



## First Tuesday Update...FTU...September 10, 2024

*Blessings on the day of "apostle selection". Each day we ask the Lord to grant us the Grace needed to be one of His select to serve Him and His family. And speaking of family...our opening message today is from a beautiful reflection of our blest Spiritual Leaders...Dames Jennifer and Julie. WHAT A TEAM. When we asked for their monthly FTU they sent over this wonderful, heartfelt writing. They wondered if it was too personal. We ALL should be so personal in serving our Lord.*

*When we first saw the title, we thought.... what a great one for us! As October is our time to "let go" and have our "new beginnings". In their article you can feel the heartbeat of excitement and yet a sense of sadness. Things will be changing, this is life but when our lives are "cocooned" in the love of Christ, each day brings joy even when happiness may be on the shelf for a bit...JESUS ONLY YOU (JOY) is eternal. After you read their words, say that prayer again for yourselves. Joe/Connie 🙏*

### "LETTING GO AND NEW BEGINNINGS"



Prior to a Holy Land Pilgrimage in March of 2023, Julie and Jennifer's paths had barely crossed, on that trip they became fast friends. Little did they know God's plans for them to become the spiritual directors of the Las Vegas Chapter of the EOHSJ.

Here they are one year later...dropping off their precious children together at the same college in a completely different state at Texas Christian University. Who would have guessed? Julie and Jennifer are learning the Holy Spirit's path for them. What a moving experience they have had letting go of their children and trusting God to new beginnings.

Most of us know someone in school this season, a student or teacher, sibling, child, grandchild, great grandchild, friend or other family member.

Let us ask God to bless each and every one of them this school year.

*"Lord our God, in Your wisdom and love You surround us with the mysteries of the universe. In times long past You sent us your prophets to teach Your laws and to bear witness to Your undying love. You sent us your Son to teach us by word and example that true wisdom comes from You alone.*

*Send Your Spirit upon students and teachers and fill them with Your wisdom and blessings. Grant that during this academic year they may devote themselves to their studies and share what they have learned from others."*

*Prayer From: Sisters of the Divine Savior*

Let us all share our wisdom and learn from others so that we may let go of what no longer serves us and open our spirits to the possibility of new beginnings.

~Dame Julie McIntosh-Walsh, DCHS

~Dame Jennifer Mallinger-McCormick, DCHS



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## Connie's Corner

As our tenure as Area Councillors is coming to an end, I have spent time thinking about the choices we make and how it can affect our lives and the lives of others. This has been an incredible 8 years. I can't believe it how quickly it has passed. When John Kilduff approached us with the calling to this "job" we were really in a state of disbelief. We were new to the order and there were definitely people with more knowledge and experience. He thought the Holy Spirit put us there for him.

So here we are and this the point I'd like to make, examining the choices we make in our lives. As members of our Order, we strive to be in the will of God. Do we always succeed, no, but, it is our goal. How do the choices we make affect not only ourselves but those around us whether we know it or not. We make hundreds of decisions each day. Have you ever thought if you had left home 5 minutes earlier you wouldn't have been stuck in traffic and been late for your meeting? What if when your friend needed to talk and because you had errands to run you didn't take the time to listen? I could name a thousand decisions we could examine, some trivial and some very serious. Taking the time to pray about those important ones and the small ones help us to keep in the will of God. We rush through life, but remember always a kind word, a helpful hand can change the life of someone we may not even know. It may cause a true ripple effect of being a light of Christ.

Saying yes to John's invitation was a life changing event. Yes, we prayed about it individually and together. We came to the conclusion that this must be what we were being called to do, very much like our invitation to join the Order. We had no idea why us. But we said yes and here we are. We have heard too many times what a wonderful job we have done as Las Vegas Area Councillors. Please believe me when I say we have received much more than we have given. I don't know if the Order or our love of the Holy Land would have meant as much to us as it does if we had gone a different direction. It has been life changing for us. Our spiritual life has grown leaps and bounds. We cherish the opportunity to lead others to our Order and discovering our Lords' homeland. We thank each and every one of you for your prayers and support. You have made our Council a "Council Standard" for others. But remember we aren't going anywhere; we are so excited to see what the Mersch's and our Council can do in the future. Las Vegas is just getting started following God's will.

