



## OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

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

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

**Deadline for monthly submission is the first Wednesday of each month.: November 5.**

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

As we head into the heart of Fall, the month of October brings birthday greetings for an impressive 23 members of our council. The average age of Knights born in October is 56.8 years. Our oldest Knight celebrating a birthday this month is 10-year veteran John Mihal. John was born in the first term of Harry Truman's presidency. Our youngest Knight is also one of our newest Knights, Jacob Spriester. Jacob was born in the second term of Bill Clinton's presidency.

One of our longest serving Knights celebrates a birthday this month. Sir Knight Anecito Damo has been a Knight for 38 years. Other Knights with more than 10 years of service include Brent Banducci, Sir Knight Joe Puncer, David Begley, Richard Murillo, Sir Knight Bill Jeffries, Sir Knight Eddie Marmolejo, and Sir Knight Stephan Sanchez. The average years of service of Knights born this month is 10.52.

In a great testimony to the broad base of our council, we have Knights celebrating birthdays this month in every decade of life from the 20s to the 70s. Happy birthday to all of them!

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

2, Brent Banducci, 17	21, Jaime Garrido, 11
5, Joe Puncer, 14	21, Doug Trask, 9
6, Dario Fonseca, 1	21, Brandon Whitehead, 2
7, Roy Olegario, 1	24, Rafael Herrera, 2
8, David Begley, 14	26, Sir Knight Michael Dhanens, 9
9, Richard Murillo, 13	27, Orlando Fernandez, 11
10, Bill Jeffries, 17	27, Andrew Mason, 1
12, Eddie Marmolejo, 20	27, Stephan Sanchez, 17
14, Jacob Spriester, 1	29, Raul Natividad, 5
16, John Mihal, 10	
17, Stephen Dahlstrom, 8	
17, Anecito Damo, 38	
18, Erik Zarate, 9	

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## **CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE**

### **MONSIGNOR PERRY KAVOOKJIAN**

Dear Brother Knights and Friends:

I was doing some bible reading a few days ago and came across this passage from the Letter of James: *When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body.* (James 3:3-6)

St. James hits the nail on the head! Our tongues and our gift of speech can be used to bless or curse. We can speak words of love or words of hate. Not only can our misappropriation of words hurt others but those words can also convict us. I'm convinced that people who speak harshly or boastfully or proudly are revealing their own insecurities and woundedness. Sadly, this is what is happening from the top down in our country these days. There is a real shortage of compassion, mercy and love in the way we speak to each other.

It doesn't have to be this way. As people of faith, we can reject angry or harsh words and choose to speak in a way that is more Christ-like. We would do well to examine our own speech and be honest about what we hear coming from our own mouths. Are we boastful? Angry? Critical? Uncharitable? Do we think we know it all? Perhaps a little humility might lead us to watch our words and to control our tongues so that we can be better witnesses of God's love for others.

Msgr Perry Kavookjian

## **GRAND KNIGHT**

### **ANDY SILVESTRO'S MESSAGE**

#### **What can be done about securing our church from hostile threats?**

The traditional image of a church as an inviolable sanctuary has been tragically challenged by rising statistics of targeted violence. As houses of worship are increasingly viewed as soft targets, active shooter preparedness is no longer a matter of secular prudence, but a moral and practical imperative. Church leaders bear a fundamental responsibility to ensure the physical safety of their congregations, making formalized, regular training a necessity for survival and peace of mind.

Effective security protocols must balance hospitality with vigilance. Training programs, often utilizing the federally endorsed "Run, Hide, Fight" strategy, empower congregants by transforming confusion into decisive action. Furthermore, discreet security teams comprised of trained volunteers and off-duty law enforcement should be established to maintain situational awareness. These teams can identify early warning signs, coordinate with local police, and—crucially—provide immediate aid, including life-saving trauma care like "Stop the Bleed" techniques.

Ultimately, preparing for the unthinkable demonstrates proactive commitment to the community. By conducting well-communicated drills and developing comprehensive emergency action plans, a church mitigates risk, preserves its mission, and assures its members that their spiritual refuge is also a secure space.

Thank you, Monsignor Perry, for taking the first steps in keeping us safe at church. If you don't know, Monsignor is looking for volunteers with law enforcement experience to establish a security team at church. If you are interested in helping with church security, contact Monsignor by email at [padre@setoncatholicchurch.org](mailto:padre@setoncatholicchurch.org).

## **FAITH MESSAGE**

**Bill Jefferies**

**PRAYER...What Is Prayer?** When you have some quiet time in October read in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. **PART FOUR CHRISTIAN PRAYER, 2558 – 2865.** Take some time each day to say your prayers.

**PRAYER... LIFTING HEARTS TO GOD** <https://www.kofc.org/en/who-we-are/our-faith/cor.html>

Through prayer, we encounter Christ and animate our faith and relationship with him. We must first know Jesus and receive from him before we can share him with our families and communities.

Shared time in prayer will help men focus their minds and hearts on God and give depth and life to formation and fraternal brotherhood. Like all relationships, prayer requires commitment and consistency.

**October 2025 Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge “But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner.’”** (Gospel for Oct. 26, Lk 18:13)

The parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector relates back to our August monthly challenge about humility. The Pharisee exalts himself before God, extolling his superiority and keeping of the law.

Meanwhile, the tax collector prays with humility, seeking mercy for his sins. Our culture stresses the importance of “self-esteem,” but we must also remember that all of us are sinners in need of God’s mercy.

We should never approach God in a spirit of pride, but always humbly on our knees — confident of his loving mercy.

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

This month, the month dedicated to the holy rosary, I challenge you to pray five decades of the rosary daily, asking God for humility and mercy.

