

# The Pulse



St. Agnes Council 15344  
Knights of Columbus

*“You will be Brothers: Our Vocation to Fraternity”*  
April 2019

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## Program Director’s Message

### *FINDING HOPE IN AN ERA OF DESPAIR AND NEGATIVITY*

Do you still believe in hope, especially with the turbulent social climate we are experiencing? Do you think there is still positivity when we are saturated with negativity? Do you know someone who can genuinely uplift you or the community when all that we see takes our morale down?

These are some of the questions that I ponder at a time when views are polarized. Opposing views with dysfunctional delivery of rhetoric undermine a healthy discourse of civility and respect. Many are contented with this new reality. I am not.

This new reality can make us give up on the concept of hope. One may conclude that hope is impossible. However, it is not.

We are the children of Easter. We are God’s creation from His image and likeness who firmly believe in hope brought about by Christ’s resurrection from the dead. We firmly believe that Christ destroyed sin rooted in evil, and repaired man’s relationship with God through His crucifixion and resurrection. Therefore, the evil that tries to destroy us cannot dominate us. Good triumphs in the end. It is God’s ultimate will that we should ultimately trust.

That we should give up hope in otherwise hopeless situations is not God’s will. Moreover, by giving up hope we are renouncing the promise of Easter and Christ. We must fall back on our Faith and what it means for us. It means we must step back, pause, read, and meditate on His word, and listen to Him through the loudness of silence. It will make us stronger in times of despair. We will stir with clear direction. We are moved by a positive call for action. In these moments, we join Christ in the resurrection experience.

In these times, we must go against the wave. But how? We cannot rebuke fire when they breathe fire onto us. As children of Easter, we must treat them with love and compassion, just as Christ has thought us.

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BIRTHDAYS

April

- 7 – Octavio Padilla
- 13 – Tim Hadley
- 15 – Elvis Castelino
- 25 – Cheng-Feng Tsai

WIVES' BIRTHDAYS

- 18 – Sally Chavez (Gil)

Council Officers

Grand Knight .....	SK Frank Mazzuca.....	925-381-5624
Chaplain .....	Fr. Johnson Abraham .....	510-557-9845
Deputy Grand Knight .....	SK King Bunyi.....	510-427-3596
Chancellor .....	SK Jorge Garcia.....	925-676-3750
Warden .....	Tex Alimpolos.....	925-687-3798
Recorder.....	SK Mike McDermott.....	925-676-2384
Financial Secretary .....	Gary Gowns.....	925-825-4409
Treasurer .....	SK David Wood PGK .....	925-458-0888
Lecturers .....	Dcn Bill Drobick .....	925-689-0838
	Dcn Tony Reyes .....	925-671-0134
Advocate .....	Cheng-Feng Tsai .....	925-890-0353
Inside Guard .....	Ron Artale .....	925-827-3713
Outside Guard .....	SK Jeff Aquino PGK .....	925-356-2474
One-Year Trustee .....	SK Richard Milward FDD PGK.....	925-699-5852
Two-Year Trustee .....	SK Carlos Garcia PGK.....	925-680-2814
Three-Year Trustee .....	John Wright.....	925-798-5962
Supreme Field Agent.....	SK Francisco Fernandez PGK .....	650-243-8831
District Deputy .....	SK David Schwartz PGK .....	510-325-7810

Council Directors

Program Director .....	SK King Bunyi.....	510-427-3596
Faith Director .....	Fr. Johnson Abraham .....	510-557-9845
Community Director .....	SK King Bunyi.....	510-427-3596
Family Director.....	Wayne Schafer .....	925-323-6518
Life Director.....	Linus Farias.....	510-423-3705
Membership Director.....	SK Jeff Aquino PGK .....	925-356-2474

If you would like to assist with one of the program areas above, contact the program area director or GK Frank Mazzuca.



