



The Mace

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

Issue 682 • November 2025
District 34 • Division 4
www.kofc4981.net

Upcoming Events

- Council Bus. Mtg. Nov. 4, 7:00 p.m.
(Queen of Apostles Gym Vestibule)
- Council Bus. Mtg. Dec. 2, 7:00 p.m.
(Sacred Heart, Transfiguration Room)

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Grand Knight's Message

Brother Knights,

November is a month of special remembrance with All Saints, All Souls, and Dia de los Muertos celebrations, and we remember those who have passed on before us. Special memories for our closest dear ones evoke strong emotions. May we remember the best times as a blessing.

At our October meeting, we discussed organizing a Holiday Dinner in December for council members and families. Suggested location was Florentine Trattoria in Saratoga on Big Basin Way. Look for more details shortly.

The November 4th business meeting will be at Queen of Apostles Parish in the

gymnasium vestibule meeting room. We will begin by reciting the rosary at 7 pm. Inside and Outside Guards and Lector positions are still available.

Come to the meeting or join us on Zoom. Present your reports and participate in planning council activities. Join in social time with your brothers, discuss recent events, and election day happenings. Listen for the rattle of the attendance raffle box; you may be the winner! We will all celebrate the lucky winner's good fortune.

Love and Respect,

Ed Johnson

Chaplain's Message

Eternal Salvation

In November, we reflect on eternal salvation as we remember and pray for the faithful departed, particularly those who are dear to us. This practice is part of the Communion of Saints, or the deep spiritual bond between the baptized, both living and deceased. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that as "pilgrims on earth," we must not forget that we are just one part of our extended family of faith. "Others have died and are being purified, while still others are in glory, contemplating God himself triune and one, exactly as he is" (#954).

This month, Pope Leo XIV also urges us to pray for those facing suicidal thoughts, that they "might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the

beauty of life." In the United States, suicide takes the lives of over 30,000 people annually and ranks as the third leading cause of death among those aged 15-24. Many individuals contemplating suicide often signal their intentions to friends or family members.

While the Catechism of the Catholic Church identifies suicide as a grave matter, it also acknowledges the reduced culpability of individuals under certain conditions and the hope for divine mercy (#2282). "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By means known only to Him, God can offer the chance for beneficial repentance. The Church prays for those who have ended their own lives" (#2283).

Fr. Hao

Mission of Hope and Solidarity

Knights of Columbus and CNEWA leaders make joint visit to Holy Land, expressing prayerful support to communities affected by war

By Columbia staff 9/11/2025



Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori meet with Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, in Jerusalem on Sept. 3. (Photo by George Jaraiseh)

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore were part of a delegation of Catholic leaders who traveled to Jerusalem, the Palestinian West Bank and Israel from Sept. 2-6, in an expression of solidarity with Catholics and all those suffering from the effects of the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

Accompanied by Supreme Secretary John Marrella, they joined Msgr. Peter Vaccari, president of Catholic Near East Welfare Association-Pontifical Mission, and other CNEWA representatives.

“The time of this pilgrimage was chosen precisely because there is need here in the Holy Land for people to come from elsewhere to show that they care, to show that we are in solidarity, that we want to learn and understand, and also that we want to help,” said Archbishop Lori, who also serves as vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The voyage coincided with the 2025 Jubilee Year, which bears the theme “Pilgrims of Hope.”

“For us, it was a mission of hope and of solidarity with those who are suffering, and I think it’s especially poignant that we’re here in the Jubilee Year of Hope,” said Supreme Knight Kelly. “Since our

founding, we have assisted the vulnerable. Our hope is to explore some of the areas where the Knights of Columbus could provide assistance here.”

The most recent wave of conflict in the Holy Land began on Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas militants, operating out of Gaza, attacked Israel, killing 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and taking 250 hostages. Israel responded with airstrikes, artillery bombardments and armed incursions into Gaza. As of Sept. 4, the Gaza Health Ministry — considered a reliable source of casualty data by independent observers — reported that over 64,000 people had been killed, estimating that half were women and children. Food shortages, lack of medical care and widespread displacement have also resulted from the Israeli offensive.

The Supreme Officers’ visit included meetings with Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin patriarch of Jerusalem; Father Francesco Ielpo, OFM, custos of the Holy Land; and Josef Blotz, grand hospitaller of the Order of Malta. They also participated in liturgies at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, and the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth.

