



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 - (A Song of degrees of David.)

This is exactly how I feel every year at this time when we all come together and work as brothers at the annual Lenten Fish Fry Dinners, which will be on February 16, and 23, March 2, 9, 16 and Soup Supper on March 23, to raise money for the needy!

At this writing, I am quite excited about this year's first Fish Fry, which attracted a record crowd of 595 paid dinners. (Thank you to James Townes, Rick Dinubilo, Ed Fernandes, and the rest of the crew!) That total included a record 200+ take-out dinners! (Thank you, Dave Warton and the rest of the take-out window crew!) More exciting than the numbers of people served and the monies raised, is the way our Brothers come out and work together as a (very large) team, each doing what he can to help. (Thanks to Alfonso Chávez, Tim Matalone, Dave Sichak, and Marty Reis) Furthermore, we brought in many of our many new Knights to "learn the ropes." Congratulations, well done, and keep up the good work for the rest of Lent!

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

To keep this momentum going, we need the help of

ALL members. Larry Kjellberg, our Deputy Grand Knight and Programs Director (209) 918-4769 and I (209) 601-5039 need you to volunteer to help with weekly ticket sales on the plaza after all of the Masses, set-up, serving, supervising the youth volunteers, clean-up, or Saturday morning pot washing.

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. James 2:26

We also hosted a Second and Third Degree ceremony on Saturday, February 17th, which involved also serving a lunch to around 40 area wide brothers. Thank you, Rick Dinubilo, Steve Laura, Roy Gordon, etc. in the kitchen. This made for a long weekend with set-up (thank you Adrian Pino, Josey Sampson etc.) of the Fish Fry Diner starting around 3:00 pm on Friday and continuing through Friday night's clean-up. Then it started again at 6:30 am Saturday with the pot washing (thank you Daniel Hernandez, Alan Saca, Chris Powers, and chairman, Ruben Sánchez). That was followed by the second and third degree ceremonies set-up and clean-up. This event brought six of our newer brother Knights into full Knighthood!

For all of you that do help out, let any of us Officers know if you have a favorite charity that you would like us to donate some of the "fruits of our labor" to.

Let all your things be done with charity. 1 Corinthians 16:14

Follow through on that New Year's Resolution. A commitment to your Knights, get active, get involved. Don't just pay your dues and call yourself a Knight. Be a Knight!

I will see you at the next Business Meeting on Tuesday, March 6, @ 7:00 pm. Bring your rosary! Bring a brother! Bring a Form 100 with a new potential Candidate!

Vivat Jesus

Al Toschi, Grand Knight



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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.

March 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Lenten Fish Fry Dinner 5 PM, Fa- ther O'Hare Hall	3
4	5 Officers' Meeting 6:30 PM, Vatican Council Room, St JP2 Center	6 Business Meeting, 7 PM, Father O'Hare Hall	7	8	9 Lenten Fish Fry Dinner 5 PM, Fa- ther O'Hare Hall	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Lenten Fish Fry Dinner 5 PM, Fa- ther O'Hare Hall	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Lenten Soup Sup- per 5 PM, Father O'Hare Hall	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Easter Vigil Reception for new Catholics

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Members' Birthdays

Ben Laura 3/2
Alonzo Castillo 3/4
Michael Callahan 3/7
Bryan Healey 3/9
William P. Willette 3/10
Ron Martorana 3/12
Kent Harker 3/16
James Wilson 3/20
Benito Ramirez 3/21
Larry Kjellberg 3/24
Chris Powers 3/25
Roger Farias 3/28
John Mullins 3/28
Everett Hough 3/30
Richard Ward 3/31

Ladies' Birthdays

Camille Iorns 3/04
Annette Dedini 3/06
Maria DeQueiroz 3/08
Mara Mullins 3/10
Edith Awuah 3/13
Yesenia (Sherry) Svendsen 3/13
Susie Dickert 3/18/
Mona Wildt 3/18
Adelina Oliman 3/20
Cathy Ochinero 3/26

