



Cardinal Gibbons Assembly 783
Newsletter
September 2020



REFLECTIONS FROM POPE FRANCIS

God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving.
If he gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it.

Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds,
there is always a space in which the good seed can grow.
You have to trust God.

Find new ways to spread the word of God to every corner of the world.

Brainy Quote

<https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/pope-francis-quotes>

ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

The next Assembly meeting scheduled for 18 October 2020 at 2:30 PM at St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church, 2840 Village Drive, Fayetteville, NC is **TENTATIVE**. The date and location may change depending on guidance from K of C Supreme and local directives.

PRAYING TO SAINTS

Faithful Scribe Christopher R. Cooper

Should Catholics pray to the Saints? Many Fundamentalist Christians say no. In their mind Catholics are communicating with the dead. But are Catholics communicating with the dead and thereby practicing the dark art of necromancy? Or worse yet, are Catholics deifying a Saint? These allegations are false. They are misinterpretations of passages in the Bible. So, who is a Saint? What does the Bible say on the subject of praying to Saints?

First things first, who is a Saint? According to Scott P. Richert, "Saints, broadly speaking, are those who follow Jesus Christ and live their lives according to his teaching. Catholics, however, also use the term narrowly to refer to especially holy men and women who, through extraordinary lives of virtue, have already entered Heaven." (Richert) Saints are both in this world and the next. In the broader sense of Mr. Richert definition the terms Christian and Saint are synonymous since Christians are those individuals who follow Christ.

Another word that needs scrutiny is the verb "pray". Pray is defined as "...often used as a function word in introducing a question, request, or plea ([pray] be careful)" or "to address God or a god with adoration, confession, supplication, or thanksgiving." (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 1993) These definitions illustrate two problems with the English language. Many words such as "pray" have double meanings depending on the context they are used in. In one sense to pray is a request and in another it is adoration to God. The second problem is the English language has changed over time. Outside of Shakespearian Theater not many people today use the phrase "pray be careful". Today a person would just say, "Be careful". A modern phrase for "praying to Saints" could be "request to Saints" or "plea to Saints". However, to me these phrases don't have the same ecclesiastical impact.

In their opposition to praying to Saints many Fundamentalist Christians quote the Book of Deuteronomy 18:10-12, “10. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times or and enchanter, or a witch, 11. Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits or a wizard or a necromancer. 12. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord...” (The Holy Bible: King James Version, 1976) The key word in this passage is necromancer. Necromancy is the conjuration of the spirits of the dead for purposes of magically revealing the future or influencing the course of events. (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 1993) The Catholic tradition of praying for the intercessions of Saints does not fall under any of the prohibitions in this passage. An example is the last lines of *The Hail Mary*, “Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.” (Common Catholic Prayers) Catholics are petitioning St. Mary as a fellow Saint to pray for them. There is no request do reveal the future or magically influencing the course of events. Certainly, there is no evidence in this prayer of any call to deify St. Mary or assume she is a deity.

Did Christ ever pray and Saints appear with him? Yes, in the Gospel of St. Luke 9:29-31, “29. While He [Christ] was praying His face changed in appearance and His clothing became dazzling white. 30. And behold, two men were conversing with Him, Moses and Elijah, 31. who appeared in glory and spoke of His exodus that He was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.” (The New American Bible: St. Joseph Edition, 1986) Was Christ practicing necromancy? No, God the Father chose this time to reveal His divine plan to Christ. God the Father sent two Saints, Moses and Elijah, as His messengers.

Is it permissible for Christians (Saints) to ask fellow Christians to pray for them? The answer is yes. An example from the Bible is the Epistle to the Colossian 4:3, “at the same time, pray for us, too, that God may open a door to us for the word, to speak of the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison”. (The New American Bible: St. Joseph Edition, 1986) St. Paul is petitioning his fellow Christians to pray for him and those who are in prison with him. He does not specify only the Christians who are still on Earth or those who are in Heaven, but to all Christians to pray for him and those who are imprisoned with him.

The next argument Fundamentalist Christians reference against praying to Saints is 1 Timothy 2:5, “For there is one God: and one mediator of God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” (The Holy Bible: Douay-Rheims Version, 2005) However, upon reading the preceding verses 1-4 the entire context of what St. Paul is saying comes to light especially in verse 1, “I desire therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayer, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all men.” St. Paul is instructing all Christians (Saints) to pray for each other. Again, he does not specify only the Christians living in this world or those who have passed on to Heaven, but all Christians (Saints). St. Paul is instructing his fellow Christians to direct their petitions to Christ, not to circumvent our Lord and Savior. Remember it is always a good idea to read the entire passage to acquire the full meaning of what the Bible reveals to the Faithful.

In my opinion the silliest argument I have encountered from Fundamentalist Christians against praying to Saints is, “...can the saints in heaven hear every prayer of every creature all the time?” (Slick, 2012) My answer to this ridiculous argument is from the Gospel of St. Matthew 19:26, “Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible.’” (The New American Bible: St. Joseph Edition, 1986) In this passage Christ is talking about who can be saved and God the Father’s power. The key part is “...*for God all things are possible*”. Christ proclaims the omnipotence of His Father and all things are possible for His Father. Can the Saints in Heaven hear every prayer of every creature all the time? Yes, because *for God all things are possible*. To say anything less is placing a limitation on God. To be very blunt and to the point, God puts limitations on us. We **DO NOT** put limitations on Him.

