



THE KNIGHT CHATTER

July/August 2009

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SENIORS HAVE FUN AT COUNTRY WESTEN DANCE



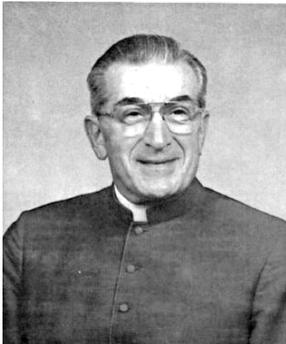
The Seniors had fun at their third Country Western Dance on June 14, 2009. Proceeds are used to support a seminarian at Mount St. Mary's Seminary. Seen here are some of the young-at-heart surrounding Father Kyle Ingels. The Seniors Report on page 11 contains more information.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

REV. MSGR. VINCENT S. GATTO, KHSH

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

JOHN VIVIAN



Chaplain Gatto

Dear Knights,

Two of the people in the scriptures with whom many of us can identify are Peter and Paul. Peter is remembered among other things, for his denial about his relationship with Jesus. This came just before Jesus experienced the terrible time of His trial and crucifixion. Paul, when he was still known as Saul, was known for his murderous acts against those who believed in Jesus. Both had

checked pasts, and yet both went on

to become remarkable saints. Jesus built His church on the rock of Peter's faith, and appeared personally to Paul to call him to be an Apostle, who would go to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles.

These saints teach us what God has in store for us in the midst of our human condition. God's love for us was not destroyed by our first parents' sin. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches us that "after the Fall of Adam and Eve, God buoyed them up with the hope of salvation. It tells us that God promised redemption; and that He has never ceased, from that time, to show His

(Continued on page 2)

Worthy Brothers:

I wish ask each of you for your prayers for our Council for the new Columbian Year. I am humbled to be your new Grand Knight, the latest of a long line of Knights who have served with honor and dignity in the preceding years. I hope to continue the success of the Council with the help of those Knights in long standing and with the help of those who are new to the Knights. You are all invited to our Installation at St. Bartholomew's Church on the 26th of July after the 12:00 Mass. Reception follows at the Council home, about 2:30.

I particularly wish to thank Joe Doniger, PGK, for his efforts last year in achieving progress on several fronts and upon which I would like to build this year. Notably, we had a great recruiting year with the addition of over 75 new Knights to our ranks. We have added a number of young new Knights with significant talents and varied backgrounds. We rejuvenated the Family program with a number of family nights and activities. We added

(Continued on page 3)



Grand Knight Vivian



PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter and Mary Ann Ferrigno, Pro-Life Chaircouple



Since my last writing: the Conscience Protection Act, thankfully, has not been rescinded; Kathleen

Sebelius unfortunately has been approved as Head of the Department of Health and Human Service; President Obama has nominated Judge Sonia Sotomayor to be a Supreme Court Judge and Dr. George Tiller's life has been ended.

It is scary to think that some are saying that Judge Sotomayor may be pro-life and that we should not offer resistance to her approval for Supreme Court judgeship. I am not sure where this remark comes from other than something from Rush Limbaugh; however, it seems that there is evidence to the contrary. "The New York Times in 1992 described her as a top policy maker on six court cases as a strong supporter of

abortion rights". She was quoted as asking lawyers to do pro bono work to make up for the then lack of funds for lawyers to fight laws prohibiting federal funds from being used for abortions. Judge Sotomayor when serving as chairman of the litigation committee of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund was very much in favor of abortion on demand. Finally, why would President Obama put up her name for a Supreme Court Judge, knowing that he is so pro-abortion. Shame on you, Rush Limbaugh. It is not unusual for strong proponents of abortion to extend their support for the thousands of babies' lives one has murdered. Dr. Tiller boasted of his 60,000 killings, though I am sure that he may have used different words than that which I am using now. When Dr. LeRoy Carhart of Omaha, Nebraska, one of Dr. Tiller's abortion doctors, compared his death to that of Martin Luther King,

Alveda King, niece of the slain civil rights leader, stated that the statement was very offensive and wrong. As a pro-life advocate, she has claimed that abortion is a "racist, genocidal act". I

am sure that Planned Parenthood will refer this doctor as "saint-like". I am sure that it is a matter on which side of the fence you stand. Some of you readers may ask, "Which is worse, to kill Dr. Tiller or to kill 60,000 unborn babies". We know that any killing may be wrong, but what about the degree?

