



## Cardinal Gibbons Assembly 783

### Newsletter

### May 2015



### REFLECTIONS FROM REV. BILLY GRAHAM

Being a Christian is more than just an instantaneous conversion - it is a daily process whereby you grow to be more and more like Christ.

I am not going to Heaven because I have preached to great crowds or read the Bible many times. I'm going to Heaven just like the thief on the cross who said in that last moment: 'Lord, remember me.'

[https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/b/billy\\_graham.html](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/b/billy_graham.html)

### FRATERNAL ELECTION 2015

That time of year is approaching again. In a few short months it will be time to elect new officers for our Assembly. The Trustees will contact the membership to solicit Sir Knights to the Slate of Candidates. If you are interested in filling an Assembly Office contact Faithful Navigator Bob Testa ([rtesta317@aol.com](mailto:rtesta317@aol.com)) or Faithful Comptroller Rod Komlofske ([rod.komlofske@gmail.com](mailto:rod.komlofske@gmail.com)).

### PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2015

Faithful Navigator Bob Testa thanks all the Sir Knights who participated in the Presentation of the Colors at Special Olympics 2015:

PFN Rod Komlofske - Commander  
PFN Steve Canali  
SK Jake Carter

SK Ernesto Chappa  
SK Chris Cooper  
SK Darryl Gerow



## **POWER OF THE CROSS**

SK Christopher R. Cooper

Why does the Cross strike fear into the enemies of Christianity? Father Sam Najjar of St. Michael the Archangel Maronite Catholic Church posed this question during his sermon at the beginning of the Season of the Holy Cross. Father Sam's question was intriguing. I always considered the people who made complaints about the Cross or any reference to Christianity as just a bunch of whiney malcontents who have too much time on their hands and are not happy unless they have something to complain about. However, the subject is not that simple. The Cross as a Christian symbol goes back to Biblical times with the ministry of St. Paul the Apostle. St. Paul explains why people fear the Cross. Even in today's overly politically correct society the Cross still triumphs.

The origin of the Cross became a prominent Christian symbol that can be traced back to St. Paul the Apostle's ministry. (Benedict XVI, 2008) To St. Paul the Cross represents the power of God. He states this principle in 1 Corinthians 1:18, "For the word of the cross, to them indeed that perish, is foolishness: but to them that are saved, that is to us, it is the power of God." (The Holy Bible, 2005) The enemies of the Christianity the Cross is a symbol they do not understand. Indicative of human nature people fear what they do not understand. Some of the more arrogant people hide their fear by belittling the Cross as a mere trifle to be dismissed. To the Christian the Cross is the symbol of God's power and his love for mankind. How powerful is the Cross?

According to the Reverend Billy Graham no matter what Church, Catholic or Protestant, all Christians agree on the Cross. (Graham, 1982) Christians may disagree on theological points, but the Cross unites us all. The Cross is a sign of God's love for mankind. (Benedict XVI, 2008) If the Cross is a sign of God's love why do so many people fear the Cross?

In one respect the Cross appears to be a failure. (Benedict XVI, 2008) Crucifixion was a violent and brutal death sentence exercised by the Roman Empire on non-Roman citizens. The purpose was to keep subjugated population in line and not challenge the Roman authorities. This method of execution was the Empire's way of saying to any would be rebels, "If you challenge us, you are doomed to failure. Your failure will be rewarded with the humiliation of crucifixion for the whole world to see in a public execution." St. Paul changed this notion in his ministry. He preached the Cross is the symbol of God's power and love for mankind. God the Father sent his only son to perish on the Cross for mankind's sins. The Cross emerged as a sign of victory when Christ rose from the dead. Some people still cannot accept this view.

One stumbling block for acceptance of the Cross is human arrogance. A prominent example of human arrogance that has caused much suffering is the communist movement. Here is a passage from The Communist Manifesto, "There are, besides, eternal truths, such as Freedom, Justice, etc. that are common to all states of society. But Communism abolishes eternal truths, it abolishes all religion, and all morality, instead of constituting them on a new basis; it therefore acts in contradiction to all past historical experience." (Marx & Engels, 1848) To abolish eternal truth and religion is to abolish the Cross. The Cross is the symbol of eternal truth and God's power. Communism fears this symbol. The misguided philosophy of communism wants to establish its own brand of truth. Establishing one's own truth in opposition to the Cross is a perfect example of human arrogance. The Cross did prevail over communism. This victory occurred in the earlier 1990s when the people of the Soviet Union and many other communist nations rejected the Marxist ideology.

There also recent examples of the Cross prevailing against the enemies of Christianity. The Arkansas State football team placed stickers on the back of their helmets. (Bromberg, 2014) The stickers were in the shape of cross as a memorial for two individuals; defensive tackle Markel Owens and team manager Barry Weyer, Jr. Both individuals recently passed away. As usual some malcontent or malcontents made a complaint that this display of the Cross was unconstitutional. After several lawsuits the judicial system ruled the team players could wear the

Cross as long as team member do it voluntarily. A second is example of the Cross prevailing against the enemies of Christianity is a set of steel beams removed from the wreckage of the World Trade Center site. The beams formed a Cross approximately seventeen feet high. (Richey, 2014) This Cross will be part of the World Trade Center Memorial and Museum. The judicial system ruled against the atheist whiners who brought a lawsuit against the Cross. The ruling is based on the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution. The judges ruled the Establishment Clause does not prohibit religious references in a public area especially in historical accounts. The Cross is "...a symbol of hope, faith, and healing..." or in other words the power of God.

