

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

HURRAH!!

Mater Dei Council does it again. The Garage to Attic Sale continued its annual trend of success with sales of \$15,000. Congratulations to all our Brothers and their helping family members.



From the Grand Knight's Station

Brrrr!!!!!! It's gotten cold. But the cold weather hasn't chilled the council's spirit. On February 8 we five new brothers to our ranks, Walter Burns, John Kent, David Sorensen, William Suarez, and Michael Ryan.

Mater Dei extends a hearty welcome to you and your families.

Just two days later Mater Dei hosted the district competition of the K of C annual Free Throw Contest. Special thanks to John Li for faithfully organizing this event and thanks to all of those who helped John.

While John was able to sneak the free throw competition in before the snows fell, we were not so lucky with the Tootsie Roll Awards Banquet. Unfortunately the snows caused us to postpone this event until April 1.

The following Saturday saw several knights along with other parishioners for St. Raphael pray the Rosary in front of the Up Town Abortion Clinic on Gaither Road. We convene there every third Saturday at 10 am for an hour of peaceful prayer to help bring an end to abortion. All brothers are encouraged to attend.

As if this was not enough for one month, we held our annual Garage to Attic Sale on February 25. I want to thank all of the many volunteers who gave of their time selflessly to help raise money for so many worthy charities in our area. I want to thank the tri-chairmen of Wilsie Adams, Bill Shaffer and Tom Schneider for their leadership, in this effort that turned in over \$15,000 in sales.

OK ... catch your breath for a second ... good.

We have a lot of upcoming events. On February 28 we will be cooking for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner (actually this will be done by the time you receive this).

On Thursday March 9th, at our first regularly scheduled meeting we will be holding a second degree ceremony in the Trumpet Room. For all first degree knights, this is a perfect opportunity to get your second degree. Please arrive by 7:30 at St. Raphael.

On Saturday March 11th we will hold our Founder's Day/Garage to Attic Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in the Trumpet Room. We will need volunteers to help cook dinner. Please let me or Dick Jasinski know if you can help. Tickets will be \$20 for an individual, \$35 per couple and \$40 per family. Any volunteer from the Garage to Attic sale will get their admission for half price. Please

celebrate the founding of our council and the completion of another successful Garage to Attic Sale. Please RSVP to me at pdegraba@comcast.net (preferred) or 301-279-2873, by March 7th.

On Saturday March 18th we will again be praying the Rosary at the Up Town Abortion Clinic on Gaither Road (Just off of Shady Grove Rd).

On Saturday March 25 we will hold our 3rd annual 3 on 3 Family Basketball Tournament at Our Lady of Mercy gymnasium from 8:30 am to 3 pm. Each Brother Knight can participate in either of two ways (or even both!) He can enter his own 3-person family team, or he can help out with court monitoring, breaking up family disputes, supplying families with enough water to keep them going, etc. The entry form application will be in the St. Raphael's Sunday bulletin of March 12th and also in the Mercy bulletin sometime in March. The entry fee will be \$20 per family.

On March 28th Mater Dei will sponsor a Red Cross Blood Drive. Please call Jim Edmondson at 202-408-4108, or 202-297-2999 if you can donate blood, or help at the event. Thank you, Jim, for all your work in organizing these blood drives this year.

Finally, on April 1 we will host the rescheduled Tootsie Roll Awards Dinner at 6 pm in the Trumpet Room. Tickets are \$20 per person. Please come and help host the 22 charities who will receive awards from this year's Tootsie Roll Drive.

