



THE KNIGHT CHATTER

April 2011

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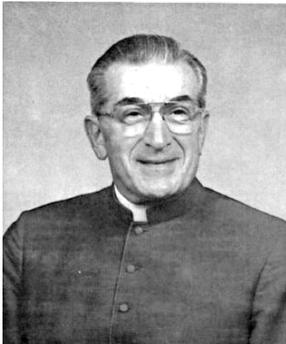
May you and your family have a very Joyous and Blessed Easter!

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

REV. MSGR. VINCENT S. GATTO, KHSH

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

MICHAEL HORAN



Chaplain Gatto

Dear Knights,

The Gospel for the Fourth Sunday in Lent is the remarkable account of the man born blind. Each of us is meant to identify with this sightless man. In fact, each of us, as a result of original sin, was born blind, spiritually speaking. What are some of the ways this plays out in our lives? We are often blind to God's presence. Blind to the signs He puts

before us, we stumble around in darkness, while Christ's light is within reach, if only we would grasp it.

To correct our spiritual vision, we are to live as Jesus taught. This means loving our neighbor and enemy, upholding the Ten Commandments, following the Precepts of the Church, forgiving and seeking forgiveness. All people are given the choice to have Jesus restore their spiritual sight or to live in darkness. We all know that. Others receive the light of Christ, but then it becomes a burden to

(Continued on page 2)

Brothers of Rock Creek

As we move into April its time to start looking for the next group of talented men to guide Rock Creek for the next year. Ok, talented may be pushing it, anyone with some free time will work.

In May we will be holding elections for the chair officers and activity chairmen.

Most of the activity chairmen have been in position for more than a year and are ready to step aside. Now is the time for our new members to step up and pitch in. We will be looking for Council, Youth, Family, Community, Tootsie Roll, Car Raffle, Membership and Retention Chairman. Each position takes some time, not a lot. It is not the chairman's job to do all the work work for an activity, but to put together a team to do the job.

One of our problems at Rock Creek is too few doing too much. As I have said in the past, if every member put in an hour or two each year we would have volunteer hours to burn. If you have any questions please feel free to call me.

(Continued on page 3)



Grand Knight Horan



From the State Deputy

Mary make us always aware

– This past month made it easy to be aware of the good being done by all of you.

March 1 – Father Donald met with the Supreme Knight and other State Chaplains across the Order.

March 12th -129 men, including many priests, took the patriotic 4th Degree in the Washington District.

March 14th - many joined Archbishop O'Brien, several Bishops and both Masters for Mass and the Maryland March for Life in Annapolis.

March 16th - we met with Padre Ricardo and the members of **San Juan Bosco Council** to seek ways that they can help their pastor and Latino community.

March 19th - **Our Lady Star of the Sea Council** commemorated its 25th Anniversary on Solomon's Island with a Mass and banquet.

March 20th – we paid tribute to some special citizens in our state at our Founders Day Mass offered by Father Grzymiski and Monsignor Feild, and a reception hosted by **Father Comyns Council** and Grand Knight David Shawhan.

March 24th - **St. Catherine Drexel Council's** 1st Degree team brought in 14 new members at St.

Peter's Church in Hancock under the eyes of Father Jack Lombardi.

On March 25th we celebrated Maryland Day at St. Ignatius Church in St. Inigoes with Father George and the **Andrew White Assembly**. That Mass was special to Francine and me since the day was our 45th wedding anniversary.

March 26th - the State Council leadership met at **St. John Francis Regis Council** home in Hollywood to review our progress and discuss how to increase our performance for year 2. It ended with Mass offered by our State Chaplain Father Raymond Schmitt, and a dinner hosted by GK Bill Reabe.

We closed out the month with a meeting with Guadalupe Radio, WMET 1160, to discuss ways that the Maryland State Council can collaborate with them in their evangelistic mission.

Mary, make us always aware that by these actions the Knights of Columbus are alive and well in Maryland, that we are doing great things, that we remain spiritually focused, and that through our efforts we are bringing hope to our Church and our community.

Pete

Peter Davio

Remember Our Sick and Deceased

Sick and Distressed:

PGK Jack Cunningham, Carole Hanley, Barbara Waters, Charlene Hubbard, Danny Costello, Norb Wittrock, Maureen Collins, Charlotte Whitaker, Bob Klug, Grace Caulfield, Ellen Kerr, Esther Cotter, Paul Horan Sr., Christine Warner McDaniels, Clarence Mayberry, Marylu Divers, and those on the Seniors' Club sick list (see page 11)

Deceased

Deacon Dave Allen, Regina Finnell, Robert "Bunky" McCeney

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



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

them, so that extinguish that light. And then there are the rest of us, struggling to keep our lights burning; struggling to keep our focus on Jesus, and on the truth; struggling to let the light of Christ shine through us in a world darkened by sin.

