

## **Alaska State Convention Ceremonials report - May 1, 2020**

Worthy State Deputy, Worthy Supreme Representative, Brother Knights -

Councils in the Alaska Jurisdiction reported the following exemplifications:

- Eight (8) councils reported hosting Admission Degrees, totaling 26.
- Four (4) Formation Degrees were held, hosted by four councils.
- Four (4) Knighthood exemplifications were held, hosted by four councils.
- In addition, four (4) combined exemplifications of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity were also reported in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the fraternal year.

A review of the Form 450 Exemplification Reports and a review of the degree dates on council rosters, indicates that additional exemplifications occurred but were not reported. District Deputies or a designee needs to submit a Form 450 Exemplification report for each exemplification held. The Degree Exemplification report form was revised 1/20 to include all degrees, including the new exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. Completion of this report form only takes a few minutes and can be submitted electronically at the conclusion of the degree. District Deputy 4 – Mike Honner did an outstanding job submitting the degree exemplification report for every degree he attended, with a copy to the State Ceremonials Chairman.

Strive to hold at least one monthly degree in each district. St. Patrick's Council 11745 in Anchorage has a regular schedule of conducting an Admission Degree on the last Wednesday of each month. This provides an opportunity for councils in Districts 1, 4 & 5 (South-Central) to bring in new members. Council 11745 plans to continue this monthly schedule with the new exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity when gatherings are once again permitted. Councils 1760 (Juneau), 5011 (Fairbanks), 13566 (Fairbanks), 11321 (Ketchikan), and 12018 (Kodiak) have also hosted numerous degrees during the fraternal year.

With the assistance of the State Council, District Deputy 5 – David Mitchel, Council 12290 and Council 13315, multiple degree exemplifications were held in Homer to assist in the formation of a future council in that community.

At the State Deputy Mid-year meeting, a new combined exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity was unveiled. This exemplification replaces the previous Admission (1<sup>st</sup>), Formation (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Knighthood (3<sup>rd</sup>) degrees. Total length of the degree is 30 – 35 minutes. The pledge of secrecy with regard to the ceremonials was removed allowing family members, spouses and friends to support and witness a candidate joining the Knights of Columbus. Members who are currently first-degree or second-degree knights go thru the same exemplification. At the end of the exemplification, all candidate become third-degree Knights of Columbus. The Alaska State Council intended to roll out this new combined exemplification at the State Convention.

Four (4) new combined Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity degree ceremony have been reported to the Supreme Office from the Alaska jurisdiction. One in Fairbanks (2/20/20), one in Homer (2/21/20) and two in Juneau (2/17/20 & 2/24/20).

Due to the covid-19 pandemic, the Supreme Council suspended all Knights of Columbus gatherings, including degree ceremonies. In an unprecedented action, the Supreme Council hosted a webinar video exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity on April 16, 2020. Electronic invitations were distributed by the Council Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries to participate in this electronic degree ceremony. Over 10,000 participants order-wide registered for this exemplification, including new candidates, e-members, first, second, and third-degree members. Over 2,500 new knights we brought into the order. First-Degree and Second-Degree members were advanced to the Third Degree. The supreme council mailed new member's their rosaries and member pins. Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries were notified of their advancing members and requested to update their roster in member management. Three members from Council 12290 were advanced and one member from Council 10798 were advanced to the third degree during this event. The Supreme Council is continuing to offer the electronic exemplification ceremony until things return to normal. Additional electronic exemplifications were offered on April 30<sup>th</sup> and will

again be offered on May 7<sup>th</sup>, with the expectation of weekly or biweekly exemplifications to follow.

Thru the Supreme web-site Officers Online the Council Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries have access to the new exemplification. While the goal is to present the exemplification from memory, it is permissible to read the script. When reading the script, read slowly & clearly, and present to the audience. You are presenting not only to the candidates but also to their families and friends. We want to impart what it means to be a member of the Knights of Columbus.

- [Exemplification presentation video](#)
- [Communication to Knights of Columbus Leaders](#)
- [Script for the Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Finally, it is very important to maintain and update you council records. When a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> degree member advances to the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, the GK or FS must update that members degree status in member management. Supreme does not do this for you. Also, you need to let Supreme Membership Records know when a new member or e-member joins a council. You can use the prospect tab if the e-member listed your council number when he signed up electronically or you can scan or take a picture of the completed Form 100 membership document and email to [membershiprecords@kofc.org](mailto:membershiprecords@kofc.org)

*Vivat Jesus –*

Kevin Adler

State Ceremonials Chairman