



Knight Light Newsletter

GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Behold, how good and how pleasant [it is] for brethren to [work] together in unity! Psalms 133:1

As you all probably know, we had fantastic support for our annual Lenten Fish Fry Dinners. Thanks to all who helped and all who contributed, we sold over 3,100 dinners. That is massive! To me, it all seemed to go like clockwork. Thank you to all! There are too many faithful volunteers to list individually; however, I would be remiss if I did not specially thank those brothers who came in every Saturday morning for the tough job of cleaning up the fry pots, patio and cookers! Thank you, Daniel Hernandez, Alan Saca, Chris Powers, Josey Samson for your much-needed hard work! As of this writing, we still have the Lenten Soup Dinner and the RCIA Easter Vigil Reception to go in April and I am sure that these will go well. Thank you Kwee-Cee Chu and PGK. Tim Keating for chairing those events. Now that we have easily exceeded our anticipated income, I would like feedback from those who helped as to where these extra funds should go. Seminarian Fund? The intellectually disabled? St. Joseph's Bread (feeding the homeless)? St. Vincent de Paul? Something else? Give

me your input at GK@kofc10644.com. Let us keep this momentum going! After a month-long break following Easter, we will be doing one last fund raising dinner event, our Pasta Dinner to benefit the Special Olympics on April 28, our only event in April. We are in need of a Co-Chairman to help me out with this "easy" event. Please contact me at (209)-601-5039 to volunteer to help with ticket sales on the plaza after all of the Masses, set-up, serving, and/or clean up. The local Knights of Columbus Color Corps were highly visible and quite impressive at our new Bishop's, Bishop Myron Cotta, installation at St. Stanislaus on March 15. Several of our council's members provided transportation for the many visiting dignitaries and bishops from the airports to the event. Thanks to Marco and Jaime Martinez for escorting Bishop Christophe Pierre, the Papal Nuncio (the Pope's ambassador to the US) and being on their best behavior. See: <http://www.modbee.com/news/article205124144.html> In addition, thanks to PGK Pat Ryan for trekking to San Jose airport, Chris Bengochea for battling traffic to and from the Oakland airport, along with Chris Powers and Mike Loschke who shuttled back

and forth to the Sacramento airport. This was real a sacrifice by them to help make this installation a truly impressive event. It is great to see our newer brothers getting involved in these events, so help them keep this momentum going! Take a month-long break and then pitch in to help with this year's one, last fund raising dinner event

How are you doing on that New Year's Resolution? Make a re-commitment to your Knights. Get active! Get involved. Do not just pay your dues and call yourself a Knight. Be a Knight!

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
Vivat Jesus

Al Toschi, Grand Knight



PS. Check out our website to see who won this year's St. Joseph's Award. Hint: it is one of our brother Knights and his wife. Kofc10644.com

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- The Business meeting will be on January 2nd at 7 PM in the parish hall. Don't miss it and bring a brother Knight.

April 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|-----|-----|-----|---|
| 1 EASTER | 2 Officers' Meeting 6:30 PM, Vatican Council Room, St JP2 Center | 3 Business Meet- ing, 7 PM, Father O'Hare Hall | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Divine Mercy Sunday | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Parish Blessings Breakfast 8 AM, Father O'Hare Hall | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Pasta Dinner for Special Olympics, 5:30 PM, Father O'Hare Hall |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Members' Birthdays

Angel Martinez 4-2
 David Evans 4-4
 Scott Fernandes 4-4
 Octavio Lopez 4-6
 Nathaniel Benninger 4-8
 Tom Lucas III 4-12
 Robert Spengler 4-13
 Steven A. Junqueiro 4-15
 Daniel Ryan 4-15
 Pellegrino Truncali 4-15
 Tom Cabrera 4-16
 Imad El Gada 4-17
 Daniel Di Rienzo 4-23
 Rev Benny Kottarathil 4-24
 Sean Mullins 4-24
 Robert Nunes 4-24
 James Standart 4-25
 Nicholas Giardina 4-27

