



THE KNIGHT CHATTER



July-August 2012

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

Year 75, No. 1

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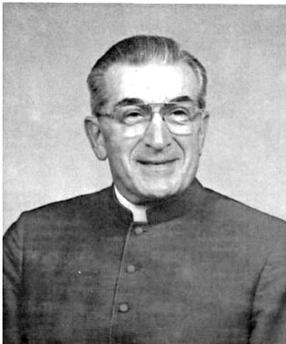
The Council's newly installed officers (R-L): PGK Terence Ryan, Warden James Geimer, GK Joseph Myers, Chancellor James Caulfield, Deputy GK Christopher Ryan, Lecturer Daniel Crowe, Recorder Peter Ferrigno, Financial Secretary Joseph Murphy, with the installing officers District Warden Kevin Kittka, and District Deputy Wesley Chin. For more pictures, see page 7.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

REV. MSGR. VINCENT S. GATTO, KHSH

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

TERENCE RYAN



Chaplain Gatto

Dear Knights,

The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus celebrated in June is a great gift of the Church and a great gift to each of us. It gives us the opportunity to meditate on what is at the core of our Faith. The total and unconditional love Jesus has for each one of us, as expressed by His most Sacred Heart. The second reading from Ephesians on that Feast tells us what is essential for all believers,

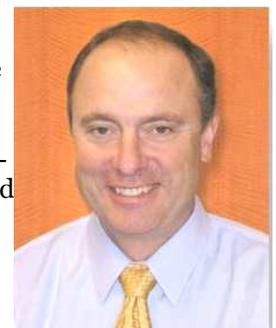
that is, "to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

St. Augustine taught that "God loves each of us as if there were only one of us to love." The Gospel for the Feast tells us of the crucifixion. It is here that one of the soldiers thrust his lance into the side of Christ, and immediately blood and water flowed out. This can be understood as a symbol of birth, the birth of the Church from the heart of Jesus. In this birth, the Church is given the gifts of the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Baptism, as expressed in the blood and the

(Continued on page 10)

Worthy Brothers All,

Greetings to you all! I hope this note finds your household is back to normal, with tree limbs up where they belong. It would seem that our 2012-2013 Columbian Year has been kicked off with a storm! For me, at a time when I am assuming the reins of Council 2797 as your newly elected Grand Knight, this storm greatly distracted me from my plan.



Grand Knight Myers

My plan was to attend the Grand Knights College at Mount Saint Mary's and spend a focused weekend meeting, greeting, learning, and planning our upcoming year. Of course, like everyone else in Montgomery County, when I woke up on Saturday morning June 30th and surveyed the damage, my plans changed. I had to stay home and work with my wife, Susan, and our children, Ryan (14), Annie (11), and Maggie (6) to make our home safe.

I could easily plead my case now for why I was so delinquent in issuing invitations to our officers' installation ceremony on July 15th and even in submitting this, my first GK

(Continued on page 6)



DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

Worthy Brothers All,

I want to congratulate and thank the new Grand Knight and the council officers for accepting their new roles. I wish I had some magical words of wisdom to write to insure their future success. All I can offer is my continued support and encouragement. I promise to do whatever I can to make their term an enjoyable and successful experience.

The success of any council comes not from the District Deputy nor from the State nor from Supreme. We can only observe and advise when requested. Even the most outstanding Grand Knight can not guarantee that the council will do well. It is mostly the hard work and dedication of the council membership that determines the success (or lack thereof) of the council on any level.

There are so many events and functions in every council that it is virtually impossible that one person can run everything. Every Grand Knight must rely heavily on his event chairmen and many volunteers to help run the show. Every event needs the participation of many members to make it successful.

There is nothing more discouraging for an event chairman than to have very few members help out or even attending their function. There is nothing more troubling for a Grand Knight than to have to cancel an event for lack of volunteers or participation.

Every incoming knight makes a solemn oath upon joining to support their officers in authority. (If you have forgotten then I encourage you to attend the next first degree). Please support your council by volunteering to help out **or at least by showing up** at the functions.

We are approaching the two most important programs for just about every council in Maryland. They are the annual **Car Raffle** and the annual **Tootsie Roll Campaign**. For many councils, these two programs raise funds for the bulk of their charity work for the entire year. It is sad to report, that participation in these programs have declined in recent years. Our District used to have the top selling car raffle sales in the state, and some of our councils used to collect much more for the mentally handicapped. We can and will do better, but only with **your help**.

