Supreme Knight Carl Anderson — along with representatives from the California State Council — took part in the ceremonies marking the dedication of the new chapel to Our Lady of Guadalupe at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels in Los Angeles on Sunday, Sept. 2. Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles presided over the dedication.

The chapel’s construction was made possible by a grant from the Knights of Columbus. It will be the permanent home of the relic of San Juan Diego’s tilma — on which the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was miraculously imprinted in 1531. The relic in Los Angeles is the only known piece of the tilma in the United States. The Knights cosponsored the tour of the tilma relic throughout the United States in 2003 and also brought the relic to Phoenix for the 2009 Guadalupe Festival. Just last month, the relic was prominently featured at the Guadalupe Celebration held at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

Joining Supreme Knight Anderson at the dedication were California State Council representatives State Warden Sonny Santa Ines and past State Deputy Robert Villalobos.

Hispanic Leaders Urged to Vote With a Catholic Conscience

Supreme Knight called upon the Catholic Association of Latino Leaders to join in the Church’s effort to protect religious liberty through the power of their future votes. The supreme knight delivered this message in Miami during a meeting of the Catholic Association of Latino Leaders in late August:

“Both at our convention this month (August) and earlier this summer at the annual Catholic Press Association meeting, I asked whether it is now the time for Catholic voters to say ‘no’ to every candidate of every political party who supports policies which promote intrinsic evils. The difficulty is this: no matter how worthy a candidate’s policies may be on other important issues, they cannot ‘cure’ or in any way ‘overcome’ the intrinsic evil of a policy that, for example, promotes abortion. If we ignore where our politicians stand on issues of life, family and religious liberty, we may find that the doors to America open, but that the America behind those doors will be morally at odds with those it has invited here.”

The supreme knight went on to say that Catholic voters must demand compassion for the immigrant and should work to ensure that future generations of immigrants find a country that supports their values — not one that asks them to surrender their religious values at the border as the price of their admission.

“All Americans with the right to vote should do so in every election,” he added. “This includes nearly 600,000 newly eligible Hispanic voters each year, whose voice and moral compass can add a great deal to our national conversation and our future. … What candidate or political party could withstand the loss of millions of Catholic voters? If we stand together and insist upon greater attention to the Social Doctrine of our Church we could create a new way for Catholics — and especially Hispanic Catholics— to change America’s politics on our own terms. This will only be possible if we remain committed to our Catholic identity and heritage.”

The full version of this speech, and two other speeches by Supreme Knight Anderson, are included in the new ebook, Proclaim Liberty: Notes on the Next Great Awakening in America, available for purchase/download from online booksellers and accessible from e-readers and computers. This ebook includes speeches by the supreme knight on the issues of religious liberty and faithful citizenship. All author proceeds from this ebook go to support charitable causes.
Get Out the Vote

On November 6th, our nation will go to the polls to elect those who will represent us at the national, state and local levels of government. Knights have always taken seriously the civic responsibility to participate in the election process, and to encourage others to do so as well. Every Knight is asked to cast his vote in November, and to encourage his family and friends to vote as well. In addition, all councils are urged to participate in the Order’s “Nonpartisan National Get Out The Vote Program” designed to ensure that Knights, their fellow parishioners and others in the community are all able to get to the polls on November 6th. Many people, especially the elderly and the handicapped, are not able to drive themselves to the polls, and need help in getting there. Each grand knight should appoint a “Get Out the Vote Program” coordinator who is responsible for organizing and coordinating transportation efforts on Election Day. Next, sign up volunteers among your council members to help transport people who would not be able to get to the polls and then promote the program in the parish and community. For more information visit kofc.org/vote.

Star Councils

Has your council developed a plan for attainment of the Star Council Award this fraternal year? If not, now is the time to do so. Every grand knight should schedule a meeting with the council officers and program personnel, and especially the chaplain and the council’s field agent, to develop a plan of action for membership recruitment, insurance promotion and Service Program activity. Once the plan is developed, put it into action and your council will be counted among the Stars for the 2012-2013 fraternal year.

Coats for Kids

The weather hasn’t turned cold yet, but it will before we know it. Make sure the young people in your community are prepared for the cold days ahead by participating in the Coats for Kids program. The cost of the coats is the same as last year, $16.25 per coat, $195 per case of 12. Order forms are at www.kofc.org/forms, and all the details on the program are at www.kofc.org/coats. And don’t forget that Coats for Kids is one of the Order’s Featured Programs — purchase and distribute a minimum of eight cases and you’ve fulfilled all four requirements in the Youth Activities category for the Columbian Award.

