



THE KNIGHT CHATTER



October 2012

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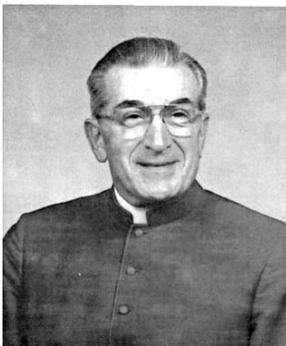
Rocky, our Knight in armor, oversees Rock Creek Council's table at the Time and Talent Fair at St. Jane de Chantal, on September 22-23.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

REV. MSGR. VINCENT S. GATTO, KHSH

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

TERENCE RYAN



Chaplain Gatto

Dear Knights,

When all is going well in life, we generally do not want to make any changes. However, if someone should offer us a chance for a better life, we may at least consider it. Christ's invitation to Matthew to follow Him was an offer designed to change Matthew's life for the better. Matthew's choice to leave everything and follow Jesus brought him to experience Christ's life-changing

power. We do not read that Matthew, a tax collector, was dissatisfied with his job, but we do know that he was disliked because of his job.

Matthew and those deemed to be sinners – often because they could not comply with the strict edicts and sacrifices required – were outcasts, according to the rigid interpretation of the Messianic laws. They were excluded from the Faith. Christ's coming brought change to these laws that were making void the Law of God, the true intentions of the Father. By His reaching out to all people, particularly the

(Continued on page 6)

Worthy Brothers All,

As we close the first quarter of our Columbian Year, I reflect on how busy life is. School is back in session, rush hour has increased, vacations are a memory, football season is upon us, and there is so much work to be done. But before we push forward with our aggressive agenda, we will stop and reflect on what we have accomplished and thank those that have contributed so much.



Grand Knight Myers

For starters, our eldest brother Knight, Norb Wittrock's contributions to Rock Creek throughout the years in every possible capacity has made a lasting impact upon Council 2797. We were pleased to be able to celebrate his 100th birthday last May, although saddened by his recent passing. We are forever indebted to Norb and his wife, Edwina, and they are in our prayers during this difficult time.

We all know in our minds that Mike Horan is involved with so much around the Mansion. What was not so obvious to me until I became Grand Knight is how much Mike, his wife

(Continued on page 7)



DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

Worthy Brothers All,

Soon the leaves will be changing colors and fall will bring on Halloween and Thanksgiving. Life moves on so fast that there hardly seems time to think and reflect on what's going on. We lost a long time member and friend this September. Norbert Wittrock just turned 100, and yet he was present at many meetings at 99, just as he was for many years as recorder at Rock Creek Council. Norb was one heck of a guy and an extraordinary knight.

I used to say my one regret is that I should have joined the knights sooner. I would have met some wonderful knights sooner and I could have known these men better for much longer. The meetings may not have been any more exciting, but the socializing after the meetings and during events is what makes the knights a terrific experience. There are so many knights I wish I knew better and longer.

Someone at Supreme fouled up the database. We can no longer tell whether folks have taken their 2nd or 3rd degrees. You may get a notice about one of these in the future. Send in a note to your Financial Secretary, Joe Murphy, to get your record updated. While you are at it send in your email address.

We will have a second degree ceremony on December 13 (Thursday) and February 15 (Friday) at Rock Creek Council, and on January 10 (Thursday) at Mater Dei Council (St. Raphaels). And we will have a THIRD degree ceremony at Rock Creek on March 22 (Friday). Please contact your Financial Secretary or Grand Knight if you want to take these degrees. Candidates need to present by 7:30 pm for second degrees and by 7 pm for the third degree.

IF you are still a first degree member, you are missing two thirds of what the knights is all about. If you don't attend meetings or functions, you are missing about 90% of what the knights is all about.

Don't forget to come to the annual Thanksgiving dinner at Rock Creek, Tuesday, November 20 (the Tuesday before Thanksgiving Day- 7 PM). It is free for members.

Vivat Jesus !

Wes Chin

District Deputy No. 18

Monthly Steak Dinner

Come and join the fun! The council is beginning a monthly steak dinner for members and friends.

The first one will be on Friday, October 12, from 7pm—9 pm.

There will be steak, baked potato, fresh green beans, salad and dessert, all for the price of \$14 per person.

Reservations are a must! Call Mike Horan at 240-793-1169, no later than Tuesday, October 9.

TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE

In October and November, Rock Creek Council will be participating in The Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities, also known as the Tootsie Roll Drive. We will be soliciting donations at our parish churches, local supermarkets and other strategic locations.

Unlike fundraising done by other organizations, 100% of the money raised through the campaign goes to help people with intellectual disabilities. We do use a hard-sell approach to collect money; rather, we merely stand (or sit) near the entrance to businesses, while wearing a red and yellow apron designating us as KofC fundraisers.

Will you volunteer?

The work is easy. Most people know about the annual drive and the great work of the Knights, and will donate without any solicitation. In return, we give them a "thank you" and an offer of a Tootsie Roll.

To help, contact me (240-274-3113) for locations and dates.

