



THE KNIGHT CHATTER

May 2016 Published Monthly, at no charge, by Rock Creek Council, 5417 W. Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814 Year 78, No. 10

In This Issue

<i>Chaplain's Message</i>	1
<i>Grand Knight's Report</i>	1
<i>District Deputy's Report</i>	3
<i>Chatterbox</i>	8
<i>Church Activities</i>	5
<i>Community Activities</i>	5
<i>Council Activities</i>	6, 7, 10
<i>Culture of Life Activities</i>	4
<i>Club (Lounge)</i>	6
<i>Membership</i>	3, 8
<i>Reflections</i>	9
<i>Fourth Degree</i>	6
<i>Fraternal Benefits</i>	10
<i>Seniors Group</i>	11
<i>Sick and Distressed</i>	8
<i>Rental</i>	7



To all of the Mothers, Wives and Women of Rock Creek Council. Thank you for your love, your support and all you do for us, the Knights.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

FR. MARK HUGHES

Brothers,

Whose agenda is it? That is a good question to ask before you get involved. Thirty-four years ago my first pastor told me about his first vacation as an associate priest. He was someone up by 6 AM everyday of the year -- sometimes earlier. He would say the Divine Office, eat and prepare for the day by 7:15 AM. He kept busy the rest of the day -- every moment.



Fr. Mark F. Hughes

Three other priests rented a condo in Florida and needed a fourth to make the vacation work. They asked him to go. He agreed. That was the end of their agreement for two weeks.

The three priests' agenda was to sleep till noon, get up, have a leisurely lunch, talk for an hour, take a nap, have Mass, eat dinner and play cards.

My pastor never played cards or engaged in long leisurely conversations. That was the last time he went with that group on vacation. They had very different agendas.

(Continued on page 3)

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

GARY BIGGS

Worthy Brothers of Rock Creek,

May is a month where we celebrate many things,

- May 1st – May Day
- May 3rd – National Teacher Day
- May 5th – Ascension, Holocaust Remembrance Day, National Day of Prayer
- May 8th – Mother's Day
- May 10th – Council Executive Committee Meeting
- May 12th – Council Business Meeting and First Degree Exemplanation
- May 13, 14, 15 – 118th Annual Maryland State Convention
- May 20th – Council Annual Teacher Appreciation and Awards Dinner
- May 21st – Armed Forces Day
- May 26th – Council Social Meeting and Special Event
- May 30th – Memorial Day



Grand Knight Biggs

and if you look at a calendar of holidays in May you will

(Continued on page 2)



GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

see several other religious and social events commemorated each year. All to say, we should be thankful for our blessings and take a moment each day to reflect and appreciate the important things in life.

When you pause for reflection, I ask you to consider the words you have heard at each of the degree exemplification ceremonies and to self-evaluate your participation with the Knights and our Council. There are many areas where members can help out:

- ◇ consider being an understudy to one of the senior statesman of our council, your help will be greatly appreciated and will provide professional depth in areas which cannot go unattended
- ◇ the First Degree team is looking for Knights to join their ranks
- ◇ someone who enjoys administrative details can fill a current need in preparing the Council's quarterly reports (we are lucky to have a history of excellent work from PGK Chin to reflect on)
- ◇ we are always in need of members to support our charity and council events
- ◇ and let us not forget the KayCee Club (the body of members who diligently and faithfully manage the affairs of Rock Creek Mansion) they too can use volunteers to step up and serve in their ranks

Historically the selectee for Knight of the Month is a member who has devoted considerable time and effort in support of charitable and/or council activities—and although this conduct is extremely noteworthy, so too is saying to yourself, maybe I can do more, talking with others about potential opportunities, and then taking action.

The **Knight of the Month for May is John Titus**, in recent conversations with me, John has said he would like to do more when he can, he followed up on his comments by agreeing to engage in a discussion with Alex Vincent to see if he can help with the many tasks yet to be done for the Annual Teacher's Appreciation and Awards Dinner scheduled for May 20th. Also when he saw help was needed to stack chairs in the Mansion, he got up and helped. So when you see John congratulate him for setting an example for others to emulate—acknowledge you can do more, discuss how you can contribute and then do it. Thank you John!