## PRAYER INTENTIONS

- Brother Ed Chatterton
- Brother Joaquin Compos
- Brother Neal Campanelli (State Council)
- Brother Ron Artale and his son
- Brother Octavio Padilla
- Brother David Wood's father Stan, daughter Sarah, and brother Hal
- Brother Tom Kisak
- Brother Ray Doorack's son and grandson
- Brother John Wright's brother Larry
- Brothers Claire Tryon and Ed Burgess (Council 6038)
- Brother Gary Down's sister-in-law Julie
- Brother Neil Cuffy
- Deacon Jim Pearce
- Brother Joel Manana special intention
- Health concern for brother Bob McEachran
- Brother Mike's daughter-in-law Josie who is expecting a baby in December, and back surgery in February
- For Zachary Punty (son of brother Mike Punty of QAS) who was seriously injured in a car accident
- Brother Carlos Gutierrez's mother-in-law
- Special intention for Brother King and for his father's conversion
- Brother Daniel Barrington is in Hospice
- Brother Tex asking for Prayers for his sister-in-law Alicia E. Banzos

## Supreme Chaplain's Message

### ***THE CHURCH MUST ADDRESS THE ABUSE CRISIS WITH A TRUE LENTEN SPIRIT OF RENEWAL AND HOPE***

Back in 2010, a newspaper article described the sexual abuse crisis in the Church as “a long Lent.” At the time, I regarded such a description as unfair to the season of Lent. The article chastised the Church’s leaders for their failures but also depicted the Church itself as caught in a sorry and hopeless quagmire. But Lent isn’t about misery and hopelessness. Quite the opposite. The liturgy describes Lent as God’s “gracious gift,” a time when his people prepare to celebrate the Paschal Mystery “with the joy of minds made pure.” The point of Lent’s chastisements is our inward purification by the Holy Spirit — always the key to authentic renewal and joy.

However, the season of Lent, understood correctly, does indeed shed light on the crisis that has plagued victim-survivors of abuse and the Church itself for far too long. If we speak of this crisis as “a long Lent,” we should really mean: Now is the time to address this crisis at its roots by the purification and renewal of the Church. With this in mind, let me suggest three connections between the season of Lent and the sexual abuse crisis.

First, in Lent each of us must acknowledge our sins by which we reject God’s love and inflict pain on others. As we pray in Psalm 51: “Against you, you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your eyes.” During Lent, we should make a complete and unburdening confession of our sins in the sacrament of reconciliation. Similarly, this is a time when the Church’s leaders must fully acknowledge past sins and failures that have inflicted great spiritual, physical and psychological harm on many innocent people. Such an acknowledgment must be coupled with heartfelt resolve to continue helping victim-survivors who struggle with the ongoing impact of past abuse.

Second, the Lenten confession of our sins is more than wiping the slate clean. It must be accompanied by earnest prayer for interior purification. Again, to quote Psalm 51: “A clean heart create for me, God; renew within me a steadfast spirit.” Through prayer, penance and almsgiving, we seek to stand transparent before the God who looks deeply into our hearts. We pray that our external words and actions may flow from a heart and soul cleansed of our sins and impure motives by

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## MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

Thomas Farias

– Apr 2, 2014 (5 yrs)

Stephen Chaney

– Apr 17, 2017 (2 yrs)

### ***Supreme Chaplain's Message*** (Continued from page 3)

the refining fire of God's love. Something similar needs to happen continually in the Church's life. It is not enough for Church leaders to admit past sins and errors; nor is it enough to strengthen measures to prevent abuse and to attain greater accountability — vitally important as these are. Truthfully, all such efforts aimed at transparency will miss the mark unless they proceed from prayerful and discerning hearts and minds that have been thoroughly purified and renewed by the Holy Spirit.

Third, during Lent we acknowledge our sins and repent of them so that we might embrace our faith more boldly and live it with greater courage and love. Lent is also a time of growth in the Church's life — interior growth and the joy of welcoming new members at Easter. So too, even in this most challenging time in the Church's life, we must not lose heart. We must continue to proclaim and live the Gospel with confidence and love. We must continue to be people of charity and compassion. We must be people open to the Holy Spirit, by whom we are joined to Christ and to one another in the Church.

May this long Lent lead to an Easter of renewed hope and joy — for ourselves, for the Church and for those who have been harmed.

Archbishop William E. Lori

*Supreme Chaplain*

*Reprinted from Columbia Magazine - March 2018*

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### ***Program Director's Message*** (Continued from page 1)

Civility must be in accord when harsh and rude behavior confronts us. We need to listen and understand where they root their views. We are not required to agree with their position. However, we must show and counsel them in what is right just like Christ counsels His critics and his skeptics. We don't need to force them to follow our set of beliefs. Just like us, they have free will, whether they will subscribe to it or not. In the final analysis, their views reflect their relationship with God. We have exhausted our part.

