

The Pulse



St. Agnes Council 15344
Knights of Columbus

"You will be Brothers: Our Vocation to Fraternity"
July 2019

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Grand Knight's Corner

Brothers,

We begin each New Year with ideas, hopes, and aspirations as we make resolutions to our old habits every year. It's either we create a new list or change our usual routine. However, whether we should admit it or not, we do not live by our resolutions by the mid-year.

With a new Columbian Year just beginning, there are resolutions to be made, old habits to modify. There is a stark difference between an organization and an individual when making resolutions. Many members in the organization will keep an eye on the promises or resolutions being made as part of accountability. On the other hand, an individual may not have someone who will make them accountable for their resolutions.

There are traditions that we will retain. Also, there are new programs that we will include in our Council program, which we will roll out in the coming months. You, my Brothers, will help us keep track of our progress, and advise us if these programs work for the good of the Council.

I personally hope that these ideas, hopes, and aspirations would not end up as mere ideas by the end of this Columbian Year. I hope they will become concrete programs, which will benefit all of us in the Council.

Vivat Jesus!

SK King Bunyi
Grand Knight



BIRTHDAYS

July

- 1 – Michael Mc Dermott
- 1 – Robert Vetro
- 5 – Mark Baumeister
- 9 – Vincent Cotter
- 10 – Edward Chatterton
- 14 – Daniel Villasenor
- 15 – Stephen Chaney
- 24 – Ronald Hannan
- 26 – Richard Spahl
- 27 – Linus Farias
- 28 – James Armstrong
- 31 – Paul Murray

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- Ronald & Christine Artale
– July 16, 1977 (42 yrs)
- John & Rosemary Wright
– July 26, 1981 (38 yrs)

Council Officers / Columbian Year 2019-2020

Grand Knight	SK King Bunyi.....	510-427-3596
Chaplain	Fr. Johnson Abraham	510-557-9845
Deputy Grand Knight	James Waters.....	925-459-4763
Chancellor	Open	
Warden	Cheng-Feng Tsai	925-890-0353
Recorder.....	SK Mike McDermott.....	925-676-2384
Financial Secretary	Gary Gowns.....	925-825-4409
Treasurer.....	SK Richard Milward PGK	925-699-5852
Lecturer	Deacon Tony Reyes.....	925-671-0134
Advocate	SK David Wood PGK	925-458-0888
Inside Guard	Patrick Monahan.....	TBD
Outside Guard.....	Wayne Schafer	925-323-6518
One-Year Trustee	SK Carlos Garcia PGK.....	925-680-2814
Two-Year Trustee	John Wright.....	925-798-5962
Three-Year Trustee	SK Frank Mazzuca PGK.....	925-381-5624
Supreme Field Agent.....	Alex Torres-Esquivel.....	925-384-9783
District Deputy	SK David Schwartz PGK	510-325-7810

The position of Chancellor remains open.
 The only qualification for the position is that you must be a Third-Degree Knight. For more information, contact GK King Bunyi.



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

HALF MEASURES – WE MUST RESPOND TO CHALLENGES AS CATHOLICS BY MAKING A COMMITMENT TO CHRIST AND THE MISSION OF EVANGELIZATION

Suppose it's time to change the oil in your car. The owner's manual specifies that the engine requires five quarts of oil, but you put in only two and a half. Some days later, the engine light comes on and your car stalls in traffic. Listening to a chorus of angry horns and epithets, you think to yourself: "Maybe I should have put in the full five quarts."

Half measures. We're tempted to use them all the time. You probably have your own examples of halfhearted efforts that made things worse instead of better.

We also can be prone to half measures when it comes to our Catholic faith. In many parts of the world, including the United States, Mass attendance is down. Our absent Catholics aren't merely out of town; many are gone. For a variety of distressing reasons, they are disconnected from the Lord, the Church, the Mass, and the sacraments. Studies reveal the sad fact that there are now more disaffiliated former Catholics than those who are practicing.

We talk a lot about evangelization, but things continue to get worse. So what's the answer?

St. Paul VI reminded us that evangelization is not merely one of the things the Church does; the mission to spread the Gospel constitutes the very heart of the Church's identity. The Church exists to proclaim, spread, and celebrate the Good News by word, sacrament, and charity. Woe to us if we do not preach the Gospel! (cf. 1 Cor 9:16).

The Gospel, after all, is not merely words. It is the incarnate savior who, in his boundless mercy, has forgiven our sins and unlocked the gates of heaven.

The answer, then, is not to stop talking about evangelization. Rather, the problem is how we go about this work. Not unlike the disciples prior to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we hesitate to "cry out full-throated and unsparingly" (Isaiah 58:1) in bearing witness to Jesus. We are likewise prone to half measures in repenting and believing in his Gospel; in instilling the teaching of Christ in ourselves and our families; and in living the Gospel both in our personal lives and in the wider society.

