



Grand Knight's Message

I would like to thank Angel Martinez and Mike Vigil for putting on the pancake breakfast February 12th. We haven't had a breakfast in quite a while. Parishioners had been asking why the Knights haven't been providing breakfasts. They missed them. This was evidenced by the large turnout and many compliments received about the breakfast. Where else are you going to get such a great breakfast for \$5? I know I sure enjoyed it as did all those who attended. Thanks to all who helped. I am truly amazed at how fast time is going. It seems like we just finished the Fish Fry's not too long ago, and here they are starting up again. By the time you read this, we will have started the

Lenten Season. With the Lenten Season come the Lenten Dinners. These dinners are very popular. In order to insure their success, the more help we can get, the better. Brothers, please come out and offer your help. Not only will you have fun and forge great friendships, but you'll be doing God's work, as well. How can you do better than that? There are no negatives. It's all positive. To offer your help, please call Mike Vigil at 324-3121. He will direct you to the chairmen who will guide you as to what to do. Also, please help with ticket sales on the plaza after whatever Mass you attend. Brothers, working together can do great things, especially with the great men in our council. With Lent comes a time for reflection. Being human, I

think of the disappointments in my life and begin to feel sorry for myself. But practically speaking, my blessings far outweigh my disappointments. It's like that old saying, "I felt bad because I had no shoes, until I saw a man that had no feet." There are so many people far worse off than I am. I start to feel ashamed when I think of this. How dare I complain when there are people who are homeless, suffering, and in deep despair! Lent makes me realize how fortunate I am and how grateful to God I am for all that He has done for me. God bless you, Brothers, and give thanks to God for all that He has done for us, and for all that He continues to do.

**Mel Mattos,
Grand Knight**



**Business Meeting
TUESDAY,
March 6th, 7:00 PM
Father O'Hare Hall
Don't Come Alone
Bring A Fellow Knight!**

Don't forget to meet in the Church on every second Friday of the month for the 5:45 PM for the Knights' Memorial Mass and a Rosary afterward in memory of the unborn.

Did you know that there is plenty of time to go to mass before the meeting each month? It ends with just enough time to walk across the parking lot to the Hall before the business meeting. See you there!

Knight Light

Editor
Richard Braun
Publisher
Bob Shannon

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

Religious Freedom

By now all Brother Knights must be aware that religious freedom in our country is at grave risk, and with it every sort of freedom. Last month's *Columbia* magazine did an excellent summary of the crisis with various articles. The crisis at hand now is whether the Executive Branch of our government will violate the First Amendment, which guarantees the free exercise of religion. The current mandate from the Department of Health and

Human Services clearly violates our constitution, and not only every bishop in this country has declared this, but many other religious and non-religious groups. The mainstream media, however, is portraying the issue as about contraception. The Bishops, they say, want to deny contraception as necessary "health care" to American women. First, contraception is not necessary health care, because fertility is not an illness. Second, the Church only wants to keep out of the

contraception and abortion business. To force Catholic churches to pay for contraception would be like forcing Jewish restaurants to serve pork. What is at stake here is a fundamental freedom in this country. Let the sleeping giant, the Catholic Church, awaken to defend the rights of all Americans!

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Joseph Illo
Pastor
St. Joseph's
Catholic Church



CELEBRATE!

Members' Birthdays

Ben Laura	3-2
Alonzo Castillo	3-4
Michael Callahan	3-7
Henry Ficken	3-7
Thomas Muise	3-7
Richard Goeken	3-10
Julian Ortiz	3-10
William Willette	3-10
Ron Martorana	3-12
Rick Serpa	3-13
Kent Harker	3-16
Steve Ruch	3-18
John Higby	3-20
James Wilson	3-20
Benito Ramirez	3-21
Chris Powers	3-25
Roger Farias Sr	3-28
John Mullins	3-28
Loy Sagrado	3-29
Ed Hough	3-30
Richard Ward	3-31

Ladies' Birthdays

Kristine Rocca	3-2
Camille Iorns	3-4
Pat Boucher	3-6
Sally Cleary	3-6
Annette Dedini	3-6
Joan Castagna	3-8
Maria DeQueiroz	3-8
Mara Mullins	3-10
Rosanne Yanko	3-12
Edith Awuah	3-13
Dian Campos	3-17
Susie Dickert	3-18
Mona Wildt	3-18
Mary Carol Henderson	3-20
Cathy Ochinerro	3-26
Betty Mercer	3-28

Anniversaries

Linda & Pat Laubacher	3-6-82
Michelle & William Frey	3-11
Margaret & Victor Mayoral	3-21-92
Marietta & Owen Kummerle	3-25-2000
Sara & Jose Barajas	3-26
Gloria & Tim Benavidez	3-26-66
Sonita & Kurt Saalfeld	3-28-89
Rosario & Daniel Hernandez	3-31-79



MARCH 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
					Fish Fry	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	Officer Meeting, 6:30 Vatican Room	Council Meeting 7 PM, Hall			Memorial Mass 5:45 pm	Crab Feed
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>					Fish Fry	<i>St Patrick's Day</i>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	<i>Feast of St. Joseph</i>				Fish Fry	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<i>Passion Sunday</i>					Soup Dinner	

Sunshine Chairman

We need to pray for the following Brothers: Tony Lee, Mike Miranda, Dan Dwyer, Jim Standart, Larry Tucker, Manuel Sylvia, Jim Ratcliffe, and Monsignor Conrad Gruber.

