



THE KNIGHT CHATTER

March 2011

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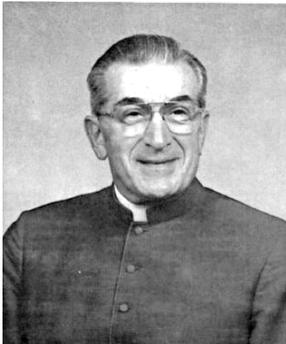
Rock Creek Mansion at night. This is your council home. Enjoy it!

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

REV. MSGR. VINCENT S. GATTO, KHSH

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

MICHAEL HORAN



Chaplain Gatto

Dear Knights,

Our annual Lenten journey begins on March 12th. This is a time to truly reflect on what the trouble with us is. It is a time also to look into how we might change through repentance, fasting, prayer and almsgiving. We recall our humble beginnings and look forward to our promised end.

This time is especially important, since all of us sin. Still we have

the capacity and ability to repent, to seek forgiveness, to turn back and return to God. In a word we possess "hope" that we can be reconciled with God. We put ashes on our foreheads because of that hope. These ashes signify to us that, even though we sin, we can repent of those sins and seek forgiveness. It might be said that putting ashes on our foreheads is a contradiction of the gospel message which says, "Be on guard against performing religious acts for people to see." On the surface that might appear to be so, but on a deeper level these ashes are more of a sign of

(Continued on page 2)

Brothers of Rock Creek

As we move into March the days get longer, the weather gets warmer and we enter into the season of Lent. 40 days of preparation. 40 days filled with fasts, offerings and penance. It is a time to rebuild our relationship with Jesus Christ. As we prepare for Easter, we need to remember what it means to be a Catholic Gentlemen and a Knight of Columbus.



Grand Knight Horan

In February, I attended the Montgomery County Grand Knights meeting to approve the distribution of the Tootsie Roll money. It was a lively meeting of debate. This years requests came from many great organizations totaling up to over \$100,00.00. As the councils in the county raised about half that amount, not all received what they requested. This was my first time at this meeting and I saw first hand where the tootsie roll money goes. I was very impressed, and hope that in the future the tootsie roll chairman has a better participation from our members. Once again, thanks to Dave Gentile for a job well done.

(Continued on page 3)



From the State Deputy

My Brothers, as winter finally eases its grip a bit, we look around only to see we are in the midst of another tumultuous storm. The Church, our home state, our country's financial challenges, and the uprisings in North Africa, Egypt, and Greece are constantly in the news. Of all of those, right now I call your attention to the State of Maryland and the legislation that has been working its way through the process.

By the time you read this, we will know if Maryland has adopted same sex marriage and if Maryland has included language into law to require abortion clinics to adhere to the same standards as any other surgical ambulatory facility. It is a sad day indeed when we have to initiate legislation here in Maryland to bring abortion clinics up to the standards of our veterinarian's office. Certainly this is not where we want the abortion issue to end, but it is a positive step for the health and safety of pregnant women who may opt for this unfortunate choice.

But, the ray of sunshine in this storm is our recruiting campaign. With each new member we bring in, we expand our network of people who can help craft a society through political action that is more in line with the teachings of the Catholic Church. With each new man we bring in, we provide an opportunity for another to become a better Catholic. With each new man we bring in, we expand the army of the church to take on the many needs that the church (or perhaps your parish) can no longer afford to handle on its own. With each new man we bring in, we increase the number of pockets from which to draw

the much needed funds for all of these Peter Davioe actions and we increase the numbers of hands and hearts we can apply to Peter Daviohelp improve the quality of life for Marylanders throughout the state.

This month during our Founders Day celebration, we'll acknowledge many good men and women; who add to the quality of our lives. I remind you that they didn't have to be Knights to qualify, and they all certainly deserve our thanks. But when they are not Knights, this day should remind us how many good people there are that we could still add to our membership; how many more rays of sunshine to help chase away gloomy days. So if you see storm clouds gathering in the form of more bad news, let that just remind you that we need to recruit to bring more sunshine into peoples lives. If your recruiting efforts thus far have not brought in the results you were seeking, just remember that with each new day comes the opportunity for a new sunrise.

Pete

Peter Davio

Ed's Note: The same-sex marriage bill was passed by the Maryland Senate (S.B. 116), and soon will be voted on by the House of Delegates (H.B. 175). Gov. Martin O'Malley (a Catholic) has said he would sign the bill if passed. If that occurs, there will be a petition drive, in which the Maryland Knights of Columbus will be an active participant, to bring the issue to a voter referendum.

