

# The Silver Knight News

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

March for Life	2
State Historian	4
Men in Church History	5
Knight in the Light	6
Stewardship Testimonial	7
State Mid-Year Conference	9
Breakfast with Santa	10
Santa and Elfette	11
Christmas in the Philippines	12
Christmas in Portland	14
Co-Knights of the Month	16
Family of the Month	17
Coats for Kids	18
Wreathes Across America	19
This Month's Photos	20-24

## State Deputy's Message



**State Deputy David Ryan**

The Nevada State Council is sponsoring a Pilgrimage to Rome from October 13 – 21, 2025. Having been to Rome myself in 2023, I can assure you it is the trip of a lifetime. I encourage you to join our state chaplain, Father Steve Hoffer, Tracy and myself on this Pilgrimage to Rome this Jubilee Year. We will walk through the holy doors which are opened only every 25 years.

All the information about the trip may be found on State Unknight web site at: Knights of Columbus Nevada State Council. You can also register for the tour on the website: Just scroll down and click on the k of c 2025 Jubilee button.

The brochure, itinerary and frequently asked questions come with this newsletter. Space is limited, so the sooner you sign up, the better chance you get to go. If we have enough sign ups, we can set up an additional tour.

The weather in Italy in October should be very comfortable with the temperature between low 50's at night to mid - high 70's in the daytime.

Wishing a Blessed Christmas and prosperous and healthy New Year from my family to yours. May God's blessing be with you always.

God Bless and we will hopefully see you all in Rome.

David M Ryan, PSD, FVSM  
State Deputy



**St. Peter's Basilica**

The Silver Knight Newsletter is a production of the Knights of Columbus Nevada State Council

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*Suffering is the greatest treasure on earth; it purifies the soul.*

*Mary Faustina Kowalska*

## Annual March for Life to be Held in January



The annual March for Life takes place in Washington, D.C. on Friday, Jan 24, 2025.

As stated on the March for Life website: "The right to life is a human right. Our defense of that right is a joyful witness to the beauty and dignity of every human person."

"Every year, tens of thousands of pro-lifers converge on the National Mall and march on Capitol Hill on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade ruling which legalized abortion in all 50 states. It is the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world."

"TOGETHER, WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE LIFE We celebrate life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death, and every moment in between."

Please urge your Council and Assembly to include "LIFE" and/or "Respect for Human Life from the moment of Conception to the moment of our last natural breath" in its intentions each month. Also please continue to pray for Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life.

God alone is the author of life. Please do not let anyone or anything sway you away from this truth of our Catholic faith.

May our Lord continue to pour out His Blessings upon you. Our Lady Queen of the Knights - Pray for Us!!

Deacon Rick Minch  
State Vocations Director

# Nativity Pilgrimage

Where Faith  Meets Adventure



CELEBRATE THE

## 2025 JUBILEE

9-DAY ITALIAN PILGRIMAGE

*Featuring*

Rome, Assisi,  
Lanciano, Loreto, San  
Giovanni Rotondo,  
Monte Sant' Angelo,  
and Monte Cassino



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Nevada State Council

### Al Pena

Group Coordinator



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Contact Al Pena at [al.pena323@yahoo.com](mailto:al.pena323@yahoo.com) for more information

## Note from State Historian

### **Wishing You and Yours a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year!!!** *Schedule More Exemplifications!*

#### ***Council updates are as follows:***

- I continue to be in contact with our District Deputies and Grand Knights to make sure each Council has a respective Council Historian, for this new Columbian year and going forward. The Council Historian will assist the State Historian in reaching into the respective Council archives for access to the noteworthy events or activities of the Council and Brother Knights. In some Councils this role will reside with the Grand Knight, due to the size of Council membership. Please be prepared to discuss who is best suited for this position on your Council. As always, this is your chance to tell and record your Council's continuing story!
- In concert with Worthy State Deputy David M. Ryan, FVSM and myself, we recommend Councils setting up a "cloud based" storage system for each Council's records, photos, activity accounting, etc. The continuity of record keeping can then be documented/updated over the continuing "Columbian Year" by the Council Historian.
- Please use my email address: [historian@nv-kofc.com](mailto:historian@nv-kofc.com) to assist in adding any historic documentation, as indicated above, to capture the Nevada State history of our Fraternal Order. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you, my Brother Knights

*In suffering, we learn who  
our true friend is.*

*Mary Faustina Kowalska*

#### **Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us!**

**Remember:** The message Blessed Michael McGivney continues to have for us, that we carry on the work he began 143 years ago, when he gathered a group of Catholic men in the basement of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, CT.

