



THE KNIGHT CHATTER

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The Tootsie Roll Campaign

A few years ago, when the Tootsie Roll Campaign was underway, three members of our Council — Kevin Carlsen, Andrew Ellis and then-GK Chris Ryan — collected for the Intellectually Disabled at the Labor Day parade in Kensington. Lots of youngsters come by for a Tootsie Roll, and some fathers learned about the Knights.

For details about the this year's drive, see page 10.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

FR. MARK HUGHES

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

JOSEPH DONIGER

Brother Knights,

As school starts, as the summer ends, as we get ready for colder weather and hectic holiday seasons, let us make sure we also keep the long term needs and plans in place.

It is easy to go from season to season, project to project and one set of needs to the next and let go of the most important parts of our lives.

What are those bigger parts? - Relationships and eternal awareness.

As I grow older and the daily duties demand time and attention, I realize that many friendships of the past have faded. People have busy lives and opportunities to keep up are rare. I have not seen my college group of friends in over 10 years. I went to the seminary at the University of Dallas and missed both reunions because of previously scheduled family events.



Fr. Mark Hughes

Worthy Brothers All,

It's now one-and-a-half months since we had our installation of officers and Labor Day has passed. Time to get busy with all things Columbian!

That said, there are some events related to the Knights of Columbus that I would like to bring everyone's attention to:

- On Tuesday, September 18, there will be a First Degree held here at Rock Creek Council. Please have any and all Candidates arrive at 7:00 pm in the Knights Lounge for processing and an interview. We'd like to get the degree off and running on time at 8:05 pm, five minutes after the start of the meeting.
- We have a membership recruitment drive scheduled for the weekend of September 15 – 16, at St. Bart's. Steve Upton, a member of our council and Fraternal Benefits Advisor, has graciously taken it upon himself to set this up for us. He needs help to cover the Masses scheduled



Grand Knight Doniger

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(Continued on page 2)



GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

for that weekend. Please go to the sign up link I posted on our list serve or call Steve direct at (301) 873-7450 to find out how to help. He may also be reached at Steve.upton@kofc.org.

- Our Annual Car Raffle is currently underway. This is the one event we conduct annually that has the greatest impact on our Council and State fundraising activities. Please find the time to return the tickets already sent out via US Postal Service Mail with your money. It's a very worthy charitable undertaking and I am happy to elaborate its benefits while socializing or via email.
- On October 6, the Knights of Columbus' Columbus Day Ball will be held at the BWI Marriott Hotel in Linthicum, MD. The Council has already purchased a table for member who wish to go. Seating is limited to ten, so please make your voices heard on this as soon as possible so that we could set up a second table if need be. Reach out to myself or Larry Grayson and let us know if you wish to attend.
- With the start of the new school year, there is usually some sort of time and talent event conducted at each of the parishes that we serve. Some of you may already be involved with a program or project at your respective parish. Please remember to ask anyone you come into contact with if they are a member of the Knights of Columbus. If not, ask them to join us and come out to a First Degree or an Open House that we will be conducting later this year.

I would like to take a moment to say thank you on behalf of the council, myself and the Ferrigno Family for the outpouring of support for the loss of our beloved brother and Past Grand Knight, Peter D. Ferrigno. I joined the Order when he was the sitting Grand Knight of Rock Creek Council and what I remember most is his kindness of heart and generosity of spirit. I hope I learn from those behaviors some day.

Please read your emails from the list serve group email that we run here at Rock Creek Council. It is our preferred way to communicate events, changes to events, all calls for volunteers for things that do not come up in meetings or make it into reports.

Also, we will be attempting to make some changes to our council website so that it is a little more dynamic with regard to events and our calendar. So bear with us and continue to use email or text in some cases to communicate wants, needs and wishes from the community.

This year's council leadership would like to thank everyone for their previous and continued support throughout this Columbian Year. We have a lot of activities and events planned around the new Faith in Action initiatives sent down from Supreme, so make your voices heard using whichever medium suits your personal communication

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

Most people have similar experiences. The problem comes when we let the vital relationships – family and God -- fall into that same category. Marriages, parent to children and extended family relationships need time and attention. It takes effort and desire to keep those bonds strong.