When Jesus cured the man of his blindness, he spat on the ground and made clay with His saliva. He then smeared that saliva on the man's eyes. The Church Fathers tell us that the saliva of Jesus represents His Divine Power; the earth that He mixes with it represents His humanity. Thus, it is Jesus, by the example of His life and through His teachings, who heals and restores our spiritual sight. Jesus makes it possible, as well, for us to gain greater clarity in our spiritual vision as we grow in faith and holiness.

Now let us, just for a moment, come back to the Gospel where Jesus tells the man who was born blind to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. The man does, and after doing so is able to see. The pool is not just a minute detail of this beautiful Gospel reading. The pool parallels the waters of Baptism, where we were cleansed of the stain of original sin and received the light of Christ into our hearts. Yes, Baptism officially marked the beginning of our journey of faith and entrance into the Church. The way the rest of our journey of faith unfolds will largely be determined by our choices.

To receive the light of Christ or to live in blindness – that is a choice each person must make. Christ and His Church do everything they can to bring us to the light, but they will not force us. The choice is left up to us. You and I have made that choice. It is a choice we may struggle with. It is a choice that probably challenges us sometimes. But, ultimately, it is the only choice to make. We echo the words of the blind man when he says, "I do believe, Lord, I do believe."

May God bless us this Holy Day, and help each of us to see, as God desires us to see.

God bless you.

Monsignor Gatto



GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

Get involved. You will be glad you did.

We had another good first degree on March 22nd. We brought in 9 new members. We will be holding another first degree on April 26th. I would love to see 20 candidates for that degree. My goal is to top the 700 mark by July and I think 20 would do it. We are close. Ask a friend to join.

You should have received raffle tickets in the mail. All the proceeds from this raffle go toward the Teachers Appreciation Program. If you can help out it would be great. You can mail your tickets in or drop them by the lounge. If you did not get any tickets, give me a call and we can get some to you.

Mike Horan

Grand Knight

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

FOURTH DEGREE

Members of the Assembly have been given permission to wash the Vietnam Memorial. It will take place on May 7, 2011 at 6:00 am. The National Park Service will provide all of the necessary supplies.



We were honored last year to be allowed to do this task, and a number of Sir Knights responded. We not only did a fine job of cleaning the memorial, but felt privileged to do something to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women who gave their lives for freedom in the world.

Everyone please wear your **RED Assembly shirt** (if you have one) If not please wear something with the Knights of Columbus logo on it. If you would like a shirt, Wayne Miller can get it for you before the event. The cost is \$27. Send him an email at wayunemillerusmc@aol.com, with your size and your name (if you wish it printed on the shirt).

On April 9, 2011, members of the Assembly will gather at 10 am at the VAMC/DC to wash veterans; wheelchairs. Again, everyone should wear the red Assembly shirt.

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.

DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

Worthy Brother All,

When we look around and see the suffering world upon our doorstep or even in our hearts, it is difficult to use such a term as Lenten Blessings to help us carry our cross.

But we are called to more than just a cross. The Roman Empire was littered with crosses through all the lands of its realm. What we are drawn to in particular is the crucifix, for upon this wooden cross was God himself in his Son. Our Lord knew that his life would lead to such an end. He was under no illusion about what had to be done. His final day of life on Good Friday was no accident or mission gone awry. He came to put sin to death and take away its sting.

So where does this leave us? We are called to embrace our own cross. To call this a blessing seems a contradiction, but let us recall that we, too, can serve our Father as his Son did through obedience, humility and contrition. As members of the Knights of Columbus family, we are the visible sign of the church to those in our community. The lapel pin that you wear proudly says to others that you have embraced the same cross as our Lord.

Spend some time before the crucifix in the next few weeks and gaze upon Him who embodied the obedience and humility of a son who loved his father even unto death.

God Bless.

Richard Earenfight

District Deputy No. 18

"Mary, Make Us Always Aware"

ROSARY AT 7:30 P.M.

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



Come and join us!



PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter and Mary Ann Ferrigno, Pro-Life Chaircouple



According to Right to Life, Montgomery County, they have been supporting the Vitae Foundation with monies to

place ads featuring a pre-born baby sucking its thumb and a phone number inside 200 buses, from August 2010 to January 2011. Vitae then traced phone calls coming into the Crisis Pregnancy Centers and found that over 1,000 calls had come in stating that they had seen these signs. Over 80 women decided to keep their children, rather than have abortions.

Some of you may be wondering why Leroy Carhart moved his abortion clinic to Germantown, MD. The reason is that he originally was in the state of Nebraska, which has passed a law making abortion illegal past 20 weeks. In Maryland, one may abort way into the pre-birth period.

It has been quite some time since I mentioned anything about Project Mustard Seed. This is the group that has persuaded corporations to stop making contributions to Planned Parenthood. To date, there have been some 270 corporations that have stopped contributing to PP, depriving the latter of some \$40 million. It is a shame that they have yet to persuade the federal government from doing so.

