
Mater Dei Council 9774 - Knights of Columbus - Rockville, Maryland
Council Meetings - 2nd and 4th Thursday - 8:00 p.m. - St. Raphael's Duffy Community Center
www.geocities.com/materdei9774

From the Grand Knight's Station



Brothers All,
I hope this newsletter finds you all well, as we prepare for the most holy of seasons, Easter. Lent is a time of preparation, to reflect on our past, and renew ourselves for the future in the

Resurrection of our Lord. I wish all of you a solemn Lenten season and a joyous Easter.

Since the previous issue of the Blue Mantle we have been quite busy. We closed out February by cooking at the parish Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner.

Thanks to Dick Jasinski, Terry Harrington, Greg Maier, Jim, Edmondson, Ray Gasper, Robert Scott, and a number of other brothers who volunteered to help.

We held our annual Anniversary Dinner and this year combined with an appreciation dinner for all of you who worked on the Garage to Attic Sale. Dick Jasinski masterfully orchestrated the dinner helped out in the kitchen by Wilsie Adams, Bill Shaffer, Tony Camarotta, Jack Phillips, Don Novotny, Ed Bell, and Paul Sullivan. Steve Anzalone, Ray Gasper, Eric Gregrich and Tom Schneider ran things behind the bar.

While there are too many Garage to Attic Sale Volunteers to mention by name, I thank again all who helped out. At the dinner we did recognized Wilsie Adams, Tom Schneider and Bill Shaffer for serving as co-chairs of the GAS sale for the past two years.

On a smaller scale we hosted a Friday night Pizza dinner at St. Raphael. Thanks to Tony Antonelli, Larry Boesch, Jose Carbonell, Joe Doanne, John Frey, Tom Luxnor, Joe Murray, Han Scheirling and Tom Sherman for providing salads and desserts and working the dinner.

When we were not concerned with food.... we were hosting other events. We held our third annual family Three on Three basketball tournament. This was the idea of John Li who has organized this even

for the last three years. Thank you, John and thanks to Eric Gregrich and Richard Sinatra and Tom Luxnor for giving up their Saturday to help at the event.

We closed out the month hosting our third blood drive of the fraternal year. Special thanks to Jim Edmondson for coordinating these most important events during the year.

As the fraternal year winds down we have a few activities remaining. One of the most rewarding activities is the choosing of the recipients of our Garage to Attic Sale. If you have any suggestions for charities please inform myself or Wilsie Adams. We also have our continued presence praying the rosary on the third Saturday of each month at the Uptown Abortion Clinic on Comprint Court. Just off Shady Grove Road. We also have one more first degree ceremony scheduled for the 4th Thursday in April. I want to thank Bob McCaffrey for an outstanding job in organizing our recruiting of new members this year, and ask you to support him once again in April.

Finally, we begin the process of choosing officers for the next fraternal year. I want to encourage everyone to consider serving the council either as an elected officer or as an appointed officer. The work is rewarding, but even more importantly, I found that as I have served for the last two years, I have met many of our brothers and forge new friendships, which I hope will grow over the years. I urge you to plan to get involved in the coming fraternal year.

Again I wish all a happy Easter.

God Bless,
Patrick DeGraba
Grand Knight



District Deputy's Message

We are well into Lent, and Easter soon will be here. It is time to strengthen the resolves we made at the beginning of this season, and to prepare ourselves to spiritually accompany our Lord in the blessed days ahead – sharing the joy of Palm Sunday, partaking of the preparations and prayers on Holy

Thursday, witnessing His suffering on Good Friday, waiting on Holy Saturday, and finally exalting in His resurrection on Easter Sunday. May each of you and your families experience a very blessed Holy Week.

On Sunday, February 26, the Fourth Degree Exemplification for the Archdiocese of Washington District was held at the University of Maryland's University Inn and Conference Center. It was a very successful event as 129 new Sir Knights, from the eleven Assemblies in the District, were installed in the highest degree of our Order. The Councils in our District accounted for 13 new members. I am delighted to congratulate these men who joined either the Cardinal Patrick A. O'Boyle Assembly -- Bernard J. Doneski III and James D. Finn from Rock Creek Council; Andrew H. Brown, David C. Czarniecki, Alan A. Kistler, Yves Sainteus and Prosper A. Youm from Msgr. Thomas E. Wells Council; or the Sullivan Brothers Assembly -- Joseph R. Goudreau and William C. Trimble from St. Joseph Manyanet Council; Gregory J. Daly, James W. Edmonston, Thomas A. Luxner and Robert J. McCaffrey from Mater Dei Council.

