



The Blue Mantle



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

November 2007
Our Thanksgiving to God

Knights of Columbus Mater Dei Council #9774

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Knights News:

The best way for us to give thanks to God is to participate in the Eucharist (which comes from the Greek *eucharistia* which mean "Thanksgiving").

In the third Eucharist prayer, the priest celebrant proclaims: "Father, calling to mind the death your Son endured for our salvation, his glorious resurrection and ascension into heaven, and ready to greet him when he comes again, we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice."

The Eucharist was also called "agape" or "love-feast", it is a banquet of love prepared for us by Jesus.

Grand Knight's Report

October just seemed to fly by what with all the activities that our Council conducted this past month. As always our successes would not have been possible without the cooperation and tireless efforts of all our brothers. I would like to express my particular thanks to some who have gone beyond the call of duty.

Thanks go to Don Novotny and his crew of workers on the Tootsie Roll Campaign. Under Don's leadership the campaign should turn out to be the most successful effort so far for the Council. Those of you who have not yet volunteered, please give Don a call and volunteer. Every dollar we raise goes directly to some child suffering from some intellectual disability.

Tom Sherman has been quietly conducting

the annual Entertainment Book Sales again for us. This directly helps the working fund of the Council and also pays for itself in money saving coupons. I encourage all brothers to take advantage of the opportunity by calling Tom to get yours.

Finally I would like to thank our Warden, Don Titzman, who has not only revolutionized his office by providing us with delicious Texas style cooking at many of our events, but has revealed his talents as a first rate sign maker. The professional looking signs that he made for the Tootsie Roll Campaign and our October Blitz have been both informative and eye-catching. Don has been a member for less than a year, but has quickly become an example to all our new members on how to make the most of membership in the Knights of Columbus.

(Continued on next page)

Tootsie Rolls

Letter to All Brothers from Tootsie Roll Campaign Chairman.

Thanks and congratulations to our many many volunteers - the 2007 store-sites campaign went very well!! The final count is not yet in; hopefully we'll again top the \$10k mark, and we can rest assured that the mentally handicapped children of our county, and the people working directly with them, will be MOST GRATEFUL!

Mater Dei Council can be

very proud; approximately 109 Brothers volunteered!!! That's about 15 more than in '06, even though the number of able-bodied, locally-resident, dues-paid members (roughly 160, not including clergy and deaconate) is only slightly above a year ago. We were determined to reach each and every potential volunteer, and sometimes that meant repeated calls or perhaps overlapping messages; we hope that wasn't a problem for anybody.

Sixty eight Brothers did a single 2-hour time-slot, and 41 did multiple slots. Of 176

scheduled time-slots (mostly 2-hrs each) only five went uncovered, due either to lack of volunteers at the last stage, or just nobody to cover for an to accidental no-show; that means roughly 340 volunteer-hours at store-sites, not counting their

(Continued on next page) driving time, etc.

There was also lots of set-up/take-down volunteer-time (probably another 100 hours); Jack Wohlhieter and I, who along with Dick Jasinski attempted to orchestrate that part, want

With the start of November we begin to look forward to the upcoming holiday season. The Council will have many important activities over the next two months. On November 8th we play host for the District 18 Second Degree exemplification. This will be an excellent opportunity for our new members and veteran members who have not taken the Second Degree to do so on our home turf. Please contact Joe Doane to participate.

December will be another busy month for the Council. On December 1 we will again help out at Breakfast and Lunch with Santa at St. Raphael parish. On December 8

we will have our Annual Council Christmas Party, featuring the fine cuisine of master chefs Don Titzman and Dick Jasinski, as well as a visit from a special guest from the North Pole. On December 13, in place of our regular business meeting, we will have an exemplification of the First degree, and December 27th we will close out the calendar year with an always popular Poker Night.

In closing I would like to discuss two items of news for the Council. On October 26th we were pleased to welcome 5 new members to the Council: Jack Lyons, John Gallagher, Federico Sologuren, Jason Lising, and Michael Donahue. I am certain that all of these

fine men will become active and vital members of our organization. Let us extend a warm and hearty welcome to our newest members.

