



**MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER**  
**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council**  
**#14754**

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

“Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do, and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.” General Geo S Patton

“It is less of a problem to be poor than to be dishonest.” Native American Philosophy

### **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

I need to start with an important correction. Last month I erroneously said that Anthony Silvestro was the oldest member of our council. Fortunately, May offers me the opportunity to correct myself. Happy Birthday this month to the oldest member of our council Ray Brodt. Ray is celebrating his 96th birthday this year. (Incidentally on the same night as our council meeting—May 11). To put it into perspective Ray is currently on his 15th president during his lifetime. We wish him many more!

A few birthday notes...Other significant birthdays this month include two Sir Knights, Timothy Guenther and John Zabatta.

The Knight with the most years of service born this month is Kelly Olson (24 years). Our youngest Knight with a birthday this month is Nicolas Andrade, born in the first term of President Bill Clinton. Also, we have Knights celebrating birthdays this month in each of the decades of life from the 30s through the 90s.

Happy birthday to all of our May Knights!

#### **Day, Knight, Yrs service**

1, Fr. Thomas Chacko, 1	19, Kenneth Lee, 15
2, Henry Villa, 3	20, Sir Timothy Guenther, 15
4, Robert Aldridge, 12	22, Donald Dale, 2
6, Patrick Camou, 2	22, Alberto Melendez III, 11
6, Hugh McGowan, 6	23, Robert Holtermann, 9
8, Nicolas Andrade, 2	23, Darren Williams, 5
11, Ray Brodt, 17	24, Babby Kurian, 8
11, Ron Wilbur, 1	24, Kelly Olson, 24
13, Jose Ozaeta, 11	27, Barry Sarver, 15
14, Tony Hedier, 7	30, Sir John Zabatta, 10

## WHAT'S UP

- St Vincent DePaul Pancake Breakfast, **6am, Saturday, May 9**
- March for Life, St Francis, **8am, Saturday, May 9**
- Mother's Day, **Sunday, May 10**
- Council Meeting with Thank You for LMF, **Monday, May 11**
- Roadside Clean-up, **8am, Saturday, May 16**
- Pentecost **Sunday, May 24**
- Deacon Marco's Ordination, **Saturday, May 23**
- Memorial Day, **Monday, May 25**
- **Father Marco's First Mass, SEAS, Saturday, May 30**
- Fifth Sunday Rosary, **Sunday, May 31**
- Father's Day, **Sunday, June 21**

## GRAND KNIGHT

### ANDY SILVESTRO'S MESSAGE

#### **A Month of Grace: Honoring the Virgin Mary Through Faith and Service**

As the world blossoms in the vibrant colors of spring, the Catholic Church enters the month of May—a time traditionally dedicated to the **Virgin Mary, Mother of God**. This beautiful custom, which took root in the 13th century and was solidified by the Jesuits in the 18th century, transforms the natural renewal of the season into a spiritual renewal. From the symbolic "May Crowning" of statues with floral wreaths to daily Rosaries, the month serves as a powerful reminder of Mary's role as the "Queen of May" and a model of selfless devotion.

#### **Charity in Action: The Knights and Beyond**

This devotion is not confined to the pews; it is lived out through the tireless work of Catholic organizations. The **Knights of Columbus** lead this charge, blending prayer with profound community service. Throughout May, local councils often organize special Rosary prayer services and "May Flowers for Mary" devotionals. Their mission, rooted in the principles of charity and fraternity, mirrors Mary's own "yes" to God's call, providing support to parishes and families alike.

#### **Supporting Life and Families**

The spirit of May also inspires a surge in volunteerism and support for the vulnerable. **Catholic Charities** often sees an increase in dedicated time from volunteers during this month, focusing on programs that stabilize families and provide for the marginalized. This spirit of giving is perhaps most visible in the support for pregnancy centers, such as the **Bakersfield Pregnancy Center** (and similar parish outreach programs).

By donating resources, baby supplies, and time to these centers, the faithful honor Mary's motherhood by protecting the sanctity of life today. Whether it is through a Knight's pancake breakfast fundraiser or a volunteer's afternoon at a food pantry, the month of May remains a testament to the fact that true devotion to the Blessed Mother is always reflected in how we love and serve one another.

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



The world needs courageous men to witness to Jesus Christ. [SEP1SEP]

*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 Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> from 7AM – 8:30AM at St John room. July we will not have a meeting to enjoy a special 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrating 250 years. Please RSVP by Friday before each Saturday meeting to Brother Bill Jeffries at 661-706-6171 or email [billjeffries1953@gmail.com](mailto:billjeffries1953@gmail.com)

**May 2026 Archbishop William E. Lori, Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge**

[Jesus] said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (Gospel for May 24, Jn 20:21)

Jesus sends us into the world, just as the Father sent him. Jesus had a sacred, divine mission — to proclaim the Good News of salvation and build the kingdom of God — and we are commissioned to do likewise. As his faithful disciples, we continue his saving mission on earth, consistent with our state of life. We are not just “receivers” of the Gospel; our mission is to bear witness to the Good News in word and action, living the Gospel through our example and outreach to others.

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

This month, I challenge you to take a few minutes each morning and prayerfully ask Jesus how you can use your gifts for his mission, and set one clear, specific resolution (large or small) for what you will do on that particular day.

**Questions for Reflection:**

How seriously do you take this mission that Christ has given you? What specifically has Jesus sent you into the world to do? How can you better live out this mission in the workplace, in your family life, and through your participation in the Knights of Columbus?

## **MEMBER PROFILE-JIM PATTEN**

Jim was Financial Secretary at his initial Christ The King council 12719. He is a charter member of our council and served as an officer for the first nine years of our council's history.

Years 1 & 2: Recorder

Years 3 & 4: Grand Knight

Year 5: Treasurer

Years 6, 7 & 8: Financial Secretary

Year 9: Trustee

Here is his member profile based on the eight questions we ask in our council's membership application.

### **Where were you born and raised, and do you have any siblings?**

I was born in 1943 in Chicago and lived there for the first 39 years of my life. I have lived in Bakersfield, California since 1982. I do not have any siblings.

### **Would you describe your career and your current employer and occupation?**

I was a CPA who transitioned to teaching accounting. My last employer was Cal State University Bakersfield where I worked as an associate professor of accounting and taxation between 1982 and 2011 when I fully retired.

### **Did you serve in the military?**

No. I was given a "1Y" draft classification in 1965 due to a history of asthma, although I was in the ROTC program in both high school and college.

### **What is your educational background?**

1957-Completed Catholic elementary school in Chicago.

1961-Completed high school at Morgan Park High in in Chicago

Attended DePaul University in Chicago:

1965-Earned Bachelor of Science degree in business with a major in accounting.

1970-Earned MBA degree with an accounting concentration.

1970-Passed the November 1970 CPA exam.

### **Why did you join the Knights?**

I joined the Knights in 2006 because it was clear that almost all of the most active men in my parish at the time were Knights. I have held five officer positions including grand knight.

### **What are your hobbies and interests?**

Reading, writing, crafts, classic films, and keeping current on computer technology.

### **What is your marital status?**

Married Rita Schnell on June 17, 1967, at St. Helena of the Cross Catholic Church in Chicago.

Our only child Sandra was born in 1977.

### **When did you become Catholic?**

I guess I would qualify to be called a "cradle Catholic".

## **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 rehearse other dates as needed. If you are interested just show up at one of the rehearsals, or if you have questions, contact Ed Knudson at [osuetk@bak.rr.com](mailto:osuetk@bak.rr.com), 661-333-8279, or 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*