



The Blue Mantle



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

December 2006
Special Christmas Edition

Knights of Columbus
Mater Dei Council
#9774

Inside this issue:

Meditation	1
DD's Corner	1
GK's Report	2
Thank You	2
Entertainment Books	2
The Incarnation	3
Infancy of Jesus	4
Encounters of faith	5
Wine Tasting	6
Degree Ceremonies	6
Schedule of Events	7

Knights News

- * Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, has been appointed as consultor to the Pontifical Council for social communication for a five year term by Pope Benedict XVI.
- * He is also consultor to the Pontifical Council for the Family, and to the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

Meditation

How fast to that spiritual glory of which our Lord's Passion has made you worthy. Be vigilant so as to guard your thoughts from tempests; beware lest the glorious things you have in Christ undergo change due to some indication of pride. Now it is only when your mind is wrapped in meditation on the incarnation of Christ our Lord - at whose good will and pleasure you have been held worthy to perform good works - that pride will not be sown within you. For without

his self-abasement, we should have been far too low down for those beautiful qualities of his, and

"It is only when you mind is wrapped in meditation on the incarnation of Christ our Lord ... that pride will not be sown within you."

not even a distant recollection of them would have entered our minds. For this reason his grace has granted to us that he should of his own will listen to us, and that he will

bring us close to his Father. What is required of us is to give him thanks unceasingly - not indeed to the full extent that befits his gift, for no one is capable of giving him thanks as would be appropriate, for his grace is far greater than the thanksgiving of all people; it is enough for us to realize that we have not the ability either to repay him, or even to thank him sufficiently.

John the solitary
(early fifth century)

District Deputy's Corner

There is an interesting article in the November 19 New Advent web site. The article references the turn about from eliminating the word Christmas in many of the places that we shop during this season to actually changing back to the theme of "Merry Christmas." Maybe there is hope for mankind after all!

Thanksgiving is right over the horizon and then we enter the Advent season. The season gives us an op-

portunity to prepare for the great celebration of Christmas and the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is time to find the Advent wreath and candles and remember those who will not be with the family during this wondrous and holy season.

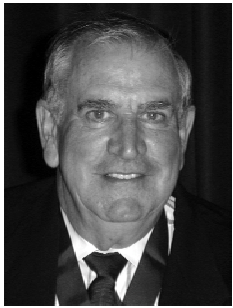
My Saint of the month is St. Francis Xavier, a Jesuit Priest. He is considered the greatest missionary since the time of the Apostles, and the zeal he dis-

played, the wonderful miracles he performed, and the great number of souls he brought to the light of true Faith, entitle him to this distinction.

May you have a merry and safe Christmas!

Tom Schneider
District Deputy

Grand Knight's Report



As we prepare for the coming season and the New Year we can take a minute to reflect on the past year. I hope you can all share my pride in our organization and the many opportunities we

have had to practice our faith and live up to our ideals of Charity, Fraternity and Unity. Last year's Columbian award is a reflection of application of these principles in action not so much in the award itself but of the many

activities we shared to earn the recognition.

We expect the coming year to present continued opportunities to live up to our State Deputy's motto for the year "Living Our Faith".

Rosemary and I hope you will use the Advent season to prepare for the celebration of the coming of our Savior in addition to the annual turmoil of decorating, shopping and writing of the Christmas greetings. It is a welcome surprise to see signs of the return of the traditional Merry Christmas

greeting as opposed to the bland Happy Holiday greeting of recent years.

As you make up your resolutions for the New Year I hope you include one to take a more active role in the activities of the Council. Mine will be to make your resolution as easy as possible to keep.

Merry Christmas to you all and may you be blessed with good health in the New Year.

Thank You!

Dear KofC Brothers!

On behalf of GK Wilsie Adams and our other officers, and Jack Wohlhieter who shared much of the recruitment and organizing effort with me, this is a big THANK YOU! to all of you who helped on the recent yearly campaign. A nice big proportion of the membership participated, and did so very proudly and cheerfully, which of course leaves a very positive impression with the public.

Of roughly 180 physically-able layperson Brothers located within the immediate area, 94 volunteered, which is very gratifying, and of those, about 21 undertook two or more of the 2-hour time slots. The total amount collected was roughly \$9700, slightly more than a year ago. With over 250 hours total collection-time, that means nearly \$40 per hour; we certainly thank the Lord for the good support which local shoppers and store-managers showed toward Mater Dei Council.

Lets all be happy and thankful for the help that we will be again be able to bring to the young, mentally-disadvantaged people of Montgomery County.

God Bless!

Don Novotny



Congratulations!

