



# The Blue Mantle



**Knights Of Columbus**  
Mater Dei Council #9774  
[www.geocities.com/materdei9774](http://www.geocities.com/materdei9774)

July 2007  
**Installation Ceremony**

**Knights of Columbus**  
**Mater Dei Council**  
**#9774**

## Inside this issue:

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| GK's Report        | 1 |
| Chaplain's Message | 2 |
| DD's Corner        | 2 |
| Sharing my love    | 3 |
| Two Columns        | 4 |
| Spiritual Battle   | 5 |
| End                | 6 |
| Schedule of Events | 7 |

## Knights News:

*"We are moving toward a dictatorship of relativism which does not recognize anything as definitive and has as its highest value one's own ego and one's own desires... The church needs to withstand the tides of trends and the latest novelties.... We must become mature in this adult faith, we must guide the flock of Christ to this faith."*

Pope Benedict XVI

## Grand Knight's Report

I want to first thank Wil for his service as the Grand Knight this past year and congratulate him and all for a truly outstanding year. With your support I can only hope we do as well in the coming year.

In the next year will institute two changes that I hope will increase participation in council events. First, Joe Doane will head up a Volunteer Committee that will use a phone tree to contact members and solicit participation. Second, I would like to begin a mentorship program. In this program the Knight who acts as sponsor (on form 100) for a new member will act as a mentor to the new member for the first year of membership. The mentor will help the new member meet the membership, participate in meetings, get involved in activities, and advance in degrees. In this way the new members should become one of

our most valuable assets and the new members will be able to benefit fully from this "Experience of a Lifetime." I anticipate that the mentorship program will be beneficial to both the mentor and the new member.

I do not anticipate any remarkable changes in our other programs. Through the efforts described above I hope to increase participation in our many activities. With the number and variety of our programs hopefully everyone can find one or more activity that they find fulfilling. Thanks to all the other new officers for volunteering to serve this year.

The first event of the year will be the Installation Ceremony on July 7. The Installation will be at 4:00 PM in the Church at St. Raphael's followed by Mass at 5:00 with a reception and dinner immediately following. Dinner is only \$10.00

per person or \$25.00 per family. Bring the family, other guests or potential new members will be free.

The first Executive meeting will be on July 3rd and will include a rehearsal for the Installation ceremony. All officers are urged to attend.

We will meet at the regular time and place on the second and fourth Thursday of July. The meeting on July 26<sup>th</sup> will be one of our famous Card Nights. Please come and have a good time.

In August we plan on participating with our district (District 18) in manning a booth at the Montgomery County Fair (August 10-18). This will be an excellent opportunity for community outreach.

Finally, thanks to all for giving me the high honor of serving as your Grand Knight.

Bill Shaffer, GK

## Chaplain's Message

Summer... What a great time! The weather is great and many opportunities are present to get out and enjoy the day. Summer has become a ritual where we take trips to amusement parks, attend National baseball games, see the latest blockbuster movie, sip lemonade, tan on the beach, and grill up a tasty steak. It is also the time when young adults who may have been away at college come home. They bring with them a wealth of new learning and experiences and new found independence. Younger children look forward to this break with excitement. They often dream of all the activities they will engage in and the morning where they get to sleep in.

Much change occurs during this time, but one of the greatest changes is the opportunity for the family to draw closer. Each of the "summer rituals" is a chance for the members of the family to refresh and renew themselves. It is not a time to be alone, but a time to rediscover one another. It is a time to rediscover what it means to be a family.

In *Gratissimam Sane*, Pope John Paul II reminded us how fundamental the family is to our lives and how "a per-

son goes forth from the family... to realize... their particular vocation in life." It is in the experience of family or the "little church" that we are introduced to "human family" and the "family of God," which is the Church." It is through the experience of love and fraternity in the family and extended family that the Church is built by the grace of God.

As Knights of Columbus, we are committed to the building up of the body of Christ and one of the primary ways for this to occur through our love and care for our families. Summer time and vacation, in this context, becomes opportunities to experience the grace of God. When we gather together as family, it gives us time to recharge and focus on what is truly important. For a Knight of Columbus our family is the core of our existence and from this experience and sharing of love we give to others.

