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December 2023



Faithful Navigator Report

Joe Martinazzi
Faithful Navigator

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Sir Knights,

I would like to wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to thank everyone who attended this year's Holiday Potluck to make it a huge success. All of the dishes members brought were amazing, and the honey baked ham from Stefano's was exceptional. I also want to give a shout-out to the family of our Faithful Trustee Chris Curry for providing the decorations for this year's party.

Even though we have focused on preparation for Christmas through prayer and reflection during the Advent Season and have shared the Joy of Christmas Day as we commemorated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is easy to have mixed feelings of joy and sadness during the holiday season as family dynamics change over the years. For me, this year my son and his family stayed with his in-laws, some of my cousins were in Italy or unable to get time off from work and memories of loved ones who had passed away were heavy on my thoughts. As I was lying in bed and feeling disheartened, I turned to prayer and remembered all the blessings the Lord Jesus Christ bestowed on me and how fortunate I was to spend time with my two aging parents and my daughter's beautiful family. I remembered the many things my loved ones both living and passed have taught me in being a better Christian, husband, and father and that every day we have here on earth is a blessing to share the gifts God has given to me with others. As we look forward to 2024 my prayers are with each and every one of you for a healthy and happy new year.

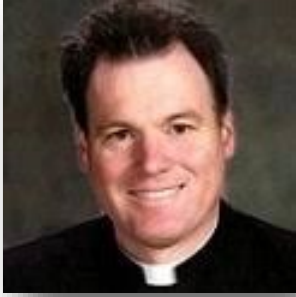
Vivat Jesus!



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Faithful Friar's Report

Msgr. Stephen Doktorczyk

Dear Brother Knights,

Before we reflect on 2023, we would all do well to be truly grateful that we are living yet another season of Advent, with Christmas quickly approaching. The Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity taking on human flesh (the incarnation), being born in humble circumstances and in obscurity. There was little fanfare when he came to see the light of day, and, as we know, he had nowhere to lay his head. I think back to homilies given by Archbishop Fulton Sheen (d. 1979), who compared the inns that were full and had no room for Jesus, Mary and Joseph with the inns of the world—how many people don't have room for Jesus in their lives. They say no to him or perhaps even ignore the knocking. I think a good way for us to think back on 2023 (and I hold this to be a helpful exercise), would be to examine how well I did welcoming Jesus into my life—be it by following his teachings, reading Sacred Scripture and by performing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Hopefully the week after Christmas might provide some “down time” for us to take advantage of this reflection opportunity.

Those active members of the Knights of Columbus have numerous opportunities to be involved in wholesome activities supportive of the church. And the more deliberate we are (no matter what we might have agreed to take on, be it preparing breakfast burritos, assisting the parish with other needs, helping the less fortunate) the more likely we are to feel closer to our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

I wish you a blessed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, season of Christmas and happy new year!

In Christ,

Monsignor Stephen Doktorczyk





Color Corps Report

C.C.C.— Curt Horner

Sir Knights,

Our Color Corps participated in 2 funerals this past month...12/1 was the funeral of SK Trini Torres at St. Martins in Yorba Linda (lower left photo), and 12/22 was the funeral of SK Raymond Pongetti at St. Josephs in Placentia (lower right photo). Please pray for the souls of our Brothers Trini and Ray.

If you are interested in joining the Color Corps please contact the Faithful Navigator and check out the link below for purchasing the uniform. Serving in the Color Corps is a great use of your time, you will be serving God's Church and the Families of Knights we have lost.



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Pope Francis’ Christmas Homily



What does this night still have to say to our lives? Two thousand years after the birth of Jesus, after so many Christmases spent amid decorations and gifts, after so much consumerism that has packaged the mystery we celebrate, there is a danger. We know many things about Christmas, but we forget its real meaning. So how do we rediscover the meaning of Christmas? First of all, where do we go to find it? The Gospel of Jesus’ birth appears to have been written precisely for this purpose: to take us by the hand and lead us where God would have us go.

It starts with a situation not unlike our own: everyone is bustling about, getting ready for an important event, the great census, which called for much preparation. In that sense, the atmosphere was very much like our modern celebration of Christmas. Yet the Gospel has little to do with that worldly scenario; it quickly shifts our gaze to something else, which it considers more important. It is a small and apparently insignificant detail that it nonetheless mentions three times, always in relation to the central figures in the narrative. First, Mary places Jesus “in a manger” (Lk 2:7); then the angels tell the shepherds about “a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger” (v. 12); and finally, the shepherds, who find “the child lying in the manger” (v. 16). In order to rediscover the meaning of Christmas, we need to look to the manger. Yet why is the manger so important? Because it is the sign, and not by chance, of Christ’s coming into this world. It is how he announces his coming. It is the way God is born in history, so that history itself can be reborn. What then does the Lord tell us? Through the manger, three things, at least: closeness, poverty, and concreteness.