Just a week before the visit, on Aug. 26, Cardinal Pizzaballa and Theophilos III, Greek Orthodox patriarch of Jerusalem, issued a joint statement in which they condemned the Israeli government’s stated intention to occupy Gaza City and evacuate residents. “We can only repeat what we have already said: There can be no future based on captivity, displacement of Palestinians or revenge,” the patriarchs wrote.

(Continued on page 3)

Council Officers

Grand Knight

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408-296-8146

Chaplain

Fr. Hao Dinh
408-725-3939

Deputy Grand Knight

Dick Sherman
408-444-3725

Chancellor

Donald Goers
630-329-9765

Financial Secretary

Ron Schoengold
408-309-9830

Treasurer

John Steffens
408-985-9079

Recorder

Mark Wright
408-203-0942

Warden

Thomas Gaynor
408-839-3473

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 — Joseph Kenney

408-823-4162

Lecturer

Open

Insurance Field Agent

Fernando Motas, Insurance Agent

510-404-8080

District Deputy

Toby Laufer

408-455-7321

(Continued from page 2)

The following day, Pope Leo echoed these sentiments following his Wednesday general audience. “I implore that all the hostages be freed, that a permanent ceasefire be reached, that the safe entry of humanitarian aid be facilitated, and that humanitarian law be fully respected — especially the obligation to protect civilians and the prohibitions of collective punishment, indiscriminate use of force, and the forced displacement of the population,” the pope said.

Archbishop Timothy Broglio, president of the USCCB, also called for “the assistance of the Catholic community of the United States” in the region in an Aug. 20 letter to U.S. bishops.

Echoing the concerns of the global Church, the K of C/CNEWA delegation came bearing “a message of solidarity and hope to those who are suffering and in need in the great humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip,” said Archbishop Lori. “We all come together — CNEWA, the Knights of Columbus, the bishops’ conference; we are, you might say, united in hope, but also united in charity.”

Accordingly, the delegation also made visits of solidarity to several Christian communities in need, including Bethlehem’s Piccirillo Handicraft Center, where artisans with special needs craft products from Holy Land olive trees; the St. Nicholas Home in Beit Jala, a predominantly Palestinian Christian town in the West Bank, where they met with elderly and infirm residents; and the Latin Patriarchate Seminary, also in Beit Jala.

Despite the conflict wracking the region, these Christian communities continue to be a sign of hope, Archbishop Lori said. “Even in this time of struggle, when there is so much deprivation, so much injustice, so many challenges just to be the Church in this land made holy — there are heroic people doing tremendously important and beautiful ministries, and my admiration for them knows no bounds,” the supreme chaplain added.

At the Holy Family Children’s Home in Bethlehem, operated by the Daughters of Charity, the supreme knight and supreme chaplain stopped to cradle some of the home’s infant residents in their arms as they toured the facilities.

“That mission of care really touched our hearts,” Supreme Knight Kelly said. “I think that’s one of the ways the Knights of Columbus can assist here — helping these courageous sisters who are doing that wonderful work.”

During a recording of CNEWA’s “Connections with Msgr. Peter” video podcast, Supreme Secretary Marrella reflected on the connection between the charity displayed by Christian communities and the presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

“What has impressed me is how you and your staff are the presence of Christ,” the supreme secretary told Msgr. Vaccari. “You’re carrying that [presence] — along with the Daughters of Charity and other religious orders that we visited. They are the face of Christ here.”

Prayer Requests

The following Brother Knights, their families, and friends are remembered in the monthly Rosary 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 Mark Wright’s sister Anne

Brother Harry Tibbetts

Brother Peter Pozniak’s wife, Patricia

Brother Ron Schoengold’s wife, Arline

Brother Tom Lewis

Deceased

Brother Eugene Levitre (05/02/2024)

Brother Robert MacKinnon (05/05/2024)

Brother Patrick’s wife Susan (04/28/2020)

Brother Robert Rolufs, PGK (06/26/2022)

Brother Mark Wright’s mother-in-law Yingio Leung (06/29/2022)

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)

Brother Tony Seidl’s wife Helen Rose (08/21/2024)

Brother John Lehane, PGK (09/14/2024)

Brother John Steffens’ mother-in-law Emma Firpo (11/8/2024)

Brother Rodger O’Brien (12/24/2024)

Raymond Mark Gallant (04/10/2025)

Visible Signs of Devotion

Pope Leo XIV greets Knights of Columbus Board of Directors during Jubilee pilgrimage to Rome

By Columbia staff 10/8/2025



Pope Leo XIV and the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors are pictured together following the Oct. 6 audience in the Sala del Concistoro of the Vatican Apostolic Palace. (Photo by Vatican Media)

Pope Leo XIV received in private audience the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors Oct. 6 and commended the Order's charitable work, including "efforts to uphold the sanctity of human life in all of its stages."

