

THE Paladin



Knights of Columbus Arden/Carmichael Council 4970 District 9 – Division 4
Serving Our Lady of the Assumption, St. Ignatius of Loyola, and St. John the Evangelist Parishes



DECEMBER 2022

VOLUME 23 • NUMBER 6

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas

By *Tim Spinelli, Grand Knight*

This month I have suffered from a severe writer's block. Each time I sat down to stare at the blank page I was quickly interrupted. I was glad to step away to teach my son long division. I was eager to step away to teach my older son how to multiply polynomials with exponents. As you can now tell, my wife sends the kids to me for help with math homework. After many attempts at writing this article, I am going to keep it short and simple.

I want to wish all of those wonderful people associated with our council a very joyful, peaceful, loving and hopeful Advent and Christmas. With the recent Widow's Memorial Mass, the Pancake breakfast, and the Membership Drive at Saint John the Evangelist I was surrounded by pleasant and grateful people, all of whom had positive feedback about our council's efforts. I am a newer member so I believe all the praise and goodwill is directed to our more seasoned brother Knights and Ladies.

May God Bless you all!

Patriotism--America's Last Stand—an action, not a label

By *PGK Michael Dougherty*

Serving as Knights is not the only Unity we enjoy as Catholic men, armed with Faith and committed to Action. We are also united in a lesser, but equally critical calling. We are citizens of the United States of America, the BEST country in the entire world. If I said that last sentence from the podium in Congress, how many would applaud? If no one else did, would you?

Daily now, as an aging man and a Knight, I grow in utter disbelief. Americans are the freest, most privileged humans on earth. Yet increasing numbers of us are ashamed to show the slightest trace of national pride. (Even those who dare to express our patriotism are persuaded to limit its expression in various ways and places--not by our core religious catechesis, but by our political and religious leaders.)

Americans of recent generations have been swaddled in prosperity and security. In consequence, many have become ungrateful for the blessings we enjoy. It requires rigorous imagination for most of us to even begin to comprehend the brutal realities that most of the world's population experiences as part of daily life. We have consumed a cultural drift that reduces America to its ugliest moments, dismisses its noblest ideals and ignores its accomplishments as contrived nationalism.

This nation saved the world from global catastrophe three times in the 20th century. This nation steadfastly matured to treat racial, ethnic, and religious minorities with equality, respect, and material support. Compared to other places and times on earth, this nation is the most prominent in which people are no longer constrained by their gender, religion, or class; in which they can work to achieve a better life, can criticize their own government, and remain secure in the knowledge that when they rise tomorrow, it will be in a country that still respects their rights.

December Calendar

Dec 6 – Rosary 7 pm

Zoom

Dec 11 – Pancake Breakfast

Our Lady of the Assumption

Dec 13 – Christmas Dinner

Business Meeting 7:30 pm

Our Lady of the Assumption

Dec 15 – Ladies Luncheon 1 p.m.

Cheesecake Factory, Arden Mall

Dec 20 – Rosary 7 pm

Zoom

Dec 20 – Memorial Mass Frank

Gianatassio 8:30 am

Saint John the Evangelist

Americans have come to view these things as our birthright, our permanent and guaranteed condition. But they are not. They exist only because past generations sacrificed deeply, even ultimately, to secure them for us. To our discredit, Americans have increasingly used these blessings, not to strengthen our country, but to tear it down. We members of this Faith and Brotherhood shirk our moral and civic responsibility as the most blessed souls on earth when we remain cringingly silent in the face of encroaching, corrosive ideas. The concept is as simple as a mustard seed metaphor, or a song that fails as voices fall silent.

Woke culture is corrupting our institutions and severing ties that held our country together for 250 years. The New York Times won a Pulitzer Prize for reporting that the sole purpose of the American Revolution was to preserve slavery, yet we remain silent. The Oregon Department of Education asserted that showing your work and finding the right answer in math is white supremacy, yet we remain silent. Howard Zinn, the author of the most widely read history in America's public schools today, wrote that "America has done more bad than good" (see SU's Stanford Report, <https://news.stanford.edu/news> by Wineburg), and we remain silent. We embrace God's creation as a cornerstone of our Faith and of our Constitution, but the American Medical Association has stated that the entire U.S. should remove gender from all birth certificates, and we remain silent. Our Church and K of C are not immune—PROPOSITION 1 is now Law, yet we remain silent.



