

The Pulse



St. Agnes Council 15344
Knights of Columbus

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

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Note: This State of the Council was delivered in its abbreviated version during the Council Business Meeting on July 15, 2019.

My Dear Brother Knights,

First, a personal note. I remember my first Council meeting after I received my First Degree in 2015. I tried to bring a motion or question to the Council. I was nervous. And, at times, my voice was cracking. I don’t know how I got the message across. Fast forward to present, here now standing before you the guy who was nervous and cracked his voice four years ago.

As this is my first report to the Council since I became a Grand Knight effective July 1, I am reporting our Council’s status. I am confident to say that our Council is thriving. Our Council activities are considered as a major lifeblood of our Parish. We established a great reputation in our Parish. When Fr. Johnson or our Parishioners contact us, they know that we are a dependable organization that they can rely on. Where we are today didn’t happen overnight. It is through the leadership of our Past Grand Knights and the dedication of us Brothers – bonded by charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism – that got us where we are.

We cannot be complacent about where we are or what we have. Fr. Michael J. McGivney, the founder of our Order, was a dedicated worker of the Lord. His energy and intensity fueled his mission to help the marginalized, the deprived, and the sick parishioners of his Parish. His critics considered his methods radical at that time. However, he did not back down. Like Fr. McGivney, we should continue striving for the good of our Council and Parish.

The first two orders of my term are on our families and our faith. We invited you Brother Knights and your families to attend the Officer’s Installation on June 30th. Having a Mass before the installation allowed us to consecrate ourselves before God, our family, and our Parish community. I saw families interacting with one another, catching up, and offering collaboration to each other in the future. I felt the spirit of



BIRTHDAYS

August

- 1 – Thomas Kiskak
- 3 – Earl Head
- 7 – Wayne Schafer
- 14 – Isidore Fnu
- 31 – Ramon Crusit

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- Sumner & Veronica Peery
– August 13, 1989 (30 yrs)
- Edward & Allison McGuirk
– August 15, 1981 (38 yrs)

Council Officers / Columbian Year 2019-2020

- Grand KnightSK King Bunyi.....510-427-3596
- ChaplainFr. Johnson Abraham510-557-9845
- Deputy Grand KnightOpen
- ChancellorOpen
- WardenCheng-Feng Tsai925-890-0353
- Recorder.....SK Mike McDermott.....925-676-2384
- Financial Secretary.....Gary Gowns.....925-825-4409
- Treasurer.....SK Richard Milward PGK925-699-5852
- Lecturer.....Deacon Tony Reyes.....925-671-0134
- AdvocateSK David Wood PGK925-458-0888
- Inside Guard.....Patrick Monahan.....925-864-9867
- Outside Guard.....Wayne Schafer925-323-6518
- One-Year TrusteeSK Carlos Garcia PGK.....925-680-2814
- Two-Year Trustee.....John Wright.....925-798-5962
- Three-Year TrusteeSK Frank Mazzuca PGK.....925-381-5624
- Supreme Field Agent.....Alex Torres-Esquivel.....925-384-9783
- District DeputySK David Schwartz PGK510-325-7810



PRAYER INTENTIONS

- Brother Ed Chatterton
- Brother Joaquin Campos
- 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

LOVING THE CHURCH

In the Nicene Creed, we profess: "I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church." A friend of mine recently said, "I used to say those words without giving them much thought. Now, I say to myself, 'I believe in the Lord. But do I believe in the Church?'"

My friend speaks for quite a few people. Recent studies show that 37% of Catholics in the United States are seriously thinking about leaving the Church as the result of the sexual abuse crisis. This percentage is not confined to the 75% of Catholics who do not regularly attend Sunday Mass; it includes church-going Catholics. Many pastors confirm that Mass attendance has declined since the summer of 2018, along with financial support.

At a time when parishioners are rightfully angry, what does it mean to believe in the Church and to love it? Can we love the Church and at the same time insist on genuine reform? Thankfully, the answer is "yes" — but a "yes" that requires us to do some thinking and praying, because there are false ways of loving and reforming the Church.

