



THE KNIGHT CHATTER

September 2009

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COUNCIL'S NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED



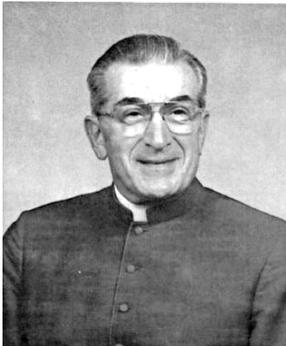
The Council Officers for this Columbian Year, led by Grand Knight John Vivian, march toward the altar of St. Bartholomew's Church to be installed on Sunday, August 16. See page 8 for more pictures of the installation and dinner.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

REV. MSGR. VINCENT S. GATTO, KHSH

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

JOHN VIVIAN



Chaplain Gatto

Dear Knights,

Early in September the Church celebrates the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a variety of thoughts may come to mind: a parent's love, the mystery of birth, a beautiful baby, a child who is to become the Mother of God, to name just a few. We know very little about the early life of Mary and her parents, Ann and Joachim.

We do know, however, that the birth of a child is a life changing event. They must have been overwhelmed with joy with her birth, yet, at the same time, concerned that her future would be filled with some of the hardships of life in the times in which they lived. We can be assured that she first experienced love in the arms of her parents and family as well as the Jewish community that accepted her. Here she had a real home and she was formed in God's love by these holy people. From her birth to the Annunciation, the Mary we have come to know was moving closer to

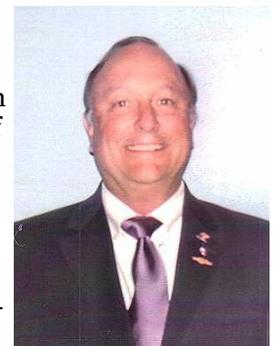
(Continued on page 2)

Worthy Brothers,

As I mentioned in my last Chatter column, I am only the most recent in a long line of Grand Knights, each of whom has contributed uniquely to our Council and each of whom has brought a set of skills supplemented by experience, energy and perseverance. Like them, I hope to provide yet another perspective to our Council for this Columbian Year based on my personal experiences.

I have identified our goals for this year to include both Service and Accountability. To a great extent those two goals are integrated at a level based on our faith as Catholics, as Catholic gentlemen and, in our case, as Knights. Throughout the New Testament we find a myriad of examples of service. Jesus life in its entirety exemplified a life of service from His early years until His death and resurrection. As a result of His example, we focus on that life as a guideline for how we are supposed to live our lives. Were that the only aspect of His contribution to guide us, it should be sufficient to cause us to live as He did. It does however go

(Continued on page 4)



Grand Knight Vivian



DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

My brothers all,

I begin by congratulating the new council officers from our entire District as by the time you read this all would have been properly installed. Also, I again want to especially thank our Worthy District Warden, Richard Earenfight, for the invaluable help he continually has given me, especially before, during and after each Installation Ceremony.

Another special mention goes to the presence and impressive performance of the Color Corps from both O'Boyle and Sullivan Brothers Assemblies, who provided such dignity and pageantry to our installations. I only voice the sentiments of all the membership when I offer them our thanks and congratulations for a job perfectly done; they certainly made my work easier. Our District had the O'Boyle Assembly for Rock Creek's Installation, and the Sullivan Brothers Assembly for the installations of Manyanet, Mater Dei and St. Elizabeth councils.

Our Worthy District Warden and I have been meeting with your Grand Knights beginning last June giving them advice and guidance especially for those pesky duties they have filling out and sending a variety of forms to Supreme, State and District... on a timely basis! We certainly would like it very much if each of our Council achieves all the goals set by Supreme and State; and if an event cannot be held by a Council on its own, we'd like you to consider doing it as a District function. This way the work, expenses and benefits will be distributed and enjoyed by all. If you, brother knight, have an idea which can help your Council, this is the time to con-

tact your Grand Knight. All this is important because with September we finish our First Quarter, and in early October each Grand Knight must have his Church, Community, Family, Youth and Council Activity Reports ready for my signature and submission to the State Council. Unless the event has not yet taken place... why not start putting those reports together, right now?

I'd like to remind all of you that this September 11 marks the 8th anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia. It will also be our Order's 5th annual **World Day of Prayer for Peace**. I urge each of our Councils to conduct a program of prayer to be held on that day.

Next month's highlight of State sponsored activities is the Columbus Day Ball. It will take place on Saturday, October 10, at La Founaine Bleu, in Glen Burnie. Each Council is encouraged to reserve a full table. That is an excellent gathering: formal, with sit-down dinner, open bar and dancing to a live band. Ask your Grand Knight for details, and send for your reservations. You may want to have your ad in their program as well; this ad can be from your council... or from another sponsor, such as the very place where you work. All those details were distributed to each Grand Knight. There is still time to do both. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Fraternally,

E. Roberto Ibáñez, PJK

District Deputy No. 18
"We are Called to Serve"

(Continued from page 1)

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

accepting God's special role for her -- to become the Mother of God.

