



The Blue Mantle



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

March 2008
Easter Tridium

Knights of Columbus
Mater Dei Council
#9774

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Pope's Monthly Intentions (March)

Forgiveness

That all may understand the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation between individuals and peoples and that the Church may spread Christ's love.

The persecuted

That Christians who are persecuted because of the Gospel may be sustained by the Holy Spirit and continue to bear witness to the Word of God.

GK's Column



As March begins we are halfway through our Lenten journey and begin to look forward to Easter. For the council March is also a busy time with many important events on the calendar. On March 8 we have our annual Anniversary Dinner in the trumpet room. On March 13 we will prepare lunches for a local shelter. On March 27-29 we will conduct our Garage to Attic Sale and on March 30 we will help with the Divine Mercy Sunday services at St. Raphael. There are plenty of activities to get involved in and I encourage all the members (especially the new ones) to get involved. These activities are explained in fuller detail in the articles in this issue.

I want to personally thank all those who took part in the Tootsie Roll Awards Banquet this past month, especially Don Titzman and Dick Bianchi who helped with setup and manned the bar for the event. Their help made the dinner a wonderful event for all our guests.

I also want to thank Dick Jasinski for arranging another inspiring Lenten Movie event. He chose a very inspiring, educational, and entertaining film that I am sure will benefit all who attended.

I finally want to thank our Lecturer Larry Boesch for arranging the Social Meeting in February which featured Msgr John Fitzgerald of the Apostleship of the Sea office in Baltimore. Larry has done a fine job in enlightening all of us on the needs and opportunities for expanded ministries.

And finally a word of encouragement. As we enter the last third of the Columbian year we also begin our last membership drive of the year. New

members are essential to the vitality and health of our council. As many of us have noticed, the active participation of many of the newest members has dramatically enhanced our ability as a council to improve the effectiveness of our activities (the Tootsie Roll Campaign broke the \$14,000 mark this year) and to break new ground (the booth at the Montgomery County Fair). I encourage each of the members over the next couple of months to make a serious effort to reach out to qualified Catholic men and merely ask them if they have considered joining the Knights. It is only through this growth that we can continue our important and noble work into the future.

Vivat Jesus

Bill Shaffer
Grand Knight

GAS - March 29th

The 2008 Garage-to-Attic Sale (GAS) will be Saturday, March 29th from 9:00-3:00 (8:00 for the early birds). To prepare for this year's Garage-to-Attic, we will have Planning Meetings on Tuesday, March 11th and Tuesday, March 25th at 7:30 in Rooms 4/6. All Knights and their families are welcome to attend. Snacks and refreshments will be served.

On Friday, March 28th, we receive donated items, and we set up for the Garage-to-Attic Sale. Donation hours on Friday, March 28th are from 9:00AM-7:00PM. We need as many Knights and their families as possible to help with the setting up.

We have over 70 Knights and their families volunteer to work so far, but we still need more.

We have opportunities for you to volunteer in any of the following departments:

Books: Carla McCaffrey (Chair)
Boutique: Mary Girardi (Chair)
Cashiers: Dick Jasinski (Chair)
Clothing: Ray Gasper (Chair)
Computers: Larry Boesch (Co-Chair) and Terry Harrington (Co-Chair)
Electronics: **(Department Chair Needed)**
Food: Dick Bianchi (Co-Chair) and Don Titzman (Co-Chair)
Furniture: Frank Della Penna (Chair)
House Wares: **(Department Chair Needed)**
Linens: **(Department Chair Needed)**
Manna Food Donations: . Tom Sherman (Chair)
Pickup & Delivery: ... Joe Doane (Co-Chair), Paul Schuncke (Co-Chair)
Receiving: Tom Schneider (Chair)
Saturday Cleanup: **(Department Chair Needed)**
Security: Joe Trainor (Chair)
Small Appliances: **(Department Chair Needed)**
Sporting Goods: Don Novotny (Chair)
Tools: Chuck Covell (Chair)
Toys: Janet Radovich (Chair)

Our greatest need for volunteers are in the Linens, Manna Food Donations, Saturday Cleanup, Security, and Small Appliances Departments.

If you wish to volunteer, please come to our March 11th GAS Planning Meeting. You may also sign-up to volunteer by contacting Bob McCaffrey at (301) 251-5225 or bmac38@yahoo.com.

