



THE KNIGHT CHATTER

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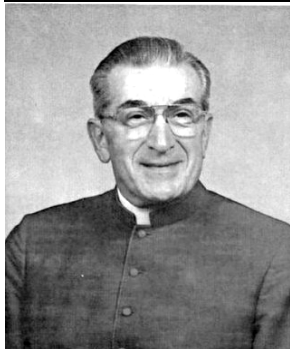
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"I BELIEVE"



The Seniors had a wonderful turnout for their annual Christmas Party on December 9. Here Santa is giving Father Michael Murray (Director, Gate of Heaven Cemetery) a candy cane. Can you identify Santa? Read the *Seniors' Club Report*, page 11.

CHAPLAIN'S



Chaplain Gatto

Dear Knights,

In 1858, Bernadette Soubirous, a fourteen year old peasant girl, experienced a series of visions of a beautiful lady at a grotto in Lourdes, France. The parish priest told the girl to ask the lady her name. According to Bernadette, the vision said, "I am the Immaculate Conception." Bernadette had no idea what those words meant. Yet, four years

earlier, the Vatican, stating that the Virgin Mary had been conceived without original sin, had proclaimed the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Just as Saint Bernadette did not understand, many Catholics today may have to say "no" when asked: Do you know what the Immaculate Conception means? A great many believe that this doctrine refers to Jesus being born of the Virgin Mary. It is not about Mary giving birth to Jesus, but about Mary, herself, being free from sin from the first moment of her conception.

(Continued on page 2)

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

Worthy Brothers,

This has certainly been a busy Christmas season. We celebrated with the Council on the 18th at a spirited and festive party in the Lounge. We had live music, plenty of food and great camaraderie. It highlighted all the great work which has gone into rejuvenating the lounge area with a nice turnout of our Brother Knights. Considering it was held during the start of the Great Snow, it was a huge success.

Our celebrations will continue with a New Year's Bash catered by Pastore's of Rosedale. They will provide a full Italian menu and the evening will be topped off with the traditional New Year's toast. Thanks to Emory Linder for the coordination of that event. I hope to see all of our fellow Knights at this event.

As we begin the New Year, the festivities will be over and we will be entering the time period we used to call the "Dark Ages" during my midshipman days at Annapolis. I

(Continued on page 4)



Grand Knight Vivian



DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

My Brothers All,

While the secular world got rid of their Christmas trees on December 26, and while there's not a single Christmas song broadcast anywhere, we Catholics are in the middle of celebrating the festivity. We take 12 days to do it, and those "12 days of Christmas" only began on December 25. It is my wish that all of you and your families are properly celebrating this birthday by getting closer to the Birthday Boy, Jesus Himself.

But let's go back to business: the State Council will hold its Mid-Term meeting on Saturday, January 9. All Grand Knights and Deputy Grand Knights are expected to attend. GKs received invitation and instructions directly from our Worthy State Deputy, Richard Siejack, while the DGKs received them from our State Secretary Peter Davio, who will take the helm of the State Council on July 1st. At that meeting we will assess the last six months, and look ahead to the next six. DGKs will be encouraged to start their planning so that when July 1st comes, they will be ready to "hit the floor running."

As for our District, I am pleased to say we have managed to have a fairly successful first-half of our term. All four councils added new members to their ranks, held a variety of programs, and have many others in the works. All four councils should have no problem with their Second Quarter Reports, due on January 15. One program in particular, the Tootsie Roll Campaign, will officially close with the distribution of the proceeds from all councils in Montgomery County. This will take place at St Raphael's Trumpet Room on Saturday, February 20, 2009. I had the pleasure to attend the meeting at which the Grand Knights of the entire County agreed (after serious considerations) to the final awards based on this year's collection. Mater Dei Council singlehandedly collected more than one-fifth of the County total. Well done, and congratulations to Mater Dei and all its volunteers!

In January we will have a 2nd and a 3rd Degree exemplified in our District. Both will take place at Rock Creek Council on January 14th and 15th respectively. Based on the number of new 1st Degree members in the District, these exemplifications can be magnificent. Members of all four councils, especially those who proposed these candidates, should make a special effort to attend and offer these men our support and encouragement.

Let me also remind you that on Friday, January 22, we all should attend the March for Life in Washington, DC, hopefully beginning with the Youth Rally and Mass. I would again suggest that, if at all possible, we should try to gather together with the State Council right by their banner and flag, so instead of being a few men lost amidst thousands of people, the Knights of Columbus from the area will be a sizable group marching together. Living in the area it is almost a sin not to attend. Try to wear something distinctive, with the K of C logo, and bring your council's banner if possible. We must stand and protect Life, because without it nothing else is possible. Today, the fate of millions of unborn babies seems even worse than before. They cannot speak for themselves... we have to do it for them!

Once again my wife Mary Jo and I would like to offer our best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year to each and every one of you; praying that our Lord and His Blessed Mother will always be there to guide and protect our families.