**Continue to Celebrate Father Michael J. McGivney's "Blessed" status!**

**Pray that Pope Francis I will Canonize our Blessed Michael McGivney!**



## Notable Men in Church History

### Albertus Magnus



A German Dominican friar, philosopher, and theologian, Albertus Magnus was a pivotal figure in medieval philosophy and theology. He is recognized as one of the most influential scholars of his time. Albertus was the eldest son of a wealthy German lord. After his early schooling, he went to the University of Padua, where he studied liberal arts. There he joined the Dominican order in 1223. He continued his studies at Padua and Bologna, Italy and in Germany. He taught theology at several convents throughout Germany and ended up in Cologne.

Albert's work laid the groundwork for integrating Greek philosophy, especially that of Aristotle, into Christian thought, helping to bridge the gap between reason and faith. He was known for intellectual rigor and became a mentor to Thomas Aquinas, another giant in medieval thought.

St. Albert the Great was one of the first scholars to comprehensively study and incorporate Aristotle's works, which had just been reintroduced to Western Europe through translations from Arabic, defending the idea that reason and revelation could coexist harmoniously. In his theological works, Albert supported the compatibility of reason and faith, arguing that philosophy could be used as a tool to better understand divine truth. His synthesis of Christian doctrine with Aristotelian principles influenced centuries of Christian theology.

St. Albert the Great was canonized in 1931 by Pope Pius XI and declared a Doctor of the Church. His feast day is celebrated on November 15.

Albertus's works represent the entire body of European knowledge of his time not only in theology but also in philosophy and the natural sciences. His importance for medieval science essentially consists in his bringing Aristotelianism to the fore against reactionary tendencies in contemporary theology. On the other hand, without feeling any discrepancy in it, he also gave the widest latitude to Neoplatonic speculation, which was continued by his disciple Ulrich of Strasbourg and by the German mystics of the 14th Century. It was by his writings on the natural sciences, however, that he exercised the greatest influence. Albertus must be regarded as unique in his time for having made accessible and available Aristotelian knowledge of nature and for having enriched it by his own observations in all branches of the natural sciences. A preeminent place in the history of science is accorded to him because of this achievement.

*Pure love ... knows that  
only one thing is needed to  
please God: to do even the  
smallest things out of great  
love - love, and always love.*

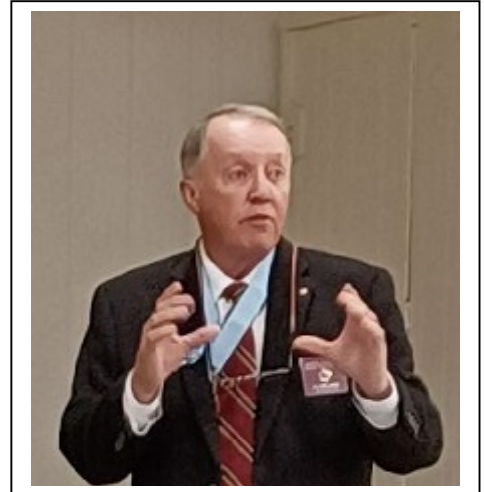
*Mary Faustina Kowalska*

Knight in the Light Submitted By: J. Michael Brady, State Historian

## ***Sir Knight J.J. Wilder, PGK, PFN, FDD Nevada State Advocate***

Greetings Brothers, my name is J. J. Wilder and I have the privilege of being your State Advocate for 2024-2025. I retired in Sept 2023 and moved from Tennessee to Las Vegas. As many of you are not aware of my background, our Worthy State Historian (and 2024-2025 State Warden), Michael Brady, asked me to provide some of this information.

I am a cradle Catholic born in Memphis, TN in 1951 and attended the Holy Rosary Parish Catholic grade school and Memphis Catholic High School for Boys graduating in 1969. I went on to the University of Tennessee College of Engineering and received a



Bachelor of Science degree in nuclear engineering.

My work experience started with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). I was fortunate to work on all their nuclear plants; three units at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant in AL, and two units each at Sequoyah Nuclear Plant and Watts Bar Nuclear Plant in TN, as well performing engineering work on the ten units that they cancelled. After 17 years with TVA, I began work for an engineering consulting company that supported the Department of Energy nuclear facilities across the United States and in 2010 I came to work at the Nevada Test Site, the first of two assignments in Nevada. Since my assignments were not permanent, I retained my membership in the Knights of Columbus in Tennessee.

