



**Knights of
Columbus®**

JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council #14754



Happy Birthday!

JULY 2024
BIRTHDAYS & Years
of Service

02 Matt Schneider, 43

05 Jamison Holt, 5

07 Andy Silvestro, 10

08 John Zabatta, 2

12 Jose Hernandez, 21

15 Ed Besenfelder, 7

21 Fr. Perry, 38

24 Bruce Lumis, 15

27 Terry Horan, 9

We are not having a council meeting on August 12. Instead, we will use that 6 to 8PM time slot to have our 2024/25 officer installation and announce the Family and Knight of the year for the 2023/24 fraternal year. We plan on having dinner for both members and their families. Please keep an eye out for Flocknote texts and emails as we firm up the details.

Our nine June birthdays include our pastor and chaplain Fr Perry. Check out his wonderful article in this newsletter for more information on his Knight membership and for great reasons to join the Knights. These nine members have 17 average years of service ranging from 2 to 43. Their average age is 60 and the range is from 21 to 87.

Upcoming events:

July 2024 marks the beginning of our council's 16th complete fraternal year. Check our website calendar for details on the 8/24/2024 Gossamer Banquet at Hodels where brother Sam Duran will be a speaker. Keep an eye out for Flocknote emails and text messages we send to members on council events

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The submission deadline for our August 2024 newsletter is 7/13/2024 Please email submissions to Jim Patten (jpinbakca@gmail.com).

NOTE FROM CRAIG HOLLIDAY, MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Please contact me by using the email link to the membership director on our website's HOW TO JOIN page if you have any questions about your membership, or to let me know about any prospective members. As of 7/1/2024 we are at 191 members which includes 50 insurance members and 141 associate members. We have several new member applications in process. We continue to be the largest council in the Kern and Inyo county area.



You might be old if you watched the guys at the left on live TV.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPLAIN AND PASTOR

This Fall, I will observe my 37th anniversary of priestly ordination. Needless to say, I feel “old” when compared to the more recently ordained men (like Jimmy Millan) who has been a priest a little less than a month! It’s mind-boggling that while I was once the “baby” priest I am now one of the older priests in Kern County! And, not only that, but I have been a member of the Knights of Columbus for **38 years** (since June 1, 1986).

At that time, I was preparing for my ordination as a deacon. One of the Knights from Fresno encouraged me to join, and I did. Through the years, I have come to know many brother Knights who have offered me support in so many ways. In my priesthood, I’ve always been in parishes that had their own Knights Council. I enjoy the fraternity we share and the work that we all do on behalf of the parish.

The Knights of Columbus is one of the few organizations that is designed for Catholic men. As men of faith, it is important that we come together to serve God’s people in our parishes and diocese. The importance of having men of faith in the Church cannot be overstated. There is a real need for male role models in today’s society and the work of the Knights of Columbus is a visible sign of the way God can work through men who are also husbands and fathers. We are blessed to have men of all ages and backgrounds who are part of our fraternity.

Even though we are all busy people, I am grateful for the time and energy each of you puts into the work of our Council. Still, there is always a need to invite and encourage other men to join the ranks. Together, we can make certain that our Knights Council continues to grow and prosper.

Have a blessed summer!

Msgr Perry

JUNE MEETING EVENTS

At our June 10 council meeting the slate of officers for the 2024/25 fraternal year was approved by vote of the council. The names of all our 2024/25 officers and directors are already posted on our website (www.koc14754.org) on the COUNCIL ORGANIZATION page. Our website calendar has been converted to match our fraternal year, so it is now opened thru 6/30/2025. As plans for the new fraternal year are developed, we will be adding many calendar events. Below is a photo from our June meeting.

In the photo (below left), is our 2024/25 Grand Knight Bill Jeffries (left) presenting the May Knight of the Month award to Rafael Herrera (center), on the right is PGK Dennis Shaw who will be our 3rd year trustee and Family Director for the 2024/25 fraternal year.

Rafael and his son joined our council in February 2024 and their joint member profiles were printed in our May 2024 council newsletter.

Note that Bill, Rafael, and Dennis are wearing their council name badges! All members should have and use their name badges, especially when attending meetings and Mass. If you need a council name badge, please email our membership director using his email link at the top of our HOW TO JOIN page on our website (www.koc14754.org).



NEWS ITEMS FROM BROTHER SAM DURAN

On June 15th our prior SEAS seminarian Martin Ortega was ordained a Deacon in the Diocese of Fresno. (photo above-right) Our Council provided Deacon Martin with a gift of two **Books of Blessings for rituals**, one in English and the other in Spanish along with eight Holy Water bottles and a council check in the amount of \$ 300 for his use. The books are intended primarily for use by priests and deacons, for imparting of certain blessings in special circumstances.



Upon hearing that our PGK Jim Dutton's health has deteriorated due to the recurrence of cancer, our brother Sam Duran along with Rosa Navarro, the widow of our past council member George Navarro, went to visit our brother Jim and take him and his granddaughter and great grandchildren some groceries. Although he is in good spirits, he entered hospice care this month. Please keep Jim in your prayers

We have a new seminarian at SEAS. Mr. Elliot Yaryk is in his sixth year of seminary school. He just turned 37 on June 25, and the SEAS staff gave him a birthday welcome party. He is the oldest of a family of five children and was born in Mexico. He has a very interesting background as his parents were in the circus business. He will be with



us until December 2024 and our council will be providing him \$2,000 in financial support through the supreme RVSP program.