One false way of loving the Church is to say, "I love the Church all right, but not that old corrupt institutional Church." From its earliest days, there have been people who professed love only for some invisible, spiritual Church, not the actual flesh and blood Church that came from the side of the crucified Savior. This perspective is understandable enough, yet it remains a cop out.

The Church is made up of "a divine and a human element" that coalesce to "form one complex reality" (Vatican II, Lumen Gentium, no. 8). It is the "human element" of the Church, made up of sinful human beings, which continually needs to be reformed and purified — but not discarded or made into something other than what the Lord intended. Not surprisingly, some proposed reforms have nothing to do with the sexual abuse crisis but rather attempt to impose on the Church various ideological agendas, in none of which salvation can be found.

Please don't think this is an attempt to sanitize the depth and enormity of the sexual abuse crisis, for we need deep purification and far-reaching reform.

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MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

Ramon Crusit

– August 4, 1981 (38 yrs)

Jeff McGallian

– August 11, 2018 (1 yr)

Michael Souza

– August 15, 2011 (8 yrs)

Francis Mazzuca

– August 17, 2015 (4 yrs)

Jeffrey Aquino

– August 31, 2004 (15 yrs)

District Deputy's Message

Greetings Brothers of St Agnes Council!

As we begin another Columbian year, I expect great results from this council. With the great leadership of your Grand Knight, your council is on its way to accomplishing the tasks set out by his plan. Please volunteer for the council's activities during the year as your council needs your help to achieve those goals.

Recruiting is something each Brother is responsible for! If your council had one new member for each Brother, it would double in size! The best goal, however, is to have one new brother each month. I attended an admission degree before your July meeting, where your council had two new brothers; make it a goal to have one admission degree each month!

With top notch recruiting and frequent activities, I know this Council will succeed for this year.

SK David Schwartz CS PGK PFN

District Deputy



UPCOMING DEGREES

1st (Admission) Degree:

- Monday, August 19
– St. Agnus, Concord.
Registration 6-6:15 PM.
Exemplification 6:30 PM.

2nd (Formation) Degree:

- Saturday, August 10
– St. Bonaventure,
Concord.
Registration 9-9:30 AM.
Exemplification 10:00 AM.

3rd (Knighthood) Degree:

- None scheduled – Watch
for email announcements
or check council calendar:
www.koc15344stagnes.org

4th (Patriotic) Degree:

- None scheduled – Watch
for email announcements
or check council calendar:
www.koc15344stagnes.org

Council Calendar of Events

August 1	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel.
August 2	First Friday Dinner – Hawaiian Style, 5:30 PM, Church Hall.
August 3	Rosary for the Innocents, 10 AM, Queen of Heaven Cemetery – Lafayette.
August 5	Council Officers Meeting, 7 PM, Ministry Center.
August 8	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel.
August 10	Rosary for the Innocents, 10 AM, Queen of Heaven Cemetery – Lafayette.
August 10	Anointing Mass, 10:30 AM, Church.
August 11	Pancake Breakfast, after 9 and 11 AM Masses, Church Hall.
August 14	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.*
August 15	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel.
August 17	Rosary for the Innocents, 10 AM, Queen of Heaven Cemetery – Lafayette.
August 17	Hospitality & Summer Music, following 5 PM Mass, St. Agnes Commons.
August 19	Council Business Meeting, 7:30 PM, Church Hall. Dinner served at 6:30 PM dinner, followed by Rosary at 7 PM.
August 22	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel.
August 24	Rosary for the Innocents, 10 AM, Queen of Heaven Cemetery – Lafayette.
August 29	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel.
August 31	Rosary for the Innocents, 10 AM, Queen of Heaven Cemetery – Lafayette.

* Fourth Degree Knights only may participate in this event.



