

The Blue Mantle

JULY
2005

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

From the Grand Knight's Station



Another fraternal year has come to close, and as I look back, I am struck by two thoughts. First the council can be proud of its accomplishments. We had great success in raising funds for worthy charities, most notably through our campaign to help the mentally handicapped and our the parish Garage to Attic sale. The hard work of the admissions committee increased our numbers

with many new brothers. We had continued success supporting pro-life activities and many parish and community functions. We enjoyed each others' fellowship in many council activities and social functions.

Second, in my first year as a chair officer, I was overwhelmed as I came to appreciate the many many hours of work from so many members of the Mater Dei family to make the year a success. The effort that goes into ensuring day to day communications, financial activities, and chamber preparation has been outstanding and has allowed these areas to run virtually flawlessly. These efforts often go unnoticed, but are essential to the smooth working of the council. There are also the countless volunteer hours that are required to make our programs run. And finally there is the leadership. I want to congratulate PGK John Cavallo for his dedication and leadership to the council during the past year while laboring under impossible conditions at work. And I know John joins me in thanking the chairmen of all of the committees and of all the activities the council undertook this year for their hard work and leadership.

As I look forward to the future I am humbled by the trust the council has placed in me. The council has had a long a rich tradition of leadership and with the help of my brother Knights and strength from God I hope to be able to follow this tradition.

The new year brings with it many challenges. First and foremost, as Catholics we face the challenge maintaining and passing on our morale values in a world that is less and less receptive to morale values. The Supreme Court has said that we may display the ten commandments...but only in an historical setting. Decisions like these should come as no surprise. Certainly, Jesus's teachings ran counter to the prevailing political thinking of the time. It is the unity from the Christian Community and organizations such as ours from which we draw our strength to hold fast to our values.

Second, despite the great successes of the past year, there is still great untapped potential in the council. While close to 80 brother participated in our drive to collect donations for the mentally handicapped, nearly twice as many were unable to help. We need to reach out to get a wider participation from our membership. Since I have joined the council we have added over 40 new brothers to our numbers. New brothers and their families are a

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS ON JULY 16

Mater Dei Council Officers for the Fraternal year 2005-2006, will be installed at a ceremony at St. Raphael's Church, followed by Mass and a reception and banquet.

Installation:	4:00 p.m.
Mass:	5:00 p.m.
Banquet	6:00 p.m.

Cost for the banquet will be \$20.00 per couple, or \$25.00 for the whole family.

Please send reservation to Grand Knight Patrick Degraha, at 301-279-2873, or pdegraba@comcast.net.

The Installation of Officers is a major event of our Fraternal Year. Mark this date on your calendar and be sure to attend.

source of new ideas and energy that can help propel the council forward.

As we begin the new fraternal year, I pray that the officers and I may live up to the trust you have placed in us to lead the council. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year as we continue to make Mater Dei an outstanding council.

Mary, Queen of the Knights, pray for us.

Patrick DeGraba
Grand Knight

District Deputy's Message



My congratulations to Pat DeGraba and the new officers, as they assume the responsibilities of leadership of Mater Dei Council for this Columbian Year. My thanks to John Cavallo and his officer team for the fine job they did this past year.

founded, Catholics were fighting for equality within a Christian nation. Today, Christians must struggle for a place within a country that is becoming proactive secular. Our Faith is under attack, all recognition of and references to God are being eliminated from the public sphere, and practices inimical to our Church are commonplace. The Knights of Columbus, as the largest organization of Catholic men in the world, can have an effect to protect and advance the teachings of the Magisterium.

I appreciate the confidence that our State Deputy, Ronald B. White, has in inviting me to serve as your District Deputy, and Sam Balboa as your District Warden. I accepted with the humility of knowing what significant efforts my recent predecessors have made. Above all, I am grateful to Former District Deputy, Mike Perez. It was a pleasure and a learning experience serving as his Warden last year. He set a high standard that I will try to match.