We can't keep our Faith separate from our Patriotism. We are ashamed to defend America, if we get too lazy, indifferent, or intimidated to learn the extent and fight off a "cancer" threatening her very existence. We embrace

cowardice when we choose to remain silent for fear of unsettling a fellow American or brother Knight or the powers that be. I guess Jesus must have just had a bad day at the temple? Too many use their free speech right to advocate suspending it for those who disagree with them or just to make political "waves." Fellow Americans died on those kinds of waves to save us. What a litany of dishonesty to use the privilege to speak out as a way of undermining the very system that has given us that freedom. Such evil cannot be comfortably overcome.

Wikipedia defines a "last stand" as a situation in which a body of troops holds a defensive position in the face of overwhelming and virtually insurmountable odds. Despite its failings, and largely because of them, America remains the last great stand on earth, where faith, hope, and love still hold fast. We must speak up against evil now or our country and our civilization will face a somber reckoning, much like the waves of the Red Sea.

COUNCIL 4970 OFFICERS

Grand Knight

Tim Spinelli (916-812-0518)

Chaplain

Fr. Eduino Silveira (916-481-5115)

pastor@olaparish.net

Deputy Grand Knight

Will Friesen (916-225-2440)

Financial Secretary

Dcn. Larry Niekamp (916-962-1324)

Chancellor

Frank Consulo (916-366-7131)

Warden

Peter Kilkenny (916-692-5446)

Guards

Tim Kyle (510-619-5138)

Steve Hall (916-787-1069)

Treasurer

Steve Millner (916-502-3162)

Recorder

Gary Mello (916-996-7438)

Advocate

Todd Wilson (916-961-2761)

Lecturer

Jerry Butler

Trustees

Miguel Sabral (916-397-1728)

Michael Dougherty (916-470-7599)

Josh Figueroa (707-812-4894)

District Deputy - District 9

Chris Ornelas

Insurance Field Agent

Greg Bronson (530-503-7473)

JOE'S CAFÉ...Stop by for a tasty bit!

By Joe Romanazzi, Past Grand Knight

Camels, the “Beautiful” Ships of the Desert

Camels are sometimes called "ships of the desert" because of their importance in travel and trade in desert environments. The Camel's unique physiology makes them ideal animals for carrying goods and people across long distances, similar to how ships allow people to travel across oceans. Camels are able to survive in the hostile environment of the hot dry desert, where temperatures can reach a scorching 158 degrees. The average life expectancy of a camel is 40 to 50 years; and they can run at up to 40 mph in short bursts and sustain speeds of up to 25 mph.

Camels are mentioned nearly 70 times in the **Bible**. Our Lord used camels in his scripture analogies, probably because they were the largest creatures the people of that time were familiar with and as such could easily relate to them. We all have heard In **Mark 10:24-25, and 27** that the disciples marveled at Jesus' words. **“Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” Jesus said, “With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.”**

Gone are the days when camels were a measure of a person's wealth and an integral part of daily life in the seven sheikhdoms that comprise the federation of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Oil wealth and global business transformed places like Dubai and Abu Dhabi into prosperous centers with numerous skyscrapers, luxury shopping centers, hotels and nightclubs. As a reminder of the past, the Al Dhafra Festival is a very popular camel event held every year in the Emirates to showcase their heritage and customs. The festival draws camel lovers from around the world. Breeders from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Qatar travel to the UAE's southwestern desert each December with 40,000 of their most beautiful camels. Five festival judges are charged with one task—determine which camels are the most beautiful. Camel aesthetics are evaluated according to precise categories determined generations ago. Necks must be long and slim, cheeks broad and hooves large, lips must droop and they must walk tall with graceful posture. Interestingly, only female camels are allowed to participate because males fight too much. A great deal of money and prestige is at stake, just like in human beauty pageants, The top festival winners can win prizes ranging from \$1,300 to \$13,600. Camels are also bought and sold for millions of dollars. These high stakes have caused many breeders to seek an advantage by using banned Botox injections to inflate the camel's lips, muscle relaxants to soften the face and silicone wax injections to expand the hump. To counter these cosmetic “nips and tucks”, all camels undergo rigorous medical exams to detect artificial touch-ups and hormones before competing. Emirati investigators employ X-rays and sonar systems to help them identify cheaters.

