

The Pulse



St. Agnes Council 15344
Knights of Columbus

“You will be Brothers: Our Vocation to Fraternity”
June 2021

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Why Would Anyone Go to Purgatory?

The following is the transcript of Deacon Brother Sumner Peery’s Good of the Order presentation at the May 17, 2021 business meeting. Brother Sumner points out that it is important to read the Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 1030-1032 and 1472-1473, which were the main resources for his presentation.

Why would anyone go to Purgatory? To be cleansed, for “nothing unclean shall enter [Heaven]” (Rev. 21:27). Anyone who has not been completely freed of sin and its effects is, to some extent, “unclean.” Through repentance he may have gained the grace needed to be worthy of Heaven, which is to say, he has been forgiven and his soul is spiritually alive. But that’s not sufficient for gaining entrance into Heaven. He needs to be cleansed completely. The stains of sin need to be removed.

For example, I threw a rock through my Father’s large living room window after he told me not to throw rocks. (Sin). I tell my Father that I am sorry and he forgives me. (Sin Forgiven). But, the window was still broken and I have to pay for it to be fixed. The damage was still done, so I was grounded for two weeks. (Purgatory).

Every person who dies in a state of grace, but without having made sufficient expiation on earth for sins forgiven, will undergo the punishment and purification of Purgatory before entering Heaven.

I read that Purgatory is unquenchable fire that can last for a minute to several centuries. Sr. Lucia of Fatima said that it is the realization of the great love God has for us, and we are pining for being near God, but have to be separated from God for purification in the fire of divine love.

Those who deny the existence of Purgatory tend to touch only briefly upon the history of the belief. They prefer to claim that the Bible speaks only of Heaven and Hell. Wrong. It speaks plainly of a third condition, commonly called the limbo of the Fathers, where the just who had died before the redemption were waiting for Heaven to be opened to them. After his death and before his resurrection, Christ visited those experiencing the limbo of the Fathers and preached to them the good news that Heaven would now be opened to them (1 Pet. 3:19). These people thus were not in Heaven, but neither were they experiencing the torments of Hell. This may or may not be Purgatory, but it is a third condition.

(Continued on page 5)



BIRTHDAYS

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

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- Cheng-Feng Tsai & Le-Chi Hsiang – June 28, 2008 (13 yrs)
- Michael & Chris McDermott – June 28, 1980 (41 yrs)

Council Officers / Columbian Year 2020-2021

The following brothers have served our council faithfully as officers for the last Columbian Year. Thank you.

- Grand KnightSK David Wood PGK925-458-0888
- ChaplainFr. Johnson Abraham510-557-9845
- Deputy Grand KnightSK Carlos Garcia PGK.....925-680-2814
- Chancellor*Open*
- WardenCheng-Feng Tsai925-890-0353
- Recorder.....SK Mike McDermott.....925-676-2384
- Financial SecretaryGary Downs.....925-825-4409
- TreasurerSK Richard Milward PGK925-699-5852
- LecturerDeacon Tony Reyes.....925-671-0134
- Advocate*Open*
- Inside GuardPatrick Monahan.....925-864-9867
- Outside GuardWayne Schafer925-323-6518
- One-Year Trustee*Open*
- Two-Year Trustee*Open*
- Three-Year TrusteeJohn Wright.....925-798-5962
- Supreme Field Agent.....SK Howard Tank PGK.....925-315-8732
- District DeputySK David Schwartz PGK510-325-7810

Knights of Columbus.
Howard Tank
Field Agent
 925-315-8732
 howard.tank@kofc.org
 Ca. Lic#0117393

Life Insurance • Long-Term Care Insurance
Retirement Annuities • Disability Income Insurance

Protecting Catholic families since 1882.



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

Congratulations to Our Officers-Elect for CY 2021-2022!

Congratulations (and a few prayers) are due to our Council's officers-elect for the 2021-2022 Columbian Year (CY), who were elected to office during the May 17 business meeting held online.

Note that a few positions remain to be filled and that being a Council officer is not time-consuming or difficult, and rarely has anyone ever "done it wrong." If you are currently a third-degree Knight (or are willing to sit in front of your computer for only 30 minutes to become one), not only are you eligible to be a Council officer, you are fully and absolutely qualified.