I challenge EVERY knight to support these two charity programs. Please help by selling or buying the car raffle tickets. When the Tootsie Roll Campaign starts, please volunteer to pass out Tootsie Rolls and more importantly send in your own check for the mentally handicapped. In both programs 100 % of the proceeds go to charity. No less than 100% participation is expected. How can you call yourself a Knight if you do not participate in the two most important charity programs in the state ??? Remember as a knight, your primary calling is to charity. It is the bench mark against which every soul will be measured.

May you and your family have a very safe and pleasant summer. I look forward to meeting as many knights as possible at the meetings or events. I plan to make as many as possible. I hope you do likewise.

Wes Chin

District Deputy No. 18

COUNCIL HOSTS WOUNDED WARRIORS

On Friday, May, 18th, Rock Creek Council welcomed a group of about 20 Wounded Heroes from Walter Reed Hospital Bethesda, their families and friends.



The Altheeia Foundation, a grass-roots organization started by Hal Koster, hosts "Friday Night Dinners" for the wounded soldiers every week somewhere in our area. The council worked with Hal and his staff over the last few months to plan this event.



Food was provided by an outside caterer and the bar and setup and break down was done by council volunteers.

All of our guests thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we received quite a few compliments. Many of the service members said they liked the fact that we were just a short bus ride away from Walter Reed.

Thanks to the work of the KC Club, the facility couldn't have looked better. What's more, the new handicap-accessible bathroom was a well-used and a welcome addition to our facility. Without it, we could not have hosted the event.

As the Warriors enjoyed their evening at the Council so much, several additional dinners are being planned to be held here.



As Knights, we are bound in support of our brave military. It's very gratifying knowing that our neighbors at Walter Reed can count on Rock Creek Council to do just that. Thank you to Mike and Chris Horan, Burt Murray and the KC Club, Julie Carter and all who volunteered to help make this event a great success.

God bless our country and these heroes who fought for our freedom!

Jamie Caulfield

Chancellor



Faith and Fraternity

Fr. Donald Grzymiski, OFM Conv.
State Chaplain

As the Kuchmas administration gets underway, I would like to share some thoughts on the theme of faith and fraternity we will have before us the next two years.

We have received the gift of faith, but gifts are also given to be appreciated, used and shared. If a shirt or a sweater from last Christmas hasn't been out of the drawer, so be it. But God's gifts are never meant to just sit, or to be tucked away. Faith is to be lived, and the more we bring it to who we are and what we do, especially as Knights, the more we will also have opportunities to bring others to know the faith. This fall, as the Church begins a year of faith, there will be opportunities to re-ignite both knowledge and devotion. I hope and pray we each take advantage of those opportunities.

Fraternity is also one of the hallmarks of our Order, but it can be damaged or lost by disagreements, failures to work toward consensus, and the like. Brothers might not always agree, and brothers might favor different options, but the real problem is when we forget or no longer care that we are brothers. There must be a reason why Father McGivney chose fraternity as one of the main points he wished to promote. Ultimately, it is rooted in the fact that Jesus brought us into a spiritual relationship, and calls us brothers and sisters.

Faith and fraternity are noble attributes upon which to reflect these two years. Without them we will never come close to reaching the potential that is found in the Knights of Columbus. May the Lord bless our new fraternal year, and grace each of us with the gifts we need to serve.

Around the Kay-Cee Club

Even though summer time is upon us, the Kay-Cee Club isn't taking a vacation!

We've started a new project: beautifying the area between the patio and the front driveway. We'll be demolishing the concrete there -- which is uneven, unsightly, and a health hazard -- and then repouring concrete to level it and make it wheelchair accessible.

This will be a two-part project, but by the time it's done, members should see a marked improvement in the area, including a new brick wall. The area should be complete by the fall.

Until then, have a happy and safe summer.

Burt Murray

President

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

On June 2nd 2012, 14 Sir Knights and my daughter went down and washed the Viet Nam Memorial Wall. This was truly a moving experience for all who went.



The Assemble is 50 this year and I am planning a big celebration on Saturday December 15th. I am looking for old pictures, articles, patriots, and memorabilia to display at the event. Please see me if you have any items you can display for the evening; they will be returned.

I challenge each member to recruit one new member this year.

In July we will begin selling raffle tickets to raise funds for the Ultra-Sound Machine fund. The drawing will be at our Christmas party meeting on December 21. Tickets are \$10 each or 5 for \$40 with the Grand Prize of \$2500 if 1000 or more tickets are sold. If less, the Grand Prize will be 25 percent of what is brought in.

For more information about the Assembly, contact SK Gregory Curtain (301- 654-5543) or SK Neil Dorian (301-977-3840).

