



NEWSLETTER



JOSIAH BARROW
FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR
6775 OFCZARZAK TRAIL
SOMERVILLE, TX 77879
PHONE: 281-794-0299

Knights of Columbus

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

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

SEPTEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 LABOR DAY	5	6	7	8	9 KOLACHE FESTIVAL
10	11 MEETING CALDWELL	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 FALL BEGINS	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

NEWS

The 33rd Annual Kolache Festival is happening again in Caldwell on Saturday. Come out and visit, and listen to the good Polka Music provided free of charge.

Our next meeting will be in Caldwell on September 11. The meal will be served starting at 7:00 pm.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of James Yendrey, who passed away on August 22. Please keep him in your prayers as well as our other Brother Knights who have been taken from us.

Mrs. Jessie Sandoval, mother of Andy Sandoval, passed away on August 29. We express our sorrow at the loss of Mrs. Sandoval, to her family and to her friends.

Holy Rosary Parish is having our Annual Homecoming Bazaar on Sunday October 1st. Come out and enjoy some of that good BBQ, Pivo, and bring a pocket full of money to spend at the auction. Hope to see you there.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I had to miss our last meeting, because if we were going to get to see our daughter and family in St. Louis before Christmas, we had to go now or forget it. On our way back we took the route that Fran Thomas had recommended several years ago, to take Highway 67 from St. Louis to Little Rock. Wish I had listened to him the first time he told me about it. It was a much easier drive, and a lot more scenic than the other routes we had taken in the past. We had another of those situations with finding a church for the Holy Day on the 15th, but as fate would have it, we wound up walking into St. Mary's Church in Hearne, only about 2 minuets after Mass started, and were able to attend the church where our friend, Father Ramon is now pastor.

Well, it looks like our state just took another big hit with the hurricane Harvey zeroing in on us, and not wanting to go away. For our area, it could not have been at a better time, giving us a much needed rain, and filling every tank to overflowing. Although we got some flooding, we got a lot more good out of it, than bad. What was amazing, was for all that rain, we never saw any lightning or heard any thunder. We need to keep all the victims of the storm in our prayers though, as most of us will not ever see the kind of devastation that the people are seeing in the costal area. One thing for sure, is you would have to look long and hard to find a place where there is so much cooperation and so many people out there doing their best to help other people. And, to see Law enforcement letting the people know up-front that looting is against the law, and will not be tolerated. Just goes to show you that there is a different mind-set here in Texas than there is in the other parts of the US, when it comes to taking care of yourself, than waiting for someone to do something for you.

Kathy Griffin and the Vanishing Argument
By Bishop Robert Barron - June 6, 2017

By now the whole world has heard about comedian Kathy Griffin’s appalling staged-photo of herself holding a mock-up of the bloody, severed head of Donald Trump. Despite her rather pathetic apology, a firestorm of protest has broken out pretty much everywhere. To say that this stunt was in poor taste or, in the parlance of our times, “offensive,” would be the understatement of the decade. At a time when the most barbarous people on the planet are, in point of fact, decapitating their enemies and holding up the heads as trophies, it simply beggars belief that Griffin would have imagined this escapade as an acceptable form of social protest.

But I would like to situate what Griffin did in a wider context, for it is but a particularly brutal example of what is taking place throughout our society, especially on university campuses. Speakers of a more conservative stripe, ranging from serious academics such as Charles Murray and Heather McDonald to provocateurs such as Ann Coulter and Milo Yiannopoulos, have been shouted down, obstructed, insulted, and in extreme cases physically assaulted on the grounds of institutes of higher learning throughout the United States. Very recently, at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, a tenured professor was compelled to hold his biology class in a public park. His crime? He had publicly criticized a planned “Day of Absence” during which white students, staff, and faculty were coerced into leaving the campus, since people of color claimed they felt “unsafe” at the college. For calling this blatantly racist move by its proper name, the professor was, of course, himself labeled a racist and mobs of angry students shut down his classes, forcing him to lecture in the park.

What is most striking to me in all of this is the obvious lack of anything resembling rational argument. Students are not posing counter-positions, marshaling evidence, drawing logical conclusions, proposing more convincing scenarios, etc. In a word, they are not *arguing* with their opponents. They are bullying them, drowning them out, intimidating them, physically attacking them. This is not only irrational; it is deeply disrespectful, for it fundamentally denies the humanity of their adversaries. Nowhere is this de-humanization more patently evident than in the case of Kathy Griffin’s protest. And the impatience with argument is rooted in a more basic assumption of many on the left—which is precisely why this violence is breaking out in environments where a radical ideology holds sway. I’m talking about the questioning of objective truth and the concomitant hyper-valorization of the self-assertive will. It is a commonplace on the left that claims to objective truth are thinly-veiled plays of power, attempts by one group to impose its views on another. Accordingly, “truth” is construed as a function of the will of the individual. I determine the meaning of my life, and you determine the meaning of yours; I decide my gender and you decide yours—and therefore the best we can do together is tolerate one another’s choices.

But when there is no truth, there can be no argument, for argument depends upon a shared appeal to certain epistemic and ethical values. If I might propose an analogy, it’s something like the common rules that make a game possible. Precisely because the players all agree to certain strictures and delimitations, real play can ensue. If every participant is making up the rules as he goes along and according to his whim, the game promptly evanesces. Indeed, if we continue with this analogy, the game, in fact, doesn’t simply disappear; it devolves into bickering and finally into violence, since the players have no other recourse for the adjudication of their disputes. Now we can see why it is a very short step indeed from epistemic and moral relativism in the classroom to violence on the quad. Since I can’t argue with my opponent, I can only silence him, de-humanize him, shut him down.

The valorization of will over intellect is described by the technical term “voluntarism,” and the roots of this ideology are tangled indeed. Jean-Paul Sartre and Michel Foucault were advocates of it in the twentieth century, and they both found their inspiration in the nineteenth-century German theoretician, Friedrich Nietzsche. Nietzsche’s *Übermensch* (Superman) stood blithely beyond the conventional categories of good and evil and determined the meaning of his life through his limitless will to power. The problem, of course, is what happens when two Supermen clash, when two limitless wills collide. The only path forward, Nietzsche correctly intuited, would be warfare—and let the strongest survive. What should be clear to everyone is that this has remained anything but high theorizing, that in fact Nietzsche’s vision now dances in the heads of most young people in our society today.

Are we surprised, therefore, that stridency, anger, violence, censorship, and the will to power dominate the public conversation? I realize that it might sound a bit frumpy to put it this way, but the path forward is better epistemology.

Faithful Friar	Rev. Tom Hanus	979-596-2197	Faithful Scribe	Robert Zapata	512-760-5839
Faithful Navigator	Josiah Barrow	281-794-0299	Inner Sentinel	Charlie Watson	512-446-7992
Faithful Comptroller	Martin Elman	512-446-6699	Outer Sentinel	Frankie Wolf	979-567-7447
Faithful Captain	Donald E. Sims	979-204-1812	One Year Trustee	James Urbanosky	979-567-4534
Faithful Admiral	Jose Mancha P.F.N.	512-455-2123	Two Year Trustee	Richard Neal	979-272-8944
Faithful Purser	Lawrence Vavra	979-324-7232	Three Year Trustee	Hubert Polansky	979-567-3508
Faithful Pilot	Richard Sifuentes	979-596-1825	Faithful Commander	Lawrence Vavra	979-324-7232