

Desert Knights

November 2011

Knights of Columbus
Lancaster Council 2455



Columbian Year 2011-2012
Council 2455 Website:
www.KofC-LancasterCouncil2455.org



Grand Knight's Report

Ken Merrill

My Brothers,

November brings us the Memorial Mass (Nov 17th), where we pay tribute to those faithful Brothers who went before us and showed us the way to be with God in Heaven. May we one day get to meet all those fine Brothers. After all what better way to show the physical presents of God that to be a faithful Knight and display acts of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

Work your prospective candidates and get them into a 1st & 2nd Degree. The once a year 3rd Degree is just around the corner January 21, 2012. We will be working hard with the Councils in the area to hold these two degree if our hall is not available. We had a 1st Degree in October and will need to schedule a 2nd Degree in November or December. Remember the Quartz Hill Council will be conducting 1st Degrees on Saturdays for those who have a hard time getting to the degrees during the week. We may even have to hold a 2nd Degree on a Saturday just to ensure eligibility for the 3rd Degree. More to come on that issue.

And all you 2nd Degree Knight mark your calendars for January 21st and the 3rd Degree. It will be a great experience and one that your wife can share in by attending the wives function that day. Then we all gather for a meal afterward. A time reminder will be placed in the December and January newsletters with more details on the show times. Note: there will not be a mass and we will change the hall from the degree configuration to one where we can sit down and eat. Once the hall is set then we will be serving the meal.

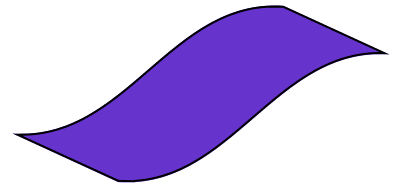
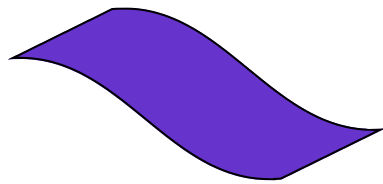
Retention!!! Starting in January we need to hit the retention trail hot and heavy. Brothers coming back in January or February will gain the most out of their reinstatement dues. If you know of a member especially one you signed up that have dropped talk to them and see if they will rejoin the council. Include things like Family Movie Nights, BBQs, Camp-Out in the out-back, Corporate Communion that turn into omelet fests and more. We need their ideas to improve this council and get it to grow again.

New members are always welcome.

God's Peace & Love be With You,
Ken Merrill



Chaplain's Report



Father Tom Baker

Dear Brother Knights,

In the gospel of Luke we hear the angel Gabriel tell Mary, “Nothing is Impossible for God” (Luke 1:37). That scripture chapter and verse (137) was my race number when I participated in a long course triathlon on October 1. I usually find a quote from the Bible that coincides with my race number and use that as a mantra during the race. As I competed in this 1.5 mile swim, 48 mile bike and 9.3 mile run, I again and again reverted to that scripture, “nothing is impossible with God.” That quote was realized when I finished 1st in my age group in that triathlon.

These last months have been a tremendous blessing for me. First, on July 1, my second term as pastor of Sacred Heart Church began. I have been greatly blessed in my first 6 year term and look forward with hope and anticipation to these next 6 years. Second, the development and construction on our new property began and is now well underway. It is wonderful to see progress and to join in the excitement with so many faithful parishioners. Third, I have made some remarkable progress as a triathlete. For over 25 years I have participated in triathlons and competed in over 75 events. Until two years ago I never placed in my age group. In 2009, after moving into the 50-54 year age group, I placed twice, once first and once second. This year, in 6 events, I have placed in the top 10 of my age group in all events and in the top three in 4 out of the 6. I attribute the success to God’s grace and more focus (due to the demands of the building project and other archdiocesan and parish responsibilities my training time has been limited yet more focused). In my last race, October 15, my number was 206 and I came in 3rd in my age group. Let me end with these words from Psalm 20 verse 6 and let it be this month’s mantra for us all: “May we shout for joy at your victory, raise the banners in the name of our God.” To Him be glory and honor forever.

