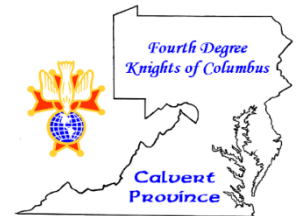




CALVERT PROVINCE PATRIOT



January 2024



Worthy Sir Knights, Ladies, and Friends of Calvert Province,

My name is Francis Leach, although I generally go by Fritz. I am the nineteenth Vice Supreme Master of Calvert Province. I had the honor of being installed by Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly at St Mary's Church, Blessed Michael McGivney Parish, in

New Haven, Connecticut on 9 September 2023. I am the Immediate Former Master of the Maryland District. I was born in Wilkesburg, PA, outside of Pittsburgh. Upon graduation from High School, I enlisted in the US Army. Later, I earned a commission and served in various command and staff positions in and out of combat until my retirement in 2004. I then served sixteen years as a senior executive at the National Security Agency through 2019. I am a charter member of St Philip Neri Council 14612 in Linthicum, MD, where I am a Past Grand Knight and Double Star Council recipient. I am Past Faithful Navigator of Pope Saint Paul VI Assembly 2367 in Severna Park, MD, and Former District Deputy 17 in the Maryland Jurisdiction. Lady Eleanor and I have been married nearly forty-seven years. We have two daughters, LTC MaryCatherine Leach, currently commanding an Army battalion in Hawaii, and Stephanie Leach, a Business Manager at BGE.

I am certainly not new to Calvert Province having travelled extensively throughout the Province over the past nearly fifteen years. I am excited to be your VSM in the best Province in the Order. Calvert Province has set the standard for the Order and is well recognized as such. Calvert Province is the sixth largest in terms of total Knights and the third largest in terms of Sir Knights. The Province consists of five Jurisdictions – Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia- and seven Fourth Degree Districts – Archdiocese of Washington, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania Central, Pennsylvania East, Pennsylvania West, and Virginia. There are ten dioceses within the Province. We are very busy supporting our Church, Communities, Nation, veterans, first responders, and families. I am extremely proud of the great programs our Assemblies conduct and the incredible impact we have throughout the Province, and I hope you are too. Thank you for all you do every day.

We cannot sit back on our laurels. There is always room for growth and improvement. My predecessor always speaks about, "leaving the Province and Order better than we found

it". I can't agree more. This should always be our goal for any organization or endeavor. We each play a critical role and together we multiple our positive effect. So, I am asking each of you to help grow the Order, the Fourth Degree, and the Color Corps. Continue with the great patriotic programs we are already doing and look for opportunities to increase our impact. Develop a close relationship with your Councils, Districts, Chapters and State Jurisdictions so that we can support the Third Degree while they support the Fourth Degree. We must be very active in our parishes and dioceses. Ask how we can be more involved in parish and diocesan activities and support our pastors, bishops, schools, and churches. By our actions, we can help develop more vibrant parishes that encourage community and faithful witness to the principles of Blessed Michael McGivney and the Catholic Church. All of this will lead to more men wanting to become members of our Order and Catholic based leaders in our communities. Our Church and our Nation need us. May GOD continue to Bless these United States of America and the Knights of Columbus.

Vivat Jesu'

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Remember to use the proper chain. Always contact your Faithful Navigator, then your District Master, then the Vice Supreme Master. Use Member Management for all required reports.



Provincial Friar Message

The world observes New Year's Day, and most of us join in through some sort of celebration. But for many who have a calendar for a school year, or a parish year, or a fiscal year, we are at the mid-point of that year. That is also true for our fraternal year, as we evaluate progress on quotes and goals, and plan for the balance of months ahead. It's a bit confusing, isn't it?

New beginnings, though, are generally good, and give us the opportunity to bring fresh energy, and profit from the lessons learned. We can use this time of the fraternal year to further the goals for the most successful end that is possible when June comes around.