October also marked the passing of our dear brother Phil McClean, who succumbed to complications from cancer treatment. His warmth and vitality will be missed by all who new him. Our prayers go out for the repose of Phil's soul and for Sally and the McClean family.

As always,

Vivat Jesus

Bill Shaffer, Grand Knight

to especially thank Ted Tate, Nick Nylec, George Prokop, Joe Doane, Wes Chang, Paul Sullivan, Walt Burns, Tom Buck, John Li, Mike Herman, Dick Ekenrode, Pat De-Graba, and Bill Shaffer for that assistance (hope we haven't missed someone). Special thanks, too, to Don Titzman for help in preparing new signboards - which were a big hit this year, and to Joe Murray, for photography help, and finally to GK Shaffer for his leadership and overall support.

But the most satisfying part - and surely all of the volunteers experienced it this year - were the THOUSANDS of shoppers who were visibly touched by our work for a very good local cause. Many, many of the shoppers stopped to visit, and thank us profusely. The over-all spirit was wonderful. We handed out nearly 7,000 Tootsie Rolls to an estimated 25,000 donors and donor-family members (an estimated 10,000 asked simply that we give the tootsie roll to someone who needs it more!!!)

But the final dollar count and enabling Knights to be seen doing good works are not the whole story. What's probably far more important

is how valuable our actions can be in terms of enhancing public awareness of the need - and the joy - of helping the less fortunate among us. Besides the 25,000 estimated donors and donor-family members, there were at least another 75,000 non-donors, virtually all of whom could not help but take notice of our effort and reflect upon it to themselves. Quite an accomplishment, Brothers, to touch some 100,000 people with Christian spirit!

So, thanks to everyone, including the many with exceptional work and family obligations who tried sincerely to find a time-slot that worked for them but in the end just couldn't. God Bless!

Don Novotny

While on "Tootsie Roll duty" at Cabin John, a Giant shopping cart employee, a boy about 14, dropped \$4 in my basket. It was a tip he received from a Giant customer.

I thanked him, explained the Tootsie Roll campaign, and offered a piece of candy.

"No, thanks," he said, "Give it to somebody who needs it."

Later, he brought another tip to the basket, this time with a big smile on his face.

While all the donations to the Tootsie Roll collection were appreciated, the "tip donations" seemed especially valuable to me. It made the 1-hour collection stint really worthwhile.

Tom Buck, 10/16/2007



Annual Christmas Dinner, December 8

Mark your calendars. It's time to start planning for Knights of Columbus Annual Christmas Dinner December 8, @ 6:00 PM in the St. Raphael Trumpet Room. Cost this year will be \$10 per person and \$25 per family.

You are invited and encouraged to bring a neighbor or friend as guest of the Grand Knight. They will not pay a fee. We'd

like to use this event as a recruiting event.

Some of you enjoyed the culinary treats of Don Titzman at our KofC end-of-summer picnic. You will have this opportunity again as Don T & Dick J will be manning the kitchen.

Keep in mind that we use this event for our annual Seminarian collection. If

you can't make this event plan to send your contribution and support to KofC Mater Dei Charities, John Frey, Financial Secretary (use the address posted on this Blue Mantle).

Reservations for this event may be made by calling Bob McCaffrey 301-251-5225. Your early call would be appreciated.



What if?

If you knew that today was the last chance you would ever have to buy additional life insurance, how much would you buy? If you had a money-making machine, that once broken, could never be repaired, how much would you insure it for?

If you knew that today was the last time you would have the opportunity to guarantee your family an income if something happened to you, how much income would you give them? If you knew that today marked the end of your ability to buy future retirement security, how much would you buy?

Isn't it safe to say that you would put some additional dollars into more life insurance protection that could be used for family or retirement benefits?

Chances are that you will be around for a long time, but life is full of "ifs" and surprises, isn't it?

