



# Our Lady of Lourdes



## Assembly 2143

Volume 2, Issue 3

September 2006

### FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR'S MESSAGE

*Deacon Vincent Ricciardi*

Life is the province of learning, and the wisdom we acquire throughout our lives is the reward of existence of God. As we traverse the winding roads that lead from birth to death, experience is our patient teacher. We exist, bound to human bodies as we are, to evolve, enrolled by the universe in earth school, an informal and individualized academy of living, being, and changing. Life's lessons can take many forms and present us with many challenges. There are scores of mundane lessons that help us learn to navigate with grace, poise, and tolerance in this world. And there are those once-in-a-lifetime lessons that touch us so deeply that they change the course of our lives. The latter can be heartrending, and we may wander through life as unwilling students for a time. But the quality of our lives is based almost entirely on what we derive from our experiences.

Earth school provides us with an education of the heart and the soul, as well as the intellect including all gifts from God. The scope of our instruction is dependent on our ability and readiness to accept the lesson laid out before us in the circumstances we face.

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**Next Meeting  
Monday  
Sept 17, 2006**

*FAITHFUL NAVIGATORS REPORT (cont)*

**When we find ourselves blindsided by life, we are free to choose to close our minds or to view the inbuilt lesson in a narrow-minded way. The notion that existence is a never-ending lesson can be dismaying at times. The courses we undertake in earth school can be painful as well as pleasurable, and as taxing as they are eventually rewarding. However, in every situation, relationship, or encounter, a range of lessons can be unearthed. When we choose to consciously take advantage of each of the lessons we are confronted with, we gradually discover that our previous ideas about love, compassion, resilience, grief, fear, trust, and generosity could have been half-formed.**

**Ultimately, when we acknowledge that growth is an integral part of life and that attending earth school is the responsibility of every individual, the concept of "life as lesson" no longer chafes. We can openly and joyfully look for the blessing buried in the difficulties we face without feeling that we are trapped in a roller-coaster ride of forced learning. Though we cannot always know when we are experiencing a life lesson, the wisdom we accrue will bless us with the keenest hindsight.**

**As we begin this New Columbian year, I hope to bring many new lessons to our assembly and many new activities. As I embark on my journey of leadership as Navigator I know I will be taught lessons each step of the way and I am open to learn. Those officers who will assist me will gain from my knowledge as I will from theirs. We will all need your prayers and well wishes to make this another successful year serving God and Country.**

**The challenge to each brother in the Assembly is to attend meetings and to bring one new member into our Assembly. New blood, new ideas, new activities! Come and see what we are all about, help to build up our assembly.**

**May God the Father bless each of you and your families,**

**Deacon Vincent P. Ricciardi, Sr., PGK, Navigator**

## Faithful Captains Message

**Sir Knights,**

**As we close the summer months, we should be thinking about how we can make our Assembly more involved in our Churches and Communities. One way would be to get more of our Brother Knights involved in the Fourth Degree. We only have a short time left to bring in members at the next Exemplification. The applications must be read at the next Assembly meeting, so they can be forwarded to the Master in time.**

**Another way to bring our Assembly to the forefront in the Community would be through the various programs we run. The Dinner Cruise we ran in June went very well, and we would like to run another one next summer.**

**However, we still have time to run some other programs and can use your help in putting the plans in motion. If you would like to help your Assembly, and have any ideas, feel free to contact me.**

**Vivat Jesus  
Bernard J. Ernst  
Faithful Captain**

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## COLOR CORPS COMMANDERS REPORT

**Brothers,**

**As we move into September, a few important dates come to mind. First on the calendar is the Annual Columbus Day parade, which I hope to see all our members marching in, either as a member of the Color Corps, or as a member of their Council.**

**The next important date is Sunday, November 12. That is the date of the next Exemplification of the Fourth Degree. This year's Exemplification will be held at the Sheraton, on Route 35 in Eatontown. That is an event that should bring all our members out, to help the new members of our Assembly, and District, feel welcome. That day is also a District Callout, and I urge all our members to come out and enjoy the day.**

**Anyone wishing to join the Color Corps can call me at (609) 597-1197.**

**Edward F. Kelly, K.H.S., P.F.N.  
Color Corps Commander**

## Faithful Comptrollers Message

Brothers,

The summer is over and now it is time to get to work, serious work. The Exemplification will be coming up shortly, Sunday, November 12. The Assembly has 1 new member waiting right now, but there is still time to get some more paperwork in. Please get any applications to me at the next meeting, completely filled out and signed, so we can vote on them and get their paperwork up to the Master's office in time. The due date is the end of the month, but all applications must be voted on at a business meeting, as well as signed by the Council Financial Secretary, as well as the Faithful Navigator.

Also, at this time of year, it is time to start thinking about dues notices. I will begin preparing them so they can go out at the end of October. Hopefully, we can get them back early this year. Anyone having difficulty should contact me and I will forward the information to the Faithful Navigator for discussion. If some part of the discussion should come up at a meeting, no names shall be mentioned.

Also in the dues envelope, will be a form that I will be asking you to fill out and return to me. This form will be asking for certain information, (i.e. Phone numbers, e-mail address, etc.) for the Assembly files. No information will be shared with any other organization, Assembly, or Council .

