



THE KNIGHT CHATTER

July-August 2013

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The Council's newly installed officers (L-R): Chancellor Gary Biggs, Recorder Peter Ferrigno, PGKII Roberto Ibanez, Chaplain Msgr. Vincent Gatto, Warden Richard Heim, Trustee Terence Ryan, Grand Knight Chris Ryan, Lecturer Dan Crowe, Deputy Grand Knight Jamie Caulfield, Chaplain Bob Hubbard, Past Grand Knight Joe Myers, Seniors President Bob Waters, and Advocate Joe Murphy. For more photos, see page 7.

Scheduled Council Degrees

First Degrees: September 12, November 14., January 23, March 27, and June 12

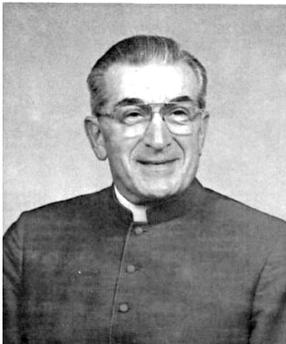
Second Degree: December 12

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

REV. MSGR. VINCENT S. GATTO, KHSH

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

CHRIS RYAN



Chaplain Gatto

Dear Knights,

The New Evangelization is really the Christian mission to manifest the presence of Christ in the world and gather people into God's kingdom.

God has created everyone and everything for a purpose. One only reaches his full potential when he fulfills his purpose.

There is a Christian purpose that imposes a mission upon every

baptized person. It is our mission to manifest the presence of Christ in the world whereby we draw people into the kingdom of God. It is only in fulfilling this purpose that we can reach our fullest potential as Christians.

The disciples of the early Church clearly understood their purpose and were eager in fulfilling their mission. As they proclaimed Christ in word and deed, more and more people embraced salvation through unity with Christ and were drawn into the kingdom of God. The Acts of the Apostles proclaims the effect of their fulfilled mission. It tells us that

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Greetings Worthy Brothers,

As we begin the new Columbian year, I'm thankful for those who have served our Council so well. PGK Joe Myers is to be commended for his leadership this past year. He worked diligently to see that our Council implement financial controls, earned an award for another banner year in bringing in new members and oversaw many charitable events, including the revitalized Charles O'Hara Scholarship Fund. If that wasn't enough, he coordinated an energetic 75th Anniversary Gala at the end of June. Please extend your thanks to Joe as he transitions from GK to PGK, a title that's well deserved. Joe established the Knight of the Month parking space and it's his to use for the month of August.

Gratitude is also extended to past Kay-Cee Club President Burt Murray for his stewardship of the Mansion in that role. The property has undergone many improvements and upgrades. Those improvements have gained the attention of groups looking to make our Council a popular place to

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Grand Knight Ryan



DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

Worthy Brothers All,

I We are beginning a new council, and the first event everyone should attend, is your council's installation. Please be there to welcome your new officers.

I remain a Knight of Columbus because I believe being a member makes me a better Catholic and it helps me to assist others in need. Yes, I can do this alone, but it is far more effective and a lot more fun to do so with my friends and brother knights. There are so many of our fellow Catholics who are barely practicing their faith. They may go to mass on Christmas and Easter or not at all. They are the ones who would benefit most from joining our ranks and they would do well to become 4th degree members.

Did you know that 4th degree knights are 97% likely to remain knights for life ! (and also remain devout Catholics for life.) Our Church is also on the precipice of tremendous change. A huge number of Catholics are on the verge of leaving or thinking of changing their faith. I believe many of these folks do not really know what it means to be Catholic. It is whole lot more than just showing up at mass every Sunday. Participating in many of the Knights activities, can rejuvenate the spirit of giving and charity in our faith. It can show these folks that we are a faith based community.

So many of these part time Catholics are alone or just with their spouse. They do not see or attend parish wide functions so they may feel isolated or abandoned. We had neighbors who went to mass regularly but left for the Lutheran church because they felt

Seniors Support Seminarians

Seniors Group President Bob Waters presented GK Joe Myers with a check for \$1,000 to help support seminarians for the dioces.

The Seniors have done this several times in the past.



isolated. Had they joined the knights they would have seen another side of our faith.

Pope Francis urges ALL Catholics to become a part of the "New Evangelization". We are asked to openly discuss our beliefs with others. Some are even going door to door to spread the Word. This will be a new experience for most of us. But if our Church is to grow and survive it is something that must be done. We are our brother keeper, and bringing someone into the Church or convincing them to return or to stay is a responsibility shared by all of us.

