

# *The Knight Edition*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 1638  
RIVERSIDE CALIFORNIA

**DISTRICT #121**  
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December 2018



## CHOIR NOTES

*By Grand Knight Patrick Merrill*

***Ad-vent:*** To come (toward); arrival

Many people believe that Advent starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. The Catholic Church however doesn't start the calendar by counting backwards. It begins the season of Advent by starting on the Sunday nearest to the feast of the first apostle, St. Andrew, on November 30th. It is looking forward to the birth of Christ with much joy and exultation.

A novena prior, on November 21st, the Presentation of Mary (recognized continuously since Pope Sixtus V in 1585) is celebrated. The tradition is that Mary was brought to the Temple of Jerusalem by her parents at the age of three to be raised there. Certainly, Mary would have been instructed in the Scriptures and would know the prophecies from the Jewish texts of what trials and tribulations the Christ would suffer. And by agreeing to be the mother of Christ she would humbly accept all the pains that would accompany that life adventure. She would be blessed with the unadulterated joy of bearing the Savior of mankind and participating in the fulfillment of the Scriptures. Imagine the poignant tenderness of the mother of a newborn, being told the predestination of his life, how completely in love she would be with him. Knowing the result of his sacrifice, knowing the, necessity of his sacrifice for the benefit of all mankind, how much she would cherish him.

For us, we can approach the future blissfully ignorant of what pain and agony that may lie ahead because the end is now greater than the means. Our lives maybe interspersed with searing loss or approaching



catastrophe, yet we are confident that our loss can be recompensed, our pains salved, and our tears allayed.

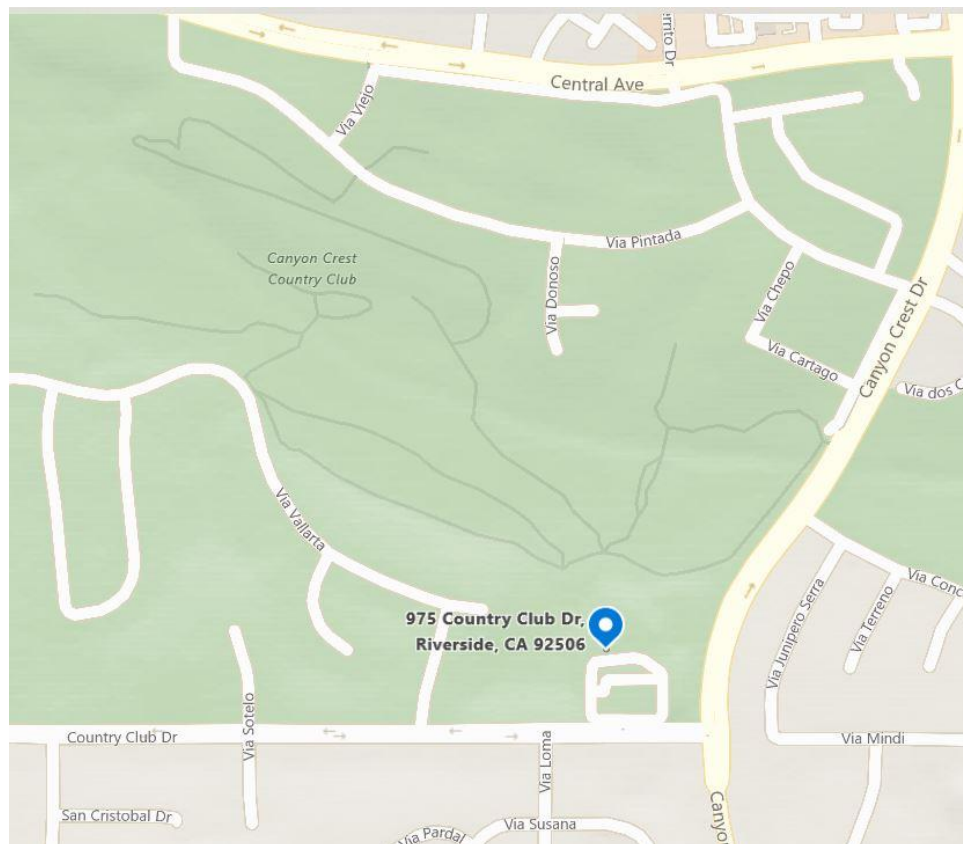
This has been a particularly difficult time for several members of our Council. I've heard often, "I don't know what to say", when someone attempts to console. We may take instruction from Mary as written in the Gospel of Luke (2:18-19), "And all that heard, wondered; and at those things that were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these words, pondering them in her heart."