Kevin Carlson, Chairman



Will this be you?

DO NOT REDEFINE MARRIAGE

Vote Against Question 6

Redefining marriage is not a question of civil rights. In Maryland, many of the "rights" sought by advocates to redefine marriage, such as medical decision-making, end-of-life decisions, hospital visitation rights, and exemptions from real estate transfer and inheritance taxes, are already available to domestic partners.

Stripping marriage of its unique connection to parenthood erases from law the right of a child to a mother and a father.

The new law redefining marriage will not protect religious liberties. What it pretends to offer as religious protections, it takes away in language that has not been included in the ballot question. Individuals, businesses, and religious organizations that accept any sort of state or federal funds are excluded from religious liberty protections.

Vote AGAINST Question 6! Every vote counts.



Resolutions of the Supreme Convention

On August 9, at the Supreme Council Meeting in Anaheim, resolutions were adopted in support of Marriage and of Faithful Citizenship, among others.

On the Institution of Marriage:

1. We will never waiver in our efforts to promote the Church's understanding of marriage as the faithful exclusive and lifelong union of one man and one woman joined in an intimate partnership of life and love;
2. We pray that the Holy Spirit enlighten elected officials to adopt laws, and judges to make judicial decisions that affirm the family and the authentic nature of marriage; and
3. We join with the bishops of Canada, United States and throughout the world in their efforts to achieve legal and constitutional protection at the national, provincial and local levels for the definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others.

On Faithful Citizenship:

1. We pledge ourselves to vigorous participation on behalf of the Church in our communities, acting in both the private and public spheres to bring the light of Christ's salvation into human affairs;
2. In the upcoming election season, we rededicate ourselves to advocacy on behalf of the poor, the marginalized, and the voiceless, and especially on behalf of the dignity of human life, the sanctity of marriage and family life, and the right of all to practice their faith privately and publicly according to the dictates of their consciences;
3. We will seek to build upon past efforts and programs designed to educate fellow citizens of their duties of faithful citizenship, and in a non-partisan way to help fellow Knights and other citizens to participate fully in the political process, including robust voter registration and "Get Out the Vote" efforts before and on election day in close collaboration with local dioceses and state Catholic conferences; and
4. We will remember our founding principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism in all of our interactions with others, particularly during the current election season, so that we may conduct ourselves according to Our Lord's commandment that we love our neighbors as ourselves.

A resolution in Support of a Culture of Life appeared in last month's issue of *The Knight Chatter*.

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

On Wednesday, November 7, the Assembly Sir Knights will participate in the laying of a Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in the Arlington National Cemetery, Fort Myer, Virginia. Sir Knights and Knights of Columbus members and family members are requested to meet at the Fr. Rosensteel Council parking lot at 8:45 am to car pool to the National Cemetery. The scheduled time for the laying of the wreath by our Assembly is 10:15 am on November 7.



On Thursday, November 15, beginning at 7 pm, the Assembly will hold its annual Memorial Mass at the Historic St. John's Church. This program will honor the deceased Sir Knights whom we have lost this past 2011-2012 Fraternal Year. Our Faithful Friar Fr. Michael Brieese will celebrate the Mass. The names of the deceased will be inscribed on the base of a chalice named in honor of former Friar Fr. Robert V. Zylla. It will be presented to a seminarian who is nearing his ordination to the priesthood. A reception will follow. All members of the Assembly and widows of past members are invited.

The fifty-year anniversary of the Assembly will we celebrated December 15, 2012 at the Rosensteel Council Banquet Hall. The reception will begin at 5 pm and include dinner, music, and recognition of Charter members, Past Faithful Navigators, and others of importance in our assembly's history. Banquet ticket is \$30 per person and dress will be formal. Contact FN Carter to make reservations.

For more information about the Assembly, contact SK Gregory Curtain (301- 654-5543).

SK Neil Dorian
Faithful Admiral

Soccer Shootout

Sunday, October 14th

Holy Redeemer Field
9507 Summit Avenue
Kensington

3:30—4:45 pm

The contest tests three skills:
Goal kick
Two-hand throw in
Distance kick

All boys and girls aged 10 to 14 are invited

Registration on site





CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter and Mary Ann Ferrigno, Culture of Life Chaircouple



In a report by the *Catholic News Service*, in the August *Catholic Standard*, a Colorado firm, Hercules Industries, a manufacturer of heating and air-conditioning equipment, owned by a Catholic family, was given a temporary injunction saying that they did not

have to heed the HHS mandate on the basis that it violated the family's religious freedom. Does this mean that there might be an opening for Catholic organizations and other religious groups to be able to escape the clutches of the Obama administration? There seems to be a small crack in the dike. We can hope so. Better yet, continue praying, as requested by Cardinal Wuerl, for our government to back out of the mandate.

It is with great sorrow that we hear of the death of one of the great fighters for pro-life, Nellie Gray, the founder of the national March for Life. For so many years, people from throughout the United States have assembled in Washington, DC each January to participate in this march in the name of the unborn. Those of you who were there at the beginning might remember her speech in which she stated, "We believe that abortion – the intentional killing of even one innocent pre-born human baby at any stage of development – must be eradicated from our culture. Most of all we believe, as do all of us marchers, that someday we shall succeed for our beloved country."

