



KNIGHTLY NEWS

Saint Maximilian Kolbe Council No. 8762 Pismo Beach, CA
District 52 Division 111

DECEMBER 2015

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 10

A Merry and Joyous Christmas to All from the Knights of Columbus, St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 8762

"Joy to the World...the Lord has come. For Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, opening our hearts and souls to a life of grace – God's Gift to us. Joy enables us to say YES to God's call to His Children, His heirs. And it is Joy that bids us to invite many others to the life of grace awaiting them." Franciscan Mission Associates *FOCUS*

Grand Knight's Message

Dear Brother Knights,

I hope you and your families have been enjoying our long-awaited cool fall weather. As usual, fall has entered in a rush of activity! Our annual Spaghetti Feed held on Nov. 7 was a great success offering an evening of delicious food and fellowship. Our proceeds will be given to Five Cities Christian Women's Organization and Meals on Wheels all for our Five Cities area. As always, our heartfelt thanks go out to the many volunteers who cooked, served and cleaned up, and especially, Bob Perrault, our chairman.

Our November Potluck was attended by several new faces who we hope will become regulars! Father Alphonse graciously blessed the Prayer Books we are giving to our enlisted active duty parishioners of St. Paul's Parish. Father also blessed the olive wood crosses we are selling for our Christian Refugee Relief Program. These beautiful crosses, sold for \$10 each, are adding to the \$4 million we have already donated in Iraq and Syria through the Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund. The Christians in the Middle East face persecution and extinctions simply for their belief in the one who taught us to love one another. We will do our part to help them find solidarity in their great witness! I ask you all to help and pray in our efforts to help them as they remain true to their faith!

Our *Magnificat* Advent books sold after all the Masses in November went quickly. We also donate 50 to the Men's Colony. They are a wonderful way to make your Advent Season closer to the reason for the season!

Please remember our neighbors in Russia and France, as you give your own Thanksgiving thanks to the Lord! Shar and I wish you and your families a most blessed, peaceful Thanksgiving holiday!

Yours in Christ, Mel Ormonde, Grand Knight (805) 556-0223

District Deputy Message

Brothers,

Advent (right after Thanksgiving) is the beginning of the liturgical year and a time to begin anew. A time to reflect on our spiritual condition and reflect on what we need to change, improve or begin to help our soul.

Conversely, December is the mid-point of our Columbian year: a time to reflect on what we have accomplished in the first half of the year. Are we individually giving to our councils' needs? Are we obtaining what we hope to receive by participation in the Knights of Columbus? Is our council meeting its goals? Any changes at the mid-point? Reflect on where you are now; New Year is coming soon. Time to make any needed changes.

Vivat Jesus - Dan Anderson DD 58



Visit the website at:

[stpaulspismoeach.com/
knights](http://stpaulspismoeach.com/knights)



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR BROTHER ROBERT



CALENDAR

December	
16	First Degree Ceremony
January	
15-16	Marian Conference: St. Rose's Church, Paso Robles

Coalition Against Assisted Suicide

A referendum is currently pending that seeks to put the assisted suicide law before the voters. If qualified for the ballot, the law would be stayed and will not go into effect. Voters would have an opportunity next November to reject assisted suicide.

The referendum coalition, Coalition Against Assisted Suicide, must obtain the signatures of over 365,000 registered voters by January 4th, meaning that approximately 500,000 petition signatures are needed to allow for a reasonable degree of invalid signatures. California's Catholic bishops, one of our coalition partners, has permitted signature gathering in Catholic parishes to help with securing the necessary signatures.

If you would like to join the effort to give voters the ability to overturn this legislation, gathering signatures or making a financial contribution, go to <http://www.stopassistedsuicide.com>

"Faithful Citizenship," The U.S. Roman Catholic bishops have issued an election-year guide stressing a moral imperative to evaluate candidates according to their position on marriage and abortion among other key issues. With the election a year away, this will be a pivotal election for the faithful to remain informed on topics and candidates.



SIR KNIGHT - Father Alphonse

While we enjoyed the Spaghetti Dinner on November 7, Fr. Alphonse and District Deputy Dan Anderson were attending a Fourth Degree Exemplification Ceremony. Along with other Knights from the central 1/3 of the State, the ceremony was held in Camarillo. Both then were able to attend the Dinner to the delight of everyone there. The primary purpose of the Fourth Degree is to foster the spirit of patriotism and to encourage active Catholic citizenship. Fr. Alphonse admirably exemplifies both of the major purposes. He now joins the Fourth Degree Knights in the J. J. Mitty Assembly composed of other area Knights.



CONGRATULATIONS !!!

Now, with only about 18% of Knights attaining the Fourth Degree, how many in our Council should also join?

A PASTA PARADISE was enjoyed by over 250 on November 7th. This was a significant increase over last year's event. A huge THANK YOU to all who bought and sold tickets. Both the Five Cities Christian Women and Meals on Wheels benefit from this annual event. Special appreciation to all the Knights (and family members) who helped prepare, set up, serve, and ESPECIALLY the cleanup. The pots and pans seemed to be piled to the ceiling!!