Closeness. The manger serves as a feeding trough, to enable food to be consumed more quickly. In this way, it can symbolize one aspect of our humanity: our greed for consumption. While animals feed in their stalls, men and women in our world, in their hunger for wealth and power, consume even their neighbors, their brothers and sisters. How many wars have we seen! And in how many places, even today, are human dignity and freedom treated with contempt! As always, the principal victims of this human greed are the weak and the vulnerable. This Christmas too, as in the case of Jesus, a world ravenous for money, ravenous for power and ravenous for pleasure does not make room for the little ones, for so many unborn, poor and forgotten children. I think above all of the children devoured by war, poverty and injustice. Yet those are the very places to which Jesus comes, a child in the manger of rejection and refusal. In him, the Child of Bethlehem, every child is present. And we ourselves are invited to view life, politics and history through the eyes of children.

In the manger of rejection and discomfort, God makes himself present. He comes there because there we see the problem of our humanity: the indifference produced by the greedy rush to possess and consume. There, in that manger, Christ is born, and there we discover his closeness to us. He comes there, to a feeding trough, in order to become our food. God is no father who devours his children, but the Father who, in Jesus, makes us his children and feeds us with his tender love. He comes to touch our hearts and to tell us that love alone is the power that changes the course of history. He does not remain distant and mighty, but draws near to us in humility; leaving his throne in heaven, he lets himself be laid in a manger.

Dear brother, dear sister, tonight God is drawing near to you, because you are important to him. From the manger, as food for your life, he tells you: “If you feel consumed by events, if you are devoured by a sense of guilt and inadequacy, if you hunger for justice, I, your God, am with you. I know what you are experiencing, for I experienced it myself in that manger. I know your weaknesses, your failings and your history. I was born in order to tell you that I am, and always will be, close to you”. The Christmas manger, the first message of the divine Child, tells us that God is with us, he loves us and he seeks us. So take heart! Do not allow yourself to be overcome by fear, resignation or discouragement. God was born in a manger so that you could be reborn in the very place where you thought you had hit rock bottom. There is no evil, there is no sin, from which Jesus does not want to save you. And he can. Christmas means that God is close to us: let confidence be reborn!

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<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/253156/full-text-pope-francis-homily-for-christmas-2022>

Pope Francis’ Christmas Homily (continued from page 4)

The manger of Bethlehem speaks to us not only of closeness, but also of poverty. Around the manger there is very little: hay and straw, a few animals, little else. People were warm in the inn, but not here in the coldness of a stable. Yet that is where Jesus was born. The manger reminds us that he was surrounded by nothing but love: Mary, Joseph and the shepherds; all poor people, united by affection and amazement, not by wealth and great expectations. The poverty of the manger thus shows us where the true riches in life are to be found: not in money and power, but in relationships and persons.

And the first person, the greatest wealth, is Jesus himself. Yet do we want to stand at his side? Do we draw close to him? Do we love his poverty? Or do we prefer to remain comfortably ensconced in our own interests and concerns? Above all, do we visit him where he is to be found, namely in the poor maners of our world? For that is where he is present. We are called to be a Church that worships a Jesus who is poor and that serves him in the poor. As a saintly bishop once said: “The Church supports and blesses efforts to change the structures of injustice, and sets down but one condition: that social, economic and political change truly benefit the poor” (O.A. ROMERO, Pastoral Message for the New Year, 1 January 1980). Certainly, it is not easy to leave the comfortable warmth of worldliness to embrace the stark beauty of the grotto of Bethlehem, but let us remember that it is not truly Christmas without the poor. Without the poor, we can celebrate Christmas, but not the birth of Jesus. Dear brothers, dear sisters, at Christmas God is poor: let charity be reborn!

We now come to our last point: the manger speaks to us of concreteness. Indeed, a child lying in a manger presents us with a scene that is striking, even crude. It reminds us that God truly became flesh. As a result, all our theories, our fine thoughts and our pious sentiments are no longer enough. Jesus was born poor, lived poor and died poor; he did not so much talk about poverty as live it, to the very end, for our sake. From the manger to the cross, his love for us was always palpable, concrete. From birth to death, the carpenter’s son embraced the roughness of the wood, the harshness of our existence. He did not love us only in words; he loved us with utter seriousness!

Consequently, Jesus is not satisfied with appearances. He who took on our flesh wants more than simply good intentions. He who was born in the manger, demands a concrete faith, made up of adoration and charity, not empty words and superficiality. He who lay naked in the manger and hung naked on the cross, asks us for truth, he asks us to go to the bare reality of things, and to lay at the foot of the manger all our excuses, our justifications and our hypocrisies. Tenderly wrapped in swaddling clothes by Mary, he wants us to be clothed in love. God does not want appearances but concreteness. May we not let this Christmas pass without doing something good, brothers and sisters. Since it is his celebration, his birthday, let us give him the gifts he finds pleasing! At Christmas, God is concrete: in his name let us help a little hope to be born anew in those who feel hopeless!

