



The PATRIOT

Bulletin of the Father Felix J. Penna Assembly #80

December 2008

Junipero Serra Province – Southern California District

ASSEMBLY OFFICERS COLUMBIAN YEAR 2008-09

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KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS



At Christmas we honor the birth of Jesus Christ who is not only God's only begotten Son but God Himself in the flesh. At times our Savior is forgotten in the commercialization of the season and our rush to get ready for holiday festivities.

Giving gifts during this celebration of Christ's birth is supposed to remind us of God's generosity and encourage us to imitate our heavenly Father. During this season we often place a pine tree in our home and call it a Christmas tree. A Christmas tree is meant to remind

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us of Christ. It is a symbol of Christ. It is evergreen to remind us of God's endless love and the gift of eternal life. Its shape points toward heaven, our true home. Since it is a symbol of Christ we place our gifts beneath the tree asking for Him to bless them and accept them because the gifts we give to others are the gifts we give to Him.

Today's culture, however, sees Christmas not as a time of giving gifts in the name of Jesus to those we love and those in need but a time of getting. It is a time of material gluttony. It is a time to reinforce and perpetuate the mentality that the "one with the most toys wins". Most retail stores make approximately 80% of their annual income during this season. This should tell us that without Christ they would be broke.

In a time when all things religious are being discouraged and swept away, it's refreshing to know that the Knights of Columbus sponsors the "Keep Christ in Christmas" campaign to remind people that Christmas is above all a Holy Day celebrating the birth of Christ. Keeping Christ in Christmas is keeping the very heart and meaning of the Christmas celebration alive.

The number one way to keep Jesus Christ in your Christmas celebrations is to have him present in your daily life. Keeping Christ in Christmas is more about the way you live your life than the things you say - such as "Merry Christmas" versus "Happy Holidays." Keeping Christ in Christmas means daily revealing the character, love and spirit of Christ that dwells in you, by allowing these traits to shine through your actions. This holiday season give the gift of yourself within your council, community and family. Here are simple ways to keep Christ the central focus of your life this Christmas season. Give these or similar presents of friendship, understanding, kindness, love and compassion:

1. Give God one very special gift just from you to him:

Let this gift be something personal that no one else needs to know about, and let it be a sacrifice. David said in 2 Samuel 24 that he would not offer a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing. Maybe your gift to God will be to forgive someone you've needed to forgive for a long time. You may discover that you've given a gift back to yourself. Perhaps your gift will be to commit to spending time with God daily. Or maybe there is something God has asked you to give up, such as a vice, an addiction or an obsession, which draws us away from Christ. Make this your most important gift of the season.

2. Set aside a special time to honor God

This Holiday Season, take time to worship God for all the blessings he has bestowed upon you. This can

be as simple as setting up a Nativity scene in a prominent place in the home or reading the Christmas story in the Gospel of Luke (1:5-56 through 2:1-20) with your family and discussing it together. You could even begin a new family tradition of setting aside a few minutes of family devotion on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning before opening gifts to gather together as a family in prayer and devotion.

MESSAGE FROM FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR



Sir Knights:

Happy Holidays – This is a busy, but fun time of the year for us. This Sunday, December 7, 2008 we will be honoring Rev. Fr. Udumala Kaspar and presenting him with a Chalice at St. John Vianney Church in Hacienda Heights. This will be a 9:30 a.m. call out for a 10:00 a.m. mass. Father Kaspar is visiting from India and he also made his 1st Degree just last week on November 26, 2008. This will be a full regalia and tuxedo callout. So please dress your best.

We will also be making plans to go to the VA again, but this will probably be in January or February. I will keep you advised.

I will like to take a moment to recognize our faithful editor Ray Gomez. He has done an outstanding job in designing The PATRIOT our Assembly newsletter.

Our Flag Retirement on November 22nd turned out fantastic. We had the Boy Scouts from Troop 620 conduct the ceremony and the local girl scouts with us to witness the event. We were also fortunate to have the local veterans there to help with the ceremony.

Sir Knights it is that time of year for us to mail our annual dues letters. You will notice a difference as we will be sending a request for dues from this past year as well. Unfortunately we did not send statements last year due to an unforeseen illness. Due to this lateness we are sending your new 4th Degree membership card now. Please accept our apology for this lateness and return your dues as soon as possible. I'm thanking you in advance for your cooperation. Please have a Happy Holiday Season.

