



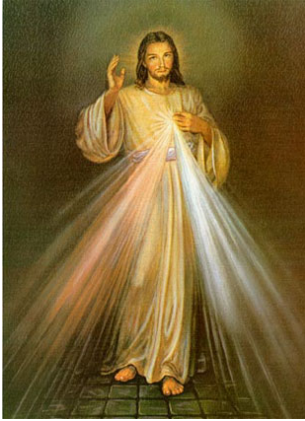
ACTS OF THE APOSTLES NEWS

Acts of the Apostles Assembly #2411
Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus
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Over 100 years of Patriotic Service

April 2006



Easter is observed on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25.

The commonly stated rule, that Easter Day is the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs next after the vernal equinox, is somewhat misleading because it is not a precise statement of the actual ecclesiastical rules.

The actual conditions to determine the date for Easter are:

- Easter must be on a Sunday;
- this Sunday must follow the 14th day of the paschal moon;
- the paschal moon is that of which the 14th day (full moon) falls on or next follows the day of the vernal equinox; and
- the equinox is fixed in the calendar as March 21.

Easter is a religious holiday that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ three days after his death by crucifixion some 2,000 years ago. For Christians, Easter is a day of religious services and the gathering of family.

In many churches Easter is preceded by a season of prayer, abstinence, and fasting called Lent. This is observed in memory of the 40 days' fast of Christ in the desert. In Eastern Orthodox churches Lent is 50 days. In Western Christendom Lent is observed for six weeks and four days.

[Ash Wednesday](#), the first day of Lent, gets its name from the practice, mainly in the Roman Catholic Church, of putting ashes on the foreheads of the faithful to remind them that "man is but dust." [Palm Sunday](#), one week before Easter, celebrates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Holy Week begins on this day. Holy Thursday, or Maundy Thursday, is in memory of the Last Supper of Christ with his disciples. [Good Friday](#) commemorates the crucifixion.

Lent may be preceded by a carnival season. Elaborate pageants often close this season on Shrove Tuesday, the day before the beginning of Lent. This day is also called by its French name, Mardi Gras.

The name Easter comes from Eostre (pronounced

yo'ster), an ancient Anglo-Saxon goddess. In pagan times an annual spring festival was held in her honor. Some Easter customs have come from this and other pre-Christian spring festivals. Others come from the Passover feast of the Jews, observed in memory of their deliverance from Egypt.

The word paschal comes from a Latin word that means "belonging to Passover or to Easter." Formerly, Easter and the Passover were closely associated. The resurrection of Jesus took place during the Passover. Christians of the Eastern Church initially celebrated both holidays together. But the Passover can fall on any day of the week, and Christians of the Western church preferred to celebrate Easter on Sunday, the day of the resurrection.

The Easter Bunny, a popular image of the holiday, originated with the hare, an ancient symbol for the moon. According to legend, the bunny was originally a large, handsome bird belonging to Eostre, the Goddess of Spring. (Eostre is also known as Ostara, a Goddess of fertility who is celebrated at the time of the Spring equinox.) She changed the bird into a rabbit, which explains why the Easter bunny builds a nest and fills it with colored eggs. The first edible Easter bunnies were made in Germany during the early 1800s. They were made of pastry and sugar.

Around the time of the Civil War, Americans began to celebrate Easter in much the same manner as Europeans, with children building nests for the Easter bunny to fill with eggs. Since that time, Easter has become a major religious and secular celebration in the U.S.

The egg is another popular symbol of Easter. Eggs were dyed and eaten during spring festivals in ancient Egypt, Persia, Greece and Rome. Colored eggs were not associated with Easter until the 15th century. Many Americans follow old traditions of coloring hard-boiled eggs and giving children baskets of candy. On the next day, Easter Monday, the president of the United States holds an annual Easter egg hunt on the White House lawn for young children.

The Easter Sunrise Service custom can be traced back to the ancient Pagan custom of welcoming the sun God at the vernal equinox - when daytime is about to exceed the length of the nighttime. It was a time to "celebrate the return of life and reproduction to animal and plant life as well."

At the feast of Eostre, an ox was sacrificed. The ox's horns became a symbol for the feast. They were carved into the ritual bread. Thus originated the "hot cross buns". The word "buns" is derived from the Saxon word "boun" which means "sacred ox."

Many superstitions grew out of this custom — a cross bun kept from one Good Friday to the next was thought to bring luck, the buns were supposed to serve as a charm against shipwreck, and hanging a bun over the chimneypiece ensured that all bread baked there would be perfect. Another belief was that eating hot cross buns on Good Friday served to protect the home from fire.

Today, the symbol of a symmetrical cross marked with white icing is used to decorate the buns; the cross represent the moon, the heavenly body associated with the Goddess, and its four quarters.

The white lily, the symbol of the resurrection, is the typical Easter flower. The white lily stands for purity. Artists for centuries have pictured the angel Gabriel coming to the Virgin Mary with a spray of lilies in his hand, to announce that she is to be the mother of the Christ child. The white Madonna lily was used for years as the Easter lily. It often failed to bloom in time for Easter, however, and so Bermuda, or white trumpet, lily was substituted. The Bermuda lily was brought to the United States from Bermuda in the 1880s by Mrs. Thomas P. Sargent of Philadelphia, and it has become a mainstay of Easter floral arrangements and church decorations.

