

The Blue Mantle

NOVEMBER
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



It's been a very busy and rewarding Fall. This week we initiated 5 new brothers into our council. They are David Barr, Jose Carbonell, Diego Corral, Dave Jordon, and Erik Stein. Welcome to you and your families.

This successful first degree was a result in large part of the fine work of Chancellor Bob McCaffery, along with many brother Knights who met with prospective members after mass and at the open house. I want to especially thank Scott Graham for leading the efforts Sunday in the Trumpet Room and

Richard Jasinski and Jorge Duarte who spoke at the masses about what it means to become a Knight.

At this writing our Tootsie Roll campaign to help the mentally handicapped is winding down. After four weekends of collections we have raised nearly \$7,000 for the mentally handicapped, and we still have one more weekend to go. I want to thank the scores of brothers who have donated their time to this cause, and especially to Don Novotny, who for the second year in a row has spent countless hours organizing and shepherding the campaign.

I would also like to thank those who both lead and attended the rosary offering each Thursday in October.

As we enter the holiday season, we should all take time to be thankful for the blessing that our Father has bestowed upon us. The holidays are also a time to remember those less fortunate than ourselves. Please be generous during the holiday

Thank you for all your hard work and continued dedication.
God Bless

Patrick DeGraba, Grand Knight

Christmas Party

Mater Dei will hold its Christmas party on Saturday December 3, in St Raphael's trumpet Room. Tickets are \$15 per person (over 21). Families are \$35. This will be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the company of your fellow knights and their families. Please make your reservations early (pdegraba@comcast.net) or 301 279-2873. Long Horn will be providing food and will need a count about a week before the event.

As in years past we will be collecting to support 6 seminarians. Please be generous during the season of giving. Checks made payable to Mater Dei Charities Inc. are tax deductible.

This year we will also be taking pictures as a keepsake of the event for a small donation. And as always we will need people to volunteer to help behind the bar and taking down tables after the event.

District Deputy's Message



November is a month which highlights both God and country. It begins with All Saints Day, a time to reflect on our relationship with our Lord and on the intended purpose for which we were created: to learn to know God, to love Him, and to lead our lives so as to spend eternity with Him in heaven. This day reminds us of those who have attained that end, and who exemplified through their lives ways -- some extraordinary, many ordinary -- that we too can lead our lives. As you participate in the Mass on that Holy Day of Obligation, think of your own patron saint, and ask him or her to help you to focus your thoughts and actions, the things you do and those you don't do, in accordance with God's will.

The second day of the month is All Souls Day. It is an opportunity to pray for those who have gone before us, especially our relatives and friends, that they may gain their heavenly reward. Those who are in Purgatory are not in a position to help themselves, and are awaiting their purification before proceeding on to heaven. But we here on Earth can speed their journey by our prayers and actions on their behalf. In turn, once in heaven, those souls whom we have helped will be able to assist us in our times of need.

As the month proceeds, we will celebrate Veterans Day -- originally known as Armistice Day to commemorate the end of World War I on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. Now, it is a time to remember all those who fought and died in the many battles over the past 229 years since this country was founded to preserve the nation and the liberties we enjoy. America is a wonderful country, but it continues to exist only because there

are people who are willing to serve in the Armed Forces and, if necessary, to sacrifice their lives for the good of the country. One of the most memorable speeches ever given on the virtues and values to be possessed by the professional military person in America was delivered by General Douglas MacArthur on May 12, 1962 at the U.S. Military Academy. Often referred to as his "Duty, honor, country" speech, I recommend that you take a moment and connect to the web site, <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/douglasmacarthurfarewelladdress.htm>, where you can either listen to the original speech or read it in full.

On Veterans Day, many of our Order's Assemblies place American flags on the graves of deceased veterans to honor those buried in their area. Many Councils hold special memorial events that day. Rock Creek Council, for one, will hold its annual Memorial Mass on November 11 to recognize its deceased members, as well as the veterans.

Near the end of the month, we have Thanksgiving, the quintessential American holiday. It is a time for families to gather to thank God for the benefits that they and the nation have received. I am always reminded at this time of the painting by Norman Rockwell of a family gathered at the dinner table, the turkey ready for carving, and with all heads bowed in prayer. Let's do no less.

Vivat Jesus!

Lawrence P. Grayson
District Deputy #18

FRATERNAL BENEFITS "...RENDERING PECUNIARY AID"

The month of November in the Knights Of Columbus is traditionally the time during which we remember our deceased Brother Knights -- those who have gone to their eternal reward.

