



The Blue Mantle



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

February 2008
Lent

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Mater Dei Council
#9774

Inside this issue:

Grand Knight	1
GAS / New Knights	2
Anniversary Dinner	3
Tootsie Rolls	4
Lecture + Basket	5
Life	6
Schedule of events	7

Holy See:

“A world which has to create its own justice is a world without hope. No one and nothing can answer for centuries of suffering.”
“To protest against God in the name of justice is not helpful. A world without God is a world without hope (cf. Eph 2:12). Only God can create justice. And faith gives us the certainty that he does so. The image of the Last Judgment is not primarily an image of terror, but an image of hope; for us it may even be the decisive image of hope.”

Pope Benedict XVI
2nd Encyclical *Spe Salvi*

GK's Column



This February we are again honored to host one of the most meaningful and emotionally uplifting events of the year, the Tootsie Roll Award Dinner. We will host all 16 Councils of Montgomery County and award the proceeds of all the collections made in the county during the Tootsie Roll Campaign last fall. The dinner will be in the Trumpet room on February 9th. The social starts right after the 5:00 PM mass, with dinner at 7:00. The cost for the dinner is only \$20 per person. Contact me for reservations. We are looking for a large turnout. None of the Tootsie Roll funds are used to support the dinner and we have invited over fifty guests to be sponsored by the attendance of the Councils. If you

have never attended this event you have missed the opportunity to spend some time with those who benefit 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 a tag team talk by Deacon Salatto and company on the Prison Ministry. Larry has also arranged for another fine lecture for our February Social Meeting. This time our guest will be Monsignor Fitzgerald who will talk about Apostleship of the Sea, a worldwide organization with an office in Baltimore that ministers to travelers and workers on the sea.

I also extend my thanks to Dick Eckenrode for organizing another successful Blood Drive as well as all those who contributed.

Preparations have already begun for the Garage to Attic Sale, which this year will be held on March 29. This year's chair, Bob

McCaffrey, is making plans and filling out his volunteer roster. The next meeting for GAS will be Feb 12th in the DCC. The GAS committee is already looking for early volunteers to help with early goods evaluation and advertising for pick-up. Feel free to call Bob and volunteer; we need all the help we can get.

This is also the time to pay your dues. Make sure you respond to John Frey's solicitation. Your contributions are essential to the health of the council.

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 the Knights of Columbus in the coming weeks?

Vivat Jesus

Bill Shaffer
Grand Knight

Garage-to-Attic Sale Planning Meeting - February 12th

The 2008 Garage-to-Attic Sale (GAS) will be Saturday, March 29th. We will have our next GAS Planning Meeting on Tuesday, February 12th at 7:30 in Rooms 4/6. All Knights and their families are welcome to attend. Snacks and refreshments will be served.

We had our first Garage-to-Attic Sale planning meeting on January 8th. 15 Knights and their wives attended. Thank you to all who have already volunteered to chair or work in the following GAS Departments:

Books: Carla McCaffrey (Chair)
Boutique: Mary Girardi (Chair),
 Jean Schuncke
Cashiers: Dick Jasinski (Chair),
 Jack Phillips, Mike Donahue
Clothing: Ray Gasper (Chair),
 Ted Tate, Ursula Boesch
Computers: Larry Boesch (Co-Chair) and
 Terry Harrington (Co-Chair)
Electronics: Greg Maier

Food: Dick Bianchi (Co-Chair) and
 Don Titzman (Co-Chair)
Furniture: Frank Della Penna (Chair),
 Dave Barr, Bill Thompson
House Wares: Nancy Della Penna,
 Kathie Stauffer
Pickup & Delivery: Joe Doane (Co-Chair),
 Paul Schuncke (Co-Chair),
 Larry Boesch, Mike Donahue
Receiving: Tom Schneider (Chair),
 Dick Eckenrode, Jack Phillips
Security: Joe Trainor (Chair)
Sporting Goods: Don Novotny (Chair)
Tools: Chuck Covell (Chair), John Gleavy

We still need Department Chairs for the following Departments: Electronics, House Wares, Linens, Publicity, Saturday Cleanup, Small Appliances, and Toys.

We still need many volunteers to work in any of the Departments listed above. If you wish to volunteer, please come to our February 12th GAS Planning Meeting. You may also sign-up to volunteer by contacting Bob McCaffrey at (301) 251-5225 or bmacc38@yahoo.com.

Mater Dei Council Welcomes three New Members

During the month of January Mater Dei Council gained 3 new members who took the First Degree. The new members are *Michael Hsur*, *Kevin Logan*, and *Tod Sloan*.

◆ Michael is a graduate of The Catholic University Law School and has recently moved into the area from Fresno, Ca. He has two children.