Jesus we behold you lying in the manger. We see you as close, ever at our side: thank you Lord! We see you as poor, in order to teach us that true wealth does not reside in things but in persons, and above all in the poor: forgive us, if we have failed to acknowledge and serve you in them. We see you as concrete, because your love for us is palpable. Help us to give flesh and life to our faith.

Amen.



St. Jude Assembly

2023 Christmas Party 12/18

Many thanks to the Sir Knights who helped make the 2023 Christmas Party a success!



Catholic Humor



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Chris Curry	Three Year Trustee	(714) 514-9930	cgcurry@sbcglobal.net
Curt Horner	Color Corps Commander	(714) 401-8191	curt779@yahoo.com

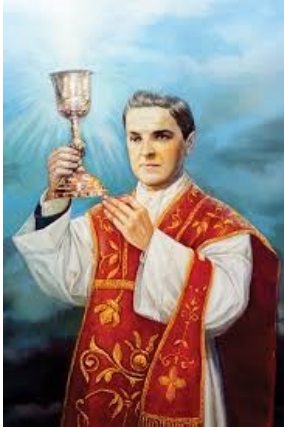
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PFN Thomas Shewman	1995 - 1996	PFN Bill Archer-Burton	2008 - 2009
PFN Joe Thompson †	1996 - 1997	PFN Bill Schafer	2009 - 2010
PFN Lou Cartwright †	1997 - 1998	PFN John Cleary	2010 - 2011
PFN Armond Tavianini †	1998 - 1999	PFN Ed Baluyot	2011 - 2012
PFN Jeffrey Bigonger	1999 - 2000	PFN Dave Vezzetti †	2012 - 2013
PFN Jerry Nicassio	2000 - 2001	PFN Roberto Garcia	2013 - 2014
PFN Duke Ellington †	2001 - 2002	PFN Tom Madracki †	2014 - 2015
PFN Trini Torres †	2002 - 2003	PFN Rick Giddens	2015 - 2016
PFN Chuck Hosick	2003 - 2004	PFN Curt Horner	2016 - 2017
PFN Jeff Runtz	2004 - 2005	PFN Lenny Castillo	2017 - 2018
PFN Jim Giardino †	2005 - 2006	PFN Mark Lanphar	2018 - 2019
PFN Tom Arias	2006 - 2007	PFN Bob Lanphar	2019 - 2020
		PFN Scott Mosher	2020 - 2021
		PFN Chris Curry	2021 - 2022
		PFN Steve Michael	2022 - 2023

† Rest in peace

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- ◆ People of Israel
- ◆ Past Faithful Comptroller SK Gary Clark
- ◆ Susan Brunasso RIP
- ◆ Patty Egger RIP
- ◆ Laverne McCaughin RIP
- ◆ Lady Knight Jo Baca RIP
- ◆ SK Raymond Lamy RIP
- ◆ SK Michael Withrow RIP
- ◆ SK Jim Kozlowski RIP
- ◆ SK Joseph Tokar RIP
- ◆ SK George Scherotter RIP
- ◆ SK Don Davis RIP
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- ◆ SK Robert Hawkins RIP
- ◆ SK Thomas Carey RIP
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- ◆ SK Rick Ritter RIP
- ◆ SK Mario Mandy RIP
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- ◆ SK Kantral Williams RIP
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- ◆ Lady Knight Rochelle Hastings
- ◆ Lady Knight Bonneta McKenna
- ◆ Lady Knight Elenor Gaudinez
- ◆ Rob Fulton
- ◆ Megan and Henry Sanchez
- ◆ Ben Kahookele
- ◆ Mary Archer-Burton
- ◆ Cariann Mobayed
- ◆ Pauline Sanchez
- ◆ Matthew Garcia
- ◆ Kent Anderson
- ◆ Jim Crews
- ◆ Jim Paola
- ◆ Jerry Nicassio
- ◆ Ray Shoemaker
- ◆ Mark Michael RIP
(Brother of SK Steve Michael PFN)
- ◆ Bob Richard RIP
(Son of SK Norm Richard)
- ◆ Ralph Smaldino
(Brother of SK Frank Smaldino)
- ◆ Susan Carnegie
(Mother of SK Paul Carnegie PGK)
- ◆ Rev. Gerald Myers RIP
(Brother of SK Keith Myers)

Upcoming important dates below:

1/8– Officers Meeting– 6pm at SK Frank Baca’s home.

1/15– General Meeting - 6pm Rosary, 6:30pm Dinner, 7:15pm Meeting starts, at Pope St. John Paul II Polish Center.