The March for Life is a testimony to Ms. Gray, and I pray that one day soon, this country will wake up to what they are doing. Some Americans are as much of a disgrace as some of those murdering leaders in other countries. For those of you who think that the recent decision of the Supreme Court on the Obamacare was bad, think what the court did in 1973 when abortion was made legal. Should the Obamacare stand as law, it will be responsible for the killing of many more people. Time will tell.

Some of you may recall that there was a point in history when then-President Reagan was going to prescribe taxpayer funding for abortions in the District of Columbia (in the early '80s). Ms. Gray spoke with him and changed his mind. You can see that some thirty years later, the pro-abortion people not only are still pushing this, they now want abortions to be paid for throughout the nation with federal funds. For this and other reasons, members of the Knight of Columbus should continue to support the pro-life movement.

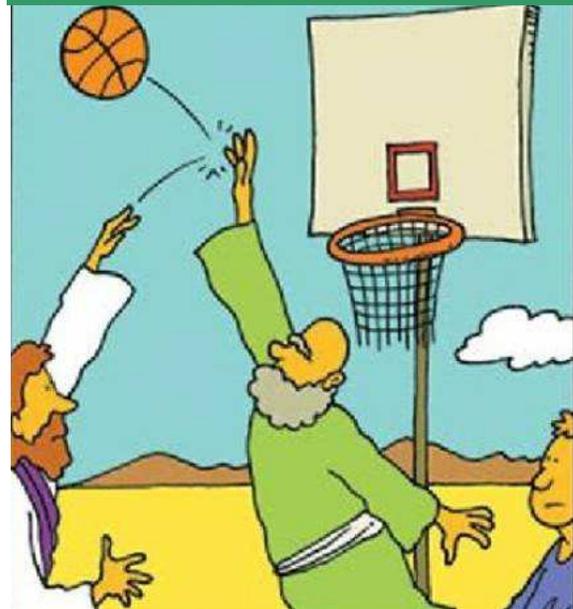
In a recent poll taken by *LifeNews.com*, 62 percent of those responding were in favor of having abortions illegal in all cases or legal only in certain instances, while only 35 percent were in favor of abortions for any reason. Again according to the same source, the Administration oversaw the transfer of nearly half a billion dollars to the abortion giant last year and now Richards (Planned Parenthood

president Cecile Richards) has announced a Planned Parenthood bus tour in support of Obama's re-election campaign.

Birthright of Montgomery County is holding a fundraiser on the 21st of October, 4:00 p.m., at St. Patrick's Church, 4101 Norbeck Road, Rockville, MD. The cost is \$25 per person (cash or checks please). They will present a special production from Theater of the Word, Inc., a one-man show starring Kevin O'Brien, providing a dynamic performance of *The Journey of St. Paul*. This will take you from Paul's early hatred and persecution of the Church through his miraculous conversion and through his years of fighting for the Faith as he battles shipwreck, imprisonment, stoning and privations -- all for the sake of the salvation of souls. I had an opportunity to see his performance one day on television (EWTN). I was profoundly impressed with his emotional presentation. For tickets, you can contact Birthright at (301) 946-3339, or call Carole Buchanan at (240) 888-6750. Check with me (301) 469-6099, to see if I may have available tickets. Our Council has agreed to support Birthright, one of the four Montgomery County Pregnancy Centers, so as not to dilute financial efforts. I hope to see a number of my brothers at this performance.

God Bless.

A Slighter Moment



During a lively game of pick-up basketball, Peter denies Jesus three times



CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter D. Ferrigno, PGK

The Washington, D.C. rally held on June 8 was one of 160 held throughout the United States (the first one of this series started on March 23 by the Chicago-based Pro-Life Action League). The first of their 19 speakers was Rep. Michelle Bachman (R-MN). The theme of those speaking was Religious Freedom. Ms. Bachman stated that on this date, 230 years ago, James Madison introduced the Bill of Rights, which President Obama has totally ignored. She said: "This is not a war against women; this is about religious liberty first and religious liberty always."

One of the more outstanding speakers, Fr. Jose Hoyos, director of *Oficina del Apostolado Hispano* of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington had this to say: "President Obama, you want to take away the only hope we have left; it is our faith and our religious freedom. Christ brought unity, and you have given us division."

In response to a lawsuit challenging the HHS mandate brought by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty on behalf of Wheaton College, the Administration has extended their date to August 2013, to comply with the mandate or face heavy finds. This is only one of the cracks that appear in their administrative dam.

A group of both Protestant and Catholic settlers arrived from England to settle in southern Maryland. Their search was for religious freedom. They brought this about codifying in Maryland's 1649 *Toleration Act*, the first in the history of our nation to protect an individual's right to freedom of conscience. Though this was lost in a short time due to the colony being placed under royal control; the Church of England became the religion of the area. Fortunately, religious freedom returned when the Bill of Rights was ratified and has not been threatened until now. Since this is so long ago, none of us would know what it would be like to lose this freedom. However, we know what others in oppressed countries have to say since they are not able to freely practice their faith.

