



# THE PALADIN



Arden – Carmichael Council 4970  
Knights of Columbus

Division 5 • District 6  
St. Joseph Pray for Us

Serving the parishes of: St. Ignatius Loyola • St. John the Evangelist • Our Lady of The Assumption • St. Philomene Church • Presentation Parish

SEPTEMBER 2004

<http://www.kofc4970.org/>

VOLUME 04 • NUMBER 03

## THIS MONTH'S MAJOR ACTIVITY

CALLING ALL 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> DEGREE MEMBERS. WE NEED YOU TO OBTAIN YOUR 3<sup>RD</sup> DEGREE LEVEL AT THIS TIME. IF NOT CALLED CONTACT ELDON HANCOCK AT 723-3986.  
ALL 3<sup>RD</sup> OR 4<sup>TH</sup> DEGREE MEMBERS PLEASE CONSIDER OBSERVING THE DEGREE.

ARDEN-CARMICHAEL COUNCIL 4970

Will Proudly Host an Exemplification of the 2nd & 3rd Degrees

(Honorees: 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree: VICTIMS of 9/11/01 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree: IRAQI FREEDOM COALITION FORCES)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2004

St. IGNATIUS LOYOLA PARISH CENTER

(3235 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA 95825)

**THERE IS NO COST TO COUNCIL 4970 CANDIDATES**

### **AGENDA:**

Registration for 2nd & 3rd Degree - 10:00 AM

Exemplification of 2nd Degree - 11:00 AM

Hot Lunch (No Dinner on agenda) - 12:00 PM

Registration Closes for 3rd Degree - 1:00 PM

Exemplification of 3rd Degree - 1:30 PM

No-Host Bar/Finger Food/Snacks - 4:30 PM

There is no scheduled Ladies Program. However, Arden Fair Mall is on Arden Way at Bus I-80 and a movie complex is in the Mall as well as Century 14 on the way to the mall.

Total Cost per Candidate (includes lunch and snacks) - \$16.00

Non-Candidates/Guests (Lunch and Snacks) - \$10.00

Lunch will be Steak sandwiches with salad choices & other items.

The dress code for these degrees will be strictly enforced.

Dress code is collared sport shirt and slacks minimum.

No Blue Jeans, shorts or tee shirts will be allowed to participate in the exemplification ceremony.

### **For Reservations (By September 8<sup>th</sup>) or additional information**

Pat Castonguay – DD #6 (916) 863-5537 [pcast@cwnet.com](mailto:pcast@cwnet.com)

Jerry Marenich, PGK - Membership Director Council 4970, (916) 334-7427

Gene Gobbo, PGK, FDD, Council 4970 – (916) 283-5223 [gene@gobbo.org](mailto:gene@gobbo.org)

THIS IS YOUR ONLINE VERSION OF THE COUNCIL'S MONTHLY BULLETIN. THE COUNCIL ALSO PUBLISHES A ONE SHEET, ABBREVIATED VERSION THAT IS MAILED TO THOSE BROTHERS AND WIDOWS THAT DO NOT HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS. IT IS ALSO MAILED TO OTHER COUNCILS IN THE AREA, STATE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS. WE PUBLISH ALL PERTINENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND ACTIONS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE PLEASE EMAIL OUR EDITOR, BROTHER GENE GOBBO, AT [gene@gobbo.org](mailto:gene@gobbo.org) PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL'S PLANNING MEETINGS. TO STAY EVEN MORE CURRENT, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO VISIT OUR COUNCIL'S WEB SITE <http://www.kofc4970.org> FREQUENTLY.

