



**Knights of  
Columbus®**

# APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

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

**Please join us for our next Council meeting, Monday, May 13th 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.**



**Happy Birthday!**

APRIL 2024  
BIRTHDAYS

- 06 Tony Madruga. 8
- 08 Alex Horvath. 9
- 08 Guy Lyons. 14
- 10 Martin Barron. 1
- 15 Tommy Aguilera. 6
- 15 Pete DeJong. 15
- 17 Ron Carr. 15
- 18 Casey Callagy. 0
- 19 Paul Puncer 2
- 21 Steve Roach. 6
- 22 Arnaldo Alvarado. 7
- 22 Jason Barnes. 0
- 24 Joey Valasquez. 1
- 25 Anthony Silvestro. 9
- 27 David Bacallo. 2
- 27 Jan Sofranko. 6
- 29 Brad Webb. 9

Our April birthdays include our second oldest member, Andrew Silvestro, father of Andy Silvestro. Andrew turns 93. We changed the format on the birthdays this month. The 2 digits in front of each name is the day of the birthday. The number following each name is the number of years of continuous membership in the Knights. A zero indicates a member with less than 12 months of membership.

Our council was chartered 4/9/2009 so this April marks the beginning of our 16<sup>th</sup> year as a council. Of the original 46 charter members 21 are still members.

**Upcoming events:**

April 13 SEAS 5K Fun Run

April 20 Italian dinner sponsored by our council. All 350 tickets have been sold for this building fund fundraiser.

May 19 Heritage Festival. Our council will have a booth at this annual parish fundraiser.

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Message from Fr. Perry

Lent Fish Dinners, by Jim Patten

Member profile-Mark Rhoades, by Mark Rhoades

Member profile-Martin Pequeño by Sam Duran

Mini-Member Profiles, by Craig Holiday

Patrick & Dominique Camou

Bonaventure Nweze Matt Rivera

Melvin Rodriguez Zavala

St. Vincent DePaul donation reminder, by PGK Michael Dhanens

The submission deadline for our May 2024 newsletter is 5/10/2024 Please email submissions to Jim Patten ([jpinbakca@gmail.com](mailto:jpinbakca@gmail.com)).

**NOTE FROM BILL JEFFRIES, DGK & MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**

Please call or email me (661-703-6171 [billjeffries1953@gmail.com](mailto: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 3/31 we are at 191 members which includes 47 insurance members and 144 associate members. We continue to be the largest council in the Kern and Inyo county area.

**HUMOR FROM Maxine**

If it weren't for spring forward and fall back, I'd never do any exercise at all.

**LIFE CHOICES**

There are three choices in life:  
give up,  
give in, or  
give it all you've got.

## MESSAGE FORM OUR CHAPLIAN AND PASTOR

Dear Brother Knights and friends:

Did you know that our Council 14764 has been in existence for over 15 years?! That makes our Knights' Council one of the oldest organizations/ministries in parish history! The men of our Council have all played a significant role in growing our parish family into what it is today! I'm grateful to all of whom have served as Grand Knight and have filled positions of leadership these past years. May we keep moving forward!

Now that the Easter Season is upon us, I also want to thank those who were part of our annual Lenten Fish Fry this past Lent. Once again, we were able to provide a good Lenten meal and fellowship on the Fridays of Lent. Special "kudos" to Ed Besenfelder for his organizational skills in making this happen once again.

Special thanks to all our brother knights who assisted with Easter Masses and parking. It's not the most enjoyable work but it certainly helps with crowd control during the busiest time for any Catholic parish! I am personally grateful for your efforts in this way.

The Easter Season extends for 50 days until the celebration of Pentecost which falls on May 19. On that day, we will celebrate our annual Heritage Festival. It's an opportunity to come together as a parish family for some good food, entertainment and fellowship. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to bring God's people together and to give thanks for the diversity of gifts we are blessed with here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. I hope you will plan on being part of the festivities on Pentecost!

