



The Blue Mantle



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

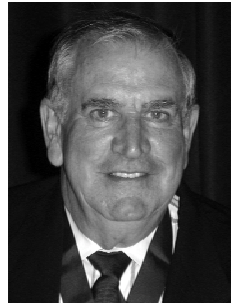
January 2007

Knights of Columbus Mater Dei Council #9774

Inside this issue:

GK's Report	1
DD's Corner	1
Mary: Mother of God	2
Dying to Ourselves	3
Christian Vocation	3
Blood Drives	4
Wine Tasting	4
Degree Ceremonies	4
Schedule of Events	5

Grand Knight's Report



First let's welcome our new members. We have 10 for the year not including transfers. All are welcome and are eager to contribute to the activities of the Council.

My term is flying by; half over but not half done. Some of our biggest events are on the horizon.

January brings the "Right to Life" March, and the first of three planned Blood drives. It is a busy month of preparation for the Garage to Attic Sale. In January, the Grand Knights of the County select the recipients of this year's Tootsie Roll funds. We will host The Tootsie Roll Awards Dinner on Feb. 10th. Preparations are already under way. Plan now to

attend. Somehow, giving the money away is much more satisfying than collecting it.

February is another recruiting month as well as the conduct of the GAS.

I hope you have resolved to actively participate in the coming year. I look forward to seeing you. Happy New Year to you and your family.

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

May all of the Knights and their families of District 18 have a safe and happy New Year!

We now start the last six months of the Columbian year. There still remain reports to be submitted and things to do but the majority of the requirements have been accomplished successfully by all our Councils during the first six months.

I congratulate the 17 new Knights who joined our order since last July. I encourage everyone to bring more candidates into our ranks and let them participate in the "Experience of a Lifetime." New candidates challenge the Councils to give these individuals the opportunity to participate in Council activities and gives the candidates the challenge to participate with their brothers in Council activities and advance to higher degrees.

My Saint of the month is St. Peter Canisius. He spent many years defending the Church against protestant reformers and developed the catechism for which he is most known. The *Summary of Christian Doctrine* was published in April 1555 and devoted most of its attention to the theological points of controversy between Catholics and Protestants.

Tom Schneider



Mary: Mother of God

another: the first "magnifies" the Lord for the "great things" he did for his lowly servant and through her for all human beings; (Lk 1:46-55) the second entrusts the supplications and praises of the children of God to the Mother of Jesus, because she now knows the humanity which, in her, the Son of God espoused.

2676 This twofold movement of prayer to Mary has found a privileged expression in the *Ave Maria*:

Hail Mary [or Rejoice, Mary]: the greeting of the angel Gabriel opens this prayer. It is God himself who, through his angel as intermediary, greets Mary. Our prayer dares to take up this greeting to Mary with the regard God had for the lowliness of his humble servant and to exult in the joy he finds in her. (Lk 1:48; Zeph 3:17b)

Full of grace, the Lord is with thee: These two phrases of the angel's greeting shed light on one another. Mary is full of grace because the Lord is with her. The grace with which she is filled is the presence of him who is the source of all grace. "Rejoice . . . O Daughter of Jerusalem . . . the Lord your God is in your midst." (Zeph 3:14, 17a) Mary, in whom the Lord himself has just made his dwelling, is the daughter of Zion in person, the ark of the covenant, the place where the glory of the Lord dwells. She is "the dwelling of God . . . with men." (Rev 21:3) Full of grace, Mary is wholly given over to him who has come to dwell in her and whom she is about to give to the world.

Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. After the angel's greeting, we make Elizabeth's greeting our own.

"Filled with the Holy Spirit," Elizabeth is the first in the long succession of generations who have called Mary "blessed." (Lk 1:41, 48)

"Blessed is she who believed. . . ." (Lk 1:45) Mary is "blessed among women" because she believed in the fulfillment of the Lord's word. Abraham, because of his faith, became a blessing for all the nations of the earth. (Gen 12:3) Mary, because of her faith, became the mother of believers, through whom all nations of the earth receive him who is God's own blessing: Jesus, the "fruit of thy womb."

2677 *Holy Mary, Mother of God:* With Elizabeth we marvel, "And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Lk 1:43) Because she gives us Jesus, her son, Mary is Mother of God and our mother; we can entrust all our cares and petitions to her: she prays for us as she prayed for herself: "Let it be to me according to your word." (Lk 1:38) By entrusting ourselves to her prayer, we abandon ourselves to the will of God together with her: "Thy will be done."

Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death: By asking Mary to pray for us, we acknowledge ourselves to be poor sinners and we address ourselves to the "Mother of Mercy," the All-Holy One. We give ourselves over to her now, in the Today of our lives. And our trust broadens further, already at the present moment, to surrender "the hour of our death" wholly to her care. May she be there as she was at her son's death on the cross. May she welcome us as our mother at the hour of our passing (Jn 19:27) to lead us to her son, Jesus, in paradise.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church)

2673 In prayer the Holy Spirit unites us to the person of the only Son, in his glorified humanity, through which and in which our filial prayer unites us in the Church with the Mother of Jesus.

