

The Silver Knight News

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State Deputy's Message



L to R: Life Director Mark Gilmour, State Treasurer J.J. Wilder, Archbishop George Thomas, State Deputy David Clarke, Membership Director David Ryan, and District Deputy Mariano Santana

Worthy Brother Knights,

As October approaches, I want to thank you for your continued dedication to the Knights of Columbus across the Silver State. Our strength lies in "walking the talk" by living out our Catholic faith through charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

Upcoming November Election

Early voting begins October 17th (see the Nevada Secretary of State Election Information

<https://www.nvsos.gov/elections/election-information/2026-election-information>). As both faithful Catholics and private citizens, we have a civic responsibility to stay engaged. Nevada voters will again consider Question 6, a proposed constitutional amendment that would vastly expand abortion rights. Having passed in 2024, this misguided referendum requires approval in this general election to be permanently enshrined in the Nevada Constitution.

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

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No one, however weak, is denied a share in the victory of the cross. No one is beyond the help of the prayer of Christ.

Pope Leo I

State Deputy's Message

I strongly encourage every Brother Knight, along with his family and friends, to carefully review the implications of this poorly written referendum and vote "No" to protect the sanctity of life.

Congratulations to Our Membership Team

Sincere congratulations to Worthy Immediate Past State Deputy and State Membership Chairman David Ryan and his team. Their implementation of the "Culture of Welcoming" is driving meaningful results, placing Nevada among the top ten jurisdictions worldwide for Circle of Honor recognition thus far.

Maintaining Momentum

We must sustain this positive membership growth. Every council, assembly, district, and Brother Knight has a vital role to play. Please continue welcoming practicing Catholic men at Mass, parish activities, and charitable events. Share our brotherhood and personally invite them to attend a "Cor" meeting or just ask them to join our order. When meeting prospective members, Worthy Brother David Ryan simply asks if they are members of the Knights—and if the answer is "no," he asks, "Why not?" The positive results speak for themselves.

Thanks again for everything you do for the Catholic Church, our parish communities, and in support of each other. May God bless you, your families, and the Nevada Knights of Columbus Jurisdiction.

Vivat Jesus!

David M. Clarke, State Deputy



L to R: State Deputy David Clarke, Membership Director David Ryan, District Deputy Daniel Ramos, District Deputy Mariano Santana, and Bishop Gregory Gordon

State Chaplain's Message



Our Lady of Montserrat

Brothers, I am writing this article while on Pilgrimage to the Marian Shrines in Spain, France, and Portugal. So far I have been to La Sagrada Família in Barcelona and to the Marian Shrine of Montserrat. I will visit Andorra de Valle, the Sanctuary of Loyola and the Shrine of Our Lady of Meritxell, all in Northern Spain, then onto Lourdes, France from there to Fatima.

What is important about these shrines? They are all different appearances of Mary to those in need of spiritual guidance and at times healing. Mary should be our model and guide. She said yes to following the Lord, and continued to say yes throughout her life. Do we say yes to following the Lord? Is the Lord the center of our lives?

Peace is the first thing the angels sang. Peace is the mark of the children of God. Peace is the nurse of love. Peace is the mother of unity. Peace is the rest of the blessed souls. Peace is the dwelling place of eternity.

Pope Leo I

As Knights may the Lord and Mary have a special place in our lives. May the Lord always be the center of our lives, our meetings and our activities. May Mary be our guide to continue to say yes to following the Lord. As we begin to approach the month of October, may we remember it is a month dedicated to Mary. May we heed Mary's call to pray the Rosary. If the Rosary is not part of your life, may we renew our relationship with the Rosary that we received at our 1st Degree.

Our Lady of Montserrat, Our Lady of Meritxell, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Fatima: Pray for Us! Be assured of my prayers for you and your family as I visit the Marian Shrines and offer Mass for your intentions. Mary, pray for us!!

Fr. Steven Hoffer, Pastor
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

Message from the Membership Director

Brothers,

We are moving up in the rankings and, as of this morning, are 10th in the Order. Great job, brothers! Seven councils are leading the state in membership growth: 18256 at 160%, 4828 at 133%, 10780 at 75%, 13924 at 60%, 978 at 57%, and 4928 & 7322 at 50%. Congratulations to these Grand Knights and council membership directors for their efforts to grow the Order in Nevada. However, 22 active councils have not added a single new member this fraternal year. Let's change that by September 30 by getting every council active in membership growth.

