



The Knight Line

St. Ignatius of Loyola Council 12853, Division #4
Holy Family Parish, 4848 Pearl Ave., San Jose, CA 95136

Issue 178; November 2020

Editor: Gary Miskimon

Grand Knight's Corner



Brother Knights,

With Thanksgiving just a few weeks away, it is time to give thanks! Strange to say during this pandemic time, but we all have something to be thankful for. I want to give thanks to God, especially for his love for me and for all his people. I am thankful for receiving Jesus again at outside Masses (or for some at the drive-thru communion line). Jesus has given us his body to nourish our souls and to give us strength for the journey, which we need big time this year.

I am also thankful for all the wonderful homilies our priests have given us during our shelter-in-place time and the Covid-19-limited masses. Technology has been wonderful for keeping us in touch with our priests and with the Mass - so thanks also to the wonderful tech people at Holy Family, like Scott Thomas, Chris Mardesich, and Jackie Cantu. I am thankful for my family being together more closely due to so many places being closed.

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Grand Knight's Corner (Cont'd)

I give thanks to our God who is a God of second chances (and even more if you need them, possibly 489 more?). I have been going through the Prophets Bible study that the parish provided on Zoom on Tuesday nights and that is one of the big themes from the prophets, God will give a second chance if you just turn to him and worship him and take care of your neighbor. The story of Jonah is full of second chances, for Nineveh and for Jonah (he gets two chances). Who is your neighbor? Pope Francis has a new encyclical to answer just that question. In Fratelli Tutti (web site here: http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html). Especially in chapter 2. The Pope uses the Good Samaritan story as a lesson for the modern world; everyone is our neighbor and we are called to help all who are suffering. We are to love and care for those with whom we do not agree and we need to see everyone as Jesus. As Pope Francis says, "each day offers us a new opportunity" to care for our neighbor.

I give thanks for our Council of Knights, many of whom have stepped up and served the parish - helping with outdoor Masses and sacraments, the membership drive, calling Knights and parishioners, attending Zoom talks, rosaries, and business meetings. Thank you Brother Knights for being such an active Council. Special thanks to Gary Miskimon who produces this wonderful Knight Line newsletter and is the go-to man for sending out emails and bulletin inserts.

One way to show thanks is to give back and the Council has plans to give back in November. Hopefully you can help in one or more ways this month. Our big programs will be the combined Coat Drive/PWID (tootsie roll drive)/layette drives that are planned after each of the Masses on Nov. 8th, 15th and 22nd (the Masses will be inside with the Knights outside ready to collect coats, PWID money, and baby items). We could use help carry out our combined drives.

We are planning our Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest in November (ending in December) and would love all the Knights with kids or grandkids to participate (please watch bulletin for more details).

We definitely need judges for the contest. Email me at ericbateman@hotmail.com to help with any of these things. Of course, we will also have our monthly Zoom rosary on Nov. 19th.

Happy Thanksgiving to all and God bless you and your family this holiday season!!

**Eric Bateman, Grand Knight
St. Ignatius of Loyola Council 12853**

SAVE THE DATES:

**Saturday, October 31st
Beatification of Fr. Michael J. McGivney
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Hartford, CT
(<http://kofc.org/en/news-room/articles/ten-things-about-the-founder-of-the-kofc.html>)**

**Tuesday, November 3 -Election Day
Vote at any polling place between 7am – 8pm or
drop off your ballot at any County voting site.**

**Saturday, November 7
Mass & Celebration of Fr. Celso's
30th Anniversary of Ordination**



As Catholics and citizens, members of the Knights of Columbus should vote and should encourage members of their families, parishes, and communities to vote. Members are not permitted to engage in partisan political activity in the name of the Knights of Columbus. Partisan political activity is defined as action directed toward success or failure of a political party, candidate for political office, or political group.

**CHECK THE AMERICAN BISHOPS'
VOTING GUIDANCE AT THE ATTACHMENT**

Chaplain's Message



The PRIESTHOOD That I Shared

After finishing my theological studies at the Ecclesiastical Faculties of the Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas in Manila I was quite eager to go back to my home parish to prepare myself for my ordination to the priesthood. On November 10th, 1990, I was ordained as priest from the hands of the Most Rev. Patricio Alo, D.D. Bishop of the Diocese of Mati, Davao Oriental Philippines. From the abundance of God's manifold grace, I can't say anything but Thank You. My heart was filled with joy as I received the gift of the priesthood. The greatest gift that I have, to share the priesthood of Jesus, the Son of God.

