



JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council #14754

Website: www.koc14754.org

“If everybody is thinking alike, then someone isn’t thinking.” Gen Geo S. Patton

**“We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.”
Native American philosophy.**

“If you tell the truth, you don’t have to remember anything.” Mark Twain

JULY BIRTHDAYS

July is a very important month of birthdays for our Council. Not only is it the birthday of our spiritual leader (39-year member Sir Knight Msgr. Perry), it is also the birth month of our newly minted Grand Knight Sir Andy Silvestro.

Additionally, July is the birth month of our country. The most patriotic birthday in the Council belongs to Jamison Holt. He was born one day after the country celebrated its bicentennial in 1976.

Thirteen of our Knights have birthdays this month (that is tied with December for the least number of birthdays in a month). The average age of members born in July is 57.5.

Our oldest Knight born this month is Terry Horan (born in the second term of FDR). Our youngest Knight with a July birthday is John A. Zabatta (born in the first term of George W. Bush). The average years of service for Knights born in July is 13 years. Our senior Knight this month is Matthew Schneider (44years of membership).

Day, Knight, Yrs service

2, Matthew Scheider, 44
5, Jamison Holt, 6
7, Andy Silvestro, 11
8, John A. Zabatta, 4
9, Elden Miller, 1
10, Luis Franco, 1
12, Jose Hernandez, 23
15, Ed Besenfelder, 9
21, Msgr. Perry, 39
24, Bruce Lumis, 16
24, Carlos Martinez, 1
27, Terry Horan, 11
29, Jeremy Roberts, 1

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Grand Knight Introduction
- Officer Roster
- Membership Update
- Appeal for Assistance: Brother Michael Dhanens

The submission deadline for our August newsletter is Wednesday, August 6. Please send as Word Documents. Please email submissions to Ed Knudson: osuetk@bak.rr.com

NOTE: We will be making some minor changes to the Council website. We will no longer have a calendar of events posted there but rather will use the newsletter and Flock Note to provide that information. Additionally sign-up for events and service opportunities will also be sent via Flock Note.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Every January, Catholic men of the SEAS parish travel to the beautiful and serene confines of the St Anthony's Retreat Center in Three Rivers, CA for a weekend of religious instruction delivered by Father Jim Nisbet, a deeply informative Stations of the Cross, quiet reflection, Mass each day, hospitality, amazing food, and fellowship. Make plans for this rewarding experience, January 23 – 25, 2026. The retreat is open to all men of the parish, and there are discounts for first-time attendees. For questions email *Ed Knudson* at osuetk@bak.rr.com. More details coming soon. **SAVE THE DATE!!**

MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL CHAPLAIN MONSIGNOR PERRY

Monsignor Perry is traveling overseas this month. Please pray for his safe travels and successful, restful trip.

Monsignor, be safe, have a super trip. God Bless.

INTRODUCING THE NEW GRAND KNIGHT ANDY SILVESTRO



Growing up in Simi Valley, California, I attended Simi Valley High School, where I was a three-sport athlete in football, wrestling, and track. My dedication paid off, as I was honored as Athlete of the Year in 1987 upon graduation. This led to a wrestling scholarship at Cal State University, Bakersfield. From 1989 to 1993, I proudly served in the U.S. Navy, competing in wrestling tournaments and becoming a military firefighter. In September 1991, I married my first wife, Arlene. After my honorable discharge in 1993, we moved to Bakersfield. I began my career as a wildland fire fighter with the U.S. Forest Service, continued wrestling at Cal State Bakersfield while pursuing my degree, and served in the Naval Reserves in Long Beach. Arlene and I, both lifelong Catholics, were confirmed at St. Francis Assisi Church in 1998. We welcomed our son, Jared, in October 2000, and our daughter, Olivia, in November 2004. In 2006, Arlene was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. She bravely fought for five years, undergoing chemotherapy and radiation, before passing away in August 2011. Becoming a single parent to a 6- and 10-year-old, I later found love again through Christian Mingle. Sara and I were married by Monsignor Perry in May 2013 at Our Lady of the Snows in Frazier Park. Jared recently graduated from Cal State Bakersfield with an Economics degree and now works for Amazon, while Olivia is in her senior year at the University of California, San Diego studying Structural Engineering. I've been a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church since 2009 and actively involved with the Knights of Columbus since 2014, achieving Fourth Degree membership in 2023.

COUNCIL OFFICERS 2025-2026

Grand Knight:	Andrew Silvestro
Deputy Grand Knight:	Michael Panos
Chancellor:	Craig Holliday
Recorder:	Brian Whitehead
Financial Secretary:	Christopher Zeimer
Treasurer:	Ed Besenfelder
Advocate:	Armando Martinez
Lecturer:	Joseph Puncer
Warden:	Ron Carr
Inside Guard:	(elected next general meeting)
Outside Guard:	Michael Vander Poel
1st Year Trustee:	William Jefferies
2nd Year Trustee:	Donovan White
3rd Year Trustee:	Michael Dhanens
Faith Director:	William Jefferies
Family Director:	John Denvir
Community Director:	Andy Silvestro
Life Director:	Michael Dhanens
Membership Director:	Craig Holliday
Chaplain:	Monsignor Perry Kavookjian
Program Director:	Michael Panos

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Craig Holliday, Membership Director

June was the last month of the 2024-2025 fraternal year. It was also a great month for recruitment. In the month of June, we brought in five new Council members—two of those were new members, one was a re-entry, and two were transfers from other councils.

At the end of our fraternal year, we have 206 active members. 155 of those are associate members and 51 are insurance members. That represents an increase of 15 members from Fraternal Year 2023-2024. Over the course of the fraternal year, we welcomed 23 Knights who either joined as new Knights, transferred in from other Councils, or reactivated their membership after a period of inactivity. We also had eight Knights leave the council. Three of them transferred to other councils and five of them passed away. Please take a moment to remember the five Knights who passed away last year: Jim Dutton, Gordon Fisher, John Lugo, Andy Weber, and Pat Mathiowetz period

APPEAL FOR DONATION

On behalf of Brothers Andy Silvestro and Michael Dhanens, Council 14754 would like to begin collecting, on a monthly basis, items from our membership for distribution to either St. Vincent DePaul Center and/or the Bakersfield Pregnancy Center. We would like to make this an ongoing ministry so please consider bringing to each General Meeting any of the following items:

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