



The Blue Mantle



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

January 2008
Mary, Mother of God

Knights of Columbus
Mater Dei Council
#9774

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Knights News:

“The family is the foundation of society for this reason too: because it enables its members in decisive ways to experience peace, it follows that the human community cannot do without the service provided by the family. Where can young people gradually learn to savor the genuine 'taste' of peace better than in the original 'nest' which nature prepares for them?

The language of the family is a language of peace; we must always draw from it, lest we lose the 'vocabulary' of peace.”

Pope Benedict XVI
December 8, 2007

GK's Report



We have completed the first half of a very busy and so far successful Columbian Year. So far this year we have welcomed to our Council 16 new brothers, many of whom have already become extremely involved

in council activities. These new brothers are the future of our Council and their presence bodes well. This year also witnessed a record setting Tootsie Roll Campaign that vaulted us above all the other councils in Montgomery County. Our success was due entirely to the tag-team efforts of Don Novotny and Jack Wohlieter. We finished up the calendar year with a hugely successful Christmas Party that has a record turnout (special thanks go to the crew that prepared

such a delicious repast, including Don Titzman, Dick Jasinski, Jack Phillips, Dick Bianchi, Paul Sullivan, Ken Sullivan, Nick Nylec, Don Novotny, Frank Suraci, Charles Bell, Bill & Pat Wilkinson, Frank Della Penna, and Bill Hunter).

Looking forward to the second half of my term we have a number of key activities on the horizon. This month we have the Free Throw competition under the (Continued on page 2)

Taking on the role of the Shepherds 24/7

“They made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds.” (cf. Luke 2:15-20)

In a special way every Christmas, Christians take on the role of the shepherds to make *“known the message that had been told them about this child.”* We do that by

our Christmas cards which celebrate that announcement, and also by the festive lights, the nativity depictions, the wreaths, the evergreen tree, even the candy canes. But the job of the shepherd is not as seasonal job. It is a constant job, 24/7. It was unheard of that a shepherd would leave his job. And, so it is with us. Whether one is a priest, brother, sister, or laywoman or layman, we have the job of

the shepherd, 24/7. We must continually *“make known the message”* told to us. From the day of our baptism we have been given that charge... *“go and make disciples of all nations”* (Mt 28:19). We are sent forth from every encounter of this Christ Child in the Eucharist we celebrate, to *“go in peace to love and serve the Lord!”* And hopefully that is (Continued on page 2)

expert supervision of John Li (please contact John to help out at this fun event). We are also continuing the collection drive for our Seminarian Fund. Please be generous so that we can continue to support our 5 seminarians (that means we need \$2,500). Above all we continue to look for new members to revitalize our corps. If you know of a potential candidate bring him to one of our social functions or arrange with me to meet with him. We have opportunities each to bring these candidates to a First Degree. Do not wait. The faster we can bring in a new member, the faster the new member can have a positive impact on the life of our Council.

Finally I would like to extend a hearty and warm welcome to out

two newest brothers, David Minarich and Tony DiIulio, both from Our Lady of Mercy Parish. Both of these fine men are eager to get involved. Let us make sure we take them up on it.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to work with all of the brothers of this Council during the first half of my term and I look forward to working with all of you during the second half. Here is to a successful remainder of the year!

Vivat Jesus!

Bill Shaffer, Grand Knight

(Continued from "Shepherds")

indeed what we do. As Knights of Columbus, we have taken that mandate seriously enough to dedicate our very lives to that mission. That is why we do the work that we do in parishes all across the county. We are committed to doing the work of "*the Christmas shepherds*." It should be noted that our ministry as Knights is most truly successful when we have instilled the enthusiasm of the shepherds in all those to whom we encounter. As we enter into this new year we ask God's continued blessing upon us and our families and the work that all of us do – as shepherds.

Father Grant Gaskin
Chaplain

Seminarists Help

As part of our recent Christmas party we collected contributions to support our seminarians. We collected over \$1,100 for the fund at this event. But we need more. We are continuing to collect donations for this effort. It is a vital component of the Knights of Columbus support for vocations and your contributions help reduce the burdens faced by those men willing to give their lives in service of the church.