One area where we are still in the young part of the year is liturgically. Having moved through Advent and the Christmas Season, we move into what is called Ordinary Time. This year that began on January 9th, after the feast of Epiphany (January 7th) and the Baptism of the Lord (January 8th). Most of life actually occurs during Ordinary Time—and that is true beyond just the measure of weeks. It is often in ordinary times that we find the deepest of relationships, the greatest of growth, and the finest of opportunities.

We likely spent a fair amount of time getting ready for Christmas, but didn't consider it a "waste of time." We invested in those efforts for our families and friends as well as for ourselves, with decorations that highlighted the significance of the feast, and proclaimed the Christmas message to our neighbors. Again, such tasks can be thought of as mundane, but they can also be enjoyable and rewarding.

As Americans we frown on "wasting time." But I recently saw several positive references to prayer as a "waste of time." It's easy to say "I'll pray when I have time," whereas a habit of prayer actually sanctifies all of our time and our projects. "Prayer time" add insight and meaning to all we do, and is important for busy men, busy Knights. If you make any resolutions at this time of year, a good one may be to assure some prayer time each day. Use that time to commend your loved ones, your work, your goals, people you know who are ill or in need, and your daily life to God. Renew your commitment to the Sunday Sabbath being a special time for prayer when gathered with your community of faith for the Eucharist. We need moments of pause, and a day of rest.

I have no doubt that Blessed Michael McGivney found his strength through his daily Mass, praying the Divine Office (the breviary), and quiet, personal prayer. How else would he have accomplished all he did in his rather short life, and with calm and conviction leading him through? May prayer do the same for each of us.

Vivat Jesus!

Fr Donald Grzymiski OFM Conv
frdonaldg@gmail.com

From the Desk of the Vice Supreme Master

Thank you IFVSM Thumm and Lady Patti

I want to thank Immediate Former Vice Supreme Master Micheal Thumm for his leadership during the previous seven years, as Calvert Province VSM and as Master of the Archdiocese of Washington District. Mike is a Marine aviator and Naval Academy graduate. Mike now serves as Supreme Fourth Degree Ceremonial Director, working directly for Supreme Master Michael McCusker, where he is leading the effort to update the Fourth Degree Color Corps Drill Manual and the rollout of the, much anticipated, updated Fourth Degree Exemplification. Thank you, Mike and Lady Patti, for your continued support of the Church and our Order.

Growing the Fourth Degree

Worthy Sir Knights, we are now half way through this Fraternal year. Every Assembly, District, and Province has a quota which is 6% of membership as of 1 July 2023. If you are unsure of your quota, every Faithful Navigator and Faithful Comptroller has access to Officers Online at Supreme or can ask the District Master. We really need to overachieve as we are definitely losing members faster than we are bringing in new members. Start by helping to grow the Third Degree then get those Knights into the Fourth Degree. Any venue is a good place to invite men to become members of our Order. Practical Catholic men, at least 18 years of age, are who we are looking to bring into the Order. Church, schools, athletic events, especially youth athletics, fish fries and bakes, crab feasts, and bull roasts are particularly lucrative places to find young, practical Catholic men. We must attend every Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity and invite those new Knights to become members of the Patriotic Degree, the Fourth Degree. Every Knight is a recruiter. Attached is the current status of our efforts thus far. Let's get out there and invite every practical Catholic man, at least 18 years of age to join the greatest men's Fraternal organization in the world. We should be bringing 20-25% of all new Knights into the Fourth Degree. Don't hesitate to invite current members to become Sir Knights. Also help us grow the Color Corps.

State Jurisdictions within the Province did very well last year and are doing well again this year. The Fourth Degree did not do as well and we are already behind this year. We must catch up. Below is a snap shot of where we currently are based on Exemplifications conducted so far. State intake numbers are included. It is difficult to break out the Pennsylvania State intake number based on the three Fourth Degree Districts. Likewise, it is not a clean indication of which new Knights should be going into the Archdiocese of Washington District or the Maryland District. Included is an indication of active Assemblies. Every Assembly must be active for their sake and the District, Province, and Order's sake.

