

KNIGHT LIGHT NEWSLETTER

December 2015

St. Joseph's Council #10644, Division 5 Volume 20, Issue 6

GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Hello, Brother Knights!

We welcome December as the season of sharing. I never quite understood the phrase and the significance of its being attached to this month. As Brother Knights, there should not be any one season of sharing but a daily, weekly, monthly and yearly commitment to this act of kindness. Our first order is Charity and should be carried on throughout the year.

We have a few very important events coming up that should demand our full attention as Knights. We recently had a poll to find out what events you all enjoy, read or saw a need for improvement on. As a council which numbers of 200 plus members, we only had 32 respondents. It was a little disappointing to hear this news. I know this may come as a surprise to all on the email list, but we do know who opens and reads the newsletter. Thankfully it's more than 32. If you happen to be one of the regular readers, I ask that you talk to your Brothers to see if they know what's happening. We have social Media at our disposal to get the word out about our events. If this appeals to the

masses then we should use it to our advantage.

I'm pleading to the membership to save the date of December 5th for our Adopt-A-Family dinner. Even if you can't attend, you can still help with your generous donations of holiday canned and dry goods, toys and gift cards of any kind to help us and the up to 10 families provided to us by the St. Vincent de Paul. You can call me to drop off donations or I can come collect them. My number is (209) 918-2847. We also still need a few people to step up and adopt a family. It is a truly a rewarding experience for you and your family; and, this what the "Season" is all about. The dinner menu, provided to the members and their families, will be roast beef, gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetables, roll and dessert. The prices are as follows single adult \$8, seniors and children \$5, and families \$15. We try to keep this affordable, so you can be generous with your gifts to the less fortunate. We encourage families to attend and will either have a Saint Nick and/or Santa Claus in attendance.



The next event happens the next day, on Sunday the 6th at the McHenry Bowl between 10:30 AM and 12:30-1:00 PM. It is the Special Olympics Bowling Tournament. We need Knights and family members to help keep bowlers in their lanes and shuttle drinks and pizza to the participants. If you have never volunteered with Special Olympics before, I assure you will get nothing but joy of this event. Every day is a great day for these kids and adults. They only know joy in their life. I hope you can spare the time to come out. The next upcoming event is the coats for kids which is very simple if you have a new or slightly used coat you can drop it off at the parish vestibule or at the bank, BBVA Compass at the Lakes branch at Oakdale & Floyd throughout January. Emmanuelle! He is coming! Keep the Christ in Christmas and pray for all Brother Knights who have suffered the loss of loved ones this year. The holidays are an extremely hard season on the loved ones we have lost. Continue to pray for Christians persecuted throughout the world and also our priest. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years!

God bless you and your families!

Mike Glendon
Grand Knight
209-918-2847



grandknight@kofc10644.com

Knight Light Editor: Richard Braun

Send your letters, stories, ideas, typed with your name and phone # no later than the 15th of each month.

Please, note, all submissions are subject to editing and space availability.

Website: kofc10644.com

MAIL: Richard Braun
1821 Kruger Drive,
Modesto, CA 95355

EMAIL:
NEWSLETTER@KOFc10644.COM

Next Meeting

Date: 12/1/2015

Location: **Father O'Hare Hall**

Don't forget to bring another Brother Knight. We need you and your ideas. Don't forget the Adopt-A-Family dinner and/or helping with Special Olympics. Also, coming up on January 16th will be a free throw contest for children at Our Lady of Fatima.

Dear Knights,

On December 8, the Church will enter the Jubilee Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis. Here at St. Joseph's, we will spend the year reflecting on the Works of Mercy. There are seven "Corporal Works of Mercy" and seven "Spiritual Works of Mercy." For example, December will be dedicated to "Feeding the Hungry" and "Giving Drink to the Thirsty." Many of you Knights are often involved in feeding the hungry. You help with the distribution of our Christmas food baskets for the poor through the St. Vincent de Paul ministry. Many of you have participated in the "Adopt a Family" program in the past. Of course, you help serve food at many of our parish events. You also help those who are hungry and thirsty for love. Helping with the Special Olympics Bowling Tournament was a great way to satisfy the needs of the disabled "kids" who are hungry and thirsty for love and affection. Thank you very much, Brother Knights! For each month of the Jubilee Year 2016, we will be focusing on one of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. During the month of

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

January we will encourage everyone to help "clothe the naked" by donating coats and other items of clothing.

Here is a list of the corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry; to give drink to the thirsty; to clothe the naked; to harbor the harborless (shelter the homeless); to visit the sick; to ransom the captive (visit the imprisoned); and to bury the dead. The spiritual works of mercy are: to instruct the ignorant; to counsel the doubtful; to admonish sinners; to bear wrongs patiently; to forgive offences willingly; to comfort the afflicted; to pray for the living and the dead.

