

KNIGHT LETTER – May 2016

Volume 2016, No. 5



Knights of Columbus
Sacramento Council 953
5961 Newman Ct.
Sacramento, CA 95819
(916) 736-0953

Sacramento Council 953
District 9
"GO! Make a difference."



www.kofc953.org

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Grand Knight	Lewis Muñoz
Deputy GK	Bryan McKrell
Chancellor	Adam Struck
Warden	Garrett Thomas
Recorder	John Watling
Treasurer	Dale Edwards
Advocate	Matthew Lucien
Inside Guard	Michael Litwin
Outside Guard	Greg Wolfe
Lecturer	
Financial Secretary	John Sheldon

TRUSTEES

3-Year	George Mills/Michelle
2-Year	Fred Struck/Mary
1-Year	Al Piccardo/Peggy

CHAPLAIN Vacant

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR Dn. George Kriske/Karen

HALL SETUP/CLEANUP

Terry Corcoran

HALL RENTAL

Steve Mills

HOME CORPORATION BOARD (Building Association to Which All Belong)

*GK Lewis Muñoz	*DGK Bryan McKrell	* By Virtue of Council Office
President	David Carboni	
Vice President	William "Bill" Renard	
Treasurer	Terry Corcoran	
Recorder	Steve Mills	
Member	PGK Al Piccardo	
Member	Rudy Nagle	
Member	Bob Ocenosak	

SERVICE PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Programs	Bryan McKrell
Church	Joe Miceli
Community	Matt Curran
Council	Matthew Lucien
Family	Vacant
Membership	John Watling
Youth	Dale Edwards
Pro-Life	Hector Garcia
Health	Michael Litwin
District Deputy #9	Ricardo Saldaña
Ins. General Agent	Todd Cabral
Insurance Agent	Philip De Leon
Knight Letter	Adam Struck
Webmaster	Fred Struck

CHAPTER DELEGATES

GK Lewis Muñoz
PGK Floyd Wells
PGK Dick Cutting



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 953
BUSINESS DIRECTORY**



**HALL RENTALS
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

5961 Newman Court
Sacramento, CA 95819
Phone (916) 736-0953

Hall Rental
Steve Mills 599-8522
Hall Setup/Cleanup
Terry Corcoran 224-7786

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Calendar of Events

Get updated event information 24 hours a day at <http://sacramento.kofc953.org/calendar>

May	5	Thursday		Feast of the Ascension
			7:00 pm	Officers and Directors Meeting
	8	Sunday		Mothers Day
	12	Thursday	6:00 pm	Dinner (Hall Opens at 5:30)
			7:00 pm	General Business Meeting
	15	Sunday		Pentecost
	16	Monday	7:30 pm	First Degree Exemplification
	22	Sunday	10:00 am	Final Newman Mass
	30	Monday		Memorial Day
June	2	Thursday	7:00 pm	Officers and Directors Meeting
	9	Thursday	6:00 pm	Dinner (Hall Opens at 5:30)
			7:00 pm	General Business Meeting
	14	Tuesday		Flag Day
	30	Thursday	6:30 pm	PGK & Old Timer Dinner/Installation of Officers
	19	Sunday		Fathers Day

GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Brother Knights and Knight Families:

There are approximately 2 months left in this Columbian year. Much has occurred in our Diocese this year in the area of vocations, which I wish to report to you. First, this report would not be possible without the great research performed by our Worthy Chancellor, Brother Adam Struck, who has been keeping us apprised of the status of vocations in our Diocese and facilitated payment of scholarship to 4 seminarians we are currently sponsoring this year.

As you know, many Councils, such as ours, support vocations through scholarships paid to seminarians, and our Supreme Council will match our scholarship monies. I am pleased to report that we have been consistent with providing approximately \$2,000 in annual scholarship monies for seminarians. However, as report by our Worthy Chancellor, vocations have been on the decline for the Catholic Church in the U.S. and continues to be a challenge.

