



The Blue Mantle



Knights Of Columbus
Mater Dei Council #9774
www.geocities.com/materdei9774

June 2008

Eucharist: Our Heaven

Knights of Columbus Mater Dei Council #9774

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Pope on Eucharist

The sacrament of charity, the Holy Eucharist is the gift that Jesus Christ makes of Himself, thus revealing to us God's infinite love for every man and woman.

In the sacrament of the altar, the Lord meets us, men and women created in God's image and likeness (cf. Gen 1:27), and becomes our companion along the way. In this sacrament, the Lord truly becomes food for us, to satisfy our hunger for truth and freedom.

— Pope Benedict XVI

GK's Column



First, my congratulations to the newly elected officers. I wish them all the luck in the world and will help as Trustee in any way that I can. This of course means that this will be final column as Grand Knight. It is with some reluctance and also a bit of relief that I see my administration come to and end.

I would like to personally thank all of you for helping me this year. In particular my sincerest gratitude goes to Wil Adams and Pat DeGraba who have ably assisted me this past year as Trustees. I also want to extend my thanks in a special way to Dick Jasinski for being both a guide and conscience for the Grand Knight. Finally I would like to thank all my officers who have helped to make real the plans I made last July. Thank

you all for your cooperation, patience, and prayers.

June marks the ending of the Fraternal Year, but our work is not yet complete. Our business meeting on June 12 will be our final First Degree for the year. It will be preceded by an Open House on June 10. I encourage all of you to begin the summer with a bang by bringing a friend into the order.

On Wednesday June 18 we have the honor of hosting the McNamara Chapter of Grand Knights meeting in the Trumpet Room. This is a special meeting, since our own Tom Schneider PGK DD, will receive the jewel as the next president of the chapter. Please come and share this moment with Tom.

Our final meeting of the year, on June 26, will be a reception in the Trumpet Room to honor the GAS awardees. This too is a special event culminating a year's worth of effort by our GAS Chair, Bob McCaffrey.

At this year's State Convention I was proud to receive seven awards honoring our Community, Coun-

cil, and Youth activities, and our enormously successful Tootsie Roll Campaign. I want to extend my warmest thanks to Don Novotny and Jack Wohlhieter for steering this year's Tootsie Roll Campaign; your efforts are famous. I also want to thank Dick Bianchi whose sponsorship and management of the Special Olympics Ice Cream Social/Barbeque was honored with a 3rd place statewide prize for a Youth activity. Finally, I would like to thank Don Titzman who made an essential and important contribution to everyone of the activities of Mater Dei Council that were honored by the state. With brothers like this we can continue to be the David making noise among the Goliaths.

Congratulations to our Family of the Month for April, Pat and Sue DeGraba. I do not how this council could continue to function without your support and devotion.

Vivat Jesus

Bill Shaffer
Grand Knight

District Deputy's Corner

Thank you! Thanks to all the Knights, wives, and children of all ages that have made the last two years a pleasurable adventure serving as your District Deputy. The District Deputy position has often been called the best job in the Knights. I could not agree more! I had a chance to met really wonderful and dedicated people. My special thanks go to my Grand Knights for the patience in working with me throughout the past two years. Soon, I will be bring-

ing a new District Deputy to Council meetings and introducing him to your Councils. You will be more than pleased with whom the State Deputy elect selected for this job and I know that you will support him as you supported me. As for myself, I will assume the position of President of the Bishop McNamara Chapter of Grand Knights. Another job, another challenge! I also intend to give more support to my Council, Mater Dei 9774, by serving as a guard and running the Council's community programs. I can only say

thank you to my lovely wife Julie for her assistance throughout all these years that I have served as a Grand Knight, Faithful Navigator, and District Deputy. Thank you Julie! And to all of you, I wish you the best of fortune throughout your future years in the Order.

May God bless you and your families!

May God bless America!

District Deputy
Tom Schneider

Mater Dei Wins 7 Awards at State Convention

The activities of Mater Dei Council were copiously honored at the 110th Maryland State Convention held May 16-18 in Ocean City, MD. The first award was for participation in the Surge for Service Program which required the submission of reports in the 5 program areas (Council, Community, Church, Family, and Youth) for the 3 reporting periods during the Fraternal Year. These reports, which described the "best" council activity in the category, were the basis of subsequent prizes.

