



THE KNIGHT CHATTER

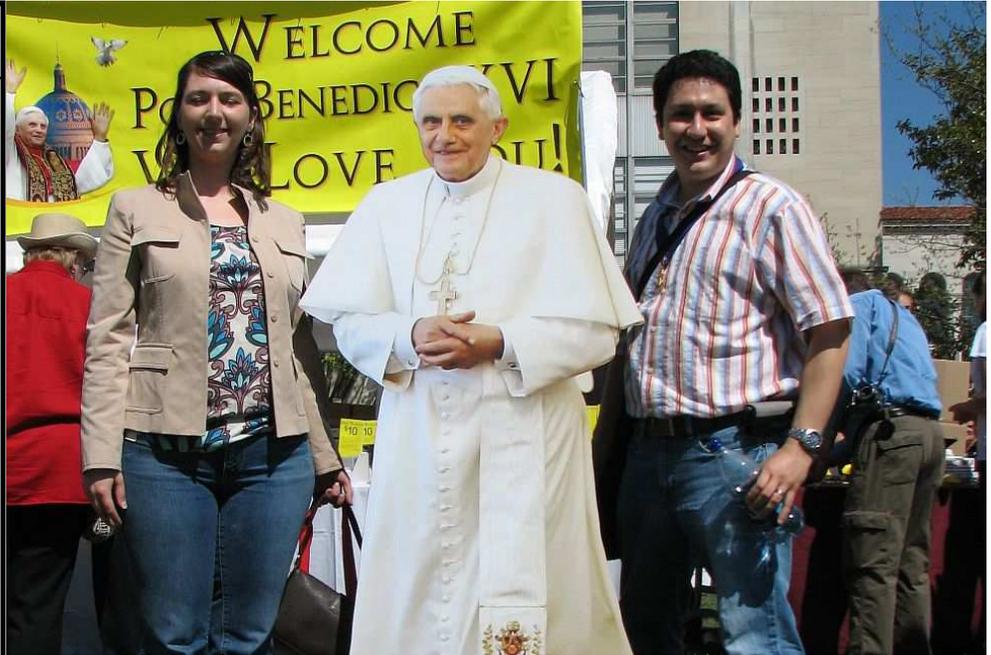
June 2008

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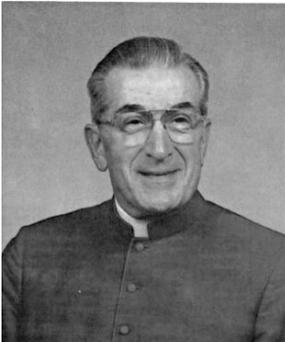
Fist Lady Leslie and Grand Knight Antonio Ibáñez were at Catholic University to welcome our Holy Father, Benedict XVI. Although they actually did not see him this close, they have multitude of photos of him taken both at CU Campus and at Nationals Stadium.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

REV. MSGR. VINCENT S. GATTO, KHSH

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

ANTONIO M. IBÁÑEZ, GK



Chaplain Gatto

Dear Knights,

It has been said that there is nothing new under the sun. This may be true when it comes to fads and fashions, cultures and traditions, longings and desires in the human heart, but whoever believes this theory applies to the whole of life does not know Christ. All things are made new in Christ. Through Christ, a new presence of God came upon the earth. With Christ, the world and our understanding of life

are transformed. In Christ we become a new creation.

We must never become so accustomed to the Eucharist that we begin to lose our understanding and value of it as a unique presence of Christ in the Church. It is the source and summit of our faith! The gift of Christ's Eucharistic presence may be two thousand years old, but its impact on us is ever new. The reality of every individual life becoming renewed by Christ in the Eucharist is ever unique, holding the promise of our own resurrection and eternal life in heaven.

God Bless you,
Monsignor Gatto

My Brother Knights,

I can hardly believe it, but this will be my last message to you as Grand Knight. On June 30, my term expires, and I assume the coveted title of Past Grand Knight. Although the Columbian Year is almost over, our activities will continue, and the month of June will be quite busy indeed.

On June 7th, the Anniversary Dinner will take place. This will mark 70 years of Columbian excellence for Rock Creek, and you are HIGHLY encouraged to attend. There is a flyer in this issue with more information, but several dignitaries, including State Deputy Edgar Haynes and His Excellency Rev. Martin Holley, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, will be among those attending. This is as big an anniversary as Rock Creek has ever had, and I would love for all of you (or as many of you as the Hall will fit) to attend.

