

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
COUNCIL 1684
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2021



GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT –

As I write this on the 29th Sunday of ordinary time, I realize this is no ordinary time. In this Sunday's Gospel we are called to total surrender to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. That doesn't mean giving up anything, but it means giving everything that we do, supernatural quality, by doing it with Jesus. He came not to condemn us but to be like each one of us, in every way, save sin. Treasure then, what we have in common with Him, and also keep this in common with our brothers and sisters, as we face the challenges of this time, with exuberance! Also, as we face the challenges to come.

I'm really encouraged by the more open gatherings, this fall, with our brother Knights at 5300 in Goleta. Strength in unity! One of our core degree principals!

Pray for me, as I will pray for you.

For more confidence, within our own hope, going "Always Forward"!

Peace be with you,

James Garland, Grand Knight

General Meeting of Council 1684, Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Call to Order:

1. Four officers and members were present when Worthy Grand Knight Jim Garland called the September meeting of Council 1684 to order at 6:45pm. Also present was worthy District Deputy Chris Arnoult. The Grand Knight led the members in an opening prayer. The Worthy Recorder read the Minutes from the August 11 Council Meeting.
2. The Worthy Grand Knight reviewed our participation in the "Drinks at Dusk" event held at the Old Mission. The Worthy Grand Knight himself presided over the BBQ pit; all in attendance singing his praises.
 - a. We are called upon to assist the Old Mission and the Diocese, transporting statues of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego using a trailer, helping with setup scheduled for December 5th. Volunteers will be needed to pick up the statues/trailer with a pickup truck from the Mission Santa Inez, transporting the statues to the Old Mission. There will be celebrations associated with this event. After the celebration these statues need to be moved to Mission Buena Ventura.
 - b. It was announced that Old Mission is again holding their annual Mission Moonlight BBQ: Rancho Franciscana, this year on Saturday October 16th. More information on Mission Moonlight, buying tickets as well as being a contributor could be found in the following website:
<https://www.santabarbaramission.org/bbq2021> (Note: all tickets have been sold)

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3. Upcoming socials for our Knights were discussed for September 22, October 27, and the Memorial Mass on November 10. The Council is exploring venue options, and obtaining the services of a Priest to lead this annual event.
4. The Worthy Financial Secretary Steve Romofsky reported four bills paid.
5. Good of the Order:
 - a. We received a letter of appreciation from Bishop Robert Baron for the \$25 he received in lieu of our annual Clergy Appreciation Dinner; cancelled due to Covid.
 - b. Worthy Grand Knight Jim Garland recounted the Memorial Mass for Deacon Bill Sangster. The Deacon meant a great deal to Brother Jim as he presided over Brother Jim's RCIA journey.

After three closing prayers, Worthy Grand Knight Jim Garland adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Al Anglin, Recorder

General Meeting of Council 1684, Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Call to Order:

1. Nine officers and members were present when Worthy Grand Knight Jim Garland called the October meeting of Council 1684 to order at 6:45 pm. The Grand Knight led the opening prayers. The Worthy Recorder read the Minutes of the September Council meeting.
2. Announced that September potluck was cancelled.
3. Old Business:
 - a. Past Grand Knight Hank Peterson inquired about what is happening with Villa Majella. Not certain if they will be having a dinner and a raffle.
 - b. On Saturday October 16th there will be a fundraiser for Bishop Diego García, 5:00 pm at the stadium. A \$12 donation buys two drinks and food (tri-tip sandwiches will be for sale).
4. New Business:
 - a. We discussed and agreed on joining councils for a combined dinner meeting on October 27th. This will be a fun event at Saint Raphael's Hall, which will include Brat and a variety of German and other beers. It will include free dinner and a no host bar (you buy). We invite all Knights and their families to attend, and if possible, RSVP to Al Anglin or Richard Scholl, or Worthy Grand Knight Jim Garland (jimmyjames007@cox.net).
 - b. For our November Memorial Mass, we would also like to invite the Goleta Councils to join us for this event. It will be Saturday November 13th, 10am, at Santa Barbara Parish, with light refreshments on the front portico afterwards. Masks and all safety protocols must be observed at the Mission to protect the community there. Please RSVP to me about this, as well. It will be in Serra Chapel in the rear, and I will try to send an email with incidentals as it gets closer.
 - c. A Christmas dinner event. We haven't made any plans yet but, feel that it could possibly be another combined event, depending on how things go with both Councils this month and next. Possible dates for such an event, we thought could be Dec.20-22nd. More to be revealed!
 - d. Brother Jacques also mentioned a Bishop Diego football game at City College on the same weekend of December, inviting all to a tailgate party held in the upper lot above the stadium. Try-tip and drinks are available for a small fee.
 - e. As per email: All Knights are requested to attend a joint Council meeting with Supreme Regional Territorial Growth Director-West, Bob Kish, and Los Padres Chapter Vice President Tim Carvalho, PSD. Purpose: Joint meeting of Councils 1684 and 5300 with Supreme RTGD-W Bob Kish; when: Tuesday November 16, 2021; Time: 6:00--9:00 pm; where: St. Raphael Church Parish Hall.
 Note: See the letter from District Deputy Chris Arnoult on Page 3 for more information.