Congratulations to Grand Knight Thomas Jones, Financial Secretary Jim Shurtiff, and Membership Director Jack Langford of Council 4828 for earning a \$250 reduction in their per-capita billing by meeting all first-quarter incentive program requirements. The top recruiter for the state in July was Brother Luis Ortega from council 4928 with 7 new members. They are just four members away from increasing their per-capita reduction to \$500.

As a reminder, Supreme no longer wants Form 100s submitted. Financial Secretaries can save time and help Supreme by adding new members through Membership Management using the Candidate tab.

If your pastor is hesitant to allow your council to host a membership drive, consider participating in your parish ministry fair. During the weekend of September 5–6, Council 13392 added 14 members at its parish ministry fair and scheduled a CUF degree for Sunday, September 13. Special thanks to DD Daniel Ramos for inviting 7 of those 14 members into the Order.

Grand Knights, please schedule a membership drive before the end of September if you have not already done so, and share the dates with me, your field agent, and the State Deputy. If possible, I will travel to Reno or elsewhere to assist your council. Grand Knights and Membership Directors, if you need assistance, the state team and I are here to help you grow your council and the Order.

Please keep me informed of your membership initiatives so I can recognize councils and members for their efforts.

GO NEVADA GO

David M Ryan, PSD, FVSM
State Membership Director

*Virtue is nothing
without the trial of
temptation, for there is no
conflict without an enemy,
no victory without strife.*

Pope Leo I

Message from the EFF Director



When God wanted to make David a king, He didn't give him a crown; He gave him Goliath. When God wanted to raise Joseph to the palace, He didn't give him a shortcut; He gave him prison. When God wanted to make Esther a queen, He didn't give her comfort; He gave her a crisis. When God wanted to make Moses a leader, He didn't give him a stage; He gave him a wilderness. When you feel like God is breaking you, He's actually building you. God doesn't give you what you want, He gives you what you need.

Ponder that for a moment brothers

Tom Melton, DD13/EFF Director

*Those who are not good to
others are bad to
themselves.*

Pope Leo I



Note from State Historian

Happy Fall Y'all Support Our Programs

“Put Jesus First in All We Do”

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 David M. Clarke 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: jmichael_brady@att.net 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

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!

Let no one be ashamed of the cross by which Christ has redeemed the world. None of us must be afraid to suffer for the sake of justice or doubt the fulfillment of the promises, for it is through toil that we come to rest and through death that we pass to life.

Pope Leo I

First Catholic Church in Elko, Nevada



Historical overview

The history of organized Catholic life in Elko is closely associated with St. Joseph Catholic Church. The parish developed alongside Elko's growth as a railroad, ranching, and mining community during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Early Catholic presence

Elko began as a Central Pacific Railroad settlement in 1868, and Elko County was established in 1869. Catholics were among the railroad workers, miners, ranchers, merchants, and immigrant families who settled throughout northeastern Nevada. Before Elko had a resident priest or permanent church, missionary priests traveled considerable distances to celebrate Mass, administer the sacraments, conduct marriages and funerals, and minister to scattered Catholic families. Services were commonly held in homes, rented halls, and other temporary locations.

Establishment of St. Joseph Parish

In 1909, the Riordan family of Jiggs donated \$50 toward purchasing land for a permanent Catholic church in Elko. This was an important early step toward establishing a permanent Catholic presence in the city. St. Joseph was formally established as a parish in 1917. The parish's founding date was commemorated during its centennial celebration in 2017, which brought together Catholics from Elko and surrounding northeastern Nevada communities.

Continued next page

The cross of Christ is the true ground and chief cause of Christian hope.

Pope Leo I

First Catholic Church in Elko, Nevada

The first church on Court Street

The first St. Joseph Catholic Church stood on Court Street in downtown Elko. Historic photographs show a traditional church building with a steeply pitched roof, pointed windows, and a prominent entrance tower. A photograph dated 1918 identifies it as the first St. Joseph Church. The Court Street church became the spiritual center of Elko's Catholic community. It served generations of families for Masses, baptisms, First Communions, confirmations, weddings, and funerals. Its congregation reflected northeastern Nevada's diverse population, including Irish, Italian, Basque, Hispanic, and other immigrant and ranching families. The old church stood approximately where the Elko County Library - now Mybrary - was subsequently developed. Documentary references confirm that weddings were still being celebrated in Court Street church in 1954.