~In His Service, Connie

**ROSARY...**We are all back and excited to reside in the Bishop Gorman HS Chapel, thanks to Sir John Kilduff, KGCHS! Our Rosary home is such a blessing. And what about YOU...have you been coming? Why not? Seriously, we have such a wonderful and rather short time (6:00pm Rosary and 7:00pm Goodies and Beverages and Each Other). Our Lady and Her intercessional powers from God give us the Grace, Peace and Blessings to do for others as the Lord would have us do for ourselves!

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**SHOW UP FOR MARY...** Mark your calendars for the weekend of October 27, 2024, the feast of Our Lady Queen of Palestine. This year, as Knights and Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, we encourage you to show your devotion to Our Lady Queen of Palestine, our Patron Saint, and to increase parishioners' awareness of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

We are inviting parishioners throughout the Archdiocese of Las Vegas to participate in a special Rosary 30-minutes prior to the start of Masses on the weekend of October 26/27, 2024. The purpose of this Rosary is to showcase devotion to Our Lady Queen of Palestine and implore her intercession for peace in the Holy Land, particularly significant as the one-year anniversary of the violence that occurred on October 7, 2023, and continues today.

Bulletin announcements are being provided to parishes with an invitation to "SHOW UP FOR MARY" with information and links to videos, including one featuring Bishop Gordon explaining the Equestrian Order and the significance of Our Lady Queen of Palestine to the Equestrian Order.

On the weekend of October 26/27, we encourage all Knights and Dames to attend a Rosary at their home parish, 30-minutes prior to the Mass, dressed in ceremonial robes. Robed and reverent, the participation of the Order will signify the immense devotion we have for Our Lady Queen of Palestine. From our experience, we have witnessed great interest and curiosity in the EOHSJ when people see our Knights and Dames in their robes. Following the Masses, in the narthex or courtyard, Knights and Dames will be available to greet or answer questions about the Order very informally. When explaining the Order to curious parishioners, focus on the following: the EOHSJ is the only institution of the Vatican State charged with providing for the needs of the Latin Patriarchate and for providing support of a Christian presence in the Holy Land. We are a Papal Order. Further, Knights and Dames are called to support each other in our individual quest for personal sanctification. Be sure to verify your parish is participating in the Rosary before you attend in your robe.

We and a handful of Knights and Dames are in the continual process of informing Pastors of the feast day Rosary. If you would like to join in this effort by just approaching your Pastor, please let us know.

Blessings,

~Sir Franklin Mercera, KHS

~Dame Rosemary Mercera, DHS

[mercera@gmail.com](mailto:mercera@gmail.com)







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**JUSTICE & PEACE... AN UPDATE ON LIFE IN THE WEST BANK...**In a typical year 1.5 million tourists visit the city of Bethlehem. Now, it's a ghost town where average citizens struggle to earn a day's pay. Cabdrivers barely bring in enough money for a pack of cigarettes.

Since October 7<sup>th</sup>, Israel has instituted 700 new movement restrictions in the West Bank. Barricades and new checkpoints lengthen travel times, prevent people from going to work, and block access to stores they used to frequent. At most, kids go to school two days a week.

National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir stated, "The right to life for Jewish residents in the West Bank is more important than the freedom of movement for residents of the Palestinian Authority. I expect that there will be more and more checkpoints, that there will be restrictions. Our enemies do not look for excuses, our enemies just want to harm us."

~Sir Ray Murphy, KHS J&P Leader

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST SIR DEACON STEPHEN MELANCON, KHS...**



We all celebrate the Ordination of our newest Deacon Stephen Melancon, KHS! He and our Bishop Greg Gordon, KC\*HS, as well as other members celebrated this most blessed event!

Deacon and his wife, Dame Betsy, are devoted and blessed members of our Council for many years and they are true leaders in the Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit and excellent role models to all they meet and love.

They underscore our theme... *This is WHO we are...and this is WHAT we do.* 🙏

**MEMBER ENGAGEMENT..." SYMPATHY" & "PRAYING FOR YOU" CARDS SUB-COMMITTEE**

This is just a reminder to our Las Vegas Council membership to please notify me via email or phone if/when you become aware of the need for either of our cards to be sent to any of our members. Our Sympathy Cards are sent to any of our members who experience the loss of a family member or loved one, and our Praying for You Cards are mailed to any member who is experiencing a hardship, illness, or any other kind of distress and is in need of our prayers.

I can be contacted at [tkral@kralussery.com](mailto:tkral@kralussery.com) or text 608-852-4566.

We've learned, from hearing from our members, how much these cards mean to the recipient. Just knowing that our entire membership is praying for us, helps us get through life's difficult times.