Fraternally,

E. Roberto Ibáñez, DGK

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

Family 5K Walk/Run Planned

We are looking at the possibility of holding a family 5K walk/run at the Council in the spring. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Art Harris 301-980-4008.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrates this singular privilege given by God to Mary. God preserved her from original sin because she was to be the mother of God's Son, Jesus. Such a privilege, however, should not distance us from Mary. Rather, we can rejoice that Mary desires to be our friend and companion on our journey through life.

In fact, we do have something very important in common with the Blessed Virgin. Mary was without sin at the moment of her conception, while we are cleansed from the stain of original sin at the moment of our Baptism. In addition, we too, have been chosen to be holy and blameless in God's sight and to be full of love. Mary can be our model as we strive to grow in holiness.

God bless you!

Monsignor Gatto

Community Activities

Why stop a good thing? Just because the holiday season is coming to an end does not mean that it can't be extended. The gift card campaign was so successful we thought why not keep it going. The cards that have been collected (at the time I am writing this, we hope to have 30 of them) will be delivered to the veterans on December 23.

Our servicemen and women's responsibilities and needs don't just last for a month. They are needed all the time. So again, if you are in a grocery store, restaurant or a mall pick up a gift card and bring it by the lounge. We will make sure that it gets to our veterans. They deserve it.

Ernie Baur
Community Activities, Director





PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter and Mary Ann Ferrigno, Pro-Life Chaircouple



On January 22, once again, the Pro-Life Movement will declaim the legal

slaughter of innocent children in the womb, on the 37th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. It was one year ago, on the 20th of this month, that Barack Obama, our most “abortion-minded president”, took office. Prior to this date, he had promised Planned Parenthood that he would sign into law FOCA (Freedom of Choice Act), which would give women the absolute right to choose whether to continue or terminate their pregnancy “before fetal viability” (the law states that one may terminate the child at any period of development).

One year prior to this, Senator Obama stated, “Throughout my career, I’ve been a consistent and strong supporter of reproductive justice and have consistently had a 100 percent pro-choice rating with Planned Parenthood”. It is puzzling to imagine how anyone who claims that they are pro-life could have voted for such an individual. I still believe that one cannot be both Pro-Choice and a true Catholic. I am sure that one day in the near future the Church will come forth and state this as “truth.” Although the bishops have been “weak” in their statements, certain bishops recently stated that they would not give communion to a member of Congress who supports and advocates abortion. This is a beginning.

Over a year ago, Father Stephen Torracco, with the Society for the Study of the Magisterial Teaching of the Church stated: “If a political candidate supported abortion or any other moral evil, such as assisted suicide and euthanasia...it would not be morally permissible for one to vote for that person. This is because in voting for such a person, one would then become an accomplice in the moral evil at issue.” Archbishop Raymond Burke, prefect of the Apostolic Signature, the Vatican’s Supreme Court, explained, “No matter how

often a bishop or priest repeats the teaching of the Church, regarding procured abortions, if he stands by and does nothing to discipline a Catholic who publicly supports legislation permitting the gravest of injustice, and at the same time, presents himself to receive Holy Communion, his teaching rings hollow.” I truly believe that this is currently happening in our own Archdiocese. Personally, I would rather belong to a Catholic Church of one million people, in which each member upholds its teachings, than a Catholic Church of more than one billion, where so many are Catholics in name only. There was a nationwide poll taken in November 2009, to the question: “Should Catholic politicians, who support abortion, publicly be excommunicated?” 93.2% answered “yes”, and 6.8% answered “no.” As Knights of Columbus, we should be in this majority.

Lawmakers of Montgomery County introduced a bill stating that pro-life pregnancy centers would have to post bilingual signs stating that they will not provide medical advice nor will they establish doctor-patient relationships. Councilwoman Trachtenberg insisted that the legislation is needed because “CPCs often provide false and misleading information to women.” On December 1, a resolution, similar to one passed in Baltimore County, targeted four Pregnancy Crisis Centers (Birthright, Montgomery Pregnancy Center, Shady Grove Center and Tepeyac Center), which are pro-life charities providing material and emotional assistance to pregnant women in need. The resolution would force these pregnancy resource centers to inform clients, upon first contact, that “they do not give medical advice and that visiting woman should consult with another medical provider before making a decision about her pregnancy.” Failure to comply would result in heavy daily fines (\$150 per day). Planned Parenthood and NARAL hope that will break the backbone of these helpful centers. Why would any “pro-life center” suggest a pregnant woman should visit an abortion clinic?

As your Pro-Life Couple for the Council, both Mary Ann, a volunteer with Birthright, and I attended the Montgomery County Council hearing for this proposed

resolution. There were many pro-life and pro-choice speakers. The pro-choice speakers were mainly supporters of Planned Parenthood and NARAL, while the pro-life speakers were representatives of the four Pregnancy Crisis Centers and other pro-life supporters. The hearing lasted three and a half hours. Listening to the Council members asking questions, it seemed to us that they already had their minds made up. I surely hope not. Lawmakers, with preconceived pro-choice concepts, make lousy lawmakers. They do not have the best interest of the people of this county.