You can help the pro-life cause and have fun by coming to the *Summer-time Family Bingo*, which will benefit the Centro Tepeyac Pregnancy Aid Center. It will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2009, beginning at 6:00 P.M., at St. Jane de Chantal's Caulfield Hall (beneath the church), 9601 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. The event is cosponsored by the Respect Life Committees of Holy Cross and St. Jane de Chantal parishes. Food, including hot dogs, chips, ice cream sundaes, and sodas will be available at family friendly prices. There will be cash prizes for each card game, and will include a First Prize of \$100 and Second Prize of \$50. Come One, Come All. We need your support.

God Bless.

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

community activities with events for the first responders and activities such as the beach party. It will be a hard act to follow.

I would like to state my personal goals for the Council for this year. In order to achieve these goals we will all need to renew our commitments to the Knights and look for ways each of us can help. For those who have been inactive, I am asking for your help so that we can have a successful year.

Service – It is important that we look to expanding our service in new ways which will be fulfilling to our members and valuable to the Church, community, families and youth. I have appointed Rob Mercer as the Programs Director who will be assisted by our new Program Managers. We will focus on providing additional hands from both the seasoned and new Knights. I am tasking the Program Managers to be available after each 1st degree to solicit help from the new recruits, as well as from the recently inducted Knights.

Accountability – Many of you are aware of the issues with the Council's finances. We will be stressing accountability by presenting a budget at the next business meeting. This budget will rely on cost control to ensure funds are spent wisely and on increased revenue based on raising additional funds.

In particular:

- We will improve the sale of Car Raffle chances, from which the Council receives 60%. Last year's top council in Maryland sold 22,000 of tickets. We can do better than that.
- We will promote the sale of KofC Christmas cards. Last year, the winning council sold 225 boxes, a pitiful number which we should be able to beat.
- The Tootsie Roll drive, although not a Council fund raiser, will be stressed from the Service aspect.
- Finally, we will improve Lounge revenue by promoting external events and by changing the method for the social aspects after meetings.
- We will improve financial reporting to the Council by providing financial reports from the Lounge and from Council, with a summary of revenues and expenses for the month.

I invite any Knight with ideas to participate in our Executive Committee meetings on the Tuesday before the business meetings. These open meetings are where the major planning takes place for the Council. This is your Council. Make it better.

I look forward to this being a great year for the Council.

John Vivian, JK



Remember Our Sick and Deceased

As reported at the May 28, June 11 and 25, and July 9 meetings of the Council, we have been asked to remember the following members, relatives and friends in our prayers.

Sick and Distressed:

Fr. Alan Helwig, Fr. Kurt Pritzl, O.P., John Pekar, Carole Hanley, PGK Vince Bunag, Glenda Bunag, John Bruce, PGK Jim Kane, Barbara Waters, Marlyn Demphey, Joe Norris, Efren Cruz, Jack Cunningham, and those on the Chatter sick list (see page 11)



Deceased:

Walter Schnider, Joe Lavina, James DeSista, James Sullivan, Daryll Giles, and Lucy Ryan Gaffney

Please keep them and all of our past deceased members, family and friends in your prayers.

ROSARY AT 7:30 P.M.

We pray the Rosary of Our Lady at 7:30 p.m. before our regularly scheduled meetings on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. The meetings begin at 8:00 p.m.



Come and join us!

Your Council Website

- Did you know that Rock Creek Council has a website? — A website that is full of useful information about the Council, our activities, upcoming events, scholarship opportunities, Rock Creek Mansion rentals, our history, the Knights of Columbus, our members, and more.
- Please visit it at www.kofc2797.org — Better still, bookmark the site and visit it often.

Around the Lounge

Hours:

Monday Thru Thursday 4-8
Friday 4-11

The lounge is looking for a few volunteer bartenders. The volunteers would only work a few times a month and just a few hours a shift. It's an enjoyable way to be with your friends, while picking up a few tips. In addition, the volunteers may have the opportunity to work paid functions upstairs in the hall. If you are interested, contact Mike Horan at mike_horankc@yahoo.com or 240-793-1169

Bring your friends and potential new members and watch baseball, golf or other games on our 4 new flat screen TVs, play a game of pool or shuffle board, or just sit and watch the sun go down on the patio.

Don't forget to stop by and sign the book

The lounge is yours. Enjoy it!

Lounge Phone 301-530-1628

NOTICE

The Car Raffle for the benefit of the Order's charity and scholarship programs will begin soon. The drawing for the Grand Prize of a 2010 Ford Mustang will take place at the Columbus Day Ball on October 10.