Faithful Navigator's Message

As Easter Sunday approaches we all know that this day is truly one of our holiest days of the year. It means so much to so many. Families assemble to celebrate Jesus Christ's rising from the dead, as if we needed proof that he is the Son of God. Jesus died on Good Friday so he could rise on the third day to save us from our sins. He has given us many signs to lead us to the Father, but we continually fall along the road to redemption. We should use this Easter to follow the Shining Light that came from the tomb which shows the road to eternal happiness.

Acts of the Assembly will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 25th at 6:30pm for cocktails and dinner at 7pm.

There is still plenty of time left in this half of the Columbian Year. We have some important activities to tend to. First, we must support a number of Color Corps events. Please read below under the "Commander'Swords" for upcoming events.

Second, we have a Mid-Year Exemplification in Harrisburg on Saturday, June 17th. We would like to see some of our people represented there and there is still time to recruit new members into our assembly

We will have our annual Renewal of Obligations Ceremony at one of our regular assembly business meetings.

Remember, this newsletter is being distributed via email so please be sure you have sent your address to Mike Diewald at mdiewald@cox.net.

Vivat Jesus!!

Michael P. Sheil
Faithful Navigator

Commander'Swords

There are several events on the horizon. Please pick at least one or two of them to support. Muster is 30 minutes prior to the event.

Date	Time	Event
13 Apr	7:00	Holy Thursday Honor Guard at St. Veronica Church
13 Apr	7:00	Holy Thursday Honor Guard at St. Andrew Church
13 Apr	7:00	Holy Thursday Honor Guard at St. Clare Church
19 Apr	7:30	Confirmation Honor Guard at St. Veronica Church
17 Jun	All Day	Fourth Degree Exemplification – Harrisonburg

The assembly has loaner regalia for you to try. Lately, Color Corps' participation is down. Please join us and show your true colors as a Patriotic Catholic Gentleman.

Vivat Jesus!!!
Michael J. Diewald, PFN

Captain's Log

The meeting this month is Tuesday, April 25th, 2006. Social Hour is 6:30 PM and Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM. The menu entrée planned is ham and yams!

If you are on the Regular Dinner List, no need to call unless you will not attend, but if not on the Regular Dinner List, please let me know that you will be attending the meeting by either a call of 703-631-9405 or an email to scoffman@moneymailer.com by 9 PM Sunday evening prior.

If you want to be added to the Regular Dinner List, please send an email to the FN (JOBMM6@AOL.COM) and to me (scoffman@moneymailer.com).

Hope to see you all at the April meeting!

SK Richard (Skip) Coffman
Captain

Third Degree Liaisons

The Assembly maintains communication with its assigned Councils via liaisons appointed by the Faithful Navigator. Our liaisons are as follows:

Fr. Robert E. Nudd	Jim Frazer, PGK
Fr. Julius J. Cilinski	Joe Beres, PGK
St. Chung Hasang	Bok Hwang, GK
St. Veronica	Mike Diewald, PGK
St. Clare of Assisi	Jason Seiler, GK

Our Navigators:

1996-1996	Richard G. Head, Sr, PSD, CFN
1996-1997	Richard G. Head, Sr, PSD, CFN
1997-1998	Ronald J. Savage, PFN
1998-1999	Anthony J. Ascone, PFN
1999-2000	Michael J. Diewald, PFN
2000-2001	James L. Adams, PFN
2001-2002	Thomas A. Trudeau, PFN
2002-2003	Paul T. Hannan, PFN
2003-2004	Alvin E. Grimmig, Jr., PFN
2004-2005	Paul St. Laurent, PFN
2005-2006	Michael Sheil

Office	Name	Spouse	E-mail	Phone
Friar	The Rev. Christopher Buckner			(703) 689-4409
Navigator	Michael P. Sheil	Kathy	JOBMMK6@aol.com	(703) 818-3096
Captain	Richard (Skip) Coffman	J'Neane	scoffman@moneymailer.com	(703) 631-9405
Pilot	Joseph Beres	Gerri	beresig@verizon.net	(703) 631-4174
Admiral	Paul St. Laurent		Stlaurentp@aol.com	(703) 322-9199
Scribe	Jason Seiler	Galena	jseiler@sejcorp.com	(703) 304-6393
Purser	Micahel Lynch			(703) 818-2945
Comptroller	Tom Wiedemer	Anne Marie	tom.wiedemer@cgi-ams.com	(703) 818-2761
Inner Sentinel	Joseph Choi			(703) 821-0861
Outer Sentinel	Peter Lee			(703) 261-3660
Trustee	Thomas A. Trudeau, PFN	Jeri	Trudeau7369@yahoo.com	(703) 378-7373
Trustee	Paul T. Hannan, PFN		pthannan@netzero.com	(703) 620-4033
Trustee	Alvin E. Grimmig, Jr., PFN	Debbie	grizzwald1@cox.net	(703) 502-0830
Commander	Michael J. Diewald, PFN	Peggy	Michael@thediewalds.net	(703) 709-9318

Acts of the Apostles Assembly
Announces its
Past Faithful Navigators' Dinner

Honoring
Immediate Past Faithful Navigator
Paul St. Laurent

Saint Timothy Cafeteria
Saturday 22 April 2006
Appetizers at 6:30
Dinner at 7:00

Black Tie
Twenty-five dollars per couple
Reservations Required
(703) 709-9318