Let me help you plan for the future. Call me today.

Faternally,

Rick Morin, FICF/LUTCF

Putting God at the Center of our lives

"There are so many problems one could list that must be solved, but none of them can be solved unless God is put at the center, if God does not become once again visible to the world, if he does not become the determining factor in our lives, and also enters the world in a decisive way through us.

In this, I believe that the future of the world in this dramatic situation is decided today: whether God - the God of Jesus Christ - exists and is recognized as such, or whether he disappears" (Pope Benedict XVI).

These words are extraordinary, profound, and even radical. They tell us that none of the problems of the world can be solved unless God "enters the world in a decisive way through us."

The Pope then goes on to say that the future of the world will be decided on the basis of whether "the God of Jesus Christ exists and is recognized as such, or whether he disappears."

These are powerful words for all Catholics...

Our charity has a special character

because it arises from the reality that God is indeed the "determining factor in our lives."

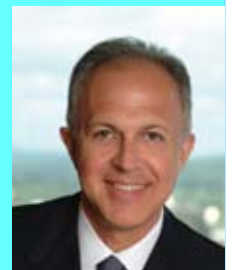
Our commitment to helping our neighbor in need is not the result of an ethical position or a political philosophy. It arises from a personal relationship with the one who first gave himself to us as a gift, in a supreme act of charity...

As the Holy Father suggests, the God of Jesus Christ seeks a decisive encounter with each person, with each society, and with each culture...

What we rightfully should and must do is precisely what the Pope has urged us to do: Put God at the center of our lives and, in doing so, permit God to enter the world in a decisive way through us.

This is the great challenge confronting Catholics in our time.

Carl A. Anderson
Supreme Knight of
the Knights of Co-
lumbus, Jan 2007.



Editorial: Life

What is life?

Most often, we use the term "life" as a shortcut for "human life", for "physical or biological life", which is the moment from conception to death.

"The Church believes that every life has been created by God in his own image and likeness and that all life is sacred from the moment of conception to the point of natural death" (Pastoral letter from the Irish Episcopal Conference, Day for Life, Oct 8, 2007)

Why life?

What is the meaning of life? Why did God create mankind? Those are questions that man often asked himself. Maybe the best answer can be summarized in this very famous quote from Saint Irenaeus (130-200 A.D.): *"The glory of God is the living man and the life of man consists in the vision of God"* (Adversus haereses, IV, 20-6).

"The glory of God is the living man."

God is the source of life. After God created Adam, he saw that it was *"very good"* (Gn 1:31). Man is the masterpiece of God's creation and He wants to see man live. His plan is to see man live for all eternity.

"The lesson of creation is the glory of God, for creation glorifies God by its very existence" (Fr Mark Elvins OFM Cap). The creation glorifies God by its beauty, its balance and perfection, but most of all the creation glorifies God as a concrete sign of His love for its creatures. It shows "the outpouring of His love and a sign of His prodigal generosity" (Fr Mark Elvins).

The whole living creation glorifies God, and most of all creatures, "the living man".

"The life of man consists in the vision of God."

Conversely, because God is the source of life, the closer we are to God, the more life we have. Apart from God, we *"can do nothing"*, we are like a branch cut off from the vine (cf. Jn 15:5) or a body part separated from the body (cf. 1 Co 12). And because we came forth from God, we reflect and express Him in our beings, and long to return to Him.

Saint Bonaventure wrote: *"Every creature is an aspect of God's self-expression in the world, and since every creature has its foundation in the Word, each is equally close to God."* *"God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them"* (Gn 1:27). He "established him in his friendship. A spiritual creature, man can live this friendship only in free submission to God. [...] Man is dependent on his Creator and subject to the laws of creation and to the moral norms that govern the use of freedom" (CCC 396).

Why Death?

The other side of the coin is that if we cut ourselves off from God, the source of life, we bring death upon ourselves. God made man for eternal life, *"But by the envy of the devil death came into the world"* (Wis 2:24; Cf. Gen 2:17; 3:3,19). *"Through one man sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned"* (Rom 5:12).

