



The Mace

St. Francis of Assisi Council 4981
Knights of Columbus
Cupertino • San Jose • Saratoga, CA

Issue 666 • July 2024
District 34 • Division 4
www.kofc4981.net

Upcoming Events

- Council Bus. Mtg. July 2, 7:30 p.m.
Queen Of Apostles Church
- Council Bus. Mtg. Aug. 6, 7:30 p.m.
Sacred Heart Church

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Grand Knight's Message

Brother Knights,

Calendar summer has kicked in, along with wildfire smoke. Ah, California summers! Independence Day approaches, and then a long weekend for most of us. It's time to head for the beach or hike in the hills. Have some good times with family and friends. Connect with your brother Knights. Our July 2nd council meeting will be in person at Queen of Apostles Parish in San Jose. The meeting room by the gym is available for us. At our June meeting, we welcomed Steven Schauer to our membership as a transfer. Steven takes the Chancellor officer position. Officer

positions are available for members including Warden, Inside Guard and Outside Guard. Come, brothers, take a position and support your council. Our corporation investments are mostly established and yielding gains. The business meeting will include a report on their status. Members present at the meeting are eligible to win the attendance raffle at the end of the meeting. Are you feeling lucky? Come and find out. Listen for the rattle of the raffle box! Spend some time with your brothers.

Respect and Peace,
Ed Johnson

Chaplain's Message

Independence, Freedom, and Responsibility

Part of parental duties is to help their children become independent. Children should understand that what comes with independence and freedom is a lot of responsibility. As they grow older, they learn to make decisions that may have a bigger impact on their lives than when they are younger. Collectively, our individual freedom should also be used wisely for the common good. The US Constitution generally protects our freedom as long as it does not jeopardize the rights of other people or endanger public safety. Pope Saint John Paul II commented, "From the beginning of America, freedom was directed to forming a well-ordered society. Freedom was channeled to the fullness of human life, to the preservation of human dignity, and to the safeguarding of all

human rights. An experience in ordered freedom is truly a cherished part of the history of this land. It was this freedom that America is called to live and guard and to transmit." We can also learn from the bishops of northern France in their June 10, 2024, statement regarding their country's snap parliamentary elections, "The more troubled the times, the more we need wisdom, a political wisdom courageously anchored in the humanist tradition, in faithfulness to the service of the common good, in paying attention to the least among us, in the humility of listening, and universal solidarity." As we celebrate Independence Day, let us pray for our nation so that we wisely use our freedom, and our leaders at every level of government be given the political wisdom to serve the people entrusted to them well.



11:23:28 AM 7/1/2024



June 25, 2024

11:34:54 AM 7/1/2024

Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund Announces \$100 Million in Grants

Investments and grants are consistent with the values and teachings of the Catholic Church

New Haven, Conn. — Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund (KCCF) announced today that it has crossed a significant milestone by surpassing charitable grants of more than \$100 million made to Catholic and charitable organizations since its launch in 2019.

“Reaching \$100 million in granting is a dream realized,” said Dennis Gerber, President of Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund. “And for KCCF to achieve this charitable impact in just five years is very encouraging for our work going forward. While this is an outstanding milestone, we believe it is just the first of many in our work of building a powerful new engine for supporting the Church and our communities.”

KCCF has grown to become a prominent national donor-advised fund created by Catholics, for Catholics. Today, KCCF has more than \$120 million in total assets under management and has distributed over 11,000 grants to more than 2,000 organizations across North America, Europe, and Asia. With KCCF’s donor-advised fund, donors can be assured that their investments and charitable grants are consistent with the values and teachings of the Catholic Church.

This important milestone is the result of generous donors who have leveraged the advantages of KCCF’s donor-advised fund program to make a greater impact to an array of causes, including higher education, evangelization, religious formation, and pro-life apostolates.

“Saint Paul’s admonition to be ‘a cheerful giver’ is a driving force behind what we do with KCCF,” Gerber said. “Our goal is to help provide the tools to inspire Catholics to give more generously and have a larger impact on organizations that are doing great work.”

Those interested in learning more about KCCF are invited to visit www.knightscharitable.org.

