



## DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council #14754

Website: [www.koc14754.org](http://www.koc14754.org)

**Deadline for monthly submission is the first Wednesday of each month.: January 7.**

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- ADDENDUM "On First Jobs" Jim Patten (separate document)

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

The height of the holiday season brings us one of our smallest months in terms of Knight's birthdays. Only 11 men of our Council have a birthday this month. The average age of a council member born in December is 49.5. Our Knights this month include elder statesman like Doug Farolan, born in the first year of Harry Truman's presidency and Deacon Anthony Mendez, born near the end of FDR's third term. We also have younger members born this month-- Anthony Duncan and Kyle Cisneros, both born in the first term of George W. Bush.

We nearly have exact birthday twins. Francisco Rodriguez III and John Chacon Jr., were born within a day of each other in 1980. For the record, the number one song in the country that week was Lady by Kenny Rogers.

We have a few long serving Knights celebrating birthdays this month. Sir Knight Donovan White (21 years), James Gabel (37 years) and Sir Knight Deacon Anthony Mendez (47 years!).

Congrats to all of our December birthday Knights!

### Day, Knight, Yrs service

- 3, Jacob Stuebbe, 2
- 6, Anthony Duncan, 3
- 6, Francisco Rodriguez III, 8
- 7, John Chacon Jr., 9
- 10, Sir Knight Donovan White, 21
- 13, Doug Farolan, 13
- 18, James Gabel, 37
- 20, Sir Knight Kyle Cisneros, 5
- 21, Brian Bean, 12
- 24, Cade Brummer, 1
- 30 Sir Knight Deacon Anthony Mendez, 47

## WHAT'S UP

- December Council meeting Monday **December 8:** Christmas Potluck
- **Dec 11:** Our Lady of Guadalupe
- St. Vincent de Paul Breakfast **Dec 13**
- Christmas Food Drive **Dec 13 & 14**
- Brass after Mass 6pm Sat. **Dec 20.** Christmas Carols with Kern River Brass and Men's Choir
- Christmas: **Dec 24:** Masses 4pm, 6pm, 10:30pm **Dec 25:** 9am
- Men's Retreat **January 23-25.** St Anthony's, Three Rivers
- Seton Soiree Gala. **February 7**
- Membership Drive **Feb 7 & 8**
- Ash Wednesday. **February 18**
- Friday Fish Frys begin **February 20**
- Palm Sunday. **March 29**
- Holy Week. **Apr 2 – 5. Easter April 5**

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

### MONSIGNOR PERRY KAVOOKJIAN

Dear Brother Knights and friends,

As we approach Christmas and the end of this year, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your good work on behalf of our parish family and wider community. We are blessed to have an active and dedicated Council here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church! In these ways, you have given witness to Christ who is still at work in our community through your faith and goodness.

In this Season, we are painfully aware of the poor around us—the homeless, the sick, the elderly—and we are aware that these are among the many people who may not experience the joy of this Season. So, it is our responsibility to share joy with them and we accomplish this when we reach out to assist them in a spirit of love. Just as Jesus went about doing good things for people, so too, we must do the same.

As we prepare to make our own preparations for Christmas, let us not forget that we can prepare others for the good things that God desires for them. By our love, friendship and generosity, we can make certain that all of God's people will appreciate the great gift that God has given us in the birth of his only Son.

May each of you and your loved ones have a wonderful Christmas! Onward to 2026!

Msgr Perry

## GRAND KNIGHT ANDY SILVESTRO'S MESSAGE



**Left:** Knights in Action: Danny, Juan and I helped pass out 1,045 Turkeys at Catholic Charities the day before Thanksgiving 2025.

**Right:** KGET interviewed PGK Dennis and Monsignor Perry during a Thanksgiving food drive at Compassion Corner. Chris, Bill, Mike and I were there to make sure Dennis went through with the interview.



**Left:** PGK Bill was there at Christ the King to help prepare the turkeys to be placed in the deep pit. Members of the Knights of Columbus from the Chapter were there in full for force to prepare the food to feed 500 people at SVDP.