Remember Our Sick and Deceased

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

Sick and Distressed:

PGK Jack Cunningham, Carole Hanley, Barbara Waters, Charlene Hubbard (wife of Deacon Hubbard), Danny Costello, Norb Witrock, Maureen Collins (wife of PGK Jack Collins), Charlotte Whitaker (Granddaughter of Peter Ferrigno), Bob Klug (friend of Neil Dorian), Grace Caulfield (sister of Jamie Caulfield), Ellen Kerr (sister-in-law of Jamie Caulfield), Esther Cotter (mother of Dennis Cotter), Paul Horan Sr., and those on the Seniors' Club sick list (see page 11)



Deceased

Fay Regland, Marilyn Nitzel, Henry Seebach, HLM Edward L. Flaim, Rev. Kurt Pritzl, O.P.

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

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

repentance and our desire for conversion, rather than a religious act for others to see. We wear ashes as a sign of our desire to be purified from sin. They are our recognition that we need to be reconciled to God, and now is time to do it.

The cross of ashes on our foreheads is an outward mark, but we must also trace that cross inwardly on our hearts, as we pursue our conversion...turning back to God. These ashes mark the beginning of a journey that will take us to the celebration of Easter joy in little more than forty days. More importantly, these ashes signify the journey we are making in the hope that someday we will share in the Resurrection, and experience everlasting joy in heaven.

God bless you.

Monsignor Gatta



GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

On March 17th at 1 o'clock, the lounge will be transformed into an Irish Pub for the day. Stop by for our St. Patrick's Day Open House. See the ad in the Chatter.

We have first degrees coming up in March and April. The best way to get new members is to ask someone. Let's see if we can close out the Council year with 50 or 60 new members. See Art Harris' article.

Thanks to Neal Dorian for hosting the March for Life Pilgrims once again this year. I also want to thank those who helped out and spent the night to monitor the building. Thanks to all.

Erin Dolan Bailey will be heading up the new Ladies Auxiliary. She has been part of Rock Creek for three generations and brings youth and excitement to what will be known as The Ladies of the Knights (LOTK). As a man in the council and having run many events, I know we can always use the ladies' help. See Erin's article in the Chatter and let your wives know about the new Ladies of the Knights.

Finally the winter 2011 Shuffle Board Tournament was won by Kevin Carlson and Emory Linder in a close match over Harry Lazear and Chris Horan.

Youth won over experience! The challenge has been sent to Fr. Rosensteel Council for a two-council tournament. Details to follow.

Remember be part of a great organization. Get Involved!

God Bless & see you at the meetings!

Mike Horan

Grand Knight

LENTEN REGULATIONS

All who have reached their 14th year are bound to:

- Abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent, and Good Friday. On days of abstinence, meat may not be used at all.
- Fasting (until the age of 60) -- this means limiting oneself to one full, meat-less meal on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.
- No one should dispense from these practices except for grave reasons, such as health, and some other penitential practice (such as praying a rosary, reading Scripture, or fasting from television) should be substituted.

DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

Worthy Brother All,

Anticipation mounts everywhere. This March is a special confluence of many remarkable events in our church, our seasons, and within the Knights of Columbus.

March 25th heralds the beautiful day of the Annunciation. This blessed liturgical event celebrates the angel's visit to our Lady announcing the future coming of our "Lord as Man." Of all days, try to say a special Rosary that our Lord will enter our hearts, and that we respond as our Blessed Mother did with faithful obedience to our Father's will. The simple conversion of our souls is the foundation to all holiness. Whenever the event of a decade of the Rosary occurs on our church calendar, we owe it to our Lord and ourselves to celebrate it in some small way. We also anticipate the arrival of the New Roman Missal, Third Edition. Bishops and Cardinals have begun speaking about what we can anticipate in the months to come as we prepare to celebrate the mysteries of our redemption more deeply.

Only two days before the Annunciation we observe the first day of spring on March 21. Here nature echoes the change in our hearts as we prepare for a deeper conversion with Easter only a month away.

And the Knights of Columbus joins both nature and the church as it, too, prepares for its future. By now councils should be preparing a slate of officers for June elections. Don't forget to make preparations for the State Convention May 13-15. Credentials are due to Bill Kuchmas, State Secretary, by April 1.

Who would have thought that in the last few silent weeks of winter that so much was happening in silence and darkness. That is the mystery of our faith, but also its beauty and power.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our council meetings in the weeks ahead.

God Bless.

Richard Earenfight

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

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

FOURTH DEGREE

The Assembly meets at Fr. Rosensteel Council on the third Thursday of every month. The Rosary is said at 7:30 pm, followed by a meeting at 8:00 pm.

For more information about 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 301-237-0552..





PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter and Mary Ann Ferrigno, Pro-Life Chaircouple



Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood director, shares her story in a new book *Unplanned* on

how P.P. intends to increase their number of abortions. She tells how abortion pills are distributed without doctor involvement, knowing that if anything went wrong during the abortion it might be too late to get the woman to a hospital. She tells all what goes on behind P.P.'s doors. Because of her book, PP brought a suit against her in order to prevent her telling what she had learned from working with them for so many years.

Keeping this in mind, you might appreciate that the House has passed a bill to repeal abortion-funding Obamacare (Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act). Planned Parenthood is still receiving more than \$363 million in revenue from government grants and contracts. I too thought that the Representatives had said that were not going to support this organization any longer. It is hard to know what is true or false when they tell you something. One, however, must realize by now that the Obamacare is willing to spend money for abortions, but seem to want to save money by the "Death Panels," which were to start January 1. Enough pressure has been placed so that this portion of the bill will be removed as law for now.

On January 15, there was a Lumina/Hope and Healing for those that have been spiritually wounded by an abortion. A morning for prayerful remembrance and intercession was held at St. Patrick Cathedral in New York City. This consisted with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Sacrament of Reconciliation followed with the Rosary. Sanctuary for Life, formerly known as Birthing and Care, has its offices in the Archdiocesan Offices. They have been around for twenty years.

Presently, directed by Michelle Wil-

liams, they help women who might otherwise have had abortions because of financial reasons. They have an interaction with Birthright, Gabriel Project, Providence Hospital and Georgetown for prenatal assistance. They generally meet their clients at parishes. Their clients seem mostly to be from women on un-expired visas. These women are not entitled for any assistance since it is expected that they will return to their country of origin. It is ironic that women who enter the country illegally with no papers have a much better chance of getting state assistance for themselves and their babies. If you know of any women who might need the assistance of Sanctuary for Life, call Michelle at (301) 853-5341. You could be doing that person a great favor.

John Naughton, a frequent writer of "A letter to the Editor", in *The Washington Times*, stated that according to Sharon Camp, president of the Guttmacher Institute, there has been an increase of abortions. The distribution of contraceptives has failed to decrease the rate of pregnancies, thereby, increasing the need for abortions. This should come as no surprise. Even as early as 1970, Malcolm Potts, a former medical director of the International Planned Parenthood Federation said, surgical "abortion and contraception are inextricable intertwined in their uses." Today, abortion becomes a backup to what contraception, pills, etc. does not prevent. Then, if the government will start paying for abortions, with taxpayer's money, this surely will increase this number that much more.

If you ever have given thought whether the Pro-Life movement in the United States is getting any where, here are some recent facts according to an article in *The Washington Times* on January 20th of this year, by Denise Burke, president of AUL and Daniel McConchie, vice president of AUL. They stated that United for Life shows that a number of states are updating their abortion laws by rolling back the regime of "abortion on de-

mand" and protecting both women and their unborn children from the harms inherent in abortion. There are actually a number of states that are truly attempting to end abortions. This may be assisted by the last election where 12 new pro-life governors and hundreds of new pro-life legislators were voted in.

I really do believe that the American people are saying that enough is enough, and that the killing of more than 50 million unborn babies, since 1973, has gone too far. There are many pro-life organizations and voting individuals putting out the message and it finally seems to be sinking in that life of the unborn should be protected and that this future child of God does have rights in this country.

Once more, another video has demonstrated how dishonest Planned Parenthood has been in exploiting women for financial gain (Steven Ertelt's article in *The Washington Times*, February 3) and still our government has justified this by giving large sums of money for their cause. This is sinful. Once again our president gives praise to the gays (recent State of the Union Address) and again our bishops do not come forth. There is a lot of awakening I see that is needed. God Bless.

Upcoming Action in the Public Square

Maryland is a state in which secularism is dominant. Many of its laws and regulations are in opposition to Catholic teaching.

Keep abreast of what is happening from a public policy perspective by signing up for the Catholic Advocacy Network, an email alert service of the Maryland Catholic Conference, at www.mdccathcon.org.

Also find out what the Knights in Maryland are doing by going to our state website at www.kofc-md.org

Exercise your citizenship as an informed Catholic.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter D. Ferrigno, PGK

Our late Holy Father, John Paul II, spoke of the "Culture of Death" that was being experienced throughout the world. In an article by Jeffrey T. Kuhner, a columnist of *The Washington Times* and president of the Edmund Burke Institute, he stated, "For the past fifty years, every mayor institution has been captured by the radical secular left. This included the media, Hollywood, TV, universities, public schools, theater, the arts, literature -- they relentlessly promote the false gods of sexual hedonism [the doctrine that pleasure or happiness is the highest good] and radical individualism."

