



**Knights of
Columbus®**

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council #14754

Please join us for our next Council meeting, Monday, April 8th 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. Our council was chartered April 9, 2009, so this meeting will mark the start of our council's 16th year of operations.



**MARCH 2024
BIRTHDAYS**

- 3-03 Pat Collins
- 3-04 Krystian Florentino
- 3-04 Andy School
- 3-05 John Denvir
- 3-07 Bard Anderson
- 3-14 Chris Florentino
- 3-14 Mark Rhodes
- 3-14 Ray Warren
- 3-17 Conrad Chavez
- 3-19 Jacob Riel
- 3-20 Robert Page
- 3-20 Bryan Plant
- 3-20 Steve Pruett
- 3-20 Brian Riel
- 3-23 Bernie Reyes
- 3-25 Craig Carter
- 3-26 Tony Unzanqui

Our March birthdays include two fathers and sons, Chris and Krystian Florentino, and Brian and Jacob Riel. Four of our 17 birthdates are on March 20. What are the odds on that? We also have a St. Patrick's Day birthday.

We really appreciate those members who can pay additional optional dues. Currently 82 members have paid additional dues totaling \$3,523. Our retention committee is in the process of contacting the 14 members whose dues remain unpaid.

Upcoming events: March will be a busy month. We will have our last four Friday Lent fish dinners. It will see St Patrick's Day (3/17), the start of Spring (3/19), Palm Sunday (3/24), and Easter (3/31). See more event details in Knight Events following Fr. Perry's article.

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The submission deadline for our April 2024 newsletter is 4/9/2024 Please email submissions to Jim Patten (jpinbakca@gmail.com).

NOTE FROM BILL JEFFRIES, DGK & MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Please call or email me (661-703-6171 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. We are at 183 members now and have a dozen prospective members.

HUMOR FROM Maxine
I'm very spiritual. Tequila whiskey, gin....
Hey, they're all spirits, right?

UNITY ANOLOGY
We are like snowflakes.
Alone, we are insignificant.
But we sure can do a lot when we stick together.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPLIAN AND PASTOR

Dear Brother Knights:

On Saturday, February 17, we kicked off a new ministry here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. "DATE NIGHT" held its first gathering. This ministry is for married couples who want to spend some time together and meet other married couples in the Church. The parish offered childcare for those with children and the Knights and Ladies Ministry Fellowship prepared a great meal (thanks to the guys who excel in the BBQ "Ministry") I am grateful to those who volunteered to make the gathering so enjoyable. We are hoping to hold 4 such events each year. One of the important ministries of the Church (especially in this day and age) is to support marriage and married couples. Too often, couples married in the Church have difficulty trying to find other couples who share their faith and values. It seems only natural that the Church facilitate ways in which couples can come together in a friendly environment for spiritual support and fellowship. Anyway, it looks like we're off to a great beginning. By the way, I was the only one there without a date. Oh well...

May this Lenten Season continue to bring you many blessings. Easter will be here before we know it!

Msgr Perry Kavookjian

KNIGHT EVENTS by Jim Patten

FOOD DRIVES

One of our major activities is our council food drives. Our council has been conducting Thanksgiving and Christmas food drives since 2011. In conjunction with those food drives we also collect cash contributions from parishioners that are currently paid over to Catholic Charities in Bakersfield. (For the first few years we worked with the Golden Empire Gleaners and St. Philips.) Since 2022 we have also managed a nonperishable food donation bin located outside of our church lobby. All the food we deliver to Catholic Charities is weighed in on their scales. Here is a summary of all of 2022 and 2023 and cumulative totals.

2022:	Pounds of food	Cash donations
Food bin	9,661	
Thanksgiving & Christmas food drives	5,508	\$16,677
2023:		
Food bin	8,789	
Thanksgiving & Christmas food drives	7,829	\$16,485
2011 thru 2023:		
All food drives	over 150,000lbs	\$162,000

ADOPT-A-ROAD

We began our Adopt-A-Road program shortly after our parish opened the ministry center on Allen Road (circa 2012). Brother Andy Schoorl has been running the program since then. On March 2, 2024, Andy reported some 13 volunteers helped clean up our assigned stretch of road. We do this three times a year.

