



# Fourth Estate



## A Monthly Newsletter for the Sir Knights of Father Jerome Kleber Assembly 1970

Volume 4, Issue 6

December 2023

### Faithful Navigator's Log

#### Sir Knight Faithful Navigator Jesus Quintanar:

The FN is centered on two distinct issues this Christmas month of December. Let us compare the 1) appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the 2) special meaning of Christmas. La Virgen de Guadalupe (in Spanish) or Our Lady of Guadalupe (in English) *[continued on page 2]*

### Grand Knights' Notes

#### Council 6711 SK PFN Grand Knight Chuy Perez:

In November, Thunderbird Council 6711 sold 160 dozen empanadas and 84 quarts of menudo, and plans to do the same in December. Also, the Council will be assembling 300 Christmas Food Baskets December 11-18.

#### Council 10788 Grand Knight Santiago Ogeda:

Shepherd of the Valley Council 10788 has no updates.

#### Council 12160 SK Grand Knight Mike Chavarria:

In November, Franklin Mountains Council 12160 financially supported and physically assisted Saint Vincent de Paul in distributing Thanksgiving Food Baskets. In December, the Council will conduct Coats for Kids and have a Christmas Dinner for Knights and their spouses.

**Council 14413 SK Grand Knight Dan Fenton:** In November, Rio Grande Council 14413 supported Queen of Peace Parish's Christmas Bazaar by making and selling eight different kinds of foods. In December on one weekend, the Council will host Parishioner fellowships with refreshments after all Masses.

**Council 17420 SK Grand Knight Eric Zubia:** San Francisco de Asís Council 17420 has prepared food for migrants, has provided after-school food for children in Ciudad Juarez, and has provided jackets and blankets for people in a Chihuahuan mountain village.

### Assistant Diocesan Deputy's Desk

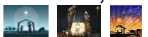
#### SK Assistant Diocesan Deputy John Danley:

For this current article I wish to take the time to remember our Supreme Director and Past State Deputy, Terry L. Simonton, of Heidenheimer, Texas. He was kind to El Paso and I remember fondly first meeting him at our State Convention in El Paso in 2002. *[continued on page 2]*



*Saint Nicholas, Uroš Predić, 1903. The Feast of Saint Nicholas is December 6, 2023.*

### Faithful Scribe's Script

**SK Faithful Scribe Joe O'Connor:** Saint Nicholas is often associated with Christmas, the Birth of our Lord, but all too often in a materialistic way as Santa Claus. The real Saint Nicholas has an inspiring story, and an inset explains how Saint Nicholas morphed into Santa Claus (see page 2). I used to travel to Puerto Rico once a month on business and locals told me that they used to celebrate Christmas there as solely a religious holiday but Madison Avenue discovered it as a commercial target and quickly Puerto Rico joined the rest of the United States in making Christmas more of a materialistic celebration rather than a religious holiday. As Knights, we need to remind our Community of the true meaning of Christmas and the greatest gift to mankind: Jesus! As we celebrate Christmas this month, let's KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS! 



## Faithful Navigator's Log (Continued)

**SK Faithful Navigator Jesus Quintanar:** *[continued]* presents Our Lady's personal image as the most famous and most venerated apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the World. In 1531, Our Lady strongly manifested this true story in Mexico City to a peasant named Don Diego, who is a person of humblest Indigenous origin. Without any doubt, La Virgen de Guadalupe apparition is recorded as one of the most popular miracles that displays unconditional "motherly love" and unselfish affection to be bestowed upon the humblest of her children (Don Diego) and to the World. What is the special meaning of Christmas? As the Mother of Jesus Christ, Our Lady expands this special meaning to allow us to include in Christmas: Love, hope and joy of her bringing the Holy Birth of Jesus Christ into the World—Jesus remains our gifted Savior and the Son of God.

## Asst. Diocesan Deputy's Desk (Cont'd)

**SK Asst. Diocesan Deputy John Danley:** *(cont'd)* Terry served in many leadership positions at the Council, Diocesan and State levels of the Knights of Columbus. One of his highest achievements was being elected a Supreme Director in August 2018 in Krakow, Poland. As Supreme Director, he met with Pope Francis in an audience for the Supreme Board and shook his hand.

