



THE KNIGHT CHATTER



April 2013

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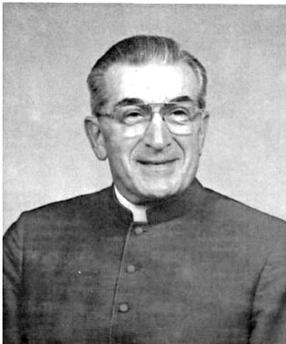
Kathleen Lively and Jon Lowe accept check for \$18,000 for the Tommy Joe-Jon Lowe Foundation to support childhood diabetic research from GK Joe Myers and PGK Mike Horan; Ryan and Owen O'Keefe hold the check. For more details, see page 3.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

REV. MSGR. VINCENT S. GATTO, KHSH

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

JOSEPH D. MYERS



Chaplain Gatto

Dear Knights,

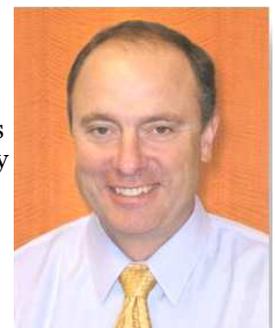
The Church in her wisdom has made sure that each of the celebrations that take place during the Sacred Triduum has its own special character. Along with having their own special points of emphasis, the celebrations move us from the events that occurred at the Last Super to Our Lord's Passion and death on the Cross, to the Easter Vigil when we joyfully celebrate Our Lord's Resurrection from the dead.

Specifically, each celebration that occurs during the Sacred Triduum invites us to take another step in growing spiritually, strengthening and deepening our relationship with the Lord. Accepting the invitation requires us to open ourselves more fully to God so that we may experience anew the mysteries by which we have been saved and redeemed by Christ. This is possible because our belief and understanding as Catholic Christians that what we do here together is not merely remembrance of events that happened

(Continued on page 6)

Worthy Brothers All,

I want to start by apologizing to you all for this column as I know that there is no way I can top last month's entry in the *Chatter*. I was pleasantly surprised by all of the unsolicited feedback I received from so many of you about my account of an experience at the Pines of Rome. I guess folks do actually read the *Chatter*! Who knew?



Grand Knight Myers

With only two more articles to look forward to writing before the end of this Columbian Year, we have a lot to be proud of as a Council and lots still to look forward to. In looking back;

- We presented Jon Lowe with a check for \$18,000 in support of the Tommy Joe-Jon Lowe Foundation for Childhood Diabetes Research and Treatment. This money was raised at a January 26th Council Event chaired by Kevin Carlson.
- Emory Linder and I presented a check for \$4,000 to

(Continued on page 3)



DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

Worthy Brothers All,

Happy Easter! or Happy belated Easter!

Although this is a very somber and sacred time on our Church calendar, it is also a very joyful occasion. We commemorate the sufferings and death of Jesus during Holy Week and then celebrate His triumph over death and evil on Easter Sunday. St Paul tells us, if Easter did not happen then we would not have been saved.

We also welcome in a new Pope! I am overjoyed, they selected a Jesuit. It almost justifies the huge fortune I paid out and my parents paid out for an education in a Jesuit HS. It confirms that our Jesuit mentors were not renegade clergy after all J

The news mentioned that many Catholics have turned away from the faith. Some have become atheist, and some have just become indifferent. Our new pope has a monumental task ahead of him, to head off the ongoing scandals, and to rejuvenate the Church in general. IF you know of a friend or relative who has lost faith and left the Church encourage them to read two books, "Proof of Heaven" by neuro-surgeon Dr. Eben Alexander and "The Boy Who Met Jesus –Segatashya of Kileho " by Immaculee ILIBAGIZA .

As we approach the end of this Columbian year, remember to invite your friends and relatives to join our ranks. And remember to attend council meetings and functions. Your brother knights, hope to see you there.

Vivat Jesus !

Wes Chin

District Deputy No. 18

ROSARY AT 7:30 P.M.

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

Come and join us!



Membership Corner

It is hard to believe that we are three fourths of the way through the Columbian Year. As we enter the final quarter, we need to focus on trying to keep up our tradition of achieving the Star Council award. As always we need to keep our recruiting momentum going.

One of the most difficult things to do when recruiting a new member is to get up the courage to ask an eligible Catholic man to join our order. We are asked to go up to a complete stranger and ask them to join the K of C. For some members this is easy, others find it very hard to do.

For these members, it is probably a lot easier to talk to someone they know about joining the Knights of Columbus. Almost every member in Ohio has a father, brother, son, nephew, grandson, in-law or cousin who is not a member of the K of C but is eligible to become a member of your council. The most important thing is to ask. You are around eligible Catholic men often. Tell them about the Knights and ask them to join, its that easy.

The Rock Creek Council holds many social activities during the year that bring brother knights, parish members, and community members together. These events offer excellent recruitment opportunities. Events show our candidates that we work hard, but also have fun.