SK George G. Carter, Faithful Navigator

The Catholic Vote Carl A. Anderson, Supreme Knight

The HHS mandate confronts us with a challenge which is very different from that of social issues such as legal abortion. It is different because it is a challenge to the integrity of our Catholic institutions and our own lives as Catholics.

What is at stake is the re-definition of religion itself and the reduction of the role of religion in the public square. This is what was at stake in the Hosanna Tabor litigation and remains so with the HHS mandate.

These government initiatives have profoundly raised the stakes for the future of religion in America. The question is not primarily about public policy choices. Instead, the question now is the sustainability of the mission of Catholic institutions. In these circumstances Catholics can no longer accept politics as usual.

Today, Catholic voters must have the courage to act boldly and insist that every candidate for public office respect the integrity and mission of the Catholic Church and its institutions.

Catholic voters must have the courage to tell candidates that if they want Catholic votes they will have to respect the fundamental principles of Catholic social teaching such as the sanctity of human life before birth as well as the institutions of marriage and family.

And they should have the courage to withhold their vote from candidates who fail this test—even if it means at times that they will withhold their vote for both candidates for a particular office.

Abridged by Editor from Address to Catholic Press Association, June 23, 2012



CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter and Mary Ann Ferrigno, Culture of Life Chaircouple



I find it difficult to believe that the whole state of Mississippi has only one abortion clinic, and even now, this one

may possibly be on its way out, since the three abortion practitioners need to have admitting privileges at a local hospital in the chance something goes wrong at this clinic.

Rev. Harry Knox has recently been appointed by President Obama to serve on the president's Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, a pro-abortion organization that targets people of faith. Knox has characterized Pope Benedict XVI as a "discredited leader" and that the Knights are an "army of oppression," another example of how President Obama is attacking the Catholic Church.

The National Right to Life Convention 2012 was held on June 28, 29 and 30 in Arlington, VA. One subject dis-

cussed was the Obamacare Premium, which could give the abortion industry \$1 Billion annually. Current polls show that only 41% of Americans, today, claim to be pro-choice. Do the American people then want taxpayers' money to be used this way? Someone suggested that rather calling the organization "Planned Parenthood" it should be called "Planned Abortion". One reason that President Obama may want to support this organization is that currently they have ads stating that Mr. Romney wants to get rid of their organization and therefore the American people should vote for Obama.

Sex-selection, that seemed so wrong to most of us when we heard that it was going on in China and India, may become more common in this country. The reason is "fewer women, fewer mothers, fewer future children." I wonder how our "Abortion-minded President" feels about the killing of unborn girls in favor of having boys. Although most feminists would defend abortion

rights, "my body, my business," however, the tune changes when the killing of a child is for the sole reason of not wanting to have a girl. Now they say that that child has rights. It is a wonder how the left will justify this dilemma.

The House of Representatives rejected the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act (PRENDA) of 2012, which would have imposed criminal penalties on those who perform abortions motivated by, "sex, color, race or gender of the child." The vote, 246 to 168, was not able to reach the two-thirds of the representatives to pass this bill. Some states have already introduced laws to ban this discrimination. With more that fifty percent of Americans thinking that abortion is wrong, I do believe that there will be a time that our leaders will come to see things the way we do. Democrats have still shown themselves to be 58 percent pro-choice where Republicans are 72 percent pro-life. As Knights, we should all be praying for that day.

God Bless.

Membership Corner

As of the June report from Supreme, Rock Creek has 713 members. Of these, 652 are active members, including 11 Honorary Members, and 121 Honorary Life Members. Thus, we have only 581 members who are charged the full dues of \$50 per year. The remaining 61 members are inactive, insurance members.

Our members are, of course, centered in Bethesda and Kensington, but we are also widely dispersed.

We have two members who reside in the Philippines, and nine members each living in DC, Virginia, and Florida. There also are members in Delaware, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia. For some, once a member of Rock Creek, always a member of Rock Creek.

Four years ago, our median age was 72, now it is 56 and going down with each First Degree. Still, we have 30 members who are at least 90 years old, including Norbert Wittrock at 100, and 20 members under 30 and 79 under 40. All our chair officers are well under 50.

This bodes well for the future.

Incidentally, our next First Degree is on Thursday, September 27. Start recruiting now. Let's keep up our record of the past four years of making at least Star Council, if not Double Star.

As a large council, our quota is high. But we can do it. We are the only large council to have made Double Star in the past four years — and we did it twice.