**Right:** Last, but not least, is Chris, Beatriz, Jose and I helped pass out over a thousand coats for kids through-out Kern County (Bakersfield, Lamont, Shafter, Arvin, Rosemond and Frazier Park). Also, the next day, Dennis and Mike helped pass out coats at another 9 schools.

This is just a small part of what we have accomplished to help families in need. November has been a very busy month and December looks even busier. Thanks to the dedicated men and women at Catholic Charities, Saint Vincent De Paul, and Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church with the support from the Knights of Columbus, all things are possible with God and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Vivat Jesus!

WGK Andy

## **FAITH MESSAGE**

**BILL JEFFERIES**

Greetings Brother Knights, As your Faith Director, I want to share with you a library of CIS Booklets. Paste this link <https://www.kofc.org/en/who-we-are/our-faith/cis/booklets.html>

## **ABOUT CATHOLIC INFORMATION SERVICE**

“Faith is a gift of God which enables us to know and love Him. Faith is a way of knowing, just as reason is. But living in faith is not possible unless there is action on our part. Through the help of the Holy Spirit, we are able to make a decision to respond to divine Revelation, and to follow through in living out our response.” (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, 38.)

Since its founding, the Knights of Columbus has been involved in evangelization. In 1948, the Knights started Catholic Information Service (CIS) in response to blatant anti-Catholic bias in other religious media in order to educate non-Catholics about the beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church. Over time, this outreach has expanded to include publications for parishes, schools, retreat houses, military installations, correctional facilities, legislatures, the medical community and any individual who requests them.

There are 97 resources that include Hart Series (31), Veritas Series (38), Domestic Church Series (18), Devotional Series (10). Please set aside time in 2026 to read and/or listen to the CIS resources.

You can Download PDF 340 – “Into the Breach” booklet for FREE at <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/cis/cis340.pdf>

Booklets of “Into the Breach” are being ordered. Promise to begin reading the book so we can plan on having some group discussions beginning in January 2026.

December 2025 Archbishop William E. Lori, Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

“Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” (Gospel for Dec. 7, Mt 3:10)

In these reflections over the past year, we have meditated on the importance of our faith bearing fruit in good works. In a way, this Gospel passage, quoting St. John the Baptist, might seem out of place during Advent. But throughout this season, we reflect not only on Christ’s coming in the incarnation, but also his second coming in judgment at the end of the world. Let us pray and work to ensure we lead truly faithful and fruitful lives as disciples of Jesus.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori: This month, I challenge you to spend some time reflecting on the four last things — death, judgment, heaven and hell — to better prepare yourself for eternity.

**Questions for Reflection:**

Do I live with my sights set on heaven? Am I aware of the reality of hell? Do I live my life so as to be prepared for my death and judgment?

**May God Bless you and your family. Merry Christmas!**

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

**CRAIG HOLLIDAY, CHANCELLOR**

Our Council continues to attract great men of the parish. This month we welcomed in three new members: Deacon Marco Ayala, Jorge Tena, and frequent St. Elizabeth visitor Fr. Thomas Chacko. The three Knights bring our Council total to 208. As always, if you encounter men who are interested in joining the Council please refer them to the Council website <https://www.koc14754.org/> or to me ([craig\\_holliday@kernhigh.org](mailto:craig_holliday@kernhigh.org), 661-599-9219).

Our dues campaign also continues to go well. As of the end of November, we have collected dues from 77 of the 182 dues paying members (for a total of \$3,658). We have also collected optional dues amounting to \$2,748. Earlier this month (thanks to the kindness of Darren Williams and Jim Patten) we printed Membership cards for next year. I mailed out membership cards to non-dues paying members last week. I will have membership cards on hand at the Xmas party for Knights who have paid their dues. As a reminder, you may pay dues by going online to our website or by sending a check to Financial Secretary Chris Ziemer, 11704 Copernicus Ave., 93312.

