



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council #14754

Please join us for our next Council meeting, Monday, October 9th 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.

- 09/04 Jesse Hathoway
- 09/04 John Lacertoso
- 09/05 Edward Knudson
- 09/11 Clement Ogbuehi
- 09/16 Ryan Escalante
- 09/20 Francisco Licea
- 09/22 Michael Panos
- 09/23 Robert Borda
- 09/23 Gary Crawford
- 09/26 Christopher Ziemer
- 09/28 Gilbert Aruizu
- 09/28 Luis Naranjo
- 09/28 Matthew Rivera

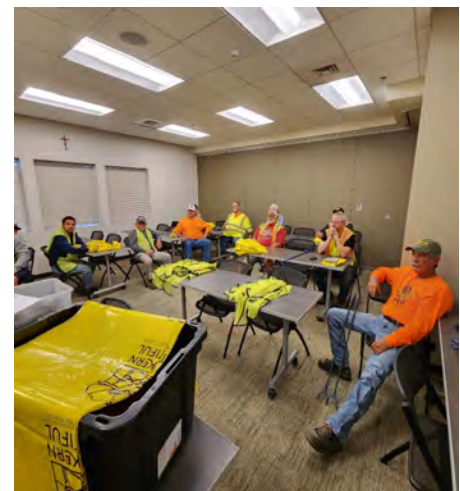
Thanks to all of those who volunteered to prepare and serve breakfast at the St. Vincent DePaul Center to our neighborhood brothers and sisters who are currently struggling. We prepared some 175 plates of French toast, sausage links, scrambled eggs, granola bars and juice. The Center staff and those served were very thankful. May we continue to keep them in our prayers.

Speaking of the St. Vincent DePaul Center, those living on the streets are in desperate need of clothing, especially socks and underwear. Our Council is looking to collect these, as well as hygiene items to donate to the Center. Please bring either a package of socks or underwear to our next General Council meeting, October 09 or contact Michael Dhanens at mdarchitect@sbcglobal.net. These can be purchased at Costco, Sam's Club or other large box retailer and usually come in a package of 6. Thank you in advance.

Also, drop off non-perishable food items to the Knights of Columbus bin in the parish lobby for delivery to Catholic Charities. So much food is donated that Brother Craig Carter reports he has been taking items to Catholic Charities on a weekly basis. Both organizations deserve our on-going generosity!

Thank you to all Brother Knights, and others, who showed up to provide clean up on the Council's stretch of Allen Road on Saturday, September 30. Brother Andy Schooli appreciates all the support.

The Council will again lead a Fifth Sunday Rosary on October 29. Please look for a future Flocknote announcement for specific time. You are encouraged to use this as an opportunity to pray the Rosary with fellow Knights and with the parish. Please consider volunteering to recite a decade.



Brother Knights

Following is an excerpt from a morning homily by Msgr. Perry about Guardian Angels:

The fact that every person is assigned a personal guardian angel is deeply rooted not only in Scripture but also in the writings of the saints and the teachings of the Church. In the Psalms we read, “For he commands his angels with regard to you, to guard you wherever you go. With their hands they shall support you, lest you strike your foot against a stone” ([Psalm 91:11–12](#)). Saint Jerome wrote, “The worth of souls is so great that from birth each one has an angel assigned to him for his protection.” Saint Thomas Aquinas says, “Each man has an angel guardian appointed to him. This rests upon the fact that the guardianship of angels belongs to the execution of Divine providence concerning men” (*Summa Theologiae* 1.113.2). More recently, Pope Saint John Paul II taught, in a General Audience on August 6, 1986, “God has entrusted to the angels a ministry in favor of people. Therefore the Church *confesses her faith in the guardian angels*, venerating them in the liturgy with an appropriate feast and recommending recourse to their protection by frequent prayer, as in the invocation “Angel of God.” Finally, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, quoting Saint Basil, says, “Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life” (CCC #336).