In closing I'll leave you with some historic quotes regarding some of May's important dates:



May 3rd National Teacher Day

"The dream begins, most of the time, with a teacher who believes in

you, who tugs and pushes and leads you on to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called truth."

Dan Rather

May 5th National Day of Prayer

"Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart."

Mahatma Gandhi



May 8th Mother's Day

"God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers."

Hebrew proverb

May 21st Armed Forces Day

"One of the best ways to keep peace is to be prepared for war."

Gen. George Washington



May 30th Memorial Day

"We come, not to mourn our dead soldiers, but to praise them."

Francis A. Walker



Vivat Jesus!

Ray R. Biggs

Reminder

Thursday, May 5 is the Ascension of the Lord, a Holy Day of Obligation. All Catholics are obliged, under pain of mortal sin, to attend Mass on this day, and to abstain from labors which impede the worship to be rendered to God. (Canon 1247)



DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

Worthy Brothers All,

I bring you greetings from our State Deputy Stephen M. Cohen, whose motto this year is "Be Not Afraid, Our Faith Is Our Courage".

It's hard to believe that it is May already. Time flies by fast, with only two months left in this Columbian Year! Thus, "when the going gets tough, the tough get going." So...Under MEMBERSHIP - STRIVE FOR STAR Council. We are getting close - Keep recruiting - Keep holding Admission Degrees. FS turn in Form 100s within 2 days of degree. Meet with your council Fraternal Benefits Advisor if you are close to Star Council; keep them in the loop!

Our councils have put on many PROGRAMS within District 18 this Columbian Year. Many of them have been written up and submitted in the Quarterly Reports to State. At the State Convention, awards will be presented for the best. Don't forget to congratulate those that win at the Ocean. In addition, those same quarterly program reports can be used to fill out the SP-7 form - Columbian Report. Ensure that your council submits its SP-7 before June 30th. It is recommended that your council may want to submit on or before June 15th to insure that Supreme receives the report and records it as submitted and complete before the Deadline of 30 June. This is one of the requirements for STAR Council Award and also one of the reports usually forgotten! Don't lose STAR Council award because you didn't turn in the SP-7.

Reminder: as we head towards the end of our current Columbian Year it is also the time for ELECTIONS for Office. Your councils should have Council elections starting. Don't forget to include nominating/appointing Delegates and Alternates to the 2017 State Convention; the Credentials are due on or BEFORE July 1st, of this year, 2016 to STATE! Usually the newly elected Grand Knight and the immediate Past Grand Knight are the Delegates with two alternates to the Delegates. In addition to the Credentials, remember that the Forms 185, and 365 need to be submitted for next year are also due June 30th, 2016! So as soon as you have held your council elections submit the Form 185 - Officers Chosen to Supreme with copies to STATE and the District Deputy! The Same for Form 365 - Program Personnel is due June 30th, 2016.

To the INCOMING GRAND KNIGHTS -- Reminder that the Leadership Seminar is the last weekend in June at Solomon's. I encourage you to have your wives attend, as this is a time when they will meet and get to know the other incoming First Ladies. This is helpful for when they attend other council, district and state functions during the Columbian Year, they will at least know or recognize another GK wife and/or State Officers and their wives. In addition, it is highly recommended that the in-

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

As faithful Catholics and members of the Knights of Columbus, there is an agenda that we agree to try to live by. This is God's agenda. We are to have faith in Eternal life through Jesus and the community of the church that he began. We are to respect life, sacrifice ourselves for the Kingdom that God offers which begins here in our world, follow the principles which Jesus taught and discipline our desires and emotions.

This agenda is one which we have to conform to -- replacing our own agenda when the two come into conflict. It is not easy and takes humility and sacrifice. It involves looking at the world from the perspective of service instead of selfishness, giving instead of getting. It is a life-long challenge and at times an uphill battle.

But when you understand the challenge and see the internal benefits that come with this life, it becomes the only agenda that makes any sense.

