ROCK CREEK COUNCIL, NO. 2797

THE KNIGHT CHATTER

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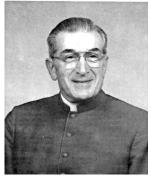
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For the 10th year, the council has hosted groups of students from other states, when they came to Washington for the March for Life. This year, the students came from New Mexico, Texas and Tennessee. Evening prayer service shown above. See page 8 for a full story.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

REV. MSGR. VINCENT S. GATTO, KHSH



Chaplain Gatto

Dear Knights,

When I first came to Washington to study at The Catholic University of America, one of the special liturgical events that took place in the crypt church of the then-unfinished National Shrine was the Chair Unity Octave. It occurred during the celebration of the conversion of St. Paul. It was my first ecumenical experience which involved a variety of Catholic rites, other than our Ro-

man rite. For example, both the Byzantine and Ukrainian rites, and others, were included. It was my first experience of receiving both the Host and Precious Blood at Communion. (I was not yet ordained a priest.)

If you ever think someone is too bad, too stubborn, too ignorant, or too cynical to be converted to Christianity, read the Acts of the Apostles about St. Paul's conversion. Few people in the history of the world have been more ruthless or more anti-Jesus than Paul – then known as Saul. Yet,

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

MICHAEL HORAN

Brothers of Rock Creek,

Welcome to February. I thought it was going to be a dry, mild winter. Guess not!

January is usually a quiet month around the council, but this year we had the privilege of holding a 1st and 2nd degree on Thursday the 13th and a 3rd on Friday the 14th. It was a great week for Rock Creek Council. We showed not only the District, but also the State



Grand Knight Horan

only the District, but also the State what a strong and growing council Rock Creek is. Congratulations go out to all of the new first, second and third degree members. And a special "hats off" to the new members who took all three degrees in just over 24 hours. Great work and welcome!

Coming up on February 19th, we will be holding our third annual Classic Rock Party. This party is not only one of the best parties each year, it also is a fund-raiser for our Teachers' Appreciation Night held each May. Over 20 years ago, our then-Chaplin Msgr. William O'Donnell asked Rock Creek to start a program to honor the great work of our par-

(Continued on page 2)



CONGRESSMAN AT COUNCIL

On January 21, the Council hosted Congressman Andy Harris for a lecture entitled, "Take Back America — Now or Never." Over 70 people attended, including some of the students who had come to Washington from Texas and New Mexico for the March for Life.

In the audience were former Maryland State Senator Frank Shore,



State Deputy Peter Davio and Congressman Andy Harris in front of council banner

Maryland K of C
State Deputy Peter
Davio, Missy Reilly
Smith who ran for
Congress in DC so
that she could run TV
ads of the realities of
abortion, several
priests, and many
other pro-life advocates.

The Congressman spoke about the significant change that has take place in Congress because of the last elections. Many pro-life supporters have been elected to both the U.S. House of Representatives and Sen-

ate, making this perhaps the most pro-life congress ever. He also mentioned several bills that have already been introduced in the House that aim to limit abortion and protect the rights of medical personnel.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1

his determination to wipe out Christianity was no match for the determination of Jesus to use him as an instrument, which would bring people to salvation through Christ. The readings for the feast tell us about his conversion and the challenge he received from Jesus to proclaim the Gospel to all the world.

Paul was never a man to do things half way. He had been serious in his drive to bring the message of God's love and salvation to people throughout the known world. As we follow Paul through his many writings. We come to the realization that it was not Paul working on his won that brought success. Rather, it was willingness to let the Holy Spirit work through him that made him so exceptional.

Whether it our self who is need of converting a loved one, or even an enemy, it is God's spirit who will do the work. We must never give up on the salvation of anyone. Pray in confidence for the power of Jesus to be manifested in you that He may be made known to others. Have faith and assurance that nothing and no one is beyond the reach of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God bless you.

Monsignor Gatto

Meet Your Legislators at Catholic Lobby Night

Join Maryland's bishops, hundreds of fellow Catholics, and your Maryland State Council on Presidents' Day – Monday, February 21, from 3:00 – 8:00 pm – for the 27th annual Catholic Lobby Night in Annapolis. Make your voice heard.



Tell the legislators that we all have a duty to serve the poor and vulnerable, build up the common good and respect human life and dignity.

Lobby Night is an advocacy event that gives Catholic voters the opportunity to speak in person with their elected officials about issues including abortion clinic regulations, support for pregnant women, poverty, immigration, Catholic schools, the death penalty and marriage.

Registration is required so that the Maryland Catholic Conference can arrange visits for you with your lawmakers. Visit www.mdcathcon.org/lobbynight or call the Maryland Catholic Conference at 410-269-1155/301-261-1979 to register or for more information.

Your involvement is needed more than ever to encourage your elected officials to support public policies that promote the common good.

