

The Pulse



St. Agnes Council 15344
Knights of Columbus

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

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Grand Knight’s Corner

Brothers,

The Colombian Year ends June 30th. So does my two-year term as your Grand Knight. I felt like it took me a year just to figure out the workings of the Order.

In the last two years we have seen explosive growth in membership and involvement.

We have had some great successes like earning the Star Council Award, Top Activities award, Top Insurance award, the Wheelchair campaign, and Andrew Wood's Scholarship.

Winning the Star Council is three awards in one. It recognizes our superior service with superior membership and insurance growth.

Finally, as you may have heard ,we had the most successful Wheelchair campaign in Contra Costa County last year.

We have also had some great losses, like the losses of SK Earl Koski and SK George Conlow.

Next year, you will be led by a younger, more energetic Grand Knight. He has already shown his interest in integrating a lot of State programs into our service focus.

Depending on when you read this, we will be just about to do or have just completed:

- The school’s Ice Cream Social at which the Knights are cooking,
- A Tri Tip Dinner where the Knights are cooking, and
- A Father's Day Pancake Breakfast where the Knights are cooking.

Do you see a recurring theme here? Yes, but we do more than cook. Want to find out what else? Get involved.

It has been an honor to serve you as your Grand Knight and I have enjoyed getting to know each and every one of you.

Thanks

SK Frank Mazzuca
Grand Knight



BIRTHDAYS

June

- 2 – Antonio Reyes
- 3 – Norman Andrews
- 11 – Thomas Mc Eachran
- 12 – William Van Hattem
- 14 – Richard Peters
- 20 – Alifaga (Paul) Peapea
- 22 – Robert Mc Eachran
- 28 – James Waters
- 30 – Neil Cuffy

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- Gilbert & Sally Chavez
– June 23, 1956 (63 yrs)
- Mike & Chris McDermott
– June 28, 1980 (39 yrs)
- Cheng-Feng Tsai & Le-Chi Hsiang Tsai
– June 28, 2008 (11 yrs)

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 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

WE ARE CALLED TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE GOSPEL BOTH BY SPEAKING ABOUT THE FAITH AND BY LIVING IT WITH JOY

Most of us are familiar with a saying attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: "Preach always, and when necessary, use words." Some, including those who have carefully studied St. Francis' life and writings, doubt that he actually said that.

This doesn't mean that the saying is wrong. After all, one of the most effective ways to spread the faith is to live the faith with integrity and joy whether we are in public or in private. But good example, important as it is, is not enough. Words are almost always necessary — let me illustrate why this is so.

Most readers of this column are married. What if you complained that your spouse never said the words "I love you"? If your spouse responded, "I don't have to — I show my love to you every day," I'm going to guess you wouldn't be satisfied with such an answer. Husbands and wives need to say "I love you." Wouldn't life at home be better if, every day, parents told their children of their love and vice versa? Just saying so makes a difference — especially on a day when nothing has gone right.

So too, when it comes to the Lord and the Gospel, we are sometimes tempted to use the words ascribed to St. Francis of Assisi as a cop-out.

NO MORE EXCUSES

We tell ourselves that if we lead good lives we've done our part to support the Church and its mission. No need to engage in discussions about religion, which can sometimes be heated. No need to challenge those who no longer practice the faith, including members of our own immediate family. "Why harangue them?" we ask ourselves. "It'll do more harm than good."

Well, let's take haranguing off the table. Pestering and berating those who do not take their faith seriously is not likely to succeed. But we are called to speak about the faith to others with accuracy, confidence and joy. St. Paul puts it this way: "For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' But how can they call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach?" (Rom 10:13-14).

Thinking about St. Paul's words, one might say, "Great! I'm off the hook. I'm a layperson, not a priest. I don't have to preach. Priests are supposed to do that." My reply: "Not so fast!" Didn't St. Peter exhort the whole Church, "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope"? (1 Pt 3:15). His words were not limited to priests and religious; they were addressed to every member of the Church.

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MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

John Fitzpatrick
– June 18, 1985 (34 yrs)

Earl Head
– June 13, 2004 (15 yrs)

Elvis Castelino
– June 29, 2006 (13 yrs)

Juan Fernandez
– June 13, 2013 (6 yrs)

Mark Longhi
– June 13, 2013 (6 yrs)

Robert Mc Eachran
– June 13, 2013 (6 yrs)

Program Director's Message

It is only a month from now that the current Columbian Year will come to a close. Another year has passed. A lot of events and activities that we participated had ended. A new Columbian Year will commence come by July 1. In another cycle of activities we will partake. Another set of faces we will encounter. But one thing remains the same: we are Brothers in one Order, serving God, our mother Church, and one another.