Mary loved God, and God called her to participate in his plan of salvation. Mary said yes to God at every moment of her life. She became the vessel of divine love, Jesus, the Son of God.

In a sense, the same miracle awaits each of us. God's indwelling is a gift that we can also receive if we love God and live according to his will, and so we wish Mary a Happy Birthday.

God bless you!

Monsignor Gatto

FAMILY POT LUCK COOK-OUT & MOVIE NIGHT

Members and Guests Welcome
Friday, September 18, 2009

Walt Disney's

Race to Witch Mountain

\$5 per person / \$15 per family
Burgers, Dogs, Chips, Sodas
& Popcorn Included / Cash Bar
A thru M Please Bring A Side Dish
N Thru Z Please Bring A Dessert
Doors Open @ 6:00 / Movie Starts
@ Dusk

Bring A Blanket For Picnic
Movies Outdoors When Possible
Please Call!!!

Let Us Know How Many Are Coming
& What You Can Bring — Contact
Mike Horan @ 240-793-1169 or
mike_horankc@yahoo.com

Your Help is Wanted

There are a variety of ways in which you can become involved in the Council. You will gain satisfaction, enjoy the company of other Knights, make new friends, and help the Council serve more people in more ways. None of the following activities requires long-term activity or undue amounts of time. Consider helping as a:

Volunteers for Car Raffle

Christmas Card Coordinator
Organizer for the Octoberfest
Organizer for Thanksgiving
Tootsie Roll Volunteer
and many other opportunities

For more information or to volunteer, contact John Vivian at 301-461-3597 or jvivian@vicorinc.com



PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter and Mary Ann Ferrigno, Pro-Life Chaircouple



Will the proposed Health Care Reform force taxpayers to pay for abortions? I do not

know why

it would not. Already, Planned Parenthood has received over \$350 million dollars of taxpayer's money, this year, and this has been going on for some time.

President Obama has told the Senate Finance Ways and Means Chairman (Charles Rangel) and the Senate Finance Committee Chairman (Max Baucus) not to give in to any GOP suggestions that abortions not be paid for by the taxpayers. President Obama says that "this is what the American people want." What American people are saying this?

Recently, our President has begun to realize that he is not supported by Congress for this bill, as much as he had thought.

Cal Thomas, a nationally syndicated columnist for *The Washington Times* has stated that utilitarian philosopher, Peter Singer, proposes a way to save money, namely, "the killing of a defective infant is not morally equivalent to killing a person" and that authorizing the elimination of

people whose minds are judged inadequate, would allow families to move on with their lives. There is a cost to be saved. So if these people could be eliminated, think of all of the money that the government would be able to save by not offering treatment. In the anti-life culture we are moving into, it would be the government that would dictate who lives and who dies, when it comes to medical treatments.

Hopefully, Congress will wake up in time and not allow us to move into such a socialistic form of health care. We all should get on the "Alveda C. King Band Wagon". The niece of Martin Luther King, today a pro-life activist, now recognizes that Planned Parenthood was responsible for her two abortions, telling her that the child was nothing more that "a blob of tissue". Eventually she "realized how wrong they were and finally repented and found healing in God".

She further states that abortionists are destroying humanity at large and the black community in particular. Some 14 million blacks have been aborted since 1973, 37 % of all babies aborted. She made the following comparison: "Racism and abortion are twin evils. Slavery and plantations may be gone, but racism still allows us to regard those who may keep us from financial gain as less than equals."

So it is with abortion. Seventy-five percent of all abortion clinics are in areas with high minority populations. Margaret

Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood was quite open in that she wanted "More children from the fit and less from the unfit." The unfit she made clear were blacks and poor whites. You may ask, "Well that was then, how about now?" Seven Planned Parenthood Clinics recently accepted contribution money on the sole basis that it would be used only to abort "black babies". Finally, Ms. King said that her uncle wrote, "The Negro cannot win if he is willing to sell the future of his children for his personal and immediate comfort and safety."

It seems to me that this concept should equally apply for whites. According to Rev. Walter B. Hoye II, a black minister and founder and president of the Issues4Life Foundation had this to say: "A black baby is aborted every 72 seconds in this country. A black baby today has less that a 50-50 chance of being born. Since 1973, abortion has eliminated more than fifty percent of black America."

Even Republican National Committee Chairman Michael S. Steele jumped on this bandwagon to express the sentiment of this genocide. He expressed this act as "womb lynching". With these figures, you would think that our present president would come to his senses. But, if not him, then maybe some of those who voted for him.