Family Basketball Tournament

On Saturday April 5, the Council will be conducting its 5th annual 3 on 3 Family Basketball Tournament. Brother Knights can either participate by submitting a team or assisting in scoring, setting up, and cleaning up. The games will again be played at Our Lady of Mercy gymnasium from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The official publicity will appear in the St. Raphael's Church bulletin on March 9.

You can download the application at our Web site: www.geocities.com/materdei9774/

Get your applications in early or call John Li if you have any questions.

Storage Room needed for GAS

If you can spare some space in your garage for a few weeks, please contact Don Novotny at 301-424-6772. We need some temporary storage room until our garage to Attic Sale.

Thanks in advance!

Community-Based Shelter

Our Council has agreed to provide bagged lunches for the Rockville shelter residents on March 13. The lunches will be prepared late afternoon on Wed, March 12.

One or two more volunteers are needed.

If you would like to participate contact Dick Jasinski at 301-983-1445.

In Memoriam — Anne Murray

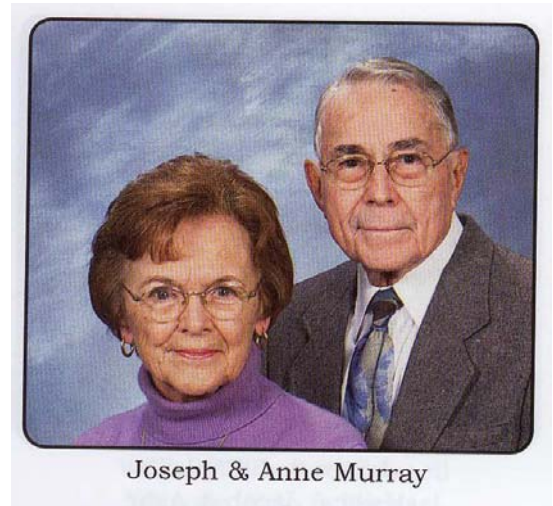
It is with great sorrow that we mourn the passing of Anne Murray, wife of one our own - Brother Knight Joe Murray. Anne was born 1 January 1924. She and Joe married 14 August 1943. Anne died at the age of 84 on 18 February at Suburban Hospital with all her children present.

Some of you may remember seeing Anne working in housewares during our Garage Sales. Many of you may not know that Anne presented the Murray family with 11 children, and was grandmother to 33, and great-grandmother to 24. Joe would always say they rented three homes when the family would gather at Rehoboth.

The Memorial Mass for Anne Murray was held at St. Raphael Church on Friday, 22 January.

Joe, accept our condolences. Her faith, love, and warm smile will be missed by us all.

Your Brother Knights



Joseph & Anne Murray

Tootsie Rolls Dinner Successful

On February 9 Mater Dei Council hosted the annual Tootsie Roll Awards Banquet for the Montgomery County Councils. The banquet is held each year to distribute the funds raised in Montgomery County during the fall Tootsie Roll Campaign. This year the councils gave away almost \$50,000 to 21 local organizations helping those with intellectual disabilities. Attending the event were representatives from 15 of the 16 councils in Montgomery County including 13 Grand Knights. Also attending were 65 guests from the 21 charities. In all over 170 people attended the event.

The program for the evening included the presentation of the colors by the Sullivan Brother's Assembly Color Corps, the singing of the national anthem by David Marshall (Chancellor of St. Rose of Lima Council and an official national anthem singer for the Washington Redskins), and a stirring speech by State Treasurer Peter Davio.



Columbian dignitaries who attended the Tootsie Roll Awards Banquet. In the front row are DD Ernest Harley (District 11), State Warden Stephen Adamczyk, Father Grant Gaskin (Chaplain of Mater Dei Council), State Treasurer Peter Davio, DD John Durbin (District 3), and DD Tom Schneider (District 18). The Grand Knights of the Montgomery County Councils are in the back row.

The Catholic Prison Ministry among many

At the Council's January 24th meeting we were treated to a wonderful presentation by Deacon Frank Salatto, Jr., Joe Doane and Juan Proano of St. Raphael Parish on the Catholic Prison Ministry as performed at the Montgomery County Jail located at Clarks-ville, Maryland that is located just off the Boyds exit on I-270. These three men alone have provided from 10 to 21 years of service, each. We were enlightened how hungry many prisoners are for starting or renewing a spiritual life. Spiritually, Bible studies, prayer groups and spiritual guidance are available weekly. Mass is offered on many occasions. We also learned,

other things, that parishioners also provide reading, English as a second language, computer, and several other courses. The volunteers find a great fulfillment in providing help to the men and lady prisoners.

