



THE KNIGHT CHATTER

July-August 2011

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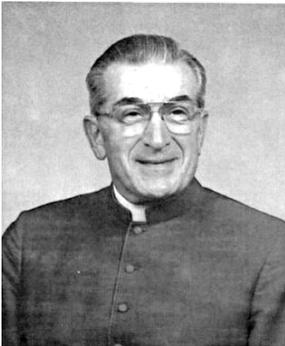
Newly installed Grand Knight Terence Ryan (L) gives Immediate Past Grand Knight Michael Horan his well-earned PGK pin. See more photos of the installation on page 7.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

REV. MSGR. VINCENT S. GATTO, KHSH

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

MICHAEL HORAN



Chaplain Gatto

Dear Knights,

Pentecost is a day to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Church and to embrace the Holy Spirit in our own lives.

Unfortunately, an ever present struggle in our lives and in our faith is that of becoming bored. Most of us involve ourselves in daily tasks that are essentially repetitious.

Sadly, many people ignore the Holy Spirit, and boredom and self-satisfaction take over in their lives. It can be asked, why is there such a lack of compassion and kindness, disregard for people's dignity, and abandonment of commitment and responsibility in life today? It may be that, in some ways, it is easier to be self-ish, rather than to be open. It is easier to be self-centered, rather than self-giving. It is easier to let complacency play a larger part in our lives than enthusiasm.

So, counteracting such spiritual complacency is one reason
(Continued on page 3)

Worthy Brothers All,

I hope this report finds you all enjoying the summer with your loved ones. Mine has been spent gearing up for the 2011-2012 Columbian Year. First and foremost I would like to, on behalf of the entire Council, thank PGK Mike Horan for his steadfast leadership and commitment to Rock Creek Council. Without his continued involvement and unparalleled understanding and devotion from his wife, Rebecca, I don't think I would quite know which way is up.

I assure you, as I race to the July 8th deadline to submit my first Grand Knights Report, that Rock Creek Council is stronger, getting stronger and its members preparing for a year of commitment to our order. A lot has been recommended to our officers past, present and future, which makes for a challenging, yet inspirational time for our council. What is necessary is for our members to be more active and not accept the status quo, with the thought that our Council is solely run by the officers, past and present.

(Continued on page 9)



Grand Knight Ryan



DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

Worthy Brothers All,

As **Knights of Columbus** we embrace a legacy that defends religious freedom supplies a safety net for families in need and embracing those on the margins whether they be the unborn or those with disabilities. Let others know who we are and what we stand for. Share the good that that we do whenever you can, and if you need help visit the Supreme Website and view the new media commercials that express this point in a stunning and impressive visual manner. Each of the four commercials are available on the main page of kofc.org. Make these presentations part of any recruitment effort you plan for the upcoming year.

Take a minute to jot down these dates of upcoming events scheduled this fall. The **Columbus Day Ball** is October 8 at La Fontaine Bleue and the **State Memorial Mass** is November 13. If you are football fan, plan to attend the **Navy Game** on November 5. These three events build fraternity and provide an opportunity to meet knights and their families from across the state. These events allow us to share our common bonds with our families and reach out beyond our council meetings and degree ceremonies. If you have not attended one of these events before do so. If it has been a while since you have attended, make it a goal this year to attend at least one of the three. These events allow us to share a common bond of faith and friendship that stretch beyond our parishes and councils. I encourage you to speak with your fellow knights and signup as and attend.

Vivat Jesus!

Richard Earenfight

District Deputy No. 18

Remember Our Sick and Deceased

Sick and Distressed:

PGK Jack Cunningham, PGK Jim Kane, PGK Neil Dorian, Marylou Divers, Carole Hanley, Paul Horan Sr., Ellen Kerr (sister-in-law of Jamie Caulfield), Barbara Waters, Lisa Davis, Ray Pawlicki, Patricia Dee, Helen Curtin (mother of Greg Curtin, has cancer), Mrs. Floriana, Vincent Coluzze (friend of GK Terence Ryan), Mike McKee, and those on the Seniors' Club sick list (p. 11)

Deceased

HLM John O'Keefe, Charlie Normile (grandson of PGK Lawrence Grayson), Margaret Lenderman (wife of our late member Harvey Lenderman), Mrs. Gilchrist (St. Jane's parishioner), Mario Soliz (friend of PGK Ibanez), Jeff Ellis (friend of Culfield Family) Chris Garnes (friend of Jack Vivian), Susie Nelson, and Vincent Stallone (father of Tom Stallone).



