



# APRIL NEWSLETTER

## St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council #14754

Please join us for our next Council meeting, Monday, May 8th in the St. Therese Room. Social Hour will begin at 6:00pm and the General Meeting will follow at 7:00pm. Please join us for good food, fellowship and to see how you can participate in upcoming Council activities and programs. You can also check out the Council website at [koc14754.org](http://koc14754.org) for more information.

- 04/06 Tony Madrugo
- 04/08 Alexander Horvath
- 04/08 Guy Lyons
- 04/10 Martin Barron
- 04/15 Tommy Aguilar
- 04/15 Peter Dejong
- 04/19 Paul Puncer
- 04/20 Benjamin Gaskins
- 04/21 Steve Roach
- 04/22 Arnaldo Alvarado
- 04/24 Joey Velasquez
- 04/25 Anthony Silvestro
- 04/27 David Bacalillo
- 04/27 Jan Sofranko
- 04/29 Bradley Webb

The Council is in the process of securing nominations and commitments from members to serve as officers and directors for the 2023/2024 Columbian Year. We will present a proposed slate of officers at the next General Meeting but nominations can still be made from the floor. Please let GK Michael Dhanens know if you are interested in finding out how you can help your Council. Or visit our web page for more information.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with cooking breakfast in support of the Mom's Group 5K Fun Run on April 29. Thanks especially to Brother John Zabatta who, with his unique talent and expertise, led the effort and whipped up his special pancake batter recipe. Brothers Frank Kuhs, Keith Peters and Mark Rhoades (and his wife, Yvonne) were among many Knights that made the breakfast a success. The Mom's Group raised over \$12,000 to donate to the parish Building Fund. Again, job well done.

We are hoping to obtain decorated baby bottles from the Bakersfield Pregnancy Center that will be distributed after masses the weekend of Mother's Day, May 13 and 14. These can be taken home by parishioners, filled with money and spare change and brought back to the parish office before Father's Day. The collected money will be donated the Pregancy Center to help with their extraordinary ministry. This program is sponsored and supported by Supreme. The Council will also accept any other donations in the form of checks, cash and diapers.

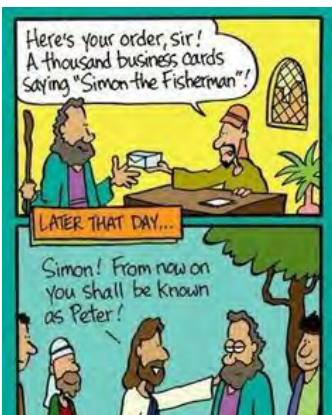
Brothers. Please keep in your prayers all members of our Council and their families who are experiencing illness and addressing medical issues. Please also pray for the repose of the souls of Brothers Gilbert Mendez and SK George Navarro. We have many of our own who need our assistance, comfort and support. Brother Bill Jeffries and a group of men are keeping abreast of those who need our help and oftentimes organize the delivery of meals to families. If you would like to participate in this group and receive future notifications, please reach out to Brother Bill. Continue to look at your flocknote notices to become aware of, and pray for, those who have a particular need.

Please keep the following on your calendars:

May 13; Funeral Mass for SK and Brother George Navarro

May 28; Heritage Festival

Brothers. Thanks to everyone who joined fellow Brothers at the April 22 Saturday Mass for Corporate Communion and to those of you who participated in, and joined in praying, the Rosary after the 9:30 Mass on April 30.



Dear Brother Knights and friends—

Now that we are in the Easter Season (until May 28) we are bringing many of our ministries to a close before the summer months. As I write, we have celebrated First Communion Masses for those students in our Religious Education program. Our High School Confirmation Mass with Bishop Joseph Brennan will be here on May 7. Then, on May 27, we will celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist with a small group of adults at the 5 pm Mass. Not only that but weddings are on the docket in the coming months along with a few quinceañeras. So, the Easter Season is just as, if not more, busy than Holy Week and Easter Day.

Speaking of Easter Day, I want to thank our brother knights who assisted with those very large Masses and helped manage parking. We had record crowds (and record collections). We definitely need a bigger church!

There are two “Solemnities” (high Feast Days) that are observed near the end of the Easter Season. The Feast of the Ascension of the Lord is on the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter and the following Sunday is the Solemnity of Pentecost which recounts the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. The Easter Season concludes with a BANG and not a whimper!

Enjoy these Easter days. Spring is in the air!



