



The Blue Mantle



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

November 2006

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

Grand Knight's Report

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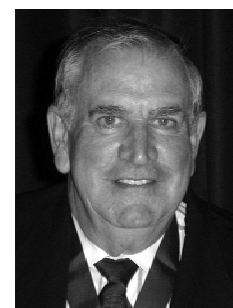
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While our busiest period is winding down, Tootsie Rolls, Voter registration, Raffle sales and our first recruiting blitz are behind us, we are entering another period of sustained activity. Bill Shaffer is assembling his team for the Garage to Attic Sale. We are preparing for Advent, the Christmas season and our annual Christmas Party. The New Year will offer many opportunities for Charity, Church and Community service and the fraternity of our brotherhood.

The period just ending however causes me to

pause and reflect on our many accomplishments and recognize the generosity of our council both in terms of its time and money. We have had so many requests for Brothers to volunteer their time and effort and every request has been answered. It certainly does make me proud to be a Knight and proud to be associated with you all.

When I assumed this office I expressed a desire not so much to do anything more than we have done in the past but to try to do what we do a little bit better and



Wilsie Adams
Grand Knight

to increase the participation of more of our members. You have not let me down. We are doing things a little better (Tootsie Roll receipts will probably reach a new high for us) and I believe participation is (Continued on page 2)

Special points of interest:

* You can read the article "The Origins of American Democracy, Greek & Roman" from Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, FNN on our Web Site under the following URL:

<http://www.geocities.com/materdei9774/grayson/grayson.htm>

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 (Continued on page 2)

Grand Knight's Report

growing all the time. I would however encourage you to try to attend a meeting now and then. Meeting attendance has been a slight disappointment.

I want to pause for a second and formally express our appreciation to Father Grant Gaskin for transferring to our Council. Since he has come on

board, he has attended every event. His presence is much appreciated. I had to chuckle a little bit when Father Grant, noticing the rather small crowd at a meeting recently, asked me, somewhat naively, when were we going to have a meeting for all 230 plus members. We have a meeting for *all* every month if not twice but you would not know it from the number present.

Elsewhere in this edition you will see the reflections of Hans Schierling describing his reaction to the distribution of last year's GAS proceeds. Better than I could he expresses the feelings I experience nearly every day in this position.

God bless you all.

Fraternal Benefits

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. Together we can explore how the Knights of Columbus can best serve you and your family's needs.

Fraternally,
Rick Morin
301.384.7627

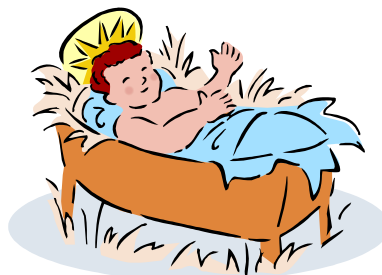
Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas Party will be held on Dec.2, 2006 at 6:00 PM (after the 5:00 pm Mass) in the Trumpet Room.

This year we are inviting the other four Councils of District 18 and expect to fill the room. In addition to dinner, beer wine and soda, we expect to have caroling, a DJ and possibly a visit from the Jolly Old Elf. This is a family affair.

Admission will be \$20.00 per individual, \$35.00 per couple. Children under 12 are free. Children over 12 will be \$10.00 each. Widows and Priests are free.

Make reservations early by contacting the Grand Knight at 301-924-1422 or wadams@whalaw.com.



District Director Corner

November is a month of sadness and joy. November 2 is All Soul's Day. On this day we pray for the faithfully departed. Veteran's Day is a day to remember those who died in the service of our country and thank those who served in the Armed Forces. The month also brings us the opportunity to thank God for the blessings we have received in our lives. The Entrance Antiphon for Thanksgiving Day sets the tone for our religious observance, "Sing and play music in your hearts to the Lord, always giving thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph 5:19-20). Let's try to celebrate Thanksgiving by sharing what we have with the less fortunate. Also, please remember St. Andrew Dung-Lac, priest, martyr, and his martyred companions whose feast day is November 24. St. Andrew was one of 117 people who were martyred in Vietnam between 1820 and 1862. Another example of those who came before us and shed their blood to spread the word of God.

To my fellow veterans and those who supported us, I express my thanks.

Mary Queen of the Knights pray for us.

God bless America.

Tom Schneider

First KofC bishop to be canonized

Rafael Guízar Valencia Known for His Zeal

ROME, OCT. 10, 2006 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- Bishop Rafael Guízar Valencia will become the seventh Knight of Columbus to be canonized, but the first bishop of the Catholic organization to be declared a saint.

Pope John Paul II declared six other knights saints in 2000, all of whom were martyred in Mexico during the persecutions of the 1920s and 1930s. "We welcome the canonization of our brother knight, Bishop Guízar Valencia, and know that his life of courage and legacy of evangelization will be an inspiration to each of our 1.7 million members around the world," said Carl Anderson, supreme knight.

Anderson said that he will attend the Oct. 15 canonization ceremony in Rome, presided over by Benedict XVI.

Rafael Guízar Valencia (1878 -1938) was born in Cotija de la Paz, Michoacan, Mexico, and ordained a priest in 1901.

With the start of the Mexican revolution in 1910, persecution of the Catholic Church became severe, and Father Guízar Valencia became a special target because of his outspoken defense of the Church.

He went underground, disguised as a junk dealer, in order to be able to continue his work as a priest. In 1915, when the Mexican government issued an order that he be shot on sight, he escaped to the United States, and then went on to serve the church in Guatemala and Cuba.

While in Cuba, he was consecrated bishop of Veracruz, Mexico. The end of the revolution enabled him to return to Mexico in January 1920. He joined the Knights of Columbus in 1923.