We learned that any more volunteers, both ladies and men, those that speak English, Spanish, and other languages, are needed to fill the many voids that exist in the ministry. To volunteer and be trained, contact Deacon Salatto at



301-762-2143 ext. 149. This not limited to members of St. Raphael Parish.

Let it be known that that many members of religious persuasions other Catholic also volunteer to provide religious services at the prison. So now consider again about volunteering to provide the Catholic point of view at further sessions.

New 2nd and 3rd degree members

Mater Dei Council would like to congratulate its newest 2nd and 3rd Degree members. On February 7th at St. Raphael Mater Dei Council hosted a 2nd Degree exemplification. In all, 16 candidates from District 18 participated. Mater Dei Council had five of its members advanced to the 2nd Degree that night (Father Carlos Benitez, David Minarich, Kevin Rogan, Terry Herrington, and Tod Sloan).

The next evening four members of Mater Dei Council participated in the 3rd Degree exemplification held at Rock Creek Council. The newest 3rd Degree Knights are Terry Herrington, Tod Sloan, Mike Herman, and Federico Sologuren. They are now eligible to be officers of the council and to win the Silver Knight award!



Lenten movie night on St Paul was a hit with parishioners of all ages

Mater Dei Council sponsored a Family Lenten Movie Night on February 19 in the DCC. The evening featured a showing of a History Channel biography of the life of the Apostle Paul. In all over 20 parishioners of St. Raphael and Our Lady of Mercy attended the event. The movie was followed by refreshments and animated discussions regarding the importance of St. Paul's contributions to the formation of the Catholic faith.



Advocate's Advisory

We are almost through three quarters of the Fraternal Year and it seems like just yesterday when we embarked on the New Year. We have had a very successful year thus far and the remainder can be just as successful, but one of our most important, if not the most important event, is still to come. I am sure that everyone reading this article thinks he knows what I am talking about, but I doubt that even one out of ten will know the right answer.

It is our annual election of officers. Yes, this is more important than most members realize. This is when we choose those Brothers who not only will be leading us the following year, but if done correctly, a team that will work together for several years to come. With good leadership, a Council will not stagnate. History tells us that without some sort of intervention or an amazing awakening by a Grand Knight, Councils that have stagnated continue to decline and eventually merge with another Council, go out of business or simply limp along barely clinging to life.

So, you say how does this affect me: First and foremost, excluding the Grand Knight, the other three chair officers should move up barring a drastic change in their lives that would prevent this. As it was designed, each chair trains you in certain aspects of Knighthood that will help guide you and allow you to as-

sume the GK position confidently with the knowledge to do an excellent job for your Council.

All other officers and committee chairmen should search their hearts to receive guidance as to whether they are ready to begin the journey through the chairs and if so, should notify the search committee that you would like to run for warden. It would be rewarding to see this a hotly contested race. All other members should search their hearts for what they may do

"Believe me, if you become active, you will get much more out of the Knights than you could ever put in."

the following year, either as an elected officer, other than a chair officer, an appointed officer, or a committee chairman. We need your involvement! We need new blood! It is not good, for the Council, to have the same people in the same positions (officers or Committee Chairmen) year in and year out.

We need an active Council and believe me, if you become active, you will get much more out of the Knights than you could ever put in. Doesn't seem like a fair deal, does it? Well, it's a good deal for you. Please take advantage of it.

By this time the Search Committee should have appointed and spoken to each chair officer (as early as

possible) confirming that they will be moving up to the next position. They should also have developed a preliminary list of Brothers with the potential to make an excellent GK. I hope that they will find two or three Brothers who are willing and anxious to make the commitment to the Council and run for the Warden position.

Following this most important selection, the Committee will move on and locate Brothers for the other elected positions. It is ideal to fill most positions with new members. This will serve two purposes. It will help get them involved in the Council, and it will create a group of Brothers from which to choose future wardens. The Advocate position, however, should be filled with a person such as a PGK or at least a long time member who has a deep knowledge of the traditions of the Knights and is familiar with our By-Laws and hopefully State and Supreme By-Laws. This procedure should begin around the first of February to allow the committee sufficient time to work without the pressure to select less than the best candidates due to time constraints.

