
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



I can't believe that another fraternal year is winding to a close. It has been a busy yet rewarding year for me as Grand Knight. Of course the council's success depends on the work of all the brother Knights. I want to thank all of the officers who served with dedication without whom we could not have accomplished all that we accomplished. I want to thank all the elected officers for their help throughout the year. Guards Robert Scott, Greg Daly, Don Novotny and Camille Ng for manning the doors at our meetings; Advocate Bill Shaffer who provided wise counsel during the year; Financial Secretary John Frey, and Treasurer Paul Sullivan for keeping our finances in order and me organized; Recorder Joe Doane for faithfully attending meetings and keeping the minutes; Warden Jack Phillips for always having the chambers ready for us to meet and returning the rooms for use the next day by the school; Chancellor Robert McCaffrey whose admission's committee brought in 17 new members; and Deputy Grand Knight, Wilsie Adams who I leaned on tremendously.

There were of course many other brothers who were invaluable to organizing the events of the year. Don Meyer who coordinated church activities; Tom Sherman, who organized the entertainment books efforts, John Li who ran a number of youth sporting activities including the three on three family tournament; Martin Begley who organized the breakfast with Santa, Don Novotny who headed up the Tootsie Roll effort, Wilsie Adams, Bill Shaffer and Tom Schneider, who co chaired this year's GAS sale, Dick Jasinski who (among other things) coordinated the Anniversary Dinner; Dick Bianchi, who just seemed to be at every event and William Hunter for the outstanding job putting out the Blue Mantle.

I also want to thank all of the brothers I did not mention by name for all of the time they volunteered and their dedication to the council. Our programs could not be successful without all of the hours all of you put in. Many thanks to one and all.

This year was very special for me. One of the best parts of serving as Grand Knight was working with brothers that I had not met before. One of the hidden benefits of working for the Knights is that it is a great way to meet the brothers in the council who you might not otherwise meet. I want to encourage everyone, especially the newer brothers, to get involved in at least one activity in the following year.

Thank you all for a wonderful year. It has been an honor to serve as Grand Knight.

God Bless,
Patrick DeGraba
Grand Knight

News from the 2006 State Convention.

I am happy to report that at this year's state convention, member of mater Dei council were honored with three awards. First the council received the first place prize for the most funds raised in the Tootsie Roll campaign per capita for Division A councils. This accomplishment is a tribute to the over 80 brothers who helped collect funds over a 5 week period in October. It is also a tribute to Don Novotny who spearheaded the effort and to Nick Nylec who also played a major role in organizing the efforts.

The other award was received by Pete Zaudtke. He received first place in the state for his role as ceremonial District Deputy in District 18's second degree team. Congratulations Pete. Also congratulations to the team as a whole who was judged third best in the state last year.



District Deputy's Message

Well, the end of the Columbian Year is almost here, and this is my final column as your District Deputy. It has been a good year – enjoyable, satisfying, and hopefully productive. Last July, as I installed the officers of the Councils in this District, I assured them of my support for their efforts and told the Grand Knights that in times of uncertainty never to hesitate to ask for help – and they didn't. I have served as their bridge to the State Council, bringing their concerns to the attention of the appropriate State representatives and reminding them of the requirements and deadlines that were set for them. Everyone has been very cooperative, and it has been a pleasure to work with five wonderful Grand Knights. I thank them for the fine work they have done in leading their Councils, and wish their successors every success.

I especially wish to thank the Grand Knights and their newsletter editors, and the webmasters at Mater Dei and Rock Creek Councils, for allowing me space each month to publish a supplemental column that I considered educational in nature. In it I have tried to blend some facts from our nation's history with Catholic social teachings to show how important religion has been and continues to be in American public life. For those of you who might be interested in seeing them once again, the full set appears on the websites of both Mater Dei Council (www.geocities.com/materdei9774) and Rock Creek Council (www.kofc2797.org/Scroll/WhatsNew).

This month's educational column has a different tack than the others. With the dire situation in the Holy Land, I have focused on the plight of the Christians there, rather than on America. The Vatican has spoken of the importance of maintaining Catholic education there, and our State Deputy has appointed a Holy Land Outreach Committee to assist in that effort. I am pleased to report that every Council in this District has already donated \$300 to provide a year of education for a child in the Holy Land. We are the first District in the State to have support from all of its Councils. On behalf of the children, thank you.

With summer officially beginning this month, and as thoughts turn to vacations, let me suggest a few books for your reading pleasure. Anything by G.K. Chesterton is worthwhile, but for lighter fare try *The Man Who Was Thursday*, a witty, satirical, mystery with comic aspects; the children might enjoy any of his Father Brown stories.