According to Daniel Allott, a senior writer at American Values and a Washington fellow with the National Review Institute, ACLU and abortion rights legislators are trying to put thousands of pregnancy resource centers (PRC) across the country, out of business. The legislators are attempting to create special speech rules to be used against the pro-life centers. What is stopping them so far is that they are going against the Constitution and testimony from women who have been helped by the free services of the PRCs.

You may have read that a couple of

months ago a Baltimore federal judge struck down a city ordinance requiring PRCs to post signs telling clients that they do not offer abortions or birth control services. What the judge really said was that "it is for the provider of pregnancy related services (whether pro-life or pro-choice) to decide when and how to discuss abortion and birth control methods". The pro-life plaintiffs' counsel stated, "There is no abortion exception to the First Amendment." Centro Tepeyac Women's Center, one of the four CPCs in Montgomery County, has now filed a suit against the County to rescind the original decision made against the four Crisis Pregnancy Centers.

There are so many studies that now show that an abortion can triple a woman's subsequent risk of developing breast cancer that PP must now have a difficult time defending themselves for not forewarning their patients of this. It may come as a surprise that there are over 3,000 pregnancy resource centers throughout the United States. Not one of them receives federal support. Imagine if the government gave them \$350 million plus, as they do with PP. I am sure that the abortion rate would be much less. In the Daniel Allott's article, he stated that Virginia's legislators passed a resolution praising the work of the state's 52 pro-life pregnancy centers. There seems to be some light at the end of the tunnel.

It is gratifying that the ultrasound technology has clearly helped people rethink about having an abortion; there has been sufficient evidence that this has given some women strong reasons for having their babies. I am proud that the Knights of Columbus is helping to place a number of these instruments in our PRCs.

Connie Beckman, in a relatively recent article in *Celebrate Life Viewpoint*, stated that 40 Days for Life has shown a peaceful method to local communities of what the consequences of abortion in their home town is all about. She had this to say: "Catholic social service organizations,

pregnancy resource centers and other pro-life outreaches, through the U.S and Canada are beacons of hope for women and men facing unplanned pregnancies, because they offer them the counseling and support they need to give their babies life and they explore with them the options of parenting their children themselves or placing them for adoptions."

In another article in this pro-life magazine, *Celebrate Life*, dated July-August 2010, Vice President Biden pushed for a pro-abortion constitution for Kenya. When asked about U.S. pro-life groups' support of its Kenyan opponents, Biden described that such activity as the pro-life movement is "one of the drawbacks of democracy."

On a final note, one of the services that Planned Parenthood lists, that they offer to women, is mammogram. I have been told that there is not a single abortion clinic in this country that truly offers this to any woman entering their clinics. At the very best, they may be given a name of a location that will do this for them. I am sure that such false claims may justify more federal funds. It is time that our lawmakers realize that terminating a human life is morally wrong. It is also morally wrong to use pro-life taxpayers dollars to murder over 300,000 in utero babies each year.

God Bless.

Join the Catholic Advocacy Network

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.

Exercise your citizenship as an informed Catholic.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter D. Ferrigno, PGK

Recently, I was asked what is the "Parish Round Table". It became obvious that many of our newer members and possibly some of our older (not necessary in age) had not been introduced to its function. One of the many ways that the Knights of Columbus may serve is by helping their local parishes. There are 92 Parish Round Tables with 34 councils participating in the program. Each Council may have one or more parishes with which they have established a Parish Round Table. Each Round Table has a Council coordinator who is a liaison to the parish.

Our Council has five Parish Round Tables: Holy Cross (Coordinator- PGK Roberto Ibanez), Holy Redeemer (Coordinator- Robert Kestel), Our Lady of Lourdes (Coordinator-Gregory Curtin), St. Bartholomew (Coordinators- PGK John Vivian and Norbert Wittrock), and St. Jane de Chantal (Coordinator- PGK Peter Ferrigno). Each coordinator has to be a member of that Council that sponsors that Round Table. As Round Table chairman for our council, I correspond with Supreme Council and submit a list of coordinators each September in addition to an Annual Round Table Report each June. If a parish has a Round Table, any knight in that parish, regardless of the council to which he belongs, is a member of that Parish Round Table.

Our function is solely to work for the pastor of the parish. The parish is not expected, in return, to do anything for us. The report I submit each year consists of the man-hour of service our members perform for each of the five parishes. The hours are related to 1) Maintenance of parish property; 2) Social justice such as aid to elderly, handicapped, St. Vincent de Paul, etc., 3) C.C.D. program, 4) Parish fund raising, 5) Liturgical participation such as lectors, readers, commentator, choirs, ushers, 6)

Youth work such as with Columbian Squires, scouting sports, teen clubs, CYO. It is up to each parish coordinator, during the year, to find those Council members that are working with his parish and to report back to the coordinator as to what he has done and how many hours he has provided at each task throughout the year. It is most important that each of you know who your coordinator is for your parish, introduce yourself to him, if necessary, and inform him, some time prior to June, what and how many hours you have assisted in parish participations. Since each of our five parishes has different numbers of council members, the hours of services will vary. If any of you have questions, please let me know.