This privilege comes with great responsibility. Then my mission began. I was assigned to two different parishes as parochial vicar for 3.5 years. Following that, my Bishop appointed me as Chancellor of the Diocese. Not very long later I was sent to Rome in 1996 to study canon law. I received a degree from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome and I began to work in the Matrimonial Tribunal of the Diocese as the Judicial Vicar. In 2002 I was appointed as Parish Priest (Pastor) at St Francis Xavier Parish, Gov. Generoso, and in 2008 was designated as the Rector and Administrator of San Nicholas de Tolentino Cathedral of the diocese while working at the same time as Chancellor.

Reflecting on those memories, I realized how blest I am to be given this precious gift of serving the Lord. The talents and abilities I have are gifts from Him to prepare myself fully in the administration and pastoral ministry on my path. Priesthood is not a sacrifice on my part but it has become a way of life. A life that offers to me happiness and contentment as a priest.

It was so amazing to be given the chance to work in God's vineyard for 30 wonderful years. Together with St. Matthew the Apostle as my patron saint, I am doing my best in collecting souls for the Kingdom of God. These are years of prayer and grace that I humbly offered to God Almighty. I came to this new environment - from the beginning knowing nobody. As time unfolded, it became a good ground for me. As I progress, I realize that I am connected to the people and I belong. Expressing my deepest gratitude from my heart to Holy Family Parish, the Pastor and Parishioners who made me grow as a person. Truly indeed, God works in many mysterious ways. I found a new home and family that continually inspire me to move forward in my journey of shepherding God's beloved children.

It was nice to be planted in this fertile vineyard of the Lord. It made me feel as fresh as a new priest embarking on a new mission. This sense of newness in my life ignited my heart to a new beginning in my priestly ministry, pushing me to work even more in facing the challenges ahead. As I move on, I have nothing to fear because the Lord is always with me. This is God's work and I am only His instrument, fulfilling the tasks entrusted to me. I do this for my love of God.

Praying for you, and pray for me too, as I walk forward in my priestly ministry.

**Fr. Celso Singson
Chaplain**

MASS CHANGES BEGINNING NOV 1ST

Sunday masses will move into the church. To disinfect between masses, indoor mass times will be: 8 and 10 a.m., 12 and 6 p.m. Attendance limit for inside masses is 100, so our Community Center will be used to accommodate any overflow on Sundays.

Continue to register on the parish website or by using "ParishApp" BEFORE attending.

COLUMBIETTE'S PRESIDENT'S UPDATE



On October 31st, the Columbiettes are sponsoring a Halloween Trick or Treat drive-through for the children of Holy Family and Holy Family School from 1-3 p.m. Please bring your children and grandchildren by for a treat in Holy Family's parking lot. We encourage children to come in their costumes! Any questions, contact Donna Holt at 408-371-3682.

Birthdays in November



Rev. Peter Phan	11/1
David Silveira	11/2
Uzoma Amuchie	11/5
Ernie LaScola	11/5
Floro Reboton	11/5
Joseph Salamida	11/6
Amir Gil	11/10
Brad Vandehey	11/12
Wayne Dorn	11/19
Mauro Valcazar	11/21
Patrick Dempsey	11/28
Jeff Stone	11/29
Rev. Joseph Tran	11/29

!!!!BUY SCRIP AND SUPPORT HOLY FAMILY'S SCHOOL WHILE SAVING YOUR MONEY!!!!



Gift Cards (AKA scrip) for many companies including **Target, Safeway, Lucky (SaveMart), Lunardi's, Arco, Shell, Chevron, Amazon.com, Olive Garden, Chili's, Starbuck's, Jamba Juice, Home Depot, Lowe's** (and more!) are sold by our Holy Family School. In the past, scrip proceeds have helped pay for major and minor school expenses: The roof on the gym and preschool, copy machines and the school's phone system. Call Leslie Bejar at 408-978-1355 or email her at: leslie.bejar@hfsj.org for more information.

SCRIP IS ALWAYS A "WIN-WIN" FOR THE SCHOOL AND YOUR BUDGET!