My Knights membership began in 2006 and through the years I have held the positions of Grand Knight, Faithful Navigator, and District Deputy as well as an assortment of other Council and Assembly offices and positions on parish councils. I transferred my KofC membership from St. Mary's Council 3175 in Oak Ridge, TN to Mother Seton Council 11029 in Las Vegas and I have enjoyed getting to know the members of my council and through them the larger parish community.

That is one of the more important benefits of Knights membership. The Knights are a gateway to all the Church has to offer wherever we may live. Active membership in the Knights makes us better Catholic men, husbands, fathers, and friends. I love to share these benefits with my wife, Helen, and she really enjoys participating with me at Knights events.

Speaking of Helen, we have been married for nearly 13 years. We were both previously married and obtained annulments in the church to allow our marriage in 2011. Helen is a staunch supporter of my Knights work and is willing to travel wherever we may need to go.

In closing, I am happy to be able to serve my brothers here in the State of Nevada and look forward to meeting you and working with you to build the Body of Christ, which is the Church.

*Love endures everything,  
love is stronger than death,  
love fears nothing.*

*Mary Faustina Kowalska*

## A Stewardship Testimonial

Submitted by Al S. Pena

My name is Digna Pena. I am a member of the newly formed Stewardship Council at Christ the King in Torrey Pines, Las Vegas, NV. In 2013, I moved to Las Vegas from Albuquerque, NM after getting engaged to my husband. Soon after, we were married at Christ the King. After a short few months, my husband told me that he is a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus in California where he came from. I asked him if he would like to join the Knight Council at Christ the King and be active again. He said he will find out. One evening, he decided to join the meeting. He said he was not very comfortable and does not want to attend another meeting. I continued to prod him until he started joining the meeting more regularly.

He started participating in some of the activities of the Knights of Columbus such as pancake breakfast, tootsie roll drive that benefits the physically and mentally challenged children of our community. The selling of Seminarian tickets that collectively supports the Seminarian program of the Diocese. Our involvement with the activities of the Knights gave us the feeling of satisfaction in knowing that we are strengthening our faith and helping us promote a better community. This led us to get involved in other Church activities both internal as members of the encyclical and eucharistic ministries and external outreach ministries. Later, when the Ladies Auxiliary was formed, I decided to join and I become one of the founding members. I first was elected Vice-President and later President, serving four terms.

During my tenure as president, the Ladies have successfully launched fund raising campaign events such as our bake sale, the autumn interlude dinner dance, the cookbook project which is a collection of recipes contributed by our members. We named it "Flavorful Favorites". A large portion of the funds we raised from the bake sale, the sale of the cookbook and other fund raising activities was donated to the Church and whatever was left went toward the purchase of a marble statue of Mother Mary with the approval of Fr. Shawn. Working with Fr. Shawn, we were also able to have the marble mosaic picture of St. Peter, St Paul, the Holy Family which was imported from Lebanon, donated an electric fan at the community center, had signs of our Church building and much more.

It was like Mother Mary was guiding our hands every step of the way. We were getting the support of our parish community. The cost of the Marble Statue including the provisions to build a more solid foundation because of its weight; the Hail Mary prayers in five languages required a lot of money but Mother Mary showed us the way. We were able to get it done. Now we have her in the right place for our parishioners to pray and offer their petitions to her in their hours of need. This is what we have achieved by giving of our time, talent and resources which is the essence of Stewardship.

*Patience, prayer and  
silence-these are what give  
strength to the soul.*

*Mary Faustina Kowalska*

Continued next page

## A Stewardship Testimonial

With God's blessing, we are very fortunate. My husband had an accident and fell from bed. He had brain surgery to remove a blood clot and survived. He waited a couple of days hoping it would go away after the swelling subsided. I noticed that his speech was starting to be slurred. That was then that I decided to take him back to the hospital. The doctor immediately scheduled him for surgery. We never forget to thank God for the many blessing he had bestowed on our family like the blessing of life of my husband, of love, of health, of food and the ability to help others in our community in pursuit of spirituality. The formation of this stewardship council is long overdue.

### What Is Stewardship?

In biblical terms, Charles Bugg defines stewardship in the Holman Bible Dictionary as "Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation." Christian Stewardship regards the obligation of Christians in managing and utilizing intelligently the gifts that God has given. The Christian steward is not only responsible for the financial blessings provided by God but also the spiritual gifts that are given through the Holy Spirit. God wants human beings to be His stewards in the work of creation, redemption, and sanctification.