You may have read that over 140 Catholic theologians from Germany, Austria and Switzerland published an open declaration asking the church to rethink phasing out the celibacy requirement of priesthood. Their reasons are mainly due to the dwindling of priests in their countries, but also, they want to rethink the church's positions on women priests, same-sex marriage, and divorce. Changing the Church's view on any of these items would be mind-boggling, and if the Church did accept their suggestions, you and I know that we would no longer be talking about a Catholic Church. It has been suggested that people are leaving the Faith because of any one or more of those factors mentioned. As Catholics, we should know better. Any change would cause us to lose our identity.

From time to time, one reads that the American Civil Liberties Union is going to court representing the American people. I wonder which part of the American people and how many of them are there. I am sure that they are not speaking for me, and hopefully, not for my Brother Knights. God Bless.



Ladies of the Knights

Hi Everyone,

The focus for the Ladies of the Knights is to recruit members. I have set up an email address- ladiesoftheknights@gmail.com- if you are interested in joining, please send me an email ASAP!

We are also going to send out an email blast to the council listserv- if all of you Knights could pass it along to your wives, mothers, sisters, etc., that would be very much appreciated.

I am working with Mike to organize a "meet and greet" for all of us girls. I am looking at possibly doing this in April, when

the River band will play in the lounge... keep your eyes open for further information and details. Following that event, we will look to have our first official meeting towards the end of April.

I hope everyone is enjoying the end of winter and getting excited for Spring and Summer!

Cheers,

Erin

Erin Dolan Bailey, President



Christ's Presence in Us Demands that We be Uncompromisingly Pro-Life

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson

In *Evangelium Vitae*, Pope John Paul II's great pro-life encyclical, we read, "The Gospel of life is not simply a reflection, however new and profound, on human life. Nor is it merely a commandment aimed at raising awareness and bringing about significant changes in society. Still less is it an illusory promise of a better future. The Gospel of life is something concrete and personal, for it consists in the proclamation of the very person of Jesus".

These words radically and decisively deepen our understanding of what it means to be pro-life. Clearly, the pope was *not* saying that one must be Christian in order to be opposed to abortion or euthanasia. The obligation of the law to protect the innocent arises from principles of natural justice, which we are all obligated to follow, regardless of religious belief.

The obligation of the Christian, though, goes beyond justice. Those who follow Christ are called not only to obey the law, but also to *fulfill* it.

John Paul II continues, "Through the words, the actions and the very person of Jesus, man is given the possibility of 'knowing' the complete truth concerning the value of human life. ... In Christ, the Gospel of life is definitively proclaimed and fully given". Thus, we know that the value of every human person is revealed by the love of Jesus Christ. We might go on to say that the value of every human life is measured by Christ's love and that Christ's love is inseparable from each of our lives.

Later in his encyclical, the pope writes, "It is precisely in the 'flesh' of every person that Christ continues to reveal himself and to enter into fellowship with us, so that *rejection of human life*, in whatever form that rejection takes, is really a *rejection of Christ*". Christ's loving embrace of every human being is so intense that he is truly revealed in and through each person. According to John Paul II,

this "demanding truth" is revealed to us when the Lord says, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me".

The "demanding truth" of Christ's presence in each of us compels Christians to be uncompromisingly pro-life. With St. Paul, we may truly say that in the pro-life cause "the love of Christ urges us on". This attitude is not a political tactic, nor does it arise from intransigence or political extremism. Rather, it dares not compromise the dignity that Christ's love has imparted to each of us.

The Church's proclamation of the Gospel of life calls us to enter into this profound reality — the reality of the Redeemer's love for each human being. This reality is the key to understanding who we are as persons and our responsibilities to those around us.

Our responsibilities as citizens are measured by a calculus of justice, and we must therefore work untiringly for just laws. But our responsibilities as Christians can only be fulfilled through a vocation of love as revealed by "the Creator and lover of life".

Evangelium Vitae concludes with an appeal to the Blessed Virgin Mary, "the incomparable model of how life should be welcomed and cared for." The pope prays that all those who accept the Gospel of life may be granted "the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love".

May Venerable John Paul II continue to intercede for us, and may Mary always obtain for her Knights the grace to be foremost in the defense of "the sacred value of human life from its very beginning to its end".

Vivat Jesus!

Coming Soon

Rock Creek Council's 10th Annual Charity Chess Tournament

For all children, whether as individuals or in chess clubs from area schools. It is open tournament format (non-rated play). Participants will be in three sections — Grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8. Individual and team trophies will be awarded in each section.

