

GOLDEN STATE KNIGHTLETTER



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October 2012

Dr. Ray Warriner, PhD, State Deputy

Rev. John Neneman, Chaplain

John & Linda Giltner, Editors

MASTERS OF THE FOURTH DEGREE NAMED





Sept 19, 2012

Brothers

I am extremely happy to announce the appointments of:

J.C. Greco as Master of Northern California District

Giuseppe Calderaro as Master of Central California District

John D. Bertrand as Master of Southern California District

To the outgoing Masters, I offer my congratulations on a job well done and the appreciation of the California Knights for your devotion to the ideals of our great Fraternity: Charity, Unity, Brotherly and especially Patriotism. I am confident that with your continued support, the new Masters will maintain and even surpass the high standards that you have passed on to them.

To the new Masters, I offer my congratulations and extend any assistance I or the State Council can provide to make you time in this position a success. You all have large shoes to fill.

If you have any questions, please contact the State Office. The phone number is 909-434-0460 and email is state.office@californiaknights.org. I thank you for your commitment to our Order and to our program for the Columbian Year 2012-2013.

Fraternally,

Raymond F. Warriner, PhD State Deputy

> Knights of Columbus State Council Office state.office@CaliforniaKnights.org 15808 Arrow Blvd. Ste A, Fontana CA 92335 Tel: 909-434-0460



ID Drive

October 19, 20 & 21, 2012

Are you ready?

Have you ordered your Tootsie Rolls, Cans and Aprons?

Southern California Master

John Bertrand has been married to Barbara for 46 years. They have 4 sons (3 married 1 Priest), and 6 grandchildren. John is a Past Grand Knight (Three 1st Place Activity Awards and one Supreme Award), Former District Deputy (Star District).



He is currently San Diego Diocese Chapter Treasurer and serves on the Chapter Charities Board Member and the Mother of Life Conference Board. At the state level John is the State Vocation Chair (2 Years) John also is a member of District Master's Team Southern District 2008 − 2012 where he serves as Director of Growth and Membership and as part of the exemplification support team. In his Parish, John has been active in the Parish Council, served as a Lector and Minister of the Eucharist. ♣

Northern California Master

Northern California District of the Juniper Serra Providence of the Knights of Columbus. He was recently married to Angel at a wedding attended by many Sir Knights from his district. He has two sons Ren who is 25 married and along with Ren's wife serve in the US Air force. They have a daughter, Chloe 3 months. Steven their other son who is 13 lives at home. JC has served as Grand Knight at Fr. O'Dea Council 8424, 2008-2009 and has served as District Deputy for District 8 for the period 2009-2012. JC Greco served as Faithful Navigator for Bishop Manogue Assembly 50, for 2011-2012; he also served as District Marshal of Northern Calif. 2008-2012.

STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

Dr. Ray Warriner, State Deputy

The Year of Faith

This month we begin the "Year of Faith". The upcoming Year of Faith is a "summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the One Savior of the world" (Porta Fidei 6). In other words, the Year of Faith is an opportunity for Catholics to experience a conversion – to turn back to Jesus and enter into a deeper relationship with him. The "door of faith" is opened at one's baptism, but during this year Catholics are called to open it again, walk through it and rediscover and renew their relationship with Christ and his Church.

In the book, *Our Lady of Guadalupe* by Carl Anderson and Msgr. Eduardo Chavez, the chapter on the Gift of Vocation, has a discussion that closeness to Christ is not

always easy. During this year of Faith, we are asked to examine the things that separate us from that deeper relationship. This is sometimes true in our own Order. Like a family, some of us become fragmented and forget the meaning of Brotherhood. Lack of concern, cooperation or involvement – any ailment that can plague a family – can affect our Order.

This fragmentation might be a reason for some brothers to consider leaving the Order or to leave the ranks of active participation in Council or other activities. Continuing the analogy of Family, we should not walk away. We need not agree with every aspect of the Council, Chapter, State or Supreme operations. We are an organization of individuals and certainly not perfect but we do have two things that unite us. First is our common faith (Eucharist), the central and unifying element that supersedes any cosmetic issues we may see in the Order. Second, we should remember that we have an integral role to play in this world. The Order's vitality depends in no small measure on the vitality breathed into it by each Knight.

To paraphrase from the book – 'Where we find them, human faults and imperfections are nothing compared to God's gift of himself to us. It is this gift - the Eucharist - that truly bonds us together and infuses all other activities with meaning.'

