



SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council #14754

Website: www.koc14754.org

Deadline for monthly submission is the first Wednesday of each month.: October 1.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September is one of the smaller months in terms of Knight's birthdays. Only fourteen of our Knights celebrate a birthday in September. The average age of Knights born in this month is 56.14 years old. Birthdays include senior statesman like Deputy Grand Knight Mike Panos and website editor Ed Knudson (both born in the second term of Harry Truman) and Rocky Lacertoso (born in Ike Eisenhower's first term). Our two youngest Knights born this month include Ryan Escalante (born in the presidency of George HW Bush) and Armando Martinez (born in the first term of Bill Clinton's presidency).

The Knights with the longest terms of service born in September include Robert Borda (23 yrs), Greg Desme (22 yrs), Dr. Clement Ogbuehi (23 yrs), and Jesse Hathaway (21 yrs). The group also includes relative newcomers like Drew Funderburk, who joined this year and myself, in my second year. Knights born in the month of September have an average length of service of 11.28 years.

September also boasts five members of the 4th degree: Sir Armando Martinez, Sir Clement Ogbuehi, Sir Michael Panos, Sir Gary Crawford, and Sir Chris Ziemer.

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 30s to the 70s. Happy birthday to all of them!

Day, Knight, Yrs service

1, Armando Martinez, 2
4, Jesse Hathaway, 21
4, Rocky Lacertoso, 11
5, Ed Knudson, 3
7, Drew Funderburk, 0
11, Clement Ogbuehi, 23
16, Ryan Escalante, 14
16, Craig Holliday, 2
17, Greg Desme, 22
22, Mike Panos, 8
23, Robert Borda, 23
23, Gary Crawford, 11
26, Chris Ziemer, 11
28, Matt Rivera, 7

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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. More details coming soon. **SAVE THE DATE!!**

GRAND KNIGHT ANDY SILVESTRO'S MESSAGE

Father John Kpan, from Ghana, has been a beacon of hope and a testament to the power of community faith. His work, often in partnership with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, has brought about meaningful change and strengthened the bonds between people of different continents. His mission has centered on developing communities and providing vital resources, a task made possible through the unwavering support of dedicated parishioners.

The Knights of Columbus has been a key ally in this effort. Through their fundraising activities, they have provided essential financial and logistical support. This last couple weekends he has shared his parish progress, needs and appeal with us which has not only raised significant funds but have also served as a focal point for unity, drawing people together for a common cause. This partnership between Father John, the church community, and the Knights of Columbus exemplifies how collective action, driven by faith and charity, can create a lasting impact. Their collaborative spirit has helped to build a stronger, more connected global community, demonstrating that a commitment to service transcends geographical boundaries. It is powerful to see the parallels of building a church in another very different but essential place. May the Lord grant us the same opportunity soon.

My wife, Sara, and I have felt privileged to help Father John collect money for his church Saint Augustine Parish. He has helped our church for last 3 months and has given Monsignor Perry a well-deserved three-week vacation. We cannot thank Father John enough for his support.

Vivat Jesus!!!