Msgr Perry Kavookjian



WGK Michael Dhanens  
Grand Knight Report

This time of year presents some challenges and some great opportunities. The Council is winding down the Knight’s Columbian Year and we look forward to handing the baton to a new set of officers in July. Many of those will be familiar with the Council organization and some will be new and eager to contribute. But the work of the Council is oblivious to the Columbian Year. There is still many ministries to support, opportunities for members to pitch in and help and be a part of an exciting group at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish. We have also experienced the loss of two members recently, Brother Gil Mendez and Brother and SK George Navarro. Please read on for some thoughts and information about both of these worthy Knights. Recently, we have also lost spouses of longtime members of the Council. All of these occurrences offer us a chance to reflect on our lives, and find ways to create those times and memories that are substantial and meaningful and true to our Catholic faith in being a faithful and loving spouse, good father, good friend and diligent servant to those in need in our community.

We are also grateful of the time, efforts and talents of many of our members, some of whom are seeking an opportunity to spend a little less time in leadership roles. Brother Jim Patton has been invaluable this past year in wearing many hats and taking on an inordinate amount of responsibility, preparing financial and membership reports and acting as membership retention chair. The new officer group will seek to provide him some relief from all those duties. Brother Ed Besenfelder has provided exemplary leadership and organization on directing the Lenten Fish Fry dinners and is also looking to reduce the workload (and stress!) necessary to put on a hugely successful event over multiple weeks. We will be looking to have someone step in and take on that role for next year. There is still an opportunity for you to become more involved with the Council in a leadership role. A proposed slate of officers will be presented at the next General Meeting and nominations will remain open until the June General Meeting. Speak to me or any current officer if you would like to know more.

Vivat Jesus!

NOTES ON DECEASED MEMBER GIL MENDEZ-June 26, 1946 – April 8, 2023

By Jim Patten, PGK & Charter Member-Council 14754

Gil rejoined the Knights by in 2015 when he became a member of our council, but he took his first degree forty years ago in 1983 at St. Francis council 977. Despite his struggles with diabetes, he regularly attended our monthly meetings, volunteered at council events and served as an usher.

On April 17, 2023, our chaplain, Msgr. Perry conducted a wonderful celebration of life communion service for Gil. Our Pit Master team cooked chicken and tri-tip for his many friends family and council members who attended his service and joined in the meal at SEAS following the service. Below is Gil's obituary that was published in the Californian.

## GILBERT MENDEZ

June 26, 1946 – April 8, 2023



Bakersfield – Gilbert Mendez was born in 1946 in Calexico, California to Manual and Beatrice Mendez who precedes him in death. Gilbert was an extremely kind and giving person who never turned down helping anyone whenever they needed help. Gilbert married Conception Mendez and had their two daughters Elizabeth Mendez and Victoria Golden.

Later in life Gilbert married the love of his life Darlene Mendez. Together they helped in raising their 4 grandchildren Robin Tieu, Jason Coe, Tristan Coe and Karina Hillis. Gilbert also took joy in spending time with his 3 great-grandchildren Jaxon Coe, Emily Coe and Addison Hillis. Gilbert is survived by his 3 siblings, Manual Mendez (Betty: Deceased), Robert Mendez (Socorro Mendez), Linda Whipple (DJ Whipple).

We would like Gilbert to be remembered as a Vietnam War Veteran and the time he served. Words can not describe how much our family will miss the head of our family. We are so thankful for the time we had with him. But no time will ever be enough time.

The memorial service for Gilbert will be held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church on April 17, 2023 at 10 am.

[www.bakersfield.com/obits](http://www.bakersfield.com/obits)

NOTES ON GEORGE NAVARRO; By Jim Patten, PGK Council 14754

George is an example of the saying "If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it".

He joined our council in 2016 and went thru all the degree ceremonies including the fourth degree in that year. His position as maintenance manager at Grimmway Farms had him on call 24/7, but he served the parish and our council in many ways.

He and his wife Rosa were our council's Family of The Year for the 2017/18 fraternal year. I convinced him to take on the treasurer position for our council that he took over in July 2018. George was a fixture at our Lent fish dinners on the clean-up crew. The clean-up crew shift worked best for his 24/7 work commitment, and he pitched into the job with gusto! He was our best mop and broom man! One of General Patton's sayings goes something like this...A commanding officer should be able to do the work of any private in the army and do it better than any private. General Patton would have been proud to have George as a commander in his army!

George is a father and a grandfather. He was the first member of our council to order a Knight name badge for his grandchild that read...My Grandpa is a Knight.