◆ Kevin is a member of Our Lady of Mercy parish who acts as lector and an extraordinary minister. Kevin is a physician in private practice.

◆ Tod is a member of Holy Redeemer parish. He and his wife,

Mary, run a non-profit pro-life organization called *Life Force, Inc* that supports many local pro-life activities. We are certain that these 3 men will be valuable additions to our council and we extend to them a hearty welcome.



Pictured from left to right are Kevin Rogan, Terry Herrington, Michael Hsur, Grand Knight Bill Shaffer, District Deputy Tom Schneider, and Tod Sloan.

Annie R. Langley

Annie R. Langley, 82, of Rockville, died on Dec. 14, 2007 at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring of a heart condition. She had been a resident of Rockville for 50 years. Mrs. Langley earned a degree in Business Planning and was an ordained Presbyterian minister. She ran her own non-profit organization, **PROP, Inc** (Providing Resources of People). She was a recipient of many awards over the years, getting recognition from Montgomery County, the City of Rockville and the religious community. She is survived by one son, George C. Langley of Rockville. A son, Charles A. Langley, predeceased her.

Annie ("Ruth") helped *Mater Dei Council* immensely. She and her volunteer crew would remove all the items left over from the annual *Mater Dei council* "Garage-to-Attic-Sale" (GAS). Ruth would go through and sort thousands of items and distribute them to needy people, such as a family that was burnt out of their home, or a homeless person who had gotten into an apartment, or to a church that had needy person. In order to help Ruth run her operation, *Mater Dei* would annually give her a donation to help her defer costs for storage, disposal and operations. Some items that she could not find a home for, she would sell to help defray the costs and to buy other items that people needed.

Ruth was always grateful for *Mater Dei Council* for the donations to PROP.

Pray for the soul of Annie R. Langley and her family.

2nd and 3rd Degrees to be held in February

If you would like to advance toward full knighthood you have an excellent opportunity. Mater Dei Council will be hosting an exemplification of the 2nd Degree on Thursday February 7 in the Trumpet Room. Candidates must gather in the DCC by 7:30 pm and have a current First Degree membership card (so pay your dues). Then on the next evening (Friday February 8) Rock Creek Council in Bethesda will host an exemplification of the 3rd Degree. Candidates must be at Rock Creek Council by 7:30 pm and in possession of a 2nd Degree membership card. Those who plan on attending either degree must arrange with John Frey so that he can prepare the proper paperwork can be processed.

Please take advantage of these opportunities. The further you progress the more you will get out of your membership in the Knights of Columbus.

Every knight who proposes a new member between now and April 20th will receive a small medallion with Pope Benedict's image.

Anniversary Dinner to be held March 8

Mater Dei Council's annual Anniversary Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 8 starting at 6 pm in the Trumpet Room. In honor of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Knights of Columbus this year's dinner will highlight our council's legacy of traditions. In honor of the 125th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus all past grand knights and widows will be admitted for free. The admission price for others will be \$15 per person, \$25 per couple, or \$30 for family. As always members are encouraged to bring their friends (as part of their family) interested in joining the council. Advance reservations are required. Please contact Grand Knight Bill Shaffer by February 23.

Historical Photos needed for Anniversary Dinner

In preparation for Mater Dei Council's annual Anniversary Dinner, Grand Knight Bill Shaffer is looking for photographs of past council events and key council leaders. Of particular interest are photos of Past Grand Knights. The Grand Knight would like to make these photos a centerpiece to the celebration allowing the newer members to gain a fuller understanding of the important traditions of the council and members with more seniority to remember with fondness the comrades that have gone on to their reward.

Photos are needed by the end of February and should be sent to Grand Knight Shaffer at 11813 Hayfield Ct., Potomac, MD 20854 or billshaffer_kofc@verizon.net. Original hardcopies will be preserved intact and returned to the owner. An accompanying description of the scene and persons in the photo would be greatly appreciated and is essential.

Collection for Intellectually Disabled Youngsters. Final Tally Over \$14,000!

Mater Dei members can feel good over a job well done! A huge portion of our Knights shared in this year's effort; certainly a record number, and probably also a record in terms of hours of time contributed per-volunteer.

The campaign began early this year, with several Knights collecting in two-to-four-hour time-shifts out of a booth at the Montgomery County Fair, where passer-by contributors got their choice; either ice-cold bottled water, or a Tootsie Roll. Then, October/November, there were the traditional curbside collections at local super-stores, with donors receiving a free Tootsie Roll, and Knights generally doing one or more two-hour pre-arranged time-slots. This year's final for Mater Dei, as of December 15, was \$14,336, which turned out to be about 25% of the total take by all of

the County's 16 Councils!