**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*



## **2026 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Men's Retreat**

### ***Listening to God: the Next Step***

**January 23-25, 2026**

**OPEN TO ALL MEN OF THE PARISH**

#### **RETREAT PROGRAM**

Father Jim Nisbet will again lead our 2026 Men's Retreat at the St. Anthony's Retreat Center; located on twenty-five acres at the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains near Sequoia National Park. St. Anthony's Retreat Center provides a comfortable, peaceful, and a naturally beautiful setting. The retreat center's accommodations are dorm style rooms with private bathrooms. Meals are included and will be served in the center's dining room at scheduled times.

#### **RETREAT SCHEDULE**

The program begins Friday at 5:30PM with Mass, followed by dinner.

- The first, one hour, session begins at 7:30PM, followed by hospitality and fellowship.
- Saturday begins with an optional mass followed by a hearty breakfast
  - Second and Third sessions before lunch, and Fourth session following lunch.
  - This year Monsignor Perry will join Father Jim for a session as they share their experiences in "listening to God."
  - An enlightening outdoor Stations of the Cross, led by Father Jim Nisbet, is an optional Saturday afternoon activity.
  - The evening is yours to enjoy, but optional events include, a relevant movie, hospitality, fellowship, and sharing, or individual reflection.
  - Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation may be available throughout the day.
- Sunday morning begins with mass, breakfast and the fifth and final session. The retreat concludes with lunch at 12PM.

#### **COST AND REGISTRATION**

The cost of the retreat is **\$370 for a shared room**; cost includes meals for the entire weekend. Full payment is due by January 15th. Scholarship opportunities are available for those needing financial assistance. Transportation is not included, but we can help arrange carpools as needed.

**SPECIAL: First time retreat participants only \$320 for a shared room!**

**Register and pay for the Retreat online**

**[www.setoncatholicchurch.org](http://www.setoncatholicchurch.org)**

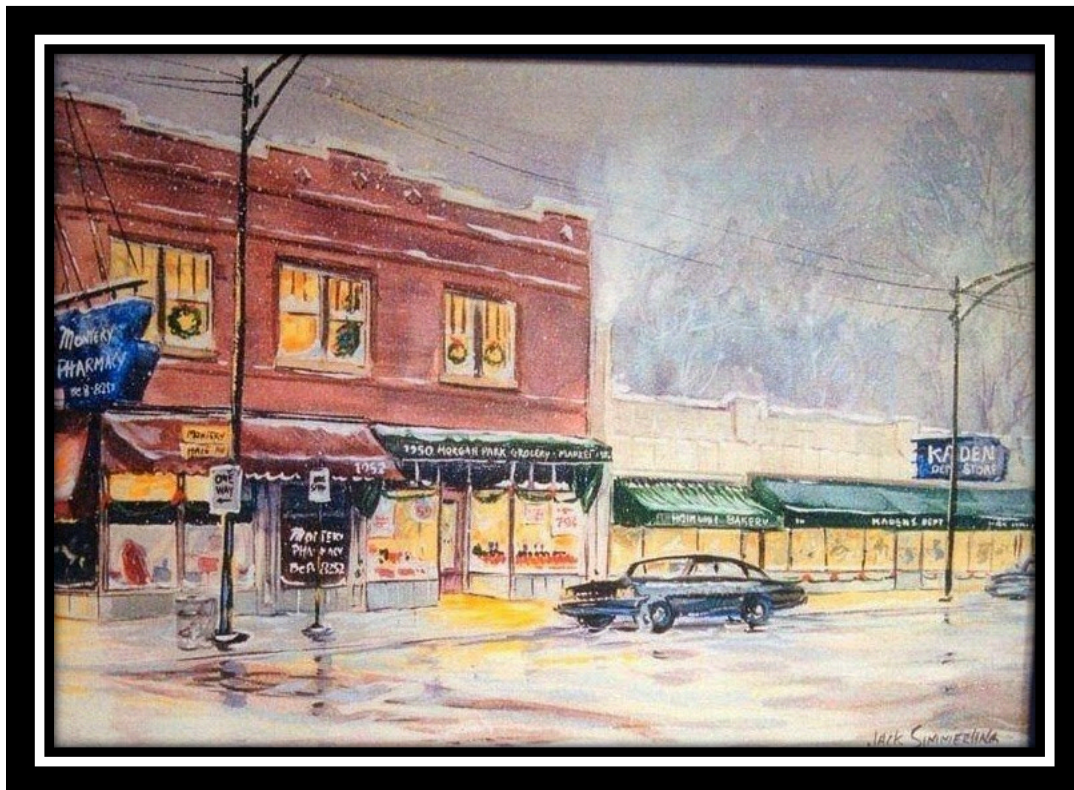
For more information, please contact Ed Knudson at (661) 333-8279 or [osuetk@bak.rr.com](mailto:osuetk@bak.rr.com), Dennis Shaw at (661) 479-1727 or [dennisshaw7@gmail.com](mailto:dennisshaw7@gmail.com), Vince Pagano at (661) 717-9923 or [cdrvap66@gmail.com](mailto:cdrvap66@gmail.com)