## How Did Saint Nicholas Become Santa Claus?


Santa Claus evolved from Dutch traditions regarding St. Nicholas (Sinterklaas). When the Dutch established the colony of New Amsterdam, they brought the legend and traditions of Sinterklaas with them. In 1823, Clement Moore, a professor of Biblical studies at the Episcopal Church's General Theological Seminary in New York City, published a poem titled "A Visit from St. Nicholas," better known today as "'Twas the Night before Christmas."  There was a popular trend among New Yorkers of the early 19th century to try to "recapture" their city's Dutch heritage. Influential men such as Moore and the author Washington Irving (who wrote the stories of Rip Van Winkle and the Headless Horseman) invented a host of traditions and folklore that they claimed had been part of day-to-day life in old New Amsterdam. Moore, Irving and their friends were especially enchanted by the stories of St. Nicholas, and so claimed that the first Dutch colonists arrived in Manhattan aboard a ship bearing a figurehead of Saint Nicholas (it didn't); that the first church in New Amsterdam was dedicated to St. Nicholas (it wasn't); and that the Dutch colonists celebrated St. Nicholas Day (they didn't). Moore took these innocent fabrications and used them as the basis for a full-blown treatment of a brand-new Christmas legend, complete with eight flying reindeer, a sleigh full of toys and an elderly overweight man in a red suit who climbed up and down chimneys. From this poem, Moore gave the world one of its most memorable and recognizable characters ever: Santa Claus. 

## Saint Nicholas

**Sv. Mikuláš, Jaroslav Čermák (1831-1878)**

Saint Nicholas was born during the third century in the seaport of Patra, Lycia, a Greek region what is now southeastern Turkey. His wealthy parents raised him to be a devout Christian but died in an epidemic while he was still young. Heeding Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas gave away his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He then dedicated his life to serving God. After making a pilgrimage to Egypt and the Holy Land, he was



made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. In one of the earliest attested and most famous events in his life, he is said to have rescued three girls from being forced into prostitution by tossing a sack of gold coins through the window of their house each night for three nights so their father could pay a dowry for each of them. The bags of gold, tossed through an open window, are said to have landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. This led to the custom of children hanging stockings or putting out shoes, eagerly awaiting gifts from St. Nicholas, renowned as a gift-giver. But how he became the patron saint of children comes from another legend, which is not for the squeamish. Nicholas was traveling, and when night came he stopped at an inn where he asked for a room and a meal. The innkeeper, proud of the opportunity to entertain a bishop, declared he would serve Nicholas a splendid dinner, including meat that had been delivered fresh that day. Bishop Nicholas did not say a word, but pushed the man aside and walked into the kitchen. There, in the middle of the room, stood a large wooden tub brimming with fresh meat. Nicholas made the Sign of the Cross over the tub, and the meat vanished, replaced by three little boys. The innkeeper had murdered the children and planned to serve them to his guests. Nicholas prayed earnestly to God for three days and the three boys were restored to healthy lives, one of several miracles attributed to him. Nicholas was persecuted as a Christian, exiled and imprisoned. Upon his release, he attended the Council of Nicaea in 325. He died on December 6, 343 and was buried in the Cathedral in Myra. When the Muslim Turks subjugated the region, merchants from Bari, Italy in 1087 took the major parts of his skeleton to the Basilica di San Nicola in Bari.  During the First Crusade a decade later, Venetian sailors took the remaining bone fragments to Venice.