On June 28th, the Workers Party will take place. This is my party, my way of saying thank you to all of you who have helped me run the council over the past year. The exact time is still to be determined, but those of you who have helped me through the year

(Continued on page 2)



Grand Knight Ibáñez



DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

Tom Schneider, PGK, PFN - District Deputy # 18

Thank you! Thanks to all the Knights, wives, and children of all ages that have made the last two years a pleasurable adventure serving as your District Deputy. The District Deputy position has often been called the best job in the Knights. I could not agree more! I had a chance to met really wonderful and dedicated people. My special thanks go to my Grand Knights for the patience in working with me throughout the past two years. Soon, I will be bringing a new District Deputy to Council meetings and introducing him to your Councils. You will be more than pleased with whom the State Deputy-Elect selected for this job and I know that you will support him as

you supported me. As for myself, I will assume the position of President of the Bishop McNamara Chapter of Grand Knights. Another job, another challenge!

I also intend to give more support to my Council, Mater Dei 9774, by serving as a guard and running the Council's community programs.

I can only say thank you to my lovely wife Julie for her assistance throughout all the years I have served as a Grand Knight, Faithful Navigator, and District Deputy. Thank you Julie! And to all of you, I wish you the best of fortune throughout your future years in the Order.

May God bless you and your families!

May God bless America!

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

will be receiving an invitation in the mail with all the details.

I regret that we fell short of some of my lofty goals this year. I think that Rock Creek is an excellent council with brother Knights of the highest quality, and I think we are Star Council material. While we did not achieve this elite status this year, I have every confidence that we will in the future. Our class of new recruits this year was younger than any I can remember. We have implemented some new administrative and management techniques to allow us to better communicate with our membership. And we are continuing to adapt our programs and offerings to appeal to men of today: Men with families in one hand and Blackberries in the other, men long on goodwill but short on time. These are our brothers, our neighbors, our friends at church, and it is by targeting these men that we will find success.

My year as Grand Knight has challenged me in nearly every way imaginable. Having final responsibility for all the goings-on of the council has given me immense respect for all of you who have worked so hard through the years to keep it going. I have learned that most jobs are far more difficult than they sound, and I have learned that success never happens without quite a bit of hard work. But in spite of all the challenges, I believe now more firmly than ever in the purpose and promise of the Knights of Columbus. We

are not subject to the same overt discrimination that our earliest brothers had to contend with in Fr. McGivney's time, but our faith and our values are still under attack. The studies recently released now show that many of us Catholics are losing our faith as we enter adulthood. These battles must be joined, brothers, and more than just for an hour on Sundays. The world needs voices of faith and reason. The world needs men to stand up for morality and fairness in our society. The world needs the Knights of Columbus, and we need every eligible Catholic man to become one of us.

Although my term of office will expire in another month, my dedication to this council and our Order will continue. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve you as Grand Knight for the past year, and I hope our council is better for it. I believe that Rock Creek's finest days are yet ahead, and I will continue to work to make it so. Vivat Jesus!

Ladies Auxiliary Report

By Jennie P. Morris, President

Greetings to All!

The Teachers Appreciation party held on May 2nd was a great success! There were more attendees than there have been for several years. We were delighted that Msgr. O'Donnell, Chaplain Emeritus for Rock Council, could join us; he was the one who originated this very deserving acknowledgment of our church school teachers nineteen years ago. We congratulate all the teachers who were chosen from their respective schools and special kudos go to the Teacher of the Year, Teresa Overly of Holy Cross. We are so appreciative of all our teachers! I would also like to express my thanks to the ladies of the Auxiliary who provided dinner type items for the buffet and stayed to clean up afterwards. They are a great group!!

The last meeting of the Auxiliary for the 2007-08 year was held on Tuesday, May 13th. It is customary to choose a slate of officers for the coming year at this meeting. When asked, Emelia Aragon and Jennie Peternell Morris agreed to remain in their positions as Treasurer and President, respectively, for the next year.

Discussion followed about our going to the Butterfly Exhibit at Brookside Gardens in early June. It is an open invitation to any Knights or their ladies to join us; just give me a call at 301/530-0210.

