

Good morning,

I'm Tom Madracki, a member of the Knights of Columbus here at Santa Clara. Approximately 10% of the men here at Santa Clara are members of the Knights. Our Pastor, Father Fred and Father Mike before him are also members of the Knights. There are currently over 15 thousand parish Councils in the United States with a total membership in the Knights of over 1.9 million Catholic gentlemen.

The Knights were founded by a parish priest in 1882, at a time when Catholics were persecuted and discriminated against. Father McGivney's first goal was to organize a group of men that could support and defend themselves, the Church and the clergy in those hard times. The second goal was to help the widows and families of the Catholic men who had died and had left their families penny less.

Most Catholics think of the Knights as the guys with the funny hats, carrying swords, who show up at confirmations, funerals and other formal church services. The Regalia they wear and especially their swords, are symbolic of the Knight's first goal to support and defend the Catholic Church. Here at Santa Clara, through our pancake breakfasts, burrito sales, fish fries and other fundraisers, we are able to support not only the parish, but other Catholic charities outside the parish. The Knights here at Santa Clara also sponsor two seminarians each year. You may have already guessed which seminarian I am talking about today.

The second goal of the Knights was to provide for the widows and families of fallen Brothers. This goal has evolved the simple "Pass the Hat" method to a major insurance program which allows the Knights of Columbus to provide inexpensive insurance, high yield annuities and other financial instruments to help members plan for their families' future.

The Knights also have a Chalice Program, which like the swords, is symbolic of this goal. The Knight's purchase gold chalices and have them engraved with the deceased Brother Knight's name, birth and death dates and the emblem of the order. These chalices are then presented to the widow and families at the deceased Brother's funeral Mass. These chalices are in turn

given to newly ordained priest throughout the world.

Last August, almost a year ago now, Brother Jack Swaving passed away. I presented an engraved chalice to his widow Mary and his family at his funeral Mass. It was their decision that the chalice be given to the then seminarian, Nicolas Thai. Since Nicolas had not been ordained, the chalice was safely locked away.

So here we are today, almost a year later. As the gifts are being presented, you might notice that there's a new chalice on the altar. This is Brother Jack's chalice being used for the first time here today at Mass. It is the hope of the family and his Brother Knights, that every time this chalice is used in celebration of Holy Mass, that Brother Jack will be remembered by name by the celebrant.

**'TEMPEST FUGIT MEMENTO MORI'** is the motto of the Knights of Columbus. This Latin phrase translates to **"TIME FLIES, REMEMBER DEATH"** which seems appropriate consideration how much time has passed since Brother Jack's death and the reason we're doing this presentation today.

Make this Fraternal Chalice Benefit available to your family. Consider joining the Knights of Columbus.