



AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council #14754

Website: www.koc14754.org

Father O'Malley answers the phone.

-Hello, is this Father O'Malley?

-It is

-This is the IRS. Can you help us?

-I can

-Do you know a Ted Houlihan?

-I do

-Is he a member of your congregation?

-He is

-Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?

-He will-

Father John McMurray was the pastor of a small parish in the mid-western United States. He was an avid golfer, and tried to take advantage of any good weather that might be available in the unpredictable weather of the mid-west. As luck would have it, one fine Sunday morning it was a beautiful spring day in early April, during Lent, just a week before Palm Sunday. Father John decided he wasn't feeling well and got a substitute priest to cover the morning's two masses.

Off he went to the local golf course. Since Father John never played on Sundays, no one at the golf course pro shop recognized him, and given that it was early, they let him play as a single. The round started well, and he was playing above his normal game. As he came to the 6th hole, a 183-yard par 3, over water, he chose a 3-iron. The swing felt very good and the ball cleared the water, took one forward bounce and proceeded to roll into the hole, for a hole-in-one.

St Peter witnessed all of the day's activities and complained to God: **"Heavenly Father, Father McMurray fabricated a story to miss mass, mislead a fellow priest, and missed mass during Lent; why did you let him have a such a fine round, and get a hole-in-one to boot?"**

God's reply: **"Who's he going to tell?"**

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August features as many Knight birthdays as any other month, 19. The average age of Knights born this month is 60.36 years. Our Knights range in age from Eddie González, born in the last year of Franklin Roosevelt's presidency to our youngest August Knights Ikenna and Okenna Clement, born in the last 18 months of Bill Clinton's presidency.

A lot of long serving Knights were born this month. At the top of the list, Deacon Noel Delos Reyes (27 years). Also Daniel Goetz (25 years), Michael Molatore (21 years), and Sam Duran (21 years). The average years of service among Knights born in August is 10.84 years.

August is a great month for 4th degree Knights. Eight of our members who celebrate birthdays this month and are Sir Knights. These include John Pace, Michael Molatore, James Johnstone, Daniel Goetz, Sam Duran, Noel de Los Reyes, John Roza and Dennis Shaw.

In a great testimony to the broad base of our council, we have Knights celebrating birthdays this month in every decade of life from the 20s to the 80s. Happy birthday to all of them!

Day, Knight, Yrs service

2, John Pace, 8
2, Jonathan Sales, 16
3, Michael Molatore, 21
4, James Johnstone, 9
6, Ron Ruiz, 2
6, George Smith, 2
7, Edward Gonzales, 10
7, Juan Tirado, 3
8, Daniel Goetz, 25
10, Sam Duran, 21
10, Jason Frazier, 3
15, Noel Delos Reyes, 27
17, Danny Davis, 2
20, Richard Ramos, 13
22, John Roza, 7
24, Ikenna Clement, 8
24 Okenna Clement, 8
27, Dennis Shaw, 9
28, Ron Black, 14

IN THIS ISSUE:

--Chaplain Monsignor Perry Message
-- Grand Knight Message
--Membership Update
--Appeal for Assistance: Brother Michael Dhanens

SAVE THE DATE!!

Every January, Catholic men of the SEAS parish travel to the beautiful and serene confines of the St Anthony's Retreat Center in Three Rivers, CA for a weekend of religious instruction delivered by Father Jim Nisbet. Highlights include a deeply informative Stations of the Cross, the Scriptures, the Sacraments, quiet reflection, Mass each day, hospitality, amazing food, and fellowship. Make plans for this rewarding experience, January 23 – 25, 2026. The retreat is open to all men of the parish, and there are discounts for first-time attendees. For questions email *Ed Knudson* at osuetk@bak.rr.com. More details coming soon. **SAVE THE DATE!!**

MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL CHAPLAIN MONSIGNOR PERRY

Dear Brother Knights and Friends:

Now that the summer is nearly over, we can look ahead to another busy Fall season! Most of our parish ministries begin in late August/early September. We are anticipating many more registrations for our religious education program, youth ministry program and adult formation classes. Not a week or two goes by without being introduced to new parishioners after Masses. God has been good to us in so many ways. Each new parishioner brings a blessing to our parish family and offers new gifts and talents for our many ministries.

Of course, a busier schedule translates into more work for our Knights! Still, I have found that our Knights Council remains healthy in its membership and level of involvement in the parish. Yes, there is always a need for other Knights to be more involved, but we have a solid core group of men who step up to the plate as needed. Finally, I just want to add how grateful I have been for the presence of Fr. John Kpan this past summer. He will be returning to his parish in Ghana in September. He has been a great help to me and to many parishioners here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Msgr Perry Kavookjian

GRAND KNIGHT ANDY SILVESTRO'S MESSAGE

My first month as Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus has been both a challenge and a deeply rewarding experience. Stepping into this role meant taking on the leadership of a large group of men, each with his own unique passion and perspective. Navigating this dynamic and ensuring everyone feels heard while moving our council forward can be difficult, but seeing the collective commitment to our mission makes it incredibly worthwhile. One of my most rewarding moments so far was successfully conducting a business meeting in under an hour. It may seem like a small victory, but it's a testament to our council's efficiency and shared purpose, respecting everyone's time and dedication. This efficiency allows us to focus on what truly matters: our community projects. I'm continually inspired by the great things we do for others. Our work with local pregnancy centers and our unwavering support for St. Vincent de Paul are just two examples of our commitment to charity. These activities, along with many others, are the lifeblood of our council. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the men who work so diligently, especially our Pitmasters, whose culinary skills are truly awesome. Their hard work provides not only sustenance for our meetings but also a sense of fellowship that strengthens our bond as brothers.

