



The Blue Mantle



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

May 2008
Month of Mary

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Month of Mary

May is the "month which the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world [pay] to the Queen of Heaven. During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance."

Pope Paul VI, *Mense Maio*

GK's Column



The Fraternal Year is winding down but we still have many important events left on our calendar. During our Executive Board meeting on May 6 we will be deciding on the allocation of the GAS awards for this year. All are invited to attend and provide their input. We especially invite those who have submitted charity nominations to attend and defend their choices against the ebb and flow inherent in these meetings.

During our Business meeting on May 8 we take on the vital task of selecting officers for the next Fraternal Year. The nominations received during last month's meeting are listed elsewhere in this issue. Note that some of the offices are open (no nominations so

far). We invite all members to attend and participate in this democratic process.

This month the council will be conducting another Blood Drive. Donors are urgently needed as well as volunteers. I can tell you from personal experience at previous Blood Drives that it's a painless procedure that provides an invaluable service to the community. Dick Eckero is signing up donors and is looking for volunteers to help out. Please give Dick a call soon at 301-251-3793.

As mariners are guided into port by the shining of a star, So Christians are guided to heaven by Mary.

St. Thomas Aquinas

May also marks the return of one of the council's favorite events. Our social meeting on May 22 will be another Poker Night. As always the stakes are low so the enjoyment level will be high. This is one of the best times to socialize in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.

Looking ahead to June, the

council is planning another road trip (via school bus) to see the Nats take on the O's at Nationals Stadium on Sunday June 29. Call Eric Gregrich ((301)-598-0998) for more information and to reserve your tickets. This is a great event for the entire family.

Finally, I would like to honor the Family of the Month for March, John and Ofelia Li. John has done another wonderful job this spring in organizing the council Free Throw Competition and the 3 on 3 Family Basketball Tournament. Ofelia did a wonderful job again this year in the linens department of the Garage to Attic Sale. It is families like this that allow this council to provide excellent programs to our members and the community. Thank you, John and Ofelia.

Vivat Jesus

Bill Shaffer
Grand Knight

Nominated Officers for 2008-2009

Grand Knight: Bob McCaffrey
Deputy GK: Don Titzman
Chancellor: open
Warden: open
Recorder: Jack Phillips
Treasurer: Paul Sullivan
Advocate: Dick Weller
Outside Guards: Dick Bianchi &
 Don Novotny
Inside Guards: Bob Scott &
 Tom Schneider
3 year Trustee: Bill Shaffer

Convention:

Delegate: Bill Shaffer
1st Alternate: Don Titzman
2nd Alternate: Tom Schneider

Elections will be held during
 the May 8 business meeting.

Mary in our fight against Sin and the Devil

Father Gabriele Amort, priest of the Society of Saint Paul, has been an exorcist in the diocese of Rome for the past 21 years. Here are extracts from a recent interview:

Once I asked Pope John-Paul II: “‘Most Holy Father, I meet many bishops who do not believe in the devil’. John-Paul II replied: ‘The one who does not believe in the devil does not believe in the Gospel.’ The devil is an angel [Editor: As a pure spirit, an angel is neither male nor female], thus a pure spirit created good by God and who perverted itself for having rebelled against God. It has all the characteristics of a pure spirit: a great intelligence, much greater than ours.”

With Jesus, it is possible to defeat the devil: “The exorcist acts in the name of Jesus with the force that comes from Jesus.”

“On one occasion an exorcist friend of mine asked the devil what most hurts him about Our Lady, what most annoys him. He responded, ‘That she is the purest of all creatures and that I am the filthiest; that she is the most obedient of all creatures and that I am the most rebellious; that she is the one who committed no sin and thus always conquers me.’” He commented that Mary is a key figure in the fight against evil, weakness and sin. Mary herself was tempted. “Mariology is my field and I have often been asked if Mary was tempted by the devil. Definitely. When? From her birth until her death, but she always triumphed.”

Fraternal Benefits

Have You given Your Universal Life Policy an “Interest Check?” Many years ago when interest rates were very high, projections of cash accumulations were quite aggressive. Rates of 10% - 12% or even 14% were common.

Have you reviewed your interest rates recently? With lower rates, what has happened to your Universal Life policy? Will it perform as projected? Will it terminate, unless more premium deposits are made? Those lower interest rates may require more premium deposits. However, that may not be your only worry.

If you counted on those policy pro-

ceeds to be left on deposit for your loved ones, consider that a \$100,000 death benefit will produce \$10,000 a year at 10%. Unfortunately, at today’s lower interest rates, a \$100,000 death benefit may not even produce \$5,000 a year.

What about your retirement plan? How have these lower rates affected your projected income? Isn’t time you had an “Interest Check?”

Call your Brother Knight and council’s field agent today.

Fraternally,

Rick Morin, FICF/LUTCF
 Your K of C Insurance Agent
 (301) 384 7627

Blood Drive

The next Red Cross blood drive sponsored by the K of C will be held in the Duffy Center Wednesday May 28, 2008 from 5 to 9pm.

Donors are urgently needed and should make appointments by calling Dick Eckenrode at 301-251-3793 or emailing reck@joimail.com.

Volunteers are also needed to staff the appointment table before and after masses May 25, to help out the evening of the drive and to make solicitation and reminder phone calls. Volunteers can sign up at the K of C meeting May 22 or by calling or emailing the above number or address.

Divine Mercy Sunday

was celebrated on March 30 at St Raphael with The Reverend Angelus H. Shaughnessy, OFM Cap as principal celebrant.

