



THE KNIGHT CHATTER

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The Council held its 15th Children's Chess Tournament on Palm Sunday afternoon. Although matches were serious, everyone was a winner. For details and pictures, see page 7.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

FR. MARK HUGHES

Brothers,

Every year in Ennis, Texas the town has a couple of Czechoslovakian days to celebrate their heritage and keep alive the traditions from the old country.

Ennis is a town of about 15,000 people, 35 miles south of Dallas. One hundred years ago a group of Catholic Czech immigrants arrived to escape problems at home and to work as laborers on the many farms in the area. A century later their descendants are trying to maintain both their Czech culture and their Catholic faith. The town's wide celebrations are an important part of that effort. It is becoming a more difficult job as the years pass.

We are in the Liturgical season of Easter. This is a 50-day period from Easter until Pentecost Sunday. The length of the season goes back to the Jewish calendar of the Old Testament when the Jewish people celebrated the same time period between Passover and the winter harvest.

It is good that this is a long season because we need as

(Continued on page 3)



Fr. Mark F. Hughes

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

GARY BIGGS

Worthy Brothers of Rock Creek,

Isn't it ironic that April contains two days so different yet so similar?



Grand Knight Biggs

Some dates to remember this month are (check the Chatter calendar for additional info):

- ◇ 12 April -- Council Executive Committee Meeting
- ◇ 14 April -- Council Business Meeting **and First Degree Exemplification**
- ◇ 28 April -- Council Social Meeting

I'm happy to announce **April has two Knights of the Month, Worthy Brothers Tom Stallone and Mike Houlihan** for their efforts in once again planning and executing a very successful 15th Annual Charity Chess

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GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

Tournament. It was a well-attended event, parents and players all seemed to have a great time. When you see Brothers Stallone and Houlihan, congratulate them for all the hard work.

There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer and support Council events. Some needs which come to mind include:

- ◇ volunteers are needed to under study and support taking roles as officers during First Degree Exemplifications
- ◇ looking forward to the next Columbian Year, volunteers are needed to plan and execute the soccer and basketball shot outs
- ◇ an under study is needed to learn from Brother D'Avella how to run family movie nights on the lawn and take over this important volunteer job

There are plenty of other volunteer opportunities to learn about. Please make time to attend Council meetings and learn about programs and projects which you might want to support.

Just a reminder:

118th Annual Maryland State Convention
Knights of Columbus
May 13, 14, 15, 2016
Princess Royale Oceanfront Resort
91st Street
Ocean City, Maryland

To Register for the Convention go to:
https://www.mdkocconvention.org/Convention_Registration.aspx

You must be registered to request a room, purchase a Banquet ticket or attend the Ladies Activities. Registration cutoff date is May 7th.

This is a fun-filled and enjoyable event. Rock Creek always has a hospitality room opening on the atrium where all of the festivities occur. It is a great place to hang out. If you can't come for the weekend, come for the day.

In closing, Worthy Brothers we live in both interesting and challenging times. Please find time to:

Thank God for his blessings
Help others in need
Pray for those in distress

Vivat Jesus!

Grand Knight

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

The Renewal of Obligations Ceremony was held in February and led by AWD Master John Winfrey. The Pledge of each of the four degrees was recited by all Sir Knights in attendance.



O'Boyle Assembly, one of 12 assemblies in the Archdiocese of Washington District, provided two third degree candidates who took the Patriotic Fourth Degree Exemplification on April 2 at the St. John Paul II Cultural Center. The candidates from Rock Creek Council were Colonel D. Michael Duggan and Michael P. Mulcahy. When you see Sir Knight Michael Duggan and Sir Knight Michael Mulcahy, please congratulate each for achieving the patriotic degree!

Members of the O'Boyle Assembly will be washing the wall at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, at a date yet to be set. All members of the Assembly are welcome to participate. This is an annual task undertaken by the Assembly.

Monthly business meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, and begin with rosary at 7:30 pm, meeting at 8 pm, followed by social including free food and beverage. Speakers are occasionally scheduled. For more info, please contact SK Neil Dorian at 301-237-0552, neildorianc@yahoo.com or SK Greg Curtin at 301-654-5543, curtin1016@hotmail.com.

Vivat Jesus!

Neil Dorian, SK

ROSARY AT 7:30 P.M.

**We pray the Rosary at
7:30 pm, before our
meetings on the 2nd
and 4th Thursdays of
each month**

**The Rosary is a
proven, effective
prayer in meeting indi-
vidual and national
needs**



Come and join us!



