

The Blue Mantle

AUGUST
2005

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



Worthy Knights, Ladies and Friends,

We have kicked off another fraternal year with a wonderful Installation Dinner. Over 80 knights, family, and friends help us welcome a new slate of officers. I want to thank PGK John Cavallo and Longhorn Steakhouse for

providing us with a most delicious dinner, and PGK Tom Schnieder and the others who manned the bar. It was a wonderful event. I also want to thank all the brothers who put away the chairs and tables at the end of dinner. I look forward to this as being the beginning of a long standing tradition of quick clean up at Knight events.

Now that we have eaten, it's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work. We begin our year with two fund raising events. One is our incentive car raffle, which will begin shortly. You will be receiving your tickets in the mail. This is a very important event. The proceeds both fund the K of C scholarships and are a

very important source of funding for our many council activities. The success of Mater Dei Council's programs depends on your success in selling these tickets.

The second event is the Tootsie Roll campaign to raise money for the mentally handicapped. This campaign was a great success last year and I look forward to an equally successful campaign this year.

Finally, I want to thank PGK Dick Jasinski who has organized other past grand knights into a phone tree. This will be very helpful in mobilizing the brotherhood in carrying out these two fund raising efforts and other activities during the year. The success of this year depends on all the brothers participating. I look forward to working with all of you during the coming year.

God bless you and your families,
Patrick DeGraba
Grand Knight



Newly installed Officers of Mater Dei Council receive their jewels at Installation Ceremony Mater Dei's installation ceremony, July 16, 2005-- and worth repeating, in these vital days:

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS take place at St. Raphael Church. The installation oaths were administered by District Deputy for District 18, Lawrence Grayson. Following the installation Mass was celebrated by Council Chaplain, Father William Finch.

A reception and banquet was held following the celebration of Mass.

Excerpt from address by Larry Grayson, District Deputy, K of C, on occasion of

Let us more actively support the Right to Life -- from conception to birth through life to death. Let us educate ourselves and others on the issues involved and the Church's positions on them. Let us learn of those who are or wish to be government leaders at the local, state, and national levels -- their views with regard to the rights of the unborn, respect for the dignity of every person, and the importance of the traditional family, and help make their views known, on a non-partisan basis, to the wider communities in which we belong.

District Deputy's Message



With the “lazy” days of August upon us, and with the officers installed in four of the five Councils in our District, it is a good time to take that last breather before Labor Day and a new cycle of activity begins. The start of a new Fraternal Year is always exciting – new ideas, new plans, new energy, new hope. This reinvigoration is necessary for the future of every organization, especially for one composed of volunteers. But this dedication and commitment cannot be limited to the Officers alone.

While the new Officers can and, I am sure, will provide direction and guidance, the future of the Council rests with the Council as a whole. No volunteer organization can succeed in fulfilling its purpose or in satisfying the needs and desires of its members without the members’ involvement. I urge each of you to attend the Council meetings, make your ideas known, become involved, and support your Officers. Having been a volunteer in a number of organizations for over 40 years, I can assure you of two things. First, the organization will prosper because of your involvement. Second, you will get more out of the organization than you contribute: lasting friendships, transferable experiences, and significant satisfaction. Remember, this is your Council and it will flourish or decline because of what you do.

As many people will be taking their vacations in the next few weeks, I thought I would suggest a few books for your leisure reading. With a new Pope, there is great interest in his ideas and the directions he may set for the Church. On that topic, if there is

only one book you read make it *The Ratzinger Report* (Ignatius Press). This is a wide ranging discussion by the then-Cardinal on the legacy of Vatican II, problems in the Church, and his hope for the future. If you have already read it, try *Salt of the Earth* (Ignatius Press). This is another broad and thought-provoking discussion by Cardinal Ratzinger on his own life and on the future of the Church.

With the growing devotion to Divine Mercy, it is worth knowing something of the nun who was God’s instrument in bring that message to the world. There are several good biographies of her, but one I found interesting and easy to read is *The Life of Faustina Kowalska* (by Sister Sophia Michalenko, Charis). For something in a different vein, *A Peace to End All Peace* (David Fromkin, Henry Holt and Company) may catch your interest. It describes how after World War I the Allies divided the geography of the Middle East and carved out nations that created natural political problems, which led to the endless wars and the escalating terrorism of today.

An interesting and well-researched historical biography, with fictionalized dialogue, is *Joan of Arc* (Ignatius Press) by Mark Twain. Told by one of the country’s greatest storytellers, Twain regarded this as his best work and the one that gave him the most pleasure. Read it; you’ll like it. I hope this short and eclectic list gives you some pleasure.

Lawrence P. Grayson
District Deputy #18

FRATERNAL BENEFITS

A WAY OF LIFE

When was the last time you wife went shopping for the day and left you to mind the children? How would you handle this responsibility day after day, plus having to work?

When I ask this question, I find that most of our members have closed their minds to this possibility. Unfortunately, it does happen, you know. No man likes to place a monetary value on his spouse. But money is the only thing that will give you a fighting chance to keep a semblance of a home for your kids should anything happen to your wife.

