



## **MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER**

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council #14754**

**Website: [www.koc14754.org](http://www.koc14754.org)**

Given today's world circumstances, a thought to consider:

**“At what point shall we expect the approach of danger? By what means shall we fortify against it? – Shall we expect some transatlantic military giant to step the Ocean, and crush us at a blow? Never! – All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest; with a Bounaparte for a commander, could not by force, take a drink from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge, in a trial of a thousand years.**

**At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide.”**

**Abraham Lincoln, Speech to the Young Men's Lyceum of Springfield, 1838.**

### **WHAT'S UP**

- 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**
- **Men's Testimonial – Kern River Brass and Men's Choir – April 25**
- Heritage Festival **May 3**
- Mother's Day **May 10**
- Pentecost Sunday **May 2**

### **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

As we head into spring, we congratulate 21 of our council's Knights on their birthday this month. Our most senior Knights born in the month of March are R Ray Warren (born the month before Harry Truman took office) and Craig Carter (born in the second term of Truman's administration). Our youngest Knights born this month are Krystian Florentino, Jacob Riel, and Clayton Cobbs. All three were born in the second term of Bill Clinton.

March boasts some of our most senior nights in terms of years of experience. With more than 15 years of experience we have Bernardino Reyes, Conrad Chavez, and Sir knight Tony Urzanqui. The average number of years of service for Knights born this month is 8.9 years.

In a crazy coincidence four of the Knights born this month share the same birthday. March 14th, *Pi* day, is the birthday of Dominique Camou, Christopher Florentino, Mark Rhoades, and Ray Warren.

Happy birthday to all of our March Knights!

**Day, Knight, Yrs service**

3, Pat Collins, 6	16, Randy Kayser, 1
4, Krystian Florentino, 8	17, Conrad Chavez, 18
4, Andy Schoorl, 15	19, Jacob Riel, 10
5, John Denvir, 5	20, Robert Page, 8
7, Bard Anderson, 13	20, Steve Pruett, 4
9, SK Geoffrey Graham, 13	23, Clayton Cobbs, 2
14, Dominique Camou, 2	23, Bernardino Reyes, 19
14, Christopher Florentino, 9	25, Craig Carter, 11
14, Mark Rhoades, 10	26, SK Tony Urzanqui, 17
14, Ray Warren, 15	30, Michael Campbell, 1

**CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE  
MONSIGNIOR PERRY**

Dear Brother Knights and friends,

Now that we are in the middle of Lent, it's good to see so many people supporting the Friday Lenten Meals that are being served! The fish tacos are a great addition and the fish & chips are still among my favorite. We have also been blessed with pretty good weather. May it continue! Thanks to all who are volunteering their time and energy to make this happen.

One of the things I have discovered about being a pastor is that it's like owning a big home which is in constant need of maintenance. Not a day goes by when something needs attention: a leaky toilet, a burned-out light, a broken sprinkler, weeds that need to be sprayed, etc. It's a never-ending battle to maintain our parish building and grounds.

Having said that, I will be looking ahead to the time when we can hire a team of gardeners and/or groundskeeper who can stay on top of these responsibilities. I think the size of our property demands greater attention. You may also have noticed that the trees and plants along Old Farm Road are already looking distressed. Just an example of what a groundskeeper should be taking care of. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please let me know. We can probably act upon this sometime in the summer.

Many thanks.

Msgr Perry

## GRAND KNIGHT ANDY SILVESTRO'S MESSAGE

### A Night of Fellowship and Faith

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, the community of St. Francis Church and the Knights of Columbus gathered recently for a heartfelt Clergy Appreciation Dinner, a night dedicated to honoring the spiritual leadership that guides our parish. It was a joy to host **Monsignor Perry** and **Deacon Marco**, whose presence reminded us all of the dedicated service they provide to our faith family. The evening was a culinary triumph thanks to our talented Pitmasters, led by **Head Chef Tim Escalante**. Their perfectly smoked tri-tip dinner was the centerpiece of the celebration, bringing everyone together over a shared, delicious meal. This gathering capped off an incredibly busy and successful February.

Next, we launched our first two fish fries of the year on the 20th and 27th. These events featured a new fan favorite—fish tacos—offered at a community-friendly price of just **\$10 a plate**.

To conclude the month's festivities, we transitioned from the kitchen to the ceremonial hall for the **Fourth Degree Exemplification** with the **Admiral Callahan Assembly 52**. We are immensely proud to recognize **Sir Knight Elden Miller** and **Sir Knight Julian Nieto** for their commitment and advancement. From the smoky grills of Chef Tim to the solemn rites of the Fourth Degree, it has been a month defined by service, brotherhood, and deep gratitude.