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## UPCOMING DEGREES

### 1st (Admission) Degree:

- None scheduled – Watch for email announcements or check council calendar: [www.koc15344stagnes.org](http://www.koc15344stagnes.org)

### 2nd (Formation) Degree:

- None scheduled – Watch for email announcements or check council calendar: [www.koc15344stagnes.org](http://www.koc15344stagnes.org)

### 3rd (Knighthood) Degree:

- None scheduled – Watch for email announcements or check council calendar: [www.koc15344stagnes.org](http://www.koc15344stagnes.org)

### 4th (Patriotic) Degree:

- Saturday, April 27, 2019 – Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento.

## Council Calendar of Events

April 1	Council Officers Meeting, 7 PM, Ministry Center.
April 4	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel
April 5	Lenten Fish Fry Dinner, 5:30-6:30 PM, Church Hall.
April 6	Rosary for the Innocents, 10 AM, Queen of Heaven Cemetery – Lafayette.
April 10	Todos Santos Assembly Meeting, 7:30 PM, St. John Paul II Room, St. Francis of Assisi Church. Dinner served at 6:30 PM, followed by Rosary at 7 PM.*
April 11	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel
April 12	Final Lenten Fish Fry Dinner, 5:30-6:30 PM, Church Hall.
April 13	Rosary for the Innocents, 10 AM, Queen of Heaven Cemetery – Lafayette.
April 14	Pancake Breakfast, after 9 and 11 AM Masses, Church Hall.
April 15	Council Business Meeting, 6:30 PM dinner, 7:30 PM meeting, Church Hall.
April 18	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel
April 20	Rosary for the Innocents, 10 AM, Queen of Heaven Cemetery – Lafayette.
April 25	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel
April 27	Rosary for the Innocents, 10 AM, Queen of Heaven Cemetery – Lafayette.
April 27	4th Degree Exemplification, All day, Doubletree Hotel – Sacramento.

\* Fourth Degree Knights only may participate in this event.



## SAINT OF THE DAY

- 2 – St. Francis of Paola, Hermit
- 4 – St. Isidore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- 5 – St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest
- 7 – St. John Baptist de la Salle, Priest
- 11 – St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr
- 13 – St. Martin I, Pope and Martyr
- 21 – St. Anselm of Canterbury, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- 23 – St. George, Martyr; or St. Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr
- 24 – St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr
- 25 – St. Mark the Evangelist
- 28 – St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr; or St. Louis Grignon de Montfort, Priest
- 29 – St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
- 30 – St. Pius V, Pope

## District Deputy's Message

Brothers,

Can you believe that it is April already? Easter will be here this month and our Lord will have risen! I really enjoy this time of the year, even more than Christmas, since I have become a Catholic. If you can, please try to attend a Vigil mass on the Saturday evening before Easter. Things happen during that Mass that only happen once a year in the Church. The focus for you as a Knight should be on any men that are going through the RCIA process and taking their sacraments to become Catholic or re-joining the Church after an absence as a Candidate. If there are ladies, then see if they have a significant other or husband who is Catholic. These are all good prospects for recruitment. Talk to the director of RCIA and see if someone in your Council (or you!) would be welcome to come speak at their meetings, they usually have them after Easter to introduce the ministries of the Parish to the new Catholics. Take advantage of this opportunity and speak to this group! I was an RCIA recruit myself.

Focus also on the real message of this time, that our Lord Jesus died for our sins and rose again. He will come again, but in the meantime, it is up to all of us to be as Christ-like as possible. Consider serving in the Church in a new ministry yourself or take on new volunteer positions or opportunities. These are all ways that you can serve the Church and help your Brother Knights. If you do these things already, inspire others to join you. A task divided is a task conquered. Have a great Easter!

SK David Schwartz CS PGK PFN

*District Deputy*

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### **Program Director's Message** *(Continued from page 4)*

As Easter is about to dawn like the sunlight is about to burst on the horizon, the gift of Christ's resurrection strengthens us. His divine will, which is the victory of good, fortifies our hope in these trying times. There is still reason to stand with confidence while living in a new reality of harsh polarization.