In 1975, there were 58,909 priests in the United States. According to a Georgetown University study, as of 2014 that number was 39,600 - a 33% drop. Meanwhile, America's Catholic population rose from 54.5 million to 78.2 million during that same period - a 43% increase. Nationally, 1 in 5 parishes have no resident priest (20% of U.S. parishes), yet America's Catholic population rises annually at a 1% rate, while seminary enrollment remains flat.

GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE (cont.)

Elsewhere in the world vocations to the priesthood and religious life have dramatically increased in the last 30 years. In Africa, they increased by 394%; in Southeast Asia by 152%; in Central America by 253%. It is only in the U.S. and Western Europe that there has been a decline.

Locally, we are experiencing this decline in vocations in our parishes. Geographically, the Sacramento Diocese covers 20 counties or 42,597 square miles (all the way to the Oregon Border). Out of a population of 3,574,415 within the Diocese there are 994,767 Catholics. As of 2014, we have 102 parishes with approximately 81 Resident Diocesan Priests and 16 Resident Religious Priests. The population in the Diocese continues to grow and compounding this problem is recently the Franciscans (2 Franciscan priests) can no longer staff St. Francis of Assisi Parish after having built the church and staffing it for over 120 years. Two of its parish priests are being called back to its Provincial in Santa Barbara as that religious order is experiencing a decline in religious members. The Diocese is in the process of staffing it in the midst of this priest shortage. Another example of this vocational decline is the Bishop having to balance resources, leading to his decision to close the Sacramento Newman Center to the permanent non-student community after being active for over 40 years. It should be noted that the Newman Center closure to non-student members is part of a broader strategic plan the Bishop has to increase student membership in these Newman Campus Clubs. Thus, with the Franciscans leaving and the recent death of Fr. Patrick Lee of Presentation Parish in Carmichael, the availability of priests in the Diocese is much lower.

Nevertheless, do not despair. There are currently 27 men studying in the seminary, including 4 men who were recently accepted and will begin their studies this summer or fall. There are 5 or 6 additional men in the process of serious discernment, and the Diocese Office of Religious Vocations has experienced more inquiries about vocations than in years past. According to Deacon Luigi Del Gaudio (a Diocesan Vocations Coordinator), "things are on an upswing." Meanwhile, the average age of a Diocesan priest is 63 years old. On an odd note, we understand that the Dominican Seminary in Berkeley, California, is full.

Brothers, let's keep vocations in our prayers and financial support. Many thanks again to Brother Adam, our Chancellor, for the great research on this report.

Vivat Jesus!
Lewis Muñoz
Grand Knight, Council 953

First Degree Exemplification

The council will be holding a First Degree Exemplification on Monday, June 16. All members are invited to attend to both observe the ceremony and welcome our new Brother Knights. The doors to the council hall will be open at 6:15 pm, and we are requesting that all candidates arrive no later than 7:00. The exemplification shall begin at 7:30 (or shortly thereafter). Refreshments will be served following the exemplification. For additional information, please contact Membership Director John Watling at 388-1233 or Financial Secretary John Sheldon at 548-4944.

Final Newman Mass and Luncheon

The final public mass at the Newman Catholic Community at Sacramento State will be held at 10:00 am on Sunday, May 22. We would like to encourage all members of Council 953 to attend this final mass as a showing of support for our Brothers at Newman as they search for new parishes to call home. The mass will be followed by a luncheon. Tickets for the luncheon are currently **sold out**, but those who wish to attend may place their names on a waiting list for tickets at <http://www.sacnewman.org/last-mass>. For additional information, please contact John Watling.

Officers Nominated by the Committee for the 2016-17 Columbian Year

The committee has nominated the following slate of officers for the 2016-17 Columbian Year. The slate of officers will be read at the May business meeting and voted on at the June business meeting:

Grand Knight – Bryan McKrell
Deputy Grand Knight – Adam Struck
Chancellor – Garrett Thomas
Warden – Michael Litwin
Recorder – Matt Curran
Inside Guard – Greg Wolfe
Outside Guard – Clif Bachmeier
Advocate – Matt Lucien
Treasurer – John Watling

3 Year Trustee – Lewis Muñoz
2 Year Trustee – George Mills
1 Year Trustee – Fred Struck

Financial Secretary – John Sheldon
(Appointed by Supreme – no vote needed)

Nominations may be accepted from the floor at the May business meeting, provided the nominee has agreed to serve if elected.