Family of the Month & Year

The **Norbert Wittrock** family has been chosen Family of the Month for May and Family of the Year 2010. Norb and wife Edwina, whom he married in August 1959, have been members of St. Bartholomew Parish for 50 years, where their activities include serving as lector, Eucharistic minister, usher, and money counting. They have one son, Paul, who is happily married to wife Cheng. Norb and Edwina have represented our Council for many years at the Parish Round Table membership drive. Six years ago Norb retired as the Council Recorder having served for 25 consecutive years.

On May 15, at the Maryland State Convention, a resolution was read at the Sunday morning session congratulating Brother Norb on reaching his 99th birthday. He and Edwina have served for many years as volunteers on the Tootsie Roll and Maryland State Council Car Raffle programs. He is a member of the Cardinal O'Boyle Fourth Degree Assembly, and remains active as a director-member of the Kay-Cee Club home corporation. They attend the Council dinner/dances, and never miss a Seniors' Club luncheon meeting. Edwina has been a long-time active member of the Ladies Auxiliary, and could always be depended upon to provide and serve refreshments and coffee for the annual Teachers Appreciation and Memorial Mass receptions.

Norb was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, received BS Degree in business Administration from Cincinnati College, served in the II Corps, 5th Army during WWII, from 1942 to 1945, where he saw action in both the European and African theaters. He survived both a bout of double pneumonia while with the Army A.F. in December, 1942, and an explosion from a Nazi bomb, which landed 15 feet away, while stationed in Sicily in July, 1943. Notable award he received includes the Legion of Merit medal presented by the Commanding General of the II Corps, while serving in the Army in Italy.

In April, 1999, Norb fell down the second floor spiral steps at our Council and suffered a triple fracture of his pelvis. But the gallant fighter that he is, he recovered in three weeks and was back to his duties at the Council meetings serving as Recorder. Norb has been selected as Knight of the Year and is an Honorary Life Member of the Knights of Columbus.

From the bottom of our hearts, the Council members and their families thank you for all you have given to us for so many years. You are truly role models that we can look up to and pattern our lives after.

Neil Dorian, PGK

Chairman, Family-of-the-Month Program



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

why the celebration of Pentecost is so important. It helps us see how the power of the Holy Spirit in us can make such a difference in our lives. On that first Pentecost, the disciples opened themselves to the power of the Holy Spirit, and look what happened. We, too, are asked to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit and allow a transformation to happen in our lives. Our weakness can be turned into strength, our complacency into action, our boredom into enthusiasm. On the solemnity of Pentecost we are being challenged to push aside any tendency we might have to become bored with life, and instead make room for the Holy Spirit, so that we may live more fully and faithfully as disciples of Christ, laboring each day to renew the face of the earth.

God bless you.

Monsignor Gatto

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

FOURTH DEGREE

On August 28, two members of Rock Creek Council will be installed as officers of the Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly. SK Neil Dorian will assume the position of Faithful Navigator and SK Gregory Curtin will become Faithful Pilot.



The Installation begins with Mass at 2:00 PM at the historic, Old St. John's Church, and will be followed by a reception and dinner at Fr. Rosensteel Council. The price of the dinner is \$20 per person. For reservations, contact SK George Carter at 301-949-2701 or ggc35@comcast.net.

If you can make it, come to support our council brothers and all of the officers of the Assembly. This is one of the very important functions of the Columbian Year.

For those who are not yet members of the Fourth Degree, it is time to give it consideration. There is only one opportunity each year in our area to assume this patriotic degree. The exemplification will occur in March 2012. More information will be forthcoming.

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

Membership Corner

During the summer months we usually do not hold any degree ceremonies at our council, but as fall approaches we need to start thinking about recruiting for this Columbian year. Recruiting new members is essential to the continued growth and well-being of your council and the Order. Offering a man membership in the Knights of Columbus gives him the opportunity to improve his own life and his community. Membership allows him to experience the fraternal bond that Knights share while growing closer to his family and faith.

As Knights we have nothing less than a moral obligation to offer membership in the Knights of Columbus to every eligible Catholic man. To accomplish this, we need dedicated brother Knights like you, to be ambassadors, to reach out to Catholic men and their families, and to invite them to become part of our Order. Supreme has put together a video titled "Why Join" to help with our recruiting efforts. You can access the link at

<http://www.kofc.org/un/en/membership/join/index.html>.

Please encourage prospective members and their families to visit the "Why Join?" link at their convenience. In so doing, they can see why being a Knight of Columbus truly is an experience of a lifetime.

I am still looking for council members to join our membership and retention committee. If you are interested please contact me at parkershotguns@verizon.net or 301-980-4008

Art Harris

Membership/Retention Director

Rock Creek Gets Double Star

On June 7, we inducted 11 new members into the Council. Welcome to Dwayne Bryant and David Hand of St. Jane de Chantal, Matthew Corrado and Thomas Corrado of St. Catherine Laboure, Daniel Healy of Our Lady of Lourdes, John Mitchell of Holy Cross, Dan O'Neil of Holy Redeemer, James Schneider of At. Rose of Lima, Jonathan Schneider of St. Raphael, James Schuette of St. Martin, and Chad Thompson of Our Lady of Mercy.