Sometimes, it's in the silence of the tongue when the voice of the heart is most clearly heard. Despite all this, and even more, still I wish all a Merry Christmas.

*Vivat Jesus,*  
*Patrick Merrill MD*  
*Grand Knight*  
*Riverside Council #1638*

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**Going to the Council 1638 Christmas Party?  
Please bring a wrapped toy with a max value of \$20 for  
Father Abdo to distribute to the needy children of St.  
Francis deSales Parish. Attach a note with the following  
information: Boy or girl and appropriate age.**



**Knights of  
Columbus  
Council 1638  
Memorial  
Mass For  
Deceased  
Members  
11/11/2018**



Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

## SOME GIFTS ARE IRREPLACEABLE AND MORE VALUABLE THAN ANYTHING MONEY CAN BUY



WELL, IT'S THAT TIME of year again. The shopping days left until Christmas are dwindling fast. The list of people on our gift list grows longer every year even as creativity in gift-giving diminishes. Whether shopping online or in a store, our efforts to buy just the right gift so easily revert to the “same old, same old” pattern. What, then, can we give another person that is more valuable than a necktie or a scarf or a half-dozen handkerchiefs? What is even more valuable than some extravagant gift we might give to a loved one if only we had the means? Let me suggest two things: time and presence.

Psalms 90 tells us, “Seventy is the sum of our years, or eighty, if we are strong ... they pass quickly, and we are gone” (v. 10). More starkly, the Letter of James tells us that we “are a puff of smoke that appears briefly and then disappears” (4:14). Jesus himself asks, “Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span?” (Mt 6:27).

We can give another person money knowing that we are likely to earn more money tomorrow, but the present moment comes only once and never again. The time we give to another is an irreplaceable gift.

Spending time with a loved one or a person who is grieving or sick is one of the most beautiful gifts we can give at Christmas. For example, on my first Christmas as archbishop of Baltimore, I visited a dying priest in St. Agnes Hospital. It was a gift that brought us close to Jesus, the newborn Savior.

Yes, the pace of life seems to be more and more frenetic nowadays. But are we too busy to spend time with someone in need? If so, we are too busy for our own good.

Time is not the whole story. It's how we use our time that counts. Showing up and giving of our time is meaningful only if we are fully present to those we visit. Suppose we decide to visit an elderly parent or to be with our families on Christmas. But while we're with them, we're constantly checking the time or checking our phones until we are free. If we're counting the minutes, are we not withholding our presence?

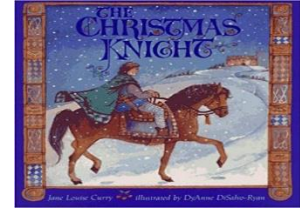
To give the gift of presence, we need to block out other concerns, worries and business, and focus instead on the person or persons at hand.

Isn't this true of our Knights of Columbus programs and activities? When we're distributing Coats for Kids and a child tries on a brand-new coat, we should be thinking of no one else but that child, maybe even saying a little prayer for him or her. When we're helping a family cope with a disaster, we shouldn't be thinking of the mail piling up on our desk, but only about the family that needs help.

Pope Francis often tells us to accompany one another on the bumpy road of life. He means that we need to focus not on ourselves, but on the other. This is what the gift of presence means.

It turns out that the gifts of time and presence are, together, the one thing we can give the newborn Savior. Have you ever peered into the manger and wondered what to give the One who entered the world to give us everlasting life? I am haunted by a phrase in the liturgy: “you have no need of our praise...”

What can we give the Lord that he does not already have? He wants our time and our presence: time for daily prayer, for Mass, for the rosary. He also wants us to be fully present to him when we pray. And when we are present to the Lord, we will also be present when we serve him in the poor, the sick and the vulnerable. For Time + Presence = Love. May you have a most blessed Christmas!



**When:** Saturday December 15<sup>th</sup> Cocktails at 5:00 PM Dinner at 7:00 PM

**Where:** Canyon Crest Country Club

975 Country Club Drive

Riverside, CA 93506

Cost: \$35 per person, Gratuity and Tax included in the cost

### **Dinner:**

#### **Appetizers:**

Spinach and artichoke dip with pita chips

Chef's crab cakes

#### **Salad:**

Caesar, or parmesan, croutons, dressing on the side

#### **Main Entrée includes all of the following:**

Citrus glazed salmon

Bacon Wrapped Filet Mignon Medallion

Rosemary red potatoes and Roasted asparagus

Coffee, tea, iced tea and water

#### **Dessert:**

Pecan pie with homemade whipped cream

Bring your wine bottle/s the \$10 corking fee will be covered by Council 1638

If you want to attend the dinner, please RSVP by phone or e-mail DD Nestor Contreras

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