Make Your Voice Heard in Annapolis at Catholic Lobby Night MAKE YOUR VOICE

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD
MARYLAND CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

ish school teachers. Rock Creek stepped up and 20 years later our Teachers Appreciation Night is stronger than ever. The program is recognized around the state, and our format has been copied by other councils. Once again, Night School, a local band made up of three 1968 De Chantal graduates has donated its services to help raise money for this our teachers' appreciation event. Look for more details on the Classic Rock Party on page 11 of this issue of the Chatter. If you can't make the party donations will accepted.

Another upcoming event is our St. Patty's Day Open House on March 17th. April marks the return of Sports Night. Sports Night is a program where the Knights honor local youth and high school athletes. This year's event promises to be one of the best ever. As we move towards spring, watch for the return of family movie night, and don't forget to make your reservations for the State Convention in Ocean City this coming May.

God Bless!

Mike Horan

Grand Knight

Member Honored

When the State held a 3rd Degree on January 14, it chose as the honoree for the degree Rock Creek's Larry Grayson. Among other offices he has held in the Order, Larry is a PGK, FDD, PFN, and currently is director of communications for the State.

DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

My Brothers and Ladies,

February is a month that lives in the dead of winter. The holidays have passed, and spring is one month away. It is a time when the fire of faith must burn strong in our hearts. We gathered to support life on January 24th in twentydegree temperatures. Even Lent begins late this year on March ninth -- two weeks into the month.

Our Lord and many saints speak of the seed growing in silence and darkness before it appears. I assure you, the seed is growing, even if we do not see it. Take heart. The steady, every day practice of our faith and its rhythm speak to the strength that we possess.

In this dormant time, ironically, there is much activity. Grand Knights and council officers should be preparing their credentials for the State Convention in May; a preliminary slate of next year's officers should be discussed at council meetings; and trustees should be meeting to prepare the Semiannual Council Audit due February 15.

On one of these long winter evenings, pour yourself a cup of coffee or tea and reflect on what it means to be a knight. Whether this is your first year or your thirtieth, you made a commitment to being a better Catholic gentleman. Your life is different because of the decision you made to take your first degree. Consider participating in one council event this spring. Make it an expression of your faith and enjoy the fraternity of your fellow brothers.

Richard Earenfight

District Deputy No. 18 "Mary, Make Us Always Aware"

What is Teachers' Appreciation Night?

Over 20 years ago our then Chaplin, Msgr. William O'Donnell, recognized that there were programs to honor public school teachers, but nothing comparable for Catholic school teachers. He asked Rock Creek Council to start a program honoring the great work of our parish school teachers. We stepped up and two decades later our Teachers' Appreciation Night is stronger than ever. Each May, we invite the teachers, principals and pastors of the six parishes we serve to a dinner, to have the outstanding teacher in each school recognized, and just have an evening of fun.

The 3rd Annual Night of Classic Rock

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Teachers' Appreciation Fund-Raiser

Saturday, February 19 — Doors Open at 7:30 PM

Catering by Hard Times Café

Chili Mac, Cornbread, Wings, Draft Beer, Wine and Soft Drinks Cash bar for bottled beer and liquor Two bars, Two floors, Too much fun \$25 per person

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Music by Night School

Brooke Lowe, Mark Zimmerman, George Miller, Dave Chaconas

All proceeds will support the Teachers' Appreciation Dinner in May

For reservations and information, contact Mike Horan at 240-793-1169 or at mike hornbros@yahoo.com Space is limited, reserve early for tables for 10

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Visit the Council Website at www.kofc2797.org

PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter and Mary Ann Ferrigno, Pro-Life Chaircouple



At a recent monthly meeting, I mentioned that there would be a Mass at Mother Seaton Parish on De-

cember 11th as a "prayers for life," followed by a procession to the new abortion clinic in Germantown. Washington Auxiliary Bishop, Martin Holley and pastor, Father Carlos Benitez, concelebrated the Mass. Of those in attendance, some 700 people participated in the procession to the abortion clinic of Dr. LeRoy Carhart.

In his homily, Bishop Holley asked that those in attendance pray that Carhart would have a change of heart so "life would be respected inside and outside of the womb. Throughout the procession, members sang songs and prayed the rosary. They also carried images of Our Lady of Guadalupe, protector of the unborn. Pastor Benetiz stated to those at the rally, something most important for all of us pro-lifers: "Pray that we go forth full of mercy, full of love, full of courage.

Carhart left Nebraska to set up his clinic in Maryland because, recently, Nebraska had passed a law to prohibit abortions after the 20th week. This only goes to prove, how lax our Maryland laws are with abortions. Anything goes.