Watch for further information in your church bulletin!





REFLECTIONS ON A HERO

Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, PFN

A Padre in Jump Boots

At 1:15 am, on June 6, 1944, as most people in German-occupied Normandy were asleep, the largest air armada ever assembled was passing overhead. The 882 U.S. planes began to disgorge their contents, thirteen thousand paratroopers of the 82nd and 101st airborne divisions. The Americans' task was to secure a number of causeways and create safety zones where gliders could land to bring in reinforcements. Offshore, five thousand ships carrying two hundred thousand men were assembling. Operation Overlord, the Allied invasion of Europe, had begun. It was D-Day!

Among those dropping in the dark sky was Fr. Francis L. Sampson, a young, Catholic chaplain, making his first combat jump. Landing in a deep stream, he cut away his pack and chute, and then repeatedly dove into the water to retrieve his weapons: a Mass kit and holy oils, items he soon would need.

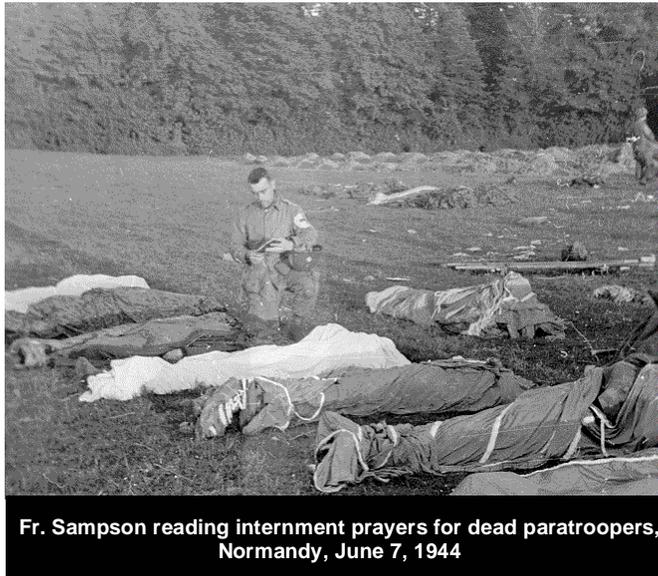
Father joined other paratroopers as they made their way to a French farmhouse that was being used for those who were severely injured. A Protestant chaplain was there and the two of them provided first aid for most of the day. When it was clear that some of the men needed a doctor's care, Fr. Sampson left to find the regimental aid station. Shortly after locating it, a decision was made to pull out. The chaplain volunteered to remain with the men who could not walk.

German troops soon overran the house. Two soldiers took the priest outside and raised their rifles to shoot him, but a German noncom, a Catholic, stopped them. Father was allowed to return to the wounded. That night, the house was shelled collapsing a portion of the roof and killing several men. The Americans soon regained the position, and the priest accompanied the injured to the division hospital, where he assisted the unit chaplain in spiritually administering to some 500-600 wounded men. Fr. Sampson was in combat for another three weeks, working with aid men to rescue the wounded, offering Mass, hearing confessions, anointing the dying, and praying for the dead.

Francis Sampson was born in Cherokee, Iowa, on February 29, 1912, but grew up in Dalles, Oregon. Ordained in 1941, he served briefly as a parish priest before enlisting in the Army. While in Chaplains School, he volunteered for the paratroopers and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division.

Three months after Normandy, Fr. Sampson took part in an airborne assault on Holland. Upon jumping behind enemy lines, he and the regimental doctor set up an aid station in a castle. The priest went to locate the commanding officer, and while he was away, the Germans seized the position.

In December, the enemy forces began a massive offensive, known as the Battle of the Bulge. Learning that a number of American paratroopers were machine-gunned and left on a nearby road, Father went to aid them. He ran into a German unit and was taken prisoner. In the ensuing days, he and a growing number of Allied prisoners were marched from Belgium through Luxembourg to Germany. On Christmas Eve, while in a school auditorium, American planes bombed the area. Father led the men in prayer and spoke of the presence of Christ among them. Over a ten-day period, the prisoners were marched 185 miles, before



Fr. Sampson reading interment prayers for dead paratroopers, Normandy, June 7, 1944

1,500 of them then were herded into overcrowded boxcars. For six days, they were without food and their only water was snow scraped from the tops of the boxcars as they traveled to a prison camp in Germany.

Fr. Sampson was the only Catholic priest among over 5,000 Americans in a camp that held some 80,000 prisoners of various nationalities. He had the men build a chapel in his barracks, where he held daily Mass and non-denominational prayer services. On Good Friday, Fr. Sampson led the men in the

Stations of the Cross and gave a meditation on the life of Christ. On Easter Day, he joined with French, Dutch and Polish Catholic priests, who were imprisoned, to concelebrate a Solemn High Mass for several thousand prisoners. After four months in the Stalag, the Russians liberated the camp.