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At the June 8th business meeting we will elect our officers for the 2006-2007 fraternal year. The nominations so far are:

Grand Knight	Wilsie Adams
Deputy Grand Knight	Bill Shaffer
Chancellor	Bob McCaffrey
Warden	Richard Bianchi
Recorder	Joe Doane
Treasurer	Paul Sullivan
Advocate	
Lecturer	
Guards	Robert Scott
	Greg Daily
3 Year Trustee	Patrick DeGraba
2 Year Trustee	John Cavallo
1 Year Trustee	Robert Fontana

If you have other nominations please let Tom Schneider or Wilsie Adams know before the 8th.

Knights of Columbus Family Baseball Night

What: ORIOLES vs WASHINGTON NATIONALS

Where: Oriole Park at Camden Yards

When: Friday, June 23, 2006, Game time 7:05 pm

Why: Because it will be fun

Who: Knights of Columbus and friends

How: School bus will depart St. Raphaels at 5:30 pm

Refreshments, snacks and game pool on the school bus

Cost: About \$25 per person (ticket and transportation)

**To reserve your tickets: call Eric Gregrich, 301-598-0998 or email
eric.kofc@verizon.net**

FRATERNAL BENEFITS

THINKING ABOUT A VACATION

No doubt the signs of spring have had their effect on you. Initially, getting outdoors is the obvious thing to do. We start by poking around the garden, working on the lawn, attending softball practice, dusting off the gas grill. Beneath it all we sense that vacation time is near. This pleases everyone. It doesn't matter whether we are planning an elaborate vacation or will simply enjoy the company of our family at home; the feeling is the same. Vacations are fun.

If we've planned properly, chances are that some of our hard earned dollars have been set aside for this occasion. We recognize that if we plan to spend money in the pursuit of enjoyment, the ordinary fixed expenses mortgage, utilities, etc. must still be paid. So you need a vacation fund. All of this makes good sense. The soundness of the idea is obvious. Isn't it amazing that so many of us see the wisdom of planning for our vacations each summer, but fail to plan our long range vacation; retirement. The government has thought about it and encouraged your independence at retirement age. Your place of employment has probably thought about it and planned a pension for you. The only one left is you, it's time you thought about it. Find out how you can add to government and employer programs an amount sufficient to provide for you and yours. After all, retirement is the longest vacation you'll ever take.

Call me today and we'll plan it together.

Fraternally,

Rick Morin, CSA 301.384.7627

THE INDIVIDUAL IN A MORAL ECONOMY

Lawrence P. Grayson, DD, PGK, PFN

In America today, too many people are bound to an economic system that infringes on their humanity in one way or another. The well-educated are pursuing ever-increasing, never-reaching monetary goals that require either both parents to work or one to be working inordinately long hours which keeps the family members apart and does not allow them to fulfill their responsibilities as parents. The poorly-educated are tied to a welfare system that replaces opportunities for work with income maintenance and bureaucratic regulations that undermine the work ethic, denigrate male responsibility, and reward single mothers. In either case, family life is strained, if not destroyed.

The purpose of human life is not consumption, nor the accumulation of material goods. An over concentration on the material aspects of life is not the way to achieve the ultimate purpose of our existence. God created man and woman in His image and gave us free will so that we could use the things of this world to pursue a spiritual end. Salvation is why we were created. The economic system we have developed is a means, rather than an end, and is to be used to help us fulfill the purpose of our existence. The common good and the spiritual aspect of human nature must be taken into account in the marketplace, for there are important human needs that must be met and which cannot be treated like commodities.

Catholic social teaching is supportive of productive economic activity. The *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* reminds us of the Biblical parable of the talents, that "what has been received should be used properly, preserved and increased." Producing goods in an efficient manner can be viewed as a moral duty, in the sense that not to do so would be akin to the servant who hid his talent in the ground until his master returned. Pope John Paul II, in *Centesimus Annus*, wrote favorably of the market economy, suggesting it as the model that ought to be followed by the countries of the Third World and of the former Communist bloc which are trying to rebuild their economies and societies. His caution, however, is that such an economic system should not be unconstrained, relying on market forces alone, but that it should be "circumscribed within a strong juridical framework that places it in the service of human freedom in its totality, and which sees it as a particular aspect of that freedom the core of which is ethical and religious."