**COUNCIL 4970**  
**OFFICERS**

Grand Knight  
Kevin Gualderama (359-5939)

Chaplain  
Msgr. Patrick Nolan (485-2683)

Deputy Grand Knight  
Larry Rositani (486-4377)

Financial Secretary  
Mel Picanco (929-8459)

Chancellor  
Philip Gaskins (564-1734)

Warden  
Vincent Dombeck (369-2272)

Guards  
Brian Corcoran (485-5743)  
Andy Hopkins (361-3929)

Treasurer  
Steve Millner (482-7053)

Recorder  
Herb Holeman (95841-4306)

Lecturer  
Christian Okoye (363-3426)

Advocate  
Chuck Cuny (971-1751)

Trustees  
Fred Garrison (944-1585)  
Eldon Hancock (723-3986)  
Gerald Marenich (334-7427)

District Deputy  
Pat Castonguay  
(863-5537)  
[pcast@cwnet.com](mailto:pcast@cwnet.com)

Insurance Field Agent  
Dennis Ware  
Home (530-885-9091)  
Cell (916-203-9091)  
[ddware@cwnet.com](mailto:ddware@cwnet.com)

 **GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE** • **By GK KEVIN GUALDERAMA**

To my Brother Knights, and Families,

September is here, and the kids are all back in school. Summer is going by so fast. To "us" non-retired Knights, I hope you participated in as many activities this past summer as possible. Vacation time is important to all of us, but with a short window for many of us, summer is vital.

I would like to thank all my Brother Knights and their families who participated in the major events of our Council during the summer, starting with our State Convention and River Cats game in May, our Fireworks Booth, Ladies Night and Installation of Officers and Dinner in June and July, and our most recent events, our Family Day at Leatherby's and our Ladies Night at Espanol in August. We have many more events coming up this Fall so keep informed on our fantastic website or the calendar in our Paladin.

I congratulate and welcome new Brother Knights, John Bosco Ambe, Nikolas Lushenko, Tony Meduri, and Max Weis who received their First Degree this past month. John, Nick, Tony and Max get involved in our activities and you will realize the true meaning of membership in our Order. A special "Thank You" to my Brother Knights who represented our Council at the First Degree program in Roseville. To all of our First Degree Knights and also our Second Degree Knights, our Council is hosting a second and Third Degree at St. Ignatius Parish on September 11<sup>th</sup> (see the cover of the online Paladin for details). It is right here in Sacramento so please work this event into your calendar.

Also for our Third and Fourth Degree Brothers, why not take this opportunity to observe one or both of the degrees. You will get more out of the ceremonies each time you attend. We can also use your help with registration, lunch and snacks after the degrees. Please contact myself or our Deputy Grand Knight, Brother Larry Rositani, or any of our fellow Officers of our Council.

On the 18th and 19th of this month, we will have a Membership Drive Blitz at St. Ignatius Church (all masses, Saturday and Sunday). Our membership team needs as many Brother Knights as possible to help out on this drive. We always reach out for new members and their families to come join our fraternal Catholic family organization.

I would also like to keep in our prayers for our men and women in Iraq, and Afghanistan, especially our own Miguel Sabral who is in Iraq. Please keep our Brother Knight, Larry Rositani DGK, and the Rositani Family in your prayers. Brother Larry's father, Ted, passed away in August. May he and all our Brothers and their families who have passed on rest in peace, also pray for those on our ever growing list of sick and in distress (see the online version for the full list we have). Prayers have helped so many, so keep them coming. Amen and keep the faith Brothers.



-----

**If God brings you to it.....He will bring you through it.**

**SERVICE COMMITTEES****PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

Larry Rositani  
(486-4377)

**Church**

Christian Okoye  
(363-3426)

**Parish**

Mike Corcoran  
(485-5743)

**Community**

Philip Gaskins  
(564-1734)

**Council**

Michael Langer  
(348-3343)

**Family**

Frank Gianattasio  
(971-9950)

**Youth**

Loren Wallin  
(723-2970)  
Chris Ornelas  
(725-4611)

**Pro-Life**

John Mizerak  
(332-5511)

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE****Membership Director**

Gerald Marenich  
(334-7427)

**Retention**

Eldon Hancock  
(723-3986)

**Recruitment**

Fred Garrison  
(944-1585)

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Paladin Editor  
Gene Gobbo (283-5223)

[gene@gobbo.org](mailto:gene@gobbo.org)

Web Site

<http://www.kofc4970.org/>

Site Editor  
Andy Hopkins  
(361-3929)

[andy@ideazinc.org](mailto:andy@ideazinc.org)

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE + DEPUTY GK LARRY ROSITANI**

Well Brother Knights and Family we had a very good month for family activities in August. I must also take time out to thank all the brother knights, family and other members of the Knights of Columbus who helped me through my time of need with my father's death at the end of this month. These actions reinforce my belief that Knights of Columbus are a true extension of each member's family and when a member is in need, this Council's compassion and love in helping each other through that stressful time was an immeasurable comfort. I thank you all for your help and concern.