The bottom line: every day we must strive to show we are men of God and focus on God's will first. It's not easy and sometimes we fail. What defines our character is how we handle that failure. I end with this thought from President Theodore Roosevelt.

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause;..." Excerpt from the speech "Citizenship In A Republic", delivered at the Sorbonne, in Paris, France on 23 April, 1910

So, Go Make a Difference

Ray Warriner

"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Phil. 4:8"

- Saint Paul



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

CARL ANDERSON Supreme Knight

CALIFORNIA STATE COUNCIL 15808 Arrow Blvd. Fontana, CA 92335 Tel #909-434-0460 Email:

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2012 -2013

2012 -2013 **OFFICERS**

Dr. RAYMOND WARRINER,State Deputy

REV. JOHN NENEMAN Chaplain

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ED BYSTRANService Program

VINCE D'ANTONIO
Operations Program

BEN BACA, GA Membership Benefits

GO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

STATE SECRETARY'S

COLUMN



Tim Carvalho

"What would I be if I wasn't a member of this Order?" Let me continue on this theme. In addition to the good works and ability to do more with more men; we need to look at what this does for our families and Parishes. By being a member of the Order, we

have access to more resources and manpower to do more for our Families, Communities, and Parishes. It allows us to do more for all and enhance the experience and capabilities of our Families, Communities, and Parishes. So the more we open ourselves to this capability and provide more members to do this more with more, the better off, we and those around us are. Growth leads to more growth and we really can "Go Make a Difference."

So in addition to growing our Order, we can do all of this to grow the example of our families and open that example as a way for more families to join ours. If we remember to add FUN to all of our "FUNctions" we will have more members coming and participating. In addition, if we keep in mind that we are a "Catholic Family" organization we will do all we do in that frame of mind, and provide an example for those in our Parishes to join us. We are not here for numbers, but for the Opportunity to join the best "Catholic Family" organization the world has to offer.

Convention 2013

Thursday night entertainment will be focused on a theme of the Knights of Columbus Huts and the USO. If you are active duty military or have served in the military, be sure to wear your uniform or any memorabilia you may have. We also need pictures of you in uniform. Send them to the state office. Sending the picture is granting permission to publish it in various print and electronic media. Plans are still being solidified, but the convention is shaping up to be another great time in San Diego. See you there.

John Giltner Convention PR Chairman

Church Activities Programs

The Silver Rose Run Program

Submitted by Jerry Fong, Church Activities Chairman

The Silver Rose program was introduced by our Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson at the 119th Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council held in Toronto Canada in August of 2001. In 1960 the Squires in the United States and Canada came up with the idea of "Running a Rose" as a tribute to Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Now in its 52nd year the program continues to be supported by the Squire

Circles, councils and assemblies in several jurisdictions. There are now three Silver Roses traveling throughout North America as a devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Order's commitment to the Culture of Life. The Silver Roses are scheduled to arrive at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City in earlier December. They will be carried in for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration on December 12·2012.

One Silver Rose has left Ontario Province and is traveling through the central United States. Another Silver Rose is traveling from New York down the eastern seaboard to the Gulf Coast. The final Silver Rose which began its journey in Manitoba Province arrived in our great State in August. The Silver Rose left Brawley Council 2130 on September 23, 2012 and has arrived at a council in Arizona. It will be soon be crossing the International Bridge and making its way to the Knights of Columbus in Monterey, Mexico. The Silver Rose will be carried into the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration on December 12, 2012.

For more information on the Silver Rose Run program contact James D. Letcher, Chairman for the Adoration/Silver Rose Program at (916) 825-5618 or email jletcher@cwnet.com. For real-time updates of the Running of the Rose program visit http://www.runningoftherose.org/en/index.html.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

4th DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION

OCTOBER 6, 2012

IRVINE, CALIFORNIA

Council Retention and Reactivation

Gil Eliares, Chairman
Council Retention and Reactivation

We must be observant and look for signs that would indicate a council may be experiencing difficulty. Some of these signs are zero membership recruitment, lack of quorum to conduct council business, same officers rotating among various positions and lack of council programs. These are symptoms that a council is becoming stagnant.

When these signs appear, we need a plan to rejuvenate this council. The officers should find out why members are not attending meetings and implement a plan to bring them back to the council. If the council has no programs, identify a few programs that the council can successfully execute. Members should infuse new blood into the council by recruiting one-on-one or conducting membership drive. The council's leadership should identify current and potential leaders and train them.