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

much time as we can get to focus on the reality of Easter – that is ETERNITY.

As the Czech customs are fading from the culture in Ennis, so the concept of ETERNITY is fading as a central part of our culture.

People are too busy to dwell on what lies beyond the present. People are too distracted to focus on anything for a long period of time – let alone for eternity. People are too sophisticated these days to accept anything that cannot be proven in science. People are too full of pride to believe in God, Church or religion in general.

The result is the loss of Eternity as part of our world. People make decisions based on the kingdom of the moment excluding the eternal kingdom of God.

This leads to a material age and a self-oriented point of view. Selfishness and greed become normal and acceptable. Sacrifice and cooperation with God's will become unnecessary and counterproductive.

The people of Ennis work hard to maintain their traditions. We must work hard as the Church to maintain Eternity as a concept and goal for the people in our culture.

We call this effort EVANGELIZATION. Four different Popes have been telling us this for the last 50 years. It is very important that we listen and respond. Eternity is not going away, even if we lose sight of it in our world. Keeping Eternity alive is the new work of the Church.

Sincerely,

Fr. Hughes

2016 Teachers' Program Raffles

Rock Creek Council's 27th annual **Teachers Appreciation Program** is scheduled for **MAY 20** this year. 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.

The program is mainly funded by our 50-50 Raffle. Please help support this important program by purchasing or selling a few raffle tickets. There are two raffles one at \$10, **3 chances for \$20**, and the second at \$25, **3 chances for \$50**. Our Catholic school teachers need your support. **Buy a chance for a teacher at your school or for yourself**. Use the enclosed flyer (or download one from the council web site) — or simply send in a check with your name or the name of a teacher. You do NOT have to be present to win. A teacher won the big 50-50 prize last year. Would it not be wonderful, if your child's teacher won it this year!!

DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

Worthy Brothers All,

I bring you greetings from our State Deputy, Stephen Cohen, whose motto this year is *Be Not Afraid, Our Faith is Our Courage!*

The Maryland State Council Founder's Day Mass and Awards Dinner was held Sunday, March 13th, with Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Severna Park. The Awards Dinner to honor the Police Officer, Fireman, Teacher and Family of the Year followed immediately after at the Columbian Center. The basketball Free Throw State Championship Contest was held March 19th. District 18 had at least one winner. Check the State Website for the list of winners. And finally, a reminder to register and make hotel reservations at the kofc-md.org website for the State Council Convention, to be held May 13th thru 15th at Princes Royal Hotel in Ocean City.

There will be a 4th Degree exemplification on April 2 for the Archdiocese of Washington District in Clinton.

The election of Council Officers usually begins in April with the formation of a Nominating Committee, with elections usually in the May/June timeframe. (See your Council Bylaws for dates and regulations). Deputy Grand Knights who plan to move up to Grand Knight positions should be developing their list of those to be appointed as Program Chairmen. Think about the installation of officers and check with the incoming District Deputy for his availability, book a Parish Mass and a reception rooms for the event. Picking a date now will ensure that your council officers will be able to attend the installation.

Please note that the Admissions (Old 1st) Degree to be held April 10th at St. Elizabeth Council is canceled and will be rescheduled for a later date. Rock Creek Council will have theirs April 14th at 8pm. Manyanet Council will have their Admission Degree April 14th at 8pm. And finally, there will be a Formation (Old 2nd) Degree April 28th at Mater Dei Council at 7:30pm. Candidates should report 30 minutes before the degree time.

As each council works towards their Star Council achievements, please do not forget to submit the Columbian Award Application (#SP-7). You already have content for 3/4ths of the report available from your three quarterly program reports, start now, and suggest you plan on submitting it by Mid-June to allow Supreme time to register it and process the form. Don't wait time June 30th, it may not get recorded as submitted on time! You can even write up what you plan to do in the last quarter to get it to count. Just a thought.

Vivat Jesus!

Kevin Kittka

District Deputy No. 18



CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter and Mary Ann Ferrigno, Culture of Life Chaircouple



It is difficult to keep up with some of the things our Holy Father has been doing. Recently, he praised an Italian abortionist and political leftist for her works, calling her a “forgotten great”. What could he be thinking when he did this?

This woman, Emma Bonino, has been responsible for the killing of thousands of babies, through abortions. The Italian pro-life people are up in arms, and rightly so, for what he did. I am sure that he has enough subordinates that could have told him that this woman, who is not only an abortionist, but a political activist for the culture of death. She strongly worked for laws to legalize abortion, euthanasia, homosexual “marriage”, graphic sex education, legalization of recreational drugs, etc. If Jesus had any of this in mind, there would not have been a Catholic Church.

