

Amador *Knights*

January 2026

Volume 60

Division 2

District 8

IN SERVICE TO ONE, IN SERVICE TO ALL

The Gospel in Her Image

The miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe continues to proclaim the truth of the Incarnation and call people to encounter Christ

Nearly 500 years ago at Tepeyac Hill — in the northern part of what is now Mexico City — an extraordinary encounter took place that changed the course of history. The year was 1531, just 39 years after Christopher Columbus discovered the New World and 10 years after Hernán Cortés conquered the Aztec empire.

On Dec. 9, the Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin, a recently baptized Indigenous man, asking him to deliver a message to the head of the newly erected Diocese of Mexico, Bishop-elect Fray Juan de Zumárraga of the Franciscan Order. The bishop prudently questioned Juan Diego's words and asked him to request a sign from the Queen of Heaven.

Two years earlier, tensions had escalated when the bishop-elect and the clergy denounced the abuse of the Indigenous people by some members of the regional government. The disagreement became so intense that an assassination attempt was made on Zumárraga. He survived and later wrote a letter to King Charles V, lamenting the dire situation in Mexico: "If God does not provide the remedy from his hand, the land is about to be completely lost."

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Minutes of the December Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM on December 9 by Grand Knight Waverly. Guest DD Morris was present at the meeting. The Recorder, Trustee one year and Trustee two year were excused. Roll call followed our Chancellor leading us in prayer. The Warden led the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes from November were approved as written.

Membership Report

Several potential candidates are prayerfully considering membership. An exemplification may be scheduled in January.

Grand Knight Report

The cook was thanked for the delicious dinner. Brother Strazzo was thanked for chairing the Christmas party, and all those who helped make the night special were also thanked.

Treasurer Report

Checking account balance - \$7,599.83

Financial Secretary Report

Income –

Dinner - \$50

Giving Tuesday bar Income - \$640

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December Meeting Minutes**Continued from page 1:****Bills –**

Giving Tuesday bar supplies - \$125.72 Matt Powers
 The nights dinner reimbursement - \$50 – Brother
 Gonzales. Hospitality Sunday - \$166.64 Brother
 Simpson. Christmas party and dinner supplies -
 \$181.25 Brother Strazzo.

Communications

No communications this month

Programs Director Report

Donut Sunday is hosted by the council on the first
 Sunday of each month after the 10:00 AM Mass.
 Volunteers are needed to coordinate, help set up,
 serve and clean up. There was a recap of Giving
 Tuesday. The recitation of the rosary is scheduled
 for the Tuesday before the first Wednesday of each
 month at 5:15. There was a recap of the Christmas
 potluck party. The Fish Fry is scheduled for Febru-
 ary 7. Tickets will be for sale after all masses and
 dedicated support is needed at the tables. There
 was a recap of the Advent celebration.

Unfinished Business

Safe environment, life scan completion is in pro-
 gress.

New Business

The Pro Life Ministry is asking for a \$500 donation
 to support the cost of the bus for The Walk For Life.
 It was M/S/A to provide \$500 for this worthy cause.

Chancellor Report

No report

Insurance Agent Report

No report

Vocations Report

No report

Fourth Degree Assembly

Meetings are in Placerville on the fourth Thursday of
 each month, and attendance is growing at meetings.
 A Fourth Degree Exemplification is scheduled in the
 Spring in Elk Grove.

District Deputy Report

DD Morris gave a brief report including the Chapter
 meeting in Marysville on November 15 was attended
 by Brother Ragusano. A pamphlet with a QR code on
 it was provided to the GK to replace Form 100's.

Good of the Order

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Al Shindler
 and Mathew John Blanch. Pray also for, Joyce and Jim
 McGee, Lynette Headings, Jaqueline Henss, Kate Tras-
 sare, Cathy Burr, Deacon Jaime, John Edwards, and Fr.
 Arlon.

Lecturer Report

There was a presentation by the Lecturer.

Chaplain's Summation

The meeting was closed in prayer.

GK Waverly closed the meeting at 7:49.

Respectfully submitted by David Sanders

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But on the morning of Tuesday, Dec. 12, 1531, God — through his mother — did provide the requested sign and remedy: the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe imprinted on Juan Diego's *tilma*, or cloak. This miraculous image prompted massive conversions among the Indigenous people, who immediately recognized in it a long-awaited message of divine origin. Missionaries at the time estimated, with amazement, that at least 5 million people converted within just four years of the apparition.

As the 500th anniversary of this encounter with God approaches in 2031, the Knights of Columbus continues to renew and expand its longstanding devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe. This devotion is expressed in union with the universal Church, which is currently observing a nine-year intercontinental novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe initiated by Pope Francis in 2022. This historical moment is not merely an opportunity to commemorate the past, but to reinvigorate the Church's evangelizing mission by imitating Mary's spiritual motherhood.

In a similar way, Mary's image — unpainted by human hands and rich in cultural and theological symbolism — is not simply a token of a past miraculous event; it is a living, present image of God's covenant of love with humanity.

Msgr. Eduardo Chávez, postulator of St. Juan Diego's cause for canonization and a foremost expert on the Guadalupan event, explains that, more than just a Marian apparition, "the Guadalupe event was, and contin-

ues to be, an encounter between God and mankind through the most Blessed Virgin Mary."

Through the tangible sign of the *tilma* — bearing the miraculous image of Mary carrying Jesus in her womb — God continues to communicate a message of love, hope and faith that people can see, understand and receive. Wherever the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is sincerely venerated, God is glorified and made manifest.