Watch for your tickets in the mail!



COUNCIL BLOOD DRIVE

**Sunday, July 26
9:30 AM—1:30 PM
In the Lower Lounge**

All participants will receive a special gift as a token of our appreciation
To schedule your life-saving donation, please contact:
Julie Carter at
carterbuck@aol.com or 240-426-1220



Around the Kay-Cee Club — The Year in Review

The following report was presented by President Neil Dorian at the Shareholders Meeting on June 25, 2009.

In this past Columbian Year, two positions were filled: Mrs. Julie Carter took on the responsibilities of Rental's Coordinator, effective October 1, and Mike Horan and Chris Horan became joint Building Managers, effective May 1, 2009.

As of July 23, 2009, Treasurer Jack Cunningham reported \$55,053 in the checking account.

Our five-year contract with Suburban Hospital to use our parking facility during weekdays expires on December 31, 2009. We plan to meet with representatives of the hospital to discuss renegotiating the contract. The currently monthly rental is \$4,975.

Concerning the proposed addition for storage, the presentation by Schaefer Construction Management indicated that the cost estimate had escalated to seven figures, as we would need to install a fire detection and protection sprinkler system to meet NFPA requirements. The Board voted to drop the idea of an addition. Two Mobile Mini Storage Units, each 10' x 8', have been leased at \$85 per month. The Building Manager has been asked to proceed with the purchase of these units.

All ten fire extinguishers in the building have been recharged or replaced at a fee of \$454. The carpeting on the first floor, staircase to the second floor, and second floor hallway was replaced. The outside of the building was repainted at a cost of \$8,500. Danny Rogers installed 40-feet of flashing strip on the building above the green awning to prevent squirrels from entering, at a cost of \$600. He also repainted the first floor for \$7,900. Save a Tree company pruned and trimmed the trees on our property at a cost of \$2,600. A concrete patio was built next to the west wall of the building by Rocky Ford for \$10,000. Mike Horan purchased 6 tables and 24 chairs for the patio, at a cost of \$640.

Glenn Wilmer and Dennis Brose, the Maryland State Council tax advisor, has been contacted to prepare our annual tax documents. We are planning to modify our liability insurance with Erie Insurance and to replace our current agent. The contract with Waste Management has expired and their dumpster has been removed. There currently is one dumpster serviced by ETW.

There has been no further movement toward the McLean School of Maryland occupying the vacant property owned by the American College of Cardiology. There desired access to Old Georgetown Road and the anticipated increase in traffic has resulted in an impasse.

In April, Burt Murray, a past president of the K-C Club, agreed to become a member of the Board, replacing Bill Polglase, who has been unable to make meetings due to his work schedule.

This Columbian Year, there were 23 rentals of our ballroom (Cantrell and Guido Halls). The last one is scheduled for June 28. Each rental is for 2 to 8 hours. The types of events included: bar mitzvahs, wedding receptions, a thank you party, Cystic Fibrosis Poker Fund-raiser, a sweet 16 party, graduation receptions, etc. The total rental income received was \$23,820; the total bar income was \$12,400 (not including a cash bar). The Hall was also donated for use by Defend Life, a pro-life organization, for two events, a funeral reception, and was used to provide sleeping accommodations for 31 pro-life pilgrims from Texas in connection with the March for Life in January.

The landscape contract with Vargas was renewed. They cut our lawn weekly, prune bushes as necessary, perform a spring clean-up, a fall clean-up, and rake leaves.

The Rentals Coordinator reports that bookings for 2010 have increased significantly over the calendar year. She is very optimistic that the coming year will be a banner one. The Building Manager has several ideas to improve the building and grounds, and not exceed the budget.

Neil Dorian
President

* * *

After the President's Report, elections were held. The newly elected and outgoing members of the Board of Directors are:

Neil Dorian was reelected for a three-year term, ending June 30, 2012. Also elected for three-year terms were Jim Tise, Robbie Corrado, and Harry Lazear, who replace PGK Wes Chin, PGK Peter Ferrigno, and PGK Kevin Kitka.

Kevin Carlson was elected for a two-year term to replace Jack Vivian, whose resigned for work-related concerns.

Emory Linder and Joe Horan were elected for one-year terms to replace Alex Castelli, who resigned for health reasons, and Tony Ibanez, who resigned because of a move which required a long commute to the Council.