What he is saying here is that there are so many of us that have placed "individual pleasures" as our ultimate goal. Where does this place God in our life? The Church has known this trend for some time and realizes that this will not be an easy act for them to change. To know where we are heading, just look at what has happened in Europe. With secular universities cramming the minds of our young students and judges of our states and federal government, giving their own interpretation as to what the law should be. What type of judges do you think that we are getting into the court system from our current president? They all seem to be socialists. This will not bring the public closer to God. How could it, since these judges do not even accept the existence of God?

Currently, with the recent addition of two cardinals, we now have 18 cardinals, 13 under the age of 80. *The Catholic Standard*, in November, when speaking about the elevation of Bishop Wuerl to the level of Cardinal, came forth with the quote from the bible where Jesus is speaking to his apostles, which I thought to be most appropriate: "Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all."

Recently, Cardinal Wuerl stated, "The Rosary is the center of the Church, it is the rock that is the touchstone of our Catholic Faith." The Councils of the Archdiocese of Washington should pray for our Cardinal, that he will be a strong leader and an example, for us, as to how to keep

the Church strong in our hearts. For example, I believe that too many Catholics think of Christmas as a holiday. A bumper sticker I have seen on a number of cars, lately, stated, "Christmas is not a holiday, it is a holy day." More Catholic should profess this, for others to know what we truly believe.

Pope Benedict XVI stated this past November that the Catholic newspapers have an irreplaceable role in forming Christian consciences and reflection of the Church's viewpoint on contemporary issues. These papers are providing information that Catholics may not be receiving in any other form. In the past, I have used these journals as sources for my writings. I have attempted to give my sources, in case you might be interested in finding more information. For those of you who are readers of *The Catholic Standard*, you have to admit that this has been one means through which Cardinal Wuerl can communicate with us. One should not rely on the Mass to bring out the current issues the Church is confronted with. As Knights, we should and need to be more informed as to what is happening in our faith and be able to disseminate correct information to those around us. We should in some way become leaders in our community for the propagation of faith.

It seems that the United States, in many ways, has been trying to follow Europe. Recently, however, the European Court on Human Rights banned the display of the cross in school classrooms; saying that this display was a violation of religious freedom. However, many local authorities in Italy reacted strongly against this and openly stated that they would not comply with the court's decision. Fortunately, the Italian courts supported this outrage and overruled the European Court of Human Rights. The crosses have now been replaced in the schoolrooms. As Catholics, we must be ready to depart from the secular mentality of some of those judges who are attempting to force their views upon us. Make sure that you support the teachings of the Catholic Faith.

God Bless.

Maryland March for Life

On Monday, March 14, Marylanders who value the sanctity of life will have an opportunity to exhibit their convictions. The 32nd annual Maryland March for Life will begin at St. Mary's Church in Annapolis, with a Mass starting at 5:15 pm. Baltimore Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien will be the celebrant, while a simultaneous religious service will be conducted by David Frye, Senior Evangelist of Severn Christian Church.

After the Mass, attendees, accompanied by a Color Corps contingent from the Maryland Knights of Columbus, will march to a rally at Susan Campbell Park-City Dock.

Speakers at the event include Matt Birk (center for the Baltimore Ravens), Tracey Tiernan (WRBS Radio), David Bereit (40 Days for Life), Cathy McLeod (MD Right to Life), and Mike Martelli (MD Coalition for Life). It is expected that many of the pro-life legislators will be present.

A strong turnout is needed to demonstrate support for the preservation of human life. Among the clergy who are expected to participate in the March are Bishops Francisco Gonzáles, S.F., Martin D. Holley, and Barry V. Knestout from the Archdiocese of Washington, and Baltimore Bishop Denis J. Madden. Will you be there?



From the Supreme Knight

The Rev. Kurt Pritzl O.P., Dean of the School of Philosophy at the Catholic University of America died on February 21. Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, a member of the University's Board of Directors, issued the following statement:

"With the death of Father Kurt Pritzl, the world of Catholic higher education has lost one of its most formidable scholars, a man who exemplified teaching excellence, and who was loved by his students and his fellow academics alike. His mastery of Aristotle and Aquinas was extraordinary. Over the past three decades, he set an example for all who pursue the life of the mind guided by the truth of the Gospel. He lived his life to the fullest even as he was losing his heroic struggle with cancer, and was an inspiration to all who knew him. He was a Catholic scholar worthy of emulation by all who aspire to teach and inspire the Catholics of tomorrow."

Fr. Pritzl was well known to Rock Creek Council. Two years ago, when we wanted to establish a memorial fellowship in honor of past member Norman White, Fr. Pritzl guided the procedure through the university channels to establish the Norman White-Rock Creek Council Fellowship in Philosophy. He wanted to come to the council to meet the members, but his illness prevented this. May he rest in peace.