Catholic Professionals meet Thurs., Nov. 12th @ 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.
Speaker: Matthew Arnold on The True Story of the Holy Grail.
 Mr. Arnold is a Catholic speaker and author of *Confessions of a Traditional Catholic*. Location: ONLINE! **Register at: sjcatholicprofessionals.com**

RECOGNIZING OUR KNIGHTS

At our October Business meeting Worthy Grand Knight Eric Bateman recognized Brother Knights as **Knight of the Month and Family of the Month for September 2020: Jovie Palteng** is our Knight of the Month; **John and Alvira Chargin** are our Family of the Month.

Brother Jovie has been a major help with set up and tear down of the pop up canopies, especially those on Saturdays and funeral Masses that we have been asked to help set up. Brother Jovie was particularly active in his Membership Director role as he has reminded Knights to "Ask a Man a Month" to join our Council. He worked hours to get participation in the combined statewide 4th Degree exemplification and two of our Brother Knights are now members of the Portola Assembly as members of the Patriotic Degree. Two brothers also moved up to the 3rd Degree in recent events.

Brother John and Alvira Chargin are very active in our Parish community. John has stayed in near constant communication with the Palo Alto VA Director of Spinal Cord Injury & Mental Health unit to arrange our Summer BBQ and the VA Christmas Social. Covid-19 has effectively derailed these this year, but John is still seeking alternative means to recognize our area vets. Alvira is on the Holy Family Bereavement Team and is the liaison between the parish and the families of the departed. Sister Alvira is doing an extremely sensitive and emotional task, and doing it with great faith.

Congratulations to Nate Donahoe and to Mike Di Santo on making their Fourth Degree and becoming members of Portola Assembly's Patriotic Order!

Pope Francis' November Prayer Intention:

Artificial Intelligence

We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER 2019	Chris Schmitz
NOVEMBER	Jovie Palteng
DECEMBER	John Chargin
JANUARY 2020	Rev. Mr. Joseph Tran
FEBRUARY	Jon Bosco
MARCH	Fr. Celso Singson
APRIL	Fr. Andrew V. Nguyen
MAY	Chris Mardesich
JUNE	Dcn. Joseph Tran
JULY	Gary Miskimon
AUGUST	Jeff Knight
SEPTEMBER	Jovie Palteng
Knight of the Year 2019-20: DAVID GOMEZ	

FAMILY OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER 2019	Mike Yambra & Patty Trillo
NOVEMBER	Mark & Martha Williams
DECEMBER	Robert & Jade Chubb
JANUARY 2020	Gary & Mary Herbst
FEBRUARY	Bradley Jannine Vandehey
MARCH	(Shelter in Place)
APRIL	(Shelter in Place)
MAY	(Shelter in Place)
JUNE	Mike Yambra & Patty Trillo
JULY	John & Sandie Hesler
AUGUST	Gary & Mary Herbst
SEPTEMBER	John & Alvira Chargin
Family of the Year 2019-20: Gary Miskimon	

November Notable Days:

- **November 11, Veterans Day**, One day honoring all who have served in the US Armed Forces.
- **Birthdays:** Presidents James Polk, Warren Harding, James Garfield, Franklin Pierce, Zachary Taylor. . OTHERS?: Daniel Boone, Carl Sagan, Princess Grace Kelly, Alan Shepherd, Charles Schulz, Sojourner Truth & Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain).
- **Papal Birthdays:** John XXIII, Benedict XV, Pius VIII, Nicholas V

**MEMBER PROFILE
ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA**



David Elias Gomez

How did I 'hear' about the Knights?

I heard about the Knights of Columbus when I was a younger man. I heard that they were a group of men that were involved in their parish and in their community.

When did I actually 'think' about joining and who approached me about joining??

I was away from my Faith for quite a few years. I was invited to Mass a few years ago by a friend and as I was sitting listening to Father Andrew, I felt the Holy Spirit which was something I hadn't felt in quite some time. I was walking out after Mass and there was a gentleman recruiting for the Knights of Columbus. I thought to myself, "wow, this is something else that I have a wonderful feeling in my heart about today" and, although I didn't know what I was getting into, I knew the Knights were for me. So I filled out the information form and asked a few questions. A little while later, I was a Knight.

What can I say about being a Knight?