We must step up our efforts in the second half of the year. Every District has at least one more Exemplification scheduled. It may be necessary to hold additional Exemplifications. However, we must make the best effort for every Exemplification. It is refreshing to see more younger Knights joining the Fourth Degree. This trend must continue and must increase. Every Sir Knight must be involved in our programs and in recruiting new members to the Order, the Fourth Degree, and Color Corps.

Upcoming Provincial Events

January 22 – District Master Training – Virtual – Planning for the Biennial Meeting

February 17 – Exemplification – AWD – Saint John Paul II Shrine, Washington, DC

February 22 – 124th Anniversary of the Fourth Degree

March 9 – Exemplification – Maryland District – St. Michael, Poplar Springs, MD

April 13 – Exemplification – Virginia – St Edward the Confessor, Richmond, VA

April 20 – Exemplification – Delaware – St Mary of the Assumption, Hockessin, DE

April 22 – District Master Training – Virtual

May 4 - Exemplification – PA East District – Chichester, PA

May 19 – Provincial Event -Annual Archdiocese for the Military Services Memorial Mass, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20017. Archbishop Broglio will be the principal celebrant and homilist.

May 25 – Exemplification – PA Central District – Allentown, PA

June 9 – Exemplification – PA West District – Cranberry, PA

June 15 – (Tentative) Exemplification – Archdiocese of Washington District - TBD

August 6-8 – Supreme Convention, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

September 3 – Provincial Event - Memorial Mass for Father Vincent R. Capodanno, MM – 6:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight-Saving Time, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20017. Archbishop Broglio will be the principal celebrant and homilist.

September 20-22 - Calvert Province Assembly – PA Central – Lancaster, PA (Tentative)

Provincial Statistics As of 1/1/2024

Membership Goals

District	Membership Goal/Percentage	YTD New Members
Archdiocese of Washington	149/22.15%	33
Delaware	66/28.78%	19
Maryland	180/22.78%	41
Pennsylvania Central	193/16.06%	31
Pennsylvania East	345/11.88%	41
Pennsylvania West	259/32.82%	85
Virginia	375/28.53%	107
Totals	1568/22.76%	357

Membership Activity

District	Membership Active Assemblies/Percentage	Total Assemblies
Archdiocese of Washington	9/75%	12
Delaware	6/100%	6
Maryland	13/54%	24
Pennsylvania Central	11/33%	33
Pennsylvania East	9/39%	23
Pennsylvania West	20/54%	37

Virginia	24/100%	24
Totals	92/58%	159

State Intake vs New Member Percentage

District	State Intake/ Percentage	YTD New Members
Archdiocese of Washington	139/23.74%	33
Delaware	103/18.44%	19
Maryland	420/9.76%	41
Pennsylvania Central	893/3.47%	31
Pennsylvania East	893/4.59%	41
Pennsylvania West	893/9.51%	85
Virginia	708/15.11%	107
Totals	2263/15.77%	357

Are you interested in serving as District Master?

District Masters are selected in even years and serve a two-year term with the possibility of being reappointed for a second two-year term. Current District Masters will be receiving the requirements from the Supreme Master very soon. If you are interested, let your District Master know as soon as possible. District Biennial meetings will occur in March or April. The District Assembly will select three men to go forward to be considered for the District Master position at that Biennial meeting.

Please keep those Assembly newsletters coming. You are doing great!!!

New Provincial Website

Please check out the updated Provincial Website. Thanks to District Master Brian Hallock and his team for all their work on the updated site.

Congratulations to District Master Brian Hallock and Lady Sarah

Jacob Christopher Hallock was born 4 December 2023 at 2:55 AM. He came in at 8 lbs. 7 Oz and 21 inches long. Master Hallock is working the long game. We already have a form 100 and form 4 for young Jacob Hallock. Baby Jacob and Lady Sarah are both doing well. Congratulations!!

Fraternal Surveys

Individual and Assembly Fraternal Surveys are due now and are required from every Assembly. These should be completed online. If you complete the PDF version, save it to your computer, then send the attachment to fraternalmission@kofc.org and copy your District Master and Vice Supreme Master. **Do not wait to receive an individual report from every member.** Get these required reports in on time.