The exact same thing in a more intentional way applies to our relationship with God. Time in prayer and going to Mass are essential. Humility and cooperation are main ingredients in our relationship with our Creator. Forgiveness and trust in God's plan for our lives are necessary to not drift away into indifference and secularism.

In a world where satisfaction and excitement can be enjoyed in the short term, eternity can seem unimportant, even impossible.

Old friendships can be renewed or ended without much thought of effort. Family relationships can be greatly damaged if not attended to and made a priority. Our relationship with God can evaporate without the desire to always make it stronger. If that happens, we are begging for disaster in our lives and risk losing sight of eternity. That loss of sight can have consequences that are irreversible.

Vivat Jesus!

Sincerely,

Fr. Hughes



On 9/11, we remember those who lost their lives in that tragedy, including 40 brother Knights

style. We welcome all opinions and thoughts on how to make this council better than it already is!

Thank you for your time and attention,

Joe



DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

Worthy Brother Knights and Friends,

Recent news of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report and continued disturbing revelations concerning the activity of priests and bishops who have broken their sacred vows and shattered the bonds of trust with those entrusted to their care is a cause of grave concern for us all. Sadly, these horrific and criminal acts of commission and omission will cause some to lose their faith. Others will end their financial contributions and withhold their time and talent from a church they see as broken beyond repair.

In his letter to Chaplains and Brother Knights, dated August 21, 2018, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson writes that "Many feel deeply betrayed by those whom they long held in high regard." He continues, "Sadly, the disgrace not only is borne by the perpetrators, it hurts us all, as does the silence of shepherds who have ignored the cries of their flocks." The Supreme Knight goes on to call for a complete and thorough accounting of these crimes. And he reminds us that the Knights of Columbus have always supported our bishops and priests "but we – like all Catholics – are painfully aware of the wreckage that ensues when elements of this leadership are abdicated by evil actions whether directly perpetrated or covered up."

That being said, and most importantly for us – he states that the Knights of Columbus have an important role to play at this moment in our Church's history by helping to rebuild and renew the Church. He encourages us to focus on Christ's great commandment to love God and love our neighbor even in the midst of the storm. By doing so, we ground our efforts and energies in Christ and in the founding mission of our Order. When all else seems to be falling down around us, let us Brother Knights recommit ourselves to the great principles of a holy priest, Fr. Mi-

chael J. McGivney, whose vision, ministry and message guides us still.

Brothers, I ask that during this most difficult time even as we support the victims of abuse and call for a full accounting from the perpetrators, we remember to stand in solidarity with those holy priests who have faithfully served the flock entrusted to them. It is a sad fact, that in the days to come, these faithful priests will bear the cross of outrage and scorn that will be visited upon them through no fault of their own. As the Church has been our refuge throughout our lives, let us stand firmly with those faithful and holy priests and bishops whose lives (like that of our founder, Fr. Michael McGivney) have ever been dedicated to the service of almighty God and his Holy Church.

When asked, what can I do to help rebuild the church – **let us respond by putting our "Faith in Action" through charitable programs that strengthen and rebuild the Church at that most basic level – the family!** By concentrating our efforts to renew and affirm the Faith practiced daily in our families and by working with our priests to strengthen the pastoral and charitable work of our parishes, we will surely be a rock of stability in the midst of the raging storm.

Please continue to pray for the Church and for our holy priests during this most difficult time. And let us ever remember to call upon our Blessed Mother Mary, Queen of the Knights as our great protector and intercessor!

Vivat Jesus!

William Newbrough

District Deputy No. 18

Remember Our Sick and Deceased

Sick and Distressed:

Leslie Ibáñez (wife of PGK Tony Ibáñez), PGK Victor Khatyat, PGK Vince and Gledna Bunag, Greg Curtin, Brandon Waters (grandson of PGK Bob Waters), and those on the Seniors' sick list (p. 11)

Deceased:

PGK Peter Ferrigno, and Susan Tise (mother of Jim Tise)

Pray for our ailing and deceased members, families and friends, both those who are listed and those who are not.



