



**Knights of
Columbus®**

MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council #14754

Please join us for our next Council meeting, Monday, June 10th 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.



**MAY 2024
BIRTHDAYS & Years
of Service**

- 02 Henry Villa, 1
- 04 Bob Aldridge, 10
- 06 Patrick Camou, 0
- 06 Hugh McGowan
- 08 Nicolas Andrade, 0
- 11 Ray Brodt, 15
- 13 Jose Ozaeta, 9
- 14 Tony Heider, 5
- 19 K D Lee, 13
- 20 Tim Guenther, 13
- 22 Don Dale, 0
- 22 Alberto Melendez, 9
- 23 bob Holtermann, 7
- 23 Darren Williams, 3
- 24 Babby Kurian, 6
- 24 Kelly Olson, 22
- 27 Barry Sarver, 13
- 29 Jason Geronimo, 17
- 30 John Zabatta, 9

Our 19 May birthdays include our oldest member, Ray Brodt (past FS) who turns 94. Three of the 19 are newer members who have under 12 months of service in in the Knights. The other 16 have an average of 9.75 years of service. The average age of the 19 members with May birthdays is 58.

Our council was chartered 4/20/2009 so we are into our 16th year as a council. Of the original 46 charter members 21 are still members.

Upcoming events:

May 19 Heritage Festival. Our council will have a booth at this annual parish fundraiser.
June 10 last council meeting for the 2023/24 fraternal year. Officers for the 2024/25 fraternal year will be elected at this meeting.

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The submission deadline for our June 2024 newsletter is 6/11/2024 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. As of 4/30 we are at 192 members which includes 48 insurance members and 144 associate members. We have several new member applications in process. We continue to be the largest council in the Kern and Inyo county area.

Burma Shave Advice (1963)

DON'T LOSE
YOUR HEAD
TO GAIN A MINUTE
YOU NEED YOUR HEAD
YOUR BRAINS ARE IN IT

YOU COME FROM DUST

YOU WILL RETURN TO DUST
THAT'S WHY I DON'T DUST
IT COULD BE SOMEONE I KNOW

MESSAGE FORM OUR CHAPLIAN AND PASTOR

Like me, you probably have mixed feelings about the issue of poverty and homelessness in our community. None of us wants to see people living on the streets, begging for money or food because they're hungry. We want to be generous, and we want to help but we have questions: Are these people just irresponsible? Are they addicted? Why can't our society seem to get a grip on this problem? Why can't our elected officials find a solution?

Well, the truth is that homelessness and poverty are most likely the results of multiple factors which we may never completely understand, and I doubt that we will find "the" solution any time soon. Perhaps things need to get a lot worse before our society decides to take action.

In the meantime, we have one responsibility as people of faith. We are to be generous towards the poor. Without knowing what lies behind a person's poverty, we are to give "cheerfully" as St. Paul tells us (2 Corinthians 9:7) and Jesus makes it clear that we will be judged on the basis of how well we love our neighbor—especially the neighbor in need. So, this is what we do.

As a parish family, we have taken this commandment seriously. We are already working in coordination with Catholic Charities, St. Vincent De Paul, the Bakersfield Police and other organizations to assist the poor and homeless. It may not amount to much when we consider the numbers of people out there who need help, but we are doing what we are supposed to do.

I'm grateful to our KC Council for always striving to find ways of serving the needs of the poor. By your leadership in this area, you are setting the example for our many parishioners who also believe that "it is better to give than to receive."

Msgr Perry

NIGHT IN NAPLES DINNER, By Jim Patten

The Night In Naples Italian dinner on 4/20/2024 was a great success! A team of our council members and LMF volunteers served up 411 dinners in about 45 minutes starting at 6PM. The weather was great so most of the diners stayed to eat their meals on the patio area. PGK Dennis Shaw coordinated the volunteer crew, and the dinner operations were managed by parishioners Chef Luigi Rienzo and Tim Murray, a retired US Foods executive. This was the largest food service event handled by our council and one of the largest dinners held at SEAS. Everyone enjoyed Chef Luigi's meal and we learned a lot about the capabilities of our parish kitchen and raised almost \$6,000 for the SEAS building fund. Here is a photo I took about 6:30PM at the dinner.



MEMBER PROFILE-Nicolas Andrade by Sam Duran



Nicolas Andrade was born in the San Fernando area in 1995 to Nicolas and Irma Andrade. He is the oldest of the family's three children and has two sisters. He attended elementary, Jr. High and the first two years of high school in the San Fernando Valley before the family moved to Bakersfield in 2011. Nick graduated from Frontier High School in 2013.