The memorial that we celebrate today did not become a universal feast until the latter part of the seventeenth century, when Pope Clement X placed it on the Roman Calendar. Pope Leo XIII elevated the feast and emphasized its importance in the late nineteenth century. Around the time he did so, he also composed the “Saint Michael the Archangel” prayer. The feast of the Archangels is celebrated September 29, and a few days later, the memorial for all the guardian angels. These two feasts emphasize the fact that God uses some angels for specific purposes that affect all people and that He uses guardian angels to care for each of our specific needs.

The guardian angels can act upon our senses and imaginations, inspiring us one way or another. They can put ideas before our minds to direct us toward God’s will, but they cannot control our wills. By working upon our senses, they can cause us to feel what is right or wrong and urge us to make the right choices. They act contrary to the fallen angels, or demons, who tempt us through false reasoning and base sensate delights. Finally, in Heaven, the guardian angel’s role of leading us to salvation will be complete. Saint Thomas believed that even in Heaven they will have the role of communicating with us and will continue to enlighten us with God’s never-ending and deepening Truth.

As we honor the celestial hosts of the guardian angels, ponder your own angel today. Our angels daily communicate to us. Do you listen? Do you hear? Work to discern your angel’s actions in your life, so that this angelic mission can be better fulfilled. Have confidence that you have a mediator who stands before God and does nothing other than plead on your behalf, continuously working to bring you to eternal salvation.



Msgr Perry Kavookjian



I would like to call your attention to a devotion, that of which Blessed Michael J. McGivney was fond of, that is the Sacred Heart. Take a moment to view the privilege of being a Knight through that privileged lens. As young Michael McGivney came of age and entered the seminary, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Sacred Heart of Mary was popular. Many homes, especially those of Irish Americans, were decorated with framed prints of the images of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and it is quite possible that those images could be found in the McGivney household. Not many of Father McGivney’s letters survive, but one of them that does survive, written to a priest, closes with the words, “Yours truly in the Sacred Heart.” Father McGivney drew the foundational principles of the Order from the Heart of Jesus, to whom he had such a warm devotion, and to whom as a priest, he was sacramentally configured. Yes, in the Heart of Jesus, Father McGivney found an infinite love, not only for humanity in general, but for each person individually. As he prayed the Divine Office and celebrated the Mass and the sacraments, Father McGivney absorbed the love flowing from the heart of Christ and allowed that love to transform him from the inside out, enabling him to have that purity of heart Jesus calls us to in today’s Gospel. In moments of quiet prayer, Father McGivney listened to the voice of the Shepherd, a voice that did not blaze out or shout, but whispered tenderly, as the Heart of Jesus spoke to his priestly heart. When the Holy Spirit inspired Father McGivney to find the Knights of Columbus, is it any wonder that he made charity, the charity of the Heart of Christ, the foundational principle of his new and imaginative endeavor? By his tireless pastoral love, Father McGivney drew many to the heart of Christ, where they discovered their deepest desire — the deepest desire of their hearts for union with God, a charity of love that expresses itself in the works of charity done by the Order as a whole.

While on the topic of charity, we have many events on the horizon that speak to this beautiful pillar of our order. We will be conducting our annual Coats for Kids drive. As you know this initiative benefits so many young adults and kids who are disadvantaged. We partner every year with Catholic Charities who in turn distribute them to where they are most needed. Thanks to the generosity of so many, we as a council can fulfill our obligation to assisting those in the wider community of our city and county. Following our Coats for Kids drive, we will be turning our attention to the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas food drives. These acts speak to the heart of Christ as we know it today. We ask for your continued prayers and support. We know that our Lord is always giving.

