



**Cardinal Gibbons Assembly 783**  
**Newsletter**  
**December 2019**



**REFLECTIONS FROM CHRISTMAS**

“Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection.”

Sir Winston Churchill, United Kingdom Prime Minister

“For it is in giving that we receive.”

Saint Francis of Assisi

“Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace.”

Pope Francis

*Brainy Quote*

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/christmas-quotes>

**POWER OF THE CROSS**

Faithful Scribe 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 of 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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- Bromberg, N. (2014, September 18). *Arkansas State players can voluntarily wear cross decals in helmets*. Retrieved November 1, 2014, from Yahoo.com: <https://sports.yahoo.com/blogs/ncaaf-dr-saturday/arkansas-state-players-can-voluntarily-wear-cross-decals-on-helmets-182410717.html>
- Graham, B. (1982, June 1). *1982 Billy Graham New England Crusade in Boston (Sermon, The Power Of The Cross)*. Retrieved October 29, 2014, from YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EoNIJh-CVM>
- Loveluck, L. (2014, August 1). Arabic Symbol 'N' Arabic Symbol 'N' (For 'Nazarene') (For 'Nazarene') Used To Mark Out Christians In Mosul For Tax Or Death . *New Life*, p. 1.
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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**

### **REGALIA UPDATE**

The old Regalia (chapeau and cape) will officially be retired by the Order on 30 June 2019. The new Regalia will be the only uniform approved by the Knights of Columbus starting on 1 July 2019. Further details are available in Attachment 1 of this newsletter. Sir Knights who want to purchase the new Regalia the information is at:  
<https://kofcuniform.com/CustomPage/OrderNow>

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

**No Events Scheduled**

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

#### **December 2019**

December 15	Family of the Month Form Due
November 25	Christmas Day
November 25	Tar Heel Knight Articles Due

### **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/>  
Fourth Degree: <https://kofcnc.org/4th-degree/4th-degree-exemplification/>

<b><u>Degree</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Start Time</u></b>	<b><u>Council – Location</u></b>
<b><u>First</u></b>	4 December 2019	6:00 PM	Council 12537, Southport, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	5 December 2019	6:30 PM	Council 10504, Winston-Salem, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	5 December 2019	7:00 PM	Council 6970, Eden, NC
<b><u>Third</u></b>	7 December 2019	12 Noon	Council 5487, Goldsboro, NC (Spanish)
<b><u>First</u></b>	9 December 2019	6:30 PM	Council 7259, Newton Grove, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	10 December 2019	6:30 PM	Council 11406, Mount Airy, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	12 December 2019	7:00 PM	Council 11101, Greensboro, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	16 December 2019	7:30 PM	Council 12167, Kannapolis, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	21 December 2019	9:00 AM	Council 6700, Gastonia, NC

### **DEGREE CEREMONIES (Continued)**

<b><u>Degree</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Start Time</u></b>	<b><u>Council – Location</u></b>
<b><u>First</u></b>	8 January 2020	7:00 PM	Council 12481, Lexington, NC
<b><u>Second</u></b>	8 January 2020	7:00 PM	Council 12481, Lexington, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	9 January 2020	7:30 PM	Council 10891, Asheboro, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	14 January 2020	6:30 PM	Council 2829, Winston-Salem, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	17 January 2020	6:30 PM	Council 12267, King, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	18 January 2020	11:00 AM	Council 7406, Mooresville, NC
<b><u>Third</u></b>	18 January 2020	12 Noon	Council 3498, Burlington, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	21 January 2020	6:30 PM	Council 12610, Mocksville, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	23 January 2020	7:00 PM	Council 8684, Greensboro, NC
<b><u>Third</u></b>	1 February 2020	12 Noon	Council 2546, Raleigh, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	5 February 2020	7:00 PM	Council 14767, High Point, NC
<b><u>Second</u></b>	5 February 2020	7:00 PM	Council 7547, Elizabeth City, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	6 February 2020	7:00 PM	Council 13236, Greensboro, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	11 February 2020	6:30 PM	Council 9499, Clemmons, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	11 February 2020	7:30 PM	Council 3498, Graham, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	13 February 2020	7:00 PM	Council 12654, Huntersville, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	18 February 2020	6:30 PM	Council 12610, Mocksville, NC
<b><u>Second</u></b>	3 March 2020	7:30 PM	Council 3498, Graham, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	9 March 2020	6:30 PM	Council 7259, Newton Grove, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	10 March 2020	6:30 PM	Council 11406, Mount Airy, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	12 March 2020	7:00 PM	Council 11101, Greensboro, NC
<b><u>Third</u></b>	14 March 2020	12 Noon	Council 13236, Greensboro, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	16 March 2020	7:00 PM	Council 13532, Siler City NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	17 March 2020	6:30 PM	Council 8509, Kernersville, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	18 March 2020	7:00 PM	Council 9249, Thomasville, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	21 March 2020	9:00 AM	Council 6700, Gastonia, NC
<b><u>Second</u></b>	21 March 2020	10:30 AM	Council 6700, Gastonia, NC
<b><u>Third</u></b>	21 March 2020	12 Noon	Council 6700, Gastonia, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	2 April 2020	6:30 PM	Council 10504, Winston-Salem, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	2 April 2020	7:00 PM	Council 6970, Eden, NC
<b><u>Third</u></b>	2 April 2020	12 Noon	Council 9709, Raleigh, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	17 April 2020	6:30 PM	Council 12267, King, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	17 April 2020	7:30 PM	Council 4507, High Point, NC