Mater Dei Council would like to congratulate the following Knights who received their 2nd Degrees during the ceremony at St. Joseph Manyanet on November 9

**Fr. Grant Gaskin
Ted Tate**

Please congratulate them upon joining the Knights the next time you see them.

Entertainment Books

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS
MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS
GIFTS.

What a great idea!!! It's not too late to purchase the gift that everyone can use! I have them gift wrapped and ready to put under the tree. But this really is your last chance to save lots of money on entertainment and dining, make a donation to the Knights of Columbus, and solve your gift-giving dilemma. The price is only \$25. Books can be purchased by calling Tom Sherman (301-340-2042) or Tony Cammarota (301-424-6138). Books are also available in 160 cities across America and make great gifts for your out-of-town friends and family. You may buy out-of-town books on the internet at www.entertainment.com/support and enter group account # 127435.

Tom Sherman
301-340-2042

The Incarnation of the Word of God

Advent is the four weeks preceding Christmas, four weeks of preparation for the anniversary of the coming of our Lord. I find it most beneficial to prepare spiritually for Christmas by meditating on the Incarnation of our Lord. Saint Bede the Venerable writes: *"By meditating on the Incarnation, our devotion is kindled."* It is such an extraordinary event, that I think that we will never completely comprehend all of its significance in this life. This short meditation is to try to help us comprehend some of the mysteries of the Incarnation.

Physical life begins at conception. For humans, the gestation period (or pregnancy) is nine months. It is appropriate that the Church celebrates the virginal conception of Jesus, nine months before Christmas, on March 25th on the feast of the "Annunciation". It is when, the Bible tells us, the angel Gabriel *announced* to Mary: *"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus."* (Luke 1:31)

Jesus means in Hebrew *"God saves"*. Jesus by his name, by his incarnation, and by his life until his death on the cross, is intimately linked to our salvation. Jesus is *"both his identity and his mission."* (Catechism #430)

The Bible is very succinct on the conception itself. It is only described in the Gospel of Saint Luke in this single verse: *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the most high will overshadow you."* (Luke 1:35) An extraordinary act that happened only once in the history of mankind: God becoming man. St John describes it this way: *"the Word became flesh"* (John 1:14) or in Latin *"Verbum caro factum est"*. Because the conception of Jesus is so unique, we have a special word for it derived from the Latin word *"caro"* which means *"flesh"*. We do not talk about the "conception of Jesus", but the "Incarnation of the Word of God"

which echoes Saint John words: *"Verbum caro factum est"* or *"The Word became flesh"*, the Word became *Incarnate*. *"Incarnation"* means literally *"enfleshment"*.



"On the day of the Incarnation, God bridge the infinite distance between himself and us. By an act of his almighty power, God did something that, to our human minds, seems impossible. He united his own divine nature to a true human nature, to a body and soul like ours. What leaves our heads really whirling is the fact that this union did not result in a being with two personalities – the personality of God and the personality of man. On the contrary, the two natures are united in one single Person, the God-man Jesus Christ." (Leo J. Trese) This union (without confusion) of two natures in one person is called the *"hypostatic"* union.

St. Leo the great preached in one of his Christmas homilies: *".. in both natures there is the same Son of God who assumes our nature without losing His own. By His own manhood He renews man while remaining un-*

changed Himself... the supreme and eternal being that lowered Himself for man's salvation, has raised us up to His own glory without ceasing to be that which He had been."

There is probably no better narrative of the Incarnation of the Word than the following passage from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians: *"Have this mind among yourselves, which was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of me. And being found human form, he humbled himself and become obedient unto death, even death on a cross."* (Phil 2:5-8)

"In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him." (1 Jn 4:9)

What does the incarnation teach us?

- ♥ The incarnation of Jesus is intimately linked to our redemption. *"Christ opened heaven for us in the manhood he assumed."* (Saint Irenaeus)
- ♥ It reveals the infinite love of God for us. *"For God so loved to world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world but that the world might be saved by him."* (Jn 3:16-17) *"In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him."* (1 Jn 4:9)

(Continued on page 4)

The Incarnation of the Word of God

♥ It illustrates God intense desire to be united with us. This in turn enkindles our desire to be with Him.

“A man whose brother is a king in a far away country will have a great longing to go to him to be and stay with him . Thus, seeing that Christ is our brother, we should long to be with Him and to be united to Him.” (St Thomas Aquinas)

Jesus gives us a human face to God, and makes God closer us. He is Emmanuel, which signifies “*God with us.*” (Mt 1:23).

♥ The Word became flesh to be our Model of holiness.