We should all be happy to know that the Knights of Columbus showed strong support at their 130th Supreme Convention in Anaheim, California this past August. The Knights expressed their support to the U.S. bishop's campaigns to strengthen traditional marriage, to oppose efforts to redefine marriage and to defend religious freedom. (See two of the resolutions on page 3.) Their theme for the convention was: *Proclaim Liberty throughout All the Land*. At the convention, Cardinal Timothy Dolan stated that, "The greatest vocation crisis today is to lifelong, loving faithful, life-giving marriage."

Mitt Romney stated in his acceptance speech as the Republican candidate something that we must give our attention to. He stated: "As president I will protect the sanctity of life. I will honor the institution of marriage. And I will guarantee America's first liberty: the freedom of religion."

A reminder, make sure that you place in your appointment book, if you have not already done so, that the Veterans Day Memorial Mass, this year, will be on November 10, in the Cantrel Hall, at 10:00 am. This will be followed with a continental breakfast in the lower lounge since they will be preparing the hall for a rental event that evening. I will also mention the Mass at the two October Council meetings.

Our prayers go out for the safety of our Holy Father in his visit to Lebanon, amid the turmoil that is going on in the Middle East. Christians in Lebanon find themselves in the midst of political turmoil with Hezbollah and the Shiite militia. Many who attended our Holy Father's visitation were of different religious backgrounds.

I hear that countries in Europe are thinking to begin taxing the Church. It may not be long before they begin to think of doing this in this country. If anything could change what the Church has been doing for the needy, I see that this could come to a halt; it seems to be a collapse of a house of cards. God Bless.

Did You Know?

- Last year, the Knights of Columbus contributed more than \$158 million to charity; \$29 million from the Supreme Council and \$159 million from state and local councils and assemblies
- Over the past decade, the Order has donated more than \$1.4 billion to charity
- Last year, Knights donated more than 70 million hours to charitable work, and over 664 million hours over the last decade
- As of June 30, 2011, there were over 1.8 million members in the Knights of Columbus, and 14,377 councils
- In the Fourth Degree, there are now over 330,000 Sir Knights in 3,034 assemblies
- There are councils at 52 permanent military installations throughout the world, and four combat zone roundtables in Afghanistan and one in Iraq
- The Order has \$86 billion of insurance now in force
- With more than \$18 billion in assets, the Order invests over \$13 million each day
- The Knights of Columbus is now 912 on the Fortune 1000 list of America's largest companies
- *You can be proud of your great organization!*



Your Fun-Filled Lounge

Hours: Monday Thru Thursday 4-8
Friday 4-12, Saturday 2-8, Sunday 12:30-8

Fall is here and that means football! The Redskins are back and exciting, with a new young quarterback, Robert Griffin III, and some great players.



Stop by the lounge on Sundays for the Skins games and enjoy an all you can eat tail gate buffet for just \$7.

And there is play off baseball in D.C. for the first time in almost 80 years! This is the first winnings season for the Nationals since they came to Washington in 2005. In 1933, playing as the Washington Senators, the team made the World Series, the last appearance by a DC team.



The lounge will be hosting a steak dinner on Friday October 12th. See the ad on page 2 of this newsletter.

Stop by and unwind on the newly expanded patio. Meet up with brother knights or bring a friend who is interested in joining and show off our beautiful home. Fall is the best time for using the patio.



The lounge is available to members and our parishes for private parties during off hours and small gatherings and meetings almost anytime.

ALL GATHERINGS MUST BE PREARRANGED WITH THE LOUNGE MANAGERS TO AVOID DOUBLE BOOKINGS. Please call Mike Horan at 240-793-1169 for schedules and pricing.

Help Wanted! We are looking for a few volunteer bartenders to pick up some shifts for college football games. Call Mike Horan at 240-793-1169 or stop by the lounge for details.

**Help
Wanted**

Look for upcoming live music later this fall and winter.

The Go Fish Truck will return soon.

See the lounge hours above. These are adjustable depending on crowds and big games.

It's your lounge, use it! And don't forget to sign the BOOK.

Lounge phone 301-530-1628

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

outcasts and sinners, as in Matthew's Gospel, Christ taught that merciful conduct is God's own attitude.

Christ wants to change our life; change that will enable us to live in serenity and peace no matter what, a change that will lead us to eternal life. If Matthew was to follow Jesus with what little he knew of Jesus, imagine how much easier our decision should be we all we know of Christ's love for us. Following Christ means emulating His merciful conduct towards those we meet in life. This entails practicing humility, gentleness, patience and bearing with one another through love.

Some of us may feel we would prefer to make a painful sacrifice rather than show mercy to someone who has hurt us deeply. The Lord knows our sins and weaknesses – all of them. That is why He pours out His sanctifying grace to us through the Holy Spirit, His Word in Holy Scripture and through the Sacraments. The more we open ourselves to God's grace, the more we will be able to discover our true calling in life and the unique talents given us to fulfill that calling.