In his official document which introduced the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis wrote: "It is my burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the *corporal and spiritual works of mercy*. It will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty. And let us enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God's mercy. Jesus introduces us to these works of mercy in his preaching so that we can know whether or not we are living as his disciples... We cannot escape the Lord's words to us, and

they will serve as the criteria upon which we will be judged: whether we have fed the hungry and given drink to the thirsty, welcomed the stranger and clothed the naked, or spent time with the sick and those in prison (cf. *Mt 25:31-45*). Moreover, we will be asked if we have helped others to escape the doubt that causes them to fall into despair and which is often a source of loneliness; if we have helped to overcome the ignorance in which millions of people live, especially children deprived of the necessary means to free them from the bonds of poverty; if we have been close to the lonely and afflicted; if we have forgiven those who have offended us and have rejected all forms of anger and hate that lead to violence; if we have had the kind of patience God shows, who is so patient with us; and if we have commended our brothers and sisters to the Lord in prayer." (Bull of Induction of the Jubilee of Mercy, #15) As Knights, let us respond to the call of our Holy Father and dedicated ourselves to works of mercy!

Sincerely,

**Father
Mark Wagner
Chaplain and Pastor**



SUNSHINE COMMITTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Prayers are requested for Brothers: Matt Bettencourt and his wife, Wendy; Leonard Churilla and his wife, Belen; Robert de Villiers; Dan Dwyer; Ed Fernandes and the repose of the soul of his wife, Beverly; Mike Glendon; John Gorman and his family; Matt Iorns and his family; John Karaz; the Keating Family; Tony Lee; David Malsom; Mike Miranda & his wife, Nicky; the repose of the soul of Jerry Oftring and for his wife, Ruth; Don Reed; Loy Sagrado; James Standart;

Richard Ward and for me in my current health struggles. Please pray also for: Kathy Anderson; Carlos Chavez, brother of Alfonso Chavez; Phyllis Edwards, niece of Frank Holmes; Stephen Harker, son of Kent Harker; Jeremy, son of Robert Hemsley; Mary, mother of Ed Hough; Sharon Iorns, mother of Matt Iorns; Helen Moya, wife of Gary Moya; Darlene Nielsen; Dawn and Maryann Powers, wife and mother of Chris Powers; the repose of the soul of Patricia Dinubilo, mother of Rick Dinubilo; and the repose of the soul of Wayne Michael, father of Stephen Michael.

And please, pray for all of the victims and perpetrators of the violence in Paris this past month of November.

**Sunshine Committee Chair
John McCave PGK**

If you have or know of any updates or other prayer requests, please let me know at 209-551-9534 or prayers@kofc10644.com



~ December 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Business Meeting 7 PM O'Hare Hall	2	3	4	5 Adopt A Family Dinner 5 PM O'Hare Hall
6 Special Olympics Bowling Tournament 10:30 AM – 1 PM	7	8	9 <i>Immaculate Conception</i>	10	11 Memorial Mass for deceased members of our Council 5:45 PM mass	12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 <i>Christmas</i>	26
27	28	29	30	31	Notes: Please let the Chancellor or the Grand Knight know if you and/or family can help at the Special Olympics Tournament.	

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

MEMBERS' BIRTHDAYS

Edward Gamboa 12/1
 James Galuppi PGK 12/2
 Ruben Sanchez 12/2
 Rev Joseph P. Illo 12/4
 Anthony Butera 12/5
 Robert Lorenz 12/5
 Lee Wolf 12/7
 Donald Burkdale 12/8
 James McGurrin 12/11
 Alex Trujillo 12/12
 Oren Tuss 12/12
 Severino Pongase 12/12
 Carlos Torres 12/14
 David Castro 12/14
 Patrick Laubacher 12/14
 Brian K. Porta 12/17
 Alexander L. Richmond 12/19
 Roger E. Missall 12/19
 Nelson R Henriquez 12/22
 Steven W. Tubbs 12/22
 Alfredo Ibarra 12/24
 Nicolas Delgado-Braun 12/24
 Noel Lazo 12/24
 James Brady 12/26
 Michael Bartikoski 12/26
 Jerry Blankenship 12/27
 John Stephen Bacay 12/27
 Mel Mattos PGK 12/28
 Franklin Holmes 12/29
 John Luty 12/29
 Kenneth Rairden 12/30

