



NEWSLETTER



HUBERT POLANSKY
FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR
1110 HONEYSUCKLE LANE
CALDWELL, TX 77836
PHONE: 979-567-3508

Knights of Columbus

Msgr. Francis D. Urbanovsky #2587
Somerville, Caldwell, and Rockdale

MARTIN ELMAN
FAITHFUL COMPTROLLER
3098 SOUTH HG. 77
ROCKDALE, TX. 76567
(512-446-6699)

DECEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 <i>MEETING ROCKDALE 7:00 PM</i>	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 <i>FALLOUT SOMERVILLE MASS 5:00 PM</i>
22	23	24	25 <i>NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS</i>	26	27	28
29 <i>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH</i>	30	31				

NEWS

We mourn the loss of two of our brother knights, who have passed away. Sir Knight Jesse Gutierrez, who passed away on November 22, and Sir Knight Ervin Hollas, who passed away on November 25. Jesse Gutierrez was a member of the Somerville Fire Department for over 40 years. Ervin Hollas was a World War II veteran, and served in the United States Air Force for over 20 years. He became a Knight on October 1, 1938, and received his Fourth Degree on September 1, 1946. May they both rest in peace with our Lord.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Rockdale on December 9. A Christmas surprise dinner will be served at 7:00 pm. A short meeting will follow.

We will be falling out for the 100 year celebration of St. Ann Church in Somerville on December 21. Mass is at 5:00 pm. We need to be there no later than 4:30 pm. We need the number of attendees and their names by our next meeting on the 9th. I understand there will be assigned seating, and only those people with their names on the list will be allowed into the hall.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

My first thought is to mourn the loss of two exemplary Knights within a week from our Assembly, but then when you think about it, we should be thankful that we were given the opportunity to be around someone of their character. Both had a lengthy downhill progression in their health, but I never heard either complain about it. Jesse continued to make the meetings almost up to the end, and when Mr. Hollas could not see well enough to drive, his wife would bring him to the meetings, and sit out in the car while he attended. We want to thank Charles Bedrich for giving him a ride also, until his health just would not allow him to come. We could all learn a little about commitment from these two Knights. We pray that they will be richly rewarded for their service to mankind.

With the continual assault on the family, the feast of The Holy Family might be a good time to see how we are holding up in our own family life. Are we doing things as a family, or is everyone sitting around in their own electronic world, oblivious to what is going on around them? On our flight to Baltimore last week, there was hardly anyone, including ourselves, that did not have some kind of electronic apparatus in use. Although this is a good thing on a trip to pass the time, it makes you wonder how much of this carries over into the daily lives of our own families, taking the place of time spent actually talking to each other, and doing other things as a family. Unfortunately, it looks like facebook has taken the place of the Good Book in too many lives these days.

The bishops of this country have just concluded their traditional fall meeting in Baltimore and have spent time on issues important to them and their people: help to those suffering from Typhoon Haiyan; an update on the situation in Haiti; matters of worship and teaching; service to the poor; and comprehensive immigration reform. Among those priorities is the protection of religious freedom, especially as threatened by the HHS mandate.

Pope Francis has reminded us that “In the context of society, there is only one thing which the Church quite clearly demands: the freedom to proclaim the Gospel in its entirety, even when it runs counter to the world, even when it goes against the tide.”

We stand together as pastors charged with proclaiming the Gospel in its entirety. That Gospel calls us to feed the poor, heal the sick, and educate the young, and in so doing witness to our faith in its fullness. Our great ministries of service and our clergy, religious sisters and brothers, and lay faithful, especially those involved in Church apostolates, strive to answer this call every day, and the Constitution and the law protect our freedom to do so.

Yet with its coercive HHS mandate, the government is refusing to uphold its obligation to respect the rights of religious believers. Beginning in March 2012, in United for Religious Freedom, we identified three basic problems with the HHS mandate: it establishes a false architecture of religious liberty that excludes our ministries and so reduces freedom of religion to freedom of worship; it compels our ministries to participate in providing employees with abortifacient drugs and devices, sterilization, and contraception, which violates our deeply-held beliefs; and it compels our faithful people in business to act against our teachings, failing to provide them any exemption at all.

Despite our repeated efforts to work and dialogue toward a solution, those problems remain. Not only does the mandate undermine our ministries' ability to witness to our faith, which is their core mission, but the penalties it imposes also lay a great burden on those ministries, threatening their very ability to survive and to serve the many who rely on their care.

The current impasse is all the more frustrating because the Catholic Church has long been a leading provider of, and advocate for, accessible, life-affirming health care. We would have preferred to spend these recent past years working toward this shared goal instead of resisting this intrusion into our religious liberty. We have been forced to devote time and resources to a conflict we did not start nor seek.

As the government's implementation of the mandate against us approaches, we bishops stand united in our resolve to resist this heavy burden and protect our religious freedom. Even as each bishop struggles to address the mandate, together we are striving to develop alternate avenues of response to this difficult situation. We seek to answer the Gospel call to serve our neighbors, meet our obligation to provide our people with just health insurance, protect our religious freedom, and not be coerced to violate our consciences. We remain grateful for the unity we share in this endeavor with Americans of all other faiths, and even with those of no faith at all. It is our hope that our ministries and lay faithful will be able to continue providing insurance in a manner consistent with the faith of our Church. We will continue our efforts in Congress and especially with the promising initiatives in the courts to protect the religious freedom that ensures our ability to fulfill the Gospel by serving the common good.

This resolve is particularly providential on this feast of the patroness of immigrants, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. She was a brave woman who brought the full vigor of her deep religious faith to the service of the sick, the poor, children, the elderly, and the immigrant. We count on her intercession, as united we obey the command of Jesus to serve the least of our brothers and sisters.

God of love, Father of all,
 the darkness that covered the earth
 has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh.
 Make us a people of this light.
 Make us faithful to your Word
 that we may bring your life to the waiting world.

*May your joy be as great as that experienced by the
 lowly Shepherds as they looked upon the face of
 The newborn Savior of the world.*

Faithful Friar	Rev. Tom Hanus	979-596-2197	Faithful Scribe	Tommy Grimes	512-446-4131
Faithful Navigator	Hubert Polansky	979-567-3508	Inner Sentinel	Robert Zapata	512-760-5839
Faithful Comptroller	Martin Elman	512-446-6699	Outer Sentinel	Frankie L. Wolf	979-567-7447
Faithful Captain	Jose Mancha	512-455-2123	One Year Trustee	Jesse Guitierrez	979-596-1383
Faithful Admiral	Richard Neal P.F.N.	979-272-8944	Two Year Trustee	Jimmy Urbanosky	979-567-4534
Faithful Purser	Lawrence A. Vavra	979-535-7557	Three Year Trustee	Pat Morgan	979-535-8234
Faithful Pilot	Josiah Barrow	979-535-4929	Faithful Commander	Lawrence A. Vavra	979-535-7557