

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



September ushered in the end of summer and time for our council to shift into high gear. It has been a busy month for the council. Our incentive car raffle is in full swing. We have completed two weekends of ticket sales following the masses at St. Raphael and are scheduled for sales at Our Lady of Mercy the first weekend in October. The proceeds from the raffle funds both our council's works and the Knight of Columbus Scholarships, one of the recipient's of

which (I learned this weekend) was St. Raphael's own Kathryn Chapman. The drawing will be held on October 8th so there is still time to get last minute sales in.

September also put our council's Bar-B-Q-ing skills to the test. Last Sunday about 30 Knights and seminarians cooked up hot dogs, hamburgers, and sausages along with Father Finch's Famous onions and peppers for this year's parish picnic. *(picture on Page 3)* Two weeks earlier the Knight's manned the grills for St. Raphael's youth group's kick off dinner, which expanded to include our guests from New Orleans. Thanks to Youth Minister and recent addition to our council, Patrick Diener, for organizing that event.

Looking ahead we have a very busy October. We will spend the next four weekend raising money for the mentally handicapped through our Tootsie Roll campaign. This effort will be lead by Don Novotny. If you have not yet volunteered to help out, please contact him and let him know when you can serve. Last year over 80 brothers participated. Organizing this event is a monumental task, and it will be made easier by each brother doing his share and contacting Don to volunteer his time. Thank you in advance for your help.

On October 27th Mater Dei will hold its first first degree ceremony of the fraternal year. This means we will hold an open house on October 25 and host coffee and doughnuts on the 23rd. Please let Bob McCaffery know if you can help with these events.

Finally, as you all know, St. Raphael has welcomed several families from New Orleans into our parish and is helping them get back on their feet. This effort is the strongest imaginable embodiment of our Catholic faith and will require all our help now and in the months to come. I encourage you to check the parish web sites:

<http://www.straphaels.org/calendar/Events/thisMonth.htm>

<http://www.straphaels.org/calendar/Events/KATRINA/Needs.htm>

and to provide any help you can.

I look forward to successful and rewarding months ahead.

God Bless,
Patrick DeGraba
Grand Knight

Our sympathies and prayers are extended to Brother Paul Schuncke and his family for the loss of their son, Paul Schuncke, Jr.

MEMBERSHIP BLITZ

It's the autumn of 2005, and it's time for the Knights of Columbus biennial Membership Blitz. The Mater Dei Council will participate in the membership Blitz during the fourth week of October. This will be a three day event, and it will give you three opportunities to make a prospective Knight feel welcome to the Knights of Columbus.

Sunday, October 23: Coffee & Doughnuts after Mass - Meet and Greet

The Knights will set up at the coffee & doughnuts after the 8:30, 10:00, and 11:30 masses. We need volunteers to meet and greet prospective members after all masses this weekend. Please sign up at the council meeting or call Bob McCaffrey, (301) 251-5225, to volunteer.

Tuesday, October 25: Open House DCC. 7:30pm. Bring a Friend

This is an excellent opportunity for Knights to volunteer and make prospective Knights feel welcome. The Open House is when we talk about the Knights of Columbus and what we do at the Mater Dei Council. We also interview prospective Knights to determine if they are eligible to become a Knight. If you have a friend or relative who might want to become a Knight, bring them to the Open House and introduce them to fellow Knights. A familiar face will make the prospective Knight feel more comfortable at the (cont. Page 3)

Open House and more willing to

District Deputy's Message



As you read these few thoughts at the beginning of October, call to mind that the 8th day of this month is dedicated to honoring Christopher Columbus, the namesake of our Order and the discoverer of this great land of ours. A Catholic himself, Columbus sailed under the sponsorship of the Catholic monarchs of Spain. Catholics played a significant role in the discovery of this country, and have been

prominent in its exploration, and development. For a quick idea of the extent of their contributions, just think of the very many cities, rivers and lakes that contain in their names, the words San, Santa, Saint or a similar Catholic honorific. If you have the opportunity, attend one of the many celebrations devoted to Columbus this month: the blessing of the fleet at St. Clements Island on October 1, the Columbus Day Ball on October 8, the Parade on October 9, and the memorial festivities at the Statue of Columbus at Union Station on October 10.