The campaign itself is always a fun time for us; lots of neighborly exchanges with contributors, and with many of the other passers-by as well; plus a nice opportunity for taking time for fellowship and making new acquaintances among fellow Knights. There's NO in-your-face, high-pressure stuff with the public, but no mistake, we speak loudly with a big smile - - we let folks know we're there, and that we're proud of the service we're doing!

But each year's follow-up dinner is fun, too. This is where we, along with reps from the other Councils, actually announce the awardees and get to hear from them many first-hand accounts of how the funds are used, often citing specific, touching examples of the children who actually benefit. This year, on February 9, our own Mater Dei Council acts a host for the event; 21 different therapeutic-help organizations of Montgomery County will be awarded a total of nearly \$50,000.

This event is not for officers only; any interested Knight is welcome, and apt to have a very heart-warming experience.

Mater Dei officers in particular are much involved in helping at the District level to continually improve this yearly program for intellectually disabled children. This year, while serving as chairman of the Montgomery County Councils of the Knights of Columbus, our Grand Knight Bill Shaffer arranged for Mater Dei PGK Bob Fontana to set up a website (<http://mysite.verizon.net/rjdsfl1403/TootsieRoll/>) for use in coordinating the selection activity, and was responsible for sending out solicitation letters to all the charities listed on the website, receiving the proposals, posting them on the site for all the Grand Knights to review, hosting the selection meeting, coordinating with the State Council to prepare the award vouchers, and finally, sending dinner-invitation letters to the awardees.

Annual Tootsie Roll Dinner to be held on February 9

The Tootsie Roll Dinner will be held on Saturday February 9 in the Trumpet Room beginning at 6 pm. This is a truly gala event at which all the councils in Montgomery County distribute the funds collected during the Tootsie Roll Campaign to many wor-

thy local organizations that help individuals with intellectual disabilities. Representatives from the honored organizations will be on hand to receive their awards from their council sponsor.

If you participated in the Tootsie Roll Campaign this is an excellent chance to see the fruition of all your hard work. All are invited to this special

event. The cost will be \$20 per person and will be collected at the door. Please come and be inspired by the stories of how your simple labor has helped those less fortunate. If you plan on attending please RSVP the Grand Knight and Chair for the Tootsie Roll Dinner, Bill Shaffer (301) 762-1735.



Knights of Columbus dignitaries at last year's Tootsie Roll Dinner



Above: Monsignor John Fitzgerald and International Seafarers' Center, visiting mariners. The center receives new headquarters following a winter. Magazines connect foreign ship workers to their homelands, and the center offers spir

Free Throw Championship

The Council successfully conducted its 2008 Free Throw competition at the Heights School on Wednesday January 16. As has been the practice in past years, students in the lower grades were required to participate while the older students did so on a voluntary basis. 102 students

competed, and winners were declared in all five age groups from ages 10 through 14. Many thanks to Brother Knights Dick Jasinski, Ted Tate, Tom Luxner, Dave Minarich, Andrew O'Lone for scoring the 1,500 some foul shots, and special thanks to Brother Knight Don Novotny who supplied the artful camera work.

Lecture on AoS on February 28

Msgr. John Fitzgerald will be our guest lecturer for our February 28 social meeting. Msgr. Fitzgerald is the Director of Apostleship to the Sea [AOS] for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. The mission of the AOS is "to reach out to seafarers, fishers, their families and all who work or travel on the high seas". Around the world, the AOS "assists seafarers' to meet their basic needs: a safe work environment, a just contract, a safe haven while in port, spiritual renewal, communication with loved ones back home, a few hours of recreation and a genuine welcome."

Msgr. Fitzgerald holds a Ph.D. in Psychology and the rank of Captain Chaplain Corps U.S. Navy (ret.). He is a very inspirational speaker.

The lecture will begin at 8 pm and be held in our meeting space in the DCC. All are welcomed to attend (e.g. wives, family, and friends). Refreshments will be served.

Brother Knights interested in volunteering for the District 18 competition - scheduled at the Heights School on Friday February 22 from 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm should contact the Youth Program Director. The State Finals are scheduled for March 16.

Vivat Jesus

John Li
Youth Program



"Letter for life" Campaign

A letter campaign urging Maryland State lawmakers to provide funding for alternatives to abortion is being funded by the Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) and supported by the KofC and Catholic parishes throughout the state.

The bill - "*The Pregnant Woman Support Act*" - would enable non-profit organizations to receive state aid as they provide counseling, referrals and other assistance to women facing crisis pregnancies.

Anyone can support this bill as it

is outside of the abortion debate. It is about assisting pregnant women in need.

The MCC with the help of the KofC as a statewide goal of 100,000 letters. The letters are pre-written and parishioners need only sign their names and addresses.

Right now 150 churches have signed up to have parishioners sign letters after mass. Our coordinators are Pat Degraba PGK (St. Raphael) and Wilsie Adams PGK (Our Lady of Mercy).

