



The Blue Mantle



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

August 2007
Assumption of Mary

**Knights of Columbus
Mater Dei Council
#9774**

Inside this issue:

GK's Report	1
Chaplain's Column	2
Culture (1/2)	2
Shrines for Mary	3
Assumption & Fiat	4
Budget	5
Activities	6
Schedule of Events	7

Knights News:

"The feast of the Assumption is a day of joy. God has won. Love has won. It has won life. Love has shown that it is stronger than death, that God possesses the true strength and that his strength is goodness and love. Mary was taken up body and soul into heaven: There is even room in God for the body. Heaven is no longer a very remote sphere unknown to us. We have a Mother in heaven."

Pope Benedict XVI

Grand Knight's Report

Our Fraternal Year has begun with another inspiring Installation Ceremony directed by our Worthy District Deputy, Tom Schneider. This was followed by a sumptuous repast attended by over 70 knights, ladies, family members and honored guests. Included among the guests were the State Secretary, Richard Siejack, and three of the new Grand Knights from the other District 18 councils. I want to thank all those who participated in this memorable event and encourage all who could not make it to consider coming next year.

For those who could not attend the Executive Committee meeting in July, I have proposed the following goals for the upcoming year:

- 1) 20 new members,
- 2) \$15,000 from the Tootsie Roll Campaign, and
- 3) \$20,000 gross from the Garage to Attic Sales.

These are indeed lofty goals but I believe that by striving to reach these common aims we can become a more vibrant brotherhood.

In the short term we have a number of upcoming events. From August 10-18 we will be helping out at the District 18 booth at the Montgomery County Fair. Our council has been assigned the setup day Friday August 10 and the tear down day Saturday August 18. Please contact Joe Doane to volunteer your time.

The social meeting in August (the 23rd) will be our second Annual Family Weenie Roast (cookout). This event is a way to spend some leisure time with our families as the summer winds down and also a means to acquaint potential candidates with our order. Please come and help us honor the family and the 125th anniversary of the

Knights of Columbus.

In addition, you soon should be receiving your Incentive Raffle Tickets. 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.

Finally, by the time this goes to press Mater Dei Council should have had two new members installed at the First Degree ceremony on July 25th. We would like to heartily welcome our newest members Maurice Bryce and Mike Herman.

Vivat Jesus
Bill Shaffer, GK

Editor: Check the article on the Maryland State Council Charity Fund on page 4.

Chaplain's Column

During the fifteenth week of Ordinary Time, the daily Mass readings were about Moses and God's appearance to him in the burning bush. I have found myself drawn to these readings especially in light of the recent Installation of Officers.

Moses was tending sheep and as he crossed the desert at Mount Horeb an angel of God appeared to him in a burning bush. Moses was startled by this appearance but was intrigued and approached the bush. As Moses came closer, "...God called out to him from the bush, '*Moses! Moses!*' [Moses] answered, '*Here I am.*'"

This was God calling Moses into to service. In fulfilling this call, Moses was taken to lands and places that he probably never though he would see or experience. As Christians we have received a similar call. Though God

has probably not called us using a burning bush, we have been called through our Baptism when we were anointed priest, prophet and king. Further, this call has manifested itself through our participation in the Knight of Columbus. We have been taken from our regular lives to serve the broad community as Catholic Gentlemen dedicated to our country, families and faith.

Responding to the call that we have been given can be a daunting task. Moses cried out to the Lord, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?" Maybe we ask ourselves or have been asked by a prospective member, "Who am I that I should" be called by God. We are precious children of God endowed inherent dignity and worth. God reminds us that He

will be with us. At our Baptism, we hear from the Gospel according to Matthew, "An behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." We are never alone! We have the support of our families, our parish community, our brother Knights and God!

Through the work of our Order we can change to world as God has called us to do. By protecting the rights of the unborn, assisting those in times of hardship, and providing a warm smile and helping hand, we reveal the tender love of God. Moses thought he was not up to the task and we may think that we are not up to the task, but God reminds us: "*I will be with you...*"

Father Grant Gaskin

Importance of Culture (Part 1 of 2)

When Alexis de Tocqueville studied America's experiment in democracy, he perceived the necessity of an essential precondition for it to be sustained. A basic moral conviction was needed to provide foundational limitations for the country's institutions and democratic mechanisms. This would allow the country to maintain national cohesion while regulating freedom in a society possessing a communal devotion to freedom. Fortunately, this moral conviction existed as the founding Americans shared a faith in an Almighty God and a belief that man has an inviolable dignity because he is created in the image of God. This dignity and the unalienable rights that flow from it were antecedent to the laws promulgated by the state. Without those shared moral beliefs, the governmental institutions could not work with fairness and justice, and a government of the people – a people

who possessed all of the human foibles of self-concern, including venality, greed, envy, pride – could not survive.