Vivat Jesus

Your Faithful Navigator, Joseph Sofka

PAST EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



ASSEMBLY HELPS CELEBRATE THE 50th YEAR ANIVERSARY AT ST. HILARY

On November 9th, at the request of Rev. Joshua Peter Lee, 21 Sir Knights from the Father Felix J. Penna Assembly helped celebrate the 50th Year Anniversary that St. Hilary in Pico Rivera has remained open 24 hours a day 7 days a week. St. Hilary is one of the few churches in the San Gabriel Valley that offer perpetual adoration. The Color Corp opened up the 11:00 a.m. mass by processing in full regalia and tuxedos. Phil Wilmont recalls that the Assembly was also there to celebrate the 25th year anniversary.

CURSILLO HOUSE DEDICATION



Twenty Eight Sir Knights from the Mission San Gabriel, Christopher Columbus and Father Felix J. Penna Assemblies, helped celebrate the opening of the Cursillo House in Pomona on November 22nd. Cardinal Roger

Mahony presided over the special outdoor multi-lingual liturgy dedication. The house is the first retreat center for the Cursillo Movement of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and is officially named the Cursillo House, Eduardo Bonnin Aguilo, a Catholic Retreat and Evangelization Center.

FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

On November 22nd Assembly 80 sponsored a Flag Retirement ceremony at St John Vianney Catholic Church in Hacienda Heights. The Color Corp consisted of over 23 Sir Knights from Mission San Gabriel, Christopher Columbus and Father Felix J. Penna Assemblies. In addition, Boys Scouts from Troop 620 from St Marks Lutheran School; Girl Scouts from Hacienda Heights area; and several Veteran Groups, including the VFW and American Legion also participated in the event. The event was attended by well over 50 people who all said they were moved by the



Color Corp lead by Commander Roger Meehan falls into formation, ready to begin ceremony.



Faithful Captain and Admiral conduct their inspection of the flags to be retired.

ceremony. Our Assembly requested parishioners to bring their worn, torn, and old flags and the response was overwhelming. Unfortunately, we were only able to retire a handful of flags at the ceremony. If you were unable to attend this flag ceremony, we are planning to have other ceremonies in the future. Please plan on attending one in order to witness the proper way to retire a symbol of our great nation.



Cub Scouts from Pack 727 retire worn flag as Boy Scouts from Troop 620 await their turn to retire flag.



Boy Scouts from Troop 620 and Color Corp Commander stand at attention as the flag is retired.

ASSEMBLY PRE-THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

The Father Felix J. Penna Assembly hosted a Potluck during their scheduled business meeting on November 19th. The potluck included Brother Knights from Council 6028 and was a pre-Thanksgiving celebration to remember all that we are grateful for.

The evening was highlighted by a video presentation by Brother Sir Knight Dean Avram. Brother Dean was instrumental in coordinating a Rosary for the Troops for Council 6028 on July 5th of this Columbian Year. As follow up to that and the recent visit by Brother Captain

Armin Jose Reyes from Camp Victory, Brother Dean created a presentation to be sent to the Roundtable Knights from Camp Victory in Iraq.

After the presentation, Knights were asked to record their Holiday blessings and well wishes to the troops at Camp Victory. The whole presentation and Christmas messages should arrive to the troops in time for Christmas. Thank you Brother Dean for all your hard work.



Grand Knight and Sir Knight Efrain Delgadillo and Faithful Navigator Joe Sofka PGK open the event with presentation of colors.



Faithful Navigator Joe Sofka read about the meaning of Thanksgiving as Brother Dean looks on ready for his presentation

MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLY OFFICERS


Message from Faithful Captain Art Herrera...

Sir Knights, I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends and that you did not gain too much weight!

We are now in December, getting ready for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Hopefully, we can stay focused on the significance of this very special event. It is very sad that many public entities, corporations and businesses refrain from using the term "Christmas." Let's do our part by vigorously trying to "Keep Christ in Christmas!"

I wish all of you and your families, a very Merry and Happy Christmas!

Art Herrera, Faithful Captain


Message from Faithful Pilot John Widner ...