MEMBERSHIP: PLEASE return ASAP and PLEASE don't forget any email addresses . . . we need to keep in touch!!!

Love Rules its Kingdom without a Sword

CALENDAR: December 2015
16th First Degree Ceremonial: location TBD



MARTHA'S MINISTRY: If you have ever attended a gathering after a funeral in the Parish Hall, you know Martha's Ministry as the folks who prepare, serve and clean up for every event. All volunteers, the ministry is in **great need of help**. It takes 18 volunteers for every gathering and assignments are scheduled for about 2 hours for various tasks. PLEASE consider giving a bit of your time (with a spouse?) as the family, relatives and friends gather (some haven't visited in a very long time) to remember and celebrate another soul going home. *Contact: JoAnn Farmer at joann.farmer@gmail.com*



COLUMBIA CORNER.....A Keepsake Edition

Another great issue with a very telling cover: Pope Francis addressing the United States Congress with the motto "In God We Trust" chiseled into the marble behind him. For the Papal visit organized under the theme "LOVE IS OUR MISSION," *Columbia* Magazine devotes page after page to the Holy Father's visit in text (mostly his comments) and extraordinary images. Knights were involved every step of the way in the planning, financing, and attendance. In five very busy days, our 79 year old pontiff (his birthday is December 17) greeted hundreds of thousands of well-wishers (including our Supreme Knight), traveled in parades and among other events . . .

- celebrated Mass for an enormous crowd (estimated at 800,000)
- visited with Catholic school children
- spoke before a joint meeting of Congress
- delivered a major speech at the United Nations
- visited a homeless meal program as well as detainees in a correctional facility
- made an unannounced visit to the Little Sisters of the Poor
- celebrated vespers at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City
- prayed at the 9/11 Memorial
- celebrated Mass in Madison Square Garden
- spoke at Independence Hall in Philadelphia
- culminated his visit at the Eighth World Meetings of Families.

Previous to his arrival in Washington, D. C, he visited Cuba encouraging all to live a "revolution of tenderness."



Rev. Thomas Czeck
Steven Halweg
Michael Luczak
David Nicols
Jaime Rivera



Jubilee Year of Mercy begins on December 8 until November 16, 2016: A handy daily reflection, scripture reading, etc. is available by going to iTunes or Google Play Stores to install the free app today! OSV.com/yom

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: December 8: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

ST. JUNIPERO SERRA

California's spiritual founder, Franciscan St. Junipero Serra (1713-1784), was canonized on September 23. It was the first canonization Mass celebrated in America. At a grand ceremony in front of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (Washington, D. C.) celebrating this local saint, Pope Francis proclaimed: "Today we remember one...who testified to the joy of the Gospel in these lands." Serra "learned how to bring to birth and nurture God's life in the faces of everyone he met; he made them his brothers and sisters." Serra's legacy is especially poignant for us as he traveled here on his missionary journeys on seven occasions. His feast day is July 1.

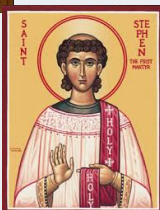
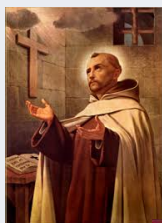
WORDS FOR ALL: Pope Francis visiting a Catholic school: "All of you here, children and adults, have a right to dream. Wherever there are dreams, wherever there is joy, Jesus is always present. Always."

SAINTS OF THE MONTH

Dec. 14th: Saint John of the Cross (1542-1591): a major figure of the Counter-Reformation was a Spanish mystic and a Carmelite friar and a reformer of the Carmelite Order. He is considered, along with Saint Teresa of Ávila, as a founder of the Discalced Carmelites. Producing a large body of spiritual writings, he is as relevant today as 500 years ago. He was canonized as a saint in 1726 by Pope Benedict XIII and is one of the thirty-six Doctors of the Church.

Dec. 26th: St. Stephen's name means "crown," and he was the first disciple of Jesus to receive the martyr's crown. Celebrated the day after the Lord's birth, his feast day provides a counterpoint to the joyous celebration of the coming of the Lord to us. Stephen was a deacon in the early Christian church. Needing help, the Apostles ordained seven deacons, and Stephen is the most famous of these.

Dec. 28th: The Holy Innocents: Angry at being deluded by the Wise Men, Herod ordered the killing of all male children under two years old in Bethlehem and surrounding villages. Today's holy innocents are the babies being destroyed by abortions.



Persecuted Iraqi Families

In September, Knights provided more than 13,500 families with a one-month's supply of food in an ongoing effort to alleviate the suffering of those who are being persecuted simply for their faith. Furthermore, commented Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, "they need our solidarity and our support." Thus far, Knights have contributed \$4 million in aiding the growing population of religious refugees. Donations are always needed: www.christianatrisk.org

We are selling wooden crosses to add to the desperately needed funds.