## ADDENDUM: December 2025 Newsletter

### ON FIRST JOBS

By Jim Patten, PGK

**Author's note:** I know this article is a little longer than what we usually have in our council newsletters, but it has a little bit of everything from 1960 including a Christmas scene in the painting below. Where were you when you were 17? If you would like to share your own "On Life" stories in our newsletter, just contact our newsletter publisher Ed Knudson.



Kaden Department Store, depicted in the Jack Simmerling painting above, was where I landed my first job in 1960 when I was 17 and a junior at Morgan Park High School (a.k.a. EMPEHI) in Chicago. In retrospect it was probably the most important job experience in my life. If you do a Google search on Jack Simmerling you will see why it is no surprise that he chose to include this view of 111<sup>th</sup> street that included the Kaden store in his painting repertoire of historical Chicago architecture.

Freshmen and sophomores at EMPEHI got late schedules starting at 10AM and not getting out

until 4PM so it was difficult for those kids to find any kind of part-time work. Juniors and seniors had the early schedules with juniors getting out at 3PM and seniors getting out at like 2PM. So, it was much easier for juniors and seniors to get those afternoon part-time jobs, and 17 was the magic age when you were no longer limited in job choices by child labor laws.

I had no idea of what kind of a career I wanted, but I knew my parents really wanted me to go on to college and become the first college graduate in either of their families. They were

concerned about me getting distracted in my high school education by getting a job, but at age 17 I wanted to have some “jingle” of my own in my pocket. I will never forget coming home with \$23 cash and change in my first pay envelope. I worked some 24 hours in my first week at \$1 per hour and was a bit puzzled about what the FICA deducted from my \$24 gross wage was all about, but still happy with those two tens and three singles and change. Little did I know that I would have to wait 58 years to get any of that FICA back.

Although I had a driver’s license (I passed my driver license exam on my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1959) I could walk from EMPEHI to Kaden’s and, from there back home at 10755 Longwood Drive. I worked Monday thru Friday from after school until the store closed. They were open one evening a week and from 9 to 5PM on Saturdays but closed on Sunday’s. During the Christmas season we stock boys would work full-time while we were out of school.

I say “we” stock boys because Kaden’s always tried to have two stock boys for the store. The stock boy who had seniority on me happened to be the son of my EMPEHI homeroom teacher, which probably helped me get the job. The problem was that his first name was also Jim, and Howard and Les Kaden, the brothers who inherited the business from their parents, did not want the confusion of having two Jim’s to yell after, thus I told them they could call me Al, (Albert is my middle name), and was my dad’s first name.

Why do I think that being a department store stockboy was so important? Well, here were the job duties:

**CLEAN THE DISPLAY WINDOWS:** As you can see from the artist rendering of Kaden’s there was lots of glass to keep clean. So, I became very familiar with a mop, a bucket of ammonia water, and a squeegee.

