



**Knights of  
Columbus®**

# JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

## St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council #14754

Please join us for our next Council meeting, Monday, February 12th in the St. Therese Room. Social Hour will start at 6:00pm and the General Meeting will follow at 7:00pm. All men of the parish are welcome to attend our social hour. Please join us for good food, fellowship and to see how you can participate in upcoming Council activities and programs, especially our 6 Lenten Friday fish dinners. You can also check out the Council website at [koc14754.org](http://koc14754.org) for more information.



### JANUARY 2024 BIRTHDAYS

1-6 Modesto Intoy  
1-7 Jessy Anderson  
1-10 Kevin Streiff  
1-12 An tuan Nguyen  
1-13 Abel Serrano  
1-6 Casey Ziemer  
1-17 Tim Struempf  
1-23 Augie Moreno  
1-26 Nelson Castro  
1-29 David Rodriguez  
1-29 Jose Vargas  
1-31 Chris Eicher

**UPDATE ON 2024 DUES:** Ninety-five of the 158 dues for 2024 have been collected as of 1/12/2024. After 1/15/2024 second notices will be mailed to members whose dues are still unpaid. The fastest way to pay dues is at our website [koc14754.org](http://koc14754.org).

**Food Drives:** Cash donation for our Christmas food drive were just over \$8,300 and we delivered some 2,200 pounds of food to Catholic Charities in Bakersfield. (Errata: the pounds of food collected at our Thanksgiving food drive was 5,607, not 11,000 as reported in the December newsletter.)

**Upcoming events:** Our annual Men's Retreat will run from 1/26 thru 1/28/2024 at the St. Anthony Retreat Center in Three Rivers, CA. The registration form can be downloaded from the CALENDAR on our [koc14754.org](http://koc14754.org) website. The first of our six Lent Friday dinners will be on February 16, 2023.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

A New Year message from Fr. Perry.

Photo from the Christmas Food Drive.

Article and photos on the 12/11 OLG celebration at SEAS

Article and photo on our 2023 council Christmas Party

Member profiles-Ron Ruiz and Armando Martinez

Membership update

The submission deadline for our February 2024 newsletter is 2/13/2024. Please email submissions to Jim Patten ([jpinbakca@gmail.com](mailto:jpinbakca@gmail.com)).

### NOTE FROM BILL JEFFRIES, DGK & MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Please call or email me (661-703-6171 [billjeffries1953@gmail.com](mailto:billjeffries1953@gmail.com)) if you have any questions about your membership, and feel free to give my contact information to prospective members you may know.

### HUMOR FROM BUBBA

I'm glad Christmas is over, especially all those red and blue flashing lights. Every time I drive around a corner, I think it's the police and I have a panic attack. I brake hard, toss my booze out the window, fasten my seat belt, throw my phone on the floor, turn down my radio, and push the gun under the seat. All while trying to drive.

### A NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPLAIN AND PASTOR

Another year has come and gone. Goodbye 2023! Welcome 2024! A New Year is always a good thing. It means that the earth has completed its orbit around the sun (with God's blessing) and that we have another chance to get things right!! All kidding aside, the "New Year" will present us with opportunities and challenges. We will have another opportunity **to serve** God's people; **to love** our neighbor and **to grow** stronger in our faith. The Knights of Columbus is always a great vehicle for helping us to fulfill these three tasks. We are commissioned to serve the people of our parish and larger community; we are called to demonstrate our love of neighbor through our good works, and we are challenged to grow spiritually as Catholic Christians. May our Council continue to work with our parish to accomplish these sacred tasks in 2024!

A New Year will also bring new challenges. While we can't know the future, we can be certain that there will be struggles we must all face. The only thing we can do to prepare ourselves for these unforeseen things is to stay true to our prayer and to trust in God's providence. I encourage each of you, my brothers, to make your faith a priority for you and your family. You can do that by attending Mass faithfully and receiving the Eucharist. Your personal prayer is also important. Make it a "New Year's Resolution" to pray more with your spouse and children. Even if you are unmarried, your prayer time is critical for your spiritual health. May this New Year find us growing each day in the sight of God. May we be recognized, by our faith and good works, as brothers of Jesus.

A blessed New Year to all of you!

Msgr Perry Kavookjian

### PHOTO FROM OUR CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

Here were some of the volunteers for the collection at the 5PM Mass at SEAS on 10/16/23 at the rear of the Catholic Charities collection food truck.

1st row: PGK Jerry Anderson, DGK Bill Jeffries, PGK Phil Frailey

2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Keith Peters, Craig Carter, food drives chair, Tatum Bean

Tatum is Brother Brian Bean's daughter and Phil Frailey's youngest granddaughter.





## **OUR LADY OF GLADALUPE EVENT AT SEAS ON 10/11/2023, by Jim Patten**

This year's OLG celebration was planned by our visiting seminarian Francisco Orosco. It was supported by many parishioners including Knight volunteers who assisted in the set up and take down and members of the Admiral Callaghan Assembly's honor guard who carried the image of the tilmahli in the precession. This year our GK Donovan White is a member of the honor guard as well as our district Deputy Tony Ransick. Other SK honor guards were Joel Torezon, Faithful Color Corp Commander, Chris Bernido, Mare Barcelona, and Henry Benavidez.