Our thoughts also turn, naturally, to those who our Brother Knights have left behind -- their widows and children. These are the same people, though a different generation, who occupied Father McGivney's thoughts in 1882 when he founded the order.

The first two reasons listed on our charter for the establishment of the Knights Of Columbus are: "rendering pecuniary aid to its members, their families and beneficiaries of members" and "rendering mutual aid and assistance to its sick, disabled and needy members and their families".

My position as a field agent for the Order has evolved from those principles. I am here to help you plan financial security -- both for yourself and for those who you may leave behind. I am not here to sell you insurance because you might die and be a part of our remembrances next November. I am here to sell you insurance because someone else might live... and I think you love that someone and would like her to continue to live with dignity.

It's not a pretty thought, but picture the first November your loved ones will spend without you. How does it look?

Call me today for an appointment. I want to hear from you.

Fraternally,
Rick Morin
301.384.7627

Mass for Deceased Mater Dei Knights and Deceased Family Members

On Saturday, November 5, at 9:00 AM Saint Raphael's Parish is having a mass for deceased parish members. There are members of Mater Dei Council, William Satterfield and Anthony St. George, Sr.; and families members among those whom are being remembered, including Hazel Li, mother of John Li, Paul Schuncke, Jr., son of Jeanne and Paul Schuncke, Sr., and other Council Family members. As a Knight of Mater Dei Council come and pray for the souls of these deceased people, as well as their surviving family members. May these deceased Rest In Peace and the families receive peace.

Rosary at Uptown Abortion Clinic

We need as many Knights as possible to help pray that the local abortion clinic will one day be CLOSED. Only through prayer can this be done. Saturday, November 19th, is St. Raphael's Prayer Day at the Uptown abortion clinic. This is a call for all Knights and their families to get behind St. Raphael's project to combat the evils of abortion in our neighborhood. Come out, stand up and be counted for the unborn whose only crime is that God offered them the gift of life. Let's support this effort with a significant visible turnout of Mater Dei Council members and their families. We should also display our Mater Dei Council Knights of Columbus banner so that, along with our physical presence and recitation of Our Lady's rosary, we send the message that our Council is united in its support of the rights of the unborn and their mothers who are often killed or either physically/mentally injured by abortion.

Directions to the Uptown abortuary: Take Rt. 270 to Shady Grove Road. Go east on Shady Grove Road to Comprint Court. Make a left on Comprint Court and park anywhere on the street. The rosary will begin at 10:00 AM at the second drive way on the left.

EDUCATION IN RELIGION

Lawrence P. Grayson, DD, PGK, PFN

Underlying the concept of the American ideal of liberty is the conviction that only a virtuous and moral people can remain free. Without virtue, people's self-interest, passions and moral weakness in the face of temptation will dominate any concern for the just claims of others; this is a universal trait which arises from the fallen nature of man.

Since democracy depends upon the virtue of the people, it is as much a spiritual and moral enterprise as it is a political system. Many of the issues facing a nation are moral in nature: war, poverty, government-supported child care, definition of marriage, abortion, homosexual rights, minimum wage, access to health care, regulation of media content, disaster relief, toleration, immigration, tax policies, relationship of government to corporations, unrestrained trade, death penalty, and many more. In order to develop consensus on these issues, people must have some commonly agreed upon principles for making moral judgments. If they do not, there will be no basis for public discourse and consensus, and society will be marked by irresolvable discord. Even Thomas Jefferson, who did not profess any sectarian religion, believed in the social utility of religion and that commonly held religious beliefs were required for the smooth functioning of the political system.

Virtue and morality are best instilled through religion. Without belief in a just God, who will judge our Earthly actions and meet out reward or punishment, there is no ground for being moral. A social contract, automatically assumed upon entry into a community, is a weak way to instill societal obligations toward our fellow man, toward human life and its necessities in all of its stages, toward justice. Awareness of a Supreme Being may be innate, but religion must be learned. Benjamin Rush, in 1798, expressed the thinking of many of the leaders of the time, when he wrote: "The only foundation for a useful education in a republic is to be laid in religion. Without this

there can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty, and liberty is the object and life of all republican governments."

John Adams' arguments to the people of Massachusetts were reflected in Article III of the Massachusetts Constitution, written in the period 1776-1781. The Article begins: "As the happiness of a people and the good order and preservation of civil government essentially depend upon piety, religion, and morality, and as these cannot be generally diffused through a community but by...public instructions in piety, religion, and morality..."