Fr. Tom



Deputy Grand Knight's Report

Tim Loeb

My Brother Knights,

Thanksgiving is almost here and I can almost taste the turkey stuffing! I can see it now... family and friends sitting around and having a great time, enjoying a delicious meal, good conversations, and everything that goes with it. After dinner is done, we usually enjoy a warm slice of pumpkin pie, and when the last bite of pie is eaten most of us are stuffed into exhaustion! It's easy to remember these good times with a smile, but how many of us have ever experienced a hungry belly at night? I can't help but be drawn to the latest news of so many hungry children around the world who won't have dinner tonight, let alone a Thanksgiving feast. Thank you to the many Knights and their families who continue to serve the poor in our area. As always, St. Vincent DePaul and other organizations will be distributing food baskets. If you haven't had the opportunity to help out at St. Vincent de Paul, now is your chance to start! I know many brothers who regularly give of their time (and cooking skills) to feed our local needy, and could always use an extra hand or two.

November is also a time in the Columbian year that we remember brother Knights who have passed on. On November 17th, there will be a Memorial Mass at the hall for us to remember our Brother deceased Knights. Dinner will be served after the Mass. All are invited to attend the Mass and dinner. I encourage all Knights and their families to come to this event.

The Knights' annual Poker Night is scheduled for Nov. 23rd, right after Wednesday afternoon bingo. There will be high and low stakes tables, as well as a variety of poker games played. Bring your money and have a fun time!

November Dates to Remember:

November 17th - Memorial Mass

November 18th -Squire's Dance

November 23rd -Poker Knight

God Bless and have a Happy Thanksgiving,

Tim Loeb

DGK



Pro-Life Director

Vince Interrante



Dear Brother Knights,

In President Ronald Reagan's article Abortion and the Conscience of the Nation, he wrote, "...We cannot diminish that value of one category of human life, the unborn, without diminishing the value of all human life..." Those were prophetic words indeed. Abortion has left painful scars that may never fade. Most troubling to me is the effect it has had on motherhood. Prominent studies show that woman who have had abortions, are more likely to have mental health problems, which in turn can lead to suicide, child abuse, and even infanticide.

Last September, a CBS report titled, Abortion tied to sharp decline in women's mental health, caused quite a stir, especially since it was covered by the mainstream news. Its focus was a study by American researcher, Dr. Priscilla Coleman of Bowling Green State University. It showed that abortion increases the risk of women's mental health problems by 81% and accounts for one in ten of every adverse mental health issue women face as a whole. It was based on an analysis of 22 separate studies which, in total, examining the pregnancy experiences of 877,000 women, with 163,831 having an abortion. This review offers the largest estimate of mental health risks associated with abortion available in world literature. It is especially significant because it was published in the British Journal of Psychiatry, which is considered one of the top psychiatry journals in the world. Its contents are extensively scrutinized by well-respected scientists and the results and studies are trusted by practitioners throughout the world. Dr. Coleman indicated that older studies that published less systematic reviews of the scientific literature are prone to bias, and are actively misleading the public, including those by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and John Hopkins researchers. As you can imagine, there is quite a battle going on because of her statement. In 1990, APA stated that they found that "severe negative reactions after abortion are rare and are in line with those following other normal life stresses." In spite of Dr. Coleman's recent study, it is doubtful that they will reverse their stand any time soon. Lines were drawn in the sand years ago and few cross over them.

When abortion was first legalized in the United States and throughout the western world, the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) predicted that the availability of contraception and abortion would greatly reduce the number of unwanted children and thereby curb child abuse. In the first ten years after that prediction was made, however, the abuse increased by over 500 percent! In 1993, Philip Ney, M.D., a psychiatrist and professor at the University of British Columbia in Canada, published four studies designed to investigate between induced abortion and child abuse. Most of his research focused on the role abortion had on disrupting bonding with later children. In his studies he wrote that when investigating the relationship between child abuse and abortion, he found a direct correlation and that, in some instances, abortion led to complete emotional breakdown with tragic results. In 1999, American government agencies reported 70.3 percent of perpetrators of child abuse were female parents acting alone or with others and estimated 826,000 victims of child abuse resulting in 1,100 fatalities.