~Dame Tracey Kral, DCHS

**2025 NOMINEES...WE NEED THEIR NAMES NOW...**the clock is ticking down and if you have folks you believe would be good "Invitation" Catholics for our EOHSJ...PLEASE TELL US NOW...we have a team of 4 to get the 2025 Candidate's interviewed and informed. The M&M's.... Mersch's and Micatrotto's are available. One of your duties as Dames and Knights is to bring forth those you feel may be ready for the Holy Spirit's calling to the Order. This Council has become a phenom of member and spiritual growth because of YOU and your FELLOW members taking it upon themselves to bring forth members of God's family to become a member and serve in this Papal Order. And to our Bishops, Priests and Deacons...you carry a special blessing by fulfilling this duty for the work of God. Contact us now...PLEASE and full of GRATITUDE...

~James/Julie/Connie/Joe



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**MENTORING INITIATIVE**...To all Knights and Dames of our Las Vegas Council! This year, I'm heading the "Mentoring Initiative," a sub-committee of the Member Engagement and Enhancement Committee.

I am asking for volunteers to serve as a mentor to one of our 14 newly-invested members this year, beginning immediately after their investiture in October and continuing for one year, as needed. As mentors, we make them feel welcome to our council, introduce them to fellow members at our monthly rosaries, MYM's, summer retreats, answer any questions they may have about the Order and/or our Council projects and most of all, make them feel integral to our Council. Also, it's an opportunity to make a new friend!

So far, the following Knights and Dames have volunteered:

Knight Dave Barton / Dame Debby Barton  
Knight Norman Jolicoeur / Dame Temmie Jolicoeur  
Knight Norman Ho / Dame Elena Ho  
Dame Victoria Enriquez

You can send me a text at 808-358-2276 or email me at [elenavho53@gmail.com](mailto:elenavho53@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you and God bless!

~ Dame Elena Ho, DCHS

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT** ...Knights and Dames, it is my pleasure to spotlight Knight Chaplain Fr. Daniel Rolland of the Order of Preachers, also known as the Dominicans.



Fr. Daniel is the Director of the Newman Center, a fully functioning Church with daily Mass, Confessions, Bible study, music ministry, spiritual direction, etc. on the campus of University of Nevada Las Vegas. During his nine years as Director, he has led the students and the surrounding community in creating a prayerful presence on campus, particularly by commissioning a jewel box of an Adoration Chapel, which I love to visit. Fr. Daniel and the Newman Center also host a Medieval Feast every January to celebrate St. Thomas Aquinas with feasting, festive performances and a crowned King and Queen chosen from the larger Catholic community. In a beautiful symmetry some of our Knights and Dames have been crowned Kings and Queens of the Feast in the past.

Fr. Daniel has also brought staged play readings (one directed by yours truly), haunted houses, game nights and barbeques to the students – giving them a home away from home as they grow in Catholicism. In the 9 years that I've known Fr. Daniel, I know of a conversion story per year where a student has essentially wandered into the Newman Center and eventually become Catholic. This is amazing but not surprising. Before his time at UNLV, Fr. Daniel was in campus ministry at Arizona State University, University of Arizona, University of Oregon and Utah and Stanford. Thus, 28 years of his 31 as a priest are in campus ministry.

In fact, Fr. Daniel was born and raised in Arizona with three brothers, one of his brothers is now a priest of this Archdiocese. Fr. Daniel also has a ministry within the Dominicans called Spiritual Magic. Simply put, Fr. Daniel uses magic to create wonder about our Catholic Faith. I've seen him illustrate God's mercy with an empty jar that keeps replenishing with water somehow and teach about forgiveness with knot tricks.

It was one of my joys to co-sponsor Fr. Daniel into the Order with Dr. Elizabeth Fildes in 2022. He has been a great friend to me, and I am sure he will bring the magic of God's loving heart into your lives as well.

~Dame Ruth Palileo, DCHS



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**FIAT UPDATE...FIAT #1...DECEMBER 1-18, 2024...BARNABAS TRIP...** okay, what is going on now? We have a new update, as the war continues to delay Pilgrimages and progress of many events, we have decided that the FIAT Initiative is too important to allow time to erode previous progress but we also need to be able to securely move folks in their roles. We have decided, along with Deacon Rick Minch, to make a special BARNABAS trip (he was known as the apostle of Encouragement and Love). So, we will be on assignment for just under 3 weeks to revisit, rekindle and reinvigorate the many wonderful aspects that have assisted us in building the FIAT program including Hogar Ninos Dios, Antonia Charitable Services, 3 Kings, Beit Jala Seminary, Franciscan Boys Home as well as visits with the Latin Patriarch and Franciscan Custos.