The ladies will be holding their year-end dinner, also in June, to which the husbands are always invited. This event has been held at the Promenade Restaurant for the past several years and we hope they can accommodate us again. A date has not as yet been selected but the Telephone Callers will let the members know date, time and place as soon as these items have been finalized.

Have a wonderful Summer! Stay well! God bless!





PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES REPORT

By Peter and Mary Ann Ferrigno, Pro-Life Chaircouple



Peter & Mary Ann Ferrigno

Some of you, as I did, may have received a letter from Jay Alan Sekulow, Chief Counsel of American Center for Law and Justice. He stated, "Although a majority of Americans abhor the practice of partial-birth abortion – and Congress passed a ban against it – and the President signed it – and the Supreme Court of the United States upheld it,

pro-abortion members of Congress raced to introduce a so-called "Freedom of Choice" Act, which would totally reverse the decision of the people, the Congress, the President, and the Supreme Court".

First of all, you may ask, "Who or what is this American Center of Law and Justice"?

They are an organization dedicated to preserving religious life and liberty in this country. They were involved in the initial writing of the federal law banning partial-birth abortion. No sooner did the Supreme Court approve this banning, the

ACLU, Planned Parenthood, N.O.W., NARAL, Pro-Choice of America, the National Abortion Federation, to mention a few, went to work on this Freedom of Choice Act, bills H.R. 1964 and S. 1173. If passed, "that would mean a return to the torture-murder of countless babies", says Jay Sekulow.

Dana Cody, Executive Director of Life Legal Defense Foundation, reminds us that Planned Parenthood is being sued for covering up a statutory rape case in Ohio. This is the case in which a 21-year-old soccer coach, raped and impregnated a 13-year-old girl, then forced her to have an abortion at a local Planned Parenthood mill. In Ohio, the law indicates that the parents of any child requesting an abortion must be notified. Also, the authorities must be notified if any minor who has been made pregnant by an adult, and is having an abortion, about this obvious statutory rape.

Ms. Cody says that they are in need of some financial support to continue this lawsuit to pay their attorneys. If anyone is interested, their mailing address is Life Legal Defense Foundation, P.O. Box 2105, Napa, CA 94558 or you can learn about them at www.lldf.org.

I am sure that they would be happy to hear from you.
God Bless

CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORT

By PGK Peter D. Ferrigno, Church Activities Director

At the request of Msgr. Donald Essex, Pastor of St. Jane F. de Chantal Parish, the Knights of Rock Creek Council and members of the Color Corps of Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly once again participated in the Corpus Christi Procession after the 12:00 noon Mass on Sunday, May 25th.



PGK Peter Ferrigno

A rehearsal, which, being out of town I was not able to attend, was held the preceding morning, Saturday, the 24th of May. The Mass was celebrated as usual and then concluded with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to an altar erected outside between the church and school buildings. An added reason for rejoicing was Father Pius Pietryzk's First Mass and Benediction since his recent ordination.

As in the past, the members of our Council and members of the Color Corps were given the honor of leading the procession.

The recent visit of Our Holy Father, Benedict XVI, seem to have caused a great deal of buzzing. At the distribution of communion, during the Nationals Park Mass, a number of priests have been accused of distributing the Sacrament to pro-choice Catholic politicians (Sen. Edward Kennedy, Massachusetts Democrat; House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, California Democrat; Sen. Christopher Dodd, Connecticut Democrat; and Sen. John Kerry, Massachusetts Democrat).

It seems that Washington's Archbishop Donald Wuerl believes that he should not supersede the authority of an individ-

ual's home church bishop.

Then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now our pope, told American bishops in 2004 that pro-choice Catholic politicians "should first be privately admonished to cease their activism on the abortion issue and then if there was no change, to refuse them the sacrament". With no disrespect intended, I wonder what part of the word "refuse" some of the bishops do not understand.

Credit should go out to Cardinal Edward Egan, of New York, for publicly chastising former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani for taking Communion during an April 19 Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. I can see why some of our fellow Catholic brethren could be confused when church leaders do not support and enforce the rules for receiving Communion or when they treat them merely as suggestions.

If our bishops and priests are hedging and the Catholic colleges and universities are altering the meaning of the teachings of Christ, it would seem easy to understand what may be happening in America.

God Bless.