SK King Bunyi

*Deputy Grand Knight & Council Program Director*



## WARRIORS TO LOURDES

Since 2013, the Knights of Columbus has worked with the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, to sponsor the Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage. The event allows non-wounded, wounded, ill or injured military personnel; their designated caregivers; and volunteers to travel to the Marian shrine in May during the International Military Pilgrimage (PMI) for a time of rest, prayer and healing.

The PMI was established in 1946 to promote reconciliation and peace after World War II. Every year since, for one weekend in May, Lourdes has become a place of prayer and healing for active-duty members and veterans representing more than 40 nations.

Lourdes is one of the most popular Catholic pilgrimage destinations in the world. It was the location of a series of 19th-century apparitions, during which the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous. During the past 100 years, millions of pilgrims have flocked to the site, with the hope of receiving a special healing and a deepening of faith.

### Field Agent's Message

April 15th, Tax Day, is not far off. It's a time when most of us focus on the income we've made....and how much of that we have to hand over to the government. Nobody's happy about that. And nobody's happy about all the complicated tax laws and regulations. I heard a suggestion once that the income tax form could be simplified and reduced to just two questions and a statement:

1. How much did you earn last year?
2. How much do you have left?
3. Send it in.

Seriously, now is a good time to take stock of your finances and make sure you're on the path you want to be on. The focus around this time of year is saving tax money by contributing to an IRA for retirement. And whether you're getting close or whether you're fresh into a career and working life, it's not too early to plan. But many of the folks I talk with have lots of questions:

- What's the difference between a Traditional IRA and a Roth IRA?
- Which one is better for my circumstances?
- How much can I contribute?
- Can I earn too much money to qualify for a tax deduction?
- What if I contribute to a 401K at work? Am I still eligible?
- What if my wife doesn't work...can she contribute to an IRA?

There are many rules you don't want to run afoul of when it comes to contributing to an IRA and making the right determination about its tax deductibility.

As your Knights of Columbus field agent, I can help. Our annuities can be used as a Traditional IRA or a Roth IRA. A traditional one may help you save money on your taxes and the Roth has some amazing tax advantages, too. Our annuities pay a competitive interest rate, consistent with our primary goal of absolute safety of principal. They all include a guaranteed interest rate, so you never have to worry. One of the best features of an annuity is that it is designed to provide retirement income you cannot outlive—guaranteed! You can open a retirement annuity for as little as \$300.

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## SAINT JOHN PAUL II NATIONAL SHRINE

The Saint John Paul II National Shrine is a place of worship, religious formation, and cultural renewal to feed the minds and souls of its visitors. It is a place of pilgrimage with a first-class relic of St. John Paul II's blood available for veneration.

Through liturgy and prayer, art, cultural events, and religious celebrations, pilgrims can enter into our patron's deep love for God and for man. A major permanent exhibit highlights significant events in the life of Pope John Paul II and his momentous influence as the spiritual father of one billion Catholics and as a world leader.

From its conception, the Shrine was intended as a response to St. John Paul II's call for a "new evangelization," which was repeated by Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. It is meant to be a place of genuine encounter with God that leads to a renewal of individuals, families, societies, and cultures — a place where God, who "entered history" (John Paul II, Homily, Dec. 24, 1999), heals and renews every dimension of human life.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops designated the Shrine a national shrine on March 14, 2014.

### *Field Agent's Message* (Continued from page 7)

So here are some facts about our annuities: Low contribution to get started; guaranteed lifetime interest rate; an even higher competitive rate being paid now; tax advantages whether or not an IRA; absolute safety of principal; an income you cannot outlive...all from the Knights of Columbus—How does that sound?

I'd be happy to meet with you in your home and at your convenience to explain the advantages of a Knights of Columbus annuity—and our other products: our highly rated life insurance, long-term care insurance, and our disability income insurance.

Vivat Jesus!

SK Francisco Fernandez FIC PGK  
*Supreme Field Agent*





**Knights of Columbus**  
**INSURANCE**  
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

Francisco Fernandez, FIC, PGK  
255 Station Ave  
Daly City CA 94014  
(650) 243 8831  
francisco.fernandez@kofc.org