More on this subject next month.

Yours in Christ,
Vincent Interrante



Vocations Director

Acolyte Greg Halamicek

My Brother Knights:

Here we are in November where our thoughts are starting to turn, not only to the cold weather, but to the upcoming holidays.

As we get closer to those holidays, starting with Thanksgiving our thoughts also turn to those who may not be as fortunate as ourselves.

It is a very wonderful thing to see the people who turn out during both the Thanksgiving and Christmas season to help out at St. Vincent DePaul.

They help in putting together the various holiday baskets that will be delivered to the needy families in our area.

What I'm asking all of us to consider is that after the holiday seasons are over the needs of the individuals that were helped are still there.

The Knights of Columbus in the Lancaster Council have always been extremely generous with their time and resources in helping those who have been marginalized and forgotten in today's society.

There is a group of our brother Knights, who twice a month prepare a meal at the Hall and take it to St. Vincent DePaul to feed the homeless.

There are others who individually help with various organizations that also provide services for those of God's children that have nowhere else to turn.

By doing this they are practicing a key element in our Roman Catholic faith. That element is Social Justice.

Social Justice is no more than looking at individuals through the eyes of Christ, and reaching out and showing them the same compassion that our Lord and Savior did when he walked this earth.

Over the next few months, I will be diverting from my normal column regarding Vocations and focusing on issues of Social Justice that we as Knights and as Catholics may find that we can help out with.

My prayer is that one of these issues may spark a fire in an individual and they find a place of ministry that God has been calling them to.

So until next month, may the Peace and Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you and your families.

In His Service

Acolyte Greg Halamicek



Knights Wives

The next meeting will be on
Monday, November 7th, at 7:00 PM
in the West Room.

Remember your Bingo prize
Hildy will bring the dessert!

It's time to "strut your stuff" and
Have a Happy Thanksgiving



Some of the 3rd Degree Knights
will be exemplified into the 4th Degree
on the first week-end in November -
please pray for them
and their families.



November 2011

Knights of Columbus
Lancaster
Council 2455

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 6:00pm Charity 7:00 Officer's	2	3 4th Degree Assembly Meeting	Nov. 5th 9am-4 30th Annual Boutique—Alhambra	5 4th Degree Exemplification
6 Daylight Savings Ends Squire's Mtg. Kesterson Center	7 7:00 Wives Mtg. 7:30 Columbus Club	8	9	10 Rosary 7:00 General Bus. Meeting 7:30		11
13	14	15	16	17 Memorial Mass & Dinner 6:00PM	18 Squire's Fall Dance 7-11 KC Hall	19
20	21 6:00AM Cook for St. Vincent	22	23 Poker Night after Bingo	24 Thanksgiving	25 NO Family Movie Night	26 Spirituali-Tea St. Joseph Center Carmelite Order Alhambra
27	28 6:00AM Cook for St. Vincent	29	30			See Add

December Events

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1: 4th Degree Assembly | 8: 7:00 Council Rosary |
| 3: Mount Carmel | 7:30 Gen. Business Mtg. |
| "Very Merry" - Also | 18: Children's Christmas Party |
| AVPCC Tea @ Fr. Serra | 19: Cook for St. Vincent |
| 4: Squire's Mtg @3 in | 22: NO meeting |
| Kesterson Center | 25: Christmas |
| 5: 7:00 KC Wives | 26: No St. Vincent Cooking |
| 7:30 Columbus Club | They're closed for |
| 6:6:00 Charity Meeting | Christmas |
| 7:00 Officer's Meeting | 30: No Family Movie Night |

January 2012 Events

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2: 7:00 KC Wives Mtg. | 13-15: Men's Retreat— |
| 7:30 Columbus Club Mtg | Sacred Heart Retreat |
| 3: 6:00 Charity Mtg | House—Alhambra |
| 7:00 Officer's Mtg. | 21: 3rd Degree Ceremony |
| 5: 4 Degree Assembly Mtg. | KC Hall |
| 8: 3:00 Squire's Mtg | 23&30: 6:00AM cook for |
| Kesterson Center | Saint Vincent DePaul |
| 12:7:00 Rosary | 26: Social Meeting |
| 7:30 Gen. Business Mtg | 27: Family Movie Night |