LADIES' BIRTHDAYS

Jean Smith 12/3
 Cindy Bartikoski 12/4
 Cindy Trujillo 12/9
 Kay Elson 12/11
 Theresa Galuppi 12/11
 Guadalupe Erend
 Valdovinos 12/12
 Linda Standart 12/13
 Sonita Saalfeld 12/13
 Marilyn Hancock 12/14
 Lucille Ortiz 12/15
 Karen McCave 12/16
 Beth Gorman 12/17
 Judy Chavez 12/17
 Alvera Baumgratz 12/21
 Anne Missall 12/22
 Gwendolyn Cupini 12/22
 Mary Judd 12/25
 Lucy Mattos 12/29
 Silvia Ramirez 12/31

ANNIVERSARIES

Matthew & Camille Iorns 12/1
 Belmiro & Deborah Goulart 12/7
 David & Lorna Sichak 12/8
 John & Sara Bacay 12/9
 Joseph & Joan Castagna 12/15
 Ronald & Sandra Uyeshiro 12/18
 Albert & Monica Gonzales 12/21
 Lovinio & Julito Casiano 12/22



FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

What do you do when your computer's power supply craps out and you come down with a stomach virus at the same time?

Yes, this month it seems like a few things happened at once, which meant I had to delay my article and keep it short and sweet. But luckily, I had a backup option and got the laptop to get me back in business.

This is my favorite time of the year. The days leading up to Christmas. Homes are decorated in many ways as you drive through our neighborhoods. People seem in a better mood. I have to get out our tree this weekend, so we can brighten up the living room.

Brothers - while it is

December, there are ways to lend a hand. I do not want to be redundant, so read the articles of our other Brothers who are recruiting volunteers. I like including some musical trivia to these articles. So I ask you: did you know that there was a country gospel tune nominated for an academy award in 1972? It was in a movie that starred Paul Newman and Henry Fonda called "Sometimes A Great Notion". The song was "All His Children" sung by Charley Pride. I enjoyed that song. In fact, in my freshman year, a trio of us made a recording of that song in our college dorm room that I captured on tape and still have to this day.

All His Children
(chorus)

*You know we're all His children,
His next of kin, that's the way it began*

No matter where you're going or where you've been

You're part of the family of man

Merry Christmas to you and your families.

And after the holidays the annual dues notices will go out.

**Financial Secretary,
Dave Sichak**

finsec@kofc10644.com



JOHN'S JOKES

Last Christmas, grandpa was feeling his age, and found that shopping for Christmas gifts had become too difficult. So he decided to send checks to everyone instead. In each card he wrote, "Buy your own present!" and mailed them early. He enjoyed the usual flurry of family festivities, and it was only after the holiday that he noticed that he had received very few cards in return. Puzzled over this, he went into his study, intending to write a couple of his relatives and ask what had

happened. It was then, as he cleared off his cluttered desk that he got his answer. Under a stack of papers, he was horrified to find the gift checks which he had forgotten to enclose with the cards.

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter,

usually late November to mid-December.

Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, according to EVERY historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, EVERY single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a girl.

We should have known... ONLY women would be able to drag a fat man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost.

Wow I would like to first say, "First degree team, great job!" Thank you to new member, Chris Bengochea. These degrees have a theatrical delivery that is needed, and I believe Chris delivers that with the rest of the team. It was also nice having actual song sheets, music playing and hearing you guys sing out loud. I was fortunate enough to have Michael Loschke next to me belting those tunes out. I really enjoyed the degree with Robert Hemsley, Al Toschi, Stephen Tubbs and the rest of the team really making a nice effort. It reminded me of when I joined.

This last week has been a blur for me, and many things have gone undone. This week, my best friend my earthly father Wayne Monroe Michael was called home to the Lord on Veterans' Day at 6:45 PM. How befitting he would go home to the Lord on Veterans' Day, for it may be the armed forces and a humble priest that he has to thank for his Catholic faith. The story he told me goes something like this, and as many times as he told it I will try not to make the tale too tall.

Pops told me that he and some of his friends in the air force were involved in a card game one night. All the time telling colorful jokes, drinking smoking and the like, at the end of the night, one of the guys had won all of their money. The prize winner unzipped his coat and revealed that he was the Catholic chaplain for their unit. He thanked them all for their contribution to the church and told them he expected to see them all front row at Mass on Sunday. My father and his friends were embarrassed