It is a cruel turn that Catholics -- and Christians in general -- who have done so much to develop the American continents must temper their Faith to achieve in what has become a secular culture. On September 14, U.S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton, located in San Francisco, ruled that reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools is unconstitutional, because the reference to one nation "under God" violates school children's right to be "free from a coercive requirement to affirm God." Supreme Knight Carl Anderson quickly stated that the Pledge of Allegiance and the Declaration of Independence "both express the same truth: that our fundamental rights come from God, our creator, and not from government. To suggest that the language of the First Amendment prohibits the simple statement of that truth is to stand the Constitution on its head." It is good to know that our Order will

appeal the decision.

This is just one more instance in which the Knights of Columbus is taking a strong stand to protect Catholic beliefs in the public sector. It is one more reason why every Catholic man who is concerned about his Faith should become a Knight. The Supreme Council has asked each Council to conduct a membership "blitz" during October. While recruiting should not be limited to one or two months a year, this is an opportunity to publicize the Knights of Columbus, what it stands for, and the benefits of membership before large numbers of Catholic men and their families. Some of the Councils in our District already have begun recruiting new members and have held public activities to reach out to their Church communities. I encourage all of our Councils to do the same. If our Order is to continue to thrive and to be a leader in promoting the teachings of the Magisterium and protecting Catholic beliefs from attack in the public sphere, it needs new members and as many as possible. It behooves each of us to recruit one or more people to join our ranks. This is not a job that can be done solely by the Grand Knight or his Membership Chairman, or even only by the Council Officers. It requires each of us to be continually speaking about the Knights of Columbus and this Council, and what they have and can accomplish, and to bring in new members. Working together, we can make a difference.

Just a reminder that October 7 is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. As members of an Order devoted to this prayer, it now is a good opportunity to renew our commitment to say the rosary as often as we can.

Vivat Jesus!

Lawrence P. Grayson
District Deputy #18

THANKS, BROTHERS! LOTS OF EARLY SIGN-UPS TO HELP THE MENTALLY-HANDICAPPED

As of Sept 20, a total of 104 volunteer-hours were already signed-up for the annual October "tootsie roll" effort -- and the telephoning is only one-third completed!! For this one activity, where some 240 total hours are needed, the goal is to involve virtually every (able-bodied!) person on our roster. Our friendly smiles, greetings (and free tootsie rolls) are very well-received by shoppers at the local stores, and it's a nice way to meet more fellow-knights, so over-all, it's a really fun time! Be sure that YOU, too, pitch in on this; be sure to give an hour or two, on either a Saturday or Sunday, any of the October weekends. To schedule, call Jack Wohlhieter (301-424-7926) or Don Novotny (301-424-6772).

OTHER 1ST DEGREE CEREMONIES

If a prospective Knight cannot make the 1st Degree Ceremony on October 27, St. Raphael's will host another 1st Degree Ceremony on December 8.

Other 1st Degree Ceremonies this autumn include:

October 13 Rock Creek Council
December 14 Monsignor Wells Council

For questions & directions, please contact Bob McCaffrey, (301) 251-5225.

2ND DEGREE CEREMONY -- NOVEMBER 10, BLESSED MANYANET COUNCIL

If you are a 1st Degree Knight and would like to become a 2nd Degree Knight, the Knights of Columbus will sponsor a 2nd Degree Ceremony at Blessed Manyanet Council on November 10. For more information, please contact Bob McCaffrey, (301) 251-5225.

3RD DEGREE CEREMONY -- JANUARY 6, ROCK CREEK COUNCIL

The 3rd Degree Ceremony for our District will be on January 6, 2006 at the Rock Creek Council. For more information, please contact Bob McCaffrey, (301) 251-5225.

EXEMPLIFICATION OF THE 4TH DEGREE -- FEBRUARY 26, 2006, COLLEGE PARK

The 36th Annual Exemplification of the Fourth Degree, Honoring Monsignor Michael W. Fisher, V.G., is on 26 February 2006 at the Inn and Conference Center, University of Maryland, College Park MD. For more information on the Exemplification of the 4th Degree, please visit the 4th Degree website at <http://mysite.verizon.net/jem6901/id2.html>.

