



JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council #14754

Website: www.koc14754.org

Deadline for monthly submission is the first Wednesday of each month.: February 4.

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

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

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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

As we usher in the new year, we wish Happy Birthday to 16 members of our council this month. The first of them literally on the first—Stephen Dahlstrom Sr. on Jan 1.

Our most senior Knights born this month are Jim Deming (born during the third term of Franklin Roosevelt). He's joined by Nelson Castro (Harry Truman’s second term) and Jerry Anderson, Kevin Streiff, and Timothy Struempf (Ike Eisenhower’s first term). January boasts one of our older sets of Knights’ birthdays—average age of our sixteen birthday Knights is 61.6 years.

As these gentlemen will tell you, age brings wisdom. And we are blessed with a lot of Knights service wisdom in January. The average tenure of a January Knight is 14.5 years. The leader of the pack is Sir Knight Kevin Streiff, who is celebrating 53 years of Knighthood this year! Joining him in the 4th degree birthdays are Sir Knights Anh Tuan Nguyen and Sir Knight Deacon David Rodriguez.

We have a few birthday pairs in January: Marcelo Junho and Augustin Moreno (Jan. 23). Antonio Ayala and Nelson Castro (Jan 26.). Our newest Knight David Witt and Jose Vargas are nearly exact twins—born one day apart when the top song in the country was “Knock Three Times” by Tony Orlando and Dawn.

Day, Knight, Yrs service

1, Stephen Dahlstrom Sr. 26
6, Modesto Melchor Intoy, 18
7, Jerry Anderson, 18
10, Sir Knight Kevin Streiff, 53
12, Sir Knight Anh Tuan Nguyen, 14
16, Casey Ziemer, 7
17, Timothy Struempf, 14
21, David Romero, 8

23, Marcelo Junho, 2
23, Augustin Moreno Jr., 15
25, Jim Deming, 1
26, Antonio Ayala, 5
26, Nelson Castro, 8
28, David Witt, 0
29, Sir Knight Deacon David Rodriguez, 33
29, Jose Vargas, 9

WHAT'S UP

- 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**

CONGRESSMAN HENERY HYDE

Right to Life most quoted [remarks](#) in Congress are unforgettable:

When the time comes as it surely will, when we face that awesome moment, the final judgement, I've often thought, as Fulton Sheen wrote, that it is a terrible moment of loneliness. You have no advocates, you are there alone standing before God, and a terror will rip through your soul like nothing you can imagine. But I really think that those in the pro-life movement will not be alone. I think there will be a chorus of voices that have never been heard in this world but are heard beautifully and clearly in the next world, and they will plead for everyone who has been in this movement. They will say to God, "Spare him because he loved us," and God will look at you and say not "Did you succeed?" but "Did you try?"

But there was also this, from the House floor in 1993. He talked about the "cry of the heart" from the unborn:

- The French have a marvelous gift for phrasemaking. And one of their marvelous phrases is *cri de coeur*. A cry of the heart. . . .
- There are two cries of the heart in every human being's life.
- The very first cry of the heart occurs in the womb. And if you ever look at a sonogram picture . . . that is when the first *cri de coeur* occurs.
- *I want to be born.*
- It is a reflection of instinct, the urge to survive.
- It is inaudible but it is there.
- *I want to be born.*
- And the second cry of the heart is at the end of your life. It's the last thing you say: *I don't want to die. I don't want to die.*
- Abortion violates both of that *cri de coeur*.
- It violates your right to be born, your right to life, which our Declaration says is a fundamental endowment and it is inalienable, the right to life.

Listen to the cry.

GRAND KNIGHT ANDY SILVESTRO'S MESSAGE

As we close the door on 2025, the Knights of Columbus reflect on a year defined by our core principle: **Charity**. Our collaborative Christmas meal at the Saint Vincent de Paul Center provided more than just food; it offered dignity and hope to neighbors facing their hardest days. This initiative was an exciting collaboration between our Chapter Councils, proving that there is no limit to what we can achieve together.

Simultaneously, our **Coats for Kids** program successfully distributed new, high-quality winter coats, ensuring no child in our community must brave the freezing temperatures without the "gift of warmth." These acts of kindness are the heartbeat of our council, turning our faith into tangible service. We also celebrated these successes at our Knights Christmas Party—a joyful evening of carols and a wonderful potluck meal. Thank you to the Knights and families who made it such a brilliant event!

Looking ahead to 2026, we aim not just to repeat these successes, but to expand on them. We plan to strengthen our partnership with Catholic Charities to make "Feeding the Vulnerable" a sustainable, year-round effort. Additionally, we have set a goal to increase our Coats for Kids distribution by **10%**, reaching even more local schools and shelters. Through increased volunteerism and enhanced outreach, we are committed to making 2026 our most impactful year yet. Together, we are building a stronger community—one meal and one coat at a time.

Vivat Jesus!
WGK Andy

FAITH MESSAGE BILL JEFFERIES

Greetings Brother Knights, as your Faith Director, I want to share with you again a library of CIS Booklets.

Paste this link <https://www.kofc.org/en/who-we-are/our-faith/cis/booklets.html>

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.

For a Guide to Rosary #4772 paste this link:

<https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-programs/faith/rosary-program/4772-guide-to-rosary.pdf>

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 at

<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 January 2026.

January 2026 Archbishop William E. Lori, Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge At this time the January 2026 Monthly Challenge has not been posted on the Supreme website. You are welcome to review previous Monthly Challenges at:

<https://www.kofc.org/en/who-we-are/our-faith/monthly-challenge.html?basic-tabs=5>

You and your family have a blessed 2026!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

CRAIG HOLLIDAY, CHANCELLOR

Membership: At the end of our 2025 calendar year, the council had 210 members. Our newest arrivals are David Witt, and Jim Patten—who is rejoining the Council from online membership. Please welcome them both into Council 14754.

We are also at the mid-year point of our fraternal year. For fraternal year 2025-2026, our six months of progress show the addition of seventeen members. Twelve of these are new members and the other five are transfers from other councils. In July we also moved thirteen members to online membership due to not paying dues. Given the additions and deductions, we have a net gain of four members over the course of the last six months.

As always, as you encounter men in the parish who are interested in the Knights please encourage them to check our Knights website (<https://www.koc14754.org/>) or to reach out to me (661-599-9219 or craig_holliday@kernhigh.org).

Dues: We are continuing to collect dues for 2026. As of January 1st 2026, we have collected dues from 90 members. We have 92 members who still owe dues. Overall we've collected \$4282 in regular dues and \$3110 in optional dues. As a reminder, dues may be paid at any council meeting. You may also pay dues by sending a check to our Financial Secretary Chris Ziemer (11704 Copernicus Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93312) or by visiting the Council website (<https://www.koc14754.org/>) and going through the Council Store tab.

If you have paid your dues and have not received your membership card yet, I will be mailing those in the middle of January, after the January Council meeting. Additionally, our second notice letters for dues payment will go out to members who have not yet paid. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me (661-599-9219 or craig_holliday@kernhigh.org).

PLEASE REGISTER NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JANUARY 16!!

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

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

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

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

KNIGHTS AT WORK

SVDP Breakfast; Dec. 13, 2025

Brother Knights. Nine members of our Council worked to prepare, cook and serve breakfast to approximately 125 guests the morning of December 13, 2025. Many more meals were served as many guests returned for seconds and several plates were made for staff. The meal consisted of two sausage links, two French toast with butter and syrup, either a hash brown patty or tater tots, and two granola bars. Members arrived at 6:30 am to begin prep and clean up was completed by 9:30 am for a total of 27 service hours.