Ladies' Birthdays

Carole Ward 4-4
 Rita Menezes 4-5
 Sharilyn Nelson 4-8
 Maria Delgado-Braun 4-10
 Wendy Bettencourt 4-11
 Wilma Lee 4-11
 Shaundra Lopez 4-12
 Kim McDoal 4-12
 Suny Di Rienzo 4-15
 Soledad Raya 4-15
 Debbie Ryan 4-16
 Martha Fedasz 4-17
 Kelly Valencia 4-17
 Piedy Callahan 4-18
 Amanda Pearson 4-20
 Darlene Tobias 4-20
 Debbie Cavagnaro 4-21
 Theresa Junqueiro 4-23
 Melissa Hoffman 4-24
 Sue Gamboa 4-27

Anniversaries

Angel & Jill Martinez 4-4
 Jesus & Lupe Perez 4-10
 Brian & Lisa Porta 4-11
 Steven & Theresa Junqueiro 4-12
 Leo & Elvera Alvarez 4-14
 Jason & Melissa Hoffman 4-14
 David & Charlyn Piper 4-18
 Michael & Carlene Pardina 4-19
 Michael & Erin Webster 4-25
 Norbert & Heidi Mendonca 4-29



FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

It always seems that fishermen talk about the "...one that got away." But with one more fish fry to go and our attendance to date, I don't think many got away.

Easter is drawing close as I write this. Memories of mom making sure my sisters and I had a new spring outfit for Easter come to mind: the Easter egg hunts.

I have one vivid childhood memory, where my parents went to the trouble of tying a string to each of our bedroom doors that we then had to follow through the house and out to the backyard to find the Easter eggs and baskets. Then there were the couple of times we went to a city park and took part in an Easter egg hunt with hundreds of other kids. The Easter Sunday family dinners were a belly full. Mom would have been featured on Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives and I will bet many of you will say the same about your mom.

But going to church was always a part of that weekend. And later in life, it was when I wanted to watch the movie "King of Kings". A few years ago, I got the DVD, so I do not have to hope to see it on some cable channel. The Wizard of Oz was also another family tradition.

Speaking of families, our fish fry events had a new feature this year – family pricing. The past few weeks, the word may have started to get out or people saw our ad in the weekly bulletin. Selling tickets on the plaza the past couple of weeks, I saw more interest and sales for "family tickets". That should make us feel good. We provided a Lent dinner that the whole family could enjoy. For larger families, they enjoyed something together that did not break their budget - a night out as a family in a festive, relaxing atmosphere.

One Friday morning, I got up when it was a bit dark out and headed on over to the hall at 6:30 am. The fish fry events start that early, a crew of brothers arrive and cut the fish into the portions we will fry and serve that night. Let's call that group the "Cut-Ups".

Then, they switch gears, pull out the boxes of tin foil, the raw potatoes and wrap them

up to be baked later that afternoon. Let's call them "The (W)rappers."

I opened my mouth one Sunday on the plaza, and there I was with Wayne Sousa, Don Baumgratz, Ed Fernandes and Gary Moya. Maybe one day, James Towne will slip up and we get to see his secret batter recipe. However, Brothers, such as Don Reed and Rick Dinubilo are ordering the potatoes and fish to get us to that point. Richard Ward our dessert wizard – my wife can never get enough of the lemon cake.

I hope to show up once again the day after the last fish fry to join the crew that cleans everything up and stores it away until the next year. Let's call them the "Finishers." I was on that crew a few years - draining the grease from the fryers; helping tear down the gas burners and storing them; and, tearing up the cardboard in the back on the floor, while others were scrubbing the fryers to pristine condition.

The fish fry dinners are like watching the Warriors when they're at their peak – pure teamwork and getting the job done in a championship manner.



FATHER MARK'S MESSAGE

Dear brother Knights,

We have come to the end of the long season of Lent, and to the end of a long season of successful fish dinners! I hope that we are now prepared to focus our minds and our hearts on the real "reason for the season" which is Holy Week of Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection. I hope that all of you will be able to join us for all of the special Masses and liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. The reason why we spent forty days fasting and praying and frying fish was because Jesus gave himself over for our salvation. He gave us his Body and Blood at the last supper, and then on the Cross. Then he rose to give new hope to mortal flesh. The three holiest days of the year are called the Easter Triduum. We will begin by gathering on Holy Thursday night at 7:00 PM when we remember the Last Supper when Jesus gave us the Eucharist and the priesthood. Then afterwards we try to stay awake a little longer and pray while we recall how Jesus suffered his agony in the garden and was arrested on that same night. Then on Friday, we will gather outside the church at high noon to see our youth reenact the Way of the Cross. We then enter the church at 1:30 PM for the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion during which we will kiss the wood of the saving cross. The following day is the day Jesus rested in the tomb, Holy Saturday. There are not Masses until after dark when we will light the Easter Fire at 8:30 PM to signal the beginning of the greatest Celebration of the Year, the Easter Vigil. Then we enter the church with the blessed fire and begin hearing the readings of the history of Salvation. Then water is blessed and twenty-four new Catholics will be baptized and Confirmed and receive First Holy Communion. This longest Mass of the year will end around 11:30 PM.