When the Planned Parenthood and NARAL groups stated, “the four pregnancy centers gave no alternatives to women seeking advice” (the alternative being whether they have considered having an abortion), this prompted many of the pro-life speakers to ask: Why then, are there no regulations requiring the abortion clinic people to inquire of women coming to them, whether they had considered keeping the “child” rather than killing it. Planned Parenthood and NARAL representatives claimed that CPC people were giving false information to the women visiting the clinics: “Abortions may cause breast cancer” or “Having an abortion could cause emotional problems” or “Abortions could lead to sterility.” They stated that all of these quotes are false. John Naughton, a pro-lifer, in his testimony, provided references to medial findings that supported each and every one of the statements refuted by the supporters of pro-choice movements. Initially, the Montgomery County Council was to provide its decision on the December 10; however, they postponed their decision until some time in January.

In previous years, at the March for Life, our Council has not participated as an organization. We marched either with the State Council or with our individual parishes. This year, Grand Knight Vivian would like to see our Council members assemble under our own banner, or join the State Council but have our banner. If you are interested in participating, please contact Grand Knight Vivian (301-461-3597).

God Bless!



GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

think for us as Knights, however, it is more a time of reflection on what has been accomplished and what will need to be done even better during our new calendar year. We have made great progress as a Council in 2009 and we will endeavor to improve as we head into the New Year. I have been asked if we would like to look into sponsoring a Boy Scout troop at the Council. I am looking for volunteers as to who would be interested in taking this project on. Please contact me if you have an interest.

We have an opportunity in January to stand up and be counted since it is the time for the March for Life. As usual, we will be hosting youth who will be participating in the March and all of the events leading up to the March. Neil Dorian will be coordinating the hosting services for our guests at the Council and would, I am sure, appreciate volunteers to stay over. We have been doing this for a number of years and the numbers attending will be larger than ever.

This is a good thing we do and it is worthy of our efforts but we can do more. I asked Peter Ferrigno recently, how many Knights from our Council attended the March. He indicated that only 6 Knights showed up at the March last year. Out of more than 600, that is less than a 1% turnout. I realize that the event is during the work day (this year on Friday) but I think we can do better. Please contact Peter if you are going to attend. I would appreciate a good turnout from our own Council this year.

Best wishes for a fulfilling and prosperous New Year!

Vivat Jesus!

John Vivian, GK

Around the Lounge

Hours: Monday Thru Thursday 4-8
Friday 4-11, Saturday 2-8
Sunday Noon-7 (for Redskins Games)

Come and enjoy Hard Times Cincinnati Chili dogs to go with your liquid refreshments..

Don't forget the \$5 Sunday Redskin Tailgate Parties. We will supply the burgers, dogs, and grill, but please bring a side to share.

Bring a gift card for th injured service men and women at the Naval Medical Hospital. We delivered the first group of cards a few days before Christmas. As the response was good and the needs of the veterans so great, we are continuing the program. If you haven't already donated a gift card, you can bring it to the Lounge, and we will have a second delivery to the wounded veterans.

Have a very Happy New Year!

Lounge phone 301-530-1628

Bishop McNamara Chapter of Grand Knights

The next meeting of the Chapter will be held on January 20, at St Mary's of Landover Hills, Landover Hills. This meeting is designed especially for Deputy Grand Knights who will be advancing to Grand Knight in July. Tom Firestone will provide insights on what to expect and how to do a good job. His presentation is entitled, "So you are going to be the Grand Knight." All GKs, PGKs, and other officers are invited.



Forthcoming Meetings of the Chapter:

February 17 -- St John F. Regis Council # 7914, Hollywood, Ash Wednesday (Jim Cooney)

March 17 -- Queen of the America's, Tacoma Park, St. Joseph (Joe Feaks)

April 21 -- Patuxent Council # 2203, Laurel, Vocations (Richard Earenfight)

May 19 -- Fr. Rosensteel Council # 2169, Silver Spring, Installations (Jim Rank)

June 16 -- St Mary of the Assumption # 9302, Upper Marlboro, Budgets and Exchange of Jewels

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!

This is a small way we can show our devotion to Our Lady and ask her intercession for our many needs.





CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter D. Ferrigno, PGK

On Saturday, December 5, there was a Mind Mass at St. Jane Frances de Chantal for SPRED, Spiritual Religious Education, for our special individuals. Father Francis Alves celebrated the Mass, which is now currently held only twice a year. There were 22 present with included eight of our special children. As we sang the opening song, *O Come All Ye Faithful*, the rain outside turned to snow, the first of the season. Although expected, it seemed to be perfectly timed that morning. A number of the children participated in the Mass, as alter server and readers. A part of Father Alves's homily was befitting for the occasion. He spoke of about all six billion people on the earth are each different from one another, but each is a "Child of God" and each has a purpose in this world. Imagine how the parents, of those children present, must have felt. Concluding the Mass with *Hail, Holy Queen Enthroned Above*, we then assembled at the Council for our monthly coffee and donuts, prepared by Brothers Jim McKay and Neil Dorian. Father Alves accepted my invitation to attend our gathering.

