

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 the new year has found you all happy and healthy. January brings the Christmas season to a close, and that signals the time to prepare for some of the most rewarding activities of our council. On January 26 Mater Dei hosted its second blood drive of the fraternal year at St Raphael. I want to extend a special thanks to Jim Edmondson for shouldering

most of the responsibility for signing up blood donors in our parish. Also thanks to all those who rolled up their sleeves to give the gift of life.

January is also the month dedicated to Right to Life. Thanks to all the Knights who participated in the annual march for life on January 23. Special thanks Tom Buck and Jose Carbonell for all their work. I also want to thank Dick Retta for leading the praying of the Rosary in front of the Uptown Abortion clinic in Gaithersburg on January 21. Our next date for praying the Rosary is February 18.

February will be one of the busiest months for our council. Of course the biggest event is our annual Garage to Attic sale which will be held on Saturday, February 25. Thanks to Wilsie Adams, Tom Schneider, and Bill Shaffer who have already begun the monumental organizational task of making this event a success. Please give generously when they ask for your time. The council social meeting on the February 23rd will be dedicated to beginning to set up.

But that's not all that is happening in February. On February 11 Mater Dei will host the Montgomery County Councils' annual Tootsie Roll awards dinner. This year the councils of Montgomery County will distribute over \$62,000 to 21 charities who help the mentally handicapped in the county. Thanks again to all the brothers who helped raise these funds for such a worthy cause.

Scheduled for our business meeting on February 9 is a first degree ceremony. Under the leadership of Chancellor Bob McCaffrey we will be host coffee and doughnuts on February 5 and sign up prospective brothers after all masses.

We will round out February by preparing the shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on February 28th.

Finally, I want to thank all of the brothers who attended our January cards social evening. We are a very large organization and it is difficult for every brother to meet every other brother. I was very happy that this meeting allowed many brothers to meet other members of our council who they had never met before. I hope to have another one in April.

As always, thank you all for all your hard work.

God Bless
Patrick DeGraba
Grand Knight

109 Rosary Prayers Join Mater Dei Council Knights at Abortion Mill

Brothers All: 6 of us brother knights participated in the Mater Dei Prayer Day on Saturday, Jan 21. The 6 of us were joined by 109 other prayer warriors, a tremendous turnout triggered my the 33rd March for Life. The deathscorts appeared to stand in awe at seeing so many rosary prayers devoted to the pro-life cause.

While this is an improvement in Mater Dei participation over past months, however, we need a lot more knights turning our for this important endeavor. Only one hour a month is asked of you. Our Lord said "Can you not spend one hour with me."

Saturday, February 18, is Mater Dei Council's Prayer Day at the local abortion clinic. Our newest project can have a major impact on the pro-life movement to stamp out the current Culture of Death and bring about a Culture of Life in this country. I need your help to make this endeavor successful.

Right now we need as many Knights as possible on February 18, to pray the rosary at the local abortion clinic asking Our Lady to CLOSE this terrible evil, killing center in our midst. Only through prayer can this be done.

This is a call for all Knights and their families to get behind this Mater Dei project to combat the evils of abortion in our neighborhood. Come out, stand up and be counted for the unborn whose only crime is that God offered them the gift of life. Let's support this effort with a significant visible turnout of Mater Dei Council members and their families.

Our physical presence and recitation of Our Lady's rosary, **will** send the message that our Council is united in its support of the rights of the unborn and their mothers who are often either killed or physically/mentally injured by abortion.

Please note that Mater Dei's Prayer Day at the Uptown abortion mill coincides with that of St. Raphael's.

We will meet at the abortion mill. See directions below.

Directions to the Uptown abortuary: Take Rt. 270 to Shady Grove Road. Go east on Shady Grove Road to Comprint Court. Make a left on Comprint Court and park anywhere on the street. **The rosary will begin at 10:00 AM at the second drive way on the left.**

District Deputy's Message



Several weeks ago, we had two very successful degree ceremonies in the District. On January 5, at Rock Creek Council, 27 members advanced to the Second Degree. The following evening, 32 members participated in the Third Degree. While these numbers are encouraging, it is not enough simply to have brother Knights progress through the levels of our Order. As explained in the

accompanying column on the value of association in a democracy, it is active members, not members that are important. It is up to each Council to assure that its members are engaged in the life of the Council and the parish or parishes it serves. Without involvement, members are no more important than an accountant's tallies.