We have completed the first of two events, at the time of this writing, an Ice Cream social at Leatherby's. Please see pictures on our web site, and I thank all who attended and had a good time at this event. I must say I came out a little happier than most as I had two ice creams instead of one as I mistakenly ate Ronie Di Leo's order thinking it was mine. I really suffered through the second one, and YES they did bring out another out for Ronie. By the time you have read this we will have completed our second event organized by our Lady's Night Coordinator, Brother Rob Williams, at the Espanol restaurant on Folsom Blvd. I hope to have pictures and a report on this Lady's Night Out in the next Paladin.

*Our Council will be hosting a second and third degree coming up September 11<sup>th</sup> at Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish. I hope that all members can attend in some manner either by helping with setup, observation or in taking the degrees if they are 1<sup>st</sup> degree members. We have finalized the menu for the degrees as tri-tip sandwiches, salads and other items for the main lunch and mini-taquitos and mini tacos for snacks with an open bar after the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree. We will need a lot of help in setting up, preparing food and cleaning up after this event. Brother Knights please contact GK Kevin, Gene Gobbo or me if you wish to help.*

Finally, we will be hosting Donut Sunday at S. I. on the 5<sup>th</sup> as well as hosting a membership blitz at the same parish on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. We will be looking for help for the blitz after the Council's business meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

I hope that all the members will help to make our Exemplification honoring the victims of the 9/11 disaster and Iraqi Freedom Coalition Forces and our upcoming membership blitz a big success. Hope to see you all the Exemplifications on the 11<sup>th</sup>. **Vivat Jesus!**

**HEADS UP:** The annual Rib Feed sponsored by St. John's Youth Ministry is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 23rd. This marvelous meal, prepared by our chef, and KofC council member, Roy Lasich, netted over \$5,000.00 last year. The funds go toward youth retreats, conventions, social activities, and World Youth Day 2005 in Cologne, Germany.

LOCATION: St. John the Evangelist, 5751 Locust Ave - Parish Hall.

DOORS OPEN: 6:00 p.m. DINNER SERVED: 7:00 p.m.

COST: \$20.00 in Advance. \$22.00 at the Door (as available).

PURCHASE TICKETS: After Mass or contact Brother Matt Sanders at St. John's Youth Ministry: 489-3394, [sjeyouth@juno.com](mailto:sjeyouth@juno.com)

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**PRAYERS NEEDED SICK AND/OR IN DISTRESS**

Pope John Paul II  
Bishop Weigand  
Fr. John Lagomarsino  
Fr. Richard Doheney  
Fr. David McDonald  
Sister Hannah  
Deacon Jim Weeks  
Deacon Floyd Shields  
Liz Weeks  
Callan Myers  
Lou Steiner  
John Gemma  
Evelyn DeLuna  
Mary Schmidt  
Marty Condon  
Sara Paredes  
Frank Gianattasio  
Fred Garrison  
Bill Verdugo  
Ed Hellmer  
Ray Winters  
Ed Mohlengraft  
Ethelyn Rivard  
Peg DiPiazza  
Sandy McGettigan  
Clare Dynes  
Felisha Okcke  
Wesley Emeterio  
Joseph Williams  
Young Stewart  
Sabral Family

**DECEASED**

Ted Rositani  
(Father of  
Brother Larry)

**To report the illness or death of a Brother Knight or family member, please contact**

Grand Knight,  
Kevin Gualderama  
359-5939  
Fraternal Chairman,  
Erik Nooren  
967-5115  
or  
Field Agent,  
Dennis Ware  
(H) 530-885-9091  
(C) 916-203-9091



**INSURANCE MESSAGE • By Dennis Ware, Field Agent 530-885-9091 or 916-203-9091**

*YOUR EDITOR MISPLACED OUR FIELD AGENT'S MESSAGE THIS MONTH. SORRY BROTHER DENNIS. I EXTRACTED THE STATE GENERAL AGENT'S MESSAGE FROM THE STATE KNIGHTLETTER WHICH BEARS YOUR READING AND ACTION IF APPROPRIATE.*