ROSARY AT 7:30 P.M.

We pray the Rosary before our meetings on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month

The Rosary is a proven, effective prayer in meeting individual and national needs

Come and join us!





Memories of a Brother Knight

We recently lost a compatriot, a Brother Knight, Peter D. Ferrigno. Like many of us, he had many strands to his life — husband, father, grandfather — dentist, university faculty member — church volunteer, Knight of Columbus, friend. He made an impact in all areas and his presence will be missed. Several of the Past Grand Knights have given a sample of how Peter affected them.

When I first joined the Knights, I was impressed with the core of individuals who were critical to keeping the organization running. Peter was our Recorder and for many years he diligently wrote the minutes, detailing all of the proceedings of our business meetings. It was a rare occurrence that anything needed to be added or corrections made. He was like a well-made Swiss watch, always there, always accurate and always ticking. As I got to know him better the depth of his character became readily apparent. I found him to be deeply religious and dedicated to our prolife committee, involved/leading prolife events and documenting all the activities in the Chatter each month. There was a certain gang of which he was a part which regularly did the rosary before each meeting and before most people arrived at the meeting, setting the tone and reminding us of why we are Knights.

When I was elected Grand Knight, I found that the responsibility was overwhelming and intimidating. Peter was a font of knowledge whose wonderful sense of humor kept me on the straight and narrow making it easier and possible to do the job. I cannot remember a council event which he did not attend and have a positive impact.

Mostly, Peter was a wonderful human being and I was privileged to know him and call him friend and brother Knight. He will be and is sorely missed. My one concern is that his namesake St. Peter will employ him as his recorder. We won't get away with anything!

John Vivian, PGK

Several times, especially as we sat quietly in the lounge sharing some wine, Peter would say: "I never wanted to be Grand Knight of Rock Creek Council, but always wanted to be Past Grand Knight. I was told that ONLY way to become a PGK was to first be a GK, so here I am; I reached my goal!"

Neil Dorian, PGK

For a verbose man, I am ashamed to say I can't find the right words to express my many memories of Peter. To me, he was a wonderful friend, a Worthy Brother Knight, a person with whom time flowed calmly and nicely. My life certainly is better because I had him as my friend. He will remain in my mind the rest of my life, and I look forward to seeing him again, when the Lord decides to call me, too.

E. Roberto Ibáñez, PGK II

When I joined the Order at Rock Creek Council, Peter was the sitting Grand Knight. What I remember most is his kindness of heart and generosity of spirit. I hope I can learn from those behaviors some day.

Joseph Doniger, GK and PGK

Peter was my best recruit for our Council. We became good friends and worked together on many parties and dances. We first met at the dinner-dance of the Arminius German Social Club held at the Council every month, where I served as "babysitter", opening and closing the door after the party. I asked Peter to sign the Membership Form 100 for Rock Creek Council. He did and became an active member and later the Grand Knight. He said that he wished he could have joined sooner. I also recruited him to join the 4th Degree and the Usher Ministry at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at Catholic University. He joined both and in his usual way became active in both. I encouraged him to join our pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, to help sick and handicapped pilgrims from various countries — again he did. We both joined the Rock Creek Seniors' Club and with our wives enjoyed many social lunches and parties. Peter was truly a "rock" and his friendship is irreplaceable. His presence will be sadly missed by all.

Vince Bunag, PKG

Peter had a joyful and humble spirit that permeated his actions. Whether he was serving the Council as Grand Knight, Recorder, building manager, or bar manager, he always came across as just another Brother Knight willing to do any task that had to be done. He was as comfortable in conducting a meeting, writing Minutes, waiting for a delivery truck to arrive, or in power-washing the front steps. For many years, he wrote two monthly columns for the Chatter, focusing on pro-life and on church activities. He mentioned many times how he enjoyed keeping up with events so that he could produce these thoughtful pieces and hoped they would provoke thinking in others. To some he may have been Dr. Ferrigno, but to those in the Council, he was just Peter. We will miss you, friend.