Education, from the founding of the country until the mid-1800s, was left primarily to church-established schools. The public or common schools that existed were localized and dependent on the interest and support of local communities. In 1852, Massachusetts passed the first compulsory education law, and by the end of the century all states had similar statutes requiring students to attend at least elementary school. The arguments were that improved education would create virtuous, literate citizens, unite society, especially with the increase in immigration, create social stability, prevent crime, and reduce poverty.

The movement toward compulsory education and the transfer of responsibility from the church to the state was highly significant. The state now assumed responsibility for assuring a virtuous people, and most public schools inculcated moral virtues in their students but in a non-sectarian, although generally-Protestant sense. One of the ways that they did this was through the use of a series of graded readers developed by William Holmes McGuffey, who was a professor at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, as well as a Presbyterian minister. Based on his knowledge of the eighteenth-century Puritans' *New England Primer*, Noah Webster's *American Spelling Book*, and the *Bible*, McGuffey developed over the course of twenty years, beginning in 1836, a series of six readers and a spelling book. They

contained stories of widely varied subject matter appealing to youngsters, laced with religious, moral, and ethical principles. Over the generations of their use, the readers were revised and their content evolved, moving away from the original Calvinist values of salvation, righteousness, and piety to reflect the morality and cultural values of a broader American society that had incorporated religion within the civil structure. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the children of the emerging middle class were taught morality, good character, and given a common knowledge and worldview. The McGuffey readers had a profound influence on public education in the United States. By 1920 over 122 million copies had been sold.

Instilling unifying moral principles does not require uniformity in religious education. America's history has shown that the basic moral concepts necessary for a republic to function can be taught through a wide variety of sectarian beliefs. The nation's approach to religious pluralism has worked. However, until the last few decades, neutrality toward religion meant an equal treatment of all religious beliefs. This view has morphed first into equal treatment for religion and anti-religion, and more recently into an exclusion of any recognition of religion or religious beliefs in public schools. The efforts to remove all references to God, coupled with the license to address any non-religious topic, regardless of how it may offend the traditional mores of the community, have made our schools irreligious. The result is that the children being taught are not learning to ask the questions which arise from religion, and certainly not learning the answers religion teaches.

STEAM TRAIN EXCURSION OPPORTUNITY

Below is a unique opportunity for a steam locomotive ride, organized by PGK Wally Stack of our council, St. Joseph Manyanet #5567. He would like to invite Brother Knights and their families from other councils in our district to also attend this activity at the special group rate.

Did you ever wish that you could ride in a steam locomotive? Did you ever wish that you could ride on a railroad caboose? Well maybe you can, if you go on a train trip sponsored by the Washington Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society, on Saturday November 12th. The train departs from the Rockville MARC train station at 7:30 A.M. on Saturday, November 12th, and will travel to Cumberland, MD, where you will board a steam train from The Western Maryland Scenic Railroad (WMSC), for a round-trip to Frostburg, MD. Some passengers will be able to ride in the engine, and others will be able to ride in a caboose, on this portion of the trip. A photo run-by is planned for Helmstetter's Curve, to enable camera buffs to capture this dramatic moment on camera. A continental breakfast will be served shortly after boarding the MARC train in Rockville, Luncheon will be served aboard the

WMSC, and a light evening meal will be served on the return trip back to Rockville. A return to the Rockville MARC station is anticipated at approximately 7:20 P.M. PGK Wally Stack, a member of the Washington Chapter, has negotiated a special group rate for all members of the Knights of Columbus of \$109.00 for coach seats, or \$149.00 for first-class seats, a \$20.00 discount off of the regular price. This is a 'once in a life-time' opportunity, that may never happen again, if the WMSC's subsidy from the State of Maryland is not renewed, and the railroad shuts down permanently. How to purchase tickets: tickets may be ordered on-line at www.dcnrhs.org <<http://www.dcnrhs.org>>, or may be purchased by mail to Washington DC Chapter NRHS, Excursion Ticket Agent, PO Box 251, Savage MD 20763-0251.

BE SURE TO INDICATE THAT YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GROUP, AND IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RIDE IN THE ENGINE OR THE CABOOSE, STATE YOUR PREFERENCE ACCORDINGLY. ALL ABOARD!

Westfield Works Wonders

Mater Dei will once again participate in the Westfield Works Wonders Charity Fundraiser. This is a night of discount shopping at Montgomery Mall on Saturday November 13, from 6:30 till 9:30. Two tickets for admission are attached to the Blue Mantle. (children under 12 are free) The price this year is \$10 per ticket. If you sell these tickets (or use them yourself) please return the left hand stub to me (just like raffle tickets) along with the money, 14417 Stonebridge View Dr. North Potomac, MD. Our Council retains 70% of the proceeds from ticket sales. If you want additional tickets please contact Dick Bianchi 301 279-7244. There are some really great prices this year including a hot tub, a Wintergreen Resort package, A weekend at the Marriott Bethesda Suites, Independence Air Tickets, iPod shuffle, and many more. See our Web sight for a complete list. We also need about 5 knights to work at Montgomery Mall the evening of the 13th.