On January 8, at the State Mid-Term meeting, Rateb Rabie, president of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, who is a member of Rock Creek Council, described the plight of Christians in the Holy Land, three-quarters of which is in Israel and one one-quarter in Palestine. Today, only two percent of the residents in this area are Christian, and they are under severe constraints. Due to the political situation, a 30-foot high wall, 550 miles long has been erected around the area of Bethlehem. People cannot travel easily to the site of the Nativity, many homes are in dire repair, unemployment is at 60 percent, and the operation of Christian schools is economically difficult. With the approval of our Supreme Knight and of our State Deputy, Mr. Rabie has asked the Knights to assist the Christian residents of the Holy Land (many of whom can trace their Christian ancestry back to the early centuries of the Church) and to help preserve the land of our Mother Church.

At the recent meeting of Grand Knights in District 18, we said we would do what we can to help. One way is to support the education of a child. It only costs \$300 to provide a year's education in a Catholic school in the Holy Land. I encourage each Council in our District to support one child. This will not only help a child learn his or her Faith, but will allow the Council to better understand the Holy Land. Mr. Rabie has stated that his Foundation will arrange for that child to correspond with the supporting Council. Here is a small, but excellent way for us to help other Christians in serious need, and to learn more about our Christian heritage.

Thank you all for your efforts in the Car Raffle last fall. Although there was no accounting by District, it was announced that of the 138 Councils in the State, Rock Creek sold the third largest number of tickets (5,375 – the winner sold 5,798), and Mater Dei sold the sixth largest number with 4,277. Add the results of our other three Councils, and it is evident that District 18 did very well.

Further, the Councils in Montgomery County collected over \$61,000 through the Tootsie Roll drive. The Grand Knights have met, reviewed proposals from organizations that serve the mentally handicapped, and made grants to 22 organizations. Congratulations to the many Knights who participated in collecting and awarding these funds. *Vivat Jesus!*

Lawrence P. Grayson
District Deputy #18

COUNCIL CONDUCTS POPULAR "FREE THROW" COMPETITION

Brother John Li, Chair of Youth Programs, coordinated, and reports that on Wednesday, January 25, the Mater Dei Council free throw competition was conducted at The Heights School in Potomac. The Council received its usual sterling co-operation from the school as evidenced by the large turnout of 190 boys. Champions were decided at the 10-11-13-14 age categories. A runoff for the 12 year-olds' (three finalists) will be completed by the end of this week. Many thanks to Brother Knights Eric Gregrieh, Thomas Buck, Don Novotny, and interested parishioner Ted Tate, for their assistance in scoring. That's 2,850 free throws that we counted! The District competition is scheduled for Saturday morning, February 11.

forecast, by the time we got to the MCI Center it was already filled to capacity and they were directing people to a St. Patrick's for a 1030 Mass. With St. Patrick's also filled to capacity we walked down to the National Mall to the grounds of the Rally for Life. As we waited for the March to begin some of us spent some time sharing with people from our group and others present for the March. Others took refuge from the drizzle at the museums and a nearby Starbucks.

At noon we met at our rendezvous point on 7th and Constitution. After the Mass at the MCI Center finished, people were diverted towards the Rally via a couple of different routes. The number of people was incredible and soon were crowding our intersection as they could not make it all the way to the Rally. When the March started we joined in and walked up to the Supreme Court.

The atmosphere was very upbeat with a very young crowd chanting, singing, and giving witness that life is a great gift that should be celebrated. This year we didn't get to see a single person protesting for abortion although I understand that there was a small group in front of the Supreme Court. The only violent incident we witnessed was when a bother Knight got (accidentally) smashed on the nose by a distinguished and highly esteemed member of the clergy as they both tried to open a stuck bus cargo door. Other than some soreness and bleeding, he's ok. After that we all took a relaxed bus trip back to St. Raphael's.

MARCH FOR LIFE DRAWS LARGE GROUP

On January 23 a group of St. Raphael parishioners that included members of our Mater Dei Council attended the March for Life in Washington, DC. Prior to the March, there is a Youth Rally and Mass for Life at the MCI Center that our group has traditionally attended. Since last year we had to sit up in the nose bleed (more about later) section, this year we decided to leave one hour earlier.