Lawrence P. Grayson, PGK



Club News

**Hours: Monday Thru Thursday 2-10
Friday 2-Midnight, Saturday 2-11, Sunday 2-8,**

Are you ready for some football? Come in for Redskins, other NFL games and all the big college games. Hours will be extended for big games.



Patio Time

Fall means nice evenings on the patio. Stop in for a drink with your brother knights, bring a potential member or have a nice quiet drink with your wife. Best patio in Bethesda!

New MENU

The lounge is rolling out the new fall menu. Food will be available on Friday nights and for Redskins games. The menu will include burgers, chicken, dogs, wings and some very nice specials. The kitchen opens at 5:30 pm on Fridays and a half hour before Redskin games.

Trivia Night

Saturday September 8 , registration 7pm, trivia starts at 7:30. Teams of up to 6 people with a \$10 team entry fee. Winning team takes all. The competition is 6 rounds of 10 questions. The trivia host for the night is Lesley Stroot.



Live Music

Friday September 21 , Featuring Tom Blood and Late as Usual featuring The Up Late Horns. Music starts at 8:00 pm, \$5 cover.

Blue Crabs w/ Redskins

Some of The Redskins Alumni will once again join us for our 2018 Crab Feast. The crab feast is on Saturday September 22 from 3 to 6 pm. Members of Redskins



Alumni including Mike Nelms, Rich Milot, Darryl Grant and more will join us to eat crabs as we raise money for The Children's Inn at NIH. Only 200 tickets to be sold. RSVP by September 17 to Mike Horan at

240-793-1169.

We are hoping to have a full fall and winter schedule of events this year. Anyone with an idea and interested in hosting an event let me know.

Sign up for the list serve. Make sure you get the frequent emails about special events and food in the Lounge.

It's your lounge. Have fun. And don't forget to sign the BOOK!

Lounge phone: 301-530-1628

Mike Horan: 240-793-1169

Where the Knights Stand on Religious Freedom

At the 136th Annual Supreme Convention held in Baltimore in August, the delegates passed the following resolution regarding religious freedom.

BE IT RESOLVED, that as citizens and as Knights of Columbus, we will remain steadfast in our support for the free exercise of religion as it is enshrined in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and other documents recognizing religious freedom; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we stand firm in our conviction that the full guarantee of religious liberty cannot be limited to "freedom of worship" as some have claimed, but must include full "freedom of religion," which necessarily encompasses the public dimension of religion, the freedom from persecution or discrimination on the basis of conscience and belief, and the fact that believers are called to play an active role in building the social order; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we applaud the actions of the U.S. Department of Justice in issuing guidance designed to enforce robust religious freedom protections in all aspects of federal law; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we wholeheartedly welcome the Interim Final Rule promulgated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that provides meaningful and robust protection to people of all faiths from the so-called "HHS Mandate" that would have required entities like the Little Sisters of the Poor, Catholic dioceses, and the Knights of Columbus to provide contraception and abortifacient drugs as part of their health insurance plans or face millions of dollars in fines; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on the U.S. Congress to pass the Conscience Protection Act and thereby codify in law that no person can be forced to participate in abortion against his or her will; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon all government officials in all of the countries where we are active to enact legislation that will protect the right of religious institutions and individuals to be free from government coercion; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we will remain steadfast in our opposition to future governmental actions or policies that force institutions and individuals to violate their most deeply held religious beliefs.





Raising Awareness About Life Insurance



Steve Upton, PGK, FDD

September is designated as Life Insurance Awareness Month. Like most awareness-raising campaigns, Life Insurance Awareness Month was created because there is an overwhelming lack of understanding surrounding life insurance, its uses, its benefits, and its variations among the general public. Each year, the Life Insurance Market Research Association (LIMRA) puts

out the results from an annual survey that tracks the perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors of consumers in the United States. Unfortunately, the numbers reported this year continue to display the lack of awareness surrounding the many benefits of life insurance among today's consumers.