Sincerely,

Fr. Hughes

Chaplain

coming Grand Knights meet with their Pastors to deliver the message that Supreme, State, and their council are there to support the Pastors and the Parishes. And Finally, as incoming Grand Knights, be ready on July 1 - all planning is done - time to execute. (Don't forget to plan for your Council Installation of Officers. Make sure you have checked the dates with your District Deputy to assure he is available since he is the one performing the ceremony! Once you lock in the date with the DD, reserve the Church and Hall. Invite the State Deputy, the 4th Degree Color Corps, etc....) If all else fails, and if you remember just one thing, Ask your Council Past Grand Knights for help and advice to assist you. They've been there, done that. Just like a prospective candidate -- Just ask!

And finally, Registration and Reservations made, I hope to see you all at the Maryland State Council Convention at Ocean City this mid-May! Until then,

Vivat Jesus!

Kevin Kittka

District Deputy No. 18

Last Degree

The last Admissions Degree (formerly called the 1st degree) for this fraternal year to be held at Rock Creek Council is scheduled for Thursday, May 12. The degree will begin at 8:00 pm. All candidates should arrive no later than 7:30 pm.



CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter and Mary Ann Ferrigno, Culture of Life Chaircouple



As our Holy Father has been telling us recently, Cardinal Thottunkal of India stated that church ministers must be present for families, “not only in moments of joy, but also in their moments of distress”. Too often a husband and a wife are confronted with an unwanted child

and begin contemplating an abortion. It is a shame that they do not feel that they may turn to a priest for spiritual support rather than an abortionist. The Cardinal stated that in India, “a family that prays together stays together” and at a moment of some distress, they are in a better position to give moral support to one another. When members of the family work things out together, there is a better chance that they know that it would be a mistake to destroy the life of that child.

In keeping with our Holy Father’s instructions following the Synod, Cardinal Wuerl during the Chrism Mass last March, instructed all of the priests in attendance, that they should be “promoters of the culture of encounter, witnesses of God’s love.” With great certainty, the Pope has expressed his rock firm belief that abortions and euthanasia are always wrong. There seems to be no question about this. He too may be thinking of what Cardinal Thottunkal stated, namely the family needs to become more supportive for one another. Maybe our priests might let parishioners know that they are available to offer counselling and support for children on their way to birth. Priests should be willing to work with our Crisis Pregnancy Centers, to provide alternative to abortion. The latter has become too easy a way to end a life.

Our Holy Father addressed this when he stated, “Here I feel it urgent to state that, if the family is the sanctuary of life, the place where life is conceived and cared for, it is a horrendous contradiction when it becomes a place where life is rejected and destroyed. So great is the value of a human life, and so inalienable the right to life of an innocent child growing in the mother’s womb, that no alleged right to one’s own body can justify a decision to terminate that life, which is an end in itself and which can never be considered the ‘property’ of another human being.” Our Holy Father could not have stated his feelings on abortion any better, leaving no window or door open for any confusion. So far, I must say, His Holiness, when it comes to abortions, is right on the mark with the Church’s teaching.

Last March, Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley was to speak at the Temple Emanuel in Newton, Massachusetts. To his surprise, before beginning to speak, the whole congregation stood up and applauded. Over the past fifty years, one must have noticed that there has been a “growing mutual affection between Jews and Catholics. The reason must

rest in the outcome of the Second Vatican Council. At that time it was stated that Jesus was Jewish and that His death cannot be charged against all Jewish people.

Recently, the State of Utah passed a law saying that the aborted child must be given anesthesia prior to the abortion. Though this may be “favorable” during the period of the abortion for the child, that child is still being murdered. Now, according to the State of Utah, the mother still may do as she pleased and kill the child. Speaking about a double edged sword, I find it difficult to find much wisdom with the law that still allows the murdering of a human being.

We are informed by Cardinal Burke that we have Our Lord in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and prayer; the most powerful of them all is the Holy Rosary. The Cardinal has stated that the most powerful prayer is the Holy Rosary. Each of us can say a daily rosary for proper guidance of anyone contemplating an abortion. If there is nothing else we may be able to do to prevent someone from taking the life of their child. Pray for them. Pray that they may spare the life of their child. When attending daily or Sunday Mass, think of those on the verge of killing their child and pray for them, that they may see that there are other recourses. As knights, this should be the least we should be doing. Sometimes, all it may take is for someone to know that there are those that are praying for them.