**Schedule an Annual Review With Your Agent**

Sometimes it is easy to overlook the simplest things. Take the beneficiaries on your life insurance policies. If your policy was applied for and issued several years ago, it could very well be that the beneficiary originally designated to receive the proceeds from that policy needs to be updated. If you bought the policy when you were single, for example, you may have named your parents as beneficiaries. If you have since married, your beneficiary could be updated to reflect you spouse, and even your children. Most people list a primary beneficiary – that person is specifically designated as the first in priority to receive policy proceeds. We also encourage the naming of a contingent beneficiary – an alternate person designated to receive policy proceeds, usually in the event that the original beneficiary predeceases the insured.

Your Field Agent routinely calls all his policyholders for annual review appointments, usually near the anniversary date of your policy – the date it was originally issued. One of the matters that he discusses during the review is the status of your beneficiary designations. If they need updating, and they often do, he can usually complete the paperwork during that appointment. Next time you are called for an appointment, invite him over to review all your life insurance policies and update your beneficiaries.

Jerald E. Pitzer, FICF General Agent Director - CA Insurance Promotions

-----  
After Sept. 11th, one company invited the remaining members of other companies who had been decimated by the attack on the Twin Towers to share their available office space. At a morning meeting, the head of security told stories of why these people were alive... and all the stories were just:

The 'LITTLE' things, As you might know, the head of the company survived that day because his son started kindergarten.

Another fellow was alive because it was his turn to bring donuts.

One woman was late because her alarm clock didn't go off in time.

One was late because of being stuck on the NJ Turnpike because of an auto accident.

One of them missed his bus.

One spilled food on her clothes and had to take time to change.

One's car wouldn't start.

One went back to answer the telephone.

One had a child that dawdled and didn't get ready as soon as he should have.

One couldn't get a taxi.

The one that struck me was the man who put on a new pair of shoes that morning, took the various means to get to work but before he got there, he developed a blister on his foot. He stopped at a drugstore to buy a Band-Aid.

That is why he is alive today. Now when I am stuck in traffic, miss an elevator, turn back to answer a ringing telephone...all the little things that annoy me. I think to myself, this is exactly where God wants me to be at this very moment. Next time your morning seems to be going wrong, the children are slow getting dressed, you can't seem to find the car keys, you hit every traffic light, don't get mad or frustrated; God is at work watching over you. May God continue to bless you with all those annoying little things and may you remember their possible purpose.

DISTRICT DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

- PROCEDURES -

PAT CASTONGUAY

I am honored to serve this year as your District Deputy. I am a member of Fair Oaks Council 6066 and am familiar with many members of your Star Council. You have a great track record and know you will continue your fine tradition. I would like to discuss one of the general problem areas I have noted in my many years with the Order.

Like many organizations that have an annual election of officers, sometimes the new administration has a frustrating time trying to determine how things should get done, how they were done in the past, and what guidelines exist to help them with a particular activity that is performed year after year. This also appears to be the case with our organization.

For each activity that is performed periodically, there should be written procedures outlining the basic steps to be taken and the time-frames for accomplishment, as well as required minimum resources. In addition, once the activity is completed, there should be a written report from the chairman of the event outlining what works and what doesn't work. There should be recommendations on how to improve the program, activity or event for the next person who handles it. There should be no reason to reinvent the wheel each year. There should be a master file for each activity maintained at a central source (GK) available to the chairman for planning and handling the event, documented after the event, and returned to the central source.

Maintenance of adequate records makes it easier for the next chairman or committee members. This applies, not only to program events, but to routine required annual reports such as the Survey of Fraternal Activity, the creation of the Council Calendar, the Semi-Annual Council Audit, and the creation of the Annual Budget and the filing of required reports. There is an easy way to do it...refer to previous reports for guidance, and there is a hard way to do it...start from scratch each year, with no counsel or guidance.