In time, these beliefs and the actions they shaped in daily life were reflected in the art, music, literature, artifacts, and social mores of the country. This formed a substrate of collective conscious and unconscious beliefs, values, and social forms that guided the thoughts and behaviors of the people. In short, they formed the culture of the nation -- a culture rooted in the tenets of Christianity.

This culture served America well for about two centuries. Although the outward manifestations changed over time, the underlying moral beliefs remained the same. Today, however, those beliefs and the associated foundational strictures are being eroded, as God is being excluded from public awareness and treated as irrelevant to

public life. Personal freedom in many instances is unfettered, resulting in gross abuses to human dignity. Abortion is legal and widespread, divorce is rampant, cohabitation acceptable, unmarried sex pervasive, Christian beliefs mocked, and there are movements for the acceptance of euthanasia, legalized drugs, same-sex marriages, and parity for alternative lifestyles, among other "modern" social trends. One is reminded of the latter days of the Roman Empire, when there were no inviolable norms and every type of licentiousness and moral decadence was accepted. The traditional religions were merely facades, useful for state functions, but void of spirituality. All that counted were man's desires and the pleasures of the moment.

(To be continued...)

Lawrence P. Grayson

How much do you love our Blessed Mother?

Would you serve one mass a month for her?

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, "The Shrine," as it is commonly known, is NOT a parish. Therefore, it does not have a pool of parishioners to rely on for the most basic services or ministries. All lectors, servers, even priests, come from its closest jurisdictions: Maryland, Virginia, and – of course– Washington, DC.

One other ministry is essential at the Shrine, the Usher Ministry. The ushers are "the face" of the Shrine, as they welcome hundreds of thousands (maybe millions) of visitors every year. With a smile they offer visitors programs, guide them to seats, or direct them to the restrooms. They take the collection and help at Communion time. These actions seem quite mundane, but if there is nobody to do them, they become almost a specialty, a commodity.

After receiving a call for help from the Shrine and seeing the great need for ushers some quarter of a century ago, the Knights of Columbus offered to staff, train and uniform a permanent service of ushers to Our Lady's Shrine.



The Knights are still there, and their basic pledge is very simple: You pledge to serve at Our Lady's Shrine for **ONE MASS of your choosing**

PER MONTH, for three years.

If you do, the Supreme Council will provide you with training and a free uniform (blue sport coat, gray pants, a tie, pin and name plate). Besides making yet more friends among your brother knights of all three jurisdictions, you'll get to know Our Lady's Shrine even better, and will have the spiritual satisfaction of actually DOING SOMETHING for your faith, for your Archdiocese, for your Order, and FOR HER, to whom you pledged your love when you took your 1st Degree.

Won't you please consider serving Our Lady one Mass per month? If you are a 3rd Degree Knight in good standing, please give me a call for more information.

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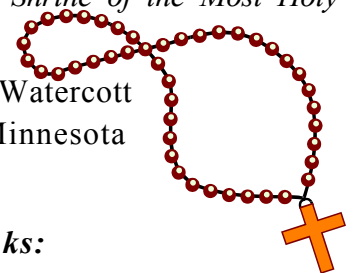
No one could throw it away

This is a small but beautiful story of how one man with a dream made a difference. Ernie Haase, a member of the Knights of Columbus in Richfield, Minnesota began making rosaries in the 70s. Then he had a disturbing dream in which he dreamt that people were not treating the rosary rightly, that they were just being thrown out in the garbage. He resolved to build a rosary that is so large that no one could ever throw it away!

He decided he would build the largest rosary shrine in the world. He put much of his funds into the project and made many sacrifices. Others joined in with him and finally he was able to make it a reality. However, where he lived there was no land available. But the Blessed Mother came through. One of Ernie's friend belonged to the parish of Saint Elizabeth that had enough land to build the Shrine. The idea was presented to the parish council and they approved it!

On May 18, 1983 Bishop George Speltz of St. Cloud, Minnesota dedicated the *Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary*.