In order to persevere in following these Holy Week events we must imitate the Immaculate Virgin Mary who followed her Son on road to Calvary and persevered with him at the foot of his Cross. She had no sin. We who are sinners should do as much. By our sins, we caused her Son to

die for us. Let us ask her for the grace to never abandon him.

Last month I wrote about the wondrous events of the apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes to St. Bernadette in 1858. I would like to write a little more about something that happened during the first apparition. When Bernadette arrived for the first time at the grotto of Lourdes on February 11, 1858, she was gathering firewood with her sister Toinette and another girl named Jeanne. The other two girls waded across a stream in search of more firewood, leaving Bernadette alone since she suffered from asthma and was afraid to go through the icy water.

Suddenly Bernadette heard a strange sound like a gust of wind, but she noticed that the leaves of the trees were not moving. Then she looked up at a hole in the rock above the grotto. Within this niche in the rock, Bernadette saw a "beautiful lady"



smiling at her. The Lady wore a silky white dress with a blue sash and had yellow roses on each of her feet. She had beautiful rosary beads draped over her arm but did not speak. Bernadette rubbed her eyes and looked again and still she saw the wom-

an. She was not particularly afraid of this beautiful woman, even though she did not know who she was. However, instinctively she felt in her pocket for her own rosary. She tried to pull it out of her pocket so that she could make the sign of the Cross with it. Nevertheless, her arm would not move. This was strange and she began to feel a mysterious fear. Then the Lady herself began to move her rosary up to her head and made the sign of the Cross on herself. It was only after the Lady had finished making the sign of the Cross on herself that Bernadette was again able to move her arm again. Bernadette then made the sign of the Cross and all of her fear vanished again. Bernadette then proceeded to pray an entire rosary in the presence of the Lady. The Lady remained silent but only moved her rosary beads

between her fingers with each Hail Mary that Bernadette recited.

Although Mary said nothing during this first apparition, her gestures spoke volumes. In the first apparition, she subtly hinted at the message that she had come to teach the world at Lourdes. For centuries, the Church had debated and volumes were written about the question of Mary's Immaculate Conception. Popular belief had always been that Mary was conceived without sin, but for centuries, theologians had argued about the fact that sin was removed only by the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. How could anyone be sinless BEFORE Jesus died to take away the sins of the world? One explanation was proposed according to which the mother was conceived without sin but only by virtue of her Son's eventual death on the Cross, which also worked retroactively in her favor.

Without saying a word, Mary showed that this was the solution. She showed Bernadette that she wanted to be the first one to make the sign of the Cross because she was the first to benefit from it.

Of course, we know the rest of the story of the Apparitions of Lourdes. Mary appeared eighteen times but said little.

When the Lady spoke it was to ask that a church be built in that place where people could come in procession. She asked Bernadette to pray for sinners and she repeated "penitence, penitence, penitence." Bernadette was told constantly by the crowd of people to ask the Lady her name. However, the Lady did not reveal her name until the sixteenth apparition on March 25. On that day, Bernadette asked the Lady three times, "Mademoiselle, would you have the kindness to tell me who you are, if you please?" Finally, the Lady slipped her rosary over her right arm and extended her hands toward the ground. Then she joined her hands in a gesture of prayer and looked up the heaven while she said the words "I am the Immaculate Conception."

These two simple gestures were quite meaningful. First Mary reached down toward the ground as if to say that she too

Continued on page 5

JOHN'S JOKES

A man walks into a bar with his dog. "This is a talking dog. If this dog can answer my questions, who will buy me a drink?" he asks.

"You can have one on the house," the bartender says. The man turns to his dog. "What goes on the top of a house?"

Dog: "Roof!"

Man: "What does tree bark feel like?"

Dog: "Rough!"

Man: "Who is the greatest baseball player ever?"

Dog: "Ruth!"