Entertainment Book

New 2006 Entertainment Books Now Available: Entertainment just went on sale! 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 has been reduced to a mere \$25.

Books can be purchased after all KofC meetings this fall, after Mass on selected Sundays 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 from us or on the internet at www.entertainment.com/support and enter group account # 127435.

join.

Also, we will need Knights at the Open House to meet and greet prospective Knights and make them feel at home. Please sign up at the council meeting or call Bob McCaffrey, (301) 251-5225, to volunteer.

Thursday, October 27: 1st Degree Ceremony & Social

Please attend our 1st degree ceremony at St. Raphael's on Thursday, October 27. After the ceremony, we will have a social hour with food & drinks. Come welcome new Knights to the Knights of Columbus and reacquaint yourself with fellow Knights at the 1st Degree Ceremony and social.

FRATERNAL BENEFITS

SO, YOU'RE THINKING OF INVESTING

Some facts to consider before you make your investment:

1. Make sure your investment is placed beyond the reach of your creditors and those of your beneficiaries – a judgement proof investment.
2. Make sure that the value of your investment at death will not be subject to probate costs, legal fees and usual delays of court proceedings – a probate proof investment.
3. Make sure that your investment guarantees that principle and interest will always be available in the amounts and in the installments called for and that the investment will never go sour regardless of downtrends in the economy – a depression proof investment.
4. Make sure that your investment guarantees that you can always borrow 95 – 100% of the value stipulated in your investment without delay or requirement of co-signers.
5. Make sure that, as your investment appreciates each year, the gain will not be subject to federal income tax – a favorable tax investment.
6. Make sure that your investment contains a clause which guarantees that proceeds payable upon your death will be delivered free of income tax liability for your beneficiary.
7. Make sure that your investment contains a clause which guarantees that your investment program will stay intact and continue to grow even though you are unable to continue to work and earn as a result of total and permanent disability – a guaranteed investment.

If you are interested in an investment that contains all of the above features, and more, call me today for an appointment. I want to hear from you.

Fraternally, Rick Morin 301.384.7627



Council brothers work the "barby" for St. Raphael's Parish picnic

Evolution of Religion in Public Life: Civil War to the Present

When the Civil War began, the First Amendment was viewed as defining the role of the federal government, not the states. As a result, the federal government left the role of religion in public life to each state to decide individually. The War caused a shift in governance, with the federal government assuming greater authority over the states. The central government, however, remained small and limited the use of its expanding powers. It was a period of significant growth and change in the population due to large-scale immigration, and of rugged individualism with the activities of people and companies unfettered by many laws or regulations. Although social problems existed, America was viewed as a land of unbounded opportunities. Throughout this period, religion remained an important part of public life. Prayer and Bible readings were common in the schools, while Presidents frequently acknowledged the role of God in the nation's affairs. Abraham Lincoln, for example, in his Second Inaugural Address in 1865 as the Civil War raged, stated that God "gives to both North and South this terrible war as the woe due" for the long history of slavery.

In the latter part of the nineteenth century, immigration continued at all-time highs, with the largest contingents coming from Italy, Austria-Hungary, and Poland. From 1880 to 1900, the Catholic population in America doubled to 12 million people. Industry and commerce increased at a great rate, and America was becoming a world power. As the immigrants grew in number, associations and societies were formed to meet their social and economic needs, including fraternal, literary, insurance, death-benefit, and burial. The Knights of Columbus, established in 1882, was one such organization.

The public schools included in their instruction general morality and the common tenets of faith common to all Christian religions. The American Catholic bishops viewed this teaching as primarily Protestant and a danger to the faith of Catholic youth. At the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1884, they decreed that "a parochial school must be erected at every church... All Catholic parents are obliged to send their offspring to parochial schools." As this was a heavy burden on the parishes, a variety of approaches to religious education were instituted in the following years, such as seeking state funds for the parochial schools or having religious instruction in the public schools before or after regular school hours. In the early years of the 20th century, the Catholic school system in the United States began to flourish.