Spread the Light of Christ

The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ brought a great illumination of hope into the world. Councils, Knights and their families throughout the Order are invited to help spread the light of Christ on Dec. 4, by lighting a Nativity scene and/or Christmas tree at 8 p.m., local time. The ceremonial lighting of the Christmas tree is just part of the celebration; other activities can accompany it, such as caroling, collecting clothing and food for the needy, or serving snacks and refreshments to commemorate the event. If your council has not participated in the past, this is the year to start a great tradition and help spread the joyful tidings of Christmas. This celebration is a wonderful way to kick off the season and celebrate with brother Knights, family and friends. A poster is available (#2757) from the Supreme Council Supply Department to help promote your council’s event. For details, visit kofc.org/christmas.

‘The Posada — An Advent and Christmas Celebration’

The Posada is a traditional Christmas celebration that Franciscan missionaries developed in America with the goal of introducing the faith, and it continues to be popular throughout the southwestern United States and all of Latin America.

Councils can order the booklet The Posada: An Advent & Christmas Celebration (#9898-E, S) from the Supply Department. Through distribution of this booklet the Order hopes to bring the rich Posada tradition to all Knights and their families as a way of encouraging a sharing of cultures in the Americas around the celebration of the birth of our Savior.

This booklet provides all that is needed to conduct a Christmas Posada with your family and your Knights of Columbus council. Councils may wish to discuss with their parish pastor the possibility of making this a parish program. Copies of the booklet can be ordered by using a Requisition Form (#1) and mailing it or faxing it to the Supply Department.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS is open to men 18 years of age or older who are practical (that is, practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See. This means that an applicant or member accepts the teaching authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, aspires to live in accord with the precepts of the Catholic Church, and is in good standing in the Catholic Church.

SHORT TAKES
Getting Your Free Throw Championship Organized

First, order the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship Kit (FT-KIT). Use the order form at kofc.org/forms or in the Council Report Forms Booklet (#1436), or call the Department of Fraternal Services at 203-752-4270.

Schedule a date and location for the event. Contact schools, and community and youth centers to reserve a basketball court. January is recommended for council competitions, February for district competitions, and March-April for regional and state championships.

The Free Throw kit contains two posters (#1596 and #1686) to help your council promote the contest. Both include space to list the name and phone number of the competition’s contact person, date, time, location, and name of the sponsoring council. Obtain permission to display them in schools, youth, and community centers, and churches. Make sure that Free Throw Entry Forms and Score Sheets (#1598) are also available at these locations.

Pre-register contestants whenever possible. Enlist help from schools. Ask school superintendents, principals, and athletic directors to promote your championship.

See if schools will hold preliminary competitions as part of their intramural or physical education programs. High school athletes should be reminded to check with their state high school athletic association about possible eligibility conflicts. Don't forget to contact and invite the recreational and youth basketball programs in your community.

Immediately following your local competition, fill out a Free Throw Participation Report Form (FT-1) and either submit it electronically or print it out and mail it to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Services.

For more information on the Free Throw Championship, go to kofc.org/freethrow.

Shining Armor Award Leads to Council Success

After serving for two years as the co-director of membership growth for Council 13179 at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Concord, Calif., Dick Wilbur wondered if he could help his council more if he took a different position on member recruitment. It was June of 2011. The council had been designated a Double Star Council two years in a row and had approximately 175 members.

Wilbur had interviewed almost all of the new members that had been added during those two years, and he knew that almost all of them spoke often about their desire to help their families, the parish, the community, the Order and themselves.

His fellow veteran Knights pointed out that the Order’s outstanding insurance program could help the families of new recruits. And, if a new member proceeded through the Order’s four degrees as soon as possible, the new Knight could learn the valuable lessons of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism; thereby helping himself and others. However, they all realized that an important question that had to be answered was: How do we turn these new members into active members?

The answer came to them through reading Columbia magazine and Knightline. Someone remembered the article in which Supreme Knight Carl Anderson described the Shining Armor program as “a vehicle to inspire Knights to be more active.” Council officers met and decided the program would be an asset.

They immediately decided to contact, via telephone, every Knight in their council. They explained that the effort to qualify (which would involve helping out with three events, attaining the third degree, meeting with the supreme insurance representative and recruiting one or two new members) was voluntary. But, they emphasized that the participation would enable them to help those they wanted to help. Additional enthusiasm was generated when the district deputy presented a pin and a signed certificate to each of the qualifiers in a ceremony held during a council meeting. It would be impossible to mention all of the benefits the council realized from the Shining Armor program, but the following are a few examples:

- A total of 130 Knights helped with at least one event, and at least 75 Knights have helped with three events.
- At the state convention, Council 13179 received numerous awards including the State Deputy Award and a three-way tie for the Shining Armor Award. The district deputy also won an award for the most Shining Armor Awards given out in a district.
- This year, the council has qualified for another Double Star Award through their active new and veteran members.