Emma Bonino is not some new-comer, for she has been doing this since 1968. Shame on our Holy Father’s advisors for not informing him better. His excuse, if one can accept it, was that he wouldn’t comment on those moving for same-sex marriages because “he is for everybody and he can’t insert himself in the specific internal politics of a country”. This would be great if only it were true. Examples of this would be his speaking about climate warming, and Donald Trump’s proposed wall between Mexico and the USA, among other issues.

Our Holy Father has been in Italy too long not to have known better about this individual. Again, the Church needs to help our Holy Father. When leaving Mexico, he was asked about the avoiding of pregnancy in areas where

the Zika virus is prevalent. He firmly stated that an abortion was out of the question, although, he left it unclear about the use of contraceptives to avoid an unborn child to be contaminated with the virus, leading to contamination and disabled unborn babies. A Vatican spokesman, Father Federico Lombardi, attempted to make the Holy Father’s answer clearer saying that the contraceptives concept would also not be accepted.

Thanks to the undercover Planned Parenthood videos, Georgia’s House of Representatives has approved two million dollars to be given to pro-life women’s centers to help expectant mothers choose life for their child. Their Senate is expected to pass this bill.

The U.S. Supreme Court initially voted for abortions in the first trimester. They also stated that states may ban abortions if they wished. It was an amendment that followed that allowed an abortion to take place at any time during a pregnancy, with the justices stating that they did not know at what stage a child became a person.

Following the death of Justice Scalia, President Obama is ready to select a judge who will favor a more liberal view of running this country. Our president is offended that Congress may not pass any individual he may favor. I agree with our Founding Fathers that there should be a way that that there could be a check and balance to each governing body. Father Paul Scalia kept his eulogy for his father within the norm of a funeral Mass, stating: “A funeral should not be about praising the dead, but praying for them”. I have found this to be true with our celebrants, but family members have been allowed to extend praises to their loved ones.

God Bless.

Knight of the Month

I am happy to announce that:

For March

The Knight of the Month for March is Worthy Brother Knight Todd Heavner for his leading role in arranging both a charity event and social meeting speaker on Thursday, 25 February. His efforts resulted in a wonderful evening dialogue with Football Hall of Fame inductee John Riggins and an opportunity to sample and purchase Mr. Riggins’ new line of sausages. All proceeds went to the Council charity fund.

I would be remiss if I did not also mention the contributions by fellow Knights Emory Linder and Greg Castin. Their efforts and generosity were instrumental to the evenings’ success. That night we raised \$1000 for the charity fund on the sale of John Riggins Sausage.

For April

For **April**, there are two Knights of the Month, **Worthy Brothers Tom Stallone and Mike Houlihan** for their efforts in once again planning and executing a very successful 15th Annual Charity Chess Tournament. It was a well-attended event. Parents and players all seemed to have a great time. See page 7 of this issue of the Chatter for photos of this wonderful event.

When you see Brothers Heavner, Stallone and Houlihan, congratulate them for all the hard work.

Grand Knight



CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter D. Ferrigno, PGK

I find it somewhat surprising, that with the election of a Jesuit to the papacy, they may have forgotten the reception that St. Pope John Paul II received when he visited Nicaragua in 1983. The Sandinistas had wished to mock our Holy Father. The Jesuits at that time also declared war on the pope and the Roman Catholic Church. This relationship had existed back to the early 1960's. This was revealed in the book *The Jesuits, The Society of Jesus and the Betrayal of the Roman Catholic Church*, written by then-Father Malachi Martin, S.J.

There is talk that our Holy Father may select Cardinal Nichols to a top family post in the Vatican. For those of you who may not know this cardinal from Westminster, a few words of enlightenment. For a number of years, this individual has been pushing for a different approach for the Church on abortion, homosexual unions, the rights and status of the embryo, sex education, and the reception of Holy Communion for the "divorced and remarried". One should ask, "Why would the leader of the Catholic Faith want to place someone like Cardinal Nichols to head this new Vatican post, when nearly everything he professes, seems to go contrary to the Catholic faith?"

