight, Patrick Kelly, calls us Knights of the Eucharist. We know that the summit and source of our life is found in Jesus Christ and the Holy Eucharist. I always tell our Brother Knights and Sir Knights we all have one thing in common. Before we joined the Knights of Columbus, we were all members of the Body of Christ and now we are Knights in Christ. The Mid-Year

Meetings were meaningful and although structured toward our councils, I can always find things that relate to our work in the Fourth Degree.

Although the Fourth Degree does not have the many indices that our councils have, we do have goals to meet each year with the Report of Chosen Officers, Annual Audits, Report on our Fraternal Activities and yes Recruitment. The First District and all Assemblies have these goals to meet. Each Faithful Navigator, in his leadership responsibilities, should always remember the Good of the Order is always Paramount, and not maintaining the status quo. This takes responsible leadership and should drive each assembly officer to make sure these goals are met and met on time.

After the Mid-Year Meeting concluded, we headed down to Laredo, Texas for the annual transfer of the Silver Rose from the United States to our brothers in Mexico. If you have never had the opportunity to be part of this special event, I urge you to put it on your calendar for next year. Take your wife and experience first-hand this tribute to Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Sanctity of Life. You will not regret going.

This week I put out a list of opportunities to serve for the remainder of this year and into January of 2025. We just completed the funeral services for Monsignor Dan Scheel, and we will honor Father James Ramsey on December 20, 2024, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Walsingham. I mentioned in my distribution this week, the Fourth Degree should never lack the participation of Sir Knights for our deceased priest and Sir Knights. It is an honor and privilege to serve these masses.

Unlike our council bother knights, we who make up the Fourth Degree have unique opportunities to serve by participating at many churches in the First District. We have two beautiful and colorful masses coming up with the annual Simbang Gabi mass and the Vietnamese Vigil Christmas mass. If you have never been to these masses, bring your family with you and join with our Filipino and Vietnamese communities celebrating Christ in the Eucharist. The First District is blessed to have a great diversity of cultures. See the list I sent out to all our assemblies and join us in honoring our church and our nation.

Starting the first week of January 2025, the Relic of Blessed Michael J. McGivney will be coming for three days starting on January 6, 2025, at Mary Queen in Friendswood, January 7, 2025, at St. Charles Borromeo in Houston and January 8, 2025, at the Basilica in Beaumont. Come and join us as we venerate our founder, Blessed Michael J. McGivney.

Before I close, just a reminder of our Winter Fourth Degree Exemplification on March 1, 2025, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Walsingham. Bishop Steven J. Lopes will be going through the exemplification, and I hope each assembly will recruit and support this special day for the Fourth Degree.

As I close this report, Christmas Day is just around the corner. God so loved us that he sent His only begotten Son. As we journey on the road to Bethlehem and the Birth of the Christ Child, may all God's Blessing be on you and your families.

Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year,

James H. Hatcher

*District Master-First District of Texas
Our Lady of Guadalupe Province*