Fr. Sampson briefly left the service before reenlisting. When the Korean War started, Father was with the 11th Airborne Division. Shortly after the Americans landed at Inchon, the North Koreans retreated north, with the 1st Cavalry Division in pursuit. The 11th Airborne was ordered to cutoff the fleeing enemy, and Father made his third combat jump. As the Chinese had entered the war, the Americans were severely outnumbered. Father was busy administering to the men, including saying five Masses on Christmas Day to accommodate the dispersed units.

(Continued on page 9)



Membership Corner

Congratulations to the nine new members who joined our Council at the 1st degree ceremony on March 22. They are: Richard C. Heim, Matthew E. Lucas, Daniel P. Anastasi, and Patrick M. Rafferty of Holy Redeemer; Thomas P. D'Amour III of St. Jane de Chantal; Douglas S. Skibicki of Our Lady of Lourdes; Bill J. Barrett of St. Patrick; Francesco J. Sharpe of St. Bernadette; and William R. Greenwall III of Holy Trinity.

Welcome to one of the largest and the fastest growing council in the state. We have a great number of activities that are limited only by the willingness of folks to help out. Join us at a meeting. Volunteer to assist in an activity. You will be the greatest beneficiary. You will make new friends, have fun, and get a great deal of satisfaction from what you do.

There is another 1st degree ceremony scheduled for Tuesday, April 26. It will begin at 7 pm, since there is no meeting to be held that evening. If you are a recent member, come and view the degree and learn what you didn't hear the first time. It is a rich ceremony with many things to think about.

We also congratulate James Caulfield, our Chancellor. Jamie took the 4th degree, the highest one of our Order, on March 12. This is the patriotic degree that stresses the obligations and duties of being a Catholic American citizen.

Vivat Jesus!

Art Harris

Membership Director

Around the Kay-Cee Club

More improvements have come to the Rock Creek Mansion. The coat room has been renovated and now has much more storage area. The last step will be to install a curtain that will run the length of the coat room.

Don't be surprised to see additional improvements to the Mansion's lobby, lounge area, and stairwell coming this year. There are plans in the work, which we'll share with you when they are finalized.

Our attention is now turning to the back parking lot and front driveway. We are seeking bids to fill in cracks and reseal the pavement.

Rentals remain steady as more and more people are finding out what a great deal the Rock Creek Mansion offers. Keep us in mind when you're arranging your own events.

Burt Murray

President

Voices of the Bishops

Bishop Samuel J. Aquila of the Catholic Diocese of Fargo recently said: "One must honestly ask, how many times and years may a Catholic politician vote for the so called right to abortion -- 'murder' in the words of John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae* -- and still be able to receive Holy Communion?" He continued, "The continual reception of Holy Communion by those who so visibly contradict and promote a grave evil, even more than simply dissent, only creates grave scandal, undermines the teaching and governing authority of the Church and can be interpreted by the faithful as indifference to the teaching of Christ and the Church on the part of those who have the responsibility to govern."



Auxiliary Bishop Mark Sites of Dallas discussed President Obama's appointment of Catholics who oppose the Church's teaching on life. He said that the Church's pro-life teachings are indispensable. "We have to continue to evangelize our Catholics also so that they can understand this isn't an optional teaching of our Church," he said. "That it is not something we can set aside but it is the very heart of social justice that Jesus proclaimed."

Illinois Bishop Joseph Siegel from the Joliet Diocese, also commenting on the many Presidential appointments of Catholics who oppose the right to life stated, they are "Not living out faith authentically. Not witnessing in the public forum to their faith. If you're not abiding by that, not legislating that way, not supporting that, then it's hard to play yourself as a faithful Catholic."

Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City said, "When I was a child there were social barriers that protected the young from pornography. But in this age of personal computers and cable television, we have an entirely different environment. People say that pornography is a victimless sin. But that's not true. Many are exploited in the porn industry and we know it causes devastation in marriages." He continued, "We fail our people if we're not courageous in preaching about chastity, as well as offering opportunities to help those seeking to live chastely. When we live chaste lives, we are witnesses of our faith in the world. Chastity also frees us from those things that can enslave us and leave us feeling isolated and sad."

Thought for the Month

"There cannot be two parallel lives in [our] existence: on the one hand the so-called 'spiritual' life with its values and demands; and on the other, the so-called 'secular' life, that is, life in a family, at work, in social relationships, in the responsibilities of public life and in culture... This split between the faith which many [of us] profess and [our] daily lives deserves to be counted among the more serious errors of our age."

*Pope John Paul II
Christifidelis Laici*



Special Opportunity for Volunteers

In recent years, there have been few opportunities for personal hands-on assistance by average citizens to assist wounded military men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. If you would be interested in helping these "wounded warriors", as well as honoring veterans and their families, the Red Cross Station at the National Naval Medical Center provides an ideal and convenient opportunity for us at Rock Creek Council.