The submitted reports were scored by a panel of reviewers. Awards were given for overall excellence in programs based upon a council's combined score for the 3 reports in a program. In addition awards were given for the best individual activities in each program based upon the score of individual reports. The scores reflected not only the quality of the report but more importantly the impact of the

activity on the council and the audience served by the activity. Overall excellence awards were given in each council Division. Individual activity awards were not (all 148 councils are judged together).

Mater Dei Council received 2nd place overall excellence awards for Division A (councils with more than 220 members) for both its Community and Council programs. The Community programs submitted were the Garage to Attic Sale Awards Reception, the Multi-venue Tootsie Roll Campaign, and the Tootsie Roll Dinner. The Council programs submitted were the County Fair Booth, the Christmas Party and Dinner, and the Anniversary Dinner.

The council also received two 3rd place individual activity awards for a Council activity and a Youth activity. The Council activity honored was the County Fair Booth and the Youth activity was the

Special Olympics Ice Cream Social and Barbeque. This means that these activities were judged the 3rd best of the 444 activities submitted by 148 councils from the entire state of Maryland.

The council's outstanding Tootsie Roll Campaign won the First Place plaques for highest per capita collected amount (\$57.57) and the highest total collected amount (\$14,336.18) in Division A.

These awards represent well deserved recognition for all the brothers of Mater Dei Council who have tirelessly worked to create new ways to serve the larger community.



2008-2009 Fraternal Year Officers

Please congratulate the new officers:

GK Bob McCaffrey
DGK Don Titzman
Warden Mike Herman
Chancellor Federico Sologuren
Recorder Jack Phillips
Treasurer Paul Sullivan
Advocate Dick Weller

Trustees

3 years Bill Shaffer
2 years Wil Adams
1 year Pat DeGraba

Inside Guards

- ♦ Bob Scott
- ♦ Tom Schneider
- ♦ Joe Murray
- ♦ Tony Cammarota

Outside Guards

- ♦ Don Novotny
- ♦ Dick Bianchi

Appointed positions

Lecturer Larry Boesch
Chaplain Fr. Grant Gaskin
Financial Secretary John Frey

Delegates to 2009 convention

GK Bob McCaffrey
Delegate Bill Shaffer
1st Alternate Don Titzman
2nd Alternate Tom Schneider



In Memoriam: Dermot Murray

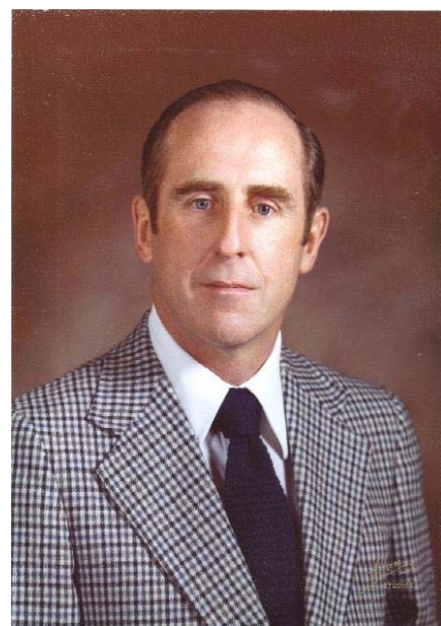
Dermot Anthony Murray, M.D., Capt. USN (Ret.) passed away to Eternal on Wednesday, April 30, 2008. Our fellow knight was the loving husband for 54 years of Margaret M. Murray; loving father of Richard P. Murray (wife, Annette), Mary F. Murray, and Ian A. Murray (wife, Lisa); devoted grandfather of Michael A., Megan E. and Aidan T. Murray.

The Mass of Christian Burial was performed at St. Raphael's Catholic Church on Tuesday, May 6 at 11 AM. Dermot was laid to rest in the Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Silver Spring, MD.

In lieu of flowers contributions in his memory may be made to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, 1359 Broadway, Suite 1509, New York, NY 10018 or online at www.pdf.org.

*Dear Margie, Rick, Mary & Ian:
 We offer you our deepest condolences.
 You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*With Love,
 Your Brother
 Knights*



Dublin, Ireland July 17, 1925
 Potomac, MD, April 20, 2008

Fraternal Benefits

If you are between the age of 60 and 75 -- why would you need insurance protection?

Let me suggest a few reasons why many Brother Knights in this age bracket utilize our protection:

1. You are currently receiving a pension. If you die -- your wife only gets 50-60% of your pension -- if any.
2. The group life insurance you once had is decreasing. You will lose either a majority of it -- or all of it.
3. Your wife could outlive you and she will need money to pay for her care in the future. Long term health care and nursing home hor-

ror stories are commonplace -- don't let this happen to your bride.