Vivat Jesus!!!

WGK Andy Silvestro

TAX INSIGHT

submitted by Chris Zeimer

Dear Brothers:

Exciting news: Congress has passed the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*! It's big (over 2,000 pages), beautiful (in the same way a lava lamp is beautiful—hypnotic and slightly disorienting), and full of bold moves no one saw coming, mostly because no one actually read the whole thing.

Now who benefits? Let's start there. If you're retired and living on a fixed income, this bill might offer a bit of breathing room. Medicare will now cap out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs, finally making medications more affordable and you might finally get to stop choosing between Lipitor and lunch.

There's also expanded coverage for hearing aids (finally acknowledging that most of us didn't "ignore" our spouses, we just couldn't hear them), and includes a small but real tax break for retirement income, which means a little more money might stay in your pocket

And yes, the bill has *something* for just about everyone. Small businesses get new incentives to hire older workers, infrastructure funds are flowing (in theory) to both big cities and small towns, and yes, higher-income individuals and companies will see some benefits too—mostly in the form of investment incentives and R&D credits. But let's be honest: when the economy grows, we all like to think we get a slice of the pie, not just the crumbs.

To keep things balanced, a few federal programs will be “streamlined” (a lovely word that often means “trimmed down”), and some agencies will have to learn how to do more with less—something middle-class seniors have been perfecting for decades.

In all, the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* may not solve every problem, but it does toss a well-earned lifeline to those who’ve worked hard, paid in, and hoped someone in Washington was still listening. This time, maybe they were.

John Mihal
Chronically Informed, Cautiously Hopeful

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Craig Holliday, Membership Director

Overview of Council 14754, Fraternal Year 2025 By Craig Holliday and Jim Patten

Fraternal Year 2025 Craig Holliday			Fraternal Year 2016 Jim Patten		
The following table is an overall look at our Council. The idea for this article came from a similar article written by Jim Patten exactly 9 years ago today (July 13, 2016). The material in the left column will deal with Fraternal Year 2025 and the material on the right was taken from the column written by Jim in Fraternal Year 2016.			Yesterday, in an email I shared some member years of Knight service with Grand Vince Pagano. This led me to the thought that this might be a good time to show member years of service of our 2016/17 fraternal officers and directors and the council in total. In the list of officers and directors [at the bottom] I have shown in parentheses their years of service.		
Altogether the current 13 officers have a total of 147 years of continuous membership with the Knights, for an average of 11.3 years. The average years of membership for the council is 10.75 years.			Altogether the current 14 officers have a total of 132 years of continuous membership with the Knights, for an average of 9.4 years. The average years of membership for the council is 7.07 years		
The council presently has 207 members. From the original core Charter members, 19 remain as members (41% of the original Charter member group).			Our Council started in April 2009 with 46 Charter members. 30, or 65%, are still members, and six of them are current officers. There are presently 155 total members.		
40 of the 207 total members are Fourth Degree Knights--that means 19.3% of the total membership hold that status.			20 of the 155 total members of the council are Fourth Degree Knights-- that means that 13% of our total membership holds that status.		
Overall Knights membership July 2025			Overall Knights membership July 2016		
Years	# of Knights	%age	Years	# of Knights	%age
Under 1	11	5	Under 1	18	12
1 to 5	57	28	1 to 5	74	48
6 to 10	55	27	6 to 10	31	20

11 to 20	64	31	11 to 20	19	12
Over 20 Yrs	20	9	Over 20 Yrs	13	2
TOTALS	207	100	TOTALS	155	100

Grand Knight	Andy Silvestro (11)	Grand Knight	Vince Pagano (3)
Deputy Grand Knight	Mike Panos (7)	Deputy Grand Knight	Andy Silvestro (2)
Chancellor	Craig Holliday (2)	Chancellor	Brett Banducci (7)
Warden	Ron Carr (17)	Warden	Christian Jaramillo (2)
Recorder	Brandon Whitehead (2)	Recorder	Tim Guenther (6)
Chaplain	Fr. Perry (39)	Chaplain	Fr. Perry (30)
Financial Secretary	Chris Ziemer (11)	Financial Secretary	Jim Patten (10)
Treasurer	Ed Besenfelder (9)	Treasurer	Chris Ziemer (2)
Advocate	Armando Martinez (2)	Advocate	Leo Castro (7)
Trustee 1	Bill Jeffries (17)	Trustee 1	Eric Menor (5)
Trustee 2	Donovan White (21)	Trustee 2	Mike Neal (48)
Trustee 3	Michael Dhanens (9)	Trustee 3	Tony Urzanqui (7)
Inside Guard	Nicolas Andrade	Inside Guard	Craig Carter (2)
Outside Guard	Michael Vander Poel (2)	Outside Guard	Joe Ozeta (1)

APPEAL FOR DONATION

On behalf of Brothers Andy Silvestro and Michael Dhanens, Council 14754 would like to begin collecting items, monthly, for distribution St. Vincent DePaul Center and/or the Bakersfield Pregnancy Center.

For St. Vincent DePaul Center:

New men's and women's socks and underwear

Gently used men's and women's clothing that can be used directly by the homeless

Heavy duty re-usable plastic grocery bags

For the Bakersfield Pregnancy Center:

Diapers (all sizes)

Gently used baby clothes for both boys and girls

Baby blankets

New bottles, pacifiers, teething toys