May you have a wonderful summer! May God bless you and keep your families. May each and every day be an opportunity to experience God's love and blessing.

Father Grant Gaskin

## Holy Communion

St. Francis de Sales says there are two classes of person who should often receive Holy Communion;

- The perfect, to unite themselves more closely to the Source of all perfection; and the imperfect to labor to attain perfection;
- The strong that they may not become weak; the weak, that they may become strong;
- The sick that they may be cured; and those in health that they may be preserved from sickness.

You tell me that your imperfection, your weakness, your littleness make you unworthy to receive communion frequently; and I assure you it is precisely because of these that you ought to receive it frequently in order that He who possesses all things may give you whatever is wanting to you. [...]

It is indeed an error to consider Holy Communion as a reward of virtue, whereas it is above all a means to attain perfection, and the one pre-existing virtue required in order to employ this means is the desire to profit by it. Our divine Lord did not say: "Come to Me all ye who are perfect." He said: "**Come to Me all ye who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.**" (Mt 11:28)

R.P. Quadrupani, "Light and Peace."

## District Deputy Corner

I am honored once again to be the District Deputy for five of the finest Councils in the State of Maryland. Along with Daniel Potrepka PGK, our efforts will be directed toward fulfilling Worthy State Deputy Edgar D. Haynes's theme, "*Living Our Faith.*"

Dan and I appreciate the efforts that each Grand Knight, Council Officers, and Council members are now engaged in as you plan for your respec-

tive installations and develop your Council Calendars for the next Columbian year. A special note of thanks to each Grand Knight for providing me with the information necessary to fill out the State Directory and other events and information necessary for State and District actions.

Although a Council's frenetic tempo does not stop throughout the year, I expect that a District composed of

five confident and exceptional Councils will meet every challenge that arises during the next year.

God Bless America.

Mary, Queen of the Knights, pray for us.

Vivat Jesus,

Tom Schneider PGK PFN  
District Deputy, District 18

## Sharing my love

I want to tell you what happened to my husband and me a few years ago. We were engaged at the time, and I really wanted to share my love for the Holy Eucharist with my future husband. We went to a little chapel out in the country and knelt before the Blessed Sacrament exposed.

As we were praying, in an instant, I saw Our Lord as one without faith would see Him. I looked upon the Eucharist as only a piece of bread. I knew it was Jesus, but all sensible knowing was gone. I don't know

how to explain it except that the good God allowed me to experience what it like to not have any faith at all. I was so disgusted with the way

*"Since He Himself has declared and said of the bread: 'This is My Body', who shall dare to doubt any more? And when He asserts and says: 'This is My Blood', who shall ever hesitate and say it is not His Blood?"*

*St. Cyril of Jerusalem,  
Doctor of the Church, † 386*

I felt that I got up and walked to the bookshelf and started thumbing through a book. I was thinking to

myself, "Good job, Robin! You brought your fiancé here to ask Our Lord to give him a great love for Himself in the holy Eucharist and you can't even pray! You're just walking around like an idiot!"

I must have been up less than a minute when John called out, "Robin, I see God! I see the face of God in the Blessed Sacrament!" Praise God! I believe he borrowed my faith to give the gift of faith to John that day.

*Robin Dupre  
Ville Platte, Louisiana*

## Eucharistic Experience (Probably Avila, March 30, 1572)

On Palm Sunday after Communion, my faculties remained in such deep suspension that I couldn't even swallow the host; and, holding it in my mouth, after I returned a little to myself, it truly seemed to me that my entire mouth was filled with blood. I felt that my face and all the rest of me was also covered with this blood, as though the Lord had just then finished shedding it. It seemed to me warm, and the sweetness I then experienced was extraordinary. The Lord said to me: *"Daughter, I want my blood to be beneficial to you, and don't be afraid that My mercy will fail you. I shed it with many sufferings, and you enjoy it with the great delight you are aware of; I repay you well for the banquet you prepare me this day."*

He said this because for more than thirty years I have received Communion on this day when possi-

ble and have striven to prepare my soul to give hospitality to the Lord. For it seemed to me cruel of the Jews, after having given Him such an enthusiastic reception, to have let Him go so far away to eat; and I imagined I invited Him to remain with me, which was very bad lodging for Him, as I now see. Thus I made some foolish reflections. The Lord must have accepted them, because this is one of the visions I hold to be very certain; and so the Communion was beneficial to me.

