

The Pulse



St. Agnes Council 15344
Knights of Columbus

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Birthdays and Wedding
Anniversaries

Council Officers

Prayer Intentions

Chaplain’s Message

Membership Anniversaries

Field Agent’s Message

Upcoming Degrees

Council Calendar of Events

Saint of the Day

New Council Member
Inducted

New Council Members
Recognized

Recruit New Members Using
Old Magazines

Memorial Brick Order Form

Grand Knight’s Corner

CELEBRATING THE REAL CHRISTMAS

Author’s Note: This article is a reiteration of the points delivered during the Grand Knight’s Report at the Business Meeting last November 18, 2019.

The Holiday Season is here again. Dining at gatherings and parties, shopping for gifts, traveling far to visit family and friends are the images we see year after year. How about the real image of Christmas? Do we still see it? And do we keep it as part of our faith?

The real image of Christmas is about Christ being born into this world and experiencing our daily struggles as God restores his relationship with us. Christ did not come in a grandiose manner. His coming into this world was through human experience, beginning with His birth in the manger. Moreover, He was born in a poor state, a dignity befitting animals – not humans.

Without Christmas, we will not have the salvation we are experiencing up to now. Through it, we are enjoying the unlimited freedom that God originally planned for us; to freely enjoy His creation without the pains of the original sin committed by Adam and Eve.

We circle back to the current images of Christmas I mentioned earlier. It is part of our norm to celebrate since Christmas happens a week before the calendar year changes. I hope it is not a new norm in replacing the real meaning and essence of Christmas. Let us not allow the worldliness, through materialism and commercialism, be celebrated in this Holy Holiday. As our Church continually reminds us, the real reason for this season is Christ.

As we continue with our celebration this season, let us celebrate that we are free, and God renewed His love for us. May His love resonate with us as we share his love with our family, friends, and our Community.

I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SK King Bunyi
Grand Knight



BIRTHDAYS

December

- 1 – Timothy McGallian
- 2 – Arul Money
- 2 – David Wood
- 5 – David Zarri
- 8 – Paul Duckart
- 12 – Craig Haskins
- 16 – John Wachira
- 20 – Richard Duckart
- 24 – Noel Asuncion
- 27 – Sumner Peery

WIVES' BIRTHDAYS

- 13 – Le-Chi Hsiang (Cheng-Feng Tsai)
- 17 – Sue Downs (Gary)

Council Officers / Columbian Year 2019-2020

- Grand KnightSK King Bunyi.....510-427-3596
- ChaplainFr. Johnson Abraham510-557-9845
- Deputy Grand Knight*Open*
- Chancellor*Open*
- WardenCheng-Feng Tsai925-890-0353
- Recorder.....SK Mike McDermott.....925-676-2384
- Financial Secretary.....Gary Downs.....925-825-4409
- Treasurer.....SK Richard Milward PGK925-699-5852
- LecturerDeacon Tony Reyes925-671-0134
- 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

The positions of Deputy Grand Knight and Chancellor remain open.
 The only qualification for these positions is that you must be a Third-Degree Knight. For more information, contact GK King Bunyi.



PRAYER INTENTIONS

Physical healing:

- Bro. Ron Artale (heart surgery) and his son
- Bro. Paul Murray (surgery)
- Bro. Ed Chatterton
- Bro. Joaquin Campos
- Bro. Neal Campanelli
- Bro. Octavio Padilla
- Bro. Tom Kisak
- Bro. Ray Doorack's son and grandson
- Bro. John Wright's brother Larry
- Bro. Claire Tryon and Brother Ed Burgess (St. Bonaventure)
- Bro. Gary's sister in-law Julie
- Bro. Neil Cuffy
- Deacon Jim Pearce
- Bro. David's daughter Sarah, his father Stan, his brother Hal (car accident), and Aunt Marianne (spine surgery)
- Zachary Puntty, son of Bro. Mike of QAS (car accident)
- Bro. Carlos Gutierrez mother in law
- Bro. Daniel Barrington (hospice)
- Bro. Tex's sister in law Alicia E. Banzos
- Bro. Jorge Garcia
- Bro. Norm Andrews
- Bro. Tom McEachran (stroke)
- Bro. Ed Lee's sister Marian (cancer)

Special Intentions of:

- Bro. King and for his father's conversion
- Bro. Walt Hubrig
- Inmates at Martinez Detention Facility
- Patricia Viscay

Chaplain's Message

Sunday, December 1st we begin the season of Advent, which is a season of hope and joy for us Christians. With the beginning of the season of Advent, we begin a new liturgical year. The first Sunday of Advent then is the church's New Year's Day. We begin to relive the history and the unchanging mysteries of our salvation from creation to the second coming. The mysteries do not change, but we do. We have become a little older and wiser and understand something more about these mysteries. And now we have the opportunity to review and renew these mysteries and apply them more deeply into our lives.