Because of what the Bishop Olmstead of Phoenix did in removing the designation "Catholic" from a hospital in his diocese, which I discussed in the January issue, the ACLU has asked the Obama administration to force all Catholic and other religiouslyaffiliated hospitals to do abortions where the mother's life is considered in danger. You can imagine how soon abortions would be necessary because of women whose lives are in danger. Once a door is opened slightly, it then gets kicked open. I am sure that prolifers do not want to see any woman die because of complications with her pregnancy; however, pro-lifers do not want to see the needless slaughter of all of those children, mainly for the convenience of their mothers.

The ACLU is trying to make their case on a single issue and totally ignore the more than fifty million babies aborted. This is the reporting of the event in *The New York Times*. What they forgot to mention is that Bishop Olmsted was acting upon a seven-year series of violations. They included "contraceptive counseling, medications, supplies and associated medical and laboratory examinations, oral and injectable contraceptives, intrauterine devices, diaphragms, condoms, foams and suppositories." The tip of the iceberg surely was this most recent taking the life of a healthy baby in the womb.

No one wishes either the child or the mother to lose her life; however, the church says that one cannot kill either to save the other if both are in good health. There are times when one may take the life of the baby to save the mother, but this goes deeply into abnormal conditions of the baby and mother. The New York Times went out of its way to be incomplete with the details and ACLU acted with out getting all of the details. If you "buck church rules" you must pay the consequences. This should be a warning to other Catholic hospitals, but I am sure that they too are turning their eyes away from what is happening under their roofs. God Bless.

Upcoming Action in the Public Square

Gay-rights activists are planning to capitalize on the addition of two more Democrats in the Maryland State Senate to attempt to legalize same-sex marriage in the next legislative session. Democratic state delegate Heather Mizeur, an openly homosexual legislator, said that marriage in the next logical step in the long expansion of rights for homosexuals in the state. "It just took a little while to get us there," she said, "but we're seizing the moment. It's our time."

Democrats have supermajorities in both chambers of the General Assembly, and Democratic Governor Martin O'Malley has already stated his intention to sign the bill if passed. A bill (S.B. 116) has already been introduced into the Maryland Senate to redefine marriage. Go to the Maryland Catholic Conference website at http://www.mdcathcon.org/marriage for more information about the bill, and for an opportunity to send an email to our state senator opposing the bill.

Remember Our Sick and Deceased

We are asked to remember the following Council members, relatives and friends in our prayers.

Sick and Distressed:

Eugene O'Neill, PGK Jack Cunningham, Carole Hanley, Rev. Kurt Pritzl, O.P., Jean Simanski, Fazie Ragland, Joe Norris, and Lisa Davis, Vince Bunag, Barbara Waters, Charlene Hubbard (wife of Deacon Hubbard), and those on the Seniors' Club sick list (see page 11)

Deceased

HLM Andrew J. Cummings, Jr., HLM Henry Seebach

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





CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter D. Ferrigno, PGK

Recent disclosed letters have demonstrated that Pope Benedict XVI, while a cardinal and head of the Vatican doctrinal congregation, asked for swift action against abusive priests. In 1988, he suggested a "more rapid and simplified penal process," but was rebuffed by the Vatican's canon law experts. He felt that mere dispensation from priestly obligations was insufficient for their grave crimes (the phrase "sexual abuses" were not mentioned throughout all of these discussions).

At the time, he asked Cardinal Castillo Lara, the president of the Pontifical Commission of the Vatican, "I would be grateful to your eminence, therefore, if you were to communicate your valued opinion regarding the possibility of making provision, in specific cases, for a more rapid and simplified penal process." We can only assume that his suggestion was never followed, since Cardinal Castillo Lara in a letter replying to Cardinal Ratzinger stated that such modification would "endanger the fundamental right of defense" and further more would go against the due "exercise of authority."

It is hard to conclude from this, what would have happened in the Church, if a different conclusion had taken place? All this has recently come to the surface due to a recent book published by the German journalist, Peter Seewald, Light of the World: The Pope, the Church, and the Signs of the Times, released in November. Some of you may recall, many people had asked Our Holy Father to resign his position as Pope, due to the sex-abuse scandals in Europe. This of course was not acceptable to our Pope.

While many Catholics are leaving the Church, stating their reason to be the sex scandals that have been occurring, many English and Walsh Anglican priests and parishioners have been entering the Catholic faith. As recently as last month, another fifty priests and hundreds of their parishioners have converted to the faith that they would have been in all along, had it not been for King Henry VIII.

Our Holy Father has recently stated that the "Catholic newspapers still have a vital role to play in diocesan communications." I am sure that you have seen what the secular papers have to say and how differently the truth may be. Without Catholic newspapers, you might never find out. The first paragraph of this article is a perfect example of this. Catholic newspapers should "give voice to a point of view that reflects Catholic thinking on all ethical and social questions." As a suggestion, if you currently are not subscribing to papers such as The Catholic Standard or The Wanderer, now may be a good time to begin. In their printings, we have an opportunity not only to receive information, but also an education in critical

and Christian consciences from our Holy Father and his bishops. They speak for the Catholic Church, and as Knights we should be in a position to know what they say so that we too can spread the work and sentiment of our Church.