There is a scheduled Vigil Mass to be held at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on the 21st of this month. Also, there will be another popular Mass celebrated at the Verizon Center in conjunction with the Youth Rally on the morning of the March for Life. This year, ever so much more, we do need our members, with their families, to attend Mass to pray for change to this "Culture of Death,"

named by our late Pope Paul John II.

Unlike what the Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, had stated, the Church's position against abortion is not based on any philosophical idea about "when the child receives a soul." The dogma is truly founded on the dominion of God over human life, as well as over its process of coming to be. From this, it follows: "The teachings on contraception, artificial reproduction, destructive research, abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and the entire body of social justice teachings" has and will always prevail. Basically, the question that arrives from this is "To whom does a child belong?" Is it the mother, the parents, the state, or any other name you wish to add to this list? In truth, each child "belongs to God." Once you concede this, there is no wonder that the killing of a child will always be wrong. It is not enough that you, as a member of the Catholic Church, say that it is none of your business. As a Catholic and a believer of the Catholic faith, you can only conclude that abortion is wrong and can never be justified. To say: "I do not believe that it is right to have an abortion, but I think that it is all right for you to do so," one would be a hypocrite. How many "Catholics" have you heard say just that? They fall into that group of the late Ed Kennedy, John Kerry, Joe Biden, Nancy Pelosi, and so many, many others. Have you added your name to this list?

God Bless.

Clean Up at St. Jane de Chantal

On Saturday, November 21st members of Rock Creek Council participated in a clean-up at St. Jane de Chantal Parish. At the request of Msgr. Essex about 20 Knights helped clean up the area between the entrance to the Church and the Rectory. Three pickup trucks and 3 trailers full of debris were loaded and had to be taken to the dump twice. This is a great example of how our Council can rally together to help in our community. Great work Brother Knights!

Art Harris





Maryland State Charity Fund



Through the generosity of our members donations continue to be made to the Charity Fund. Tax deductible contributions, totaling \$17,823 to date, have come from 469 members representing 69 councils, a lady's auxiliary, a district, a number of councils, and income from last year's Combined Charity Campaigns. An example of this generosity is the \$1,200 check

from St. Mary's Council No. 1470 that was presented to the Fund at the recently held Fall Meeting.

Grants and expenses have totaled \$16,129 with \$15,691 going to help eight people in temporary financial need. The remainder went towards expenses. Three additional cases are currently being reviewed. These grants helped pay for funeral expenses, rent, a car payment, utilities and medical expenses. For two months in a row now income is outpacing output but with the outstanding cases it's not clear how long this situation will last.

It has been mentioned many times that the need for support has never been greater because of the poor economy. We're asking the district deputies and grand knights to continue to support the Charity Fund by promoting the program within their districts and councils. We're also asking the grand knights to be sure to distribute the pre-addressed envelopes that were handed out at the GK seminar to all of their members and encourage them to make tax deductible contributions to the Fund. Distribute the envelopes in any way that works for the council - through newsletters, council billing notices, membership card

mailings or other mailings the council makes throughout the year.

Members can still make contributions through the Combined Charity Campaigns at their workplaces. These campaigns will continue through February. In many cases the employer will match the employee's contribution. So make sure your council members are made aware of this and are provided with the following ID codes:

- Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area, (ID Code 78166)
- Chesapeake Bay Area Combined Federal Campaign (ID Code (78166)
- Maryland Charity Campaign for State Employees & Retirees. (ID Code 5834)
- United Way (throughout the State) (ID Code 4632)

If a member or family member contribute through any of the above Campaigns, whether listed with ID code or not, make sure they include the Fund's name and address as shown below on their pledge card in the "Donor Option" section:

Maryland Knights of Columbus Charity Fund, Inc.
10815 Stang Road; Owings Mills, MD 21117

Complete details about the Fund and applications for financial assistance are available on the State Council website (www.kofc-md.org). Inquiries may also be made to Patrick E. Corcoran, 410-588-5880, or Patrick J. Cantwell, 301-952-8290.

Remember, Charity is the first principle of the Order.

Family of the Month

The selection for November, 2009 Family of the Month is John and Monica Shewmaker. Deacon John Shewmaker has been Associate Chaplain of our Council for the past 15 years. John is married to Monica and they have three children - Paul, Pamala, and Tracey. John is a graduate of the Naval Academy and charter member of the Senior Executive Corps. While serving his military duty in the Korean War, he was Commanding Officer of a Destroyer. John and Monica have been members of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish for 42 years, where John has served as Deacon for 19 years and as a lector. Monica has been a Eucharistic minister for 30 years, and has been president of the Lourdes Parish Council for 6 years. She has been

active with the St. Francis program for 14 years counseling sick/dying people and those with AIDS. John has been Chaplain at the Bethesda Medical Hospital for the past 15 years. John and Monica made sure that all three of their children were provided a strong, wholesome Catholic education.