NEWS FROM SUPREME

HISTORIC FOURTH DEGREE
HONOR GUARD FOR
POPE BENEDICT XVI AND
PRESIDENT BUSH AT THE
WHITE HOUSE

The first visit to the United States by Benedict XVI as Pope, also marked a historic first for the Knights of Columbus. During Pope Benedict's April 16 meeting with President Bush at the White House, 30 Fourth Degree Knights in full regalia provided an honor guard for the ceremony. It was the first time the Fourth Degree stood in formation for a pope and president at the White House.

"We take this, first and foremost, as a supreme honor to be here for this historic event," said Joseph P. Schultz, supreme master of the Fourth Degree. "We are greatly honored that we would be chosen for such an honor, and I think it's a sign of the high regard that is given to the Knights of Columbus as a whole."

The White House ceremony took place in the Rose Garden. The Fourth Degree was also scheduled to take part at the Masses in Washington's Nationals Park and Yankee Stadium in New York, as well as at the pope's departure ceremony at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

"This is an event that all our Sir Knights will remember for the rest of their lives. Many had tears in their eyes," said Vice Supreme Master Ralph Rossi, who headed the honor guard. "We were representing the entire Order of Knights in this historic event. Being on the White House lawn, so close to the president of the United States and our Holy Father, we were totally overwhelmed with emotions. We were in awe."

State Deputy-Elect Siejack at the Princess Royale Atrium thanking people gathered to congratulate the New Administration



Maryland State Council News

The **Maryland State Convention** was the place to be in May. Brother knights from the entire State of Maryland filled the Princess Royale Hotel. Besides the various meetings and scheduled official activities, there were others especially prepared for our Ladies, and for our children. This was an election year and Brother Richard Siejack was elected for the position of State Deputy, beginning July 1st. The other Officers were also elected to the immediate higher position, so, Peter Davio will be our new State Secretary, Bill Kuchmas our new State Treasurer and Steve Adamczyk our new State Advocate. Finally, Brother Steve Cohen became our newest State Officer when he was elected State Warden.

Congratulations to the newly elected Officers of the Maryland State Council.

McNamara Chapter Of Grand Knights

The McNamara Chapter of Grand Knights meets every month, with many of the State Chairmen and Chair Officers in attendance to help and advise Grand Knights and Council officers to achieve their individual goals.

The June Chapter meeting will be held at Our Lady of Fatima Council # 6901, in Barnesville, on Wednesday 21. At this opportunity there will be elections for next year's officers.

For more information contact GK Tony Ibáñez.

Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly FOURTH DEGREE

Our Assembly normally meets every third Thursday of the month at Fr. Rosensteel Council, #2169 at 8:00 pm, with the recitation of the Rosary of our Lady beginning at 7:30 pm.

The June meeting will take place on the 19th. For more details contact our Grand Knight, S/K Greg Curtin or FDD, PGK, PFN Larry Grayson.



REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, PFN

AMERICA AS A UNIVERSAL IDEA

America is more than a geographic entity extending from sea to shining sea. For Americans, as well as people throughout the world, especially the oppressed, it is the embodiment of a vision, an idea, a set of idealistic principles. Perhaps no one summarized more cogently and effectively what America stands for than Abraham Lincoln in his Address at Gettysburg:

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal... We here highly resolve that... this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.

The concept of a nation dedicated to liberty, equality and democracy, but subject to an Almighty Being, set forth the fundamental principles upon which America is based. The idea of a nation under God was not considered transitory or fallible. It was not deemed an opinion, but an absolute truth which no one could question and which was to remain the firm foundation of the American way of life. The elements of liberty and equality are in common with the central political tenets of Western Europe as they were shaped by Enlightenment thinkers.

The notion, however, of a sovereign God who reigns over nations as well as men distinguishes the religious principle of America from the laicist, often anti-clerical, tradition of Europe. In that philosophical approach, religion is a private concern and irrelevant to public affairs. The state and the society which it governs are at least agnostic, and in many instances atheistic. The laicist tradition does not simply advocate a separation of church and state, but promotes a secularism that frequently is anti-religious. The total focus for the political development of the state is centered on the rationality of man to the exclusion of the transcendent. Hence, ultimate sovereignty resides in the state which presumably reflects the will of the people. Since it is the state that defines the rights of the individual, those rights are provisional, as the state can rescind what it grants. The state's lead-

ers are bound by nothing higher than the will of the people.