In America, wealth is created through intelligence, invention and human enterprise, which in turn rely on a political system based on liberty, private property, and a limited, but supportive role for the government. Profit and the wealth that results from it are legitimate ends of business activity, and are the primary incentives for establishing new businesses, taking risks, investing, and engaging in other creative economic activities. Without a vibrant economic system

producing wealth, the ends of social justice and charity cannot be attained. "Riches fulfill their function of service to man when they are destined to produce benefits for others and for society," continues the *Compendium*. What is immoral is inverting the correct order of means and ends.

Catholic social principles teach us that economic activity needs a moral orientation, and must be conducted with a hierarchy of values – values that can aid us in deciding how to act as persons created by God to be involved with Him in continuing His creative action in the world. In a dynamic, market economy, the emphasis is on initiative, enterprise, and the application of the inventive intellect, rather than on passive contentment, resignation and dependence on others. Not everyone, however, can participate fully in the opportunities of society, and so there must be a sense of social responsibility towards those who are unable to adequately provide for themselves and their families. The elderly, the young, the disabled, the chronically ill, the mentally handicapped, the poorly educated, and others who are permanently or for a time unable to work must receive assistance.

When the economic system cannot meet the special needs of the weakest and most vulnerable members of society, other sectors of society must come to their assistance. This should be done in a manner that preserves the dignity of the individuals, and creates self-reliance rather than dependency. The provision of assistance must following the principle of subsidiarity, meaning that the institutions closest to those in need should act first. Only when local and private agencies cannot meet the need should larger and governmental organizations step in. Economic activity carried out in this way becomes an opportunity to practice solidarity and to build a more equitable and humane society.

Abundance is a blessing from God. Mankind, unfortunately, has not made as much progress in spiritual development as it has achieved with material advances. Flawed or non-virtuous behavior brought about by greed, egotism and total self-absorption forms part of the human condition and is at the root of the misuse of our abundance of material goods. The challenge for us is to determine how to order our economic activities according to moral principles. Our efforts and decisions must be made according to a correct hierarchy of values. If we opt for what is good with respect to the human person, rather than simply what is useful or pleasurable, and treat economic gain as a tool for achieving salvation, it will be possible to possess material wealth without abrogating the true purpose of our existence.

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If you wish to combine reading with a trip to a local, Civil War battlefield, which will make your tour much more fascinating, read either *Chancellorsville 1863*, *The Souls of the Brave* by Ernest B. Furgurson, or *Landscape Turned Red: The Battle of Antietam* by Stephen Sears. If you would like to mull about some ideas in a counter-intuitive fashion, such as throwing sumo wrestling matches or comparing drug rings to beauty pageants, pick up *Freakonomics* by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner. In the same genre, you can read brief, breezy explanations of epidemics, scourges, crazes and landslides in *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*, or explore subconscious decision-making in *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*, both by Malcolm Gladwell. This list is very eclectic, but it shows the range of things one can explore. Whatever you do this summer, have fun.

Lawrence P. Grayson
District Deputy #18

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

June - July 2006

June '06

6/6 Tuesday 7:30pm - 10 executive brd mtg DCC

6/8 Thursday 8pm - 10 business mtg elections
DCC

6/22 Thursday 8pm - 10 social mtg GAS distr DCC

6/23 Friday 5:15 pm-? Orioles Game St Raphael's
parking lot

6/29 Thursday 3pm - 8 Blood Drive Trumpet Room

July '06

7/4 Tuesday 7:30pm - 10 executive brd mtg DCC

7/8 Saturday 4pm - 4:59 Installation church

7/8 Saturday 6pm - 10:00 Installation dinner Trumpet
room

7/13 Thursday 8pm - 10 business mtg DCC

7/27 Thursday 8pm - 10 social mtg DCC

SPECIAL NOTICE

**THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE
JULY 2006**

**All articles for the July Issue
must be received by the Editor by
Tuesday, JUNE 27, 6:00 p.m.
w-hunter01@comcast.net**

EMAIL ADDRESS ??

Does the Financial Secretary have your
email address? Please advise **John
Frey**
kofcjohnfrey@comcast.net
if you now have email, or have a
change of email address.

Write-in Campaign Supporting Marriage

On June 6, 2006, the U.S. Senate is scheduled to vote to begin the process of amending the Constitution to define marriage as "the union of one man and one woman." Known as the Marriage Protection Amendment, or Senate Joint Resolution 1, it would preclude actions like that of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, which a few years ago legalized same-sex marriage by judicial fiat. The Knights of Columbus, in cooperation with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is mounting a write-in campaign in support of the Resolution. Ten million postcards have been printed and are being distributed through the Councils to every parish in the nation. Please either write separate letters to Senators Barbara A. Mikulski and Paul S. Sarbanes (United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510) or mail two postcards which are available at the Council.

JUNE 2006



**The Blue Mantle
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