When you are recruiting keep in mind the future. One of the things that will help keep our council alive and active is to recruit younger members. These younger members will carry our order to the next decade and beyond. Young members bring new ideas and can take some of the burdens off the more experienced members. These young men are vital to our growth.

When we talk about recruiting we also have to keep retention in mind. Every new Knight has a desire and purpose for joining our Order. He and his family make a commitment to become part of a larger community of faith and fraternalism. He may also be attracted by our charitable contributions, fraternal activities or even our outstanding insurance program. The council plays an important role in keeping a Brother Knight active. We must provide activities and programs that stimulate interest for the Brother Knight and his family in the Knights. As with all communities, members have expectations that should be met or they will lose interest. In some situations, members fall on hard times and continuing their membership becomes difficult. Membership retention becomes every Knight's responsibility.

The Council will be holding a 1st degree on Thursday, April 25th. Candidates must arrive in the lounge no later than 7:15pm. Start asking potential members now so we can insure that we make Star Council again this year.

Vivat Jesus!

Art Harris

Membership Chairman



Save The Date! — Saturday April 6th

At Rock Creek Council

Venture back to Old Bethesda for the First
McDonald's Raw Bar Reunion

Coach Tommy Hite, a long time member of the council, owned the McDonald's Raw Bar in Bethesda, which was a popular Friday night hang out for Catholic families. The restaurant operated from the 30s until it closed in 1987 due to metro construction.

Featuring Live Music By
Johnny & The Headhunters
Make plans to join Timmy, Michael & Johnny

With old friends for Memories and Reminiscences
About the Coach, Evelyn & the Raw Bar

More Details To Follow

Car Raffle Results

Thanks to everyone who participated in the car raffle in 2012. Rock Creek sold 6284 tickets, putting us in 4th place for the state. Total tickets sold state wide were 239,739. Results are as follows:

St. John Regis Council – 11,538 tickets sold
Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Council – 10,917 tickets sold
St. Michael's/Poplar Springs Council – 7864 tickets sold
Rock Creek Council – 6284 tickets sold

As always, our goal is to place first. Please continue to support our efforts to bring the glory back to Rock Creek!

Our council kept \$3,770 of the raffle proceeds. It added to this and presented a check for \$4,000 to our friends at the Aleethia Foundation, which provides Friday night dinners for wounded service members and their families from the Walter Reed National Military Medical Centers. See the accompanying story and photo on page 6.

We will continue to donate 100% of our raffle proceeds to this organization as long as young men and women are injured defending our nation. If you did not purchase or sell raffle tickets last year, consider doing so this year by dropping me an email at emory@sundun.com or call me at 240-508-2070. I will fill out your tickets for you on my printer. All you need to do is send a check. Please consider buying 50 or more raffle tickets.

Emory Linder

Car Raffle Chairman

Diabetics Fund Raiser

On January 26, the council held a dance and party with a live band as a fund-raiser for the Tommy Joe-Jon Lowe Foundation for Childhood Diabetes Research and Treatment. Over 350 people attended the indoor-outdoor event, including some 50 council members. It raised \$18,000 for the Foundation.

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

our friends at the Aleethia Foundation during our March 15, 2013 Wounded Warriors event. Rock Creek Council passed on 100% of the funds raised from the Car Raffle ticket sales to support our wounded service members and their families from the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. This contribution was made possible by the hard work on behalf of the Council and our Car Raffle Chairperson (Emory) who was responsible for generating these funds. Additionally, our Bar Manager (Mike Horan) pulled together a great meal for our guests making this event a success. We were supported by 13 eighth graders from St. Jane de Chantal who volunteered to serve food and make our guests feel welcome.

- On Saturday, March 23rd, DGK Chris Ryan and I assembled a few more student volunteers to perform our quarterly 'Adopt-a-Road' cleanup of Greentree Road.

Now it's time to look forward to the Party Season! Our State Convention is May 3rd – 5th in Ocean City, and it's our 75th anniversary this June 22nd and we are going to celebrate both! By many accounts we have quite a bit to celebrate. I'm excited about our recent accomplishments and the direction the Council continues to head in. Our membership is growing and is very active. We have so much to be thankful for, and so much to look forward to. Please continue to support the growth and well being of our council in whatever capacity you feel most comfortable. Our collective & active participation in membership, fraternity, charity, and our community continues to define who we are as Knights!

Before I close, I would like to recognize a brother Knight who has been an indispensable asset to the Council and is always there to help out when asked. Scott "Lefty" Roth is the April Knight of the Month from Rock Creek Council 2797! Please stop by any Thursday evening to wish him well...just stay out of his parking spot.

Joseph Myers

Grand Knight

Welcome to Our Newest Members

Brain Lacey and Kurt Hammond transferred into our Council on March 14. Welcome aboard

Upcoming Degree Ceremonies

1st Degrees: April 25 and June 13

2nd Degree: None at our council

3rd Degree: None at our council

4th Degree: April 20

The 1st degrees will be held at Rock Creek Council; see page 10 for details on the 4th degree exemplification.



CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter and Mary Ann Ferrigno, Culture of Life Chaircouple



If you were to read that a certain country was killing 4,000 people every day, what would you think? Four thousand a day, 26,813 a week, 116,191 a month, 1,394 million a year. Yes, you guessed it. In 40 years, this brings the count to 55,772,015 abortions performed since the Supreme Court passed the

Roe v. Wade decision. There are those, still, who wonder why the pro-life movement has been doing “so-much-to-do-about-nothing.” If this imaginary country were to say, “This is our choice,” would that make a difference? However, this is the thinking mentality of our pro-choice advocates.

Congresswoman Gwen Moore stated, “Parenting is difficult on your best day. And it doesn’t serve children, and it doesn’t serve women to be forced into parenthood. And I think this is what the public has come to understand, that safe, legal abortions, are very important for the health of children, women, the institution of motherhood, family and ultimately our society.”

I find these words so very profound; yet, in reality, they are so hollow, since they only attempt to justify “murder.” As a pro-life individual, I will never give up the fight, for how could I ever face my “Maker,” if I were not one who has and will continue to fight against the pro-choice movement? Pray the Rosary of the Unborn. Pray for those who support abortion, that they will have a change of heart. Ask your lawmakers to stop the funding of Planned Parenthood. Another way to reduce abortion is through “Parental Consent Laws.” It has been shown that teen abortions have been reduced by 18.7 percent. It has also been shown that “Parental Notification Laws” only reduced minor abortions by 5 percent. Twenty-six states already have parental consent requirements.

The Cardinal Newman Society, currently celebrating its twentieth year, is a tremendous “On Line News” source. Following the recent State of the Union Address, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio stated, “But America is exceptional because we believe that every life, at every stage, is precious, and that everyone, everywhere, has a God-given right to go as far as their talents and hard work will take them.” He further stated that *Obamacare* goes contrary to this, because of its introduction to the biggest expansion for abortion in history.” The Susan B. Anthony List stated, “Senator Rubio is right. How we honor the worth of every human life is the true measure of our character. Our union can never be secure and strong until we protect the weakest and most vulnerable among us.”

Pro-abortion U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was speaking before a Harvard Law School recently and was asked about how she felt about abortion. She stated that she was in favor with *Roe v. Wade*, but

thought that the court had moved too quickly in reaching its decision. It was too quick because it made every existing law unconstitutional. She also felt that “The court should not be responsible for fixing society’s ills.” She continued, “It’s rare that a court will move unless the people want them to...Before every major change, it was people who saw that the laws were wrong, wanting them to change, were fighting to capture other people’s minds, and then the court is the last resort ... It has to be the people who want the change, and without them no change will be lasting.” This is what the pro-life movement is seeking, the growing opposition to legalized abortion. This is all the more a reason for saying the rosary, asking that more and more people will swing over to the pro-life side.

Jesuit Father John Conley, Professor of Philosophy and Theology at Loyola University in Baltimore, recently wrote an article in the American magazine, describing how he went from being a “personally opposed, about abortion should be legal” position to a “pro-life” position. He stated, “As the pro-life movement continues its resistance, the case against abortion has become stronger than ever. The omnipresent sonogram has graphically advanced it.” He went on further to say, “For those of us called into the pro-life movement, the defense of the right to life of the innocent can never become just one cause among others. It is a great cause, as compelling as our ancestors’ struggle against slavery or on behalf of labor...the struggle to protect the lives of the vulnerable at the dawn and dusk of existence is the pre-eminent civil rights issue of our age.” I believe that the pro-life movement could not be expressed more succinctly.

Quoting Blessed Mother Teresa: “The greatest destroyer of peace today it abortion, because it is a war against the child -- a direct killing of the innocent child. Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching the people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. That is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion.” God Bless

2013 Teachers' Program Raffles

Brother Knights, we are again running a 50-50 Teachers' Program Raffles to support our annual Teachers Appreciation Night on April 26. All teachers and the pastors from the parishes we support will be invited. A Teacher-of-the-Year will be selected from each school, and everyone will receive a memento of the evening. It is a great event and the teachers have a wonderful, enjoyable time.

There are two raffles, with drawings at the teachers event. Tickets for Raffle One are \$5 each or three for \$10. Tickets for Raffle Two are \$25 each or three for \$50. Tickets will be mailed soon, or you can send a check (with a return address label) payable to Rock Creek Council #2797, 5417 W Cedar Lane, Bethesda MD 20814.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter D. Ferrigno, PGK

The Cardinal Newman Society and others thank the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for still pointing out to the Obama Administration that the new changes on February 1, 2013, of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) still fall short of changes requested concerning sterilization, abortion and contraception found in the *Patient Protection and Affordability Act*, that is, *Obamacare*.