"Mary, by her motherly and merciful figure, was a great sign of the closeness of the Father and of Jesus Christ, with whom she invites us to enter into communion," said St. John Paul II in the apostolic exhortation [*Ecclesia in America*](#). He recognized the Guadalupan event as "an impressive example of a perfectly inculturated evangelization," because it is rooted in an encounter, not only with Mary, but with the incarnate Word she carries and reveals.

The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe presents a visual narrative of salvation history. Integrating imagery from sacred Scripture and the Indigenous peoples' understanding of the universe, it conveys the essence of the Gospel — from the Incarnation of the Lord in Mary's womb to his victorious resurrection.

The event and image represent a mode of evangelization based not only on preaching or catechesis, but on encounter, on symbol, on beauty — and above all on the maternal presence of Mary.

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And the Church continues to reflect on this Marian model of evangelization today. In its recent document [*Mater Populi Fidelis*](#) (The Mother of the Faithful People of God), the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith affirms that Mary's motherhood is "joined to the salvific mystery of Christ as an instrument willed by the Father in his plan of salvation" (15).

The document further notes that "Eastern Marian iconography, as a *kerygma*" — that is, a presentation of the core Gospel message — "seeks to be a visual translation of the titles that are uniquely applied to the Virgin." Mary does not compete with Christ, but "is inserted into the mystery of Christ through the Incarnation." This is clearly the case with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe as well. It, too, is a *kerygma*, a visual translation of the gifts bestowed upon Mary, especially that of being the Mother of God and mother of all the living. It is an image that evangelizes.

This is precisely what Our Lady of Guadalupe told Juan Diego, as recorded in the *Nican Mopohua*, the earliest written account of the apparition: "I am truly your compassionate mother, yours and all of the people who live together in this land, and all of the other people of different ancestries, those who love me, those who cry to me, those who seek me, those who trust in me."

Guadalupe is the image of the Mother of God — whose motherhood extends to all humanity. Though Pope John Paul II declared Our Lady of Guadalupe pa-

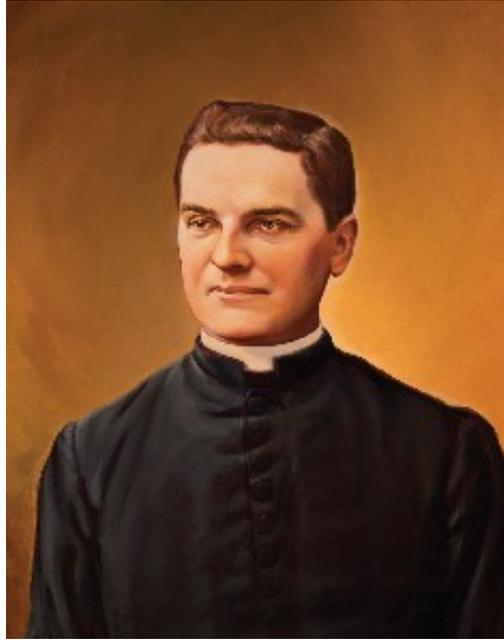
troness of the Americas and elevated her feast day for the entire hemisphere in 1999, her message has always transcended geographic and cultural boundaries.

Her blessed image is not a devotion reserved for one people. It is a living proclamation of the Incarnation — a visual echo of the Word made flesh, offered again and again to all who seek to see and believe. This is why countless people have found hope in her image, and why, in her silence, many have heard the call to conversion.

The growing interest in and devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe is deeply tied to the Church's mission today. In a world wounded by sin, increasing division, and distrust, Mary's motherhood and maternal guidance to Christ — best articulated and expressed in the maternal love of the Church — reminds us that God does not approach us through fear or domination, but through love and invitation.

Recognizing her enduring role in evangelization and her patronage throughout the world, Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly led the Knights of Columbus in [renewing its consecration](#) to Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2023 at her basilica in Mexico City. "Our Lady inspires us and guides us in all of our efforts — especially those for the sake of the unborn and the most vulnerable," said the supreme knight on that occasion. "We take constant solace in knowing that she is here, she who is our mother."





Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney Founder of the Knights of Columbus God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Officers of Council 1849

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Spiritual Advisor Deacon Jaime Garcia

Deputy G.K. Phill Gonzalez

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Warden Jacob Schmidt

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Field Agent Art Aguilar

All Council Officers can be reached by email. Use the first letter of their first name, the entire last name, followed by: @kofc-1849.org

Sample: mkoenig@kofc-1849.org

January Calendar of Events

Sunday, January 4: Knights Donut Sunday at SKD after the 10 AM Mass.

Tuesday, January 6: Rosary on KVGC Radio at SKD at 5:30 PM.

Wednesday, January 7: Planning Meeting at St. Patrick's Hall at 6:00PM.

Tuesday, January 13: Business Meeting at Saint Katharine Drexel at 7:00 PM. Dinner at 6:00 PM.

Amador Knights Reporter: David Sanders, phone 209 245-3482, email Dsanderson@kofc-1849.org, Editor and Publisher: Joe Trassare, phone 916 296-9557, email jtrassare@kofc-1849.org

Published Monthly. All news items may be emailed to news@kofc-1849.org. Photos need to be jpeg, set at no less than 150 dpi, and no larger than 800kb; send photo files to news@kofc-1849.org. @Amador County Council 1849 Knights of Columbus, January 2026, P.O. Box 1436, Sutter Creek, Ca 95685

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