2674 Mary gave her consent in faith at the Annunciation and maintained it without hesitation at the foot of the Cross. Ever since, her motherhood has extended to the brothers and sisters of her Son "who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and difficulties." Jesus, the only mediator, is the way of our prayer; Mary, his mother and ours, is wholly transparent to him: she "shows the way" (*hodigitria*), and is herself "the Sign" of the way, according to the traditional iconography of East and West.

2675 Beginning with Mary's unique cooperation with the working of the Holy Spirit, the Churches developed their prayer to the holy Mother of God, centering it on the person of Christ manifested in his mysteries. In countless hymns and antiphons expressing this prayer, two movements usually alternate with one

The Christian vocation: Dying to ourselves

We must gladly lay down whatever we lone apart from Christ for Christ's sake; first the life by which the body is quickened in union with the soul, if so it should be needful, must be laid down by those who bear martyrdom for Christ; or if the opportunity of such blessedness is lacking, yet we shall not lack the mortification of our wills, so that he who lives, *"let him not live to himself, but to him who for him died"*. Thus let us live to him who while he dies for us is life; and let us die to ourselves that we may live to Christ; for we cannot live to him unless first we die to ourselves, that is, to our wills. Let us be Christ's and not our own; for we are not our own, for *"we are bought at a great price"*, and truly a great one, when the Lord is given for a slave, the king for a servant, and God for man. What ought we to render ourselves,

if the cre-ator of the universe for us ungodly men, yet his cre-ation, is unjustly put to death? Do you think you ought not to die to sin? Certainly you ought. Therefore let us die, let us die for the sake of life, since life dies for the dead, so that

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Ga 2:20)

we may be able to say with Paul, *"I live, yet no longer I, but Christ lives in me"*, he who for me has died; for that is the cry of the elect. But none can die to himself, unless Christ lives in him; but if Christ be in him, he cannot live to himself. Live in

Christ, that Christ may live in you.

But you wonder how reason lives in such a man, that he should tell you to die to yourself and live to Christ, or, as it must be said more truly, to live to yourself; for he who dies for Christ's sake himself lives, and he who lives to himself dies. For he is subject to death, if he lives for his own wishes, according to that saying of the apostle, *"For if you have lived after the flesh, you shall die"*. Thus you see, my dear-est friends, that we live in foreign lands, while even our life is not our own, and we ought not to live to ourselves.

Saint Columban († 615) was born in Leinster, Ireland, and was the founder of several European monasteries.

The Christian Vocation

We cannot answer to God if not in the choice he has made of us, of the Christian vocation he has given us, and that must permeate everything. Then everything becomes important - your job, your being a father or a mother, your companionship, your friendship, your studies, your work, your free time, your breathing; everything becomes useful and important if it is permeated by this profound, clear awareness of the Christian vocation we have been given... The first task is to make Christ present in every ambit, in every environment, in every human reality, to make Christ present through the self-awareness determined by his

memory, by means of the supreme example, the miracle impossible to man, the miracle of

"The first task is to make Christ present in every ambit, in every environment, in every human reality."

unity amongst people who otherwise would be strangers, since a true unity, even between man and woman, is impossible to man left to him-self... Our companionship has this "freedom," which is not doing what we please, but the affirmation of the bonds that constitute us... So the first point

is the awareness of the responsibility we have to make Christ present in our flesh, through our witness - witnessing being the way of behaving, of a self-awareness permeated by that memory, in which that memory is present. The second point is to free man from all despotism, from power, so that power goes back to being what Christ's power was - service.

Monsignor Giussani († 2005) was a priest from Milan, Italy, who was the founder of the ecclesial movement Communion and Liberation.

Blood Drives for 2007

The first two of three blood drives for 2007 are scheduled for January 24 and May 16, 2007. The third will be in October, but cannot be scheduled until May. To avoid any conflicts with the new grade school, the blood drives will be held from 4:30 to 9:00pm in the Trumpet Room.

Volunteers willing to help out and donors to sign up for the January 24th drive should contact Dick Eckenrode at 301-251-3793 or email reck@joimail.com.



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:

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.

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.



New First Degree Knights with Mater Dei Officers
Congratulations to the new brothers!

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Special Notices

- Congratulations to Don & Dorothy Novotny on their selection as Family of the Month for December.
- The next issue will be February 2007
All articles for the December issue must be received by the Editor by Friday February 26.
- Have a Happy and Holy New Year 2007!

Schedule of Events: Jan-Feb 2007

Mon Jan 1	Solemnity of Mary—Holy day of obligation
Tue Jan 2	Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30 DCC
Thu Jan 4	Second degree ceremony @ Rock Creek
Sat Jan 6	State Mid-Year Meeting
Thu Jan 11	Reg. Business Meeting 8:00 PM DCC
Mon Jan 22	Annual March for life
Wed Jan 24	Blood Drive @ St. Raphael's
Thu Feb 1	Executive Meeting 7:30
Sun Feb 4	Coffee and Donuts @ St. Raphael's
Tue Feb 6	Open house
Thu Feb 8	Regular business meeting and first degree
Sat Feb 10	Tootsie Roll Dinner
Tue Feb 20	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
Wed Feb 21	Ash Wednesday
Thu Feb 22	Meeting/ Set up for Garage to Attic Sale(GAS)
Fri Feb 23	Set up GAS
Sat Feb 24	GAS



"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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