Deacon John Shewmaker, the Rock Creek Council salutes you and your family for serving the community faithfully for many years, living lives with firm Catholic principles, and acting as role models for your neighbors.

Neil Dorian, PGK
Chairman, Family of the Month Program

Remember Our Sick and Deceased

As reported at the December 10 meeting of the Council, we have been asked to remember the following members, relatives and friends in our prayers.

Sick and Distressed:

John Pekar, Carole Hanley, Emelia and Mannie

Aragon, Barbara Waters, PGK Jim Kane, Marilyn Dempsey, Father Helwig, and those on the Seniors' Club sick list (see page 13)

Deceased:

Jane Frank and Frank Hayden



Voices of the Bishops

The Pope and top Curial Cardinals have been consistent and clear on the issue of whether a Catholic politician who persistently supports abortion can receive Communion.



Cardinal Francis Arinzi, then Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, said, in 2004, that a pro-abortion politician "is not fit" to receive Communion. "If they should not receive, then they should not be given." At another time, he was asked if a person who votes for abortion can receive Holy Communion. His reply was: "Do you really need a cardinal from the Vatican to answer that? Get the children for first Communion and say to them, 'Somebody votes for the killing of unborn babies, and says, I voted for that, I will vote for that every time.' And these babies are killed not one or two, but in millions, and that person says, 'I'm a practicing Catholic', should that person receive Communion next Sunday? The children will answer that at the drop of a hat. You don't need a cardinal to answer that."

Cardinal Antonio Canizares, the current Prefect of that Congregation, stated: "The strongest words are found in St. Paul: one who goes to the Eucharist and is not properly prepared, duly prepared, 'he eats his own condemnation.' This is the strongest thing that we can say and what is the most truthful statement."

In 2004, the then **Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger**, Prefect of the Congregation of the Faith, wrote a letter to Pope John Paul II, in which he stated that a Catholic politician who would vote for "permissive abortion and euthanasia laws" after being duly instructed and warned, "must" be denied Communion. He further explained that if such a politician "with obstinate persistence, still presents himself to receive the Holy Eucharist, the minister of Holy Communion must refuse to distribute it."

The now **Pope Benedict XVI**, in a press conference in 2007, addressed a question on the Mexican bishops excommunicating politicians who support legalizing abortion. He stated: "Yes, this excommunication was not an arbitrary one but is allowed by Canon law [915] which says that the killing of an innocent child is incompatible with receiving communion, which is receiving the body of Christ."

Archbishop Raymond Burke, Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, the Vatican's Supreme Court, remarked on the need for bishops to uphold this canon. He stated: "No matter how often a bishop or priest repeats the teaching of the Church regarding procured abortion, if he stands by and does nothing to discipline a Catholic who publicly supports legislation permitting the gravest of injustices and, at the same time, presents himself to receive Holy Communion, then his teaching rings hollow. To remain silent is to permit serious confusion regarding a fundamental truth of the moral law."

Membership Corner

Welcome to our eight new members who took their first degrees on December 12, 2009. They are: Thomas F. Fisher and Thomas F. Morin of Holy Redeemer; John G. Kaden, Wilson A. Smithdeal and Thomas W. Tappan of St. Jane de Chantal; Crews O. Keen and Michael S. Whitcomb of St. Peter's; and Paul J. Carroccio of St. Bernadette's. Gentlemen, take advantage of the many social, charitable and religious activities that the Council offers, for you and your families. The more you become involved, the more you will enjoy and benefit from your membership.

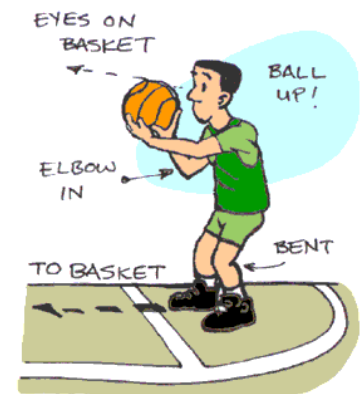
To date this year, we have brought in 22 new members.

Remember, Rock Creek Council will host a Second Degree ceremony on Thursday, January 14, and a Third degree on Friday, January 15. This is a convenient time to advance your membership in the Order.

Youth Activities

The basketball free throw competition will be held in Christopher Hall (the gym) at St. Jane de Chantal on Friday, January 22, at 7:00 PM. The event is open to 10-14-year-old boys and girls.

Every participant will receive a patch, a Knights mini backboard and ball, and a certificate of participation. Winners in each age group will receive a plaque and will be invited to the District championship, to be held at a later date. After that, the winners will be invited to the State Championships.



The event is free. Come and have fun!

If you have any questions, please call me at 301-980-4008.

