

# The Knight Flyer

## Grand Knight Notes — January

My Brother Knights,

The New Year is here. I hope that all of you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year with your families. Last month we had a busy month. Here are a few items that are of great importance.

Supreme Council along with the Arch Diocese of Los Angeles will be putting on a Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe on August 5, 2012. It will be held in the Los Angeles Coliseum. We handed out Calendars from the Knights of Columbus after the Masses December 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be more activities for the Knights to publicize this event. You can go to <http://www.guadalupecelebration.com/en/index.html> to learn more about the celebration and Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The Holiday Night with the Knights was a success. We had a very good turn out and everyone enjoyed themselves. I want to thank all the Knights that helped to publicize, sell tickets, and work the event. Without you this would not have been a success.

It is January now and we have to start working on our upcoming events for the next three months. Please attend the General Meeting January 10, 2012 to find out more about our activities. The Officers Meeting will be January 24, 2012.

Friday January 27, 2012 we will have 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Exemplification at OLPH. If we can each find one candidate and have them join us, we would be have a great start to the new year.

Sunday January 29 2012 we have our Pancake breakfast. That same day is the OLPH School Open house Event. This day proves to be a very busy day. We need help that day to have a successful event. Please come to the general meeting to see how you can help.

The Chili Cook-off will be hosted at OLPH on Saturday March 4, 2012. Council 6016 will handle the drinks, Blessed Kateri will do desserts, and St Claire will handle the food. The theme for this year is Movies. We need 3 teams to cook and coordinator and help with the drinks for the event.

The St Patrick's Day falls on Saturday this year. Again this year we will be putting on the St Patrick's Day 5K. If you are planning on running now is the time to start training. We will be needed help with the event. Please talk with Brother Tony Cota at the General Meeting to see how you can help.

*(Continued on page 3)*



**Council  
6016  
Newhall, CA**

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### Special points of interest:

- *Grand Knight Notes*
- *Brothers in Business— give them your support!*
- *Prayer Requests for our Brothers & Sisters*
- *Calendar*
- *St. Patrick's Day*
- *Lenten Retreat*

### Inside this issue:

*Grand Knight Notes*

*Brothers to Patronize pg. 2*

*Get Well wishes for Brother Knights and their families pg. 3*

*Calendar pg 3*

*St. Patrick's Day pg. 5*

*Lenten Retreat pg. 7*

**January Meeting  
Tuesday, January 10  
Please attend the K of C meeting in the Parish Hall at 7:15pm**

**PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR BROTHERS AT THEIR PLACE OF BUSINESS—**  
**THEY GIVE GENEROUSLY TO COUNCIL 6016!**  
**IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CARD DISPLAYED, PLEASE SEND IT TO US!**

For Information about Blood Drives please contact Tom Duggan or Warren Moses. We will announce dates in the newsletter as they are scheduled.

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If you would like to receive a notice to download the newsletter instead of getting a copy in the mail, please go to the Newsletter page and sign up and help us reduce printing expenses. Go to <http://kofc6016.org>. Here you can see Council Events and get the newsletter in color. Check it out and send your comments to Robert Stojkovic at [robert\\_stojkovic@pacbell.net](mailto:robert_stojkovic@pacbell.net).

January 6—2nd Degree (OLPH) 7:00 pm  
 January 10—General Meeting 7:15 pm  
 January 24—Officers Meeting 7:00 pm  
 January 27—1st Degree (OLPH) 7:00 pm  
 January 29—Pancake Breakfast

*(Continued from page 1)*

That same Saturday in the evening we will be hosting the Annual St Patrick's Day Dinner. We need to start planning and distribute the all the tasks to put on a good event. In years past we have had a few Knights put in 8 to 12 hours to get all the needed work done. This is unacceptable, we need every Knight to put in some time so that the event goes well and that a few of our fellow Knights are not doing all the work. If I do not see good progress on the planning and coordination of resources for the by the end of January, I will seriously consider cancelling the event.

I would also ask that each of us ensure that Charity is in the forefront of our hearts. I do not mean just monetarily. We need to ensure our Charity encompasses our actions towards our spouses, children, family members, fellow parishioners, fellow man, and especially our Brother Knights. We need to look out for our Brother Knights and treat them well. We all are volunteers and take of our time and talents to give to others. Keep that in mind when we take initiative and make mistakes. Guide your Brother Knight instead of barking at them.