This laicist concept of freedom is alien to America's belief in freedom under God. The political principles that have emerged from that belief – the idea that there is a universal moral law instilled in man by his Creator which underlies society, that the state is subject to that law, that government has a moral basis – is intrinsic to American society. As God has sovereignty over nations as well as over individuals, Americans recognize certain rights of man as inalienable because they were bestowed by that Supreme Being. These rights – although they may be ignored or violated – cannot be revoked by the state.



American Progress, John Gast, 1872: An allegory of Columbia leading settlers westward

While certain rights are considered inalienable, they are not unrestricted. Rather, they are to be regulated by a higher moral law. Human rights, as Pope Benedict XVI stated in his address to the United Nations on April 19, 2008, “are based on the natural law inscribed on human hearts.” The Creator implanted in the nature of man a moral prescription which is universal in its extent and is exercised through one's conscience. This was necessary so that people would utilize their freedom in a morally and socially acceptable manner. Indeed, America as a government of liberty under law could not be sustained if the people as a whole were not inwardly governed by the imperatives of that law. The nation's political leaders are also bound by that higher law, and must act accordingly even if the will of the people or the statutes of the state are in violation of it.

The Founding Americans believed so strongly in the view of a nation under God that the country's establishment was implicitly a prophetic and messianic event. Being committed to the future, they saw the Revolution as the beginning of a new age, creating a new civilization which would lead to a better world. With the recognition of self-evident truths about equality, liberty, inalienable rights and a sovereign God, America has viewed itself as something essentially new in human history. It has considered itself not just one nation at a given pointing time, but as a nation endowed with universal principles meant for all mankind. This has been reflected through America's history in its rhetoric and ambitions.

Thomas Paine, in his 1775 pamphlet, *Common Sense*, declared on the eve of the American Revolution, “We have it in our power to begin the world over again.” The nation's belief in its exceptionalism was evident in the arguments for Manifest Destiny in the 1840s to expand the country across the continent, and in the 1890s to extend America's territorial responsibilities overseas. In his 1925 Inaugural Address, President Calvin Coolidge said: “We made freedom a birthright. We extended our domain over distant islands in order to safeguard our own interests and accepted the consequent obligation to bestow justice and liberty upon less favored people.” President Franklin D. Roosevelt in his State of the Union Address in 1941 spoke of a world founded upon four essential human freedoms (of speech, of religion, from want, and from fear), and then promoted those values as universal through the United Nations. The idea that America has a special place in the world by offering freedom, opportunity and hope for humanity has led to the more recent efforts in nation building and in this country's interceding on behalf of oppressed peoples to help them replace despotic governments with democracy.

America's expressions and actions illustrate the extent to which this nation is committed to promoting the self-evident truths which its Founders codified as they sought their freedom from a distant monarch.



COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

19th ANNUAL TEACHERS APPRECIATION & AWARDS NIGHT



MS. EMILY SCHWERDT
HOLY REDEEMER



MS. DEBBIE WALSH
OUR LADY OF LOURDES



MS. SUSAN KIRKBRIDE
SAINT BARTHOLOMEW



MS. DEBBIE PALANK
SAINT JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL



SR. MARY ANN ADAMS, IHM
LITTLE FLOWER



MSGR. WILLIAM F. O'DONNELL AWARD
2007-2008 TEACHER OF THE YEAR
MS. TERESA OVERLY, HOLY CROSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



DALE GORDON OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD
MS. PATTY EDWARDS, LITTLE FLOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FRATERNAL BENEFITS

Sometimes it is easy to overlook the simplest of things.

Take the beneficiaries on your life insurance policies. If your policy was applied for and issued several years ago, it could very well be that the beneficiary originally designated to receive the proceeds from that policy needs to be updated. If you bought the policy when you were single, for example, you may have named your parents as beneficiaries. If you have since been married, that could be updated to reflect your spouse, and even your children. Most people list a primary beneficiary – that person is specifically designated as the first in priority to receive policy proceeds. We also encourage the naming of a contingent beneficiary – an alternate person designated to receive policy proceeds, usually in the event that the original beneficiary pre-deceases the insured.