If you can help in this cause please send your contributions to our worthy Financial Secretary, John Frey @

John Frey
37 Orchard Way South
Rockville, MD 20854

Or bring you contribution to our any of our meetings in January (10th or 24th).

Insurance Program

In 1882, our Order's founder, Fr. Michael J. McGivney, had the awesome responsibility of finding a way of providing financial security to the many husbands, widows and orphans of the Catholic immigrants coming into the United States. What Fr. McGivney did was to ask each parishioner to contribute whatever they could toward a special fund that would be used for the benefit of a fellow parishioner who became ill, disabled or died. When the fund was depleted, the "hat" was passed around again. This idea of providing financial security, at a time when it is most needed, was the primary reason for the founding of the Knights of Columbus.

Our Order has never lost sight of this original goal. Today, Fr. McGivney's dream is realized through the insurance

arm of our fraternity. Our Life Insurance program is the envy of the industry. We have consistently been awarded the highest accolades. Our programs are available to all Brother Knights, their spouses and their children; under the age of 18. Furthermore, a portion of every dollar that is spent on life insurance premiums with the Order is funneled right back into the Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus itself.

Give me a call. I'll arrange a convenient time to talk about our life insurance, annuities, long term care and retirement programs.

Fraternally,

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

Editorial: Faith, Hope and Charity. Camille Ng

Pope Benedict XVI has just released the second encyclical of his pontificate: "*Spe Salvi*" which covers the theme of Christian Hope. It was propitious that it came out two days before the beginning of Advent: Advent is the time per excellence for hope as the time when we "*reawaken in our hearts the expectation of Him 'who is, who was and who is coming'*" (Pope Benedict XVI); It is the time when we prepare ourselves materially and spiritually to the coming our Lord. Advent is a season of hope; it is the culmination of the hope of the Jews in the coming of the Messiah. We, as Christians, recognize that our hope is a person, and that all the expectations of our hearts can only be fulfilled by the Person of Jesus-Christ, God incarnate, and to Him our hearts cry out "*Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!*" like a bride waiting for her groom.

The Three Theological Virtues

The pope's first encyclical "*Deus Caritas Est*", God is love (or God is charity), was on the theme of love. His second encyclical "*Spe Salvi*" is on Christian Hope. (It will not be surprising if the Pope's third encyclical is on the theme of Faith.) Our Papa has started his papacy by writing on virtues that are "*the foundation of Christian activity*" (CCC 1813). Faith, Hope and Charity constitute what we call the "Three Theological Virtues". (I will use **TV** for *Theological Virtue* in the rest of this article). They are so called because

those virtues relate directly to God. (God in Greek is *Theo*.) The three **TV**s are listed in the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians: "*So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love*" (1 Co 13:13).

**"Faith, Hope and Charity
support the whole
Christian life."**

Faith, Hope & Charity

Let's start by giving a brief description of the **TV**s from the Catechism:

Faith: "Faith is the **TV** by which we believe in God and believe all that he has said and revealed to us, and that Holy Church proposes for our belief, because he is truth itself. By faith '*man freely commits his entire self to God.*' (DV 5) For this reason the believer seeks to know and do God's will. '*The righteous shall live by faith.*' Living faith '*work[s] through charity.*' (Rom 1:17; Gal 5:6)" (CCC 1814).

Hope: "Hope is the **TV** by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. '*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful*' (Heb 10:23). 'The Holy Spirit . . . he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.' (Titus

3:6-7)" (CCC 1817).

Charity: "Charity is the **TV** by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God. Jesus makes charity the *new commandment* (cf. Jn 13:34, 15:8-10), the fullness of the law. It is the "bond of perfection" (Col 3:14) and the foundation of the other virtues to which it gives life, inspiration, and order. Without charity, "*I am nothing*" and "*I gain nothing*" (1 Cor 13:203)" (Compendium 388). Charity "*binds everything together in perfect harmony*" (Col 3:14).

