



**Cardinal Gibbons Assembly 783**  
**Newsletter**  
**April 2018**



**REFLECTIONS FROM NORMAN COUSINS**

If something comes to life in others because of you, then you have made an approach to  
immortality.

Cynicism is intellectual treason.

Life is an adventure in forgiveness.

Brainy Quote

[https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/norman\\_cousins](https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/norman_cousins)

**FAIRNESS**

Faithful Navigator Christopher R. Cooper

What is fairness? It depends on who you ask. Some people would say fairness is everyone is the same. That line of thinking is very boring. If everyone is the same there would be no one to excel in their chosen profession; military, writing, mechanic/machinist, medicine, and a host of others. Everyone would be the same. Fortunately, people are allowed to excel. One such individual is the late Dr. Jonas Salk who discovered the polio vaccine. (History.com) Now back to the question, “what is fairness?” According to *Webster’s Dictionary* fairness is, “free from bias, dishonesty, or injustice.” (Braham, 1996) This definition is sage advice to follow. What documents or books expand on this definition? There are three of these that come to mind; the *Declaration of Independence*, the *United States Constitution*, and *The Holy Bible*.

Reviewing American history, Thomas Jefferson penned the *Declaration of Independence*. (Carnes & Garraty, 2003) This document declared the United States’ independence from the British Empire. What does the *Declaration of Independence* have to do with fairness? There is one statement that sums it up, “We hold these truths to be self-evident – that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” (Laidlaw, 1888) In this passage the origin of fairness or being equal comes from God, not men. It can be inferred that unfairness occurs when men lose sight of God as the source of fairness. When men try to enforce a human inspired sense of fairness events run amuck. An example is the former Soviet Union under the rule of Joseph Stalin. (Young, 2015) His sense of fairness was whatever benefitted the state and his power. He took God completely out of the picture. The result was countless people executed as the result of show trials or death of millions in the gulags. The indifference and unfairness to human life permeated the Soviet Union and was one of the factors of its demise in 1991.

The next document that expands on fairness is the *United States Constitution* particularly the first ten amendments also known as the *Bill of Rights*. (Carnes & Garraty, 2003) The Bill of Rights protects our rights from the government and ensures men are fairly protected from government intrusion. The Founding Fathers fought the War of Independence because of the overreach of Parliament and the British Monarch. They wanted to make sure there are safe guards against these governmental incursions on the citizens’ rights. Examples of fairness in the *Bill of Rights* are freedom of religion, freedom of the press, right to bear arms, and protection from unlawful search and seizure. These rights as the Founding Fathers knew come from God to men and not from the government. If men

meddle with these rights events could lead to the negative utopia of the Soviet Union and fairness being defined by man and not God.

Christ provides mankind with the best definition of fairness in the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of St. Matthew. The Sermon on the Mount covers chapter 5, 6, and 7. The passage in question is chapter 7 verse 12, "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets." (USCCB, 1986) Sometime in the 18th century this passage became known as "The Golden Rule." If you treat people how you would like to be treated you will not go wrong and fairness will be achieved. One of the most egregious examples of the violation of The Golden Rule is the Holocaust perpetrated by the Nazis government of Adolf Hitler. (History.com, 2015) Hitler viewed the Jewish people as less than human and a danger to the "Aryan race." The next statement is my opinion. Hitler would not like to receive the same treatment he and his henchmen metered out the Jewish people of Nazis occupied Europe. Hitler devised his manmade concept of fairness that resulted in the death of 6 million Jews and other people he deemed not worthy of living.

What is fairness? Manmade concepts of fairness end in disaster. Examples from history are numerous. Two of them are the Soviet Union and the Nazis government of Adolf Hitler. In the Soviet Union a negative utopia emerged. Life was cheap and many perished in the purges of Joseph Stalin. Fairness was defined as the state is supreme and the individual if necessary would be eliminated to protect the state. Under Adolf Hitler a religion and its member were systematically murdered. Fairness was defined to protect the master race. The Founding Fathers of the United States took a different course. They based fairness as coming from God as evident in the *Declaration of Independence* and the *United States Constitution*. People from all over the world make their way to America because of these precepts. Christ in the Bible in the Sermon on the Mount gives mankind the best definition of fairness in the Golden Rule.

#### Works Cited:

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### **CARDINAL GIBBONS ASSEMBLY HONOR GUARD**

### **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).

## **UPCOMING HONOR GUARD EVENT(S):**

### **Presentation of the Colors at Special Olympics 2018**

Location: Methodist University, Ramsey Street (US 401), Fayetteville, NC

Date: 20 April 2018

Show Time: 8:30 AM

Start Time: 9:00 AM

Completion Time: 9:30 AM

Sir Knights may sign-up for this event on the Assembly website at the following link:

<https://cardinalgibbonsassembly783.weebly.com/presentation-of-the-colors-at-special-olympics.html>

### **Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony 2018**

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

Date: 28 May 2018

Show Time: 9:30 AM

Start Time: 10:00 AM

Completion Time: 11:00 AM

Sir Knights may sign-up for this event on the Assembly website at the following link:

<https://cardinalgibbonsassembly783.weebly.com/memorial-day-wreath-laying-ceremony-2018.html>

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **April 2018**

April 1	Easter
April 8	Knighthood Degree (3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree) – Council 7259, Newton Grove, NC
April 8	NC State Raffle tickets due to District Deputy (DD)
April 14	4 <sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification – Assembly 2552, Raleigh, NC
April 15	Family of the Month Due
April 28	Knighthood Degree (3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree) – Council 13236 Greensboro, NC
April 28	District Master's Meeting