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MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

Deacon William Drobick
– July 30, 2009 (10 yrs)

Neil Cuffy
– July 13, 2016 (3 yrs)

Tom Grewis
– July 23, 2016 (3 yrs)

Alifaga “Paul” Peapea
– July 11, 2018 (1 yr)

Field Agent’s Message

The Catholic Difference. What does that mean, “Discover the Catholic Difference”? Is it just a marketing slogan or is there real meaning behind it?

Let’s look at that at several levels. Our Catholicity as an organization forms all that we do. Our Order was founded on the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity; as a Catholic business we also have core values of Integrity, Professionalism, Excellence, and Respect. In all our dealings we try to embody those values in the field and at our Supreme Office.

Money from insurance premiums and annuity deposits is managed by our investment department colleagues, Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors. They manage that money, now amounting to more than \$24 billion, using sound investment strategies in full compliance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ socially responsible investment guidelines. We will not invest in companies that engage in abortions, producing abortifacient drugs, embryonic stem cell research, human cloning, or pornography. Our Asset Advisors prove that a business can operate on these principles and still produce a healthy profit. That’s a Catholic Difference!

Our charitable contributions of more than \$185 million last year went to a wide variety of organizations. Many were Catholic, but some were not. We give money to support worthy causes and we do that, not because they are Catholic, but because we are Catholic. That’s what our faith calls us to do; Sirach 40:17 tells us that acts of kindness and charity last for an eternity. We are supporting victims of genocide in Syria and other places in the Middle East. We have placed more than 1000 ultrasound machines in all 50 states and saved more the 1 million lives. We financially and spiritually support seminarians, disaster victims, Special Olympians, and many others. All this from the profits of our insurance program and investments and the contributions of members. That’s a Catholic Difference!

And speaking of the insurance program, let’s talk about the “Discover the Catholic Difference” there. Here are a few examples: First, our products are designed with our members’ needs in mind. For example, I’m not aware of any other company that offers a Spousal Waiver of Premium benefit...and there is no additional premium for that! Second, we have never raised our Long-Term Care Insurance premiums, something very few, if any, insurance companies can say. Third, we offer

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UPCOMING DEGREES

1st (Admission) Degree:

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

2nd (Formation) Degree:

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

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

July 1	Council Officers Meeting, 7 PM, Ministry Center.
July 2	Past Grand Knights Dinner, 6 PM, Mann's Chinese Cuisine, 4115 Concord Blvd # 52, Concord, CA 94519.
July 4	Concord 4th of July Parade, 10 AM, Downtown Concord (see June 30 Parish Bulletin for details).
July 4	4th of July BBQ, Noon, outside School Library.
July 4	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel.
July 5	NO First Friday Dinner (the grill needs a rest)
July 6	Rosary for the Innocents, 10 AM, Queen of Heaven Cemetery – Lafayette.
July 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.*
July 11	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel.
July 13	Rosary for the Innocents, 10 AM, Queen of Heaven Cemetery – Lafayette.
July 14	Pancake Breakfast, after 9 and 11 AM Masses, Church Hall.
July 15	Council Business Meeting, 6:30 PM dinner, 7:30 PM meeting, Church Hall.
July 18	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel.
July 20	Rosary for the Innocents, 10 AM, Queen of Heaven Cemetery – Lafayette.
July 25	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel.
July 27	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 – Saint Junipero Serra
- 3 – Saint Thomas the Apostle
- 5 – Saint Anthony Zaccaria, Priest; Saint Elizabeth of Portugal
- 6 – Saint Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr
- 9 – Saint Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions, Martyrs
- 11 – Saint Benedict, Abbot
- 13 – Saint Henry
- 14 – Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
- 15 – Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor
- 16 – Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- 18 – Saint Camillus de Lellis, Priest
- 20 – Saint Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr
- 21 – Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor
- 22 – Saint Mary Magdalene
- 23 – Saint Bridget of Sweden, Religious
- 24 – Saint Sharbel Makhluf, Priest, Hermit
- 25 – Saint James, Apostle
- 26 – Saints Joachim and Anne
- 29 – Saint Martha
- 30 – Saint Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor
- 31 – Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

Knights in the News

SENATOR BEN SASSE MOCKS DEMOCRATS FOR SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

GOP Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska chided Democrats for pressing judicial nominees about their membership in the Knights of Columbus recently, joking that some lawmakers have treated the Knights like the fanatical religious cult in “The Da Vinci Code.”

Sasse made the remarks during a recent nomination hearing for U.S. District Judge Peter Phipps, President Donald Trump’s nominee for the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Democrats asked Phipps about his association with the Knights in 2018 before his confirmation to western Pennsylvania’s federal trial court.

“I want to ask you a hard question,” Sasse told Phipps. “Are you now or have you ever been involved in the organization of a fish fry?”

The Nebraska Republican went on to ask Phipps to describe the Knights of Columbus’ activities and lamented that his membership with the group was raised during his nomination to the district court.