# Assembly's Knights in Action

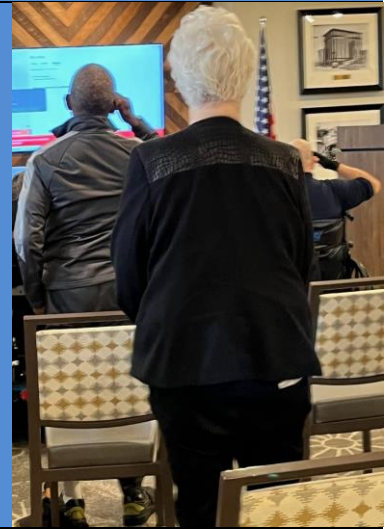


## Patriotic Project: Flag Ceremony at The Legacy at Cimarron



On November 10, 2023 at The Legacy at Cimarron, a retirement home populated with many Veterans, Assembly 1970 held a Veterans Day Flag Ceremony. Sir Knights participating included (left to right): Past Faithful Navigator Sergio Arellano (tan coat—served as MC), Gerald Michael (in wheelchair left of podium) Paul Leenheer (at podium reading poem “I am a Veteran”), Manny Galvan (new regalia) and Wally Piatek (standing at right). (Photo: Sir Knight FC/S Joe O'Connor)

After Sir Knight Paul Leenheer read the poem “Our Flag,” Sir Knight Gerald Michael (right in wheelchair saluting) led the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, the “Star Spangled Banner,” sung by Whitney Houston, was played. Veteran Residents and Sir Knights, including Lieutenant Colonel, US Army Retired, C.S. “Dusty” Rhodes (left), and Marine Corps Veteran Sir Knight Gerald (right), saluted the flag as the National Anthem was played. (Photo: Sir Knight Faithful Pilot Wally Piatek)



Sir Knight Manny Galvan stood as the National Anthem was played. Sir Knight PFN Sergio Arellano later introduced Sir Knight Manny to the Residents and pointed out that he was wearing the Fourth Degree's uniform. (Photo: Sir Knight Faithful Pilot Wally Piatek)



SK Joe O'Connor (podium) introduced the National Anthem. Later, in his prelude to the “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” SK Joe pointed out that Veterans not only defended the USA, they fought on the side of Good against Evils of Slavery, Nazism, Communism and Terrorism, as SK Gerald Michael (left) listened to SK Joe. (Photo: SK FP Wally Piatek)



Sir Knight Wally Piatek (podium) read the poem, “Veterans Day Limerick” while the other Sir Knights (left to right) listened: Past Faithful Navigator Sergio Arellano (tan coat), Gerald Michael (wheelchair), Paul Leenheer (polo shirt at right), and Manny Galvan (new regalia). Before the “Battle Hymn of the Republic” was played. Sir Knight Paul read the poem “The Spirit of America.” (Photo: Sir Knight Faithful Comptroller/-Scribe Joe O'Connor)

The Flag Ceremony ended enthusiastically with the “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” played and sung by the US Army Field Band. The Residents sang along and started clapping with the song. Sir Knight Past Faithful Navigator Sergio Arellano, MC, thanked the Residents for the opportunity for Assembly 1970 to conduct the Flag Ceremony honoring America's Veterans. (Photo: Sir Knight Faithful Pilot Wally Piatek)





# Assembly's Knights in Action



## Patriotic Project: Veteran SK/Knights' Graves Flag Planting



On November 11, 2023, Veterans Day, Sir Knight Jeffrey "Scooter" Fretland planted a flag on the grave of Thunderbird Council 6711 Knight Luis Martinez Sr., US Coast Guard Veteran, at Mount Carmel Cemetery. A total of two Veteran Knights' at Mount Carmel were so decorated. (Photo: Sir Knight Faithful Comptroller/Scribe Joe O'Connor)



Immediately following the visit to Mount Carmel Cemetery, 17 Veteran Sir Knight/Knights' graves at Fort Bliss National Cemetery had flags planted on them. Sir Knight Joe O'Connor placed a flag at the grave of Thunderbird Council 6711 Knight Benjamin Floyd, US Army Veteran. (Photo: Sir Knight Jeffrey "Scooter" Fretland)



## St. Matthew SSVdP Food Distribution



On November 11, 2023 at Memorial Gardens of the Valley, the graves of Veteran Sir Knights Alfonso Borunda, USMC (left), and Joseph Maresca, USAF (right), were decorated by Sir Knights Ruben Gallegos (left) and Mike Herrera (right). (Photos: Sir Knight Past Faithful Navigator Ruben Gallegos)



