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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](http://www.geocities.com/materdei9774)

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## From the Grand Knight's Station



As we celebrate the Christmas season we are reminded that this is a time for sharing good cheer with our friends and family as well as a time of giving. I want to thank those Knights who gave of their time helping with breakfast with Santa and a special thanks to Martin Begley for organizing these efforts. I also want to thank all of the Knights who gave to the seminarians and helped

us raise over \$2000. I also want to encourage anyone who still wishes to give to make a contribution to this worthy cause.

Our Christmas party enabled many Knights to share the joy of Christmas with each other. Over 100 Knights, family and friends attended this year's party. I want to thank Dorothy Novotny for playing the key boards and leading us in Christmas caroling during the party. This is a tradition I hope we will continue at next year's party.

I also want to thank Longhorn Steakhouse for there most generous donation of all of the food for this year's Christmas Party. There generosity and continued support of Mater Dei over the past two years is greatly appreciated.

Looking ahead we have lots of rewarding activities planned. In January we have the winter blood drive to be held on Thursday, Jan 26 in the Trumpet room. Thank you to Jim Edmondson for organizing this event. Please be generous with your time if Jim asks for your help.

January also brings the annual march for life. This is an opportunity to show your faith and support the efforts to overturn the laws that legalize the taking of the life of innocent unborn children.

January will also be the time we begin to prepare for the garage to Attic Sale. Efforts have already begun to publicize this event. Thanks to Wilsie Adams and Tom Schneider for co-chairing this event, and to Bill Shaffer for his work in organizing publicity. You will all be asked to volunteer to help at this event over the next 2 months. This is one of the most enjoyable and rewarding activities we undertake. At the moment we are looking for anyone who can volunteer garage space to store furniture. Anyone who has extra space is asked to contact Joe Doane or Paul Schuncke.

February will also see our third first degree ceremony of the fraternal year,

## IN MEMORIA

**Jack W. Cronin,  
Past Grand Knight,  
Mater Dei Council**

**Frank Jiordano**

The prayers of the Brothers of Mater Dei Council are offered for the repose of the soul of our Brothers.

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which is scheduled for February 9. We will need knights to help with Coffee and Donuts and other recruiting activities. Please be generous with your time.

I wish you and your families a happy and healthy new year.

God Bless all of you,  
Patrick DeGraba  
Grand Knight

**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR**

## District Deputy's Message



Here we are at the beginning of a new calendar year, and in the second half of the fraternal year. At this season, it is traditional to make resolutions for the year ahead. It is a time to assess the way we live, the way we interact with others, the way we practice our Faith, and then to resolve to change our behavior. With God's grace to illuminate our minds and strengthen our wills, we can live the type of lives for which we were intended.

January also is the time when we can take concerted action with many, many other Christians as well as non-Christians on behalf of the unborn. On the 23rd of this month, the March for Life will be held in Washington, DC. It is the 33rd, and hopefully the last, time that tens of thousands of people will rally at the Ellipse and then proceed to the Supreme Court to petition for the overthrow of *Roe v. Wade*, which would mark the beginning of the end of legalized abortion. We in Washington are fortunate that we can be at the Ellipse after only a short Metro ride. Many others will be traveling hundreds of miles to be here. Some will leave home Sunday and not return until Tuesday morning, having spent two nights on a bus to show their support. Rock Creek Council will once again be hosting a group of about 30-40 high school students from Texas, who come annually to participate in the March and ancillary events. If you can make it to the Ellipse, please do so as a visible outcry against the continuing murder of innocent children. If you cannot, try to go to Mass that morning to pray for the success of the March. The Bishops of the United States have designated January 23rd as a "Day of Penance and Prayer" for the unborn.

In the past six months since the then-newly-elected Grand Knights attended the Grand Knights College at Mount St. Mary's, they have become experienced veterans, leading their Councils in many successful activities. Since July 1, in our District, we have had a well-attended soccer shootout, the Tootsie Roll collections for the mentally handicapped have raised considerable money, and the Grand Knights of all 16 Councils in Montgomery County have met to organize how they will select the recipient organizations and plan an awards dinner under the chairmanship of Mater Dei's GK Pat DeGraba. A membership blitz was conducted by most of our Councils, and four First Degree and one Second Degree ceremonies have been conducted. Add to this list, the various social events each Council has held, and you can see it has been a busy first half of the fraternal year. On January 7, the Grand Knights will be attending the State's Annual Mid-Term Meeting in order to refocus their efforts for the second half of their terms. With their continued leadership and your participation, this can be a very successful and meaningful year for your Council. Keep up the good work.

