



The Blue Mantle



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

February 2007

Knights of Columbus Mater Dei Council #9774

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Grand Knight's Report

February brings us two of our major events of the year. The Garage to Attic Sale Gas is by far our biggest event of the year. This year it is being chaired by Bill Shaffer and Bob McCaffrey. They have been very busy preparing for the event. Now it is time for the rest of us to step up and be counted. This is not only our biggest charity fund raiser but it is the event which requires the most effort of all of us. If you have not yet volunteered, please contact Bill or Bob and let them know what you can do to help.

The other major event is the Tootsie Roll Award Dinner. We host all 16 Councils of Montgomery County and award the proceeds of all the collections made in the County. The dinner will

be in the Trumpet room on February 10th. The social starts right after the 5:00 PM mass, with dinner at 7:00. The cost for dinner is only \$20.00 per person. Contact me for reservations. Checks should be made out to Mater Dei Council. We are looking for a large turn out. None of the Tootsie Roll funds are used to support the dinner and we have invited over fifty guests to be supported by the attendance of all Councils. If you have never attended this event you have missed the opportunity to see who benefits from those hours we spend giving away the candy and soliciting donations.

I want to thank our Lecturer Larry Boesch for arranging the Social meeting in January which featured our own Brother Jose

Carbonel reporting on the Right to Life Activities of the Saint Raphael parish community. Thanks to Jose for a very informative talk.

Thanks also to Dick Eckenrode for organizing a very successful Blood Drive as well as to all who contributed.

At last report only about 67% of you had sent in your dues payment. Thanks to those who have and a gentle reminder to the others.

February is also the start of lent. What better way is there to live our faith and prepare for the Resurrection than by doing something positive through our organization in the coming weeks.

God Bless you all.

Wilsie Adams

Knights News

- * Our annual Garage to Attic sale I scheduled for Saturday February 24, 2007.
- * If you have a portion of garage (or basement) that you would be willing to devote towards storing GAS merchandise — sometime after Christmas until GAS setup day on February 23rd — please contact Bill Shaffer at 301-762-1735 or email billshaffer_kofc@verizon.net

District Deputy's Corner

With the holidays over, our tenor changes to completing our required reports and initiating a new round of recruiting. Why do we focus so much attention on recruiting? Numbers really mean nothing since it is the quality of the men who join the Knights and stay with their Councils instead of lapsing after a year or two. If we continue to grow the Order, we add new ideas and enlarge our capability to do perform good deeds. Don't

just invite a person to join the Knight, ask them to become a Knight in full partnership with the rest of our brothers.

My Saint of the Month is St. David Lewis (1616-1679). He served as a priest in South Wales and was known as the "Father of the Poor." He spent nearly three decades in pastoral service. Going underground after false allegations that the Jesuits were plotting to kill the King

of England, he was betrayed by a parishioner, arrested, judged guilty of treason and hanged. At the gallows, the hangmen feared to kill a priest and the authorities had to employ a blacksmith to finish the execution.

Father Lewis is one of many lesser known Saints who led their lives according to God's teachings and died in defense of our Faith.

Tom Schneider

"Our Father"

Our Father

When I say "Father," the word automatically calls up the word "our." When I speak to God, I cannot address him solely as "Father." When I say "Father," I must include the "we" of all his children. But the opposite is also true: when I say "Father" I know that I have entered the company of all the children of God and that they are at my side. Consequently, talking with God does not distract me from my responsibility for the earth and for all mankind; it gives it to me anew. In the light of prayer, I can venture to accept it.

POPE BENEDICT XVI

His Holiness Benedict XVI was elected to the See of Saint Peter in 2005.

Our Father

The word "Father" makes me sure of one thing: I do not come from myself; I am a child. I am tempted at first to protest against this reminder as the prodigal son did. I want to be "of age," "emancipated," my own master. But then I ask myself: What is the alternative for me - or for any person - if I no longer have a Father, if I have left my state as child definitively behind me? What have I gained thereby? Am I really free? No, I am free only when there is a principle of freedom, when there is someone who loves and whose love is strong. Ultimately, then, I have no alternative but to turn back again, to say "Father," and in that way to gain access to freedom by acknowledging the truth about myself. Then my glance falls on Him

who, his whole life long, identified himself as child, as Son, and who, precisely as child and Son, was consubstantial with God himself.

Let us pray to our Father in heaven: he will hear his children.