With the Great Depression and the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt as President, there was another shift. The philosophy of the federal government changed from creating an environment in which people had opportunities to better themselves through diligent efforts and hard work to providing the basic necessities of life for people. The government created jobs, provided welfare and retirement programs, subsidized farmers, built highways, electrified rural areas, and regulated business, commerce, and communications. The government expanded its powers and size even more with the nation's entry into World War II. The focus of the government's interest was primarily economic, and religion was not affected significantly.

Religion in public life remained strong. In many ways, the late 1940s and 1950s were characterized by a strong public morality that was compatible with Catholicism in America. Bishop Fulton J. Sheen was a television star as he lectured on applied philosophy and theology, lightened by quips about his "angel." Large numbers of movies depicted nuns and priests as role models of virtue and goodness in everyday life, with Bing Crosby and Barry Fitzgerald epitomizing Hollywood's lovable Irish priests. The film, "Our Lady of Fatima," was nominated for an Academy Award in 1952, while the openly Catholic Loretta Young hosted a nationally-viewed family TV show. And in 1947, 70,000 men marched in the Holy Name Parade in Boston, ending up in Fenway Park for Benediction.

Ironically, the high point of that era, the election of John F. Kennedy as President, the first Catholic to achieve that office, also marked another turning point: the emergence of Catholics who separated their private and public views of religion. Instead embracing their Faith to transform the culture of the United States, Catholics attempted to improve their material success by adapting to the secular world. In a campaign speech to the Greater Houston Ministerial Association, on September 12, 1960, Kennedy said,

"I do not speak for my church on public matters; and the church does not speak for me. Whatever issue may come before me as President, if I should be elected, on birth control, divorce, censorship, gambling or any other subject, I will make my decision in accordance with these views -- in accordance with what my conscience tells me to be in the national interest, and without regard to outside religious pressure or dictates. And no power or threat of punishment could cause me to decide otherwise."

In the past few decades, America has become the dominant nation in the world – economically, politically and militarily. As the nation gained power and the economy grew, people began to strive for greater personal materialism. Religion became less of a family priority. Prayer, Mass and the Sacraments were neglected. Catholic politicians felt they could increase their popular appeal by being opposed to the teachings of the Church, and Catholic voters paid little, if any, attention to the Church's moral positions when casting their ballots. With the continuance of these views, is it any wonder that even minimal adherence to religious matters is being swept away from public life?

Since his recent election, Pope Benedict XVI continues to speak of a crisis of culture, in which the Western nations are excluding God from the public conscience. This religious neutrality of the state, he says, is an illusion and will lead to dogmatism, for as we lose sight of God, human dignity will disappear. If one person through moral leadership rather than organizational rank – such as St. Paul, St. Francis, St. Theresa of Avila, and more recently Mother Theresa, Mohandas Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr. – can have a significant effect on the world, imagine what 1.7 million members of the Knights of Columbus, praying the rosary and living the teachings of our Faith in their daily public and private lives, can do.

Lawrence P. Grayson, DD, PGK, PFN

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

October 2005

- Oct 4** Executive Board Meeting - DCC - 7:30 pm
- Oct 8** Columbus Day Ball
- Oct 13** Council Business Meeting - DCC - 8:00 pm
- Oct 23** Council host Coffee & Doughnuts after St. Raphael Masses
Entertainment Book Sales
- Oct 25** Membership recruitment Open House - DCC - 7:30 pm
- Oct 27** Council Meeting - Exemplification of First Degree -
DCC - 8:00 pm
- Oct 30** Entertainment Book sales following all Masses at St.
Raphael's
- 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

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

THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE OCTOBER 2005

**All articles for the OCTOBER Issue
must be received by the Editor by
Monday, Sept. 26, 6:00 P.M.
editor9774@comcast.net**

EMAIL ADDRESS ??

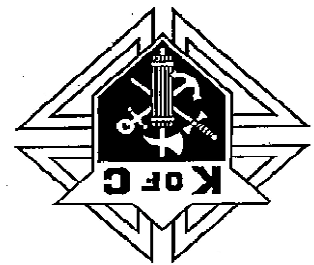
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OCTOBER 2005



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