NOTE: Council 4981 has entrusted a share of its assets to the Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund. The fund will distribute donations to worthy recipients as directed by Council 4981.

Council Officers

Grand Knight

Ed Johnson
408-296-8146

Chaplain

Fr. Hao Dinh
408-725-3939

Deputy Grand Knight

Dick Sherman
408-444-3725

Chancellor

Steven Schauer
408-931-4756

Financial Secretary

Ron Schoengold
408-309-9830

Treasurer

John Steffens
408-985-9079

Recorder

Joe Kenney
408-253-7016

Warden

Open

Advocate

John Ruzzo
408-417-9089

Inside Guard

Open

Outside Guard

Open

Trustees

1 yr — Patrick Kwok
408-896-1462

2 yr — John Pozniak
408-230-6006

3 yr — Mark Wright
408-203-0942

Lecturer

Open

Insurance Field Agent

Joe Ayroso, Insurance Agent
510-403-1499

District Deputy

Lawrence DeSilva
650-400-3333

Monthly Attendance Raffle

July 2024

Michael Kowitz won the June raffle of \$10 but was not present to claim the prize. The raffle is worth \$20 next month. The winner must be present at the meeting to win!



Arturo Salazar
Mark Rose
John Lehane
John Mote
Rev Michael Carson

Prayer Requests July 2024

The following Brother Knights, their families, and friends are remembered in the monthly prayer held each month before the Council's Business Meeting. If any member wishes to submit a name or remove a name from the list, please telephone or email Ron Schoengold, FS, at 408 309 9830, ron@egoldsolutions.com

Prayers

Brother Art Salazar
 Brother Ron Miller's wife, Shirley
 Brother Jim Mathews
 Brother John Lehane
 Brother Tony Seidl's† wife Helen Seidl
 Brother Mark Wright's sister Anne
 Brother Rodger O'Brien
 Brother Harry Tibbetts
 Brother Peter Pozniak's wife, Patricia
 Brother Ron Schoengold's wife, Arline
 Brother Lawrence DeSilva's wife, Shieroma
 Brother John Steffens' mother-in-law Emma Firpo

Deceased

Thirteen Knights from Council 4981, not previously listed, have passed away:

Brother William Callen (08/29/2022)
 Brother Ernest Camacho (01/04/2016)
 Brother Philip Dean (12/26/2007)

Brother Joseph Denham Jr. (11/19/2014)
 Brother Joseph Fitzsimmons (03/28/2017)
 Brother Francis Hopkins (12/06/2018)
 Brother Eugene Levitre (05/02/2024)
 Brother Robert Lewis (08/08/2016)
 Brother Robert MacKinnon (05/05/2024)
 Brother John Marvin (05/06/2020)
 Brother Larry Sandstrom (03/28/2021)
 Brother Edward Shiras (04/02/2021)
 Brother Philip Young (03/01/2016)
 Brother Jim Schaaf passed away on June 22. 2021 PRAYER MEMORY
 Brother Eli Thomas (03/02/2022)
 Brother Freddie Schwalbach (03/30/2022)
 Brother Robert Rolufs, PGK (06/26/2022)
 Brother Mark Wright's mother-in-law Yingio Leung (06/29/2022)
 Brother William Callen (08/29/2022)
 Brother Jim Campbell's father Bob Anselmo (12/2/2022)
 Brother Ted Wyess' wife Ann (01/11/2023)
 Brother Dominic Guido's wife Roca (03/11/2023)
 Brother Ted Wyess (03/19/2023)
 Brother John Steffens sister-in-law Mary Steffens (11/30/2023)
 Brother James Campbell (12/13/2023)
 Brother Joseph Kenney's wife Sheila (02/18/2024)



Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
 Where there is injury, pardon.
 Where there is discord, unity.
 Where there is doubt, faith.
 Where there is error, truth.
 Where there is despair, hope.
 Where there is darkness, light.
 Where there is sadness, joy.

Oh Divine Master,
 grant that I may not so much seek
 to be consoled, as to console;
 to be understood, as to understand;
 to be loved, as to love.
 For it is in giving that we receive,
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 it is in dying that we are born
 to Eternal Life.

