



The Blue Mantle



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

June 2007
Corpus Christi

“This is my body. This is my blood.”

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

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Knights News:

“The celebration and worship of the Eucharist enable us to draw near to God's love and to persevere in that love.

When Jesus instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper, he revealed that he himself was the sacrifice that would bring salvation to fulfillment.

The institution of the Eucharist demonstrates how Jesus' death, for all its violence and absurdity, became in him a supreme act of love and mankind's definitive deliverance from evil.”

Pope Benedict XVI

Grand Knight's Report

June brings us one of the most enjoyable events of the year—the distribution of the GAS proceeds and other awards. Plan now to attend on June 28th. The event has been moved to the Trumpet Room for more space.

Gerry Brown and the first-degree team conducted another great ceremony on May 24th. Six candidates from 3 Councils were admitted. We welcome Dr. Charles L. Thomas and Daniel H. Rueda Posada, both of St. Raphael's as new Mater Dei Brothers.

Congratulations to Bill Shaffer who received his

Silver Knight Award at the Degree Ceremony.

Elsewhere in this issue see the tribute to our founding Grand Knight Walt Grabowski. A Special Mass was offered for him before the Degree Ceremony and the Council honored Walt by dedicating the Ceremony in his honor.

My congratulations to the newly elected officers for next year. They are all great gentlemen of whom we can be proud and who will do a great job for us.

At the State Convention I was proud to receive the Award for the Most Dol-

lars per capita collected for the mentally handicapped by any Council in Division A. Don Novotny and his entire crew are to be commended for their efforts.

By the time you receive this we will probably have completed the Ice Cream Social for the Special Olympics but there may still be time for you to assist with the cook out for their practice on June 3rd. If you can help out, contact Warden Dick Bianchi.

I hope to see many of you at the June meetings. God Bless you.

Wil Adams, GK

Quotes

"The Eucharist is the heart of the Church. Where Eucharistic life flourishes, there the life of the church will blossom."

- Pope John Paul II

"In one day the Eucharist will make you produce more for the glory of God than a whole lifetime without it."

- St. Peter Julian Eymard

"The best way to economize time is to 'lose' half an hour each day attending Holy Mass."

- Frederic Ozanam

"If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: Holy Communion."

- St. Maximilian Kolbe

"It would be easier for the world to exist without the sun than without the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass."

- Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

"...In this world I cannot see the Most High Son of God with my own eyes, except for His Most Holy Body and Blood."

- St. Francis of Assisi

"People ask me: 'What will convert America and save the world?' My answer is prayer. What we need is for every parish to come before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in Holy Hours of prayer."

- Blessed Mother Teresa

An Appreciation

Walter P. Grabowski, PGK, PFN 1929-2007

When Walt Grabowski was born on May 2, 1929, it was a lucky day for Mater Dei Council, N°9774. Among his many achievements, Walt would be the founding Grand Knight of our Council on March 29, 1988, with 68 charter members. As Grand Knight he inaugurated the Blue Mantle, our newsletter, of which he was editor in 1992/1993. He began social and religious activities such as poker night, a New Year's Eve party, the attendance award, guest speakers, and the Living Rosary. As Lecturer in 1991/1992 he arranged a year-long speaker program in Right to Life that was open to all parishioners. For his foresight, guidance, and love of the Knights of Columbus, we will be forever grateful.

Walt was born in Pottsville, PA where he attended Catholic schools. After serving in the U.S. Navy from 1950-1954, he graduated from Lehigh University in 1958 with a bachelor degree in English. In 1965 he married his wife Margaret, and their son Geoff was born several years later (1968). Walt worked in private industry and continued his education, earning a

Master Degree in Operations Management from Johns Hopkins University. The company he always talked about was Mitre Corp., with whom he spent 17 years, part of which in Germany, as a Systems Analyst. His interests were varied, with an emphasis on home improvement projects and wrestling. He was an amateur wrestling fan and was editor and owner of a wrestling periodical, National Mat News. In addition he was president of the Serra Club - an organization that supports religious vocations -, usher and lector at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, and lector and strong supporter of his parish, St. Mary, in Rockville.