For me, it was a decision that changed my life in so many ways. It brought me closer to my Faith with ideals that Catholics practice. I am not perfect and so I look around at my fellow Knights and they inspire me to be a better Catholic, a better man, and a better father. Every Knight has something valuable to offer no matter how big or how small because it's all the same. The camaraderie and dedication is what makes it work to get the things done that the Knights are known for, whether it be in our Parish, our community or across the globe. I'm proud, honored and humbled to be a member of the Knights of Columbus

Second Collections in November:

- November 1st – Disaster Relief
- November 8th – Building & Grounds
- November 15th – Community Ctr/Hall
- November 22nd – Campaign for Human Development
- November 29th – St. Vincent de Paul

Brother Knights,

As we enter into Fall and Winter I want to reach out and say "Hello!". I know these times during the pandemic are trying, but our dedication regarding insurance for you and your family remains strong.

A few items I want to bring to your attention:

1. New member dues are free for one year if they join the Knights of Columbus online! If you have a friend or relative interested in joining, direct them to www.kofc.org/joinus and use my promo code: DDANGZALAN.

This is a perfect opportunity to bring a new man into the organization.

2. Did you attend the California State-wide online fraternal benefit night? Those who attended report that they gained quite a bit regarding retirement planning and learned a different perspective from what they have been told. If you missed it, I encourage you to learn more by watching Mr. Hegna's video at <https://www.youtube.com/c/TomHegna/featured>

3. Did you know that life insurance premiums are based on three factors: age, gender and health? The one that seems to slip away is age. Life insurance premiums are calculated using "rated age", i.e., whichever age you are closer to. When you become a "half-age" (your age plus 6 months) your premium will be based on your next birthday. By applying for insurance before you turn a "½ age", you could save yourself quite a bit of money in premiums!

**Dion D. Dangzalan, F.I.C.F.
Field Agent Knights of Columbus
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(408) 634-6640**

WISH A HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MILITARY SERVICES



IN NOVEMBER, IT IS THE U.S. MARINE CORPS

On November 10, 1775, five months after establishing the Army, the Continental Congress established two battalions of Marines able to fight at sea and on shore, marking the official formation of the "Continental Marines." They were formed in Philadelphia as an infantry force and the 1st Commandant was Major Samuel Nicholas. The Marine Corps is one of the five branches in the Department of Defense and is one of the eight USA uniformed services.

(Protocol precedence: Army, USMC, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, Space Force.)

The modern Marine Corps (USMC) projects power from the sea, using the U.S. Navy mobility to deliver combined-arms task forces world-wide. Marines have been a component of the Navy since 1834, working closely for training, transport, and logistics. The USMC operates bases around the world, and has fighter squadrons embedded in some Navy carrier wings.

The USMC has evolved, expanding to aerial warfare and earning titles such as "America's third air force" and "second land army". The Marine Corps has distinguished itself in the majority of American wars, from pre-independence to today.

By the 1950's, the Marine Corps was the dominant practitioner of amphibious warfare. Its rapid response to short notice & expeditionary crises gives it a strong role in American foreign policy. The USMC had around 182,000 active duty members and 38,500 reservists as of 2017, the smallest of the four Department of Defense components.



(Credit: <https://wallpapersafari.com/w/vFyxmT>)



Happy Veterans' Day

There are about 19.5 million vets today, over 2 million are women. More than 1.8 million Catholics & family members are dispersed throughout 220 military installations in 29 countries.

KNIGHT'S ROSARY



Many thanks to the Knights, Columbiettes, family members, and parishioners who joined in the Knight's Rosary on October 15th. Mauro Valcazar, the Rosary Team leader, is making arrangements for our November 19th Rosary, so plan on signing in through Zoom as early as 5:30 to confirm your connection before we begin at 6:00 p.m.

NEXT KNIGHT'S ROSARY 11/19

INTERESTED IN EARLY CATHOLIC HISTORY BY STATE? #3

ARKANSAS: The 25th state of our Union. The Spanish Explorer De Soto explored the area in 1541 & his chaplains baptized some Indians native to the area. 131 years later Fr. Marquette came down the Mississippi & visited the same Quapaw (Sioux) natives. By 1686, Following La Salle's death, the first European settlement was made and France kept a garrison there. The 1st resident priest stayed from 1700-1702 various orders followed, baptizing many. The Arkansas tribe was removed to the "Indian Territory" (later called: Oklahoma) and by 1910 two thirds of them were Catholics. In 1762 the land was ceded to Spain, in 1800 back to France, and in 1803 Jefferson bought Louisiana, doubling the size of the US, adding what became all or parts of Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, North & South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, and lower Alberta & Saskatchewan. Today about 26% of the state is Catholic (1.3 million).