Many insurance men call it “wife insurance”. I like to call it “way of life” insurance. Call me today for an appointment. I want to hear from you.

Fraternally,

Rick Morin Your Agent for LIFE!

SHINING ARMOR AWARD

Two Mater Dei Knights are recipients of the Shining Armor Award; Brothers **Wil Adams** and **Bill Shaffer**. Grand Knight Patrick DeGraba presented the award at the Installation Dinner.

The concept of the "Shining Armor Award" program is to get new members active in the many facets of the Knights of Columbus as early as possible and assist in maintaining that activity and also honor them as a valued member of our Council.

To qualify for the "Shining Armor Award" new Knights must during their first year of membership;

- Be involved in at least 3 Council service programs.
- Attend at least 3 Council business meetings.
- Receive their Second and Third degrees.
- Meet with their Council's Insurance Representative.
- Recruit at least one new member.

The Council extends congratulations to Brothers Wil Adams and Bill Shaffer.

BUDGET PROPOSAL - FISCAL YEAR

2005-2006

WORKING FUND PROGRAMS

Non Event Revenue

Dues from Membership	7,900.00
Incentive Car Raffle	2,500.00
Entertainment Books	1,000.00
Recycle Program	50.00
Initiation Fees	200.00
Poker	200.00
Fifty-fifty Chances	425.00

Total \$12,275.00

KofC Assessments

State Assessments	(1,200.00)
Advertising	(300.00)
State Convention Delegates	(500.00)
Columbus Day Ball Advertisement	(120.00)
Supreme Assessments	(769.00)
Cardinal's Charity Ball Advertisement	(120.00)

Total (\$3,000.00)

Daily Operations

Financial Secretary Compensation	(600.00)
First Degree Supplies	(100.00)
Grand Knight Expenses	(500.00)
KofC Supplies - Office (paper)	(100.00)
KofC Supplies - Supreme	(400.00)
Member Awards	(250.00)
New Member Recruitment	(200.00)
Notices and Publications	(350.00)
Office Supplies	(125.00)
Postage	(1,300.00)
Printing	(800.00)
Refreshments & Food - Meetings & Events	(2,000.00)
Rent - Not from GAS or Tootsie Roll Dnr	(300.00)
Second Degree Food & Drinks	(75.00)
Service Council - Programs	(100.00)
Teacher Awards	(450.00)
Working Fund Transfer (Rent)	(700.00)
Youth Awards and Programs	(400.00)

Total (\$8,750.00)

Events

Anniversary Dinner	350.00
Christmas Party	350.00
Ice Cream Social	(200.00)
Installation - Ceremony	(220.00)
Installation - Dinner	(800.00)

Total (\$520.00)

TOTAL WORKING FUND \$5.00

BUDGET PROPOSAL - 2005-2006

MATER DEI COUNCIL

CHARITIES, INC.

Garage to Attic Sale

Garage Sale - Net Income	13,000.00
Garage Sale - Distributions	(11,000.00)
St. Raphael Support - GAS Rent	(2,000.00)
Food Sales	200.00
Mentally Handicap (Tootsie Roll)	
Collection	7,000.00
Disbursed	(7,000.00)
Net Proceeds from Dinner	500.00
Trumpet Room Rent for dinner	(500.00)

Seminarian Support

Seminarian Support Drive	2,500.00
Seminarian Distribution	(2,500.00)
Seminarian Rebate	500.00

Other Revenue

Bank Account Interest/Charges	50.00
Fundraiser - Westfield Mall	300.00

Donations

Church/Community Contributions	(500.00)
Funds for Needy Brothers	(100.00)
Printing	(250.00)
Special Olympics	(200.00)

Total (\$1,050.00)

TOTAL CHARITY, INC. 0.00

Building Fund

Bank intgerest	50/00
St. Raphael Support (Rent)	(700.00)
Transfer from Working Fund	700.00

TOTAL BUILDING FUND \$50.00

The proposed budgets will be presented for adoption at the August Business Meeting of Mater Dei Council.

The Philosophy of American Government Lawrence P. Grayson, PGK, PFN District Deputy 18

Abraham Lincoln, in his address at Gettysburg on November 19, 1863, put into words the essence of what America stands for, "conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." In the midst of the Civil War, he spoke of the task ahead: "that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

While the power to govern in America rests with the people, there is recognition that the nation and its leaders are responsible to a higher authority, that God has sovereignty over nations as well as individuals.

This acknowledgement of God distinguishes American democracy from the totally laicist philosophies of government that are prevalent in Europe. Freedom under God implies that the government has a moral basis, that God is the ultimate source of all authority, and that man is bound in his actions not only by the laws of the government, but by the strictures of the Creator.