Our council is planning to be more active in our spiritual participation throughout the parish. We will be preparing for our 5th Sunday rosary. This is always a good time to come together as a unit and pray to our Blessed Mother. Our council has been invited to lead a Holy Hour in the church grown from the inspiration of the Eucharistic Revival. We are planning to explore the Cor program with the hopes of implementing this into the life of our council. The mission of Cor is to refocus Catholic men on Jesus Christ and to form and strengthen them in faith and virtue through a brotherhood committed to prayer, formation, and fraternity. The goal of each Cor gathering is to provide the opportunity for men to encounter Christ, to pray together, to be formed in their faith, and to strengthen their bonds of brotherhood, preparing them for courageous leadership and the mission of evangelization for their families and communities. It is my belief that iron sharpens iron. We are the iron and as brothers we have a responsibility, through the practice of our faith, to assist each other when the need arises.

I would like to take a moment to express my thanks to you all. For our council to perform at the level that we are accustomed to, it takes all of us. It is not a surprise of the commitment and dedication that flows from each one of you. It not only makes me proud to be a Knight, but even more proud to call myself a member of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council. It is an honor always to lead us throughout this Columbian year. May the Lord continue to bless you and your families. Please keep our departed brothers and their families in your prayers, along with those we speak of in the Good of the Order.

Vivat Jesus!

MEMBER PROFILE-MIKE NEAL-PGK-CHARTER MEMBER & RETIRED CPA

By Jim Patten-PGK & Charter Member, October 2023.

Mike was born in 1948 in Bakersfield where he was raised and had his career. Mike has two younger sisters which makes him the big brother.

Mike attended Highland Elementary School, Standard Jr. High, and North High School. He met his wife Judy while at Bakersfield College (BC). Mike went from BC to CSUB and was in the second graduating class there. His CSUB bachelor's degree is in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting. Mike went on to earn his MBA degree from CSUB. Mike started the accounting student organization at CSUB and was president of the CSUB Athletic Association for several years.

When I started teaching accounting at CSUB in 1982, I learned a lot about Mike since the faculty in the Accounting department were very proud of Mike's top honors academic success and the fact that he passed the CPA exam in one sitting without the benefit of a CPA review course. Anyone familiar with the CPA exam knows that passing in one sitting is an amazing feat. I'm glad to say that my faculty colleagues did not take any credit for Mike's academic success and freely acknowledged that anyone as smart as Mike did not need them to succeed.

Mike worked for three and a half years at the Los Angeles offices of Arthur Anderson which at the time was one of "Big 8" public accounting firms. He came back to Bakersfield in 1977 and worked for 18 years as the chief accountant for the storied Blackwell Land Company. While working at Blackwell he applied for the Agricultural Leadership Program and was accepted to a 3-year program where he got to travel to India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

In 1995 Mike went on from Blackwell to become the Administrative Vice-President at CSUB. Every CSU campus has two vice-presidents that report directly to the campus president. The Academic VP and the Administrative VP. He retired from CSUB in 2014. Mike even squeezed time in to teach some of our accounting courses at CSUB when he was Administrative VP as well as when he was with Blackwell.

As of this writing Mike has 55 years of continuous service with the Knights which make him the longest years of service member in our council. Kevin Streiff comes in at #2 with 50, our chaplain Fr. Perry comes in at #3 with 37, and Jim Gabel comes in at #4 with 34 years.

Mike's dad was GK at the St. Francis #977 council in their 1965/66 fraternal year. Mike joined the Knights with #977 in 1968. Mike became a charter member of our council in 2009 when it was formed and served as an officer in our council for seven consecutive years. Starting with the 2010/11 fraternal year Mike was chancellor for two years, then he became DGK for a year, and GK for our 2014/15 fraternal year. The last three years he was one of our council trustees. Mike's outstanding service record to the Knights, our parish, and the Bakersfield community are proof of the saying that if you want to get something done ask a busy person to do it.

Our council has earned star council status four times as of this writing. The Triple Star council is the highest of the star awards and we earned that recognition in Mike's 2014/15 GK term which was only the sixth year of our council operations. We also earned Double Star recognition in year seven under GK Tony Urzanqui, so Mike got us on a roll. The other star awards were a double star in 2010/11 when Gary Rohr (now deceased) was GK, and a Single Star in 2017/18 when Bill Kundinger (now living in San Antonio) was GK.