PRO-LIFE: The battle to protect the unborn continues as Planned Parenthood continues to harvest body parts and the secular press, the president and some candidates for election either ignore or praise their work. Stay in touch with local efforts at: embracelifeinslo@aol.com



ROSARY WARRIORS

We need "**prayer that storms the heavens** for justice and mercy, prayer that cleanses our hearts and souls." Only in this way "will the culture of death that surrounds us today be replaced with a Culture of Life." ~ *United States Catholic Bishops Conference's Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities*

Enlisting faithful Catholics throughout the USA and the world in Operation '**Storm Heaven**' by praying one Rosary on the 1st of each month in union with the Holy Mass and Rosary that Cardinal Burke will celebrate for the intentions listed. Rosary Warriors besiege Heaven with prayer and spread the Light of Truth throughout America and the world; rally and unite faithful Catholics into a united voice to beseech Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the angels and saints to hear our prayers and to come to our aid.

GOALS

- bring Hope to souls and minds throughout America and the world;
- provide spiritual support in the struggle against the temptations of discouragement;
- to protect our families and our Faith;
- to stop the advance of evil in our society;
- and to flood souls with Grace and Light and Truth.

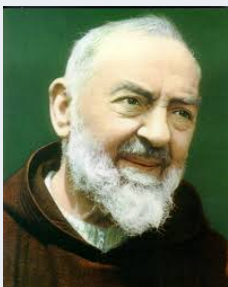
St. Padre Pio

"Pray, hope and don't worry". "For my thoughts are *not* your thoughts, neither are *your ways my ways*," says the Lord. (Isaiah 55:8)

Man desperately needs to avoid the utterly destructive error of confusing his own rational wisdom with the transcendent Wisdom that created all things and directs all things to their proper ends. Transcendent Wisdom comes from above and is the source of everything that exists, including man's rational powers and judgment. Without that higher and supreme Wisdom, man inevitably ends up walking in darkness, the darkness his own sin has created.

In addition to her victories, which are many, many to be sure, the Church suffers defeat after defeat down through her history, sometimes through the malice of the world, often enough through our stupidity and sinfulness. But these are never total, irredeemable defeats, and Christian wisdom, Mary's wisdom, can always detect the redemption awaiting its moment in these apparent catastrophes.

And so we **Christians never lose hope**. Whatever men may do that will harm the Church and her mission, we believe deeply that God will pull victory out of that defeat. That's the true "Hail Mary" victory pass that never fails to amaze us, and keeps us filled with that joy that no one can take from us.



Insurance

Brother Knights,

I write to you today to share some wonderful news. On November 3, your Knights of Columbus surpassed \$100 Billion of life insurance in force, further cementing our position as one of the largest life insurers in North America.

It is a tremendous achievement, and one that we should all celebrate – let me tell you why.

It's not about the number. It's not that \$100 Billion isn't impressive – it is. It's not that it doesn't matter – it does. But it's about the purpose and the potential of those dollars, not the dollars in and of themselves.

It's \$100 billion of protection for brother Knights and their families. It's \$100 billion of real money, waiting to be paid out, to keep the hopes and dreams of Catholic families alive when a breadwinner suddenly dies. It's a \$100 billion promise that our members have entrusted to us.

I smile when I see that number. I smile, not because I like big numbers. It's not the number that impresses me. But the Supreme Council office tells me that on an average night that 74 brother Knights passed away. 74 of them. And yet only 30 have insurance with the Knights of Columbus. There are 44 widows somewhere out there to whom we have nothing to give. To be sure we have prayers, and dinners, and fundraisers. But we don't have enough. We don't have enough to send the children to school. We don't have enough to save the family home. We don't have enough to make a terrible time easier.

That \$100 billion number makes me smile because I know that bringing that number up, means bringing the number of unprotected widows down. I know that sometime in the not too distant future, 100 will become 150, and 150 will become 200, and subsequently the number of brother Knights left uninsured at the time of their death will decrease, the number of widows and orphans provided for will increase, and Catholic families will flourish, despite the odds, because of the diligent planning of a brother Knight – just as Father McGivney would have wanted.

What a tremendous number. What a point of pride for you and for me!

For those of you that have given the Knights of Columbus the privilege of helping to protect your family's financial future: thank you for your trust.

For those of you that haven't yet: there has never been a better time to turn to your Knights of Columbus. We are here to protect you, just as Father McGivney intended us to be. That is a claim that no other company can ever make. We are the premier Catholic insurance company, and we are yours.



Kyle Casey (805) 538 8174 Kyle.casey@kofc.org

Nothing will work unless you do

From Grand Knight Mel . . .

Now that I'm older here's what I've discovered:

Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.

Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.

If all is not lost, then where the heck is it?

It was a whole lot easier to get older than to get wiser.

Some days you're the top dog, some days you're the hydrant.

The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

I wish the buck really did stop here. I sure could use a few of them.

Kids in the back seat cause accidents.



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