2. Previous to this, I believe for three days, I underwent that great suffering I bear, sometimes more than at other times, of being separated from God. During these days it had been very great, for it seemed I couldn't endure it. Having been in such anguish, I saw one evening that it was too late to eat supper, and so I was unable to do so. (Because of the vomiting it made me very weak not to have my supper

earlier.) Thus with great effort I put the bread in front of me so as to force myself to eat it. At once Christ appeared there, and it seemed to me He broke the bread and was about to place it in my mouth when He said: *"Eat, daughter, and bear up as best you can. What you suffer grieves me, but it suits you now."*

That suffering was taken away and I was consoled, for it truly seemed that He was with me, and throughout the next day as well. By this experience the desire for His presence was at that time satisfied.

The words "grieves me" made me stop to think because it doesn't seem to me He can be sorrowful over anything any more.

St Teresa of Avila, "The Collected Works of St Teresa of Avila, Vol 1". Saint Theresa is a mystic and a Doctor of the Church. † 1582.

## Two Columns of Salvation: The Eucharist and the Virgin Mary

*Most of the prophecies associated with Don Bosco came to him during dreams, but just as in Matthew's Gospel where the process of Joseph being instructed by angels during dreams is described, it is clear that Don Bosco's experiences were more than the sort of dreams most of us have when asleep. Most of his dreams were concerned with the direction both he and his order, the Salesians, were to take in the future, and in particular with the boys who lived at his oratory in Turin. On 30 May 1862 Don Bosco at his "Good Night" talk told his boys, and the young clerics he was training, about a dream he had dreamt a few nights previously:*

"Try to picture yourselves with me on the seashore, or, better still, on an outlying cliff with no other land in sight. The vast expanse of water is covered with a formidable array of ships in battle formation, prows fitted with sharp spear-like beaks capable of breaking through any defense. All are heavily armed with cannons, incendiary bombs, and firearms of all sorts - even books - and are heading toward one stately ship, mightier than them all. As they try to close in, they try to ram it, set it afire, and cripple it as much as possible.

This stately vessel is shielded by a flotilla escort. Winds and waves are with the enemy. In this midst of this endless sea, two solid columns, a short distance apart, soar high into the sky: one is surmounted by a statue of the Immaculate Virgin at whose feet a large inscription reads: **Help of Christians**; the other, far loftier and sturdier, supports a [Communion] Host of proportionate size and bears beneath it the inscription **Salvation of believers**.

The flagship commander - the Roman Pontiff [the Pope] - seeing the enemy's fury and his auxiliary ships in very grave predicament, summons his captains to a conference. However, as they discuss their strategy, a furious

storm breaks out and they must return to their ships. When the storm abates, the Pope again summons his captains as the flagship keeps on its course. But the storm rages again. Standing at the helm, the Pope strains every muscle to steer his ship between the two columns from whose summits hang many anchors and strong hooks linked to chains.



The entire enemy fleet closes in to intercept and sink the flagship at all costs. They bombard it with everything they have: books and pamphlets, incendiary bombs, firearms, cannons. The battle rages ever more furious. Beaked prows ram the flagship again and again, but to no avail, as, unscathed and undaunted, it keeps on its course. At times a formidable ram splinters a gaping hole into its hull, but, immediately, a breeze from the two columns instantly seals the gash.

Meanwhile, enemy cannons blow up, firearms and beaks fall to pieces,

ships crack up and sink to the bottom. In blind fury the enemy takes to hand-to-hand combat, cursing and blaspheming. Suddenly the Pope falls, seriously wounded. He is instantly helped up but, struck down a second time, dies. A shout of victory rises from the enemy and wild rejoicing sweeps their ships. But no sooner is the Pope dead than another takes his place. The captains of the auxiliary ships elected him so quickly that the news of the Pope's death coincides with that of his successor's election. The enemy's self-assurance wanes.