SAINT OF THE DAY

- 1 – St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- 2 – St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop, or St. Peter Julian Eymard, Priest
- 4 – St. Jean Vianney (the Curé of Ars), Priest
- 5 – Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major
- 6 – Transfiguration of the Lord
- 7 – St. Sixtus II, Pope and Martyr, and Companions, Martyrs, or St. Cajetan, Priest
- 8 – St. Dominic, Priest
- 9 – St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), Virgin and Martyr
- 10 – St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr
- 11 – St. Clare, Virgin
- 12 – St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious
- 13 – Sts. Pontian, Pope and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs
- 14 – St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest and Martyr
- 15 – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 16 – St. Stephen of Hungary
- 19 – St. John Eudes, Priest
- 20 – St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
- 21 – St. Pius X, Pope
- 22 – Queenship of Blessed Virgin Mary
- 23 – St. Rose of Lima, Virgin
- 24 – St. Bartholomew the Apostle
- 25 – St. Louis or St. Joseph of Calasanz, Priest
- 27 – St. Monica
- 28 – St. Augustine of Hippo, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- 29 – The Beheading of St. John the Baptist, Martyr

Grand Knight's Corner *(Continued from page 1)*

camaraderie among ourselves and our families on that day. It is that spirit that we all should embody in the many years to come.

St. Thomas of Aquinas said that faith without works is useless. He would also agree that work without faith is also useless. Therefore, with this precept, we are rolling out our Council's faith impact program. As you have noticed, we are now praying the rosary before the start of our Business Meeting. We are now praying before we start each activity. We also have great talks from our Worthy Lecturer Deacon Tony at our Business Meetings. We will further enhance our Knights Hour. And by September or October, we will roll out Family Prayer Night, which will happen the first Friday of every month after our First Friday dinners. We are finalizing the details and we will keep you posted on it and other activities by next month.

On our administrative part, we are striving to recruit members to our Council with a pitch centered in faith and service to God, family, community, and country. Every day is an opportunity to recruit a new Brother. On top of that, we have membership drives with the Stewardship recruitment and Fall Recruitment Drive in October 2019, and Spring Recruitment Drive in March 2020. We are reviving our First Degree Exemplification through the efforts of Bro. Richard. It is through this effort that we initiate new members immediately into our Council to participate in numerous activities and advocacies.

Numerous positions are open that need to be filled out — first, the Chancellor position. His responsibility covers in strengthening the members' interest in Council activities, serves as the Chair of the Admission Committee, and coordinator for our Vocation program. Second, we have two directorship positions that need to be filled — Membership and Community. Membership Director is responsible for recruiting and accepting potential Brothers into our Council. Community Director is responsible for implementing programs that unite our community to fight poverty, aid the individual, promote athletic events, and sponsor larger program and campaigns. If you are interested, please approach me.

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NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS INDUCTED

Prior to our regular council meeting on July 15, we held an Admissions Degree Exemplification (that's the official new name for the First Degree Exemplification). During that ceremony we inducted two new Brothers into our council: **Isidore Fnu** and his son **Arul Money**.

Please be sure to welcome Brothers Isidore and Arul into our council when you meet them. (Because we all know each other so well, they'll be easy to pick out: they will be the Brothers that you don't know – yet.)

Grand Knight's Corner (Continued from page 6)

As always, my thanks to you Brothers for your constant support for the good and the growth our Council. Being a valuable member of our Council, your ideas matter ideas that will be a benefit to all of us. If you have one in mind, you may approach me at any time or bring it up at our Officer's meeting, which happens every First Monday of the month.

Our Fourth of July picnic was successful. We made records with 133 meals served, more than \$1,000 in profit, and one wet Grand Knight. It is a great experience for all us. This record-breaking 4th of July picnic is a good momentum for us to start on this great Columbian Year.

We will continue with our Council Activities that we had before. For matters of convenience, we are distributing the Council Calendar for CY 2019-2020 for your reference. It will give you an idea of what our Council is doing in the coming year. If you are a foreseer, it will give you an idea of activities you can contribute for the whole year.

Our first Crab Feed is just months away. We begin selling tickets in September. However, now is the time to promote it in our social circles or networks. I learned a hard lesson last month. If you want to invite people to your event, give them notice ahead of time and so they can place it on their calendars. Our goal is to fill out our Church with Parishioners and guest who have hungry stomachs and are willing to pay for a good cause.

The Memorial for the Unborn project is making great progress. The memorial itself is taking shape. And it is beautiful. We are now selling the bricks which will surround the Memorial. Please contact Bro. Carlos for more details on the brick sale drive.