God Bless.

Remember Our Sick and Deceased

As reported at the July 23 and August 13 meetings of the Council, and since then, we have been asked to remember the following members, relatives and friends in our prayers.

Sick and Distressed:

PGK Jack Cunningham,, Alex Castelli, PGK Vince Bunag, John Pekar, Carole Hanley, PGK Jim Kane, Bernice Wilt, Melvin Simmons, Fr. Kurt Pritzl, O.P., and those on the Chatter sick list (see page 11)

Deceased:

Rev. Robert V. Zylla, O.S.C., Rev. Cormac McDonnell, Thomas McAulliffe, and Jack Crown

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



A Fraternal Request

Brother Lou D'Addio is currently living at Bartholomew House (9604 River Road, Bethesda), which is on the grounds of St. Bartholomew Church. Ray Guay is at Grace House (3214 Norbeck Road, Silver Spring). John Bruce is at Suburban Hospital.

They would be very glad to receive a phone call or visit. If you have a moment, please give Lou a call at 301-320-6151, while Ray can be reached at 301-924-4424. John is not up to visitors yet.



GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

beyond mere example. We were charged by Him, as were the disciples, to go forth and spread the good news and to be of service to our fellow man. We have His direct mandate to perform good works and to glorify Him by our actions and our faith. What we do for the least of these, we do unto Him. We have a responsibility to do so. Thus we have our first and greatest tenet as Knights, Charity.

But we also have more than that. We have not only a charge and mandate; we have a responsibility to perform service for which we will be held accountable. When Mary our Mother was asked to bear a child and call him Jesus, she responded to the command willingly, serving God the Father and serving with the knowledge of the responsibility she carried in Her womb for all mankind, the salvation of man. Her Son was coming into the world to save us from our sins and to hold accountable those who would reject Him. It is therefore critical for us as Knights, to serve because we are charged and because we are accountable for our actions.

It is not sufficient for us to have meetings, social occasions and fraternity alone, although it is good to do so. We must also take on a role of service. Because of this, we need to emphasize our programs, fund raising for charitable purposes, support of the clergy and our individual service as Knights. It is because of this that I am asking you to renew a pledge of service and to assist our Council in reaching out to those Knights who have fallen into inactivity because we need them to fulfill our role as Servants. With the help of all of our Knights, we become more powerful. As a complete organization, we are a force to be reckoned with.

It is more important and urgent now to revitalize the organization. In the United States today there are significant forces, well organized and bent on destroying what we hold

dear. These forces are against Life and forces against our religious faith. We have a responsibility to fight those forces or be held accountable. Many people discount the evil of abortion and believe it is somehow tied to our freedom of choice. After World War II, Nazis were tried, convicted and executed for war crimes based on performing abortions as a part of the genocide of the Jews and minorities. With the preponderance of abortion clinics in this country located in poor, minority areas, our country is also committing genocide against the poor and minorities. We must stop this atrocity.

We also find a continuing attack on our religion through court cases, media propaganda and political policies and legislation. The institution of marriage, a sacrament in all Christian churches is under constant attack. It is clear that we are being singled out for our beliefs in a society which proclaims its "tolerance" for all that is unnatural, unseemly and immoral. If we do not act decisively, we will continue to see our Catholic faith marginalized and mocked.

As Knights we need to mobilize and influence others so that Life is held dear, our patriotic ideals are reinforced and our society returned to a set of values which are as old as the universe and given to us by our Creator. We need to renew our devotion to the Blessed Mother Mary and her Son our Savior and God. Through service to others we can lead by example and make a difference. I call on each of you this year to help us fulfill this pledge to reach out and serve.

Vivat Jesus!

John Vivian

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!



Dues Assistance

- We recently sent copies of the second notice of unpaid dues to all members who are in arrears. We know that times are tough and we do not want to suspend a brother for non-payment of dues who is experiencing financial difficulties.
- If you recently received a Second Notice of Membership Renewal, and need special consideration, please notify Grand Knight John Vivian or Financial Secretary Joe Murphy, at the Council's address with the particulars of your situation. Your information will be kept confidential. The Grand Knight has the authority to waive dues in special circumstances.

Joseph Murphy
Financial Secretary



Proposed Budget to be Voted Upon

The proposed budget for the 2009-2010 Columbian Year appears below. It will be discussed and voted upon at the Council meeting on September 10. All members are invited to attend this important meeting.