Praying to Saints is a Biblical concept. Of all the Catholic prayers to Saints I have encountered, none have called to deify any Saint or ask for inside information on future events. St. Paul instructed the followers of Christ to pray for him. He made no distinction between those followers in this world or those in Heaven. Prayers to Saints are request for their intercessions on our behalf before Christ.

Work Cited:

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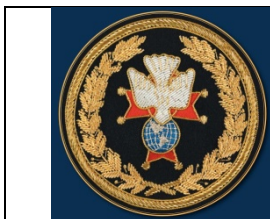
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CARDINAL GIBBONS ASSEMBLY HONOR GUARD

4TH DEGREE UNIFORM

The 4TH Degree uniform and accessories are available to order at the following link:

<https://kofcuniform.com/CustomPage/OrderNow>

UPCOMING HONOR GUARD EVENT(S):

No Events Scheduled.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 2020

September 7	Labor Day
September 15	Family of the Month Form Due
September 25	Tar Heel Knight Articles Due

October 2020

October 12	Columbus Day
October 15	Family of the Month Form Due
October 25	Tar Heel Knight Articles Due

November 2020

November 1	All Saints Day
November 2	All Souls Day
November 11	Veterans Day
November 15	Family of the Month Form Due
November 25	Tar Heel Knight Articles Due
November 26	Thanksgiving Day

December 2020

December 8	Immaculate Conception
December 15	Family of the Month Form Due

DATES TO REMEMBER (Continued)

December 2020

December 25	Christmas Day
December 25	Tar Heel Knight Articles Due
December 31	Program Award Submission Due

DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATIONS

IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ!

3/14/2020 – Governor Roy Cooper has issued an executive order banning mass gatherings of 100 people or more. Before attending any of the Degree Ceremonies listed below, please contact the host council to be sure that the event will still be held.

Further details for upcoming degree ceremonies are available on the K of C State Council Website:

Degree Exemplifications: <https://kofcnc.org/ceremonials/degrees/>

Degree Exemplifications On-Line: <https://kofcnc.org/ceremonials/upcoming-online-exemplifications/>

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>Council – Location</u>
1 November 2020	3:00 PM	On-Line
7 November 2020	3:00 PM	On-Line
21 November 2020	8:00 PM	On-Line
22 November 2020	8:00 PM	On-Line
5 December 2020	3:00 PM	On-Line
12 December 2020	3:00 PM	On-Line

FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATIONS

There is a Fourth Degree Exemplifications scheduled for 21 November 2020 in Gastonia, NC. This exemplification is hosted by the Judge William Gaston Assembly 2531.

THE SWISS GUARD

Faithful Scribe Christopher R. Cooper

One of the most famous, yet smallest armed forces in the world is the Swiss Guard. (Britannica, 2015) The Swiss Guards are easy to recognize with their colorful uniforms of yellow, dark blue, and red originating from the Italian family Medici. The history of the Swiss Guard reaches back to medieval times of Europe. As with many military organizations there are requirements for a prospective candidate to meet who desires to enter the Swiss Guard. Today, the Swiss Guard serves both a practical and ceremonial purpose for the Vatican. These purposes are rooted in the history of the Swiss Guard.

As with many communities of the Holy Catholic Church that date back in time the Swiss Guard is no exception. The Swiss Guard evolved from Swiss mercenaries dating to the 13th and 14th centuries. (The Holy See, 2015) Poverty was wide spread in what became present day Switzerland. To become a soldier of fortune was one source of income. The Swiss mercenaries fought for many nations and served as military instructors throughout Europe. The Swiss Guard formally began on 22 January 1506 A.D. under Pope Julius II. Their mission from the beginning is the protection of the Pope and the Vatican. The last incident the Swiss Guard prepared to protect the Vatican from the invading forces of Adolf Hitler during World War II. In 1981 A.D., the Swiss Guard thwarted an assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II. To carry out the Swiss Guard's historical mission to protect the Pope and the Vatican there are qualifications for a new candidate.

The Swiss Guard like many military organizations has a set of requirements for admission to their ranks for each new recruit. (The Holy See, 2015) There are a total of eight:

- I am a Swiss citizen.
- I am a Roman Catholic faithful.
- I am of a good moral ethical background.
- I attended the military school in Switzerland.
- I am between 19 and 30 years old.
- I am at least 174 cm (5 feet 8 inches) tall.
- I am not married.
- I have either a professional diploma or a high school degree.

Anyone who has joined the U.S. Armed Forces will remember going through a litany of requirements that must be met before entering the military. Some of those requirements of the U.S. Armed Forces and the requirements of the Swiss Guard are the same. These requirements ensure the Swiss Guard maintains itself as a professional military organization today.

The Swiss Guard today is an internationally recognized professional military organization. (The Holy See, 2015) The primary mission of the Swiss Guard is the protection of the Pope and the Vatican. The Swiss Guard serves a ceremonial purpose as honor guards for various Vatican functions. They trained in military tactics. At the Pope's discretion the Swiss Guard may be directed to augment the Pontifical Gendarmerie a.k.a. the Vatican Police. (Collier, 1963) Their living quarters is the Swiss Guard Barracks which is located off St. Peter's Square to the north.

The Swiss Guard has a long and colorful history stretching back to medieval Europe. They evolved from bands of mercenaries to a modern day professional organization. Like most professional military organizations the Swiss Guard has entrance requirements and maintains training to fulfill their mission of protecting the Pope and the Vatican. The Swiss Guard is still a vibrant and positive presence at the Vatican today.

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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 Chris Cooper at the next Assembly meeting or send it via email to COOP5614@yahoo.com.