

The Silver Knight News

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Vocations Director	3
Supreme Chaplain	5
State Historian	6
Knights in History	7
Knight in the Light	8
Annual Convention	10
Knight of the Month	12
Family of the Month	13
First Responder Luncheon	14
Knight Called Home	15
Silver Rose Tour	15
Knights at Aces Baseball	16
This Month's Photos	17

State Deputy's Message



State Deputy David Ryan

Brothers,

Once again, I want to thank Grand Knight Jodi Gunderman and his team for putting on an exceptional state convention. It was well planned and executed from the Social on Friday evening, to the Ladies Lunch and formal awards banquet on Saturday, all the way to closing on Sunday.

Congratulations to the award winners who were recognized at the 115th convention.

Faith Program of the Year:
Ponderosa Council 4928
Grand Knight Willard A Watts

Family Program of the year:
Ponderosa Council 4928
Grand Knight Willard A Watts

Community Program of the year:
Immac Conception Council 12877
Grand Knight Richard Matoza.

Life Program of the Year:
Immac Conception Council 12877
Grand Knight Richard Matoza.

Ladies Auxiliary of the Year:
St Charbels Council 14280
President Merlyn Valdez

Family of the Year:
Rodrigo Palacios
Immac Conception Council 12877

Continued next page

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

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The greatest need of our time is to clean out the enormous mass of mental and emotional rubbish that clutters our minds

Thomas Merton

State Deputy's Message

District Deputy of the year:

William J Stone
St Rose of Lima Council 13842

Grand Knight of the Year:

SK Trent J Shafer
St John Neumann Council 18256

Knight of the Year:

David S Brach
Our Lady of Snows Council 4997

Chaplain of the Year:

Father Bobin Babu
Chaplain Council 16207

Grand Knights, you and your councils have accomplished a great deal already this year, but we are not done yet. We have until the end of June to complete our tasks successfully and help your council achieve Star Council status.

God Bless

David M Ryan, PSD, FVSM
State Deputy



Message from the Vocations Director

HABEMUS PAPAM

Habemus Papam! We have a pope! Leo XIV! What a special blessing - a pope from the United States!! And a White Sox fan!!

Just three days following the election of Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost as the 267th Pope of the Catholic Church, I was approached by a woman after Mass. It was Mother's Day.

"I haven't been to church in a long time," she said, with tears in her eyes. "I'm here because of Pope Leo."

"Welcome back," I said. "Thanks to God."

"Yes, I am so excited," she said.

I asked: "You are baptized, first communion....."

"Oh yes," she said. "I have everything."

She already knew that she had to go to confession before receiving the Eucharist once again. I gave her a parish bulletin and pointed out the confession times and Mass times. She was so grateful. I, however, received the bigger blessing: being able to welcome her to Our Lady of the Valley.

What does this have to do with vocations?

By virtue of our baptism, we are called to be missionary disciples - our vocation. To spread the Word of God by the way we speak, by the way we act. To be the face of Jesus Christ to everyone we meet.

It is so important to always pray for special vocations to priesthood, diaconate, religious life, consecrated life. But it is equally important to pray for those who have embraced the vocation of married life. Or single life. BUT A CHRISTIAN LIFE!

Opportunities to evangelize will present themselves, sometimes when we least expect it. We must be prepared to witness to our faith. The Holy Spirit will put words in our mouths!!

Challenges will present themselves, sometimes when we least expect it. How we respond to those challenges defines us as Christians. Pray for the strength to respond to life's challenges - our crosses - with grace and peace.

As always, especially during the month of May: Our Lady, Queen of the Knights - Pray for Us!!

Deacon Rick

Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy.

Thomas Merton

Nativity Pilgrimage

Where Faith Meets Adventure



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Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge



Each month, Archbishop William Lori – Supreme Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus – selects a brief passage from the Gospel reading of one of the Sunday Masses of the month. This month we look at John 11:27 the Gospel for May 4.

He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

When, following the Resurrection, Jesus revealed himself to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, why did he ask Peter three times whether he loved him? It has often been seen as a penance for Peter’s earlier threefold denial of Christ. But perhaps there’s something more — perhaps Jesus was pushing Peter to reflect more deeply on what it means to love him. Sometimes, we speak the words “I love you” by rote, without grasping their true meaning. May we always be mindful of what it means to truly love someone and to love as Christ taught us.