According to *Catholic Education Daily* – and as described in *Reflections* in the February issue of the *Knight Chatter* -- the U.S. bishops are asking us to join the “Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty.” To do this, they ask that Catholics: 1) Take part in a Eucharistic Holy Hour once a month; 2) Pray the Rosary daily, individually, or as a family, for life, marriage and religious liberty; 3) Being mindful of Mass intentions, especially on Sunday for the protection of life, marriage and religious liberty; 4) Pledge to fast each Friday until Christ the King, Sunday, November 24, 2013; 5) Participate in this summer’s second Fortnight for Freedom, during the two weeks preceding July 4th.

In a letter to the 112th Congress, February 15, Archbishop Lori told them that one of their many unfinished tasks was to restore the tradition of rights of conscience in health care that has long enjoyed bipartisan consensus. He concluded his letter, “In short, I hear that the federal government’s respect for believers and people of conscience no longer measure up to the treatment Americans have the right to expect from their elected representatives...A restoration of full respect for one of our Nation’s founding values is urgently needed. I urge you in the strongest terms possible to incorporate the provisions described above in the upcoming legislative proposals to fund the federal government.

There are some that question the resignation of our Holy Father by suggesting less favorable reasons. I am sure that the majority of us accept his reasons for doing so. His accomplishments were too plentiful for them to question his benefits to the Church. Being of the same age as our Holy Father, I am certain that the body can just do so much. For those who called him the “Nazi Pope,” shame on them. He and his predecessor, John Paul II, would not have given so much attention to improve Catholic-Jewish relations if they had any hatred for these people. However, there will always be those that do not understand that it was Jesus that said to Peter, “You are Peter, and upon this Rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

How can anyone with any faith in Christ, think that anything could ever destroy the Church? Some would ask, “What about Vatican II? Maybe a dip in the profile of the Faith, but not so any longer, thanks to our previous two popes. One will always find that both men and women of

the Church may demonstrate some weak moments. There may even have been some popes whose actions we do not approve of, but the Church still continued. Why shouldn’t it? It isn’t man-made. Because of this, liberals despise our previous pope, as well as the Church. They call the pope names and say that he hates women, and perpetuates *homophobia* and *Islamophobia*. They want to do their own thing and not have anyone tell them that they are wrong. What truly hurts the Church is the number of pseudo-Catholics who are doing their own thing, but still call themselves Catholics. It is the Church that says homosexual behavior is immoral and unnatural; it is the Church that says that the family is the fundamental unit of any society and that marriage consists of the union of one man and one woman; it is the Church that says contraception violates the fundamental reason for sex, namely to have children; it is the Church that says abortions and suicide and euthanasia are sinfully the taking of a life.

There are still, as of this writing, 38 states that appose same-sex marriage. The Supreme Court amended the U.S. Constitution to add an equal protection clause to the Fifth Amendment in 1954, and further made a mess of it in 1977 by calling this clause “an equal protection component.” It is from this point that the argument for same-sex marriage had an open door. It was then to follow that a homosexual judge named Vaughn Walker, in the U.S. District Court of San Francisco, ruled that California’s Proposition 8 violated the “equal protection clause,” regardless of how many lawyers held that the *Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)* is a federal law, and it should not be influenced by any state law.

The Supreme Court does not have the authority to amend the Constitution by itself, since they must also recognize that this protective clause does not even appear in the 14th Amendment. All of this has been written up in *The Constitution for Beginners*, by David New, a member of the Maryland and District of Columbia bars. In the book, he states, “Article V to the Constitution requires that the states must approve any proposed amendment. Therefore the Supreme Court should not have the authority to amend the Constitution by itself.” I surely hope that the lawyers, who are defending DOMA, have read this book carefully. Please pray that they have.

God Bless.

S O S

The Council’s historical files are missing much material. If any of you “old-timers” have memorabilia you are willing to part with — *Chatters* before 1995, old photos of council events, State Directories, programs, etc. — contact LPGrayson@verizon.net



Your Fun-Filled Lounge

Hours: Monday Thru Thursday 4-8
Friday 4-12, Saturday 2-8, Sunday 1-6
(closing hours are approximate, depending upon crowd)

The lounge has a busy spring schedule lined up this year. Watch the Nationals our great TVs.

The Knights Lounge is available to members for private parties, class socials, fund raisers and meetings during off hours. You can bring in your own food or let us handle all the details for you. The Knights Lounge is a great place to throw a very nice, yet inexpensive party. All parties must be pre arranged to avoid double bookings. Call Mike Horan at 240-793-1169 for details and to schedule your next party.

Want to show off your mad bartending skills? Here your chance. Sign up for a Saturday guest bartending shift. Bring in your friends and family and have some fun. You can make a few tips or use it as a fund raiser. Call Mike Horan for details.

