



## Grand Knight's Message

Hello my brothers!

As I sit down to write this article, it dawns on me that no matter the amount of stress in my life, I always have a Brother Knight in my vision that inspires a deep sense of gratitude. There are those in the foreground, such as my Board that works through all with little complaint, even with all that is going on in their own lives; there are those who nervously but diligently step up to be chairs and co-chairs for events and pull them off with smiles and joy; and there are those who work quietly in the background never expecting a thank you or pat on the back. All these men just do what they believe God has brought them to do for the sake of His Kingdom and His Children. One such person is Bob Shannon. He has for a while published the newsletter in a timely fashion even though the work was sometimes late due to the "writers" not meeting deadlines. I sincerely thank Bob

for all he has done to get the word out, both the letter and the Spirit, especially for those Brothers who cannot make the meetings. I also would like to thank Sam Moraca who, due to family needs, is leaving the position of Financial Secretary. He took this position and molded it well, keeping us Officers in the loop of financial matters, paying our taxes, keeping our database up, doing the paperwork for new members, caring for all collection of monies, dropping things at a moment's notice to write reimbursement checks, attending meetings, communicating with the Supreme Secretaries, and more! I especially appreciated all he did to help me personally as well as our Brother Knights behind the scenes. Another hard worker in the bunch is Al Toshi who, due to a transfer in his job, cannot continue the position of Chancellor. While the Chancellor has a variety of responsibilities, Al has primarily assisted me and the other Board members in the

execution of our duties. Al took seriously his job especially in strengthening the members' interests in Council activities, and he has taken over the duty of gathering the Knight charitable hours each month. My deepest gratitude to you all for your love and support! While this may feel as though we are falling apart, and we certainly do need these positions filled, I caution you to turn to God and His Divine Providence.

**"But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand." (Isaiah 64:8)**

One of the most powerful analogies in the Bible regarding our transformation and sanctification in the Lord has to be the analogy of the potter and the clay. The Bible says that God is the Potter and we are the clay. It is up to God to mold, transform, and sanctify us as we journey through this earthly life. In turn, we must be open to His works. I do not know how God intends to shape and mold us as Brother Knights, but I do know in my heart that it shall be glorious and will open opportunities of

[CLICK HERE TO GO TO THE REST](#)

**Next Business Meeting  
TUESDAY,  
December 3rd, 7:00 PM  
Father O'Hare Hall  
Don't Come Alone Bring  
A Fellow Knight!**

*In November, there were very few of us who made it to the second Friday mass for the deceased members of our Council and the Respect Life Rosary afterwards. Were you there? If not, we missed you. Will you join us now in January?*

*Daily mass is a great way to show how you "support the faith." Masses are at 8 AM or 5:45 PM during the week and 8 AM on Saturdays. When was the last time that you made the effort to give thanks to God for all that He does for you by going to a daily mass?*

### **Knight Light Editor**

Richard Braun  
**Publisher**

Bob Shannon

(Bob is looking to retire from publishing the Knight Light. If you would be interested in helping with getting out this newsletter, communicate with any of us.)

### **DEADLINE**

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 available.

Website: [kofc10644.com](http://kofc10644.com)

### **MAIL:**

Richard Braun  
1821 Kruger Drive,  
Modesto, CA 95355

### **EMAIL:**

MAFERICK@NETSCAPE.NET

### **CALL:**

Bob Shannon 484-8743

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

My dear Brother Knights,  
At St. Joseph's, we did not want the Year of Faith to end without having something special for the coming year. So we have chosen the theme "Go Deeper" (Duc in Altum). This means that we now want to allow the faith to enter more deeply and convert our hearts and the hearts of those around us.

The topic of **conversion** is explained very well in a book by Ralph Martin called "Fulfillment of All Desire," which describes the conversion and the spiritual journey of the great experts on the spiritual life, the "Doctors of the Church." Each of these great saints described the steps or stages of spiritual growth. They each used different terms and different numeration, but there are similarities which we can discover and apply to our own lives.