This month, I challenge you to identify one way you can demonstrate true love of God and neighbor. Then pray about how to concretely undertake that sacrificial act of love — and put it into action.

Questions for Reflection:

What does it mean for you to truly love Jesus? Do you know anyone — or is there a particular saint — who has shown you what true love looks like? What are some specific ways you can grow in your ability to truly love?

*In a world of noise,
confusion and conflict it is
necessary that there be places
of silence, inner discipline
and peace. In such places
love can blossom.*

Thomas Merton

Note from State Historian

115th Nevada State Convention: Fellowship Enjoyed!

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 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

*You do not need to know
precisely what is happening,
or exactly where it is all
going. What you need is to
recognize the possibilities
and challenges offered by the
present moment, and to
embrace them with courage,
faith and hope.*

Thomas Merton

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!

Origin of the Patriotic Degree Ceremonial Sword



The Knights of Columbus ceremonial sword has its roots in the Patriotic Degree Fourth Degree of the Order which was established in 1900. The sword is a symbol of the Knight's commitment to defend faith, family and country, drawing on the traditional ideals of knighthood and chivalry.

The sword was inspired by medieval knightly traditions, representing valor, honor and the defense of the Church and moral values. It is ceremonial --- used during formal events, honor guards, color corps and processions. The blade is made of polished steel and is often inscribed "Knights of Columbus." However, some blades are personalized with the name of the Faithful Navigator. The hilt is a grip made of black or white materials. White grips signify a leadership role such as Faithful Navigator. The grip cap is adorned with a bust of Christopher Columbus. The guard is shaped in the form of a cross and often features decorative elements like the KofC emblem. The scabbard is made from metal, often silver plated, and decorated with the KofC emblem which itself includes symbols such as ax, anchor, sword and foliage with cross-like patterns.

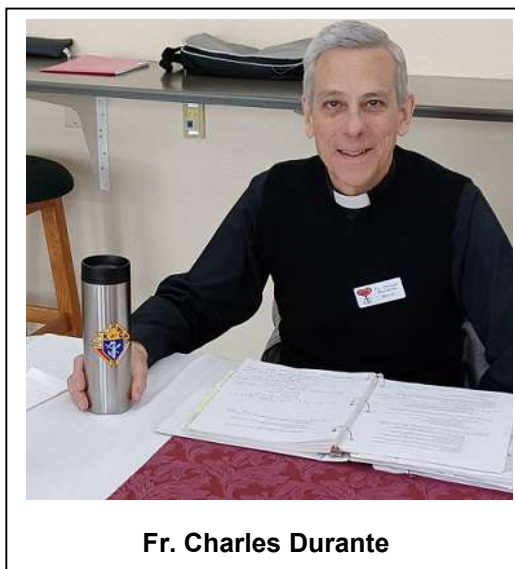
Continued on page 11

*Nothing has ever been said
about God that hasn't
already been said better by
the wind in the pine trees.*

Thomas Merton

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

**Fr. Charles Durante, Pastor St. Thomas Aquinas
Cathedral, Reno, NV**



Fr. Charles Durante

*In Silence God ceases to be
an object and becomes an
experience.*

Thomas Merton

I became a Knight of Columbus in the early 1980's when my father was very active in Council 978, the first council in Nevada, which was centered at St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral, my home parish. The Knights were a very important part of my father's service to the Church, at the parish level and beyond. I was impressed by the projects and spirit of the men involved in the Knights, so when Pop asked me if I'd like to join, I accepted. I already was involved in the parish ministry. I worked in the parish office for several years as an evening and Saturday receptionist and sang in the famous Cathedral Choir. Being in the Knights was a natural extension, helping in the parish and working on such things as the annual Seminarian Fund and the Tootsie Roll Drive -- which raised funds for kids with special needs.

I took a leave from 978 when I went away to law school at the University of Santa Clara. However, I kept in touch through my family and trips home. The nudging of the Lord toward a priestly vocation began to take shape when I was away, though I struggled with what really was God's will for me. After graduation I came back to Reno to practice law -- and to pay off my school debt. I enjoyed the practice of law. However, the nudging I knew earlier did not go away, it continued to grow stronger, and, after some intense discernment, I reached a place of peace within and knew priesthood was, indeed, where God wanted me to spend the rest of my life. After meeting with Bishop Daniel Walsh, I entered St. Patrick Seminary in Menlo Park, California, in August of 1989.