Anniversaries

Patrick & Linda Laubacher PGK 3/6
Rick & Grace Guajardo 3/7
Daniel & Suny Di Rienzo 3/10
William & Michelle Frey 3/11
Victor & Margaret Mayoral 3/21
Owen & Marietta Kummerle 3/25
Jose & Sara Barajas 3/26
Tim & Gloria Benavidez 3/26
Kurt & Sonita Saalfeld 3/28
Daniel & Rosario Hernandez 3/31



FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The calendar was not nice to us this year. We had a great Blue Mass and Crab Feed in January. Suddenly the pages turn and Ash Wednesday (and Valentine's Day) is tomorrow, as I write this, and the fish fry season will be already be underway by the time you read this.

Need an Apron to wear at the Fish Fry? Contact me. I have four aprons in inventory that I will sell at \$10 if your name is Lee, Bill, Mike or John. If that is not you, and you would like one, let me know and I will get it ordered. But, do not procrastinate.

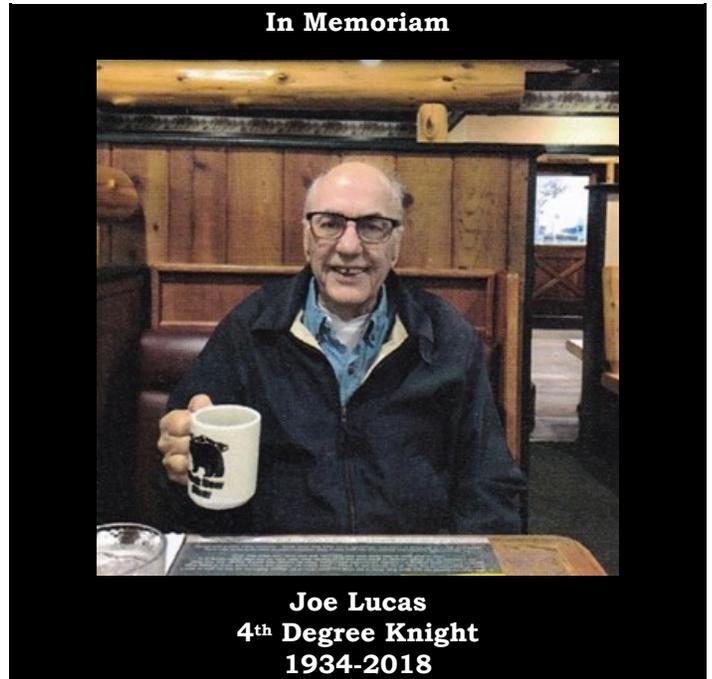
Say hello to our newest Brothers! I have already seen them in action on the plaza the first weekend we were selling Fish Fry tickets. I encourage our new brothers to participate in our upcoming events the next month or so. It is a great way to get to know your fellow brothers in a relaxed, fun, informal atmosphere as we cook up those famous fish fry dinners.

If you attend any of the masses on the next few weekends during the Lent season, feel free to stop by the Knights' table and join your brothers in selling tickets to our Fish Fry events

New! Pay Your Dues Online:
www.kofc10644.com

Fish Fry - New Pricing for Families!

We have introduced a new price point this year - A family of four or more can pay a flat price of \$30. That is, two adults and two or more kids 12 and under only have to pay \$30. Best deal in town. Take a night off from the kitchen. In a hurry, you can get the dinners TO GO as well!