LECTURER'S NOTES

because of their behavior before the priest. (I guess that was when people really recognized our priests). Well, he and several of the men did show up and my father did become a Catholic. That priest reminds me of another guy who sat with sinners. After marriage and moving to Modesto, my father became a parishioner at Our Lady of Fatima parish and enrolled his children in school there. He became one of the first two hundred parishioners at St Joseph's, from its early humble beginnings at Pappy's Pizza Parlor, to the newly constructed round church with its moveable green chairs and wall dividers that made the church into pie shaped class rooms. Pops was a Boy Scout leader, taught catechism and confirmation classes. He was involved in many stewardship campaigns over the years, and volunteered many man hours. My father was a recovered alcoholic for 45 years plus and always continued to go to AA meetings here at the church to not only continue his sobriety but to help other people. Pops passed peacefully with a big smile as if he saw the Lord himself. My hope is that he had an incredible welcoming party from not only his friends and family and reuniting him with his 5' 8.5" tall, 130 lbs. frame he entered the armed forces with, but that he would be welcomed by Jesus, Mary, and Joseph the holy family. And that he would experience the grace of a happy death. When I contacted the office to inquire about arrangements for Pops, I ran into my old friend, Father Larry. He graciously allowed me to go to confession. I also learned he and St Joseph's parish were very

busy this week. Ed Fernandes' beautiful wife, Bev had passed and Father was going to visit Rick Dinubilo's mom, since she was not doing very well (and who I later learned after finishing this article passed away also). I also learned that Chris Bengochea was going through the same struggles with his father, and my friend Joe Castagna from Our Lady of Fatima was also called home. With the passing of Roberto Gutierrez last month, and those I mentioned here, the Lord sure called some good ones. Maybe we are doing something wonderful here at this beautiful, holy place we call St Joseph's Parish! My love goes out to each and every one of you! I love you all! God bless you and your beautiful families.

Stephen Edward Michael
Lecturer
lecturer@kofc10644.com



CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

As you know from past newsletters, your Officers have set a few goals for this Columbian Year with which we need every Brother to consider helping. Being a Brother in a group of over 300 great men, I am sure that you were proud of the fine job that we Knights do in our community. You all have special talents that we need you to donate in order to keep our Council strong. You will be surprised at how your involvement makes us all a bit more proud to be a Knight. I promised to challenge you throughout the Columbian Year to get involved in an activity that you might find quite rewarding and usually enjoyable. Over the last 4 months I have been asking for volunteers to help with our:

First Degree Team...CHALLENGE ANSWERED! Over the last couple of years we

have lost several of our key team members. In order to make a good "first impression" as to the excellence of our Council to new members (from our parish as well as others) we needed a long term commitment of First Degree Team members and backups. This challenge was answered AGAIN by **Mel Mattos**, who has accepted the challenge to take on the part of DGK or Chancellor. A big thank you, congratulations & welcome to them! We can still use a few more back-ups. Are **you** up to it?

Last month I am challenged you to get involved in the **Special Olympics**. You should have received an e-mail letting you know that we have been asked by the local group to help "coach" at the annual Bowling Tournament. They are in need of up to 52 "coaches" (a chance here to get your wives and young adult children involved!) to keep the 200+/- Special

Olympians on track and in their appropriate lanes. This will take up about 3 hours of your life, **Sunday, December 6th from 10:30 AM to 1 PM @ McHenry Bowl.** Will **you** answer this challenge? Call or e-mail me or our Grand Knight.

Later in the year (4/23/16) we will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner to, again, give you a chance to help out the Special Olympics. Save that date with more details to come on that.

Al Toschi,
Chancellor
chancellor@kofc10644.com



DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

As Knights, we have a strong interest in religious liberty and many of us see these rights as being under assault by the current leadership in Washington. I don't think anything currently in the news frames the issue better than the situation case of the Little Sisters of the Poor. The Little Sisters is a dedicated group of nuns who operate homes for the elderly in cities across the country and have been in a battle with the Obama administration over the Affordable Care Act's requirement that they allow their insurers to offer free contraception coverage to employees. It's clearly an unfair and unconstitutional mandate and, while it would be easy (as well as right) for the President to offer an exception for this group, he has chosen to hold firm and take a stand against the right to freely practice one's faith. During Pope Francis' recent visit to the United States, he made a special (and surprise) visit to the Little Sisters of the Poor, expressing his support for them and for religious freedom in general. *"As Little Sisters of the Poor, we simply cannot choose between our care for the elderly poor and our faith. And we should not have to make that choice, because it violates our nation's commitment to ensuring that people from diverse faiths can freely follow God's calling in their lives. For over 175 years, we have served the neediest in society with love and dignity. All we ask is to be able to continue*

our religious vocation free from government intrusion."