This year we should initiate a plan to put in motion an annual schedule for accomplishing each task required to select the officers that will be our future leaders. By setting in motion a three- year plan, it will become an accepted part of our Council's Calendar of Events and will lead to a strong council with strong, knowledgeable leadership.

Fraternally,

Richard Weller, Advocate

Editorial: Suffering and Passion of Our Lord

Suffering is something difficult for us humans to accept. We tend to want to revolt in face of suffering and cry out loud: "God why do you allow this to happen?"

I think that because deep down in our hearts, we know that it is not something that was meant to be. As humans, we long for love, for peace, for justice, for joy and happiness. Suffering strikes a discordant chord in the middle of our aspirations. It seems out of place with the notion of a good and loving God.

The suffering of the innocent is even more difficult to comprehend for us. It has been described as "the rock of atheism." It can challenge our faith to the point of denying God or rebelling against Him.

Why is there suffering?

When God created the world, everything was "good" and in harmony. God created man and woman to "be with in heaven from the start". "God had given them a special participation in his own divine life in holiness and justice. In the plan of God they would not have had to suffer or die" (Compendium #72). It was the first man and woman, as representatives of the human race, who chose to break communion with God through sin (cf. gen 3). Death, pain, suffering and sorrow are all consequences of the free human choice to reject God's friendship. "As a result of original sin, human nature is weakened in its powers; subject to ignorance, suffering, and the domination of death; and

inclined to sin. (This inclination is called 'concupiscence') " (CCC 418).

The love of God

This could have been the "end of the story" and the destiny of all mankind. But God did not abandon us, because "*God is love*" (1 Jn 4:8,16). He loves the world he made, and he loves us, broken though we are.

God loves us so much that he sent his only son Jesus-Christ into the world and offer him as a sacrifice - to suffer, die and rise again - so that we may once more have eternal life (cf. Jn 3:16-17, Rm 3:1-4, Rm 5:17-21).

"For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit" (1 Pe 3:18).

Jesus took upon him our sufferings and "*changed it entirely: from a sign of malediction to an instrument of redemption. Even more: he made it the supreme value, the highest order of greatness in this world. After sin, the true greatness of the human creature is measured by the fact of bearing the least amount of guilt possible and the maximum amount of punishment possible. It is not so much in the one or the other taken separately -- that is, in innocence or in suffering -- as it is in the co-presence of the two in the same person. This is a type of suffering that brings us closer to God. Only God, in fact, if he suffers, suffers as innocent in an absolute sense.*"

C. Ng

(Father Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap)

Thankful heirs of God

So when it comes to suffering, we can humbly turn our "*Why?*" into a "*Thank You!*", our question to a thanksgiving, our incomprehension to love, our fear to hope. Why? Because God chose to bear human suffering to redeem us; Jesus is God's response to sin, the New Adam, "*as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin [...] much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ*" (Rom 4:12,17).

Carrying our cross

Suffering is part of our fallen nature. During this life, we have to "carry our cross." Jesus instructs us: "*If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me*" (Lc 9:23) and "*Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple*" (Lc 14:27).

Pope Benedict XVI explains: "*Pain is the door by which the faithful can enter into the mystery of redemption, and reach with Christ peace and happiness.*" "*Mysteriously united to Christ, the man who suffers with love and meek self-abandonment to the will of God becomes a living offering for the salvation of the world.*"

Stigmatics are extraordinary examples of how one may physically bear of sufferings of Christ.

Redemptive suffering

"Catholics Christians firmly believe in Redemptive Suffering, whereby a person willingly offers up their personal aches and pain, trials and tribulations with Christ on the Cross. [...] uniting your own suffering with the crucified Jesus gives a person's unavoidable suffering meaning and purpose" (Catholicism for dummies).

Mother Theresa of Calcutta saw suffering as being personally kissed and embraced by the Crucified Lord; where He holds us so close and so tight that we can feel (analogously) the nails and thorns in our own body.

Redemptive Suffering permits us to rejoice with Saint Paul: *"Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the Church"* (Col 1:24). *"I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God"* (Rm 12:1) and to *"bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God"* (1 Tm 1:8).