The book begins with St. Teresa of Avila, who is my favorite because she didn't really begin to advance in prayer until she was in her 40's and 50's, which gives hope to us older folks! She describes seven "mansions" in the soul which we must enter through prayer and meditation. She reached the sixth mansion ("Spiritual Betrothal") at age 47. She reached the seventh mansion ("spiritual marriage") at age 57, ten years before she died

in 1582.

For many years Teresa was a mediocre nun because of carelessness about sin: "As for venial sins, I paid little attention; and that is what destroyed me." She said that "liberal and permissive" priests did not warn her: "What was venial sin they said was no sin at all, and what was serious mortal sin they said was venial." She did not advance because of "lack of amendment" and "from placing myself in the occasion of sin." "The whole trouble lay in not getting at the root of the occasions of sin and with my confessors, who were of little help."

How can we begin to advance in the spiritual life? Ralph Martin gives two more recommendations which are found in the writings of the Doctors of the Church : 1) avoid self-reliance and 2) be quick in responding to the graces of God.

**SELF RELIANCE:** St. Teresa said "This self-reliance was what destroyed me." She spent many years "spinning her wheels" in the spiritual life, because she relied on herself. She wrote: "I give you one counsel: that you don't think that through your own strength or efforts you can arrive, for reaching this stage is beyond your power." We must rely on the sacraments. We must entrust and consecrate ourselves to Our Lord

and Our Lady. We must choose the way of spiritual childhood, trusting only in the mercy and power of God.

**SLOWNESS:** The difference between us and the saints is that they didn't delay in responding to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit. When the Spirit whispers in your ear that you should help someone, you should act immediately or at least schedule it in! When the Spirit urges you to pray, you've got to strike while the iron is hot! When you are reading a spiritual book and you feel inspired, you should immediately close your eyes and meditate! St. Teresa wrote that we must not ignore these favors from the Lord: "A soul to whom God grants such favors has a pledge that He wants to give it a great deal; if not impeded through its own fault, it will advance very far."

There you have it, men. That should get you started on the road to sainthood!

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



## SUNSHINE CHAIRMAN

Please pray for the following Brothers: Dan Dwyer; Tony Lee; David Malsom; Mike Miranda & his wife, Nicky; Jerry Oftring & his wife, Ruth; and for the repose of the soul of Msgr. Conrad Gruber, Past 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Chaplain who recently passed away. Remember also in your

prayers Stephen Harker, son of Kent Harker; Jeremy, son of Robert Hemsley; Patricia Dinubilo, mother of Rick Dinubilo; the family of John Gorman; Sharon Iorns, mother of Matt Iorns; Dawn Powers, wife of Chris Powers; Maryann Powers, mother of Chris Powers; and Darlene Nielsen. Remember our Holy Father

Pope Francis and all priests and religious in your prayers as well.


*If you know of any updates or other prayer requests, please let me know.*

Contact information is 209-551-9534 or [mccave@yahoo.com](mailto:mccave@yahoo.com)

**John McCave**  
Past Grand  
Knight



# DECEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Officers' Meeting Vatican Council 6:30 PM	<b>3</b> Business Meeting O'Hare Hall 7 PM	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Adopt-a- Family Dinner O'Hare Hall 5 PM
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Immaculate Conception	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	 <b>12</b> Our Lady of Guadalupe	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	 <b>25</b> Christmas	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	 <b>31</b> New Year's Eve				

You can find the events for other months on the Council's website, [kofc10644.com](http://kofc10644.com).