May God continue to bless all of you with good health, happiness and increased faith during this Easter Season.

Msgr Perry Kavookjian  
Chaplain

### LENT FISH DINNERS, by Jim Patten

Ed Besenfelder who has been chairing the dinners since 2019 is dealing with the illness of his 97-year-old mom and preparing for his upcoming right shoulder replacement surgery, so please keep Ed and his family in your prayers. I know Ed wants to do a more detailed article on our Lent Fish Dinners, so I told him I would provide this brief update for our April newsletter.

The 2024 dinners continued our unbroken string of consecutive positive cash flows which totaled almost \$9,900. Cumulatively the dinners have generated almost \$76,000 over their 14 consecutive years. More importantly the dinners bring together a crew of both Knight and Ladies Ministry Fellowship volunteers to serve dinners to hundreds of parishioners each year.

### MEMBER PROFILE-MARK RHODES, by Mark Rhoads

*Editor comment: Mark joined our council in July 2015. Once Mark started medical school, I asked him to prepare a member profile for himself to keep the council updated on his progress. Here it is. I would encourage other members to prepare their own profiles for our newsletters. Just email them to me, Jim Patten (jpinbakca@gmail.com)*

I was born (in 1982) and raised in Bakersfield. A cradle Catholic, I am a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Catholic that began with my great grandmother who was the daughter of an American Indian (Cherokee) mother raised on a reservation. I was principally raised in the faith at Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish with Rev. Michael Braun. A few years after graduating high school, I was accepted into the California Highway Patrol Academy in 2004 at 21 years old, following my father's and uncle's example. Later, both of my younger brothers would follow, leading to a new

family tradition. Both brothers currently work for the CHP as sergeants in the Bakersfield and Ft. Tejon offices.

After graduating from the academy, I spent my entire 10-year CHP career in Castro Valley located in the east bay area of San Francisco. Ultimately, I resigned to return to college and pursue a new career in medicine. I returned to Bakersfield and began my studies at Bakersfield College, ultimately chosen as the biology student of the year in 2016 by the faculty. After graduating with an associate degree, I was accepted to UCs San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Irvine, but I decided to stay in Bakersfield to attend CSUB to stay close to family. I graduated from CSUB (cum laude) in 2023 and was chosen as the human biology undergraduate student of the year and was enrolled in the university's honor society. After taking the MCAT, I was accepted into three medical schools and chose to attend Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine in Las Cruces, NM, for the class of 2027. After graduation, I plan to complete my residency in emergency medicine at Kern Medical Hospital in Bakersfield and continue as an attending physician.

I joined the Knights of Columbus after much contemplation. Torn between focusing on my college studies and finding new opportunities to serve and volunteer within the community, I turned to my late grandmother's advice: in this current world, we need to surround ourselves with those people who will strengthen our faith. I can attest that the council has certainly done this for me.

Having no interest in dating outside the Catholic faith, I met my wife Yvonne through a catholic dating website (catholicmatch.com) in May 2015. As we were both very weary and careful of online dating, so we did not formally meet in person until December 2015, the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We were married in January 2018 at St. Hilary's catholic church (Pico Rivera) in the archdiocese of Los Angeles.

One of my hobbies include open water scuba diving. I have been diving for nearly 25 years and am registered as an advanced scuba diver and as a wreck diver. I have dived at Catalina, Channel Islands, Hawaii, and Cayman Islands to name a few. Yvonne and I also like to travel to national historic sites throughout the country. Some of the more unique sites we have visited include Ford's Theater in DC and Manzanar Japanese internment camp outside of Lone Pine. There are currently over 400 sites within the national park service, including national parks, and we hope to visit them all eventually.

Mark & Yvonne Rhodes



### **MEMBER PROFILE Martin Pequeño, by Sam Duran**

I grew up in McFarland and attended high school in Wasco. I began to attend Bakersfield College when I returned to Kern County after living in San Jose for four years. I am number eight out of ten siblings. I've been blessed with two sons, a stepdaughter and six grandchildren, all who reside here in Bakersfield. I'm currently still employed and hope to retire in about five years.