Ukraine's Gold Star Families

K of C families in Ukraine find hope to live on even as they mourn loved ones killed in combat

By Karolina Świder 6/27/2024



The coffin of Denys Tarasov is carried to a grave in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, Jan. 13, 2023. Bishop Jan Sobilo (right), auxiliary bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kharkiv-Zaporizhzhia, led mourners in prayer. (AP Photo/Andriy Andriyenko)

On Jan. 13, 2023, the day of Denys Tarasov's burial, shops ran out of fresh flowers in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, some 30 kilometers from the war's front line. The crowd gathered around his grave outside the Co-Cathedral of God the Merciful Father was so large that it seemed never-ending.

Tarasov, a member of God the Merciful Father Council 16460 in Zaporizhzhia, was a lawyer engaged in politics and human rights activism. He died in combat in January 2023, leaving behind his wife, Kateryna, and their two children, 15-year-old Varvara and 10-year-old Klymentii.

"A year and a half have passed since my husband's death, and people still come up to me and ask, 'Are you Denys Tarasov's wife?'" said Kateryna. Yet, she does not like to be called a widow. To her, as to many women who have lost their husbands to the war, another term is more appropriate: "wives of heroes."

More than two years after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, at least 70,000 Ukrainian men have been killed in the war, mourned by parents, wives, children, friends. Death and trauma continue to spread among Ukrainian families, including Knights of Columbus families. Yet even those touched by tragedy find unexpected strength in prayer and community.

'I WILL NOT LEAVE MY GUYS'



Denys Tarasov, a member of God the Merciful Father Council 16460 in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, holds up his rosary in a photo taken during his service in the Ukraine Army. (Courtesy of the Tarasov family)

Denys Tarasov stood in line for two days to enlist in the Ukrainian army as a volunteer. In an interview, he was later asked, "How did your wife react to the fact that you went to war?" He replied, "She wouldn't have married me if I'd decide any other way!"

Kateryna, who teaches social pedagogy at the Zaporizhzhia National University, was conducting training in Sviatohirsk for a United Nations program when the Russian army invaded Feb. 24, 2022. Denys, at home with his parents and children, called her immediately to tell that he would be enrolling as soon as she came back.

"Who will defend Ukraine if not me?" he asked his wife. "It's about understanding why I'm going there. I'm going to defend my country, my family."

Tarasov proved to be a good soldier, highly respected and with natural authority. He reached the rank of senior sergeant. In December 2022, he was offered the chance to leave the army and serve instead as an ombudsman in the

(Continued on page 5)

Directors & Chairmen

Program Director

Ron Schoengold

Church Director

John Pozniak

Vocations	John Steffens
McGivney Shrine	Ron Schoengold
Bingo	open
Parish Round Tables	
Queen of Apostles	open
Sacred Heart in Saratoga	open
St. Joseph of Cupertino	Joe Kenney
Church of the Ascension	Ron Schoengold

Community Director

Michael Abdallah

Culture of Life	Joe Kenney
Charities	Patrick Kwok
Divine Mercy & Rosary Visitation	John Steffens
Food for Families	Dick Sherman
People with Intellectual Disabilities	open
Mass of Reparation	open
Community Projects	Round Table Members
Breakfast Supreme	Ron Schoengold

Council Director

Open

Fraternal Affairs	Ron Schoengold
First Degree Team	John Pozniak
Public Relations	Ron Schoengold
Website	Ron Schoengold
Communications	Ron Schoengold
Past Grand Knights Dinner	open
Special Appreciation Night	Patrick Kwok
McGivney Pilgrimage	John Pozniak

Family Director

Ed Johnson

Leisure Nights	open
Memorial Mass	open
Ladies Night	John Steffens
Ice Cream Social	Grand Knight Elect
Christmas Dinner	Ron Schoengold
Annual Picnic	open

Youth Director

Open

Scholarship Program	Patrick Kwok
Altar Servers Appreciation	Patrick Kwok
Free Throw Contest	Ed Johnson
Essay Contest	Ed Johnson

Membership & Retention

Mark Wright*

John Pozniak

(Continued from page 4)

Zaporizhzhia region. He replied, “No, I will not leave my guys. I can’t; I’m protecting them here.”