Vivat Jesus!

Wes Chin

District Deputy No. 18

Council Holds Priest Appreciation Dinner

On Monday, June 17th, the Council held a steak dinner for the clergy from the parishes we support. Six priests, (three of whom were pastors), one seminarian and one deacon (associate chaplain Bob Hubbard) attended the dinner. Given the busy time of year and some priests being reassigned, we were more than glad to have the headcount we did. As was the purpose of the priest BBQ we held some years ago, this was an opportunity for the priests to have some fraternity with their brother priests. Though we weren't at the table, we gathered that they had a good conversation and enjoyed the dinner of steak, potatoes, green beans and dessert.

After dinner, two of the priests, Father Giese, pastor of de Chantal, and Father Justin Huber of Holy Redeemer came down to the lounge for a drink and continued conversation. I should mention that the seminarian that came with Monsignor Filardi was none other than Conrad Murphy, a seminarian studying at the American Pontifical College in Rome who just happens to be one of the seminarians our council supported. Conrad thanked GK Joe Myers for all the financial and prayer support. He will be in residence this summer at Our Lady of Lourdes and return to Rome in September.

This is a very small and appreciated gesture to our priests which we expect to do at least once each Columbian Year. As per usual, both Mike and Chris Horan were a tremendous help in getting the room setup and the food grilled and prepared. Thank you guys very much!

Jamie Caulfield

Deputy Grand Knight



L-R: Fr. Joe Perkins (Holy Cross), Msgr. R. Cary Hill (pastor, Holy Cross), Conrad Murphy (seminarian at North American College Rome); GK Joe Myers, Msgr. Edward Filardi (pastor, Lourdes), Fr. Samuel Giese (pastor, de Chantal), and Fr. John McKay (de Chantal). Fr. Justin Huber (Holy Redeemer) also attended.



Rock Creek: 75 Years Young

The Council celebrated its Diamond Jubilee on Saturday, June 22, with a well-attended dinner dance. Twelve Past Grand Knights were present, as well as five "Former First Ladies," whose husbands are no longer with us. Immediate Past State Deputy Peter Davio and his wife, Francine, attended. A good time was had by all.



The evening's MC, Mike Horan, gave a special recognition to Joe and Anne Murphy for Joe's many years of service to the Council



A few of our Former First Ladies (L-R): Jennie Peternell Morris, Jean Gordon, Helen Fincutter



Past State Deputy Peter Davio presents GK Myers with the *Contest of Champions Award* for the council having the highest net number of new members in the state in CY 2011-2012



Jennifer Ford didn't miss a beat, as she danced to almost all songs.



Life Member Ken Haser, 94-years young, enjoyed the conversation, dinner and music.



The traditional PGK photo (L-R): Larry Grayson, John Vivian, IPSD Pete Davio, GK Joe Myers, Bob Waters, Mike Horan, George Ford, Neil Dorian, Joe Murphy, Wes Chin, Roberto Ibanez, Kevin Kittka, and Bill Morris



Former First Lady Jean Horan, whose husband, Maurice, was GK in 1963-64, was accompanied by her son Chris



CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter and Mary Ann Ferrigno, Culture of Life Chaircouple



There may be some readers of the *Chatter* who wonder why so much is written on abortions. I believe that all

knights should be informed of what is happening with the pro-life movement throughout the United States. You cannot be a supporter of the "Culture of Life" according to the late John Paul II, "without being knowledgeable of what the 'pro-abortion' and the 'pro-life' people are doing." For this reason, the *Chatter* provides these articles.

North Dakota lawmakers are supporting legislation that would ban most abortions pass the sixth week. This is the time when the heart of the child begins to beat, which offers an undeniable evidence of the presence of life. Conceding this, there are other pro-life legislators who fear that if this were to go before the Supreme Court, it could be turned down, giving, then,

more support for *Roe vs. Wade*.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, is truly pro-life and has urged all Catholics to oppose euthanasia and abortion. I mention euthanasia because Obamacare may be bringing about depriving life sustaining treatments. Our Holy Father has stated, "Abortion is the death penalty for the unborn." In an article in *LifeNews.com*, Kristen Hatten, a strong supporter of Pope Francis, mentioned that she knows as a fact that some priests would not baptize a child of a single mother because it was conceived without the sanctity of marriage. According to our Holy Father, these men are wrong and should not use their clerical position to enforce hypocritical concepts. They are separating "people of God" from salvation.