It has been said that it seems that our Holy Father may be in favor of communion being distributed to "public adulterers". This would cause the faithful to be directed in error and great confusion, since they believe that marriage is indissoluble. Cardinal Burke had forewarned that this was taking place during the Synod and con-

cluded that this was "misleading" and a "carefully calculated deception". If there may be any doubt of where this is going, our Holy Father, in his final address, warned his conservative opposition that the Synod "was also about laying bare the closed hearts which frequently hide even behind the Church's teachings or good intentions".

Remember the Pope's five famous misleading words: "Who am I to judge?" With this attitude, why not receive communion, even though one attends Mass twice a year and never goes to confession? Those of us who have been following the teachings of the Church know that receiving communion while in the state of grave sin is only compounding further sin, a sin of sacrilege.

I found it somewhat surprising to read an article in the *Defend Life* monthly newsletter that a priest, Father Joseph Muth, of Baltimore, has been promoting gays into his parish. The group is referred to as LEAD (LGBT Educating and Affirming Diversity). Bishop Madden has stated that the Archdiocese is supportive of LEAD, being quoted as saying, "I am impressed by them". Attempts to hear from Archbishop Lori have failed a number of times. At a *Defend Life*-sponsored speaker at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Bethesda, last January, Fr. Anthony Mastroeni stated: The enemies of Christianity are destroying our Christian-based culture, making the "state" the "god", to be worshiped instead.

God Bless.

Why I should be an Insurance Member?

Last year, the Knights of Columbus donated more than \$170 million to charity. A majority part of that money came from the insurance program. You help make that possible when you become an insurance member.

You don't need insurance. Fine, then get an annuity for yourself, your wife, children or grandchildren. It's easy and inexpensive.

1. Any active member of the Order for over a year can become an insurance member for a minimum of a \$300 annuity. Don't need another annuity? Then, get it in your parish priest's name. Get one for your parish. Get a policy and name Rock Creek as the beneficiary. There is no reason why any member shouldn't become an insurance member.

2. New members (those who have been in the Order for 364 days or less) can become an insurance member for a paltry sum of a \$100.

3. Speak to Mike Patten, *your* fraternal benefits advisor, at 240-305-6996 or michael.patten@kofc.org

Upcoming Degrees

Degrees will be held in this fraternal year at Rock Creek Council on the following dates:

1st Degrees: April 14-May 12

4th Degree: April 2 — see Fourth Degree column on p. 2

Club News

Hours: Monday - Thursday 2-10; Friday 2-Midnight, Saturday 2-11, Sunday 2-8; Meeting Nights 1-8

The baseball season is upon us. The Lounge is a great place to watch the Nationals play, while you socialize with friends. Come in and root for the Nats. Also watch other big events on our several TVs.

It's your lounge. Have fun!

Lounge phone: 301-530-1628

Mike Horan: 240-793-1169

Don't forget to sign THE BOOK!



A Post-Easter Quiz

We have just completed the liturgical season of Lent and Easter, a period of remembrance of Our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. It is rich in people, places and events. There was the gathering in the upper room, the Last Supper, the washing of feet, the institution of the Eucharist, the agonized praying, the betrayal, the arrest, the staged reactions of the people, the scourging, the crowning with thorns, the sentence, the final walk, the crucifixion, the death and burial. How many times in your life have you attended the Holy Thursday re-enactment of the Last Supper and listened to the reading of the Passion on Palm Sunday and Good Friday? Is it 20 times? 40? 80? Did any of these make an impression? How many details of the final hours of Our Lord's earthly life do you remember? Try matching the persons and places listed in Column A of the table with the descriptions in Column B. The answers follow.

Column A – People & Places	Column B - Descriptions
1. Pontius Pilate	A. Wiped the face of Jesus
2. Joseph of Arimathea	B. Had an ear cut off by Peter
3. Caiaphas	C. Tetrarch of Galilee
4. Gethsemane	D. Denied he knew Jesus
5. Lazarus	E. Helped carry the cross
6. Sanhedrin	F. Brought spices and balm to prepare Jesus for burial
7. Veronica	G. Good thief
8. Mary of Magdala	H. Room where Last Supper was held
9. Herod Antipas	I. Location of olive oil press near where Jesus prayed
10. Cenacle	J. Asked Pilate for body of Jesus
11. The Cyrenian	K. Roman Procurator
12. Golgotha	L. Soldier who pierced the side of Jesus with a spear
13. Cephas	M. Jesus' Mother was at his home on Thursday night
14. Annas	N. Roman centurion in charge of soldiers at Calvary
15. Nicodemus	O. Jewish body that condemned Jesus
16. Claudia	P. Was at foot of cross when Jesus died
17. Longinus	Q. Wept for Jesus
18. Mary of Cleophas	R. Betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver
19. Gabbatha	S. Sat next to Jesus at the Last Supper
20. Dismas	T. High priest
21. Malchus	U. Father-in-law of high priest
22. Iscariot	V. Sister-in-law of Blessed Virgin
23. Abenadar	W. Place of Skull, where Jesus was crucified
24. Women of Jerusalem	X. Stone Place, where Pilate sat to judge Jesus
25. John	Y. Had a dream that Pilate should not judge Jesus