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**Vivat Jesus!**



**FAITH MESSAGE**  
**BILL JEFFRIES**



*Cor*

**The world needs courageous men to witness to Jesus Christ.**

**Cor** exists to form and strengthen Catholic men in faith and virtue as missionary disciples by drawing them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, formation, and fraternity.

**Cor meetings at SEAS for Catholic Men age 18 and older are scheduled for Saturday March 7, April 18, May 2 and June 6<sup>th</sup> from 7AM – 8:30AM at St John room. Please RSVP by Friday before each Saturday meeting to Brother Bill Jeffries at [661-706-6171](tel:661-706-6171) or email [billjeffries1953@gmail.com](mailto:billjeffries1953@gmail.com)**

**March 2026 Archbishop William E. Lori, Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge**  
**So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go to die with him.”** (Gospel for March 22, Jn 11:16)

Look at the bravery of Thomas! Jesus had just announced his intention to travel to Judea, where he had narrowly escaped getting stoned to death. Given the potential danger ahead, Thomas seems prepared for martyrdom. Later, of course, he and the other disciples would flee as Jesus was arrested, and Thomas would doubt reports of Jesus’ resurrection. As fallible humans, our strength and resolve sometimes collapse into weakness. May we always seek the courage to follow Jesus faithfully, even when the going gets tough.

**Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:**

This month, as we continue through Lent, I challenge you to pray the Stations of the Cross each week — in your parish community, with your family or individually — with the intention of receiving the courage to suffer for Christ. A good resource is the Catholic Information Service Booklet *The Way of the Cross: Traditional and Modern Meditations* ([kofc.org/shopcis](http://kofc.org/shopcis)).

**Questions for Reflection:**

Are you a good disciple of Christ? How can being a Knight of Columbus help prepare you to take up your cross and follow him? Are you willing to suffer for your faith if called upon?

## **FATHER MIKE SCHMIDT EXPERIENCE JIM DEMING**

I'm old...

But I'm a new member of the Knights of Columbus, and I'm so glad that I took the step. Tonight, in my handbook, I found these words...

"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." Not new, but kindness never meant so much to me before I got old. Now, kindness matters so much more. Be kind.

Today, at our local Catholic High School, Fr. Mike Schmidt came and spoke to a crowd, I'd estimate at 5000. The Knights were there to usher. I was told to arrive at 1pm, and Fr. Schmidt was already speaking, so, I went and sat with about 15-20 Knights, waiting. When Fr. Schmidt finished his talk, he left, and that's when the activity began, the crowd came away from the football field toward where we were about to become ushers! About half of the 5,000 people were going to confession! There were 11 or 12 priests there to hear confessions. Our job was to find the priest put his hand in motion to absolve his "guest". The hand making the sign of the cross over the confessing person meant "get someone ready to fill that confessional. 1500+ Catholic men, women, and their sons and daughters made their "Easter Duty" today, and I helped. On a couple of occasions, you could see Kleenex wiping away tears. God was good to us today.

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE CRAIG HOLLIDAY, CHANCELLOR**

In the month of February, we added two new members, Joel Lozano and Julian Nieto. This brings our total number of members to 213. Supreme Council set our yearly quota at 12. We have surpassed that goal (currently nearly 20) and are hoping to add new members in the second-half of the fraternal year.

Very soon we will send out our third dues letter. As of this publication, we have 127 dues paying members who have paid. We have 55 who have not. Our total collection of regular dues is \$5982. We've also collected \$3778 in optional dues. Our total dues collection thus far is \$9760. We have another \$2564 in unpaid dues to collect. 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.

## **DO YOU LIKE TO SING IN THE SHOWER? HOW ABOUT IN CHURCH?**

The men's choir is seeking additional voices. The choir sings for 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Christmas with the Kern River Brass, and is always adding to the dates and repertoire. We even rehearsed some standard beer festival songs. If you would like to join us, we rehearse at 8:30am on the 2d and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of each month, immediately following men's bible study, and others as needed.+ If you have questions contact Ed Knudson at [osuetk@bak.rr.com](mailto:osuetk@bak.rr.com), 661-333-8279, of Susan Scaffidi at [scaffidi@setoncatholicchurch.org](mailto:scaffidi@setoncatholicchurch.org) or 661-587-3626.

## **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*