### **DEGREE CEREMONIES (Continued)**

<b><u>Degree</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Start Time</u></b>	<b><u>Council – Location</u></b>
<b><u>Second</u></b>	17 April 2020	7:30 PM	Council 4507, High Point, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	18 April 2020	11:00 AM	Council 7406, Mooresville, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	23 April 2020	7:00 PM	Council 8684, Greensboro, NC
<b><u>Third</u></b>	25 April 2020	12 Noon	Council 13236, Greensboro, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	7 May 2020	7:00 PM	Council 13236, Greensboro, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	12 May 2020	6:30 PM	Council 2829, Winston-Salem, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	14 May 2020	7:30 PM	Council 10891, Asheboro, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	14 May 2020	7:00 PM	Council 12654, Huntersville, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	19 May 2020	6:30 PM	Council 12610, Mocksville, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	20 May 2020	7:00 PM	Council 9249, Thomasville, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	3 June 2020	7:00 PM	Council 14767, High Point, NC
<b><u>Second</u></b>	3 June 2020	7:00 PM	Council 14767, High Point, NC
<b><u>Third</u></b>	6 June 2020	12 Noon	Council 11266, Garner, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	8 June 2020	6:30 PM	Council 7259, Newton Grove, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	9 June 2020	6:30 PM	Council 9499, Clemmons, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	9 June 2020	7:30 PM	Council 3498, Graham, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	11 June 2020	7:00 PM	Council 11101, Greensboro, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	20 June 2020	9:00 AM	Council 6717, Gastonia, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	20 June 2020	9:00 AM	Council 6700, Gastonia, NC
<b><u>Second</u></b>	20 June 2020	10:30 AM	Council 6700, Gastonia, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	8 July 2020	7:00 PM	Council 12481, Lexington, NC
<b><u>First</u></b>	18 August 2020	6:30 PM	Council 8509, Kernersville, NC

### **DATES FOR CHRISTMAS AND EASTER**

Faithful Scribe Christopher R. Cooper

Most Feast Days of the Catholic Church are celebrated on the same day each year. Christmas is one example. Why does the date for Christmas not move from year to year like Easter? The Church uses two different calendars to establish the dates for Christmas and Easter. (Rumble, 2014)

The date for Christmas is established by the Roman calendar. This calendar is based on a solar year; hence, the date stays the same from year to year. The date for Easter is based on the Jewish calendar. This calendar is based on the lunar cycle. Since the lunar cycle varies it makes the date for Easter change from year to year.

The use of two different calendars leads to another question. Why? The early Church Fathers wanted the death and resurrection of Christ our Savior to coincide with the Jewish celebration of the Passover. (Rumble, 2014) The two feasts mark the transition from the Old Testament to the New Testament. Passover marks the Jew's deliverance from oppression under the Egyptians in the Old Testament. The death and resurrection of Christ delivered us from the power of Satan and sin in the New Testament.

### Works Cited

Rumble, F. L. (2014, December 30). Why is Christmas Day Fixed but Easter Moveable? —A Radio Reply. Retrieved January 2, 2015, from Catholic Answers: <http://www.catholic.com/blog/fr-leslie-rumble/why-is-christmas-day-fixed-but-easter-moveable-%E2%80%94a-radio-reply>

### **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 Chris Cooper at the next Assembly meeting or send it via email to [COOP5614@yahoo.com](mailto:COOP5614@yahoo.com).