The church is responsible for the financial blessings provided by God but also the spiritual gifts that are given through the Holy Spirit. God wants us to be his stewards or guardians of the resources He provided us in the work of creation, redemption and sanctification. Like any other organizations, the church in a practical and spiritual sense provides us with essential services such as baptism, confirmation, marriage, confession, spiritual guidance, blessings of the sick and dead, of our homes and properties, and masses and communions in the exercise of our faith and more. They maintain facilities and pay for the salaries of staff. They are able to do this from support coming from their parish community. Without this support they will find it hard to exist. Everything is going up during and after the pandemic because of inflation. The help from the parishioners has declined as they are also affected by the galloping inflation. The attendance at masses declined because of the pandemic, changing demographic and social and political climate of our time. Some churches are finding it hard to keep up and were forced to closed. This created a difficult situation for the parishioners of that church who has to find another church which could be far from where they live to receive the services they used to.

This is why this council was created to remind us that we have a joint obligation as parish to continue to provide essential services and for the parishioners to consider increasing their contributions taking into account the financial challenges of the church. Give in accordance with the dictates of your heart. This is what stewardship is about. Protecting that which is Gods gift to us and our christian faith. Thank you in advance for your support and continues generosity .

*Help me, O Lord, that  
my hands may be merciful  
and filled with good deeds,  
so that I may do only good  
to my neighbors.*

*Mary Faustina Kowalska*



## State Council Mid-Year Conference



The Knights of Columbus Nevada State Council held its "Mid-Year" Conference at St Albert the Great parish on Dec 7. The conference started at 8 AM with breakfast, followed by praying the Rosary. It ended with an awards assembly and concluding remarks by Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg at 8 PM.

Thirty-five men were present from the nearly 52 councils state-wide. Total attendance including State Officers was forty-seven.

Before lunch PSD Joe Haun, State Membership Director, gave a rousing presentation on the importance of growing membership. After lunch, Tom Melton, State Evangelization and Faith Formation (EFF) Chair, gave an equally dynamic speech on the COR program.

After Mass with Bishop Mueggenborg in St Albert's Church, attendees returned to the school gym for a dinner of Caesar salad, mushroom ravioli with mushroom cream sauce, lasagna, rigatoni with meat sauce and spumoni, vanilla, and chocolate ice cream. The Awards Assembly followed.

"Christ the King Council 7322 along with Saint Albert the Great Catholic Community did a terrific job hosting the event. The conference presentations were impactful, Bishop Mueggenborg's homily regarding overcoming obstacles in "Building up the Body of Christ" was very insightful, and the keynote speaker was most inspiring," said State Secretary, David Clarke. "Kudos to all who made the mid-year conference such a great success."

*Oh, if only the suffering  
soul knew how it is loved  
by God, it would die of joy  
and excess of happiness!*

*Mary Faustina Kowalska*

## Breakfast with Santa 2024

*Some day, we will know the value of suffering, but then we will no longer be able to suffer. The present moment is ours.*

*Mary Faustina Kowalska*



This year's Breakfast with Santa event was held on Saturday, Dec 7. Twenty-three Ponderosa Council 4928 members and family volunteered a total of 108.75 hours in service to help in our Council's most popular Food for Families program.

The Breakfast always calls for advanced planning and close coordination with the Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows in Reno. It requires food preparation, cafeteria-style food service, and kitchen clean-up at the end of the event. This year's menu consisted of pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, potato patties, fruit and juice. More than 500 people were fed.

Our volunteers also received a gift! Helping young families in need puts everyone in the Christmas spirit.

-W. Anthony Watts, GK

## Santa and Elfette Joycie



The 2024 Breakfast with Santa program was the 30th consecutive year that Santa Claus (aka SK John Lyninger) took time off from his busy schedule of making lists and checking them twice to visit in-person at the Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows. Traditionally, Mrs. Claus (aka Lady Lisa Lyninger), is right by his side. Unfortunately, health issues kept Lady Lisa back home at the North Pole. Please keep her in your prayers.

To fill the immediate need to help true believers feel less nervous when they sit on Santa's lap and hear his hearty "ho! ho! ho!", our Council recruited Elfette Joycie, (aka Lady Joyce Minter) to help calm their nerves and sweeten their visit with her smile. Having a basket of candy on her lap also helped.