Finally, I will ask all of you for two favors. The task of leading the Council by a young man is tremendous. With all humility, I ask that you pray for me that I may lead you and this Council to success. And, I ask that we pray for each other to grow in faith, hope, and love as we serve God, family, Parish, and one another.

Vivat Jesus!

SK King Bunyi
Grand Knight



Supreme Chaplain's Message (Continued from page 3)

Good policies and procedures are a start. For example, the so-called "Dallas Charter" enacted by the U.S. bishops in 2002 has been effective. Since then, very few new cases of clergy sexual abuse have been reported. In dioceses, parishes, Catholic schools and other ministries, many safeguards are now in place to prevent abuse and/or to ensure that it is reported to civil authorities the minute it is discovered. Thanks to the Holy Father's new directive, the U.S. bishops are also putting in place new procedures by which we will be held accountable for abuse, harassment or failure to handle allegations of sexual misconduct in accord with the highest standards. Procedural reform is indeed one of the ways to love the Church and to reform and purify its visible structures.

But there is a much deeper reform that is more necessary than ever. A profound conversion on the part of the Church's shepherds is essential, but for this reform to take hold it must include all of God's people. Purifying the Church is something we do together. We have to reject moral relativism and the compromises with evil that follow in its wake. We have to turn to the Lord in prayer as never before, both as individuals and as parish communities. And with the help of the Holy Spirit by whom Jesus lives and acts in us, we should strive to change not only programs and certain structures but indeed the culture of our dioceses, parishes, homes and ministries such that they are places of encounter with the risen Lord and one another, places filled with hope and missionary zeal.

As Knights of Columbus, we speak of ourselves as "the strong right arm of the Church." Let us resolve, then, to believe in the Church and to love the Church so much that we contribute to its ongoing purification and reform.

Archbishop William E. Lori

Supreme Chaplain

Reprinted from Columbia Magazine - July 2019



Seminarian Supported by Our Council Ordained

On May 31 in the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland, Bishop Michael Barber ordained three men into the Order of Presbyters – including **John Anthony Pietruszka**, to whom our council had been providing moral, financial, and spiritual support through the Knights of Columbus’ **Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP)**.

As the strong right arm of the church, the Knights of Columbus are committed to providing support to future priests and religious at all stages of their formation. And now that Fr. John has been ordained, our council will identify another seminarian to support through our council donation to the RSVP.

Since councils are called not only to provide financial support to their “adopted” seminarian, but also to provide them with moral support and prayers for their success, we will introduce him to you once the council’s officers have identified that seminarian.



← The Most Reverend Michael Barber, Bishop of Oakland, ordains John Anthony Pietruszka in the Cathedral of Christ the Light on May 31, 2019.

↓ Rev. Javier Ramirez, Rev. John Pietruszka, Bishop Michael Barber, and Rev. Mark Ruiz (L to R).





Concord July 4 Parade and St. Agnes BBQ

St. Agnes School families invited parishioners to participate along with them in the City of Concord’s 4th of July Parade around Todos Santos Plaza in downtown Concord.

After a long, hot march everyone was invited back to St. Agnes to enjoy a BBQ provided by the Knights of Columbus. Proceeds of the BBQ go to support the La Morita Youth Mission to build homes in Tijuana.

Following the BBQ, our own Grand Knight King Bunyi volunteered to be the target of hundreds of water balloons thrown by sugar-crazed kids who had paid for the opportunity. Rumor has it that Fr. Johnson has agreed to be the target next year.



← St. Agnes School moms ready to walk in the Concord 4th of July Parade.

↓ Fr. Johnson relaxes alongside Brother James Waters after enjoying the BBQ provided by the Knights.



GK King Bunyi → gives the phrase “wet behind the ears” new meaning as he becomes the target of an overly zealous mob of water balloon-throwing rascals – all in the name of charity.





Aloha!

The Knights of Columbus

St. Agnes Council

is hosting

a Hawaiian Dinner

FRIDAY | AUG 2 | 5:30PM

at ST. AGNES HALL

Tickets:

\$10 for Adults
\$5 for kids 4 to 12
Free for kids 3 and under

\$2 for a raffle ticket to win
a \$25 Dairy Queen gift card.