FATHER MARK'S MESSAGE

Gentlemen, we find ourselves in the middle of Lent, which is a time to grow in purity and perfection by means of prayer and penance. If we wish to prepare ourselves for Holy Week, we must become holy and pure. Jesus said "Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God." This purity of heart cannot be achieved without prayer and penance. Our Lord revealed to St. John Bosco in a dream in July, 1884 that even his young orphans should practice penance in order to keep their hearts pure: "A great mistake which boys make is that of thinking that penance must be practiced by sinners only. Penance is necessary also in order to preserve innocence. If St. Aloysius had not done penance, he would certainly have fallen into mortal sin. This should be continually preached, inculcated and taught to children. Without penance, innocence cannot be preserved." Purity and penance. These two are inseparable. This fact is illustrated perfectly in the story of the Apparitions of Mary to St. Bernadette in Lourdes. It is a story about purity because at Lourdes Mary caused a miraculous spring appear which continues to gush forth pure, healing waters, and also because at Lourdes Mary declared that she herself was pure even from the moment of her conception: "I am the Immaculate Conception." The main message of Lourdes was about purity, but the second most prominent theme in the messages of Our Lady of Lourdes was penance. Our Lady of Lourdes revealed to Bernadette that penance is essential in order for the rest of us to reach heaven. The life of St. Bernadette was marked by suffering from her earliest years. Troubles began even before she was born. Her grandfather was a miller but he died in a wagon accident, leaving no one to operate the mill since he had only daughters. A man was needed to run the mill, and normally the solution would be for the eldest daughter to get married. A thirty-five-year-old bachelor miller named Francois Soubirous did not want to marry the eldest daughter Bernarde, who was eighteen years old. He stubbornly insisted on marrying the sixteen-year-old Louise, who was blond and blue-eyed. Aunt Bernarde was given the consolation of being named godmother to their first child, who was named after her: "Bernadette". Aunt Bernarde remained resentful, however, and became somewhat of a wicked godmother for Bernadette. She often scolded both Louise and Bernadette. Bernadette learned to remain silent and to endure this hardship. Her father Francois was no help. He had a drinking problem and did not have good business sense. He was too generous in providing grain to people who could not pay him back, which eventually led to his going bankrupt. Bernadette's mother was severely burned by a falling candle so that she was not able to n

breastfeed Bernadette. The baby was given to a woman in the nearby town of Bartres whose own baby had died. This woman, Marie Lagues, nursed Bernadette for ten months before returning her to her mother in Lourdes. An agreement was made that Bernadette would visit Marie Lagues once a year at Bartres. Bernadette attracted cholera during an epidemic in 1855, when she was six-years-old. This caused her to have lung problems and stomach problems which would affect her for the rest of her short life. The real problems began for the Soubirous family in the year 1854, when Francois Soubirous went bankrupt and was evicted from "the Boly Mill". The family had to move into the slums of Lourdes. Coincidentally, this was the same year that Pope Pius IX in Rome declared the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. From that year, it seems that God was already preparing Bernadette for her mission of promoting the truth of this teaching of the church. The family became more and more poor. Poverty prepared Bernadette with the necessary purity of heart so that she would need in order to be worthy to receive a visit from the Immaculate Conception herself four years later in 1858. Bernadette was also prepared for her mission by other sufferings. In November, 1856 the family became so poor that they had to live in the "cachot" (the "dungeon") which had formerly been used as a city jail. It was so cold, dark and damp, however, that the city eventually moved the prison to a better location. There was a manure pile in the yard outside the cachot. The Soubirous family lived in this one room, with only a small fireplace to warm themselves. Bernadette's asthma was aggravated by the cold and the smoke. In September, 1857, Bernadette went to work as a shepherdess and a nanny in Bartres for Marie Lagues, who now had eight children. The country air was better for Bernadette's lungs, but she was treated as a servant and Marie did not give Bernadette the same wheat bread which she gave to her children. Bernadette had to eat corn meal cakes, which disagreed with her stomach. Bernadette spent many long, lonely hours tending sheep, saying her rosary. Marie Lagues had promised to teach Bernadette her catechism, but she was an inept teacher and Marie was not able to receive her First Communion. Finally, in January, 1858, Bernadette returned to live with her family in the cachot, so that she could attend classes in Lourdes to prepare for her First Communion. It was the following month, on February 11, that Bernadette was privileged to see Our Lady. She later said that she believed that if there had been a girl who was poorer and more ignorant than she was, then the Blessed Virgin would have chosen to appear to that girl instead