There are many who believe that the pro-life movement began with the decision of legalizing abortions with *Roe v. Wade*. Not so. In his new book *Defenders of the Unborn*, Daniel K. Williams was able to trace this back as far as 1930’s. The National Federation of Catholic Physicians Guild had decided solidly that “abortion” was wrong. At that time, even doctors on the other side of the fence considered that “abortion was morally problematic”, but the lesser of two evils. It was Catholics at first who opposed abortion. The Supreme Court justices believed that since it was, at that time, Catholics who were in opposition, maybe they should make “abortions” legal. Even back in 1950, some of the courts believed the fetus was a human person. The Depression period gave justification to abortions where “another mouth to feed” was out of the question. Pro-life groups such as Right to Life did not start until mid-1960. Where many of our politicians are Catholics, one by one, to get the women’s vote, they became pro-choice. As early as 2013, a Pew study, however, stated that 49 percent felt that that an abortion is morally wrong, 15 percent felt it to be wrong and 23 percent felt it was not a moral issue. Time will tell if the pendulum will swing back to “an abortion is wrong”. No way of telling where this will go.

God Bless.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter D. Ferrigno, PGK

According to Germany's Cardinal Gerhard Ludwig Mueller, he sees "the tendency of German Bishops dividing doctrine from pastoral practice" reoccurring as it did in 1517 with Martin Luther. It seems that the German bishops truly believe that they are the "leadership for the Universal Church". Through this "leadership", they do believe that they may make changes within the teachings of marriage and sexuality. For this to occur, they believe that they may make those changes that will bring about truth and unity in the Church, even if there must be sacrifices.

Taking this one step further, there is talk, that our Holy Father may appoint Cardinal Nichols to a top family post in the Vatican. For those of you who may not recognize the name, he is the Cardinal from Westminster, who for years, has been pushing for a different approach for the Church on abortion, homosexual unions, contraception, the rights and status of the embryo, sex education, and reception of Holy Communion for the "divorced and remarried. By now I believe you should be asking, "Why would our Holy Father want to place this individual in such a high position? Cardinal Burke had forewarned that this was taking place at the Synod, and concluded that much what had taken place was "misleading and carefully calculated deception". Surprisingly, our Holy Father, in his final address of the Synod, warned his conservative opposition that the Synod "was also about laying bare the closed hearts which frequently hid even behind the Church's teachings or good intentions".

Pope Emeritus Benedict has indicated that with the aftermath of the Second Vatican, Catholics have come to believe that they no longer need to hold true all which the Church professes, in order to be saved. With this thinking, the Catholic Faith follows the loss of the missionary zeal to "save souls". Without this ridged regulation, then why should one follow all the restrictions, since there is no need? According to Pope Emeritus Benedict, "the Church is not self-made, it was created by God and it is continuously maintained by God. Even Cardinal Timothy Dolan, from New York, has stated that today he sees that the "new minority in the world and even within the Church, are relying on God's grace and mercy, striving for virtue and fidelity. It does not seem that we are seeing this occurring only in Germany. Cardinal Dolan also re-

lated that the Synod has had a consistent theme of "inclusion", listing groups he had heard discussing those "who are suffering with same-sex attractions and those who are divorced" and still persist in the receiving of the Sacrament.

Once one finds the Church making "small changes" the crack in the dam will only become larger. Even if our Holy Father makes some "small changes", the faith of followers may find themselves on unsure grounds. I do believe that our Holy Father has stated that "If these people were admitted to the Eucharist, the faithful would be led into error and confusion regarding the Church's teaching about the indissolubility of marriage". I personally believe that Our Holy Father is making it easier and faster to determine whether there may be a "nullity" in the marriage, then and only then, there may be a separation. We should know more next month following the release of the Pope's report of the Synod.