4. To provide a tax-free infusion of money to your wife or your estate to handle funeral costs, debts, bills and medical expenses. Also, attorneys' fees, probate costs and any taxes that are due.

5. Self respect -- life insurance allows a man to leave this world without any debt and better yet -- the ability to leave someone else better off!

Call me today, for your free Family Needs Analysis.

Fraternally,

Rick Morin, FICF, CSA
Your K of C Insurance Agent
301-384-7627

Mike Perez transfers from Mater Dei Council

It is with some sadness that we bid farewell to Mike Perez PGK, FDD. Mike has decided to transfer to Rock Creek Council primarily because their council house is within walking distance from Mike's home. Mike has been a tireless servant to Mater Dei Council and we will miss his wise council and enthusiasm. Rock Creek Council is gaining a superb member. Good luck, Mike, with your new council and remember that our council door is always open to you.

Our Daily Bread

"If it is daily bread, why do you partake it but once a year?..."

Receive it every day in order that every day you may benefit by it. Live in such a manner that you may deserve to receive it every day, for he who does not deserve to receive it every day will not deserve to receive it at the end of the year...

Do you not know that every time the Holy Sacrifice is offered, the death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord are renewed to the atonement of sin? And yet you will not partake daily of this Bread of Life! When one has received a wound does not he seek remedy? Sin which holds us captive is our wound: our remedy is in this ever adorable Sacrament."

Saint Ambrose, 340-397.

"God is our all"

It is in a spiritual fashion that God gives himself, reaching to the deepest depths of the heart with his inspirations and uniting himself so gently with the soul that words cannot express what happens. The net result is that whoever is thus joined to God becomes one spirit with him. Let us drown ourselves then in this ocean of holiness, of infinite purity. If we lose all, we shall thereby gain all. The divine heart will never fail us, this I tell you for certain, if we do not fail him. And even if we did, he would not fail us, because his fidelity is greater than our unfaithfulness.

He is not one of those who break faith with a person who has broken faith with him and we shall forever find him ready to call us back. Let us humble ourselves before the grandeur of God. Let us make our-

selves nothing in the presence of this adorable Unknown. Let us lose ourselves forever with never a thought of finding ourselves again. Let us plunge into his divine abyss. If only we could say in utter truth these words: *"My God is my all,"* we would never find our prayer long or boring. When boredom descended upon us in prayer, that simple phrase said from the heart would act like a spell to drive away our weariness and disgust. David declared that God hearkens to the desires of the poor. This is why it is sufficient in order to make a good prayer, merely to tell God: *"All my desires are before you and my groanings are not hidden from your sight."*

Saint Bonaventure offers us this advice for prayer. *"If you wish God to stoop down to reach you, carry the woes of Christ crucified in your heart."*

Saint Jane Frances († 1641) co-founded the original community of the Congregation of the Visitation.

The Eucharist

Mass: Center of Church Life

The “*greatest and first commandment*” (Mt 22:38) is: “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.*” Mass is the place per excellence where we can adore God: through the listening of His Sacred Word in the Holy Scriptures and substantially by receiving the Incarnated Word, the body and blood of Christ.

In the instructions on the liturgy, we read: “*The repeated celebration of the sacrifice of the Mass in our worshipping communities stands as evidence that the Mass is the center of the Church's entire life, the focal point of all other activities, and that the purpose of the ritual renewal is to inspire a pastoral ministry that has the liturgy as its crown and source and that is a living-out of the paschal mystery of Christ*” (*Liturgicae Instaurationes*). (Emphasis (bolding) added throughout article).

***“Holy Mass is the absolute center of my life and every day of my life.”
John Paul II***

Eucharist: Center of Church Life

Our late Pope John Paul II wrote: “The Church draws her life from the Eucharist” (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*), and the Catechism states: “*The Eucharist is the heart and the summit of the Church's life*” (CCC 1407).

Eucharist: Center of OUR Lives

The Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life” (LG 11), the “sum and summary of our faith” (CCC 1327).

Pope Benedict XVI instructs us: “*In the Eucharist mystery, Christ gives himself ever anew, and it is precisely in the Eucharist that we learn love of Christ, love for the Church. I repeat with you the unforgettable words of John Paul II: ‘Holy Mass is the absolute center of my life and of every day of my life.’ And each one of us should be able to say these words are his own: Holy Mass is the absolute center of my life and of my every day*” (Pope Benedict XVI, May 20, 2005).