I am grateful to your Grand Knight to allow me to publish a separate monthly column to discuss what America stands for, where it is headed from a moral perspective, and what the Knights of Columbus can do to temper the current secular trends. I hope you find it helpful and of interest.

Vivat Jesus!

Lawrence P. Grayson
District Deputy

We live in difficult times. When our Order was

THE FAMILY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT on Saturday, June 25, was a great success! We had 6 teams in the morning round from 9 AM to 11 AM and 8 teams in the afternoon round from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM. In all, we had 50 people participating. Teams came from St. Raphael (6), St. Elizabeth (4), Our Lady of Mercy (2), St. Jude (1), and The Republic of Palau. (1). Each of the teams competed vigorously in a 3 game round - robin format, with the Kuzma family of St. Jude's, and the Cummins family from St. Elizabeth's emerging victorious with unbeaten records. Trophies were awarded to the children of the championship teams.



Many thanks to Brother Knights Eric Gregrich, Frank Jiordano, Alex Echeandia and Richard Sinatra, who helped set up and referee the individual games. Also thanks to John Miller and Donald Mccourt of St. Raphael's for arranging the scheduling of the 22 competitions. Finally, thanks to Brother Knight Wilsie Adams for arranging the use of Our Lady of Mercy

(above) Council Brothers John Li, Frank Jiordano and Eric Gregrich. - (right) Kuzma family wait their starting time for the Family Tournament.



Continued

SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD



Our Lady of Mercy Scout of the Year award was presented at the awards ceremonies by Mater Dei Council on Thursday, June 23. Congratulations to Daniel.

Daniel Ruthenberg-Marshall is a Life Scout with Troop 706 and has been active in scouting since first grade. Daniel is a rising Junior at St. John's College High School and went to Our Lady of Mercy for elementary and middle school. He has been to council summer camp four times and plans on going again this summer. He has been to Lenhoksin, Philmont and Seabase High Adventure Camps. Daniel attended the 2001 National Scout Jamboree and is going this summer as well. Daniel has held many leadership positions in his years with scouting. These positions are Historian, Librarian, Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader for summer camp and Senior Patrol Leader.

OUR LADY OF MERCY TEACHER OF THE YEAR: Mater Dei Council Grand Knight John Cavallo presents this annual award to Kathleen Roberson, Teacher of the Year 2005.

Kathleen models what it means to be a strong Christian. She models respect and understanding and Catholic Christian values in her everyday life.

Kathleen treats students with respect and compassion. She recognizes each child's strengths and motivates students to learn. She allows each child to know success. Kathleen shows interest in each student. She cares about and looks at the whole student. When you see her happily pushing her Spanish cart down the hallway, greeting teachers and students, it is evident she is committed to Catholic education. Her easy to approach manner is a plus with students and parents, and students sense she really cares about them as a person.



Congratulations to Kathleen for being honored as Our Lady of Mercy Teacher of the Year.

Fraternal Benefits

K of C CARE LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE

The Knights of Columbus believes in helping you keep your promises. That's why we've introduced K of C Care Long Term Care Insurance. Long-term care services can devastate a family's finances and seriously deplete funds you've saved for retirement, or for your heirs. Fortunately, there is a way to help avoid this from happening. Including the Knights of Columbus Long Term Care program as part of your estate planning package is like bubble wrap for your nest egg. Please call me to set up a meeting and learn about this great new product from the Knights of Columbus!

Fraternally,

Rick Morin, FICF/LUTCF, Your K of C Agent 301.384.7627

GARAGE TO ATTIC SALE GRANTS PRESENTED: At the June 23rd Council Social Meeting, representatives of many of the Charities who received grants from the Garage to Attic Sale proceeds were in attendance. Each representative described the work being performed by their organization. It was inspiring to hear of the many caring endeavors administered by these charities.

In total, this year's grants were \$13,300.00. The grand money is derived from the net proceeds of the Council's Garage to Attic sale held each year at the end of February. The Charities who are identified to receive grand funds are each sponsored by a member of the Council who was a worker at the sale. Each sponsor will present a proposal to the Council, which in turn is reviewed by the Executive Board, and its recommendation is then approved by the Council members at a regular Council meeting.