My Brothers, Greek Designer, Alec Issigonis (1906-1988) remarked, “A camel is a horse designed by committee.” I think we can all agree that camels are definitely among God's more unusual and fascinating creatures. The **Bible** in **Isaiah 11:6** speaks of the day that the wolf will live with the lamb... In that day, death and evil will be destroyed, perfect peace will reign, and everything that has breath, including animals, will praise the Lord (**Psalms 150:6**). Wouldn't you love to be present to witness our Heavenly Father's reaction when He comes eye to eye with His “beautiful” camels that have undergone cosmetic work, including Botox and silicone wax injections at the hands of their human stewards? He may very well shake His head in disbelief while muttering, **“Vanity of vanities! All things are vanity!”**

PRAYER LIST

Names on the sick/distress list are removed after being on the list for more than one year. Names may be reinstated simply by contacting Will Friesen at will.friesen@friesen-research.com, or by personal request at any meeting. Some very long-term entries (marked with an asterisk) will remain since they are known special cases. Names will continue to be removed each month as their anniversary occurs.

Brothers, families, and friends listed below will be remembered during our business meetings:

Aborted Children
All Caregivers of the sick
Mario LaSchiazza
Ben Dougherty
Joe Kievernagel
Mark Kievernagel (dec)
Richard Hill (dec)
Steven Koscheski (dec)
Pope Francis
Father Dave Ayotte (dec)
Don and Joan Cotton
Michael Aseltine (dec)
Christopher Scott (dec)
Bill Davis
Jacintha Ezeudoye (dec)
John DePiazza (dec)
Robert Sholtes (dec)
Rick Di Regolo (dec)
Frank Gianattasio (dec)

Lady Knights:

Danielle Corcoran

To report illness or death contact

Fraternal Committee
PGK Michael Dougherty

Knights “Knight” with the Sacramento Kings

Our first of two (or more) evenings with the Sacramento Kings brought 22 Brothers, family and friends to the November 17th game with the San Antonio Spurs. With the Kings actually having a winning season, the arena was packed. The game ended with the Kings pulling ahead and winning by 11 points. This is a family program but is also a Public Relations Outreach effort with the Kings management and the Sacramento community. Our presence was noted on the large scoreboard acknowledging our group participation with other local groups. Our next game will be early 2023 at the Golden One Arena. Our group game options, seating layout and pricing was recently emailed to you. If you didn't receive it, and considering attending, contact Gene Gobbo at 916-261-8652 or gene@gobbo.org for information and a resend of the previous email.

GO KINGS!



PAST GRAND KNIGHT GENE GOBBO CELEBRATES 82 BIG ONES!



Council 4970 Brothers joined with PGK Gene Gobbo to celebrate his 82nd birthday prior to the start of the Business Meeting on November 8, 2022. Brother Gene approached the 4 birthday cupcakes with lit candles representing 82 years cautiously, but finally had the courage to blow them out before the fire department had to be called. Congratulations Brother Gene, and may you be gifted with life's biggest joys and never-ending bliss. HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

By PGK Michael Dougherty

There was a wee Laddie named Milton. Who marched high above crowds with his stilts on,
His Mum glanced up and moaned, then quietly groaned, “Ye can't do that, Milt, with yer Kilt on.”

Program Directors

Sr. Program Director

Will Friesen (916-225-2440)

FAITH

Ken MacDonald (916-284-6541)

FAMILY

Shawn Herrick (916-607-0404)

COMMUNITY

Loren Wallin (916-878-7777)

LIFE

John Mizerak (916-332-5511)

COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Will Friesen (916-225-2440)

Selected Service Committees

Youth

Loren Wallin (916-723-2970)

Membership Director

Joe Kievernagel (916-487-7029)

Membership Committee

Ken Macdonald (916-631-0774)

Public Relations

Gene Gobbo (916-283-5223)

egobbo@surewest.net

Paladin Content Editor

Michael Fazio (973-747-6007)

mfaziohu3@gmail.com

Paladin Layout Editor

Will Friesen (916-225-2440)

will.friesen@friesen-research.com

Photographer

Jerry Marenich (916-514-8027)

The Dark Side of *It's a Wonderful Life*

By Michael Fazio, Editor

We all think of Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life* as a celebration of life at Christmas. Who can forget the joyous singing and celebration as George Bailey, his family, and the delightful folks of Bedford Falls gather in the Bailey's living room to celebrate George? The ending brings a tear to my eyes during my annual viewing, with Clarence Oddbody's beautiful message that no man is a failure if he has friends reminding me of all the blessings in my life.