Joe Murphy

Financial Secretary



CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter D. Ferrigno, PGK

I am confident that some of us were surprised that the Vatican "rapped the knuckles of Sister Margaret Farley," in addition to numerous other nuns in the United States. As for Sister Farley, director of the LCWR (Leadership Conference of Women Religious), she was criticized for a book she wrote, *Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics*, in which she condoned acts of sex and love, not in keeping with the Catholic Church teachings of sexual morality. What made this worse, many Catholic theologians are using this book in their classrooms in Catholic colleges throughout the United States. I find it personally upsetting that most of the schools are Jesuits.

Then there is Sister Pat Farrell who feels that "a large sector of the church has legitimate concern and want to continue to talk about their place as women in the church, and their rightful equality with men." It should not be a surprise that a good number of our nuns may feel this way. When they accepted their religious life, they had to know that only men would be ordained. I can see why some religious women would wish to become priests. Why wouldn't they? It is a wonderful life and very Christ-like.

But this is not the way it is in the Catholic faith. The list goes on, but is not worth mentioning in this article. Know that there are many nun issues that have occurred in the United States that may have justified concern for the Vatican.

The movie, *For Greater Glory*, has been greatly endorsed by prominent Catholic bishops, and has been seen as a parable of the need for the protection of religious freedom in this country. The Church is correct to be concerned about this issue, and so should us all. If you have not yet seen the film or read the article about it in *Columbia* magazine, do so.

One would not have thought that the Catholic faith, in so Catholic a country as Mexico, could almost have been wiped out under the rule of Plutarco Calles, between 1926 and 1929. Knowing that it was possible makes it even more important that the Church and the Administration in the United States resolve their current problems. As Nicki Alam stated in an article to the editor of the *The Washington Times*, "The administration is infringing on

that right by constraining Catholic institutions that want to observe their belief in a right to life and to carry out their calling to help anyone in need."

Obamacare may be a reflection of the majority in Congress, but this has no consequence as to the determination of its constitutionality. The document "We the People" should be the guide for the Supreme Court to follow. If one should believe that this paper is out-dated, George Terwilliger III, our deputy attorney general of the United States, reminded us on Memorial Day that we should remember those "who sacrificed their lives to preserve that Constitution."

There is a place for us, as Knights, to confirm who actually is running the Church. As we look about us, we can see the division among Catholics. Some question whether we should help the poor, whether good Catholics have to listen to their bishops, who should we vote for, and the items go on. Lisa Miller, in an article in *The Washington Post*, brings this out in one of her articles. She believes that a small group of very conservative bishops have hijacked the Church. She supports this with statements like: "Eighty two percent of American Catholics believe that birth control is morally acceptable," "There are 194 dioceses in the country; only about a dozen joined the suit against HHS's mandate," "There are more than 200 Catholic colleges and universities in the United States and only a handful joined the suits," and "The church has been a contentious place since the time of Peter and Paul." I have to assume that she is speaking as a non-Catholic, but I do believe that many Catholics agree with her.

As Knights, we should let the world know that we do follow the Church and we do believe that the bishops, throughout the world, are teachers of the doctrines of the Church. Truly, there is division with some so-called Catholics but even Jesus had a disciple that went against him. As for differences between Peter and Paul, I do believe that Jesus spoke to only Peter, when he made him the head of His Church. As our Supreme Chaplain, we should accept that Archbishop Lori is speaking for all Knights, especially those of us in the United States.

God Bless.

Family Potluck Cookout & Movie Night

Family Movie Night will be returning on September 12. As usual, there will be a movie for the children, conviviality for the parents, and burgers, dogs, chips, sodas, popcorn for all.

Watch for a further announcement in the September issue of *The Knight Chatter*.

Seniors' Luncheon

The Seniors' Club will be having a social luncheon and business meeting at Alfio's La Trattoria Restaurant in Chevy Chase.

The date is Tuesday, August 28 at noon. Watch for a flyer in the mail or call Bob Waters at 240-460-1857.

If you received an AARP solicitation in the mail, consider joining the Rock Creek Seniors. You will have much more fun!



Your Fun-Filled Lounge

Hours: Monday Thru Thursday 4-8
Friday 4-12, Saturday 2-8, Sunday 1-6

The lounge is in full-swing with summer sports. Watch the Washington Nationals as they try for a playoff spot. It has been 88 years since Washington has had a team in the World Series. This could be the year when they return.



If you haven't been in the lounge lately stop by for a game and some refreshments. And enjoy sporting activities on our five flat-screen TVs.

Enjoy social evenings on the patio.