Proposed 2009 Budget	2009	11mo.08
Income		
Dues	12,470.00	9,670.00
Car Raffle	6,000.00	2,200.00
Christmas Cards	1,000.00	
Charity - Misc Contributions	1,000.00	60,680.00
Tootsie Roll	3,000.00	2,200.00
Bar	25,000.00	12,000.00
Functions (net)		
Installation	(50.00)	(3,950.00)
Labor Day Picnic	100.00	
Octoberfest	1,200.00	
Thanksgiving	600.00	256.00
New Years	1,200.00	330.00
St Patricks Day	1,200.00	1,120.00
Chess	50.00	(400.00)
Teachers Appreciation	1,500.00	1,000.00
Anniversary Party	1,200.00	
Workers Party	(500.00)	
Subtotal Functions	6,500.00	(1,644.00)
Dues increase \$10/yr)	2,900.00	
Golf Tournament	3,000.00	
Total Income	60,870.00	85,106.00
Expenses		
Bookkeeper	6,000.00	
Printing	5,000.00	6,790.00
Postage	2,500.00	2,390.00
Bar Manager	10,100.00	10,100.00
Phone/internet	1,200.00	570.00
Cable TV	1,400.00	1,400.00
Per Capita Tax	7,670.00	5,790.00
Charity	2,000.00	10,550.00
Tax	1,000.00	910.00
Rent	6,000.00	13,500.00
Hospitality Room	750.00	700.00
Car Raffle	2,400.00	960.00
Tootsie Roll	3,000.00	2,200.00
Misc (net)	2,000.00	2,000.00
Refund to Ohara	6,000.00	
Total Expenses	57,020.00	57,860.00
Net Income	3,850.00	27,246.00
Total w/o Charity Corp		(32,754.00)



Around the Lounge

Hours:

Monday Thru Thursday 4-8

Friday 4-11

Saturday TBA

Sunday 12:30-7ish (football season)

Are you ready for football? The lounge is! This is the first football season with the new flat screen HD TVs. We expect big tailgate parties for Redskin games, and plan to open for college games.

New fall hours will be posted in next month's Chatter.

Come by and TEE UM UP on the new Golden Tee video game. The lounge now has three video games including a bar top trivia game.

The new patio is a great place unwind on fall evenings. We hope to have a couple of deck parties this fall on Fridays and Saturdays. Check the calendar.

Don't forget to stop by and sign the book
The lounge is yours. Enjoy it!

Lounge phone 301-530-1628

Car Raffle in Underway

The Car Raffle for the benefit of the State Council's charity and scholarship programs is underway, while the Council will benefit by receiving \$0.60 for every ticket sold for the use of its charity activities. The Grand Prize is a 2010 Ford Mustang. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Columbus Day Ball on October 10.

Watch for your tickets in the mail! Better still, volunteer to help sell the raffle ticket at your parish or one of the other five parishes we serve, or at supermarkets/ Contact Emory Linder at 301-897-0084 or emory@sundun.com





State Chaplain's Message

In my homily at the Mass at Grand Knights' College I urged those present to see their efforts in this new fraternal year from a faith perspective. "We are called to serve," and if we serve others as Knights—in our councils or through various programs—we also do so as disciples of Jesus. Let us carry out our roles conscious that we are people of faith.

There are certainly times in our K of C routine when we focus on the spiritual: opening and closing meetings with prayer; the chaplain's message; the Masses throughout the year. Our charity can be all the more grace-filled when we remind ourselves of the Christian's call to love our neighbor. In the course of the year Knights will stand in all sorts of weather with tootsie rolls or marching for life. Knights give up afternoons or evenings to run benefit wheels or to visit veterans or the elderly. Knights will do all sorts of things because we belong to an Order that celebrates we are Catholic gentlemen. Our Church and Order activities constantly blend.

We should also take our involvement in these activities, and the challenges we may face as an officer, chairman or participant, to our personal prayer. It is in prayer that we

seek guidance, a clarification of our motives, strength to carry out what we committed to do, and good humor. Going before God with our plans reminds us to ask if these mesh with God's plan. Prayer keeps us humble, before God and with one another.

The point is: it will be a shame if we reach the end of the fraternal year, even if we have garnered many awards and compliments along the way, a we have not grown spiritually. Yes, the Knights were founded to assure fraternal support and security. But I believe all those efforts of Fr. McGivney and the first members indicate they also wanted to see us grow in our faith.

May this year be blessed in every sense of that word.

Vivat Jesus!

Fr. Donald Grzymiski, OFM, Conv.
State Chaplain



Bishop McNamara Chapter of Grand Knights

Highlights of the July 15, 2009 meeting:

The State has qualified for Supreme's membership Circle of Honor; the State quota for this year is 1400 new members.

Pope Benedict has proclaimed this the Year of the Priest. Supreme has designated this Columbian Year as the Year of the Volunteer.

The grand prize in the Car Raffle is a 2010 Ford Mustang, with the councils receiving \$.60 for every ticket sold; the drawing will be at the Columbus Day Ball.

44 councils participated in the Family of the Month program in May. The State Deputy has set a goal of 100 councils participating this year. The Navy Football game is on October 31,

with a pre-game tailgate in the Navyfest area. The ladies are continuing their Heroes Blankets program.