WGK Andy Silvestro

ON BINGO

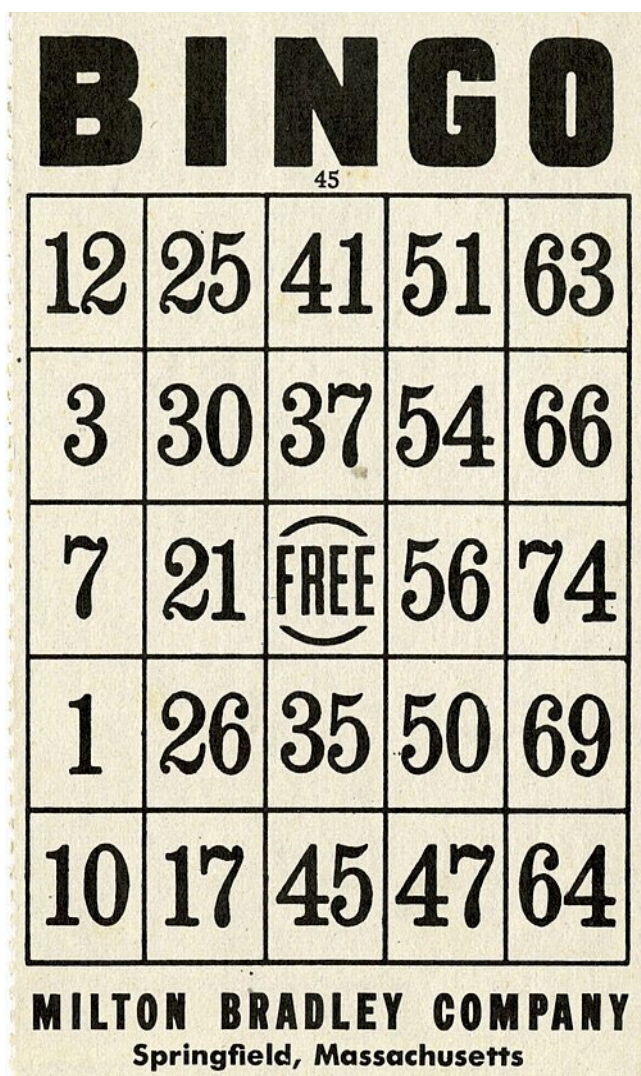
by Jim Patten, August 2025

Bingo games have come a long way since Edwin Lowe discovered in 1929 the carnival game of Beano which he developed into Bingo. Lowe also discovered the game of YAHTZEE which, along with Bingo, became the mainstays of his toy company that he sold to Milton Bradley for \$66 million dollars in 1973.

Protestants, especially those who frown on gambling, claim that Bingo is the sixth precept of the Catholic Church. This is probably due to the success of a Catholic priest who approached Lowe to explore turning Bingo into a good fundraiser for his parish. By 1934 there were 10,000 bingo games operating per week, mostly run by Catholic parishes and Knights of Columbus Halls.

The problem with Lowe's original game was that there were only 24 unique cards in his card deck so when dozens of people used the same 24 cards the result was too many multiple winners in each game which severely limited the game as a fundraiser. Lowe approached a mathematics professor from Columbia University and asked him to produce 6,000 unique Bingo cards. The professor, Carl Leffler did the job, but it is said that he went insane in the process. I am sure that Professor Leffler knew the mathematical possibilities for how many unique Bingo cards could be produced, but in 1930 to come up with 6,000 unique cards without the aid a computer had to be a daunting task. (There are some 552 septillion possible different Bingo cards. One septillion is a 1 followed by 24 zeros.)

The last time I played Bingo was on a Princess cruise ship in 2019. There was a caller and card checkers. When Bingo was called the checkers would simply read out the unique 4-digit serial number on the card. The caller entered that number into his computer terminal which took about 2 seconds to verify that that it was a valid paid winning card based on the numbers called for that game.



The first time I played Bingo probably in 1950 when I was seven years old when my maternal grandmother was babysitting me. Although she had agreed to watch me while my parents went to the annual holiday party held by my dad's company, it was also her Bingo night so part of the deal was that she would bring me to her favorite Bingo Hall. She gave me one card to play while she had eight cards. I learned that everyone smoked at Bingo games, so it was hard to see or breathe. When you had a winning card you shouted BINGO, and if you did not have a winning card when others shouted BINGO you shouted O S—T. The card checkers had to call out each number on a winning card, so when there were multiple winners, it took a while to verify all the winning cards. This was good because it allowed the losers time to take a potty break or buy snacks and drinks.

In was in 1971 when I ran a Bingo game in Bolingbrook, IL for St. Dominic Catholic Church where we were parishioners. Bingo games can be legally operated by nonprofit organizations in most states but are also taxed. Each of the licensed operators had to go through a background check and be photographed and finger printed and were liable for any evasion of the Bingo tax. At least one licensed operator had to be present at each game. Since we had a game every Thursday night in the school hall we had eight licensed operators. Not unlike the first Catholic church to get into Bingo in the 1930's our parish was in financial need and based on the success of the Bingo game in another local parish there was lots of enthusiasm in our parish to run our own game despite the resistance of our pastor who was very aware of the risks and criticisms of Catholic Bingo games.