Make a choice to respond to Christ's call to follow Him, and trust that the Lord will be with you, guiding you, strengthening your life for the best. Plan to come to meet Christ more often through personal prayer, at Mass through His powerful, real presence in His Word and the Holy Eucharist. Christ will do the rest.

Monsignor Gatto

Remember Our Sick and Deceased

Sick and Distressed:

PGK John Vivian, PGK Jack Cunningham, PGK Vince Bunag, Carole Hanley, Barbara Waters, Bell O'Brien (cousin of Jamie Caulfield), Avery Madfreda (niece of Jamie Caulfield), Ginger Folf (friend of Tappan Family), Mimi (friend of Tom Mitchell), Clothly Ibanez (mother of PGK Roberto Ibanez), Manny Aragon, Greg Hourigan, Paul Horan, Lisa Davis (wife of Scott Davis), and those on the Seniors' sick list (p. 11)



Recently Deceased:

Norbert Wittrock (Recorder Emeritus), Joseph Vaghi, Jr. (73-year member of Rock Creek), Shirley Locke (aunt of Bill Ruane), Nellie Gray (March for Life founder), and Frank Zello (52-year member).

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



Voices of the Bishops

Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, in his recent John Carroll Society Lecture, spoke of the defense of religious freedom, and pointed to the pro-life movement as “the premier civil rights movement of today.”



He said that threats to religious freedom are “abundant” today, but chose to single out two such threats. “One comes from those called secularists, who will tolerate religion as long as it’s just considered some eccentric private hobby for superstitious, unenlightened folks, limited to an hour on the Sabbath, with no claim to any voice in the public square.”

The second comes from direct intrusion of the government into the very definition of a church’s mission. “Thus, to say it again, the wide ecumenical and inter-religious outrage over the HHS mandate is not about its coverage of chemical contraceptives and abortion-inducing drugs, — in spite of the well-oiled mantra from our opponents — but upon the raw presumption of a bureau of the federal government to define a church’s minister, ministry, message, and meaning.”

Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia said that as the general election approaches, America’s Catholic bishops have been walking a fine line to avoid appearances of partisanship while at the same time waging a high-profile battle against the Obama administration over religious freedom. Asked whether a Catholic could vote for Obama in good faith, the archbishop replied: “I can only speak in terms of my own personal views. I certainly can’t vote for somebody who’s either pro-choice or pro-abortion.”

The archbishop said he has “deep personal concerns about any party that supports changing the definition of marriage, supports abortion in all circumstances, wants to restrict the traditional understanding of religious freedom.” He observed, “The history of the world demonstrates that if we aren’t always on guard about religious freedom, we’ll lose it. It happens everywhere, and it could happen in the United States.”

GRAND KNIGHT’S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

Rebecca, and their two daughters do for the Council. I had the pleasure of working with the Horan family in the KofC Booth on Labor Day at the Kensington Festival and it struck me how much Mike and his family truly care about the Knights of Columbus. Because of this, I ask that you all join me in congratulating Mike on becoming Knight of the Month for October. That’s right, for all he and his family do for the Council, I am giving him a prime parking spot for 30 days!

Should some of you not be aware, I replaced the “Grand Knight Reserved Parking” sign with a “Knight of the Month” sign. After all, it’s not about the Grand Knight...it’s about those members that support our Order in ways both large and small. Mike is an obvious example of a Brother Knight who goes the extra mile on a regular basis. It would be nice to have 650 members like that, but honestly that would be a little hard to manage. We are lucky to have someone like Mike in the Council, but let’s not forget everyone else that makes Rock Creek...well Rock Creek.

- Felice D’Avella for running our Family Movie Nights
- Tommy for electing himself Knight of the Month in both August and September J
- Matty Morin for organizing our Soccer Shootout at Holy Redeemer on October 14th
- Dan Crowe for organizing our HHS Mandate Lecture last month
- Emory Linder for running our car raffle
- Kevin Carlsen for running; SPREAD, KC Club Grounds committee chair, and Tootsie Roll drive
- And to our newest members from our September 27th first degree.....welcome!

We are blessed to have so many active members who over the years have contributed so much to the Council, but today we have nearly 200 members that are behind on their dues. I know some have moved away, some have simply forgotten to send in their checks, and others may not be aware that dues are behind because we have incorrect contact information. Whatever the case, now is the time for each of you to help out your council in a very small, but meaningful way. I respectfully ask each of you to verify your contact information and the status of your dues at your earliest convenience. We have a list behind the bar as well as a lock-box there to collect your dues and/or corrected contact information at your convenience. We would especially appreciate good email addresses for each of you.

If you would like to verify or correct your contact information, request a change to your membership status, or verify the status of your account, feel free to email me at joseph.myers@parsons.com, or send me a note at the Rock Creek Mansion. And as always, should anyone be made aware of any brother Knight who is sick or distressed, please notify me right away. I would hate to pester someone about dues if/when they are in need of some sort.

While this is an administrative duty, sorting out the status of our membership is very important to our Order. We need to know who is in, who is out, grow membership, collect dues, and most importantly; fund our charitable causes.