Catholic Information Service

For 60 years the Knights of Columbus has brought the teachings of the Catholic Church to millions through easy-to-read booklets published by the Catholic Information Service. New titles are being added to our catalog regularly, all aimed at helping you understand more completely the richness of the Catholic faith and Catholic life. For further information go to <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/cis/index.html>

Change of Contact Information

Please notify your council of any change in mailing address, telephone number or email address. Changes can be submitted by phone message at (916) 736-0953 or by email at fs@kofc953.org.



Knights of Columbus Insurance
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The Knights of Columbus is known throughout the world for its charitable giving and its tireless service to the Church. But since its founding, the Knights has had another way to minister to Catholic families: its insurance program. Beginning with the Order’s first insurance member – our founder, Father Michael J. McGivney – the Knights have sought to provide financial protection to prevent against devastating hardship. Here are a few numbers that will help you understand how the Knights of Columbus Insurance program is doing today:

\$100 Billion. That’s the amount of “in force” coverage the Knights of Columbus has. Put differently, the Knights of Columbus has active policies which are expected to pay out death benefits to members and beneficiaries in the total amount of \$100 Billion. It’s \$100 Billion of real money, of financial protection for Catholic families made possible by the Knights of Columbus and their insurance products. We are the only Catholic insurer in North America to exceed \$100 Billion of life insurance in force.

\$21 Billion. The Knights of Columbus manages \$21 Billion of assets from their international headquarters in New Haven, Conn., putting the Knights in the top five percent of largest life insurers in North America. We manage our assets in an ethical and responsible way. We do not invest in companies that deal in: abortions, contraception, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, for-profit healthcare that pays for any of the aforementioned, or pornography.

2 Million. The Knights of Columbus has more than two million active contracts in force. That means that hundreds of thousands of brother Knights have elected to help protect their family and their futures with us.

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40 Years. That’s the number of consecutive top-mark ratings we’ve earned from A.M. Best. Since 1975, the Knights of Columbus has earned the highest rating possible for financial strength (A++, Superior).

There's never been a better time to turn to the Knights of Columbus to help protect you and your family. Contact me today, and I'll be more than happy to tell you more about the wonderful benefits that the Knights of Columbus Insurance program has to offer.



Fraternally,

Philip De Leon

(916) 607-1645

philip.deleon@kofc.org

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For Whom We Pray

Memorial Mass: None this month
Spiritual Bouquets: None this month
Sick: Charlie Nulk



If someone in your family is hospitalized or sick, contact Michael Litwin at (916) 208-2426 or pray@kofc953.org. A spiritual bouquet will be sent to them in our Council's name. Prayers are the best medicine for the sick. Mass cards are also sent to the families of deceased Brothers or deceased members of their immediate families. WE NEED YOUR HELP! The spiritual bouquets and Mass cards cannot be sent if we are not told of the need. So please let us know by contacting Michael at pray@kofc953.org.



You may also make a prayer request by leaving a comment at the council web site under prayer requests <http://sacramento.kofc953.org/prayer>

Business Meeting Dinners

Below is the upcoming schedule with the names of the volunteer cooks and greeters:

Month	Cooks	Menu	Greeters
May	TBA	TBA	TBA
June	TBA	TBA	TBA
July	TBA	TBA	TBA

Your meal at the business meeting is free in the month of your birthday. All members of Council 953 who have a birthday in the month of May get to eat for free at the May business meeting. Happy birthday!

Council Web Site

Please take the time to visit our Council web site at <http://www.kofc953.org>. You can download current or past issues of the Knight Letter. All articles published by the Northern California Chapter of the Knights of Columbus are now published on our website as well. In addition there is a calendar page listing all our council events, a photo gallery page and links to other websites of interest. Also if you go to the Prayer Request page at <http://sacramento.kofc953.org/prayer> you may post a prayer request by leaving a comment. Also the Northern California Chapter has recently redesigned their website, the address of which is <http://www.kofcncc.org>.