Cardinal Wuerl, in an e-mail of April 8, discussed our Holy Father's post-synodal exhortation submitted on March 19. He brought out what our Holy Father had said about God's plan for marriage and family. It will prove to be most challenging for the couple and they must "respond better to the grace God offers them and to form their consciences as they make their own pilgrim journey through life". Our Holy Father had quoted a number of passages from the bible, indicating how the family "can be steeped in and strengthened by sacramental grace". Cardinal Wuerl described how the Holy Father pointed the way the Church might take steps to support married couples and families when there may be some problems due to broken and wounded situations. There was no mention of the Church altering its teachings, the Cardinal stated. What was mentioned over and over, the Church has to offer spiritual support to prevent the breakdown of the family. As Cardinal Wuerl stated, "there were 325 paragraphs to the pope's nine chapters" of how the Church may give assistance to prevent a need for separation or divorce. I am sure; more will come forth from his post-synodal apostolic exhortation entitled *Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)*.

God Bless.

2016 Teachers' Program Raffles

Rock Creek Council's 27th annual Teachers Appreciation Program is scheduled for May 20. All teachers and the pastors from the parishes we support have been invited. A Teacher-of-the-Year will be selected from each school, and everyone will receive a memento of the evening. It is a wonderful and enjoyable recognition for the teachers.

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. Buy a chance for a teacher at your school or for yourself.** Either download an entry form 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!!



An Evening of Baseball Talk

Nationally-known baseball columnist, author and star of ESPN's *Baseball Tonight*, Tim Kurkjian will join us for an evening of baseball conversation. Mr. Kurkjian is a graduate of Walter Johnson High School and the University of Maryland and he has been covering baseball for over 30 years. Tim's new book, *I'm Fascinated by Sacrifice Flies*, comes out in early May.



On Thursday, May 26th, Tim will be with us to share some of his amazing stories about America's Game. There will be books on hand for sale and signing. The lounge will close at 6 pm and the upstairs bar will be open. There will be light snacks served from 6:30 to 7. At 7 pm, Tim will regale us with some great baseball stories.

All members and guests are welcome. Admission is free. There will be a \$5 50/50 to support the councils charity fund.

A special thank you to brother Greg Hourigan for his help.

ROSARY AT 7:30 P.M.

May is a month dedicated to Our Blessed Mother. This is a good time to invoke her assistance for the many needs that we have.

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. Many miracles have been attributed to it, both private and public, individual and national.

With Mary at our side, what can we not achieve.

Come and join us!



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.

Enjoy yourself on our beautiful patio.

On May 6, starting at 9 pm, Ted Garber will provide live music. Ted is a genre-bending multi-instrumentalist whose "BluesAmericanaRock" combines classic showmanship with a captivating singer-songwriter sensibility. His smoky, bluesy vocals, howling harmonica riffs and screaming guitar licks are enticing audiences worldwide, taking us on a diverse musical journey from the Big Apple to the Big Easy, hovering in the Mississippi Delta before heading South of the Border.



It's your lounge. Have fun!

Lounge phone: 301-530-1628
Mike Horan: 240-793-1169
Don't forget to sign THE BOOK!

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

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. It is one of the ways we honor our veterans.



Monthly business meetings of the Assembly are held on the third Thursday of each month. They begin with the rosary at 7:30 pm, then the meeting at 8 pm, which is followed by a 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



SPRING FLING

Cantrel Hall
Sunday May 22, 2016
4:00 - 8:00 PM

Dance to the sounds of the 50s & 60s
Live Band TBD

Admission \$5
Cash Bar & Food at Club Prices
BBQ, Sausages, Hot Dogs & Pizza
50/50 to benefit Wounded Warriors

Reservations are *not* required
For more information call
Mike Horan 240-793-1169



Rental Corner

The Rock Creek Mansion is an ideal size for a dance party, casino event, beach- or sports-themed party, bar and bat mitzvahs, and all types of family, and organizational celebrations. The patio is ideal this time of year.

Tell family, friends and neighbors about our beautiful venue! And remember, council members get a rental discount!

And LIKE us on Facebook for updated photos and rental news.