In closing, I want to thank you all for doing your part, both large and small.

Joseph Myers, GK



Membership Corner

As we move down the paths of our lives, there are moments that define us and become indelible parts of our memories. It could be a wedding, the birth of a child, the passing of a loved one, or something as simple as a sunset. These are the experiences that add up to become the sum of our lifetime's experience.

For the 2012-2013 fraternal year, every member and every council is asked to show qualified Catholic men that becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus will be their best "Experience of a Lifetime". Not only is it our goal to make a difference in the lives of our current members but it is also our goal to make a difference in the lives of potential members and their families by offering them the opportunity to be of service to our Church and to our communities.

There is a place in the Knights of Columbus for every qualified man, whether he has a huge amount of time to volunteer or only a few hours a year. Regardless of what his interests are, the Order has something to offer him and his family.

As we capture and extend the momentum over the past seven years at the Rock Creek Council, we also endeavor to expand the vision of our founder, Father Michael J. McGivney. His vision gave birth to an organization that today numbers more than 1.8 million members in over 15,000 councils throughout the world.

Let's continue the momentum by inviting qualified men to join the Knights of Columbus in what will be the "Experience of a Lifetime". Councils that conduct more degrees will find that they conduct better meetings. Councils that conduct better meetings will have more members attending meetings. More attendance at meetings brings more new recruiters to the forefront. More recruiters translates into more Knights.

Vivat Jesus!

Art Harris

Membership Chairman
301-980-4008

Defending Our Catholic Identity

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson

On his visit to the United States in 1995, Blessed John Paul II, said: "The challenge facing you, dear friends, is to increase people's awareness of the importance of religious freedom for society; to defend that freedom against those who would take religion out of the public domain and establish secularism as America's official faith. And it is vitally necessary, for the very survival of the American experience, to transmit to the next generation the precious legacy of religious freedom and the convictions which sustain it."

What is at stake in our current defense of religious freedom is not simply the right of Catholics to practice our faith freely and without having to become entangled and complicit in actions that violate our conscience. That would be bad enough. But what is also at stake is the question of who defines the mission and purpose of the Catholic Church itself. The federal government has sought to interfere with the identity of religion twice in the past year.

First, there was a case that dealt with whether the government or a church

should decide who should be considered a minister. In that case — *Hosanna Tabor v. EEOC* — the administration argued that the definition of a minister should be restricted. It would have eliminated the "ministerial exception" that protects religions from employment laws when it comes to those in ministry. According to the government, if any "ministerial exception" in employment exists, it should be strictly "limited to those employees who perform exclusively religious functions."

Such reasoning caused Chief Justice John Roberts to ask during oral argument whether even the pope could meet the administration's definition of a religious minister. And it caused the Supreme Court to unanimously disagree with the administration saying, "We are unsure whether any such employees exist," because even the highest ranking churchmen have "a mix of duties."

Similarly, the HHS mandate allows only the narrowest exemption for religious institutions — covering only institutions that primarily hire and

serve members of their own faith.

Christ called all Christians to reach beyond their own denominations in teaching "all nations," considering everyone their "neighbor," and doing "good to those who hate" them. He defined our "neighbor" as anyone in need — and in his parable of the Good Samaritan, Christ specifically included those of other religions in his definition of neighbor.

In the *Hosanna Tabor* case, the Supreme Court unanimously characterized the government's position as allowing "government interference with an internal church decision that affects the faith and mission of the church itself."

Precisely the same can be said of the HHS mandate. The definition of religion in the exemption redefines the basic tenets and mission of Christianity. And a government willing to affect the tenets and mission of the Church is a government willing to change the identity of the Church.

Abridged by the editor



REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, PFN

America's Comfortable Socialism

"Our newborn child will be taken care of for life, thanks to a beneficent government." Public sector programs currently assist people from infancy through old age, providing pre-school education, improved school facilities, school lunches, student loans, birth control, health care, food stamps, fair pay, unemployment benefits, prenatal care, job training, business loans, Medicare, and Social Security, among a myriad of other benefits.

Many people may be very comfortable with the plethora of government assistance, as they are able to lead a life without risk or responsibility and with little required initiative. This "utopian" approach, however, comes at a horrendous price. As government assumes control over a person's life, one's freedom is lost.

For purposes of efficiency, the government requires uniformity – of treatment, of action, of thought. Through the allure of unearned benefits, it imposes its objectives on everything and everyone. It justifies its actions as necessary for the common good, to achieve dignity, fairness and equality for all. Those who are not in alignment, including religious organizations, are obstacles that must be marginalized, coerced or penalized.

Too many public officials believe that whenever there is a need or problem, government must act, that government promotes prosperity and must play the central role in the economy. In the name of social justice, government as the agent of society then exerts control over property – whether it is natural resources, industry, business, or the production and distribution of goods -- and regulates behavior for the benefit of all. This is socialism.

In the socialist view, everything one produces is a product of the society in which he lives. While we do not exist in isolation, and what we build, create or invent is not done *de novo*, this communal perspective denigrates the creativity, initiative and hard work of the individual. If you have a successful business or career, you certainly did build it. It is the person who makes advances, not the community. The societal view demeans the individual, does not recognize human liberty, and places an exclusive emphasis on material well-being.