Ladies of the Knights

Hello Ladies!

I want to introduce myself and at the same time announce the launch of the "Ladies of the Knights," with the hopes that all of you ladies reading this will be interested in taking this organization to the next level!

I have been coming to Rock Creek since I was a little girl. My family roots run deep at Rock Creek, spanning over 50 years and 3 generations. My Grandfather was Past Grand Knight Ray Dolan and my Father Joe Dolan was Deputy Grand Knight. As I have grown up, I have seen the Council grow, plateau, and most recently rejuvenate. Today, Rock Creek is experiencing a steady increase in new members which in turn brings new excitement and enthusiasm to this great organization.

I want to thank the great women who have worked so hard for so many years to keep the ladies auxiliary alive. I hope you will be part of the new auxiliary and help guide us as necessary.

Now it is time for the ladies to kick it into gear and bring new energy to (what we now refer to as) Ladies of the Knights! With the support of our male counterparts we are going to build the LOTK into a leading force for the council. However, before we can get going, we need members (minor detail). I encourage all of you to consider becoming a part of LOTK, and help us build a strong foundation to serve many generations to come.

We have a lot to do and certainly want to get started as soon as possible. The main goals of the LOTK will be to raise funds for charitable causes close to our hearts, as well as for the council itself and to help organize social events. One initial idea we've had is to put together a LOTK cookbook, filled with our favorite recipes, which can be sold for our first fundraiser.

From a time commitment perspective, I foresee the LOTK meeting once a month, and then participating at various events and fundraisers, and of course socially as often as we'd like. Please e-mail me at erin.dolan@axiossystems.com if you are interested in jumping on board.

I look forward to seeing/meeting all of you and kicking off the next generation of the Ladies of the Knights!

Cheers,

Erin

Erin Dolan Bailey, President

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.





REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, PFN

Maryland vs. Mary's Land

Maryland is a Janus among states. Founded by Catholics as a refuge from religious hostility and named *Terra Maria* for the Catholic wife of King Charles I of England, the state now is replete with statutes, regulations and social conventions that are in opposition to Catholic teaching. The state, indeed the nation, is in moral decay.

The watershed issue of this decadence is abortion, the intentional destruction of a human life. If a society willing and consciously allows the killing of its unborn children under the guise of compassion and women's rights, there is little else it is unwilling to do. Nationally, abortion is legal and common; pre-marital sex and co-habitation are wide-spread; embryonic stem-cell destruction, harvesting, cloning, in vitro fertilization and other ways of manipulating conceptive life are viewed as beneficial; pornography is rampant on the Internet and in the entertainment media; and physician-assisted suicide is beginning to gain acceptance.

Maryland is in the vanguard of these destructive trends. With some of the most permissive laws on abortion in the nation, feticide practitioners are finding a welcome home in the state. It is the only state where an abortionist is protected from civil and criminal action in his practice, while hospitals and health care workers who refuse to perform or assist in abortions, or will not make abortion referrals as a matter of religious faith or personal conscience, are vulnerable to civil liability and disciplinary action.

Since 1999, according to the Guttmacher Institute, the annual rate of induced abortions in Maryland has averaged almost 30 percent of all pregnancies, which is about 10 percent higher than the nation as a whole. The only state restriction on the procedure is that the parent of a minor must be notified before an abortion is performed *if* the abortionist thinks it is in the best interest of the minor.

As a result, abortionists are drawn to the state. Until recently, Steven Brigham circumvented New Jersey laws prohibiting late-term abortions. He would begin procedures in that state and then transport the advanced patients to Elkton. Here he completed the abortions, even though he never held nor was required to hold a medical license in Maryland. The New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners suspended his license last October deeming him "a clear and imminent danger to the public health and safety." He still owns, however, several facilities in Maryland. LeRoy Carhart, who gained infamy for performing partial-birth abortions before they were banned nationally,

recently relocated his late-term abortion facility from Nebraska to Germantown, where he is currently practicing. These two and other abortionists throughout Maryland must be stopped.

The organization with the strongest moral force to oppose these trends is the Catholic Church. And the Knights of Columbus, the world's largest organization of Catholic men and their families, can serve as the Church's foot-soldiers.

In Maryland, there are 27,000 members of the Knights organized into 151 councils spread throughout the state. These men – you, I and our families -- can be a potent unit in this legion. The State Deputy has set a goal for the Knights "to improve Maryland's moral culture." Effective pro-life activities are the primary means to achieve this.