Despite the earlier departure (and arrival) and the rainy weather

The Value of Associations in a Democracy

Lawrence P. Grayson, DD, PGK, PFN

When Alexis de Tocqueville visited the United States in the 1831, he was highly impressed with the number of associations that he found and which he believed were essential to America's ability to make democracy work. In his seminal work, *Democracy in America*, he stated:

"Americans of all ages, all conditions, and all dispositions, constantly form associations. They have not only commercial and manufacturing companies, in which all take part, but associations of a thousand other kinds --religious, moral, serious, futile, general or restricted, enormous or diminutive. The Americans make associations to give entertainments, to found seminaries, to build inns, to construct churches, to diffuse books, to send missionaries to the antipodes; they found in this manner hospitals, prisons, and schools. . . . Nothing, in my opinion, is more deserving of our attention than the intellectual and moral associations of America."

His observation was a reflection both of the civic life that existed and of the way that individual Americans assured themselves of a voice in the political and social concerns of the day. In autocracies, oligarchies, and theocracies, one person or a small group of individuals hold enormous power and can determine how a nation will operate – what the laws will be, how they will be enforced, how the economic system will operate, what opportunities will exist for the population, etc. In a democracy, in contrast, individuals have a good deal of independence to do as they wish, but alone have very little power to control events. They can exercise their influence best by joining like-minded persons, and through their association have greater effect in pursuing common objectives.

In America, people are not members of a single organization, but of many different groups depending upon their interests and desires. They may belong to a church, labor union, neighborhood association, political party, professional society, social club, mothers' group, sports team, literary guild, nature organization, and so forth. Involvement in these groups fosters social interaction, creates networks, builds trust in others, connects people with the life of their community, and develops norms for social engagement that allow people to collaborate and cooperate for their mutual benefit.

Associations have had a powerful and beneficial influence on American society for over 200 years. But beginning in the 1960s, and continuing ever since, most major civic organizations have experienced a steady and substantial decline in membership.

Fraternal organizations, veterans groups, youth associations, service groups, and others which are organized on a chapter, lodge, or other local unit model and require the involvement of individuals for their vitality are struggling for want of active members. Even though national in scope, these types of associations operate at the local level and connect people to one another in joint activities.

In contrast, organizations that are flourishing are those national groups, such as the American Association of Retired Persons, National Rifle Association, Sierra Club, and National Organization for Women, which do not require a personal commitment. People are associated by common ideals or causes or characteristics, and linked through mailing lists, newsletters and magazines, but not personal contact. Although these organizations have strong lobbying influence, they do not establish the social interaction, personal trust, or connection of the individual to the local community that de Tocqueville found essential to democracy.

While the decline may be detrimental to specific organizations and their ability to carry out their purposes, its implications are much greater. Without engagement in associations, the commitment and involvement of the populace in community life erodes. People are less likely to be actively concerned about politics and government – less likely to assist a political party, attend a political rally or speech, or even cast their ballot. It is a sad and dangerous fact that more American's voted in Fox TV's recent competition on *American Idol* than in the last presidential election.

People also are likely to have no more than a cursory knowledge of the issues before their community, and are less likely to have trust in government and its elected leaders. Without trust, without knowledge, without participation, how can America have a government *of* and *by* the people? How can the nation's democracy survive?

While membership in fraternal organizations, such as the Shriners, Elks, Jaycees, Lions, and Masons, has been declining over the last quarter century, the Knights of Columbus is an exception. Its membership has been increasing. In 1980, there were about 1.3 million Knights; today, there are almost 1.7 million. It will be a hollow "success," however, if men join, but do not attend meetings or become active in their local Councils. If the Knights of Columbus is to fulfill its potential, not only in wielding national influence through the dint of numbers, but in serving our parishes and communities, then we must not only enlist new members in our Order, but must engage them in the affairs of the Council. Every Knight should be an involved Knight.