The lounge is available to members for parties and fundraisers. All parties must be prearranged with the bar manager so that there is no parking conflict. Cantrel Hall rentals have first use of the parking lot. For further information, call the lounge during business hours at 301-530-1628.

Stop by and sign the book .

Lounge phone 301-530-1628

Remember Our Sick and Deceased

Sick and Distressed:

PGK Jack Cunningham, PGK John Vivian, PGK Jim Kane, Carole Hanley, Barbara Waters, Fr. Kyle Ingles' mother, Nancy Doud (aunt of Mary Ryan), Chip Collins (friend of Tappan family), Paul Horan, Greg Hourigan (part owner of Hard Times Café), Harrison McDonough (godson of Leslie Caulfield), Ginger Wolf (friend of Jamie Caulfield), Lisa Davis (wife of Scott Davis), Caroline Grayson (sister-in-law of Larry Grayson), John Durjin (nephew of Roberto Ibáñez), Clothly B. Ibáñez (mother of Roberto Ibáñez), and those on the Seniors' sick list (p. 11)



Recently deceased: Rev. Alan Helwig, William Burns, LM Eugene O'Neill, PGK (Washington Council) David Poore, and sister-in-law of John Penny.

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

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

Report to Larry for publication, but what strikes me is the parallel between these recent events, and what it means to be a Knight. If any of us were to sit down and consider taking on more responsibilities at our council, or even just attending meetings more regularly, we each would be reminded of the many reasons why these notions do not fit into *our plans*. After all, we each have day jobs, families, and so many pressing responsibilities and commitments.

I know, however, that simply by surviving this storm and its extended power outages and inconveniences, each of us can reflect on how we overcame these challenges with the help of neighbors, family, friends, and perhaps even a few Knights. None of us planned on this storm, but our commitment to each other helped each of us to make it through.

I know that the A/C, cool drinks, and camaraderie of the Lounge at the end of several hot days helped make my days of being home with just the family pets more bearable. As well, my brother-in-law and fellow Knight, Dan Crowe, took my family and me in for a few nights. Not to mention other friends and Brother Knights, Emory Linder, Brian Westrick and Kevin Carlsen who offered my family refuge from the heat.

What I learned from this storm is that I cannot be your Grand Knight simply with a plan. Rather I need help and commitment of each of my Brother Knights. The knowledge base of our PGKs, Murphy, Grayson, Dorian, Chin, Ibanez, Ferrigno, Waters, Horan, Ryan and the others, is only surpassed by their willingness to support me and our Council. I'm honored to have Chris Ryan as our Deputy Grand Knight, Jamie Caulfield as our Chancellor, and Jim Giemer as our Warden. These guys have been active in our Council and I look forward to their continued support in this upcoming year.

You all no doubt have seen (or heard!) the progress Emory Linder has made with advance sales of our Car Raffle tickets. Of equal significance to our Council's charitable efforts, is the upcoming Tootsie Roll sales drive which Kevin Carlsen will co-chair with the help of an as-of-yet unidentified Brother Knight.

I must also recognize Art Harris, Mike Horan, and so many others of you who have been outstanding in recent years with recruiting. Our numbers earn us recognition at the State level every year.

Gentlemen, I, now more than ever, recognize that my tenure will be judged not on how thorough of a plan I attempt to execute, but rather on how well we as Brother Knights commit to support the activities of our council and the needs of our community. In closing, I ask for your commitment to these charitable, fraternal, and patriotic undertakings of Council 2797.

Vivat Jesus!

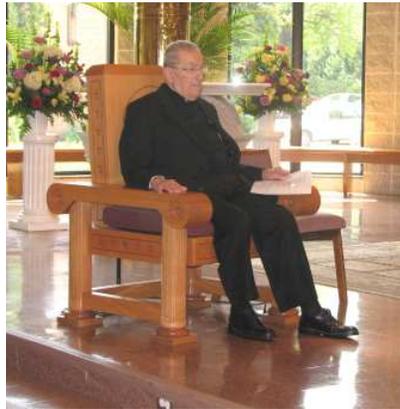
Joseph Myers, GK



Installing Our New Officers



On Sunday, July 15, the new officers of Rock Creek Council for the coming Columbian Year were installed after a noon Mass at St. Jane de Chantal Church. A reception at the Council home followed.





REFLECTIONS - AUGUST

Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, PFN

America's Fuzzy Values

Americans paint themselves in black-and-white, in stark contrast, as if every significant social issue was bipolar with only two possible positions. Are you pro-life or pro-choice, pro-immigration or anti-immigration, accepting of gay marriage or bigoted, for stem-cell research or against medical progress, in favor of euthanasia or opposed to death with dignity?