There are two Senate bills awaiting a decision. The first is titled, *Abortion Statistics*. The State of Maryland does not record any statistics about any abortions. This bill states that they should be doing so. The second is the *Pain Capable Unborn Protec-*

tion Act. This bill states that by demonstration, a 20-week-old unborn child is capable of feeling pain, thereby demonstrating the humanity of the child. A number of states have taken action by disallowing these babies to be aborted, but not our state.

Why would a Catholic school like Boston College award the Prime Minister of Ireland, Enda Kenny, an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree? He is heading a country that is opening up to some abortions, which he fully supports.

There seems to be only two options for a woman who finds herself pregnant: abortion or single motherhood. What happened to adoption? Prior to the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe vs. Wade*, in 1973, domestic adoptions were about 90,000 a year. Birthmothers, today, number only in the low thousands. There seems to be a stigma to be a birthmother, only to offer up ones child to adoption. Many women feel that it is more acceptable to kill a child than to have the child put up for adoption. God Bless.

Council Member Becomes Permanent Deacon

Carlos Hernandez, a member of Rock Creek Council, was one of 25 men ordained as permanent deacons by Cardinal Donald Wuerl on June 22 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Carlos has been a member of Holy Cross Parish for 20 years, and before that of Saint Elizabeth's. He and his wife, Josie, have three sons. Carlos is employed by Ridgewells Catering as Human Resources Director. He has been actively involved in a number of parish ministries, including being a lector, assisting at liturgies, visiting the sick, and helping provide pastoral care at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the Little Sisters of the Poor.



Permanent deacons complete almost five years of theological study and prayer in preparation for ordination, while working in full-time jobs. They are ordained for a ministry that reflects three aspects: the Word, the altar and charity. Deacons assist pastors throughout the archdiocese in preaching the Gospel, distributing the Eucharist, blessing marriages, baptizing and presiding at funerals, as well as being engaged in ministries of charity and social justice, and assisting those in need.

The Cardinal has assigned Carlos to St. Michael the Archangel Parish, and to do ministry work at Holy Cross Hospital.

Council Blood Drive

Our Council teamed with the Red Cross for a blood drive in Cantrel Hall on July 9th. According to our Red Cross coordinator, over twenty lives were saved due to our donations. We are planning another drive in October. This is a quick and easy way to help those in dire need of blood. Please consider participating!



Tom and Marty Tappan (front) and Tom Mitchell rest after donating blood



CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter D. Ferrigno, PGK

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, is a great blessing to the Faith. His simplicity, his faith, his humility and his love for the poor have touched the hearts of Catholics, Christians and others. He already is called the *Pope of and for the poor*. Like St. Francis of Assisi, who was known for his love and works for the poor, our Holy Father is devoted to the poor.

I am sure that many of you are too young to know this individual, Paul Harvey. He was a famous radio commentator and syndicated columnist. Forty-seven years ago he presented an essay over the air entitled *If I were the Devil*. Remember, this was almost fifty years ago. He said:

If I were the Devil ... I would promote an attitude of loving things and using people, instead of the other way around: I would convince people that character is not an issue when it comes to leadership; I would make it legal to take the life of unborn babies; I would cheapen human life as much as possible so that the life of animals are valued more than human beings; I would take God out of schools, where even the mention of his name was grounds for a law suit; I would get control of the media, so that every night I could pollute the mind of every family, the back bone of any nation; I would convince the world that people are born homosexuals and that their lifestyles should be acceptable and marveled; To the young, I would whisper "The Bible is a myth"; I would convince them that man made God; I would evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, then from the House of Congress; I'd take from those who have and give to those who wanted until I killed the incentive of the ambitious.

Harvey said this before *Roe vs. Wade*, before same sex marriages, before Obama healthcare. I have no doubt that if the Devil had not considered these concepts beforehand, he surely would so, after reading this article.

For a better understanding of what the Supreme Court really passed or did not pass: It did not create a constitutional right to same-sex marriage. What they said is "states that have "protected marriage" and those that seek to do so in the future, cannot be stopped." The privileges extended to same-sex couples *only* exist to those who have been married in the twelve states and the District which already recognized this type of marriage and to those in any state that will permit this type of marriage. If anything, the marriage between one man and one woman still stands strongly alive. Truly, I would say that some of our prayers have been favorably answered.

Maryland Catholics had started a Fortnight for Freedom on June 21, beginning with Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in Baltimore. During Archbishop Lori's homily, he brought out the fact that the Church provides for the sick, the poor and those with needs. His implication was that our government could not provide for these people if the Catholic sources were cut off. There was a closing Mass celebrated on July 4, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, in Washington. Cardinal Donald Wuerl celebrated the Mass.