## Members' Birthdays

Ed Gamboa	12-1
Jim Galuppi	12-2
Ruben G. Sanchez	12-2
Anthony Butera	12-5
Bob Lorenz	12-5
Don Burkdall	12-8
James McGurrin	12-11
Severino Pongase	12-12
Alex Trujillo	12-12
Oren Tuss	12-12
David Castro	12-14
Pat Laubacher	12-14
Carlos Torres	12-14
Brian Porta	12-17
Roger Missall	12-19
Alex Richmond	12-19
Nelson Henriquez	12-22
Steven W. Tubbs	12-22
Nicolas Delgado-Braun	12-24
Fred Ibarra	12-24
Noel Lazo	12-24
Mike Bartikoski	12-26
Jim Brady	12-26
John Stephen Bacay	12-27
Jerry Blankenship	12-27

## CELEBRATE!

Mel Mattos	12-28
Frank Holmes	12-29
John Luty	12-29
Kenneth Rairden	12-30
<b>Ladies' Birthdays</b>	
Jean Smith	12-3
Cindy Bartikoski	12-4
Cindy Trujillo	12-9
Kay Elson	12-11
Theresa Galuppi	12-11
Judy Bauer	12-12
Guadalupe Valdovinos	12-12
Sonita Saalfeld	12-13
Linda Standart	12-13
Marilyn Hancock	12-14
Lucille Ortiz	12-15
Karen McCave	12-16
Judy Chavez	12-17
Beth Gorman	12-17
Alvera Baumgratz	12-21
Gwendolyn Cupini	12-22
Anne Missall	12-22
Lucy Mattos	12-29
Silvia Ramirez	12-31

## Anniversaries

Camille & Matt Iorns	12-1-2001
Debbie & Bill Goulart	12-7-68
Sarah & John Stephen Bacay	12-9-89
Joan & Joe Castagna	12-15-56
Sandra & Ron Uyeshiro	12-18-71
Monica & Al Gonzales	12-21-68
Julita & Lovinio Casiano	12-22
Thelma & Danny Hughart	12-22
Angelica & Rey Alcarez	12-31-60

Note: If birthdays or anniversaries are incorrect or missing you need to contact Sam Moraca to correct the error.





## This gift will keep on giving

This Christmas, give your family the gift of peace of mind: the security of knowing that their future is protected, whatever might happen to you. Call me today to learn how.

*This Holiday Season, keep in mind the real meaning of CHRISTmas. Keeping **CHRIST** in **CHRISTmas**. When out shopping and someone says "Happy Holidays," promptly reply "**MERRY CHRISTmas!**" Take time to enjoy your family and friends. Think of those things God has given us and be thankful. May you and your family have a blessed and Very Merry **CHRISTmas**.*

*Julio Valadez*

Julio Valadez FIC, Field Agent Knights of Columbus 209-277-9900 CA LIC #0G78995 [julio.valadez@kofc.org](mailto:julio.valadez@kofc.org)

**"At death, the lawyer arrives with his bill, the accountant with his, the funeral director with his and the IRS with theirs. I am the one who arrives with a check to pay those bills."**

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## DEPUTY DAWG'S BARK



My dear Brother Knights, This month I wanted to write about prayer and the importance that it has for our lives as men and leaders of our families. I had something already started and then I opened up an article and read a statement that truly touched me. You will receive the article about prayer later, but this month the topic is now being TRUE Catholics and what that really means. Steve Ray, a Catholic apologist, said in a recent article in Catholic Answers Magazine, "We are not, or should not be, Catholic Christians because it makes us feel good or just because it was the way we were raised. Ultimately, we are Catholics because the Faith is true! And if it is true, we should know why it is true and be able to explain it to ourselves and to others (especially to our children)." Does that quote make you think of yourself? Are you Catholic just because your parents raised you Catholic? I can recall many times hearing from my father and then, later, repeating to my sons, "Why do you have to do that? Because I said so! That's why!" I'm sure that many of you said and heard the same thing. But those statements are

not helpful when it comes to our faith. What good does that do us when we are confronted by non-Catholics who question one of the beliefs of our TRUE religion? Are we "worshipping Mary" or statues as many non-Catholics think? Is the Pope the "richest man in the world"? Was Mary "really" assumed into heaven? You might think that these are silly questions, and hopefully you know the right answers, but it is exactly questions like these that have had many start to question the faith of their parents and others turn away from it. Do you know someone whose children or grandchildren aren't practicing Catholics anymore? Could it be that their parents weren't able to give them answers to questions like that, so the doubts began.

