



FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council #14754

Website: www.koc14754.org

Thoughts from Samuel Clemens aka Mark Twain:

“It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than open your mouth and remove all doubt”.

“If you tell the truth, you don’t have to remember anything.”

“The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up.”

“If the horse you are riding dies.....dismount!” Steve Uzell

“No matter how far you go down the wrong path.....turn back!” Steve Uzell

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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

The shortest month of the year brings a shorter than normal list of Knights’ birthdays. 16 of our Council’s Knights celebrate birthdays in February. The average age of a Knight born in February is 57.5 years old. The average years of service of Knights born this month is 8.

We have three charter Knights celebrating birthdays this month including Michael Zulfa, Terry Pelton, and Michael Neal. Past Grand Knight Michael Neal is celebrating 57 years as a Knight this year. He joined the Knights during the presidency of Lyndon Johnson, shortly after the election of Richard Nixon. Additionally, he is exactly one day younger than Frank Kuhs. They were born in the second term of Harry Truman. The number one song in the country the week they were born was “Ballerina” by Vaughan Monroe and his Orchestra.

We also salute Sir Knight Andres Ordonez and Sir Knight Kevin Palla on their birthdays this month. Congrats to all of February birthday Knights!

Day, Knight, Yrs service

5, Michael Zulfa, 17
7, Joel Molin, 3
13, Martin Pequeno, 12
14, SK Andres Ordonez, 11
14, Terry Pelton, 17
15, Darren Olivier, 14
16, Greg Butchko, 10
20, Michael Vander Poel, 2

20, Bryce Zaben, 1
22, George Ayonayon, 5
23, SK Kevin Palla, 4
26, Frank Kuhs, 6
27, Ryan Fachin, 16
27, PGK Michael Neal, 57
28, Josh Evans, 1
28, John Gonzales, 5

WHAT'S UP

- Seton Soiree Gala. **February 7**
- Membership Drive **Feb 7 & 8**
- Ash Wednesday. **February 18**
- Friday Fish Frys **February 20 – March 27**
- Stations of the Cross, **Fridays 7pm February 20 – March 27**
- Palm Sunday. **March 29**
- Holy Week. **Apr 2 – 5. Easter April 5**
- Heritage Festival **May 3**
- Mother's Day **May 10**
- Pentecost Sunday **May 2**

GRAND KNIGHT

ANDY SILVESTRO'S MESSAGE

A Brotherhood in the Wilderness: The Three Rivers Retreat

Tucked away in the peaceful foothills of the Sierra Nevada, the St. Anthony's Retreat Center recently hosted an unforgettable weekend for 80 men, all coming together for a time of fellowship organized by Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. What started as a quiet weekend quickly turned into a powerful gathering of faith and brotherhood, showing just how much guys are craving real connections and deeper spirituality.

Leading the retreat was Father Jim Nisbet, whose mix of wisdom and humor really set the tone for the weekend. One of the most moving parts of the retreat was the Stations of the Cross. The group walked together, reflecting on Christ's journey and thinking about the sacrifices they make in their own lives as fathers, sons, and protectors. The men also came together in powerful moments of singing and praying in unison, their voices rising in harmony as they strengthened their bond with each other and with God.

Father Nisbet's talks focused a lot on how to talk to God in a more personal way, going beyond the usual prayers to actually having a conversation with Him. It was a big call for honesty and authenticity, and it hit home for a lot of the guys. The confessional saw a lot of action as men lined up to unburden themselves, finding peace in the fresh mountain air. When the sessions wrapped up, the real magic happened – the bonds between the men grew, and the “iron sharpens iron” effect was in full swing. They left Three Rivers not only recharged by the beautiful setting but also equipped with new strength to lead their families and communities with fresh purpose.

A big thanks to Monsignor Perry for attending and making the weekend even more memorable with his Q&A session with Father Jim. And a huge shoutout to Dennis Shaw, Ed Knudson, Steve Pruitt, and Vince Pagano for their continued support in making this retreat such a success.

Vivat Jesus! WGK Andy

2026 Men's Retreat Class



Beginning of Stations of the Cross



Monsignor Perry and Father Jim at the Men's Retreat



View from the St Anthony's Chapel patio



Retreat Chow Time

FAITH MESSAGE

BILL JEFFERIES

Greetings Brothers, as your Faith Director, I want to share with you my thoughts about the SEAS Men's Retreat at St Anthony's Retreat Center Jan 23 – 25. With a record number of over 80 attendees this was a special weekend "Listening to God: The Next Step" to grow in Faith with Fr Jim Nisbet and Msgr. Perry along with the schedule of activities of three Masses, 4 group sessions, Stations of the Cross walk, Confessions, Rosary/Group prayer and Movie Night. 100 rosaries blessed by Msgr. Perry were distributed, along with rosary, confession, prayer cards and copies of "Into the Breach" books.

Welcome 2026 to review "Into the Breach" An Apostolic Exhortation to Catholic Men, by the Most Rev. Thomas J Olmsted, Bishop of Phoenix. You can Download PDF 340 – "Into the Breach" booklet for FREE <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/cis/cis340.pdf> Booklets of "Into the Breach" are available to pick up at a SEAS Knight's meeting. Brothers begin reading the book so we can plan to have group discussions beginning in 2026.

Review the 2-minute video at <https://www.kofc.org/live-your-faith/into-the-breach-video-series/>

February 2026 Archbishop William E. Lori, Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge "Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me." (Gospel for Feb. 1, Mt 5:11)

In the next verse, Jesus continues, "Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Mt 5:12b). His words imply that his disciples are prophets in their own right, following after the prophets of old. Indeed, as his disciples, we become priests, prophets and kings by virtue of our baptism. In our prophetic role, we are called to speak God's truth even when it is unpopular in the eyes of the world,

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to learn more about the Church's teachings on one or two contemporary issues that you are concerned about, so that you can better defend the truth when an opportunity arises. Look to the Catechism of the Catholic Church and booklets from the Order's Catholic Information Service (kofc.org/cis) as resources.

Questions for Reflection:

Do you shy away from speaking the truth because you fear opposition or repercussions? Does your silence on issues of faith or morals sometimes give others the false impression of agreement? How do you make sure you are being respectful and charitable to others when speaking the truth?

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

CRAIG HOLLIDAY, CHANCELLOR

In the month of January we added one new member, Robert Catrini. This brought our total number of members up to 211. Last month's annual men's retreat served as an excellent recruiting opportunity for new members. We received 6 new applications and one transfer application from the weekend.

Recently we sent out our second dues letter to members who had not paid their dues yet. We have roughly 70 Knights who have not paid their dues. As of February 2nd, we have received payment from 111 Knights. Our regular dues collection is \$5,252 and we have received optional dues totaling \$3,720. Our dues receipts total \$8,972. We hope to collect another \$3,294 in regular dues from members who have not yet paid. As always, members can pay online at our council website <https://www.koc14754.org/> or by sending the check to financial secretary Chris Ziemer at 11704 Copernicus Ave., Bakersfield CA 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