If any Officer, Director or Event Chairman would like to discuss different methods to establish guidelines or track event history or to just talk about ways to make the task easier, feel free to invite me, through your Grand Knight and Program Director to your session. If you want some ideas about what type of tracking tool, or implementation tools to use....good...that's all part of it.

But for sure.....if you don't have written guidelines, try to establish them. Vivat Jesus!

### **IF I WERE THE DEVIL by Paul Harvey (a recent newscast)**

- I would gain control of the most powerful nation in the world. I would delude their minds into thinking that they had come from man's effort, instead of God's blessings; I would promote an attitude of loving things and using people, instead of the other way around;
- I would dupe entire states into relying on gambling for their state revenue. I would convince people that character is not an issue when it comes to leadership.
- I would cheapen human life as much as possible so that the lives of animals are valued more than human beings.
- I would take God out of the schools, where even the mention of His name is grounds for a lawsuit. I would come up with drugs that sedate the mind and target the young, and I would get sports heroes to advertise them.
- I would get control of the media, so that every night I could pollute the mind of every family member with my agenda. I would attack the family, the backbone of any nation. I would make divorce acceptable and easy, even fashionable. If the family crumbles, so does the nation.
- I would compel people to express their most depraved fantasies on canvas and movie screens, and call it art. I would convince the world that people are born homosexuals, and that their lifestyles should be accepted. I would convince the people that right and wrong are determined by a few who call themselves authorities and refer to their agenda as politically correct.
- I would persuade people that the church is irrelevant and out of date, and the Bible is for the naive. I would dull the minds of Christians, and make them believe that prayer is not important, and that faithfulness and obedience are optional.

Hmmm... I guess if I were the devil, I'd leave things pretty much the way they are. Good day.

## STATE CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

.FATHER JOHN P. GRACE, O.S.A.

**Editor's note: we offer the following article from the State Newsletter from our State Chaplain in lieu of Msgr. Nolan's article (Msgr has been in Ireland on vacation)**

Dear Brothers and fellow Knights, Something set me 'on fire' this last week, and that was the Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus in Dallas, Texas. It was an awesome event, as good as any retreat, and so affirming in our faith and knighthood. In fact, while there I kept saying to myself and others: "I'm proud to be a Knight!" I could write many pages on the happenings and experiences of the week, but will concentrate on some central issues.

The opening Eucharistic Liturgy was an uplifting experience of the presence of the Lord. There were ten cardinals, sixty bishops and about one hundred priests. That same afternoon, we were honored by the presence of the President of the United States, George W. Bush. He received a real Knights' welcome, and in return delivered a memorable speech. I will try to summarize his forthright "Catholic" presentation. President Bush began by saying that he appreciates the Knights! He appreciates their stance on the family, on faith, and their compassion for those in need. He appreciated the presence of the cardinals and the bishops, and called the Pope a devoted servant of God. He said that few have done as much as the Knights to promote the culture of life, the dignity of everyone – the young, the old, the rich, the poor, the born and the unborn. And all this was only his opening statement!!

He spoke about help given by the Knights to our Armed Forces and the veterans, and thanked them for visiting and caring for the wounded and disabled veterans to give them a word of thanks. He thanked the Knights for building a culture of life and strengthening marriage in the family. He said the State should never be the Church and the Church should never be the State. But the State should never fear the good works of the Church. Things are changing in the Capitol re faith-based initiatives and the Knights have helped a lot. I appreciate your efforts – because of your efforts America is changing for the better.

The Government is not good at changing hearts; Almighty God is good at changing hearts! The Knights of Columbus are changing lives with their programs, defending the family that binds us as a nation; I appreciate your fight to protect children from obscenity; to protect the Pledge of Allegiance to keep us "One Nation under God". I want to thank you for the defense of the traditional family that is a fundamental institution for our society. I appreciate the fact that you are supporting the culture of life. We are making progress in America. Human life was created by God, not a commodity to be exploited by man.

My brothers, here we have the highest civil authority in our country speaking in the presence of the highest Church authority and stressing the teaching of the Catholic Church on moral issues and thanking the Knights for their enactment of those beliefs. I can tell you that I felt very affirmed in my faith and proud to be a Knight in that assembly. It was a unique privilege to have been present on that Tues. I thank you Mr. President, and I thank you Brother Knights.