Continue to pray for Bishop Stephen E. Blaire; Joyce Earl; Father Illo's mother, Janice; Matt Iorns' mother, Sharon; Darlene Nielsen; Nicole Miranda; Patricia Moon;

Priscilla Pino; Frances Carney; Joan Castagna; Hilda Sylvia; Patricia Dinubilo; Eleanor Karaz; and Wilma Lee.

Pray, as always, for our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, our parish priests, and our troops wherever they are stationed. You can reach me at 527-6958 with news of any Brother or family member who is ill or in any distress.

John Karaz



Grodt's Notes

There are still many that need to respond and send in money or a note regarding their dues. I will send out statements again in March. Hope you support the Council by

attending or working at one of the many fish fry's.

Mike Grodt
Financial Secretary
529-3105



Part of the kitchen crew at the Tri-Tip in the Rain Dinner



Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
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FOUR PARTS OF RETIREMENT: PHASE ONE

In the next four articles, I would like to discuss a goal that's on many workers' radar: retirement. To some, retirement is the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow or the reward after a long career. It's a time to relax, take up a hobby and enjoy life. Whether retirement is just around the next corner or if you have another 30 years to go, it's never too soon or too late to start planning or revise that plan. Some experts suggest that there are four phases of retirement: protection, accumulation, income de-accumulation and care. In this article, I will tackle protection. Protection is the base element of any well-founded financial plan; the base of the pyramid, for example. Without basic protection against premature death or the inability to earn income due to disability, the remainder of the pyramid collapses. If you own mutual funds and die without life insurance,

those funds will be needed to pay final expenses (collapsing), perhaps at the most inopportune time (after a market correction). If you own mutual funds and lose your ability to earn income due to disability and are without paycheck protection, those funds will be needed in order to pay living expenses (collapsing), perhaps at the most inopportune time (is there ever an opportune time?).

So, basic protection is a must. The good thing is that this protection is offered by the Knights of Columbus. Our whole life products and disability income insurance are designed with this goal in mind. For example, our Life Paid Up at 65 plan is perfect for this purpose because premier payments end right when retirement is upon you. There are many other options that I can discuss with you that will fit your needs and your budget.

Once you've established the proper protection, the next phase is accumulation of cash, which I will discuss in a

future article. Contact me to learn more.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Julio Valadez

Julio Valadez
Field Agent



Knights of Columbus
209-277-9900

julio.valadez@kofc.org

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

P.S. Reminder that there is a 2nd & 3rd Degree Exemplifications coming up: March 03, 2012 at St Patrick's in Merced. Fourth Degree Exemplification on: April 14, 2011 Monterey.

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BOWING VS. HANDSHAKING

Ever wonder who started that business of handshaking in church? I don't remember as a kid growing up in Detroit that we had to shake hands in church. Of course, a lot of things were different then. Masses were said in Latin and homilies were delivered in the vernacular of the parishioners, usually a Slavic dialect in my family's case. The only people we hugged and kissed were our aunts, uncles, cousins and other extended family members. We did not shake hands with everybody.

When I was in the navy and stationed overseas, I could not help noticing the differences in customs in Catholic churches. The first Japanese Catholic church I attended was on a hill in Sasebo, in southern Japan. We had to walk up about three flights of stone steps to get there from the main street. It was no problem when I was younger, less heavy and had no knee and foot problems. In the

vestibule entrance everyone had to take off their shoes and put them on a shelf then walk in and squat on a tatami mat. Men sat on the left side of the church and women and small children on the right. Years later, some Catholic churches got some pews to sit in, like Kitamachi San-chome Catholic Church in Tokyo where my first wife (deceased) and I were married.

While teaching, in Korea my present wife and I were impressed with how the priest with his altar server would dip the consecrated host into the cup of precious blood and then insert it into the mouth of the communicant. That way everyone received the Lord in both species and the chances of passing around germs was much reduced. In Japan and Korea when it came time to greet one another during mass a simple bow toward the altar for the priest and a bow to our surrounding mass attendees was quite sufficient. The only danger was the possibility of bumping

heads (ouch!), which I've seen happen by a revolving door of a Tokyo department store one time.

by Leonard E. Churilla

Editor's note:

According to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, which is what governs the actions within the Roman rite of the Catholic church, below is what describes the "sign of peace."