Our Sate Deputy has asked that we support the Christian Education of one student in the Holy Land. Currently only 3% of the population in the Holy Land is Christian. It costs only \$300 to support the Christian Education of one student for one year. I ask you to support this worthy cause. Anyone who would like to donate please send a check (made out to Mater Dei Charities, Inc.) to myself at 14417 Stonebridge View Dr., North Potomac, MD. 20878

Again, thank you for all your help and support. God Bless you and your families

Patrick DeGraba
Grand Knight



District Deputy's Message

It is March and Lent has begun. For 47 days, we have an opportunity to mediate, pray and mentally observe the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord. We have a chance to refocus our lives and to once again think about why we were given life. Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, in his book, *The Life of Christ*, put our purpose

into perspective, when he wrote:

“Christ, the son of God, did not come into this world to live. He came into it to die. Death was the goal of His life, the gold that He was seeking... The seed must fall to the ground and die before it springs forth to a new life. Unless there is a Good Friday in our lives there will never be an Easter Sunday. The Cross is the condition of the empty tomb, and the crown of thorns is the preface to the halo of light.”

In brief, that is what Catholics believe: the goal of living is to earn the reward of a life well-spent -- to join our Creator in Heaven. May Lent allow each of us to come closer to our Lord.

Congratulations to Patrick, Kim and Peter Freimuth, who were chosen as the Maryland State Family of the Year for 2006! Pat currently is the Warden at St. Manyanet Council and Peter is the Chief Squire in Manyanet's Squires Circle. Members of St. Catherine Labouré, all three are volunteers in various parish activities, as well as participants in a wide variety of Council and Squires functions.

This past month, our Councils were very active in bringing in new members. There were three 1st degree ceremonies within an eight-day period. Msgr. Thomas M. Wells Council inducted four new members on February 8, Mater Dei brought in four on February 9, and Rock Creek had an induction for seven new Knights on February 15. As a result, several Councils in the District are close to completing the requirements for Star Council for this year. Keep up the good work.

Unfortunately, the weather was against us a few weeks ago. With predictions of heavy snow -- which came -- the Tootsie Roll

Award dinner scheduled for February 11 was postponed until April 1. The District's Basketball Free Throw competition to have been held earlier that day was rescheduled for February 18, when six youngsters won in their age categories. Three are from Mater Dei Council, two from Msgr. Thomas M. Wells Council, and one from St. Joseph Manyanet Council. Congratulations and good luck to all six as they advance to the State competition.

John Urey, a member of Rock Creek Council and the State's Pro-Life Cochairman, developed a write-in campaign to the Delegates and State Senators in Maryland to oppose the funding of stem-cell research in the State. He made available to every parish and to the Grand Knight of every Council in Maryland a flyer and sample letters to the State politicians, along with specific information identifying the representatives for each parish location, urging the pastors to have their parishioners express their opposition. Similar announcements will be forthcoming as bills are introduced that conflict with Catholic teaching. Great going, John.

This effort is an excellent example of how the Knights of Columbus can be involved in issue politics, which in non-partisan and in line with the tenets of our Church. It, however, is not the first time the Knights have taken a stand on political issues. As early as 60 years ago, following the publication of Pope Pius XI's encyclical, *Atheistic Communism*, the Knights distributed pamphlets nationwide on the “infiltration of atheistic communism into our American way of life and economy” and urged voters to reject communist sympathizers in the 1946 elections. With the many issues that have strong moral implications that are facing this nation, the Knights of Columbus has not only an opportunity, but an obligation, to let its “voice be heard.”

Vivat Jesus!

Lawrence P. Grayson
District Deputy #18

THANKS AND APPRECIATION FROM THE CO-CHAIRMEN OF GARAGE TO ATTIC SALE !

Tom Schnieder, Bill Shaffer and myself as the co-chairs of this year's GAS would like to thank all who so generously gave their time, efforts and donations to another successful Sale.

This year we added a new charitable piece to our effort by allowing the Katrina victims hosted by the St. Raphael community to meet some of their needs by selecting from the donated items on Friday evening at no charge.

Once again, our customers supported the Manna food drive with over 20 cases of food and more than \$300.00 in cash. This effort is arranged by Tom Sherman annually and he deserves our special recognition.