Mike Horan noted the increase in the bank account and many upgrades to the club property, and called for a round of applause for Neil Dorian. Neil noted the help he has received from the club members, especially Peter Ferrigno and Jack Cunningham. Norb Wittrock sought a further breakdown of expenses and income, which Neil Dorian said would be forthcoming. Mr. Wittrock praised Mr. Dorian for doing a great job.

Jim Tise
Acting Secretary



State Chaplain's Message

As I think back over the past year I am grateful for the many opportunities to be with the Knights and their Ladies and families, and I thank you for the friendship and the many kindnesses extended to me.

With you, I look forward to the many opportunities this new fraternal year will afford—opportunities to pray, to socialize, to serve others, to work for the betterment of our Church and society. Yes, “we are called to serve,” and that is a noble call.

As you know, on June 19th The Year of the Priest” began, as called for by Pope Benedict XVI. The year marks the 150th anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney, the universal patron of parish priests.

As we move from the example of St. Paul during the Pauline year, to the model of St. John Vianney this year, we realize that God's grace works in every year, with people of all types of skills and personalities. We, too, are a fraternity of many members with varied abilities and talents. It is each of us, working with one another, and encouraging such cooperation, that can make almost anything happen.

But there is one other piece we should bring to our work

of service, and that is prayer. Our faith is important to us, and prayer helps assure that our actions mesh with our faith. If each day we go to prayer with our goals, and our questions and challenges, we are going to find better results for our Councils, State and Order.

Prayer doesn't always seem fruitful; but the spiritual experts tell us it is the effort that matters. Sometimes Knights disagree and sometimes we have different ideas about the best way to accomplish things (we are brothers, after all!), so let us bring our plans and concerns to prayer. Prayer reminds us to do what serves our Order and what God wants us to do.

May the Lord bless our new fraternal year, and grace each of us with the gifts we need to serve!

Vivat Jesus!

Fr. Donald Grzymiski, OFM, Conv.
State Chaplain



Bishop McNamara Chapter of Grand Knights

Highlights of the June 17, 2009 meeting:

As of June 1, with a month to go, the State was 52 members short of making Supreme's Circle of Honor.

Family Activities Director Vince Grasso reported that 49 councils participated in the Family of the Month program in April. The MaryGold program of Our Lady of Guadalupe Council, 12127, was displayed on the Supreme website under "Knights in Action."

Treasurer Bryan Adamczyk reported a balance of \$6,335 in the Chapter's account, but four councils have not yet paid their Chapter assessment.

Jewels were exchanged and the newly-elected officers took their chairs.

President-Elect Preston Rose distributed a draft of the Chapter's 2009-10 budget., which will be discussed and voted on it at the meeting in July. The Chapter passed motions to spend: (1) \$300 to educate Jouli George Kareem Abu Sa'da through the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation; and (2) up to \$150 for the purchase of statues of Mary for new councils.

State Deputy Richard Siejack congratulated Fr. Michael C. Kidd Council, 14455, for attaining Triple Star Council, and encouraged all councils to begin the new Columbian Year with a strong



Cardinal Patrick A. O'Boyle Assembly, No. 386

FOURTH DEGREE

The Cardinal Patrick A. O'Boyle Assembly #386 serves our Council, and provides us with an Honor Guard and Color Corps for our functions and our parishes.

The Assembly meets monthly on the third Thursday at Fr. Rosensteel Council #2169 (9707 Rosensteel Avenue, Silver Spring), at 8:00 pm, with the Rosary beginning at 7:30 pm.

All 4th Degree members from our Council are always welcome and encouraged to attend.

For more details contact our Council representatives: S/K Greg Curtin, or S/K Larry Grayson.



push for membership. He also announced the institution of the new Jesus the Divine Word Council.

President-Elect Preston Rose announced that Brian Werring has accepted the position of Chapter Activities Director, and that Fr. Zylla will become the Chaplain Emeritus of the Chapter. To help boost attendance next year, all meetings will be scheduled close to the perimeter of the Washington Beltway. The next meeting will be held on July 15 at Fr. Michael C. Kidd Council, 14455, in Mitchellville.



Voices of the Bishops

Archbishop Raymond Burke, the highest ranking American prelate in the Vatican, in an interview published in June, said: "We all have witnessed the compromise and, indeed, betrayal of the Catholic identity of Notre Dame University.



Thoughtful Catholics cannot help but reflect upon the great danger for a Catholic institution in pursuing a kind of prestige in the secular world, which leads to a betrayal of the sacred aspect of its work, namely the fidelity to Christ and His teaching. That the premiere Catholic university in the United States would give an honorary doctorate of law to one of the most aggressive pro-abortion politicians in our history is profoundly shocking. Now, we cannot forget what has happened at Notre Dame. We need to take the measures that are necessary so that this is not repeated in other places."