“It’s much more the stuff of community service, love of neighbor, fish fries, and pool parties than some sort of ‘Da Vinci Code’ stuff,” Sasse joked. “I just want to be clear that I understand this scary organization.”

Democratic presidential candidate and Sen. Kamala Harris of California asked Phipps about the Knights of Columbus in a written supplement to his testimony in May 2018. As a Catholic organization, the Knights of Columbus supports pro-life positions, prompting Harris to ask whether Phipps could fairly preside over abortion disputes.

Harris also asked Phipps whether he had to swear an oath when joining the organization. The prospect of secret oaths is often featured in the anti-Catholic nativist rhetoric of the early 20th century, to the effect that members of the Knights of Columbus had sworn fealty to the pope in a struggle against liberal democracy.

Later in the hearing, Democratic Sen. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii insisted that Democrats were not attacking the Knights as such, saying she has never “suggested that a member of any organization is per se unfit for the bench, only those who cannot be fair and impartial.”

Judiciary Committee Democrats have quietly pressed judicial nominees about their association with the Knights before.

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Field Agent's Message *(Continued from page 4)*

Disability Income Insurance to blue collar workers as well as white and grey collar workers. We recognize that it's not just the affluent that need that coverage. Fourth, we still meet with brother knights and their families in their homes if they prefer; it might be more convenient for them. Fifth, young children; we want to make sure a member has the opportunity to protect their insurability with life insurance that has a guaranteed purchase option. Sixth, our fixed-rate annuity has a minimum guarantee for life, meaning a member will always make money on his money. Seventh, our Supreme Office is currently developing new products to meet even more needs of our members...so stay tuned! Now that's the Catholic Difference!

If you'd like to find out about more Catholic differences that could make a difference in your life, call or email me.

Alex Torres-Esquivel
Supreme Field Agent

925-384-9783
Alex.torres-esquivel@kofc.org

Current Events *(Continued from page 6)*

Harris and Hirono asked Brian Buescher, an Omaha lawyer tapped for Nebraska's federal trial court, about his membership in the Knights of Columbus on a questionnaire that followed his November 2018 confirmation hearing.

The lawmakers called the Knights of Columbus an "all male society" that "has taken a number of extreme positions" on social questions like same-sex marriage.

In turn, Sasse introduced a resolution providing that it is unconstitutional to disqualify a nominee from public office based on their membership in the Knights of Columbus. The resolution was adopted by unanimous consent in January.



Supreme Chaplain's Message (Continued from page 3)

When the sound of the trumpet is faint, it's no wonder so few hear it.

Take, for example, a parish that is stagnant and shrinking. Its leadership might be tempted to address the problem with half measures, tweaking what's usually done by adding more friendly greeters at the door of the church or additional opportunities for socializing after Sunday Mass. Nothing is wrong with these things; in fact, they are very important. But lacking genuine missionary conversion, moved by the Holy Spirit, a parish will not experience renewal.

Genuine missionary conversion includes an urgent summons to prayer and repentance, first and foremost exemplified by the parish clergy and leadership. It also requires concentrated attention on good preaching and reverent liturgy; abundant opportunities for eucharistic adoration and confession; personal outreach to absent parishioners; sound catechesis for parishioners of all ages, especially the young; support of married couples and families; loving assistance to the sick and the dying; generous outreach to the poor and vulnerable; and more.

What about growth in the Knights of Columbus? Here, too, half measures will not do. For example, a business-as-usual membership drive may not bring the desired results. But when a council prayerfully commits itself to implementing the Faith in Action model, it can truly make an impact. When Knights are seen as growing in their relationship with Christ and in their life of prayer, banding together to serve actively the needs of the wider community, living the vocation of marriage and family joyfully and generously, and protecting vulnerable human life lovingly — others will want to join.

People are hungry. They are searching. They are looking for the real deal. Let's be done with half measures, especially in this season when we celebrate the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon his Church.

Archbishop William E. Lori
Supreme Chaplain

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Installation of CY 2019-2020 Council Officers

On June 30 the Council’s Officers for the Columbian Year 2019-2020 were installed following the 11 AM Mass. The installation was officiated by our Worthy District Deputy David Schwartz, District Warden Mike Souza, and Fr. Johnson. In addition to the new officers, attendees numbered nearly 80 and included Brother Knights, family members, and friends.

Distinguished guests included Oakland Diocese Chapter President-elect Kip Trombley and his wife Becky, Ian Ytem – District Deputy (Fremont) and Vice President-elect of the Oakland Diocese Chapter, and Ron Ytem – District Deputy (Hayward).

A fantastic luncheon reception was provided by the council and our new Grand Knights’ mother.



- ↑ New Council Officers for Columbian Year 2019-2020.
- ← GK King Bunyi addresses the assembled guests.
- Council Chaplain Fr. Johnson → blesses the jewels of office.
- ↓ Council officers taking the pledge of office (bottom).