INCENTIVE RAFFLE AWARDS

First Prize Winner of 2005 Pontiac Vibe or 2005 GMC Pickup; Diego Caldero of Montgomery Village, MD. Ticket sold by: El Consejo de San Juan Diego Council # 13463

Second Prize: 27" Color TV; Leon S. Hill of Mech., MD. Ticket sold by: St. Mary's Council # 1470

Top Selling Council for 2005: Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Council # 7612 – Sold 5,790 Tickets

Largest Increase Over Last Year: Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom Council # 11259 – Sold 2,693 more tickets than last year

"Rejoice in this Land" Concert on November 14

Join in making marking the 40th Anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*, the Second Vatican Council's landmark declaration on interfaith relations, with a musical tribute. Sir Gilbert Levine, hailed at "the Pope's Maestro" will conduct the world-class Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in an evening of majestic music at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Monday, Nov. 14

8:00 p.m.

Free Admission

Seating is first come, first served.

DIRECTORY OF KEY CONTACTS

GRAND KNIGHT

Pat DeGraba 301-279-2873

pdegraba@comcast.net

DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT

Wilsie Adams 301-924-1422

wil-rosemaryathome@erols.com

CHANCELLOR

Robert McCaffrey

WARDEN

John Phillips 301-340-1360

johnphillips313@earthlink.net

RECORDER

Joe Doane 301-983-1578

sassi222@juno.com

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

John Frey 301-424-3386

kofcjsf@comcast.net

GUARDS:

Robert Scott

Greg Daily

Don Novotny

Camille Ng

TRUSTEES

John Cavallo 301-762-3081

jcavallo@comcast.net

Bob Fontana, PGK 301-765-7997

rjdsfl1403@verizon.net

Tom Schneider, PGK 301-279-0291

tomandjulie@fastmail.fm

DISTRICT DEPUTY

Lawrence P. Grayson

lppgrayson@earthlink.net

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Wilsie Adams, Deputy Grand Knight

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Robert McCaffney, Chancellor

CHURCH PROGRAM

Don Meyer 301-983-0617

COUNCIL PROGRAM

Open

FAMILY PROGRAM

Open

COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Thomas Sherman 301-340-2042

mtptnrs@aol.com

YOUTH PROGRAM

John Li 301-424-2713

jli@fbw.com

EDITOR, BLUE MANTLE

William Hunter 301-762-0805

editor9774@comcast.net

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

November 2005

Nov 1	Executive Board Meeting - DCC - 7:30 pm
Nov 10	Council Business Meeting - DCC - 8:00 pm
Nov 24	Thanksgiving - No Council meeting.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events

December 3	Breakfast with Santa Mater Dei Christmas Dinner
February 24 and 25	Garage to Attic Sale
March 11	Council Anniversary Dinner

Our Web Site

I want to thank Bill Arcieri, Camille Ng and Eric Gregrich for revamping the Mater Dei websight. You can view it at <http://www.geocities.com/materdei9774/>. There is lots of information about upcoming events and pictures of previous events. Enjoy!

THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE DECEMBER 2005

All articles for the DECEMBER Issue

**must be received by the Editor by
Sunday, Nov. 27, 6:00 P.M.
editor9774@comcast.net**

EMAIL ADDRESS ? ?

Does the Financial Secretary have your email address? Please advise

John Frey

kofcjsf@comcast.net
if you now have email, or have a
change of email address.

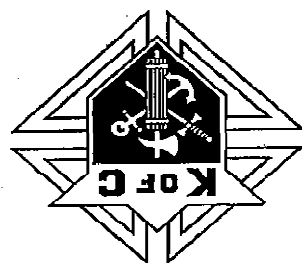
If you wish to receive the Blue Mantle via an email PDF file (Adobe Acrobat Reader required), please send an email to the Editor. The email will be sent ahead of the mailed copy.

E-mail Update from Grand Knight DeGraba:

I am updating my e-mail list. If you have not received e-mails from me in the past week or so (or you have changed your e-mail address in the past couple of months) please e-mail me at pdegraba@comcast.net and I will add you to the list. Thanks!

Happy Thanksgiving

NOVEMBER 2005



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Knight of Columbus
Mater Dei Council 9774
P. O. Box 10237
Rockville, MD 20849-0237

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