Every Council in District 18 has committed itself to support the Catholic education of a child in the Holy Land. Rock Creek and St. Manyanet have approved the funds from their current budgets. Mater Dei has put out a call for individual donations to obtain the \$300. St. Elizabeth is raising the funds. And Msgr. Wells has collaborated with St. Andrew's School. The School Principal declared March 20 a "non-uniform day", that is, children who donated \$1 for charity did not have to wear the school uniform that

day. The school collected the \$300 and gave it to the Council to support a child in the Holy Land. What a great idea and fine result. After the funds are received by the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, a specific child will be identified to receive the aid. Each Council will obtain a framed certificate, a picture and biographical sketch of the child it is supporting, and a promise that the child will write to the Council.

On March 10, Rock Creek held a testimonial dinner for Msgr. William F. O'Donnell, who served the Council as associate chaplain, chaplain, and chaplain-emeritus for 42 years. A few weeks earlier, he retired from active ministry – at the time the oldest priest in the Archdiocese in that capacity. Monsignor's life has been full of remarkable accomplishments. After graduating from Gonzaga High School and Georgetown University, he entered the Army in time to fight at the Battle of the Bulge. When he left military service at war's end, he had earned a silver star and two bronze stars for heroism, and two purple hearts. He proceeded into diplomatic service, and served as vice consul of the U.S. Consulate in Hamburg. Then, he returned to Georgetown to earn a law degree, clerked for a federal judge, and joined the Department of Justice. Finally, the Lord snared him, and he entered Christ the King Seminary and was ordained in 1962. As a priest, he has had many interesting assignments, including curate at St. Jane de Chantal, editor of the Catholic Standard for 13 years, assistant pastor at St. Ann's, pastor of St. Hugh's, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, and director of the Catholic cemeteries. Monsignor, I extend our deepest appreciation for your service to the Knights of Columbus and to the Archdiocese, and wish you good health and enjoyment in your retirement.

Lawrence P. Grayson
District Deputy

FRATERNAL BENEFITS

GOOD ADVICE

Remember your teacher's good advice? "Always start each project with an outline. It will give you the right direction." Experience tells us that the same idea works when it comes to getting ahead on the job – or in planning for individual or family security. But, in the latter kind of planning, your outline cannot be completed alone.

Rely on the trained advice of your Knights of Columbus Insurance Agent and the Order's long and practical experience in the life insurance business to help you prepare your plans for the years ahead. I will be happy to help you chart and build a sound economic future. Better yet, I'll do it with an individual insurance plan keyed to your own needs and goals.

This sort of professional counsel is available at absolutely no obligation...just through a telephone call to me for an appointment. Today, when programming is essential to effective use of the do-everything computer, it is equally so to the fulfillment of our own dreams and hopes for our families. Life insurance programming is a service you should have...and one that I provide.

Call me today.

Fraternally,
Rick Morin
301.384.7627

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following Knights for receiving their 2nd Degree on March 9:

**Walter Burns
Don Hathway
David Jordan
John Kent
David Sorensen**

Attention 2nd Degree Knights

If you are a 2nd Degree Knight and want to receive your 3rd Degree, our local District 18 will not hold a 3rd Degree Ceremony until 2007. However, there are three opportunities this spring to receive your 3rd Degree in the Washington, DC area. The local 3rd Degree Ceremonies are:

April 21, Our Lady of Fatima Council 6901, Barnesville
May 12, Sacred Heart Council 2577, Bowie
June 2, St. Columille Council 5317, Ft. Washington

These 3rd Degree Ceremonies are all on Friday, and the Knights of Columbus require that all 3rd Degree Candidates arrive by 7:00 PM. Required dress is a suit and tie.