If the council has been inactive, plans should be developed to reactivate it. Make an appointment with the Pastor of the parish and ask his support and participation in reactivating the council. Get his approval and discuss plans for reactivation. Schedule a church membership drive and work with the District Deputy, Field Agent and members of the council. Conduct an information meeting with the prospects. After signing up new interested members, schedule a first degree exemplification as soon as possible. Council reactivation is just as important as new Council Development.

A successful council retention and reactivation takes unity, perseverance and the combined efforts of all the members. Please contact me if you have any questions.

JUST A REMINDER

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION
OF ARTICLE/S IS THE 25th DAY
OF THE MONTH. PLEASE SEND
YOUR ARTICLE/S IN MICROSOFT
WORD FORMAT TO

johngiltner@att.net THANK YOU.

PLEASE NOTE THE DEADLINE

Supreme Membership Referral

Robert Moncrieff

Chairman, Supreme Membership Referral Program

Catholic men who are interested in joining the Knights of Columbus. One source of such referrals is our Supreme Office. Someone contacts the Supreme Office and indicates his interest in membership. The name is referred to the appropriate jurisdiction for follow-up. This program, of course, does not replace the responsibility of local councils to recruit new members, but does offer "freebies" to them, once in a while---kind of icing on the cake.

Since the beginning of Columbian year 2012-13, thirty-one such referrals have been forwarded to California and were passed on to the appropriate Grand Knights, District Deputies or General Agents. So far, four of these Catholic men have joined our Order and many have been contacted and are in the process of becoming Brother Knights.

When a Council receives a referral, it is vital to contact this man *immediately*. Offer to meet with him and give him information about the Order and the Council. Assist him in filling out the Form 100 and get him to a First Degree Exemplification right away. It is often helpful to assign a member of the council to mentor him during the early stages of his membership and help him get acquainted. Since we track these referrals, please notify me when this man makes his first degree.



INSIGHTS ON VOCATION

Submitted by John Bertrand, Vocations Chairman

Vocations and the Fourth Degree: Principals of Faith

The Knights of Columbus as a Catholic Organization is called by the church to be part of the ongoing renewal of the church through its focus and purpose and more specifically through its members. This is the call that every Catholic organization, ecclesial movement or lay entity should aspire to as the underlying purpose for its existence. Father McGivney as a priest of Jesus Christ experienced a suffering church daily in the lives of many of his parishioners. He addressed this need by establishing the Knights of Columbus. He called Catholic Men of Faith to band together and they **made a difference** in the lives of their brothers and sisters. The Order has grown over the years and has identified many needs. Every time one of those needs was addressed, the individuals and the church benefited. You can say that the church was renewed almost on a daily basis. Today there are two issues that threaten the existence of the church as we know: Religious Freedom and the need for more priests.

As 4th Degree Knights we often hear that we are the visible arm of the Order. What does that really mean? Some might say we are visible because we wear full Regalia and attend call outs for various functions. But isn't it more than that? The Fourth Degree calls us to be visible in our zeal for vocations specifically during the formation years of our seminarians and postulants and to continue that support when they are ordained or profess their vows. It also calls us to be visible and not silent on the issue of religious freedom

One of the projects undertaken by the Fourth Degree last year and continuing this year is the Military Seminarian Support Program. Because of your efforts last year more young men were helped financially in their education and formation journey to priesthood.

One of our central focuses is to live out these Faith Values through the Knights of Columbus. The Fourth Degree gives us a visible opportunity to do that through all of the activities we choose to be involved in. But more importantly it helps form us as Catholic Men to be a visible example of our Catholic Faith and Values daily no matter what situation we find ourselves in. We need to be that living example as husbands, fathers, employers, employees, with fellow workers, in our parish community, and most especially in the civic environment that we are called to as 4th Degree members.

We are called to action not only in the activities we participate in but more specifically by living out with courage and conviction the principals and values of our Catholic Faith and Order for everyone to experience.

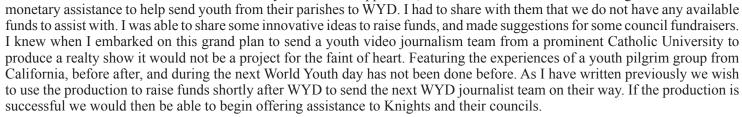
The stronger each Knight is in their faith, the stronger the church will be in fighting the battle of secularism that permeates the U. S. and the world. As the 4th Degree grows in membership the battle will be just a little easier to wage.