Putting emphasis on this program can also help other councils throughout the Order achieve success during the 2012-13 fraternal year.

Submitted by Dick Wilbur—Shining Armor Director Council 13179
Too many people – especially too many children – go to bed hungry every night. Rising food prices and a stubbornly high unemployment rate make putting nutritious meals on the table every day beyond the means of many families. Fortunately, the Knights of Columbus is in a position to help.

The Order is pleased to announce a new addition to the Food for Families program that encourages councils to provide financial and volunteer assistance to community food banks and parish food pantries. Patterned after the successful Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP), the Food for Families Reimbursement Program offers rebates to councils that provide monetary assistance to food banks and food pantries. Councils can also qualify to receive an attractive wall plaque for providing manpower support.

For every $500 that a council or assembly donates to a parish food pantry or community food bank, the Supreme Council will refund $100, up to a maximum refund of $500 per council (based on $2,500 in contributions) per fraternal year. Columbian Squires circles can receive a refund of $20 for every $100 contributed. To qualify, councils need to complete and submit the Food for Families Reimbursement Program Report Form — available at www.kofc.org/forms — by June 30. The application must include documentation of all contributions made, such as copies of cancelled checks, copies of bank statements, or letters of thanks from the director of the food bank or food pantry.

In addition, councils that outline volunteer support will receive an attractive wall plaque in recognition of their participation in the Food for Families Reimbursement Program. Like the RSVP plaque, it contains space for date plates recognizing participation in successive years. Also like RSVP, once the plaque is full, an additional one will be provided.

And, as one of the Order’s Featured Programs, any council that collects and donates at least 1,000 pounds of food and provides a minimum of 100 hours of service to a food bank or food pantry has fulfilled all of the Family Activity requirements for the Columbian Award.

Knights of Columbus councils have been very generous in providing support to food banks and food pantries. In the 2011-12 fraternal year, councils donated more than 2,500,000 pounds of food and more than 300,000 hours of service to help feed hungry people. As valuable as donations of food are, the people who run food banks often say that contributions of money are even more valuable, as they allow the food bank to procure exactly the food items that they need. In addition, volunteer support to help sort food and perform other valuable functions is always needed.

In these difficult economic times even something as basic as putting food on the table is nearly impossible for some families. You and your brother Knights can help these people in need by conducting a food drive.

As an incentive for councils to conduct food drives, the Supreme Council will again count a qualifying Food for Families program as fulfilling all four of the Community Activities requirements for the Columbian Award. In order to qualify, councils must complete and submit the Food for Families form (available at kofc.org) by May 15. Here are some steps to follow when conducting this program.

- Contact a local food pantry or soup kitchen to ensure they will be able to receive the food. Also, determine if there are specific items that they need.

SEE FOOD PAGE 5
Corporate Communions:
An Expression of Unity and Fraternity

As a show of unity and fraternity, all Knights of Columbus council members and their families are encouraged to sit and pray together during Mass. These gatherings are often referred to as “corporate communions”. Corporate communions are a powerful sign of fraternal solidarity.

During the 2012-2013 fraternal year, each council is asked to organize at least four council corporate communions. These offer a great opportunity to increase the visibility of your council and to invite other parishioners to join in council activities. Corporate communions are often followed by coffee, or a parish breakfast or dinner, to allow members and their families to socialize. At the social event that follows the corporate communion, consider hosting a brief program that showcases the council’s contribution to the parish, or present a donation to parish ministries.

Consider the following weekends when scheduling a corporate communion at your parish:

- November 25, 2012 – Solemnity of Christ the King
- January 6, 2013 – Feast of the Epiphany
- April 7, 2013 – Divine Mercy Sunday
- June 16, 2013 – Father’s Day

Council officers should make arrangements with their pastor, schedule the event (and reserve any facilities) on the parish calendar, promote the corporate communion in the parish bulletin, and spread the word several weeks in advance. This will ensure that all members of the council can attend. With the pastor’s permission, council members and members of their families could fulfill all of the liturgical functions for the Mass – such as lectors, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, gift bearers, altar servers, and ushers.

A corporate communion is easy to organize, and it’s a great activity for your council to incorporate into its regular activities.