FRATERNAL BENEFITS - TAX TIME AGAIN

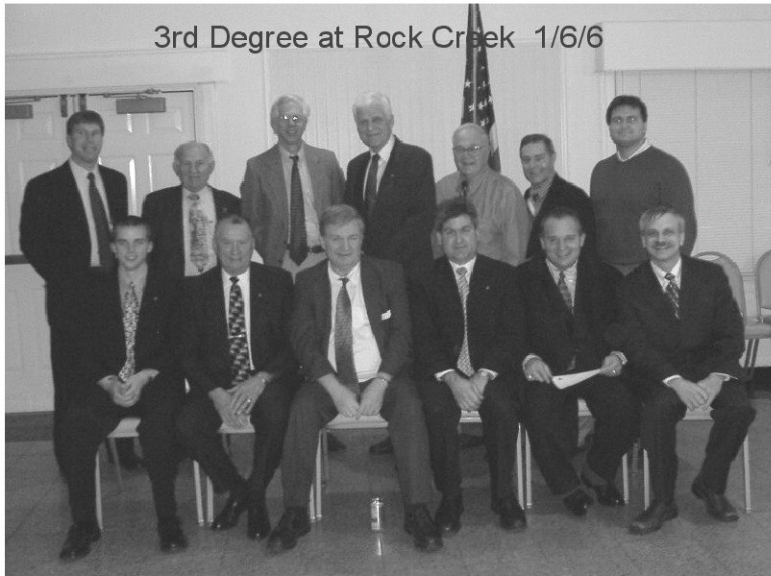
This month, I chose to pass up the opportunity to use the old cliché about two things we must do... although the timing should certainly bring it to mind. This season, in most homes, is financial accounting time. I'd like to wager that, at some point in the process, someone will ask (probably you!) "Where did all our money go?" Surely all of the money we earn finds a home somewhere... the grocer, the mortgage, the tax man. Very little, if any, is left over for a personal bank account or other investments.

Most of us consider ourselves fortunate if we've managed to pay our bills! Folks usually save what's leftover... and for most folks, that's nothing. The point is, whatever the amount earned, chances are good that it is spent providing for and rearing a family. Think about that for a minute. The needs of that family continue – food, shelter, clothing – even if the breadwinner suffers an untimely death. So what does income tax have to do with insurance? Simply this... it can serve as a reminder that protection for dependents should include an estimate of the current needs for money. While it may be convenient to say "I can't afford it," that's probably not accurate – when you consider that your family will be without any income should you die.

With this in mind, your Order has designed a plan which guarantees to continue income to your family for as long as they will need it. What's more, this plan will enable you to systematically save some of those dollars so difficult to account for at tax time. Call me today for an appointment. I want to hear from you.

Fraternally, Rick Morin 301.384.7627

3rd Degree at Rock Creek 1/6/6



Only about 30 3rd Degrees are given per year in Maryland.. This was a long ceremony, but no one got too uptight.

Mater Dei had Eight Members take their 3rd Degree at Rock Creek Council. Congratulations to the following Knights for receiving their 3rd Degree at Rock Creek Council on January 6:

Steven Anzalone, Jose Carbonell, Greg Daly, Dick Eckenrode, Tom Luxner, Nick Nylec, John Reutemann, and Bob Walsh.

Now they are full Knights and know what fraternalism is all about.

IT'S TIME FOR THE GARAGE TO ATTIC SALE !

This year the Garage to Attic Sale will be held on February 25th. It will again be co-chaired by Tom Schneider, Bill Schaffer and myself.

We will begin setting up on Thursday evening, the 23rd at our regular Council meeting time. A big turn out for the meeting is requested and Worthy Warden Jack Phillips is reminded that working men get thirsty. We may be able to handle the receipt of some donations on Thursday evening. The bulk of the donations will be coming in on Friday.

Last year we initiated a triage receiving function to separate the saleable from the un-saleable and distribute goods to the various retail areas. It worked well when volunteers were available but can get bogged down when short handed. Volunteers are desperately needed for this function virtually all day on Friday.

The Chairs have heard the growling stomachs and will arrange some food for Friday lunch and dinner (for workers of course). Hopefully we will finish setting up and pricing at a reasonable time on Friday evening.

Those volunteers who work Friday and Friday evening may purchase any item after it has been priced by the responsible department head at its full price on Friday evening but any item purchased must be removed that evening. (Do not expect to stop in for a free meal and advance purchase on Friday evening. Anyone who comes in will be put to work!)

Of course, volunteers will be needed all day on Saturday. We must be ready to open at 8:00 AM.

We will again be charging for early admission but at a more reasonable amount than last year. Free admission will be at 9:00

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

Mater Dei Council will host a 1st Degree Ceremony on Thursday, February 9 at our Business Meeting. I encourage all of you to attend. We would be grateful if you could recruit a fellow parishoner, relative, etc. to join the Knights and take part in the February 9 1st Degree Ceremony.