Eucharist and Suffering

"It thus appears clear that it is specifically from the Eucharist that health pastoral care must draw the necessary spiritual strength to come effectively to man's aid and to help him understand the salvific value of his own suffering. ... Mystically united to Christ, the man who suffers with love and meek self-abandonment to the will of God becomes a living offering for the salvation of the world. [...]"

By contemplating the mystery of the Eucharist in connection with the World Day of the Sick, not only will the actual participation of human suffering in the salvific work of God be celebrated, but the valuable fruits promised to those who believe can in a certain sense be enjoyed. Thus pain, received with faith, becomes the door by which to enter the mystery of the redemptive suffering of Jesus and to reach with him the peace and the happiness of his resurrection" (Pope Benedict XVI).

Suffering for salvation

"Amid the difficulties you meet in the exercise of devotion, remember the words of our Lord: 'A woman about to give birth has great sorrow, but when she has brought forth her child, she no longer remembers the anguish for joy that a man is born into the world.'" Within your soul you have Jesus Christ, the most precious child in the world, and until he is entirely brought forth and born you cannot help suffering from your labor. But be of good heart for these sorrows will pass and everlasting joy will remain with you for having brought forth such a man into the world. He will be wholly brought forth for you when you have wholly formed him in your heart and deeds by imitating his life" (St. Francis de Sales, Introduction to the Devout Life).

"By patient endurance we will win our souls. It is our great happiness to possess our own souls, and the more perfect our patience the more completely we will pos-

sess our souls. We must often recall that our Lord has saved us by his own suffering and endurance and that we must work out our salvation by sufferings and affliction, enduring with all possible gentleness the injuries, denials and discomforts we may experience" (Ibidem).

Mary, Queen of Martyrs

"Mary is the Queen of Martyrs, for her Martyrdom was longer and greater than that of all the Martyrs" (St. Alphonsus Liguori).

"Mary 'Mater Dolorosa' is associated with the sacrifice of Christ, suffering with her divine Son at the foot of the cross. The Christian community feels her to be especially close as it gathers around its suffering members who bear the signs of the Lord's passion. Mary suffers with those who are afflicted, with them she hopes, and she is their comfort, supporting them with her maternal help" (Pope Benedict XVI).

In this 150 years Jubilee of the apparitions of Lourdes, let us commune with St Bernadette's prayer: *"O desolate Jesus, refuge for afflicted souls, your love teaches me that it is from your afflictions that I must draw the strength in which I stand in need to bear my own. I know that the most terrible sufferings I could experience would be to have no share in yours, but you ensured by your agony that the Heavenly Father will not forsake me and that He in His mercy is never so near to me when I am united to you, O Jesus, by my desolation."*

Successful blood drive

The January 23rd blood drive was very successful. Thirty eight people were presented, netting 26 single units of blood plus two double reds for a total of 28 units. The Red Cross was very pleased with the result. All of the donors and the following volunteers are to be thanked for making it happen: Marty Piper, Joe Doane, Mike Donohue, Pat De-Graba, Dick Jasinski and Kate and Dick Eckenrode. The only real issue we had was that it took more than an hour to process from entry to exit. The bottle-

neck seemed to be the initial testing and recording of the donors history. Part of this was due to the large number of walk-ins early in the evening. We had eleven walk-ins, which is great, but it does make for a less efficient process. We have presented the details of this issue to the Red Cross in hopes that they can find a solution. The next K of C blood drive at St. Raphael's will be Wednesday, May 28, 2008, 5:00 to 9:00pm. Please reserve the date and make an appointment."

Benefits: It takes more than money

Most commodities can be bought provided you: 1) Have the money, 2) can find a willing seller, and 3) can agree on a satisfactory price. In like manner, most investments -- real estate, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, bank accounts -- required only an arm's length agreement and a deal is struck. All it takes is money!

There is one notable exception to the above statements. The purchase of life insurance. When the purchase of life insurance is considered, in addition to setting aside dollars, the prospective insured must prove that he is in good health. If a man is deemed to be "uninsurable", no amount of money will make this commodity available to him.