At the recent meeting of bishops in Baltimore, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville stated that if Prop. 8 were to be struck down in California by the judicial system it would have the same devastating effect as Roe v. Wade. The whole concept of marriage as "the union of one man and one woman" would be in grave danger. He also said that "over the last year, attempts to redefine marriage have moved from the state level to the federal level."

Archbishop Kurtz was recently elected vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, to serve with its president, Archbishop Dolan of New York. Their job will be most demanding since there seems to be strong evidence that the U.S. Catholic Church has been influenced by a strangle hold that fundamentalism has on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on abortion and acceptance of homosexuality. If this is surprising to you, you surely are not alone.

An article by Thomas F. Roeser, in a November issue of The Wanderer, explained now favorable it is to now have both Bishops Dolan and Kurtz who are both strongly conservatives in the Catholic Faith. Sadly to say, both of their predecessors were reported to be dragging their feet in recognizing the criminality of pedophile priests. It was in Church best interest that there were enough conservative bishops to vote these two men into office. An example of the problem could possibly be explained by the closing of the American College in Louvain, Belgium. This is the school that the late Bishop Fulton Sheen graduated from. Why is it closing?

According to Michael Rose's book, Goodbye, Good Men, it closed because of the "harassment of orthodox students by a homosexual clique at this college, a rump group that virtually ran the place." Our Holy Father calls this "one of the miseries of the Church" and states, "Homosexuality is incompatible with the priestly vocation."

For some forty years, this has been happening in several seminaries here and abroad. The bishops have not been taking this seriously. They, collectively, are responsible. One should then see how important it is that we now have men like Bishops Dolan and Kurtz in leadership positions to be able to make some changes on these issues. Our Church can only be as strong as its leaders are, from our Holy Father down to our bishops. Pray that our bishops will stay true to their faith.

God Bless.



Meeting the Pope



On December 17, Pope Benedict XVI received the Supreme Knight, Carl A. Anderson, and Supreme Chaplain, Bishop William E. Lori, in a private audience. During the meeting, the Supreme Knight presented the Holy Father with a check for \$1.6 million for the pontiff's personal charities. This is an annual gift of the earnings from the Order's Vicarius Christi Fund. The three also discussed various initiatives of the Order during the fraternal year.



Marches for Life Successful

On January 24, some 300,000 people joined the March for Life in Washington, DC to advocate for a ban on abortion and an overturn of the Supreme Court's 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*. The evening before, 5 cardinals, 39 bishops and 10,000 faithful packed the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for a pro-life Mass and all-night vigil.

But everything wasn't confined to the nation's capital. In San Francisco, 50,000 people joined in the 7th annual Walk for Life West Coast. And on January 22, in Baton Rouge, the first annual Louisiana March for Life was held, while in Texas, Governor Rick Perry voiced his support for eliminating abortion during the annual Texas Rally for Life. In Paris, 40,000 people, including four bishops, joined in the 7th annual Paris March for Life on January 23.

What a great outpouring of support for life. Were you there?

Rental Corner

This is the busy booking season for weddings and social events, so if you have family and friends who are newly engaged or are planning birthday parties, rehearsal dinners, graduation parties - tell them about our enhanced ballroom and patio. Check out our new website, www.rockcreekmansion.com. It is full of information and has a series of updated photos showing how the hall has looked for various functions. I would be happy to schedule a tour for anyone. And remember — members get a rental discount!



tel: 240-426-1220, email: rcmansion@gmail.com





REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, PFN

Unto Caesar, Unto God

"Render unto Cae-

sar the things that

are Caesar's and

unto God the things

that are God's."

In October's Reflection, we discussed the consonance of two concepts of Catholic teaching -- the dignity of the human person and freedom with responsibility -- with core principles upon which America was founded. Here we will discuss the accord that exists on two other concepts: the balance between union and separateness, and the relationship of church and state.

This nation was formed as individual states united. The 13 colonies did not possess sovereignty of their own. They owed their existence and legality to Great Britain. When they declared themselves to be "Free and Independent States," they did so as "the united States of America." After gaining independence, they adopted the Articles of Confederation to "enter into a firm league of friendship with each other." The confederation of separate sovereignties did not work, and in 1789 was replaced by a

Constitution that formed a single nation. In doing so, the states surrendered their external sovereignty in matters of war and commerce, but maintained their internal sovereignty with regard to their individual citizens.

Thus, as citizens of the United States of America, we are citizens of both the nation and the state in which we reside. We are subject to the laws and regulations of the federal government,

which apply to all people throughout the nation; we also are subject to the laws and regulations of our home state, which may differ from those of other states.