However, it is good to look back at what we had. It is good to look forward to what we shall continue and improve for the next Columbian Year. It reminds of a passage from Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 as I reminisce:

*“There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair under the heavens.*

*A time to give birth, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.*

*A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to tear down, and a time to build.*

*A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.*

*A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.*

*A time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away.*

*A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to be silent, and a time to speak.*

*A time to love, and a time to hate;
a time of war, and a time of peace.*

What profit have workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to mortals to be busied about. God has made everything appropriate to its time, but has put the timeless into their hearts so they cannot find out, from beginning to end, the work which God has done. I recognized that there is nothing better than to rejoice and to do well during life. Moreover, that all can eat and drink and enjoy the good of all their toil—this is a gift of God.

I recognized that whatever God does will endure forever; there is no adding to it, or taking from it. Thus has God done that he may be revered. What now is has already been; what is to be, already is: God retrieves what has gone by.”

Reminiscing can do as much as it can. We still have a mission to fulfill God's work in our Order. Vivat Jesus!

SK King Bunyi
Deputy Grand Knight & Council Program Director



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

June 1	Rosary for the Innocents, 10 AM, Queen of Heaven Cemetery – Lafayette.
June 3	BBQ for School's Ice Cream Social, 4 PM, Kitchen.
June 3	Council Officers Meeting, During Ice Cream Social, Kitchen.
June 6	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel.
June 7	First Friday Dinner, 5:30 PM, Church Hall.
June 8	Rosary for the Innocents, 10 AM, Queen of Heaven Cemetery – Lafayette.
June 9	Pancake Breakfast, after 9 and 11 AM Masses, Church Hall.
June 12	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.*
June 13	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel.
June 15	Rosary for the Innocents, 10 AM, Queen of Heaven Cemetery – Lafayette.
June 17	Council Business Meeting/Officer Elections, 6:30 PM dinner, 7:30 PM meeting, Church Hall.
June 20	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel.
June 22	Rosary for the Innocents, 10 AM, Queen of Heaven Cemetery – Lafayette.
June 27	Knights Adoration Hour, 5 PM, Chapel.
June 29	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. Justin, Martyr
- 2 – Sts. Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs
- 3 – Sts. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs
- 5 – St. Boniface, Bishop and Martyr
- 6 – St. Norbert, Bishop
- 9 – St. Ephrem, Deacon and Doctor
- 11 – St. Barnabas the Apostle
- 13 – St. Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor
- 19 – St. Romuald, Abbot
- 21 – St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious
- 22 – St. Paulinus of Nola, Bishop or Sts. John Fisher, Bishop and Martyr and Thomas More, Martyr
- 24 – Birth of St. John the Baptist
- 26 – St. Josemaría Escrivá, Priest
- 27 – St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop and Doctor
- 28 – St. Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr
- 29 – Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles
- 30 – First Martyrs of the Church of Rome

St. Agnes Council Receives Coveted Star Council Award!!

Council members in attendance at our May business meeting got quite a surprise from our Worthy District Deputy David Schwartz. After months of “Did we or didn’t we?,” we learned that WE DID! St. Agnes Council 15344 had received the Star Council Award for the Columbian Year (CY) 2017-2018.

The requirements for Star Council are many, which is why only 10% of all councils worldwide receive the award each year. That means that St. Agnes Council is one of just 1,628 councils that received the Award for CY 2017-2018. To put that in greater perspective, there are 15,900 councils worldwide.

The requirements for Star Council in CY 2017-2018* were:

1. Achieve Columbian Award
 - Complete and submit many council reports on-time including the Service Program Personnel Report Form by August 1.
 - Conduct and report at least four major involvement programs in each of the following sections of the Service Program: Church activities, Community activities, Council activities, Family activities, Pro-Life activities, and Youth activities.

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← GK Frank Mazzuca holds the long awaited Star Council Award for the Columbian Year 2017-2018.



Council Officer Nominees 2019-2020

Officer elections will take place at the June 17 business meeting. Additional nominations will be taken from the floor up until the beginning of the election.

Grand Knight:

Brother King Bunyi

Deputy Grand Knight:

No nominations

Warden:

Brother Cheng-Feng Tsai

Chancellor:

Brother James Waters

Financial Secretary

(appointed by GK, approved by Supreme):

Brother Gary Downs

Treasurer:

Brother Richard Milward

Advocate:

Brother David Wood

Inside Guard:

No nominations

Outside Guard:

Brother Wayne Schafer

Recording Secretary:

Brother Mike McDermott

1-Year Trustee:

Brother Carlos Garcia

2-Year Trustee:

Brother John Wright

3-Year Trustee:

Brother Frank Mazzuca

Chaplain:

Father Johnson Abraham

Lector (appointed by GK):

Deacon Tony Reyes

Council Receives Star Council Award (Continued from page 6)

2. Achieve Father McGivney Award

- Achieve the council's membership quota, which is typically 7% of membership. St. Agnes Council brought in six new members, which was 120% of its quota of five new members.