The bartender is clearly annoyed and snaps at the man. "That's enough. You and your dog, get out."

After the man and the dog are thrown out, the dog looks sadly at his owner. "Should I have said DiMaggio?"

In addition, since it is a short one, I thought I would give you bonus

An Uber passenger tapped the driver on the shoulder to ask him a question.

The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the footpath, and stopped inches from a shop window.

For a second everything went quiet in the cab, then the driver said, "Look man, don't ever do that again. You scared the daylight out of me!"

The passenger apologized and said, "I didn't realize that a little tap would scare you so much."

The driver replied, "Sorry, it's not really your fault. Today is my first day as an Uber driver - I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years."

LECTOR'S MESSAGE

The fish fry dinners have been incredible thanks to all of your hard work and I am looking forward to Holy Week and Good Friday. Many moons ago, I made it a point to take Good Friday off as a vacation day and spend the whole day at the church. Danny Velle and I use to walk the Walk for Life Modesto together every year. Live Stations of the Cross and mass are awesome as well. If you have not done this before, consider making it an annual event for you and your family. If you are not healthy enough, try to attend some of the other events or volunteer. Much of what we do as Knights is support other ministries, like Rite of Catholic Initiation of Adults, Saint Vincent De-Paul, etc. Many times, it is monetary donations, but also our time can be spent helping other ministries physically. I promised Brandon Harker I would mention the urgent need he has right now for men to help with Trail Life Boys, a Christian based program that will enlighten and strengthen our young boys in life and outdoor skills. These young men need men to guide them. So far, they have a great start, they have Brandon Harker. Yep that is it: only one man. Please, consider helping. You do not need experience, just a will to help.

I also heard about a prison ministry through St. Joseph's Workshop, led by a deacon who is the chaplain at California Youth Authority in Stockton. On the trip was Richard Braun and myself from our parish and several men and woman from St Patrick's in Escalon. There were select groups chosen to hear a cool interactive speech with Father Stan Fortuna from the Bronx, New York. If you ever seen father Stan, he is incredible. He plays a five string electric bass and sings and raps original music about modern life crisis, life, religion, hope, and perseverance. They told us not to wear blue or red, because the young men associate those colors with gang affiliation. Our job was easy. We met and greeted them. Someone brought a beautiful stack of holy cards, and we handed them out. I looked at the faces of the young incarcerated men as they walked through the doors, and I saw our sons. I kept thinking there just kids in need of the love of Jesus Christ and or help and direction to turn their lives around. They were all very respectful. They were also very receptive to Father's musical speech. We served them tacos for lunch and cleaned the mess up. After Father's final speech, we prayed with them and again shook all their hands and told them how proud we were that they chose to attend. You should have seen their faces. Many were hungry and not just for

tacos. Every human being thirsts for Christ, but not all of us are aware. Some do not realize what that thirst is.

Afterwards, the team went to the facility's chapel and prayed. We saw the stains on the wall from where the Stations of the Cross once hung. They had to be taken down, so that the chapel can be used for all other religious faith formations to share the chapel. The smart deacon kept them close by, so he could rehang them for mass. He may have left them off that day, because we did not use the space. While I was kneeling in the chapel, I noticed a young man's name and the date 1972 scratched into the pew. That was probably when you could sneak a fork out of the dining room and into mass. I thought, "I would have been 12 years old." Then I thought about St John Bosco, his dreams, and all the youth he saved.

Brother Knights, both of those groups need us, good strong willed and faith filled men! Please, consider joining in and helping.

God bless you all and keep you and your family. I love you all very much.

Stephen Michael Lector



FATHER MARK CONTINUED

was one of us, formed of the dust of the earth. Then she looked up to heaven in order to show her gratitude to God from whom he had received the singular privilege of complete freedom from all the effects of sin from the moment of her conception. Our Lady of Lourdes revealed to us that it was from the Lord and from his death on the Cross that she became the Immaculate Conception.

We who are not immaculately conceived suffer from the effects of sin. That is why we need the discipline of Lent in order to purify ourselves. We must make up for our sins by fasting, penance, and meditating on the Lord's Passion and Cross. It is the Lord's Cross that can purify us as well.

Father Mark Wagner Chaplain and Pastor St. Joseph's



Knight Light
Knights of Columbus, Council #10644
PO Box 576959
Modesto, CA 95357-6959

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