

Stephen Schlesselmann
District Deputy's Report
November, 2008

A Spiritual Thought

On Thursday, November 27, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving Day. As **St. Josemaria de Balaguer** states in the Way: "Make it a habit to raise your heart to God, in acts of Thanksgiving many times a day. Because he gives you this or that... Because someone has despised you... Because you don't have what you need, or because you do have it. And because He made his Mother, who is also your Mother, so beautiful. Because He created the sun and the moon and this animal or that plant. Because he made that man eloquent and you he left slow of speech... Thank him for everything, because everything is good." (page 64 of the **Way/Furrow/the Forge by St. Josemaria de Balaguer**).

At this writing, our annual drive to help those with Intellectual Disabilities is in full swing. We finished collecting at many Santa Barbara locations last weekend (October 17-19) and we will be doing so at a few more this weekend (with the help of UCSB students). Councils 10067 and 13756 will be collecting at their Churches this weekend. Last week, we received the assistance of several Special Olympics athletes (who will be the recipients of most of the funds) and I had a chance to meet and watch one of them work outside Von's on Turnpike in Goleta. What a privilege and treat! Kyle (the special athlete) was very enthusiastic about his work and loved the social interaction with the customers. It was very heartwarming to see and experience the reason why we spend the time collecting the money for the drive. Thank you to GKs Dan Knauss, Mark Wietstock, FDD Cherif Khoury and all the Brother Knights involved in this very worthy and noble cause!

As stated in the last report, we are still hard at work calling voters to encourage them to vote for Propositions 4 and 8. The yard signs came and a number of members of the community have been displaying them. If you read this report before the election, please make sure to vote for both Propositions. If you read this report after the election, let's hope both passed. There is still time to help and most importantly, pray that both pass. Also, as has been noted at several sources including www.kofc.org, the Catholic Bishops have asked us to pray the "Novena for Faithful Citizenship" starting on October 26. Please make an effort to do so.

Degrees:

- 1) Council 1684 had a 1st degree on Wednesday, October 8 and 3 Brother Knights were welcomed into the Order that night: Brothers Ken Estrada (1684), Thomas Bauer (5300) and Chris Van Wyk (5300). Thomas's brother, Joe, is a 3rd degree Knight in Council 5300 and his uncle, Jim, is a 3rd degree Knight at Council 1684. Also, Chris's father, Garrett, is a member of Council 5300.
- 2) Serra Hall (Council 1684's meeting location) was the site for a Spanish first degree on Wednesday, October 22. 7 new Brother Knights joined our Order that night (5 for Council 13756 and 2 for Council 1684).
- 3) Council 5300 will be holding a 1st degree on Monday, December 8 (the Feast of the Immaculate Conception).

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- 4) The next 2nd degree will probably be held in January at either Council 1684 or 5300 but the details haven't been planned yet.
- 5) As stated last month, the next 3rd degree will be at St. Peter Claver's in Simi Valley on Sunday, March 1, 2009.

Programs:

Council 1684 will be holding their annual Knight's Nite Out on Wednesday, October 29. All monies raised at the event goes directly to charity. Also, at the Council's November meeting, they will be having their annual Mass for the deceased Knights of the council.

Council 5300 hosted their annual Columbus Day dinner put on by Brother Sam Alfano and his band of workers. All of us who attended had a great time. The council will also be holding their next family social on Monday, October 27.

Council 10067 continues to be very busy with their events and dinners. The council will be hosting a "trunk or treat" at the end of October. Finally, many of the Brother Knights have been very active promoting passage of Propositions 4 and 8.

At the last Council 13756 meeting, GK Mark Wietstock (1684) presented a set of officer jewels to the Council. It was a very nice presentation and I'm sure the officers were very proud of receiving them. Also, with the help of David Farebrother, the Council conducted a blitz drive on October 12 at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Santa Barbara. About 57 men signed up for more information.

Other Notes:

- 1) I just learned this morning that FDD Cherif Khoury has been replaced as Chapter President by Chapter Vice President Wayne Pianfetti. Thank you Cherif for your many hours of hard work for the Chapter.
- 2) As of this writing, the next Chapter meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 8 at Council 5803 (Simi Valley) starting at 10:30 AM with lunch at 12:30 PM. If any of you need directions, please let me know and I'll email you the details.
- 3) Right now, the district is at 30% of membership and 33% of insurance. Brothers we can do better. We only have 8 months left in this Columbian Year to increase those numbers to 100%. Let's get to work. If I can help in any way, let me know. Remember, it is every Knight's responsibility to recruit.
- 4) Will each council be participating in the free throw contest this year? It is a very worthwhile activity. If any council would like to participate, they should get busy now since the free throw kits have to be ordered this month.
- 5) As mentioned in previous columns, we would like to host a Wheelchair Sunday in as many parishes in the district as possible during the next 6 to 9 months. Please contact your pastors, let me know and I'll pass on your requests to DD Dan Mohberg and Brother Chris Lewis.

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- 6) The position of District Warden is still open to anyone who wants to apply since I'll only be serving as your District Deputy until June 30, 2009. Now is the chance for a Brother Knight to step up and learn the job. The job does require work but the rewards are well worth it!
- 7) Please continue to pray for all of our sick and deceased Knights in the district.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, you can contact me at (805) 968-9440 or by email at sjschlesselmann@cox.net.

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