GRAND KNIGHT: RICHARD MILWARD, PGK (PGK = *retread*)

DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT: CARLOS GARCIA, PGK

CHANCELLOR: OPEN

- Duties:
- Assists Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight with their duties
 - Entrusted with strengthening members' interest in council activities
 - Commonly also serves as the council's Membership Director

WARDEN: CHENG-FENG TSAI

RECORDER: MIKE McDERMOTT

TREASURER: OPEN

- Duties:
- Handles council funds
 - Receives funds from Financial Secretary; deposits in council accounts
 - Maintains all the council's checking and savings accounts
 - Responsible for paying all council expenses

ADVOCATE: OPEN

- Duties:
- Acts as parliamentarian for the council
 - Has a working knowledge of Method of Conducting Council Meetings
 - Knows council's bylaws and Order's Charter, Constitution and Laws

INSIDE / OUTSIDE GUARD: PATRICK MONAHAN / WAYNE SCHAFFER

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – 1-YEAR: JOHN WRIGHT

2-YEAR: BOB RIGOR

3-YEAR: DAVID WOOD, PGK

The positions of **Chancellor**, **Treasurer**, and **Advocate** remain open. The only qualification for these positions is that you must be a Third-Degree Knight. For more information, contact GK-elect Richard Milward.



UPCOMING DEGREES

New Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity

- The new Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity is now available on-demand. This means that you can advance to the Third Degree any time of the day or night, 24/7, at your convenience.

To participate in the new Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity, you will need an invitation. To receive an invitation, contact Brother Richard Milward at 925-699-5852 or richard.milward.pgk@gmail.com.

Forward this newsletter to Catholic men interested in the Knights, and let them know that through June 30 they can **become a member for free** online using promo code **MCGIVNEY2020** at kofc.org/join.

Patriotic (4th) Degree:

- To be announced.

Council Calendar of Events

- June 7 Council Officers Meeting, 8 PM, online via Zoom.
- June 16 Todos Santos Assembly Meeting, online.
- June 21 Council Business Meeting, 8 PM, online via Zoom.

Prayer Intentions

Physical Healing

- Brother Ron Artale and his son
- Brother Octavio Padilla
- Brother David's father Stan, his daughter Sarah, his brother Hal
- Brother Ray Doorack's son and grandson
- Brother John Wright's brother Larry
- Brother Ed Burgess (St. Bonaventure)
- Brother Gary's sister in-law Julie
- Brother Neil Cuffy
- Deacon Jim Pearce
- Brother Tex asking for prayers for his sister in law Alicia E. Banzos
- Brother Jorge Garcia
- Brother Norm Andrews and his wife Dianne
- Brother Tom McEachran (recovering from a stroke)
- Brother Richard's mother-in-law Anita Wilbur (St. Francis of Assisi)
- Brother Howard Tank's sister Heidi Drugas, a nurse in Fresno.

Knights Special Intentions

- Brother King and for his father's conversion
- Brother Walt Hubrig
- Inmates at the Martinez Detention Facility

Other Special Intentions

- For peace in war torn regions of the world; for Christians and others suffering persecution; for victims of all-natural disasters and terrorist acts; for the safety of all those enslaved and all refugees; for an end to Covid-19; for all protests to be peaceful
- Safety in military service and for first responders: All men and women in uniform serving our country, local and state first responders, including brother Bob's son Andrew serving in the Army.

Special Life Events and Thanksgiving

- For all deceased Brother Knights: Brothers SK Dick Wilbur, father-in-law of Brother Richard Milward; Ed Chatterton; Ed Lexon; Tom Kisak; Dick Spahl; and Owen Murray (QAS). For Jean Vetro, widow of Brother Bob Vetro and Brother Ed Lee's sister Marian.
- Our Parish, Diocese and Universal Church: Prayers for Pope Francis, our Bishop Michael Barber, our Priests, Religious, our Pastor Father Johnson, and for all Seminarians, for Deacons Tony and Sumner.



WISDOM AND STRENGTH

Father in Heaven, you sent us your only Son to redeem us and to build your kingdom on earth. Please give us the wisdom and strength we need to follow His call.

Grant to the faithful a spirit of generosity, that Church vocations may flourish.

Bless our priests with holiness and courage, that they may lead your people to Christ.

Help all sisters and brothers to fulfill their sacred promises, and so be effective signs of your kingdom.

Lord, invite more men and women to your service. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Why Would Anyone Go to Purgatory? (Continued from page 1)

Paul tells us that when we are judged, each man's work will be tried. And what happens if a righteous man's work fails the test? "He will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire" (1 Cor 3:15). Now this loss, this penalty, can't refer to consignment to Hell, since no one is saved there; and Heaven can't be meant, since there is no suffering ("fire") there. The Catholic doctrine of Purgatory alone explains this passage.