He was a member of the Knights for over 60 years, where he served in many offices over the years, including Faithful Navigator of The Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly, N° 386, 1987-1988. Before founding Mater Dei Council, N° 9774, he was a member of Rock Creek Council, N° 2797. At Mater Dei he was Grand Knight, 1988-1989, at which time Geoff was also a Grand Knight at Mount St. Mary's College Council, N° 1965, 1987-1988, in Emmitsburg, MD.

PGK Richard Weller remarked in his eulogy that Walt saw the big pic-

ture and forged ahead to accomplish the tasks. He was a mover, not a spectator. In his first year, Mater Dei achieved Star Council, no mean feat, a tradition which continues. Walt believed in God, family, and the Knights of Columbus, in that order, I recall him saying.

I was fortunate to have visited Walt the day before his passing. When I told him I would be going to Poland next month, his eyes brightened, and he smiled wanly with thumbs up. I will give your regards to Krakow, good and faithful servant.

Walt died peacefully on Friday evening, May 11, 2007. On Wednesday, May 16, 2007, the Mass of Christian burial was held at the St. Mary's Chapel in Rockville and he was buried next to his beloved wife at Mount St. Mary's University (formerly "College") in Emmitsburg, MD.

Tony Cammarota, PGK

Links:

Washington Post Article:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A5873-2004Jul22.html>

Serra International:
<http://www.serra.org/>

Mission and Purpose of Life

God has created me to do him some definite service; he has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another. I have my mission - I never may know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. Somehow I am necessary for his purposes, as necessary in my place as an Archangel in his - if, indeed, I fail, he can raise another, as he could make the stones children of Abraham. Yet I have a part in this great work; I am a link

in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do his work; I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep his commandments and serve him in my calling.

Therefore I will trust him. Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve him; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve

him; if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve him. My sickness, or perplexity, or sorrow may be necessary causes of some great end, which is quite beyond us. He does nothing in vain; he may prolong my life, he may shorten it; he knows what he is about, he may take away my friends, he may throw me among strangers, he may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide the future from me - still he knows what he is about.

John Henri Newman (✠ 1890)

Volunteer Coordination. (Plan your next mission)

It may not seem like it; but it's that time of year again. What time(?), you might ask. Time to line up Knights for next year's activities. We'd like to combine this with a new effort. It's named "A Call for Each Knight"; and the goal is for each Knight of the *Mater Dei* Council to have a commitment to at least one Council Activity for the Columbian Year (July 1st through June 30th). So, as you can see, the time is, indeed, upon us.

To carry out this effort, I am naming the Chancellor (Joe Doane) as the Volunteer Coordinator; and I am charging him with certain tasks:

- A. Compile a list of Event Chairmen for the various activities.
- B. Get from them a list of volunteer demands, a list of past volunteers for the activity, and a list of any committed volunteers.
- C. Summarize and total the lists and develop a volunteer-hour demand per activity and a total net demand.
- D. Summarize the membership and

develop a volunteer-hour goal per member, using a reasonable "no" factor (est. 10%) and "no show" factor (est. 20%).

E. Assemble a team of 12 coordinators (20 members per coordinator, but with the idea that they might handle up to 40) in July, dividing activities and members (overlap # 1, below).

F. Call all members in July and Aug. (keeping track of the progress on # 1):

1. Begin with the Car Raffle, Tootsie Rolls & GAS.
2. Continue on to the other events in the same call.
3. Record all commitments to activities, with name & phone number.

G. When done, give the event chairman the summary for his event.

H. Recall Tootsie Rolls & Gas two months prior to the event to assure continued commitment; call on all remaining items one month in advance of the event.

I. Call to secure commitments for any that cannot (or will not) keep their commitment; keep track of activities

with lacks in commitment; and try to secure commitment for these other events.

You might be asking, why go to all this effort? First, the Council has a large role to play in the Family, Church, and Community Life; it's program of activities (see the Calendar, below) deserves a major effort. Second, the leadership has many demands on it; it needs to delegate. Third, the next generation of Knights need training, on the job training. Fourth, an inactive Knight is an pathetic Knight – and, eventually, not a Knight – they have to know we care by our asking.

So, look at the Calendar, choose the activities in which you wish to participate; and be ready to call. Or, beat them to the punch, call the Chairman (Joe Doane @ 301-983-1578) and volunteer now.