An essential component of any pro-life initiative is prayer. The fight for life is a spiritual battle being waged within the secular world. Nothing can truly be accomplished in this engagement without the assistance of our Lord and His Blessed Mother. Our outward activities must be a manifestation of Our Lord acting in and through us. As St. Paul said, "I live, now not I, but Christ liveth in me." Thus, activities such as the Silver Rose, the regular recitation of the Rosary at council meetings, pro-life Masses, Marian Hours of Prayer, and similar programs are essential to the performance of good works.

Action should accompany prayer. The State Council and many of our local councils already are involved in activities, such as the Cemetery of the Innocents currently operating in southern Maryland, providing support to pregnancy support centers, erecting monuments to the unborn, raising funds for the ultrasound initiative, conducting "baby showers," participating in the national and the Maryland Marches for Life, and many other commendable activities. These should be continued, strengthened, expanded.

While we have several beneficial programs at the state-level, and many councils conduct worthwhile pro-life projects, these are not enough. Other organizations, such as the Maryland Catholic Conference, the diocesan pro-life offices, Maryland Right to Life, Defend Life and others, also conduct targeted, worthy pro-life programs in the state. The effectiveness of these separate initiatives could be enhanced through collaborative efforts. The Knights are a ready mechanism for this. We have a statewide network of councils and members, while other organiza-

(Continued on page 9)





Membership Corner

As reported in the last issue of the *Chatter*, January was a recruiting windstorm. We had 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degrees scheduled all in one week. Bad weather forced us to combine 1st and 2nd degrees on a Thursday night, with a 3rd degree the very next night. The result for the Rock Creek Council was 14 new 1st degree Knights, 22 new 2nd degree Knights and 20 new 3rd degree Knights, including 8 Brothers who went 1st to 3rd in those two nights. That has to be some sort of Knights of Columbus record!

Our next 1st degrees will be held Tuesday, March 22nd and Tuesday, April 26th. For those 2nd degree members looking to take the next step a special 3rd degree will be held on Sunday, April 3rd. The degree will be held at Prince Georges Council # 2809. The council is located at 9450 Cherry Hill Road in College Park. This degree will begin at 2:30 P.M. Candidates must report no later than 2:00 P.M.

Remember all you have to do is **ask** someone to join the Knights. If they say no, ask again. Bring them by the Council for an event. If they see what we have to offer it will be hard to say no to becoming a Knight of Columbus.

Vivat Jesus!

Art Harris

Membership Director

Around the Kay-Cee Club

Spring hasn't quite sprung yet, but that doesn't mean the Kay-Cee Club isn't sitting idly by. We're planning more improvements to the Mansion for the New Year.

For instance, we're renovating the coat room to make it more attractive as visitors arrive through the front door.

You'll notice two bollards that are being installed by the kitchen door at the top of the driveway to protect against any vehicular mishaps.

The club has a new brochure in the works, so keep an eye out for that. We're also advertising the Mansion in the Our Lady of Lourdes church bulletin. We're considering advertising in other church bulletins, as well.

And we are planning our spring landscaping with the help of Capt. Art Rawson.

Financially, we are doing super.

That's all for this month.

Burt Murray

President

From the Financial Secretary

As we approach Lent, we find we have approximately 100 members who have not yet paid their 2011 dues. Please help us save the cost and time of sending out such a large number of Second Notices. Our dues are as follows:

Regular members \$50

Honorary Members (those who have been Knights for 25 **consecutive** years and are at least 65 years of age) \$9.00

Honorary Life Members (those who have been Knights for 25 **consecutive** years and who are at least 70 years of age) No dues (Ordained priests also become Honorary Life Members as soon they take their First Degree.)

Times are tough. We do not want to suspend anyone who wants to retain their membership but cannot pay. The Grand Knight can waive or adjust the dues for good reason. We also have voted to waive dues for any member who serves overseas in harms way in defense of our country and for ordained Deacons.

We have an active and vibrant council and the last thing we want is for someone to leave. However, if anyone does decide to leave the council, *please drop us a note or an e-mail telling us why*. If there's anything you feel we should do better, e-mail or call the GK or FS.

As soon as our Second Notices of dues due go in the mail, a listing of those in arrears will be posted in the Lounge.

Sick and Death

In recent months, we have had several of our long-time brothers pass away. In many cases we received notice so late that we were unable to marshal a reasonable number of Knights for the wake or funeral – but sometimes notification has been given and the turnout has been poor (less than five). One of the main reasons our order was founded in 1882 was to give support to the widows and families of our deceased brothers. Please try to attend wakes and funerals when notified, and leave instructions to contact us when you go to your reward. (The FS's home address and phone number is on the back every membership card to facilitate notification.)

I never believed how much these visits meant, until I experienced deaths in the family. It's a small thing to give up an hour, but it means so much to the bereaved.

Our notification of deaths is shifting to e-mail notification. It is much faster, and notifications in the *Washington Post* have become extremely expensive - typically \$135 to \$140 per notice. This is one more reason for having your e-mail address on file with the council.