**Lancaster Council #2455
Knights of Columbus
Membership Retention Questionnaire**

Brother Knights,

All of Council 2455's Officers continue to be concerned about "Membership and Retention". It's crucial to attract new members for all the obvious reasons, but more importantly, how do we keep current members "involved"? Officially, Council 2455 have over 475 "registered" members; as far as I know, we are one of the top five (5) "largest" councils in the western hemisphere. Every year we "lose" 40 to 50 members; we also gain 40 to 50 new members every year, but many of them drop away too.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to get your input on, "What attracted you to the Knights of Columbus and how can we help you to be more involved?" Please prayerfully read the following questions and thoughtfully write down your replies, or suggestions, and send them back to us. Your input is invaluable.

1. What does being a Knight mean to you?

2. If you could change the General Business Meeting, what would you do differently?

3. Would you like to see more of a structured fellowship or networking environment?

4. When you think of the Knights of Columbus, what images come to mind?

5. Do you find the council's newsletter and website helpful and informative, or is there something you'd like to change about them?

If you would like a personal reply, please write your name at the top, or bottom, of the page and we will send you an answer as soon as we can. A report on the information gathered will be addressed in the January 2012 Newsletter.

SACRAMENTAL REFLECTIONS

ADULT EDUCATION SERIES 2011-12 (presented by Fr. Tom)

1st Tuesday of each month 7:30pm Kesterson Center

October 4	St. Francis – God, Nature and Baptism
*November 8	Funeral Rites and Anointing
December 6	Eucharist and Confirmation
January 3	New Year Mini Retreat
February 7	Marriage
March 6	Reconciliation
<i>April 3</i>	<i>Cancelled – Holy Week</i>
May 1	Holy Orders -- Working for the Lord (St. Joseph the Worker)

*Indicates date other than 1st Tuesday

So, You Want to Be Involved?

I'm often asked, "I'd like to get more involved in the Knights, what's there to do?" That's not as easy a question to answer as one might think. I'll tell you what worked for me. Seven years ago when I joined the Knights of Columbus, I wanted to see what made the Council "tick" so I started attending the Columbus Club, Charity and Officers meetings. These meetings are where the core administrative tasks are initiated, reviewed and discussed. It's important for all members to know that these meetings are open to everyone; you won't have a vote without being on the committee, but you can hear what goes on and you can express your opinions.

More importantly, when you attend these meetings, regularly, you get known by the senior members; you also become familiar with the on-going issues faced by the Council. If you want to be "involved", there are the obvious activities:

- Bingo on Sundays, Wednesdays & Fridays
- Being a Council Officer
- Being on the Columbus Club
- Serving on Charity Committee
- Cooking for the Saint Vincent DePaul Clients on the last two Mondays of every month.
- Volunteering to coordinate some activity
- Volunteering to help set up or clean up at any event
- Help in the kitchen for any event

These are the more obvious activities that require our time and talent. However, there are many other activities that are behind the scene, so to speak:

- Help to prepare the "deep pit BBQ" for the Sacred Heart BBQ every year.
- Pitching in to help prepare fish dinners on the Fridays of Lent
- Being involved with the Council's Boy Scout Troop
- Being a mentor or counselor for the Squires' Circle
- Helping out with the kids soccer team that the council supports
- Encouraging your wife to be involved in the Wives Club
- Taking on a role in one of our Degree Teams

This list goes on and on. Some of the "activities" are once a year, others are once a month, others require more time; all require dedication.

So, the next time you think, "I should be more involved", the first step is up to you. Let someone know and offer your support. Or, if you see a "need" and want to start a new service, express your desires. Write up an outline, or be ready to define the content and scope of your project.

Brother Mike Mullich



Brother Knights With November Birthdays



Congratulations to all Brothers on Their Birthdays!