Bill Shaffer, GK Elect

A Worthless piece of Paper

One of my fellow field agents recently called on a Brother Knight who had allowed his Knights of Columbus insurance policy to lapse by not paying his premiums. This field agent simply called back to ask if he would please return the lapsed policy. Because the member considered the policy to be worthless now, he asked the agent

why he wanted it back.

The field agent replied that when the member died, he wanted to avoid the unpleasant task of explaining to his widow and children that the policy was worthless. He wanted to avoid the excitement the widow would feel when she found what she thought was a life insurance policy, only to become further depressed when she found it was useless and belonged in the wastebasket.

Fortunately, the story has a happy ending. The member in question was able to conserve this valuable protection for his loved ones by reinstating his insurance.

Call me today to discuss your insurance needs. Let's not have any surprises for your widow.

Fraternally,
Rick Morin
301.384.7627

Corpus Christi

Corpus Christi is the solemn and public feast of the Eucharist, sacrament of the body and blood of Christ: On this day, the mystery instituted in the Last Supper and commemorated every year on Holy Thursday, is presented to all, surrounded by the faith and devotion of the ecclesial community.

The Eucharist is, in fact, the "treasure" of the Church, the precious heritage that her Lord has left her. And the Church guards this heritage with the greatest care, celebrating it daily in the holy Mass, adoring it in churches and chapels, distributing it to the sick, and as viaticum to those on their last journey.

However, this treasure, which is destined for those who are baptized, does not exhaust its radius of action in the ambit of the Church: the Eucharist is the Lord Jesus who gives himself "for

the life of the world" (John 6:51). At all times and in all places, he wishes to encounter man and give him God's life.

And not only this - the Eucharist also has cosmic value: The transformation of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ constitutes, in fact, the principle of divinization of creation itself. This is why the feast of Corpus Christi is characterized particularly by the tradition of carrying the Blessed Sacrament in procession, a gesture full of meaning.

By carrying the Eucharist through the streets and squares, we wish to submerge the bread descended from heaven in the everyday of our lives; we want Jesus to walk where we walk; to live where we live. Our world, our lives, must become his temple.

On this feast day, the Christian com-

munity proclaims that the Eucharist is everything for it, that it is its very life, the source of love that triumphs over death. From communion with Christ arises the charity that transforms our lives and supports all on the journey toward the heavenly homeland. For this reason, the liturgy invites us to sing: "*Good shepherd, true bread ... You who know all and can do everything, who nourish us on earth, lead your brothers to the table of heaven, in the glory of your saints.*"

Mary is the "*Eucharistic woman*," as Pope John Paul II described her in his encyclical "*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*." Let us pray to the Virgin that all Christians may deepen their faith in the Eucharistic mystery, so that they live in constant communion with Jesus and are his valid witnesses.

Pope Benedict XVI

The gift of the Holy Eucharist

Our spiritual journey has now brought us to the most exalted of the life-giving mysteries, and the Lord has set before us gifts no words can describe. Let us all meet together then for the sacred meal, all of us who rejoice in these inexpressible delights and who, as sharers in the heavenly calling, have willingly put on the wedding garment of undefiled faith.

Today Christ is our host, Christ waits upon us, Christ who loves us refreshes us...

These, beloved, are symbols of what is now being fulfilled, these are the un-failing delights of this banquet. The bountiful Giver himself is present, the divine gifts are set before you, the sacred meal is ready, the life-giving wine prepared. The King of glory summons you; the

Son of God receives you; God the Incarnate Word invites you. The personal subsistent Wisdom of God the Father, having built himself a house, a temple not made with hands, distributes his own body as bread and gives his own life-giving blood as wine. Oh, wonderful mystery! How marvelous is the divine dispensation! How unsearchable the divine mystery! The Creator offers himself for the enjoyment of his creatures! He who is life itself gives himself to mortal human beings to be their food and drink. "*Come, eat my bread, he urges, and drink the wine I have prepared for you.*" I have prepared myself to be the food and drink of those who desire me. Of my own free will, I who am life itself have become flesh; *by my own wish*, I, who am the Word and the image of my Father, shared in your flesh and blood in order to save you. Taste and see that I, the Lord, am good.

Theophilus († 412) was patriarch of Alexandria and the uncle of Saint Cyril of Alexandria.



"The Holy Eucharist is 'the source and summit of the Christian life.' 'The other sacraments, and indeed all the ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch.'"