For those of you who are interested in moving to the Fourth Degree, the exemplification for the Archdiocese of Washington District, to which we belong, will be held at the University of Maryland on February 26. For more information, speak to your Grand Knight or contact me, and we will be pleased to assist you in your candidacy. *Vivat Jesus!*

Lawrence P. Grayson  
District Deputy #18

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### BACK-TO-BACK 2ND & 3RD DEGREE CEREMONIES - ROCK CREEK COUNCIL

If you are a 1st or 2nd Degree Knight and wish to attain your 3rd Degree, this is a great opportunity to do so. Rock Creek Council is conducting a 2nd Degree Ceremony on Thursday, January 5 and a 3rd Degree Ceremony on Friday, January 6. Both these ceremonies require the candidates to arrive by 7:00 PM. Mater Dei Council members will meet at St. Raphael's at 6:30 PM (Thursday and Friday) to drive down to Rock Creek Council. The 2nd & 3rd Degree Ceremonies are more formal than a 1st Degree Ceremony, and these ceremonies have an unwritten dress code. For the 2nd Degree Ceremony, it is strongly recommended that you wear a shirt & tie (if you don't, they might make you carry the cross). For the 3rd Degree Ceremony, a suit & tie is required for all candidates.

Rock Creek Council is located on W. Cedar Lane near the intersection with Old Georgetown Road. For more information about the 2nd & 3rd Degree Ceremonies, please contact Bob McCaffrey, (301) 251-5225.

**(Note to 1st Degree Knights:** If you want to receive your 2nd Degree at St. Raphael's Church, Mater Dei Council will conduct a 2nd Degree Ceremony on Thursday, March 25. 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 Newspeak of Abortion**

Lawrence P. Grayson, DD, PGK, PFN

Ideas have consequences, and words shape ideas. Words, however, may be defined in different ways. In national politics, for example, how terms such as freedom, justice, human rights, sovereignty, peace, and security are defined and understood determine the actions a nation takes, or does not take. This is no less the case in the national debate on abortion. When the child-in-utero is termed a fetus, it is considered a growth within a woman, and like a tumor it can be excised for the health or convenience of the mother. Ignoring traditional, absolute moral standards, millions of people have redefined what it is to be human. To satisfy the self-interest of the mother or father – or in the case of stem cell research, of the scientist or corporation – the lives of millions upon millions of unborn children are terminated, sometimes in the most brutal ways.

Abortion continues because, as George Orwell wrote in his book, *1984*, “the most grossly obvious facts can be ignored when they are unwelcome.” With Orwellian fervor, new words are created to disguise certain unacceptable acts. The same willful blindness that now exists with regard to abortion is what allowed the holocaust to occur, Gulags to exist, and mass genocide to take place in China, Cambodia, Rwanda, East Timor and Bosnia – to cite just a few examples. It is what Alexander Solzhenitsyn described as “the desire not to know,”

The divisiveness over abortion in America today is not due to a lack of facts. Science has determined when life begins, and legal rulings do change the actuality of conception. The continuation of this atrocity is due to ignoring truth as an objective reality. Relativism is the accepted approach in modern society. By not acknowledging truth as definitive, it is easier to act solely to satisfy one’s ego and desires. Today, many Catholics do not look to the Church and its teachings on moral issues such as the sanctity of life, but rely on their own, often poorly informed, consciences. And those consciences can be placated by redefining the terms that describe the truth.

We live in an Orwellian-society, with Newspeak common. If a person is against the gay lifestyle, he is defined as homophobic. In someone opposes gay marriage, he is called intolerant and bigoted. If one is in favor of protecting the life of the unborn, he is against a woman’s right to choose; the person is termed anti-choice, not pro-life. If one is opposed to embryonic stem-cell research, he is impeding scientific research that could lead to significant advances in health care.

Ours is a society motivated by materialism and self-satisfaction, which is only slightly tempered by spiritual or religious concerns. Too many people have partitioned their minds, so that they can hold contradictory views and simultaneously accept both. Politicians will state that they are personally opposed to abortion, but will not act to ban it because they do not want to deny their constituents a choice. Business owners will accumulate vast wealth by overcharging their customers, and then donate substantial sums to charity. Some Catholics will go to Mass on Sunday, and then disregard the Church’s teachings the rest of the week. These people have lost their integrity of conscience, and no longer are upset by a discrepancy between truth and falsehood, between reality and perception.