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

See you n the lounge! Don't forget to sign the BOOK!

Lounge phone: 301-530-1628

Mike Horan: 240-793-1169

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1

a long time ago. Rather, as we remember those events, they and their effects are made present to us in the here and now by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit.

What we celebrate and what is made present to us during the Mass of the Lord's Supper we remember Jesus instituting the Holy Eucharist. Jesus did so in order to be perpetually present to the Church until the end of time. Jesus also instituted the Eucharist so that every time the Mass is celebrated He would be truly and really present to His faithful followers, nourishing them with His Body and Blood so they could continue to grow in holiness.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper calls us to remember several other important things. Jesus instituted the priesthood at the Last Supper so that there would be good and generous shepherds to serve the needs of God's people. The Mass of the Lord's Supper also recalls Jesus washing the feet of His disciples. This action reminds us that we need to turn to Jesus every day in prayer so that He can cleanse and renew us. Time will, in turn, help us to grow in our love for Him and see His face more readily in all those we meet. We offer ourselves more freely and generously in love and service to others, so that when our earthly pilgrimage of faith ends we may be warmly welcomed into the heavenly home that Jesus has prepared for us.

Monsignor Gatto

Supporting Those Who Served



Given our proximity to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, the Council has made a commitment to be of service to those who have been injured in the line of duty by sponsoring the Aleethia Foundation, which has been

providing dinners for the veterans and their families every Friday night since October 2003. These warriors are true heroes who are going through unimaginable rehabilitation from very traumatic injuries.

On March 15, we hosted a dinner for the third time, and had the assistance of 13 students from St. Jane de Chantal School who volunteered to serve food and make our guests feel welcome and help provide a family-friendly atmosphere. It was very moving to watch the children interact with the wounded service members. Two of our more inspiring guests were quadruple amputees. We were told that only four quadruple amputees have survived the conflicts in the middle east since 2001, and here were two of them *walking*, eating and interacting with their children at the Rock Creek Mansion that evening. It was truly humbling experience.

In addition, as a result of the car raffle (see the story on

page 3), chaired by Emory Linder, we were able to provide the Aleethia Foundation with a check for \$4,000 to continue their great work for our wounded veterans.

For more information about the Aleethia Foundation, check out its website at www.aleethia.org.



GK Joe Myers with Emory Linder presenting a check for \$4,000 to Hal Koster of the Aleethia Foundation



Rock Creek Council — The Resplendent Years

With its own clubhouse, purchased in 1952, council membership grew rapidly, expanding from the original 65v members to over 700 at its 25th anniversary in 1963. Most members were young, energetic, and anxious to make the council a success. The council became a significant source of social activity for them and their families, as they held Valentine parties, Heidelberg Night/Oktobefests, Nights in Roma, International Buffet Nights, a Gay '90s Casino Night, (K)Night at the Races, golf outings, crab and shrimp feasts, Halloween parties, children's Christmas parties, picnics on Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day, St. Patrick's Day dances, New Year's Eve dances, installations, and anniversary parties, among other events.

In 1964, the council began an annual father-and-sons sports night. It was a great hit with overflow crowds, as many local celebrities, as well as players from the Washington Senators and the Redskins, attending as guests. In 1969, Jim Lemon, manager of the Senators, and Steve Gilmartin, a radio sportscaster at WMAL, were present. The following year, Terry Hourigan, a disk jockey known for his radio show, "Music Till Dawn, served as master of ceremonies.

In 1974, sports night was filled with professional stars: Redskins tight end Jerry Smith, New England Patriots tight end Bob Windsor, boxing heavyweight Marty Gallagher (who once KO'd Tony Galento), baseball's Bosey Berger who played for the Cleveland Indians, Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Yankees, and the University of Maryland track and field star Frank Costello, as well as numerous high school coaches and college athletes.

The council honored the clergy by instituting an annual Clergy Night, to which all priests from area parishes were invited to an evening of conviviality. The event drew many prominent individuals. In 1969, Walter Masterson, a former pitcher for the Washington Senators, was the speaker. In 1971, Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, the Vatican's Apostolic Delegate to the United States, was guest of honor. In 1974, Archbishop Jean Jagot, the newly appointed Apostolic Delegate, attended. In 1975, Archbishop William Baum and Bishop Eugene Marino came. In 1976, CIA Director William Colby was the guest speaker, and the following year, now-Cardinal Baum was the guest of honor and Maryland Lieutenant Governor Blair Lee III the speaker. The popularity of Clergy Night continued in succeeding years.

Spiritual activities were not forgotten. The council conducted an annual Memorial Mass for its deceased members and held father-and-sons Communion breakfasts beginning in the 1940s. So that Masses could be conducted reverently in the council home, one of the members built a wooden altar in 1971, which has been used ever since.