The **TVs are the foundation of Christian Life**

"The **TV**s are the foundation of Christian moral activity; they animate it and give it its special character. They inform and give life to all the moral virtues. They are infused by God into the souls of the faithful to make them capable of acting as his children and of meriting eternal life. They are the pledge of the presence and action of the Holy Spirit in the faculties of the human being" (CCC 1813).

Theological Virtues and God

The **TV**s are infused by God into the souls of the faithful to make them capable of acting as his children and of meriting eternal life" (CCC 1813). Because their origin, motive and object is an infinite God, we can never have too much of those virtues.

(Continued on next page)

Faith, Hope and Charity (continued)

For example, God's love is infinite and knows no boundaries, whereas I, as a limited human being can only have a limited love. Our love for God can never equal the love that God has for us. We can never outdo God in His generosity.

Degrees of Theological Virtues

We are called to cultivate and grow those virtues:

Faith: Jesus tells us that if our faith was the size of a mustard seed, we could move mountains *"and nothing will be impossible to you"* (cf. Mt 17:20). How strong is our faith? Do we have a faith that can move mountains?

Hope: If our hope in God was perfect, we would not have to worry about tomorrow. We would leave our lives completely in the hands of God. Jesus enlightens us: *"Even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows"* (Matt 10:30-31). When Jesus sends out his disciples, he instructs them: *"And preach as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give without pay. Take no gold, nor silver, nor copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor a staff; for the laborer deserves his food"* (Matt 10:7-10). How strong is our hope in God? Can we go on a journey relying only on God? Do we believe that Our Fa-

ther in heaven will never let his children down? In our spiritual journey, does our hope rest only in God?

Love: As we have seen, love is the most important virtue, the one that *"binds everything together"* (cf. Col 3:14). When asked what is the great commandment, Jesus replied: *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets"* (Mt 22:37-40). Loving God with all our heart, all our soul and all our mind, means putting God above everything else, including ourselves. How strong is our love for God? Do we put Him first in our life, in our priorities? Do we love our neighbor as ourselves? Do we love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us? (cf. Mt 5:44) Do we forgive everyone who has hurt us (cf. Mt 18:21; 6:12-15), and love them like we love ourselves? How strong is our love to God and our neighbor?

In other words, are we *"perfect as [y]our Heavenly Father is perfect"* (Mt 5:48)?

"You shall love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

Theological Virtues and Trinity

The **TVs** dispose Christians to live in

a relationship with the Holy Trinity. They have the One and Triune God for their origin, motive, and object – God known by faith, God hoped in and loved for his own sake" (CCC 1840).

The **TVs** "adapt man's faculties for participation in the divine nature (cf. 2 Pet 1:4)" (CCC 1812).

It helps me to associate each **TV** to a person of the Triune God.

Faith: I associate Faith to God the Father. Faith in *"the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"* (Ex 3:15). What defines us is our belief in God, and our belief in Jesus-Christ.

Hope: I associate Hope to Jesus the Messiah, Jesus the Savior, and Jesus the Redeemer. My hope is set on Christ's Incarnation, Crucifixion and Resurrection; and on Christ's promise of Eternal Life to those who follow Him.

Charity: I associate Love to the Holy Spirit. "The Holy Spirit, it is contended, proceeds from the Father and the Son as the term of the love by which God loves Himself. He is not the love of God in the sense of being Himself formally the love by which God loves; but in loving Himself God breathes forth this subsistent term. He is Hypostatic Love" (New Advent). [From the Greek word *hypostasis*, which means "that which lies underneath"]

God is three persons in a community of love. The divine love that flows between the Father and the Son "is a love so perfect, of such infinite ardor, as to be a *living* love, and we call this love the Holy

Spirit” (Rev. Leo John Trese).

The Three Pillars of the whole Christian Life

“Faith, hope, and charity are, quite simply, the three greatest things in the world; the three legs of a single tripod that supports the whole Christian life. They are the glue that attaches us to God. They have God as their object. They are the three-doored entrance to heaven. It is not that God refuses entrance at heaven's gate to anyone; these are heaven's gate” (Peter Kreeft).

Each leg depends on the others, and each one is *indispensable*.

