SK Derrick Andrade PGK

Faith, Family, Leadership, and Service

For SK Derrick Andrade, Past Grand Knight, the Knights of Columbus represents more than membership in an organization. It is a brotherhood of Catholic men united by faith, family, service, and a shared commitment to helping the Church, school, and community.

A Family Tradition of Service

Derrick is a native of the Sacramento area and comes from a family with a proud tradition of military service. His grandfather served during World War II, and the family has preserved a collection of German wartime artifacts as reminders of that important period in history.

This military heritage helped instill in Derrick a deep appreciation for sacrifice, duty, patriotism, and service to others—values that he continues to practice through his involvement with the Knights of Columbus.

Derrick dedicated more than 25 years to public service with the State of California, working in education and managing matters related to school finance. His wife, Amy, also served the people of California as state employees.

A Journey Back to the Catholic Faith

Derrick was raised Catholic, but after his parents divorced, he gradually became separated from the Church and his relationship with God.

His life began moving in a different direction after he married Amy, a devoted Catholic who has been a member of St. John Vianney Parish since childhood in 1976. Through their marriage and family life, Derrick rediscovered his Catholic faith and returned to God. This renewed relationship with Christ eventually inspired him to become more involved in the life of the Church.

His journey is a reminder that God never stops calling His children home. Even when someone has been away from the faith, the door remains open for healing, renewal, and a new beginning.

Answering the Call to Become a Knight

Derrick was drawn to the Knights of Columbus by its principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. He wanted to belong to a group of Catholic men committed to giving back and making a meaningful difference in the parish, school, and surrounding community.

His first Council officer position was Recorder. From there, he accepted additional responsibilities and continued developing as a leader. He eventually became Grand Knight of Blessed Sacrament Council 5322, serving two Columbian Years: 2018–2019 and 2019–2020.

The final months of his service as Grand Knight were affected by the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Events were canceled, normal Council activities were disrupted, and members faced uncertainty and isolation.

It was a difficult period for any leader, but Derrick understood that leadership was especially important during challenging times. He remained strong, encouraged his Brother Knights, and helped the Council continue moving forward despite circumstances beyond anyone’s control.

Serving Wherever Help Is Needed

Derrick's service has extended far beyond his time as Grand Knight. He has chaired and supported numerous Council programs and events, including the Parish Breakfast. Whether organizing an activity, volunteering behind the scenes, or encouraging others to participate, he has remained ready to help wherever he is needed.

In addition to his involvement with Blessed Sacrament Council 5322, Derrick has a passion for motorcycles and is a member of Knights on Bikes. Through this ministry, he travels throughout the Diocese of Sacramento and other parts of California to participate in church and community events, support fellow Knights, and strengthen relationships among councils.

One of Derrick's most memorable experiences was participating in a veterans parade in Petaluma with Knights on Bikes from the Dioceses of Sacramento and Santa Rosa. Another meaningful occasion was the San Pedro Portuguese Festa parade in West Sacramento, where his young son rode on the back of his motorcycle. The day concluded with dinner, joined by Lady Amy and their daughter, Mia. These experiences brought together several important parts of Derrick's life: family, patriotism, brotherhood, and service.

A Catholic Family Man

Despite his many Council responsibilities, Derrick remains deeply committed to his family. He values the time he spends with Amy and their children, Mia and Mateo, and is now experiencing another important family milestone as his children begins college.

Derrick believes the Knights should provide opportunities not only for members but also for their spouses and children. He would like to see the Council revive traditions and family activities that allow Brother Knights and their families to pray, serve, celebrate, and spend meaningful time together.

These experiences can strengthen marriages, build friendships among families, and help children understand the importance of faith and service.

Leadership Through Teamwork

As a former Grand Knight, Derrick understands that successful leadership depends on teamwork. A Council includes men with different backgrounds, experiences, personalities, and opinions. Leaders must be willing to listen, communicate, and work through disagreements while remaining focused on a common purpose.

Derrick values tradition and the lessons passed down by experienced Knights. At the same time, he recognizes the importance of embracing positive change, welcoming new ideas, and thinking outside the box.

For Derrick, progress does not require abandoning tradition. It means building upon the Council's strong foundation while remaining open to new ways of serving the Church and community.

A Message to New Knights

Derrick encourages newer members to become involved, take initiative, and be willing to try something new.

If a Knight has an idea, Derrick believes he should bring it before the Council, explain its value, and be prepared to take ownership of it. Leading a program or activity is an excellent way to develop confidence, learn new skills, and demonstrate leadership.

Most importantly, new members should not be afraid to step forward. They are never expected to serve alone. Experienced Brother Knights are available to offer guidance, encouragement, and support.

His message is simple:

Take initiative. Share your ideas. Try something new, and do not be afraid to lead. Your Brother Knights will be there to help you succeed.

United in Faith and Service

At the heart of Derrick's commitment is his love for the Knights of Columbus and its Catholic principles. He values the opportunity for faithful men with common beliefs to come together, support one another, strengthen their families, and serve those around them.

Through his leadership, volunteerism, public service, participation in Knights on Bikes, and dedication to his family, Derrick continues to demonstrate what it means to live out the principles of the Order.

His story reminds us that leadership is not defined only by holding an office. It is found in perseverance during difficult times, a willingness to accept responsibility, openness to new ideas, and the commitment to unite others around a worthy purpose.

Blessed Sacrament Council 5322 is grateful for SK Derrick Andrade, PGK, and for his continued example of faith, family, brotherhood, and service.

Vivat Jesus!