The good work continued, and on June 23, three new members took their First Degrees. Welcome to James Molloy III of Blessed Sacrament, Justin Molloy of St. Jane de Chantal, and Patrick Ward of Holy Redeemer.

This brings the number of new members this year to 71. As the Council's quota from Supreme was 35 members, the Council qualified for a *Double Star Award*. This is very difficult to achieve for large councils, like ours, as the quota increases with the size of the council's membership. Great going to our new PGK, Mike Horan!



PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter and Mary Ann Ferrigno, Pro-Life Chaircouple



Demonstrating how much the Obama administration is for killing babies, they currently are attempting to strong-arm

Indiana officials to change their law which eliminates state-controlled tax dollars from Planned Parenthood. On May 10 of this year, the state of Indiana proposed and approved a law, the *Schneider Amendment*, which states that "No state agency may enter into a contract with or make a grant to any entity that performs abortions or maintains or operates a facility where abortions are performed that involves the expenditure of the state funds or federal funds administered by the state". The U.S. Justice Department, at the request of President Obama, has filed a brief stating that there is "federal interest" with this bill and has assigned U.S. District Judge Tanya Walton Pratt to grant PP's request for an injunction blocking the law signed by Governor Mitch Daniels. The administration went so far as to threaten the state with denying it \$4.3 billion in Medicare funding. There is no doubt that this will be happen with other states like Wisconsin, Texas, North Carolina, Kansas and New Jersey, each planning to defund PP. We should all hope that the next president will respect the "life of the unborn".

Wendy Wright, president of the pro-life organization, "Concerned Women of America", identified in the press how two pro-abortion organizations, International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC) and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), attempted to sway other delegates at a recent international meeting of the United Nations' 2011 Commission of Population and Development. Their demands centered on women's rights with choosing an abortion and having the government pay for it. Both IWHC and IPPF went so far as to move that the UN organization accept prostitution, same-sex marriage, early sexual initiation and changing sex through surgery. The current U.N. Document states, "In no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning." I must say, both of these organizations are putting their money where their mouth is. By the end of the meeting, Ms. Wright stated that as many as twenty-three countries opposed early sex education, with no restriction or parental involvement; this was proposed by the U.S. and supported by only two countries. Any proposed changes, however, were confined to that of national sovereignty and the right of countries with respect to religious and ethical beliefs.

The state of Mississippi is seeking a referendum for this November, *Measure 26*, that would define

"personhood". It will put to the people whether "every human being from the moment of fertilization, cloning or the functional equivalent thereof is considered a person and therefore is entitled protection through the Right to Life". This in essence would effectively outlaw abortion and could challenge the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, which legalized abortion in the United States. At that time, the members of the Supreme Court were not able to define when life began. This left the door open for now, since science says that life begins with conception. This truly is the closest that the pro-life movement has reached a possibility to putting an end to this so-called "legal abortion".

We are still going back and forth with the pregnancy counsels having to identify with signs that their organization does not provide abortion referrals. This had been made law in Baltimore City in 2009. Montgomery County also passed a similar law. With the legal action initiated by Archbishop of Baltimore, Edwin O'Brien, he successfully sued the city of Baltimore on grounds that "requiring the centers to post such a message violated their freedom of speech". This past January, in Baltimore only so far, the original ruling was overturned. However, this law still applies to our county. I believe that it will be up to Cardinal Wuerl to begin a file suit against Montgomery

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, weddings and bar/bat mitzvahs, 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 to check 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: remansion@gmail.com



CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter D. Ferrigno, PGK

Throughout the United States, under a new streamlined conversion process created by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009, an Episcopal parish in Maryland will be the first to convert to the Roman Catholic faith while retaining some Anglican liturgical heritage. The members of the Anglican Church had been ready to make a split with their mother church due to its acceptance of gay relationships, the ordination of women and other issues. In a recent publication, the rector of St. Nicholas Episcopal Church in Darnestown, Ken Howard, stated his objection to the term "conversion" when speaking of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Bladensburg switching to Roman Catholicism. He stated that the term "conversion", as a religious term, is defined as changing from one religion to a different one, rather than from one denomination and tradition to another within a single religion. He further went on to say that "The Roman Catholic Church and the Episcopal (or Anglican) Church are both part of Christ's one holy, catholic and apostolic Church, not separate religions." I do know this that both religions, in their Apostle Creed, use the same wording, "catholic" starting with a small "c". I do find it hard to consider that both faiths are one. Reverend Howard stated the correct term is "reception". Those at St. Luke's are applying to be received into the Roman Catholic tradition of the Christian faith. The date for the parish's formal conversion to Catholicism is October 9, 2011. Time may tell where all this will take us.

Since we have been supporting some missionary sisters in Uganda, I thought this might prove to be of some interest. There is a movement to pass a bill, called "The Muslim Personal Law" that the Christian say would attempt to favor Muslims in a predominantly Christian country. This bill would allow for the creation of Kadhi civil courts. Under a current law, the Muslim court is not per-

mitted, due to previous persecution under the dictatorship of Idi Amin in the 1970s. Some of our older members may remember the stories of this individual. All of this goes to demonstrate the difficulty that lawmakers have to endure in a multi-cultural community. I am sure that we too will be seeing more of this in our own country, especially when it comes to issues of marriage and divorce, cohabitation, forced marriage, same-sex marriage and divorce. How does any country deal with "freedom of religion", when one group will not accept our concept of "freedom"?

Unlike the laws of most governments, the Catholic Church cannot and should not change any of their teachings. The Navy just recently, under the pressure of liberals, started to allow gay weddings in chapels in states that recognize homosexual marriages. Then under the pressure from Republican conservatives, they amended this ruling for all chaplains in the Navy, stating that gay marriage would violate the Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibits federal recognition of such marriages, even if this form of marriage was permitted in a given state. Had the law remained, it would have placed Catholic chaplains in a bind since they would have been expected to be a part of this type of marriage or be forced out of the service. Other civil-unions law has forced Catholic agencies to end state-funded adoptions and foster-care programs rather than complying with a new law that requires the placement of children with unmarried couples, such as gay partners in civil unions. Our "freedom of religion" is being challenged when the Catholic Church is being told what they could or should be doing. I realize that a government of multi-religious and multi-cultural people needs to respect all, without dictating what one can or should do. God Bless.

The Council Adopts a Road

If you've traveled down Greentree Rd. over the last several months, you likely have noticed the two, new signs installed. This past winter, Deputy Grand Knight Jamie Caulfield reached out to Montgomery County officials to offer Rock Creek Council's service in the popular Adopt-A-Road program. With a little persistence and negotiation, he was able to secure a location very close to our council home. The section that we've adopted is roughly a mile along Greentree Road extending from near Old Geo'twn to Melwood Road. The program requires the adopting organization to arrange several "cleanups" each year. These cleanup events shouldn't take much time, should be fun and will be great opportunities for displaying our unity and fraternity as well. If you haven't participated in any council activities and have been looking for an opportunity, here's your chance. Now and for many years to come, people traveling Greentree Road will know that the men of Rock Creek Council are doing their part to help keep our area clean by being good stewards of our neighborhood. Look for details in an upcoming edition of the Chatter regarding our first clean up event.



Sign at Greentree Road and Melwood Road; the other sign is at Greentree and Seneca Lane



REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, PFN

The Deluding of the American Mind

Americans, indeed people in most Western nations, are deadly indifferent to the truths of the lives they are leading. They have warped their thinking and numbed their minds. They justify behaviors that not too many decades ago were socially intolerable. Pornography, promiscuity, cohabitation, abortion, same-sex marriage, gender changing, genetic manipulation, and euthanasia, among other pernicious practices, are justified and accepted in society.

We kill millions of children in the womb and call it a woman's choice. We destroy embryos in the laboratory and call it medical research. We tolerate pornography and licentiousness and call it freedom of expression. We assist in the suicide of the elderly and terminate those in comas and call it death with dignity.

The result is moral anarchy. Hedonism and self-absorbed narcissism reign. There is a breakdown in the family, a coarsening of the culture, and a dissipation of the moral underpinnings that are essential to the functioning of a democracy.

Our consciences are salved by changing the definition of terms or substituting new words for the familiar and well-defined. We have convoluted our language. A child in the uterus is termed a fetus, just uterine material growing like a tumor inside of a woman's body. The decision to excise the unwanted flesh is a woman's right because there is a denial of the humanity of the pre-born child. Persons opposed to embryonic stem-cell research are considered to be impeding significant advances in health care.

We dull our minds and deny the reality of what is being done when we describe the tearing apart of an unborn child as a "dilation and evacuation" procedure, or to the skull-crushing in a partial-birth abortion as "intrauterine cranial decompression." The terms we use have consequences. We ignore the most obvious facts in our desire not to know, exercising a willful ignorance that certain actions denigrate our human dignity.

With a Frankenstein-like outlook, we destroy what we do not want and strive to create man in our own image. We are learning to decipher the human genome, to conduct genetic manipulation, to create life in a Petri dish. While there is enormous potential for good in these scientific discoveries, they can be used to dehumanize man, to treat him as a product of his own intellect and abilities. Science pursued for the good of humanity requires a morality and set of ethical standards that recognize that man is a gift of God.

But a culture, motivated by materialism and an overwhelming desire for self-satisfaction is indifferent to the spiritual. The callous disregard for life, the subversion of language, and the rationalization of untoward behaviors are altering man's relationship to God and to himself. The central focus of life is no longer a belief in a Creator God to whom we are guided by an adherence to His commandments, but man and his unbridled desires.

As St. Paul said in his epistle to the Romans, "although they knew God they did not accord him glory as God or give him thanks. Instead, they became vain in their reasoning, and their senseless minds were darkened. While claiming to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for the likeness of an image of mortal man." With this societal mindset, the Romans created a culture of moral degeneracy in which they not only engaged in perverse acts, but approved of others who did so. It was a culture deserving of death. Is our culture not on a similar path? Is it no less susceptible to destruction?

Reverence for human life and its protection at all stages is the key societal issue of the day. The Knights of Columbus can be a potent force in the public arena to raise the public conscience, reverse the trends in our society, and once again establish a reverence for life. The Knights in Maryland, 27,000 men and their families, are positioned to be the vanguard of this effort.

Many states are passing laws to restrict abortion, with the result that abortionists are leaving those areas to seek more hospitable venues. Maryland, with the most lenient of statutes regulating feticide, is drawing these practitioners, especially those who specialize in late-term abortions. The bad news is that they are coming to our state. The good news is that if we can force them out of business in Maryland there will be few places they can go. Stopping abortion will require a variety of legal, economic and social action, but it can be done.

If we are to succeed, however, prayer is needed to bolster our actions. The struggle to establish a culture of life is a spiritual battle being waged in a secular world. It cannot be won on a solely material level. That is why programs, such as we have in Maryland, like the Silver Rose, the monthly pro-life Masses, enlisting the home bound to be prayer warriors for life, and the frequent and widespread recitation of the rosary are integral to our efforts to improve the moral culture of the state. Will our council be among the leaders for pro-life? Will we?



The fictional Dr. Frankenstein was obsessed with creating life in inanimate matter to bring into being a humanoid creature



Our New Officers are Installed

On Sunday, July 24, the new Council officers were installed after a Mass at St. Jane de Chantal Church. A reception followed at the Council home.



The Cardinal Patrick O'Boyle Assembly Color Corps presented the colors and then led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance



Chaplain Msgr. Gatto read the religious charge, while Deacon Bob Hubbard stood by



The concluding March



The officers formed a cross as they were installed



The cake said it all!



PGKs Mike Horan and John Vivian present Norbert and Edwina Witttock with a plaque as the Council's Family-of-the-Year



Grand Knight Ryan and the Council's First Lady, Mary, entered the reception under a canopy of swords

Photos by E. Roberto Ibáñez



REFLECTIONS ON A HERO

Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, PFN

The Doughboy Chaplain

On July 15, 1918, in the “war to end all wars,” German troops undertook a massive assault against French and Army forces in the Champaign region of France. The allies repelled as many as seven attacks before the Germans began to pull back. As American doughboys of the 42nd Division continued to press, the enemy crossed the Ourcq River on July 28, to make a stand on the hills to its north. The area contained large stone farm buildings that were turned into fortresses, and small wooded clusters that provided coverage for numerous machine gun nests that had unobstructed fields of fire over large clearings.

The center of the American position, south of the river, was Villers-sur-Fere, a small village about a thousand yards from the enemy position. At its north end was a large church square, on which bordered a schoolhouse which was being used as a hospital (197-8). The square, in sight of the enemy, was a hub of activity, and so was frequently shelled and raked by machine gun fire. A narrow street leading to the square was aptly named Dead Man’s Curve.

The Americans faced German air superiority and a determined, battle-seasoned enemy who was heavily armed and well-positioned. For four days of fierce fighting, the American continued the attack. They prevailed, driving the Germans farther north, but at a fearful price. The Division had been reduced to half of its combat strength (MacArthur, 61-61). Of the over 5,600 American casualties, one-third occurred in or around Villers-Sur-Fere.

A calming presence as the battle raged was Fr. Francis Duffy, the Division’s senior chaplain. Father was always near the heaviest fighting, exposing himself to constant danger as he moved from unit to unit, carrying the wounded, comforting the dying, and relaxing tensions as he used his Irish wit in chatting or joking with soldiers. His effect on the morale of the troops was enlivening, much more so than that of a typical cleric. Colonel Douglas MacArthur, chief-of-staff of the 42nd Division, even thought of appointing him regimental commander, an unheard-of position for a chaplain.

For his valor in this engagement, Fr. Duffy was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. General John Pershing, commanding the American troops, said that “despite constant and severe bombardment with shells and aerial

bombs, he continued to circulate in and about the two aid stations and hospitals, creating an atmosphere of cheerfulness and confidence by his courageous and inspiring example.”

Francis Patrick Duffy was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1871 and emigrated to New York, where he was ordained a priest in 1896. Two years later, while engaged in graduate studies at The Catholic University of America, the United States entered the war against Spain over Cuba’s independence. He volunteered as an Army chaplain, but was not sent overseas. Completing a doctorate, Fr. Duffy joined the faculty at St. Joseph’s Seminary, Dunwoodie, in New York, where a student of his was Francis Patrick O’Boyle.



In 1912, Fr. Duffy was assigned as the founding pastor of Our Savior Parish in the Bronx. Shortly thereafter, he also assumed the duties as chaplain of the “Fighting Sixty-Ninth,” an Irish regiment of the New York National Guard. With America’s entry into World War I, the regiment was mobilized as the 165th Infantry Regiment and assigned to the newly established 42nd Division, known as the Rainbow Division as it was

composed of National Guard units from 26 states.

As the Division sailed for France, the poet Joyce Kilmer, one of its members who was killed at the battle of the Ourcq, wrote that every morning, Father Duffy would offer Mass to a large crowd on the main deck. And every afternoon and evening (340), there would be a queue of soldiers “as long as the mess line” waiting for Father to hear their confessions. Throughout the war, as the unit fought in the Lunéville sector, the Baccarat sector, the Champaign sector, at the Ourcq, the St. Mihiel offensive, and the Argonne-Meuse offensive, a total of 180 days in combat, Fr. Duffy continued to minister to the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of the men. For this, he was highly beloved by the men and became a legendary figure.

A year after he received the Distinguished Service Cross, a combat award, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, a non-combat distinction, for his fearless and tireless devotion to duty and his inspirational leadership in the trenches and behind the lines. He also received New York State’s Conspicuous Service Cross, France’s Légion

(Continued on page 10)



GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

As a council, we have many objectives which will become very clear as we enter September and most of our membership returns from a restful summer. I stress to our members to attend at a minimum, one business meeting a month. For the past year, so many brothers have asked me, as I have become more familiar with the doings of our order and our council, who does what and how does this and that get done? Gentlemen, you will know in the very near future as I have filled most if not all of our committee and council program chairs. I feel with having more people willingly involved and proactive with our officers, our council stands to win many of our State and Supreme Awards come convention time in May of 2012.

A foremost priority will be working with our Fraternal Benefits Advisor, Michael Patten, on making our members new and old, become full status members. This in and of itself, will propel our council forward and have its members live up to our order's commitment to charity and that it truly does start at home with our loved ones. Mike will be reaching out to you on all of The Knights of Columbus products portfolio.

With our Deputy Grand Knight, James Caulfield, we will be working directly with leadership at Navy Medical to work closely with the Fisher House and Wounded Warrior Projects.

Start thinking of who you plan to invite to our council's first First Degree ceremony, and ask Art Harris how you can help with membership. Prepare to raise the most money in our District and State during the Tootsie Roll Drive and Car Raffle spearheaded by PGK Mike Horan and Knight of the Year, Emory Linder. Look forward to our council's end of summer picnic and our first family fun night this fall (Thank you, Felice D'Avella) There are too many people to thank and names to name on such a deadline and limited space in the Chatter.

Please see our list of committee and program chairs and ask how you can assist working with them one and all.

Please save the date for our council officers installation Mass and luncheon, July 24th. Installation of officers at the 12 noon Mass at de Chantal, followed by lunch at the council at 2 pm.

In closing, I would like to thank all of our new officers and chairmen, especially Deputy Grand Knight James Caulfield, Chancellor Joseph Myers and Warden Kevin Giblin. I would also like to thank my wife, Mary, our daughters, Emily and Maggie, for their support. To our leaders past and current, I thank you for your guidance as I take the helm of our council. Put me in Coach, I'm Ready to Play.

Vivat Jesus !

Terence Ryan
Grand Knight

From the Financial Secretary

As many of you are aware, I've informed the Grand Knight and Trustees that I wish to retire from the position of Financial Secretary. By the time you read this, I will have submitted my formal resignation to Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. In accordance with our Constitution and Laws, I will continue to serve as Financial Secretary until my replacement is approved by the Supreme Knight. (The Financial Secretary is appointed by the Supreme Knight, based on recommendations by the State Deputy, District Deputy, and Board of Trustees.)

I'd be remiss if I didn't express my thanks to the Grand Knights I had the privilege of serving under - Bill Morris, Tony Ibáñez, Joe Doniger, John Vivian and Mike Horan. Each brought his own talents to the job as Grand Knight, each was a pleasure to work with, and each led the council to higher levels of growth in the principles of our Order. Thank you, gentlemen. You made my job easy.

Over the years, I've worked with just about every Financial Secretary we've had in the history of the Council, starting with Joe Guido (who held the job for over 20 years). I shudder to think what was involved in the days before computers, and I marvel at how well they did. They defined for me what the position should be. I won't name them all, but would like to mention a few who had a tremendous influence on me: Joe Guido, Francis McKay, John Brennan and Neal Conway. They were all good friends - one was Best Man at my wedding. May they rest in peace.

I think my major accomplishment has been to computerize our council records. What used to be on paper in several file drawers now resides on a memory stick. We've suspended some who owed many years of back dues, but retained many more through retention efforts. We've been able to purge many members who had gone to their eternal reward from our official roles by searching Social Security records, thus reducing the per capita charges we get from the Supreme and State Councils. Transferring records from paper to electronic media was so much fun that we're doing it again, so that ultimately all records will be maintained in New Haven, accessible to the Financial Secretary over the web. Once completed, the effort required to track both membership and finances will drop significantly, but the FS will need a good computer and internet access.

In short, it's been fun. I've been able to meet almost all of our newer members, a truly impressive group who are the future of the council. I've been able to play "old grey beard" and "guru" to my heart's content. But . . . it's time to share the wealth. In the words of the Roman poet Catullus, I bid you all: **Ave atque vale** (Hail and farewell).

Joe Murphy
Financial Secretary



New Fraternal Year



A new fraternal year is upon us. Congratulations to Terence Ryan our newly elected Grand

Knight, as well as all the other dedicated brother Knights who will serve in either an elected and appointed leadership position in the coming year. I'm sure you have a list of goals and objectives that you intend to accomplish during the coming year. You have my assurance that I'm eager to help.

One of these goals is surely the attainment of the Star Council award - the most prestigious award the Order offers at the council level. I'm certainly committed to helping on the insurance side, but I'll be glad to help on the membership side as well.

If you know an eligible Catholic man who might be interested in joining the Order (and who among us doesn't), he's probably just waiting to be asked. I can help you, either by approaching him myself, or by "coaching" you - transferring sales skills that you can use to recruit him

and other prospects. As always, I'm at your service.

Let's get an early start on attaining those goals and objectives that are so critical to the growth of any council.

Call me - let's talk.

Fraternally,

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

Family of the Month—June

The **Peter Ferrigno** family has been selected as Family of the Month for June. Peter is Past Grand Knight of the Rock Creek Council and at present serves as Recorder, a position he has held for the past five years. He is married to Mary Ann and they are the parents of Rosemary, Yvonne, Jeanette, and Peter. Peter also serves as chairman of the Church Activities Program, and he and Mary Ann are the Pro-Life Activities Chair-couple for our Council. He orchestrates the music for the First Degree Team, is chairman of the Round Table Membership Program which serves the six parishes our Council supports, is a Fourth Degree Sir Knight of the Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly, and volunteers as an usher at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Each November, Peter and Mary Ann schedule, arrange, and set up the Memorial program and reception to honor the Knights who have passed away the prior 24 months. They are long-time active members of St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish, where Peter ushers and is a member of the weekly money-counting team. He has volunteered for many years for the Tootsie Roll and the State Council Car Raffle Charity Programs. Peter has served as Building Manager, Bar Manager, and Rental's Chairman of the Council Hall. In May of each year, Peter and Mary Ann procure red carnations which are distributed to various parishes in Montgomery County to be passed out to parishioners after masses on Mother's Day to celebrate Pro-Life.

Peter and Mary Ann, your brother Knights and their families thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your tireless effort and unselfishness for all you have done for our Council, Church, Community, and neighbors.

Neil Dorian, PGK
 Chairman, Family-of-the-Month Program

REFLECTIONS

(Continued from page 7)

d'honneur, and the Croix de Guerre, making him the most highly decorated chaplain in the history of the U.S. Army.

After the war, Fr. Duffy returned to New York, and became pastor of Holy Cross Church, a few blocks from Times Square. In 1927, when Al Smith was running for president, Protestants were apprehensive that a Catholic with his allegiance to the Pope could not be loyal to the Constitution. Fr. Duffy ghostwrote a piece for Smith on Catholic American patriotism, in which he discussed aspects of religious freedom and freedom of conscience that were later reflected in the *Declaration on Religious Freedom*, issued by the Second Vatican Council.

When Father died in 1932, his requiem Mass was held in St. Patrick's Cathedral to an overflow crowd estimated to be 25,000 mourners. He received full military honors, with his coffin carried on a caisson and accompanied by his riderless horse with his boots in reversed stirrups. Thousands of people from all walks of life accompanied his body from the cathedral to its final resting place in the Bronx. Later a statue of Father in his World War I uniform was placed on the north side of Times Square, an area now known as Duffy's Square.

Book Discussion and Signing

Thursday, Sept 15th 7PM -- Fr. Rosensteel Council invites all brother Knights, families and friends to an evening of inspirational words and wit by Kevin Wells. *Burst: A Story of God's Grace When Life Fall Apart* describes how he dealt with a life-threatening brain aneurysm, the murder of his uncle, Msgr. Tom Wells, and heart-wrenching adoption scams. Kevin's humility and Irish humor are infectious.



SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

We held our sixth (or was it the seventh) function to benefit the seminarians at Mount St. Mary's Seminary. This time it was a tribute to Elvis. In the past, we did four country-western parties, and a couple of Hawaiian events.

The Elvis function was a "blast." Elvis had everyone dancing and jumping. We were honored to have Fr. Joe Perkins, Fr. Paul Nguyen, Deacon Bob Hubbard, Srs. Nenita Leonarde, SPC, and Daria Moor, SPC (Sisters of St. Paul Charities), and seminarian Keith Berney (Holy Redeemer) as our guests.

Many thanks to Ann Doby and Hilda Stofko for taking reservations, Jean Gordon and Helen Brennan for the flyers and mailing, Helen Finncutter, Helen Brennan and Sally McCarthy for handling the door, Dora Bailey and Ted McIntosh for running the 50/50 Darlene Coleman for all the "little" things, and Chesapeake Catering for the food.

We had 30 people show up without reservations. For a catered affair, that made things interesting. Many thanks to the Rockville Elks for taking two tables, and to the four local American Legion Posts for their support!

A big welcome to our newest member, Dave Woll from Holy Redeemer. Our membership continues to grow.

Our next function will be at Alfio's on August 16th. We are keeping up that tradition — we had no volunteers for a July



PGK Bob Waters

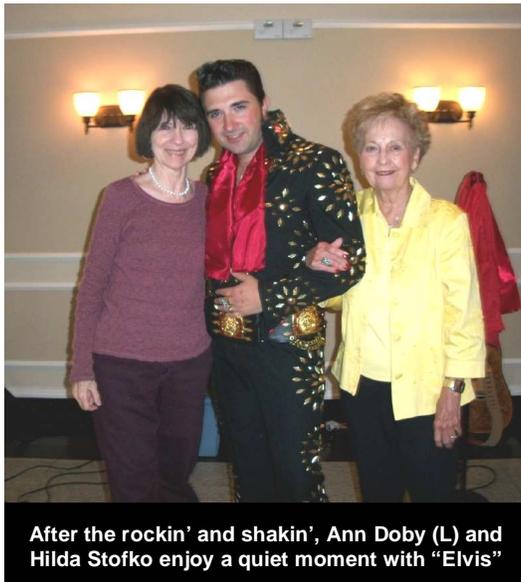
picnic, and I am exhausted! We may have a picnic in September if there is help.

To aid our seminarians, we may do another country-western or a Hawaiian party. We are open to suggestions.

GOD BLESS AMERICA AND OUR MILITARY!

PRAYER CORNER

In your prayers remember: Eureka & Elizabeth Arcand, Tom Becker, Dom Bellia, William "Will" Bello, Maggie De Betencourt, Larry Bisnett, Lily Callowhill, Jinny Chwirut, Maureen Collins, Jack Cunningham, Marylou Divers, Kevin Dwyer, 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 Jacobsen, PGK Jim Kane, Julia Marcus, James Marketos, Clarence Mayberry, Eugene O'Neill, Ralph Oviedo, Sr. Maureen Patrice, Fr. David Pollak, Mary Rainey, Joan Reed, Bridget Shanahan, Pilar Stark, 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



After the rockin' and shakin', Ann Doby (L) and Hilda Stofko enjoy a quiet moment with "Elvis"

Frank Zello.

Our condolences to the families of John O'Keefe, a long-time member of the Seniors' Club and of our Council, and Dorothy Helen Sowada, wife of Claude Sowada, a past member of the Council.

Seniors' Luncheon

Tuesday, August 16, at Noon in Alfio's Restaurant. Paid reservations by August 13' send check to Darlene Coleman, 10005 Sinnott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817

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**September CHATTER Deadline:
August 21, 2011**

ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Transfiguration
7	8	9 Executive Com- mittee 7:30 PM	10	11 Rosary 7:30 PM Business Mtg 8:00 PM	12	13
14	15 Assumption	16 Seniors' Lunch- eon-Alfio's 12:00 Noon	17 K-C Club 7:00 PM	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Rosary 7:30 PM Social Mtg 8:00 PM	26	27
28 Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly Offi- cers Installation 2:00 PM	29	30	31	August		

Visit the Council Website at www.kofc2797.org