



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWSLETTER

TUOLUMNE COUNCIL 2165

Sonora, California 95370



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### **Knight's Table**

#### **Constantine and the First Nicea Council**

By the fourth century the Roman Empire was facing a number of social and religious problems, including serious faction fighting and threats of a civil war. Christians were being persecuted throughout the empire and the different sects were growing in size and were disputing each other on the basic meanings of Christianity. The two principle political/military leaders were Constantine and Maxentino, both self-proclaimed emperors. They had a long standing conflict over control of the western half of the empire. The situation reached a critical point in 0312 as both sides were preparing for battle at Milvian Bridge, across the Tiber River, about 15 kilometers from Rome. (The Milvian Bridge is in daily use today and is a tourist attraction for visitors to Rome.)

It is recorded that on or about May 28<sup>th</sup>, about the time of the midday sun, Constantine and his army saw a light in the form of a cross above the sun and the words "*In This Sign – Conquer*". That night Constantine had a dream where Christ told him to use the sign of the cross against his enemies. One account tells of Constantine having his soldiers paint crosses on their shields prior to the battle; another source tells of the soldiers painting '*Chi-Rho*' the first two letters of Christ's name on their shields. On May 29, 0312, Constantine was victorious.

*(please continue on page 3 )*



#### **A Prayer for Greater Love**

O Mary, my dear Mother, how much I love thee! And yet in reality how little! Thou dost teach me what I ought to know, for thou teachest me what Jesus is to me and what I ought to be for Jesus.

Dearly beloved Mother, how close to God thou art, and how utterly filled with him! In the measure that we know God, we remind ourselves of thee.

Mother of God, obtain for me the grace of loving my Jesus; obtain for me the grace of loving thee! *(Author unknown)*

## Announcements

- Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 12, at 7:00 p.m. in room 1 of the Hall.
- **Bunco** and **Potluck** June 1, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in St. Patrick's-Sonora Hall sponsored by Knights of Columbus Assembly 3340. All Knights, spouses, significant others invited. St. Patrick's parishioners welcome.

Bring pot luck dish to share. Beer, wine and refreshments hosted by Assembly 3340. Tips and donations appreciated.

Prizes for first, second, and last players.

Please RSVP to Matt Peller  
(mattpeller@yahoo.com).

## Prayers for the Sick and Infirm

*St. Francis de Salles* wrote "The prayer of the sick person is his patience and his acceptance of his sickness for the love of Jesus Christ. Make sickness itself a prayer, for there is none more powerful, save martyrdom!" Amen

## Just like a Knight

This is a story about one of our more ingenious Knights who prepares himself for any emergency. One rainy stormy evening our Knight and Mrs. Knight emerged from a restaurant to find that he had locked the keys in the car.

He had seen a guy open a locked car with a coat hanger and was certain he could do the same and went back into the restaurant to get one. There were no coat hangers to be found. He ran about a quarter of a mile to a shopping center down the road and obtained one from a boutique. Upon returning to the car he straightened the hanger and after several attempts managed to open the car door.

He proudly went into the restaurant and showed his wife the car keys. They got into the car and our Knight stuck the hanger under the front seat and smugly remarked to Mrs. Knight, "Now if that ever happens again, I'll be ready." End of story.

## By the Way

The NICEST place to be is  
in someone's thoughts.

The SAFEST place to be is  
in someone's prayers.

The VERY BEST place to be is  
in the hands of God.

*Submitted by Ray Harm*

"We must restore hope to young people,  
help the old,  
be open to the future,  
spread love.  
Be poor among the poor.

We need to include the excluded  
and preach peace.

*Pope Francis*

## Historical Dates for May

The month of May is devoted to the Virgin Mary in our Catholic Church. The month of May was named for the Greek goddess *Mais*, goddess of fertility. The birthstone is the emerald, which symbolizes success and love.

May 01, 1873 – First U.S. postal card issued.

May 02, 1810 – Pope Leo XIII born in Carpino, Italy.

May 05, 1961 – Alan Shepard first American in space.

May 07, 1992 – 27<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified prohibiting Congress from giving itself a pay raise.

May 10, 1869 – Union Pacific and Central Pacific railways linked with a golden spike at Promontory Point, Utah.

May 12, 1820 – Florence Nightingale born in Florence, Italy.

May 13, 1846 – Congress declared war on Mexico which resulted in the annexation of parts of Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California, Utah and Colorado.

May 14, 1607 – First permanent English settlement established at Jamestown, Virginia.

May 17, 1792 – New York Stock Exchange established.

May 18, 1920 – Pope John Paul II born in Wadowice, Poland.

May 20, 0325 – Council of Nicea called by Constantine I.

May 21, 1881 – American Red Cross founded by Clara Barton.

May 24, 1844 – Samuel Morse sent first telegraph message, “What hath God Wrought?”

May 27, 1937 – Golden Gate Bridge opened.

May 29, 1736 – Patrick Henry born in Studley, Virginia.