Kevin Coleman	1st	Juan Castillo	24th
Joseph Rattay	1st	John M. Rodriguez	24th
Deacon Eben MacDonald	4th	Ricardo Rodriguez	24th
Charlie Yaroslaski	6th	Robert Ryckebosch	25th
Jose Barrio	7th	Ike Ugochukwu	25th
Bernard Nichter	7th	Nick Circhirillo	26th
Adrian Aguilar	9th	Francisco Gonzalez	27th
William Chilson II	10th	Ruben Rosas	27th
Andy Gavel	10th	Ernesto Columna Jr.	28th
Jerry Riggs	16th	Basilio Failma	28th
Tom Pitts	17th	Bishop Ed Clark	30th
Juan Avila	18th	Reynaldo Cruz	30th
Shawn Green	18th	Franciso Dones	30th
Christopher Marrujo	19th	Arthur La Riviere	30th
James Smith	20th	Michael Marcil	30th
James Brownlow	24th	Kenneth Yingling	30th

**30th Annual Boutique
and Family Festival**

November 5th—9AM to 4PM

**Sacred Heart Retreat Center
Alhambra, CA**

Get a jump on Christmas Shopping

November 26th

**“Spirituali—Tea”
Saint Joseph Center,
Alhambra**

We hope you can join us for this wonderful annual event.
For more information or to RSVP,

contact St. Joseph Campus at (626) 289-1353 ext. 302

or email: sjcprogcoordinator@carmelitesistersocd.com.

Prayer Requests for:

Deacon Dale's wife Linda, who fell and injured her hip.

Jim Murphy, who was attacked by a viscous dog.

Larry Elston, who was at Kaiser down below for a kidney stone procedure.

Also, Larry's wife Vera, who fell and has a cast.

Cards of prayer intentions were sent to bring a little sunshine into their lives.

Pete Lara
Sunshine Committee



PHONE: BUS.: (661) 945-4662
FAX: (661) 723-3484
E-mail: john.fry@kofc.org

JOHN R. FRY
FIELD AGENT

AGENCY DEPARTMENT
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

44818 FERN AVE. SUITE 105
LANCASTER, CA 93534

He can be reached at 661-945-4662

**Council 2455 Officers, Committee & Activity Heads
For Columbian Year 2011–2012
Hall Phone Number: 661-942-2751**

Grand Knight	Ken Merrill	943-6105
Chaplain	Reverend Tom Baker	942-7122
Deputy Grand Knight	Tim Loeb	266-4406
Chancellor	Bob Iabichella	904-1528
Warden	Tim Buckley	272-1955
Recorder	Mike Looper	948-5509
Treasurer	Bob Parnett	945-5387
Financial Secretary	Dennis Lodovici, PGK	265-1994
Advocate	Jay DiSilvestri	266-3321
Inside Guards	Patrick Halamicek	949-9125
	Tony Miranta	
Outside Guards	Sal Aguirre	480-5469
	Doug Paterson	943-7132
3rd Year Trustee	Tony Lizama	949-9092
2nd Year Trustee	Tim Meza, PGK	729-6069
1st Year Trustee	Chuck Forrest	949-1361
Lecturer	Jerry Padgett	492-5473
Charity Committee Head	Tim Meza, PGK	729-6069
Columbus Club President	Todd Yaroslaski	946-8800
Sunshine Committee	Pete Lara	948-6322
Sunshine Info E-mail:	pray4knights@gmail.com	
AVPCC Representative	Tom Berard	206-8276
Columbian Squires Director	Robert Johnson	212-0638
Church Director	Deacon Ron Routolo	942-4205
Degree Team Director	Eric Ufodu	718-1838
Hall Information & Rentals	Tom O'Brien, PGK	341-4056
Membership & Retention	Tim Loeb	266-4406
Newsletter & Website	Mike Mullich	948-7476
Pro-Life Director	Vince Interrante	723-8599
Pro-Life Co-Director	Dennis Duffy	(818) 613-1795
Vocations Director	Gregory Halamicek	949-9125
Insurance Field Agent	John Fry	(661) 714-0367