Archbishop Charles Chaput of Denver said: "The Catholic commitment to the dignity of the immigrant comes from exactly the same roots as our commitment to the dignity of the unborn child. Any Catholic who truly understands his or her faith knows that the right to life precedes and creates the foundation for every other human right. There's no getting around the priority of that fundamental right to life. But being 'prolife' also means that we need to make laws and social policies that will care for those people already born that no one else will defend...We need to remember that how we treat the weak, the infirm, the elderly, the unborn child and the foreigner reflects on our own humanity. We become what we do, for good or for evil."

Bishop William Murphy of the Diocese of Rockville Center responded to Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi's support for gay marriage. Suozzi described himself as a "practicing Catholic." The Bishop said: Suozzi "has already placed himself publicly in the category of "pro-choice" on abortion. While homosexual orientation is a neutral reality on a moral level, homosexual acts are not morally neutral. They are wrong, and they are sinful. Abortion is wrong, and it is sinful. We bishops, the authentic teachers with the pope of the Catholic faithful, have made this abundantly clear. Our teaching is unambiguous, faithful to the Lord and binding on all Catholics. No Catholic is free to ignore or disregard this teaching.

Family of the Month

The Family of the month for May is the Rob Mercer family. He is married to Marie and they have one daughter Nicole. Rob is a 3rd degree Knight and has become very active in the past year since taking his degrees. He assisted with the Council Youth Chess Tournament and with the family potluck movie events held the last Friday of each month. Rob and Marie helped significantly with the Council's initial Community Appreciation Cookout held to honor the local Law Enforcement, Fire, and Rescue officers. He and his family have been members of the St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish for two years. Nicole is an Altar Server and a member of the Youth Ministry. Rob and his wife are both Eucharistic Ministers. The next Columbian Year beginning July 1, Rob has asked to be named Program Director of the Rock Creek Council and, as such, he will be responsible in coordinating the Church, Council, Community, Family, and Youth activities.

The Family of the Month for June is the Manuel Aragon family. Mannie is married to Emelia and they have five children: Carmen, Tony, Ray, Elisa, and Philip. Ray Aragon has just completed his First Degree requirements and is looking forward to attending the next Second Degree to be scheduled at our Council. Mannie and Emelia have been members of the St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish for many years. All five of their children have been raised with Catholic school educations. Mannie is a church usher and member of the Eucharistic Club. Emelia is active with the parish Ladies Society. Mannie is a member of the First Degree Team, ran the Lecturer Program, and served on the Knight Chatter Newsletter mailing team. He is a member of the Fourth Degree Cardinal Patrick A. O'Boyle Assembly. Emelia is very active with the Council Ladies Auxiliary.

Neil Dorian, PGK
Chairman, Family of the Month Program

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary August 15 Holy Day of Obligation

Although nothing is certain about Our Lady's death, from tradition it is believed that she died between three and fifteen years after Our Lord's Ascension. When she died, probably in either Jerusalem or Ephesus, Catholic teaching holds that she was taken body and soul into heaven.

Her feast day is a Holy Day of Obligation, meaning that it is obligatory for all Catholics who have attained the age of reason and are not prevented by illness or other sufficient cause to attend Mass on this day.





Supreme Knight Speaks of Rebuilding Our Culture

Christopher Dawson, the noted Catholic historian, observed that if human nature were to lose its spiritual character, "it must lose itself and become the servant of lower powers." He continued, "If we look at the world today in isolation from the past and the future, the forces of secularism may seem triumphant. This, however, is but a moment in the life of humanity, and it does not possess the promise of stability and permanence".

These words were written at the height of the Cold War, when the forces of militant atheism appeared to be gaining the upper hand. They are worth recalling today, as we seem to be entering a new period of secularism.

In an April 13 cover story titled "The End of Christian America," *Newsweek* magazine made much of a recent survey that found the percentage of self-identified Christians has fallen 10 points in the past two decades. Also notable, according to *Newsweek*, is that "fewer people now think of the United States as a 'Christian nation'

than did so when George W. Bush was president." The article focused mainly on evangelical Christians.

If Dawson is correct that secularism cannot provide a stable foundation for society, and American society appears to be rejecting Protestantism as a foundation, what now is to be done? Can Catholics make a unique contribution to the common good?