This year we once again grossed more than \$15,000.00 from your efforts. I am sure everyone involved recognizes the enormity of the task of starting with an empty space on Thursday night, setting up, receiving the donations, sorting, arranging, pricing, conducting the sale and leaving the space as clean and empty on Saturday evening as it was on Thursday.

The cooperation, hard work and commitment of all the knights, ladies, confirmation candidates, boy scouts, families and friends is truly a vivid demonstration of charity in action.

But even our willingness to shoulder the burden would not succeed without the support of our donors, our customers, the Parish staff and community.

Thanks to all. Wilsie H. Adams Jr., Co-Chairman

2ND DEGREE CEREMONY - MARCH 9, ST. RAPHAEL'S

If you are a 1st Degree Knight and wish to attain your 2nd Degree, this is a great opportunity to do so. Mater Dei Council is conducting a 2nd Degree Ceremony on Thursday, March 9. This ceremony will take place in the Trumpet Room at St. Raphael's Church. The candidates should arrive by 7:30 PM.

This is the only 2nd Degree Ceremony that Mater Dei Council will host this year. This ceremony will be witnessed and judged by officials from the Maryland State Council, so it is important that the candidates and 2nd Degree Ceremony Team are at their best. The 2nd Degree Ceremony is more formal than a 1st Degree Ceremony, and it has an unwritten dress code. It is strongly recommended that you wear a shirt & tie.

For more information about the 2nd Ceremony, please contact Bob McCaffrey, (301) 251-5225.

(Note to 2nd Degree Knights: If you want to receive your 3rd Degree, future 3rd Degree Ceremonies will be held at:
April 21, Our Lady of Fatima Council 6901, Barnesville
May 12, Sacred Heart Council 2577, Bowie
June 2, St. Columville Council 5317, Ft. Washington)

Coffee & Doughnuts - April 2

Mater Dei Council will host a 1st Degree Ceremony on Thursday, April 27 at our April Social Meeting. I encourage all of you to attend. We would be grateful if you could recruit a fellow parishoner, relative, etc. to join the Knights and take part in the April 27th 1st Degree Ceremony.

To help recruit prospective Knights, the Mater Dei Council will also host Coffee & Donuts on April 2. We need 3 Knights to work the Coffee & Doughnuts in St. Raphael's Trumpet Room after the 8:30, 10:00, 11:30, and 1:00 masses.

If you are able to help out with Coffee & Doughnuts, please contact Bob McCaffrey, bmacc38@yahoo.com, or at (301) 251-5225.

Thank you for your help,

Bob McCaffrey, Chancellor
Mater Dei Council

FRATERNAL BENEFITS

IT TAKES MORE THAN MONEY

Most commodities can be bought provided you 1) have the money, 2) can find a willing seller, and 3) can agree on a satisfactory price. In like manner, most investments – real estate, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, bank accounts – require only an arm's length agreement and a deal is struck. All it takes is money.

There is one notable exception to the above statements. The purchase of life insurance. When the purchase of life insurance is considered, in addition to setting aside dollars, the prospective insured must prove that he is in good health. If a man is deemed to be "uninsurable", no amount of money will make this commodity available to him.

The ability to qualify for life insurance is an asset that is temporary at best. Without warning, your health can fail, and you may never be able to add to your life insurance program. Other hazards may prevent you from qualifying – occupation, character, even old age. What would happen if you suddenly woke up and decided to buy life insurance, but had lost your ability to qualify for it? Ever think about that?

I can tell you about our guarantee purchase option. Think about that! The ability to secure additional insurance, depending on the amount of your option, on a guarantee basis – without necessarily being in good health. This option can be added at issue of a new certificate up through age 37. Find out at your convenience how little it costs to guarantee the right to increase your protection.

Call me today for an appointment.

Fraternally,
Rick Morin, FICF, CSA
301.384.7627

MORE ON MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

Note: A great way to recruit new members is to have your family work the sign-up tables with you. Many of our parishioners would be more inclined to join the Knights of Columbus if they see that it is also a family-oriented organization.