Socialism, in many ways, is the antithesis of Christianity. The first focuses solely on the material, the latter stresses the transcendental. The first believes all rights come from the state, the latter that there are natural rights that pre-exist society. The first divinizes the people, the latter

stresses the dignity of the person. The first views government as the instrument to harmonize the individual's behavior with society's objectives, the latter views government's role as creating conditions for the individual to exercise his free will in line with public duties. The first recognizes man as the ultimate being, the latter knows that we were created by God to serve Him.

Beginning in the mid-1880s, every pope from Pius IX to Benedict XVI has condemned socialism. Pope Pius XI stated that "no one can be at the same time a good Catholic and a true socialist." In his encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno*, he explained:

"Whether considered as a doctrine, or an historical fact, or a movement, Socialism, if it remains truly Socialism, even after it has yielded to truth

and justice on the points which we have mentioned, cannot be reconciled with the teachings of the Catholic Church because its concept of society itself is utterly foreign to Christian truth."

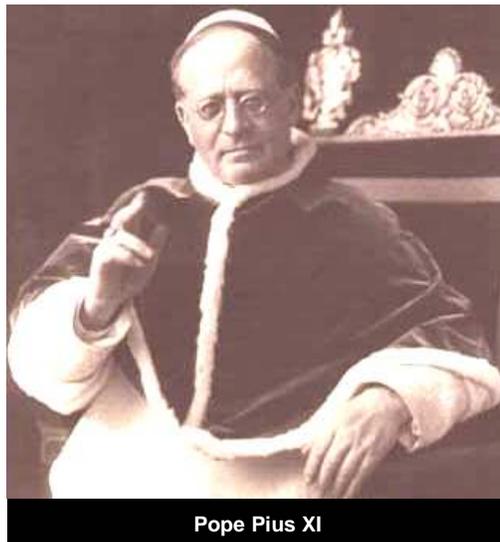
Socialism has been present at least since the mid-1800s and perhaps earlier. It succeeds when Christianity is in decline, and is minimized when Christianity flourishes and provides the basis for political and social action.

In the aftermath of World War I when the old European order was destroyed and traditional organizations, including the Church, were weakened, there was a great deal of so-

cial unrest as zealots competed to create new forms of governance. Communism arose in Russia, Nazism in Germany, and Fascism in Italy. All were forms of socialism, but each had a different view for organizing the masses. Communism was built on class identity – "Workers of the world unite" – and created an international socialism that transcended national borders. Nazism stressed race as the key ideology, where only "authentic" Germans were to be trusted with authority. Italian fascism emphasized the nation as the primary identifier, establishing a national socialism in which state-sanctioned interest groups would advise the state which would act in the national interest.

While each of these ideologies had a strong authoritarian component, in the United States a "softer" version of socialism has been developing. Several presidents moved to "perfect" society through the power of the government.

(Continued on page 10)



Pope Pius XI



I Already Have Insurance at Work



Many jobs offer some form of group term life insurance. Often, this insurance is an employee benefit provided at no charge, or for a small co-pay. Knowing that this coverage exists may convince someone that he doesn't need to discuss personally owned life insurance with a professional agent. That would be a mistake.

Most forms of group life insurance are limited in amount. That amount may be tied to salary or some other benchmark, but often there is a cap. That cap may be dangerously low for your family's needs should you die. In fact, in the absence of a detailed needs analysis (which I'll be happy to provide, free of charge), any employer-provided coverage may be completely unrelated to needs at death. In addition, the amount of group insurance offered is almost always reduced – and sometimes dramatically – when you retire.

Especially today, there is the very real possibility that you could change employers or lose your job. Or that your benefits could be reduced. In either case you could – one day - find yourself without coverage. If your health has changed in the meantime, you might also find yourself unable to secure individual protection.

While group life helps, it does not replace the need for individually owned life insurance. I'll be happy to meet with you and provide a free, custom-tailored needs analysis, so that you'll know exactly where you stand.

Call me – let's talk.

Fraternally,

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



REFLECTIONS-JULY (Continued from page 8)

Family Potluck Cookout & Movie Night

The next Family Movie Night is on Friday, October 5, from 6 pm to 9 pm. As usual, there will be a movie for the children, conviviality for the parents, and food for all.



The film, *Dolphin Tale*, is rated as PG for a slight amount of violence in one or two scenes with the dolphin.

Cost is \$5 per person or \$15 for three or more. Main entry and soda are included.

Serving of food begins at 6:00 pm, with the movie at dusk. It will be outdoors if possible. As the weather will be brisk, bring a blanket and warm clothes.

Families with a last name beginning with A-M are asked to bring a side dish, and those with names beginning with N-Z bring a dessert.

For those on the email list, an evite will be sent.

For further information, contact Felice D'Avella at feliced13@hotmail.com or 301-717-0784.