### **May 2018**

May 1	Council Officer Elections begin
May 4-6	NC State Convention – Hickory, NC
May 10	Ascension Thursday
May 15	Family of the Month Due
May 28	Memorial Day

### **June 2018**

June 2	Knighthood Celebration – Council 11266 Garner, NC
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#### **Council Leadership Training Sessions:**

June 9	Region 1 – Council 3574, Jacksonville, NC
June 9	Region 3 – Council 11101, Greensboro, NC
June 16	Region 6 – Council 4600, Rocky Mount, NC
June 16	Region 6 – Council 8857, Hope Mills, NC
June 23	Region 4 – Council 12832, Mint Hill, NC
June 23	Region 2 – Council 3390, Durham, NC
June 30	Region 5 – Council 7184 Hendersonville, NC

## **DATES TO REMEMBER (Continued)**

### **July 2018**

July 4                      Independence Day  
July 13-15              DD Organizational Meeting, Durham, NC

## **DEGREE CEREMONIES**

Further details for upcoming degree ceremonies are available on the K of C State Council Website:  
First, Second, and Third Degree: <https://kofcnc.org/upcoming-degree-ceremonies/>  
Fourth Degree: <https://kofcnc.org/4th-degree/4th-degree-exemplification/>

<b><u>Fourth Degree</u></b>	14 April 2018	11:30 AM	Assembly 3552, Raleigh, NC
<b><u>Third Degree:</u></b>	28 April 2018	12 Noon	Council 13236, Greensboro, NC
<b><u>First Degree</u></b>	2 May 2018	7:00 PM	Council 2546, Raleigh, NC
<b><u>First Degree:</u></b>	3 May 2018	7:00 PM	Clayton 11265, Concord, NC
<b><u>Third Degree</u></b>	2 June 2018	11:00 AM	Council 11266, Garner, NC

## **WISDOM: THE ORIGINAL LIFE COACH**

Faithful Navigator Christopher R. Cooper

Today, a person cannot watch television without a charlatan pushing some modern version of snake oil to cure all of life's problems. The modern version of snake oil ranges from clothing, automobiles, pills, lawyers (to obtain money as a result of the side effects of the pills), programs to help cope with life's problems, and a host of others. The one that is of interest is the programs to cope with life's problems also known as the life coach industry. The life coach industry caters to people trying to find answers to cope with the challenges in their lives. People spent a lot of money to fuel this industry. Our Heavenly Father provided mankind with a life coach, Wisdom, long before the advent of modern snake oil drummers. The Old Testament of The Holy Bible contains Wisdom's message. The instruction of Wisdom comes from antiquity, but the message is still relevant for the modern world.

There are many people who offer life coaching services all of which come with a price tag and big promises. An internet search reveals prices starting at approximately \$800.00 and up. One site promises how a life coach can get ten clients in thirty days. According to Harvard Business Review this industry is a \$1 billion dollar a year money maker. (Pagliarini, 2011) A lot of money is being spent when the advice and instructions to sort out problem in life can be obtained for free. It is very easy to find. The advice and instruction are in the Bible and the best life coach is Wisdom.

Wisdom is found in the Old Testament. The seven books concerning Wisdom are: The Book of Job, The Book of Psalms, The Book of Proverbs, The Book of Ecclesiastes, The Song of Songs, The Book of Wisdom, and The Book of Sirach (Ecclesiasticus). (New American Bible, 1986) In these books Wisdom is personified as female. Wisdom is quoted or referenced in these books, but she sometimes speaks in the first person. An example of Wisdom speaking in the first person is in the Book of Sirach 24, "1. Wisdom sings her own praises, among her own people she proclaims her glory. 2. In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, in the presence of his host she tells of her glory: 3. From the mouth of the Most High I came forth, and covered the earth like a mist." In this passage Wisdom states her origin is from God and she covers the earth to help mankind. What are the lessons Wisdom uses to help mankind?

There are many lessons Wisdom uses to guide mankind. These lessons are pertinent even today. One such lesson is from Ecclesiastes 3:1, "There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens." Wisdom counsels mankind to have his priorities in order. This passage applies to finances: bills paid, food on the table, housing, etc. If a man does not follow Wisdom's advice financial turmoil will follow. Another good

lesson from Wisdom is in Proverbs 20:3, "It is honorable for a man to shun strife, while very fool starts a quarrel." Wisdom stresses for mankind to keep his mouth under control. This message is a recurring theme from Wisdom. A wise man chooses his battles wisely. Not every point needs to be proved. Many times things will sort themselves out on their own. A fool has point to be proved at every turn no matter how trivial the issue causing him disgrace and scorn from the community. A third important lesson from Wisdom is Proverbs 18:10, "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the just man runs to it and is safe." Here Wisdom tells mankind no matter how bad events in life go always trust in the Lord.

Wisdom is the original life coach. Her advice is free. There is no price tag or grandiose promises. The Old Testament of the Bible has all her words of sound advice to guide us through life in this world. Only three of her lessons were covered in this article, but there are many more. These lessons are still relevant today as they were in ancient times. I will leave you with one last thought from Wisdom, Proverbs 19:20, "Listen to counsel and receive instruction that you may eventually become wise."

Works Cited:

New American Bible. (1986). *The New American Bible - Saint Joseph Edition*. New York: Catholic Book Publishing Co.

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**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).