While it is convenient and often politically expedient to divide every issue into two perspectives, this tends to blur the values people actually hold. On most major concerns facing society, people's views fall along a continuum, with more gray than black or white. When that gray area is separated between two extremes, the line of demarcation can be drawn to produce vastly different outcomes.

In a May 2012 Gallup poll, for example, 50 percent of U.S. adults were self-identified as pro-life and 41 percent as pro-choice. While it may be comforting to some to know that the majority of Americans consider themselves to be pro-life, what does the label mean? Of those surveyed, 20 percent stated that abortion should never be permitted, 25 percent said it should be permitted in all cases, and 52 percent responded that it should be permitted only in certain circumstances. How is that last category of more than half of the respondents to be considered: pro-life, pro-choice, or some of each?

In order to define the gray middle, a Knights of Columbus/Marist poll conducted in July 2010 provided those surveyed with several circumstances under which abortion could be allowed: first six months; first three months; in case of rape, incest or to preserve the life of the mother; or only to preserve the life of the mother. It found that 26 percent of the people would allow abortion for any reason, but only during the first three months of pregnancy. While limiting it to the first trimester is more restrictive than the conditions set forth in *Roe v. Wade*, should these people be classified as pro-life or pro-choice? Further, how should people who favor abortion only in the case of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother be classified?

And where do Catholics stand? Church doctrine holds that abortion is the intentional killing of a child in the womb. It is termed an intrinsic evil and not allowed in any circumstance. Catholics constitute 24 percent of the population of the United States. Yet, only 20 percent of the adults of all faiths believe that abortion should never be allowed. Thus, at least one-in-six, and without a doubt more, Catholics would allow abortion. Can these people be considered truly Catholic, or are they living their faith halfway, adhering to those doctrines with which they are comfortable, but dismissing others that cause discomfort in their lives or the lives of their families or friends?

One can only suspect that many who call themselves Catholics do not understand what the word implies. The moral problems of our society are due in no small extent to the complacency and indifference of Catholics. In an effort to advance within society, they have diminished adherence to traditional Catholic values and have adopted the attitudes, behaviors and mores of the general populace. They have kept their religious beliefs to themselves, or rationalized them to fit their socially-acceptable, public actions. This has been especially visible among too many Catholics in political life.

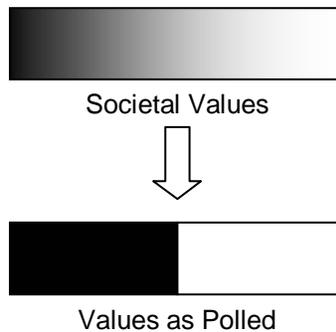
Politics must be guided by morality, for its essence is the ordering of power based on the goals of justice and peace. As Archbishop Charles Chaput put it:

Religion, politics, social justice—these are precisely the things we *should* be talking about. Nothing else really matters. Few things could be more important than religious faith, which deals with the ultimate meaning of life, and politics, which deals with how we should organize our lives together for justice and the common good.

The Catholic faith is not simply a collection of doctrines or a body of rituals. At its core, Christianity is a personal experience of the individual with Jesus Christ. It incorporates a belief about God and His relationship with man. It demands a response of faith and the acceptance of an obligation to spread the Gospel message and live one's life accordingly. One's values must be developed in accord with Christ's teachings and utilized to guide one's behavior to fulfill that mission and achieve a transcendent end, an eternity in the kingdom of God.

In a society detached from God, without a consistent moral basis that is shared by all, nothing can be taken for granted. Man becomes indifferent to tradition, alienated from moral absolutes. Religion and morality become private, subjective matters. Man's guiding principle becomes what he can do. He claims new rights to satisfy his own needs and desires. Society can justify killing millions of babies in the womb, human cloning, dismembering embryos in the laboratory, surrogate motherhood, same-sex marriage, dispatching the elderly as having little societal value. If our knowledge – to manipulate genes, to clone, to abort, to euthanize – and our expanding temporal desires are not applied with moral norms, they become powers for destruction. What comes next: polygamy, bestiality, the growth and harvesting of human organs?

As Knights of Columbus, we must stand up against these secular, degrading trends that reject God and create a society based on values shaped solely by rationality and hu-



(Continued on page 10)



REFLECTIONS - JULY

Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, PFN

The Symbiosis of Church and State

For over 200 years, the Church and the State in America have enjoyed a mutually enriching relationship. The Church has been free of government restrictions to pursue its mission. The State has benefited from the influence of religious thinking to clarify the moral dimensions of its political decisions. The people have profited from the ability to worship God – or not – as they chose. Society has had the advantage of the beneficence of the charitable activities that flow from religious teachings.