In 1958, the council began an annual memorial Day Field Mass at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, and which it continued for many years. With the cooperation of St. Jane de Chantal Parish, the council initiated a monthly Mind Mass for exceptional children; the children and their parents attend Mass at the church and then come to the council for refreshments. This activity began about fifty years ago, and continues as a monthly council activity.

In July 1942, the widow of Col. McDonough donated a gold medal presented to her husband by a Knights of Columbus council in San Francisco, to Rock Creek. In the 1960s, the council began designating a member who had made outstanding contributions to the council as Knight-of-the-Year; the medal was and continues to be presented to that person to wear for the coming year.

In the 1960s, the council began a Charity Ball to support the Joseph P. Kennedy Institute for the Handicapped. Within a few years, the event outgrew the council hall, and was taken over by Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle under the auspices of the archdiocese.

For those who were stock-market-minded, the council started an Investment Club in 1970. It continued for almost 40 years. And for those who had other financial interests, there was the poker group that met regularly at the council.

For the musically-talented, the council had a glee club in the 1970s, and in June 1975 it staged seven performances of two plays – *Wait Until Dark* and *See How They Run* – with college and dinner theater actors -- in a large tent seating about 400 people on the council lawn.

Athletics was a given. The council participated regularly in a mixed gender duck pin Maryland Knights of Columbus bowling tournament, becoming tournament champions in 1973. It also fielded a slow-pitch softball team for many years. In 1973, the council's team was the state slow-pitch softball champion, a feat it repeated the following year. In 1974 and the succeeding two years, the council sponsored the Rock Creek Council Knights of Columbus Mile at CYO Invitational Track Meet.

The decades of the 50's through 80's were memorable years at the council.



Tax Day



April 15 - tax day - is right around the corner. It's become popular this time of year to encourage the opening of an IRA or similar retirement annuity, or the depositing of additional funds into an existing account, as a tax savings vehicle.

A secondary approach is to tout the rate of interest that money in one of these accounts can earn. Let me join the chorus of folks encouraging you to open or add funds to an annuity, but for a different reason.

Certainly, contributing money to a Knights of Columbus annuity will allow you to save some money on your income tax return. And our annuities do pay a very competitive interest rate, consistent with our primary goal of absolute safety of principal. Opening or adding to an annuity for these reasons, however, strikes me as taking a short-term view of a product that is designed to provide long-term security. How much security? How does a retirement income that you cannot outlive – guaranteed – sound to you?

Here at the Knights of Columbus, you can open a retirement annuity for as little as \$300. Consistent and disciplined savings placed into that annuity over time can guarantee you an income at retirement that you cannot outlive. That guarantee – along with the fact that no one has ever lost money left in a Knights of Columbus annuity (remember – **absolute** safety of principal), really will

provide you with peace of mind.

I am happy to meet with you – at your convenience and in your home – to explain in detail the benefits of opening a Knights of Columbus annuity, along with the benefits of our top-rated life insurance and long term care insurance plans.

As you ponder all the things that may not work out as you proceed toward retirement, think about one thing you can do to help yourself – opening a Knights of Columbus annuity. It's reasonably priced (\$300 to start), guaranteed, and controlled by someone you trust – you!

Call me – let's talk. Fraternaly,

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

Note: The council has two Financial Benefit Advisors. Mike Patten is serving all members whose last names begin with L through Z. Our new second Advisor, Kurt Hammond, is serving the members whose last names begin with A through K.

Do not hesitate to contact Mike at the information above, or Kurt by calling him at 301- 310-1853 (cell) or by email at kurtiss.hammond@kofc.org.

Rental Corner

Do you recognize your council home?

The Rock Creek Mansion was recently the site of a fancy 170 person bat mitzvah. In order to create a



"separate" adult cocktail area, the client arranged for draping separating the Guido Hall from the main ballroom. The rich burgundy fabric and silver chavari chairs created an elegant look.

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

The Rock Creek Mansion will have weddings, reunions, theme parties, mitzvahs and milestone birthday parties this year. We already have Christmas parties on the calendar. Visit our website at www.rockcreekmansion.com and tell your friends.

And remember, MEMBERS GET A RENTAL DISCOUNT!

Julie Buckingham Carter
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REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, PFN

Pope Francis: What Might We Expect

On Wednesday, March 13, on the fifth ballot, Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, S.J. was elected as the 265th successor of St. Peter. As pope, he chose the name Francis. Here were breaks from tradition: the first person from the Americas, the first Jesuit, the first Pope Francis to head the Barque of St. Peter.

After 35 years of continuity in Church direction, through the reigns of Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI, what must we expect of this new Petrine leader? His two predecessors upheld the Church's traditional teachings against abortion, artificial contraception, same-sex marriage, and ordination of women, while striving for clerical discipline, to rein in abuses implemented in the "spirit" of the Second Vatican Council, and increase the outreach of and zeal for the faith through a New Evangelization.