"Sin is before else an offense against God, a rupture of communion with him" (CCC 1440).

"Sin is an abuse of the freedom that God gives to created persons so that they are capable of loving him and loving one another." (CCC 387)

Jesus redeems fallen humanity

"The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 6:23) "Saint Paul contrasts the universality of sin and

death with the universality of salvation in Christ: *"Then as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one man's act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men."* (Rom 5:18) " (CCC 402). "For by a man came death and by a man the resurrection of the death" (1 Co 15:21).

Jesus is the summit of life and of creation

"The summit of creation is the Incarnation, the raising up of fallen humanity in the person of Christ who, by taking human nature, enfleshed the divine. Thus God was made visible as part of creation. In this way God's uncreated nature became united to created nature in Christ, and revealed the hidden language of creation in his divinized humanity. To know Christ is to rediscover the language of creation. In this way St Francis saw the truth of every created thing in relation to God" (Fr Mark).

Jesus gives us life

Jesus calls himself the bread of life: *"I am the bread of life"* (Jn 6:48). Through Jesus we regain participation in the life of God, we become *"partakers of the divine nature"* (2 Peter 1:4). We become the *"body of Christ"* (1 Co 12:27). Jesus gives us life through his flesh and blood.

So Jesus said to them, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me. This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live for ever"* (John 53-58).

The Eucharist is the Source and Summit of Christian life

St Irenaeus compares the change wrought by Christ in the Holy Eucharist to the transformation our bodies await when Christ descends on the last day to summon all the dead. **"The Eucharist already gives us a foretaste of Christ's transformation of our bodies: 'Just as the bread that comes from the earth after God's blessing has been invoked upon it, is no longer ordinary bread, but Eucharist, formed of two things, the one earthly and the other heavenly: so too our bodies, which partake of the Eucharist, are no longer corruptible, but possess the hope of resurrection' (Ave. haeres)" (CCC 1000).**

Eternal life (or Everlasting Life)

"Eternal life is that life which begins immediately after death. It will have no end. It will be preceded for each person by a particular judgment at the hands of Christ who is the Judge of the living and the dead. This particular judgment will be confirmed in the final judgment" (Compendium of the CC, #207).

"Christians firmly believe that being made in the likeness of God means that the ultimate destiny is in the next life. St Augustine said that human beings were created not for this world but for the next" (Catholicism for dummies).

Because Christ rose from the dead, we, too, are destined to rise again. "We shall rise like Christ, with him, and through him" (CCC 995).

Sanctity of life

"Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains for ever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can un-

der any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being" (CCC 2258).

Stem Cell research

"Pope Benedict appealed to scientists on Thursday to stop using human embryos in stem cell research, saying it violated the dignity of human life. The Vatican supports stem cell research so long as it does not harm embryos, which the Catholic Church argues are humans from the moment of conception. The Church supports research on adult cells and promising alternatives to embryonic research, such as the use of amniotic fluid protecting fetuses in the uterus" (Reuters, Oct 11, 2007).

"Many people are unaware that adult stem cells are located throughout the human body and are providing treatments, even cures, without harming the donor person." "Catholics have the right and duty to assist all who are suffering, and medical science, through adult stem cell research and its proven track record of success, has opened a door of hope" (Michigan Catholic Conference).

Abortion

"The fundamental human right, the presupposition of every other right, is the right to life itself. This is true of life from the moment of conception until its natural end. Abortion, consequently, cannot be a human right - it is the very opposite" (Pope Benedict XVI).

"What is taking place in America is a war against the child. And if we accept that the mother can kill her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another" (Mother Teresa).

Euthanasia

"The proper response to end-of-life suffering is loving care and accompaniment on the journey toward

death - especially with the help of palliative care - and not 'actively assisted death'" (Benedict XVI, Sep 1st, 2007).