Organizations this year include:

Sponsor

Bethlehem House
Community Ministries of Rockville
Ephesians Life Ministries
Families Together
Gabriel House
Mercy Health Center
Mercy School Scholarship
Nuestra Madre la Vita
PLOV of Maryland and DC
Providing Resources for People (PROP)
Rockville Pregnancy Center
St. Raphael's School
Shady Grove Pregnancy Center
Women Against Killing - WAKE UP

John Daly
George Prokop
Joe Doane
Norm Poulin
Larry Boesch
Wil Adams
William Shaffer
Dick Retta
Paul Sullivan
Paul Schuncke
John Frey
Terry Dwyer
Scott Graham
Tom Buck

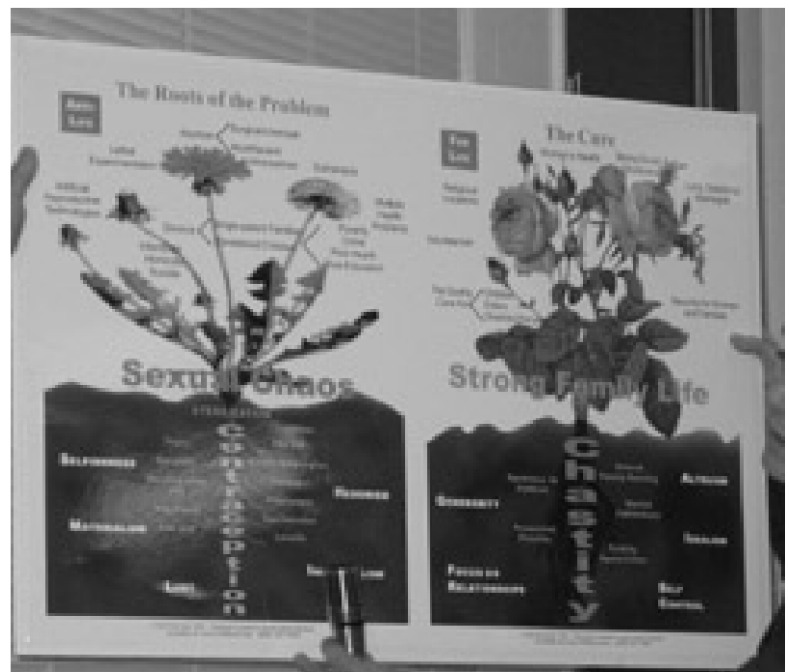
Mater Dei Council was generous to unborn children and their mothers through their donations to charities again this year. Brother Buck, of the St. Raphael Right to Life Group, wishes to offer special thanks for their work and generosity.

Five of the funded charities directly or indirectly supported groups that are carrying through on the K of C commitment of being pro life and saving the lives of hundreds of unborn children.

.Shady Grove and Rockville Pregnancy Centers, Gabriel House, Nuestra Madre la Vita, and Women against Killing were all given assistance by Mater Dei

Through these agencies, and with support such as given by the Council, . women are encouraged to bring their babies to a healthy birth. Follow up assistance is often necessary and given, thanks to people like the Knights, through these groups..

Also given funds were groups which plead and pray regularly at abortion clinics for the preservation of young lives, and offer other like-sustaining assistance.



A poster developed by the organization, "Women Against Killing", was displayed by Tom and Pat Buck, who described the work of the organization. The poster graphically displays the values of Chastity.

AN EDUCATIONAL COLUMN

July 2005

We Hold These Truths

America is rare among the nations of the world in that it was founded on moral principles, which reflect both a temporal and a spiritual order. This dual recognition is most evident in the Declaration of Independence, the document that established this nation. It states:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

This single sentence sets forth both a foundational belief and a vision for the establishment of the new nation. It is both doctrinal and political, theoretical and practical. It specifies universal truths and implies an intention to create a government that puts them into practice.