Pat Cantwell has been named as Johnny Norman's successor as co-director of the State Council Charity Fund.

The Treasurer reported that the fund balance at the end of June was \$6,056.12. Four councils still have not paid Chapter dues.

Vern Hawkins gave a presentation on "The Role of the Grand Knight"

Fr. Joe Jenkins said that while our many programs are great we should remember that we are a Catholic Organization. We must



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.



be better Catholics because we are Knights, True Men of Faith.

The Budget distributed at the last meeting was approved by the membership.

President Preston Rose announced that St. Joseph will be the Chapter's Patron this year. He also said the charity for the year is the "Appalachia Project," which will be the recipient of funds raised at the Silent Auction. All meetings this year will take place within 10 minutes of the Washington Beltway.

Worthy State Deputy Richard V. Siejack said the council membership quota this year is 7% of a council's membership, up from the 5% last year.



Voices of the Bishops

On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, **Cardinal Justin Rigali**, Chairman, Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and **Bishop William F. Murphy**, Chairman, Committee Domestic Justice and Human Development, wrote a series of letters to various Congressional Committees, and all members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, stating the bishops concerns regarding health care legislation. Among other points, they stated that: "The bishops' conference views health care as a basic right belonging to all human beings. We therefore have long supported health care reform that respects human life and dignity from conception to natural death; provides access to quality health care for all, with a special concern for immigrants and the poor; preserves pluralism, with respect for rights of conscience; and restrains costs while sharing them equitably." The America's Affordable Health Choices Act (H.R. 3200) currently being considered has two major objections. First, "(t)he legislation delegates to the Secretary of Health and Human Services the power to make unlimited abortion a **mandated benefit** in the 'public health insurance plan' the government will manage nationwide." Second, those who "purchase the 'public plan' will be **forced by the federal government** to pay directly and specifically for abortion coverage." Further, "legislation should reflect longstanding and widely supported current policies on abortion funding, mandates and conscience protections," with the "right of health care providers to decline involvement in abortion or abortion referrals, *without exception*." (see www.usccb.org/healthcare)



Family of the Month

Robert C. Waters has been selected as the Family of the month for July 2009. Bob is a Past Grand Knight of our council, and a fourth degree member of the Cardinal Patrick A. O'Boyle Assembly #386. Bob has four children: Karen, James, Steve, and Michael. He provided each with a Catholic education. Bob has been a member of holy Redeemer Parish for many decades, and president of the Rock Creek Seniors' Club for over 20 years. For many years, he was the point of contact for the disposition of discarded American flags. Bob has chaired the sale of Keep Christ in Christmas greeting cards, and is very active in the Bethesda American Legion.

Joseph P. Vaghi is the Family of the Month for August 2009. Joe has been a member of Rock Creek Council for 70 years, and a long-time member of the Cardinal Patrick O'Boyle Assembly. Joe's children are: Nino, Vincent and Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi. The latter is the pastor of the church of the Little Flower parish. Joe is a member of Holy Redeemer Parish, where all of his children attended school. During World War II, he was a Beach master at the landing of the American troops on Normandy Beach.

Neil Dorian, PGK
Chairman, Family of the Month Program

Art Harris Wins Sporting Clay Classic Challenge Trophy

"Deadeye" Art Harris won the Catholic Sportsmen Organization /Knights of Columbus Challenge Trophy for Rock Creek Council at the 10th Anniversary Father's Day Weekend Sporting Clays Classic, held at the Prince George's County Trap and Skeet Center, on Saturday, June 20th. Art not only topped some 80 novice, occasional and experienced shooters, including Hyattsville Mayor Bill Gardner and Tony Evans, retired videographer for the Archdiocese' TV Mass for Shut-ins, but Art's individual tally of "busted" clays was greater than the combined number of all shooters from host St. Jerome Council #5564. That council's response was, "Wait 'til next year." Well done, Art!!

Supreme Convention Resolution

At the 127th Supreme Convention, held in Phoenix, a Resolution was passed on August 6, reaffirming the Order's commitment to the sanctity of life. The Resolution read, in part: "**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Knights of Columbus reaffirms its commitment to unconditional support for the right to life and full protection in law for every human being from conception to natural death; and ...**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we reaffirm our long-standing policy of not inviting to any Knights of Columbus event, persons, especially public officials or candidates for public office, who do not support the protection of unborn children against abortion or who advocate the legalization of assisted suicide, euthanasia and other violations of the right to life, and of not allowing such persons to rent or otherwise use facilities over which we have control, and of not bestowing on them honors or privileges of our Order of any kind, inviting them to serve as honorary chairpersons of events, celebrations or committees, speak at Knights of Columbus events, or hold any office in the Knights of Columbus."

