



**Knights of
Columbus®**

MAY NEWSLETTER

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council #14754



Happy Birthday!

- 05/04 Robert Aldridge
- 05/06 Hugh Mcgowen
- 05/11 Raymond Brodt
- 05/13 Jose Ozaeta
- 04/14 Tony Heider
- 05/19 Kenneth Lee
- 05/20 Timothy Guenther
- 05/22 Alberto Melendez
- 05/23 Robert Holtermann
- 05/23 Darren Williams
- 05/24 Babby Kurian
- 05/24 Kelly Olson
- 05/27 Barry Sarver
- 05/29 Jason Geronimo
- 05/30 Robert Sanchez
- 05/30 John Zabatta

Please join us for our next Council meeting, Monday, June 12th 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 for more information.

The slate of officers to serve the Council will be voted on during the June General Meeting. It is never too late to volunteer to help your Council run smoothly and to add your voice to the direction of the Council. There are some Director positions that will need to be filled. Please reach out to anyone of the officers if you would like to be considered. Please plan on being in attendance at the meeting!

Congratulations and thanks to everyone who volunteered, or helped in any way, to the success of the Heritage Festival this past weekend. It was a tremendous success. We should learn soon how much money was raised to be added to the Building Fund. Your Council donated a smoker, pellets and a handful of accessories as a raffle prize. Thanks to those who cooked and prepared meals, manned our booth and took the tickets, picked up trash and helped break it all down. Thanks; your efforts do not go unnoticed.

Decorated baby bottles were distributed to the parish on Mother's Day in an effort to collect donations for the Bakersfield Pregnancy Center. These will be returned to the parish office until Father's Day. The collected money will be donated the Pregancy Center to help with their extraordinary ministry. The Council will also accept any other donations in the form of checks, cash and diapers. Please consider making a contribution.

Brothers. Please keep in your prayers all members of our Council and their families who are experiencing illness and addressing medical issues. 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.



Dear Brother Knights and friends—

“I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified...”

The Holy Spirit, the gift of love that emanates from the Father and the Son is the expression of the **oneness** of their love. That Spirit is a gift to us as we come into the presence of the Father and the Son and receive the **power that comes from that love**. To try to put it on an understandable, human level, I think of a man and a woman who are married in the fullness of God's grace, who not only “have fallen in love” but love each other deep down to the core of their being, so that they would sacrifice anything, even their own life, for the benefit of the other. That love that they express to each other is a **palpable** thing which can be felt by someone who enters into their presence. Now if that man and woman were then to turn to the person and direct their love towards him/her, the person would be filled with so much warmth and excitement and joy and happiness. Now take those feelings and multiply it by a thousand or a million times (which we can't even fathom) and that only begins to describe the incredible **power** of the Holy Spirit emanating from the Father and the Son in **their love**. In that love we are showered with incredible gifts of **joy** and **peace** and **forgiveness** and **awe** and, yes, **holiness**. We are filled with a boundless energy. We are able to **accomplish** incredible feats of healing and knowledge or wisdom and discourse. We are able to **see** the beauty in things around us more clearly so that they become radiant and sparkling in our eyes. We are able to **sense** things around us that aren't even visible so that they lift us up out of the ordinariness of our lives onto a higher plane so that it feels like we are walking on air. We are able to **experience** the gifts of the spirit that pour forth from others and be able to truly see the beauty within them. All that and more is open to us, is ours freely given when we turn ourselves to the **Father to do His will**, come to **know the Son** through the Word and **dwell in the Holy Spirit** of God.



Message from Deacon Mike



WGK Michael Dhanens
Grand Knight Report

Brothers. I, again, am encouraged and heartened at the outpouring of faith and support found throughout our parish. There never seems to be a shortage of good news! The most recent financial reporting indicates that the Building Fund continues to grow. There are new members seeking sacraments who added to our faith (and parish) during the Easter season. Monsignor Perry announced new ministries. The food bin and Blessing Bag ministry items are overflowing and continually need to be delivered to charitable organizations in our community. Attendance at Daily Mass has increased, not only during Lent, but beyond. The parking lots and vestibule/lobby are overflowing during some Sunday masses. And members (old and young) are also being added to our Council.

The parish celebrated the second annual Heritage Festival this past Pentecost Sunday that I believe, by any measure, was a huge success. It was tremendous to see so many parishioners in attendance but also so many cultures and nationalities represented in the music, dance, dress and food. As usual, the Knights were a big part of the event, not only cooking a highly successful meal of ribs, fries and watermelon, but in setting up, picking up trash, delivering items to the various drink stations and in cleaning and picking up. It was rewarding to see so many of our own helping make the event run smoothly and successfully. Please, continue to keep our Council, our parish, Monsignor, the deacons and seminarians as well as the office staff in your prayers. And continue to represent the Knights of Columbus well throughout all facets of your lives. Vivat Jesus!

CHARTER MEMBER THOUGHTS ON GETTING OLD

By Jim Patten, PGK, Council 14754

It was nice to reminisce at our May 2023 council meeting with other charter council members, but it was also a good reminder of the fact that I and many of my friends are not getting any younger. About two years ago, the best man at our 1967 wedding passed away. Bob was also a Knight for many years. His widow is coping by sharing thoughts of aging and grief with her friends and family. This is one of the pieces (slightly edited) that she recently shared with her Facebook friends.

What does it feel like to be old?

The other day, a young person asked me: - What did it feel like to be old?

I was surprised by the question, and when he saw my reaction, he was immediately embarrassed, but I explained that it was an interesting question. And, after reflection, I concluded that getting old is a gift.

Sometimes I am surprised at the person who lives in my mirror. But I don't worry about those things for long. I wouldn't trade everything I have for brown hair again and a flat stomach. I don't scold myself for not making the bed, or for eating a few extra little things. I have seen some dear friends leave this world before they had enjoyed the freedom that comes with growing old.

Who cares if I choose to read or play on the computer until 4am and then sleep until who knows what time? I will dance to the rhythm of the 40's, 50's and 60's. And if later I want to cry for some lost love... I will. I'll walk down the beach in a swimsuit that stretches over my plump body despite the pitying looks of youthful onlookers. They'll get old too if they're lucky...

It is true that through the years my heart has ached for the loss of a loved ones, for the pain of a child, or for seeing a pet die. But it is suffering that gives us strength and makes us grow. An unbroken heart is sterile and will never know the happiness of being imperfect. I am proud to have lived long enough for my hair (what is left if it) to turn gray and to retain the smile of my youth, despite the deep furrows now on my face.

Now, to answer the question honestly, I can say: - I like being old, because old age makes me wiser, freer! I know I'm not going to live forever, but while I'm here, I'm going to live by my own laws, those of my heart. I'm not going to regret what wasn't, nor worry about what will be. In the time that remains, I will simply love life as I did until today. For the rest, I will trust in God. A verse of one of the great tunes from the American Songbook goes something like this---I'm goanna live till I die, Goanna laugh instead of cry, I'll be a devil until I'm and angel, Halleluiah!---I'm goanna live, live, live, live, live----until I die.