Construction of a new church

As Elko grew, the original Court Street building became inadequate for the expanding congregation. A larger St. Joseph Catholic Church was constructed and dedicated on June 17, 1956. The parish later developed its present worship complex at 990 Highland Drive, with the parish office at 1035 C Street.

Regional importance

Because northeastern Nevada contains many small and widely separated communities, priests assigned to Elko traditionally provided sacramental and pastoral service across a vast territory. St. Joseph Parish today supports or assists Catholic communities including:

- Sacred Heart Parish in Carlin
- St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Wells
- St. Brendan Church in Eureka
- Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe in Jackpot
- Our Lady of the Rubies Chapel in Spring Creek

Historical significance

The original Court Street church represented the determination of a small frontier Catholic community to establish a permanent spiritual home. Its history follows Elko's own development from a railroad settlement to the principal commercial and cultural center of northeastern Nevada. Although the original building no longer stands, its legacy continues through St. Joseph Catholic Community. The parish established in 1917 remains the institutional successor to Elko's first Catholic church and continues the missionary tradition begun by traveling priests more than a century ago.

*The faith of those who live
their faith is a serene faith.
What you long for will be
given you; what you love
will be yours for ever.*

Pope Leo I

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

Brother Vern Hee, Grand Knight Council 10780 Our Lady of the Valley



*He that sees another in
error and endeavors not
to correct it, testifies
himself to be in error.*

Pope Leo I

Looking back on my life, my path has been shaped by a desire to serve, a deep-rooted faith, and a commitment to helping others find purpose. Born in 1963 and raised in California, I developed a passion for athletics and a fascination with the U.S. Navy from a young age. Driven by a dream to serve my country, I pursued the Naval ROTC program through high school and earned a competitive four-year NROTC scholarship. In 1985, I was commissioned as a Naval Officer, serving four years on active duty before being honorably discharged at the rank of Lieutenant.

Following my military service, I spent a decade in the San Francisco Bay Area exploring different ways to contribute. I launched several business ventures in contracting — working as a landscape contractor — and served my community directly as a police officer for the City of Berkeley.

Knight in the Light

Submitted By: J. Michael Brady, State Historian

My journey then led me into education, where I spent eight years teaching fourth, fifth, and sixth-grade students in the Ontario-Montclair School District. In 2006, I moved to Southern Nevada. I worked for a time as a copy editor and journalist for local newspapers and magazines before bringing my experience into state government. Today, I am proud to work for the Nevada Department of Education, specializing in federal grant compliance and grant writing.

Throughout every chapter, my faith and love for music have been constant pillars. As a "cradle" Catholic who has sung in church choirs since high school, my spiritual life took on even greater depth after my time in the Navy. I served as a catechist, worked with anti-gang ministries in Santa Ana, California, and experienced a major personal milestone in 1992 when I attended World Youth Day to see Pope John Paul II.

Over the last five years, I have poured much of my heart into the Knights of Columbus, serving three terms as Grand Knight. Under my leadership, our council focused heavily on tackling local homelessness and addressing unmet community needs. I worked to secure \$4,000 in dedicated grant funding and helped found the Veteran Service Alliance for Unmet Needs.

Recognizing that many local veterans struggle to find affordable housing, stability, and a renewed sense of purpose, we designed this charity around service and self-sufficiency. Through local agricultural projects, veterans can grow and sell food, while also directly supporting our area seniors with essential needs like transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, and church services. For me, this work carries forward the fundamental promise of military service: giving back to the community and the country that has given me so much.

At the center of my life is my wife, Terri. We were married in 2010, and Pahrump, Nevada, has been our home for the past 16 years. Terri is a huge part of the reason I continue to stay strong in my faith. I firmly believe that going to church together and pursuing a shared ministry strengthens marriage. Reflecting that belief, Terri and I have sung side-by-side in the same church choir for the past 15 years, shared harmony that reflects our joint commitment to faith, family, and serving our community.