- W. Anthony Watts, GK

*I know well that the greater  
and more beautiful the  
work is, the more terrible  
will be the storms that rage  
against it.*

*Mary Faustina Kowalska*



## Christmas In The Philippines Submitted by Al S. Pena



*God is very generous and does not deny His grace to anyone. Indeed he gives more than what we ask of Him.*

*Mary Faustina Kowalska*

Around this time of the year I can't help but get this feeling of nostalgia remembering Christmas celebration in the Philippines. A kind of loneliness that brings me back to the time when I was a young kid busy making lanterns (Parole). The Filipinos have the longest Christmas Celebration in the World. It starts in the month of September. Kids in my block in Kamuning, Quezon City, Philippines where I grew up, are busy preparing to attend Simbang Gabi and making lanterns by hand. The process starts out by gathering some bamboo tree and chopping them up into small sticks. Binding them together to form a star. Tying the tip of the star with wires. Putting a wire around the star to keep it together. Stretching it and putting a post in the middle and securing it with wires so it won't collapse.

Now we have a star shape foundation. The next step is to select the different color thin Japanese paper that you will use to wrap the Lantern with. You get some glues and start cutting out the paper to the shape of the lantern. Then you glue the paper to the Star. After you have covered the entire area, then it is time to put some more materials that will go around the lantern and on the star itself. After you are done decorating the star with trimmings that you cut into bubbly strips to form small circles with a different color material. After that you are ready to install the light inside the

lantern. After all is done, you look at it and admire the work of art that you have created. The fun starts when you hang the lantern by the window of your house like most of your neighbors are doing. It is sort of like a contest among us kids as to who can make the most unique lantern.

Continued next page

## Christmas In The Philippines Submitted by Al S. Pena

In Kamuning, we go to The Sacred Heart Parish Church which is about five blocks from where we live. We don't mind the long walk and the dark street because we are usually accompanied by other friends who goes to the same church. We usually start at around 10:00 PM and attend the midnight mass. After the mass, we usually hang out at the corner of KD and K1st St. because our neighbor Mrs. Pastor usually has a couple of long tables where she serves hot tea, rice cookies (bibingka) puto seco, purple rice that is mixed with coconut juice that is placed in a bamboo and steamed until cooked. Oh it is so good especially with hot tea. Mrs. Pastor is famous for this and there is a lot of our neighbors who will eat there or order to take out. Oh how I miss those unique Christmas delicacies like puto bong bong, puto Maya, puto, kutchinta and lots lots more. Filipinos are known for their hospitality. It is not surprising to get invited to taste some of these delicacies.

You will feel Christmas all around you. The Lanterns hanging on every house windows, the ritual of Simbang Gabi, the putting together of the Belen or the Nativity set and the singing of Christmas Carols which you can hear from carolers who goes around the neighborhood to raise money. The coming of the cool winter chill that ushers in the start of the Christmas season. The smiles in the faces of people you meet in the streets. The stores decorated with different color twinkling lights. Christmas trees with wrapped presents at the foot. Stores overstocked with toys, gifts and decorations. Every kids and shoppers dreamland. Surround sound Christmas music can be heard everywhere. In the Philippines, people save up to spend on town fiestas, Christmas and New Year. I don't think nothing much has changed. The Lantern that we used to make by hand are now made of mother of pearls, the lights used to decorate the lanterns are spectacular.

At our house, my father makes it a point that before midnight, we kids should be home because there is some food prepared for us like ham, cheese ball, and fruits like oranges, grapes, apples, and nuts or different kinds. We also have coffee and tea. We eat together after saying a small prayer of thanks to the Lord and then we get ready for bed.

*Faithfulness to the  
inspirations of the Holy  
Spirit-that is the shortest  
route.*

*Mary Faustina Kowalska*



## Christmas in Portland: An Interfaith Holiday



This year one Nevada Knight and his wife did something very unusual for Christmas: they flew to Portland, OR, to spend the Holiday with their Jewish son, Pat, and his family. Pat was born and raised Catholic, but converted to Judaism 25 years ago. He has since married a Jewish woman, Lisa, and they have a daughter, Josephine, who last year celebrated her Bat Mitzvah. Pat and his family recently bought a townhome. just a three-minute walk from Multnomah Village in Portland. Multnomah Village, known for its small-town atmosphere, was first established as a train station in the early 1900's by the Oregon Electric Railway. The Railway building is one of many original buildings in the Village that are still intact.

*For there are three ways of performing an act of mercy: the merciful word, by forgiving and by comforting; secondly, if you can offer no word, then pray - that too is mercy; and thirdly, deeds of mercy. And when the Last Day comes, we shall be judged from this, and on this basis we shall receive the eternal verdict.*

*Mary Faustina Kowalska*

Day one started with a breakfast of bagels, lox, cream cheese, sliced tomatoes and red onions. Then the families went to "The Grotto," the National Sanctuary of our Sorrowful Mother, a ministry of the Servite Friars, Order of Friar Servants of Mary. Located in the Madison South district of Portland, The Grotto was constructed in 1924, and covers 62 acres set both at the foot of, and atop, a 110 foot cliff. In December, the Grotto hosts a dazzling Christmas Festival of Lights that draws more than 60,000 guests each year. The two families explored the walking trails (in the rain) which were ablaze with lighted decorations. Then they heard a concert in the Chapel of Mary and visited the gift shop on their way out.