With every good wish and God's blessing on you and your families. Your fellow Knight and State Chaplain, Fr. John P. Grace, o.s.a.

### **WORDS OF WISDOM FROM OUR KIDS**

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching." Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want God is watching the apples."

**MEMBERSHIP**

+

**JERRY MARENICH, PGK - MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**

I had the opportunity, along with Brother Knights Larry Rositani and Andy Hopkins, to witness the recent First Degree Exemplification that was held at St Rose of Lima Parish, in Roseville, on August 18<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Council 4540. It was an outstanding Exemplification, as seventeen new members joined the Knights of Columbus, including four from our own council. Congratulations to District Deputy 05 Tony Cascio, and to the members of Council 4540 for conducting the event, and to our four new members: John Bosco Ambe (SI), Nikolas Lushenko (SI), Tony Meduri (St Philomene), and Max Weis (SI). The members of Council 4970 are honored to have you join the council. With the addition of these new members, Council 4970 is off to a good start in recruiting members for this Columbian year, and hopefully we will be able to meet our annual quota during the upcoming Membership Blitz, scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at St Ignatius.

I would like to remind everyone of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Exemplification, which will be held on September 11<sup>th</sup> at St Ignatius and will be hosted by our own council. Brother Eldon Hancock (Retention) has been contacting eligible members and encouraging them to attend, and a number of them have accepted. To each of you, who have not yet received your Second or Third Degrees, including our most recent members, I encourage you to take this next step to full Knighthood.

Hosting a 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Exemplification is a rather large undertaking, and I hope that as many as possible of you member Knights will volunteer to assist at this event, or to attend as observers and support the candidates.

**THE WISDOM OF WILL ROGERS**

Will Rogers, who died in a plane crash with Wylie Post in 1935, was probably the greatest political sage this country has ever known. Enjoy the following:

Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.

Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.

There are 2 theories to arguing with a woman... neither works.

Never miss a good chance to shut up.

If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.

Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n puttin' it back.

About growing older...

Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.

Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

And finally ~ If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you are old.

**FAMILY DAY AT LEATHERBYS**

Our annual family ice cream social was held on Saturday, August 21st at Leatherby's. The 25 in attendance definitely got their fill of a variety of ice cream concoctions. And then someone asked for a glass of diet coke!! Although a great time was had by all, we hope next year will bring out more brothers and their families. Pictures of the event are on the following page. Also check out more pictures on our website (Events - Recent). Andy's done "cool" things with our digital pictures. Kick on Brother Milt's happy face and the scene should change before your eyes.



**CHUCK'S CORNER****THE DUEL OF THE TITANS****CHUCK CUNY, PGK**

Like a ghostly specter out of the past, the long dark shadow of Plato and Aristotle struggle for man's mind. It is said that the everyman is born either a Platonist or Aristotelian at birth and subconsciously lives out one of these mindsets. The two perception of humanity, while amenable to Christian theology, are in stark contrast with each other and can either drive man to austere asceticism or epicurean hedonism.

Plato's perception of the world is that the superabundant Unknowable, effused out in a series of creation emanations. In the ninth emanation, the Emanated sought to know the Unknowable which resulted in a flawed genie. The dastardly Demiurge (wayward genie) then created flawed man in a flawed world. The compassionate Unknowable sought to redeem the misguided creation by sprinkling sparks of fiery wisdom on mankind. Man then seeks his redemption not in religious ritual (faith) but in absorbing the sparks of wisdom (science) showered down from the benevolent Unknowable.

Centuries later, the Gnostics incorporated Platonic theory into Christian theology. Yahweh was the cruel Creator who punished man with floods and pestilence. Christ came as the fiery light of wisdom to redeem fallen man. The stage is set for the dualism between the evil body wrestling with the enlightened soul. Saint Paul says, "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak". While Paul set the stage, Saint Augustine entrenched Christian theology with platonic ideals. Prior to his conversion, Augustine belonged to a sect that believed in a cosmic struggle between light (God) and darkness (Satan). He saw man's body as darkened with original sin and the sacraments were the means of purging the body (exercising evil) to allow the soul (with the help of grace) to dominate evil flesh. In Augustine, both man's will and intellect were flawed and only the light of grace could save man. The ascetic, monastic, celibate and martyr mentality of the early church fit the harsh realities of life under the slave mentality and Roman persecution.