Keeping Christ in Christmas

Though the real meaning of Christmas is sometimes forgotten, it is refreshing to know that the Order promotes the “Keep Christ in Christmas” campaign to remind people that Christmas is above all a holy day celebrating the birth of Christ. To help deliver the “Keep Christ in Christmas” message, the Knights of Columbus offers these items and suggestions:

- There are three posters: “Check the List” (#4554), “Remember, it’s CHRISTmas” (#4555) and “Keep Christ in Christmas” (#2760) are currently available from the Supreme Council Supply Department. Offer these posters to local parochial schools, religious education classes and all local Christian churches.
  - Sponsor a “Keep Christ in Christmas” poster or essay contest.
  - Send Christmas cards with a religious theme and use Christmas postage stamps.
  - Offer to help your parish or a poorer parish prepare for Christmas through cleaning, repairing, or providing decorations or flowers.
  - Start a letter-writing campaign in November to area churches or local businesses asking them to construct a Nativity scene.
  - Urge all members to display a Nativity scene on their properties or businesses this Christmas season.
  - Submit a “Keep Christ in Christmas” advertisement to your church bulletin or local newspaper. Also include it in your council newsletter.
  - Don’t forget to broadcast the true meaning of Christmas with the Knights of Columbus television Public Service Announcement (PSA) titled “Remember It’s Christmas.” Personally deliver it to your local TV station. Order by calling 203-752-4044.
  - Radio PSAs on local stations deliver the message to listeners. The Knights of Columbus offers three PSAs: “Merry What?”, “Getting or Giving?” and “Need.” Order by calling 203-752-4044.

For more information visit the “community” section of kofc.org/service.
The Benefits of a Well-Run Meeting

A professionally conducted council meeting will help keep members engaged, informed and interested, and can help a council become stronger.

When a grand knight examines the “How to Conduct a Council Meeting” brochure (#1937) he sees the most efficient way to conduct council meetings. The meeting format is approved by the Board of Directors and intends for all meetings to be conducted in such a manner.

Have the meeting set up with the grand knight at the head, the deputy grand knight at the opposite end, and the chancellor and warden flanking. This fundamentally forms a cross and brings our Savior into the meeting. The grand knight is the executive officer and is the chairman of the meeting. A grand knight needs to be familiar with Robert’s Rules of Order in order to conduct an efficient and professional meeting. These two basics will help the council grow, conduct its business in an efficient manner, and be able to keep its members engaged in the process.

Simple rules for council meeting conduct:

- Stand and address the grand knight, and wait for his recognition.
- When a motion is made, make it in the form of a motion rather than a question. For example: “I make a motion that the treasurer’s report be approved as presented.”
- Once a motion is made, before any discussion of the motion, there must be a second.
- Only after a second has been received will the grand knight then ask for a discussion.
- All comments or questions are addressed to the grand knight, who will determine if additional details are needed; questions are not asked of one member to another.

Meetings that ramble or fall off topic have great difficulty in conducting business effectively. Council officers and members want to make sure that business is conducted; for the good of the council, and also, to not waste their time. Start meetings on time. Have pre-planning officers/chairmen meetings to handle logistics. Building a program during a meeting is not effective. Don’t make up your own rules, follow Robert’s Rules. Be sure to set the meeting room prior to the meeting.

Here are some strategies that successful councils employ in planning their meetings:

- Plan a year-long events calendar and keep everyone informed.
- Plan council activity for 12 months per year (starting and stopping is too hard).
- Meet at times convenient to most members to ensure greater attendance.
- Utilize the council chaplain and be sure to have a spiritual component to the meeting.
- Pre-plan a fraternal benefits night to inform members about their benefits.
- Communicate with all means available:
  - Newsletters
  - Parish Bulletins
  - Emails
  - Council web page
  - Social Media (refer to Supreme Council Social Media guide)
- Utilize the lecturer for informative meetings.
- Prepare a meeting agenda for both new and unfinished business; be sure to know who will make the presentation(s).

Remember, great meetings lead to great councils.

The Gift of Mobility

The ability to leave or enter one’s home with ease is something many people — especially those who use a wheelchair — never know. Members of Fitchburg (Mass.) Council 99 gave the gift of mobility to a 9-year-old boy with cerebral palsy (who uses a walker and a wheelchair) and his family when they installed a ramp making the home accessible. After several rounds of surgery he can move short distances with a walker, but climbing stairs is another matter. His mother can no longer carry him to the school bus in the morning. Looking for a solution, she contacted 25 organizations, but all of them turned her down for one reason or another. Then, the Knights of Columbus stepped in and contributed both the $6,000 for materials and the labor needed to build the ramp for their home. In an article by Alana Melanson for the Sentinel & Enterprise.com, Council 99 Grand Knight Dan Cucchiara said of the council’s work and the boy’s reaction: “His smile alone is worth more than words can say. He can actually wheel himself out to the bus and has access to going in and out of his home without having to wait for a family member to assist. He has finally found a new freedom.”