Day two saw our Knight demonstrate his breakfast-making prowess --- gained from many months of working the pancake breakfasts back at the parish. He made blueberry pancakes, scrambled eggs and turkey sausage. This was served with Portland's favorite -- "Stumptown" coffee. Then the families took in the "Beyond Van Gogh" art exhibit at the Oregon Convention Center. This 45-minute program featured 300 Van Gogh paintings projected in whole and in parts on 24-foot walls. In some cases, the paintings were animated: water rippled, flowers swayed in the breeze, and leaves blew along a path. After lunch at Shalom Y'all, a restaurant in southeast Portland's Buckman neighborhood, once described as an "Israeli street food kitchen," it was on to Powell's Books, the largest independent bookstore in America.

Continued next page

## Christmas in Portland: An Interfaith Holiday



**Concert in the Chapel of Mary at The Grotto**

Day three, after breakfast, both families attend Christmas Mass at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Lake Oswego OR. The church was established in October 1890 in a building which could seat only 50 people. That building still stands today at the original site. The new church building holds several hundred people. Then it was home for a traditional Hanukkah dinner of matzo ball soup, beef brisket, green beans, home-made latkes and challah bread. Grace was said over each meal, alternately either in English ("Bless us, Oh Lord...") or in Hebrew ("Baruch ata Adonai eloheinu..."). During dinner the families listened at first to popular Christmas carols sung by Bing Crosby, Perry Como, etc.. then they heard Hanukkah songs sung (in Hebrew) by Cantor Emeritus Alan Weiner from Temple Beth Hillel of Valley Village, CA. After dinner the families exchanged presents. Our Knight's favorite gift was an ivory-colored sweatshirt, emblazoned with the name of his favorite magazine -- The New Yorker.

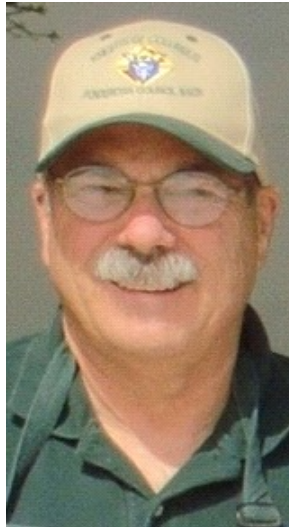
Day four saw our Knight and his wife return home to Nevada.

"I always enjoy my exposure to Jewish life, culture and history. I come away feeling I know Jesus, our Savior, just a little bit better," said our Knight.

*Jesus, I trust in You.*

*Mary Faustina Kowalska*

## Knights of the Month for December 2024



**John M Bilka**



**Charles B. Goucher**

*True love is measured by the  
thermometer of suffering.*

*Mary Faustina Kowalska*

This month, Ponderosa Council 4928 recognizes SK John M. Bilka, who once again volunteered to be the Program Chair of our Breakfast with Santa program, and SK Charles B. Goucher, who also once again volunteered to be the Program Chair of our Coats for Kids program as our Knights of the Month for December. Both men led well-planned service initiatives held concurrently at the Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows in Reno.

It takes a dedicated team to prepare more than 500 hearty breakfasts and to set up and distribute coats and winter wear on an early cold morning in December. However, due to their leadership, both programs went off without a hitch. The only problem noted was that both programs were over staffed. That's a good problem to have because it shows our members really care.

~W. Anthony Watts, GK

## Family of the Month for December 2024



SK Joe, Lady Rebecca and daughters Carmen and Bernadette Olaciregui are a very special family team. They live more than 15 miles away in Reno --- far from the Ponderosa Council 4928 Chambers at Holy Cross Catholic Community in Sparks, but they frequently volunteer in our fundraisers and service initiatives. This month, we recognized the family for their invaluable support of our Breakfast with Santa program at the Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows.

While each family member was a multi-tasker during this event, SK Joe generally helped prepare and cook food items in the kitchen, daughters Carmen and Bernadette worked the beverage service line (gaining BMCHS community service credits), and Lady Rebecca helped out in the kitchen washing sheet pans and cleaning up. This family's sense of team and teamwork was a key element in helping the Council achieve program success.