HEALTH TESTS

Life Line Screening will conduct the following 5 health tests at Rock Creek Mansion on Monday, September 28, 8:30 AM—5:00 PM: Stroke/Carotid Artery Screening; Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm; Ankle Brachial Index; Atrial Fibrillation; and Bone Density Screening. Each test takes about 10 minutes, and is offered for \$20-\$45/each or \$149. Pre-registration is required. For further information and registration, call 1-888-753-1129.



Council Installation and Dinner

The Installation of the Council's Officers for Columbian Year 2009-2010 took place at St. Bartholomew's Church on August 16. A celebratory dinner followed at the Council



Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly Color Corps members saluting new officers



District Deputy Roberto Ibanez giving officers their charge. District Warden Richard Earenfight on right.



Officers awaiting the receipt of jewels of office — (l to r) Msgr. Vincent Gatto, Rev. Mr. Robert Hubbard, John Vivian, Michael Horan, Arthur Harris, and P.J. Horan, Jr.



State Membership Director Tony Salvemini and his wife, Kathy, seated next to Mary Jo Ibanez



The Grand Knight and First Lady Kathleen pass under arch of swords entering dinner



Enjoying the hors d'oeuvres (l to r) Edwina and Norbert Wittrock, Manny and Amelia Aragon, Jennie and PGK Bill Morris



REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, PFN

Lest We Build in Vain

The necessity to create a culture of love that recognizes the sanctity of life and human dignity as a counterforce to modern secularism is a recurring theme in the writings of Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. In present society, characterized by rapid technological change, a glut of information, reverence for progress, and hyperactive life styles, the focus is on the here and now. The purpose of existence is defined only in terms of this world, totally ignoring the transcendental aspects which give a deeper meaning to life. As Anderson wrote in *A Civilization of Love*, Christians have a responsibility to follow the example of St. Paul to transform our culture by living a vocation of love in our day-to-day lives.

Love, in this context, does not mean the eroticism which stimulates bodily passions as is common in today's world, nor is it the self-serving emotional relationships that satisfy our egos. Rather, it is, to use the Greek term *philia*, the brotherly love of one's neighbor as one's self. Even more so, it is *agape*, the selfless giving of one's self to and for another, the unconditional, volitional love of God above all things.

It is religious apathy that has allowed society to morph into a secularism bordering on atheism. It is only when Catholics truly practice their Faith that our society will change. We cannot create a culture of love unless we are God-centered. We must recognize the Lord's place in our lives, vitalize our Faith, and continue to grow spiritually. Secularism, however, has permeated all aspects of society. The worldliness that surrounds us acts like an anesthetic dulling our sense of the spiritual. People have to break out of their egoism, and get in touch with truths larger than themselves. They must be rooted in God to be objective and selfless, to know the mind of Christ so that the world can be transformed in conformity with the principles of the kingdom of God.

Priests and religious, especially in their reduced numbers, cannot reshape today's society. Priests are not in the offices and stores, factories and laboratories, unions and professional associations, media organizations and judicial chambers, where secularism is rampant, where God is a non-entity. It is here that laymen, operating in solidarity with priests and bishops, following the teachings of the Magisterium, can evangelize from within. It is as laymen participating in society that the Knights of Columbus can have an effect.

God has always provided a means to counter the evils of the day. In the first centuries after the Crucifixion, when the Faith was persecuted, contemplative groups arose to pray for the Church and for the world. In the fifth century, as barbarian hordes overran Western societies, the monastic movement came into existence to save the religious life and culture of civilization. In the thirteenth century, the mendicant orders of Franciscans and Dominicans were founded to restore the spirit of pov-

erty among religious, too many of whom had been corrupted with a pursuit of wealth and luxury, and to combat the Albigensian heresy. In the sixteenth century, the Jesuits arose to defend the papacy, counter the effects of the Protestant Revolution, and bring the Faith to newly discovered lands. Today, it is Catholic lay activism – laymen guided by the truths of the Gospel acting in the world -- that is called upon.

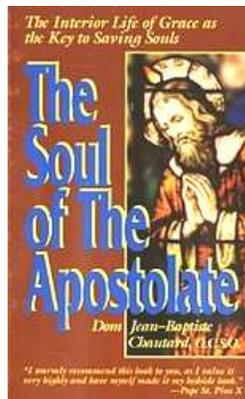
Action is a necessity to change society. But action, by itself, is insufficient. Too often, we have a false sense of accomplishment in what we have achieved – the number of elderly who were helped, the amount of money collected for charity, the number of programs conducted. We feel a pride in our talents and abilities as the basis for success. But pride can mask the role of God in our work, the grace extended but ignored, the fact that our efforts by themselves amount to nothing. The French Cistercian, Dom Jean-Baptiste Chautard, in *The Soul of the Apostle*, refers to action for action's sake as the "heresy of good works."