Julie Buckingham Carter
Event Coordinator

cell phone: 240-426-1220,
email: rcmansion@gmail.com
website: www.rockcreekmansion.com
LIKE us on Facebook





Membership Corner

Being a Knight is more than camaraderie; it is being involved with your community; it is supporting your local Catholic Church, while enhancing your own faith; it is about protecting and enhancing your family life.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

- **MEMBER/SPOUSE FRATERNAL BENEFIT** – Accidental death coverage for member and spouse at no cost.
- **COLUMBIA MAGAZINE** – Free subscription to the Order's monthly magazine examining issues of concern to Knights, Catholics and families.
- **KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS ROSARY** – Blessed by the supreme chaplain, presented during the First Degree exemplification to each new member.
- **INSURANCE** – Portfolio of top-quality life insurance, long-term care, and annuity products exclusively for members and their families. The strength of our life insurance, long-term care and annuities products is also a selling point of membership. For more than 129 years, our insurance has been "making a difference for life." There is no more highly rated insurer in North America. And our ethical standards are second-to-none.
- **FAMILY FRATERNAL BENEFIT** – For eligible families: a) Pays \$1,500 for the child who dies before the age of 61 days; b) Pays \$750 for the child who is stillborn at least 20 weeks after conception; c) Offers guaranteed-issue insurance up to \$5,000 to any child under age 18.
- **ORPHAN BENEFIT** – \$80 monthly allotment for orphans of eligible families; up to \$7,000 in college scholarships available.
- **WIDOW BENEFITS** – a) Continues to be covered under the Member/Spouse Fraternal Benefit; b) May purchase life insurance, long-term care insurance, or annuities up to one year after insured member's death; c) Receives a free lifetime subscription to Columbia; d) Eligible with her children for scholarships, student loans, etc.
- **SCHOLARSHIPS** – Scholarship programs for higher education available to members, their spouses and children.
- **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT** – Opportunity to build personal leadership skills, public speaking ability, organization skills, etc.
- **FOURTH DEGREE** – Eligibility to join the "Patriotic Degree."
- **HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP** at Age 70 with 25 years of membership.
- **MEMBERSHIP CARD** – Entitles participation in all Catholic, fraternal and social activities in nearly 13,000

The Chatterbox

Susan Biggs, First Lady

It's a Girl!

On April 14, Brother PJ Horan and his wife Katie welcomed their new baby girl, Hallie Francis. Congratulations to the family!

Baseball Birthday

Brother Paul Vergara just celebrated his birthday attending the Washington Nationals/Minnesota Twins game at Nationals Park. It set the record for the longest regular-season game in MLB franchise history...sixteen innings! The Nats won.

Let's Chat

Do you have an interesting bit of news to share in The Chatterbox? Please e-mail me a brief description (family news, graduations, awards, travel, etc.) at s00s941@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 and Glenda Bunag, PGK John Vivian, PGK Roberto Ibanez, Carole Hanley, Burt Murray, Jean Horan, Dick Koff, Mike and Steve Waters (sons of PGK Bob Waters), Kathy Bradley (friend of Bob Waters), Logan Schneider (daughter of James Schneider), and those on the Seniors' sick list (p. 11)



Pray for the Christians in the Middle east who are undergoing genocide.

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

councils throughout the world.

- **ACTIVITIES – FAMILY/YOUTH/RELIGIOUS/SOCIAL/ATHLETIC-** Participation in a variety of programs and activities conducted by our council.

The final 1st degree for our council this Columbian year is May 12th. Let's end the year with a big class of new Knights. Remember, all you have to do is ask!

Vivat Jesus!

Art Harris

Membership and Retention Chairman



REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson

Catholics in Coats of Many Colors

“I am Catholic.” How easy it is to make that claim. Today, one in four people in the United States does so. Among these are individuals who have achieved prominence in all areas of national life, including business, the professions, the media, education, and governance. Currently, the nation’s Vice President, 164 of the 535 members of Congress, including the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, five of the eight current Justices of the Supreme Court, and 11 of the 34 individuals President Obama has appointed to serve in his Cabinet claim Catholicism as their religion.