For all their volunteer time and effort, the Olaciregui family is recognized as our Council Family of the Month for December.

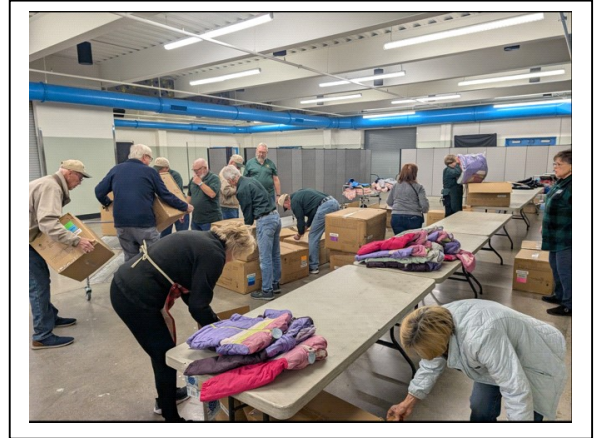
- W. Anthony Watts, GK

*Entrust everything to Me  
and do nothing on your own,  
and you will always have  
great freedom of spirit.*

*Mary Faustina Kowalska*



## Zippering Up the 2024 Coats for Kids Program



*Oh, how great is the  
goodness of God, greater  
than we can understand.*

*Mary Faustina Kowalska*

Starting in 2009, Supreme has encouraged local councils to participate in its Coats for Kids program. Ponderosa Council 4928 has done just that with distribution at various venues. Since 2015, this service initiative has been held in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Breakfast with Santa program in Reno.

Program success was largely due to our members, their families and friends who worked as fundraisers which enabled the Council to purchase 304 coats. In addition, our members donated \$510 that allowed the purchase of an additional 8 coats, 174 scarves, and 250 pairs of gloves. 115.5 hours in service was donated by 17 members and their families to help make this program a success.

At the Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows, 229 coats, 174 scarves, and 230 pairs of gloves were distributed to families in need. In addition, 35 coats and 20 pairs of gloves were donated to the Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows for future distribution. 48 coats were donated to the Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada Elevating Families program.

- W. Anthony Watts, GK



## Wreaths Across America Ceremony Held in Fernley



On Saturday, Dec 14, nine Knights, some from Ponderosa Council 4928 and others from Bishop Manogue Assembly 612, plus three lady knights braved the weather to participate in the annual laying of Remembrance Wreaths at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Fernley. God was looking favorably on the more than one thousand volunteers as there was a break in the weather after a very cold start.

After opening ceremonies, volunteers laid 8,200 wreaths on veteran graves reading the name of each deceased veteran. Bishop Manogue Assembly 612 sponsored 105 of these wreaths through the Knights of Columbus, Wreaths Across America portal.

REMEMBER the Fallen . . . HONOR those who Serve . . . TEACH our children the value of Freedom.

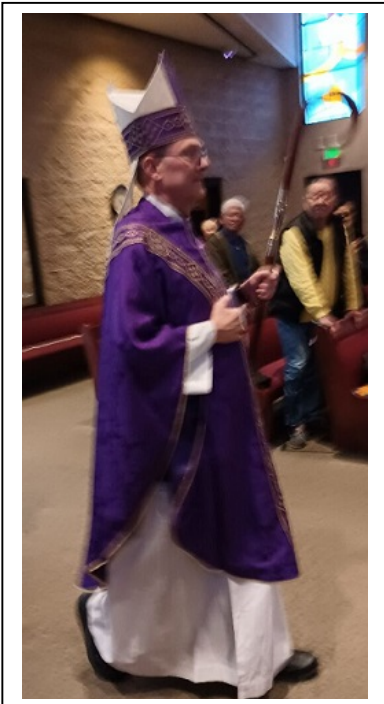
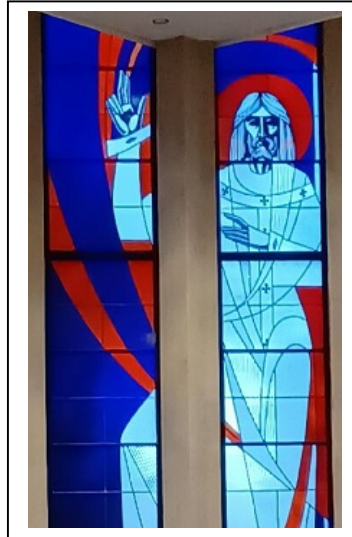
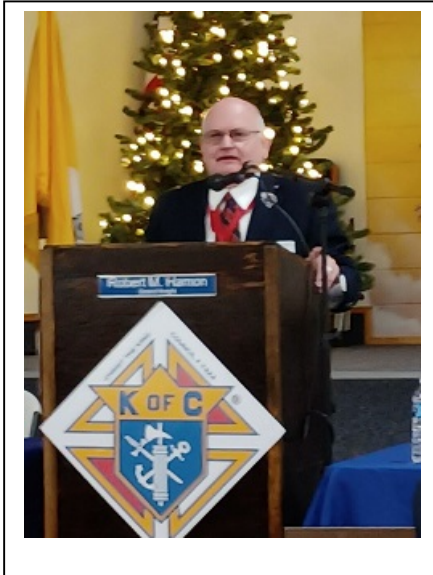
- SK Michael North, FN