Action must be accompanied by prayer in order to center our activity on what God intends us to do. Prayer and action, the love of God and charity to our neighbor, the spiritual and the temporal -- when the two are combined we can be faithful agents for bringing God into the world. We should acknowledge God in everyday life, not limiting Him to the church, and perhaps the home, but introducing Him into our workplaces, our communities, our recreational activities, into the voting booth, in short, into everything we do.

Carl Anderson has stated that Catholics must work to build a new culture of life. He recently added that "there are no men better prepared to do this than those who live the principles of charity, unity and fraternity." This is a challenge to the Order to be in the vanguard changing the nation's way of life from one characterized by public agnosticism and materialism to one that acknowledges God's role in society and stresses the selflessness of true love.

The Knights of Columbus, with 1.8 million members, a vast array of programs conducted in every community in which it is located, its immense charitable works and donations, its social, fraternal and patriotic activities, and the almost uncountable number of volunteer hours its members contribute, can be a potent force for cultural change.

But for the long-term effectiveness of our outreach activities, we must strengthen our devotion to the Mass, the rosary, Marian hours of prayer, retreats, spiritual readings, Eucharistic adoration, and other means to connect with the will of God. Otherwise, our work, built solely upon a human foundation, will fail undermined by the superficiality, the mindlessness, the distractions of modern life. As stated in Psalm 127: "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders' labor in vain."





Life Insurance Facts



September is Life Insurance Awareness Month. To help educate consumers about the need for and

value of adequate life insurance protection, the Life Insurance Market Research Association (LIMRA) has published the following five facts. These statistics are certainly worth considering.

Fact 1: Nearly three-fourths of North Americans agree that life insurance is the best way to protect against premature death of the primary wage earner.

Fact 2: Twenty-four million households have no life insurance protection

at all. Almost one third of adults have no life insurance protection.

Fact 3: Forty-four percent of all households either don't own life insurance and believe they should, or own life insurance and believe they need more. Among those that already own some life insurance, 40 percent believe they don't have enough.

Fact 4: One-fourth of primary wage earners feel they do not have a plan in place to provide a decent standard of living for their family if they died tomorrow. Twelve percent of families would immediately have trouble meeting everyday living expenses and another 15 percent would have difficulty keeping up after several months.

Fact 5: People would like to discuss

life insurance with a qualified professional agent. They believe that buying life insurance is an important and complex financial decision. Half find it difficult to decide how much to buy, and 43 percent worry about making the wrong decision.

I'd like to meet with you in your home, at your convenience. I'll work with you to make sure your family is protected. As a brother Knight you can trust, I'll take the stress and worry out of the buying decision.

Call me – let's talk.

Fraternally,

MICHAEL PATTEN
Fraternal Benefits Advisor

240-305-6996

michael.patten@kofc.org

CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter D. Ferrigno, PGK

As if it were not enough for the U.S. Episcopal Church to accept its first gay bishop, Bishop Gene Robinson, of New Hampshire, causing much of the upheavals and schisms we see going on in their church, now that church's bishops again just voted 99-45 to permit other gay bishops. This was followed by a higher percentage of votes by their church's deputies. Up for passing now is their approval for same-sex marriages.

To be sure, not everyone is happy about this. Bishop Peter Beckwith of Springfield, Ill. was quoted, saying, "I believe this is another clear instance of the church being shaped by the secular culture rather than the secular culture being shaped by the church". One need not be reminded that the Church of England was the Roman Catholic Church of England for almost 1000 years. Then, in 1543, Henry VIII, having been refused an annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon by Pope Clement VII, to allow him to marry Anne Boleyn, broke away from the Holy See and formed his own church.

If the U.S. Episcopal Church is fragmenting, as seen lately, one might see some of their people returning back to their former roots, the Roman Catholic Church. At least this has been holding their grounds for almost 2000 years. Now return to what Bishop Beckwith said. I do not think that the Catholic Church is being influenced by the secular movement, but I do think that there are far too many so-called Catholics, maybe better known as "Cafeteria Catholics", that have modified their religious teachings, modified their "doctrine of faith" to meet their own immediate and personal comforts. How many of our lawmakers, who claim to be Catholics, partake in bills that move us away from the church's teachings in matters of birth control, embryonic stem cell research, euthanasia, abortion, gay marriage, cohabitation,

etc. As members of the Knights of Columbus, we should do everything we can to support our Church and follow its teachings. Let those around each of us know that we do belong to a pro-life, family-priented, Catholic Organization, strong in number and strong in faith.