These advantages have come about as a result of the complementary roles of the Church and a democratic society. The Church acts in the material world to assist man to gain his transcendent end, an eternity in the kingdom of God. The government of the United States was formed by the People to establish a society marked by justice, domestic tranquility, the promotion of the general welfare, and the securing of the blessings of liberty – conditions that allow the Church to flourish.

A democracy working to achieve the common good requires a populace imbued with civic virtue; and virtue is best instilled by religion. Without the underpinnings of religion, a government of and by the people cannot long succeed. As then-Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen wrote in his book, *Whence Come Wars*, without religion, a “democracy will denigrate into demagoguery by selling itself to the highest bidder.” That is, the source of right and wrong will be determined by the rule of the majority.

The consonance between Church and State in America has worked well. Bishop John Ireland, in addressing the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore, on November 10, 1884, said: “There is no conflict between the Catholic Church and America. I could not utter one syllable that would belie, however remotely, either the Church or the Republic, and when I assert, as I now solemnly do, that the principles of the Church are in thorough harmony with the interests of the Republic, I know in the depths of my soul that I speak the truth.”

The same assertions were made by James Cardinal Gibbons in his inaugural homily after being raised to that canonical rank. On March 25, 1887, from the pulpit of his titular church in Rome, he stated: “I belong to a country where the civil government holds over us the aegis of its protection without interfering in the legitimate exercise of our sublime mission as ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our country has liberty without license, authority without despotism.”

This does not mean that societal conditions promoting

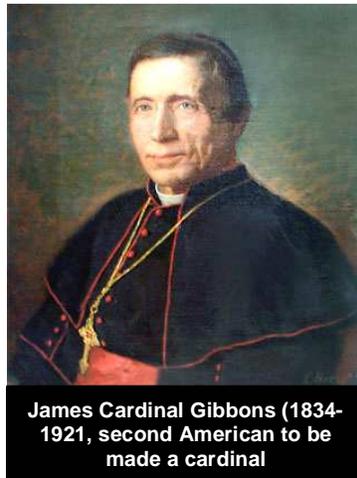
religious freedom in America have been ideal. Far from it. Throughout the nation’s history, there has been bias, discrimination, the rise of the nativist Know Nothing movement in the 1840s, xenophobic feelings of the resident Protestant inhabitants toward the waves of Catholic immigrants in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the vitriolic outbursts of anti-Catholicism that arose as a result of the nomination of Alfred E. Smith in 1928 as a candidate for the presidency of the United States and, more recently, the imbalanced media coverage of problems in the Catholic Church.

None of this, however, could negate the belief of Bishop John F. Nolls, who, in his book, *It is Happening Here*, wrote, “We have the best government under the best constitution in the world.” The discriminatory movements of the past were the result of sentiments within the populace-at-large, rather than governmental restrictions or legislative action.

The sentiments of these Catholic leaders reflected the degree of religious freedom provided in the United States in contrast to that of other nations. The rise of Fascism in Italy and Nazism in Germany resulted in direct attacks on the Catholic Church and even on the Vatican. The Communist government in Russia exiled priests and closed tens of thousands of churches. Similar atrocities occurred in China and Vietnam, and continue today in countries in Africa and Asia. The Spanish Civil War resulted in 20,000 churches being pillaged and 6,500 clergy being murdered. When anti-Catholic rhetoric was aimed at Al Smith in the United States, in the same period, as the film *For Greater Glory* reminds us, the government of Mexico tried to suppress Catholicism with armed force, exiling all bishops, razing churches, and murdering priests and staunchly-religious laymen.

Religious freedom in America is certainly not being purged with military might. We are not at a point of armed rebellion. But religious freedom is now being assaulted through government action. The most overt and egregious move is the HHS mandate which will force religious groups and individuals to pay for health insurance that covers abortifacients, sterilization and contraception, in direct violation of Catholic Church doctrines. In addition, the mandate defines a religious organization so restrictively that hospitals, universities, schools, and numerous charitable and social service groups, established and operated by the Catholic Church, are not considered religious.

(Continued on page 10)



James Cardinal Gibbons (1834-1921, second American to be made a cardinal)



New Fraternal Year



A new fraternal year is upon us. Congratulations to Joseph Myers 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 ea-

ger 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

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

water.