**RAISE AND LOWER THE AWNINGS:** You will also notice in the artist rendering that there were awnings over every window. They had to be rolled up each evening and we had to pay attention to wind and snow conditions and raise or lower them as needed. Howard and Les Kaden had to take care of awning duties when we stockboys were not there. All their sales clerks were ladies who could not handle

the hand cranking required for the heavy canvas awnings. In fact, Howard and Les did a lot of stockboy chores when Jim and Al were not around. Of course, as we got to know them, we realized that they were stockboys for their father and they had no problem handling any chore in the store. General Patton was known to say that an officer should be willing to do the work of any private and do a better job of it than the private. Patton would have respected the Kaden brothers! This is just one example of why, in retrospect, my Kaden stockboy experience was so valuable.

#### **ASSIST THE WINDOW DRESSER:**

There was a time when all department stores hired window dressers. The Kaden’s hired a cranky old guy to change their window displays for the different seasons. As cranky as he was, he could transform the Kaden windows into displays that would rival the major retail stores in downtown Chicago. Of course, Al and Jim would have to help him knock down the old displays and drag in the new items in to be displayed. We got to like and respect the old guy because he was so good at his job. I guess you could say I learned that skill could outweigh personality issues, or at least make them tolerable.

#### **PUT UP CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS:**

I suspect that the Kaden brother’s father purchased the Christmas decorations that Jim and Al put up the two years I worked there. That’s how I learned to understand the adage “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it”. Our big innovation was in moving the FM radio from the Kaden’s office to the top of a pillar in the middle of the store and tuning it to the new FM station in Chicago that played only Christmas music during the holidays.

**CLEAN THE RESTROOM:** There was only one restroom at Kaden’s and Jim and Al did the heavy cleaning, although Howard and Les and the sales ladies also watched out to keep the restroom well stocked and deodorized. Back then customers would politely ask to use the restroom. It seemed like department store customers then did not expect big arrows pointing the way to restrooms. In a way Kaden’s was ahead of their time by having a unisex bathroom.

#### **MARK AND STOCK MERCHANDISE:**

Even in the 1960s shoplifting was a concern, and I



learned a lot about theft deterrence in retail stores. One trick customers played was switching price tags so they could swap a higher price tag for a lower price tag. Kaden's had a price tag unit that would pin the price tag on an item such that the pin was bent making it very difficult to remove. All high-end items, like men's shirts, were marked in this fashion, and the sticky tags we had to use on other merchandise were very sticky indeed. One of our customer services was removing the tags for customers AFTER they made their purchase. Kaden's also placed an alpha cost code on all their price tags. This was of course in the era of no bar codes.

We always made sure that the hooks on coat hanger displays were alternated so grab and run thieves could not take handfuls of items in one grab.

It is obvious in big box stores today, like Costco, how they store extra stock, but at Kaden's extra stock had to be stored in cabinets beneath open top displays. We had to rely on brain power to remember where we "hid" extra stock and when to holler when the last extra stock went on display.

Dust covers are a thing of the past, but it was the past back then at Kaden's and everyone who worked in the store helped place the dust covers as part of the closing process. Dust covers not only kept unwrapped stock from getting dusty, but they also made it harder for after hour thieves to figure out what was under the covers.

**TEAR DOWN BOXES:** Like any retail store Kaden's had to trash lots of boxes. They only had one dumpster that was picked up once a week, so we learned to crush boxes flat to avoid having to pay for extra dumpster pickups. I was pushing 190 pounds when I worked at Kaden's, and I sometimes think one of the reasons they hired me was that they could see that I could easily crush boxes if I put my weight into it. Even today I still crush all the boxes that we place in our recycling bin.

#### **INVENTORY, PURCHASES, SALES, AND RECEIVABLES:**

By my senior year at EMPEHI I had narrowed down my search for a college degree to business administration with an emphasis in accounting, and although I did not know a debit from a doughnut at the time, I got a pretty good intuitive concept of the accounting cycle for retail

merchandising firms by working at Kaden Department Store.