World Youth Day Brazil 2013

By Jeffrey S Patino, WYD Chairman California State Council

301 days until the next World Youth Day! Since the last article was published we have received several phone calls. I was really excited to speak with councils from Sacramento, and Salinas. I was ultimately left a bit disappointed, because the councils were seeking



At this point we have the Youth Journalist team selected (from John Paul the Great University San Diego), we have an online donation page where you can make a secure donation, we have created special California state council lapel pins, and rosary's. Knights of Columbus World Youth Day Face Book and twitter pages. Please visit these sites, and share them with your family members especially young people that you know.

We have a very unique opportunity before us in California. The relationship between the California Knights of Columbus and John Paul the great university is one that could bare much fruit, for many years to come. That being said worthy brothers "I need your help to see this through." If each Knight in our fine state were to donate \$5.00 to the California state World Youth day program we could reach our goal!

Brother Knights of California I need you to stand with me in these efforts, and bless this World youth day program with your support. •

Public Relations

By Ronn Knowles, Public Relations Chairman

Public relations can be a very useful communications tool, advancing Knights of Columbus principles and building community support for your council and its activities. Public relations is simply communicating a message to an audience. To build a truly effective public relations program, messages should be ongoing to strengthen the council's image and broaden its impact on society.

A critical part of public relations is publicity. Successful publicity efforts result in *editorial* media exposure in the form of news or feature articles in newspapers, magazines and websites, and references, announcements or interviews on radio and television stations. Publicity is a very effective way to inform the public about the many aspects of the Knights of Columbus in your community. Send in photo and article about your council's activities to the Knightletter editor.

The Columbian Foundation Supporting People with Intellectual Disabilities Drive starts this month. Here is a link to publicity announcements to help with the drive:

 $\underline{http://www.columbian-foundation.com/ID tools.htm}$

Councils are encouraged to develop a website. Most councils have a member who can design and update a council website. The cost to purchase a domain name (www.kofcXXXXX.org) and host the site is less than \$100 a year.

There are many rewards and benefits to a well-planned public relations program.

For the Knights of Columbus, an effective program can: 1. Create awareness in the community for your council and its contributions

- 2. Build a positive image for the Knights of Columbus as a whole, and councils in particular.
- 3. Create valuable exposure for the council and its activities.
 - 4. Communicate key messages to target audiences.
 - 5. Clear away misconceptions.
- 6. Strengthen community support for the Knights of Columbus and its mission.
 - 7. Assist in recruiting new members.

Additional information can be obtained from Knights of Columbus publication #2235, "Getting Your Message Across" a Public Relations and Publicity Guide that the Supreme Council distributes to each council prior to each Columbian Year.

Have a great year in getting the word out about what your great council activities.are.

VIP TRANSPORTATION

By GENE HAYS

Asst. Operations Director VIP Transportation Coordinator

An integral feature of the Supreme Convention is the attendance of many members of the Church Hierarchy and their participation in the Opening Mass and the States Dinner. This year was no exception as we were honored with the participation of 12 cardinals and 73 bishops/ archbishops. These leaders of the Church traveled from all parts of the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Bahamas, the Philippines, Poland, and the Vatican.

California, as the host of the convention, was responsible for the safe and timely transportation of many members of the Hierarchy from the airports (LAX and OC/John Wayne) to the convention at the Hilton Hotel in Anaheim. 63 members and wives served as volunteers for this effort, including some who were visiting the convention from northern California.

75 arrival trips and 55 departure trips were made over the course of the week. That sounds like a reasonable task unless you consider that a large percentage of the arrivals occurred on one day and most of the departures were spread over just two days. We transported 9 cardinals, 60 bishops/archbishops, 21 priests and one special guest of the Supreme Knight.

On behalf of the Supreme and State Councils, and most importantly the Hierarchy, we offer our most sincere thanks to all of the volunteers who helped in this effort.



Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York and President of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops checks in with the Hierarchy and VIP desk at the Supreme Convention.

Knights Appreciate Columbian Retirement Home's Senior Advisory Service

Knights are spreading the word about the fine service they receive from Columbian Senior Advisory Service (CSAS), provided free of charge by Columbian Retirement Housing, Inc. (CRH).

"We have met the goal of extending services to Knights throughout California," says Bro. Pulice PSD, president of Columbian Retirement Home, Inc. Since 2011, the new seniors' program has provided a series of educational events around the state.