[1728 Activity Survey Assembly \(kofc.org\)Layout 1 \(kofc.org\)](https://www.kofc.org/Layout/1728-Activity-Survey-Assembly)

Civic Awards

I receive a lot of Assembly newsletters highlighting so many great programs conducted by Assemblies. As soon as your Assembly completes four patriotic programs, submit your CIVIC AWARD Application, form 2321. Send the completed PDF to DEPARTMENT OF FRATERNAL MISSION (email to: fraternalmission@kofc.org) and send copies to: VICE SUPREME MASTER (francis.leach@yahoo.com), District Master, and your Assembly. Next, select your best program and complete the **To Be a Patriot Award Entry Form TBP-1**, sending it to your District Master not later than **30 April**. By the way, did you know that a Calvert Province Assembly has won the International To Be A Patriot Award two years in a row? Yes, Chaplain Vincent R. Capodanno Assembly 3162 in the Maryland District won in Fraternal Year 2021-2022 and St Ann Assembly 938 in Pennsylvania Central District won in Fraternal Year 2022-2023.



Missing Reports

It is hard to believe but we are still missing Report of Officers Chosen, form 186, and Annual Assembly Audit, form 1351, from some Assemblies. If you have not submitted either of these required forms, get them to your District Master and Supreme as soon as possible. These forms should be submitted electronically. The 186, Report of Officers chosen should be submitted immediately following your Assembly elections even if the slate of officers is not fully committed. You can send an updated form later.

Cerebral Palsy Guide

Please share the link below with your members and Councils. The link is a valuable guide for military and veteran families with special needs children. This will help us support veterans, families, and children, our very future.

I wanted to highlight that the Cerebral Palsy Guide has compiled **the most in-depth resources nationwide** to help guide veterans and their children find the support they need. There is a lot of great information here that I was unaware of after thirty years in the Army. Too many military families struggle unnecessarily, and we should do everything we can to assist them.

Please help spread awareness by adding the disability support page as a resource. Thank you so much for your time and consideration!

<https://www.cerebralpalsyguide.com/community/veterans/>

Many veteran families have been devastated by maternal or fetal injuries caused by a healthcare provider's negligence. **Veterans with special needs children may qualify for VA benefits such as Tricare or Echo.** The Cerebral Palsy Guide is proud to support our military families through education, support resources, and much more.

Any support we can get goes a long way in our goal to help spread awareness and reach families in need of assistance.

<https://www.cerebralpalsyguide.com/community/veterans/>

What's going on in the Calvert Province?

Maryland District Blessed Fr. McGivney's Ordination Anniversary Mass Baltimore Basilica December 22, 2023



Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary 75th Anniversary Mass December 3, 2023



Navy will name a new ship for the 'human tugboat,' a forgotten WWII hero

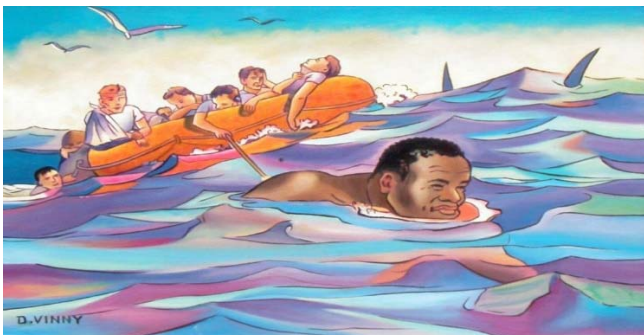
The Navy will name a new Arleigh Burke-class destroyer for one of World War II's most remarkable — and most ignored — Naval heroes, Charles Jackson French.

A Black cook aboard a ship sunk at Guadalcanal, French pulled a makeshift raft full of wounded shipmates for eight hours through shark-infested waters by swimming with a tow rope tied around his waist. His swimming pulled the men to safety, overcoming a current that would have pushed the boat toward a Japanese-occupied shore.