The Eucharist is the Sacrament of Love. It signifies love. It produces love. Every time we gather for the Eucharist, we are reminded of Christ's great love for us. Every time we behold a crucifix, we see the depth of His love poured out for us.

Many have attempted to describe love and what it means to put love into action. Sometimes love can end up sounding like something very sentimental. We can return to the words of St. Augustine:

What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.

The heart is the muscle that pumps blood throughout the rest of the body so that we can be alive, so that we can function. May the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus course through the members of His body, the Church, that we may be able to love, with our hands, our heads, our ears, our eyes, and with all with which God has gifted us.

Monsignor Gatto

REFLECTIONS-AUGUST

(Continued from page 8)

man desires. As Catholic men, we must ensure that Christ's teaching is preached, explained and defended at every level of society—in our homes, communities and workplaces, in politics, business and the culture-at-large. Do we have the will and the courage to accept this challenge and live our lives toward that end?

REFLECTIONS-JULY

(Continued from page 8)

For the first time in the history of this nation, the government is using its powers to coerce religious organizations and restrict religious freedom. This is a challenge that must be opposed. We must raise our voices and follow it with actions to say *No* to this persecution. We must rededicate this nation to God and to the basic principles set forth in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution. We must return America to the land it once was and ought to be.

COUNCIL ADOPTS A ROAD

On June 30, volunteers from Rock Creek gathered at the council and then proceeded to Greentree Road, where they cleaned a mile-long section from Old Georgetown Road to Melwood Road. As an Adopt-A-Road partner organization, the council agreed to clean this assigned section several times a year.



With school out, this was the perfect time to get kids outside in the fresh air, helping their dads with a little old fashioned labor.

Cleaning bottles and trash is easy and doesn't take more than an hour or so. For those new members who would like to become more involved in council activities, watch for the next clean-up day. It is fun and a great way to develop camaraderie. After the brief period on the road, we adjourn to the council for a bit of sociability

Jamie Caulfield
 Chancellor



SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

We had no volunteers to chair the "Spring Fling" in June, and so there was none. In my last report, I agreed to help even though I would be out of town. That event would have been an easy one to chair. It is your Club! If you want it to continue, you must help!

Please thank Helen Brennan and her crew who volunteered to run the annual in-door picnic. It will be held on July 25th. Please read the flyer and help. I will be away during most of July, but will help with this function.

On Tuesday, August 20th, we will hold our annual luncheon/meeting at Alfio's. Reservations will be required for admission! Watch for the flyer. I will chair this one.

For our special prayers, please remember PGK John Vivian for a speedy recovery!

Let's all start thinking about a function for the Fall in September. Anyone interested, please call me.



PGK Bob Waters

GOD BLESS AMERICA AND OUR MILITARY!

PRAYER CORNER

In your prayers remember: Eureka and Elizabeth Arcand, Tom Becker, William "Will" Bello, Maggie De Bettencourt, Larry Bisnett, Lily Callowhill, 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, Richard Lillis, Julia Marcus, James Marketos, Clarence Mayberry, Rich Mylnarczyk, Burt Murray, Eugene O'Neill, Ralph Oviedo, Sr. Maureen Patrice, Fr. David Pollak, Mary Rainey, Joan Reed, Rose Roberts, 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 pray for the souls of JRev. Vincent M. O'Brien, Robert W. (Bobby) Gollan.

Rental Corner

Rentals at the Rock Creek Mansion are going strong with weddings, mitzvahs, reunions, and fundraisers booking into 2013.

Folks love the hardwood floors, the upgrades to the restrooms and the way our venue is always kept fresh and clean (thanks to Chris Horan). Mike Naas and our bartenders are consistently complemented for their helpfulness and professionalism.

Keep us in mind for family and friends planning parties. We have lots of ideas on ways to hold an elegant event within a budget. Come look through our photo albums of many creative, fun parties held at Rock Creek Mansion.

And remember, members get a rental discount!

Julie Buckingham Carter

tel: 240-426-1220, website: www.rockcreekmansion.com



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September CHATTER Deadline:
August 17, 2012

ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
August						
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Color Corps Meeting at Rock Creek 7:30 PM	7 Executive Committee Meeting 7:30 PM	8	9 Rosary 7:30 PM Business Meeting 8:00 PM	10	11
12	13	14	15 K-C Club 7:00 PM	16 O'Boyle Mtg 7:30 PM	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Rosary 7:30 PM Social Meeting 8:00 PM	24	25
26	27	28 Seniors' Luncheon/Meeting Alfio's La Trattoria Noon	29	30	31	

Visit the Council Website at www.kofc2797.org