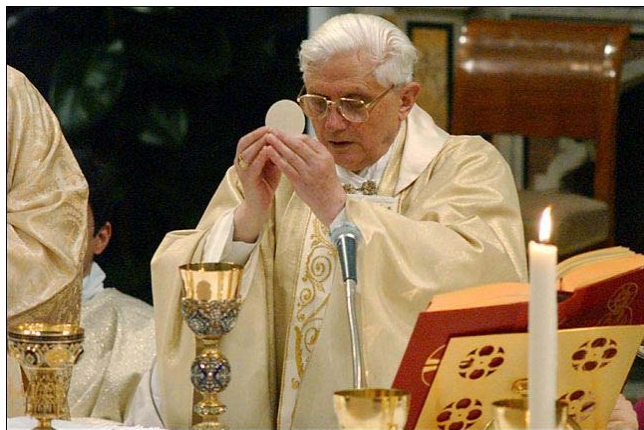


The Most Humble Love

To me the **Eucharist** is the most humble love of Jesus Christ, the ultimate love as He gives us Himself in bread and wine. It is the ultimate act of elevating the other, the beloved, us. It is the reality of the Passover come alive as we are freed from sin and led to the promised land of heaven. He, our God, becomes man, stepping in place of the lamb of the Passover meal. We have this Passover meal feasting on our God, Jesus unblemished.

The Eucharist is our God loving us so much that He places us in control of Him. He allows us to choose to adore and love Him, to be nourished by Him in the food, or to ignore and disrespect Him. It is our God bowing to us, wanting to be with us so badly that He allows Himself to be in this food, under our control, for our benefit. It is the ultimate marriage

consummation, our God giving Himself totally to us as the groom, and we receiving Him as His bride.



When we participate in the **adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**, we are fulfilling what Jesus asked the apostles to do in the garden; to watch and pray, and to keep our focus on Him and what he was about to do. There He was about to give His life, as I have stated, in place

of the Passover lamb, in which this whole action becomes our Mass.

Jesus asked the apostles to stay focused and pray with Him before He gave Himself totally on the cross. In adoration, it is a moment of time frozen from Mass, before we consume the Lamb of God, before we consummate our marriage with Him. It is like gazing intently upon a loved one before entering into the full act of love, in awe of each other. We come before Him in awe of Him, and He is in awe of us, wanting to give Himself fully to us. Eucharistic adoration is the intimate time we spend with our groom, to know the depths of Him as we prepare to become one with Him.

Father Anthony Gargotta
Natrona Heights, Pennsylvania

"If you are humble enough"

The first time I was asked to bring Our Lord in Holy Communion to anyone, it was to thirty patients at the National Orthopedic Hospital in Alexandria, Virginia. I was the DRE (Director of Religious Education), and a newly ordained permanent deacon at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, near Reagan National Airport.

Our new pastor, Msgr. Burke, handed me his pyx, which is the small metallic container that we use to carry Holy Communion, and then gave me a list of the patients I would be visiting. I asked him what he wanted me to say when they received Our Lord, and he said, "Just go now. They are waiting!" After I had removed the Hosts I needed from the tabernacle and put them in the pyx, I knelt before Our Lord and said, "Please Lord, tell me how you want me to bring you to your people." No response.

All the way to the hospital, I prayed, asking for the proper

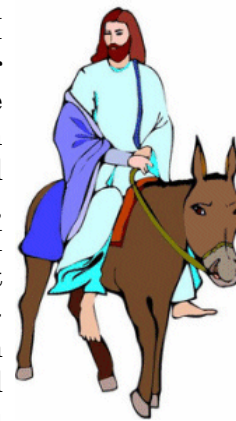
way to present Our Lord to these patients. Somehow, it just didn't seem like enough to merely hold up the Host, the sacred body of Christ, and just say, "The body of Christ." No response. Going up the elevator, I prayed again, but still got no response.

When I reached the first room, the nurse said, "This woman just came out of surgery and she's just now coming out of the anesthetic." I saw a young woman in her mid-twenties, facing the wall, grimacing in pain. I stood at the foot of her bed. Our eyes met, and I asked her if she wanted to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion. She turned toward me and nodded her head, still with an expression of pain. I held up the Host, and then it came to me. "Unite your sufferings with those of Our Lord's on the cross, for your salvation and for the salvation of those you love. Receive the body of Christ."

She received Our Lord, lay back on her pillow, and closed her eyes. I sensed the presence of

Jesus taking care of her. Leaving the room, I looked back and saw her resting in the peace of Christ, with a faint smile on her peaceful face. This happened with every single one of the patients at the hospital, even those preparing to leave.