In an analogous, but not identical manner, the Catholic Church reflects diversity within unity. Oneness is the very essence of the Church. As St. Paul said in his Epistle to the Ephesians, there is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism." The unity was established and is maintained by Christ, who "reconciled all men to God by the Cross." St. John tells us that Jesus, at the time of his Passion, prayed for His disciples, "so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they may also be in us."

The Church has one ruler, Christ, whom the Father made "as head over all the church." Before He returned for the Father, however, Christ appointed a visible head for the Church when He said to Simon, "thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church." Peter's mandate and authority have been handed down to his duly appointed successors. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, the pope, as Peter's successor, "has full, supreme, and universally power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered."

The liturgical and ecclesiastical aspects of the Church, however, are not universally identical. Although the Church is one in its body of faith and in its supreme gov-

ernance, when the Apostles went forward to teach the Gospel to the Corinthians, the Galatians, the Colossians, the Thessalonians, and others, they encountered people of different cultures, historical understandings, and social practices. As a result, although they taught a single body of faith, there evolved a variety of ecclesiastical disciplines, liturgical rites, and spiritual heritages, which were proper to the local churches.

Today, the local churches or diocese are governed by bishops, who are the successors of the Apostles. They exercise their pastoral authority over the portion of the Church assigned to them. Their authority, operating in communion with the Pope, is definitive in their own dioceses. Thus, Catholics are members of a diocese and are subject to its practices and the authority of the local bishop, as well as members of the universal Church and

subject to the supreme authority of the

American political principles and Catholic teaching also coincide on the relationship between church and state. In the ancient world, religion and the state were inseparable. The emperor stood as head of both. Religious practices were developed and mandated to support the political strength of the state. With arrival of Christianity, a doctrine of

dual authority arose. When asked whether it was lawful for Jews to pay taxes to Caesar, Jesus replied: "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's." This distinction spread with the growth of Christianity and gained formal pronouncement in a letter from Pope Gelasius I to Emperor Anastasius in

The Pope identified a separation of powers, with priests being subject to the emperor in secular affairs, and the emperor being subject to religious leaders in spiritual matters. It recognized that there is a God who is superior to the emperor, and a divine law which is reflected in nature itself that supersedes any man-made edicts. This division was fundamental to the development of Western society, and is a dominant principle in America's founding political philosophy. The state and the church exist as distinct entities, neither merged one with the other nor one subservient to the other. Religion is meant to be separate from government, but not excluded from the public square.

Many American colonies were settled to gain religious freedom. When America declared its independence, the Founders could have proposed a totally secular state, especially with the diversity of religious groups that were resident. They recognized, however, that to create a gov-

(Continued on page 9)



Membership Corner

The Council had a spectacular two days in bring in new and advancing our members. On January 13, 14 members were inducted into the 1st Degree.
They were: Clark H. deFranceaux, John R. Dugan, Jr., Geoff J. Gonella, and John F. Morin from Holy Redeemer; Brendan P. Cannon, Matthew M. Dugan, Dennis M. Duggan, Daniel G. Jay, and I Charles (Matt) M. Russell from St. Jane de Chantal; Erick A. Garcia-Hidalgo, and Doug K. Grantham from Our Lady of Lourdes; Joseph J. Giblin from Holy Cross; and Christopher S. Exton, and James H. Molloy, Jr. from Blessed Sacrament.
Welcome to Rock Creek Council!

Immediately after this degree, a 2nd degree followed, with all of the new members continuing. In addition, the following 10 members advanced: Paul Carrioccio, Rex Garcia, Jim Geimer, Donald Giblin, Mickey Gutierrez, Will Hurley, Vincente Notario, Ian Rickerby, Bill Ruane, and Kevin Witcomb.

The following night, January 14, Rock Creek hosted a 3rd degree, and the following 21 members gained full membership in the Knights: Paul Carrioccio, Felice D'Avellal; Matthew Dugan; Dennis Duggan; Thomas Dwyer; Chris Exton; Ivan Galic; Donald Giblin; Mickey Gutierrez; Wayne Holifield; Will Hurley; Daniel Jay; Jim Norris; Vincente Notario; Ian Rickerby; Scott Roth; Bill Ruane; Chris Ryan; Terence Ryan; Tom Tappan; Brian Westrick.

Around the Kay-Cee Club

Visitors to and members of the Rock Creek Mansion should note the improvements we've made to our parking lot. We've repaved some areas that had suffered deterioration, and we've improved the outdoor lighting.

That last improvement came at the request of Suburban Hospital, which rents our parking lot during the day. They asked for improved lighting to enhance safety, and we readily agreed. Please continue to be careful of and courteous to the Suburban employees who park here. We have a good relationship with the hospital, and we want that to continue.