Though submitted for high valor awards, French never received a medal or decoration, except for a single letter of thanks from a senior admiral, a note which misstated how long he had swum in the rescue.



Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro announced that a future Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer DDG-142 will be named USS Charles J. French, after Mess Specialist 1st Class Petty Officer Charles Jackson French.



A painting of Charles Jackson French's swim is exhibited at the International Swimming Hall of Fame

On the night of Sept. 4, 1942, near the Solomon Islands during the battle of Guadalcanal, French's ship the USS

Gregory and its sister ship, the USS Little, hid in the darkness after delivering Marines to shore. Unlike much of the Gregory's crew, French had been in the Navy before the outbreak of war, finishing a full enlistment in 1941 before rejoining after Pearl Harbor. Though U.S. warships were, like the rest of the military, segregated during World War II, Black sailors often served as cooks and stewards.

As Japanese destroyers and a cruiser searched for the lightly armed Gregory and Little, a U.S. seaplane overhead mistook their position and dropped a flare, illuminating the two ships as easy targets.

As Japanese fire hit, the Gregory began to sink. Finding an impromptu raft amid floating wreckage, French secured a rope around his waist and began swimming through the ship's debris field, eventually gathering 15 injured survivors on the raft. Expecting the Japanese to hunt for survivors and that currents would carry them toward Japanese occupied shore, French swam through the night until friendly aircraft saw him the next morning.

According to some accounts, an officer on the raft told French to climb aboard because of sharks in the water. French replied he was a good swimmer and was more afraid of the Japanese than sharks.

French was discharged as a Steward's Mate First Class on March 9, 1945. After the war, he married and had one daughter. Suffering from alcoholism likely caused by post-traumatic stress disorder, French died on November 11, 1956, at the age of 37, and was buried at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego, California.

In 2022, French was posthumously awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for heroic actions not involving direct contact with an armed enemy. The award was presented on May 21, 2022, at Naval Base San Diego, at a ceremony in which the base's rescue swimmer training pool was dedicated in French's honor.

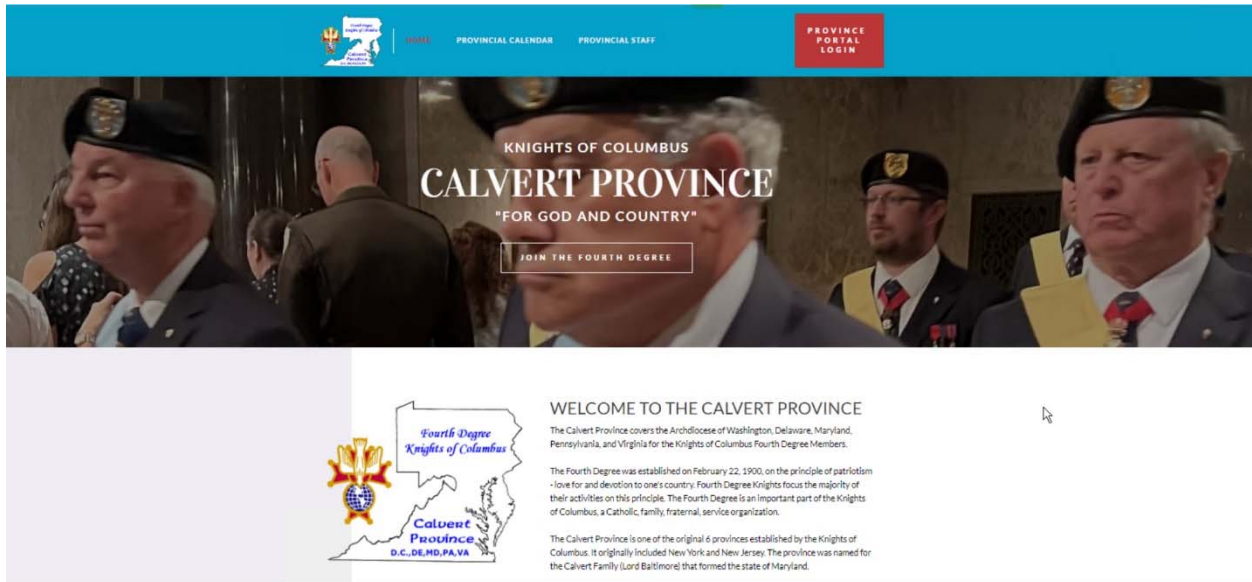
In June 2022, President Joe Biden signed into law H.R. 4168, to designate the United States Postal Service facility located at 6223 Maple Street, in Omaha, Nebraska, as the Petty Officer 1st Class Charles Jackson French Post Office.