“*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.*” (Jn 14:6)

“*If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. [...] This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*” (Jn 15:10,12)

♥ The Incarnation educates us on the value of humility.

“*[He] emptied himself, taking the form of a servant ... he humbled himself and become obedient unto death*” (Phil 2)

♥ It teaches us how we should be obedient to the Will of God.

Every action of Jesus, from His Incarnation to His death was in complete

harmony with the Will of His Father. “*Thy will be done.*” (Mt 6:10; 26:42)

♥ The Virgin Mary is the archetype of all Christians. We are called to accept Christ in our life like she did. Like her, we should respond to God’s call by saying: “Behold, I am the handmaid (servant) of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38)

She lived a life a simplicity, of humility; a life of self-denial and of complete obedience to the Will of God. Her mind, her heart and her soul tended totally towards God.

Jesus asks the same dedication to His followers: “Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple... whoever of you does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:27,33)

♥ The Word became flesh to make us “*partakers of the divine nature*” (2 Pet 1:4) “For this is why the Word became man, and the Son of God became the Son of man: so that man, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a son of God.” (St Iranaeus) “For the Son of God became man so that we might become God.” (St Athanasius)

“The only-begotten Son of God, wanting to make us sharers in his divinity,

assumed our nature, so that he, made man, might make men gods.” (St Thomas Aquinas)

God desires to share eternity with us in Heaven. The Incarnation of the Word of God, like His crucifixion, is all about the love of God for mankind.

The good news of the Gospel is:

“Behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.” (Luke 17:21) We can find God in the poor and the persecuted. We can find Him in the Holy Scriptures. We can find Him in the Holy Spirit within us. We can find Him in the Holy Eucharist.

“The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Mt 10:7) Emmanuel, God is with us!

Our Christ-mas gift is the best gift we could ever wish for. This sublime present is God giving Himself to us.

Our Christ-mas gift is **Christ**, our Lord and our King.

Let us give thanks, and let us rejoice! Glory in the Highest, Alleluia! Come, O Christ Jesus, Maranatha!

Camille Ng

PS: Merry Christ-mas to all! May God bless you all, and showers you with his Peace, Love and Light.

The Infancy Narratives of Jesus

We have a special gift to help you prepare for Christmas. Come discover more of our Lord Jesus in this Christmas season

There will be three 1-hour sessions on the Infancy narratives of Jesus in the Bible on the following Sundays:

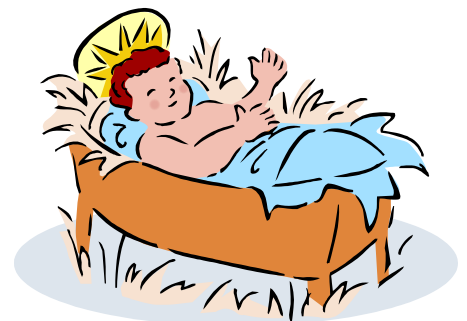
- ♦ December 3 (Matthew chap. 1 & 2)
- ♦ December 10 (Luke chap. 1)
- ♦ December 17 (Luke chap. 2)

Location: Anchorhold

Time: From 1:00 to 2:00 pm.

If you can make it one, two, or all three sessions, this will be one way to discover and appreciate the true meaning of Christmas.

If interested, call Michael Barnes. 243-864-2543



June 22, 2006 - Two Encounters of Faith

We, that's my wife Toni and myself, would not have missed it, the installation and Mass welcoming Archbishop Wuerl as our new shepherd and saying farewell to our beloved shepherd Cardinal McCarrick. It was a hot day, a very hot day. Traffic on Georgia Avenue, Blair Road and North Capitol was heavy. We were late getting down to the Shrine. Parking was impossible, even on Harewood Road and in the lot across the street. Our secret spaces from the days of graduate school at Catholic U either did not exist anymore or we could not find them - except that last illegal one behind McMullen Library. The Basilica was packed, standing room only. But again we found seats, legal ones this time, way up front, near the center aisle, close to all the dignitaries. The procession had already started with the lay organizations, societies and other groups - very colorful and solemn. Never realized there are so many. I did not recognize or know them, except of course, the gentlemen in their capes and feathered chapeaus - my brother Knights. Made me feel kind of special, kind of proud. Then came the holy people - the seminarians, priests, deacons, nuns and monks, orthodox clergy and representatives from the Jewish community and other Christian churches, more and more religious, bishops, archbishops and cardinals from all over the country, the entire Who Is Who of the Church was there. All in their colorful and distinctive attire of their rank in the hierarchy. Then finally under humongous applause the old and the new - Cardinal McCarrick and Archbishop Wuerl. The only one missing was the Pope himself, he sent his Rep, the Apostolic Nuncio. But on the other hand, and there was no doubt, the Holy Spirit was present. We also recog-

nized father Benitez and Monsignor Gatto from St. Raphael in the parade, there may have been others. It took a good half hour for all of them get situated in their proper places. All the while trumpets were blasting, organs were vibrating and the chorus shaking. We listened to many speeches and proclamations, we observed the verification of the Pope's document appointing Archbishop Wuerl, and we almost choked from the cloud of the incense that was used freely and was spreading from the altar - Holy Smokes! The Mass was not the half