As you may already know, Our Lady of Lourdes Assembly has a new website. This website has many features that our old one did not have. The newsletter will soon be available there. Also there is a calendar of events, pictures of our Officers, pictures of our events, and lists of our Charter Members, Past Faithful Navigators. Soon I will be setting up the server so each member will have an e-mail address through the Assembly that will be linked to your private e-mail address. Please visit our new website and let me know what you think. Also, I will be able to place pictures of all our members there. The website address is : [WWW.KofC-A2143.org](http://WWW.KofC-A2143.org)

I hope you all had a great summer, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

John A. Gazis, P.F.N.      Faithful Comptroller

### Assembly Officer's

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<u>Faithful Navigator</u>	<u>S.K. Vincent Ricciardi</u>	_____	<u>vpricciardi@msn.com</u>
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<u>Faithful Outer Sentinel</u>	<u>S.K. Mark Brown</u>	_____	
<u>Faithful 3 Yr Trustee</u>	<u>S.K. Warren Frey</u>	_____	<u>WcFrey@aol.com</u>
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<u>Faithful 1 Yr Trustee</u>	<u>S.K. Bryan Dickerson</u>	_____	
<u>Color Corps Commander</u>	<u>S.K. Edward Kelly, K.H.S.</u>	_____	

# **WHEN CHRIST COMES**

by Max Lucado

**You are in your car driving home. Thoughts wander to the game you want to see or meal you want to eat, when suddenly a sound unlike any you've ever heard fills the air. The sound is high above you.**

**A trumpet? A choir? A choir of trumpets? You don't know, but you want to know.**

**So you pull over, get out of your car, and look up. As you do, you see you aren't the only curious one. The roadside has become a parking lot. Car doors are open, and people are staring at the sky. Shoppers are racing out of the grocery store. The Little League baseball game across the street has come to a halt. Players and parents are searching the clouds. And what they see, and what you see, has never before been seen.**

**As if the sky were a curtain, the drapes of the atmosphere part. A brilliant light spills onto the earth. There are no shadows. None. From whence came the light begins to tumble a river of color spiking crystals of every hue ever seen and a million more never seen. Riding on the flow is an endless fleet of angels. They pass through the curtains one myriad at a time, until they occupy every square inch of the sky.**

**North. South. East. West.**

**Thousands of silvery wings rise and fall in unison, and over the sound of the trumpets, you can hear the cherubim and seraphim chanting, Holy, holy, holy. The final flank of angels is followed by twenty-four silver-bearded elders and a multitude of souls who join the angels in worship.**

**Presently the movement stops and the trumpets are silent, leaving only the triumphant triplet: Holy, Holy, Holy. Between each word is a pause. With each word, a profound reverence. You hear your voice join in the**

**Suddenly, the heavens are quiet. All is quiet. The angels turn, you turn, the entire world turns and there He is. Jesus.**

**Through waves of light you see the silhouetted figure of Christ the King. He is atop a great stallion, and the stallion is atop a billowing cloud. He opens his mouth, and you are surrounded by his declaration:**

**"I am the Alpha and the Omega."**

**The angels bow their heads. The elders remove their crowns. And before you is a Figure so consuming that you know, instantly you know: Nothing else matters. Forget stock markets and school reports. Sales meetings and football games. Nothing is newsworthy. All that mattered, matters no more.... for Christ has come. . .**

**This morning when the Lord opened a window to Heaven, he saw me, and he asked: My child, what is your greatest wish for today?**

**I responded: "Lord please; take care of the person who is reading this message, their family and their special friends. They deserve it and I love them very much"**

**The love of God is like the ocean, you can see its beginnings but not its end.**

## WARRENS WORLD

Next time you come home for the night and you go to put your keys away, think of this: It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation.

Start keeping your car keys next to your bed when you go to bed at night. If you think someone is trying to get into your house, or if you hear a noise outside your house, press the panic alarm on your car key chain. Test it! It will go off from most everywhere inside your house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain. It works if you park in your driveway or garage.

If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break in your house, odds are the burglar, or rapist, won't stick around.....after a few seconds all the neighbors will be looking out their window to see who is out there and sure enough the criminal won't want that.

Try yours to make sure it works before you rely on it. Just know that you must press the alarm button again to turn it off.

And remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a Parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there.

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Father O'Malley rose from his bed. It was a fine spring day in his new Texas mission parish. He walked to the window of his bedroom to get a deep breath of the beautiful day outside.

He then noticed there was a jackass lying dead in the middle of his front lawn. He promptly called the local police station.

The conversation went like this:

"Good morning. This is Sergeant Jones. How might I help you?"

"And the best of the day te yerself. This is Father O'Malley at St. Brigid's. There's a jackass lying dead in me front lawn. Would ye be so kind as to send a couple o' yer lads to take care of the matter?"

Sergeant Jones, considering himself to be quite a wit, replied with a smirk, "Well now father, it was always my impression that you people took care of last rites!"

There was dead silence on the line for a long moment. Father O'Malley then replied: "Aye, tis certainly true, but we are also obliged to notify the next of kin."