Seminary

As bishop, he founded a clandestine seminary to train future priests, noting that a "bishop can do without a miter, a crosier, and even a cathedral, but never without a seminary, because the future of his diocese depends on the seminary."

Bishop Guízar Valencia was forced to flee Mexico once again in 1927, during the persecution of the Church under Mexican President Plutarco Calles.

He returned in 1929, the year the Church reached an accord with the Mexican government.

After his return to Mexico, Bishop Guízar Valencia continued his ministry, and became known as "the bishop of the poor."

He died of natural causes on June 6, 1938, and was beatified by Pope John Paul II on Jan. 29, 1995.

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Spiritual Life

Love

Such is the life in Christ, concealed, and thus made manifest by the light of good works, which is love. In love the brightness of all virtue consists and, as far as human effort is concerned, it constitutes the life in Christ. Accordingly one would not err by calling it life, for it is union with God. This union is life, just as we know that death is separation from God. For this reason Christ says, "His commandment is eternal life" (Un 12: 50). Speaking of love the Savior also says, "the words that I speak to you are spirit and life" (Jn 6: 63), of which love is the sum, and "he who abides in love abides in God and God in him" (1 Jn 4: 16), which is the same as abiding

in life and life in him, for he says, "I am the life" (Jn 11: 25, 14: 6).



If life is also the power that moves the things which live, what is it that moves those men who truly live, whose God is God, who "is not the God of the dead, but of the living" (Mk 12: 27)? You will find that it is nothing but love itself, which not only leads and moves them, but also readily brings them

out of themselves, and is thus more capable than any life of having the effect that life may the more prevail! It persuades men to despise life, not merely that which is transitory, but even that which stands firm.

What then may life be more fittingly called than love? For that which alone survives and does not allow the living to die when all things have been taken away is life - and such is love.

Nicholas Cabasilas

Nicholas Cabasilas († late fourteenth century) lived near Constantinople and was a monk and theological writer.

Meditation

Union of the soul with God

In this interior union God communicates himself to the soul with such genuine love that no mother's affection, in which she tenderly caresses her child, nor brother's love, nor friendship is comparable to it. The tenderness and truth of love by which the immense Father favors and exalts this humble and loving soul reaches such a degree - O wonderful thing, worthy of all our awe and admiration! - that the Father himself becomes subject to her for her exaltation, as though he were her servant and she his lord. And he is as solicitous in favoring her as he would be if he were her slave and she his god. So profound is the humility and sweetness of God!

In this communication of love, he exercises in some way that very service that he says in the Gospel he will render to his elect in heaven, that is: girding himself and passing from one to another, he will minister to them (Lk 12: 37). He is oc-

The Father himself becomes subject to her for her exaltation, as though He were her servant and she his lord.

cupied here in favoring and caressing the soul like a mother who ministers to her child and nurses it at her own breasts. The soul thereby comes to know the truth of Isaiah's words: "You shall be carried at the breast of God and upon his knees you will be caressed" (Is 66: 12).

What then will be the soul's

experience among such sovereign graces! How she will be dissolved in love!

Saint John of the Cross († 1591) is called the Mystical Doctor.



The Love of God

The embrace of God

A way in which the soul knows that God is within it is by an embrace which God bestows upon the soul. Never has a mother embraced her son with such love, nor can anyone else on this earth be imagined who embraces with a love that nears the indescribable love with which God embraces the soul. God presses it to himself with such tenderness and such love that I think that no one on earth who has not had this experience can believe it. Since I, the brother scribe, resisted her on this point - for I found it hard to believe - Christ's faithful one responded: "One could perhaps believe something of it but not its full expression."



This embrace of God sets ablaze a fire within the soul with which the whole soul burns for Christ. It also produces a light so great that the soul understands the fullness of God's goodness which it experiences in itself, and which is,

moreover, much greater than the soul's experience of it. The effect then of this fire within the soul is to render it certain and secure that Christ is within it...

In this state, God, likewise, produces in the soul such a superabundance of joy that it does not know what more to ask for; more, if this state lasted, I would consider myself to be in paradise. This joy has an effect that can be observed in every part of the body. Everything bitter or injurious or whatever else one could be afflicted with becomes sweet.

Blessed Angela of Foligno († 1309) was a wife and mother who later became a Franciscan tertiary and

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Special Notices

- Congratulations to Larry and Ursula Boesch on their selection as Family of the Month for September.
- If you would like to receive a copy of each month's Blue Mantle as an PDF file, please send your request by email to the Editor.
- The next issue will be December 2006
All articles for the December issue must be received by the Editor by Friday November 24.
- Have a safe, happy and holy Thanksgiving!

Schedule of Events: November-December 2006

Wed Nov 1	All Saints - Holy Day of obligation
Tue Nov 7	Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30pm DCC
Thu Nov 9	Regular Business Meeting, 8pm DCC
Thu Nov 23	NO MEETING - Happy Thanksgiving!
Sat Dec 2	Annual Christmas Party
Tue Dec 5	Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30pm DCC
Fri Dec 8	Immaculate Conception—Holy Day of obligation
Sun Dec 10	Coffee and Donuts at St Raphael & recruiting at St Raphael and Our Lady of Mercy
Tue Dec 12	Open House for potential new members 7:30pm TBD
Thu Dec 14	1 st Degree Ceremony and regular business meeting Recruits report at 7:30 Meeting and degree ceremony at 8pm DCC
Mon Dec 25	Christmas—Holy day of obligation
Thu Dec 28	Social Meeting 8pm DCC



"The Blue Mantle" is a publication of Knights of Columbus, Mater Dei Council No. 9774, Rockville, MD.
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