Advent comes from the Latin word for an 'arrival' or a 'coming.' Advent means that the Lord is coming. Jesus Christ, our brother in humanity and our God in divinity, is about to arrive. He comes to us in different ways: first he came to us at a specific point in history at Bethlehem about 2000 years ago. At the great feast of Christmas, he mystically comes again. He comes to us in grace at the celebration of the different sacraments. He also arrives in the person of the homeless, the needy, the suffering and the oppressed. And finally, he comes to judge the living and dead in His second coming on the last day. The church invites us today to be prepared to receive and welcome him when he comes; no matter in whatever form he comes.

On December 1st we heard one of the most famous passages from the prophet Isaiah. At the coming of the lord, the prophet looks forward to a time of peace as a result of the nation's reception of God's instruction, walking in His ways. He predicts of a time when the nations "shall beat their swords into plowshares." There will be time when the tools of war beaten into tools of farming; at the coming of the Lord, cultivation of the earth replaces violence. The condition for this universal peace is the universal submission to God. We know this vision and hope is as important today as it was at the time of the prophet. And the invitation for us is: in order to establish this universal peace, we need to listen to the word of God and live them. What are our weapons of war that need to be transformed? Pride, lust, anger, gluttony, envy, or sloth...? "It is time for you to wake from sleep," Paul tells the Romans. He invites us to throw off the works of darkness and to put on the armor of light. We need to be more spiritually wakeful and prepare for our eternal life. This Advent season could be the right time of such a preparation by growing in virtues. We need to be careful not to lose sight of the true

(Continued on page 6)



MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

Walter Hubrig
– December 1, 1981 (38 yrs)

Ronald Artale
– December 15, 1987 (32 yrs)

James Stanionis
– December 7, 1993 (26 yrs)

Michael McDermott
– December 1, 2010 (9 yrs)

Octavio Padilla
– December 1, 2010 (9 yrs)

Cheng-Feng Tsai
– December 1, 2010 (9 yrs)

Peter Mazolewski
– December 18, 2017 (2 yrs)

Field Agent's Message

OUR COMMITMENT: CATHOLIC VALUES. CHARITABLE GIVING. ETHICAL PRACTICES.

Catholic

The Knights of Columbus is committed to being a Catholic company that upholds Catholic values and supports Catholic causes.

The Knights of Columbus adheres to a strict investment screening protocol developed in part with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Knights of Columbus does not invest in companies that deal in lines of business that involve: abortions and abortifacients, embryonic stem cell research, human cloning, contraception, for-profit health care that pays for any of the aforementioned, and pornography.

The Knights also give generously to the Church through various programs such as the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP). Since 1981, RSVP has provided more than \$65 million in scholarships to more than 123,000 men and women pursuing religious vocations. The Knights supports the Vatican and the Holy Father as well, helping to restore the façade of St. Peter's Basilica which was completed in 1999 for the millennial Jubilee. The Knights also purchased satellite equipment to help broadcast the pope's messages and Masses throughout the world, in addition to giving an annual donation to Pope Francis' personal charity with proceeds from the K of C's Vicarius Christi fund.

Charitable

The Knights of Columbus is one of the world's largest forces for good. In the past decade alone, the Knights of Columbus has donated more than \$1.55 billion to charitable causes, and has performed more than 700 million hours of volunteer service.

Knights have led major charitable initiatives including Coats for Kids, the Ultrasound Initiative, and Christians at Risk, and have also sponsored events and programs with organizations such as Special Olympics and the Global Wheelchair Mission.

The Knights of Columbus insurance program – coupled with the hard work and dedication of brother Knights anywhere – helps power the Knights of Columbus' charitable giving.

"The insurance program is a powerful financial engine that supports much of the good works we do," said Knights of Columbus Supreme

(Continued on page 6)



UPCOMING DEGREES

Admission (1st) Degree:

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

Formation (2nd) Degree:

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

Knighthood (3rd) Degree:

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

Patriotic (4th) Degree:

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

Council Calendar of Events

December 2	Council Officers Meeting, 7 PM, Ministry Center.
December 5	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel.
December 6	NO First Friday Dinner (due to Las Posadas at 7 PM).
December 6	Las Posadas, 7 PM, Church.
December 7	Rosary for the Innocents, 10 AM, Queen of Heaven Cemetery – Lafayette.
December 8	Pancake Breakfast, after 9 and 11 AM Masses, Church Hall.
December 11	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.*
December 12	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel.
December 14	Rosary for the Innocents, 10 AM, Queen of Heaven Cemetery – Lafayette.
December 16	NO Council Business Meeting this month. See you next year.
December 19	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel.
December 21	Rosary for the Innocents, 10 AM, Queen of Heaven Cemetery – Lafayette.
December 22	RSVP Seminarian Check Presentation, 9 AM Mass.
December 26	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel.
December 28	Rosary for the Innocents, 10 AM, Queen of Heaven Cemetery – Lafayette.
January 3	First Friday Fish Fry, 5:30 PM, Parish Hall.
January 6	Council Officers Meeting, 7 PM, Ministry Center.
January 12	Pancake Breakfast, after 9 and 11 AM Masses, Church Hall.
January 18	Crab & Tri-Tip Dinner, 6 PM, Parish Hall.
January 20	Council Business Meeting, 7:30 PM, Parish Hall. <i>Stop by and help sell tickets at the table after each Mass.</i>

* Fourth Degree Knights only may participate in this event.