Reality is external and definitive. People, however, do not act on reality, but on the perception of reality. Since perception exists in the human mind, people can transform reality into something that fits their interests and desires. This allows them to ignore unpleasant truths and to rationalize their actions so that they may be comfortable with what they do.

Perception, as a product of the mind, also subjects people to be manipulated by others who can change perceptions. Corporations do not spend huge sums of money to present the facts about their products or services. Rather, they try to create an image, to mold one’s perceptions, to create a desire even without a need. In like fashion, there are well-established and well-funded groups that are trying to reshape the public’s perception, and thus override the truth, of when life begins.

An important step for those groups is to redefine words – abortion as choice, child as fetus, pro-life as anti-choice, adherence to doctrine as fundamentalism. If we allow others to set the parameters for the abortion debate, the cause is lost. If we are to be prepared to deal with the many propositions, scientific advances, and arguments that are put forth that affect human life, we must be well grounded in our own Faith and the teachings of the Magisterium. Our Councils, working with our priests and pastors, can serve an important role through education and information to prepare our members, as well as others in our parishes and communities, to deal with these issues in their daily lives.

**ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON DISTRICT  
 FIVE COUNTIES OF MARYLAND AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 Fourth Degree - Knights of Columbus  
 Calvert Province  
 Service to God and Country**

**36TH ANNUAL EXEMPLIFICATION OF THE FOURTH DEGREE – FEBRUARY 26, 2006**

**Honoree:** Rev. Msgr. Michael W. Fisher, Vicar General for Apostolates for Archdiocese of Washington.

**Location:** University of Maryland University College Inn and Conference Center (Marriott)  
 University Boulevard at Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland

**Eligibility:** Candidates must be: (1) Over 18 years of age; (2) A third degree member in good standing in his council and who was initiated into the first degree prior to February 25, 2005; and (3) A practical Catholic in union with the Holy See.

**Fees:** The basic fee for candidates is \$65.00. A special fee for priests and members of religious orders is \$35.00. A deposit of \$30.00 and/or full payment should accompany each candidate's application. Each candidate receives one (1) banquet ticket to the Fourth Degree Banquet. Additional banquet tickets are available at a cost of \$40.00 per person. The fee for the Ladies' Activities is \$10.00. All checks must be made payable to: **Master, Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree. Do not make checks payable to your Assembly.** All applications, banquet reservations, and Ladies' Social reservations must be received by the District Secretary on or before February 4, 2006. There will be no refunds for cancellations after this date. Please forward all applications and reservations to SK Thomas E. Irwin, Secretary to the Master, 18918 Grotto Lane, Germantown MD 20874-1854. To ensure that all applications are accurately completed, the candidate's application must be received and approved by the Assembly before it is submitted to the Secretary to the Master.

**Dress:** The **official dress** for candidates for the Fourth Degree Exemplification is black tie, plain white tuxedo shirt (no wing tipped collars), black shoes and socks, and black or midnight blue tuxedo. Other Formalwear is not acceptable. Religious and members of the armed forces may wear their clerical attire or dress uniform respectively. Members shall wear the official regalia, that is, the official dress with the Social Baldric.

**Schedule: Sunday, 26 February 2006**

- 9:15 AM Mass
- 10:30 AM - Registration of Candidates
- 11:30 AM - Ladies' Activities (Paid Reservations Only)
- 12:30 PM - Exemplification of the Fourth Degree
- 4:00 PM - Reception in the Main Concourse
- 5:30 PM - Banquet

**For information contact:** SK Joseph E. Murtha, Master..... 301-349-4312  
 SK Thomas E. Irwin, Secretary to the Master..... 301-540-2516

**RESERVATION VOUCHER**

Please Print or Type All Information. Deadline is February 4, 2006

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Last Name) (First Name) (MI)  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Wife/Guest \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Council No: \_\_\_\_\_ Assembly No: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mail To: SK Thomas E. Irwin, PGK, PFN Telephone for Information: (301) 540-2516  
 18918 Grotto Lane (All Checks Payable to: Master K of C Fourth Degree,)  
 Germantown, MD 20874 --- \$25 Fee will be assessed for all Returned Checks ---