MEMBER PROFILES:

Profile on John Pace, by Jim Patten

John was born in 1955 and raised in Buna Park, CA. He has lived in Bakersfield for 34 years.

He is a retired barber and did security work for golden Empire Security.

He served state side in the army between 1972 and 1974 at the end of the Vietnam War and was stationed at Fort Ord and Fort Polk.

John has an AA degree from Santa Barbara Business college.

He joined the Knights in 2018 at the OLPH council. He transferred to the St Francis council and has now transferred to our council in June 2024. He is an active 4th degree Knight in the Bakersfield assembly #52 and has served as chancellor at OLPH.

John, as you can see from his photo, is a motorcycle man.

He and his wife Mary were married in 1983 and have four biological children and several foster children who call them mom and dad. They have two grandchildren.

This month John wound up in the VA hospital with some heart issues, but he is back home now and looking forward to meeting his fellow Knights at SEAS.

John Pace

Mary Pace



Mini profile of David Romero, by Craig Holliday

David Romero, who joined our council in June 2024, was born in 1967 in Fresno, CA and raised in a family with one brother and four sisters. He is a cradle Catholic and was baptized at Saint Alphonsus Church in Fresno. David joined the Knights through Council 6092 at Saint Anthony of Padua in Fresno. He and his wife Makenna have three children: Ezri, Lincoln, and Sage. David works in the funeral business for Doughty-Calhoun-O'Meara Funeral Home. In his spare time, he enjoys history and world affairs.

Profile of Richard and Michael Murillo by Craig Holliday

Richard and Michael Murillo are a father and son duo that share a great depth of faith. Born a cradle Catholic, Richard wanted to make sure that he and his wife Andrea, provided a foundation that gave Michael the structure he did not have growing up. To that end, they decided to homeschool Michael from the 2nd grade through the 8th grade. During this period, the family lived in Bear Valley. As Michael started to show interest and skill in wrestling, the family relocated to Bakersfield and Michael returned to public schools.

As a student at Bakersfield High School, Michael's academic and wrestling records were exemplary. I was lucky enough to teach Michael in my Honors US History course in his junior year. His love of learning and willingness to work hard distinguished him from many of his classmates. On the wrestling mat, he finished in the top three in the state of California in each of the last three years. Michael will continue his wrestling career at University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota. He plans to major in Accounting and Business Management and minor in theology and philosophy. His love of classical education and learning was sparked last summer when he attended an institute at St. Thomas Aquinas University. In the meantime, Michael has been hired on to a BLM fire crew.

Fighting fires runs in the Murillo family blood. Richard is a 17-year veteran of the Kern County Fire Department. (On the night we were initially going to talk for this profile, he was called out to fight the Taft brush fire on the afternoon of June 5th). Richard completed fire academies and ironically noted that although he was not a great student as a young man, he chose a career field that requires him to be a "studious student." He loves the work and credits it with helping to develop skills in time management, discipline, and hard work. When I asked him what advice he would give Michael as a young firefighter, he said "pay attention and work hard." Those are definitely words that Richard has lived by in his life and career.

Michael's Instagram page lists two major commitments: Roman Catholic and avid fisherman. Richard says that Michael's love of fishing and the outdoors is fostered by his continued connections with homeschool friends. When I asked Michael what his Dad did for fun, he struggled to find an answer, then settled on "sleep." He added to that by saying that time with his family (he and Andrea also have two daughters -- Rosiemaria and Eden) was probably the better answer.

It is clear that these are two men who share a love of hard work and a faith on fire for Christ.

Michael and Richard Murillo in front of one of their favorite vehicles.



END NOTES AND COUNCIL AGE DEMOGRAPHICS

We had a great turn out for our July 8 council meeting despite the heat. Our officers met prior to the meeting to set up planning for the new fraternal year. There will be an officer retreat on July 25 in the St John room at SEAS from 6 to 8PM. Our Pit Masters will be cooking up hot dogs for some 150 youngsters who will be attending the SEAS Vacation Bible School. Membership in our men's choir is growing and we have already set some dates thru June 2025 including singing at the 5th Sunday rosaries during the fraternal year. So, it looks like the 2024/25 fraternal year is off to a running start!

Below is a table of our council's age distributions for our 191 members at the beginning of this fraternal year. It is interesting to note the even though we only have 9 members with July birthdays their age distributions are a close match to the overall council age distribution. Collectively we have over 11,000 years of life experience!

Council14754

Member Age Distribution @ 7/1/2024

AGE RANGE	COUNT	PERCENT
18-29	16	8%
30-39	12	6%
40-49	22	12%
50-59	39	20%
60-69	50	26%
70-79	43	23%
80-89	7	4%
90+	2	1%
TOTAL	191	100%

SUM OF
AGES 11,155

AVERAGE
AGE 58.4

MEDIAN AGE 61