Ivetta J. Watcrott
Isanti, Minnesota



Web Links:

<http://www.stelizabeth-isanti.org/Front%20page%20index.htm>

<http://www.stelizabeth-isanti.org/Rosary%20shrine.htm>

Why Jesus took Mary to Heaven

A child's dreams are real; a child believes what is said and believes it to be literally true; woe to those who abuse the trust of a child.

Mary, my mother, remained child-like throughout her life; she believed the message of the angel, and the words of Simeon and Anna; above all she believed my words, even when it seemed that I had failed, and that my words were false. She accepted everything into her heart and pondered on it, until it made sense.

Ten thousand years would not have been enough for her to exhaust all that she could ponder, for there is no limit to me, and no one can answer every question about me. Even so, my mother would have been content to ponder on my words and actions, gradually teasing out their full meaning.

But what would you have done to her if I had left her among you? You would have made her into an idol, a goddess; you would have fought to own her to give your party, power over your brothers and sisters; you would have used her words,

or her silences, to prove your own point of view; and you would have forgotten me. She would have ceased to be the mother of your unity, and she would have become a curiosity and a scandal, the source of divisions among you.

And so I cut short her pondering and brought her into the place where every question is answered.



I needed no more proof of her love, nor of her faithfulness.

So why should she remain among you? A mother must allow her children to become separate from her and to make their own decisions; and all heaven longed for her company.

And so I called her to me, and she came like a little child. She believed in her dream and woke up to find it was true.

She lives for ever in my company in heaven.

Richard Hobbs († 1993) was a convert to Catholicism and the father of six sons.

Contributions Sought for Maryland State Council Knights of Columbus Charity Fund

Included in this month's Blue Mantle is an envelope for the Maryland State Council Knights of Columbus Charity Fund, Inc. The purpose of the charity fund is "to provide financial assistance to individuals in temporary urgent need". The Fund is intended to be a bridge to financial recovery. Incorporated in July of 1984, the charity fund has distributed over \$795,000. All contributions to the Fund are tax deductible.

Donations to the Fund are encouraged and may be made by either including a check in the provided pre-addressed envelope or by selecting the Fund through the your "Charity Campaigns":

- United Way
- Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area, #7341
- Maryland Charity Campaign for State Employees and Retirees, #3710

Thanks for your consideration.

Mary's Fiat

"He (God) could have made the new man start the new humanity from nothing, as He had done in making the world. And He could have done it without consulting humanity... God's way with man is not dictatorship, but cooperation... God willed to consult with humanity... the particular person whom He consulted was a Woman... The mystery of the Incarnation is very simply that of Gods' asking a woman to freely give Him a human nature... As from the first Adam came the first Eve, so now, in the rebirth of man's dignity,

the new Adam will come from the new Eve...

The angel Gabriel, as God's spokesman, here asks her if she will freely give the Son of God a human nature, that He may also be the Son of man... When, therefore, Mary had heard how this was to take place, she uttered words which are the greatest pledge of liberty and the greatest charter of freedom the world has ever heard: "*Be it done unto me according to thy word.*" (Luke 1:38)

Fulton J. Sheen, "The world's first love"

BUDGET PROPOSAL - FY 2007-2008 WORKING FUND PROGRAMS

Non Event Revenue	
Dues from Membership	8,100.00
Incentive Car Raffle	1,250.00
Entertainment Books	1,700.00
Recycle Program	50.00
Initiation Fees	300.00
Poker	200.00
Fifty-fifty Chances	200.00
	\$
Total	11,800.00
KofC Assessments	
State Assessments	(1,200.00)
State Convention Delegates	(200.00)
Columbus Day Ball Advertisement	(70.00)
Supreme Assessments	(950.00)
Cardinal's Charity Ball Advertisement	(100.00)
State Convention Advertising	(100.00)
	\$
Total	(2,620.00)
Daily Operations	
Financial Secretary Compensation	(600.00)
First Degree Supplies	(30.00)
Grand Knight Expenses	0.00
KofC Supplies - Office (paper)	(100.00)
KofC Supplies - Supreme	(100.00)
Member Awards	
New Member Recruitment	(100.00)
Notices and Publications	(300.00)
Office Supplies	(800.00)
Postage	(700.00)
Printing	(1,200.00)
Refreshments & Food - Meetings & Events	(2,000.00)
Rent - Not from GAS or Tootsie Roll Dnr	
Second Degree Food & Drinks	(100.00)
Service Council - Programs	
Teacher Awards	(450.00)
Working Fund Transfer (Rent)	(700.00)
Youth Awards and Programs	(600.00)
	\$
Total	(7,780.00)
Events	
Anniversary Dinner	(200.00)
Christmas Party	200.00
Ice Cream Social	(200.00)
Installation Ceremony	(200.00)
Installation Dinner	(1,000.00)
	\$
Total	(1,400.00)
TOTAL WORKING FUND	\$0.00

BUDGET PROPOSAL - 2007-2008 MATER DEI COUNCIL CHARITIES, INC.