Now that the first of August is upon us, the pages of the legal debates will be turned, disclosing the results of many legal challenges that our Church and many other concerned companies, churches and individuals have with HHS sterilization-contraception-abortion mandate.

God Bless.

O'Hara Scholarships Reinstated

After a four year hiatus, the council has reinstated the Charles O'Hara Scholarship Program.

Five children or grandchildren of members were selected. Each receives a one-year award of \$1,000 to be used toward tuition in a Catholic local high school. The awards are renewable up to four years based on continued high academic performance and parental involvement in council activities.

The winners (and their schools in September) are:

Kevin Berry (Georgetown Prep);
Matthew McDonald (The Heights);
Ryan Myers (Gonzaga);
Emily Ryan (Holy Cross);
Justin Ryan (St. John's)

Charles O'Hara is a past member of Rock Creek Council and a PGK of the former Potomac Council. His widow

provided an endowment in his name, with the interest to be used for the scholarships. The program began in 1993 and ran for six years, until the poor economy caused a recess until the endowment was rebuilt. We are pleased that it is back in business.



Visit the Council Website at www.kofc2797.org



GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

host various events. With Burt's departure comes a new wave of ambitious members who are looking to continue the momentum of the Kay-Cee Club. Matt Dugan was recently elected as the new Kay-Cee Club President and he will be supported well by returning members along with recent additions Emory Linder, Tom Tappan and Matt Morin.

I have four goals for our Council this year that take into account the principles of our order. First, we are looking to add 50 new associate members and 16 new insurance members. Who do you know that's not a member that should be? Perhaps it's a family member, a work colleague or a social contact. The best endorsement for our Council is a personal invitation from an existing member. It's how I became a member and I'm confident that our associate member goal can be achieved if all our members can work together. We have five first degree ceremonies planned this year to help reach this goal. On the insurance front, I'm going to work closely with our insurance agents Michael Patten and Kurtiss Hammond on making our members aware of the great insurance and fraternal benefits that the Knights of Columbus offers. Stay tuned for how these men can help you and your loved ones.

Second, I want to see more of our members advance through 2nd, 3rd and 4th degrees. Our faith journey as Knights did not end when we completed our first degree. We owe it to ourselves and our brother Knights to advance. Starting next year, applications for the Charles O'Hara Scholarship will be contingent on the Brother Knight having at least a 3rd degree standing in addition to being active in parish and Council activities. Leadership positions within the Council also require at least a 3rd degree standing. There will be ample opportunities in the coming year for you to participate in 2nd and 3rd degree ceremonies.

Third, our mission as Knights as laid out by founder Fr. Michael McGivney is to help those in need. To that end, I'm proposing that we make charitable donations of at least \$15,000 in the coming year. Our ability to donate that amount is tied to member dues, car raffle ticket sales, Tootsie Roll donations amongst other revenue generators. In the coming weeks, you will be receiving car raffle tickets in the mail. Take the time to buy tickets yourselves as well as selling them to others. Last year, we were able to donate a nice check to the Aleethia Foundation, an organization that serves wounded warriors. 60% of ticket sales will be retained by the Council and once again distributed to the Aleethia Foundation. Car Raffle chairman Emory Linder has set a lofty but attainable goal in my mind of 10,000 ticket sales. Let's make this happen and support those service members who nobly serve our country.

Lastly, I'm looking to enhance the social meetings that occur on the 4th Thursday of the month (note that business meetings occur on the second Thursday of the month – all are welcome and encouraged to attend both meetings each month). I'm looking to conduct brief social meetings so that

Remember Our Sick and Deceased

Sick and Distressed:

Carole Hanley (wife of Art Hanley), Maurice Hunt (District Fourth Degree Marshall), Art Paletti, PGK Vince Bunag, Mannie Aragon, Edwin Wittrock (wife of late Norb Wittrock), Susan Machado (cousin of PGK Ibanez), Bill Freehan (father-in-law of GK Chris Ryan), Barbara Waters, Ashley Waters (granddaughter of PGK Bob Waters), PGK & PSD Gene Hogan, PGK Jim Kane, Paul Horan, and those on the Seniors' sick list (p. 11)



Recently deceased: Lisa Davis (wife of Scot Davis), Mike Russell, Richard Bing, Jill Filipczyk (friend of PGK Neil Dorian), Michelina D'Avella (mother of Felice D'Avella), and Dr. Philip Caulfield (uncle of DGK Caulfield).