Joe Murphy

Financial Secretary



St. Patrick's Day Open House

The lounge once again will be hosting a council open house on March 17th. Doors will open at 1pm.

Traditional St. Patrick's Day fare will be served. Green draft beer! Drink specials!

Listen to great Irish Pub Music. (at print time no live music has been scheduled)

HAVE A GREEN GOOD TIME AT THE KNIGHTS!

\$10 DONATION

Additional parking at The American College of Cardiology off Old Georgetown Road with a path from their lot to ours.

Lecture Program

Thursday, March 24th

Joseph McPherson will speak on "The Founding of Maryland: Lord Baltimore's Venture and Its Significance to America"

Joe is headmaster of Brookewood School in Kensington and was headmaster of The Heights School in Potomac and The American School in Switzerland. He was Chair of Montgomery County's Maryland 350 Committee, which celebrated the state's 350 anniversary, and a Commissioner of the Historic St. Mary's Commission, among other civic roles. A graduate of Harvard University and Georgetown Law School, he and his wife, Madlyn, live in Silver Spring and have six grown children and seven grandchildren.

REFLECTIONS

(Continued from page 11)

tions have proven programs.

One effort that we can assist right now is the *40 Days for Life* campaign, which begins on Ash Wednesday in 243 cities across the country and continues through Lent. It combines prayer, fasting, and vigils, efforts that begin and end with God. Every Knight and his family can do something in this campaign. Whether you join a peaceful prayer vigil outside a local abortion or Planned Parenthood facility for one hour once a week or only once, whether you pray and fast at home or pray in church, your help is needed.

Vigils will be held at five locations in Maryland: Hillcrest Clinic in Baltimore; Metropolitan Family Planning in College Park; Germantown Reproductive Health Services (LeRoy Carhart's facility) in Germantown; Hagerstown Reproductive Services in Hagerstown; and Planned Parenthood in Silver Spring. Further information can be found at <http://www.40daysforlife.com/location.cfm>, or on our state website www.kofc-md.org under up-coming events. Participate at one of the sites.

With assistance from our Blessed Mother, help rid our state of abortion, an "intrinsic evil," as the church tells us, that can never be tolerated. Let's return Maryland to its roots as *Terra Maria*, Mary's Land.

Vivat Jesus!

Family Movie Night

The "Family Potluck Cookout & Movie Night" will resume in April, with more great movies and lots of fun for all moms, dads, children, grandparents, and those who just want to join their friends.

Watch for announcements in the next and future issues of the *Chatter*.

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!**

Julie Carter

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





Tax Day



April 15 - tax day - is right around the corner. It's become popular this time of year to encourage

the opening of an IRA or similar retirement annuity, or the depositing of additional funds into an existing account, as a tax savings vehicle. A secondary approach is to tout the rate of interest that money in one of these accounts can earn. Let me join the chorus of folks encouraging you to open or add funds to an annuity, but for a different reason.

Certainly, contributing money to a Knights of Columbus annuity will allow you to save some money on your income tax return. And our annuities do pay a very competitive interest

rate, consistent with our primary goal of absolute safety of principal. Opening or adding to an annuity for these reasons, however, strikes me as taking a short-term view of a product that is designed to provide long-term security. How much security? How does a retirement income that you cannot outlive – guaranteed – sound to you?

Here at the Knights of Columbus, you can open a retirement annuity for as little as \$300. Consistent and disciplined savings placed into that annuity over time can guarantee you an income at retirement that you cannot outlive. That guarantee – along with the fact that no one has ever lost money left in a Knights of Columbus annuity (remember – **absolute** safety of principal), really will provide you with peace of mind.

I am happy to meet with you – at your convenience and in your home – to explain in detail the benefits of opening a Knights of Columbus annuity, along with the benefits of our top-rated life insurance and long term care insurance plans.

As you ponder all the things that may not work out as you proceed toward retirement, think about one thing you can do to help yourself – opening a Knights of Columbus annuity. It's reasonably priced (\$300 to start), guaranteed, and controlled by someone you trust – you!

Call me – let's talk.

Fraternally,

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

Family of the Month

The Graysons have been selected as Family of the Month for February. Larry and wife, Mary Susan, are the proud parents of Mary Louise, Catherine, Lawrence, Elizabeth, Maureen, and Thérèse. Their children have blessed them with 28 grandchildren and countless visits to occupy any spare time they may have.

Larry is the editor of *The Knight Chatter* and is the Council Lecturer. During the recent five-day visit to our Council Hall by out-of-state pro-life pilgrims and clergy, Larry made his personal car available to Father Baker and Father Garcia, so they would have transportation each day to and from Holy Redeemer Rectory.