On November 13, 2023, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVdP) conducted a Food Distribution at Saint Matthew Church's Parking Lot. Over 190 households received 10 pallets of food. Loading one vehicle was Franklin Mountains Council 12160 Financial Secretary and Vincentian Ed Ehrbar. (Photo: Sir Knight Faithful Comptroller/Scribe Joe O'Connor)

## Rio Grande Council 14413 Support to Ladies Guild's Christmas Bazaar



Rio Grande Council 14413 supported the Queen of Peace Ladies Guild's Christmas Bazaar during the November 11-12, 2023 weekend by offering a variety of food. Here Knight Patrick Ross demonstrated his flame-broiled technique for hamburgers to fellow Knights (l-r): Adam Blessinger, SK Grand Knight Dan Fenton, and Will Copeland. (Photo: SK Joe O'Connor)



The Queen of Peace Parish Kitchen was a beehive of activity as the Council prepared eight different types of food. Some of the Knights working in the Kitchen included (left to right): Sebastian Hincapsse, SK Past Grand Knight Robert Valdiviez (ladling his widely acclaimed menudo), Jerry Cochrane, Adam Blessinger, SK Alan Cooksey and Jesse Saenz. (Photo: SK Joe O'Connor)



# Assembly's Knights in Action

## Thunderbird Council 6711 Empanada and Menudo Sale



On November 18-19, 2023, Thunderbird Council 6711 sold 160 dozen empanadas after all Masses. Sir Knight Past Faithful Navigator Grand Knight Chuy Perez offered the empanadas for sale after the Saturday evening Mass. Other Sir Knights assisting (not shown) included Past Faithful Navigator Sam Gutierrez, Marc Carrillo and Robert Mota. (Photo: Knight Randy Lucero)



On November 19, 2023 Thunderbird Council 6711 sold 84 quarts of menudo. Stirring the menudo was Sir Knight Past Faithful Navigator Ruben Gallegos, assisted by Sir Knight Adrian Muñoz (left) and Knight Randy Lucero (right). Other Knights assisting (not shown) included James Barela, Rudy Garcia and Gerry O'Brien.

(Photo: Sir Knight Inner Sentinel Marc Carrillo)

## Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Basket Distribution



On November 20, 2024, Franklin Mountains Council 12160 Sir Knight Grand Knight Mike Chavarria (ball cap) presented Saint Vincent de Paul Saint Luke Conference President and Knight Alfredo Ortega (third from left) with a check for \$1,500 to partially fund the Thanksgiving Basket Distribution which cost \$4,200 for 100 Thanksgiving Baskets. (Photo: SK Joe O'Connor)



Sir Knight Father Ed Carpenter, Saint Luke Pastor, gave a Blessing to the Thanksgiving Basket recipients, while Council 12160 Knights joined in prayer (left to right): SK Paul Leenheer, \*Tony Mireles, \*Alfredo Ortega, SK Father Ed, \*Ed Ehrbar, SK GK Mike Chavarria, SK Gerald Michael, SK Armando Uranga, \*\*Darren White, Jim Lund and SK Jorge Andazola. (\*Vincentian/\*\*Non-Knight) (Photo: SK Joe O'Connor)



After the Blessing by Sir Knight Father Ed, the Thanksgiving Baskets were distributed to the 100 Neediest Families identified by Saint Vincent de Paul. Assisting in the distribution were (left side) Sir Knight Paul Leeneer and Knight Ed Ehrbar and (right side) Sir Knight Grand Knight Mike Chavarria and Council 6711 Gerry O'Brien. (Photo: Sir Knight Joe O'Connor)



Another photo of the Thanksgiving Basket Distribution in the Saint Luke Parish Hall showed the recipients lined up to receive their baskets (Thanksgiving meal fixings) and either a frozen turkey or a ham. Sir Knight Grand Knight Mike Chavarria (far right) handed out a turkey to a recipient. A total of 90 turkeys and 10 hams were handed out during the Basket Distribution. (Photo: Sir Knight Joe O'Connor)