Answers: 1-K; 2-J; 3-T; 4-I; 5-M; 6-O; 7-A; 8-P; 9-C; 10-H; 11-E; 12-W; 13-D; 14-U; 15-F; 16-Y; 17-L; 18-V; 19-X; 20-G; 21-B; 22-R; 23-N; 24-Q; 25-S

How did you do? Did the Holy Week events make an impression on you? Our Lord died so that we might be saved. Should we not know what He went through and prayerfully dwell on the His sacrifice ?



The Council's Annual Children's Chess Tournament

On Palm Sunday, March 20th, 32 players from seven elementary schools, joined by their parents and family members, participated in the 15th Annual Rock Creek Council Charity Chess Tournament. Every player received a medal, while eleven players earned individual awards. It was a day of fun, sportsmanship, and camaraderie.

Thanks to the many volunteers who made the event successful: Thomas A. Stallone, Sr., the event chairman; Mike and Chris Horan for running the kitchen and set up; Wes Chin who ran the check in; judges Bob Metzler and Tommy Witkop; photographer Andrew McDonald; and event coordinators Lori Moore and Mike Houlihan. GK Gary Biggs congratulated each player at the awards ceremony. Thanks also to chess coach Tom Richmond for his support.

For information about next year's event, contact mhoulihan.kofcrockcreekchess@gmail.com.



Photos by Andrew McDonald



The Chatterbox

Susan Biggs, First Lady

It's a Boy!

Cheers to Knight James Schneider, our Council Chancellor, and his wife Jennifer on the birth of their son, James Austin Schneider, Jr. He was born on March 10th at 8:13 am at Holy Cross Hospital. He weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and was 21 inches in length. His sister Logan is happy to have a baby brother!

Generous Grant

Bishop O'Connell Catholic High School in Arlington received a \$20,000 grant from KOVAR – a Virginia Knights of Columbus charity dedicated to assisting Virginians with intellectual disabilities... "God's Special People." The grant was awarded in honor of Knight Carl Patton (Council 2797), the high school's principal, because of his support for the school program that created a newly outfitted classroom to serve students with disabilities.

Let's Chat

Do you have an interesting bit of news for The Chatterbox? Just e-mail me a brief description (family news, announcements, cool school stuff, etc.) at soos941@verizon.net or leave your info in an envelope at the Horan Lounge.

Thanks!

Susan

Remember Our Sick and Deceased

Sick and Distressed:

PGK Vince Bunag, PGK John Vivian, Paul Haas, Michael Flaherty and Bill Freehan, Carole Hanley, Wally Khayak, Burt Murray, Jean Horan, Dick Koff, PGK Roberto Ibanez, FS Doug Yeatman, and those on the Seniors' sick list (p. 11)



Deceased:

James Deal, and Joseph White (brother-in-law of Thomas Tappan)

Pray for the Christians in the Middle East who are being brutally killed in a genocide effort. Pray especially for Fr. Tom Uzhunnail, a Salesian priest, was kidnapped when four armed Islamic militants stormed an old people's home, run by Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charities, in Aden in Yemen on March 4. They murdered 16 people, including four nuns. It has been reported that the priest has been tortured and will be crucified.

Membership Corner

The Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882 by a 29-year-old parish priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, in the basement of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut. Today, more than a century later, the Knights of Columbus has become the largest family fraternal service organization in the Catholic Church, with 1.9 million members worldwide.

The Order has been called "the strong right arm of the Church," and has been praised by popes, presidents and other world leaders, for support of the Church, programs of evangelization and Catholic education, civic involvement and aid to those in need.

Knights of Columbus are Catholic gentlemen committed to the exemplification of charity, unity, fraternity, patriotism, and defense of the priesthood. The Order is consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Order is unequivocal in its loyalty to the Pope, the Vicar of Christ on earth. It is firmly committed to the protection of human life, from conception to natural death, and to the preservation and defense of the family. It was on these bedrock principles that the Order was founded over a century ago and remains true to them today.