American Red Cross

There are a wide variety of programs and specific activities at NNMC that need volunteers, but there is one particular service that I wish to bring to your attention and hope to obtain your valuable assistance, namely the daily distribution of books, magazines and newspapers to the patients in the various wards.

At present, that service is being performed regularly on Fridays and only occasionally the other days of the week. Even on Fridays the ward visits must often be limited due to the time needed for stocking the carts and the processing of new book and magazine donations.

Further donations are *not* needed due to storage restrictions, but your part-time volunteer participation is required.

It is hoped the Rock Creek Council will be able to fill in the other days on a consistent basis so that this book, magazine and newspaper service can become an ongoing Rock Creek Council community program.

If you believe you would like to participate, please call the Red Cross office at the National Naval Medical Center (Building 8, 2nd floor, Rm. 2189, tel. 301-295-1538) for further information about procedures. Reserved garage parking spaces are available for volunteers.

Brother Don Sylvain

REFLECTIONS

(Continued from page 11)

After the war, Fr. Sampson remained in the service. In 1967, he was appointed Chief of Chaplains of the Army, with the rank of major general. Upon retiring, he was appointed as head of the USO. During the Vietnam War, he annually spent Christmas with the troops, and was untiring in visiting hospitalized soldiers.

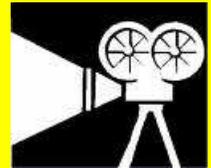


Fr. Joseph Sampson

He died in January 1996, having received many military honors, including the Distinguished Service Cross for his heroism at Normandy and the Distinguished Service Medal.

Family Movie Night

The "Family Potluck Cookout & Movie Night" will resume on Friday, May 20, with more great family movies and lots of fun for all moms, dads, children, grandparents, and those who just want to join their friends.



If the weather is nice, we may set up the film on the lawn. Get out your beach chairs and blankets for a relaxing time.

Watch for announcements in the May issue of the *Chatter*.

Scott Roth

Family Activities Director

Rental Corner

The rental season is gearing up with a few Gala Fundraisers including Westmoreland Children's Center's Country Western Fundraising Auction and Washington Waldorf School's Springtime in Paris Gala. We are a popular location for Sweet Sixteen parties, along with upcoming weddings and bar/bat mitzvahs. Keep us in mind for graduation and special birthday celebrations.

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 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





Many Fine Companies



There are many fine life insurance companies in the marketplace today. So why should you

entrust your life insurance needs, and those of your family to the Knights of Columbus?

In their rating report on the Knights of Columbus, Standard & Poor's states that it's "AAA" rating is based upon the following strengths: extremely strong capital, very strong competitive position, extremely strong liquidity and historically strong profitability.

I would suggest that a principal reason that we were able to achieve those accolades, along with what S&P described as 'a distinct competitive advantage, a loyal customer base

and a unique rapport with clients' is because we remain steadfastly committed to the vision of Father Michael J. McGivney, "Protecting Families for Generations" by means of 'life insurance by brother Knights for brother Knights.'

That commitment is an essential core value of the Knights of Columbus, and our core values permeate all levels of our marketing program. Our "Marketing Code of Ethics" is modeled after the Ten Commandments and includes statements such as 'Thou shall present honestly and accurately, all facts necessary to enable a member to make an informed decision.'

Our ethical principles for marketing are summed up by our Golden Rule: "In all my professional relationships, I pledge myself to the following rule of

conduct: I shall, in light of all conditions surrounding those I serve, render that service which, under the same circumstances, I would apply to myself."

That's what you can expect from me, your professional Knights of Columbus field agent. I welcome the opportunity to present to you and your wife, honestly and accurately, all facts necessary for you to make a sound life insurance decision. I will render that service which, under the same circumstances, I would apply to myself.

Call me – let's talk.

Fraternally,

MICHAEL PATTEN

Fraternal Benefits Advisor

240-305-6996

michael.patten@kofc.org

Family of the Month

The Terence Ryan Family has been selected for the Month of January, 2011. Terence is married to Mary del Castillo, and they are the proud parents of Emily, age 11, and Margaux, age 9.

The Ryans have been members of St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish for the past eight years. Emily and Margaux attend the parish school and are members of the choir and various CYO sports' teams. Mary is active with the St. Jane's Ladies Sodality Society.

Terence is the Deputy Grand Knight of our Council and occasionally you will find him tending bar in the lounge, when he is needed. But be warned if you ever challenge him to a game of shuffleboard. He is a locally ranked member of the Council Shuffle Board All-StarTeam.

Terence is heavily into athletics and community service. He coaches youth sports teams and serves as a program commissioner of an athletic league. He also is a board member of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase YMCA and a member of the Leukemia Lymphoma Society.