With the degree of influence that follows from this preeminence, Catholic teachings should be having a significant effect on the culture, policies and laws of this nation. But they are not. Abortion is widespread, same-sex marriage is legal, assisted suicide is gaining acceptance, pornography is rampant, and freedom of religion – especially Christianity – is being curtailed.

Why is this so? The answer is plain. Too many self-proclaimed Catholics do not practice the faith. They do not live their lives according to the precepts of the religion they profess, and they certainly do not let the faith affect their drive for material success. They have melded into the secularist American culture so completely that their views on moral issues and their behaviors, public and private, are indistinguishable from the population-at-large.

Of the 82 million self-identified Catholics, only 68 million are members of a parish, and of these only 24 percent attend Mass at least weekly, according to data from Georgetown University’s Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. People who do not practice the religion will not shape their behavior according to its dogmas.

Although there is no formal splitting of Catholicism into sects, as has occurred in Protestantism and Judaism, there are wide divergences in beliefs and practices among people who call themselves Catholic. There are those who may be termed “Culturalists.” They typically have been born into the faith and practiced it during their formative years. At some point, however, they stopped going to church and believing in its teachings. These people have ceased to be Catholic. They call themselves Catholic because they have found no other religion to take its place and find the Catholic label as acceptable as any.

Then, there are those who may be viewed as

“Pragmatists.” They relegate their faith to an occasional Mass and the rest of the time exhibit a practical atheism, living as if God has no effect on their lives. They are willing to ignore and even deny the Church’s teachings, and have so compartmentalized their minds that they can say they are personally opposed to a moral evil, but will not prohibit others from engaging in it. This misguided toleration is embraced because it imposes no obligation on the individual to publicly live the faith. The ideas, attitudes, choices, decisions and actions of these cafeteria Catholics, as well as the way they set priorities for living, are indistinguishable from the general populace.

A third group are “Progressives,” who advocate a practical faith responsive to the modern world. They treat Church doctrines and moral precepts as guidelines to be used flexibly depending on the individual’s conscience and circumstances. Issues of peace and justice dominate their thinking, and they are much more concerned about the temporal rather than the spiritual needs of others. While frequently involved in the church’s social ministries, many of these people are willing to adapt dogma to fit pastoral concerns and are accepting of women’s ordination, married clergy, and same-sex unions.

Then, there are the “Adherents.” Loyal to the magisterial teachings of the Church and to the authority of the pope, they accept the principles of the Second Vatican Council, but are not satisfied with the way they have been implemented. While welcoming customary devotions, they want the Mass, whether in the Ordinary or Extraordinary Form, to be celebrated

with reverence and solemnity, and would like the faith to be presented in ways that relate to their own lives. Upholding traditional Catholic teaching in faith and morals, they defend traditional marriages, are pro-life at all stages, for all people in all conditions, and support priestly celibacy and an all-male priesthood.

With such a wide diversity of beliefs and commitment to the faith, it is easy to see why Catholics are not a major force in shaping the culture of the nation. Archbishop John Ireland, a leading prelate of his day, perceived the potential and the challenge for Catholics, when in 1889 he said: “[I]f great things are not done by Catholics in America, the fault lies surely with themselves – not the republic.” Today, it is clear that Catholics are failing both the republic and themselves. They are forsaking the nation in



(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)

not bringing the virtues taught by their religion to bear on issues of public concern. They are faithless to themselves because in their consuming drive for material success, they are abandoning fundamental precepts of their faith.

If Catholics are to change the secular culture of America, they must first become well-informed in their faith and then fully live by its teachings. True religious faith is more than a set of dogmas to be accepted; rather it is a way of life, a way whose ends are not the temporal comforts of this world, but the gaining of an eternity in the kingdom of God. It rejects the main messages of American culture: that the primary object of human effort is material gain; that success means the accumulation of power and wealth; that the world is all about us.

What Catholicism in America needs is a re-evangelization to the faith. Catholics must relearn its teachings, understand the timeless truth of its doctrines, and develop the moral values and commitment to live their lives in accord with the faith. What is needed is a massive catechization of existing Catholics, followed by an evangelization of the nation.