Francisco (who our council is financially supporting under the supreme RSVP program) reported that 494 tickets were sold for the event. "We had a great team, mostly women, who cooked and worked very hard for the celebration to happen. They cooked tamales, pozole, agua fresca, and hot chocolate. Deseret like Mexican bread pan dulce. We had five horses hosted by Rey Miranda's husband; Marischi Ciudad de Bakersfield; and Aztek dancers."

### **HERE ARE SOME EVENT PHOTOS**

DD Tony Ransick with the honor guard that carried the tilmahli image.



GK Donovan White (center) with members of the Mariachi band.



### **COUNCIL CHRISTMAS PARTY, by Jim Patten**

This year's council Christmas party was held on the evening of 12/12/2023 in the St. Terese modular building at SEAS. Some 50 members and their family members attended. Free raffle prizes were provided by Brother Sam Duran and his wife Rory. The council purchased three kinds of meat dishes from Panini Kabob Grill that was enjoyed by all. Brother Kevin Palla (pictured below) shared his music skills and led everyone in Christmas carols.





**MEMBER PROFILE- RON RUIZ, by Jim Patten**

Ron was born (in 1963) and raised in Bakersfield, CA. He has a brother and a sister.

He worked most of life in the oil and gas industry. He worked in various positions at Shell Oil, Halliburton and a few other oil firms. He has been out of the oil and gas industry for about eleven years and is currently "Mix Maker", which means he operates pasteurization and homogenization equipment, for Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream.

Ron graduated around 1988 from Bakersfield college with an AA in Liberal Arts. He graduated from Highland High in Bakersfield in 1981 and went to Col. Nichols elementary school in Bakersfield.

Ron originally joined the Knights in 2011 with Chief Solano council 3585 where he was a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree member and has rejoined the Knights with our council in December 2023.

Ron states that motor cycle riding and camping with his family are his main interests. He told me that he has ridden most of his life and his current ride is a 2006 Harley Davidson Heritage.

Ron and his wife Angela were married in 2006. Combined they have nine children and 17 grandchildren, so far.

Ron is a cradle Catholic and currently registered at SEAS.

Ron and Angela Ruiz



## **MEMBER PROFILE-ARMANDO MARTINEZ, by Jim Patten**

Armando, who is engaged, and a cradle Catholic, was born in 1994 in Lindsay, CA, but raised in Strathmore, CA. He has five siblings.

He is currently a Systems Administrator for the Kern Community College District where his role involves supporting and maintaining the IT Systems and Cloud infrastructure. As he looks towards the future, he is actively pursuing opportunities to transition into an IT Leadership position, aiming to broaden his impact by leading a team and contributing to strategic IT decisions. Armando holds a bachelor's degree in Cloud and Systems Administration from Western Governors University.

He states, "I've always felt a strong connection to my community and church, and over time, I've come to realize that this connection is more than just a sense of belonging. It's a calling. I genuinely feel drawn to contribute and be more involved in meaningful ways. Joining the Knights of Columbus represents an opportunity for me to act on this calling, to give back, and to deepen my commitment to my faith and community. I believe that through service and fellowship with the Knights, I can make a positive impact and further the mission of our church.

As to his interests he states, "Beyond my passion for IT and technology, I enjoy cooking, have a consistent routine with running, and recently delved into the world of golfing."

Although a cradle Catholic he indicates that he deepened his Catholic faith by going through the RCIA program at SEAS and completing his confirmation in April 2022.

Armando Martinez



## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE, by Jim Patten**

We are currently the largest council in our geographic area that includes 16 active councils. As of 7/1/2023, the start of this fraternal year, those 16 councils had an average membership of 86. Our council's membership then was 178, and the second largest council is St. Francis (council 977) which is the oldest council in our area and for many year was the largest.

Since December 2023 we have had nine members join our council. Two are transfers-in from other councils and the remaining seven are new or reactivated members which all count toward our membership growth quota of eleven. We will probably meet or exceed our membership goal for this fraternal year, as we did for the previous fraternal year.

We have published member profiles on three of our newest members. Don Dale in December 2023 and Armando Martinez and Ron Ruiz in this months newsletter. I need to get photos from the remaining six new members and get their approval of my drafts of their profiles, but here are their names.

Brian Carmody, transfer-in from St Phillips

Craig Holiday, new member

Marcello Junho, new member

Bonaventure Nweze, transfer-in

Matt Rivera, re-entry member

Melvin Zavala, new member

Bill Jeffries, our DGK, Program Director, Membership Director, and Retention Chair deserves accolades not only for all the roles he plays in our council, but especially in his role as Membership Director. Bill manages the processing of our council's online membership applications, coordinates with our council leadership in approving member applications, handles the initial member billing, passes on the member name badge information to FS Chris Ziemer who orders and delivers the name badges, and coordinates with yours truly in generating the membership cards and profiles for the new members.