The audience took place in the Sala del Concistoro (Hall of the Consistory) of the Vatican Apostolic Palace during the board's pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year of Hope.

"Through a variety of initiatives undertaken by local councils," Pope Leo said, "you and your brother Knights also seek to bring the compassion and love of the Lord into your local communities, including through your efforts to uphold the sanctity of human life in all of its stages, to assist victims of war and natural disasters, and also to support priestly vocations."

The Holy Father expressed his gratitude to the Knights of Columbus for its role in restoring two 17th-century works by Baroque sculptor Gian Lorenzo Bernini in St. Peter's Basilica: the iconic baldacchino and the gilt bronze monument containing the Chair of St. Peter. The monthslong cleaning and preservation projects, underwritten by the Order, were undertaken by the Fabbrica di San Pietro in 2024 in anticipation of the Jubilee Year.

"These masterpieces help all who look upon them to contemplate two of the principal tenets of our faith: the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and the pope as successor of Peter, who unites and guides the Church," Pope Leo said. "I would like to express profound gratitude to the Knights of Columbus for your generosity in making these projects possible. They are a visible sign of your continued devotion to the Vicar of Christ," he added, noting the millions of pilgrims who would see the restored masterpieces over the course of the Jubilee Year.

Pope Leo further noted, "Throughout its history, the Order has supported the charitable work of the Roman pontiff in a variety

of ways," enabling him "to express solidarity with the poor and most vulnerable throughout the world."

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori met privately with the U.S.-born Pope Leo for the



Pope Leo XIV meets with Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore before the Oct. 6 audience. (Photo by Vatican Media)

first time on July 4. During that meeting, they pledged the Order's loyalty to the new pontiff and provided an overview of the activities of the Knights of Columbus.

The supreme knight and supreme chaplain again met with Pope Leo shortly before the Oct. 6 audience with the board of directors. In addition to discussing K of C initiatives and sharing about their recent visit to the Holy Land, Supreme Knight Kelly presented the Holy Father with a bound copy of personal petitions submitted during the Order's novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The novena, which was prayed for the intentions of the newly elected pontiff, began June 19, the anniversary of Pope Leo's ordination as a priest. The supreme knight also presented a calligraphed copy of a resolution in honor of the Holy Father, adopted by the delegates to the 143rd Supreme Convention in August.

"It was a wonderful meeting where we were able to express our thanks to him and what he means to us," said Supreme Knight Kelly in an interview with Vatican News following the pope's Oct. 6 audience with the board. "We were honored that he expressed his gratitude to the Knights of Columbus and the works that we do to support the Church, to support the Vatican and to support human life."

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

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



Treasurer's Report

Balances as of 9/30/2025

Charity Checking	\$ 259.20
Checking	\$ 5,453.99
Council Savings	\$ 15,835.77
	\$ 21,548.56
Income	
Interest on Capital One Savings	\$ 1.74
Dues	\$180.00
	\$181.74
Expenses	
MACE Printing	\$ 87.20
Council Picnic Outing	\$ 224.80
Council Supplies	\$ 12.54
Postage	\$ 77.75
	\$ 402.29

Monthly Attendance Raffle

Al Mellin won the October raffle of \$50 but was not present to receive the prize. The November 2025 raffle is worth \$60. **The winner must be present at the meeting to win!**



Birthdays of November

John Foley
Joseph Mc Bride
Thomas Gaynor

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.

November 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1 All Saints
2 All Souls	3	4 7:00pm Council Business Meeting (Meeting at Queen of Apostles, Gym Vestibule)	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Holiday	28	29
30 First Week of Advent	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6

December 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 30	Dec 1	2 7:00pm Council Business Meeting (Meeting at Sacred Heart, Transfiguration Room)	3	4	5	6
7 Second Week of Advent	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Third Week of Advent	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Fourth Week of Advent	22	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27
28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 26	2	3

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