More than 60 percent of people polled did not have a personal financial advisor, even though 90 percent of them said they believe a family's primary wage earner needs to own life insurance. In other words, a majority of those surveyed believe life insurance is important, yet they did not seek professional assistance.

According to the study, the number one reason consumers do not purchase life insurance is because they worry it's too expensive. Many do not know how much coverage they need and what type of life insurance to buy.

If you fall into these categories, please remember that as a member of the Knights of Columbus, you have a full-time,

professional brother Knight field agent to call your own. My primary responsibility is the care and service of your family's life insurance, retirement and long-term care needs. I am available to provide a complimentary, comprehensive analysis to assess your situation and determine how much coverage is needed to help meet your needs within your budget.

With a solid portfolio of life insurance, long-term care, disability income and retirement products, the Knights of Columbus can help you meet all of your financial goals. Our products are designed with your needs and budget in mind. "Brother Knights caring for Brother Knights" isn't just a slogan for us. It's the value proposition we make with all Brother Knights and their families.

So, as we observe Life Insurance Awareness Month, don't leave your family's future to chance. Protect your family with the safety and guarantees of life insurance from the Knights of Columbus. Join the hundreds of thousands of your brother Knights who use our shield as their protection. Let's get together and see how the Knights of Columbus can help protect you.

Steve Upton

STEVE UPTON, GK, FDD

Field Agent

301-873-7450 cell

301-421-1430 office

steve.upton@kofc.org

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

Since the Fourth Degree is the Patriot Degree, all Sir Knights are requested to say extra prayers on September 11 as Americans observe this "National Day of Service and Remembrance" in honor of those killed by terrorists.

The next Assembly monthly meeting will be Thursday, September 20 held in the Emerald Room at Rosensteel Council. Rosary at 7:30 pm and meeting at 8:00 pm, followed by social with free meal and beverages.

All Knights who have taken the Third Degree are encouraged to advance to the Fourth Degree. The next time this Exemplification will be offered is Saturday, October 20, 11 am, at St. John's Parish, Msgr. Harris Parish Center, in Hollywood, MD. The Fourth Degree is the highest degree of our Order.

The Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz De Manila will be celebrated at Holy Redeemer Church on Friday, September 28, beginning 7 pm. The Principal Celebrant and Homilist will be the Most Rev. Mario E. Dorsonville, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington. O'Boyle Assembly Friar Father Ryan Pineda invites all Knights and their families and

friends to attend this most solemn event.

Our Assembly Faithful Captain Charles Hayes has planned a field trip to the Supreme Court on the 5th or 19th of October, depending on the Court's schedule. We will leave from the Rosensteel Council parking lot, walk to the Forest Glen Metro Station, and take the train to the Mall. It should be a fun and informative day, and all are invited.

The annual Vietnam Memorial Wall washing is planned for Saturday, November 3. We will meet at the Memorial near the flagpole at 6:30 am, and will be finished by 7:30 am.

For more information or to join the Fourth Degree, please contact SK Neil Dorian at 301-237-0552, neildorian@yahoo.com.

Neil Dorian, SK

Past Faithful Navigator





Columbus Day KofC Style

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said that Christopher Columbus “was a man ahead of his time, who brought two worlds together and began the process that led to the founding of this country. It is a testament to Americans’ commitment to a fair reading of history that the explorer’s popularity has endured despite the unfair and hateful attacks by British propagandists, the Ku Klux Klan and revisionist academics.”

A nationwide survey conducted by Marist Poll last year found that an overwhelming majority of Americans (76 percent) believe that Columbus and other historical figures should be judged by the standards of conduct of their own lifetimes, as opposed to modern standards. Only 16 percent of those polled disagree.

Further, the poll also found that a majority of Americans (56 percent) view Christopher Columbus either “favorably” or “very favorably,” which is twice as many (28 percent) who have a negative view. And, almost 6 in 10 Americans (57 percent) believe that celebrating Columbus Day is a “good idea,” while only 29 percent oppose the holiday.