I realized, how many families we help by making it possible to dress their children, to have pots and pans, china and silverware!

hour type as we know it from week-day mornings at St. Raphael, this was kind of the mother of all Masses - on and on. It was inspiring, it made us feel at home, it made us feel truly Catholic, like being one with all the people around us. The multitude of priests concelebrated the Body and the Blood of our Lord, that was the climax. It was impressive indeed. The exodus was much quicker, handshakes, smiles and waving, more waves of music from the trumpets, organ and chorus. And then it was done. We left immediately to beat the traffic, digest and contemplate the events, rest awhile and prepare ourselves to experience our faith in another way.

And indeed, what a different experience it was! I am talking about the evening of the Knights GAS Award, the distribution of the proceeds from our "Garage To Attic Sale" we had in February. There was no pomp, no circumstance, no colorful robes and miters, no trumpets or organ music,

there was not even a single priest, but alas, yes, there were many holy people, including two nuns. And of course we were aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Brother Pat DeGraba, our Grand Knight at this assembly, officiated with his usual ease, humor and smile. As always, we began by professing our commitment to our Country by reciting "The Pledge of Allegiance" including the born and unborn. We professed our Catholic faith by praying the "Our Father" and the "Hail Mary." We spoke in unison, with one voice, and I am sure God the Almighty heard us and was pleased. To me personally these moments are always very emotional, they mean so much to me, an immigrant and a convert. I can hardly speak these words with my lips, they come from my heart and from my soul. This was the evening when we, the Brothers of the Knights of Columbus were rewarded for all the effort and time, for all our prayers and our determination that went into our annual GAS. Pat announced each receiving group, one by one, called the representative forward to receive their check, have a photo-op picture taken and then each representative told us about their work, their mission and how our award will help them in their work.

As we were sitting there in the Duffy Center I reflected back a few months to that Saturday in February when the same place was jammed with sporting equipment, tools, furniture, lamps, bicycles and so much more. I again saw the people checking out their bargains, sometimes impatiently arguing with another customer or trying to persuade us to reduce the price. I saw the bazaar in the Trumpet Room, the multitude of people with their

(Continued on page 6)

June 22, 2006 - Two Encounters of Faith

bags, boxes and baskets, children looking for toys and books. I realized, how many families we help by making it possible to dress their children, to have pots and pans, china and silverware! What a sight it was! And so the GAS Awards that evening were actually Act Two of our efforts. Hearing the stories from each group, I was astonished and impressed by the many volunteers throughout our community, not only at St. Raphael and Our Lady of Mercy but also in Rockville and Montgomery County, who are dedicated to help those who cannot help themselves - children, physically and mentally challenged, young and

adult, abused people, pregnant women, teachers, and so many crying for help. While we the Brother Knights work hard to support them, I respect and am thankful for all the work these volunteers perform every day. I know, if we were to raise ten times as much, we would give it all away, and still it would not be enough. That evening we were rewarded by distributing the proceeds to groups and organizations that represent our spirit, our commitment to those that are in need. Father McGivney would have been very pleased. We did it in the same spirit which led him to call a few men together many years ago to

help the poor, the widows and orphans. His spirit lives on. That evening I experienced my faith in action. Just as earlier in the day at the Basilica, it felt good to be Catholic, to live my faith. At the conclusion Pat called on us to pray to our Lady, Mary, Queen of the Knights, to accept our pledge to be her servants.

I thank all my Brother Knights who so diligently, selflessly and tirelessly organized and executed the 2006 GAS and the Award evening. I am proud to be a Knight of Columbus.

Hans Schierling

Winter Wine Tasting

It has been some time since our last wine tasting and many people have asked for another. I think this one will be quite interesting. We have decided to feature South African Wines. The date is Saturday, January 27, 2007.

Reservations must be in by Friday January 12, 2007 in order that we have sufficient time to plan and purchase the fine wines we will be featuring. Our limit is 22 people so make your reservations early to insure a reservation. Anyone who has been to a previous wine tasting will tell you it is a great time and an easy way for newer Knights to make friends in the Council.