Woodrow Wilson was the first of the transformative presidents, enacting a progressive social agenda that was unmatched to that time. Franklin Delano Roosevelt continued the transformation with his programs of the New Deal, making government the largest employer in the nation. Lyndon Johnson initiated the Great Society in which government expanded into issues of poverty, civil rights, and culture. Today, Barack Obama is working to create an all inclusive "maternal" government that will take care of people from cradle to grave.

The greatest obstacle to the success of socialism has been Christianity. Hence, leaders of socialist movements have worked to purge Christianity from society and replace it with a secular faith whose tenets are synonymous with their agendas. In doing so, they divinize the state and try to remold society to their image in which God is irrelevant and man supreme.

The Church can never accept socialism. As Pope Pius XII said, "The Church will fight this battle to the end, for it is a question of supreme values: the dignity of man and the salvation of souls."

As members of the Knights of Columbus concerned about the future of our nation, there are several things we can do. First and foremost, pray. Without God, our efforts will be for naught; with God, everything is possible. Then, educate people, especially your children and grandchildren, about the meaning and dangers of socialism. Stand up for your values; be willing to be criticized. Finally, use the power of the ballot to choose leaders of the government who will represent your and the Church's values.

Vivat Jesus!





SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

We had 60 members and guests attend our Fall Cocktail Party/Meeting. We were honored to have Sr. Mary Adams, Fr. Francis Alves, Fr. Percival D'Silva, Fr. John McKay, Fr. Paul Nguyen, and Deacon Bob Hubbard as our guests. Many thanks to: Darlene Coleman, Helen Brennan and Carole Fox for chairing this event; our "holy" bartenders Fr. Paul Nguyen and Deacon Bob Hubbard; Dora Bailey for the 50.50; Charlie and Marge Swanke for the table decorations; Jean Gordon for the flyer; and the attractive young ladies at the front door — Sr. Mary Adams, Carole Fox, and Alice Wallis.



PGK Bob Waters

We are having problems scheduling meetings, with the parking lot rented to Suburban Hospital. Our Charter, which goes back "forever," has our meeting on the second Wednesday of each month. Two of these 12 days, we meet at restaurants, and on another two we meet upstairs. Hence, we require the hall on eight days a year! Nights are out, as a majority of our members do not drive after dark. We cannot meet on Saturdays as the hall is often rented. On Sundays in the fall, there are Redskin games, with a crowd gathering in the lounge.

We have a choice. Meet on Sunday af-

ternoons or be forced out of our council! And we were the ones who built this council.

We are looking to have a Halloween Party on October 28. Watch for the flyer.

GOD BLESS AMERICA AND OUR MILITARY!

PRAYER CORNER

In your prayers remember:

Eureka and Elizabeth Arcand, Tom Becker, William "Will" Bello, Maggie De Bettencourt, 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, 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 Zello.

In your prayers, please remember our member Norb Wittrock and his family. Norb was 100 years old.

Council Leaders

CHAPLAINS

Rev. Msgr. Vincent S. Gatto - 301-762-2143
Deacon Robert Hubbard—301-942-1522
Deacon John Shewmaker - 301-986-8658

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RECORDER

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ADVOCATE

John T. Bergin—

INSIDE GUARD

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William R. Ruane—301-530-6755

TRUSTEES

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2-Year—Thomas W. Tappan—301-365-3128
3-Year—Terence P. Ryan—301-215-9197

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

Michael Horan—240-793-1169

CHURCH & PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES

Peter Ferrigno, PGK—301-469 - 6099

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Chris Ryan—301-335-6082

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

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Felice d'Avella—301-717-0784

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Matthew Morin—

MEMBERSHIP

Arthur Harris—301-530-4868

RETENTION

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Robert C. Waters, PGK—301-493-8883

FIRST DEGREE TEAM CAPTAIN

Joseph Doniger—240-566-2150

4th DEGREE - O'BOYLE ASSEMBLY

Gregory Curtin—301-654-5543

PRESIDENT, KAY-CEE CLUB

Burt Murray—301-946-3573

PRESIDENT, LADIES AUXILIARY

Erin Dolan Bailey—301-

WEBMASTER

Matthew Flynn—301-942-8491

CHATTER EDITOR

Lawrence P. Grayson, PGK - 301-933-8731
e-mail - LPGrayson@verizon.net

COUNCIL OFFICES

LOUNGE—301-530-1628

FINANCIAL SECRETARY—301-530-2427

KAY-CEE CLUB—301-530-0258

Rental Corner

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

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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**November CHATTER Deadline:
October 20, 2012**

ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Color Corps Meeting at Rock Creek 7:30 PM	2	3	4	5 Family Movie Night Dinner 6:00 pm Movie at dusk	6
7	8  Columbus Day	8 Executive Committee Meeting 7:30 PM	10	11 Rosary 7:30 PM Business Meeting 8:00 PM	12	13
14	15	16	17 K-C Club 7:00 PM	18 O'Boyle Mtg Rosensteel Cncl 7:30 PM	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Rosary 7:30 PM Social Meeting 8:00 PM	26	27
28 Seniors Club Halloween Party	29	30	31  Halloween	October		

Visit the Council Website at www.kofc2797.org