Fabrication of the ship is projected for 2026 with a projected keel laying set for 2027, projected christening in 2029, and delivery projected for 2031, the Navy said.

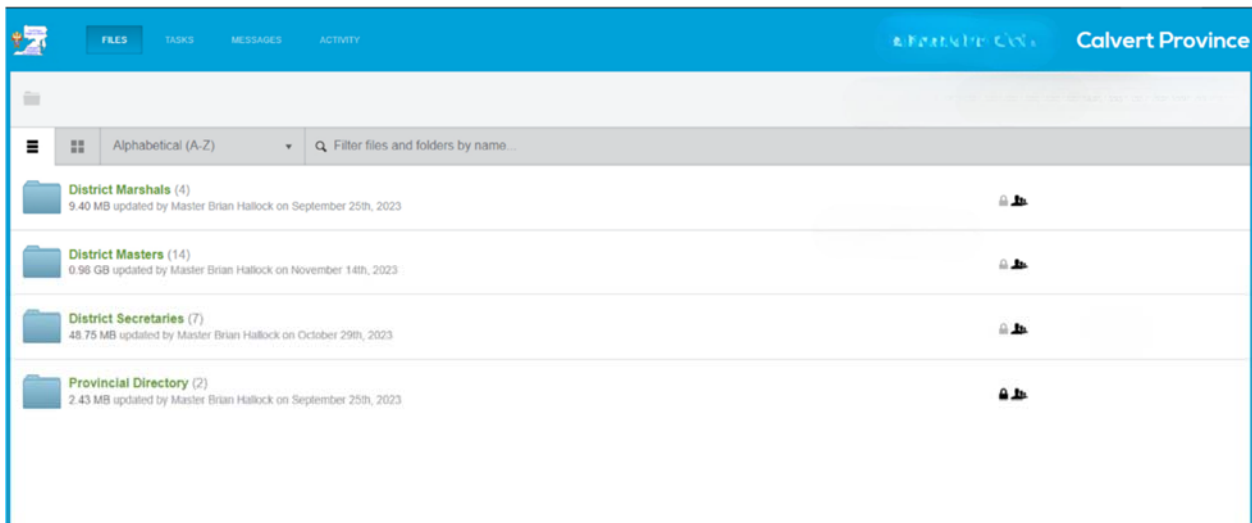
Sir Knights & Friends,

I want to thank Vice Supreme Master Fritz Leach for his faith in me and the team in continuing to expand upon the Calvert Province website. We hope through this and future newsletters; we can update you on new website features and continue to direct Sir Knight's to use the Provincial Website as a great source of information.

Did you know that on September 23rd, 2023, we rolled out a new Provincial Website?



Our new website, available at the same address, CalvertProvince.org, is now mobile-friendly and a great resource to keep in touch with Province events and find information about what is happening in the Fourth Degree throughout the seven districts in the Province. Publicly available is the Provincial Calendar with important dates, along with many pertinent links & resources.



We also have a new website section, the Calvert Province Portal, available for District Masters and staff. The portal is continually updated regularly with the latest information from the Supreme Council & VSM Leach.

We recently added information related to the Fourth Degree Exemplification, Color Corp's Information, and the latest Supreme Masters Newsletter; if you have helpful information for other Districts and the Fourth Degree, please send it to us.

I encourage all District Masters and their staff to check the portal each month for information that can be useful to yourself and your District.

Should a district staff member need access to the Calvert Province Portal that does not yet have access, please email me at webmaster@calvertprovince.org

Fraternally & Patriotically,

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