

## City of Angels Blog 2012-2015: Raw Notes

*Ongoing coverage of pedophile priest crisis in Catholic Church*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2014

### RIP Ken Kosiorek



Ken Kosiorek, who died July 29, had a contagious mania, a frenetic response to everything in life. Ken grew up in a Catholic orphanage in upstate New York and apparently his internal rage and passion about children's rights originated with abuse he survived at the hands of nuns in that institution. When Ken found City of Angels Blog online in 2009, he drove up from San Diego to take me to a Catholic Church I went to as a child so I could take pictures.

Ken is infamous among pedo-priest survivors for producing the purple t-shirt that says "I was molested by Dirty Filthy Catholic Clergy." On the back it reads, "Would you let a nun / priest babysit your kid?" A big hit among many of us.

He's remembered with joy in the community that's grown up around off-road motorcycle competitions. One Facebook obituary said:

*Racers Who Care was in the midst of planning a Quick Tips on Winning in Life presentation for Ken Kosiorek to make to kids in the greater El Cajon area*



near where he worked when news arrived that Ken Kosiorek had very sadly passed away.

His message to kids was: "Dream it, Then Do It. Value yourself, value your time. Value that time to teach others. Always be nice to everyone and never litter the earth." He recently designed and published a comic book/coloring book for kids describing his racing experiences entitled "Las Aventuras de la Tortuga in Baja."

July 6, 2011 El Cajon, California

### 'Baja Turtle' visits Boys & Girls Club in El Cajon

By Britney O'Donnell FOR THE EL CAJON COUNTY CALIFORNIAN

Monday, June 24, Ken Kosiorek, otherwise known as "The Baja Turtle," packed up his dirt bike and gear to visit the busy Boys & Girls Club located in El Cajon.

Boys and Girls Club in El Cajon provides kids with a safe environment for them to interact and relax to just be kids. Open to children from ages 6-18, the fees for the club are low enough for most kids to be a member and there are interactive activities for the kids to participate in.

Kosiorek, who grew up riding dirt bikes on a farm in New York, said he did not start racing until he was 50. He said at that time he needed a new thrill so he decided to take on the task of solving the Baja races that occur in Mexico every year.

He earned his name the "Baja Turtle" by arriving last in many of the Baja races. This is a huge compliment, he said, considering he accomplishes the race on his own, while the other race contestants are a part of a team.

Around 100 kids lined the bleachers in the gym at the Boys & Girls Club to hear about the exciting man who came to visit with his big motorcycle.

Gorges Darra, an 8-year-old boy who attends the club on a regular basis, had a few curious questions for Kosiorek concerning his exciting hobby.

When asked if he now wants a motorcycle, Gorges said, "My mom wouldn't let me have a motorcycle, it's too expensive."

Kosiorek kept the kids engaged by sharing exciting information regarding his bike and his fun hobby. He encouraged the kids to save money in a piggy bank, to use all the proper gear when riding and staying in school because education is vital to helping make dreams come true.

"Everything is math related in life," said Kosiorek. "Learning math is very important."

Kosiorek, who raced in 12 different races, eight of them in a row, received nine trophies, said what is unique about the license plate on his bike is that he rides his bike to the race, will finish out the race and then ride his bike back home.

"Whatever you start, finish it because you can do anything you want in life," he said.

"When he is not speaking to kids about making their dreams come true or riding his motor cycle, Kosiorek is an industrial sales engineer at Airgas in El Cajon, a gases, welding and safety company.

Kosiorek said he usually speaks to children in L.A. for the Racers Who Care Inc. program but was asked if he would like to speak in a local area closer to him.

After agreeing, he was shocked to find there were so many kids and that they responded to him in such a positive manner.

"The kids were so excited and interested, I was expecting them to be bored after 15 minutes, and I was pleasantly surprised," he said.

After his motivating speech to the kids, Kosiorek took the motorcycle outside and started it so the kids could hear the intense sound the motor made.

Ken Kosiorek with 8-year-old Gorges Darra, a member of the Boys & Girls Club in El Cajon.

He was one of the founders of the Baja Cancer Foundation, through which funds are raised and gifts collected for kids suffering from cancer.

Ken worked as a sales engineer for Airgas, which distributes industrial, medical, and specialty gases, welding supplies, safety products, and tools. He studied marketing and sales at San Diego State University, and served five years in the U.S. Navy."

He often came in last in competitions and heartily embraced the nickname given him, The Baja Turtle!

Ken Kosiorek died while on a motorcycle trip near San Diego July 29.

His t-shirt lives on forever.

In honor of Ken's take on life, City of Angels Blog feature "We Are All Made Of Stars" by Moby as the best song we can think of to play to remember Ken.