I helped take inventory for the two years I worked at Kaden, and by the time the second inventory rolled along I began to figure out that it was a part of the tax and accounting process.

Howard and Less Kaden did all the merchandise purchasing, but Al and Jim had to vouch all merchandise received against the receiving tickets and let them know if there were any shortages or overages.

Howard and Les Kaden trusted Al and Jim to make sales and ring them up on their venerable old cash register. The Kadens granted credit to well-known customers, and I saw how they handled sales on account and became very familiar with their paper bound receivable system. The Kadens even let Al and Jim walk deposits to the drop box at their bank which was within easy walking distance of the store. Back then the need for armored pick up was minimal.

#### **OTHER JOB PERKS:**

One of the perks of being trusted to run the cash register was to be able to check the coins in the cash register. The Kadens knew that I was into coin collecting and had no problem with letting me cull the coin drawers for possible collectable coins. In 1960 and 1961 there were still silver coins in general circulation and even some Indian head pennies and lots of Lincoln "Wheaties". One of my finds was a 1918/7-D Buffalo nickel that I sold for \$65. Not a bad return on a five-cent investment. Now had I held on to it that same coin would have been worth the \$4,000 down payment on our first home in 1969. In 2023 that coin had a mid-grade value of over \$30,000, and a top condition value of \$350,000 according to the Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS) web site.

Another perk was to be able to see an X-ray image of your feet in the X-ray machine in the shoe section that had two viewing ports. One for the customer, and one for the shoe clerk. Little did we know of the hazards of exposure to X-rays! That shoe X-ray machine and Kaden's old cash register would make good additions to the Smithsonian today, along with the three dozen boxes of Arrow celluloid collars we found when taking inventory in one of the dark and dusty corners of the backroom storage shelves.

I don't know if one would call it a perk, but I learned to be very careful when carrying panes of glass. I can still see the scar and five stitch marks on my left wrist that had to be made to close the wound from a display case glass door that cracked in half when I was carrying it to the basement storage space.

If you are into sewing Coats and Clark is still the go to brand. About a fourth of the Kaden store was devoted to bolts of fabric, and an inventory of clothes patterns, and sewing essentials. Two of the lady sales clerks were experts on everything to do with sewing and had many loyal customers.

In the front of the store there was a toy section and two book racks. One for Hardy Boys, the other for Nancy Drew. I loved to read the Hardy Boy mystery books and had about ten of the hard cover books in the series before I started working at Kaden's, by the time I left they were up to 31 books and I was able to buy them all at Kaden's for a dollar, less my employee discount. In December of 2022 when thinking about doing this article I checked out Amazon to see if I could get a Hardy Boy book for old times sake. I found out the Hardy Boys are alive and well today and up to 117 books is the series, and most of them are available for the Kindle so I purchased The Tower Treasure Mystery (#1 in the series) for ten dollars.

For me the Kaden job was a priceless experience. The dollar an hour they paid me in 1960 would have been the equivalent of \$10 in 2023. In California the minimum wage is now \$15 per hour so the government has made it too expensive for many firms, especially small business owners to be able to afford to hire inexperienced kids like I was at the time and give them the learning opportunities I had.

I was able to save just enough of my Kaden earnings to be able to pay \$500 for my first semester of tuition at Chicago's DePaul University college of business administration which put me back on relying on my parents for that "jingle", and the urge to earn some money while in college, but that is a topic of another of my "On Life" stories.

This is probably a good place end with a short list of prices in 1960:  
A new house median price was \$11,900 (The median income was \$5,600)

A new Chevy: \$2,752

A dozen eggs: 62 cents

A loaf of bread: 23 cents

A gallon of milk: 36 cents

A gallon of gas: 31 cents

A pound of coffee: 60 cents

A 6-pack of beer: \$1.60

A good cigar: 25 cents