The Bread of Life

"I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to me will not hunger, and whoever believes in me will not thirst." These words speak to you of infinite humility and love without end, pronounced more by my heart, which is an abyss of kindness, than by my lips.

Bread of Life, that is immortal food, divine sub-stance that will strengthen you to reach your homeland without dying on the way.

"He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life," and this life is the true life, the life of grace that never dies, the immortal life that lasts for ever.

The Eucharist has the power of converting you into me. If you could only understand the gift of God. I am the Bread of Life come down from heaven purely out of love!

My flesh and my blood will give you strength for the battles of life and will communicate to you the celestial fortitude that makes martyrs sacrifice them-selves for love.

I want to live in you, so that you may live in me in a divine transformation. I said to my heavenly Father, *"I am in them and you are always in me, so that they may be brought to perfection as one,"* because through this intimacy I want to communicate myself to you. And these will be the effects of the Bread of Life: you will live united, permeated by your Jesus, one with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Come, receive this Bread of love that costs nothing. *"It comes without cost,"* because it is enough to have purity of heart to come to the Eucharist. Come, *"I myself am the living bread that has come down from heaven."*

Lord Jesus, I live in you because you said: *"As I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me will live because of me."* I feel your divine life flowing through my veins. I experience the fortitude of the martyrs to embrace any cross. *"I am not afraid because for me life means*

Christ, and Christ is living in me." In me is the Eucharistic seed of resurrection and life.

Jesus, you gave yourself the name of bread, the most common of all food for the poor and the rich, the children and the elderly and at the same time the most adequate for you, kind God.

Your power is infinite and in the excess of your love, you give yourself to do good.

I am weak, but you are my strength. I have no virtues but *"you have them all"* and will communicate them to me one by one, if I am faithful. "I am able to do everything through the one who strengthens me."

Remain in me and give me an intense continuous love that unites myself to you. O Jesus, *"give me this bread always!"*

Venerable Concepción Cabrera de Armida († 1937) was a wife, mother, and writer in Mexico.

HOLY COMMUNION IS YOUR TREASURE

Consider what you lose when you miss one Holy Communion:

1. You miss a personal visit with Jesus, the author of all spiritual energy and of all holiness.
2. You lose a special increase of sanctifying grace, that grace which makes your soul more pleasing to God.
3. You lose the sacramental grace which entitles you to special help in times of temptation and in the discharge of your duties.
4. You lose a precious opportunity of having all your venial sins wiped away.
 - a. Complete victory over some fault or passion.
5. You miss the special preserving influence which each Holy Communion confers against the fires of passion.
6. You miss the opportunity of obtaining remission of a part or of all of the temporal punishment due to your sins.
7. You lose the spiritual joy, the sweetness, and the particular comfort that come from a fervent Holy Communion.
8. You lose a greater degree of glory that would be yours in heaven for all eternity.
9. You may lose:
 - b. Some particular grace long prayed for.
 - c. The conversion or salvation of some soul.
 - d. The deliverance of a relative or friend from purgatory.
 - e. Many graces for others, both the living and the dead.

Of what riches you deprive yourself daily by neglecting Holy Mass! The Mass is the best preparation for Holy Communion. At the hour of death your greatest consolation will be the Masses you have heard and the holy Communions you have received.

Pledge yourself to receive Holy Communion at least once a week.

Summer Wine Tasting Party

Its been a long time since our last wine tasting party. The time has finally come for another great evening. If you have never been to one of these fun filled evenings with Brother Knights and wives, now is the time to avail yourself of this great opportunity to get to know other knights in a relaxed social atmosphere. The theme for this party will be South African wines. One of our objectives is to expose you to wines you may not normally drink at home. One or two are usually a bit pricey. You get a lot of bang for your buck.

The date is Saturday July 28.

The price is still only \$30.00 per couple. We need to have reservations in and paid for no later than Wednesday

July 18 in order to have time to purchase the wines. We can accommodate a maximum of 22 people so hurry and get your reservation in early. Reservations and checks, should be sent to **Richard Weller, 20302 Butterwick Way, Gaithersburg, MD 20886**

Pending Motions

There are two pending motions to be voted at the business meeting on June 14th:

- “Resolved that the Council **authorize** expenditure in excess of \$500.00 for expenses in support of the Installation dinner”.
- “Resolved that the Council spend an amount in excess of \$500.00 for the Special Olympics Cookout.”.