In the short time since the election, certain preliminary indicators give us a clue to what might lie ahead for the Church. Like his namesake, Pope Francis is devoted to the poor and the indigent. As a cardinal, he demonstrated deep compassion for the victims of sexual diseases, even celebrating Mass at an AIDS hospice, where he washed and kissed the feet of 12 patients. At a gathering of Latin American bishops in 2007, he said: "The unjust distribution of goods persists, creating a situation of social sin that cries out to Heaven and limits the possibilities of a fuller life for so many of our brothers." Although a strong proponent of social justice, he approaches it from the concepts of charity and love, rather than with the political aspects of liberation theology.

He has been steadfast in the defense of life, staunchly opposing abortion and euthanasia. In 2005, he celebrated the Mass for Holy Thursday in a maternity hospital, where he washed the feet of 12 expectant and new mothers. Before he did so, he told them: "All of you are women who have chosen life. I, as a priest, am going to repeat the act of Jesus, and carry out a concrete act of service for women who have said yes to life. In washing your feet, I am washing those of all mothers, and of my mother, who felt me in her womb."



At a gathering of priests and laity in 2007, the then-cardinal supported life even in cases of rape saying: "[I]n Argentina we have the death penalty. A child conceived by the rape of a mentally ill or retarded woman can be condemned to death." Then in 2012, he said, "Abortion is never a solution...respect the human being small and helpless...allow birth and then be creative in the search for ways to bring it to its full development." On the morning after his election as pope, he went to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, where he prayed and while there blessed the unborn child of a pregnant woman.

When the issue of same-sex marriage arose in Argentina, Cardinal Bergoglio opposed legislation to legalize it, resulting in a public rebuke from his country's president. While the legislation was being considered, he wrote to the contemplative nuns in Argentinian monasteries, asking them to pray, saying: "At stake is the identity and survival of the family: father, mother and children. At stake are the lives of many children who will be discriminated against in advance, and deprived of their human development given by a father and a mother and willed by God. At stake is the total rejection of God's law engraved in our hearts. Let us not be naive: this is not simply a political struggle, but it is an attempt to destroy

God's plan. It is not just a bill (a mere instrument) but a 'move' of the father of lies who seeks to confuse and deceive the children of God."

The new Pope has also been a staunch defender of life in its latter stages. In 2011, he denounced a culture in which the elderly are treated as if they are disposable and worthless due to their advanced age, stating: "In Argentina there is clandestine euthanasia. Social services pay up to a certain point; if you pass it, 'die, you are very old.' Today, elderly people are discarded when, in reality, they are the seat of wisdom of the society."

Pope Francis recognizes that, as beneficial as these social actions are, they must be carried out with a transcendental purpose, with sacramental reverence. In the absence of

(Continued on page 10)



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

All Sir Knights are encouraged to attend the Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly monthly meetings held at the Fr. Rosensteel Emerald Room. The next meeting is Thursday, April 18, and begins with 7:30pm Rosary and meeting at 8 pm. A social with meal and drinks will follow. The Rock Creek Council has many members who are Sir Knights and should attend these meetings. In a few months, our Council Inside Guard Greg Curtin will be elected to the position of Assembly Faithful Navigator and will assume his responsibilities beginning July 1, 2013. He will need all of our support so that he may have a successful tenure.



The annual Fourth Degree Exemplification will be held at the Colony South Hotel, Clinton, Md. on Saturday, April 20, beginning 12 noon. Our Council has several candidates who have committed themselves or expressed interest in taking this Degree. This Exemplification is the biggest event of the Columbian Year for the Archdiocese of Washington District (AWD) and will attract candidates from the twelve assemblies within the District.

Our Assembly will participate in the washing of the Vietnam Memorial Wall on Saturday, June 1, beginning 6 am. All SK's are welcome and should meet at the Fr. Rosensteel Council parking lot at 5:30 am. Please wear your red Assembly shirt. If you don't own an Assembly shirt, then any red shirt will suffice.

Spring is here! Lent has taught us patience and to overcome our sins by prayer, fasting, and works of mercy. I pray that all had a joyful Easter as you awaited the resurrection of Christ, our savior and master. Keep Pope Francis in your prayers as he begins the reign over his flock of 1.2 billion Catholics.

God Bless!

SK Neil Dorian

Faithful Admiral

4th Degree District Website

The Archdiocese of Washington District of the Fourth Degree has created a new website that describes the purpose and activities of 4th degree, as well as material on patriotism by Catholics. Included are ten articles by Lawrence Grayson on heroic Catholic military chaplains.