To help recruit prospective Knights, the Mater Dei Council will also host Coffee & Donuts on February 5. We need 3 Knights to work the coffee & donuts in St. Raphael's Trumpet Room after the 8:30, 10:00, and 11:30 masses. If weather permits, I would also like to have Knights work the tables outside (or inside, if permitted) before and after each mass on February 4-5. I have emailed a "sign-up list" which you can fill in and return to me. I've also included a sign-up if you want to work the masses at Our Lady of Mercy. I will send out this email next week with the updated list.

Thank you for your help,

Bob McCaffrey, Chancellor,

Coffee & Doughnuts after Mass - Meet and Greet

Sunday, February 5:

The Knights of Columbus Mater Dei Council will host coffee & doughnuts after the 8:30, 10:00, and 11:30 masses. If you know of a fellow parishoner, relative, or friend who is interested in becoming a Knight, encourage him to sign up at the Coffee & Doughnuts. We need volunteers to work the coffee & doughnuts, and we need more Knights to meet and greet prospective members after all masses this weekend. If you wish to volunteer, please call Bob McCaffrey, (301) 251-5225, or at bmacc38@yahoo.com.

FIRST DEGREE CEREMONY

Mater Dei Council will conduct a 1st Degree Ceremony on Thursday, February 8 at 7:30PM 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.

AM.(Food donations are requested but not mandatory.)

Volunteers are especially needed for clean up starting around 2:30. If you have been there all day and are tired we understand, but if everyone leaves when sales are halted we end up very short handed. This is a great opportunity for those who cannot make it earlier but want to participate in our biggest event of the year.

We would like to do a better job of utilizing our volunteers so if you can, let one of the chairs know when you are available. Contact DGK Wil Adams at 301-924-1422, wil-rosemaryathome@erols.com or PGK Tom Schneider at 301-270-0291, tomandjulie@fastmail.fm.

We look forward to seeing you.

Wil Adams, DGK, Co-Chairman

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

February 2006

- Feb 7** Council Executive Board Meeting 7:30 pm - DCC
Feb 9 Council Business Meeting - 8:00 pm - DCC
First Degree
Feb 11 Host "Tootsie Roll" Dinner - 6:00 pm - Trumpet Room
Feb 23 Council Social Meeting - 8:00 pm - DCC
GAS setup in DCC
Feb 24 Garage to Attic Sale Set Up --All Day - Trumpet Room
Feb 25 Garage to Attic Sale - All Day - Trumpet Room & DCC
Feb 28 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - Trumpet Room

Mar 7 Council Executive Board Meeting 7:30 pm - DCC
Mar 9 Council Business Meeting - 8:00 pm - DCC
2nd Degree Exemplification
Mar 11 Council Anniversary Dinner
Mar 23 Council Social Meeting - 8:00 pm - DCC

2ND DEGREE CEREMONY - MARCH 9, ST. RAPHAEL'S

If you are a 1st Degree Knight and wish to attain your 2nd Degree, this is a great opportunity to do so. Mater Dei Council is conducting a 2nd Degree Ceremony on Thursday, March 9. This ceremony will take place in the Trumpet Room at St. Raphael's Church. The candidates should arrive by 7:30 PM.

This is the only 2nd Degree Ceremony that Mater Dei Council will host this year. This ceremony will be witnessed and judged by officials from the Maryland State Council, so it is important that the candidates and 2nd Degree Ceremony Team are at their best. The 2nd Degree Ceremony is more formal than a 1st Degree Ceremony, and it has an unwritten dress code. It is strongly recommended that you wear a shirt & tie.

For more information about the 2nd Ceremony, please contact Bob McCaffrey, (301) 251-5225.

(Note to 2nd Degree Knights: If you want to receive your 3rd Degree, future 3rd Degree Ceremonies will be held at:

April 21, Our Lady of Fatima Council 6901, Barnesville

May 12, Sacred Heart Council 2577, Bowie

June 2, St. Columville Council 5317, Ft. Washington)

**THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE
MARCH 2006**

**All articles for the MARCH Issue
must be received by the Editor by
Tuesday, February 28, 6:00 p.m.**

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EMAIL ADDRESS ??

**Does the Financial Secretary have
your email address? Please advise**

John Frey

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if you now have email, or have a
change of email address.**