To help recruit prospective Knights, the Mater Dei Council will host Coffee & Donuts on February 5. We need 3 Knights to work the coffee & donuts in St. Raphael's Trumpet Room after the 8:30, 10:00, and 11:30 masses.

We have 15 signed up to work Coffee & Doughnuts next weekend. About 25% of the available slots are filled. We only have one Knight signed up for the 11:30 mass. We need more. Please sign up.

If weather permits, I would also like to have Knights work the tables outside (or inside, if permitting) before and after each mass on February 4-5. Below is a "sign-up list" which you can fill in and return to me. I've also included a sign-up if you want to work the masses at Our Lady of Mercy.

Wil Adams successfully reserved the Cardinal Room at Our Lady of Mercy for February 5. Wil is the only one signed up to work all the masses at Our Lady of Mercy. If you could help him out, that would be appreciated.

APRIL-MAY ISSUE OF BLUE MANTLE

Please note the information on Page 5 about the next issue of the Blue Mantle. Due to the Editor's schedule, the April and May issue will be combined. The deadline for this double issue will be March 28. Officers and Committee Chairs should review their activities for this period so proper announcements can be included in the April-May issue.

SUBSIDIARITY AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Lawrence P. Grayson, DD, PGK, PFN

The American concept of democracy is based on having a government of, by, and for the people. It is rooted in individual freedom, equal rights protected by law, and a government of limited powers elected by the populace. If this approach is to work and be sustained, it requires social cooperation, a public ethic under which people do not usurp the legitimate rights of others, and checks and balances so that power is not aggregated into a single source.

Those who signed the Constitution were very conscious of the abuse of power and wanted to limit that of the central government. They did so in two ways. First, they divided the federal government into three coequal branches, each with distinct responsibilities and authority. Second, they checked the centralization of authority by creating a Bill of Rights which limits the powers of the government to those enumerated in the Constitution, and reserves to the States or the people those powers not so delegated.

The voice of the people is most effective when there is a pluralism of institutions that are intermediate between the nation and the individual. If mediating institutions do not exist, or are not active in opposing the centralizing impulse of government, there is a tendency for authority to increasingly become centralized and for the governing power to become monistic and juridically omnipotent. This is most likely to occur when societal needs arise that cannot be adequately be met by individuals. The government then takes upon itself the responsibility to satisfy those needs, becoming paternalistic and seeing that all of an individual's needs, as it defines them, are met. This in essence is the Welfare State, which is the antithesis of limited government and a threat to personal freedom.

In the encyclical, *Centimus Annus* (1991), Pope John Paul II described the effects of the Welfare State as leading "to a loss of human energies and an inordinate increase of public agencies which are dominated more by bureaucratic ways of thinking than by concern for their clients and which are accompanied by an enormous increase in spending."

Alexis de Tocqueville also warned against the tendency to create a benevolent, but all-powerful state:

"For their happiness such a government willingly labors, but it chooses to be the sole agent and the only arbiter of that happiness; it provides for their security, foresees and supplies their necessities, facilitates their pleasures, manages their principal concerns, directs their industry, regulates the descent of property, and subdivides their inheritances: what remains, but to spare them all the care of thinking and all the trouble of living?"

The antidote to an all-powerful, central government is subsidiarity, that is, the decentralization and devolving of authority and responsibility. This principle, which is central to Catholic social thought, holds that nothing should be done by a larger and more complex organization that can be done as well by a smaller and simpler organization. These smaller, intermediate groups, which include local communities, private organizations, labor unions, professional societies, associations of all types, church, and family, among others, operate within the state and assist in meeting the needs of society. They maintain, however, their own autonomy and identity without the state infringing on their ends.

Subsidiarity is based on the

autonomy and dignity of the individual. It holds that organizational structures in society, from the family to the community to the state to the nation to the international order should all be in the service of the human person. They should exist to help the person work out his existence as a creature of God.