Our St. Dominic Bingo game was profitable from its first day of operation! In fact, we were racking in about as much on Thursday nights as the Church was collecting at Masses on Sundays. Of course, people still smoked in the 1970's so like grandma's Bingo Hall it was hard to see or breathe and the hall also served as the school lunchroom, so we invested our first week's profit in installing an exhaust ventilation system. We also ran a profitable donut, soda and coffee operation. Fortunately, we had lots of enthusiastic volunteers to help. I and one other man were accountants, and one was an Illinois Highway Patrol officer, so we had security and accounting covered. We needed ten to twelve volunteers each week and although our games ran from 6 to 9pm our volunteers arrived at 5pm for set up and did not get home until 11pm after cleaning up the hall and doing the necessary accounting and Bingo card management chores. I was the primary Bingo caller for the three years we lived in the parish, so I got to exercise my big tenor voice which really helped when our not, so reliable sound system went down, and I had to be heard by two hundred of so avid Bingo players. It also helped being a caller if you had a good sense of humor. Little did I know how well my booming voice and humor would come in handy in my second career as an accounting professor. I had no problem being heard in classrooms with fifty or more students, and, let's face it, accounting courses are not exactly exciting, so having success in calling 75 numbers in a Bingo game humorous and exciting came in very handy in keeping all those accounting numbers fun and interesting.

In doing research for this article I found that Bingo gaming is currently a two-billion-dollar market today. There are some twelve hundred Bingo halls in the U.S., but sixty percent of all Bingo games today are online. In California, where I have lived since 1982, Bingo gaming is controlled at the local governmental level so there are no state-wide stats available on Bingo, but you do not need to look around too much to find local Bingo operations in California. I am not sure if Bingo is still considered the sixth precept of the Catholic Church, but in 2020 when doing the research I did for setting up a webpage for my local Knights of Columbus council in Bakersfield it became clear that Bingo is still a major fundraiser for many Catholic Churches.

The idea for this article came from a 1973 book authored by Marvin Kaye, called *The Story of Monopoly, Silly Putty, Bingo, Twister, Frisbee, Scrabble, Et Cetera*. I found my copy in a used bookstore many years ago, but the book is still available thru Amazon. Kaye can be found on Wikipedia, and his background is very interesting as well as the history of the popular games he covers in his "Story of..." book.

FAITH MESSAGE

Brother Bill Jeffries, Faith Director September 2025

Brothers, as we enter September 2025 here are options to explore to grow in your Catholic Faith. Check the SEAS Calendar at <https://www.setoncatholicchurch.org/calendar>
Schedule to attend the Monday 7AM Communion Service or from Tuesday through Friday Daily Mass at 7AM. On Wednesday there is Eucharist Adoration from 7:30 AM until 12:30 PM at SEAS.
Plan a time to say a Rosary at least once a week while traveling or at home with family.
Spend some quiet time to open your Bible, Prayer Book or go online to check out to receive Daily Readings from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at dailyreadings@usccb.org.
Sign up for the SEAS Men's Bible Study on the 2nd and 4th Saturday 7AM – 8:30 AM. Need your name and email address to send to Msgr. Perry
Checkout the K of C website at <https://www.kofc.org/en/who-we-are/our-faith/cis/index.html> . There is a wealth of resources.
Check out Roman Catholic Saints at <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/>
Check out the Seton Shrine at <https://setonshrine.org/elizabeth-ann-seton/>
Contact me with any questions you may have as Monica, and I have a library of Catholic Books to share with you.
One of my favorite Saints is Padre Pio “Pray , Hope and Don't Worry” check out the web sites <https://padrepio.com/> , <https://saintpiofoundation.org/> , <https://www.padrepio.org/product/english-voice/>

Vivat Jesus!

Bill Jeffries

Trustee, Faith Director, Knights of Columbus Council #14754

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Craig Holliday, Membership Director

As we get into the flow of a new fraternal year, our membership number is up around 200 again. Presently we have 49 Insurance members, 150 Associate members, for a total of 199 members. This reflects the addition of 6 new members since the beginning of the fraternal year. In August we welcomed Michael Campbell and Andrew Mason. Additionally, three members of the Dahlstrom family joined the Council: Jeffrey, Steven D. and Stephen P.

Two more new items to share:

1. In July, Supreme Council transferred 13 members to affiliate council status due to not paying their dues. We hope that these members will choose to rejoin the council at some point down the road.
2. We will begin our 2026 membership drive soon. As always Council members can pay at meetings, online <https://www.koc14754.org/> or by sending a check to our Financial Secretary Chris Ziemer (11704 Copernicus Ave, Bakersfield, 93312).

COUNCIL 14754 FAMILY OF THE YEAR – THE WHITEHEADS



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