Has your council conducted an outstanding project like this?

If so, we’d like to hear about it. Please send information on your project (including the when, where, what, who, why and how of the activity) and photos to knightline@kofc.org. If you have any questions about sending in photos, call us at 203-752-4264. In addition, if you think your council has an event or program that is an outstanding example of one of the six “Surge … with Service” categories – Church, Family, Culture of Life, Youth, Community or Council – let us know. We would like to produce a listing of upcoming events that we can pursue for possible promotion with local media and/or for use as a feature article in one of our publications. Please send a brief description of your upcoming event (one or two sentences about the project), with the date, location and contact information to knightline@kofc.org or call 203-752-4264.

Members of Council 99 assist a 9-year-old boy in utilizing the newly built wheelchair ramp at his home.
Always Have Your Camera Handy — you never know when a good photo will present itself at a Knights of Columbus event.

Composition: When composing your photo make sure that there are no distracting items in the background (i.e. a flag appearing to come out of the top of someone’s head), that the central figures are not in shadows or oddly lit (use your flash, even outside, if necessary and keep in mind the limited range of a flash).

Submitting Photos: Generally, newspapers and other media (including the Knights of Columbus publications) will accept photos via e-mail. They should be sent as separate attached jpeg files and not embedded as part of a Word document. Photos that are sent embedded in other files or through a third-party online photo service often cannot be downloaded at a high enough resolution. Images should be at least 5.5 inches wide with a resolution of 300 dpi or greater. The greater the resolution, the better the image will reproduce in print. Be sure to include caption information in the e-mail. Also, Do Not Send Photos From Phone Cameras or Polaroids. Both of these produce photos that are too poor a quality to print well.

Here are some other Do’s and Don’ts:

Do . . .

Take a photograph of the program or item that the funds your council raised helped to purchase: children with coats, students using new computers, Knights dishing out food, etc.

And, Do . . .

Get close to the action. When you think you’re too close, move a bit closer. People’s faces are perhaps the most interesting part of a photo; they should be prominent.

Do . . .

Wear your Knights of Columbus gear! If your members have T-shirts, aprons or other items printed with the emblem of the Order, encourage them to wear these items at your events. But don’t send photos with embedded information such as smaller photos or wording on them (including date and time-stamps), or collages of photos.

Other Tips . . .

Action photos illustrate the activity. Photos of people lined up in rows staring back at the camera are not action photos and do not depict all of the ways the Knights are active in the parish and community. Similarly, photos of check presentations, “grip-and-grins,” or the “line up” may be easy to arrange, but are not very imaginative. Show readers how your council is helping people through the funds you’ve worked so hard to raise; don’t show them a signed check. Limit the number of people in each shot and, as we’ve said before, avoid the grip-and-grins. But if you absolutely must, at least make sure the K of C branding is prominent!
Knights of Columbus Insurance: Your Shield for Life.

‘I Want to Think About It’

While no one would argue against making a thoughtful decision, there are reasons not to delay. The most common, and troubling, reason is health. More specifically, the fragile nature of our health.

For most items you seek to purchase, all you need are the funds to buy what you are looking for. When you are car shopping, you decide what car you want and can afford, and the next question the salesperson asks is: How do you plan to pay for this? We ask that same question when you purchase life insurance from us, because we only want you to buy what you can afford. But we continue our questioning from there.

Because you need more than money to buy life insurance. You need good health as well. So we inquire about the current state of your health.

The nature of life insurance is such that only acceptable risks can be added … to protect the integrity of the pool of insureds. Accepting just anyone, regardless of health and life expectancy, would cause premiums to skyrocket, making the products fundamentally unaffordable for everyone and certainly problematic for reasonably healthy people. So a change in your health could cause you to be denied needed coverage — and sometimes permanently denied that coverage. That’s one of the dangers of “thinking about it.”

While you think about it, the unthinkable can happen. Out of nowhere, a sudden change to your health can occur. As I’ve written before in this column, no one will ring a bell for you the night before your health changes. It often happens quickly, and without warning. Consider the number of times in your own life when you’ve heard of someone who was plugging along just fine until…. you can fill in the blank.

So I recommend that you think about it while we think about you. Get your application completed, send it in and let our review begin. Should you change your mind — which, considering the value, is unlikely — there are plenty of opportunities to stop the process. But while you and our agent are together, and everything appears to be OK, a delay could change everything. Think about that.