My Brother's in Christ, November was a very busy month for all of us. Our Assembly took part in several Call Outs. The most notable call outs were a Flag Retirement Ceremony that we did with the Boy & Girl Scouts of America along with the local VFW on Saturday November 22 in the evening. On that same day our Honor Guard went to Pomona to help Cardinal Roger Mahoney dedicate a new building next to St. Madeline's.

December is as equally busy for us all. With all our responsibilities and duties towards our families and our Assembly, let us not forget what this season is all about. We are upon the season of Advent, Christmas, and in January the Feast of the Epiphany, so once again let us WELCOME the Baby Jesus into our hearts and our homes. This is the time of the year we should help out the less fortunate in their time of need and, treat our fellow men with common courtesy and respect. As Catholic Men we should go to Mass, pray the Rosary, and thank the Lord Jesus for everything that we have. As your Faithful Pilot and one of the San Gabriel Valley District Deputy's I want to wish you all a Blessed and Holy Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

John A. Widner, DD#82 & Faithful Pilot


Message from Faithful Comptroller Al Armas...

Dear Sir Brother Knights

We are going to have a very good Columbian Year. We had over 12 new members join the 4th degree this year and that means adding more to the color core

Brothers we are selling or taking orders of Black Polo Shirts for \$30. They will have your name on it as well as our logo. If you would like to have one please see me and we can arrange to order one for you.

May every Brother Sir Knight have a Merry and Blessed Christmas this year. Remember to Give thanks to God for everything that He as given us.

Yours in Christ

Al Armas Faithful Comptroller


Message from Faithful Admiral Roger Meehan...

My Sr. Brother Knights,

I hope you and your families had a great Thanksgiving. I would like to thank all of you who showed up at Saint Hilary in Pico Rivera for the 50th anniversary of the church being open twenty four hours a day. There where 21 Sr. Knights that showed up including 4 white capes, 12 red capes, 4 tuxedos and myself. Great job to all who participated.

I would also like to thank all those who attended the call out at the Cursillo House in Pomona on November 22nd. At this event we shared duties with Mission San Gabriel and Christopher Columbus Assemblies. We had a total of 28 members, including 7 members from Father Felix J. Penna Assembly who were there to represent even though this was out of our jurisdiction. There were 3 purple capes, 6 white capes, 14 red capes and 5 tuxedos.

But what was amazing is that it was a 10:00 a.m. call out and on the same day we had a 5:00 p.m. call out for a Flag Retirement Ceremony a St. John Vianney Church in Hacienda Heights. I want to thank all of you who showed up. We had 23 Sir Knights, including 2 purple capes, 4 white capes 10 red capes and five tuxedos. Our assembly alone had 10 members present in colors and tuxedos plus 2 additional members there who helped set up for a total of 12 members from the Father Felix J. Penna Assembly. The rest came from Mission San Gabriel (7) and Christopher Columbus (4)

assemblies. We also had a Commander from the Am vets and a Commander and Vice Commander from the American Legion, one member from the VFW, and 8 members from Boy Scouts Troop 620 and 8 girls from the Girl Scouts. I would like to give a big thanks to all who attended this great event. I especially want to thank Ron Dunbar for the way he played Taps and also our Newsletter editor Sir Knight Ray Gomez for all the time and work he did to make this event successful.

Finally, I want to thank all of you Brother Sir Knights for showing up to these call outs. It makes me proud to be your Color Corps Commander. I just hope you all keep showing up to all the call outs and that the rest of our Sir Knights that have regalia or tuxedos start showing up. My goal is to have at least 10 members or more, show up to every call out in regalia and at least 4 tuxedos. I know we can make this happen. Yes my Brothers, I have Faith in all of you that we can make this happen. Remember we have a call out on Friday Dec. 12th at 6:30 p.m. at Saint Paul the Cross' 7:00 p.m. mass at 14024 Foster Rd. in La Mirada CA. for Our Lady Of Guadalupe Feast Day.

So now my Sir Knights I would like to take this time to wish you and your families all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Vivat Jesus

Roger Meehan, Color Corps Commander
Father Felix J. Penna Assembly

UPCOMING EVENTS

ASSEMBLY CHRISTMAS PARTY POTLUCK

On Wednesday, December 17th the Father Felix J. Penna along with Council 6028 will having a Christmas Party in Dolan Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m. Bring your favorite gourmet dish to share and take a break from the busy holiday season and come relax with Brother Knights. All family and children are welcome.