Garage to Attic Sale	
Garage Sale - Net Income	20,000.00
	(17,500.00)
Garage Sale - Distributions	0)
St. Raphael Support - GAS Rent	(2,000.00)
Food Sales	(500.00)

Mentally Handicapped (Tootsie Roll)	
Collection	15,000.00
	(15,000.00)
Disbursed	0)
Net Proceeds from Dinner	500.00
Trumpet Room Rent for dinner	(500.00)

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

Bank Account Interest/Charges	50.00
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Donations	
Church/Community Contributions	(250.00)
Funds for Needy Brothers	(100.00)
Special Olympics	(200.00)
	\$
Total Donations	(550.00)

TOTAL CHARITY, INC.	0.00
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Building Fund	
Bank Interest	50.00
St. Raphael Support (Rent)	(700.00)
Transfer from Working Fund	700.00

	\$
TOTAL BUILDING FUND	50.00

Garage to Attic Sale Awardees Reception

The Mater Dei Council had the honor to distribute awards to 23 local charities during a reception held in the Trumpet Room on June 28. The funds used for the awards were generated during the Garage to Attic Sale last February. In all \$13,750 were distributed. The Garage to Attic Sale and the subsequent Awardees Reception mark the high point of our charitable year. The awardees are nominated and approved by the brothers of the council and represent a broad spectrum of charitable and service activities occurring in Montgomery County. The reception at the end of the Columbian year is particularly special because it gives each of us an opportunity to hear how our work on the GAS and the funds we distribute actually impact those in need of assistance. During the reception we had the distinct pleasure of hearing a brief description from each of the awardees about the good work they do.

This year GAS awards were given to Bethlehem House, Birthright of Montgomery County, Catholic Coalition for Special Education, The Children's Inn at NIH, Community Ministries of Montgomery County, Dorothy Day Women's Center, Ephesians Life Ministries, Families Together, Fisher House, Gabriel House, Little Workers of the Sacred Heart, Mercy Health Clinic, Mercy School, Nuestra Madre por la Vida, Inc., PLAN of MD-DC, Pooling Resources of People, Rockville Emergency Assistance Program, Rockville Pregnancy Center, Shady Grove Pregnancy Center, St. Ann Infant Home, St. Raphael Nursery School, St. Raphael School, and Woman Against the Killing and Exploitation of Unprotected Persons.

Baseball Trip

On Sunday, June 24 Mater Dei Council sponsored a trip to see the Washington Nationals play the Cleveland Indians at RFK stadium. At 12 noon 32 knights, friends and family boarded the bus. On the trip to RFK the groups shared pizza, chips and beverages as well as jokes, stories, and songs. The weather was perfect for the game and the Nats took advantage for a workmanlike 3-1 victory. The bus brought us back home to St. Raphael in time for the 6 pm mass.

These excursions give us an opportunity to relax with our families, pass on baseball lore to the next generation, and deepen the fraternal bonds. We plan on doing this again next year, so make sure you sign-up to join in the fun.



GAS Awardees

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Special Notices

- Congratulations to *Joe & Pat Doane* our Family of the Year for their many contributions to the council and through Ephesians for Life!
- Knight of the Year is *Dick Bianchi* in recognition of his tireless service to the council as Warden.
- All articles for the September issue must be received by the Editor by Friday August 24th.

“Devils flee before Mary’s face as wax melts before the fire.”

- St. Bonaventure

“Men do not fear a powerful hostile army as the powers of hell fear the name and protection of Mary.”

- St. Bonaventure

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

- St. Thomas Aquinas



Schedule of Events: August - September 2007

Tue Aug 7	Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC
Thu Aug 9	Business Meeting, 8pm, DCC
Aug 10-18	District 18 booth at Montgomery County Fair
Wed Aug 15	Assumption (Obligation)
Thu Aug 23	Social Meeting (family picnic), 7pm
Tue Sep 4	Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC
Thu Aug 13	Business Meeting, 8pm, DCC
Sun Aug 23	Parish Picnic
Thu Aug 27	Social Meeting (speaker), 8pm, DCC



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