I have been a member of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (SEAS) for approximately four years. Before becoming a member of SEAS I was a member of Saint Francis of Assisi in Bakersfield. While there, I was involved in various men's ministries including being a Third Degree in The Knights of Columbus. I was also a member of The Legion of Mary, I helped coordinate a fund raiser, A Night in Assisi Wine Tasting event for three years and assisted various church ministries. Before leaving Saint Francis, I got married to my beautiful wife, Dinah. (Dinah is the daughter of a past Council 14754 member Trice Harvey). Shortly after, we transferred to SEAS.

When we transferred to SEAS, I was attending the Lay Formation Institute (LFI), previously known as New Wine, through the Diocese of Fresno. My wife and I are currently involved in coordinating Sacred Promises Workshops preparing couples for the Sacrament of Marriage. We also assist with the RCIA and Adult Confirmation ministries. We are both Extraordinary Ministers and Sacristans. We

participate in other various ministries and fund raisers as well.

We enjoy spending time with our family and traveling. We cherish celebrating life together and appreciate the blessing God has given us. We enjoy serving our church and I look forward to being surrounded by Godly men as a member of the Knights of Columbus here at SEAS.

### **EDITOR NOTE ON MEMBER PROFILES, by Jim Patten**

*Since December 2023 we have been blessed to have over ten new members. Sam Duran, Craig Holiday and I have been handling the preparation of the profiles, and it has been a busy chore for us and our membership director and DGK Bill Jeffries, and Chris Ziemer, our financial secretary, to keep up with all the paperwork involved in getting new members on our roster and integrating them into our council. We came up with the idea of mini profiles just to keep up. We encourage members, both old and new to submit their own profiles like Mark Rhodes has done this month, and we will continue to reach out to existing members to share their profiles, interests, and experiences with our council members. My submissions email is on page one of this newsletter.*

## **MINI MEMBER PROFILES, by Craig Holiday**

### **Patrick Camou: (Patrick and his brother Dominique joined our council as new members in March 2024)**

Patrick is a cradle Catholic who was born and raised in Riverside, CA. He has a bachelor's degree from UC Riverside and presently works as a self-employed contractor. Patrick is married and three teenaged daughters. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing and cooking.

### **Dominique Camou:**

Dominique is a cradle Catholic who was born in Riverside and moved to Bakersfield in 2003. Dominique has an MBA and works in the almond industry. He is married with four children. Dominique joined the Knights to be more involved in the church and the Knights ministry.

### **Bonaventure Nweze: (Transferred-in to our council in January 2024)**

Bonaventure Nweze transferred into our Council in December 2023. He took his 1st degree in 2011 and his 4th degree in 2012. Bonaventure is a cradle Catholic, who was born and raised in Nigeria. He works for the city of Bakersfield as an accountant. Bonaventure is married with five children. In his spare time, he enjoys graphic design and reading.

### **Matthew Rivera: (reactivated his membership in January 2024)**

Matthew Rivera was born and raised in Bakersfield. He is a cradle Catholic who grew up attending St. Joseph's. Matthew has a bachelor's degree in mathematics and is currently working as a substitute teacher and tutor. He is a single parent of two boys (Peyton 15 and Henry 13).

### **Melvin Rodriguez Zavala: (New member joined our council in December 2023)**

Melvin Rodriguez Zavala was born in East Los Angeles. He has six siblings. Prior to moving to Bakersfield, Melvin was stationed in North Carolina with the US Army. Melvin became a Catholic during his time in the service (at Fort Gordon's St. Michael Parish in Georgia). He is currently going to school to learn architecture. Melvin says that he joined the Knights to help have a positive impact on the community and fundraise. Melvin and his wife were married in 2019.

## **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, May 13. 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.