On July 26, the Council had their Installation of Officers Mass at the Church of St. Bartholomew. Rev. Msgr. James Beattie, Pastor and Rev. Msgr. Vincent Gatto concelebrated this Mass with the assistance of Deacon Julio Blanco-Eccleston of St. Bartholomew and Deacon John Shewmaker of Our Lady of Lourdes. The organist, Walter McCoy and cantor, Daniel Villar participated throughout the Mass. As ushers, Neil Dorian, PGK, Wes Chin, PGK, Peter Ferrigno, PGK and Jack Vivian, Outside Guard substituted for the regular parish ushers in the two collections and also ushered for the communion of the Mass. Our Color Corps Commander, John Fox, and four of the Color Corps Members (including one of our own, Vince Bunag, PGK) were present to provide some assistance during Mass (processing the priests and deacons up to the altar and providing accompaniment of the Grand Knight and the First Lady when they brought up the gifts. In attendance at the Mass, officers, with wives and /or families were present, accompanied by additional numbers of our Council Knights with some wives. Our special guests were State Council, Membership Director, Tony Salvemini and his wife, Kathy, Preston Rose, President of the Bishop McNamara Chapter of Grand Knights and his wife, Maria, Faithful Navigator Danny Bengero of the Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly, Ralph Vallone, Warden of Council 2169 and DGK Michael Townsend of St. Elizabeth Council and his wife, Stacie. All in all, there were about two hundred and fifty in attendance for this regular Sunday Mass.

God Bless

Visit the Council Website at www.kofc2797.org



SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

There were 45 members and guests who attended our annual luncheon-meeting at Alfio's. We were honored to have Fr. Perceval D'Silva, Fr. Francis Alves, our member Deacon Bob Hubbard, and our member PSD Gene Hogan with us.

A great big thanks to Helen Brennan for all of her work in putting this function together. Helen not only agreed to receive the payments and keep the attendance list, but to do the mailing! Be sure to thank her. I received many comments about Alfio's and will take them into consideration for next year.

We will hold a Hawaiian Party on September 9. This will be catered, with music by Dorothy Bush. Flyers will be sent to those who were not at Alfio's. Reservations required, with payment at the door.

On October 11, we will hold our annual Halloween Party. Dorothy Bush will again entertain us. We may also have a speaker at this meeting. We also are exploring another Country-Western Party for November.

I cancelled the baseball trip for lack of interest. Note, when writing a check for one of our functions, make it out as "Rock Creek Seniors."

Happy Birthday to Dr. Victor Khayat, Hilda Stofko, and all of the others who were born in August

Please invite your clergy and religious to



PGK Bob Waters

our functions. They attend as our guests. Let's all support our Council functions.

GOD BLESS AMERICA, AND OUR MILITARY!

PRAYER CORNER

In your prayers remember: Eureka & Elizabeth Arcand, Bill Bartels, Tom Becker, Dom Bellia, William "Will"

Bello, Larry Bisnett, Jean Boyland, John Bruce, Ray Celada, Jinny Chwirut, Maureen Collins, Maggie De Bettencourt, Barbara 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, Tom Locraft, Julia Marcus (Art Hanley's granddaughter), James Marketos, John O'Keefe, Ralph Oviedo, Sr. Maureen Patrice, Anna Pitcher, Fr. David Pollak, George and Joan Reed, Bridget Shanahan, Pat Siemien, Melvin Simmons, 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 Rev. Robert V. Zylla, O.S.C. (Friar of Cardinal Patrick A. O'Boyle Assembly, Chaplain of Montgomery Council, and Assistant State Chaplain). Our condolences to his family.

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Chatter to be Electronically Delivered

Beginning January 1, 2010, the primary means of delivery of *The Knight Chatter* will be electronically through the Internet. You will benefit by receiving the *Chatter* a week to ten days earlier, as it will be sent to you the same time it is sent to the printer, and you will receive it in color. To see what it will look like, check the Council website (www.kofc2797.org), where several years of the newsletter are archived. In addition, this will reduce the cost to the Council for printing and mailing, monies that can be used to provide other benefits. Please send you email address to John Vivian at jvivian@vicorinc.com. Members who wish to continue receiving it in hard copy can do so by contacting Larry Grayson at LPGrayson@verizon.net or 301-933-8731.

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**September CHATTER Deadline:
September 18, 2009**

ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
September	1	2	3	4	5	
	6	7 LABOR DAY	8 Executive Committee 7:30 PM Nativity of BVM	9 Seniors Meet 12:30 PM K-C Club 7:30 PM	10 Rosary 7:30 PM Social Mtg 8:00 PM	11 12 Most Holy Name of Mary
13	14 Star Spangled Banner Written 1814	15	16	17	18 Family Pot-Luck Cookout & Movie Night	19
20	21	22  Autumn Begins	23	24 Rosary 7:30 PM Business Mtg 8:00 PM	25	26
27	28	29 Archangels Michael, Gabriel & Raphael	30			