Congratulations to the Ryan Family as you are well deserving of this honor!

Neil Dorian, PGK

Chairman, Family-of-the-Month Program

Around the Lounge

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

Spring is here — or is it? Well, it soon will be warm weather once again. This means it is time for deck parties. The patio is great place to unwind after work with friends.

Friday is "Pizza Night" in the lounge. During Lent we are partnering with Vince & Dominic;s for pizza and salad. Pizza is \$2 per slice, or \$20 for a large pie. A fresh salad is \$2. The price is right, so bring the whole family! Let the kids enjoy the game room or play outside, while you and your wife relax with a quick bite inside.

The River returns April 8th and May 20th 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 goes on until... The price is a \$5 donation.

The lounge is available for members' use and for rentals during off-hours. Contact Mike Horan at 240-793-1169 for details.

Its Your Lounge, Enjoy It.

Lounge phone 301-530-1625



SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

We had 92 attend our St. Pat's Party-Meeting. This included 23 non-members. We were honored to have Fr. Francis Alves, Fr. Percival d'Silva, Fr. John McKay, Fr. Paul Nguyen, Fr. Joseph Perkins, Br. Ed Adams, Sr. Mary Adams, and Deacon Bob Hubbard as our guests.



PGK Bob Waters

we will need your suggestions.

Welcome to our six new members: Sally Aitken, Marie Olson, Jacqueline Lilly, Mary Rainey, Nancy Gallellin and Joan Reilly. Glad to have you aboard!

GOD BLESS AMERICA AND OUR MILITARY!

PRAYER CORNER

Congratulations to Jean Gordon and Helen Finncutter for chairing this event! Also, thanks to Charlie and Marge Swanke, Ann Doby, Hilda Stofko, Helen Brennan, Julie Carter, Dorothy Bush (music), and the Chesapeake Caterers. A special thank you to our Grand Knight, Mike Horan, and to Chris Horan for setting up the tables in the early morning, following a District meeting the evening before. Special note — Didn't Ed Reilly do a great job with the singing at the St. Pat's Party? Ed we sure enjoyed your singing!

Thanks also to Darlene Coleman, our Treasurer, for handling the reservations and handling the deposits. I didn't know that there were so many ways of making out a check! Checks should be written to "Rock Creek Seniors"! Make sure that the written and numerical amounts are the same. We spent a long time at the bank.

At the April 15th meeting, we will need your input on future events. There will be a function in May, and we need someone to chair this function. We are working on something special for June, and

In your prayers remember: Eureka & Elizabeth Arcand, Tom Becker, Dom Bellia, William "Will" Bello, Maggie De Betencourt, Larry Bisnett, Jinny Chwirut, Maureen Collins, Jack Cunningham, Marylou Divers, PGK Joe Falzon, Jerry Forlenza, Jane Frank, Susan Gordon Garcia, Lois Gargano, Katharine Giodati, Bill Gordon, Carole Hanley, PGK, Frank Hayden, PSD Gene Hogan, Marie Horan, Paul Horan, Saunders Jsacobsen, PGK Jim Kane, Julia Marcus, James Marketos, Clarence Mayberry, John O'Keefe, Eugene O'Neill, Ralph Oviedo, Sr. Maureen Patrice, Fr. David Pollak, Joan Reed, Bridget Shanahan, 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 long-term member Eddie Flaim, Deacon Dave Allen, Regina Finnell, and Robert "Bunky" McCeney.

A Special Lecture

Join your Brother Knights on Thursday, April 28th at 8:15PM for a special evening with our guest, Father Mark Ivany. Fr. Ivany is the Parochial Vicar and Youth Minister at The Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda.

Mark Ivany attended Merrimack College in Massachusetts, where he was an All-American Lacrosse player. After receiving a degree in political science, he worked on Capitol Hill in the late Senator Strom Thurmond's office and, in his spare time, he coached lacrosse at Gonzaga. When he realized he had a religious vocation, he left the political world for the seminary, and was ordained by Cardinal Wuerl in 1998.

With a father who is a retired Army Major General and other members of his family who served in the armed forces, Father Ivany hopes to continue his family tradition of military service and become an Army chaplain.

Recently, Father addressed the large crowd of young people who gathered at the Verizon Center for the Youth Mass held in conjunction with the March for Life.

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ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
April  Fast and Abstinence  Abstinence					1 	5
3	4	5	6	7	8 	9
10	11	12 Executive Committee 7:30 PM	13	14 Rosary 7:30 PM Business Mtg 8:00 PM	15 	16
17 Palm Sunday	18	19	20 K-C Club 7:00 PM	21 Holy Thursday	22 	23 Good Friday
24 Easter Sunday	25	26 1st Degree 7:00 PM	27	28 Rosary 7:30 PM Lecture 8:00 PM	29	30 Holy Saturday

Visit the Council Website at www.kofc2797.org