



NEWSLETTER



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Somerville, Caldwell, and Rockdale

APRIL 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|-----|-----|-----|--|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 <i>EXEMPLIFICATION ST. JOSEPH BRYAN 12 NOON</i> |
| 10 | 11 <i>MEETING CALDWELL 7:00 PM</i> | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 <i>CONFIRMATION CALDWELL 6:00 PM</i> | 16 <i>SET-UP TURKEY SHOOT 3:30 PM</i> |
| 17 <i>TURKEY SHOOT 10:30 AM</i> | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

NEWS

We have four candidates attending the Fourth Degree Exemplification in Bryan on April 9, 2016. The registration will start at 9:30 am. If you are just attending the Exemplification as an observer, it will start at 12:00 noon, in the St. Joseph Parish Activity Center.

Our next monthly meeting will be in the new St. Mary's parish hall on April 11, starting at 7:00 pm with a meal (probably bbq chicken).

We will provide an honor guard for Bishop Vasquez who will be administering the sacrament of Confirmation at St. Mary's on Friday, April 15. We need to be at the church by 5:30 pm.

Set up for the Turkey Shoot will start at 3:30 pm, at Josiah Barrow's place, on Saturday April 16. We need to be at the shoot by 10:30 am on Sunday, April 17, to take care of any miscellaneous things that might come up. The shoot starts at 12:30 pm.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

We have two important events taking place in May. Mark your calendars for the Ordination to the Order of Deacon, of Jesse Paul Martinez on May 21, 2016, and the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Father Tom Hanus, our Faithful Friar, to be held at St. Mary's Church in Caldwell, on May 28.

I want to thank the ten Knights who provided the Honor Guard at Mr. Allen Labay's funeral on Tuesday, March 29. Mr. Labay was a Charter member of our Assembly, and it's first Faithful Navigator. He had a long association with the Knights, both in Angleton and in Somerville, and his dedication to the Knights was unsurpassed.

We want to thank Neal Krenzke for his \$100.00 donation to our assembly, in memory of Mr. Labay.

Cardinal Dolan and Archbishop Lori to Congress: Support the Conscience Protection Act

April 1, 2016

WASHINGTON—Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan and Archbishop William E. Lori – as chairmen of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities and Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, respectively – wrote to the U.S. House of Representatives, March 31, urging support for the Conscience Protection Act of 2016 (HR 4828).

The Conscience Protection Act, they wrote, is "essential legislation protecting the fundamental rights of health care providers...to ensure that those providing much-needed health care and health coverage can continue to do so without being forced by government to help destroy innocent unborn children."

HR 4828 has a "modest scope," they noted. "While existing federal laws already protect conscientious objection to abortion in theory, this protection has not proved effective in practice... The Conscience Protection Act will address the deficiencies that block effective enforcement of existing laws, most notably by establishing a private right of action allowing victims of discrimination to defend their own rights in court."

Cardinal Dolan and Archbishop Lori recalled the Hippocratic oath's rejection of abortion in the profession of medicine, indicating that the Act will benefit not only Catholic medical professionals but "the great majority of ob/gyns [who] remain unwilling to perform abortions."

Finally, they explained that conscience protection facilitates access to life-affirming health care: "When government...mandates involvement in abortion as a condition for being allowed to provide life-affirming health care services, it not only undermines the widely acknowledged civil rights of health care providers but also limits access to good health care for American women and men."

The full text of their letter is posted at:

www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/conscience-protection/upload/Conscience-Protection-Act-Dolan-Lori-Ltr-to-Congress-03-31-16.pdf

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|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
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