Enter Aristotle's theory that all creation is good but can be misled by seeking a wrong end. God allows freedom to choose and the consequence of error. Aristotle believes the form (spirit) shapes and fits the matter (body) to form a perfect unity and ideas are like little seeds in man's soul that need to be nourished and do not flow from exterior 'sparks'. The dominance of Aristotelian philosophy did not come until the twelfth century with his expositor, Saint Thomas who claimed that while the will is flawed, the intellect can reason rightly. With the assurance of right reason, Aristotelian logic and cosmology dominated the scholastic thinkers of the middle ages to the point that Galileo was condemned for challenging the Aristotelian earth center universe while Platonic asceticism still dominated religious practice.

Eventually 'science' overturned the earth centered cosmology while a conservative religious bent still clung to the Platonic dualism. In OT theology, "Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom". Vatican II gave the Church a new direction away from a struggle between the fear of God and the fear of Satan. In the new focus, God is the God of light and the God of night and the Satan of fear takes a back seat to a God of love. The Mass is seen not as much as an OT sacrifice but as the agape meal or the love feast of the early Christians. The image is not Christ dying on the cross but Christ inviting his disciples to join Him at supper.

It is indeed ironic that the two major expositors of Plato and Aristotle, Augustine and Thomas, are both saints of the Catholic Church, one espousing a dualism between good and evil and the other a unity which recognizes evil in the consequence of error. Yes, we still see the specter of Plato and Aristotle in the 'conservatives' preaching a gospel of fear and 'liberals' calling for a liturgy of a loving God who seeks to give them direction to avoid the consequence of error.

**TO CONCLUDE: THE FIRST WEEK BACK TO SCHOOL**

TEACHER: Willie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago.

WILLIE: Me!

TEACHER: Tommy, why do you always get so dirty?

TOMMY: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

TEACHER: "Can anybody give an example of COINCIDENCE?"

JOHNNY: "Sir, my Mother and Father got married on the same day, same time."

TEACHER: Now, Sam, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating

SAM: No sir, I don't have to, . . .my Mom is a good cook

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**SEPTEMBER**

- 6 Labor Day
  - 11 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Degrees at St. Ignatius - 10 am
  - 14 Business Meeting - SJ Hall - OLA - 7:30 PM
  - 18/19 Membership Drive - SI Parish - all masses
  - 21 Corporation Meeting - SJ Hall -OLA 7:30 PM
  - 22 Fall Begins
  - 25 Chapter Meeting - Weed
  - 28 Planning Meeting - Seton Hall - OLA - 7:30 PM
- Prepare for the annual MR Drive to support the mentally disabled in the Sacramento Area. Coming next month at a supermarket near you. Do your share to raise the needed funds for a week at Camp ReCreation.*

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**OCTOBER**

- 5 Information Meeting for candidates - TBA
- 11 Columbus Day observed (holiday)
- 12 Business Meeting - SJ Hall - OLA - 7:30 PM
- 15,16,17 MR DRIVE
- 19 First Degree - SJ Hall - OLA - 7 PM
- 23 Rib Feed - St. John Parish Hall - 6 PM.
- 26 Planning Meeting - Seton Hall - OLA - 7:30 PM
- 31 Halloween/ DST ends, Std time begins

*Pancake Breakfast at St. John the Evangelist Parish Hall November 7<sup>th</sup>. Plan to help. Dan Peterson coordinating.*

**VOCATION PRAYER:** *Dear God, we thank you for all the messengers who have taught us about Jesus, especially our parents, teachers, priests, deacons, sisters, and brothers. We ask you to help us be good messengers of your word. Help us to choose the vocation that is right for us. Help us always to share you love with others. Amen*

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
ARDEN – CARMICHAEL COUNCIL 4970  
1063 COMMONS DRIVE  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95825-7056

**NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION**  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 346  
CARMICHAEL, CA 95608



Let's not ever forget. Pray for Peace