But that's the last 5 minutes of the movie. The rest of the movie—well, its kind of dark. We see the slow devolution of George Bailey from a young dreamer who was going to conquer the world to a bitter, warped, angry, frustrated man. Christmas Eve was the culmination of a life that had not gone George's way.

It started with promise—George was going to go to college, travel the world, then build things. But then his father got sick and died, he took over the Building and Loan (saving it from the evil Henry Potter), and had to watch as all his friends went off to bigger and better things outside of Bedford Falls—football star, plastics maven, war hero. As we approach Christmas Eve, George has about had it with his humdrum existence—nothing compared to the grandeur he had planned. And recall he could have had the life he desired—with wealth and travel and all the trappings—if he went to work for Potter. He choose not to. And it wouldn't surprise me if part of him regretted that choice. On that faithful Christmas Eve, when he finds out \$8,000 is missing from the Building and Loan accounts, he can't see anything good in his life. Suicide looks like the best option.



Here's the part of the movie that haunts me. If you look at the choices George has made, by and large they were for the good of others, and helped George become the best version of himself. For example, by saving the Building and Loan, he helped many people build a brand new home for their families (think of the beautiful scene welcoming the Martini's into their new home). And look at all the friends he has. At the end of the movie, it becomes clear all the people in George's life he has positively affected by his generosity. George is blind to all of this. He only sees what he doesn't have—wealth, power, status. Things that he, and the world, thought was better. And he was miserable and angry and bitter because of it. He almost gave up his life because his life wasn't what he wanted. But I would argue it was close to what God wanted.

It took the act of an angel for George to be able to see—see how awful life would be for the people he loved without him. He saw with his eyes, and his heart, the value of his life. He went home with renewed love for his life—good and bad, embracing all of it with joy. And he was greeted by the love and generosity of his friends—friends he had been generous to all his life, showing him the love they have for George.

I am George Bailey. Often my will and thy will do not intersect. There are times when I'm sacrificing for others but not happy about it. I could be experiencing the joy of serving others, but instead I wallow in my own selfishness and thinking about how I didn't get what I wanted. I serve, but sometimes I'm not the most enthusiastic server. And no one likes a bitter server. By focusing on how my own needs are not met, I slowly become the warped, frustrated man George Bailey became.

I may not have an angel visit me in a profound way as Clarence visits George, but there are lessons for all of us who are in the darkness that George was. First, God has put me where he needs me. It might not be exactly where I want to be, but its where God needs me. To help my family, my church, my community as best I can. Two, he gives me the ability to choose my attitude—to choose joy or choose something lesser. It's difficult, but its essential. Third, I won't underestimate the power of friends and a supportive community in my life. I venture to say it was key to sustaining George's joy after he went home. Sadly, not everyone has a supportive family or community (and if you don't, see point number 2), but for those who do, rejoice in the generosity they show you.

I pray that this Advent will be a time for all of you to find where you are in the darkness and find your way with Christ back into the light. I wish you all a joyous Advent and Christmas season!

2022 Annual ID Drive Recap

By Joe Romanazzi, PGK and Council ID Drive Chairman



SJE



OLA



SI



Emigh Hardware

Counting Our Blessings with a Grateful Heart and Giving Thanks

We are counting our blessings with a grateful heart and giving thanks for those who have made it possible for Council 4970 to continue our mission of helping to send intellectually disabled campers to camp recreation each summer. Our annual ID Drive, (aka our Tootsie Roll Drive), was a spectacular success again this year with thousands of dollars in donations received. Here are our council results for 2022.