I look forward to having a great start to the new year for our council.

Vivat Jesus

Robert Stojkovic

### **PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SPOUSES:**

*Father in Heaven bless Flavy Pagador, Gary (Art Brow's Nephew), and Hazel Dombroski who are experiencing health problems .*

*Father, we come to ask You, in Jesus' name to be with Flavy, Gary, and Hazel. We know that, if it is Your Will, You will grant all our brothers and sisters in Christ the blessings they need. We pray that You, Our Lord and Savior, will answer our petition for Your help and mercy.*

*Father, we offer the following prayers as our petition to hear and grant these requests.*

**Suggested Prayers: Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Special Prayers**

### **Email Roster Update**

Please contact Steve Surjaputra with your current email address at [stephen0118@att.net](mailto:stephen0118@att.net)

### **Prayer Updates**

Please contact Robert Stojkovic with your Prayer Requests at [robert\\_stojkovic@pacbell.net](mailto:robert_stojkovic@pacbell.net)

## *It is a day to remember!*



On January 21st and 22nd, 2011, OLPH was privileged to host the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima. It is one of 22 statues blessed personally by Pope Paul VI in 1967 while in Fatima. As not everybody can visit Fatima, each statue was designated to be a Pilgrim Statue in a specific area of the world to bring Our Lady's message to all people. It is also meant to be a reinforcement of the message Our Lady gave to the three children:

***"I have come to warn the faithful to amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins. They must not continue to offend Our Lord, who is already deeply offended. Say the Rosary every day to obtain peace for the world!"***

Most people have heard or read about the three secrets which Our Lady left with the children. The last secret to be revealed some time later caused much speculations and even controversy. It was eventually revealed by the Vatican that the assassination attempt on Bl. Pope John-Paul II represented the third predictions by Our Lady. With the secrets revealed, the admonitions of Our Lady remain and we should look at ourselves on how we responded to her call to pray the rosary every day. If you can't pray the rosary every day, please remember to say the following every day:

***"My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love you!***

***I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love you!"*** (Angel of Peace, 1916)

Prayer given to the seers of Fatima to be prayed by all every day!

## *January 22nd, 1973*



The decision was 7 to 2! It was exactly the same result as the famous Dred-Scott decision of 1857! Ironic! It was eventually reversed giving proof that supreme court justices are not above politics and errors! The 1973 decision still stands and is still being expanded on! It seems inconceivable that learned people on the supreme court cannot comprehend that life begins at conception. It is ironic too that when a pregnant women gets murdered, the killer is charged with double murder, for the woman and the unborn. Go figure!

The Knights of Columbus is one of the largest force in fighting the legalization of abortion and related matters affecting human life and dignity. As Knights and Catholics, it is our duty and obligation to support the efforts to reverse the Roe vs Wade decision. Some can do it as advocates in a public forum, others by writing or calling their representatives, others by supporting organizations actively opposing the legislation, and finally by praying every day for the reversal of this abomination. ***Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the unborn, we pray for your intervention to end legalized abortions!***

## *Reflections*

What would January be without some resolutions? All the feasting of the Christmas days and even before, have left their mark somewhere, more than likely on the physical measurements of most. It could be the circumference of the middle section or just pushing the scale to new heights; probably both. Most of us realize that something must be done and the New Year seems to be the perfect time for a new chapter to begin.

So what did you decide? Anything? Are you among the many people who choose one of the more popular resolutions like, less alcohol intake, lose weight, quit smoking, spend less and save some money, etc, etc.

How about some spiritual exercises, such as a daily prayer regimen? Saying the rosary every day with the family? Or if your work schedule permits, attending Mass during the week.

How about attacking one of the deadly sins with which we are struggling? Or one of the bad habits that we so generously exhibit in our daily lives and which irritate those around us?

Try loving the neighbors, especially the ones whom you really don't particularly like or who may have offended you at one time. This is a good way to remember: "...and forgive us as we forgive those who trespass against us!"