We hope to have videos and possible podcasts as well as extensive reports to all. We are thrilled to have Dame Denise Scalzo, our Holy Land Councilor, visiting Jerusalem at the same time we are in Bethlehem. Her guidance and assistance will be huge. This is a great opportunity to “walk the talk” of our Council and Lieutenancy. It is our prayerful hope that not long after this St. Barnabas trip we can solidify the first FIAT as well as usher in Holy Land Pilgrimages in the following year.

Hmmm....I see Melinda,  
Alan, Quennie and Bob  
...all wrapped in  
FIAT LOVE at HOGAR..



A few years ago  
...he can now do  
this to Joe!



Two words at THE birth site  
....LOVE & HUMILITY....

This is the real  
“Look of Love”  
....at ACS



A Cardinal and a Connie  
...this is a PAIR!!!



**YOUR LINKS TO THE HOLY LAND...** The program still has openings for participants who would like to pray for and uplift residents of the Holy Land. Please contact Dame Madalyn Dornak, DCHS, if you would like to participate. Email: [mddornak@mac.com](mailto:mddornak@mac.com) Cell/Text: 702-493-0124





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### PILGRIMAGES SPONSORED BY THE LV COUNCIL!

**\*HOLY YEAR ALL ITALY...March 17-29, 2025...SOLD OUT...**phenomenal time in Rome, Assisi, and Florence, featuring day trips to Orvieto, Lucca, Pisa and Siena. Holy Year Masses at the four major Basilica's of Rome and a visit to EOHSJ Headquarters at the Vatican. A blessing to be led by 3 Spiritual Leaders: Bishop Higgins, KC\*HS, Fr. Roy Kurian, Deacon James Carabajal, KCHS.

**\*NEW...PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE...in the Footsteps of St. Paul...November 2-15, 2025.** Includes a Greek Isle Cruise and early Christian Communities. This magnificent Pilgrimage will soon be posted with travel details but already includes the following...Athens, Thessaloniki, Philippi, Delphi, Mykonos, Santorini, Ephesus, Rhodes, Corinth, Patmos and more! If interested now please email, space very limited.

**\*HOLY LAND AND JORDAN/PETRA...March 1-15, 2026...**this amazing pilgrimage will include Galilee, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Kerak, Petra and incredible sites throughout. Look for more info soon.

**\*FATIMA, SANTIAGO, LOURDES...15 DAYS...April 12-26, 2026...**this blessed Pilgrimage includes Lisbon, Porto, Oviedo, San Sebastián, Toulouse and more. Pricing and registration begin June 1, 2025. Space is limited.

**PLEASE NOTE...**all of these Pilgrimages will be coordinated by Joe/Connie Micatrotto and operated by CTC. You may place your name on the "INTERESTED" list, which gives you priority now but has no financial commitment until actual registration, for Pilgrimages 2,3,4. Spiritual Leaders will be announced for these by October FTU 2024.

### OUR DISCERNMENT STORY.... DEBBY AND DAVE BARTON



Debby and David Barton know Joe and Connie as members of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary church. So, in 2016, Joe and Connie invited Debby and David to the monthly Rosary at Bishop Gorman High School. They knew some of the people and were very impressed with how welcoming everyone was. Also, having shared common values and faith and doing some research made the decision to join even more compelling. Debby and David were invested in 2017 in Santa Barbara, California.

In 2018, they went on a pilgrimage to Israel, and Bishop Pepe was the Spiritual Director. Even though Debby and David had previously been to Israel, they were renewed in their appreciation of how wonderful the Holy Land is.

Debby and David were asked to lead the Member Recruitment, Engagement and Enhancement Committee. At the time they joined, there were only approximately 65 members, and after getting membership up to 100, Debby and David requested to just do Engagement and Enhancement, so there is a separate committee for Membership.

When Debby and David initially joined the Order, they met 65 new friends. In October 2024, in Salt Lake City, Utah, they were both promoted to Commander with Star. Congratulations on your promotions.

~ Dame Betty Boyd, DCHS



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**MID-YEAR MEETING DATES...THANK YOU ARCHBISHOP THOMAS, KC\*HS, PhD.** One of the questions we have consistently received during our eight years as your Area Councillors is, "how do you folks get such amazing support and commitment from your Bishops?" We are blest because they LOVE the Order! We have four men led by our Archbishop who see the EOHSJ as the Papal Order it was and is meant to be, in service to the Lord's family...from our Auxiliary Bishop Gordon, KC\*HS to our retired but ACTIVE Bishops Higgins, KC\*HS and Bishop Pepe, KC\*HS.