Breaking through all resistance, the new Pope steers his ship safely between the two columns and moors it to the two columns; first to the one surmounted by the Host, and then to the other, topped by the statue of the Virgin. At this point something unexpected happens. The enemy ships panic and disperse, colliding with and scuttling each other. Some auxiliary ships which had gallantly fought alongside their flagship are the first to tie up at the two columns.

Many others, which had fearfully kept far away from the fight, stand still, cautiously waiting until the wrecked enemy ships vanish under the waves. Then, they too head for the two columns, tie up at the swinging hooks, and ride safe and tranquil beside their flagship. A great calm now covers the sea."

Don Bosco added: "Very grave trials await the Church. What we have suffered so far is almost nothing compared to what is going to happen. The enemies of the Church are symbolized by the ships which strive their utmost to sink the flagship. **Only two things can save us in such a grave hour: devotion to Mary and frequent Communion. Let us do our very best to use these two means and have others use them everywhere.**"

## The Spiritual Battle

We must not be afraid - nor can we be afraid if we are decisive. Rather we should find strength in saying, *"We can do everything through Christ crucified."* And of what should we be afraid if we trust in our Creator? We see that our captain on this battlefield is Christ Jesus, and he has defeated our enemies with his blood. He has defeated the world's pleasures and riches with lowliness and voluntary poverty, by enduring hunger, thirst, and persecution. He has routed the devil and his malice by his wisdom, catching him with the bait and hook of our humanity through the union of the divine nature with

the human. Our flesh has been conquered by his flesh scourged, macerated, saturated with disgrace on the wood of the most holy cross, and in the end raised above all the choirs

*"We can do everything through Christ crucified."*

of angels in the resurrection of God's Son. There is no body or spirit so corrupt that the sight of our humanity so perfectly united with the divine nature would not make it purify itself and rather die than spiritually defile itself. We have discovered what we have to do: Christ our captain has defeated

these enemies for us and has so weakened and bound them that they cannot overcome us unless we so choose. So we must not be afraid but fight courageously. We must mark ourselves with the sign of the most holy cross, set before our eyes the blood of the spotless Lamb, and take up the sword of hatred and of love to strike out at our enemies. This is the common battle in which everyone must engage who is born and reaches maturity.

Saint Catherine of Sienna  
† 1380, Doctor of the Church,  
stigmatist and papal counselor

## Confusion is from the devil

What the devil is interested in is to confuse us, either by making us believe that he does not exist and that, as he doesn't exist, neither do hell and heaven and so we need not be afraid of being far from God.

Moreover, he manifests himself instead with oppressions and obsessions to torment terribly those who have opened the doors to him, so that they will be afraid of him and not try to close the doors to him and trust him...

In the first half of the last century, Satan attacked humanity in the field of ideas and thought: rationalism, materialism, Gnosticism, Freemasonry, Rosicrucianism, sectarianism, Socialism, Marxism-Leninism, etc., which separate man from

God. On one hand, the negation of a personal God, and also the negation of the existence of Satan as a personal being, exchanging the true God for an impersonal god that identifies itself with this material world and reducing Satan to a mere symbol.

Such an influence also infected our theologians, who in recent

*"Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more comes from evil." (Matt 5:37)*

times no longer spoke of the devil or the angels.

But as a counterbalance, man felt nostalgia for God. His search for the supernatural, as a solution to the problems afflicting him because of his separation from God, made him fall into the clutches of

the New Age, which with its deceitful spiritualities and fictitious magical and esoteric solutions has opened the doors to the manifestations of the devil in many persons who have fallen into New Age esoteric and magical practices.

For this reason, in the permanent mission of the New Evangelization the Church has found it necessary to revive something that she felt was of the past, but which is urgent in our times: to proclaim to those who have fallen away the redemption of Christ who came to liberate us from Satan's threats.

Father Mendoza Pantoja is the Exorcist of the Archdiocese of Mexico.