As a member of the Knights of Columbus, you and your family enjoy many benefits, including 12 free issues annually of the Columbia magazine, the world's largest Catholic family magazine, eligibility to join the Knights of Columbus top-ranked life insurance program, and many more family and personal benefits.

Membership in our Order is open to practicing Catholic men in union with the Holy See, who are at least 18 years old. A practicing Catholic is one who lives up to the Commandments of God and the precepts of the Church.

We only have two more 1st Degree Exemplifications this Columbian Year (April 12th and May 12th). If you know any Catholic man who is interested in joining the Knights please encourage them to come to one of our upcoming 1st Degree Ceremonies.

Vivat Jesus!

Art Harris

Membership and Retention Chairman

Lent is Over, But...

The USCCB states that "Friday should be in each week something of what Lent is in the entire year. For this reason we urge all to prepare for that weekly Easter that comes with each Sunday by freely making of every Friday a day of self-denial and mortification in prayerful remembrance of the passion of Jesus Christ." The Bishops "hope that the Catholic community will ordinarily continue to abstain from meat by free choice as formerly we did in obedience to Church law."



REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson

No Greater Love

It was the sixth hour on the 14th of Nisan in the Hebrew year 3790 – in the future, under the Gregorian calendar, it would be remembered as noon, Friday, April 7, 30 A.D. Large crowds were entering the walled city of Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, which would begin at sundown. Opposing the flow of pilgrims were three men carrying wooden beams, who were accompanied by a group of Roman soldiers, Jewish high priests, a few relatives, friends, and curious onlookers. They exited the city through the Gennath Gate and struggled up a nearby rocky hill called Golgotha. At its crest were three upright timbers. Each was about six feet high and shaped so that a grooved crossbeam could be fitted on top.

Two of the men were criminals; the third was innocent and had done nothing to deserve punishment. All three were to die.

When they reached the hilltop, the soldiers disrobed Jesus, the innocent one, and tossed him to the ground. They placed the lumber under his neck and extended his arms. The executioner quickly drove a long, square nail through each wrist into the beam. Four soldiers lifted the wooden bar, raising the condemned man from the ground, and placed it on the upright. One of his feet was placed over the other and both nailed to the vertical beam. A sign with his name and charge against him was affixed over his head. The same procedure was followed for the other two prisoners.

The bright noon sky began to darken. The crucified men were in intense agony as their lives slowly ebbed away. By one o'clock, most of the curious had left. Jesus raised his eyes toward heaven and cried out in a loud voice, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." This petition was meant not only for those who condemned, persecuted and crucified him, but for all of humanity – for those through the ages whom he came to save, but who receive him not; for those who hear the Word, profess to believe it, but prefer a congenial life, without self-restraint, sacrifice or mortification; for those who want Christ's religion

without the Cross. The appeal was an act of supreme love. Jesus, the Son of God, as then-Father Joseph Ratzinger said, "loves us not because *we* are good, but because *he* is good." If we are to be followers of Christ, we must love in the same way.

The word "love" is overly used in our language and as a result the concept of love, as exhibited by Our Lord, is poorly understood. It is used in place of enjoy, as in "I love sailing." It is used to denote erotic attraction and filial affection, as well as a profound attachment and deep concern for the well-being of another person. This last meaning for love is a willful, rather than emotional, act which recognizes that every human being has an inherent dignity as a creature made in the image and likeness of

God. That is the type of love, which the Greek's called *agape*, that is demanded of Christians.

In contrast to other-centered, sacrificial love, so much of what is done and approved of in today's society is the result of its self-focused antithesis. Contraception uses another person for one's immediate pleasure. Pornography satisfies one's own erotic desires. Cohabitation involves no binding commitment to another. Abortion sacrifices a

child for freedom for oneself. Euthanasia purposely destroys a God-given life and the value it is meant to provide, often to eliminate pain or a burden.

Today, too few people are willing to make the commitment and sacrifice required for Christ-like love. Too few professed Catholics truly live according to the teachings and example of Christ, even if they abide by obligatory devotions. Their faith does not affect their ideas, attitudes, priorities, decisions and actions. As a body, they are indistinguishable from the general populace.

They relegate their faith to an occasional Mass – only 24 percent attend weekly -- and the rest of the time exhibit a practical agnosticism, living as if God has no effect on their lives. They willingly ignore and even deny Church teachings, and have so compartmentalized their minds

(Continued on page 10)





Renew What's Important to You



renewal.