The ability to qualify for life insurance is an asset that is temporary at best. Without warning, your health can fail, and you may never be able to add to your life insurance pro-

gram. Other hazards may prevent you from qualifying -- occupation, character, even old age. What would happen if you suddenly woke up and decided to buy life insurance, but had lost your ability to qualify for it? Ever think about that?

I can tell you about our guaranteed purchase option. Think of that! The ability to secure additional insurance, depending on the amount of your option, on a guaranteed basis -- without necessarily being in good health. This option can be added at issue of a new certificate up through age 37. Find out at your convenience how little it costs to guarantee the right to increase your protection.

Call me today for an appointment. I want to hear from you.

Fraternally,
Rick Morin, CSA, FICF
Your K of C Agent

DIVINE MERCY TO BE CELEBRATED AT ST RAPHAEL

All of our Knights and families are encouraged to join in the Divine Mercy Celebration at St. Raphael. Volunteers are needed to lead the Novena and to provide assistance on March 30. Contact Dick Jasinski 301-983-1445 with your questions and to volunteer.

NOVENA TO DIVINE MERCY

The novena will be prayed by the St Raphael Catholic Community from March 21 through March 29. The Novena will follow the 9:00 AM Mass on all days except on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. On Good Friday the Novena will be recited following the Stations of the Cross at 3:00 PM. On Easter Sunday the Novena will be recited just prior to the 1:00 PM Spanish Mass. Come join us on Good Friday, March 21 as we begin the daily novena and plan to participate in our Divine Mercy Celebration on March 30.

DEVINE MERCY HOUR OF GREAT MERCY CELEBRATION, MARCH 30

A video on the life of St. Faustina will be shown in the Duffy Center at 1:00 PM. The Divine Mercy Celebration will begin in the church at 2:00 PM (immediately following the 1:00 PM Mass) and will include:

- ◆ 2:00 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- ◆ 2:00 - 3:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions
- ◆ 2:00 - 3:00 PM Confessions available in the Duffy Center
- ◆ 3:00 PM Chanting of the Divine Mercy Chaplet
- ◆ 3:20 PM Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- ◆ 3:30 PM Celebration of the Mass - Fr Angelus Shaughnessy, O.F.M. celebrant

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Knights of Columbus
Mater Dei Council #9774

Notices

The Family of the Month for January is the **Wohlheiter** family. The award is in recognition of Jack's tireless contributions to the success of the Tootsie Roll Campaign. He acted as Don Novotny's right-hand man in organizing the schedule and managing the collections. In addition, Mary Lou has been a regular participant in the Garage to Attic Sale. Between the two of them they have to make our two biggest events successful each year.

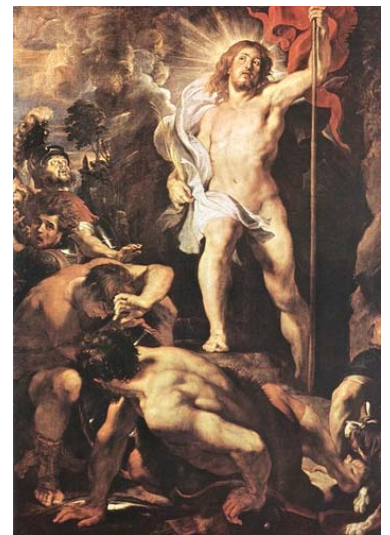
HAVE A GREAT EASTER!

- Please send your articles/comments/suggestions to the editor at cam1000@gmail.com.
- All articles for the next month issue must be received by the editor on the 27 by 7am.

Schedule of Events: March—April 2008

Tue Mar 4 Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC
Sat Mar 8 Anniversary Dinner, 6pm, Trumpet
Tue Mar 11 GAS Planning, 7:30pm
Thu Mar 13 Business Meeting, 8pm, DCC
Sun Mar 23 **Easter, Lord's Resurrection**
Tue Mar 25 GAS Planning, 7:30pm
Mar 27-28 Garage-to-Attic set up (2 days)
Sat Mar 29 Garage-to-Attic Sale
Sun Mar 30 **Divine Mercy Sunday**

Tue Apr 1 Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC
Thu Apr 10 Business Meeting, 8pm, DCC
Sun Apr 20 Coffee and Donuts, 8am-1pm
Tue Apr 22 Open House, 7:30pm, DCC
Thu Apr 24 First Degree, 7:30pm, DCC



The Resurrection, Rubens

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