On the way back to Our Lady of Lourdes, I thanked Our Lord for letting me bring Him to those patients. I said, "I did a good job for you today, Lord, didn't I?"



What came to me was humbling. It was as if Jesus was saying, "If you are humble enough, and innocent enough, and pure enough, I will let you take me to my people, like that donkey in Jerusalem."

*Deacon Joe Benin
Annandale, Virginia*

Insurance Report

It's that time of the year again! A time to tell your Valentine just how much you really do love her. What are you going to get her this year? Flowers? Some candy and a card?

Why don't you get her something that truly shows what she means to you! We are talking about life insurance. Give her the greatest gift of

all. The financial security that she will need when you aren't here any more.

Sure, flowers are pretty and smell nice, but there is nothing left- when they die. Candy is wonderful too, but once Valentine's Day is over ... it too is gone. What is left, when you're gone?

Call me for an appointment, so we can make sure there is something left for her.

Fraternally,

Rick Morin, FICF, CSA
Your K of C Insurance Agent
(301) 384 7627

Congrats!

Congratulations 2nd Degree Knights

Mater Dei Council would like to congratulate the following Knights who went through the 2nd Degree Ceremony at Rock Creek Council on Jan. 4:

Jorge Ambia
Thomas Shallow

Please congratulate them the next time you see them.

4th Degree Exemplification on March 11

Please check the following link for the 4th degree ceremony documents:

- News Release
- Reservation Form
- Brochure

<http://www.geocities.com/materdei9774/4thDegree/March2007.htm>



3 On 3 Basketball on March 24

The yearly event will take place on Saturday, March 24, 2007 from 8:30am until 3:00pm at Our Lady of Mercy.

You can download the entry form at <http://www.geocities.com/materdei9774/3on3family2007.pdf>

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:

| | | |
|-------------|------------|---|
| 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.

Basketball Free Throws

Mater Dei has just completed half of its in-school competition on Wednesday January 24, the Council conducted its annual activity at The Heights School in Potomac. We had a record turnout of 201 boys, and winners were decided at each level between ages 10 thru 14.



Many thanks to the Brother Knights posing in the above photo (PGK Tom Schneider left early!) for their assistance in scoring. That's over 3,000 Free Throws counted!

For the first time, the 2nd in-school activity is scheduled for Wednesday February 7 at Mary of Nazareth School. Interested volunteers should contact John Li at 301-424-2713.

Our District 18 Finals are scheduled at The Heights School on Friday February 23 at 6 P.M. The State Final is scheduled for March 10 in District Heights.

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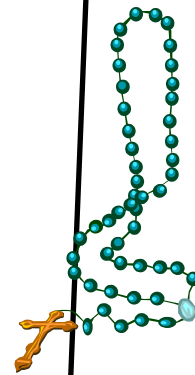
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Special Notices

- Congratulations to *John & Patricia Frey* on their selection as Family of the Month.
- For Lent, Anchorhold will host 5 sessions on the Rosary, Sundays Feb 25—Mar 25 from 1 pm to 2 pm. Contact Mike Barnes for more information: 240-864-2543
- All articles for the March issue must be received by the Editor by Friday Feb 23rd.
- Have a Happy Chinese New Year!
(Feb 18 starts the year of the boar/pig.)



Schedule of Events: Feb-Mar 2007

| | |
|------------|---|
| Sun Feb 4 | Coffee and Donuts at St. Raphael's |
| Tue Feb 6 | Executive Meeting & Semi-Annual Audit Open House for potential members |
| Thu Feb 8 | Business meeting & First Degree |
| Sat Feb 10 | Tootsie Roll Award Dinner |
| Tue Feb 20 | Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner |
| Wed Feb 21 | Ash Wednesday |
| Thu Feb 22 | Meeting to set up for GAS |
| Fri Feb 23 | Set up GAS |
| Sat Feb 24 | GAS |
| Tue Mar 6 | Executive Meeting @ 7:30 |
| Thu Mar 8 | Business Meeting |
| Sat Mar 10 | Anniversary Dinner |
| Sun Mar 11 | 4th Degree at College Park |
| Wed Mar 14 | Chapter Meeting at St. Raphael |
| Thu Mar 22 | Second Degree |
| Sat Mar 24 | 3 On 3 Basketball @ Our Lady of Mercy |



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