The great thing about each of us is that we are part of a fabulous parish! Not only does our parish have a vibrant Knights Council with activities like the Adopt-a-Family Dinner on the 7th, but also it offers us many opportunities to learn more about our faith. We had multiple opportunities during the Year of Faith to attend the Catechism 101 classes. What a wealth of information about our beautiful faith! Now the bible studies during Advent and Lent are starting up again. And the parish missions that are offered to us are always great learning opportunities. If we take part

in only some of things that the parish offers, there is a much lower chance of us being unprepared to "explain to ourselves and to others (especially our children)" why our faith is true.

God bless,

**Richard Braun**

**Deputy  
Grand Knight**



**What is our next event?  
Adopt-A-Family Dinner,  
December 7th, O'Hare Hall  
Please, plan on joining us and  
helping to make it a big  
success in helping families in  
need in our community!**

*Don't forget, Brothers, to keep track of any of your volunteer activities either officially during a Knight event or in the community. Don't submit the number of rosaries you have prayed, but if you work with a particular ministry, how many hours this month were you helping with it? How many hours volunteering with a non-profit? You can easily submit your hours at our meetings or online at [kofc10644.com](http://kofc10644.com). Look for it on the resources page.*

**Moraca's Message**

Brother Knights, I have been asked recently about the tax status of donations to our council. The following is taken directly from the KOC Supreme web site. It is also included in the Financial Secretary Handbook.

**5) Are donations to Knights of Columbus councils and assemblies deductible on the donor's income tax return?**

No. Donations to Knights of Columbus councils, assemblies, and chapters for fraternal or social purposes are never deductible and most donations for charitable purposes are not deductible.

**Receiving the Knight Light**

Donors who wish to claim a tax deduction for a charitable contribution to one of the charities supported by the Knights of Columbus may do so by donating to Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc. (U.S.), Knights of Columbus Canada Charities, Inc. (Canada), or a charitable corporation established by one of the State Councils.

**Sam Moraca**  
Financial Secretary



**Grand Knight (continued)**

growth in each of us and a chance for new Brothers or those who simply have not engaged yet to play more key roles. Open your heart and your eyes and watch as God literally takes our Council: a hard, rigid, and shapeless piece of clay, and shapes and molds us turning us into a beautiful piece of pottery! Please take the opportunity to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday 5:45PM Holy Mass and Rosary for Fallen Knights and Pro-life Rosary! I also urge you at this time of change and challenge to enter the chapel and place yourselves and our Council at the feet of Jesus in prayer offering petition and gratitude to Him who guides us.

Fr. Michael J. McGivney...pray for us!

Humbly Yours,

**Michael Miranda,**  
Grand Knight



**John's Jokes**

"And this over here" croaked the 90 year old museum tour guide, "is a fossil 4 million and 69 years old, on its left you can see another fossil that's 2 million and 69 years old."

"Wow! That's really fascinating," said a fellow in the audience, "how can you age it so accurately to the year?"

"Well that's simple" answered the old chap, "It was two million years old when I started working here 69 years ago."

Jack strode into *John's Stable* looking to buy a horse. "Listen

here" said John, "I've got just the horse you're looking for; the only thing is he was trained by an interesting fellow. He doesn't go and stop the usual way. The way to get him to stop is to scream, 'Hey! Hey!' The way to get him to go is to scream, 'Thank God.'"

Jim nodded his head, "Fine with me. Can I take him for a test run?"

Jim was having the time of his life. "This horse sure could run," he thought to himself.

Jim was speeding down the dirt road when he suddenly saw a cliff up ahead. "Stop!" screamed

Jim, but the horse kept on going. No matter how much he tried he could not remember the words to get it to stop. "Yoyo," screamed Jim, but the horse just kept on speeding ahead. It was 5 feet from the cliff when Jim suddenly remembered "Hey! Hey!" Jim screamed. The horse skidded to a halt just 1 inch from the cliff. Jim could not believe his good fortune. He looked up to the sky, raised his hands in the air, breathed a deep sigh of relief and said with conviction, "Thank God!" [Bet you saw that one coming!]