France, in contrast, has organized its government solely on the basis of humanistic principles, treating man as autonomous and subject only to his own reasoning. In 1789, France adopted the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, which contains no reference to a Higher Being. Rather, it states that, "Liberty consists in the freedom to do everything which injures no one else." This is, to use the words of Pope Benedict XVI, anarchic freedom. A person has no constraints on his behavior, save only those that arise to prevent his infringement upon the same rights of others for similarly unrestrained actions. Liberty in France is akin to license, and not ordered or morally limited. The French Constitution, last revised in 1958, avows adherence to the earlier Declaration, and states that France is a "secular" Republic. When God is omitted and made irrelevant to

public life, statesmen are responsible only to the popular will of the people, and are immune for their actions from a superior judgment. If the state becomes tyrannical, as did Nazi Germany, the people have no appeal to a higher authority.

September 11, 2001 awakened this nation to the reality of terrorism on American shores. The public was frightened, angry, confused. War was declared on terrorism. This was a reaction to the immediate threat to assure survival, but was not a long-term or complete solution to the problem facing the nation. Even if terrorism was to be fully suppressed and the country's borders made impenetrable to terrorists, conditions existing throughout the world would still give rise to other threats to the nation. Being against something, does not change the underlying conditions. There would still be countries headed by ambitious dictators anxious to extend their power. People would still live in oppression, being destitute, without legal rights or an expectation of economic or political improvement. An approach that would result in changes in the root causes of terrorism was needed.

President George W. Bush has said this nation is for democracy and will assist other nations achieve it. This is a laudable goal, but the question remains, how should the United States promote democracy in other nations? What actions should America take politically, economically, militarily, diplomatically to do so? What obligations, if any, does the United States have as the world's only superpower, and on what basis should it determine its role in the world? These questions have significant moral overtones, and can only be answered if there is a public consensus on what this country stands for, what principles are to underlie its policies and actions, what values it is to adhere to as a nation. These fundamental principles and values should be rooted in a higher authority, otherwise, relying only on the secular desires of the people, America can become as roughish as the nations it

opposes. Hitler was successful because he decoupled the German people from their religious beliefs and substituted the view of Arian supremacy and a misguided patriotism for the teachings of the churches.

America from its founding has recognized its reliance on God. The Supreme Court affirmed this understanding when, in 1952, it asserted: "We are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a Supreme Being." As a result, the principles underlying the American philosophy of government are moral in nature. The duties and obligations they impose are moral duties and obligations. With the strong movement toward secularism that has occurred in America, the nation must reaffirm its understanding and commitment toward its founding principles, for they form the basis to set the nation's purposes, provide a framework for its domestic and foreign policies, lead to standards of conduct for its actions, and establish a basis for political dialogue. Without such an agreement, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to develop a consensus on how the nation should act as a society.

As Knights of Columbus, let us educate ourselves on the principles upon which this country was established (a worthwhile theme for our Lecturers to implement) and on the values we should practice as Catholic Americans, and then decide how, as a Council, we can take action to foster those principles and values in our community.

Vivat Jesus!

BROTHER KNIGHT TOM BUCK SHARES WITH US: I was really proud to be a Knight. My wife Pat and I several weeks ago visited a resident of Raphael House. While conversing with her, she got into how good the Knights have been to her. She said they moved her into her room, and did everything down to hanging pictures, pointing all of this out. She said that other residents also have been recipients of this personal health.

Another Knight then knocked on the door and joined in our conversation. After we reminisced a little, the Knight explained that he came to Raphael House to hand out Bible Sharing papers for a group he led later in the week. This short visit, in which we "caught fellow Knights doing good" impressed upon us the value of the Knights.

All the larger K of C events are a vital part of the Knight mission--membership drives, charity events, meetings, record keeping, etc. But in this visit, the value of the personal touch had its day. Hooray for the Knights!

INFORMATION ON RUTH LANGLEY: Past Grand Knight and Past District Deputy Mike Perez has passed along information about a recent phone call from Ruth, who is head of PROP, and does the collection of left-overs from our Garage to Attic Sale. Ruth has been able to move back into Rockville. She wanted the Knight to know that she appreciated the support and encouragement of the Mater Dei Knights during her difficult times.

If anyone wishes to drop her a card, or a call on the phone; her address is 808 Harrington Road, Rockville, MD 20850, and her telephone is 301-340-9333.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

August 2005

- Aug 2** Executive Board Meeting - DCC - 7:30 pm
- Aug 11** Council Business Meeting - DCC - 8:00 pm
- Aug 25** Council Social Meeting - DCC - 8:00 pm
- Aug 27** Maryland State Council Picnic - Patapasco State Park
- Aug 28** Maryland State Softball Tournament - Ridge Rd Park -
Germantown
- Sept 6** Executive Board Meeting - DCC - 7:30 pm
- Sept 8** Council Business Meeting - DCC - 8:00 pm
- Sept 11 & 18** Council activity following Masses at St. Raphaels
- Sept 23** Ice Cream Socail at Our Lady of Mercy
- Sept 25** St. Rapahel Picnic - Parish Grounds - 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm

THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE SEPTEMBER 2005

All articles for the **SEPTEMBER**
Issue

must be received by the Editor by
Thursday, August 25, 6:00 P.M.
editor9774@comcast.net

EMAIL ADDRESS ??

Does the Financial Secretary have
your email address? Please advise

John Frey

kofcjfrey@comcast.net
if you now have email, or have a
change of email address.

AUGUST 2005



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