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5. The Financial Secretary reported one bill paid.
6. Good of the Order:
 - a. The Council received another thank you note from Bishop Barron.
 - b. The Council received a thank you letter from Brother Greg thanking the Council for their strong support of the Pilgrimage.
 - c. From Brother Steve Romofsky, two Knights have recently passed away; Brother Steve Riffero and Brother Tom Watts. Zee See page 4 for added information.
 - d. Brother Paul Murphy is having a cancerous bladder removed.

After three closing prayers, Worthy Grand Knight Jim Garland adjourned the Council meeting at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Al Anglin, Recorder

LETTER FROM DISTRICT DEPUTY CHRIS ARNOULT

To Worthy Officers of Council 1684 and Council 5300:

This is a preview planned for a joint meeting of both Councils in Santa Barbara area during November conducted by Supreme Regional Territorial Growth Director-West Bob Kish, and Los Padres Chapter Vice President Tim Carvalho, PSD. I've met Supreme RTGD-W Bob, a cool person.

The topic for the meeting will be Council growth and development, issues that exist for our Councils. While Worthy RTGD-W Bob Kish will have some presentation material, he wants to have an open discussion of issues, problems and possible solutions for Council growth and development.

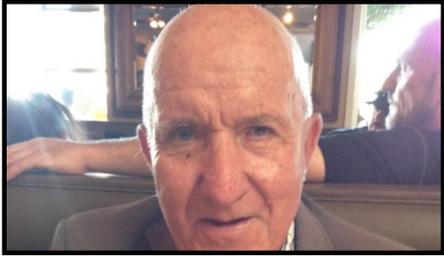
I have reserved St. Raphael's Church parish hall for this event. If we want, we can have snacks (pizza ??) and refreshments at the event.

Please ask all your Council Officers and any other members that would like to do so, to attend this meeting.

What: Joint meeting of Councils 1684 and 5300 with Supreme RTGD-W Bob Kish
When: Tuesday November 16, 2021
Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Where: St. Raphael Church - Parish Hall

Yours in Christ,
District Deputy 87, Los Padres Chapter

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**REMEMBERING
Our BROTHER KNIGHT
STEVE RIFFERO**

Worthy Brother Knights:

We learned on Friday September 10th that Steve Riffero passed away on September 9th. Steve was an active member of our Council over many years. He was known for being the founder and his work with the Blue Jacket Club, this club's goal is taking care of the less fortunate in Tijuana, Mexico. Steve also volunteered his time at a homeless shelter and as well as being an active parishioner at La Guadalupe Parish.

With Steve's estate tied up presently, his close friends and family are looking for assistance with funeral costs. They have started a Go-Fund-Me account at the following link for those who would like to contribute: <https://gofund.me/5ec2f555>

Please remember Steve and his family in your prayers. As of September 24, arrangements were pending. Steve helped so many people around the community and will be greatly missed. Any donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance.

Steve Romofsky, FS
Council 1684

PASSING OF THOMAS WATTS

Our Council received a message from Mary Watts that her husband Thomas, age 64, a brother Knight of our Council passed away on Wednesday, September 22, after a three-year battle with cancer. He left behind his wife and four adult children.

Mary wants the Knights to know how grateful she and Tom were of our Council awarding scholarships to their children when they were attending Catholic schools.

Tom's funeral Mass was held on Saturday September 25 at St. Joseph's Church in Carpinteria. For those who would like to send a message of condolence, Mary's address is 1431 Linden Ave., Carpinteria 93013.

NEW STATE LAW GREASES SKIDS FOR KILLING PATIENTS

Welcome to Killifornia. On October 5 Gov. Gavin Newsom, who calls himself a Catholic, signed SB380, which demolishes some of the few remaining “safeguards” in the “assisted-suicide” law that Gov. Jerry Brown (another self-described Catholic) signed into law in 2015. The new statute not only makes it easier for relatives and others to pressure sick people to swallow death drugs, but will force pro-life doctors to aid and abet such deaths.

The California Catholic Conference warned that SB380 would expose “the poor, elderly, people with disabilities, and others in vulnerable groups—[to] indifference, prejudice, abuse, exploitation, devaluation, and psychological and financial pressure to end their lives.”

The original law said patients must make two requests, at least 15 days apart, to receive the death drugs. SB380 cuts the waiting period to 48 hours. It also says patients no longer have to make a “final attestation” about their true wishes.