Mike and his wife Judy were married in 1967. In 2017 we discovered that Mike was one of five Knights in our council who were married in 1967 and all five couples were at Mike and Judy's 50th wedding anniversary celebration. The other four were Manny and Mary Lopez (Manny died in 2022), Bill and Darrelyn Kundinger, Phil and Diane Frailey, and Jim and Rita Patten.

Mike and Judy have three children, six grand children and one great grandchild. Their oldest daughter is a teacher (like her mom). Their son works for a software company in Santa Barbara, and their youngest daughter is a dental hygienist.

I started this profile in November of 2020 when Sir Knight Sam Duran and I were developing the concept of doing member profiles for our council's newsletters. Since then, we have done some 25 member profiles and have concentrated on newer members, so Mike's profile got put on our back burner until now. Judy helped fill in many of the blanks in my original interview notes with Mike. As many members are aware Mike is facing dementia, so I asked Judy to share what they can about Mike's condition. Here is what she wrote.

"Mike was diagnosed with dementia about three years ago. There is no cure for the condition he was diagnosed with which is Lewy body dementia. Life just becomes more challenging and difficult. We also have a son-in-law who is battling cancer. We ask for prayers to give us strength and comfort during these difficult times."

I filled in Judy about our Fallen Knights committee lead by DGK Bill Jeffries and she thought Mike would be able and like to attend some council meetings, but he would need us to supply transportation.

Here is one of the many photos of Mike from my personal Knight photo album.



ON MEMBERSHIP; By Jim Patten, PGK & Charter Member

Brother Chris Ziemer probably wore more official hats during the last fraternal year than any member. It has been my pleasure to have helped Chris while he managed Financial Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Director chores. Last year I also did articles for our council newsletter including Member Profiles and manage the content of our website. We had a lot of membership changes during the 2022/23 fraternal and it has not been easy to juggle all these chores being shorthanded, so I want to at least acknowledge the names of all our brand-new Knight members, and those members who transferred-in from other councils, and other notable membership changes in the last fraternal year

For this 2023/24 fraternal year we are almost back to having a full staff of officers and directors, so Chris and I will have fewer items on our to do lists, although I think that GK Donovan White and DGK Bill Jeffries will get the most official hat juggling awards this year. Donovan is our GK, Kern/Inyo Chapter VP, and the Faithful Navigator for the Admiral Callaghan 4th Degree Assembly #52. DGK Bill is also our Program Director, Membership Director, and chair of the retention committee. These men have plenty of delegating to do so there are lots of chores for members willing to pitch in.

Here is the list of the 12 brand-new members (and one reactivation) for the 2022/23 fraternal year.

Jason Barnes, Casey Callagy, Danny Davis, Anthony Duncan, Ed Knudson, David Lopez, Henry Villa, Joel Molina, Alfred Quenum, Al Sandrini, Michael Shive, George Smith, Juan Tirado

Here is the list of the six Knights who transferred-in to our council during the 2022/23 fraternal year.

Ron Carr (a PGK & DD), Ben Gaskins, Hough McGowan, Richard Murillo, Luke Puncer (we now have 3 Puncer brothers in our council), Ben Romero

Here are the lists of other notable changes during the 2022/23 fraternal year.

Our two members who deceased and their families remain in our prayers.

Gil Mendez & George Navarro

Out of town members:

Charter Member John Lugo added to our growing list of out-of-town members when he moved to Pinole, CA. We also had six out-of-state members as of 7/1/2023.

Honorary Life Members (HL):

Here are the two 2022/23 members (and their years of service) who became HL members in 2022/23.

Jim Gabel (34) & Kevin Streiff (50)

The other three HL members as of 7/1/2023 are:

Phil Frailey (41), Fr. Perry (37), Mike Neal (55)