So, how will you and your council celebrate the holiday?

In Maryland, we have the:

Columbus Day Ball on Saturday, October 6, to be held at the BWI Marriott, beginning at 7:30 pm. This is the Maryland State Council’s premier social event of the year. Rock Creek Council will have a table for ten. If you would like to join the group, contact GK Joseph Doniger.

Baltimore Columbus Day Parade on Sunday, October 7, beginning at 1:00 pm. What could possibly be more of a public celebration than a parade? This is the oldest continuous Columbus Day celebration in the US. Make plans to bring the family and enjoy the day in historic Little Italy. Begin Sunday morning with Mass at St. Leo the Great in Little Italy, followed by the wreath presentations at Columbus Piazza. Your council and all family members can march in the parade.

National Columbus Day Ceremony on Monday, October 8, at 11:00 am, at the Columbus Memorial Fountain in Washington, DC. This is the official commemoration of Columbus Day. It is jointly sponsored by the National Christopher Columbus Association and the National Park Service. The KofC 4th Degree Color Corps, the Joint Armed Forces Honor Guard, and the United States Marine Band contribute to the pageantry of the ceremony that includes the laying of wreaths by diplomats from several countries and Presidential and Mayoral Proclamations. The program is not only patriotic, but educational. Come and bring your families. Learn bit more about our Order’s namesake.

Save the Dates

There is a full calendar of events planned for the members of Rock Creek Council and their families. It will be a busy “social season,” so save the dates.

October 5 - Live Music-in the Lounge with Night School

October 26 – Rock Creek Council and The Metro Bethesda Rotary Halloween Costume Party (adults)

October 28 – Rock Creek Council & The Metro Bethesda Rotary Trunk or Treat & Halloween Movie (children)

November 20 – Annual Council Members-Only Meeting and Turkey Night

December TBD – Breakfast With Santa Children’s Party

December 21 – Lounge Christmas Party / Live Music / Holiday Buffet

December 31 – New Year’s Eve Dance featuring King Soul

And there is more to come!

YOUR FRATERNAL BENEFITS

The Knights of Columbus offers a complete portfolio of top-quality products to our members and their eligible family members:

- Permanent Life Insurance
- Term Life Insurance
- Retirement Annuities
- Long-Term Care Insurance
- Disability Income Insurance

In addition to our line of products, the Knights of Columbus provides extensive survivor and fraternal services to members and their families. Our agents are there for members and their families to help them in the aftermath of the loss of a loved one, and can help our members facing unique needs.

Many of these benefits are unique to the Knights of Columbus and some are free. These benefits include: guaranteed life insurance benefits for uninsurable children; death benefits available for stillborn or miscarried children; orphan benefits; and member/spouse accidental death benefits.

The Knights of Columbus provides members a complimentary insurance and retirement needs analysis through their local field agent. Our agents – who are also brother Knights – use “Profiles & Forecaster,” a proven industry analytical tool that helps our members identify their risks and goals.

The *Knights of Columbus Personal Planning Workbook* is a no-cost tool available exclusively through your Knights of Columbus field agent. The 34-page book is a comprehensive end-of-life planning guide that will enable you to record personal information, identify personal wishes, and supplement legal documents.



Seniors Halloween Party

Sunday, October 21

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Cantrel Hall, Council



Luncheon Buffet



\$20.00 per person -- \$2.00 cash bar, \$1.00 soft drinks

***Come in your favorite costume and have fun!
Prizes for the best costumes: Scariest, Funniest, Most Original***

Reservations required

Make checks payable to “Rock Creek Seniors”

Send your name and check by Friday, October 19th to:

Dora and Ted McIntosh

11928A Darnestown Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878

301-963-4742



Rental Corner

We celebrate Rock Creek Council members who chose our Mansion for their wedding celebration!

Keep us in mind for your milestone events - weddings, anniversary and special birthday celebrations, family reunions, graduation parties... and pass the word to your family, friends, colleagues and neighbors. And remember, Rock Creek Council members get a rental discount!