In the beginning the history of the Cross, it was hard to accept at first because of the violent nature of crucifixion. St. Paul changed the meaning when he made it part of his ministry. He used the Cross as a symbol of God's power and love for mankind. The Cross became a unifying symbol for all Christians. Communist due to human ignorance tried to abolish the Cross, but in the end they failed. The Cross made recent victories such as the Arkansas State football and the World Trade Center memorials. One last thought on the power of the Cross, in the Middle East in the area known as the Islamic State the jihadists are using the Arabic Letter "Noon, ن" to identify Christian homes. (Loveluck, 2014) The jihadists use "ن" because it short for Nazarene or Jesus of Nazareth which is a reference for Christians. This reference is not widely known outside of the Middle East. So, why not use the Cross which is a worldwide symbol for Christians...or do the jihadists fear the power of the Cross?

#### Works Cited:

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- Richey, W. (2014, July 29). *Why court rejected atheists' lawsuit against cross at ground zero (+video)*. Retrieved November 1, 2014, from The Christian Science Monitor: <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Justice/2014/0729/Why-court-rejected-atheists-lawsuit-against-cross-at-ground-zero-video>
- The Holy Bible. (2005). *The Holy Bible - Douay-Rheims Version*. Fitzwilliam: Loreto Publications.



## **CARDINAL GIBBONS ASSEMBLY HONOR GUARD**

### **NEW HONOR GUARD COMMANDER WANTED**

Faithful Navigator Bob Testa will not be to continue as Honor Guard Commander. If you are interested in becoming Honor Guard Commander contact him or any of the Assembly Officers to volunteer.

### **REGALIA ITEMS FOR LOAN**

Faithful Comptroller Rod Komlofske has regalia items to loan for members of the Assembly who do not have them. If you want to participate in an Honor Guard event and do not have the required regalia items send email to [rod.komlofske@gmail.com](mailto:rod.komlofske@gmail.com).

A tuxedo was donated to the Assembly: coat 42 and pants waist 43. If you need a tuxedo contact Faithful Comptroller Rod Komlofske [rod.komlofske@gmail.com](mailto:rod.komlofske@gmail.com).

### **UPCOMING HONOR GUARD EVENT**

#### **MEMORIAL DAY WREATH LAYING CEREMONY 2015**

Location: Freedom Memorial Park across the street from the Airborne & Special Operations Museum, 100 Bragg Blvd., Fayetteville, NC 28301

Date: 25 May 2015

Show Time: 9:30 AM

Start Time: 10:00 AM

Completion Time: 11:00 AM

Sir Knights who are interested in participating in this Honor Guard event sign-up at the following link:

<http://cardinalgibbonsassembly783.weebly.com/memorial-day-wreath-laying-ceremony-2015.html>

#### **ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD**

Location: St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church, 2844 Village Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304-3813

Date: 6 June 2015

Show Time: 9:00 AM

Start Time: 10:00 AM

Completion Time: 11:30 AM

Sir Knights who are interested in participating in this Honor Guard event sign-up at the following link:

<http://cardinalgibbonsassembly783.weebly.com/ordination-to-priesthood.html>

### **DEGREE CEREMONIES**

If your Council is hosting a degree ceremony, send the details to [COOP5614@yahoo.com](mailto:COOP5614@yahoo.com) and it will be posted in the Assembly Newsletter.

**Second Degree Ceremony:** 21 May 2015. Location: Council 12640, Fayetteville, NC. For more details go to: [http://kofcnc.org/PROGRAMS/COUNCIL/3rd%20degree/third\\_degree\\_schedule.htm](http://kofcnc.org/PROGRAMS/COUNCIL/3rd%20degree/third_degree_schedule.htm)

**Third Degree Ceremony:** 30 May 2015. Location: Council 13236, Greensboro, NC. For more details go to: [http://kofcnc.org/PROGRAMS/COUNCIL/3rd%20degree/third\\_degree\\_schedule.htm](http://kofcnc.org/PROGRAMS/COUNCIL/3rd%20degree/third_degree_schedule.htm)

**First Degree Ceremony:** 10 June 2015. Location: Council 9847, Fayetteville, NC. For more details go to: [http://www.kofcnc.org/09\\_10Files/calendar.htm?pli=1](http://www.kofcnc.org/09_10Files/calendar.htm?pli=1)

## **THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ORDER**

**Charity** is the first principle of the Order. Knights are followers of Christ and men of faith. As St. James reminds us, "faith without works is dead." Therefore, as Knights we are committed to charity, easing the plight of those less fortunate.

**Unity** is the second principle of the Knights of Columbus. In unity there is strength. Existing in an environment that was openly hostile to Catholics, the founders of the Order relied on claiming their rightful place in society. Today the Order uses that strength to speak out for religiously-grounded moral values in a culture that has forsaken them.

**Fraternity** is the third principle of Order. In 19th century America, life insurance was beyond the financial reach of many poor Catholics and social services did not exist. Through the Knights of Columbus men were able to band together as brothers to help one another in times of distress, sickness and death.

**Patriotism** is the principle of the Fourth Degree. One of the reasons the Order was founded was to emphasize that Catholics are proud citizens of their countries. Today Fourth Degree Knights in full regalia, the visible arm of the Order, serve to witness to the values of devotion to God and country, the bedrock of patriotism.

From the Knights of Columbus North Carolina State Council Website:

<http://www.kofcnc.org/ADMINISTRATION/principlesoftheorder.htm>

### **IN MEMORIAM:**

Please keep in your prayers for the repose of the soul of:

All Deceased Knights of Columbus.

All Members of the U.S Armed Forces.

All First Responders.

### **ARTICLES FROM THE ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP**

Any Sir Knight who wants to submit an article to the Newsletter, turn the article into Faithful Scribe SK Chris Cooper at the next Assembly meeting or send it via email to [COOP5614@yahoo.com](mailto:COOP5614@yahoo.com).