## **Knight’s Table**

*(continued from page 1)*

Maxentius was slain and decapitated; his head, on a pole, was paraded through the streets of Rome. This battle was one of a succession of battles that made Caesar Flavius Constantine Emperor of the Western Roman Empire. Constantine converted to Christianity but was not baptized until near death. In 0313, for political and religious reasons, Constantine met with Eastern Emperor Licinius in Milan to discuss the practice of religion. A

proclamation resulted which granted Christians, and other religions, legal rights to organize and worship as they chose and to the return all confiscated properties. The wrongs suffered by Christians were to be righted. This action did not make Christianity the official religion of the empire. Historically, this proclamation became known as the Edict of Milan.

Free from persecution, the different variations of the Christian religion flourished. There were continuous disagreements concerning the faith, liturgical details and, more importantly, the natures of Christ and God. Constantine’s plans of unifying the faltering empire were being compromised with both civil and religious problems. On the advice of church leaders, Constantine decided to organize a Council to directly address the major issue of Christ’s divinity and, in particular, the relationship between the Father and the Son. In 0325 there were an estimated 1,800 bishops in the empire (one in each diocese – 800 in the west and 1,000 in the east). Each bishop from each province was invited to a Council to be held in Bithynian City of Nicea. Each bishop could be accompanied by two priests and three deacons. All travel related costs were compliments of the Emperor and under protection from the state. The number of bishops who attended the Council has been reported as being between 250 and 318. The total number of persons attending is estimated at 1500 to 1800; the most prominent leaders of the church at that time. Pope Sylvester (0314 – 0335) did not attend, but sent two deacons to represent him.

After all the bishops had been seated, Constantine opened the Council. The Council was organized along the lines of the Roman Senate with appropriate protocol. Constantine reminded the bishops that the greater business was to resolve the matters of faith and that their personal quarrels were to be put aside. The Council was in session from May 20 to August 25, 0325. Constantine was present at the Council as overseer, but did not vote.

The major issue at the Council was the nature of Christ's divinity and His relationship with the Father. Christians throughout the empire were divided on this issue. One side, headed by Arius, a presbyter and priest from Alexandria, taught that Christ was created by the Father. The argument was that God the Son was God's first creation and that through Him everything else was made and the Father's divinity is greater than that of the Son. On the other side was Athanasius, a deacon under Bishop Alexander of Alexandria, who taught that Christ was begotten. If Christ was begotten he could not have been created, and was equal to the Father. After weeks of debate, the Council voted that Arius's teachings undermined the godhead and contradicted Scripture. The Council voted in favor of the view that the Son had an eternal derivation from the Father and was co-eternal and equally divine. The Council produced a statement of doctrine we know as the Nicene Creed, the first uniform Christian doctrine. This was the first attempt to achieve an understanding among Christians through debate.

The Council also clarified a date for Easter celebrations. Twenty canons were produced which dealt primarily with administrative matters, including organizational structure for the Church, standards for clergy, reconciliation of lapsed Christians and heretics, and liturgical practices. In the short term, the Council had little effect on dissent and disagreement among certain factions. There would be twenty additional Ecumenical Councils over the centuries, the last one being the Second Vatican Council in 1962.

References Cited: ([challis.com/7-councils](http://challis.com/7-councils);  
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[wekepedia.org/First\\_Council\\_of\\_Nicea](http://wekepedia.org/First_Council_of_Nicea))

## Chaplain's Message

Brother Knights, have you heard the story of the man who was wandering the streets of Manhattan searching for Carnegie Hall? When he finally gave in and asked a stranger, "Excuse me, can you tell me how to get to Carnegie Hall?" The stranger replied, "Practice, practice, practice!"

People give directions in many ways, like, "Go down to the old Shell Station and make a left, then the first right until you get to where the old Sonora Bowl used to be." In the Gospel for the fifth Sunday of Easter, Thomas asked Jesus, "How can we know the way?" Jesus responded to Thomas and to us, "I am the way the truth and the life.... No one comes to the Father except through me." So we hear Jesus say that he is the way.... but the way to where? To the Father.... and then we hear Jesus say, "I am in the Father and the Father is in me." So, Jesus and the Father are one..... And because of this, the goal, the end, is also the Way. The very direction on how to get there is the destination!

If we believe that Jesus is the way the truth, and the light, then that demands a response on our part. Jesus clearly states at the end of the Gospel, "Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do." So as individuals and as the Knights of Columbus, we are called to do the works of Jesus. What does that mean to you personally? The sacrifices we make every day parallel the sacrifices Jesus made in his life. I have said it before and I will say it again and again, John 13:34-35. "I have given you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

After we are nourished at the Table of the Lord, how do we go out and proclaim the Gospel of the Lord in word and deed? How do we serve God by serving others? If we believe that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and we put

our Faith, Hope, and Love in Him, then we can rejoice in knowing that “He is going to prepare a place for us. And that He will come back again and take us to Himself.”

Jesus tells the Apostles and us that we will, “Do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these.” Our Faith, Hope, and Love of God make all things possible.

God Bless, *Deacon Mike*

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