The articles appeared in the Chatter in the past few years, but you can find the entire collection on this website. The website address is <http://www.awddistrict.org>. The articles on chaplains can be found under the tab Catholic Patriots, or directly accessed at <http://awddistrict.org/index.php/catholic-patriotism/military-chaplains>

Remember Our Sick and Deceased

Sick and Distressed:

Clothy B. Ibanez (mother of PGK Roberto Ibanez), Chip Collins (friend of Tappan family), Julie Wood (sister-in-law of Tom Tappan), Mike Moris, Barbara Waters (sister-in-law of PGK Robert Waters), PGK Jim Kane, PGK Gene Hogan, Edwina Wittrock, Carol Hanley, Lisa Davis, Mary Ann Ferrigno, Trish Morin (wife of Tom Morin), and those on the Seniors' sick list (p. 11)



Recently Deceased:

PGK/SK Jack Cunningham, Gene Jewett (friend of Tom Tappan), Regina (Jean) England, Patti Carter (wife of FN of the Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly), John Laux (member), John O'Donnel (member for 29 years) and Jack O'Brien (nephew of Cathy Ryan, wife of DGK Chris Ryan)

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

REFLECTIONS

(Continued from page 9)

this, he said, the Church will be nothing but a compassionate NGO [i.e., non-governmental organization]. As cardinal, he led the bishops of Latin America in developing a joint statement, called the *Aparecida Document*, on the situation of the Church in their region. The document states: "We should commit ourselves to 'eucharistic coherence', that is, we should be conscious that people cannot receive Holy Communion and at the same time act or speak against the commandments, in particular when abortion, euthanasia, and other serious crimes against life and family are facilitated. This responsibility applies particularly to legislators, governors, and health professionals."

In his first homily as pope, given at Mass with the cardinals in the Sistine Chapel, he spoke about the need for moving forward with the Lord and having the courage "to walk in the Lord's presence, with the cross of the Lord; to build the Church upon the blood of the Lord, which was poured out on the cross; and to confess the only glory there is: Christ crucified. And in this way the Church will go forward."

These markers are modest and do not predict future actions. They do, however, tell us something of the heart and the values of Pope Francis that will guide his decisions.



SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

We had 70 members and guests attend our annual St. Pat's Party. We were honored to have Msgr. John MacFarland, Fr. Joe Perkins, Fr. Kyle Ingles (Ascension Church), Deacon Bob Hubbard, Deacon John Shewmaker, and Br. Ed Adams.



PGK Bob Waters

Congratulations to our newest members: Susan Evansky, Judy Pretka, and Oscar Sejas! Happy Birthday to our former VP Marge Swanke!

GOD BLESS AMERICA AND OUR MILITARY!

PRAYER CORNER

In your prayers remember:

Eureka and Elizabeth Arcand, Tom Becker, Maggie De Bettencourt, Lily Callowhill, Maureen Collins, Lisa Davis (wife of Scott), 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, Angela Lazear (wife of Harry), Richard Lillis, Julia Marcus, James Marketos, Rich Mylnarczyk, Burt Murray, Eugene O'Neill, Ralph Oviedo, Sr. Maureen Patrice, Fr. David Pollak, Mary Rainey, Joan Reed, Mimi Rozansky (Tom Mitchel), 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, Edwina Wittrock, Louise Young, Karen Zack, and Fran Zello.

For our special prayers this month, please remember our Past Treasurer Jack Cunningham, Jean England, Patti Carter, wife of FN George Carter (Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly), Anne Ryan, who was on our sick-list, and Jane Meek Jones, the mother of Danny (Katie O'Connell) Jones. All have died.

Many thanks to the same members I thank each month, as well as Sally McCarthy who helped at the door. Thanks to Dorothy Bush for the music, Chris and Mike Horan for the setting up the hall on short notice, and Chesapeake catering for the food. A special thanks to Sean Culkin for bringing his Irish "School of Dance." They provided great entertainment. We kept the price low to return some dues money to our members. This function resulted in a \$500 loss.

We again had no volunteers to chair a Spring Fling in April (an easy affair to do) or a function in May. I think the same folks who volunteer each month are worn out. We will have a regular meeting for planning on the second Wednesday on April.

I am working with the council for help on dates for our meetings. Our options have greatly decreased!

During my recent visit to Florida (I drove back to run the St. Pat's Party), I met our Past President Bill Thews who said hello to all. I also saw Marie Perkins, widow of Win Perkins, who also sends her best.

Lots of "Hens," So Few "Roosters"



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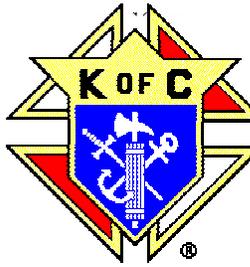
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May CHATTER Deadline:
April 15, 2013

ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Color Corps Meeting at Rock Creek 7:30 PM	4	5	6
7 Divine Mercy Sunday	8	9 Executive Committee Meeting 7:30 PM	10 Seniors Meeting Noon	11 Rosary 7:30 PM Business Meeting 8:00 PM	12	13
14	15	16	17 K-C Club 7:00 PM	18 Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly Rosary 7:30 PM Meeting 8:00 PM	19	20 4th Degree Exemplification
21	22	23	24	25 Rosary 7:30 PM 1st Degree 8:00 PM	26	27
28	29	30	April			