First, the sentence recognizes a Creator, that is, a Being above man who created all men as equals. As equals in God's sight with the King and those who governed them in Great Britain, the American colonists were entitled to "separate station" in the world. Not receiving it, they could dissolve the political bonds that tied them to England.

Their Creator also endowed them, and us, with certain "unalienable Rights." Those rights may be abridged by other men who are more powerful at a certain point in time, but they still are rights that all men possess. These rights are unalienable and cannot be revoked, surrendered, or even freely given away.

The first right mentioned is Life. Human life is sacred because it involves the creative action of God. It is an essential aspect of the covenant our Creator formed with man, providing us with the capability to acquire knowledge of Him so that we can share in His love. Since God has given us life for a purpose, only God has the right to remove it. For man, the right to life is unalienable, and even the one who possesses it is not entitled to surrender it.

The second right is Liberty. Without freedom of thought and action, a person cannot fully pursue the purpose for which he was created. He cannot use his reason and free will to guide his actions toward an eternal end. But in a "nation under God", liberty was not meant to be unfettered. Man must abide by the laws of the Creator and, in turn, by the laws of the state that was founded on and adheres to God's principles. Thus, freedom must be an ordered relationship between governed and governors, between the individual and the state. Order in society should not be imposed from above, but should result from an individual's free obedience to the restraints and imperatives that stem from inwardly possessed moral principles. As Lord Acton wrote, freedom is "not the power of doing what we like, but the

right of being able to do what we ought.” (cont. Pg 6)

(from page 5)

The third right is the pursuit of Happiness. Happiness involves more than the pleasures of this life. Man was created not only to know, love and serve God, but to be happy with Him in the next life. The pursuit of happiness, therefore, has a spiritual end, one established by God, and thus it too is unalienable.

The belief in an Almighty Being and unalienable rights flows from the Christian backgrounds of the Founding Fathers. They believed that men are created in the image and likeness of God, given free will, and have an eternal purpose to be attained through one's actions in this life. The political principles that govern this nation – popular sovereignty, consent of the governed, separation of powers, limited government, equality under law – all stem from those beliefs. Today, there is widespread dissent from these beliefs, which gives rise to the question as to whether a national consensus on fundamental principles can continue to exist and be vigorous enough to maintain America's body politic.

Lawrence P. Grayson

District Deputy

**Officers,
Program Chairmen,
Committee Chairmen:**

Do you have an activity which should have been published in the Blue Mantle?

A planned event - need to let your Brothers know about it !

A "thank you", acknowledging the work done by Brother Knights

Check the deadling date for the next issue of the Blue Mantle. Send your article to the Editor.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

July 2005

July 5

Executive Board Meeting - DCC - 7:30 pm

July 14

Council Business Meeting - DCC - 8:00 pm

Installation Practice - 8:30 pm

July 16

Installation of Officers

4:00 pm - St. Raphael's Church - Installation

5:00 pm - St. Raphael's Church - Mass

6:00 pm. - Trumpet Room - Reception and Banquet

July 27

Maryland State Program Seminars - Good Council HS

July 28

Council Social Meeting - DCC - 8:00 pm

Aug 2

Executive Board Meeting - DCC - 7:30 pm

Aug 11

Council Business Meeting - DCC - 8:00 pm

Aug 25

Council Social Meeting - DCC - 8:00 pm

Aug 27

Maryland State Council Picnic - Patapasco State Park

Aug 28

Maryland State Softball Tournament - Ridge Rd Park -

Germantown

THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE AUGUST 2005

All articles for the AUGUST Issue must be received by the Editor by Tuesday, July 26, 6:00 P.M.
editor9774@comcast.net

EMAIL ADDRESS ? ?

Does the Financial Secretary have your email address? Please advise

John Frey

kofcjfrey@comcast.net

if you now have email, or have a change of email address.

PLEASE NOTE

Change of email for Editor of the Blue Mantle
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New Financial Secretary, effective July 1, 2005,
is John Frey, 301-424-3386
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