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## Lecturer's Notes: December: Advent

*"The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' Let the hearer say, 'Come.' Let the one who thirsts come forward, and the one who wants it receive the gift of life-giving water. I warn everyone who hears the prophetic words in this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words in this prophetic book, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city described in this book. The one who gives this testimony says, 'Yes, I am coming soon.' Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all.—Rev. 22: 17-21*

This reading is taken from the book of Revelation. This book is attributed to John who was the last apostle to die. The canon of the Bible was officially closed when the last apostle died; and no other writings were considered "inspired." John is significant, because he was one of the original 12. He lived among Jesus, Mary his mother, and all of the other apostles and disciples; and he knew all of these people personally. Additionally, John saw Jesus change water to wine, cure lepers, and raise the dead among other spectacular miracles. John's words are credible; they are addressed to his contemporaries as well as us today. This passage

forms the very last four verses of the Bible. Of all the host of stories and miracles, genres and histories, this is the passage that God wants to leave you with. This is the taste He wants to leave on your tongue. In summary, John is saying, "Hurry back, Lord." God's reply is, "I'll be back soon." Jesus is a departing lover who promises to return to his beloved and right all wrongs. And He will. This is like the part of the movie where my wife reaches for the Kleenex, loves promise fulfilled. Again, our Catholic faith leads from the front when we celebrate Advent each year. We spend the last four weeks of each year preparing with eager anticipation for the return of our Lord. The Church picks up right where the Bible leaves off and in doing so she takes us, the faithful, right into the story. Now I want the Kleenex. Advent is now upon us. Not only is this the season of the last four verses of the Bible, but it is the beginning of the liturgical year. HAPPY LITURGICAL NEW YEAR !!! Since Advent of 2012, the Church has proclaimed the Gospel of St. Luke; and from now until next December, we will hear the Gospel of St. Matthew. During this season of preparation for the coming of the Lord, we prepare to encounter him through our prayer life, in the Mass, at the end of our lives, and at the end of time. We have lots of opportunity to encounter Jesus and we must always be

prepared. He will hold us accountable. This is a great time to make a good confession. As a special treat for this Advent Season, members of this Council will be leading the Respect Life rosary on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> after the 5:45 PM Mass. Please, plan to attend as we raise our voice in unison to bring about the end of abortion. Also, the Advent Mission this year is December 8-12, and will be led by Fr. Wade Menezes, the topic: "Reality Check – The Four Last Things." Have a wonderful Advent and a very Merry Christmas! See you at Mass.

**Ed Ibarra**



Lecturer10644@yahoo.com  
 The December business meeting is on Tuesday, December 3rd at 7:00pm. The Second Friday Memorial Mass for the deceased Knights of this Council is on Friday, December 13th at 5:45 PM. The Respect Life Rosary resumes after the 5:45 Mass; please go! It will be led this month by members of this Council, all hands on deck. Don't forget to make a good confession and get cleaned up spiritually. Pray that God give us the grace to seek Him in prayer. Pray for the men and women who serve in law enforcement and the military. Pray that politicians have a conversion of heart. Pray for strong families. Above all, pray that Holy Mother Church around the world can withstand the buffets of her enemies. Pray for our priests and for our Holy Father Pope Francis.

# Knight Light

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 Knights of Columbus  
 PO Box 576959  
 Modesto, CA 95357-6959



## Defenders of Life Defenders of the Faith

### COUNCIL OFFICERS

Grand Knight	Michael Miranda	526-4704
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Financial Secretary	Sam Moraca	575-1591
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Trustee 2 years	Mel Mattos	524-7571
Trustee 1 year	John McCave	551-9534

### COUNCIL PROGRAM DIRECTORS

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Church Activities	Don Cavagnaro	529-9891
Youth Activities	Steven Tubbs	402-8937
Family Activities	Kent Harker	596-2660
Newsletter	Richard Braun	604-0382
Community Activities	Gary Humphreys	551-0815
Sunshine Committee	John McCave	551-9534
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