Art Harris
Youth Activities Director



HEALTH CARE, POLITICIANS AND THE CATHOLIC CONSCIENCE

A Troubling New Development Appears in American Politics

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson

For decades, Americans have been subjected to the arguments of certain Catholic politicians who argued that while "personally opposed" to unjust policies like abortion, they were nonetheless unwilling to "impose" that view on the rest of the country.

The argument was disingenuous, premised on the fact that somehow a "Catholic" conscience had to be put to the side in the public square. Now, the very people who argued that they couldn't bring their private conscience into a secular public square are poised to use the law to impose a particular view on their fellow Catholics.

By working and voting to include abortion coverage in health care legislation, several Catholic politicians stand at the precipice of being the deciding votes in forcing a particular immoral view on their fellow Catholics, by forcing them to fund abortion through their tax dollars. While professing that they cannot impose their conscience on anyone else, these politicians seem to have little hesitation about imposing a political view -- one they claim to oppose in principle -- on the consciences of their fellow Catholics.

Far from Kennedy

Catholic politicians willing to forsake their own consciences and impose a directly anti-Catholic view on others have come a long way from the legacy of American history's highest profile Catholic statesman, John F. Kennedy, who while discussing his role as a Catholic and candidate for president said: "If the time should ever come -- and I do not concede any conflict to be even remotely possible -- when my office would require me to either violate my conscience or violate the national interest, then I would resign the office; and I hope any conscientious public servant would do the same."

And while some might consider that Catholic politicians have disagreed with the public policy recommendations of their bishops in a variety of areas, the key is this: Many issues are prudential and open to reasonable disagreement; but the inalienable right to life in the context of abortion is not -- it is fundamental and it may not be compromised.

As Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger -- now Benedict XVI -- noted

about Catholic politicians in 2004: "Not all moral issues have the same moral weight as abortion." He added: "While the Church exhorts civil authorities to seek peace, not war, and to exercise discretion and mercy in imposing punishment on criminals, it may still be permissible to take up arms to repel an aggressor or to have recourse to capital punishment. There may be a legitimate diversity of opinion even among Catholics about waging war and applying the death penalty, but not however with regard to abortion."

Unjust law

Catholic politicians must now consider the effect of national legislation mandating Catholic cooperation in abortion. In his famous pro-life encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae*, Pope John Paul II said: "The passing of unjust laws often raises difficult problems of conscience for morally upright people with regard to the issue of cooperation, since they have a right to demand not to be forced to take part in morally evil actions."

He said further: "Christians, like all people of good will, are called upon under grave obligation of conscience not to cooperate formally in practices which, even if permitted by civil legislation, are contrary to God's law. Indeed, from the moral standpoint, it is never licit to cooperate formally in evil... This cooperation can never be justified either by invoking respect for the freedom of others or by appealing to the fact that civil law permits it or requires it. Each individual in fact has moral responsibility for the acts which he personally performs; no one can be exempted from this responsibility, and on the basis of it everyone will be judged by God himself."

It is doubly ironic that a law that would force millions to violate their conscience by paying their taxes and would entangle thousands of Catholic physicians, nurses, hospitals and charities in the evil of abortion is being considered at precisely a time when the majority of Americans -- in greater and greater numbers -- are increasingly becoming more pro-life.

Catholic public officials in Washington have the power to prevent this moral tragedy from happening. They should not hesitate to do so.

U.S. Knights Urged to Oppose Health Care Bills in House and Senate

Health care reform legislation, separate versions of which have been passed in the U.S. House of Representatives and in the U.S. Senate will result in mandatory abortion coverage paid for with public funds and fails to provide conscience protection for medical professionals. The two bills have not yet been reconciled. Knights in the U.S. are being urged to respond to the bishops' request that they contact their Senators and Representatives on the issue, and to express opposition to the bills as presently written. You may call the White House switchboard at 202-224-3121 to be connected with your elected officials' offices. You also may send a letter or an email. Information on how to contact members of Congress can be found at <http://www.contactingthecongress.org/>



REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, PFN

The Muted Cry

Since *Roe v. Wade* legalized abortion in 1973, the lives of some 53 million unborn children in the United States have been terminated. On average, that is one abortion every 22 seconds for the past 37 years. No past society in the history of the world has ever tolerated such voluntary, massive destruction of its own people. Today, tens of millions of Americans consider abortion to be a woman's right, and its legalization to be a compassionate judicial act.

How could this occur in a country founded on an unalienable right to life -- a right recognized in the Declaration of Independence to be "endowed by their Creator" to all people? The vast majority of Americans, according to a Harris poll, profess to believe in God and the devil, the soul and miracles, heaven and hell, the Virgin birth and the Resurrection. If this is true, how could this heinous practice persist? The answer must be that most people do not really believe that God exists -- believe not in a habitual or perfunctory way, but genuinely and sincerely believe. If even the three of every four Americans who identify themselves as Christians truly believed that there is a God, that He created them in His image, that their aim is eventually to be with Him in heaven, and that He will hold them accountable for their actions in this life, they would not dare to condone abortion or any other intrinsic evil, such as euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research or same-sex marriage.