Prayers for the dead and the consequent doctrine of Purgatory have been part of the true religion since before the time of Christ. Not only can we show it was practiced by the Jews of the time of the Maccabees, but it has even been retained by Orthodox Jews today, who recite a prayer known as the Mourner's Kaddish for eleven months after the death of a loved one so that the loved one may be purified. It was not the Catholic Church that added the doctrine of Purgatory. Rather, the Protestant churches rejected a doctrine that had always been believed by Jews and Christians.

Christ accomplished all of our salvation for us on the cross. But that does not settle the question of how this redemption is applied to us. Scripture reveals that it is applied to us over the course of time through, among other things, the process of sanctification through which the Christian is made holy. Sanctification involves suffering (Rom. 5:3-5), and Purgatory is the final stage of sanctification that some of us need to undergo before we enter Heaven. Purgatory is the final phase of Christ's applying to us the purifying redemption that he accomplished for us by his death on the cross.

Catholic theology takes seriously the notion that "nothing unclean shall enter Heaven." From this it is inferred that a less than cleansed soul isn't fit for Heaven. It needs to be cleansed or "purged" of its remaining imperfections. Sanctification is thus not an option, something that may or may not happen before one gets into Heaven. It is an absolute requirement, as Hebrews 12:14 states that we must strive "for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord."

Time in Purgatory can be shortened if the living offer prayers, penance, almsgiving, and especially if the Holy sacrifice of the Mass is offered for them.

The saints have not hesitated to warn us that we have a real duty toward those who are still in purgatorial expiation. The souls in Purgatory are not separated from the Church which is the Kingdom of Christ as those in Hell are separated permanently from God. The souls in Purgatory receive relief from suffering by our prayers that shorten their time getting cleansed from the stain of sin.

St. Padre Pio said that the Mass is by far the greatest of all prayers and that one Mass is spiritually worth more than all other forms of prayers and devotion

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MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

John Fitzpatrick
– June 18, 1985 (36 yrs)

Earl Head
– June 13, 2004 (17 yrs)

Elvis Castelino
– June 29, 2006 (15 yrs)

Juan Fernandez
– June 13, 2013 (8 yrs)

Mark Longhi
– June 13, 2013 (8 yrs)

Robert McEachran
– June 13, 2013 (8 yrs)

James Shafi
– June 26, 2014 (7 yrs)

Why Would Anyone Go to Purgatory? (Continued from page 5)

ever said since the world began, though I would like to emphasize that prayer and devotion are still of enormous spiritual benefit.

A Mass that a person attends or has said for themselves during their life is of much more value than a Mass said for that person after their death – the reason being that when a person attends Mass or has a Mass said for themselves during life, some effort or sacrifice has been made either to go to Mass or provide the Mass offering.

When we leave money for Masses to be said after our death, the sacrifice is considerably less as money is no longer of use to us when we are dead.

We should try and go to as many Masses as we can and have as many Masses said for ourselves as possible during our life as these Masses will help us enormously both in this life and in the next, particularly reducing time in Purgatory.

It is difficult or impossible for some people to go to frequent Mass and it is not financially possible for others to have many Masses said for themselves and their associates. One way however, that is not costly, and ensures you and your family are included in many daily Masses is to enroll in a Perpetual Mass Association or Associations.

These are associations of different congregations of priests, who include anyone who has made an offering to their congregation, in all the spiritual benefits of all their Masses until such time as that congregation ceases to exist.

Some congregations of priests/religious sisters also have perpetual prayer associations which, for a small stipend, ensures the participant benefits from all the Mass' prayers and sacrifices of that community.

Finally, we should consider Gregorian Masses for our deceased family members and friends though this involves a bigger offering due to the commitment required of the priest or priests involved. Gregorian Masses are 30 masses said for 30 consecutive days for the deliverance from Purgatory of a named deceased person.

These Masses are called Gregorian after St. Gregory the Great (Pope from 1590-1604) who contributed to the spread of this practice. It is believed that if Gregorian Masses are said for a person who is in Purgatory, then that person is released from Purgatory after the 30 Masses are completed.

References:

Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 1030-1032, 1472-1473.

Catholic.com, <https://www.catholic.com/tract/purgatory>

Perpetual Mass Associations, <https://perpetualmasses.org/>

What the Catechism of the Catholic Church says on "Purgatory:"

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY...St. Agnes Paris 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 for the Unborn**, which is located next to the statue of Mary.

The **Memorial for the Unborn** has already 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 include 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 may wait to obtain a sufficiently large number of brick orders before submitting the orders to the manufacturer.
- ◆ We will use your phone/email only for keeping you informed of progress or if we have questions.

For more information contact Carlos Garcia at 925-250-8969 or cmgarcia@astound.net