***“Life is a movement,
whose Principle, Center,
and Term is God.”***

Fr. Henri-Dominique Lacordaire

Living a Christ-Centered Life

Why should Mass be the center of my life? Because as a person of faith, God should be the **center** of my life **each and every day**.

St John Vianney, the patron saint of priest, explains: “*All the prayers of the Mass are a preparation for Communion; and all the life of a Christian ought to be a preparation for that great action. We ought to labor to deserve to receive Our Lord every day.*”

Pope Benedict XVI teaches us that living by hope is to really see God as the center of our lives and that all our hopes are realized in God. He also states that “**What count is to place Jesus Christ at the center of our lives**, so that our identity is marked essentially by the encounter, the communion with Christ and with his Word.”

Because we are **Christ**-ians, Jesus Christ should be the center of our life. “*Following the example of St. Paul, Christians should put Jesus at the center of their lives*” (Pope

Benedict XVI, Oct 25, 2006).

In the Eucharist, Jesus is present, body, blood, soul and divinity. Having a Eucharist-centered life, means having a Christ-centered existence.

“*For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch*” (CCC 1324).

Eucharist: Our Daily Bread

“The Eucharist is our **daily bread**. The power belonging to this divine food makes it a bond of union. Its effect is then understood as unity, so that, gathered into his body and made members of him, we may become what we receive...” (St Ignatius of Antioch.)

Pope Benedict XVI tells us that it is our “**daily school of holiness**”: “*In approaching the altar, your daily school of holiness, of communion with Jesus, of the way of entering into his sentiments in order to renew the sacrifice of the Cross, you will increasingly discover the richness and tenderness of the love of the divine Teacher, who today is calling you to a closer friendship with him*” (4/29/2007).



Eucharist: Indispensable Food

We will probably never completely realize in this life the treasure that we have in the Eucharist.

St. John Vianney, the curé of Ars avowed: *"Without the Holy Eucharist there would be no happiness in this world; life would be insupportable. When we receive Holy Communion, we receive our joy and our happiness. The good God, wishing to give Himself to us in the Sacrament of His love, gave us a vast and great desire, which He alone can satisfy"*.

Saint (Padre) Pio of Pietrelcina affirmed: *"It would be easier for the world to exist without the sun than without the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass."* Apart from Jesus—apart from the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass—we can do nothing.

Jesus tells us: *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."* (Jn 15:5)

How do we abide in Christ every day? The Eucharist is the means per excellence for us to bond with Jesus as He declares: *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him"* (John 6:53-56).

The Eucharist: Our Heaven

The Eucharist gives us a foretaste of heaven. It is our *"bread which came down from heaven"* (John 6:41).

St Jean Vianney tells us: *"When we have just received communion, if we were asked what are we taking away to our homes, we might answer, 'I am taking away Heaven!'"*

The Eucharist is the greatest thing we will ever have while on earth. St. Maximilian Kolbe stated: *"If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: Holy Communion."*

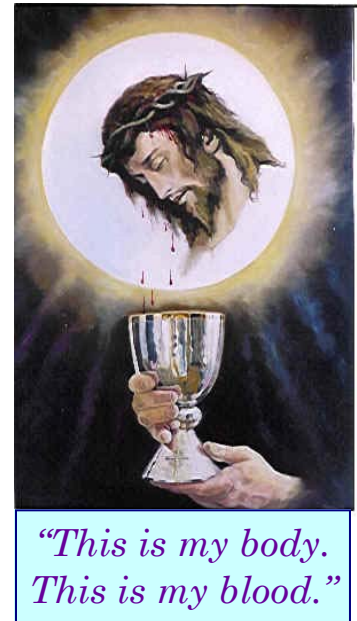
Eucharist: Proof of God's Love

The Eucharist is closely linked the Christ's passion: it is the body of the scourged, beaten and crucified Son of Man, and it is the blood of the sacrificial Lamb of God. Saint Paul tells us that *"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes"* (1 Co 11:26)

"[Christ] himself is the bread who, sown in the virgin, raised up in the Flesh, kneaded in His Passion, baked in the oven of the tomb, reserved in Churches, brought to altars, furnishes the faithful each day with food from heaven" (St. Peter Chrysologus, 400-450).