Moving inside, we are renovating the upstairs bathroom (which has not been functional for years) into a mailroom for the Knights. If your unit would like a mail slot, notify me at KofC.burt@comcast.net.

Finally, we have purchased new tables and table cloths for Mansion functions.

Burt Murray

President

Voices of the Bishops

Along with their January 18 recommendations on fixing "serious moral problems" in last year's health care legislation, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued more comprehensive recommendations to members of the 112th Congress.



Cardinal Daniel DiNardo. archbishop of Galveston-Houston and chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, wrote three separate letters, sent on January 20 and 21, to the House backing three bills before the House of Representatives. These bills seek to prevent tax dollars from being used to fund abortions, and to protect the consciences of health care providers. The cardinal noted that the Protect Life Act would address flaws in the health care reform package and bring it "into line with policies on abortion and conscience rights that have long prevailed in other federal health programs." The bill would do this by preventing funds under the new law from subsidizing abortion or health care plans that cover abortion, protecting the consciences of health care providers who decline to participate in an abortion, and ensuring that the law doesn't override state laws on abortion and conscience. The Abortion Non-Discrimination Act (ANDA, H.R. 361) would codify into law the policy of the Hyde/Weldon Amendment and give health care entities that do not provide abortions legal recourse when faced with government-sponsored discrimination. The Cardinal wrote, "No health care entity should be forced by government to perform or participate in abortions." The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (H.R. 3) would make law the policy that "the federal government should not use taxpayers' money to support and promote elective abor-

Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, president of the U.S. bishops' conference, wrote on its behalf to members of Congress on January 14. He presented a series of proposals applying the Church's social teaching to issues expected to face the new Congress. The archbishop declared that the bishops' most fundamental aim was "to protect the lives of the most vulnerable and voiceless members of the human family," particularly the unborn, disabled, and terminally ill. "We will consistently defend the fundamental right to life, from conception to natural death," he wrote, while promising to "encourage one and all to seek common ground" to reduce the number of abortions through increased medical care for pregnant women. "In close connection with our defense of all human life," Archbishop Dolan continued, "we stand firm in our support for marriage, which is –and can only be– a faithful, exclusive, lifelong union of one man and one woman." He pledged the bishops' support for the Defense of Marriage Act against challenges to its constitutionality, and renewed their opposition to same-sex civil unions and partner benefits. Among his top priorities were "responsible transitions" to end the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, a greater emphasis on religious freedom in foreign policy decisions, and a "clear priority for poor families and vulnerable workers" in all economic recovery measures.



Pro-Life Pilgrims at the Council

For the tenth consecutive year, Rock Creek Council Knights of Columbus hosted out-of-state Right to Life Pilgrims. These are high-school- and college-age girls and guys, who slept over in our Hall for four nights. The group was made up of ten young people from San Felipe Neri Youth from Albuquerque in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, NM. They were accompanied by Father Dennis Garcia. There were five folks from St. Thomas Aguinas Youth, located in Pilot Point in the Ft. Worth Diocese, Texas; Bobby Reynosa, who is Director of Coalition for Life in College Station, led the group. And there were ten pilgrims from Vanderbilt Catholic Student Center, in the Nashville Diocese, in Tennessee; Father Vandy Baker, who is chaplain at Vanderbilt University accompanied this group. The pilgrims from New Mexico and Texas arrived early Friday evening and were able to attend the March for Life Kickoff Lecture in Cantrel Hall, featuring guest speaker Congressman-Elect Dr. Andy Harris, who spoke about "Taking Back America -Now or Never".

During their five day pilgrimage, some of the events and sites visited included: praying the Rosary and saying the Divine Mercy Chaplet in front of the Planned Parenthood facility near Farragut North; seeing the White House; touring the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land; spending time in adoration with the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration; attending the Vigil Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral; visiting the Smithsonian; attending the Vigil Mass on Sunday evening at the National Shrine; touring the American History Museum; among other sites. They had full schedules from early in the morning until late at night. O, to be young again!



Students and chaperones from New Mexico and Texas

Each night, they held a prayer session in the Knight's Lounge, and took a shower Monday evening at the local YMCA. The council provided a continental breakfast,

REFLECTIONS

(Continued from page 11)

ernment of the people required a strong moral foundation in society, which could be maintained only through the practice of religion. In order to assure that religion would not be infringed upon by government, the Founders separated church and state. But convinced of the importance of religion to the state, they wished to allow individual denominations to practice and promote their own religious beliefs.

The protection of religion was set forth in the First Amendment to the Constitution, which prescribes that the government shall not interfere with the right of the people to practice religion by either supporting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. In this manner, the political and religious spheres are meant to be distinct. The state is not to interfere in the activities of the church, and the church is not to dictate policy to the state. The First Amendment does not mean that any mention of God or the expression of religious beliefs cannot be made in the public sphere, but rather that the state is to remain neutral toward religion, neither promoting a given set of religious beliefs nor interfering in their practice.