A leading organization opposing the culture of death that has developed in the United States, and indeed throughout the Western world, is the Knights of Columbus. Even before the *Roe v. Wade* decision, it was collaborating with other pro-life organizations to reduce abortions. It has avowed to cry out against this abomination of life. The Order donates millions of dollars to pro-life causes, provides pro-life literature, sponsors medical-moral workshops for bishops, files and supports friend-of-the-court briefs on pro-life issues that have come before the Supreme Court, has erected hundreds of memorials to the unborn, takes a primary role in the annual March for Life, and has passed resolutions supporting the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.

These many, sustained initiatives are laudable, but as a verbal protest from a society of 1.7 million members they are less than robust. Can we say that our organizational voice is heard when Catholic politicians continue to support legislation and provide funding for abortion services? When in the last presidential election, a majority of Catholics voted for a candidate who strongly supports abortion? When abortions continue at the rate of 3,300 per day?

The outcry from the largest Catholic, fraternal organization in the world should be loud and booming. In addition to what it is doing, there are many other activities the Order can undertake, particularly at the state and council levels. For instance:

If Archbishop Donald Wuerl and Bishop Samuel Aquila of Fargo, ND, can pray at abortion clinics, and the latter can ask all the priests in his diocese to follow his example, why can't each State Deputy lead his Councils to do the same?

If groups of lay Catholics can gather to say the Rosary in front of abortion clinics -- and are occasionally joined by a few priests -- why can't every council encourage its members to join these groups, or even start their own?

While many councils participate in the national March for Life in January, why isn't there any organized Knights of Columbus presence at the Maryland March for Life in March?



Archbishop Donald Wuerl praying the rosary outside of Planned Parenthood's metropolitan DC abortion clinic

While it is praiseworthy that some individual councils support pro-life centers, why aren't there State programs to do likewise? No doubt organizations, such as The Gabriel Network, Centro Tepeyac, Birthright International, The Nurturing Network, and similar groups that assist women with unplanned pregnancies, would welcome the widespread involvement of the Knights of Columbus.

If groups of students can devote their summer to participate in the Crossroads annual walk across the country to raise awareness of the sanctity of life, why can't councils across the country help them by providing sleeping accommodations and meals and arranging venues for the students to speak as they pass through their areas?

At the recent 127th Supreme Convention, the delegates reaffirmed the Order's "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 bestowing on them honors or privileges of our Order of any kind...or hold any office in the Knights of Columbus." As membership in the Order is a privilege, why do we retain in our ranks public officials who consistently oppose the Church's position on issues it deems "intrinsic evils"?

The Knights of Columbus is a wonderful organization. It is unabashedly pro-life, fully in line with the Magisterium, and stands in solidarity with the Pope, bishops and priests. Yet, at a time when our country continues to embrace a

(Continued on page 10)



Tempus Fugit



Tempus fugit. Time flies. The older we get, the more that statement seems to ring true. Espe-

cially as we prepare to ring in another new year. I hope that 2009 was a healthy, prosperous year for you and your family.

If you're like most people, you've made some resolutions for the new year. If I may, I'd like to add to your list of resolutions by two. First, write them down. A resolution is really a goal for the year and, until you commit a goal to writing, it's nothing more

than a wish. So write your resolutions down. Whether they be to lose weight, contribute more time and money to charity, read more or watch less television, you're more likely to stick to them if you write them down.

Second, schedule some time to visit with me, your professional Knights of Columbus insurance agent. The "insurance check-up" that I'll provide (free of charge, by the way!) will quickly identify any gaps in your family's life insurance program. And you'll want to fill those gaps now, not later. Because unlike many other products, you need more than money to obtain life insurance. You also need good health, and no one will

ring a bell warning you when your health is about to change.

Knights of Columbus life insurance offers something precious few other financial products can – guarantees. As long as you pay your premiums, the policy proceeds will be there for your beneficiaries should something happen to you. We call that peace of mind, and that's – as they say in the credit card commercial – priceless.

Call me – let's talk.

Fraternally,

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

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

FOURTH DEGREE

The annual Exemplification for the Fourth Degree will be held on Sunday, April 18, 2010. This is the only time this year that the degree will be held in the Washington District. If you are a third degree member or will be before April 18, and have been a member of the Knights for at least six months prior to that, you are eligible to join.



The degree will be held at the University of Maryland University College Inn and Conference Center, in College Park, MD. There is Mass at 9:15 AM, Candidate Registration at 10:30 AM, Ladies Social and entertainment program beginning at 11:15 AM, the Exemplification at Noon, and a Banquet at 5:30 PM.

The Initiation Fee (which includes 1 banquet ticket, lapel pin, social baldric, and processing fees) are \$70 for Lay candidates and Permanent Deacons, and \$35 for Priests and members of religious orders. Additional banquet tickets are \$45, and the Ladies' Program (by pre-paid reservations only) is \$25.