St. John the Evangelist Parish (SJE): \$1,707.02

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish (OLA): \$2,138.41

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish (SI): \$2,002.35

Emigh hardware: \$1,722.51

Mail-ins received from Brother Knights, Lady Knights and others: \$7,404.00

TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED: \$14,974.29

Conducting an annual council ID Drive the size of ours, requires many hands-on deck. I want to thank my wife, Lady Knight Liz, for her overall assistance and significant clerical support. A BIG thank you goes to our former PGK Peter Mendenhall, now a member of Council 15693. Peter demonstrated his fraternal spirit by arranging for 13 students from Mrs. Casagrande's 8th grade class at Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary School to work alongside our Brother Knights at Emigh Hardware. A record \$1,722.51 was collected from patrons visiting the store, including a \$250 donation from store officials.

Many thanks to volunteer helpers, Brothers Jerry Butler, Tony Carvelli, Gene Gobbo, Tim Spinelli and sons Lucas, Robbie and Andy, Sid Tarengo III, Kevin Hall, Ken Macdonald, Peter Kilkenny, Aaron Stroh, Don Harmata, Todd Wilson, Frank Consulo, Bill Simpson, Patrick Topor, Steve Hall, Shawn Herrick, Dan Asetine, Bobbie Bello, Bill Maffei, Gary Mello, Rich Romo, Miguel Sabral, Nick Lushenko, Michael and Lady Knight Shannon Langer, Mike Fazio, and making an inspirational appearance, ID Drive Helper Emeritus, PGK Jerry Marenich. I also want to give thanks to the numerous Brother Knights, Lady Knights, clergy, and parishioners from SJE, OLA, and SI who supported our ID Drives and contributed their money to send a whole bunch of happy campers with special needs to Camp ReCreation next summer.

My Brothers, above all, we give thanks to the Lord for His abundant blessings on us, our families, the work of our Great Council for 62 years and for filling our hearts with over-flowing joy. May the Lord continue to lavish His blessings on the intellectually disabled and their families. And may He continue to always lead us with His love and help so that we can fulfill the good works He sets out for us to accomplish.

By PGK Michael Dougherty

Marcel was both mummy and mime,
So he had to hand-sign his rhymes,
But his fingers fell off, when he suddenly coughed,
While trying to rap to ragtime!

Farmer Joe was eccentric and quirky,
But his reasons were not all that murky,
With 3 kids having fits, over who gets drumsticks,
He was keen to breed three-legged Turkeys.

A View from the Kitchen

On November 20, 2022, Council 4970 hosted a successful Pancake Breakfast at Saint John the Evangelist. Here are our brother Knights hard at work preparing a wonderful meal for the SJE parishioners.



Council celebrates 2022 Widows Memorial Mass

Council 4970 was very pleased to host a Memorial Mass and Luncheon for the widows of our Brother Knights who have contributed so much in the service of others. The Mass was held in the Chapel at St. John the Evangelist on Saturday, November 12. A luncheon catered by Brother Roy Lasich was be served for our distinguished guests immediately following the Mass in the Tralee Center. We were very pleased to serve twenty widows and their guests, along with fifteen of our Brother Knights in celebration of the lives and contributions of Brothers who have gone before us. This Mass and luncheon provided the opportunity for a very “Special Day” for the wives of those who have represented our Order so well. Our celebration was enhanced by nine students from our St. John the Evangelist School who acted as servers for our guests. Council #4970 was very pleased to recognize and serve these Lady Knights.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ARDEN – CARMICHAEL COUNCIL 4970
PO BOX 175
Carmichael CA 95609

**ELECTRONIC SERVICE
REQUESTED**

DECEMBER LADIES LUNCHEON

By Jean Gobbo

Our November Luncheon was again another great success with 18 of us ladies enjoying lunch at the Old Spaghetti Factory. As we continue our spiritual celebration this Advent Season we are taking time to enjoy our next luncheon on Thursday, December 15th at the Cheesecake Factory Restaurant at 1771 Arden Way, Market Square the the Arden Fair Mall, 1 PM.

Reservations will be made so we shouldn't have to wait in line for our tables. Let's have a great turnout before we get too involved with our Christmas festivities. Questions? Contact Glenda Macdonald at 916-631-0774 or myself, Jean Gobbo, at 916-283-5223. Hope to see you on the 15th and to all, a very Blessed Christmas.