F-L: Faith without the works of love is dead, according to Scripture (cf. James 2:17), and false — not real faith at all.

L-F: Love not motivated by faith is not agape but mere feeling and sentimentality.

H-F: Hope without faith is mere wishful thinking, ‘the power of positive thinking’, optimism.

[Hope is not the same as optimism; some of the great hopers are pessimists by temperament, like Evelyn Waugh. Hope's opposite is despair, which is a deadly sin, not pessimism, which is a psychological trait.]

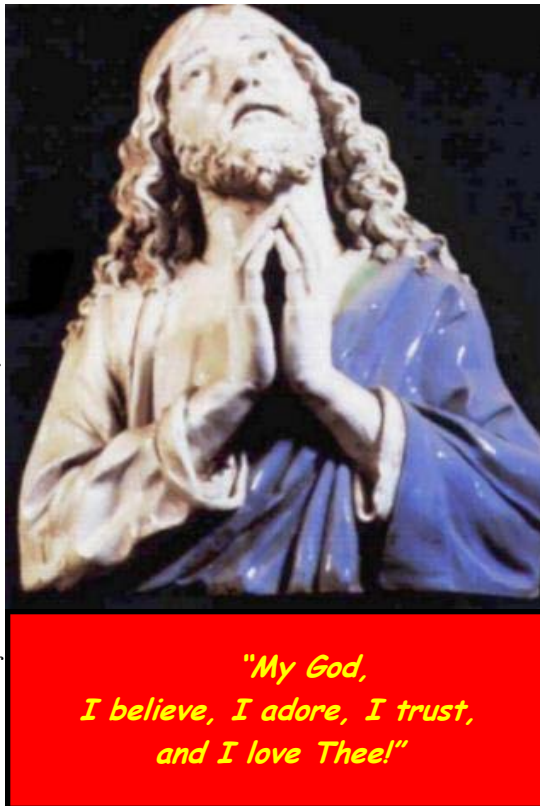
L-H: Love without hope is desperation, able only to huddle close for warmth before death, the end of everything.

H-L: Hope without love is isolating and selfish; it is the Phariseism and self-righteousness of every tyrant and architect of a ‘brave new world’.

F-H: Faith without hope is simply impossible, for the God we believe has given us an astonishing

bag of promises.

“The three theological virtues (faith, hope, and charity) allow man to share in God's nature. These virtues relate directly to God who directly infuses these three virtues into the soul where they make the believers capable of living as God's children and meriting eternal life” (Kreeft).



*"My God,
I believe, I adore, I trust,
and I love Thee!"*

A Fatima's prayer

An angel appeared to the three children before Our Lady did. He told them this prayer: “Fear not, I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me. ‘My God, I believe, I adore, I trust, and I love Thee! I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not trust and do not love Thee.’”

Angels are messengers (The word

“angel” is a Greek translation of a Hebrew word meaning “messenger”), good angels are messengers of God. In this divinely inspired prayer, we see the **TVs** of faith (*I believe*), hope (*I trust*) and charity (*I adore, I love*). It is a very good prayer.

Our Lord's prayer

The best prayer, is the prayer taught by our Lord Jesus. When his disciples asked Jesus: “*Teach us how to pray*” (Lk 11:1), Jesus answered by teaching them the “*Our Father*”. I will finish this article by this most perfect prayer. We can see how it is supported by the three **TVs** of Faith, Hope and Charity. Let's pray together with the angels of God as children of the Most High:

Our Father – F/H/C

Who art in heaven – F

Hallowed be thy name – F/C

Thy kingdom come – F/H

Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven – F/H/C

Give us this day our daily bread
– H/F

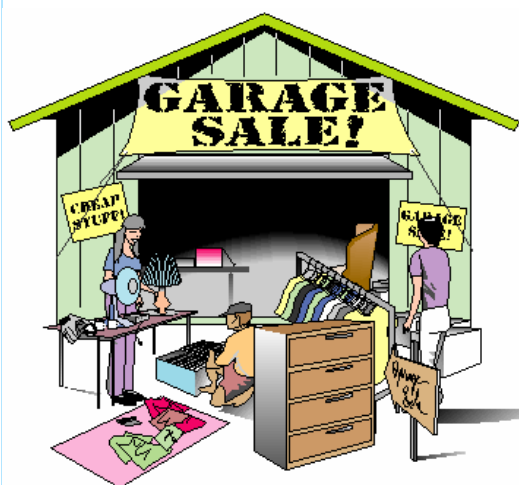
And forgive us our trespasses – C/H/
F

As we forgive those who trespass against us – C

And led us not into temptation – H/F
But deliver us from evil – H/F/C

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. – F/H/C

Amen. – F/H/C



Garage-to-Attic-Sale Planning Meeting

The 2008 Garage-to-Attic Sale has been pushed back a month to March 29th. To get ready for the Garage-to-Attic Sale, we will have our first planning meeting on Tuesday, January 8th at 7:30 in Rooms 4/6. At this meeting, you will get a chance to meet and reacquaint yourselves with fellow volunteers. We will discuss the layout for this year's Garage-to-Attic sale. There will be an opportunity to volunteer for positions and roles at the Sale. We will talk about the setup procedures for Thursday-Friday, March 27-28. We will discuss any issues we might have faced during previous Garage-to-Attic Sales.

All Knights and their families who are interested in working this year's Garage-to-Attic Sale are welcome to attend. Snacks and refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, please contact Bob McCaffrey at (301) 251-5225. Hope to see you there.

The Annual Christmas Dinner is a huge success

Over 135 people (46 knights along with families and guests) attended this year's Christmas Dinner and Party making it the most successful party in recent memory. The Dinner featured a gourmet feast prepared by our master chef's Dick Jasinski and Don Titzman along with their stellar kitchen crew. After dinner the kids were entertained by a visit from Santa Claus who had individually selected gifts for each of them. The parents and friends enjoyed seeing each of the children called up by Santa to receive their gift. After Santa's departure an impromptu choir lead by Father Benitez and accompanied on the piano by Dorothy Novotny led the partiers in a rousing session of caroling. The party was topped off by the awarding of door prizes to lucky attendees. As the guests departed a few couples lingered on the dance floor taking advantage of the Christmas music played over the loud speaker system.

It was good to see so many families with children attending the party. In all 30 excited children enjoyed the event. The party also gave the Council an excellent opportunity to showcase The Knights of Columbus to potential new members. At the party were 5 candidate members along with their families as the special guests of the Grand Knight. We welcomed 2 of these guests into our Council at the First Degree on December 13. We hope to welcome the others into the Council soon.



Everyone gets into the Christmas spirit during the caroling session.

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Special Notices

- All articles for the December issue must be received by the Editor by Friday Jan 25th.

"Humanity today is unfortunately experiencing great division and sharp conflicts which cast dark shadows on its future. Vast areas of the world are caught up in situations of increasing tension, while the danger of an increase in the number of countries possessing nuclear weapons causes well-founded apprehension in every responsible person. [...] In difficult times such as these, it is truly necessary for all persons of good will to come together to reach concrete agreements aimed at *an effective demilitarization*, especially in the area of nuclear arms. At a time when the process of nuclear non-proliferation is at a standstill, I feel bound to entreat those in authority to resume with greater determination negotiations for a *progressive and mutually agreed dismantling of existing nuclear weapons*."

— Pope Benedict XVI, Message of Peace for 2008

Schedule of Events: January - February '08

Thu Jan 3	Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC
Tue Jan 8	GAS Planning Meeting, 7:30pm
Thu Jan 10	Business Meeting, 8pm, DCC
Thu Jan 24	Social (speaker), 8pm, DCC
Tue Feb 5	Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC
Tue Feb 5	Shrove Pancake, 6pm, Trumpet
Wed Feb 6	Ash Wednesday (fast, abstin.)
Thu Feb 7	Second Degree, 7:00pm, Trumpet
Sat Feb 9	Tootsie Roll Dinner, 6pm, Trumpet
Thu Feb 14	Business Meeting, 8pm, DCC
Thu Feb 28	Social (speaker), 8pm, DCC



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