*Mankind will not have  
peace until it turns with  
trust to My mercy.*

*Mary Faustina Kowalska*

## This Month's Photos

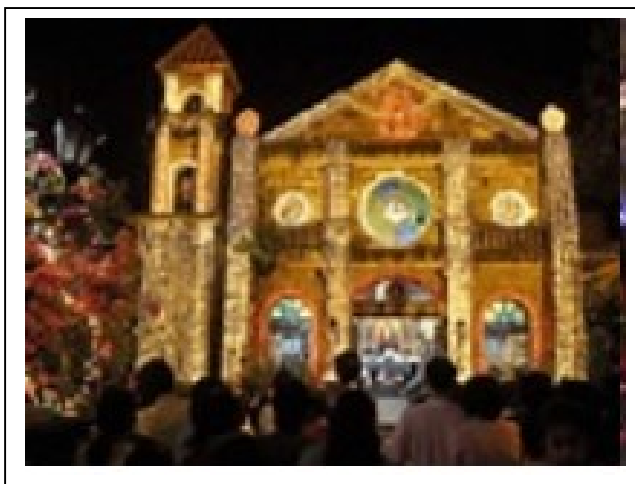
### The Mid-Year Conference





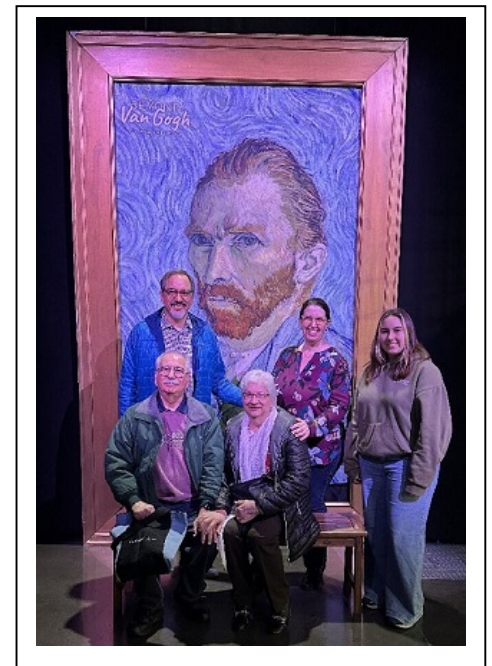
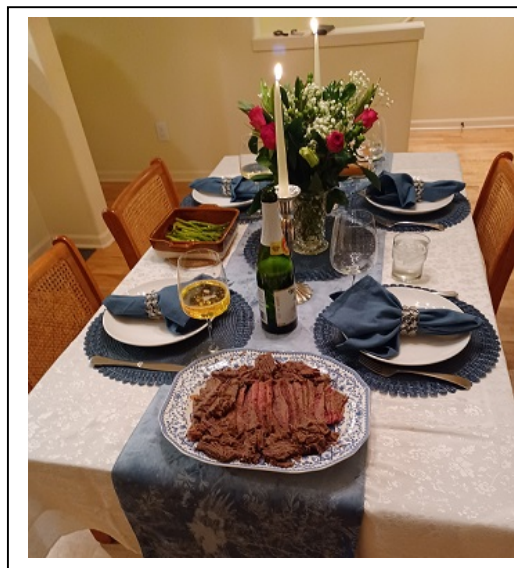
## This Month's Photos

### Christmas In The Philippines



## This Month's Photos

### Christmas in Portland





## This Month's Photos

Council 978's Christmas party



Council 978 located at Saint Thomas Aquinas Cathedral held its Christmas party/potluck on Thursday, Dec 19. About 30 people attended along with one homeless person. Both Father Chuck and Father Arlon were present.

- SK Dave Emmil, Trustee