When I call to arrange your annual “insurance check-up,” one of the matters we can discuss is the status of your beneficiary designations. If they need updating, and they often do, I can usually complete the paperwork during the appointment.

I look forward to meeting with you to review all your life insurance policies.

Fraternal Benefits Advisor
JAMES D. FINN, M.B.A.
301 - 262 - 4300



SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

We had seventy members and guests attend our "Country-Western" Party. This was a very disappointing as I had expected at least 100 to attend. Our Council has 600 members and only 5 attended this function to support our seminarians at Mount St. Mary's! Our last two Country-Western parties raised \$1,000 each, while this raised only \$400. we will add \$600 from our treasury to make it another \$1,000.

Many thanks to Darlene Coleman for helping me put this function together, PGK Wes Chin for the food, PGK Roberto Ibáñez for the Chatter ad, Jean Gordon for the flyer, Tom Locraft for handling reservations, Maggie De Bettencourt for the mailing and everybody else who helped. No one volunteered to chair this event! The band was great and all who attended had an enjoyable afternoon. We had three Priests and several Deacons attending.

We normally have a Cocktail Party in May, but again, nobody volunteered to chair it. I am running out of steam and can't keep doing it all, especially since I spend so much time in Ocean City.

On June 11th we will hold a "Summer Splash" as we did last year. Again, no one volunteered to chair this function. This will be a catered event and paid reservations will be a must! There will be a flyer.

In July we hold our traditional "Indoor Picnic." This is the one function which requires the most work. It will be up to our members if we can do it again this year. Call me if you can help!



PGK Bob Waters

Please remember Maggie De Bettencourt in your prayers. Do your best in supporting our Council's functions, and invite your clergy to come to ours, at no charge.

GOD BLESS AMERICA AND OUR MILITARY! PRAYER CORNER

In your prayers remember: Emelia Aragón, Eureka & Elizabeth Arcand, Bill Bartels, Tom Becker, Dom Bellia, William "Will" Bello, Larry Bisnett, John Bruce, Ray Celada, Jinny Chwirut, Maureen Collins, Maggie De Bettencourt, Barbara and Joe Dolan, Regina England, PGK Joe Falzon, Ed Flaim, Jane Frank, Marge Gallery, Lois Gargano, Katharine Giordani, Aurora and Bill Gordon, Art and Carole Hanley, Stacey Harim, PGK, Frank Hayden, PSD Gene Hogan, Marie Horan, Saunders Jacobsen, Fr. Matt Kiemman, Julia Marcus (Art Hanley's granddaughter), Birthe McCabe, James Marketos, our Chaplain Emeritus Msgr. William O'Donnell, John O'Keefe, Ralph Oviedo, Sr. Maureen Patrice, Anna Pitcher, Fr. David Pollak, George and Joan Reed, Bridget Shanahan Pat Siemien, John and Estelle Stoltz, Stephanie Suff, Ray Timm, Joselyn Walter Graham and Regina Walter, Barbara Waters, R. Joyce Waters, my cousin Bernice Wilt, Edwina Wittrock, Louise Young, Nick and Karen Zack and Fran & Frank Zello.

Pray for the soul of Ray Denniston, a long time work associate, and for Joan Marie McCloskey, widow of long time member Jack, and mother of 8 children, including Fr. John McCloskey



Council Leaders

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Rev. Msgr. Vincent S. Gatto - 301-762-2143

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ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

June 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 70th ANNIVERSARY DINNER
8	9	10 Executive 7:30 pm	11 SENIORS Cocktail Party 12:00 noon	12 Rosary 7:30 Business Mtg. 8 pm	13	14
15 FATHER'S DAY	16	17	18 K-C CLUB 7:30 PM	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Social at 8:00	27	28 WORKERS PARTY

July 2008

29 St. Peter & St. Paul Apostles	30	1	2	3	Independence Day 	5
6	7	8 Executive 7:30 pm	9 SENIORS Indoor Picnic 12:00 noon	10 Rosary 7:30 Business Mtg. 8 pm	11	12

Anniversary & Birthday Receptions, Weddings, Meetings

Rock Creek Council's

CANTREL BALLROOM



Excellent location near the Capital Beltway, just north of NIH.
Ample free parking

For more information call

**Rentals Manager
301-530-0258**



THE KNIGHT CHATTER

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**July/August CHATTER Deadline:
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