For me, the words of Pope John Paul II from his great encyclical on life, *Evangelium Vitae*, remain as relevant today as when they were written in 1995:

"To all the members of the Church, *the people of life and for life*, I make this most urgent appeal, that together we may offer this world of ours new signs of hope, and work to ensure that justice and solidarity will increase and that a new culture of human life will be affirmed, for the building of an authentic civilization of truth and love".

The key to this, John Paul knew, was for Catholics to form a strong identity

and to accept "the inescapable responsibility of *choosing to be unconditionally prolife*".

The present situation provides Catholics with an unprecedented opportunity to help shape the future of our country. John Adams once said that the U.S. Constitution "was made only for a moral and religious people." We must ask ourselves how Catholics can contribute to the building up of "a moral and religious people."

That answer, John Paul II reminded us, begins with a question: "Am I my brother's keeper?" The future of society depends on how we answer this. I believe there are no men better prepared to do this than those who live the principles of charity, unity and fraternity; who by their works witness to this truth expressed in *Evangelium Vitae*: "Yes, every man is his 'brother's keeper,' because God entrusts us to one another".

These remarks made on May 21, 2009, were abbreviated by the editor. The full version can be found on Supreme's website.

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS

Sunday, July 26, 2008

Installation and Mass at
St. Bartholomew Church

6904 River Road, Bethesda, MD
12:00 PM

Reception and Program at

CANTREL BALLROOM
2:30 PM

\$20 per person; Reservations required

For reservations and information, call:
Mike Horan 301-301-365-3417



REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, PFN

The Fault Lies with Catholics

“[I]f great things are not done by Catholics in America, the fault lies surely with themselves – not the republic” -- so said Archbishop John Ireland, a leading prelate of his day, in 1889. Now 120 years later, it is clear that Catholics are failing both the republic and themselves. They are forsaking the nation in not bringing the virtues taught by their religion to bear on issues of public concern. They are faithless to themselves because in their consuming drive for material success, they are abandoning fundamental precepts of their faith.

America is plagued with sins of abortion, cohabitation, same-sex marriage, dissolution of family life, destruction of embryonic stem cells, contraception, pornography, and a growing acceptance of assisted suicide and euthanasia. Yet, if professed Catholics truly practiced their faith, this would not be.

Today, 25 of the 99 currently seated U.S. Senators and 136 of the 435 members of the House of Representatives identify themselves as Catholics. In addition, a Catholic serves as Vice President, another as Speaker of the House of Representatives, five of the eight continuing Justices of the Supreme Court are Catholic and a sixth has been nominated for the Court, and several Cabinet members claim Catholicism as their religion.

Coupled with these attainments in the political arena are the gains 68 million Catholic Americans have achieved in business, the professions, the media, education, and other areas of national life. With the degree of influence that follows from this preeminence, the culture of this country, its laws, customs, public attitudes and behaviors should reflect a greater morality. There should not be an acceptance of actions such as homosexual marriage that are counter to natural law, or of practices such as abortion that violate the humanity and dignity of the person.

But the mores of the country warrant these transgressions because too many professed Catholics are willing to compromise their faith. They do not truly live as Catholics, even if they abide by obligatory devotions. Their faith does not affect their ideas, attitudes, choices, decisions and actions, whether related to matters of public affairs, their drive for monetary success, tastes in entertainment, or the way they set priorities for living. In all of these instances, Catholics as a body are indistinguishable from the general populace. Only by ignoring what they profess to believe could 54 percent of the Catholics who voted in the last Presidential election cast their ballots for a candidate whose positions on abortion, gay marriage, and embryonic stem cell research are in direct opposition to that of the Catholic Church.

Too many professed Catholics relegate their faith to an occasional Mass – only 23 percent attend weekly -- and the rest of the time exhibit a practical atheism, living as if God has no ef-

fect on their lives. They are willing to ignore and even deny the Church’s teachings, and have so compartmentalized their minds that they can say, “I am personally opposed to abortion (or . . . , you name the evil), but will not deny others from having one. After all, in our pluralistic society I must be tolerant of other people’s views and not judge their behaviors.”

This attitude of misguided toleration treats all belief systems as equal, and as such holds nothing sacred. It leads to is a national culture based on the lowest common system of morals, which is operationalized in common law. Religion is treated as a matter of opinion, and so is to be considered private to each person. This disposition is palatable because it imposes no obligation on the individual to publicly live the faith, and does not interfere with one’s drive for material success.