**I am a:**     \_\_\_ **Sir Knight**  
               \_\_\_ **Fourth Degree Candidate**

**Candidate's Section**

Candidate Fee @\$65 (Priest-\$35): \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional Banquet Ticket Fee (@\$40) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ladies' Activity Fee (@ \$10/Lady): \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Enclosed Check/MO Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sir Knight's Section**

Total Banquet Tickets Fee (@ \$40) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ladies' Activity Fee (@ \$10/Lady) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Enclosed Check/MO Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_



## **JOY TO THE WORLD**

*Knights and their ladies join together to in lively Christmas Carols at the Councils Christmas Dinner. Many of the Knights enjoyed the opportunity to visit and extend to one another the best wishes of the Christmas season on this festive evening.*

### **BROTHER CARBONELL IS NEW LEADER OF ST. RAPHAEL RIGHT TO LIFE**

The new leader of the St. Raphael Right to Life Group also is a new member of Mater Dei Council. He is Jose Carbonell. Along with his wife Sharon, he will co-chair the committee.

Jose has been a Knight for only about 2 months, but already is involved in Knight life. The Carbonells have both been active members of the Right to Life group for three years. Both are Eucharistic ministers, and Jose is a catechist. They are parents of 4 children, ages 4 1/2 to 9.

Mater Dei Council also provided the previous leader of the Right to Life Group. Tom Buck was the prior chairman of the group for 20 years. He and co-chairperson Martha Verme welcome Jose and Sharon to this all-important role in the parish.

With the National Knights of Columbus such advocates of life in all its stages, it is appropriate for parish leadership to come from the ranks of Mater Dei Council. Welcome, Jose, and your lovely wife, Sharon

### **Mater Dei Supports 5 Seminarians**

This year Mater Dei will again raise funds to support 5 seminarians whom we have supported in the past. These men are Troy Simmons, Agustin Lopez, Geramn Alfonso Montoya, John Ruetmann, Bill Hegedischu. This year's Christmas Party raised just over \$2100 in support if these seminarians. I extend my thanks to all those who donated. If you were unable to attend the party and would like to make a donation, it is not too late. You can send donations to Grand Knight Patrick DeGraba, 14417 Stonebridge View Dr. North Potomac, MD 20878.

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## **FRATERNAL BENEFITS**

### **YOUR BUSINESS BELONGS HERE**

Do you know that the Knights Of Columbus can offer you IRA's and Keogh Plans (U.S.), as well as RRSPs (Canada)? Do you know enough about them to decide whether or not they fit into your financial picture? I would like you to answer three questions:

1. Are you, like most people, interested in saving money?
2. Do you find it difficult to save under common saving methods?
3. Take the number of years you've been working times your average salary. What percentage of that income have you saved so far? How much will you save in the future?

If your answers bother you, I would like the chance to sit and talk with you (and your wife, of course) about our alternatives – annuities and tax-sheltered savings at highly competitive interest rates. You need not to look anywhere else but your own Order for your financial needs. Other institutions bombard you with ads for business this time of year. We just keep doing what we have been doing since Father McGivney founded the Order – taking care of our members and their families.

Wishing you a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Fraternally,

Rick Morin

301.384.7627



*Brother Dick Jasinski and Brother Don Novotny receive their Knight of the Year Award from Grand Knight Pat DeGraba and Past Grand Knight John Cavallo*

### **Knights of the Year**

At this year's Christmas Party Mater Dei recognized two knights as Knight of the Year, Donald Novotny and Dick Jazinski. For the past two years Don has coordinated the Tootsie Roll campaign. This has included each year coordinating over 80 brothers during 5 weekends of fund raising at ten different locations. We thanks Don for stepping up and leading this very important effort for the last two years.

We could not list all of Dick's contributions to Mater Dei. Certainly his most visible contribution are the speeches he has made over the last two years from the pulpit explaining why men of the parish should join the Knights. But, more important is the fact that Dick is always ready to pitch in when ever there is a need, whether it's volunteering time or offering sound advice when important decisions are being made. Mater Dei is indebted to Dick for his work with the Council.