of her. The story of the apparitions of Our Lady to St. Bernadette is well known. Bernadette went to collect firewood at a place near the Gave River where there was a large cave or grotto in the side of a cliff. In this grotto Bernadette saw apparitions of "a beautiful Lady" almost every day for two weeks. What many people do not know is that the main message given to Bernadette was about penance. Our Lady spoke only a few words to Bernadette, but they were almost always about helping to save sinners by means of penance, suffering and acts of humiliation. She told Bernadette: "Pray for sinners." "Kiss the ground a penance for sinners." In five of the apparitions Our Lady repeated three times the words "Penance, penance, penance." To console Bernadette she told her: "I do not promise you happiness in this world, but in the next." She asked Bernadette to do things that seemed humiliating in front of the crowd that watched: "Eat some of the green herbs that are growing over there." Our Lady pointed to a muddy spot in the corner of the cave and said "Go drink at the spring and wash yourself in it." The crowd thought Bernadette was crazy when she began to dig and drink muddy water. The next day, however, a miraculous spring began to flow from that spot which cured many sick people. Bernadette asked the Lady many times to reveal her name, but it was only in the last apparition on March 25th that Mary gave the response: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Eventually the world came to believe St. Bernadette and the came by the millions to visit the Grotto of Lourdes. The love the miraculous spring water which flows with blessings of salvation and healing. But these blessings for the sinners and for the sick come at a price of penance. Bernadette learned from Our Lord and from Our Lady how to suffer for sinners. Some of the pilgrims have learned this secret by meditating on the words of Our Lady, by studying the life of Bernadette, and by kneeling on the hard stone where Bernadette heard words from heaven.

**Father Mark Wagner
Chaplain and Pastor
St. Joseph's**



JOHN'S JOKES

I read that 4,153,237 people got married last year. Not to cause any trouble, but shouldn't that be an even number?

I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom until they are flashing behind you.

America is a country which produces citizens who will cross the ocean to fight for democracy but won't cross the street to vote.

You know that tingly little feeling you get when you love someone? That's your common sense leaving your body. Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?

I think my neighbor is stalking me as she's been Googling my name on her computer. I saw it through my telescope last night.

Money talks .. but all mine ever says is good-bye.

If you think nobody cares whether you're alive, try missing a couple of payments.

The pharmacist asked me my birth date again today. I'm pretty sure she's going to get me something.

I think it's pretty cool how Chinese people made a language entirely out of tattoos.

Money can't buy happiness, but it keeps the kids in touch!

The reason Mayberry was so peaceful and quiet was that nobody was married. Andy, Aunt Bea, Barney, Floyd, Howard, Goober, Gomer, Sam, Earnest T Bass, Helen, Thelma Lou, Clara and, of course, Opie were all single. The only married person was Otis, and he stayed drunk.

LECTOR'S MESSAGE

Isn't it funny how God works sometimes? I am still a student, but this is what I have observed lately. A couple of weekends ago I had my whole weekend planned out: first fish fry Friday night fun and fellowship with my fellow brother knights and parishioners. That was a great success! Saturday I was going to attend an awesome retreat at Our Lady of the Assumption in Turlock, "Relentless." They had six fantastic speakers: Father Gary Thomas, Joel Stefanik, Andrea Vasquez Tejada, Patricia Sandoval, Brian Kravec, and our parish's very own John Sablan. On Sunday, I had planned to go with my son, his girlfriend and my granddaughter to Knights Ferry, do some hiking, and enjoy lunch together. The retreat on Saturday was incredible and had a very large showing of Catholic women, men, and young adults ready to have fellowship, to be enlightened and renewed. It was a 100% Catholic retreat, yet open to all, with speeches, Eucharistic adoration supported by the Armee youth ministry band and followed by mass. The speeches were all well thought out and composed from real life experiences. It was just what I needed. It is just what we all need, a way to retreat from sin.