### **Questions for Reflection:**

Have there been times in your life when you pridefully compared yourself to others, like the Pharisee in this parable? Do you perform a regular and careful examination of conscience so as to remain humbly aware of your sinfulness? What other steps can you take to become more like the tax collector in this parable?

### **October 2025 Saint Feast Days:**

October has a number of Saint Feast Days to include: Oct 1 St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Oct 4 St. Francis of Assisi, Oct 6 St. Bruno, Oct 9 St. Denis and Companions, St John Leonardi, Oct 11 St John XXIII, Oct 14 St. Callistus I, Oct 15 St. Teresa of Jesus, Oct 16 St. Hedwig, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Oct 17<sup>th</sup> St. Ignatius of Antioch, Oct 18 St Luke, Oct 20 St. Paul of the Cross, Oct 22 St. John Paul II, Oct 23 St. John of Capistrano, Oct 24 St. Anthony Mary Claret, Oct 28<sup>th</sup> Sts. Simon and Jude. **Monday**

**Oct 13, we celebrate Columbus Day!**

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

**CRAIG HOLLIDAY**, Membership Director, Chancellor

The 2026 Membership Dues drive will begin this month. All regular and Honorary dues bills will be mailed before our October 13th council meeting. This year's dues will be \$48, as in years past. Members may pay their dues starting at the October 13th council meeting. They may also pay their dues through our council's website (<https://www.koc14754.org/> then go to MAKE A PAYMENT TO OUR COUNCIL).

We are unable to print 2026 membership cards until after November 15th 2025. Members who have paid their dues will receive their membership cards at Council meetings or have them mailed to them after their dues are paid. Honorary life and other Dues exempt members will have their 2026 dues statement and membership cards mailed to them in late November. All dues should be paid by January 15th 2026. As in the past, we would encourage any members who are able to pay optional dues to do so. The optional dues allow us to continue to do the work within our parish and our community that is needed. In the course of the year optional dues contribute to a variety of good causes: Saint Vincent de Paul breakfasts, stipends for our deacons, food drives, etc.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Craig Holliday at [craig\\_holliday@kernhigh.org](mailto:craig_holliday@kernhigh.org) or 661-599-9219.

## **MEMBER PROFILE: Brandon Whitehead**

Jim Patten

Brandon officially joined our council in August 2023. Both he and his wife Allyssia are active SEAS parishioners. She is a lead person in the SEAS Mom's group and now Brandon is a Knight, and he has already begun learning about the sweat equity we provide to the parish by joining with the Knight team that moved and replaced the chairs in the church for the August carpet cleaning. Brandon indicates he joined the Knights for more opportunities for faith-based service. Our members know he will find those opportunities, in addition to the sweat equity chores.

Brandon was born in 1989 and raised in the San Gabriel Valley. He has two older sisters. He graduated from San Marino High School and Pasadena City College. He is a heavy equipment operator with IUOE local 12 here in Bakersfield. He served in the US Marine Corps from 2008-2012 and deployed to Afghanistan, Haiti, and East Africa. (Thanks for your service, Brandon!)

Brandon shared that he enjoys spending time with family, fishing around Catalina Island, and playing dominos, and soccer. (Now we know who to call on if we want to add the Knight's soccer challenge program to our youth activities.)

Brandon and Allyssia were married in 2017 and have two children, Aiden and Ameila. He completed RCIA in 2019, at Holy Family in South Pasadena and is on the SEAS roster as a registered parishioner.

## ON CHRIST WHO DIED FOR SIN

Jim Patten

Little Billy was a smart rascal, and his parents were rich and did not believe in religion. Billy's behavior was so bad that he got kicked out of kindergarten. His parents put him in a public school system for first grade, but his behavior was so bad the public system asked his parents to enter him into a private school. His parents picked a high-end secular private school for second grade, and he did well academically, but due to his continued behavior issues the private school suggested a military academy for third grade. The military academy only worsened Billy's discipline and other behavioral problems. He learned to fight and was able to handle older students who tried to straighten him out, and he could bully kids twice his size. His parents were really upset when the military academy suggested a parochial school for Billy for fourth grade, but they were at their wits end so, despite their nonreligious beliefs, they were able to find a parochial school, St Peter's, staffed with nuns that would admit him.

Billy's parents were surprised when they did not get a call from St Pete's during the first week. They were astounded a month later when they were told at the first parent-teacher conference that Billy was doing just fine both socially and academically, and that the school was glad to have a student like Billy because, although not being Catholic, he was becoming a role model for other students. His astounded parents could not wait to get home and talk with Billy about his amazing turn around. Billy told his parents that he was skeptical about his new school, but on his first day the nuns brought his class into a long dark hall with hard wooden benches and were made to kneel while they viewed an almost naked man under lights at the front of the hall who was nailed to a cross and had obviously been horribly beaten before he was nailed up. The mother superior lectured the students about being studious and not behaving sinfully by being disrespectful to teachers and other students. Then she pointed to the poor guy on the cross and said, "Remember Christ died for sin". Now I do not know what sins this Christ guy did, but I decided then and there to not take any chances.

The moral of this story is that sometimes it is better not to know the full story.

## **2026 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Men's Retreat**

**a retreat with Fr. Jim Nisbet and Monsignor Perry Kavookjian**

***Listening to God: The Next Step***

**St. Anthony's Retreat Center, Three Rivers, CA**

**January 23-25, 2026**

### **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. Highlights include a deeply informative Stations of the Cross, the Scriptures, the Sacraments, 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](mailto:osuetk@bak.rr.com). More details coming soon. **SAVE THE DATE!!**

**Watch for the retreat flyer, registration and updates on the parish website in the very near future.**

## **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*