Kateryna prayed often for her husband, especially when he told her he would be out of communication at the very front of the line. “When he knew he wouldn’t be able to get in touch, he always warned us,” she said. “And I prayed. That was all.”

One day, after hearing about Ukrainian soldiers being ambushed, Kateryna wrote to all her friends, asking them all to pray too.

Denys later conveyed that their prayers had a tangible impact, Kateryna recalled. “Especially when they were lying in a ditch and there was mortar fire above them, and they just crawled out on their stomachs,” she said. “This is the power of prayer.”

When Tarasov came back to Zaporizhzhia for Christmas, he attended Mass every day. That visit was the last time he saw his family. He was killed in a battle in the Donetsk region a few days later.

Before he joined the army, Denys Tarasov had been working to stop the construction of a shopping center in a park in central Zaporizhzhia, a much-needed green oasis in the industrial city. After her husband’s death, Kateryna took over his work. She felt she needed to continue to support the causes that were so important to him.

“I know a lot of women who are in this situation, and they feel stuck,” Kateryna explained. “It is very important not to go backward with memories. We need to know the history, to know the past — but not to live in it. We have to move on, into the future. And we are responsible for what happens next.”

Thanks to her efforts, the park has been renamed in honor of her husband.

“I spoke at a session of the city council. In less than a day, we collected these votes to rename it,” she said. “People need hope, they need to believe Zaporizhzhia will become a better place to live again.”

PHONE CALLS FROM THE FRONT

Yarema Stetsyk is a member of Andrey Sheptytsky Council 15804 in Ivano-Frankivsk and the father of five: Melanka, 6; Zakhar, 15; Sofia, 20; Nastia, 24 — and Yurii, who would be 25 if he were still alive today.

An architecture student and active member of the national scouting organization Plast, Yurii left his studies in Ivano-Frankivsk to take up military service. His motivation was very simple: love of his country.

“Patriotism is something that just goes without saying in our family,” said his father.

Yurii served in the army from 2019 to 2021 and enrolled again as soon as the war began. After he left to fight on the front, he called home frequently.

“He didn’t call us that often when he was at university. But he started doing it during the army, and at the front it was a regular thing,” Stetsyk recalled. “We were so surprised because people don’t call that often from the front lines. And here we were, constantly talking about life, the weather, everything — the hours flew by.”

Stetsyk and his wife were also surprised by how much Yurii — who used to be a bit of a tough teenager — opened up during those phone calls.

“It didn’t even look like a conversation between parents and children. We talked as very close friends,” Stetsyk said.

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Yurii Stetsyk died in battle Dec. 28, 2022, near Huliaypol in the Zaporizhzhia region.

Since the death of their son, Yarema Stetsyk and his wife have found consolation in faith, especially their faith in the resurrection. "You understand that what is happening now cannot be God's final word," said Stetsyk. "There must be a sequel."

Even so, it is sometimes difficult to accept that time has become something keeping them apart from their son.

"You also have to understand that you still may have a long time to live. You realize this every morning, that you will have to live again today," Stetsyk said.

"This is why resurrection has become a demand for me. Not just a request, but a demand I address to God: I want to be resurrected," he said. "And I just wish others strength and inspiration for this life, so that we all end up together, one with the other, in the life to come."

KAROLINA ŚWIDER writes from Kraków, Poland.



Treasurer's Report

Balances as of 6/30/24

Charity Checking	\$ 259.20
Checking	\$ 7,869.70
Council Savings	<u>\$ 20,807.99</u>
	<u>\$ 28,936.89</u>

Income for June 2024

Interest on Capital One Savings	<u>\$ 1.71</u>
	<u>\$ 1.71</u>

Expenses for June 2024

MACE Printing	\$ 130.83
Membership Expense	<u>\$ 32.32</u>
	<u>\$ 163.15</u>



July 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 30	Jul 1	2 7:30pm Council Business Meeting (Queen of Apostles Church)	3	4 Independence Day Holiday	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Aug 1	2	3

August 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 28	29	30	31	Aug 1	2	3
4	5	6 7:30pm Council Business Meeting (Meeting at Sacred Heart Church)	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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