"There is a difference between deliberately causing death and unduly prolonging life. We are not morally obliged, to prolong life if the means used are unduly burdensome or cause additional suffering and when there is little hope of recovery" (Ontario Episcopal Conference, April 2007).

Death Penalty

"I renew the appeal for a consensus to end the death penalty" (John-Paul II, Jan 27, 1999).

"Pope John Paul II and the bishops have clearly asked us to act to end the use of the death penalty. The death penalty diminishes all of us. Its use ought to be abandoned not only for what it does to those who are executed, but for what it does to us as a society. We cannot teach respect for life by taking life" (USCCB).

"We cannot overcome crime simply by executing criminals, nor can we restore the lives of the innocent by ending the lives of those convicted of their murders. The death penalty offers the tragic illusion that we can defend life by taking life" (UCCCB).

"The inhumanity and uselessness of the death penalty ... impoverishes the society that legitimizes it and practices it and leaves no room for rehabilitation of the condemned" (Cardinal Martino, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Sep 27, 2007).

Knights for life

"We must recommit ourselves to labor unceasingly in defense of human life at every stage - from conception to natural death. No effort in this cause is too small to add a vital portion to the patchwork that will build a Culture of Life" (Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson).

"God's greatest gift to us, is the gift of life. What we do with our life, is our gift to God" (Mother Teresa).



Blood Drive

The final K of C-sponsored blood drive of 2007 was held October 18 in the Duffy Center. There were 26 donors, resulting in 19 productive units of blood. The Red Cross was quite thankful for the support and the K of C is thankful to the donors and volunteers. This drive ran very smoothly.

Since the Duffy Center worked out so well, the next two scheduled drives will be held there. Please put January 23 and May 28, 2008 on your calendars and remember you need to have 56 days between donations. We hope to increase the number of donors for these next drives. The goal is 30 donors.

Picture on the left:

Grand Knight Bill Shaffer demonstrates that giving blood can be fun, while Mike Herman and Dick Eckenrode look on.

Soccer Shootout

After a several year hiatus, Mater Dei conducted its first ever council competition at nearby Mary of Nazareth School on Wednesday, Oct. 3. 193 students between grades 1 through 8 participated, and five council winners went on to compete in the District shootout. Many thanks to Brother Knights Tom Luxner and Don Novotny for their stellar judging efforts; thanks also to PGK Wilsie Adams and Brother Bill Hunter for their photography.

The District 18 competition (see above) was conducted at St. Elizabeth School on Saturday Oct. 13. Mater Dei's five council winners won their respective age groups and qualified for the State finals on Saturday November 3, at Our Lady Queen of Peace in Middle River, Md. Thanks to Brother Knights Brendan Combs and Juan Flores, and District Deputy Thomas Schneider for their assistance in judging the various events.

Picture of the participants on the right.

2008 Entertainment Books **STILL** available

Entertainment Books Still Available: Filled with hundreds of half-off and two-for-one coupons, the Entertainment Book is the best way to save money on dining, entertainment and attractions, cultural and sporting events, air travel, cruises, amusement parks, rental cars, hotels, movies, merchandise, and even discounts at the beach. You can start using the special offers immediately and the **price is still just \$25**. This year, when you purchase your 2008 book you will receive a free membership to Entertainment on Vacation for 2 weeks of savings wherever you vacation – a \$9.95 value.

Books can be purchased after KofC meetings, after Mass on November 4 (at Mercy & St. R) or by calling Tom Sherman (301-340-2042) or Tony Cammarota (301-424-6138). Books are also available in 160 cities across America and make great gifts for your out-of-town friends and family. You may buy out-of-town books on the internet at:

www.entertainment.com/support and enter **group account # 127435**.