*The faith by which we
live shall never vary in
any age . . . for one is
the faith which sanctifies
the Just of all ages.*

Pope Leo I

Message from the Faith Director

WHO IS YOUR MATTHEW?

A 90-Day Evangelization Challenge for the Men of the Knights of Columbus

Over the next 90 days, we are challenging every Knight to identify one man who is not currently connected and to intentionally begin building a relationship with him. This is not simply a membership drive. It is not about finding prospects or handing someone a Knights application. It begins with friendship/brotherhood.

Think about one man you know. Maybe he's the guy you work with. Maybe he's the guy you golf with. Maybe he's a veteran you know. Maybe he's a neighbor. Maybe he's a friend who has drifted away from the Church. Maybe he's someone who has never had a relationship with Christ at all. Maybe he's the man who just sits in the pew lost and alone.

THE 90-DAY CHALLENGE

DAYS 1–30: FIND & FRIEND

Identify one man and begin intentionally investing in the relationship. Call him. Have coffee. Grab lunch. Play golf. Watch a game. Invite him to dinner. Most importantly, listen to him. Get to know his story. Don't begin by trying to fix him or convince him of anything. Begin by becoming his friend/brother.

DAYS 31–60: INVITE

Once the relationship begins to develop, invite him into your community. Say: "Come with me." Invite him to breakfast. A golf outing. A BBQ. A service project. A veterans event. A men's gathering. A Knights activity. The objective isn't to recruit him. The objective is to help him experience authentic Catholic brotherhood.

DAYS 61–90: ENCOUNTER

When the relationship is ready, invite him toward something deeper. Perhaps it is Mass. Cor. A men's Bible study. A retreat. A men's conference. A testimony night. A Eucharistic event. Or simply a conversation about faith. The goal is to help the man move from relationship to encounter and ultimately from encounter to discipleship.

Continued next page

*Beyond our grasp, He
chose to come within our
grasp. Existing before time
began, He began to exist
at a moment in time.*

Pope Leo I

Message from the Faith Director

THE MATTHEW RULE

We can make this incredibly simple: Every Knight. Every month. One man. One meaningful encounter. One invitation. One prayer. Imagine what would happen if every Knight in Nevada did that. We wouldn't simply have more men attending Knights meetings. We would have Knights reaching men who aren't there yet.

GO WHERE THE MEN ARE

The Knights already know how to serve. We feed people. We support veterans. We help families. We support our parishes. We raise money for charitable causes. We perform countless acts of service. But Matthew 9 reminds us that there is another dimension to our mission:

We need to build relationships with the people we serve. Don't just serve the community. Meet the people in the community. Don't just hold an event. Invite someone who doesn't normally come. Don't just attend a men's gathering. Bring another man with you. Don't just pray for men who are struggling. Become their friend. Become their brother

FROM MEETINGS TO MISSION

Our councils should absolutely continue to be places of fraternity, service and formation. But our mission cannot end when the council meeting ends. The real question is: What are we doing outside the council meeting to bring men closer to Christ?

Our challenge is to move from meetings to relationships. From relationships to encounter. From encounter to discipleship. From discipleship to mission. The Knights don't simply need more men in the room. The Church needs Catholic men willing to go outside the room.

YOUR CHALLENGE

Before your next council meeting, think of one man. Write his name down. Pray for him. Then call him. Don't invite him to join the Knights. Don't give him a sales pitch. Simply say: "Hey, I'd like to get together. How about coffee this week?"

Start there. Because that's how Matthew's story began. One encounter. One relationship. One invitation. And ultimately, an encounter with Jesus Christ.

Now go do what Jesus said to do, Go and make disciples! Please share your progress.

*Truth, which is simple
and one, admits of no
variety.*

Pope Leo I

Back-to-School BBQ at UNR



Worthy Knight Len Koch
is busy on the BBQ grill

Our Lady of Wisdom's Newman Center hosted their annual Back-to-School BBQ for the UNR students on Tuesday evening, August 25. For the fifth consecutive year, Knights from the St John Vianney Council 13842 (from St Rose of Lima parish) cooked the hamburgers and hotdogs for the students.