We are blessed to live in a country in which Catholicism has thrived, where we can practice our faith openly. But freedom is fragile, and once lost is rarely regained. As Knights of Columbus, our individual vigilance and organizational voice are needed to maintain that freedom.

including coffee, orange juice, and soda drinks each day.

PGK Larry Grayson loaned his car to the two priests so that they could go back and forth to the Holy Redeemer rectory, where the pastor, Father Mark Hughes, graciously provided accommodations for sleeping and showering. (Thanks for your kindness, Father and Larry!)

he following Knights volunteered to serve as monitors for one night each: Joe Myers and son Ryan on Friday; George O'Keffe on Saturday; Matt Dugan on Sunday; and Neil Dorian on Monday. The Pilgrims departed Monday (Vanderbilt) and Tuesday (Albuquerque and Pilot Point) just in time to miss the sleet/snow fall that we in the Washington Metro area all enjoyed (②)!

We thank all those who so generously gave time, talent, and of themselves to assist these pilgrims during their pro-life mission. Also thanks to GK Mike Horan to allow the use of the Lounge cooler to refrigerate 400 sack lunches for several busloads of pilgrims visiting from Saginaw, Michigan.

Meil Dorian, PGK





Buying life insurance is something that's easy to put off until tomorrow. And with the busy

lives we all lead, tomorrow can easily become next week, next month, or even next year. For the sake of those you love, don't let that happen. I consider it my fraternal obligation to make sure that every Knights of Columbus member has the opportunity to protect his family with the Order's top-rated insurance products. I'll work with you to put a plan in place that will help your family when that

help is most needed.

We all know someone whose health, instantly and seemingly out-of-the-blue, changes. You may think this can't happen to you. Think again. And keep in mind that no one will ring a bell warning you that your health is about to change. Medical technology has turned many diseases previously termed "death sentences" into very treatable conditions. What medical advances haven't changed, however, is that being diagnosed with one of these diseases will dramatically affect your ability to purchase life insurance coverage. Don't wait until it's too late.

Your Knights of Columbus insurance

program is second to none. Knights of Columbus life insurance represents a safety net for Catholic families that's unsurpassed, and I'm proud of that. I'm also concerned. Why? Because so many of our brother Knights have no life insurance with the Order. I suspect that, for many of them, tomorrow has become next week, next month or next year. Don't be one of them. Don't wait for the bell to ring. It isn't going to.

Call me - let's talk.

Fraternally,

MICHAEL PATTEN
Fraternal Benefits Advisor
240-305-6996

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

FOURTH DEGREE

Congratulations to SK Gregory Curtin of Rock Creek Council. Greg was elected as a Trustee of the Assembly to fulfill an unexpired term of a deceased member.

Last April, five members of the Assembly help to clean the Vietnam Memorial in Washington. For its efforts, the Assembly was presented with the "To Be A Patriot" Award by Supreme, after being judged the best display of patriotism in the community by the District, Province, and State.

If you have not attended a meeting in quite a while, then attend the next one on February 17. This is when the annual renewal of obligations will be done. It is an impressive ceremony, and a wonderful opportunity to recall the obligations of a Knight. The Rosary starts at 7:30 PM, with the meeting to follow at 8:00 PM.

For those who are 3rd Degree members and joined the Order before September 13, 2010, there is an opportunity to advance to the 4th Degree on March 13th. A 4th Degree Exemplification will be held at the Colony South Hotel and Conference Center, Clinton, MD. This is the only time that a 4th Degree Exemplification will be held in this region in 2011.

For more information about the Exemplification or the Cardinal Patrick A. O'Boyle Assembly and its activities, contact either S/K Gregory Curtin at 301-654-5543 or S/K Neil Dorian at 301-237-0551.

Around the Lounge

Winter Hours: Monday Thru Thursday 4-8
Friday 4-12, Saturday 2-8 and expanding, Sundays
for special events



We are moving into NCAA Basketball time! Watch the big games in your Knights' Lounge

Special Hours for big games, as well as Food and Drink Specials

Also come up and check out the new expanded Friday Night Family Menu

Bring the family and enjoy the children's game room, the new flat-screen TVs with surround sound, the billiards table and shuffle board

We are still looking for some Guest Bartenders. If you are interested, speak to Mike Horan or one of the regular bartenders

When you stop by, sign the book.

The lounge can be used by members for special events, parties and fund raisers. For details, call Mike Horan at 240-793-1169

All members and their guests are always welcome!

Lounge phone 301-530-1628



SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

We held our January luncheon meeting at La Panetteria in Bethesda. Many thanks to Jim and Louise Young for chairing this function. Our appreciation is also extended to Helen Brennan, Jean Gordon and Darlene Coleman for their help. We were honored to have deacon John Shewmaker and Deacon Bob

Hubbard as our guests. (Didn't Charlene look great!)