SAINT OF THE DAY

December

- 3 – St. Francis Xavier, Priest – Memorial
- 4 – St. John Damascene, Priest, Religious & Doctor – Memorial
- 6 – St. Nicholas, Bishop – Memorial
- 7 – St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor – Memorial
- 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Solemnity & Holy Day of Obligation
- 9 – St. Juan Diego, Hermit – Memorial
- 11 – St. Damasus I, Pope – Memorial
- 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe – Feast
- 13 – St. Lucy of Syracuse, Virgin and Martyr – Memorial
- 14 – St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor – Memorial
- 21 – St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor – Memorial
- 23 – St. John of Kanty, Priest – Memorial
- 25 – Nativity of the Lord – Solemnity & Holy Day of Obligation
- 26 – St. Stephen, the First Martyr – Feast
- 27 – St. John the Apostle and Evangelist – Feast
- 28 – Holy Innocents, Martyrs – Feast
- 29 – St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr – Memorial
- 30 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph – Feast
- 31 – St. Sylvester I, Pope – Memorial

Field Agent's Message (Continued from page 4)

Knight Carl Anderson. "Through the insurance program, we are blessed with the opportunity to give generously and support numerous charitable and spiritual causes, building up society and the Church."

"Of course, this is closely tied to our Catholic identity and the fact that charity is our first principle," he continued. "We are called to be 'our brother's keeper,' and to look after the physical and spiritual well-being of those around us. But the fact is that without the insurance program, much of what we do...would simply not be possible."

Alex Torres-Esquivel

Field Agent

925-384-9783

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Chaplain's Message (Continued from page 3)

meaning of the season as the world around us hustles into buying and selling. We shall not be easily swallowed up by that cultural creation "the Christmas season."

The first century Christians were not afraid of the Second Coming. They looked forward to it. They prayed: "Come, Lord Jesus." "Come Lord, and restore peace, justice and love to the world." So, Advent brings with it a serious and urgent call to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. May he find us praying, lovingly serving others, and working for that universal peace.

Fr. Johnson Abraham

Chaplain



NEW COUNCIL MEMBER INDUCTED

Prior to our regular council meeting on November 18, we held an Admissions Degree Exemplification (that's the official new name for the First Degree Exemplification). During that ceremony we inducted yet another new Brother into our council:

- Ron Connolly

Please be sure to welcome our new Brother 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.)

New Council Members Recognized

During the November business meeting, we recognized three new members of our council with certificates.

- Craig Haskins
- Oscar Legaspi
- Bernardino Sunglao

↓ New council members (L to R) Bernardino Sunglao, Oscar Legaspi, and Craig Haskins.



Recruit New Members Using Old Magazines

- Do you have past copies of *Columbia* magazine sitting at home?
- What are you planning to do with them?

What about putting them out at various venues that you visit weekly, such as the doctor's or dentist's office, or the library. What about when you talk to someone about joining the Knights – have you considered giving them a copy of *Columbia* to they can really see what we do?. Simply attach your K of C contact card — who knows? You just might get an inquiry.

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY... St. Agnes Parish Memorial Brick Order Form



Dear Parishioners,

St. Agnes Parish Catholic Community and St. Agnes Council 15344 of the Knights of Columbus are pleased to offer you and your family the opportunity to purchase engraved memorial bricks to be placed in front of the Parish's new *Memorial to the Unborn*, which will be located next to the statue of Mary.

The *Memorial for the Unborn* will become an important part of our Parish's history and a lasting tribute for loved ones and the engraved memorial bricks are a special way to honor your children, grandchildren, parents, special friends, as well as memorialize your loved ones.

The cost of each 4"x 8" brick is just \$50 and includes your personalized message of up to three lines engraved using state-of-the-art laser technology, ensuring long-lasting strength and durability in the engraving. Ordering is three easy steps...

STEP 1: Create the message for your brick:

- ◆ You may use any combination of lower and UPPER case letters.
- ◆ Bricks may contain up to three lines of 20 characters per line.
- ◆ Character count includes all letters, numbers, punctuation, and spaces.
- ◆ The example below has a total of 19 characters (15 letters, 1 punctuation mark, and 3 spaces.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Example –	T	h	e		R	.		S	m	i	t	h		F	a	m	i	l	y	
Please print clearly	Line 1 –																			
	Line 2 –																			
	Line 3 –																			

STEP 2: Fill-in your information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

STEP 3: Mail this form and your check:

Please make your check (\$50 per brick*) payable to *Knights of Columbus Council 15344* and mail with this order form to:
Gary Downs, 1756 Bishop Dr., Concord, CA 94521-2022. (*Each brick requires a separate order form.)

- ◆ We will submit all brick orders for engraving at one time once we have received orders for 100 bricks.
- ◆ We will use your phone/email only for keeping you informed of progress or if we have questions.

For questions contact: Carlos Garcia, 925-250-8969 or cmgarcia@astound.net