## MD County Fair

Mater Dei council's home district (#18) has decided sponsor an information booth at the Montgomery County Fair to be held from August 10-18 at the Gaithersburg fairgrounds. The purpose of the booth is to raise awareness of the activities of the Knights of Columbus in the community, to find potential new members for the 5 councils in District 18, to raise funds through the Incentive Raffle, to get an early start on the Tootsie Roll Campaign, and to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Knights of Columbus. Each council will be expected to provide staffing for the booth for 2 or 3 days with some additional help on the first and last days for set-up and tear-down. Mater Dei council has not been assigned its days yet. But expect to be asked in the near future to volunteer some time. If you were planning to go to the fair anyway plan on stopping by to help out. If you weren't planning on it come on out; it is a fun outing for the entire family!

Please call our volunteer coordinator, Joe Doane, 301-983-1578, to sign-up.

## State Cruise

The Maryland State Council of the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring its 11<sup>th</sup> Ultimate Caribbean Cruise from January 7-18, 2008 to raise money for the Scholarship Fund. Various levels of accommodations are available at varying price ranges. Reservations for the cruise can be made through Mary Ann Caguin of World Travel Service (1-800-668-9077) by providing a \$450 deposit per person with final payment due by October 22. Please contact World Travel Service for more information.

## Special Olympics

On May 30 and June 3 Mater Dei Council hosted two events to support our friends in Montgomery County Special Olympics. The first event was an Ice Cream Social held at the Potomac Community Center in conjunction with a co-ordination meeting of the Special Olympics prior to participation in the summer games. The knights and families served up ice cream and sodas in various flavors to a crowd of 50. This event allowed the participants in the Special Olympics, coaches and families to relax, socialize, and enjoy some tasty treats.

The second event was a barbeque held in conjunction with practice softball games allowing Special Olympics teams to hone their skills. Although the weather wasn't perfect, the games were fiercely contested and a fun time was had by all. The games certainly whetted the appetites of the participants, who enjoined hot dogs and hamburgers cooked up by our master barbeque-er, Don Titzman, and happily served up our crew.



**John Daly, Dick Bianchi, Don Titzman, Bill Shaffer, and Wil Adams serving up fun at the Ice Cream Social**

## Insurance Report

The fourth of July commemorates our country's independence. Let today commemorate your family's independence. Free your family of worry and stress by getting life insurance. Life insurance for the time when you aren't going to be with them. No one lives forever, but your family's freedom can. Life insurance, allows your family the freedom of living. The protection allows them to live their lives; instead of worrying about how they will live their lives. They will survive, because of you and the investment you made in life insurance! Call me today and let your family gain independence.

Fraternally,

Rick Morin, FICF/LUTCF  
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Knights of Columbus  
 Mater Dei Council #9774

## Special Notices

- Congratulations to *Rev. Mr. Richard Mattocks and wife Marcia* for their selection as Family of the Month!
- There is \$93 in the attendance pool as of the June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting.
- All articles for the July issue must be received by the Editor by Friday July 21<sup>st</sup>.  
 "God dwells in our midst, in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar."



"He remains among us until the end of the world. He dwells on so many altars, though so often offended and profaned."

"The culmination of the Mass is not the consecration, but communion."

St. Maximilian Kolbe

## Schedule of Events: July - August 2007

|            |                                                |
|------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Tue Jul 3  | Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC                 |
| Sat Jul 7  | Installation Ceremony & Dinner                 |
| Thu Jul 12 | Business Meeting, 8pm, DCC                     |
| Thu Jul 26 | Social Meeting (cards), 7:30pm, DCC            |
| Sat Jul 28 | Wine Tasting                                   |
| Tue Aug 7  | Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC                 |
| Thu Aug 9  | Business Meeting, 8pm, DCC                     |
| Thu Aug 9  | Business Meeting, 8pm, DCC                     |
| Aug 10-18  | District 18 booth<br>at Montgomery County Fair |
| Thu Aug 23 | Social Meeting (family picnic), 7pm            |



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Knights of Columbus

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# **July 2007**

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