KERN RIVER BRASS EVENT AT SEAS

On March 9, 2024, the Kern River Brass did a one-hour performance at SEAS they call Learning to Lean: A Retreat For Men. It started at 8:30AM in the SEAS chapel right after the men's bible study. Brother Ed Besenfelder is one of the members of the Kern River Brass. The

event was recorded and should be ready to view on You Tube soon. We will get the link out as soon as it is established. Here are some comments from Ed on the group.

The Kern River Brass has 11 members - 5 trumpets (only three of us were available on Saturday), 3 trombones, 1 double-bell euphonium - an instrument that was first manufactured around the time of the civil war and went out of "style" by the end of WWI. The one being used by our player (Paul Hirst) was manufactured in 1910 and has been handed down through the family over time. We also have 1 tuba and 1 French horn player.

LENT FRIDAY FISH DINNERS

Friday March 8, 2024, marked the fourth of our six Lent Friday Fish Dinners. We will provide an article covering all six dinners in our April newsletter.

MEN'S CHOIR

Our new council's men's choir will have its debut event on March 15, 2024, when it will sing at the Stations of the Cross starting at 7PM in the SEAS chapel. We will be conducted by Susan Scaffidi our SEAS music director. Brother Andy Silvestro formed the group and hopes to get more men involved.

5K RUN EVENT AT SEAS

On April 13, 2024, our council will again support this event sponsored by the SEAS Moms group, by providing the pancake breakfast for the run participants. This will be the third year for this event.

OTHER UPCOMMING EVENTS:

The Knights will participate in two fundraisers for the building fund, one in April and one in May. More details will be provided as the event plans are finalized.

COUNCIL FLOCKNOTE EMAIL AND TEXT SYSTEM, by Sam Duran-council Flocknote Administrator

Welcome to Flocknote. Funny thing, I just heard someone say, "Oh GREAT." However, before you get too excited, let me tell you a bit about Flocknote. I dislike becoming a member of any group chat as it seems like I get endless messages from group members that do not interest me, and I don't have any way out of it. In addition, I suddenly start getting junk mail from other sources that I never requested, because of someone using the contact list for their own purposes.

Well, with Flocknote these problems are overcome. Your email and or text number is kept confidential except to an administrator. You are assigned as a member of a given group, in our case **Knights of Columbus 14754**. If you become a member of a Council subgroup, (like the Fish Fry group) you will only get messages sent to your group and from the main group to which you belong. And you can reply accordingly. The administrator can give each subgroup admin privileges or note sending capabilities. Flocknote gives the note sender the option of sending a text message or an email. As a recipient you can opt out of receiving text messages if you prefer not to receive them. In addition, the Administrator can easily see when members have opened (or not opened) their messages, or if any were non-deliverable.

For new members I add your contact information to our Flocknote database once our

membership director advises me that your application has been approved. Depending on the firewalls on your email you may or may not begin to receive Flocknote emails or text messages from our council officers and program directors and chairmen. To insure you begin receiving Flocknote emails and texts be sure to “opt-in” to our Flocknote system by following the instructions here. If you are an existing member and are not receiving any Flocknote messages, you should also follow these simple opt-in instructions.

Send a text message to this 5-digit number **84576**. In the message box type **STEAS** (not case sensitive and be sure your phone does not autocorrect **STEAS**) and hit send. In a few seconds you will get a reply from **84576** prompting you to click on a link that will provide you with a list of all the Flocknote groups for our parish. If you happen to already be in one of those groups you will see a green check mark next to that group. Scroll down on to the group **Knights of Columbus 14754** and touch the screen there to get your green check mark for our group.

I strongly encourage you to check out the Flocknote web page (Flocknote.com) to see all the features available on this software. Many parishes across the country are using Flocknote for all parishioners. As you can see from all the groups we have in our Flocknote system our council and many of our parish ministries are actively using Flocknote to communicate with members of their groups, and many of our parishioners are in multiple groups (RCIA, Youth, Ushers, EMs, etc. If you have more questions about Flocknote please email our council using the CONTACT US link on our council webpage (www.koc14754.org).