3. Achieve Founder's Award

- Achieve an increase in insured members of three, which St. Agnes Council accomplished thanks, in part, to the efforts of our Worthy Field Agent Frank Fernandez.

Earning the Star Council Award is a Council effort. No Council has ever earned the award on the efforts of one man. However, we should acknowledge the *behind the scene* efforts of our Worth District Deputy David Schwartz. For months Brother David kept hounding the Supreme Office to give us the Award we felt we had rightly earned. In the end, his efforts and perseverance, along with those of GK Frank Mazzuca (who himself had been hounding our Worth DD) paid off.

Now all we need is a wall on which to hang the Award.

Congratulations, everyone!

**The requirements for Star Council have since changed to reflect the new Faith in Action Programs focus initiated in 2018. Important elements that remain unchanged are the annual council membership and insurance quotas.*



Car Show & Blessing Shines Despite Cloudy Weather

Memorial Day Weekend is supposed to a sunny, warm start to summer – the perfect weekend for the Council’s 6th Annual Car Show & Blessing. Problem is: somebody forgot to tell the weatherman this year. Instead, it was cool and threatened rain. Rain is something people with classic cars – especially convertibles – don’t care much for.

Brother King Bunyi, who along with Brother Bob Rigor did a fantastic job organizing the car show, even sent out a request in the week before the show asking the Brothers of the Council to pray for good weather. It worked just enough – the rain held off until after the show cars had left and the last of the BBQ equipment was put away.

Once again, Fr. Johnson came out to bless the cars; taking the time to greet and talk to each car’s owner. Blessing weren’t just for the show cars: Father also blessed the cars of parishioners. It was obvious that many were grateful for the opportunity to have their cars blessed and sprinkled with (distilled) Holy water inside and out.



← Fr. Johnson (C) blesses Brother Bob Rigor’s 1930 Ford Model ‘A’ Phaeton, while Brother King (L) and Brother Bob (R) look on.





Supreme Chaplain's Message (Continued from page 3)

Nevertheless, we may still be reluctant to speak about our faith to others. After all, fewer people these days identify themselves as believers. Some feel they can get through life just fine without God or at least without any form of organized religion. Others think that all institutions, especially large ones such as the Catholic Church, are corrupt and out of touch. So, we ask ourselves, "What can I possibly say to such people?" In a recent meeting, a colleague lamented how difficult it is to spread the Gospel in the current cultural climate. Another colleague agreed but added, "Spreading the Gospel in the pagan culture of the Roman Empire wasn't exactly a picnic!"

MESSENGERS OF HOPE

Like those who went before us, we may experience ridicule and rejection when trying to share the Gospel. But let's not forget two things. First, the Lord promised he'd never leave us (cf. Mt 28:20). In the power of the Holy Spirit, he walks with us and empowers us. Second, in spite of the hard veneer of our culture, people are desperately searching for meaning and trying to make sense of their lives. Let us be confident that the Lord and the Gospel have something critically important to say to such people. He really does want us to be his messengers of hope and joy. For in becoming one of us and in dying to save us from our sins, the Son of God has shown us the ultimate meaning and destiny of our lives.

Maybe we hesitate to speak of our faith to others because we feel unprepared. We may feel that our formation in the faith was inadequate, that there are "holes" in our religious education. Or we may feel that we are not sufficiently advanced in the spiritual life to invite others to consider, or reconsider, the faith. So, we'd rather leave spreading the Gospel "to the experts" — that is, to priests and religious.

The fact is, though, we all have to do our part. We need to equip ourselves for the work of spreading the Gospel. We don't need a theology degree, but we do need to pray every day, read Scripture prayerfully, take part in the Mass attentively, go to confession regularly, and know and love our faith more deeply. As we speak about the faith, our deeds have to match our words; it's no good to speak about the faith and not to live it. And if we are living the faith, we should be willing to speak of it.

The Knights of Columbus offers us a head start with tremendous resources for growing in prayer, our understanding of the faith, and charity. It also offers us a fraternal atmosphere, which encourages us to both live our faith and bear witness to it. In fact, this is one of the principal reasons why Father McGivney founded the Knights. Aided by his example and prayers, may we bear witness to Jesus in both word and deed!

Archbishop William E. Lori
Supreme Chaplain

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