Every journey begins with a first step. The re-evangelization can begin with the Knights of Columbus. It could begin with your council. With you. Take the first step; pray the rosary; and with Mary at your side, there is no telling what the results might be.

Vivat Jesus!

Knight of the Month

I am happy to announce that:

The Knight of the Month for May is John Titus. John is a fine model for how members can become involved. In recent conversations, John mentioned that he would like to become active in the council. He then followed up by agreeing to speak with Alex Vincent to see if he can help with the many tasks yet to be done for the Annual Teacher's Appreciation and Awards Dinner scheduled for May 20th. When saw help was needed to stack chairs in the Mansion — a routine, but necessary task — he pitched in.

When you see John, congratulate him for setting an example for others to emulate. Well done, brother knight.

Grand Knight

Our New and Advancing Members

On Thursday, April 14, the Council inducted six new members. Welcome to: Patrick S. Durkin and William R. Sanborn of St. Jane de Chantal; James J. O'Donnell of Holy Cross; Eduardo E. Brito of St. Bartholomew; Fernando P. Ribor of Church of the Little Flower and Devin M. Delany of Blessed Sacrament.

On April 2, D. Michael Duggan and Michael P. Mulcahy advanced to the Fourth Degree as they joined the Cardinal Patrick . A. O'Boyle Assembly.



SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

Many thanks to our VP Neil Dorian and to Helen Brennan for chairing our annual St. Pat's Meeting and Party, while I was away in Florida and Aruba —it's a tough life. My thanks also to Ed Reilly and Paul Singleton for bringing in the Irish step dancers, directed by Shawn-Culkin. Ted and Dora did their normal fine jobs. Many thanks to all who helped in my absence.

We will have our Hawaiian Party and Meeting on Sunday, May 22 at 1 PM. Watch for the flyer in the mail as this will be catered and reservations are required.

The council will hold its annual Spring Fling immediately after our event is over. Their flyers will be on the tables at our event. Everyone is invited to dance — or at least listen and reminisce — to the music of the 50s and 60s. Admission is \$5,

For our special prayer, remember Sean Nunan, the son of Barbara Nunan. Capt. Art Rawson and Lcdr Patricia Rawson, long-time seniors members who were buried recently at Arlington Cemetery. It was a rare event, having two veterans who were married having a double burial with military honors.



PGK Bob Waters

On a happy note, congratulations to Jean Horan on her birthday!

Remember to get caught up on your \$15 annual dues.

**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.

Council Leaders

CHAPLAINS

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

GRAND KNIGHT

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DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT

Richard Heim—240-888-1240

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James Schneider—

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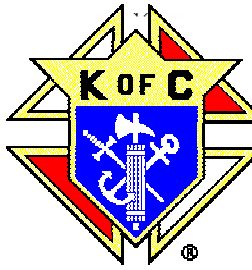
KAY-CEE CLUB—301-530-0258

RENTAL COORDINATOR—301-530-0258

Seniors Hawaiian Party

Sunday, May 22 at 1:00 PM
Cantrel Hall

Catered Affair
Reservation Required
Watch for the flyer



THE KNIGHT CHATTER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY (EXCEPT AUGUST), AT NO CHARGE, BY
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ROCK CREEK COUNCIL, No. 2797
 5417 WEST CEDAR LANE
 BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814-1517
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June CHATTER Deadline:
May 20, 2016

ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 Holy Day Ascension	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10 Exec Comm Meet 8:00 PM	11	12 Rosary 7:30 PM 1st Degree Meet- ing 8:00 PM	13 ← MD State Convention	14
15 Pentecost	16	17	18 K-C Club 7:00 PM	19 O'Boyle Assem. Rosensteel Rosary 7:30 PM Meeting 8:00 PM	20 Teacher Appreciation Night	21
22 Srs Hawaiian Party 1 PM Spring Fling Dance 4-8 PM	23	24	25	26 Social Meeting Tim Kirkjian Talk 7:00 PM	27	28
29	30 Holiday Memorial Day	31 Visitation of BVM to Eliza- beth	May			