Continued next page

Knight in the Light

Submitted By: J. Michael Brady, State Historian

All through my seminary years, the Knights remained a steady support in prayer and, occasionally, with financial support. That was true of the Knights in the Bay Area parishes as well as here in Nevada. I was assigned to St. Christopher Catholic Church in Las Vegas for my pastoral (intern) year as a seminarian and, there too, the Knights were present and always ready with a kind word of support.

Since my ordination in 1994 I have served at Our Lady of the Snows, St. Teresa of Avila, Bishop Manogue Catholic High School, Our Lady of Wisdom, Newman Center, and now, back to where I began, here at St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral. The Knights of Columbus have been a part of most of those assignments with their faithful presence and service. Here at the Cathedral the Knights of 978 have been of great help in service to the parish as ushers, greeters, crowd and parking control, dinners, and special events. They have donated both time and treasure to provide for the needs of our parish. It is comforting and a joy to know that the Knights are ready, willing and able to serve in the name of the Lord!

People may spend their whole lives climbing the ladder of success only to find, once they reach the top, that the ladder is leaning against the wrong wall.

Thomas Merton

Ceremonial Swords

Continued from page 9

The Knights of Columbus sword (circa 1920's) that is pictured here along with four other swords from the same era. These swords were donated to the Knights of Columbus Council at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church this past month by Julie Cousins Weis, wife of Walter (Wally) R. Weis. We aren't sure if Walter Weis was a member of the Knights of Columbus. Perhaps the swords came from another family member who was a Knight. Our Council's Grand Knight, Richard Matoza, donated it to the Newman Center for a secure display. Stop in sometime and admire this sword in person.

Council 13842 Hosts Annual State Convention



L to R: State Deputy David Ryan, Regional Growth Director Charles Davlin, State Secretary David Clarke and State Advocate J.J. Wilder

When you see God in everyone, then they see God in you.

Thomas Merton

After nearly a year of preparation, the 115th Annual Knights of Columbus State Convention took place May 2 - 4 at Bishop Manogue Catholic High School, UNR's Newman Center, St. Rose of Lima Church and the Grand Sierra Resort. More than 120 Knights from all over the State of Nevada and one representative from Supreme in Hartford CT, attended the convention. This included five state officers, three past state deputies, 62 voting delegates and 51 non-voting observers.

Convention festivities kicked off at 6 p.m. Friday, May 2, with a Welcome Social at UNR's Newman Center. Nearly 100 Knights, including the State Officers, enjoyed light hors d'oeuvres and beer or wine. One Knight was so impressed with the Newman Center that he said he wished he was back in school so he could enjoy the on-site coffee shop and the study rooms downstairs.

The convention proper started at 7 a.m. Saturday morning with breakfast. Following a parade of council banners and opening remarks from the State Deputy David Ryan and the Supreme Regional Growth Director Charles Davlin, the assembly heard a report on the state budget. SD David Ryan said he cut expenses so he expected no increase in "per capita" contributions from the local councils.

Continued next page

Council 13842 Hosts Annual State Convention

After lunch, the assembly heard Dan Ramos talk about the Hispanic Round Table, Rick Sherman about the UKnight website, and Tom Melton about the COR program. Also, all the members of our Council convention planning committee received "Certificates of Appreciation" signed by Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly.

Bishop Daniel Muggenborg accompanied by Fathers Dariusz Miskowicz, Wojciech Prawda and Tony Vercellone with assistance from Deacon Don Korson celebrated Mass. All the participants in the Mass, from the bishop and priests to the ushers, proclaimers (lectors) and Eucharistic Ministers were members of the Knights of Columbus.

The Gala Dinner at the Grand Sierra Resort was an astounding success. On April 13, the convention committee had 93 confirmed diners. (188 diners were required to fulfill the State's dinner contract with the hotel.) When the doors to the Tahoe Ballroom opened at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, the committee had 178 diners. "We filled every seat in the house," said GK Jody Gunderman. "We even had to make room at the head table for one more priest who joined us." Convention organizer SK Chip Lindloff said "We were less than \$500 short of meeting our meal contract.