Contact me for information and a tour . We are booking into 2019!

Julie Buckingham Carter

Event Coordinator

cell phone: 240-426-1220,

email: rcmansion@gmail.com

website: www.rockcreekmansion.com



REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, PFN

The Barque in a Raging Sea

Suddenly a violent storm came up on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by waves; but he was asleep. They came and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" He said to them, "Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?" (Matthew 8:24-26)

The Barque of Peter is now being buffeted by revelations and allegations of clerical immorality and hierarchical cover-up. The mid-August report of the Attorney General of Pennsylvania describing widespread sexual exploitation of seminarians and adolescent males by priests in that state, coupled with the accusations of the obscene behavior of Archbishop Theodore McCarrick, have been devastating. Many people in the Church, clergy as well as laity, have feelings of shock, anger, sadness, shame and betrayal.

Then, on August 26, amidst the trauma, came another explosive report. Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, former Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, released an extensive letter detailing allegations of cover-up, favoritism and cabal-like behavior by some of the highest-ranking prelates in the Church. He ended it by calling for the Pope, and all of the cardinals and bishops who covered-up the McCarrick abuses, to resign.

The typical public unity among the hierarchy was shattered. While several of those mentioned in the letter quickly challenged Archbishop Viganò's truthfulness and motives, more than two dozen bishops have defended his veracity, integrity and faithfulness to the Church.

Yet, these revelations and allegations may be only the prelude to an investigative frenzy. The attorneys general of Missouri and Illinois have announced they will conduct investigations of the Catholic dioceses in their respective states, while the attorneys general of New York and Nebraska appear to be preparing to conduct similar probes. Several seminaries also have stated they are undertaking independent examinations of accusations of sexual abuse within their institutions. Various media outlets are suggesting that comparable investigations should be conducted in every state, and that the U.S. Department of Justice file federal racketeering charges against the Catholic Church under the RICO Act. The Vatican is sending Archbishop Charles Scicluna, its most experienced sex-crimes investigator, to study the situation in



the United States. His previous examination of the sex abuse cover-ups in Chile led to the mass resignation of the entire conference of Chilean bishops. The hierarchy in America may soon face greater scandal, a torrent of litigation, and hierarchical upheaval.

Pope Francis, in his *Letter to the People of God* on August 20, adopted the words of then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger: "How much filth there is in the Church, and even among those who, in the priesthood, ought to belong entirely to [Christ]!" Some may consider that the clerical abuses are no greater than what has occurred among media moguls, public school teachers, athletic directors and others in lay positions of power. But clerical abuses are worse because those in religious vocations are responsible for the faith and the salvation of souls.

Most bishops and priests are faithful to their vows, lead chaste lives and are wonderful shepherds to their people. This does not, however, lessen the malefaction in the Church.

Bishop Robert Morlino of Madison stated: "[W]e are talking about deviant sexual – almost exclusively homosexual – acts by clerics. We're also talking about homosexual propositions and abuses against seminarians and young priests by powerful priests, bishops, and cardinals...It is time to admit that there is a homosexual sub-culture within the hierarchy of the Catholic Church."

There will be significant changes in church operations and oversight. Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, has called for "a full and complete investigation of sexual abuse led by an independent commission that includes laity," and "complete transparency by the Catholic hierarchy into all matters of criminal sexual misconduct past or future," adding that "priests and bishops who refuse to live according to their promises of celibacy should be removed from public ministry." Similar recommendations have been made by several bishops and archbishops, including Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, USCCB president.

(Continued on page 10)



Council Charity Drives

Calling all Council members! Your help is needed as we proceed with two drives that provide funds for our charitable activities.

Tootsie Roll

Yes, it's tootsie roll time again. We will be setting up dates at the we serve 5 Parishes to do the tootsie roll drive. We will be looking for volunteers to man the tables after all Masses. Please let us if you can help at a Mass at your church. Dates to follow. Contact Mike Horan at 240-793-1169.