For more information, contact either S/K Gregory Curtin at 301-654-5543 or S/K Lawrence Grayson at 301-933

REFLECTIONS

(Continued from page 11)

culture of death and reject all considerations of religion in the public square, more must be done. With its large membership, local community structure and extensive resources, the Knights of Columbus can be the antidote to the rampaging, anti-life, secularism that exists. The responsibility to do so falls on all levels of the organization. The Supreme Knight and the Supreme Board of Directors must continue the leadership and set the policies necessary for a national response. State Deputies and State Councils can develop plans and programs to oppose the anti-life activities in their jurisdictions. District Deputies and Grand Knights should implement those programs effectively and vigorously and initiate their own activities at the local level. Let's show our strength with a stupendous turnout at the national March for Life on January 22.

Working together, we can help make the Order's voice resound throughout the land. Working together, we can change this country to once again become a "Nation, under God."



Don't Forget!
January 22 on the
Mall!
Stand up for Life!



SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

Our annual Christmas Party was a great success. We had 80 members and guests, including Msgr. Donald Essex, Msgr. John Brady, Fr. Percival D'Silva, Fr. John McKay, Fr. Michael Murray, Fr. Paul Nguyen, Bro. Ed Adams, and Deacon Bob Hubbard! Congratulations on increasing the attendance of our clergy, but we still have some parishes without representation. And how about the nuns! They all come as our guests.

We all enjoyed the talk by Msgr. Brady about the life of Bishop Fulton Sheen. Thank you, Monsignor. Many thanks also to those who put this function together — Mike and Chris Horan, Helen Fincutter, Marie Young, Jack Cunningham, Ann Doby, Hilda Stofko and Darlene Coleman for all of the miscellaneous things, our VP Jim Young, Bill Kiley, Joe Murphy, Charlie and Marge Swanke, Jean Gordon (great flyer), Fred Seelman (Santa), Julie Carter for the beautiful table cloths, Dorothy Bush for the wonderful music, and Chesapeake Catering Co. for the excellent food. Helen Brennan did a yeoman's job mailing the flyers and taking reservations! The late reservations certainly made her job more difficult. Great job, Helen!

Congratulations to our member Larry Stark who will be receiving the Purple Heart for injuries he received as a P.O.W. during the Vietnam War. Larry, thank you for your service to our country!

Our VP Jim Young is working on selecting a place for our January meeting and elections. February will be our St. Valentine's meeting, and March our St. Pat's



PGK Bob Waters

Party.

We will be making another \$1,000 donation to the Council Charity Fund to support seminarians at Mount St. Mary's Seminary.

GOD BLESS AMERICA AND OUR MILITARY!

PRAYER CORNER

In your prayers remember: Manny and Amelia Aragon, Eureka & Elizabeth Arcand, Tom Becker, Dom Bellia, William "Will" Bello, Larry Bisnett, Jean Boyland, Jinny Chwirut, Maureen Collins, Maggie De Bettencourt, Marilyn Dempsey, Barbara Dolan, PGK Joe Falzon, Ed Flaim, Marge Gallery, Susan Gordon Garcia, Lois Gargano, Katharine Giodati, Aurora and Bill Gordon, Art and Carole Hanley, Stacey Harim, PGK, PSD Gene Hogan, Marie Horan, Saunders Jacobsen, PGK Jim Kane, Fr. Matt Kie-man, Dottie Kiley, Julia Marcus, James Marketos, John O'Keefe,



Some of the many folks who were at the Christmas Party (L to R): Carol Windsor, Jean Horan, Bob Waters, Darlene Coleman, Dora Bailey, Marge Swanke, Marjorie Shanahan, Charles Swanke, & Don Dahms

Ralph Oviedo, Sr. Maureen Patrice, Anna Pitcher, Fr. David Pollak, George and Joan Reed, Bridget Shanahan, Melvin Simmons, John and Estelle Stoltz, Stephanie Suff, Charles Swanke, 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 souls of Jane Frank, Frank Hayden, and Thomas Morton Gittings. The Edna V. Talbert I mentioned last month was the mother of our late Council member, Jim Talbert. Our condolences to their families.

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Receptions,
Weddings,
Meetings

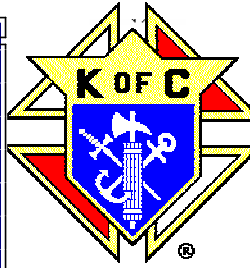
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**February CHATTER Deadline:
January 20, 2009**

ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
January					1	2
3	4 O'Boyle Color Corps Meeting 7 PM Cantrel Hall	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Executive Committee 7:30 PM	13 Seniors' Meeting/ Party Noon	14 Rosary 7:30 PM 2nd Degree 8:00 PM	15 3rd Degree 7:30 PM	16
17	18	19	20 K-C Club 7:00 PM	21	22  37th Annual March for Life	23
24	25	26	27	28 Rosary 7:30 PM Meeting 8:00 PM		