The convention reconvened Sunday morning to elect next year's officers whose one-year term starts with the next Fraternal Year, July 1, 2025. The new officers are:

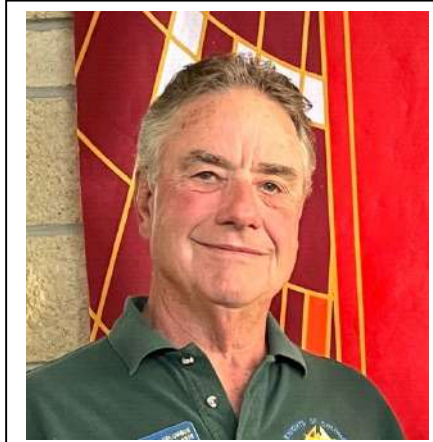
State Deputy	SK David Clarke
State Secretary	SK Leo Carew III
State Advocate	SK Michael Brady
State Treasurer	SK J J Wilder
State Warden	SK Gary Bird

Next year's annual convention will be held at St. Joseph, Husband of Mary Parish in Las Vegas.

*Love is our true destiny.
We do not find the
meaning of life by
ourselves alone - we find it
with another.*

Thomas Merton

Knight of the Month for May 2025



Bro. Robin K. Pagni

*Compassion is the keen
awareness of the
interdependence of all things.*

Thomas Merton

Bro. Robin K. Pagni worked 30 years in law enforcement and retired as Deputy Chief of the Sparks Police Department. He has been an active member of Ponderosa Council 4928 for 19 years and is currently our three-year Trustee. In April, Robin served as a grill master at our Council's first UNR Newman Center Bishop Daniel-sponsored student lunch program.

In 2020, in response to national unrest after the death of George Floyd, Bro. Robin proposed, organized, and led a well-received Ponderosa Council-sponsored City of Sparks Police Appreciation Luncheon. We have hosted the Appreciation Luncheon every year since then.

This year, Bro. Robin proposed expanding the Appreciation Luncheon to include the City of Sparks Fire Department and REMSA personnel. We renamed the event "First Responders Appreciation Luncheon." The Council served more than 100 responders over the shift changes that occurred during this 2½ hour luncheon. In recognition of Bro. Robin's leadership in making our Appreciation Luncheons a success, Ponderosa Council 4928 names him our May Knight of the Month.

□ W. Anthony Watts, GK

Family of the Month for May 2025



Lady Marcia and Bro. Ronald J. McClain

Bro. Ronald J. McClain and Lady Marcia are arguably one of the most active family teams in the Holy Cross Catholic Community parish. Bro. Ron is a recent convert to Catholicism and has been a member of Ponderosa Council 4928 since April 2015. Both Ronald and Marcia are Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors.

Bro. Ron is also an usher and a key member of the parish's "Father George Wolf Memorial Scholarship Fund" program. His leadership was a primary reason for the parish's recent highly successful Catholic Services 2025 appeal. As a Catechist, Lady Marcia just successfully completed the parish's First Communion class program.

For all that they do, the McClains are recognized as our May Family of the Month.

□ W. Anthony Watts, GK

*Let us come alive to the
splendor that is all around
us and see the beauty in
ordinary things.*

Thomas Merton

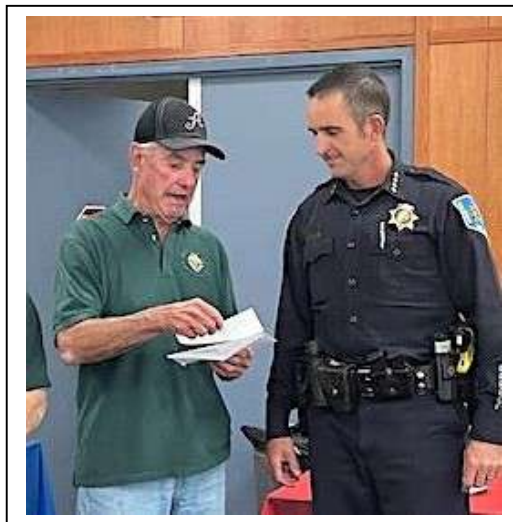
First Responder Appreciation Luncheon



On Thursday, May 8, Ponderosa Council 4928 honored the City of Sparks first responders. Fourteen Council members and six Ladies of the Knights volunteered approximately 105 hours in service helping plan, shop, set up, grill and serve more than 100 police, fire, and REMSA personnel during a 2½ hour “lunch hour.”