If you are interested in receiving your 3rd Degree, please contact Bob McCaffrey, (301) 251-5225, or bmac38@yahoo.com. Please tell me which 3rd Degree Ceremony you wish to attend, so that we may fill out the paperwork for you and sponsor you at that ceremony.

FAMILY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

On Saturday March 25, Mater Dei Council conducted its 3rd annual Family Basketball Tournament at Our Lady of Mercy gymnasium. Five teams competed in the morning round from 9 AM to 11 AM, and five teams competed in the afternoon round from 1 PM to 3 PM. A total of 37 people participated, made up of 11 adults and 26 children (various sons, daughters, nephews and nieces.)

Teams came from St. Raphael's and Our Lady of Mercy (2 each), St. Elizabeth and The Heights School (1 each), and three foreign countries (Ethiopia, Kingdom of Swaziland, and Republic of Palau.) Each of the teams competed vigorously in a 3 game round-robin format, with the Ramet family from Ethiopia and the Segura family from The Heights School emerging victorious. Trophies were awarded to the children of the winning teams.

Many thanks to Brother Knights Eric Gregrich, Richard Sinatra, and Tom Luxner, who helped set up and referee the individual games. Also thanks to John Miller and Donald McCourt of St. Raphael's for arranging the scheduling of the 18 games. Finally, thanks to Brother Knight Wilsie Adams for arranging the all day use of the Our Lady of Mercy gymnasium."



A winning group were the Ramet family from Ethiopia, pictured with Chairmen John Li and Eric Gregrich and John Li, and Tess Sauler from the Embassy of Figi.

SPRING MEMBERSHIP BLITZ

Sunday, April 23: After Mass - Meet and Greet

It's the spring of 2006, and the Knights of Columbus requested that we have a spring Membership Blitz. The Mater Dei Council will participate in the membership Blitz on Sunday, April 23. This will give you an opportunity to make a prospective Knight feel welcome to the Knights of Columbus.

The Knights will set up outside of church after all of the masses. We would like to have at least 4 volunteers to meet and greet prospective members after all masses this weekend. Please sign up at the council meeting or call Bob McCaffrey, (301) 251-5225, or bmac38@yahoo.com to volunteer.

FIRST DEGREE CEREMONY

Mater Dei Council will conduct a 1st Degree Ceremony on Thursday, April 27 at 7:30 PM in classrooms 4 & 6 at St. Raphael's. The 1st Degree Ceremony will be followed by social. This is a great opportunity to welcome new members into the Knights of Columbus and to reacquaint yourself with fellow Knights. Drinks and refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact Bob McCaffrey, (301) 251-5225, or bmac38@yahoo.com.

ON A MORAL ECONOMY

Lawrence P. Grayson, DD, PGK, PFN

America is the wealthiest, most powerful nation on Earth. Its economy accounts for one-fifth of the world's Gross Domestic Product, with some 212 countries contributing the remainder. America welcomes into its society more people from more nationalities, religions, languages and cultures than any other nation in history, and provides them with opportunities to create better futures for themselves and their families. In recent memory, America has defeated the forces of fascism, Nazism, and communism, and continues to be a bastion of freedom and democracy for people everywhere. It has landed men on the moon, excelled in scientific and technological advances, improved agriculture, advanced medical knowledge, increased the productivity of its businesses, expanded its economy, and enhanced the standard of living for its people. In these material ways, America has succeeded enormously, leading the world in wealth, power, and influence.

Behind its enormous expansion has been the pressure of people's needs, wants, and desires, which regularly increase as they continue to be met through the skillful application of science, technology, finance, productive enterprise, marketing and business management, all operating in a market-driven economy. The illusionary desires of yesterday have become the superfluous wants of today and will transform into the necessities of tomorrow. Producing goods and services for others makes sense both for economic self-interest as well as the common social good. To be successful in a market economy, business must respond to the wants, needs and desires of consumers, that is, it must regard others.

The *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* describes a capitalistic, free-market as "an institution of social importance because of its capacity to guarantee effective results in the production of goods and services." The dynamism of a market-based economy unleashes individual initiative, inventive intellect, entrepreneurship, and creativity that often result in the improved production of goods, services and wealth. These, in turn, are important for achieving objectives of justice, charity, and the social well being of people.