Father Shaughnessy recently served as Minister General for the Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word (EWTN), Irondale, AL. The St Raphael celebration included a movie on the Life of St. Faustina, multilingual confessions, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Eucharistic Adoration, Chanting of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Holy Mass. The celebration was concluded with a blessing on the entire congregation using a 1st Class St.

Faustina relic. Father Shaughnessy spoke on the great gift we as Catholics have in the confessional and the "fount of great mercy" we have in Jesus. The celebration was well attended with many from neighboring parishes. Fr. Shaughnessy was warmly welcomed following the service by those in attendance, with some waiting near one hour to exchange a greeting. St Raphael was truly blessed to have Fr. Shaughnessy as celebrant for DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY.



Family basketball

On Saturday April 5, Mater Dei Council conducted its 5th annual Family Basketball Tournament at Our Lady of Mercy gymnasium. Six teams competed in the morning round from 9 am to 11 am, and three teams competed in the afternoon round from 1 pm to 3 pm. A total of 13 adults and 20 kids participated in the round-robin formats. The Ramet family of Silver Spring won the morning round, and our very own Tod Sloan's family of Mater Dei Council won the afternoon round. Tournament trophies were awarded to the participating youth.

Many thanks to Brother Knights Richard Sinatra, Mike Herman, and Don Novotny, who helped set up, referee and photograph the 24 individual games. Special thanks to Our Lady of Mercy parishioner Sinatra for arranging all day use of their gym.

Vivat Jesus

John Li, Youth Program



Mass at Nationals Stadium with Pope Benedict XVI

APRIL 17, 2008

My wife Julie and I were among the lucky ones to obtain tickets to the Papal Mass offered at Nationals Stadium, on April 17, 2008. We were very much looking forward to the Mass and the experience, and the Mass met all of our expectations. Some thoughts -

This was our second Mass with Pope Benedict XVI. Our first was in Rome a couple years back while traveling with Fr. Bill. The contrast in our two experiences are interesting with the Mass at Na-

that this Mass was being celebrated where the first Catholics landed in America in Southern Maryland some 200 years earlier. Pope Benedict spoke of the Gospel readings from John 20:19-23 and how Christ in speaking to the Apostles said "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you". As the current successor of Peter he was here in our midst to Confirm Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, and to call for a new outpouring of the Spirit in the Americas to right the many things in our society that pull us away from the true teachings of the gospel. He asked all to be a witness to our faith and to work for justice and peace. He spoke of Hope, and Hope for the future is very much a part of the American character. He spoke of the great pain inflicted on the young as a result of the sexual abuse of minors and the need to give loving pas-

tionals Stadium winning out in all categories except for two. In Rome we were just a couple doors away from the Vatican - so it was a short walk to the Mass. Also in Rome we were seated very close to the path of the Pope Mobile - so we got some very good pictures.

The Papal Mass at the Nationals Stadium was at a much higher level. It was perfectly planned. The stadium was turned into a sanctuary. The altar was in the



"Peace! Have hope. Be of one heart and one mind! Share what you have in love."

Benedict XVI

toral attention to those who have suffered and the need to deal honestly and fairly with this tragic situation. He encourage all to do what they can to foster healing and the need to rediscover the practice

outfield with a towering center stage. Much of the grass in the outfield was covered with a white tile and altar was flanked by 14 American Cardinals and some 250 bishops and 1300 priest concelebrating the Mass. Everything was well orchestrated and executed.. It was in English. A complete Mass Book was provided to all so that you could follow everything - the Mass, the readings, the singing. There were a number of choirs which totaled approximately 570 voices. The music during the Communion service was climaxed with Opera star Placido Domingo singing "Panis Angelicus". The Popes homily was very much for us Americans. How appropriate it was

of penance, and reconciliation.

I was struck by Pope Benedict's gentle message and charisma. How he was able to speak of our problems in a positive humble way. I'm sure many hearts were changed. I was reminded of the pure joy which comes from God's forgiveness. It was a beautiful sun filled day, and it was a once in a life experience - to be in the presence of the successor of Peter - and most of all - in our country speaking calmly in his heavily accented English about the church, the challenges of the church, and exhorting all to be a faithful witness to the teachings of Christ.

Alleluia!

Vivat Jesus!

Dick & Julie J

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Knights of Columbus Mater Dei Council #9774

Notice Board

- All articles for the next month issue must be received by the editor on the 27 by 7am.
- Devils flee before Mary's face
As wax melts before the fire.
— **St. Bonaventure**
- If you invoke the Blessed Virgin when you are tempted,
She will come at once to your help,
And Satan will leave you.
— **St. John Vianney**
- Modern times are dominated by Satan and will be more so in the future. The conflict with hell cannot be won by men, even the most clever. The *Immaculata* alone has from God the promise of victory over Satan. However, now that she is assumed into heaven, the Mother of God requires our cooperation. She seeks souls who will consecrate themselves entirely to her, who will become in her hands powerful instruments for the defeat of Satan and the extension of the Kingdom of God.
— **St. Maximilian Kolbe**

Schedule of Events: May - June 2008

Tue May 6 Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC
Thu May 8 Business Meeting, 8pm, DCC
Sun May 20 Coffee and Donuts, 8am-1pm
Thu May 22 Poker Night, 8pm, DCC
Wed May 28 Blood Drive, 5-9pm, Duffy

Tue Jun 3 Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC
Tue Jun 10 Open House, 7:30pm, TBD
Thu Jun 12 1st Degree, 7:30pm, DCC
Wed Jun 18 Chapter Meeting, 8pm, Trumpet
Thu Jun 26 GAS Awards, Trumpet

Mary crushing the serpent



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“Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the Devil is prowling
around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
Resist him, steadfast in faith, knowing that your brothers and
sisters throughout the world undergo the same sufferings.”
1 Peter 5:8-9
