



The Silver Rose Arrives in Phoenix

As a week of Knights of Columbus events in Phoenix, including the 127th Supreme Convention, the Marian Congress and Guadalupe Festival, kicked off, there was a special presentation of the Silver Rose at Saints Simon and Jude Cathedral on Sunday, Aug. 2. A symbol of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the unity among peoples in the Americas, the rose had been carried over the course of months from Canada and through the United States.

The presentation in the Phoenix cathedral at the 9 a.m. Mass was the last stop on the long journey in the annual Knights of Columbus event known as the Running of the Silver Rose. The final destination of the rose, which is also a symbol of the Order's commitment to building a culture of life, is the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dec. 12.

The annual event began more than 40 years ago by members of the Columbian Squires, and members of St. Mary's Squires Circle 5000 in Phoenix presented the rose during the opening procession of the Mass Aug. 2.

Celebrating the Mass was Father Paul Sullivan, director of vocations for the Diocese of Phoenix. He told the congregation that the rose, which was placed before the cathedral's large image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, was "a sign of our commitment to the protection of all human life."

The Silver Rose will be a part of the celebrations at the Guadalupe Festival on Saturday, Aug. 8, when some 17,000 people are expected to fill the Jobing.com Arena for an afternoon and prayer, song, testimonies and intercultural exchange.



Supreme Chaplain Bishop William E. Lori blesses the congregation with a relic of St. Juan Diego's tilma at the conclusion of a Mass for the K of C Board of Directors Monday, Aug. 3. In front of the altar stands a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe that accompanies the relic.

Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Tilma Relic

It is a "Heavenly Portrait," "A Miracle that Changed History," and a window into the heart of God. What earthly object could possibly meet such a description? The tilma, or cloak, of St. Juan Diego, which is imprinted with the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary, under her title of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

A small, thumb-sized portion of that will be featured at the 127th Knights of Columbus Convention, as well as at the Marian Congress and Guadalupe Festival that follow this week in Phoenix. The tilma relic will be part of various liturgical processions and be made available for veneration by the faithful.

Throughout this convention week, the transnational reach of the Knights of Columbus and the unifying message of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be woven together in talks, images and presentations, as the Knights continue to underline the truly

Catholic roots of the American hemisphere.

In the Ballroom foyer, a large display tells the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the tilma. The tall, eight-panel display has attracted the attention of the hundreds of convention delegates and their families, many of whom had not known the full story of the encounter in 1531 between the Blessed Mother and St. Juan Diego.

The panels of the display present historical information about the Guadalupan event as well scientific evidence that points



A family looks at an exhibit on Our Lady of Guadalupe in the Ballroom Foyer.



to the miraculous nature of the image. One panel tells the story of the tiny tilma relic, which is the only known portion taken from the original tilma that exists in the United States. It is encased in antique silver and glass and held by a chain that is draped around the neck of a 17th century statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The tilma relic is on loan to the Knights of Columbus from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, which received it in the 1940s from the Archdiocese of Mexico. It is normally on display in Our Lady of the Angeles Cathedral in Los Angeles.

An Oasis of Peace

As the pace of the Knights of Columbus Convention picked up, with more delegates registering and filling the venues along with their families, a small oasis of spiritual sustenance was opened on Sunday.

The Adoration Chapel, a simply decorated converted meeting room a short walk from the main corridor of the convention center, is available for anyone to stop in for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. The chapel is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day through Friday during the Supreme Convention and Marian Congress.

An honor guard of two Fourth Degree Knights in regalia sit on either side of the tabernacle, taking one-hour shifts throughout the day.

“The Sir Knights are really proud to take part in this spiritual part of the Convention,” said Arizona District Marshall



Arizona State Deputy Herbert J. Maddock presents an image of the Holy Family to Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson during a Board of Directors breakfast Aug. 2.

Kevin McCarthy, who was heading up the Fourth Degree participation in the chapel. “There are a lot of flashy and more public events, but what goes on in this chapel is every bit as vital a component. Our spirituality is the foundation of who we are as Knights.”

More than 30 Fourth Degree Knights from the John H. Reddin Province were filling the shifts before the Blessed Sacrament, along with Fourth Degree Knights visiting from jurisdictions throughout the United States and Canada, McCarthy said.

Amid High Temperatures, Volunteers Provide Warm Welcome

When delegates come through the front doors of the convention hotel, passing from the broiling heat to the air-conditioned

lobby, one of the smiling greeters they meet is T.J. Shope. Wearing a straw, wide-brimmed cowboy hat, the 23-year-old Knight has a handshake, words of Southwestern hospitality and information for the delegates and their families seeking to connect with their groups. He even offers help with baggage.

“I get a lot of comments,” Shope said about his cowboy hat. “They say that they want to buy one as long as they’re here in Arizona, especially the people from the eastern United States.”

“I’m part of the welcoming committee, just helping out, answering questions, telling people how to get around, where to find things, whatever they need,” said Shope, who is deputy grand knight of St. James the Apostle Council 12375 in Coolidge, Ariz.

He is one of more than 400 Arizona volunteers, who stand out among the crowds with their blue vests emblazoned with the K of C emblem on the front and the word “Volunteer” on the back.

“They do a little bit — or really quite a lot — of everything,” Arizona State Deputy Herbert Maddock said of the volunteers. “From moving cases of donated water from the back dock, to picking up members of the Church hierarchy at the airport, to organizing tours and the Monday night entertainment, our volunteers are involved from the beginning to the end.”

It has definitely been a “team effort,” said Maddock. “Arizona is really proud to host the Supreme Convention for the first time ever, and we definitely want to give everyone the best experience possible.” ♦

Tuesday, Aug. 4

7 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Noon - 8 p.m.

8 a.m. - 9 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

1 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

Arizona State Council Registration,
Ticket Sales and Tour Information

Official Registration of Delegates,
Supreme Secretary’s Office

Concelebrated Opening Mass

Adoration Chapel

Open Business Session

(Open session, families invited)

States Dinner

East Registration Desk

Sonoran Salon C and D

Grand Saguaro Ballroom

Desert Conference I

Grand Saguaro Ballroom

Grand Canyon Ballroom