PRAY DAILY FOR OUR PRIESTS AND SEMINARIANS

November 1	Rev. Andrew Vu Nguyen
November 2	Mr. Tony Famave, Theology 4
November 3	Mr. Manuel Barrios, Theology 3
November 4	Mr. Joseph Nguyen, Theology 3
November 5	Mr. Robert Lamorena, Theology 1
November 6	Mr. Ryan Mau, Theology 1
November 7	Mr. Duy Nguyen, Theology 1
November 8	Rev. Celso Singson
November 9	Mr. Thanh Ho, Pre-Theology 2
November 10	Mr. Pedro Jose Jimenez, Pre-Pastoral
November 11	Mr. Tony Famave, Theology 4
November 12	Mr. Manuel Barrios, Theology 3
November 13	Mr. Joseph Nguyen, Theology 3
November 14	Mr. Robert Lamorena, Theology 1
November 15	Most Rev. Oscar Cantú, S.T.D
November 16	Mr. Ryan Mau, Theology 1
November 17	Mr. Duy Nguyen, Theology 1
November 18	Mr. Thanh Ho, Pre-Theology 2
November 19	Mr. Pedro Jose Jimenez, Pre-Pastoral
November 20	Mr. Tony Famave, Theology 4 3
November 21	Mr. Manuel Barrios, Theology
November 22	Rev. Andrew C. Nguyen, Vocations Dir
November 23	Mr. Joseph Nguyen, Theology 3
November 24	Mr. Robert Lamorena, Theology 1
November 25	Mr. Ryan Mau, Theology 1
November 26	Mr. Duy Nguyen, Theology 1
November 27	Mr. Thanh Ho, Pre-Theology 2
November 28	Mr. Pedro Jose Jimenez, Pre-Pastoral
November 29	Dcn. Ray Gans
November 30	Mr. Tony Famave, Theology 4
November 31	Mr. Manuel Barrios, Theology 3

Support our seminarians with notes or letters to these men preparing for ordination. Use this address:

**[Name of Seminarian]
Mundelein Seminary
1000 E Maple Ave, Bldg 300P
Mundelein, IL 60060**

!! OMG !!

TIS THE SEASON TO FALL BACK??

No excuses for anyone arriving late for mass on Sunday, November 1st or late for work the following Monday November 2nd claiming that their watch had the wrong time. If you wake up and its pitch black, it's time to go to Mass (unless it's Monday and you should be on the way to work!)

On Sunday morning (Nov 1st), at about 2:00 a.m., Pacific Daylight Saving Time (or PDST as it is known, or Puuh dishtt thbbbstt in the phonics world) will come to its seasonal termination. You can reset your various timepieces on Saturday evening (or at 2 a.m. on Sunday) to Pacific Standard Time (PST, or pisssssssssssst in phonics), i.e., backward one hour. We drop the "D" in PDST and lose an hour; in the Spring we add the "D" and gain an hour. Makes Sense? Since when should losing a letter cost us an hour of our lives? Should we sleep an hour less to keep the universe from spiraling out of control and finding ourselves watching a Cubs/White Sox World Series with Rod Serling selling popcorn?

My Kansas farm relatives don't inform their beasts of the field (or chicken of the coops or corn of the cob) of the change. They plod forward, oblivious of man's tinkering with the timing of the various celestial orbital patterns. You may note psychosocial pattern disruptions in your domesticated feline, canine and rodent residents as their accustomed feeding period shifts by your arbitrary adherence to Daylight Time (unless you have already discussed this matter with them). This capricious change will be completely undone next April as we just can't seem to live in ordinary time any longer than that.

California Knights (And Family Members) Should Vote!!

VOTE by mail or at County Registrar of Voters. Check your registration or track your vote at: <https://eservices.sccgov.org/Rov/>

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 31, Nov 7, 14, 21, and 28
Canopies for Mass (Subject to change!!)
7:00 a.m. set up; 10:30 a.m. Sunday remove

Sunday, November 1 **All Saints Day**
Pancake Breakfast CANCELLED!!!!