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

Your Fun-Filled Lounge

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

The lounge is in full-swing with summer sports. Enjoy sporting activities on our five flat-screen TVs.

Have a social evenings on the patio.

Lounge phone 301-530-1628

we can have speakers come to us, our spouses and other family members. Ideas on this include priests from our member parishes including the new priests at St. Jane de Chantal and Holy Redeemer, Christian athletes and others in our community who have strong Christian stories to share.

Although it's summer, it's not too early to look forward to fall and some great events. I'm working with PGK Mike Horan and others on a family fun day, first responders picnic for our local police and firefighters, a crab feast and another blood drive. This is going to be an exciting year. I welcome your thoughts and suggestions on how we can make our Council as good as it can be. *Vivat Jesus!*

Chris Ryan
Grand Knight



Installing Our New Officers

On Sunday, July 21, the new officers of Rock Creek Council for the coming Columbian Year were installed after a noon Mass at St. Jane de Chantal Church. A reception at the Council home followed.



DD Wes Chin and DW Kevin Kittka conducted the installation



Msgr. Vincent Gatto, installed as Chaplain, prayed for the new officers



Taking the oath of office



Bedecked with the jewels of office



PGK-FDD-PFN-PCP (well, former everything) served as MC

The Grand Knight and First Lady enter under an arch of swords created by the Color Corps of the Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly



Grand Knight Chris Ryan thanked Immediate Past Grand Knight Joe Myers and presented him with a PGK pin and jewel and other tokens of appreciation

Fr. Samuel Giese, pastor of St. Jane de Chantal, praised the Knights for their contributions to the faith and church





REFLECTIONS – JULY

Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, PFN

Governance Without God

Religious convictions, traditional notions of opposite-sex marriage and moral disapproval of homosexuality should not be the basis for establishing public law. So stated a federal district judge in 2010, as he overrode the will of California's electorate. Voters had approved Proposition 8, a ballot measure to amend the state constitution and negate the state's Supreme Court ruling which legalized marriage between same-sex couples. The judge stated that the voters enacted "a private moral view" and which he deemed to be unconstitutional. The decision was stayed, and the U.S. Supreme Court, which heard testimony in March 2013, will soon render a judgment.

To America's founders, the district court's opinion that religious convictions should not influence public law would have been perverse. These early leaders opened the sessions of the first Continental Congress with a prayer from a clergyman, declared their independence "with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence," frequently proclaimed, in the words of George Washington, national days of "prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations," hired chaplains to provide spiritual guidance to the members of the legislature, and from 1801 to the Civil War held Sunday church services in the House of Representatives which Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Madison regularly attended. James Wilson, one of the original justices of the Supreme Court and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, epitomized the thinking of the day, stating: "Human law must rest its authority ultimately upon the authority of that law which is divine."

But the religious convictions of the nation have been changing and with it legal opinions. The American public and the politicians who represent them are conducting their lives more and more as if God does not exist – *etsi Deus non daretur*. A principal effect of this trend is a continuing effort to remove all influence of religion on public life, to limit religious freedom and restrict religious beliefs to private practice.

As late as the 1990, only 8 percent of Americans said they had no religious affiliation. In 2012, 20 percent reported they had "None." More ominous for the future is that one-third of the people under 30 reported identification with no religious denomination. Catholics are in the vanguard of this shift. While they represent one-quarter of the U.S.

population, 35 percent of the Nones were raised Catholic. Based on adherence to a denominational teaching and religious behavior, the number of people in the None category is probably much higher. As an indicator of this, consider the large number of politicians who claim a religious affiliation – Catholics are a prime example – but do not act in accord with the teachings of their faith.

The public mores, which affect political action and shape the nation's laws, are becoming, if not atheistic, at least agnostic. America's leaders are operating with disregard for the limits set by a Creator-God, without reference to a higher order that curbs the excesses of human nature. A democracy, that is, a government of the people, is no less immune from tyrannical actions than is a dictatorship or an oligarchy. It is religion that provides a transcendent

authority for the rights of man, that makes them unalienable and not dependent on the state or political system.