I could talk for pages about the excellence of the Holy Spirit flowing through the speakers at the retreat, but the real story for me was the next day. I had an awesome plan to neglect all my domestic housekeeping duties, play hooky with my family, and hike with my granddaughter. I got up early and got ready, feeling renewed and enlightened from the day's prior lessons. When I contacted my son, I found out his whole household was sick and would not be able to go. Things often in our life do not go as planned, and we do not always have a back-up plan. I knew I had plenty to do around home, but thoughts of not seeing my kids crept in. I started to feel depressed. I told myself, "This house can wait for 1 hour. I am going to the gym!"

On my way out the door, I looked at my Chinese pug, Maximilian Kolbe with that sad face. (He always has a sad face. He is a pug.) I was reminded how overdue my two dogs, Max and Susie, were for exercise. I grabbed their leashes and headed out the door. It was still brisk outside. I was wearing gym shorts, shoes, coat and a baseball cap, armed with poop bags. The walk was fun and uneventful really, until I was about a block from home.

I came up to this two-story home across the street from my brother's house. There were two young girls playing tetherball in the front yard. There was a small Dachshund puppy dog in the front yard that usually barks a little and will run to the edge of the yard and typically runs out of steam and either flops down on the ground or scampers off. Today, the Dachshund was unimpressed, and an elderly woman came out to collect the dog. All of a sudden, I heard the bark of a large dog hitting the front door security screen of the house. On its second jump against the screen, the screen came open, and there was a white pit bull in full launch mode coming straight at us. The pit bull went straight for Maximilian Kolbe, bit him, grabbed him by his gluteus maximus, and started the death shake in the air. I was screaming, "Noooooo!" as the dog approached but the dog's response was Max's butt. I tackled the pit bull, put

both my hands in its mouth, and pried its jaws off Max. I had my hands in this dog's mouth and have it pinned. When I felt the owner of the dog jump on the dog's back and assure me that he had control of her, I went to find Max. He had wandered off in the street. When I inspected him there was no blood, he seemed unhurt and unfazed. I said, "This is good." I looked at the dog owner's face and he was white. He was very apologetic and assured me that the dog had never bit man or beast before. I said, "That could have been a lot worse, I will take it." However, if Max was not bleeding where did all the blood come from? I looked down, and my knees were beet red from hitting the deck. His wife grabbed the leash, they took the dog inside, and it did not bark any longer. The man was trying to brush all the white pit bull hair off my coat. One hour later Max was bleeding from his right quad and I could not walk. I shaved and dressed Max's wound with soap and water, then applied hydrogen peroxide and antibiotic ointment.

How is it funny how God works? All my friends and family made statements like, "That would have been a dead dog." "I would have cut that dog's throat." "I would have shot that dog." Or more sensibly "Call the cops; make a police report," "Make sure the dog has had its shots." I was in actually in good spirits, overall, but thought, "Wow! This just ruined my day. I am not going to make it to the gym. I cannot get anything done around here now." Then all of a sudden, a rush of gratitude came over me that my best friend was not fatally injured before my eyes. I and the other dogs were not gravely hurt. I believe all things happen for a reason, though we do not always see the greater good. Through Christ eyes, I was finally able to see the beauty of one simpler day. I always maintained that if we loved as dogs do, this world would be a better place. My Max was over it immediately and proved it by defecating on the people lawn and trotting off without even a bark or growl. I believe the pit bull believed it was protecting the Dachshund and mom. We as humans would have already been planning our vengeance. I believe God sent me someone's pet not a viscous stray or worse two strays. Maybe he sent me a pit bull with weak jaws.

I was no longer depressed, regardless. Max is recovering fine. I was able to go to Knights Ferry with my granddaughter the following weekend, scabby knees and all! In addition, we had a great time. I am content with what God has provided me and will strive to have hope, faith and joy. I do think we should protect ourselves humanely on our walks, pepper spray, stun gun maybe. I am exploring some protective dog clothes for Max and Susie. Find the good in everything, shine your light, and know I love you! God bless you all my brothers and be safe.

Your friend in Christ,

**Stephen Michael
Lector**



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