Archbishop John Ireland

It is, however, insidious and an opiate to one’s beliefs in and practice of religion. As Hillaire Belloc, in *Survivals and New Arrivals*, wrote, the “modern mind” undermines religion, not in a direct manner as would a heresy, putting forth doctrinal propositions that could be discussed and accepted or rejected. Rather, it does so through a change of mood. “[I]t acts in a fashion wholly negative. It is not an at-

tack, but a resistance. It does not . . . exercise an active effect opposed to religion . . . It rather renders religion unintelligible . . . It dulls the faculty of appreciation, and blocks the entry of the Faith.”

What Catholics need is a re-evangelization to their beliefs. They must learn once again what it means to be Catholic, to understand the timeless truth of its doctrines, to develop the moral values and commitment to live their lives in accord with the faith.

True faith rejects the main messages of American culture: that the primary object of human effort is material gain; that success means the accumulation of wealth; that the world is all about us. As Archbishop Charles Chaput pointed out in his book, *Render Unto Caesar*, authentic religious conviction

“means accepting the truth that we need Jesus Christ in our lives – that he is our only salvation; that his gospel is the only way to live; and that his church is our mother and guide. These interior acts of faith are not empty pieties; when sincere, they will always have external, public consequences.”

It is only when Catholics become well-informed in their faith and fully live by its beliefs that they can hope to change the secular world. The Catholic faith is more than a set of dogmas to be accepted; rather it is a way of life, a way whose ends are not the temporal comforts of this world, but to fulfill the reasons we were created so that we can gain an eternity in the kingdom of God.



Life Insurance by Brother Knights for Brother Knights



A new fraternal year is upon us. Congratulations to John Vivian our newly elected grand knight, as well as all the other dedicated brother Knights who will serve in either an elected and appointed leadership position in the coming year. I'm sure you have a list of goals and objectives that you intend to accomplish during the coming year. You have my assurance that I'm eager to help.

One of these goals is surely the attainment of the Star Council award - the most prestigious award the Order offers at the council level. I'm certainly committed to helping on the insurance side, but I'll be glad to help on the membership side as well.

If you know an eligible Catholic man who might be interested in joining the Order (and who among us doesn't), he's probably just waiting to be asked. I can help you, either by approaching him myself, or by "coaching" you - transferring sales skills that you can use to recruit him and other prospects. As always, I'm at your service.

Let's get an early start on attaining those goals and objectives that are so critical to the growth of any council.

You can reach me at 240-305-6996 or at michael.patten@kofc.org.

Call me - let's talk.

Fraternally,

MICHAEL PATTEN
Fraternal Benefits Advisor
240-305-6996
michael.patten@kofc.org

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CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter D. Ferrigno, PGK

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Recently, Bishop William E. Lori from the Diocese of Bridgeport filed a federal lawsuit against the State of Connecticut, Office of State Ethics, for their attempt to silence the Church of not registering as a lobbying organization. This all started when the State of Connecticut attempted to pass Bill 1098, which if passed, would reorganize the church by taking away the authority of the Church's teachings. In addition, another bill for "Same Sex Marriage" was being proposed.

Catholics (and others), exercised their constitutional rights by participating at a rally at the State Capital, speaking at pulpits, and posting information on the website, asking citizens to protest against these bills. As a result, both Bills were dropped or not acted upon.

For a while, all seemed to be going well, until an Enforcement Officer of the State of Connecticut, Office of State Ethics, acted to silence the Catholic Church of Connecticut, stating that they were in violation of State Law for not registering themselves as a Lobbying Organization. Bishop Lori responded, in a federal law suit, that it was unconstitutional for the State to apply a State Lobbying Statute to the Catholic Diocese, since they were in their constitutional rights to participate in the rally (Freedom of Assembly), posting information on the website (Freedom of Press), and expressing the Church's views at the pulpits (Freedom of Speech). If this was not enough, what about an organized form of a faith, Catholics, practicing their beliefs (Freedom of Religion). The Constitution of the United States of America really does uphold each of these freedoms, which the State of Connecticut seems to have totally forgotten.

At this point it seemed obvious what the federal courts should say in this suit. However, with the strong pressures this Administration has taken, to mold our country into a

"socialistic form of government", it is hard to say. Needless to say, we should be praying that the constitutional rights of the people in the state of Connecticut prevail. If not, when could this be tried in the state of Maryland.