CALL OUTS

There will be several upcoming call outs coming up in December.

On December 12th there will be a call out at St. Paul of the Cross Church in La Mirada, California. The church will be celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A special mass in honor of our Lady will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. followed by a reception. The address is 14020 Foster Rd., La Mirada, Ca 90638.

The Color Corp has also been invited to attend the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Hilary in Pico Rivera on December 12th. The address is 5465 South Citronell Avenue. We will release more information as the event gets closer.

REMINDERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE COLOR CORP NEED YOUR HELP

This past month was extremely busy for the Color Corp. We were requested at over 4 events in November, and December is shaping up to be equally hectic. We need your help. If you are interested in joining the most visible group within the Knights of Columbus, please contact our Color Corp Commander Roger Meehan at (626) 279-4259.

For those Brother Knights that were once part of the Color Corp but are unable to continue or are no longer interested, please consider donating your regalia to a Brother Knight who is interested but is unable to purchase his own regalia. Practices for Color Corp are held on the first Monday's of each month at 7:15 p.m. at Dolan Hall 1345 Turnbull Canyon Rd., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745.



PRAYER REQUEST

During this Advent and Christmas Season please remember all of our deceased members of the Knights of Columbus Family who have gone to their eternal rest and also those Brother Knights that are suffering from infirmities or the burdens of this season.

Remember all our soldiers serving this country and who are away from their families this holiday season. May the Lord grant them and their families the strength they will need during this Christmas Holiday.

Finally, remember all those less fortunate including the homeless, impoverished, terminally ill, mentally ill, and

anyone suffering through difficult times. May the lord grant to them the peace they are seeking.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Happy Birthday to the following Sir Knights

Larry J. Klapperich	12-1
Alvaro Fernandez	12-3
Arthur Herrera	12-5
Paul R. Coble	12-7
Salvador Franco	12-7
Robert P. Daleo	12-8
Jack Lopez	12-8
Reginald Franco	12-9
Eugene S. Nelson	12-11
Fernando V Tecson	12-12
Robert L. Dube	12-15
Roger Meehan Jr	12-15
Henry L. Fajardo	12-18
Auscencio Melendez	12-18
James A Sipper	12-18
Adrain C. Martinez	12-24
Anthony C. Martinez	12-24
Paul Rifino	12-29
Norm Beach-Courchesne	12-30



PRECIOUS GIFT

Celebrate this Christmas
 The birth of God's Holy Son
 Give praise and thanks
 For all that God has done
 The miracles at this time
 Are all too often hard to see
 All of our time is spent
 Buying presents for under the tree
 Don't forget the reason
 Behind this glorious day
 Was a babe born in a manger
 On that blessed Christmas Day
 His life was laid down for us
 Christ, he gave us his all
 To suffer our sins for us
 In hopes that no one would fall
 Our sins have been forgiven
 All that's asked is we believe
 There are no words to express
 The love he has for us
 Remember how he suffered
 Before he died on the cross
 Worship him this Christmas
 Fall on bended knee
 Lift your voices singing praises
 Let him be all you need
 Though presents and decorations
 Are a lot of fun
 Give thanks to God this Christmas
 He gave the most precious gift to us,
 The life of his only Son

--Stephanie Cherie Burger



2008-2009 MEETING CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2008		
December 17 th 7:00 p.m.	Assembly Christmas Potluck	St. John Vianney – Dolan Hall 1345 Turnbull Canyon Rd. Hacienda Heights, CA 91745
DECEMBER 2008		
January 21 st 7:30 p.m.	Assembly Business Meeting	St. John Vianney – Dolan Hall 1345 Turnbull Canyon Rd. Hacienda Heights, CA 91745
JANUARY 2009		
February 18 th 7:30 p.m.	Assembly Business Meeting	St. John Vianney – Dolan Hall 1345 Turnbull Canyon Rd. Hacienda Heights, CA 91745



Knights of Columbus
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D E G R E E
Patriotic degree of the Order.



Father Felix J. Penna Assembly 80
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