If we really look at ourselves, we will find a large number of opportunities to change or correct something in our lives. It is important, however, that our resolutions not be restricted to changing something that benefits ourselves only. Whatever we decide should include some change or activity that also serves others. Above all, it needs to include a prayer asking God for perseverance and discipline. We are all too familiar with our success rate in following through over the distance.

Like the cartoon above says, it lasts for the first week and then we revert back to the former routine.

The devil does not wait long to tempt us to forget or omit whatever positive or good we may have chosen to do. "Oh, it won't hurt to take a break for one day.... You can start again tomorrow!" Who has not heard this tempting whisper by the evil one? And when we fall for it, the restart of tomorrow usually never comes and we are back to where we were before the New Year!

There is indeed one way only to succeed. God alone can give us the strength, the discipline, the perseverance, the humility and the enduring commitment it takes to improve our lives. Jesus said: ***"Truly I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father in My Name, He will give it to you"***.

## *What we should know*

*Reflection by Fr. Frank Doyle, SJ*

**WE CELEBRATE ON January 6th**, the second of four great manifestations of God in our midst. The word 'epiphany' comes from Greek and it means a 'showing' or 'manifestation'. We call this feast the Epiphany of our Lord but the term could equally well be applied to the other two.

The first of these four manifestations we already celebrated on December 25, when God revealed, manifested himself to us in the form of a helpless, newly-born infant. He is presented as born homeless and in poverty and surrounded by the poor and outcasts (that is what the shepherds represented). This manifestation fits in very well with the theme of Luke's Gospel and it is he who tells this story.

In today's feast, we see the same recently born baby in similar circumstances but the material and social surroundings are hardly touched on. The emphasis here, as we shall see, is different. Here are strangers, foreigners, total outsiders coming to give royal homage to this tiny child. This will be the theme of Matthew's Gospel. "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations."

The third manifestation, the Baptism of Jesus, we will celebrate the following Sunday and it closes the Christmas celebration of the Incarnation. Jesus, now an adult of 30 years or so, is seen standing in a river together with a multitude of penitents. He is solemnly endorsed by the voice of God as the Son of God. "This is my dear Son, in whom I am well pleased." This event is recorded by all the evangelists.

The fourth 'revelation' is found only in John's gospel. It is not part of the Christmas liturgy but we read it on the Second Sunday of the Year in the Year C [the current liturgical year is B], immediately after the Christmas season. This revelation occurs during a wedding banquet (symbolizing the Kingdom of love, justice and peace which is to be established through Jesus). Water (symbolizing the Old Covenant) is changed into new wine (symbolizing the New Covenant to be signed and sealed on the cross of Calvary). Mary (representing the Church, God's people) is seen as the intermediary through whose request this is brought about. It is the first of seven 'signs' by which Jesus reveals his true identity in John's gospel.

### **Story or history?**

Coming back to today's feast, we may ask is the story of the "wise men" a factual report or is it just that - a story? Primarily, it is a story. A report is concerned with hard facts - the temperature dropped to 10 degrees last night or there were 10 millimeters of rain yesterday. But a story, especially a biblical story, is concerned much more with meaning. In reading any Scripture story, including Gospel stories, we should not be asking, "Did it really happen like that?" Instead, we should be asking, "What does it mean? What is it saying to us?" The truth of the story is in its meaning and not in the related facts.

Certainly in this story the facts are extremely vague and not at all sufficient for a newspaper or TV news report. The standard questions a newspaper reporter is expected to be able to answer are: Who? What? Why? When? Where? How? In this story it is difficult to give satisfactory answers to these questions.

Although Jesus is still an infant and still in Bethlehem, we do not know how long after his birth, this incident is supposed to have taken place. We are not told because it does not matter; it is not relevant to the meaning of the story. (Compared to Mark, Matthew is normally notoriously short on details.)

### **Magi**

Who were these "wise men" and where did they come from? In the Greek text they are called magoi which is usually rendered in English as "Magi". Magi were a group or caste of scholars who were associated with the interpretation of dreams, Zoroastrianism, astrology and magic (hence the name 'Magi'). In later Christian tradition they were called kings ("We three kings of Orient are...") under the influence of Psalm 72:10 ("May the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!"), Isaiah 49:7 ("Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves") and Isaiah 60:10 ("Their kings shall minister to you").