Bro Frank Pulice with CSAS Advisors Ginger McMurchie (L) and Carol Kinsel (R) during CRH's Senior Advisory Symposium

General information on retirement services has been distributed to all 67,000 Knights — during KofC events, by mail, through their Councils and via the *Golden State Knightletter*:

Nearly 100 Councils have members who are receiving individual services. In some cases, the service spans more than one state. Counting individuals and couples, more than 200 seniors have benefited from one-on-one assistance.

One Knight's story The daughter of a California Knight called while her father was visiting her in Alaska. Long distance, she needed to find an assisted living home for him in Northern California. Due to his health, he was not a candidate for CRH's Columbian Retirement Center in Marysville. So the CSAS advisory staff introduced him to Mercy McMahon Terrace in Sacramento, one of the CSAS Preferred Referral retirement communities.

The CSAS staff helped him with his Veteran's benefits and arranged a move-in discount at the retirement home. He was very pleased to learn that a retired bishop would be his new neighbor at Mercy McMahon Terrace.

New donations needed. Accumulated capital from past raffles, fundraising activities, bequests and prudent investments are underwriting the CSAS program's expenses.

"We are grateful Brother Knights recognize that new contributions are needed to replenish our funds and keep the program going," says Bro. Pulice.

"CRH's board members thank the Councils that have donated a total of \$2,700 so far — Redwood Council #3103, Quartz Hill Council #10667, Pleasanton Council #6043, Chico Council #1137, with Church of St. Luke #10512 donating twice. And we appreciate the several hundred Knights who have sent individual contributions.

now totaling \$4,360."

Councils are exploring different ways to help raise funds for CRH's Columbian Senior Advisory Service and its Columbian Center residence in Marysville. Additionally, members are encouraged to make personal donations, and to check whether their employers may have a matching gift policy.

"If a Council wants to sponsor a special event promoting senior services, we can provide speakers and information," Bro. Pulice says. And he adds, "Columbian Retirement Home, Inc. is developing several fundraising strategies to assure that funds are available to keep our programs viable.

"DIRECT DONATIONS CAN BE MAILED TO COLUMBIAN RETIREMENT HOME, INC. PO Box 4338, El Monte CA 91734

ADV CHAPTER INSTALLATION

The Arrowhead-Desert Valley Chapter of the Knights of Columbus held their 53rd Installation of Officers and the State Deputy's Forum on Saturday, August 18, 2012. After the Saturday Vigil Mass, celebrated by the Diocese of San Bernardino Vicar General Very Rev. Msgr. Gerald M. Lopez, the Installation took place in the parish's DiLeo Hall under the direction of State Deputy, Raymond F. Warriner and State Warden, Sonny Santa Ines who also conducted the State Deputy Forum earlier in the day.

All present enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by host council Temecula Valley 9964's Master Chef Br. Jeff Long and overseen by council GK, John Burns III. A wonderful time was had by family, brother knights and friends.



Left to right: State Deputy, Raymond F. Warriner; ADVC President, Paul C. Watkins; ADVC Vice-President, Kevin R. Cavanaugh; Msgr. Gerald M. Lopez; ADVC Secretary, Charles W. Howard; ADVC Treasurer, Glen M. Kraig; ADVC Marshall, Marc A. Cobb

Camp ReCreation "Carrying the Torch" for 30 years 2012

Namp ReCreation celebrated its 30th year by adding another full week of camp making it a grand total of 3 weeks. With the addition of the third camp was able to accommodate all campers who applied, which eliminated the waiting list that always occurs each year. Camp was able to serve a total of 122 campers during the weeks of June 17-23; June 24-30 and July 8-14. All 3 sessions were held once again at Camp Ronald McDonald located on Eagle Lake in the Lassen National Forest; the site is 100% accessible which makes it the perfect spot for Camp ReCreation. This year's theme "Carrying the Torch for 30 Years" was in honor of Camp ReCreation's anniversary. Tying in with the torch theme, camp embraced the Summer Olympics and became Team USA celebrating the good ol'red, white and blue. Campers had a blast participating in daily activities which included sports, arts and crafts, drama, boating, bible stories, swimming, games, biking, archery, dancing and singing. Each night a fun-filled event was held including a fun-filled Summer Olympics competition where everyone won an Olympic medal which campers proudly wore throughout the week. Other events included talent shows, campfires, carnivals and the highly anticipated last night Dance Party. This year's volunteers were fantastic in providing a safe, loving and exciting camp program for all the deserving campers who look forward to this program each year.

Camp ReCreation is extremely grateful to the Knights of Columbus for all they do to make this program a reality for the worthy campers who are able to attend each year. Camp would not be possible without the continued support of the Knights of Columbus.