As I find myself writing this report, I have to recall an article that David Gibson, a Catholic, wrote in *The Washington Post*, in May of this year. Its title was "Who is a Real Catholic?" He stated that, "Although Catholics are now numbering above 65 million members, he finds that many are going their own way on many matters of faith, especially on issues ranging from priestly celibacy to political candidates and he concluded that there seems to be very little that the bishops can do about it."

To explain this, Mr. Gibson stated that the Second Vatican Council of the early 1960s brought contested reforms that coincided with the social upheavals of that decade. In 1968, as women were rejoicing in the liberation of The Pill, Pope Paul VI issued the encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*, reaffirming the ban on artificial contraception. Then came *Roe v. Wade* and you can see why there are so many "Cafeteria Catholics". They want to do what they wish, regardless of the teachings of the Church. This is why Catholic politicians can say they do not believe in abortion, but it is all right for others to kill the unborn; or for women to say that this is my body and I'll do with it as I choose, whether to continue to use birth control devices or have an abortion.

Now, ask yourself, "How did I vote this past November?", or "What do I think about President Obama speaking at Georgetown, asking that the Cross behind him to be covered?" and "What do I think about his speaking at the commencement at Notre Dame University recently and receiving from this school an honorary degree?" Then finally ask yourself, "Am I really a true practicing Catholic?"

God Bless



SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

Those who attended our Seniors' Country Western Party had a great time! This was our Fourth Country Western Party to support our seminarians. The lack of support by our Council members was again very disappointing. I do want to thank the VFW and the American Legion members who supported this function and our seminarians.



PGK Bob Waters

luncheon at Alfio's. Watch for the flyer! We explored the possibility of a bus trip to the Frederick Keys baseball game, but there was not a large enough expression of interest. So the trip has been cancelled.

A great big Happy Birthday wish Betty Davison and all those who celebrated their birthdays in June.

GOD BLESS AMERICA, AND OUR MILITARY!

PRAYER CORNER

In your prayers remember: Eureka &

A big thank you to Wes Chin for helping with the food. My appreciation to Jack Cunningham for handling the reservations, Jean Gordon for the flyer, Helen Brennan for mailing the notices, Ann Doby and Hilda Stofko for conducting the 50/50 raffle, Charlie and Marge Swanke for the great Flag Day table decorations, H e l e n



Everyone enjoyed dancing country-western style

Finncutter and Louise Young for serving at the door, and Jim Young and Darlene Coleman for doing the many miscellaneous things that have to be handled.

There were over 80 reservations for the Indoor Picnic on July 8. Although there were several "no shows," everyone had a great time. We were honored to have Fr. Percival D'Silva and Fr. John McKay as our guests. It is a pleasure to have Father John back in the area. A representative from the Red Cross spoke to us, and I hope there is a good turn out for the blood drive on July 26.

A big thanks to Lois Gargano for chairing this function, and for being the "kitchen sergeant." Our appreciation also to Helen Brennan for handling the mailing and attendees list. To Darlene Coleman for helping with the food, and to the usual workers without whom these events would not be held. It was good to see Tom Melo back with us.

On August 12, we will hold our annual

Elizabeth Ar-
cand, Bill
Bartels, Tom
Becker, Dom
Bellia, Wil-
liam "Will"
Bello, Larry
Bisnett, Jean
Boyland,
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, Susan Gordon Garcia, Lois Gargano, Katharine Giodati, Aurora and Bill Gordon, Art and Carole Hanley, Stacey Harim, PGK, Frank Hayden, PSD Gene Hogan, Marie Horan, Saunders Jacobsen, Fr. Matt Kiemann, Matt Locraft, 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, Louise Young, Nick and Karen Zack and Fran and Frank Zello.

Pray for the soul of my uncle, Joe Lavinia. Our condolences to his daughters and family.

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TBA

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ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
19 July	20	21	22	23 Rosary 7:30 PM Social Mtg 1st Degree 8:00 PM	24	25
26 Installation of Officers	27	28	29	30	31	1 
2 August	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Executive Committee 7:30 PM	12 Seniors Luncheon at Alfio's 12:30 PM	13 Rosary 7:30 PM Business Mtg 8:00 PM	14	15 HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: Assumption of the BVM
16	17	18	19 K-C Club 7:30 PM	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Rosary 7:30 PM Social Mtg 8:00 PM	28	29
30	31					

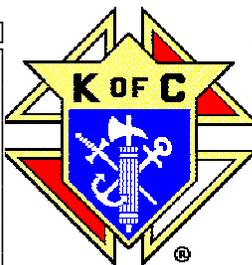
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& Birthday
Receptions,
Weddings,
Meetings

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