Thursday, November 5, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Business Meeting VIRTUAL

Saturday, November 7
Fr. Celso's Ordination Anniversary!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sunday, November 8
Coat &, PWID & Layette Donations at each mass

Tuesday, November 10
Columbiettes' Board Meeting VIRTUAL

Wednesday, November 11
Veterans Day (Legal Observation)
Parish Office closed

Sunday, November 15
Coat &, PWID & Layette Donations at each mass

Thursday, 7:00 p.m. November 19
Online Rosary

Thursday, November 19
Columbiettes' Business Meeting VIRTUAL

Thursday, 7:00 pm November 19
Officer's Meeting VIRTUAL

Saturday, November 21
3rd/4th Degree Exemplifications (10am & 1pm)
@ Holy Family & online *****

Sunday, November 22
Coat & Layette Donations at each mass

Tuesday, November 24
Portola Assembly Meeting VIRTUAL

Thurs - Sun, November 26 - 29
Thanksgiving weekend (Parish Office closed)

Thursday, December 3
Business Meeting VIRTUAL
7 – 8:00 pm

----- **PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED MEMBERS** -----

Al Abrahamsohn 4/16/17
 Howard Davis 1/11/16
 Richard Domenici 4/21/13
 Kenneth J. Goyeau 5/21/04
 Charles Hogate 2/22/05
 Richard Infantino 9/26/07
 Leroy (Bud) Larson 3/12/02
 Robert W. Livingston 11/3/14



Lyle Meacham 10/14/16
 Frank O'Donnell 11/12/16
 Edward M. Olsen 8/23/15
 Rocco (Rocky) Palladino 12/25/94
 Charles Pori 9/4/15
 Robert Smearden 6/3/14
 Carrol (Bill) Spencer 9/1/10
 Harry Lee Stanley 11/28/10

Membership Director – Jovie Palteng:

Try asking just one Catholic gentleman to join our Council each month. If each of us ask one man, the odds are good that at least one would say yes each month. The San Jose Chapter is holding a 3rd degree and a 4th degree exemplification at Holy Family on Sat. Nov. 21st. If you would like to go advance to those levels call or email me. Remember, joining is much easier with the unified 1st to 3rd degree ceremonies. Remind prospective Knight members that all of the 'secrecy' and formality has been changed and families and friends are invited to attend

Program Director - DGK David Gomez:

Please contact Mark Williams to participate in setting up and helping celebrate Fr. Celso's 30th Anniversary of his Ordination on Nov 7th! Brothers, check out the programs we are planning for the year and pick one (or one more?) to help with Let me know and I will have the program coordinator contact you. Another reminder that we could still use a few Brother Knights to help conduct parking lot traffic on Saturdays (3:30-4:30 pm) for Confessions. Perhaps you'd prefer to guide traffic for Drive-Thru Communion on Sundays -- 5:30-5:45? Business meetings are on the 1st Thursdays, unless preempted by a major Church activity or Special Notice.

St. Ignatius of Loyola Council Calendar of Key dates and Service Program Events

NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY 2011
Pancake Breakfast - 11/1 ELECTION DAY - 11/3 Business Meeting - 11/5 Virtual On-line Rosary-11/19 Boutique - 11/21-22 Officer's Meeting - 11/19 Virtual	Business Meeting - 12/3 Virtual Pancake Breakfast - 12/6 On-line Rosary-12/17 Officer's Meeting - CANCELLED CHRISTMAS - OFFICE CLOSED 12/24/20 - 1/1/21	Pancake Breakfast - 1/3 Business Meeting - 1/7 Virtual ? On-line Rosary-1/21 Officer's Meeting - 1/28 NEW YEARS - OFFICE CLOSED 1/1/21
FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
Business Meeting - 2/4 Virtual ? Pancake Breakfast - 2/2 PRESIDENTS' DAY - 2/15 Office closed Ash Wednesday - 2/17 On-line Rosary-2/18 Officer's Meeting - 2/25	Business Meeting - 3/4 Virtual ? Pancake Breakfast - 3/7 St. Patrick's Day Dinner - 3/13 On-line Rosary-3/18 Officer's Meeting - 3/25	Business Meeting - 4/1 Virtual ? Pancake Breakfast - 4/4 EASTER On-line Rosary-4/18 Officer's Meeting - 4/29

Nominations for our Knight and Family of the Month for October and for November's Knight Line input are due by November 23rd

The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship



Part I of II: Our Call as Catholic Citizens

This brief document is Part I of a summary of the US bishops' reflection, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, which complements the teaching of bishops in dioceses and states.