This year, Knights Len Koch, John Murphy and Tom Gurgui cooked 250 hamburgers for the students and parish counselors. Their service on the grills enabled the FOCUS ministers, Deacon Jim McClanahan, Father Joe Walsh and Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg to roam the Newman Center and engage with the hundreds of college students who attended the annual BBQ.

The growth at the Newman Center has been remarkable. When Bishop Mueggenborg and Father Bobin took over the Newman Center five years ago, there were 30 Catholic students registered – today they are nearly a thousand Catholic students registered at the Newman Center at UNR.

If you're interested in helping out at the Newman Center, different Diocesan groups cook and serve lunch every Wednesday during the fall and spring semesters. Worthy Knights John Murphy and Tom Gurgui will be cooking and serving again on Wednesday, December 2.

*A true worshipper is one
whose mind has not been
defiled with any false
belief.*

Pope Leo I

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY
— KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS —

CAR SHOW

Show Off Your Ride!



Saturday, October 17, 2026

10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

📍 781 E Gamebird Rd – Pahrump, NV
Hosted by Council 10780



ALL MAKES & MODELS WELCOME!

Domestic • Import • Classic • Custom • and Motorcycles!

Event Features

- 🍔 Delicious Food
- 🎵 Family Friendly Music
- 🎟️ 50/50 Drawing
- 👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 Fun for the Whole Family!



\$25 per vehicle

✓ **FREE** for the public to attend and view!



ALL PROCEEDS GO TO CHARITY!

Such as: Coats for Kids, Special Olympics,
First Choice Pregnancy Center, and Seminarians.



**MULTIPLE CATEGORIES
VOTED BY VISITORS!**

(such as Best in Show,
Best Paint, Best Classic,
Best Truck/4x4, etc...)

For more information call or text Mike at **310-721-0772**

Commemorating the 9-11 Tragedy



In commemoration of 9-11 tragedy, after the 8 a.m. Mass at St Joseph Husband of Mary Church in Las Vegas, Fr. Camillus "Cam" Ogaraku, the pastor, invited everyone to join him outside where he conducted a 20-minute prayer service, and then blessed a wreath and a monument. GK Tom Faulkner placed the wreath behind the Memorial Monument, and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

*I have neither permitted,
nor shall I permit, the
things which have been
settled by the holy fathers
to be violated by any
innovation.*

Pope Leo I



Interesting COR Ideas

State Deputy David Clarke is back from the John H. Reddin Province Meeting held last month in Denver. He brought home a couple of fascinating ideas to stimulate interest in COR.



God ordained for every man one and the same means of salvation.

Pope Leo I

Collaborate with Professional Sports Catholic Chaplains:

The COR Team could leverage opportunities with professional sports chaplains to promote greater spirituality among Knights. For example, Auxiliary Bishop Greg Gordon recently presided at a pre-game Mass prior to a Las Vegas Raiders home game. It would be fantastic to explore establishing a professional athlete COR group in Las Vegas (<https://youtu.be/TO1lvYmAzc>).

Additionally, Coach Marcus Freeman reinstated the tradition of pre-game Mass at Notre Dame, emphasizing the importance of faith before football for his entire team and highlighting the powerful impact a Catholic sports ministry can have.

Rebrand "Knights on Bikes": It was suggested to rebrand the "Knights on Bikes" motorcycle group to "COR Riders," featuring the Knights of Columbus COR logo prominently on their cuts. "In my humble opinion the motorcycle culture is prime territory for the COR initiative," said State Deputy David Clarke.



This Month's Pictures

Council 978 from the St. Thomas Cathedral in Reno held its Fifth Annual Mini Golf Tournament last month.



The Council also held an exemplification on Aug 30.



This Month's Photos

Who said that the Knights & Ladies of Ponderosa Council take the summer months OFF???

Photo Legend

7-11-26 Coats For Kids Program: Council placed an order for 24 cases of coats (288 coats) with Supreme (NO PHOTO)

8-19-26 Real Choices Banquet: Council purchased a table for ten. Brother Todd & Lady Margie Goforth chat with guests.

8-20-26 Combined Exemplification: Four Knights with their families and the combined Exemplification Team

8-21-26 College Scholarship: The Council gave a check to BMHS Graduate Natalia Alarcon shown here with her dad, Brother Eliseo, her mom and FS George Minter



Real Choices Banquet



College Scholarship



Combined Exemplification

This Month's Photos

Who said that the Knights & Ladies of Ponderosa Council take the summer months OFF???