"82. There follows the Rite of Peace, by which the Church entreats peace and unity for herself and for the whole human family, and the faithful express to each other their ecclesial communion and mutual charity before communicating in the Sacrament.

As for the actual sign of peace to be given, the manner is to be established by the Conferences of Bishops in accordance with the culture and customs of the peoples. However, it is appropriate that each person, in a sober manner, offer the sign of peace only to those who are nearest."

There is an addition citation that says, "And all offer one another a sign, in keeping with local customs, that expresses peace, communion, and charity."



John's Jokes

FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY

In Florida, an atheist brought a case claiming that the recognition of Easter and Passover holidays violated the US Constitution. He hired an attorney who also claimed discrimination against atheists by Christians and Jews in the observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days. The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer,

the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!" The lawyer immediately stood objecting to the ruling saying, "Your honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah. Yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays...." The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But atheists do have a holiday. You and your client, counsel, are woefully ignorant." The lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special

observance or holiday for atheists." The judge said, "Psalms 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. The calendar says April 1st is April Fool's Day. Therefore, April 1st is his day. Court is adjourned." You gotta love a Judge that knows his scripture!



MEMBERSHIP MEMO

My Brother Knights, When you read this we will have had our first fish fry and moving on to the next one. The Friday dinners are a great place to talk to people about what the KOC is all about. We will try to have membership material available. I am still in need of an Assistant to man a membership table at all of our events, let me

know if you can step up and help in that way.

Rick Dinubilo,
Past Grand Knight
Past Faithful Navigator



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Lecturer's Notes:

Ash Wednesday is behind us and Lent is fully underway. Yeah! What a great season Lent is: a time when we can fully engage our bodies, minds and hearts as we grow in our Christian walk. I was pondering the sin of our first parents and why Lent is such a great time to confront the baggage that we carry around, and we all have baggage!

Everyone has an attachment to their sins of choice. It could be anything from alcohol to heroine, adultery to pornography, gossip, foul language, anger, pride; you name it. Years ago, I liked being known for telling the dirtiest jokes, leveling the meanest insults and never walking away from a fight. That was some (but nowhere near all) of the baggage I carried around.

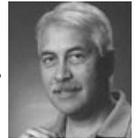
Each time we sin it's like we put more stuff into the suitcase. Without realizing it I used to pack as much ugly sin as I could into my suitcase. Vanity always puts a positive spin on bad behavior and because my buddies used to laugh at my jokes, I saw myself as a funny guy. But that's not how others saw me. Once, someone whom I cared for very much addressed my foul language and sense of humor just before we parted ways. Suddenly I realized that I was lugging around

some very heavy baggage and it occurred to me that it had affected where I was at that point in my life. But there is good news. Just because we haul around the luggage now doesn't mean that we are stuck with it for the rest of our lives. For me it was easy; I moved to the Bay Area, made new friends and reinvented myself. I haven't told a dirty joke in years and I don't insult or challenge other people's character or integrity. I like people and best of all I'm comfortable with who I've become. I think I now see myself as others see me because the baggage is mostly gone. How do we empty the baggage? Each time we go to confession we take stuff out of the suitcases and lighten the load. The best news is that through the sacraments you can completely empty your sinful suitcases and toss away the empties or at least get smaller ones. It's possible: I've done it, and I know people who have done it. But, you first have to realize that you're carrying some sinful baggage. Making a good confession is what Lent is all about.

This brings me back to my opening sentence. In the garden, the woman engaged in that sinful act with her body, mind and heart and fell under the weight of temptation. In her wisdom,

Holy Mother Church gives us a chance to engage our temptations every year during Lent. This is the time to face our temptations and have mastery over them. We all have our own favorite sins; some of us are defined by them. But I promise you, you can take a bad habit the size of Stanislaus County and beat it back to wallet size with regular confession. What better time to empty your bags than right now?

Ed Ibarra,
Lecturer



March business meeting is on Tuesday, March 6th at 7:00pm. Second Friday Memorial Mass for the deceased Knights of this council is on Friday, March 9th at 5:45pm. Along with Fish Fry Fridays and Stations of the Cross, March will be a busy month. We should all resolve to make a good Lent, attend Stations and the Parish Mission, and give up something meaningful while doing something meaningful for our faith. If you invite someone to Fish Fry invite them to Stations of the Cross, you could change their world. And don't forget to make a good confession and get cleaned up spiritually. Pray that God give us the grace to seek have a good Lent. Pray for the men and women who serve in Law Enforcement and the Military. Pray that politicians have conversion of heart. You can find a complete version of this online at kofc10644.org.

Knight Light

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