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship is the teaching document of the Catholic Bishops of the United States on the political responsibility of Catholics. It provides guidance for all who seek to exercise their rights and duties as citizens. As Catholics, we bring the richness of our faith to the public square. We draw from both faith and reason as we seek to affirm the dignity of the human person and the common good of all.

Everyone living in this country is called to participate in public life and contribute to the common good.¹ In *Rejoice and Be Glad* [*Gaudete et exsultate*], Pope Francis writes:

Your identification with Christ and his will involves a commitment to build with him that kingdom of love, justice and universal peace. . . . You cannot grow in holiness without committing yourself, body and soul, to giving your best to this endeavor.²

As Catholics, we are part of a community with profound teachings that help us consider challenges in public life, contribute to greater justice and peace for all people, and evaluate policy positions, party platforms, and candidates' promises and actions in light of the Gospel in order to help build a better world.

Why Does the Church Teach About Issues Affecting Public Policy?

The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith, a part of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ. As people of both faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life and to practice Christ's commandment to "love one another" (Jn 13:34).

The US Constitution protects the right of individual believers and religious bodies to proclaim and live out their faith without government interference, favoritism, or discrimination. Civil law should recognize and protect the Church's right and responsibility to participate in society without abandoning its moral convictions. Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions into public life. The Catholic community brings to political dialogue a consistent moral framework and broad experience serving those in need.

Who in the Church Should Participate in Political Life?

In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to any political party or interest group. In today's environment, Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and few candidates fully share our comprehensive commitment to human life and dignity. This should not discourage us. On the contrary, it makes our obligation to act all the more urgent. Catholic lay women and men need to act on the Church's moral principles and

become more involved: running for office, working within political parties, and communicating concerns to elected officials. Even those who cannot vote should raise their voices on matters that affect their lives and the common good. Faithful citizenship is an ongoing responsibility, not just an election year duty.

How Can Catholic Social Teaching Help Guide Our Participation?

In the words of Pope Francis, "progress in building a people in peace, justice and fraternity depends on four principles related to constant tensions present in every social reality. These derive from the pillars of the Church's social doctrine, which serve as 'primary and fundamental parameters of reference for interpreting and evaluating social phenomena.'"³ The four principles include the dignity of the human person, the common good, subsidiarity, and solidarity. Taken together, these principles provide a moral framework for Catholic engagement in advancing what we have called a "consistent ethic of life" (*Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 22).

Rightly understood, this ethic does not treat all issues as morally equivalent; nor does it reduce Catholic teaching to one or two issues. It anchors the Catholic commitment to defend human life and other human rights, from conception until natural death, in the fundamental obligation to respect the dignity of every human being as a child of God.

Catholic voters should use Catholic teaching to examine candidates' positions on issues and should consider candidates' integrity, philosophy, and performance. It is important for all citizens "to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest" (USCCB, *Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 33). The following summary of the four principles highlights several themes of Catholic social teaching for special consideration: these include **human rights and responsibilities, respect for work and the rights of workers, care for God's creation, and the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.**⁴

The Dignity of the Human Person

Human life is sacred because every person is created in the image and likeness of God. There is a rich and multifaceted Catholic teaching on human dignity summarized in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. Every human being "*must always be understood in his unrepeatable and inviolable uniqueness* . . . This entails above all the requirement not only of simple respect on the part of others, especially political and social institutions and their leaders with regard to every man and woman on the earth, but even more, this means that the primary commitment of each person towards others, and particularly of these same institutions, must be for the promotion and integral development of the person" (no. 131). The *Compendium* continues, "It is necessary to 'consider every neighbor without exception as another self, taking into account first of all his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity' (*Gaudium et Spes*, no. 27).