Car Raffle

The Maryland State Council Knights of Columbus 49th Annual Car Raffle is quickly ending. The GRAND PRIZE is a 2019 Ford Mustang or \$18,000 Cash – your option. Monies raised will benefit the state's charity and scholarship programs, as well as the charities and programs of Rock Creek Council. **Tickets are only \$1.00 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00.** Drawing will occur on October 6, 2018 at the Columbus Day Ball. *You need not be present to win!*

Your 20 car raffle tickets are in the mail. Please take a minute and fill out your tickets and send them back to the council with a check. Bring your tickets to the lounge, and you will receive a free drink for every 20 tickets you sell or buy. More tickets can be picked up in the lounge.

Membership

Initiation Degree- Rock Creek will be hosting an Initiation Degree (First Degree) on September 18. We would like to have a large class for the first initiation of the council year.

Its easy to get a new member. All you have to do is ask a friend, a neighbor or someone you know from church. Ask your candidate to arrive in the lounge at 7:00 pm for paperwork and a brief interview. The degree starts at 8:00 pm with dinner to follow.

The upcoming degrees scheduled to be held at Rock Creek Council for the current Fraternal Year are:

Admissions (1st) Degree:

September 18, 2018
December 18, 2018
February 19, 2019
April 16, 2019

Formation (2nd) Degree:

January 15, 2019

If you are not already a 2nd degree member, plan to do so now.

REFLECTIONS-AUGUST

But, the issue of sexual abuse and cover-up in the Church demands more than administrative changes. There is no shortage of effective policies and procedures already in place in many dioceses. The problem, as Bishop Edward Scharfenberger of Albany described it, is a "profoundly spiritual crisis." Archbishop Samuel Aquila of Denver went a step farther, stating: "We have also failed to recognize that the spiritual battle is real. Some say the Lord has forsaken the Church, but this is not true. Rather, there are some within the Church who have forsaken Jesus and the Gospel. The devil is real and uses confusion, chaos, discouragement, and negative thinking to draw us away from Jesus."

With this turmoil, some may regard the Church to be a failed institution and turn from the faith. That is exactly what the devil wants. As Cardinal Raymond Burke has stated, "What we must never permit is that these gravely immoral acts, which have sullied so much the face of the Church, permit us to lose trust in Our Lord."

Bishop Robert J. Baker of Birmingham gives us a path forward: "We cannot allow these scandals to destroy our faith...Only by turning to prayer and penance, and by living a life of sacrificial virtue, steeped in the sacraments of the church, does any one of us stand a chance against the great evils of our time."

Repentance, reform and rebuilding are needed. While action is necessary to address the temporal aspects of the problem, prayer is essential in order to center the activities on God. Prayer and action, the spiritual and the temporal -- when the two are combined the Church can be rebuilt on a foundation of Biblical principles, on the love of God and charity to our neighbor.

We must strengthen our devotion to the Mass, the rosary, Marian hours of prayer, retreats, spiritual readings, Eucharistic adoration, and other means to connect with the will of God. We must pray for the Pope, cardinals, bishops and priests that they are faithful to Christ. We must pray that the Church, though it is composed of members with human weaknesses, remains one, catholic, apostolic and holy.

We must fast to atone for the sins of depravity committed by members of the clergy for, as Bishop Morlino reminds us, "Some sins, like some demons, can only be driven out by prayer and fasting." With faith in God's mercy, the Barque will survive the storm.



Anniversary
& Birthday
Receptions,
Weddings,
Meetings

Rock Creek Council's

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THE KNIGHT CHATTER

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October CHATTER Deadline:
September 22, 2018

ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
September						1
2	3	4 Rosary 7:30 PM Business Meeting	5	6	7	8 Trivia Night Lounge 7:30 PM
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Rosary 7:30 PM 1st Degree 8:00 PM	19	20 O'Boyle Assem. Rosary 7:30 PM Meeting 8:00 PM	21 Live Music in Lounge 8:00 PM	22 Crab Feast 3-6 PM
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Visit the **Council Website** at www.kofc2797.org