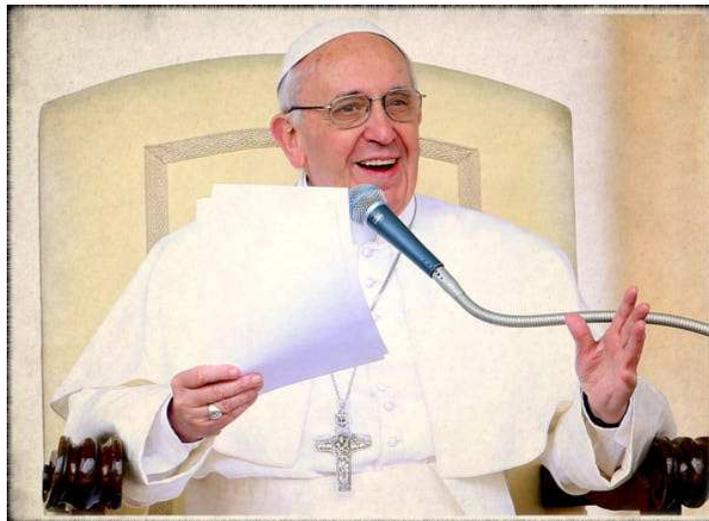
It was a duly-elected parliament, the *Reichstag*, that allowed Hitler to rise to power and which gave him the authority to invade Poland, establish concentration camps, and carry out the Holocaust. In recent America, it was a duly-appointed Supreme Court that legalized the willful destruction of 55 million (and still counting) unborn

children, regularly-elected state legislatures that are sanctioning same-sex marriage and approving physician-assisted suicide, and businesses operating within the law that are promoting the scourge of pornography. The evils of our time are not external threats to a moral society, but are becoming ingrained, built into the nation's political, economic and cultural structures.

As dark as the future may appear, there is no need for despair. Pope John Paul II, in his book, *Memory and Identity*, reminds us: "There is no evil from which God cannot draw forth a greater good. There is no suffering which he cannot transform into a path leading to him... In the love that pours forth from the heart of Christ, we find hope for the future of the world."

For thousands of years, the Jewish people have survived dispersion, suffering and persecution. They endured the Babylonian exile, slavery by the Egyptians, 40 years of wandering in the desert, discrimination in the Middle Ages, the Nazi's final solution, and presently threats of

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REFLECTIONS – AUGUST

Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, PFN

We Are Our Enemy

Catholics must bear a great deal of responsibility for the increasingly anti-Catholic culture in America!

On June 26, the Supreme Court struck down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which defined marriage to mean only "a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife." The ruling directly contradicts millennia of experience, the view of societies throughout history, common sense, and thousands of years of Catholic and other religious teachings.

Justices Anthony Kennedy and Sonia Sotomayor -- two of the six professed Catholics on the Supreme Court -- helped form the 5-4 majority. In presenting the opinion, Justice Kennedy wrote that restricting marriage to persons of opposite genders creates "interference with the equal dignity of same-sex marriages;" its principal effect is to create inequality and "deprive same-sex couples of the benefits and responsibilities that come with federal recognition of their marriages."

The majority of justices considered that the limitation on the term "marriage" reflected bias and condemnation, and stigmatized those who enter into same-sex marriages. They stated that DOMA was the result of a "bare congressional desire to harm a politically unpopular group." The court thus characterized those who hold the traditional view of marriage to be the only valid definition — including the 85 senators and 342 congressmen who approved the legislation and President Clinton who signed it into law — as bigoted and discriminatory.

The two justices are not the only Catholics to act in direct opposition to definitive Church teaching. Vice President Joe Biden, in May 2012, announced that he is "absolutely comfortable" with same-sex marriage. In August, he told gay rights advocates that they are "freeing the soul of the American people," stating, "We owe you." Then in October, he stated that transgender discrimination is "the civil rights issue of our time." As a result of his consistency on these societal matters, the *Huffington Post* referred to him as "a steadfast ally to the LGBT community."

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and Fr. Frank Pavone, head of *Priests for Life*, have had an escalating series of exchanges regarding her support for abortion while professing her Catholicism. In a recent discussion about a bill to ban abortions after 20 weeks, Pelosi stated, "As a practicing and respectful Catholic, this is sacred ground to me when we talk about this. I don't think it should have anything to do with politics." In an open letter to Pelosi, Fr. Pavone wrote: "With this statement, you make a mockery of the Catholic faith...Whatever Catholic faith you claim to respect and practice, it is not the faith that the Catholic Church teaches." He continued, "Abortion is not sacred ground; it is sacrilegious ground.