Program Chair Bro. Robin K. Pagni coordinated this event with the city and helped promote this annual council program with the Sparks Police Department, the Sparks Fire Department, and REMSA personnel. In addition, he presented a \$500 donation to Police Chief Chris Crawford (pictured below) in support of the city’s Victims Services Unit, a program that provides both emotional and practical support for victims of crime and their families.

- W. Anthony Watts, GK



Do not look for rest in any pleasure, because you were not created for pleasure: you were created for joy. And if you do not know the difference between pleasure and joy you have not yet begun to live.

Thomas Merton

Knight Called Home

PSD John Layman



It is with great sadness that we announce that John Layman, Nevada State Deputy for the Fraternal Year 2012 - 2013 and member of Fr. Francisco Garces Council 5693 at St Francis de Sales parish in Las Vegas, NV, was called home by our Heavenly Father on Saturday, May 3, 2025

Silver Rose Tours Nevada



Each year, from mid-February through December, Silver Roses are stewarded by Knights of Columbus councils along routes from Canada to Mexico. Every stop the Silver Rose makes throughout the pilgrimage is a rosary-centered occasion for Knights, parishioners and community members to pray for respect for life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation, and for the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Again this year, the Silver Rose will tour Nevada. Once the Nevada Silver Rose travel schedule is firmed up, it will be posted on the State Council's UKnight calendar.

To say that I am made in the image of God is to say that love is the reason for my existence, for God is love. Love is my true identity. Selflessness is my true self. Love is my true character. Love is my name.

Thomas Merton

Knights at the Aces Baseball



*Gratitude takes nothing
for granted, is never
unresponsive, is
constantly awakening to
new wonder.*

Thomas Merton

The annual Knights at the Aces baseball game will be Friday, July 4. "Since our turnout has been a bit muted on past weekends for the Fourth, we have 200 seats available. If we do exceed this number, there will be some limited seating throughout the stadium, but, to sit with the group you really need to get your reservations in early," said Knights at the Aces Coordinator Tony Stephenson, PFK FDD.

"This event is open to everyone --- spouses, kids and that guy in the third row pew you've been trying to recruit (and his family). Bring anyone and everyone that you want to show that the Order does more than work -- we have fun as well. Tickets are \$28 this year, and we'll be in Section 100. The price is still pretty good. The seats are in the shade and it's going to be a great game. I don't know if you were there last year, but the Aces had their biggest come-back of the season in what was probably the most exciting game they've had there.

"Please email me (at tonyg_s@sbcglobal.net) with the name of whomever will be your Council coordinator and their email so we can make arrangements and get those seats reserved.

"I'm looking forward to hearing from you," said Tony.

This Month's Photos

Annual State Convention



This Month's Photos

Annual State Convention



This Month's Photos

Annual State Convention



This Month's Photos

Annual State Convention



The Silver Knight news thanks Robert Mc Artor for permission to use the images on this page.

This Month's Photos

Annual State Convention



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This Month's Photos

Mother's Day with Council 12977



Our Lady of the Desert Council 12977 at Immaculate Conception in Sparks hosted our annual Mother's Day celebration today. Our moms and families feasted on poached eggs, bacon, sausage and biscuits and gravy. We enjoyed fresh fruit donated by Sprouts Farmers Market and milk and juice donated by Model Dairy NV. We provided more than 400 meals. Thank you to our donors and a big thank you to more than 20 volunteers who helped make this day special. We could not have done this without the efforts of our coordinator William Sousa and my wife Remedios Constanica Sonico Bigcas-Carew who put in over 9 hours volunteering.



This Month's Photos

Ponderosa Council 4928



Knights of Ponderosa Council 4928 color corps escorted the display elements of Holy Cross Catholic Community parish's first time ever Divine Mercy Mass.



Newman Center Lunch Team 2



Mother's Day Flowers



Fr. Arlon receives state award