-Sr. Loraine Marie Maguire, Mother Provincial of the Little Sisters of the Poor:

The Little Sisters first filed a lawsuit in 2013. In July, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit ruled that the Little Sisters must comply with the contraception requirement. In August, the same circuit granted them a stay to protect them from fines while they petition their case to the Supreme Court which, on November 6th, agreed to take up their case. Please pray for a good outcome.

As I've said many times; you Brothers, as Knights of Columbus, are part of this fight for full freedom in our country. The dues you pay, the hours of service you give and the funds raised by the Council are, in part, sent up to the State and Supreme Councils to fund these efforts.

By now you should know that we've fired up the old phone tree again. Those of you've who've been members for a while will remember this is how we used to get the word out on Council events and activities and to call for volunteers. Email was pretty much in its infancy back then, there weren't too many websites, and no one had smart phones; so it was the best way to communicate quickly. Turns out email hasn't been that great of a tool after all, because we all get so much junk that we can't weed out the important messages half the time. At any rate, many of us, young and old, have turned back to our

phones (or smart phones) for calls and text messages. For that reason, we're going back to the phone tree, not robo-calls you'll notice, but honest to goodness calls from Brother Knights.

These Brothers have volunteered their time and have a bunch of calls to make every month, so please take their call or call back. We're hoping to fire up the troops, shake out some members that have been away for a while and recharge some of our exciting and worthwhile events, starting with the Special Olympics Bowling Tournament and the Adopt-A-Family Dinner, details of which are elsewhere in this publication. Also, please let you caller know if there is a better way to reach you, such as a personal cell phone. Vivat Jesus and see you at the December business meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Tim Keating
Deputy Grand Knight
dgk@kofc10644.com



MESSAGE FROM THE FIELD AGENT

AN ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY

In 2015, the Knights of Columbus was named one of the World's Most Ethical Companies by the Ethisphere Institute for the second year in a row. This is a tremendous honor and achievement that all Knights should be proud of. You are part of a fraternal benefit society that puts integrity above all else. But tremendous though it is, being one of the world's most ethical companies is not just an achievement; it's our legacy and our responsibility. We won't settle for less.

We owe it to our founder, to our Church, and to our members. As a business, the Knights of Columbus holds a unique place in the world. Writing in *Columbia*, the Supreme Knight reflected on that uniqueness, noting that:

"Whether we consider the development of our insurance products, the investment strategies that support them, or the outstanding agents who make them available to our brother Knights, our Catholic fraternal "business" model is truly unique in today's marketplace. We do not divide the world among consumers and customers, shareholders and stakeholders, union members and management. Instead, our business decisions are measured by a fraternal calculus: What is best for our brother Knights and their families?"

There's a certain counter-culturalism inherent in this approach, which is part of what makes the label of "World's Most Ethical" so rare. "Some may say that this is a kind of idealism that cannot compete in the real world of business," the Supreme Knight continued. "On the contrary, the tremendous success we have achieved in

recent years demonstrates that our approach is the height of what I would describe as Catholic realism. We deal with real persons, not with economic abstractions. Our focus is on the person who is always worthy of respect and who always should take precedence over profit."

That focus stems from our roots. It is our responsibility to continue the business in a way that Father McGivney intended. He founded this organization so that a caring community of Catholic families could come together and protect widows and orphans from financial devastation upon the death of the bread winner. Our mission remains the same 133 years later. That's why from our founding to the present day, we are and have been an unapologetically Catholic company.

For us, this means that we must conduct our business in accordance with Catholic principles. We have established a strict screening process for our investments, and we refuse to invest in companies that deal in abortions, contraception, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, for-profit health care that pays for any of the aforementioned, and pornography. We are an organization by Brother Knights, for Brother Knights.

We don't worry about stock price, shareholders, or corporate takeovers. We don't obsess over profit margins and golden parachutes. We worry about doing what's right for our members and their families. After all, we're Brother Knights too.

I was rigorously trained and held to the highest ethical standards. My Agent Code of Ethics is modeled after the Ten Commandments. Among its commandments is "Thou shall present, honestly and accurately, all the facts necessary to enable a

member to make an informed decision."

"Our fraternal ties to our members," it goes on to say, "make it more incumbent on us, in our dealings with them, to assure that their interests are uppermost in our minds as we provide solutions to their financial needs. It all boils down simply to the golden rule – Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." After all, we are our brother's keeper. That's our commitment to you. And that's our commitment to conducting our business in line with Church teaching, and in line with the vision of our holy founder.

We are honored that the Ethisphere Institute has yet again acknowledged that commitment. It is what makes doing business with the Knights of Columbus truly different. Let's talk soon to see how the Knights of Columbus can help protect you and your family.

Richard Braun

Field Agent #17081

Richard.braun@kofc.org

(209) 604-0382

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