KEY CONTACTS

GRAND KNIGHT

Bill Shaffer, 301-762-1735
billshaffer_kofc@verizon.net

DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT

Robert McCaffrey, 301-251-5225
bmacc38@yahoo.com

CHANCELLOR

Joe Doane, 301-983-1578
sassi222@juno.com

WARDEN

Don Titzman, 301-545-1910
don.titzman@occ.treas.gov

RECORDER

Jack Phillips, 301-340-1360
johnphillips@verizon.net

TREASURER

Paul Sullivan, 301-610-7752
jrsullivanpa@hotmail.com

ADVOCATE

Dick Weller, 301-990-8185
jrhwellers@verizon.net

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

John Frey, 301-424-3386
kofcfrey@comcast.net

LECTURER

Larry Boesch, 301-762-7134
larrypb41@aol.com

GUARDS

Greg Daily, 301-947-9248
Don Novotny, 301-424-6772
Dick Bianchi, 301-279-7244
Camille Ng, 301-340-0388
Robert Scott, 301-299-6053

TRUSTEES

Wilsie Adams, 301-924-1422
wadams@whalaw.com
Patrick DeGraba, PGK, 301-279-2879
pdegraba@comcast.net
John Cavallo, PGK, 301-762-3081
jcavallo@comcast.net

CHAPLAIN

Fr. Grant Gaskin
GGaskin@straphaels.org

INSURANCE FIELD AGENT

Rick Morin, 301-384-7627
rickmkcins@cox.net

DISTRICT DEPUTY

Tom Schneider, DD, PGK, PFN-C,
301-279-0291 tomandjulie@fastmail.fm

Program Director: Robert McCaffrey
Membership Director: Joe Doane
Church Program: Wilsie Adams
Council Program: Dick Eckenrode
Family Program: Camille Ng
Community Program: Open
Youth Program: John Li
301-424-2713, jli@fbw.com
Editor, Blue Mantle: Camille Ng,
cam1000@gmail.com

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Mater Dei Council #9774



Special Notices

- All articles for the December issue must be received by the Editor by Friday Nov 23rd.
- Correction: The web site to receive free daily news from Rome by email is not "Zenith.org" but "Zenit.org".

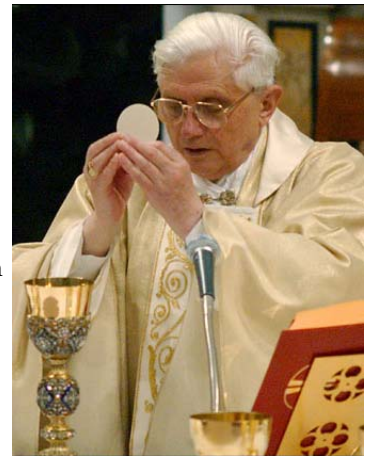
- You can also use the Vatican mailing list:
"mlists.vatican.va/mailman/listinfo/visnews_en"

"The supreme witness of giving blood is not an exception reserved only to some individuals, but a realistic possibility for all Christian people. It includes men and women of different ages, vocations and social conditions, who pay with their lives in fidelity to Christ and his Church. [...] Their example gives witness to the fact that baptism commits Christians to participate boldly in the spread of the Kingdom of God, cooperating if necessary with the sacrifice of one's own life.

There is also an unbloody "martyrdom," which is no less significant. It is the silent and heroic testimony of many Christians who live the Gospel without compromises, fulfilling their duty and dedicating themselves generously in service to the poor. " Pope Benedict XVI, Oct 28, 2007

Schedule of Events: November - December 2007

Tue Nov 6	Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC
Thu Nov 8	Second Degree, 7:30pm, DCC
Thu Nov 22	No meeting. HAPPY THANKSGIVING !
Sat Dec 1	Breakfast with Santa, 9am-12
Sat Dec 1	Lunch with Santa, 12:30-2pm
Tue Dec 4	Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC
Sat Dec 8	Council Christmas Party, 6-10pm
Sun Dec 9	Coffee & Donuts, 8am-1pm
Tue Dec 11	Open House, 7:30pm, DCC
Thu Dec 13	1st Degree, 7:30-10pm, DCC
Thu Dec 27	Social (cards), 7:30-10:30pm



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