Jesus tells that there is no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. (cf. Jn 15:13) And he showed how great was his love for us by giving his life to us. "In the Eucharist Christ gives us the very body which he gave up for us on the cross, the very blood which he 'poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.' (Mt 26:28) " (CCC 1365)

"The sacrificial character of the Eucharist is manifested in the very words of institution: *'This is my body which is given for you'* and *'This cup which is poured out for you is the New Covenant of my*



blood' (Lk 22:19-20)" (CCC 1365).

"At the last Supper, on the night he was betrayed, our savior instituted the Eucharist sacrifice of his Body and Blood. This he did in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross throughout the ages until he should come again, and so to entrust the to his beloved Spouse, the Church, a memorial of his death and resurrection: a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a Paschal banquet *'in which Christ is consumed, the mind if filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us.'* (SC 47)" (CCC 1323)

Of all the signs that we receive from God as evidence of His love for us, the Eucharist shines the brightest. The Eucharist embodies love at many levels. In the Eucharist, we receive Christ himself, the sacrificial lamb and the author of all graces. It is the greatest of all miracles... It is where we partake in God Himself.... our Heaven.

Thank God for the Eucharist!

Camille Ng

KEY CONTACTS

GRAND KNIGHT

Bill Shaffer, 301-762-1735
billshaffer_kofc@verizon.net

DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT

Robert McCaffrey, 301-251-5225
bmacc38@yahoo.com

CHANCELLOR

Joe Doane, 301-983-1578
sassi222@juno.com

WARDEN

Don Titzman, 301-545-1910
don.titzman@occ.treas.gov

RECORDER

Jack Phillips, 301-610-1360
johnphillips@verizon.net

TREASURER

Paul Sullivan, 301-610-7752
jrsullivanpa@hotmail.com

ADVOCATE

Dick Weller, 301-990-8185
jrhwellers@verizon.net

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

John Frey, 301-424-3386
kofcfrey@comcast.net

LECTURER

Larry Boesch, 301-762-7134
larrypb41@aol.com

GUARDS

Greg Daily, 301-947-9248
Don Novotny, 301-424-6772
Dick Bianchi, 301-279-7244
Camille Ng, 301-340-0388
Robert Scott, 301-299-6053

TRUSTEES

Wilsie Adams, 301-924-1422
wadams@whalaw.com
Patrick DeGraba, PGK, 301-279-2879
pdegraba@comcast.net
John Cavallo, PGK, 301-762-3081
icavallo@comcast.net

CHAPLAIN

Fr. Grant Gaskin
GGaskin@straphaels.org

INSURANCE FIELD AGENT

Rick Morin, 301-384-7627
rickmkcins@cox.net

DISTRICT DEPUTY

Tom Schneider, DD, PGK, PFN-C,
301-279-0291 tomandjulie@fastmail.fm

Program Director: Robert McCaffrey

Membership Director: Joe Doane

Church Program: Wilsie Adams

Council Program: Dick Eckenrode

Family Program: Camille Ng

Community Program: (Open)

Youth Program: John Li
301-424-2713, jli@fbw.com

Editor, Blue Mantle: Camille Ng,
cam1000@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus
Mater Dei Council #9774

Message Board

- All articles for the next month issue must be received by the editor on the 25th by noon.
- "The sacrament of charity, the Holy Eucharist is the gift that Jesus Christ makes of Himself, thus revealing to us God's infinite love for every man and woman."
— Pope Benedict XVI
- "In the sacrament of the altar, the Lord meets us, men and women created in God's image and likeness (cf. Gen 1:27), and becomes our companion along the way. In this sacrament, the Lord truly becomes food for us, to satisfy our hunger for truth and freedom."
— Pope Benedict XVI

Schedule of Events: June 2008

Tue Jun 3 Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC
Tue Jun 10 Open House, 7:30pm, DCC
Thu Jun 12 First Degree, 8pm, DCC
Wed Jun 18 Chapter Meeting, 8pm, Trumpet
Thu Jun 26 GAS Awards, 8pm, Trumpet

NEW FRATERNAL YEAR

Tue Jul 1 Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC
Thu Jul 10, Regular Meeting, 8pm, DCC
Thu Jul 24, Regular Meeting, 8pm, DCC



Adoration

"The Blue Mantle" is a publication of Knights of Columbus, Mater Dei Council No. 9774, Rockville, MD. It is an unofficial publication and does not represent official opinion of the Knights of Columbus. It is published monthly.



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Knights of Columbus
Mater Dei Council # 9774
P.O. Box 10237
Rockville, MD 20849-0237

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Suburban MD
Permit No. 2302

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