It is also a perfect opportunity to take a few moments to consider your goals and what's important to you and your loved ones. Are you planning to welcome a new child or sending one to college? Are you looking forward to retirement? Will you have enough money to accomplish these goals? What would happen if something happened to you?

Whether or not you have life insurance with the Order, I'll be happy to meet with you and examine how you can meet your needs and goals. If you've had any life

Spring is a time for renewal. Trees and plants will soon be blooming, and many animals will shake off the cold and become active again. As the winter doldrums end, you'll be ready to get outside with your family, too, and be part of this

changes since you last bought a policy (new home, new child, new job, etc.), chances are your life insurance needs to be updated. Maybe an annuity or long-term care plan appeals to your situation. Whatever the case, I'll work with you to make sure you have the coverage you need at a price you can afford.

When we meet, you'll discover that the time we spend together will be a commitment to your future and your family's well-being. Let's get together soon to renew your financial goals with the stable backing of the Knights of Columbus.

Let's talk. You can reach me at 240-305-6996 or at michael.patten@kofc.org. I am at your disposal.

Fraternally,

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

REFLECTIONS

(Continued from page 9)

that they can say, "I am personally opposed to abortion (or ..., you name the evil), but will not prevent others from having one. This disposition is palatable because it imposes no obligation on the individual to publicly live the faith, to make the sacrifices that faith and Christ-like love demand. It does not interfere with one's drive for self-gratification and material success.

Faith is more than a set of dogmas to be acknowledged; rather it is a way of life, a way whose ends are not the temporal comforts of this world, but the fulfillment of the reason we were created -- to gain an eternity in the kingdom of God. What Catholics need is a re-evangelization of their beliefs. They must learn once again what it means to be Catholic, to understand the timeless truth of its doctrines, to develop the moral values and commitment to live their lives in accord with the faith.

Jesus, the Son of God, came into the world to pay through suffering the ransom for man's sins. On the Cross, he fulfilled his task, the work of Redemption was complete. As three o'clock approached, he uttered, "It is finished," and soon after bowed his head and died. While thousands were beginning the ritual of Passover by spilling the blood of lambs in the temple area as an offering to God, the Lamb of God offered his blood as a sacrifice for the salvation of man.

Although the doors of heaven have been opened, we must earn the right to enter. Being a disciple of Christ requires commitment. After his Resurrection, Christ asked Peter, "Do you love me?" This is a question we all must answer, not only in words, but with deeds.

Staying in Touch

Are you missing out on important council announcements, upcoming events, late-breaking council news, or simply need an occasional reminder? We have three ways to keep in touch – the Rock Creek Council Google Group, Council website, and The Knight Chatter!

The Google Group will help you to be aware of what is happening between the monthly distribution of the *Chatter*, from death notices of a brother Knight, to volunteer opportunities, to upcoming events. To enroll, send an email to kofc_rockcreek_2797@googlegroups.com and mention you are a member of Rock Creek Council. If at anytime you no longer wish to be on, you can remove yourself from the list.

At the Council website (<http://www.kofc2797.org>), you will find lots of valuable information, such as our history, fraternal benefits, past Chatters, volunteer opportunities, links to Catholic resources, and more.

You have two ways you can receive *The Knight Chatter* – electronically (early and in color – and it saves the council the cost of mailing it – this is the default option) or as hard copy (permanent and easily shared, but black-and-white). If you would like to change the method you now receive it, just drop an email (with your name and email address) to: LPGrayson@verizon.net.



SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

Seniors' President Bob Waters took off for Florida and points beyond. When he left a month ago, he said he would return when his money ran out. No word yet when he will return. If he is not back soon, someone may have to hack into his ATM account. 😊



PGK Bob Waters

The Rock Creek Seniors St. Patrick Luncheon and Monthly Meeting was held at council on March 14. Over 50 members and guests were in attendance for an enjoyable afternoon. Seniors' President Sir Knight Bob Waters remains in Florida and missed this event! Guests included Fr. Joe Perkins, Fr. John McKay, Fr. Percy D'Silva, Deacons Bob Hubbard and Chester Chen, and Br. Ed Adams.

Chesapeake Catering provided very tasty Irish staples, salad and desert. Deacon Bob Hubbard tended the beverage bar. Entertainment was provided by Paul Singleton, who played a music-box and piano keyboard, and, under the direction of Shawn Culkin, 15 young Irish Step Dancers. St. Jane Frances de Chantal Principal Elizabeth Hamilton was in attendance as most of the step dancers are from St. Jane's Parochial School.



