

# Knights of Columbus to lead local Flag Day events

In the period between 1951 and 1954, the Knights of Columbus actively encouraged Congress and the White House to add the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.

Then, on Flag Day, June 14, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved this change.

He said, "In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future."

## 2012 Flag Day Program

With the coming of Flag Day, the Knights of Columbus have launched a new nation-wide "One Nation under God" Pledge Program to once again reaffirm our gift of religious freedom — to reaffirm the spiritual and moral principles that are the foundation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Locally, Assembly 3272 is engaged in the following activities:

■ On Saturday, June 9, Knights placed almost 300 (280+) flags at the bases of many of the street lights in the Historic Area of the city of Georgetown in honor of Flag Day.

Approximately 100 (96) more flags will be placed in front of stores with their approval. The plan is to place two flags under each

pole so they will be lit at night. The flags will be retrieved the following Saturday, June 16.

■ On Flag Day, June 14, Assembly 3272 will lead the pledge in a special flag retirement ceremony at Morgan Park in Georgetown involving the Daughters of The American Revolution, the Boy Scouts and the Georgetown Fire Department.

In doing so, these groups will honor the "One Nation Under God" Pledge Program.

During that program, the Knights will distribute to attendees small American flags and flyers that explain why the flag is folded 13 times when presented.

■ On June 23 and 24, Knights will speak at Masses at St. Cyprian, Precious Blood of Christ and St. Mary's, noting the role of the Knights in adding "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance (an insert in church bulletins will provide more details) and will lead parishioners in reciting the pledge of Allegiance.

Knights will distribute "One Nation Under God" bumper stickers.

■ On June 30 and July 1, the Honor Guard of Assembly 3272 will present the col-

ors prior to each Mass at St. Cyprian, Precious Blood of Christ and St. Mary's, and arrange for a patriotic song to be sung during the presentation and during the recessional after Mass.

With more than 1.8 million members, the Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic lay organization.

It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church, the community, families, and young people.

Knights of Columbus members last year set records by providing more than 70 million hours of charitable service and more than \$154 million in donations to charitable causes.

During the past decade, the Knights of Columbus has donated more than \$1.36 billion to charity, and provided nearly 640 million hours of volunteer service in support of charitable initiatives.

— From Knights of Columbus