

District Deputy's Report – April 2017

By Ed Barrier Past Grand Knight (PGK), Council 5300 (2011-2), Faithful Navigator (FN), Junipero Serra Assembly (2015-6)

Spiritual Thought: Here is a quote from St. Benedict of Nursia: "Prayer ought to be short and pure, unless it be prolonged by the inspiration of Divine grace."

Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish Initiative and Safe Environment Program

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson announced a new Order wide initiative called **Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish**. The purposes of the initiative are to: strengthen the Catholic identity of our families, further the mission of the new evangelization, transmit the practice of our faith to our children and grandchildren, and revitalize parish life. To achieve these goals, the Knights of Columbus Councils will integrate their activities more fully into the sacramental and social life of parishes, particularly with their youth programs. Part of that integration will include meetings between the Grand Knight of the Council and the church pastor. The purpose of these meetings is to seek ways in how Councils can more support parish youth activities. Some of these actions can include: incorporation of the Soccer Challenge and Free Throw Championship programs into parish youth activities, supporting Catholic Scouting by members volunteering, and contributing financial support for scout troops under the pastor's guidance.

Another initiative that was started by the Knights of Columbus is called the **Safe Environment Program**. The Knights of Columbus **Safe Environment Program** is a program aimed at Councils that have either: a member running a Youth Program or members running Youth Activities at their Parish. The program's purpose is to protect youths from all forms of abuse and to ensure the safety and well-being of young people that are served through Knights of Columbus activities and their programs. **This program is in addition to all the safe environment/youth protection programs requirements established by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and its parishes.** The Knights of Columbus does not rely on other organizations to screen their own members and are responsible for themselves. *Praesidium*, an international leader in youth protection for more than twenty years, is the organization that runs the program in partnership with the Knights of Columbus. *Praesidium* was chosen by the Knight of Columbus due to their experience in providing knowledge and tools that safeguard against sexual predators.

The Grand Knight and the Youth Director for the Council are required to take an online training course consisting of three modules and undergo a background check. The training and background check are valid for two years.

Policy and procedure violations can be reported to the Knights of Columbus Safe Environments Hotline at **1-844-563-2723**.

For more information on the **Building the Domestic Church Initiative** and the **Safe Environment Program**, see the following web links:

Domestic Church Initiative: <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/domestic-church/index.html>

Safe Environment Program:

<http://www.kofc.org/en/members/programs/youth-activities/safe-environment-program.html>

News from around the District:

Congratulations to PGK John Kirk from **Council 5300** - Pro-Life Chairman. Brother John is the recipient of the **Columbian Award** for the Pro-Life Service Program administered by the Council during his tenure as Grand Knight, Council 5300 (2015-16).

Our Officers Training Session on **March 9th** at St. Raphael's School was very successful. Thanks to Brother Patrick Maloney (Membership Services from Supreme) for holding the session, Brother David Nordella (Insurance Field Agent) for helping generate interest in the session and for those who attended.

April 12th: **Council 1684** is having a Second Admissions Degree at 7:30 PM, Junipero Serra Hall.

April 22nd: Third Knighthood Degree - Queen of Angels Parish Hall 3495 Rucker Road Lompoc CA at 12:00 PM. Any interested candidate should please contact District Deputy David Waage, District 78 (805-588-8412) to register for the Degree and the banquet reception following the degree.

June 24th: Joint Officers Installation (Councils 1684 and 5300) at Mission Santa Barbara.