ST. PATRICK’S DAY, by Craig Holliday

In the nearly 1600 years since his passing, Ireland's patron St. Patrick has gone from being a much beloved hero of his land to being the focus of worldwide celebrations. Patrick died March 17, 461. The first religious celebrations in Ireland took place in the 9th and 10th centuries. This was very often in the form of a mass or religious ceremony. During the early history of St Patrick's Day, the celebration day served as a respite from Lenten fasts from meat. The church officially created a feast day for St. Patrick in 1631. On an interesting side note, up until the 1970s, Irish pubs were required to be closed on St Patrick's day, to allow for the proper dignified St Patrick's celebration.

While the main waves of Irish immigration to the United States arrived in the 19th century, celebrations for Saint Patrick's Day had been happening for centuries in the Americas. The earliest recorded St Patrick's Day celebration in the New World was in 1601 in Spanish Florida. The celebrations were likely inspired by the Irish/Spanish priest Ricardo Artur. The first St. Patrick's Day Parade took place in Boston in 1737 and the now world-famous New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade began in 1762. The New York City parade is the world's oldest civilian parade and the largest parade in the United States. It frequently involves 150,000 marchers.

Harry Truman was an important American president in our celebrations of St Patrick's day. History records him as the first American President to attend a St Patrick's Day Parade in 1948. In 1952, President Truman met with the Irish ambassador to the United States to accept a gift of a Waterford crystal vase filled with shamrocks. That meeting has become a traditional yearly meeting. Since the presidency of Bill Clinton,

the meeting has been held between our American president and the Irish taoiseach (prime minister).

MEMBER PROFILE--Brian Carmody, by Craig Holliday

Brian, a cradle Catholic, was born in 1987 in La Jolla, California. He has two brothers and one sister. He grew up in Texas and California. Brian attended college at Bard College at Simon's Rock. He began college after his sophomore year of high school. He graduated with a double concentration in creative writing and literary studies. Following that he earned a Masters in Screenwriting from Chapman University.

Brian has worked as a screenwriter and author. He has written six novels. He is also an avid reader. Brian lists C.S. Lewis and Clive Barker as his favorite authors, and he also loves the *Sandman* comics of Neil Gaiman. He enjoys playing laser tag and running. Brian has organized a handful of half marathons to benefit those with epilepsy. Interestingly, he has timed the events with the release of *X-Men* films.

Brian transferred-in to our council in December 2023 as a 3rd degree Knight from St Philip's Council 9530. He joined there in 2022. He was also involved with the Knights when he lived in Los Angeles from 2008-2022. Brian and his wife Elizabeth are expecting their first child in July.

Brian & Elizabeth Carmody



Member Profile: Marcelo Junho, by Craig Holliday

Marcelo (Tchelo) Junho is new to Bakersfield and SEAS in the last year. He and his family came here after living/working in Illinois and Florida. Prior to that they lived in Brazil, where Tchelo was born in 1972. Tchelo is the great grandson of Italian immigrants to Brazil (they arrived there in the 1880s).

Tchelo works in the commercial contracts end of the food business, specifically in almonds. His undergraduate and MBA degrees were earned in Brazil. Though he works in Bakersfield, he travels for business frequently.

Tchelo enjoys tennis, movies and, in true Brazilian form, soccer. Interestingly, his hometown club produced a player named Lucas Paqueta, who now is in the linchpin for my favorite team, West Ham United.

Tchelo and his wife, Ana, were married in 2003. Ana is a member of the choir at SEAS. They have two children, Vinny (15) and Helena (8). Vinny is a devoted club volleyball player and Helena sings and plays the piano. Tchelo has wasted no time in diving into the SEAS and Knights communities. He attended the recent men's retreat and I was lucky enough to share dishwashing and mopping duties with him at the fish fry two Fridays ago. He is a genuine and warm-hearted person.

Photo of Tehelo at our March 2024 council meeting:

