



THE KNIGHT CHATTER

February 2012

Published Monthly, at no charge, by Rock Creek Council, 5417 W. Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814

Year 74, No. 7

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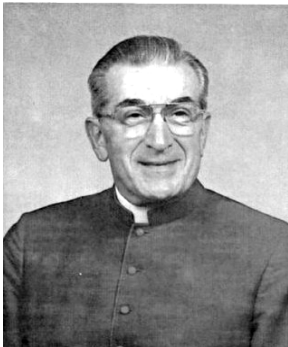
Vince Bunag thanking everyone at the Seniors' luncheon for their friendship during his many years of council involvement. See pages 7 and 11.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

REV. MSGR. VINCENT S. GATTO, KHSH

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

TERENCE RYAN



Chaplain Gatto

Dear Knights,

Our annual journey of Lent will begin shortly. It will culminate with the joyous celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord. But until then, we will have many opportunities for reflective moments. We can use this time to think about our lives. For some, it will be a time to return to the Lord through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For others, it will be a time to think about how they

can change their lives for the better. Whatever you decide to do, think of the words from St. Paul, "Now is the acceptable time...Now is the day of salvation. Now is the time to return to the Lord!"

Think again of the words of St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, in which he speaks of the goodness of God. It reminds us of how loving and merciful God is. He wants only good things for us, but requires that we love Him in return. Yet, sometimes we do not love God as we should. We sin against Him, and for this we are to ask for forgive-

(Continued on page 10)

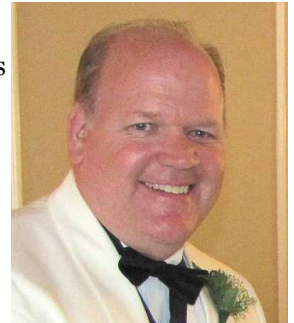
Worthy Brothers All,

It's hard to believe I am writing this amidst 50 degree weather in the third week of January. Two newsletters ago, I wrote to you all about our youth and how we as Knights can INSPIRE them. Well, now, I have been so deeply INSPIRED by our youth.

The weekend of the 21st -23rd, we hosted 16 young pilgrims from Texas and New Mexico who descended upon us for their participation in The March for Life Activities. I had the privilege of meeting these fine young men and woman who traveled lightly bared the cold rain and slept upon our floors in Cantrel Hall. What an amazing group; from married young men with as many as four young children, to college students. These young adults exude such confidence in their beliefs that their closing words to me were "Hopefully, someday, we won't have to come back to March for the Un-born." I am in awe of them.

I told them that they are our future and our children's fu-

(Continued on page 9)



Grand Knight Ryan



DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

Worthy Brothers All,

Our Worthy State Deputy, Peter Davio, has placed before us a challenge for the remainder of the fraternal year — get fish in the boat! Building on the metaphor that our Lord used, as Knights we are called to be fishers of men. District 18 has been a leader in membership growth within the State of Maryland. Thank you all! Our councils have answered the call of our State Deputy.

I encourage all Knights to be proud of our order. When you speak to another man, don't ask him to join the Knights of Columbus, ask him if he is a member. This small turn of the phrase puts the emphasis in the correct light — you are placing that man in the best position possible! This provides you an opportunity to praise the man for all of his qualities that you have already recognized. If he responds "No," any response you give will only build him up. You can speak about him and what you see him doing that makes him already the perfect candidate.

Subtle?

Yes it is. But keep in mind that this man who would benefit so much from standing beside us shoulder-to-shoulder cannot even imagine how his life will change. You can be the one who offers him that opportunity. Consider the Apostles, how humble and hard working they were just to catch fish to make a living. You are offering another man more than a living. You are offering him an opportunity to stand next to the fishers of men and join him in his task of bringing other men closer to God.

Please keep in your prayers those who suffer physical and mental pain this winter. Pray daily for our Holy Father, our troops, and those at the margins of our society — the unborn and the disabled.

Vivat Jesus!

Richard Earenfight

Membership Corner

Fr. McGivney wanted every Catholic gentleman to belong to the Knights of Columbus. He believed that membership in the Order can help a man become a better man, husband, father, citizen and ultimately a better Catholic. In keeping with his vision, recruiting a new member into the Order is the most important and noteworthy accomplishment that any Knight can attain. New members keep our council vibrant and in tune with the pulse of our local community.

Over the past four years, the Rock Creek Council had received either Star Council or Double Star Council awards for our recruiting efforts. To achieve Star Council this year, we need to recruit **35** new members and we have only recruited **12** so far. We have quite a ways to go, but with everyone's help we can do it again. Remember, the easiest way to get someone to be a Knight is to ask him!

The Council will be hold a 1st Degree on February 23rd at 7:30pm. This will be the first 1st degree of 2012. Let's start off the year with a big turnout so that we can get closer to our goal of achieving Star Council for the 5th straight year.

Advancing to a higher degree is part of your growth as a brother Knight. We encourage all 1st degree members to join us on March 22nd for the 2nd degree exemplification. This is a great opportunity to continue your growth as a Knight right here at your home council.

Art Harris

Membership/Retention Director

Rental Corner



The Rock Creek Mansion rentals are booming! We are booking numerous weddings, bar and bat mitzvas, reunions, church luncheons and fundraisers.

The word is now on the street that our upgraded venue is both elegant and a great value. If you know folks planning events this year - have them call right away!

Many of our Saturday dates are taken. We have started booking into 2013! And remember, members get a rental discount!

Check out our website, www.rockcreekmansion.com.

Julie Carter

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



A Visit to the John Paul II Seminary

On January 12, Grand Knight Terence Ryan and Chancellor Joe Myers accompanied me down to Taylor Street, NW to the new Blessed John Paul II Seminary to meet with Monsignor Rob Panke, who serves as its founding rector. Monsignor, a former classmate of Joe Myers at nearby Catholic U, gave us a VIP, all-access tour of the beautiful "House of Formation," where 30 young men will begin their vocational discernment. The building, which the archdiocese has owned for years, was completely gutted and renovated. The chapel, dedicated to Mary, mother of the church, is its stunningly beautiful centerpiece. The chapel is adorned with hand-carved statues from Italy, as well as other artisan works, including the alter and ambo used by Pope Benedict XVI when he said mass at Nationals Park during the papal visit here. Certainly, its rarest and most prized possessions are two relics from Blessed Pope John Paul II. The first is a blood-stained piece of his cassock from the 1981 assassination attempt in Saint Peter's Square. The other is an amice the pope wore saying Mass. Monsignor joked that you need a Cardinal to get those and fortunately, we do.

As our tour proceeded toward the lower level, we settled in for a delicious lunch in their bright and comfortable dining room. Luckily, both of the seminarians our council is supporting were available to join us. We had a great conversation and learned a little about each of the men. One is a graduate of GW University in Foggy Bottom and the other is the son of a career Army man who hails from Los Angeles. Our lunch culminated with Grand Knight Ryan presenting each seminarian with a check, which



Msgr. Robert Panke, Seminarian John Frankman, DGK Jamie Caulfield, Sem. Andrew Bounopane, GK Terence Ryan, and Chancellor Joe Myers

they were most grateful and appreciative to receive and thankful for our support.

The vocations program is a critically important part of what our council and the order does. All councils are asked to support at least one seminarian per Columbian Year. Rock Creek Council is blessed to be able to support both of Msgr. Panke's men, plus two more seminarians studying elsewhere, for a total of four. The seminarians we support are chosen by the faculty based upon need. A small stipend doesn't cover all expenses, but it does help

to defray some of the costs for students who otherwise could not afford to continue their studies. For those who don't know, each and every Knights of Columbus meeting concludes with a Prayer for Vocations. Please pray for these men we support and for those who may be called in the future.

The afternoon was both an enriching and powerful experience for all of us. To be able to see a Catholic seminary from the inside is not a luxury

most Catholics are afforded. We are quite fortunate to have this facility right in our backyard, just as many across the country are struggling and even closing their doors. I am proud of our vocations work and know that the relationship we've formed with Monsignor Panke and his seminarians will grow stronger in the months and years to come. He now knows that the Knights of Rock Creek Council can be counted on to help meet current and future needs, as well as a heavy dose of kind thoughts and prayers for him and those men who would be priests.

Jamie Caulfield, Deputy Grand Knight

Pro-Life Mass

On Wednesday, February 15, the State Council is sponsoring a pro-life Mass at St. Rose of Lima Church (11701 Clopper Rod, Gaithersburg) at 7:30 pm. Msgr. Mark Brennan, pastor of St. Martin of Tours, will be the celebrant, while Fr. Marcel Guarnizo, an associate at St. John Neumann, will be the after-Mass speaker. Fr. Marcel was one of the first priests ordained in Russia after the fall of the Berlin Wall. He is a pro-life sidewalk counselor, who can be found each Monday morning near LeRoy Carhart's abortion facility. Light refreshments will be served. A special guest is Mr. Andrew Glenn, coordinator of *40 Days for Life* in Germantown.

New KofC Survey

A survey released on January 23, during the March for Life, showed that 79 % of Americans believe that abortion should be significantly restricted. This includes 51% who believe that abortion should never be allowed or only in cases of rape, incest or to save the mother's life.

Most people (84%; and even 80% of pro-choice supporters) believe that laws can be constructed that protect the health of the mother and the life of the child.

The survey was commissioned by the Supreme Council and conducted by the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion.



PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter and Mary Ann Ferrigno, Pro-Life Chaircouple



Another four years of pro-abortion President Obama will mean allowing him to load the Supreme Court

with more people like Elaine Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor, to rule in favor of killing more babies, plus continuing the prevention of defunding Planned Parenthood.

According to the Susan B. Anthony List, the big abortion-centered business, Planned Parenthood, "has received a sickening half billion taxpayer dollars in their last fiscal year." With this huge federal subsidy, 91% of their activities are in abortions, for which they also charge for their service. Although there are a number of states that have legislated to defund this organization of over \$61.7 million

dollars, a great deal of taxpayers money is still poured into their pockets. Private donations, however, from individuals, corporations and foundation have shown a reduction of 28%.

Some abortion groups are criticizing the Salvation Army for its stand that, "Human life is sacred and all people should be treated with dignity and respect." They too accept that the moment of fertilization is the start of a human life.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore had criticized Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in Hunt Valley this past October because they donated over \$600,000 to Planned Parenthood. Although Komen raises money for Breast Cancer, which has tremendous merits, their good could be wiped out due to their support for abortions. They claim that they are also in favor of embryonic stem cell research and do not support studies showing that

abortion is a contributing cause of breast cancer. I feel sure that Planned Parenthood does not give money to any other organizations. To account for this, the Komen Maryland states that they send over two and a half million to their national office. This may be where the problem lies. We may learn more about this in the near future. Baltimore is not the only one that does not support Komen of the Cure. They are only one of a dozen that finds fault with this organization.

Rock Creek Council had a number of young people from two areas come to stay with us at the Council for five days and four nights so that they could participate in the March for Life and its ancillary activities. We thank them for showing themselves in favor of saving the lives of so many babies. For now, all I can ask of you is to keep the pro-life movement in your prayers. God Bless.

Words from the Bishops

On January 20, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a mandate that virtually all employer-provided health plans must cover sterilization and contraception services, with some contraceptives acting as abortifacients. There is no exemption for church-related hospitals, schools or charitable organizations. The U.S. bishops have spoken out:

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles: "the government is imposing a narrow, radically individualistic idea of religion." He called on all Catholics to "step up to their responsibility for the Church's mission, " and "to be leaders in helping to shape the values and moral foundations of America's future."

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, archbishop of Galveston-Houston: "Never before in our U.S. history has the federal government forced citizens to directly purchase what violates our beliefs." He continued, "At issue here...is the survival of a cornerstone constitutionally protected freedom that ensures respect for conscience and religious liberty."

Bishop David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh: "Kathleen Sebelius (Health and Human Services Secretary) and through her, the Obama administration, have said 'To Hell with You' to the Catholic faithful of the United States." He added that the administration has damned Catholics' religious beliefs, religious liberty and freedom of conscience.



Rock Creek Seniors
Valentine's Luncheon
and Meeting
Tuesday, February 14
Noon—3 PM

Deli Platter Luncheon
\$20 per member
(pay at the door)
\$2 cash bar



Music by Dorothy Bush
Special appearance by
Dayton's Barbershop Quartet

Reservations a must by Friday, February 10
RSVP: Helen Fincutter 301 530-1690
Jean Gordon 301 530-4926



CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter D. Ferrigno, PGK

According to Father Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R., Director of Trinity Retreat Center, The Cardinal Newman Society is “the best, most effective groups for: (a) identifying the leading problems at Catholic colleges, (b) bringing these areas of concern to public scrutiny, and (c) effecting positive change.” There are currently only 21 loyal Catholic colleges. I do not have this list, which Father Groeschel speaks of, but hopefully, I will be able to find more information by writing to him or to the Cardinal Newman Society. I believe that this information would be of interest to some of you. I know that I have mentioned in the past my disappointment with some of the colleges.

Supreme Chaplain Bishop William Lori has recently asked Congress to protect “religious freedom” in this country. He stated that this is our country’s first freedom listed in the Bill of Rights. He said that the First Amendment states “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” I cannot understand what part of this statement the President or Congress does not understand.

As stated in an article found in a recent Supreme newsletter, “The Declaration of Independence boldly proclaimed as a self-evident truth that our inalienable rights are ‘endowed by our Creator’ – not by the state.” This means that our Church has the right to tell us Catholics to defend the Defense of Marriage Act and to prevent laws permitting abortions. As fellow Knights of this Council, and truly all members of the Knights of Columbus, we should all

uphold the teaching of the Church and do whatever it takes to see that marriage as we know it will not be altered.

You may have come across this article in the papers by Patrick Crerar, associate rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Alexandria. He objected to Michelle Boorstein, who stated that an Anglican parish “converted” to Catholicism. It is his belief that it was incorrect to use the term converted since he says that all Anglicans are Angle-Catholics and that this parish was only moving over to the Roman Catholic faith. To support this, he says that that at their weekly service their members proclaim their faith as “one holy catholic and apostolic Church.” This statement does not differ from what we say at each Mass. However, here the word “catholic” means universal, which does not have the same concept when we call or others call us “Catholic.” I believe that what surprises me is that this individual is an associate rector.

There is a church in Minnesota called Compassion of Christ Church and they claim to have women Roman Catholic priests (this is with a capital “C”). The group states that they have about 70 female priests throughout the United States. These women priests are not part of the Catholic Church for their ordination is not valid. In fact, the Vatican has come out and said that women who sought ordination and bishops who ordained them would be excommunicated. God Bless.

Council Hosts Pro-Life Pilgrims

For the 11th consecutive year, our Council welcomed Right-to-Life Pilgrims to our Hall, so that they could attend the many pro-life activities scheduled in conjunction with the annual March for Life at the National Mall. There were 16 pilgrims, nine from College Station and seven from Albuquerque. The group, which arrived Friday evening and departed Tuesday morning, January 20-24, consisted of high school and college male and female students. As well as five chaperones.

During their visit, they toured several historic memorials and landmarks and attended the following pro-life activities: reciting the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet at the Planned Parenthood facility in Northwest Washington; visiting the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land; joining in the Adoration with the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration; attending the Vigil Mass at St. Matthew’s Cathedral; participating in the Mass for Life at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception; saying night prayers with Bishop Vann and group from the Diocese of Fort Worth; and participating in the Rally and March for Life on the Mall. Each evening upon returning to our Hall, they gathered in the Fireplace Lounge to engage in their night program, which consisted in praying the liturgy of the hours, religious music, and reflections on the day’s events. Grand Knight Terence Ryan welcomed the group and gave them a “pep” talk.

We thank the following Council members who volunteered to stay overnight to monitor the evening activities and to provide any needed assistance to the pro-life group: Tom Stallone, Paul Eder, Kevin Giblin, and Joe Myers. Tom was kind enough to drive a few chaperones to the local Giant Supermarket on Friday evening so that they could purchase groceries and lunch-meat to make sack lunches for the excursions. Vince Bunag volunteered to provide continental breakfast early Saturday morning. Without the help of the volunteers it would have been impossible to accommodate the pro-life pilgrims. Matt Gill, the Pilgrimage Leader, offered his sincere thanks to the Council for the lodging and hospitality!

Neil Dorian, Chairman



Your Fun-Filled Lounge

Hours: Monday Thru Thursday 4-8
Friday 4-12, Saturday 2-8 (later for football), Sunday 12-7

Football is ending, but here comes college basketball! **Stop in for the big games.** The lounge has a busy fall schedule lined up this year.

Enjoy sporting activities on our five flat-screen TVs, and check out the new leather furniture.

Call the lounge for details on games.

Friday February 17th is Steak Dinner Night in the lounge. Salad, Steak, Baked Potato & Fresh Veggies — \$12 per person. Reservations by the 14th are a must, as space is limited. Call the lounge Monday through Friday between 4 & 8 pm at 301-530-1628 for reservations.

Fridays in Lent will be council fish fry night.

The lounge is available for private parties and fundraisers. Call Mike at 240-793-1169 for details.

Don't forget to stop by and sign the book.

Lounge phone 301-530-1628



100,000 Rosaries for the Unborn

As described in the *Reflections* article on page 8, Maryland is one of the most anti-life states in the country. This will only be changed through a combination of prayer and public action.

The Maryland State Council, in collaboration with the three diocese that serve our state, is undertaking a pledge drive to have 100,000 rosaries said in the month of March to rid our state and the nation of abortion and for the souls of the children who are killed in the womb. Soon, every church and every council in Maryland will have the poster below to promote the drive.

Will you pledge to say four rosaries for the unborn?

During the month of March 2012,
let's pledge to say at least

100,000 Rosaries for the Unborn

Prayer pledges to be presented at Mass, celebrated by Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Bishop of Baltimore, On Sunday, March 18th, 2 PM Basilica of the Assumption, Cathedral & Mulberry St., Baltimore

Will you and your families
make a prayer pledge?

To submit your pledge:
• sign up at church
• fill in the online form at
www.kit.ly/m2012rosarycampaign
• johnson.org/bishop/m2012rosarycampaign
• facebook.com/m2012rosarycampaign

Leave your name, # of rosaries pledged, and parish.

How about your wife and children?

It is only one per week for the four weeks of March. You can pledge at the council, in church, online, by email or smart phone.

Around the Kay-Cee Club

The New Year brings more improvements to the Rock Creek Mansion. The Kay-Cee Club has contracted to lay down new oak flooring on the main level's coat room, foyer, bar area, and foyer staircase. Thanks to members Paul Carroccio and Kevin Whitcomb for their help on this project. The new flooring should be in place by early March.

Regarding the grounds, we've installed a railing on the new path between the patio and the front walk to the lounge. Kevin Carlsen, our resident botanical expert, will be working with Member and Contractor Johnny Purcell to develop a spring planting schedule.

Have a happy New Year! Be sure to stop by the Mansion to admire the enhancements.

Robbi Corrado
Vice President

TWO COUNCIL POSITIONS

The Council is seeking to fill two volunteer positions. This is a chance to contribute to the council, make new friends, and learn how the Knights operate.

Director of Council Communications

This is a new position, necessitated by the growth of the council and the need to assure the flow of timely information. The individual will work with the web master and a couple other members to provide as much relevant information to our members as possible. This would include reminders of upcoming events, meetings and degrees, notices of wakes and funerals, and other activities. He also will be in touch with the parishes we serve to provide information for insertion in their bulletins, and will help set up and maintain an email data base.

President, Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary is an important component of the council. It has a long and distinguished record of service to the council, our parishes, and the community. The President has great latitude in leading this component of the council. No experience with the organization is necessary, as there are several former presidents to provide advice as needed. The only requirements are ideas and a willingness to help. Wives of old and new members, as well as widows of former members, are encouraged to apply.

All interested persons for either position should contact Grand Knight Terence Ryan at 301-215-9197 or PGK Mike Horan at 240-793-1169.



The Odyssey of Vince and Glenda Bunag

As most of you are aware, Vince Bunag and his lovely wife Glenda are departing to retire in their native Philippines this month. They both have labored faithfully and long for the council during the past 28 years. They will be missed.

When they left the Philippines with their four children, the country was in political chaos and economic uncertainty. The country had been under a dictator for two decades. Martial law was in effect, civil rights were suppressed, and abuses, murder and crime were rampant. There were major demonstrations daily in the streets. The country was on the brink of civil war.

Vince and Glenda came to Maryland to start a new life and give their children better opportunities and security. It was not easy leaving family and friends behind, and having to adjust to a new culture, environment and lifestyle. Owning extensive land that had to be abandoned, they came with little money and without jobs.



Vince and Glenda Bunag

A friend from the Philippines allowed them to stay in his home until they could get settled. After Sunday Mass, shortly after they arrived, PGKs Neal Conway and Fred Seelman were recruiting members and asked Vince, who was a 2nd degree member, to transfer to Rock Creek. He did, and soon took the 3rd and 4th degrees. Neal Conway, who was president of the Kay Cee Club, gave Vince his first job in this country as a janitor to clean the council hall and set up tables and chairs for social events.

Vince quickly became active in the council and was in charge of monthly socials. From 1987 to 1989, he gave weekly ballroom dance lessons, and introduced monthly international festivals with dinner, music and colorful folk dances from around the world.

A Note from Vince Bunag

I will never forget the honor, the pride and happiness I have had during all the years when I was serving God and my Council wholeheartedly, with pride and joy in my heart.

I will be forever grateful for the opportunity of knowing you, and for allowing me to dedicate many years of my life in the service of God and Rock Creek Council.

Farewell to you, my brother Knights, and best wishes for the success of Rock Creek Council. May God bless you and our beloved country, the U.S.A. Mary, Queen of the Knights, pray for us.

Vince Bunag, PGK

For the next 24 years, Vince and Glenda annually ran the New Year's Eve Party, St. Patrick's Dance, Night in Roma, Oktoberfest, and yearly trips to Atlantic City. From 1985 to 2009, Vince was chairman of various council fund raising activities, including the Car Raffle and Tootsie Roll Drive, as well as Membership Recruitment. On weekends during these drives, he would personally solicit at the seven churches the council then served, as well as outside of supermarkets. His efforts were highly successful. For eight consecutive years, the council was the top seller of car raffle tickets in the state, and twice was awarded Star Council for membership.

Vince also served as a KofC usher at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and, for ten years, he and Glenda made pilgrimages to Lourdes, France serving sick and handicapped visitors from different parts of the world. Each year, upon their return, they distributed Lourdes water and rosaries to

Council members, friends, and neighbors who were sick and in need of prayers.

They were recognized many times for their efforts. Vince was awarded a KofC watch eight times as the state's top Tootsie Roll fund raiser, chosen as the Council's Knight of the Year, received a Lifetime Achievement Award, and is an Honorary Life Member of the Order. With Glenda, they have been selected as the Council's Family of the Year twice and as Model Family of Rock Creek Council in 2005.

Vince and Glenda, you will be missed, but know that you leave with our fraternal love. May God Bless You – **May Diyos Sa Iyo!**

Knight of the Year



At the Social Meeting on January 26th, PGK Mike Horan (left), presented Emory Linder with a plaque as Knight of the Year for the Columbian Year 201-11. GK Terence Ryan is at right.



REFLECTIONS ON A HERO

Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, PFN

No Longer Mary's Land

Maryland provided the fertile soil from which the seed of Catholicism in America sprouted, flourished and spread across the nation. It was founded as a haven for Catholics to practice their faith uninhibited; where one of the first acts of the first settlers was to celebrate Mass; where the only Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence – Charles Carroll of Carrollton – resided; where the bishops met in 1884 to create the *Baltimore Catechism* which became the primary text for educating youth for some 80 years; where the first native-born saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, established the first Catholic school in the nation.

The glorious history of its religious leadership in America reflects Maryland of the past. Today, the soil is rancid. For several decades, too many Catholics let their faith go un nourished, and let the materialism of the world take precedence over their spiritual heritage. Presently, only 72 percent of Catholics nationwide are certain there is a God; only 56 percent consider religion very important in their lives; only 42 percent attend Mass at least on a weekly basis.

The result is that currently Maryland has one of the highest rates of abortion in America, 50 percent above the national average; allows the killing of children in the womb to the point of delivery; has tolerant regulations regarding abortion facilities and those who perform abortions; has attempted to enact restrictions on pregnancy care centers; supports through state appropriations embryonic stem-cell research; and where a legislative priority of the governor is to legalize same-sex marriage.

The soil must be rejuvenated through governmental, social and spiritual efforts so that the culture of the state can once again be hospitable to the dogmas, doctrines and practice of the Catholic faith. This will take an all-out effort by everyone and every organization that is concerned about the sanctity of life.

All is not lost, however. There have been a few recent favorable actions. On January 13, 2012, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene published draft

regulations that would require abortion facilities to meet standards similar to ambulatory surgical centers, rather than as doctors' offices. While aimed at improving the quality of health care for women, many abortion facilities may be hard pressed to meet these requirements and close.

Another recent event was the arrest of late-term abortionist Steven Brigham, who is indicted with eleven counts of murder resulting from his abortion practice in Elkton. This is the first time that an abortionist has been charged with a capital crime under the state's Unborn Victims of Violence Act enacted in 2005, which may deter others from performing late-term abortions.

In addition to governmental action, the hearts and minds of people must be changed to support life at all stages. One effort of the Knights of Columbus in Maryland is the



Holy Face Church , October 22, 2011

erection of Cemeteries of the Innocents as potent visual reminders of the effects of abortion. These displays usually consist of 721 crosses, which is about the number of children aborted nationally every hour in a 40-hour work week, since

Roe v. Wade was passed in 1973. It also is the number of children aborted weekly in Maryland. Since the cemeteries were begun in 2004, over 200 have been displayed in various parts of the state, often along heavily traveled roads.

Another important action is to provide prayerful, public witness before abortion facilities. The Knights of Columbus supports, and many Knights participate in, national movements such as *40 Days for Life* and *Life Chain*, as well as local gatherings.

Pregnancy Care Centers are often one of the first places that a woman with an unwanted pregnancy turns to for assistance. To strengthen these front-line facilities, the Knights in Maryland have created linkages between the centers and its local councils to help provide the assistance the staffs may require. Among other means of assistance, the Knights are donating ultrasound machines to some of the centers, as they recognize the tremendous effect an

(Continued on page 9)



GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

ture. Using the words of our State Deputy during my Third Degree, "We the Knights of Columbus are over a million strong second only to the Chinese Army." And our message and beliefs are only as strong as we are in our numbers, and that our calling is to Defend Our Church and Support Our Clergy.

During the weekend's activities, in his remarks to the 17,000 young men and women who gathered at the Verizon Center, Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl, The Archbishop of Washington stated, "The youth are at the heart of this...they are so important to us." I told them that regardless of age, this is one belief worth fighting for and it is never too late to start.

I want to thank Neil Dorian, Joe Myers, Kevin Giblin, and Matt Eder for assisting the men and women during their stay as well of those of you, Vince Bunag, Tom Stallone, and Monica Westrick, wife of Brother Westrick, for providing food for their nourishment and the students of Mater Dei for preparing the Hall for them.

Moving on to other matters, in February, we will hold local Free Throw Competition gearing up for the State competition in March. February 23rd will bring our first, First Degree Exemplification, and we as a council are hoping to reach 55 new members to join our ranks. This number is attainable and will get us past our quota for Double Star Council; our goal is to attain our third Double Star award in the past few years. This is not only attained through fraternity, but more importantly through charity. Therefore, as members, please take the time to meet with our Benefits Advisor Mike Patten.

Can you say THREE-PEAT?

My Brother Knights -- Someone Is Calling. Will you answer the Call?

Remember to attend your council meetings. They keep you informed and your attendance will build a stronger bond with your fellow Knights.

Remember to pray for the unborn, sick and deceased.

Vivat Jesus!

Terence Ryan, GK

REFLECTIONS

(Continued from page 7)

ultrasound image can have on a woman's decision to choose life.

Although the fight for life is being waged in a secular world, it is really a spiritual battle. Prayer is critical. Without a strong spiritual effort, the rest will not be successful. Hence, the Knights conduct monthly pro-life Masses throughout the state, encourage prayer services in connection with three circulating icons of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and are instituting a major campaign to say the rosary for the unborn, among other activities.

Catholics who were youngsters in the 1950s or before, living in urban areas, such as Baltimore, New York, Philadelphia, or Chicago, were raised in a culture that supported the faith on virtually every front. Catholic schools were plentiful and inexpensive; churches were well attended; parish organizations would boycott local stores that displayed salacious magazines; nuns in habits were common; priests would visit homes to bless them; restaurants and eateries would advertise non-meat meals on Fridays; and even the vocabulary of the young was sprinkled with Latin phrases as most boys became altar servers.

While we do not expect this social environment to return in our lifetime, a culture based on Christian principles can exist. When churches are once again an integral part of community life, people regularly attend religious services, family is given primacy over individual well-being, and marriage is considered indissoluble and allowed only between one man and one woman, the nation will be developing a collective conscience in line with Christian principles. This will guide the way people think, act, and conduct their lives, both privately and publicly. Then, leaders in business, the media and government -- and others who make economic and political decisions in conformity with the general ethos of the people -- will operate within a Christian framework. And Maryland may once again be Mary's Land.

Your Action Needed on Proposed Abortion Facility Regulations

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has proposed draft regulations that would require abortion centers to be regulated as outpatient surgical centers, rather than as physicians' offices. This would impose much stricter requirements on the centers, better protect the health of women who choose abortion, and possibly cause some of the centers to close. It is crucial that the Department receive POSITIVE feedback in favor of the regulations because there will be efforts by the abortion industry to prevent the regulations from being enacted. Comments must be filed by February 13. The Maryland Catholic Conference has made it easy to do so. Just follow the directions at the website <http://capwiz.com/mdcath/issues/alert/?alertid=60074501>.



Easy to Put Off



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

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

Your Knights of Columbus insurance program is second to none. Knights of Columbus life insurance represents

a safety net for Catholic families that's unsurpassed, and I'm proud of that. I'm also concerned. Why? Because so many of our brother Knights have no life insurance with the Order. I suspect that, for many of them, tomorrow has become next week, next month or next year. Don't be one of them. Don't wait for the bell to ring. It isn't going to.

Call me – let's talk.

Fraternally,

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

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

ness and be reconciled to Him. Through this Lenten Season, we will have special opportunities to do this.

Lent is a time not only for us to take stock of our lives, but also to make changes that will help our lives conform more nearly to God's will. This is what we hear Jesus teaching about in the Gospel. Jesus urges us to do good works. He speaks of alms giving, prayer, and fasting. These are very necessary for us as Catholics, in order to be open to knowing what God's will is, and to be strengthened to do it. We begin Lent by receiving the ashes on our foreheads – a sign of repentance, humility and mortality.

How can we make this Lenten Season as fruitful a time as possible? This is a good time to examine our consciences and our hearts. Lent affords us a time dedicated to repenting for our sins and returning to the Lord. But above all, it is a time in which we are encouraged to develop a true solidarity with Jesus. We can see it as a wonderful six-weeks retreat with the Lord.

What will be the result? Will anyone see our efforts? Even if no one else does, we can be confident that our Heavenly Father, who sees what is hidden, will see our good works and reward us. That reward may not come until we are in the glorious Kingdom of Heaven. But there, the rewards will be never-ending.

Monsignor Gatto

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

All Third Degree members are strongly encouraged to join the Patriotic Fourth Degree. The annual Exemplification ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, April 14, beginning at 12 Noon. All candidates must complete a form 4 membership application and pay a \$70 fee which covers the 4th Degree processing, a social baldric, pin, and the banquet.



The Assembly has sponsored three seminarians this Columbian Year at \$500 each. They are Robert Maro and Matthew Shoemaker, both at Mount St. Mary's, and Tim Daniel who is studying at the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

The Assembly and Fr. Rosensteel Council are jointly holding a St. Patrick Day Dinner Party on Saturday, March 17, at the Rosensteel Council. More details to follow.

Faithful Admiral Wayne Miller has tentatively scheduled the Assembly to assist with washing the Vietnam Memorial Wall on the first Saturday in June.

The annual "Renewal of Obligations" is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, at the monthly Assembly meeting. Rosary begins at 7:30 pm, and the meeting will follow at 8 pm.

Members who owe dues for the 2012 calendar year should mail a check in the amount of \$43 (\$35 dues + \$8 to be listed in ads throughout the year) to Faithful Comptroller Ernest Harley, 14721 Harvest Lane, Silver Spring, Md. 20905. Make out your check to Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly No. 386.

If you have any questions, call either Faithful Navigator Neil Dorian at 301-237-0552 or Faithful Pilot Greg Curtin at 301-654-5543.



SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

We had 35 members and guests attend our January luncheon and meeting at La Panetteria. Many thanks to Jim Young for doing a great job in putting this event together! We also sang *Happy Birthday* to Jim.

We were honored to have Msgr. John Brady, Fr. Paul Nguyen, Fr. Joe Perkins, Fr. Justin Huber, and Deacon Bob Hubbard as our guests. Please continue to invite the priests and religious to our meetings as our guests.

Thanks to PGK Neil Dorian for his talk on the contributions of Vince and Glenda Bunag to the Council. The couple soon will be leaving to return to their native Philippines. We wish them both much happiness in their new life!!!

February 14th is St. Valentine's Day, and we will hold our meeting on that day. We will have Dorothy Bush provide the music, and will honor two of our ladies. Please note the change from our normal meeting date. A flyer will be sent to our members soon.

Many thanks to Helen Brennan and her crew for chairing this coming event. They promise that no one will go home hungry! In March, we will have our St. Pat's Party.

Congratulations to Dottie Durkin on her 85th Birthday! She has now reached the half-way point.



PGK Bob Waters

The following is the result of our election:

President — Open (no volunteer)
 Vice President — Neil Dorian
 Secretary — Helen Brennan

GOD BLESS AMERICA AND OUR MILITARY!

PRAYER CORNER

In your prayers remember: Eureka & Elizabeth Arcand, Tom Becker, Dom Bellia, William "Will" Bello, Maggie De Bettencourt, Larry Bisnett, Lily Callowhill, Jinny Chwirut, Maureen Collins, PGK Jack Cunningham, Kevin Dyer, 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, Gerry Kane, Julia Marcus, James Marketos, Clarence Mayberry, Rich Mlynarczyk, Burt Murray, Eugene O'Neill, Ralph Oviedo, Sr. Maureen Patrice, Fr. David Pollak, Mary Rainey, Joan Reed, Anne Ryan, Bridget Shanahan, Gloria Skapik, Pilar Stark, John and Estelle Stoltz, Stephanie Suff, Mike Veith, Joselyn Walter Graham and Regina Walter, Barbara Waters, R. Joyce Waters, Louise Young, Karen Zack, and Fran and Frank Zello.

Please also remember to pray for my deceased godson Doug Garrett.

Remember Our Sick and Deceased

Sick and Distressed:

PGK Jack Cunningham, PGK Jim Kane, Gerry Kane, Kay Cee Club Pres Burt Murray, Carole Hanley, Barbara Waters, Paul Horan, Sr., Lisa Davis (wife of Scott Davis), Tom Carolins' sister, Joey Norris, Ellen Kerr (sister-in-law of Jamie Caulfield), and those on the Seniors' sick list (p. 11)

Deceased

Doug Garrett (cousin and godson of Bob Waters) and Anna May Chipman (friend of the Horans)

Please keep the above folks, and all of our ailing and deceased members, families and friends in your prayers.



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 Deacon John Shewmaker - 301-986-8658

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& Birthday
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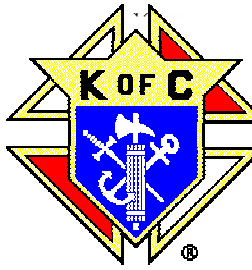
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5417 WEST CEDAR LANE

BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814-1517

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March CHATTER Deadline:
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ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
February			1	2	3	4
			5	6	7	8
12  Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Seniors Valentine's Luncheon Noon	15 K-C Club 7:30 PM State Pro-Life Mass	16 O'Boyle Meeting Rosary 7:30 PM Renewal of Obligations 8:00 PM	17	18
19	20  Washington's Birthday MD Lobby Night	21	22  Ash Wednesday	23 1st Degree & Social Meeting 7:30 PM	24 	25
26	27	28	29	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 10px;">Lent begins February 22</div> <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 10px;"> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  Fast and Abstinence </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  Abstinence </div> </div> </div>		

Visit the Council Website at www.kofc2797.org