Bridge Tally

Bridge continues to be a popular Council social event, with party bridge on the first and second Saturday of the month, and duplicate on the third Saturday. Each session has three tables and the hosting rotates alphabetically. Bridge regulars are Cammarota, Boesch, Weller, Echenrode, Mattocks, Gasper, Sullivan, Fontana, Piper, DeGraba, Jasinski, Novotny, Schierling, and their spouses or partner. Some play both party bridge and duplicate. What a grand way to meet brothers and their spouses on an informal basis. And there are more brothers who are on the list to substitute when the regulars are absent, which occurs frequently. Are you ready for some bridge? All levels of play are welcome. So get on the sub list or organize another day of play. Call Tony Cammarota today at 301-424-6138 for all the particulars.

Aluminum Can Project

For about the past 17 years we have been collecting aluminum cans and selling them at a local scrap dealer, the proceeds of which go into the Council's working fund. Total unofficial income to date is \$933. That's a lot of cans, when one considers that at current scrap prices each can is worth about \$0.0125. Sources of the cans are the collection after Council meetings, and Warden Bianchi's diligence in saving them after Council events. But we also have brothers who save them from home and deliver them to Tony Cammarota's house for subsequent sale. Many thanks to canmen Dan Garges, Tom Buck, Pete Zaudtke, Ray Gasper, Larry Boesch, and George Prokop for their efforts. But we can always use more to help us fund the Council activities during the year. Please call Tony Cammarota at 301-424-6138 for particulars on how to participate.

Year 2007 Officers

Congratulations to the Officers of Mater Dei Council, elected at the May 10th meeting. The new Fraternal Year begins Jul 1, 2006. Show your support for your Officers by active participation in the many programs sponsored by your council.

Grand Knight: Bill Shaffer
Deputy G^d Knight: Bob McCaffrey
Chancellor: Joe Doane
Warden: Don Titzman
Recorder: Jack Phillips
Treasurer: Paul Sullivan
Advocate: Dick Weller

Guards: Don Novotny, Dick Bianchi, Camille Ng, Robert Scott, Greg Daly

3 Year Trustee: Wil Adams
2 Year Trustee: Pat DeGraba
1 Year Trustee: John Cavallo

Appointed Positions

Chaplain: Fr. Grant Gaskin
Lecturer: Larry Boesch

The Installation of Officers will be held on July 7. The ceremony will be held at St. Raphael Church at 4 pm with a mass to follow. The Installation dinner will begin at 6 pm in the Trumpet Room.

Please plan on attending.
 RSVP to Bill Shaffer (301-762-1735).

KEY CONTACTS

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Knights of Columbus
Mater Dei Council #9774

Special Notices

- Congratulations to *Rev. Mr. Frank Salatto & Elaine* for their selection as Family of the Month!
- There is \$56 in the attendance pool as of the May 10, 2007 meeting.
- All articles for the July issue must be received by the Editor by Friday June 23th.

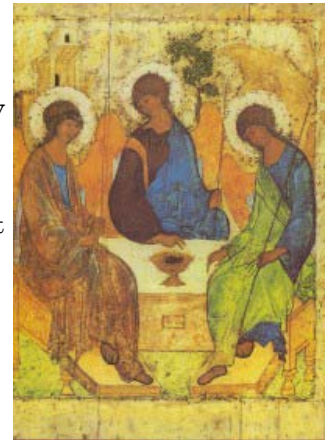


"The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white Host."
- Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

"The Eucharist is the consummation of the whole spiritual life."
- St. Thomas Aquinas

Schedule of Events: June - July 2007

Sun Jun 2	Most Holy Trinity
Tue Jun 5	Executive Meeting, 8 pm, DCC
Sun Jun 10	Corpus Christi (Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ)
Thu Jun 14	Business Meeting, 8pm, DCC
Thu Jun 28	Social Meeting (GAS), 8pm, Trumpet
Tue Jul 3	Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC
Sat Jul 7	Installation Ceremony & Dinner
Thu Jul 12	Business Meeting, 8pm, DCC
Thu Jul 26	Business Meeting, 8pm, DCC
Sat Jul 28	Wine Tasting



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