We are not told what their names were or how many of them there were. Tradition settled on three, presumably because there were three kinds of gifts. And they were also given names -- Caspar, Balthasar, and Melchior. Caspar was represented as black and thus they were understood to represent the whole non-Jewish, Gentile world which came to Christ.

We are told, too, that they came "from the east". This could be Persia, East Syria or Arabia - or indeed any distant place. The Asian theologian, Fr Aloysius Pieris, points out the significance for Asians that it was wise men from the East and not the local wise men who recognized the light that led to Jesus\*. (Continued on next page..)

**A star in the east**

There is talk of following a star. Was there indeed at this time a comet or supernova or some significant conjunction of planets which would be particularly meaningful to these men? Even so, how does one follow a star? Have you ever tried? How do you know when a star is "over the place" you are looking for? You could travel several hundred miles and the star could still be "over" you. Probably, we are wasting our time looking for some significant stellar happening. The star is rather to be seen as a symbol: a light representing Jesus as the Light of the whole world.

There really is not much point in trying to pinpoint facts here. We are dealing here with meaning and the meaning is very clear from the general context of Matthew's Gospel. God, in the person of Jesus, is reaching out to the whole world. More than that, the religious leaders of his own people - the chief priests and experts in the scriptures, although clearly aware of where the Messiah would be born, made no effort whatever to investigate. Yet Bethlehem was "just down the road", so to speak, from Jerusalem. King Herod, an ambitious and ruthless man (that is a fact of history), was prepared to go but only to wipe out even the remotest threat to his own position.

These pagan foreigners, on the other hand, went to great lengths to find the "King of the Jews" and "do him homage".

**Gifts**

As part of that homage they offered their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The gifts seem inspired by Isaiah 60:6 quoted in the First Reading of the day, "They shall bring gold and frankincense". In later tradition, the gold came to symbolize the kingship of Christ, the incense his divine nature, and the myrrh his redemptive suffering and death. They also came to signify virtue, prayer and suffering.

**No outsiders**

All in all, today's feast is telling us that for God there are no foreigners, no outsiders. From his point of view, all are equally his beloved children. We all, whatever external physical or cultural differences there may be between us, belong to one single family which has one Father, "our" Father. It means that every one of us is a brother and sister to everyone else. There is no room for discrimination of any kind based on nationality, race, religion, class or occupation. There cannot be a single exception to this position.

The facts of epiphany's story may be vague but the message is loud and clear. We thank God today that there is no "Chosen People" whether they be Jews or Christians (or even Catholics). Let us try to understand more deeply God's closeness to us which is also a reason for us to be close to each other. There are no outsiders. All are called - be it the Mother of Jesus, the rich and the poor, the privileged and the lonely, the healthy and the sick, the saints and the sinners.

Yet, we can become outsiders. We do that every time we make someone else an outsider, whether we do that individually, as a family, a community, or an ethnic grouping. To make even a single other person an outsider, that is, to deny them the love and respect which belongs equally to all, is to make an outsider of oneself. It is to join the ranks of the Pharisees, the chief priests and every other practitioner of bigotry.

**Where are the stars?**

Finally, we might ask ourselves, What are the stars in my life? The wise men saw the star and followed it. The people in Jerusalem did not. How and to what is God calling me at this time? Where does he want me to find him, to serve and follow him? Some have their priorities already fixed and so have stopped or have never even started to look for the real priorities, the God-sent stars in their lives. That is like first making a right turn at a crossroads and then wondering where you should be going. Saint Ignatius Loyola in his Spiritual Exercises speaks of people who get married first and then ask, "What does God want me to do?"

This very day, let us stop in our tracks. Obviously, at this stage there are many things which, for better or worse, we cannot change, some decisions, right or wrong, which cannot now be undone. But it is not too late to look for our star and begin following it from where we are now.

The wise men did not know where the star would lead them. They just followed it until it brought them to Bethlehem -- and to Jesus. They never, I am sure, regretted their decision. If we can only have the courage and the trust to follow their example, I doubt if we will have regrets either. If we have not already done so, today is the day to make that start.

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