To imagine God giving the slightest approval to an act that dismembers a child he created is offensive to both faith and reason. And to say that a question about the difference between a legal medical procedure and murder should not 'have anything to do with politics' reveals a profound failure to understand your own political responsibilities, which start with the duty to secure the God-given right to life of every citizen." In a subsequent interview with *ThinkProgress*, Pelosi was dismissive of Fr. Pavone, referring to him as arrogant and medieval. She stated: "I grant the Church where they are on abortion. That's where they are, that's where they have to be. But my faith isn't about what their position is." Fr. Pavone responded, "Mrs. Pelosi has clearly rejected it [i.e., the Catholic faith], stating again that her faith is not what the Church teaches.

This is not the first time Mrs. Pelosi and Vice President Biden have publicly presented positions in opposition to Church teaching. In an interview on *Meet The Press*, a few months before the 2008 presidential election, Pelosi responded to a question about when life begins, stating: "This is an issue that I have studied for a long time. And what I know is over the centuries, the doctors of the church have not been able to make that definition...We don't know. The point is, is that it shouldn't have an impact on the woman's right to choose." She distorted Catholic teaching so badly that several bishops publicly corrected her. Shortly thereafter, and despite ecclesiastical clarifications, then-Senator Joe Biden affirmed the same falsehood.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, a professed Catholic who was a friend and defender of the late-term abortionist George Tiller, as well as of abortionist Leroy Carhart, stated, "I'm alarmed about restrictions being passed by various legislatures that take out of the control of women, and their partners, and their doctors, and their priests, their own decisions about their healthcare." She also is the chief protagonist for the HHS mandate requiring employers to provide their employees with health insurance that covers contraceptives, sterilization, and abortion-inducing drugs.

Same-sex marriage and abortion are two of several matters that the Catholic Church defines as intrinsic evils, that is, actions that violate fundamental moral principles to such an extent that they cannot be justified under any circumstance or by any motive no matter how laudable. The Church's stance on these issues is clear, immutable, and not open to individual judgment.

Yet, large numbers of Catholics ignore Church teachings. Catholics have melded into the secular American culture so completely that their views on moral issues and their

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Goals for the New Fraternal Year



Worthy Brothers,
I hope you are enjoying the summer as much as I am. Congratulations to the new roster of officers for our council, and thank you to the officers who have just finished their terms.

What better time than the beginning of this new fraternal year to plan for the next twelve months? As your field agent serving half our brothers as field agent, but the entire council as a fellow Knight, I am committing myself to proposing membership to eight men every month, how many men will you invite? When you think about how zealous Venerable Father McGivney was about extending mem-

bership in the Knights of Columbus during his life, the inspiring accomplishments our Order has done under God since our founding, the records we are setting every year, how can we not invite others to our ranks?

We live in a time very similar to Father McGivney's own lifetime. Our Catholic Church is maligned from both ends of the ideological spectrum for one teaching or another, the struggle of providing for a family is once again painfully felt by so many of our peers, and isolation is more and more the norm for families both inside and outside their homes. Where else should Catholic men and Catholic families turn? The Knights of Columbus are the strong right arm of the Church, as Blessed John Paul II said, we should not be bashful. If we tell

our story the right men will join us in great numbers.

As your field agent I am at the service of the council to recruit new members, to tell our story, and to protect our fellow Catholic families. As field agent, it is my privilege to serve your family, whether you have insurance with the Knights or not. I will be there for your family, please take advantage of our service.

Vivat Jesus!

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CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

a great number turned to the Lord and the Church grew.

For example, St. Barnabas fully embraced his part in the Christian mission as an apostle. He was not only sent to the people of Antioch to teach and encourage them, but he was sent from there with Saul to continue the apostolic mission. Fulfilling his mission, Barnabas touched the lives of people in Cyprus, Pamphylia, Iconium, and Lystra. In his life we clearly see the images of the Gospel fully illustrated. Through Barnabas the lessons of the Gospel seasoned the world. The light of Christ shone brightly before others, like a light on a lamp stand. Many were brought to salvation and drawn into the kingdom through the work of Barnabas.

If we are to reach our full potential as Christians, we must embrace this primary characteristic of our identity which is proclaimed in the Gospel and reaffirmed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Its mission is to be the salt of the earth and light of the world. We cannot hide the light of our faith. We must not lose or give up our ability to season the world with the life of Christ. Doing so will not only lose our purpose but would forfeit our place in the kingdom.

It is no wonder that early followers in Antioch had come to be known as Christians. Their lives fulfilled their mission to manifest the presence of Christ. As we share their identity, may we share their zeal in fulfilling our God-given purpose to proclaim Jesus Christ in the world.