There’s more: SB380 says doctors who refuse to help patients kill themselves must tell them they refuse, document their refusal, and transfer the patients’ medical records if asked. This would trample on doctors’ conscience rights by directly involving them in killing their patients. The original law said doctors who opposed killing patients didn’t have to “refer” them to doctors of death. SB380 will enable death advocates to target Catholic and other pro-life doctors for persecution and for further efforts to drive them out of healthcare in California.

In 2018 a judge ruled that Gov. Brown’s original “assisted suicide” law violated the state constitution because it was passed illegally during a legislative session limited to other matters. But California Attorney General Xavier Becerra (another “Catholic”) waged a legal fight to restore the deadly statute. In January of last year, a court agreed with him, declaring the measure lawful and constitutional. As head of the Department of Health and Human Services, Becerra is now in charge of all healthcare in the USA. We can assume he’ll target patients nationwide for “assisted suicide.”

The U.S. Supreme Court has the power to declare all “assisted suicide” laws unconstitutional. Let’s pray that happens—and soon.

--Mike Engler, Pro-Life Chairman

POLISH FAMILY NAMED K OF C FAMILY OF THE YEAR

**The Steciaks were honored for their pro-life witness,
and their commitment to parish community.**



Michał and Angelika Steciak with their children, Marysia and Piotr.
Photo Marcin Jończyk

The Steciak family of Rembieszyce, Poland, was honored by the Knights of Columbus as the 2021 International Family of the Year during the Order’s 139th Supreme Convention.

“Their achievements in service to their parish are enormous, and their testimony of faith, response to God’s call and openness to life evoke respect,” said Poland State Deputy Krzysztof Zuba. “They can be a role model for everyone, especially today.” Michał, a member of St. John Bosco Council 16266, met Angelika in 2006, during an event commemorating the first anniversary of St. John Paul II’s death, and they have had a special devotion to him ever since. In fact, they were married Oct. 22, 2011, John Paul II’s first feast day after his beatification.

A few months after the wedding, Angelika was taken to the hospital with severe pain. The doctors found a cyst near an ovary, and both had to be removed. “It made me enter premature menopause,” she said. “Over the next few years, it turned out that I would not be able to have children.”

However, Michał and Angelika still felt called to share their love with others. They founded the Angel’s Village Foundation, which helps elderly people and disabled children. They became involved in parish groups, including the Knights of Columbus. And they decided to try to adopt children. “We prayed a lot through the intercession of St. John Paul II for help in choosing the path of our life,” Michał said. “Once we had made the decision to adopt, various miracles and signs led us to our child.”

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At the beginning of 2020, Michał and Angelika attended a pro-life event at the Divine Mercy Shrine in Kraków. The speaker's words deeply touched them: "If we care about life and everyone who has conceived, why don't we adopt disabled children? Why don't we give them a chance to live?" Two days later, the couple received a call from an adoption center asking if they would consider adopting a child with a genetic defect. Michał and Angelika later found out that nine families before them hadn't even wanted to meet the child, an infant boy named Piotr.

Two days later, the couple received a call from an adoption center asking if they would consider adopting a child with a genetic defect. Michał and Angelika later found out that nine families before them hadn't even wanted to meet the child, an infant boy named Piotr.

"We thought that it cannot be a coincidence. He was just waiting for us," Michał said. "Thank God for our son! We wanted to love and we wanted to give Piotr our love. When I saw Piotr for the first time, I first noticed his lovely blue eyes, which are simply wonderful," Angelika recalled. "He smiled at us. I will not forget how he was smiling so sweetly."

"Knights of Columbus in Poland, like those around the world, are active in defending human life at every stage. They help organize and participate in pro-life marches and other events, support centers for single mothers financially and materially, and even sponsor pro-life movie nights. Human life begins at conception — it's a scientific, medical and indisputable fact," Zuba said. "And our task, our mission, is to protect the weakest. Our attitude should be based on prayer and education, but above all on witness." In addition to their pro-life witness and activities, Michał and Angelika are deeply involved in their parish. They organize events for children and initiated a Bible study and parish choir. Michał said that the Knights of Columbus has given him opportunities to serve the parish and local community while helping him strive for holiness alongside other Catholic men.

"It shows the true strength of men," he said. "The work of the Knights of Columbus brings you closer to God. No one is left alone but can develop his faith in a community." He added that behind each Knight is his family supporting him. "Families stand behind each of our Knights. I think that is precisely why our Order has such strength."

The strength of the Steciak family grew earlier this year when they adopted a little girl. Marysia is now nearly a year old and Piotr is 19 months.

"During evening prayers with our children, we make intentions through the intercession of St. John Paul II. His image hangs in our bedroom and we always point to it with Piotrek and Marysia. We say, 'St. John Paul II, pray for us.' And they understand it," Michał said with a smile.

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