As a youngster he loved reading, skateboarding, playing the guitar, and piano and was intently interested in Taekwondo and boxing. As a young teenager he played the guitar with the music group in Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in the San Fernando Valley. He still loves to play music, especially the guitar, which to this day is his favorite pastime, along with creating graphic designs. After graduating from high school, he had an interest in pursuing a major in psychology, however due to financial reasons, he went to work for a local bank for five years. While there, he especially enjoyed working with the public, however left as he recognized there was a lack of advancement opportunities. Just prior to the pandemic he started his own company (The Orion Agency) in which he marketed his graphic designs. The current job market did not provide sufficient income for his company, so for additional income he took a job with a butcher shop and learned the art of butchery. When asked what kind of work he prefers, graphic design is by far his favorite. He is actively looking for work to utilize this area of his expertise and would welcome any such opportunity.

Nicolas was raised in a strong Catholic family. From the time of his youth, he was always inquisitive of his faith and would spend time reading about religious topics. His inquisitiveness led him to question whether he should be considered a Christian as opposed to a Catholic. As a young man of 21, Nick decided to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and has over the past few years has come to realize the importance of Faith and Church in one's life. Beginning this year he has been a regular attendee at Sunday Mass. His father sensed his faith and when the Men's Retreat was advertised at Mass, to Nick's surprise, his father submitted the registration for him to attend. After attending the Men's retreat in January of 2024, Nick became aware of the Knights of Columbus mission of empowering Catholic men to live their faith at home, in their parish, at work and in their community. Such service to the Church appealed to him as he felt the need to help others in our parish. He feels strongly that our youth should be

made aware of how important it is to have faith in our Lord and in the Church. This led Nick to attend the Men's Bible Study and join our Council in March of 2024. He has been a consistent helper at the Lenten Fish Fry and Sunday parking assistant.

Member Profile- Michael Vander Poel, by Sam Duran

Michael Vender Poel was born in Corona California in 2001. As the oldest child of a family in the dairy business. Due to urbanization of the area around Chico and Corona, the family moved to a less urbanized area around Shafter and Wasco in pursuit of better conditions for their dairy farm. Michael has four other younger siblings and is a cradle Catholic from a devout Catholic family.



He attended OPLH from Kindergarten to eighth grade and afterwards attended Shafter High School, where he graduated in 2019. While in high school he played football and basketball all four years and track for two years of high school. Michael served with the Chapter Officer Team for Shafter high's Future Farmers of America (FFA). While a member of the Shafter FFA chapter team they were awarded the American FFA Degree at the 93rd National FFA Convention & Expo. After graduating high school, he decided to stay in the area and attend Bakersfield Community College (BCC) rather than go to college out of town or out of state. He majored in Criminal Justice while attending BCC, although enjoyed Art and History classes. Upon completing classes at BCC, he transferred to California State University here in Bakersfield continuing his education in criminal justice. He is scheduled to graduate this year with a bachelor's degree in

criminal justice.

His interest in Criminal Justice was fostered by his membership with the California Highway Patrol Explorer program designed for young men and women, allowing them to develop the skills and knowledge needed to serve the people of California through discipline and a commitment to serving their community. This has led to his interest in joining the CHP or other law enforcement agency following his graduation later this year.

As for hobbies and extracurricular activities, Michael loves board games, trap shooting and building models. His favorite board game is Warhammer 40K, where participants build and paint their own board pieces. "Building and painting is one of the most rewarding parts of the Warhammer hobby. Whether you're crafting a regular human soldier, a towering daemon, or a colossal mechanical construct, your skills will grow with practice as you bring your miniatures to life." He enjoys trap shooting with friends and family and considers himself an average shooter. When asked why he decided to join our KOC Council he indicated he felt it was important to be a part of the Church community. His dad had also been a member of the Christ the King Council #12719 for several years and his mom also felt it would be rewarding for Michael to get involved and grow closer with our SEAS parish community.

MINI PROFILES-Rafael Herrera & Rafael Herrera Jr.-by Craig Holiday

Editor's note: The Herrera's, born respectively in 1972 and 1996, joined our council in February 2024.

In the first moments of my conversation with Rafael Herrera and his son Rafael (Junior for the purposes of this profile), it was clear that they had a wonderful father-son chemistry. I asked them what they had in common. They both mentioned their work ethic. Rafael works as a self-employed handyman. As his son mentioned, "he's always working." Junior drives trucks

throughout California, working 60-hour weeks. When I asked how they were different, Rafael quickly jabbed that Junior was uglier. Junior, just as quickly, snapped back with “what do you expect, I got your genes.”