Monsignor Gatto

REFLECTIONS-AUGUST

(Continued from page 8)

annihilation from their neighboring nations. Similarly, for the last eight centuries, Poland has been overrun from the east and from the west, partitioned several times, occupied by foreign powers, subjected to efforts to destroy its culture, and even ceased to officially exist for 123 years, but it still continues. The Jewish people and the Polish nation have survived not because of military prowess, diplomatic finesse, or organizational strength, but because of strong religious convictions which permeated their cultures. This is the essence of the long-term survival of a people.

Regardless of present efforts to make America a secular nation and the trials that may ensue, we should be confident about the future, placing our faith in God and relying on his grace. Pope Francis, through example and exhortation, is showing us the way to live. In his homily on Palm Sunday, 2013, he counseled:

“Never give way to discouragement! Ours is not a joy of having many possessions, but from having encountered a Person: Jesus, in our midst; it is born from knowing that with him we are never alone, even at difficult moments, even when our life's journey comes up against problems and obstacles that seem insurmountable...Christ's Cross embraced with love never leads to sadness, but to joy, to the joy of having been saved and doing a little of what he did on the day of his death.”



SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

We had a 100% increase in attendance at our June planning meeting. We went from four to eight people! As you can see, the other 150 members are only interested in attending functions. One of the things we voted on was to donate \$1,000 of your money to the KofC seminarian program. See the story on page 2. A large part of the meeting was related to future events.

By the time you read this, we will already have had our July meeting and picnic. A big thanks to Jean Gordon and Helen Fincutter for chairing this event. Our appreciation also to everyone who contributed food. More info in my next report.

I made reservations at Alfio's for Wednesday, August 21st at noon. We had no one volunteer to chair the event at Alfio's or an event in September.

For our special intentions this month, please pray for Paul Horan, my 13-year old granddaughter Ashley Waters, and Dorothy Bush who often plays music at our events.

GOD BLESS AMERICA AND OUR

REFLECTIONS-JULY

(Continued from page 9)

behaviors are indistinguishable from the population-at-large. Politicians, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, can take the positions they do because they receive support from Catholics, many of whom do not know or willfully ignore basic elements of their faith. When only one in four Catholics attends Mass weekly, it is not surprising that in 2008, and again in 2012, a majority of them voted for a charismatic presidential candidate, even though he advocates abortion, gay rights, same-sex marriage, and the limitation of religious freedom.

There is a significant crisis of faith among Catholics. What is needed is a massive catechization of existing Catholics, followed by an evangelization of the nation. Who will lead it?



PGK Bob Waters

MILITARY!

PRAYER CORNER

In your prayers remember: Eureka and Elizabeth Arcand, Tom Becker, William "Will" Bello, Maggie De Bettencourt, Larry Bisnett, Dorothy Bush, 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, Eugene O'Neill, Ralph Oviedo, Sr. Maureen Patrice, Fr. David Pollak, Mary Rainey, Joan Reed, Rose Roberts, Anne Ryan, Bridget Shanahan, Gloria Skapik, Pilar Stark, John and Estelle Stoltz, Stephanie Suff, Joselyn Walter Graham and Regina Walter, Barbara Waters, R. Joyce Waters, Louise Young, Karen Zack, and Fran and Frank Zello.

Please pray for the souls of Ruth Ramsdell Stout (long-time seniors member), Lisa O'Donnell Davis (wife of Scott Davis), and Michael Thompson (son of Helen Thompson).

Seniors' Luncheon Meeting

Wednesday, August 13
Noon

Alfio's
4515 Willard Avenue
Chevy Chase

Entrees:
Eggplant Parmigiana
Breast of Chicken Dorati
Veal Parmigiana
Broiled Filet of Flounder

\$20 per person (including tax and tips)
Free valet parking

Reservation by August 19 (no refunds)

Make check out to Rock Creek Seniors, and send with entrée selection to:
Darlene Coleman, 10055 Sinnott Court,
Bethesda, MD 20817

Council Leaders

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Deacon Robert Hubbard—301-942-1522
Deacon John Shewmaker—301-986-8658

GRAND KNIGHT

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September CHATTER Deadline:
August 18, 2013

ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
21 Installation of Officers	22	23	24 State Program and Membership Seminar, Sacred Heart Council	25	26	27
28	29	30 ←	31	July		
August						
4	5	6 Executive Committee 7:30 PM	7	8 Rosary 7:30 PM Business Mtg 8:00 PM	9	10
11	12	13	14 K-C Club 7:30 PM	15	16	17
18 25	19 26	20 27	21 Seniors Luncheon at Alfio's 12:00 Noon	22 Rosary 7:30 PM Social Mtg 8:00 PM	23	24