At the left is Sacramento
Diocese Bishop Jaime
Soto. With him are Nic
Habel, camper and Alexx
Sorio, volunteer counselor.

Bottom left: camper Jordan Peterson with volunteer counselor McKenna Bradley

Bottom right: camper archer John Carmarata with a Camp Ronald McDonald staff member.





CULTURE OF LIFE

It's That Time . . .

Worthy Brother Knights,

If you've been thinking about raising needed funds for various activities to help put your Councils, Districts, Assemblies, or Chapters into Star Status for this Columbian Year - our State Culture of Life Program has just what you need! By implementing some of the elements of our program outlined in the Grand Knight's Handbook, Intro for the Culture of Life, you will be able to score Pro-Life Points AND... generate funds to go towards some of your plans involving selected State Programs that may require you raising some extra funds to do so.

So, Here's The Deal!

Place an order through us for as little as One Case of Saved by Ultrasound "Life Before Birth 2013 Calendars" at the never before available Complete Distributor's Cost Price of \$3.33 per calendar - custom labeled and delivered for \$166.50 per Case of 50. These same calendar Internet Retail for \$11.95 each by the producer. If you discount sell them for just \$8 each, you will clear \$233.50 from each case. Our \$3.33 Rate compares most favorably with the producer's Rate of \$4.95 per calendar for their minimum purchase of \$247.50. Their next minimum plateau is based on a minimum purchase of \$862.50 which only qualifies for their \$3.45 cost per calendar. I am looking enthusiastically forward to your call to discuss how we can help you raise funds for your goals this Columbian year.

Vivat Jesus, Hugh Largey, Chairman 2012-13 Culture of Life State Program Largey.Hugh@gmail.com (619) 987-6677

Steve Hagarty, Committeeman Culture of Life State wolfhag@pacbell.net (925) 595-3391

This space is for you,

CHAPTERS

ASSEMBLIES

COUNCILS

Would you like to share what is going on in your area?

We need your input.



Ruins of St. Paul's in Macau

The Ruins of St. Paul's (also known as Sam Ba Sing Tzik) stands adjacent to the famous Mount Fortress and Macau Museum. The front façade and the grand stone stairs are the only remains of the greatest church in Macau.

First constructed in 1580, St. Paul's Church caught fires in 1595 and 1601. However, reconstruction started in 1602 soon after the church was burnt down. Completed in 1637, the church became the biggest Catholic Church in East Asia at that time. Unfortunately, a violent typhoon hit Macau in 1835 and the church caught fire for the third time leaving its glory a history. According to historical materials, St Paul's Church, built with white stones, had a grand vaulted roof. It had three magnificently decorated halls.

Built with granites, Sam Ba Sing Tzik has a baroque facade rich in ornamentation but with classic oriental characteristics. From the bottom up, the structure has five tiers. The first tier is comprised of ten Ionic columns with three entrances. The entrance in the middle has 'MATER DEI' carved into it. The two entrances on each side are decorated with bas-reliefs in the pattern of 'HIS'. The second tier features ten Corinthian columns with three windows. A Catholic saint is enshrined in each of four tabernacles between columns. The two tiers as a whole is said to represent the Society of Jesus and the activities of missionaries.

The remaining three tiers are the most decorated. The statue of Madonna stands in the middle of the third tier, while the statue of Jesus stands on the fourth. The walls are covered with bas-reliefs in various patterns like devils, angels, symbols of crucifixion, a Portuguese sailing ship, etc. The triangular combination of the upper three tiers reflects the Holy Trinity (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit) as well as the Blessed Virgin Mary. A cross stands at the coping of the wall.

It is worth mentioning that the stone lions at the sides of the third and fourth tiers are distinctively Chinese. There are also bas-reliefs in designs of chrysanthemum and cherry, as well as Chinese inscriptions. The surviving façade has long been acknowledged as a perfect fusion of western and eastern cultures.

The Ruins of St. Paul's has been restored during 1990 and 1995. The Museum of Sacred Art and Crypt was also built at that time. It has exhibitions of religions artworks including paintings, sculptures and statues.



In today's culture, there are many ways to lose sight of God's plan for us, A conscious decision to use our time, talent and treasure in service to God can bring fulfillment in ways our material possessions cannot.

PRAYER FOR OUR TROOPS

Lord, hold our troops inyour loving hands.

Protect them as they protect us.

Bless them and their familiesfor the selfless acts
they perform for us in our
time of need.
I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.
Amen.