Think of this...these Bishops have accompanied us on four Pilgrimages to the Holy Land, with more on the docket! And no one is better than our Archbishop when it comes to future planning, even with his BUSY schedule. Below are the next four years of dates for our Mid-Year Meetings (MYM). Please make note so you can avoid any conflicts! BLESSINGS TO YOU, ARCHBISHOP and thanks always to your superb assistant, Lisa Sifuentes!

Mid-Year Meetings (MYM) Schedule

2025.... March 13th

2026.... March 19th

2027.... March 11th

2028.... March 16th

All are Thursdays and start times are 4:00pm.

**LV COUNCIL BOOK CLUB UPDATE...** We've finished reading "**Helena**" a novel that Evelyn Waugh considered to be his favorite, and most ambitious, work--deftly traverses the forces of corruption, treachery, enlightenment, and political intrigue of Imperial Rome as it brings to life an inspiring heroine. In our discussions we learned that Waugh was primarily a Satirist. That didn't help his only novel. None of us became a fan of this book.

So on to our next book "**Don Quixote**" by Miguel de Cervantes. Originally published in two parts, in 1605 and 1615, and considered to be one of the best-selling books of all times. With its experimental form and literary playfulness, Don Quixote has been generally recognized as the first modern novel. Don Quixote in the company of his faithful squire, Sancho Panza, travel the world and their exploits blossom in all sorts of wonderful ways. While Quixote's fancy often leads him astray—he tilts at windmills, imagining them to be giants—Sancho acquires cunning and a certain sagacity. Sane madman and wise fool, they roam together-and together they have haunted readers' imaginations for nearly four hundred years.

Our readings and discussions have been a complete joy. None of us 'EOHSJ Book Club members' are literary giants ... we've learned that great literature makes you think, which leads to stimulating discussion. And we must add ... great fellowship and friendship.

Get '**Don Quixote**' and join us. Our next meeting is October 2nd. Call 702.523.3270, or email [jboughrum3@cox.net](mailto:jboughrum3@cox.net)  
~Sir Jeffrey Boughrum, DCHS

**WESTERN LIEUTENANCY WEB SITE...**remember, we do have a really good web site that can keep you up to date on so many aspects of our WL, the ORDER and the events of the other Councils. We do share our FTU with many folks but the larger picture of the Lieutenancy is best captured by staying in tune with our website at [www.eohsjwesternusa.org](http://www.eohsjwesternusa.org)





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Sir Joseph P. Micatrotto KC\*HS  
Dame Constance J. Micatrotto DC\*HS  
Area Co-Councillors Las Vegas  
Western Lieutenancy  
Equestrian Order of the Holy  
Sepulcher of Jerusalem  
702 325 6764 (Joseph)  
[Joemicatrottosr@outlook.com](mailto:Joemicatrottosr@outlook.com)  
702 325 5945 (Connie)  
[Cmicatrotto@me.com](mailto:Cmicatrotto@me.com)

## FINALLY...

ROMANS 8:35-39

I am not one to drop biblical quotes with such exactitude. But these verses rate in my top 10! They clearly and unequivocally lay the foundation of our Faith-Hope-Love...all in Jesus Christ. And, No one or Nothing past-present-future can separate that from us.

As we are in the second last "authored" FTU (Jim/Julie Mersch take the FTU this November!!), I was thinking of Bob Oehlman, KCHS and his passing and how much we all miss that smile, that look, that demeanor of LOVE. He and his loving wife, Pauline, were and are foundational souls for the work and love of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem. Always doing so with a quiet and beautiful elegance. Truly, his reward is abundant as he passed into eternity, Bob never asked for nor sought credit for his works in this life.

This "FINALLY" is not meant as a tribute to Bob...he would never ask nor desire such a thing. Rather, as I thought about a man who defined the word "secure and selfless" it was Romans 8 that says it best for us all, especially Pauline...*yes our temporary earthly home is separated from us and Bob, but what is now gained by Bob, awaits us all as faithful souls of our Lord and God.....*

Romans 8:39...*neither height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.*

In His Grace, Joy, Peace and Love.... Joe/Connie 🙏🏻✝️🏴‍☠️❤️❤️ .



## *In Loving Memory*