Fraternal Benefits

If you are between the age of 60 and 75 - why would you need insurance protection?

Let me suggest a few reasons why many Brother Knights in this age bracket utilize our protection:

1. You are currently receiving a pension. If you die - your wife only gets 50-60% of your pension - if any.
2. The group life insurance you once had is decreasing. You will lose either a majority of it - or all of it.
3. Your wife could outlive you and she will need money to pay for her care in the future. Long term health care and nursing home horror stories are commonplace - don't let this happen to your bride.

4. To provide a tax-free infusion of money to your wife or your estate to handle funeral costs, debts, bills and medical expenses.

Also, attorney's fees, probate costs and any taxes due.

5. Self respect - insurance allows a man to leave this world without any debt and better yet -the ability to leave someone else better off.

PS. Ask me about the Knights of Columbus newest Fraternal Benefit... *Accelerated Benefit Option*.

Call me today - don't delay

Fraternally,

Rick Morin, FICF/LUTCF
Your K of C Insurance Agent
301-384-7627

**"Apart from me
you can do nothing"
(Jn 15:5)**

With regard to the fear about whether or not I was in the state of grace, the Lord told me: "*Daughter, light is very different from darkness. I am faithful. Nobody will be lost unknowingly. They who find security in spiritual favors will be deceived. True security is the testimony of a good conscience. But people should not think that through their own efforts they can be in light or that they can do anything to prevent the night, because these states depend upon my grace. The best help for holding on to the light is to understand that you can do nothing and that it comes from me. For even though you may be in light, at the moment I withdraw, the night will come. This is true humility: to know what you can do and what I can do...*"

In explaining the nature of union to me, he said: "*Don't think, daughter, that union lies in being very close to me. For those, too, who offend me are close, although they may not want to be. Neither does it consist in favors and consolations in prayer, even though these may reach a very sublime degree. Though these favors may come from me, they are often a means for winning souls, even souls that are not in the state of grace.*"

*Saint Teresa († 1582),
Doctor of the Church,
reformed the Carmelite Order.*

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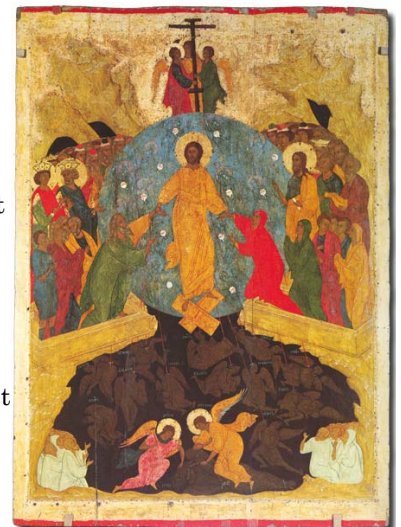
Notices

Congratulations to Brother *Don Titzman* and his wife *Amelia* for being selected Family of the Month for December. Don has been a member of Mater Dei for only a year, and is our current Warden. They are recognized for their work on providing food for Breakfast with Santa and the Christmas Party, and the food at Poker Nights. Don redesigned the Tootsie Roll campaign signs and created recruitment poster boards. The food at Council meetings and degree nights is exceptional. Don has quickly become an indispensable member of the council.

- Please send your articles/comments/suggestions to the editor at cam1000@gmail.com.
- All articles for the March issue must be received by the editor by Friday February 22nd.
- Pope Benedict XVI will be in Washington D.C. from April 15 to April 17 (Mass in new Nationals Park).
Check the papal visit Web Site at:
<http://www.uspapalvisit.org>

Schedule of Events: February - March '08

Tue Feb 5 Mr. D and DJ, 6:30pm, Trumpet
Tue Feb 5 Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC
Wed Feb 6 **Ash Wednesday (fast, abstin.)**
Thu Feb 7 2nd Degree, 7:30pm, Trumpet
Fri Feb 8 3rd Degree, 7:30pm, **Rock Creek**
Sat Feb 9 Tootsie Roll Dinner, 6pm, Trumpet
Tue Feb 12 GAS Planning, 7:30pm, DCC
Thu Feb 14 Business Meeting, 8pm, DCC
Thu Feb 28 Msgr. John Fitzgerald, 8pm, DCC
Tue Mar 4 Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC
Sat Mar 8 Anniversary Dinner, 6pm, Trumpet
Thu Mar 13 Business Meeting, 8pm, DCC
Sun Mar 23 **Easter**
Mar 27-28 Garage-to-Attic set up (2 days)
Sat Mar 29 Garage-to-Attic Sale



“He descended into hell.”

“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.



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Knights of Columbus
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P.O. Box 10237
Rockville, MD 20849-0237

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

February 2008