Seated (L-R) Larry and Pilar Stark, Glenda Bunag; Standing (L-R) Neil Dorian, Vince Bunag, and Ed Reilly

It was announced that the \$15 annual member dues for 2016 is now payable. The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Ms. Poupee Nisos. It was great to have Marge Swanke join us, now that her health has improved. Special prayers, led

by Fr. Perkins, were provided for the following members: Jean Horan, Burt Murray, Wally Khayat, Dick Koff, Dora McIntosh, and those names of members and their families in the Knight Chatter Sick List.

Ed Reilly thanked the step dancers, their leaders, and Paul Singleton for providing the entertainment and music. Ed then led a sing-a-long of Irish songs and lullabies.

Special thanks was also extended to the following: Dora and Ted McIntosh for collecting the reservations and checks; Darlene Coleman for ordering the food and taking care of the treasurers' duties while Treasurer Clare Ward visited in Latin America; Jean Gordon for creating the luncheon flyer; and Helen Brennan for printing out and coping the flyer and e-mailing and making hard copies.

There are no plans for a Seniors' luncheon in April. Watch the mail for a flyer for the next Seniors' event.

GOD BLESS AMERICA , OUR MILITARY AND OUR VETERANS

PRAYER CORNER

In your prayers remember: Eureka and Elizabeth Arcand, Dorothy Bush, Lily Callowhill, Maureen Collins, Kevin Dyer, Helen Fincutter, Susan Gordon Garcia, Lois Gargano, Katharine Giodati, Bill Gordon, Joselyn Walter Graham , Carole Hanley, Frank Hayden, Marie Horan, Saunders Jacobsen, Alex Lee, Julia Marcus, James Marketos, Joe Murphy, Rich Mylnarczyk, Eugene O'Neill, Ralph Oviedo, Sr. Maureen Patrice, Fr. David Pollak, Mary Rainey, Joan Reed, Anne Ryan, Bridget Shanahan, Midge Shanahan, Gloria Skapik, Pilar Stark, Estelle Stoltz, Stephanie Suff, Alex Swanke, Marge Swanke, Susan Tise, Regina Walter, Barbara Waters, Louise Young, and Fran and Frank Zello.

Neil Dorian
Vice President

Council Leaders

CHAPLAINS

Rev. Mark Hughes—301-942-2333, x-109
Deacon Robert Hubbard—301-942-1522
Deacon John Shewmaker—301-986-8658

GRAND KNIGHT

Gary Biggs—301-466-9727

DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT

Richard Heim—240-888-1240

CHANCELLOR

James Schneider—

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Charles F. Gormly -

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

F. Douglas Yeatman—301-785-3747

RECORDER

Peter D. Ferrigno, PGK—301-469-6099

TREASURER

Terence P. Ryan, PGK—301-215-9197

ADVOCATE

Joseph Murphy, PGK—301-728-1316

INSIDE GUARD

Gregory P. Curtin—301-654-5543

OUTSIDE GUARD

William R. Ruane—301-530-6755

TRUSTEES

1-Year—Thomas W. Tappan—301-365-3128
2-Year—Christopher T. Ryan—301-335-6082
3-Year—James A. Caulfield—301-365-2580

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

Michael Horan, PGK—240-793-1169

CHURCH & PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES

Peter Ferrigno, PGK—301-469 - 6099

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Michael Horan, PGK—240-793-1169

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

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Van Williams—

PRESIDENT, SENIORS CLUB

Robert C. Waters, PGK—301-493-8883

FIRST DEGREE TEAM CAPTAIN

Joseph Doniger, PGK—240-566-2150

4th DEGREE - O'BOYLE ASSEMBLY

Gregory Curtin—301-654-5543

PRESIDENT, KAY-CEE CLUB

Thomas W. Tappan—301-365-3128

PRESIDENT, LADIES AUXILIARY

Antoinette Davidov—

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

KAY-CEE CLUB—301-530-0258

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May CHATTER Deadline:
April 20, 2016

ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
April					1	2
3 Divine Mercy Sunday 	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Exec Comm Meet 8:00 PM	13	14 Rosary 7:30 PM Admissions De- gree Meeting 8:00 PM	15	16
17	18	19	20 K-C Club 7:00 PM	21 O'Boyle Assem. Rosensteel Rosary 7:30 PM Meeting 8:00 PM	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Rosary 7:30 PM Social Meting 8:00 PM	29	30