Photo Legend

8-25-26 RSVP Program: Six Seminarians received checks and all the checks are cashed!

8-31-26 KOLO FANS for SENIORS: Chairman Jun Bautista delivered 64 fans during July and August (NO PHOTO)

9-2-26A Nugget's Rib Cook Off: Council Display Sign at the Cook Off. 26 Knights & Ladies worked a combined 518 hours to raise money for our FAITH IN ACTION Programs.

9-2-26B Nugget's Rib Cook Off: Brother Jun Bautista working the Coke Trailer enjoys a moment of rest before the CROWD HITS!

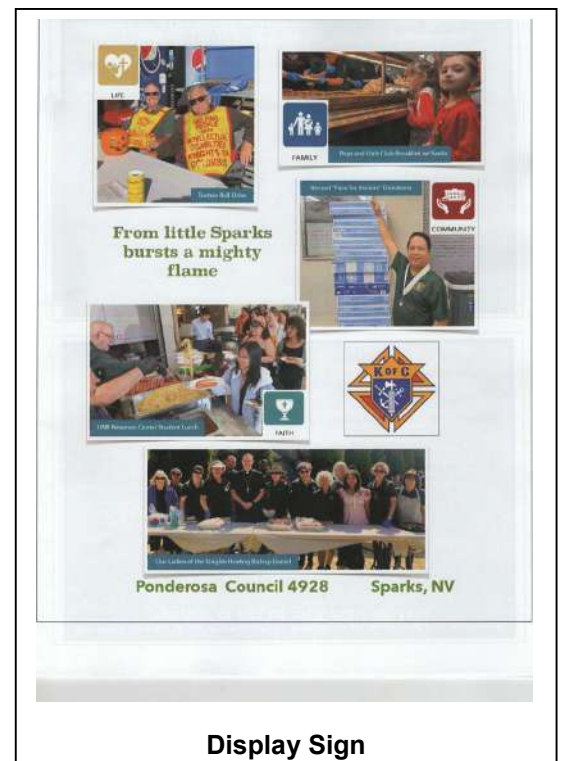
9-2-26C Nugget's Rib Cook Off: Lady Cynthia & Lady Joyce, GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN in the BIG Booth



Coke Trailer



In the Big Booth

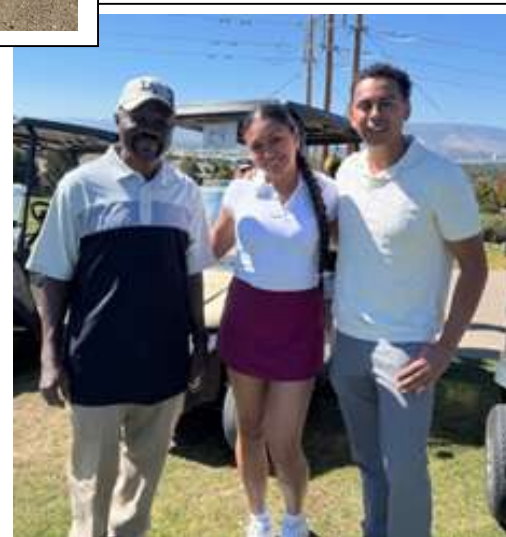


This Month's Photos

Golf Tournament at D'Andrea Golf Club



Our Lady of the Desert Council 12877 hosted a golf tournament at D'Andrea Golf Club in Sparks on Sept 18. The tournament featured raffle prizes and awards for Longest Drive and Closest to Pin (for both men and women). Proceeds went to the charitable programs of Knights of Columbus Council 12877 including Coats 4 Kids, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Seminarian education and Special Olympics.



This Month’s Photos

Pro-Life event in Las Vegas



This Month's Photos



The Nevada State Council Leadership Team congratulates District Deputy Brian Hanifan on earning the Star District Award for the 2025–2026 fraternal year. "This well-deserved achievement reflects his outstanding leadership, dedication, and service to the councils in his district. Thank you, Brian, and congratulations on achieving Star District!" said State Deputy David Clarke.