Rafael Herrera was born in Mexico but lived for a long time in Los Angeles. He recently relocated his family to Bakersfield to find cheaper housing and get out of LA traffic. Rafael is a die-hard Laker fan (on the day we spoke he correctly called the Lakers game 4 victory over the Nuggets). He also supports FC Barcelona. Rafael enjoys attending the daily mass, Saturday Bible studies and Knights meetings.

Junior was born in Norwalk, raised in Los Angeles, and moved to Bakersfield when his father did. Junior enjoys video games (particularly World of Warcraft), tennis, and hiking. When he was younger, he played drums in the church and would be interested in getting back into that. His travel schedule keeps him out of town a great deal, but he makes time for his faith and family.

I sat with the Herrera’s for a couple of meals during this year’s men’s retreat. They both have a knack for great storytelling and an amazing depth of faith. Please welcome them to the Council.

St. Vincent DePaul donation reminder, by PGK Michael Dhanens

Brothers. It's time again to provide our Council support for the homeless served by the St. Vincent DePaul Center. Please bring either a package of men’s or women’s socks or underwear to the Council Meeting on Monday, June 10. These can be purchased at Costco, Sam’s Club or other large box retailers, and usually come in a package of 6. We can also provide support in the form of donating gently used men's and women's clothing items (shirts, pants, jackets) from your closets. Lastly, the center also uses the plastic grocery bags we all collect from the supermarkets to use for their handouts. Please bring any you have accumulated over the past several months. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

St. Vincent DePaul Center of Bakersfield, by Michael Dhanens

Feed the hungry. Shelter the homeless. Give alms to the poor. These are some of the corporal acts of mercy familiar to all of us who practice the Christian Faith. We read about them in scripture and hear about them from the pulpit. These three tenants form the core mission of the St. Vincent DePaul Center’s activities in our community. Several churches, organizations, business, charities, individual donors and a small group of staff and volunteers help make these a reality for the growing number of poor and homeless in Bakersfield. Recent news accounts report that the number of homeless individuals in Bakersfield has grown by over 30%.

St. Vincent DePaul (1581-1660), canonized in 1737, is recognized for his charity and compassion for the poor and is the patron saint for charitable organizations. He is attributed with the following: “Humility if nothing but truth and pride is nothing but lying.” His spirit certainly inspires the men and women who live out his mission today as they make a profound impact on the world. The SVDP Center in Bakersfield began in 1954 in the form of a thrift store and small

homeless center on East 19th Street. The Center outgrew this facility and relocated to its current location at 300 Baker Street in 1958. Sandwiches and coffee were handed out to the hungry in a small room or outside patio. Some surrounding parcels were acquired, and several additions and upgrades were made over the following decades. A dramatic influx of donations in 2007, along with support from St. Francis Parish, allowed a larger scale expansion and improvement plan to be implemented. This included bathrooms, shower facilities, covered patio, fencing and additional landscaping where visitors can spend time during the day in a secure and park-like setting. Services are provided to all visitors regardless of race or religion and all are treated as brothers and sisters in Christ. Thousands come to the center seeking help each year.

A Board of Directors provides overall direction and oversight. Oscar Zubiran is the current Operations Manager and John Thompson is the Center Coordinator. These gentlemen run a center with 6 or so paid staff, 4 to 5 VIP Volunteers (individuals who are themselves, homeless) and numerous other members of the community who help when they can. Several Knights of Columbus Councils in Bakersfield as well as the Chapter also contribute greatly to the operation. In addition to providing a safe and welcoming environment, the Center feeds approximately 400 individuals breakfast and lunch daily, distributes clothing and hygiene kits and offers showers. Partnering with Good Samaritan Hospital, the Center now is also able to offer, on site, Day Habilitative Services that include basic medical evaluation and care, behavioral health services and counseling for substance abuse issues.

The Center is always in need of donations in the form of clothing (especially men's), food and snacks, hygiene products, kitchen staples (oatmeal, coffee, spices and water) as well as plates, cups, bowls. The Bakersfield St. Vincent DePaul Society has no real source of income outside the annual fall barbeque fundraiser. They receive no government funding and rely solely on the generosity of the community. More information can be found on their website: <https://svdpbakersfield.org>. Monetary donations can be made, and those interested in signing up to volunteer can do so online through the website. Please note: Our Knights Council will be providing and serving breakfast at the Center on Saturday, September 28.