Every political, economic, social, scientific and cultural program must be inspired by the awareness of the primacy of each human being over society.”⁵

Subsidiarity

It is impossible to promote the dignity of the person without showing concern for the family, groups, associations, and local realities—in short, for those economic, social, cultural, recreational, professional, and political communities to which people spontaneously give life and which make it possible for them to achieve effective social growth.⁶ The family, based on marriage between a man and a woman, is the fundamental unit of society. This sanctuary for the creation and nurturing of children must not be redefined, undermined, or neglected. Supporting families should be a priority for economic and social policies. How our society is organized—in economics and politics,

in law and public policy—affects the well-being of individuals and of society. Every person and association has a right and a duty to participate in shaping society to promote the well-being of individuals and the common good.

The principle of subsidiarity reminds us that larger institutions in society should not overwhelm or interfere with smaller or local institutions; yet larger institutions have essential responsibilities when the more local institutions cannot adequately protect human dignity, meet human needs, and advance the common good.⁷

The Common Good

The common good is comprised of “the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily.”⁸

Human dignity is respected and the common good is fostered only if human rights are protected and basic responsibilities are met.

Every human being has a right to life, a right to religious freedom, and a right to have access to those things required for human decency—food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to ourselves, to our families, and to the larger society.

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. An economic system must serve the dignity of the human person and the common good by respecting the dignity of work and protecting the rights of workers. Economic justice calls for decent work at fair, living wages, a broad and fair legalization program with a path to citizenship

for immigrant workers, and the opportunity for all people to work together for the common good through their work, ownership, enterprise, investment, participation in unions, and other forms of economic activity. Workers also have responsibilities—to provide a fair day’s work for a fair day’s pay, to treat employers and coworkers with respect, and to carry out their work in ways that contribute to the common good. Workers, employers, and unions should not only advance their own interests but also work together to advance economic justice and the well-being of all.

We have a duty to care for God’s creation, which Pope Francis refers to in *Laudato Si’* as “our common home.”⁹ We all are called to be careful stewards of God’s creation and to ensure a safe and hospitable environment for vulnerable human beings now and in the future. Pope Francis, consistent with St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI (World Day of Peace Message, 1990 and 2010), has lifted up pollution, climate change, lack of access to clean water, and the loss of biodiversity as particular challenges. Pope Francis speaks of an “ecological debt” (no. 51) owed by wealthier nations to developing

nations. And he calls all of us to an “ecological conversion” (no. 219), by which “the effects of [our] encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in [our] relationship with the world around [us]”.¹⁰ Indeed, this concern with “natural ecology” is an indispensable part of the broader “human ecology,” which encompasses not only material but moral and social dimensions as well.

Solidarity

Solidarity is “a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to . . . the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all.” It is found in “a commitment to the good of one’s neighbor with the readiness, in the Gospel sense, to ‘lose oneself’ for the sake of the other instead of exploiting him, and to ‘serve him’ instead of oppressing him for one’s own advantage.”¹¹

We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Our Catholic commitment to solidarity requires that we pursue justice, eliminate racism, end human trafficking, protect human rights, seek peace, and avoid the use of force except as a necessary last resort.

In a special way, our solidarity must find expression in the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable. A moral test for society is how we treat the weakest among us—the unborn, those dealing with disabilities or terminal illness, the poor, and the marginalized.

Conclusion

In light of Catholic teaching, the bishops vigorously repeat their call for a renewed politics that focuses on moral principles, the promotion of human life and dignity, and the pursuit of the common good.

Political

participation in this spirit reflects not only the social teaching of our Church but the best traditions of our nation.

Notes

1 Catechism of the Catholic Church, nos. 1913-15.

2 *Gaudete et Exsultate*, no. 25.

3 *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 221

4 These principles are drawn from a rich tradition more fully described in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005), no. 160. For more information on these principles, see *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 2016, nos. 40ff.

5 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 132. This summary represents only a few highlights from the fuller treatment of the human person in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. For the fuller treatment, see especially nos. 124-159 where many other important aspects of human dignity are treated.

6 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 185.

7 *Centesimus Annus*, no. 48; *Dignitatis Humanae*, nos. 4-6.

8 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 164

9 *Laudato Si’*, no. 77.

10 *Laudato Si’*, no. 217.

11 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 193. (See Mt 10:40-42,

20:25; Mk 10:42-45; Lk 22:25-27)

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