The principle of subsidiarity was advanced by Pope Leo XIII in the encyclical, *Rerum Novarum* (1891), to establish a balanced position between the excesses of laissez-faire capitalism and the various forms of socialism which subordinate the individual to the state. The concept was developed further by Pope Pius XI, who stated in *Quadragesimo Anno* (1931):

"Just as it is generally wrong to take from individuals what they can accomplish by their own initiative and industry and give it to the community, so also is it an injustice and at the same time a grave evil and disturbance of right order to assign to a greater and higher association what less and subordinate organizations can do."

It was further discussed by Pope John XXIII in *Mater et Magistra* (1961), and by Pope John Paul II in *Centimus Annus* (1991).

Thus, the principle of subsidiarity, which is key to limited government and personal freedom, is a fundamental concept both in founding American political thought and in Catholic social teaching. Subsidiarity fosters the conditions for a society that allows individuals to exercise their free wills, develop their capacities, and fulfill their God-given responsibilities.

Parish Priest Available: The library at St. Raphael has a copy of "Parish Priest, Fr. Michael McGivney and American Catholicism" available for lending. Every Brother in the Council should read this book to gain a better appreciation of the Knights of Columbus and to understand the history of Catholicism in America. It should be recommended reading for prospective Knights by recruiters as an aid in demonstrating the benefits of belonging to this Fraternal organization. An announcement will be posted in the St. Raphael Bulletin informing parishioners of the book's availability.

Still Collecting Cans: We are still collecting aluminum cans after the Council meetings and Brothers can deliver bags of cans to my home for this money-making effort. Since inception about 11 years ago, the sale of these cans has generated over \$800 for the Council working fund. This is free money. When I have a carload of cans, I sell them to Montgomery Scrap which has paid between 23 and 35 cents per

pound, depending on the market. Please call me before delivering to my home since I am on travel at times. Thanks for your support.
Tony Cammarota, 301-424-6138

Bridge Building: We have many new members of the Council who may not be aware that we have three bridge groups meeting every month at a member's home on a rotating basis. The first and second Saturday of the month is regular party bridge, and the third Saturday is duplicate bridge. Each session has three tables. All levels of play are represented, and it is a fun social event. Some members play in both regular and duplicate. There is always room for another group to form if enough couples are interested. Substitutes are available to fill in for absentees if necessary. If you would like more information on the Council's bridge playing activity, please call Tony Cammarota at 301-424-6138.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March - April 2006

Mar 7	Council Executive Board Meeting 7:30 pm - DCC
Mar 9	Council Business Meeting - 8:00 pm - DCC 2nd Degree Exemplification
Mar 11	Council Anniversary Dinner - 6:00 pm Trumpet Room
Mar 15	McNamara Chapter Meeting - 7:00 pm - Trumpet Room
Mar 18	Rosary at Uptown Abortion Clinic - 10:00 am
Mar 23	Council Social Meeting - 8:00 pm - DCC
Mar 25	3 on 3 Basketball - 8:30 am - Our Lady of Mercy Gym
Apr 1	Tootsie Roll Dinner - 6:00 pm Trumpet Room
Apr 2	Host Coffee & Donuts - 8:00 am - Trumpet Room
Apr 4	Council Executive Board Meeting - 7:30 pm - DCC
Apr 13	Holy Thursday - No Council Meeting
Apr 16	Easter Sunday
Apr 25	Recruitment Open House - 7:30 pm
Apr 27	Council Meeting - 8:00 pm. - DCC - First Degree

SPECIAL NOTICE

**THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE
APRIL/MAY 2006**

**THIS WILL BE A
DOUBLE MONTH ISSUE**

**All articles for the APRIL/MAY Issue
must be received by the Editor by
Tuesday, March 28, 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.

**Thanks to All !
You
Made GAS a Success**

MARCH 2006



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