We also held our election. Helen Brennan will again serve as our secretary, while Neal Dorian will be our vice president, and I your president. (I tried to resign again, but to no avail.) Please thank our out-going vice president, Jim Young, for all of his help. A great big thanks to Darlene Coleman for agreeing to fill our vacant treasurer's position. Be sure to thank her.

Our next function will be a St. Valentine's Party on February 14. If things go well, I should be in Florida. Dora Bailey and Ted McIntosh will co-chair this function. Be sure and help them. Congratulations are in order for their engagement! Cupid is working on our Seniors' Group again. For more information about this function, see the advertisement below

In March, we will hold our annual St.



PGK Bob Waters

Pat's Party. No date has yet been set. Watch for the flyer.

GOD BLESS AMERICA AND OUR MILITARY!

PRAYER CORNER

In your prayers remember: Eureka & Elizabeth Arcand, Tom Becker, Dom Bellia, William "Will" Bello, Maggie De Bettencourt, Larry Bisnett, Jinny Chwirut, Joe Crochet,

Jack Cunningham, Marylou Divers, PGK Joe Falzon, Ed Flaim, Jerry Forlenza, Jane Frank, Susan Gordon Garcia, Lois Gargano, Katharine Giodati, Bill Gordon, Carole Hanley, Ken Haser, PGK, Frank Hayden, PSD Gene Hogan, Marie Horan, Saunders Jsacobsen, PGK Jim Kane, Julia Marcus, James Marketos, Sally McCarthy, John O'Keefe, Eugene O'Neill, Ralph Oviedo, Sr. Maureen Patrice, Fr. David Pollak, Fat Ragland, George and Joan Reed, Bridget Shanahan, 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, Karen Zack, and Fran and Frank Zello.

Our condolences to the families of our recently deceased members and friends: Johnny McNickle, Fay Ragland, Nick Zack and Cy Cummings.

Council Leaders

CHAPLAINS

Rev. Msgr. Vincent S. Gatto - 301-762-2143 Deacon Robert Hubbard—301-942-1522 Deacon John Shewmaker - 301-986-8658

GRAND KNIGHT

Michael Horan-240-793-1169

DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT

Terence P. Ryan-301-215-9197

CHANCELLOR

James Caulfield-301-365-2580

WARDEN

Joseph Myers-301-765-1030

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Joseph Murphy, PGK-301-762-2418

RECORDER

Peter Ferrigno, PGK-301-469-6099

TREASURER

F. Douglas Yeatman—301-897-3265

ADVOCATE

Kevin Kittka, PGK-301-469-8453

INSIDE GUARD

Gregory Curtin—301-654-5543

OUTSIDE GUARD

William R. Ruane-301-530-6755

TRUSTEES

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PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

CHURCH & PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES Peter Ferrigno, PGK-301-469 - 6099

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Ernie Baur-301-718-3304

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

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FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Scott Roth-240 -447-3031

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

MEMBERSHIP Arthur Harris-301-530-4868

LECTURER

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PRESIDENT, SENIORS CLUB

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FIRST DEGREE TEAM CAPTAIN Neil Dorian, PGK-301-977-3840

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Burt Murray-301-946-3573

PRESIDENT, LADIES AUXILIARY

WEBMASTER

Matthew Flynn—301-942-8491

CHATTER EDITOR

Lawrence P. Grayson, PGK - 301-933-8731 e-mail - LPGravson@verizon.net

COUNCIL OFFICES

LOUNGE-301-530-1628

FINANCIAL SECRETARY—301-530-2427 KAY-CEE CLUB-301-530-0258

RENTAL COORDINATOR-301-530-0258

ST VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON/MEETING

February 14 — Noon—3:00 PM Rock Creek Mansion

Music by Dorothy Bush & the Paytones' Barbershop Quartet

Deli Platter luncheon \$2 cash bar \$15 per member, pay at door

Reservations a must by February 11 RSVP to Ted McIntosh 301-983-0918 or Dora Bailey 301-963-4742



Anniversary & Birthday Receptions, Weddings, Meetings

Rock Creek Council's

ROCK CREEK MANSION

A Private Party Site in the Heart of Bethesda

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

For more information, check the website www.rockcreekmansion.com Schedule a tour by calling

Julie Carter 240-426-1220



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March CHATTER Deadline: February 18, 2011

ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Executive Committee 7:30 PM	9	10 Rosary 7:30 PM Business Mtg 8:00 PM	11	Lincoln's Birthday
13	Senior Valentine Party Noon—3 PM	15	16 K-C Club 7:30 PM	17	18	19 Classic Rock Party 7:30 PM
20	21 Lobby Night 3-8 PM Washington's Birthday	22	23	24 Rosary 7:30 PM Social Mtg 8:00 PM	25	26
27	28	February				