Larry and Mary Susan are members of Holy Redeemer Parish. Larry serves as a lecturer during the week, and Mary Susan as the organizer of the Blessed Sacrament Adoration Group at Holy Redeemer.

Larry has served State Deputy Peter Davio as State Director of Communications, and recently was appointed State Director for Pro-Life Activities. He is Past Grand Knight of our Council, Past Faithful Navigator of Cardinal O'Boyle Fourth Degree Assembly, past president of the Kay Cee Club, and Former District #18 Deputy. Larry serves on the First, Second and Fourth Degree Teams.

On Behalf of all the Rock Creek Council members and their families, thank you for serving as exemplary roll models for us to follow!

Neil Dorian, PGK

Around the Lounge

Winter Hours: Monday Thru Thursday 4-8
 Friday 4-12, Saturday 2-7 with expanded hours for

IT'S TOURNAMENT TIME!

Watch all the big games with your Brother Knights and friends. Call to check on extended hours for all the Tournaments.

The lounge is now serving Hard Times Chili and chili dogs, as well as BBQ sandwiches on Wednesday through Saturday. So if you don't have time to grab a bite or want to bring the kids in to grab something quick and cheap, we've got it covered.

Starting March 11th, Fridays will be "Pizza Night" in the lounge. During Lent we will be partnering with a local pizza place to bring in pizza and salad. So bring the whole family!

The River returns March 11th for Great Live Music. Jack, Lou and Dennis play all kinds of music for all ages. It is a Great Show. Music starts at 8 and there is a \$5 donation.

The lounge is still looking for bartenders. Contact Mike Horan at 240-793-1169

Its Your Lounge, Enjoy It.

Lounge phone 301-530-1628



SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

This report is being written in 80-degree weather in southern Florida. We had over 80 members and guests attend our St. Valentine's Party. We were honored by the presence of Msgr. John Brady, Fr. Joseph Perkins, Fr. Joseph Sileo, Fr. Paul Nyugen, Fr. John McKay, Fr. Kyle Ingel, Br. Ed Adams, Sr. Mary Adams, and Deacon Bob Hubbard as our guests.



PGK Bob Waters

Our two honored ladies for St. Valentine's were our 50/50 ladies, Ann Doby and Hilda Stofko. Many thanks to Jim Young, who conducted the meeting in my absence. Als, thanks to Ted McIntosh and Dora Bailey for chairing the event, Marjorie Ackerman and Kitty Lynch for the food, Fr. Paul, Deacon Bob Hubbard and Ed Reilly for handling the bar, Jean Gordon and Helen Brennan for the flyer and mailing, Darlene Coleman for the "little things," Dorothy Bush for the music, and to all the others who helped.

Our St. Pat's Party will be held on St. Patrick's Day - no, I am not telling you the date. There will be a flyer. It will be catered and Mrs. Bush will be there with her keyboard. Make your reservations early! We will have a special surprise at

this function.

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, Jack Cunning-

ham, 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, John O'Keefe, Eugene O'Neill, Ralph Oviedo, Sr. Maureen Patrice, Fr. David Pollak, 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 family of our recently deceased member George Reed. His wife, Joan Reed, is in a nursing home in North Carolina.

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

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2-Year—Art Rawson—301-530-0754
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FINANCIAL SECRETARY—301-530-2427

KAY-CEE CLUB—301-530-0258

RENTAL COORDINATOR—301-530-0258

St. Patrick's Day

Two Parties, Two Floors, Lots of Fun

Thursday, March 17



Senior's Upstairs

Noon—3:00 pm

Catered luncheon

Dorothy Bush on her "Irish" keyboard

Reservations needed

Seniors see flyer for details



Open House in Lounge

1:00 pm — Late

Irish pub fare

Green beer

No reservations, come anytime

\$10 donation

Visit the Council Website at www.kofc2797.org

All proceeds will support the Teachers' Appreciation Dinner in May

Anniversary
& Birthday
Receptions,
Weddings,
Meetings

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April CHATTER Deadline:
March 18, 2011

ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
March		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Executive Committee 7:30 PM	9  Ash Wednes- day	10 Rosary 7:30 PM Business Mtg 8:00 PM	11 	12
13	14	15	16 K-C Club 7:00 PM	17 St. Pat's Parties Srs Noon-3 PM Lounge 1-10 PM	18 	19
20	21	22 1st Degree 7:00 PM	23	24 Rosary 7:30 PM Lecture 8:00 PM	25 Annunciation of the Lord	26
27	28	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: black; color: white;">Lent begins March 8</div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Fast and Abstinence  Abstinence </div> </div>				

Visit the Council Website at www.kofc2797.org