For questions call Richard Weller at 301-990-8185 or by email at rhweller@verizon.net.

Please send reservations with a check for \$15 per person payable to Richard Weller
20302 Butterwick Way
Gaithersburg, MD 20886.

Upcoming Degree Ceremonies

If you are a Knight looking to get your next degree, or if you know a prospective Knight who wants to join Mater Dei Council, here is a schedule of upcoming degree ceremonies:

December 14	1st Degree	Mater Dei Council
December 15	3rd Degree	Fr. Rosensteel Council
January 4	2nd Degree	Rock Creek Council
February 8	1st Degree	Mater Dei Council
February 22	1st Degree	Rock Creek Council
March 11	4th Degree	University of Maryland - University College
March 22	2nd Degree	Mater Dei Council
March 23	3rd Degree	Rock Creek Council
April 26	1st Degree	Rock Creek Council
June 14	1st Degree	Rock Creek Council



If you are interested in attending any of these Degree Ceremonies, please contact Bob McCaffrey, (301) 251-5225, so we can get the paperwork filled out and ensure that you can get your next degree.

KEY CONTACTS

GRAND KNIGHT

Wilsie Adams, 301-924-1422
wadams@whalaw.com

DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT

Bill Shaffer, 301-762-1735
billshaffer_kofc@verizon.net

CHANCELLOR

Robert McCaffrey, 301-251-5225
bmacc38@yahoo.com

WARDEN

Richard Bianchi, 301-279-7244
thebianchitube@aol.com

RECORDER

Joe Doane, 301-983-1578
sassi222@juno.com

TREASURER

Paul Sullivan, 301-610-7752
jrsullivanpa@hotmail.com

ADVOCATE

Jack Phillips, 301-340-1360
johnphillips@verizon.net

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

John Frey, 301-424-3386
kofcfrey@comcast.net

LECTURER

Larry Boesch, 301-424-3386
larrypb41@aol.com

GUARDS

Greg Daily, 301-947-9248
Don Novotny, 301-424-6772
naldc@msn.com
Camille Ng, 301-340-0388
Robert Scott, 301-299-6053
rbmscott@erols.com

TRUSTEES

John Cavallo, PGK, 301-762-3081
jcavallo@comcast.net
Bob Fontana, PGK, 301-765-7997
rjdsf11403@verizon.net
Patrick DeGraba, PGK, 301-279-2879
pdegraba@comcast.net

CHAPLAIN

Fr. William Finch

ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN

Fr. Peter Reynierse

DISTRICT DEPUTY

Tom Schneider, Ass. DD, PKG, PFN-C,
301-279-0291 tomandjulie@fastmail.fm

Program Director: Bill Shaffer
Membership Director: Robert McCaffrey
Church Program: Don Meyer, 301-983-0617
Council Program: Open
Family Program: Open
Community Program: Thomas Sherman,
301-340-2042, mtptnrs@aol.com
Youth Program: John Li, 301-424-2713,
jli@fbw.com
Editor, Blue Mantle: Camille Ng
cam1000@gmail.com



Knights of Columbus
Mater Dei Council #9774

Special Notices

- Congratulations to Jose and Sharon Carbonell on their selection as Family of the Month for November.
- If you would like to receive a copy of each month's Blue Mantle as an PDF file, please send your request by email to the Editor.
- The next issue will be January 2007. All articles for the December issue must be received by the Editor by Friday December 22.
- Have a safe, merry and holy Christmas!



Schedule of Events: December 2006

Sat Dec 2	Annual Christmas Party
Tue Dec 5	Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30pm DCC
Fri Dec 8	Immaculate Conception—Holy Day of obligation
Sun Dec 10	Coffee and Donuts at St Raphael & recruiting at St Raphael and Our Lady of Mercy
Tue Dec 12	Open House for potential new members 7:30pm TBD
Thu Dec 14	1 st Degree Ceremony and regular business meeting Recruits report at 7:30 Meeting and degree ceremony at 8pm DCC
Mon Dec 25	Christmas—Holy day of obligation
Thu Dec 28	Social Meeting, 8pm DCC
Tue Jan 2	Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30 DCC
Thu Jan 11	Regular Meeting, 8pm DCC
Thus Jan 25	Regular Meeting, 8pm DCC



"The Blue Mantle" is a publication of Knights of Columbus, Mater Dei Council No. 9774, Rockville, MD. It is an unofficial publication and does not represent official opinion of the Knights of Columbus. It is published monthly.



The Blue Mantle
Knights of Columbus
Mater Dei Council # 9774
P.O. Box 10237
Rockville, MD 20849-0237

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Suburban MD
Permit No. 2302

December 2006