A productive, expanding economy creates opportunities for all people to improve their lives. The creation of wealth and the alleviation of poverty can move in tandem, for there is a greater availability of material goods and the wealth to purchase them. It does not mean that poverty will be eliminated, but only that the lives of all can be improved. Poverty is relative, and as long as there is a spread of wealth among the populace, those at the bottom of the curve will be considered to be poor. In an expanding economy, however, all people, including the poor, have a chance to better themselves. As President John F. Kennedy stated, "A rising tide lifts all boats."

A socialist or welfare economy, in contrast, is passive and static, with people and institutions relying on others for basic needs. In a static economy, one group of people can advance only at the expense of another. If some get rich, others become poorer. With a fixed amount of wealth to be distributed there can be justice only in a monastic-like or communal society, in which everyone agrees to forego his or her advancement for the good of the community. In a large, more heterogeneous society, the human desire to advance oneself can easily lead to the oppression of others. Autocracy is often the result.

A market economy, even with the advantages it creates, is not a panacea. Abuses and problems, such as enormous variations in the distribution of wealth, exist in free markets. Further, an inordinate desire for material progress, fueled by ever increasing advances in science and technology and the insatiable demand of business for increased profits, can become an idolatrous faith. Too many people become blinded by the temptations of material gain, forgetting that their lives have a supernatural dimension and that the things of this world are to be used to help one to fulfill the divine plan of their existence.

If a free market is to work properly, it requires a certain parity among the entities so that one party does not become powerful to the degree that

others are reduced to practical subservience. This is true for organizations, as well as individuals. When a corporation becomes too powerful, the State has an obligation through juridical means to assure that a free competitive market can operate. The State must insert itself, however, only in a minimal way to right egregious abuses, without unduly restricting the freedom of businesses to operate as they see fit. This involvement should be guided by the principles of solidarity and subsidiarity -- solidarity to stimulate actions to defend the weak and disadvantaged; subsidiarity to guarantee that the state's intervention will not become overly invasive.

The relationship between economic progress and human dignity has been a continuing concern of Catholic social doctrine. When society evolved from an agricultural to an industrial economy in the second half of the 19th century, human labor became a commodity that could be bought and sold in the market. Pope Leo XIII then defined the Church's position regarding the essential dignity of the person and the individual rights of workers in *Rerum Novarum*. When strong economic centralization arose in the early 20th century, especially under socialism, Pope Pius XI introduced the principle of subsidiarity in *Quadragesimo Anno*. More recently, the Welfare State has evolved. It has come about to assist people in need, but in doing so often makes them dependent upon the State, which reduces their freedom and dignity as persons. Pope John Paul II addressed this by expanding upon the ideas of his predecessors in *Centesimus Annus*. In these and many other documents, the Church continues to define the basis of a moral economy, that is, an economy which can provide for the material well being of people, while not violating their natural rights or disregarding their needs for social, religious and spiritual development.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

April - May 2006

Apr 1	Tootsie Roll Dinner - 6:00 pm Trumpet Room
Apr 2	Host Coffee & Donuts - 8:00 am - Trumpet Room
Apr 4	Council Executive Board Meeting - 7:30 pm - DCC
Apr 13	Holy Thursday - No Council Meeting
Apr 16	Easter Sunday
Apr 22	Cardinal's Charity Ball
Apr 25	Recruitment Open House - 7:30 pm
Apr 27	Council Meeting - 8:00 pm. - DCC - First Degree
May 2	Council Executive Board Meeting - 7:30 pm - DCC
May 11	Council Business Meeting - Election of Officers
May 19 - 22	Maryland State Convention
May 25	Council Social Meeting - 8:00pm - DCC

SPECIAL NOTICE

**THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE
JUNE 2006**

**THIS CURRENT ISSUE
IS FOR APRIL AND MAY**

**All articles for the JUNE Issue
must be received by the Editor by
Tuesday, MAY 30, 6:00 p.m.
w-hunter01@comcast.net**

EMAIL ADDRESS ? ?
Does the Financial Secretary have your
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kofcjohnfrey@comcast.net
if you now have email, or have a
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*A Joyous
Easter
to All*

APRIL - MAY 2006



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