### **MARCH FOR LIFE**

This year's March for Life will be on 23 January. The St. Raphael's Respect for Life Committee has secured a bus (thanks to our Pastor, Fr. Finch) to carry parishioners from St. Raphael's to the MCI Center for the Rally for Life and Youth Mass hosted by the Archdiocese of Washington and back to St. Raphaels after we reach the Supreme Court. We will be leaving St. Raphael's by 8:45. If you can't make it that early, after the Mass we will gather on the SW corner of Constitution Ave. and 12th. St. to wait for the March to start and join in.

There are several groups that will be going from St. Raphael's and we would like to have all groups march together, especially since the new RfL Committee Chairman is a new 1st Degree Knight!. If you have any questions please contact Jose or Sharon Carbonell at 301.765.6954 or e-mail at [straphaelsrfl@comcast.net](mailto:straphaelsrfl@comcast.net).

Thank you and we'll see you at the March."

## DIRECTORY OF KEY CONTACTS

### GRAND KNIGHT

Pat DeGraba 301-279-2873  
pdegraba@comcast.net

### DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT

Wilsie Adams 301-924-1422  
wil-rosemaryathome@erols.com

### CHANCELLOR

Robert McCaffrey

### WARDEN

John Phillips 301-340-1360  
johnphillips313@earthlink.net

### RECORDER

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

### FINANCIAL SECRETARY

John Frey 301-424-3386  
kofejfrey@comcast.net

**GUARDS:** Robert Scott  
Greg Daily  
Don Novotny  
Camille Ng

### TRUSTEES

John Cavallo 301-762-3081  
jcavallo@comcast.net  
Bob Fontana, PGK 301-765-7997  
rjdsf11403@verizon.net  
Tom Schneider, PGK 301-279-0291  
tomandjulie@fastmail.fm

### DISTRICT DEPUTY

Lawrence P. Grayson  
lppgrayson@earthlink.net

### PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Wilsie Adams, Deputy Grand Knight

### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Robert McCaffney, Chancellor

### 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

William Hunter 301-762-0805  
editor9774@comcast.net

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS January 2006 - February 2006

<b>Jan 3</b>	Council Executive Board Meeting 7:30 pm - DCC
<b>Jan 12</b>	Council Business Meeting - 8:00 pm - DCC
<b>Jan 23</b>	March for Life - (See article page 6)
<b>Jan 26</b>	Blood Drive - 4:00 to 10:00 pm - Trumpet Room
<b>Jan 26</b>	Council Social Meeting - 8:00 pm - DCC
<b>Feb 7</b>	Council Executive Board Meeting 7:30 pm - DCC
<b>Feb 9</b>	Council Business Meeting - 8:00 pm - DCC First Degree
<b>Feb 11</b>	Host "Tootsie Roll" Dinner - 6:00 pm - Trumpet Room
<b>Feb 23</b>	Council Social Meeting - 8:00 pm - DCC GAS setup in DCC
<b>Feb 24</b>	Garage to Attic Sale Set Up --All Day - Trumpet Room
<b>Feb 25</b>	Garage to Attic Sale - All Day - Trumpet Room & DCC

### Plan Ahead

**March 11**

**Council Anniversary Dinner**

### Our Web Site

I want to thank Bill Arcieri, Camille Ng and Eric Gregrich for revamping the Mater Dei websight. You can view it at <http://www.geocities.com/materdei9774/>. There is lots of information about upcoming events and pictures of previous events. Enjoy!

### THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE FEBRUARY 2006

**All articles for the FEBRUARY Issue must be received by the Editor by Thursday, Jan 26, 10 :00 P.M.**  
**[editor9774@comcast.net](mailto:editor9774@comcast.net)**  
**[w-hunter01@comcast.net](mailto:w-hunter01@comcast.net)**

**NOTE: This deadline CANNOT be delayed or extended !**

### EMAIL ADDRESS ? ?

Does the Financial Secretary have your email address? Please advise

John Frey

[kofejfrey@comcast.net](mailto:kofejfrey@comcast.net)  
if you now have email, or have a change of email address.

### E-mail Update for Grand Knight

I am updating my e-mail list. If you have not received e-mails from me in the past week or so (or you have changed your e-mail address in the past couple of months) please e-mail me at [pdegraba@comcast.net](mailto:pdegraba@comcast.net) and I will add you to the list. Thanks!

# A Happy & Prosperous New Year to ALL

JANUARY 2006



The Blue Mantle  
Knight of Columbus  
Mater Dei Council 9774  
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