

# The Blue Mantle

SEPTEMBER  
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](http://www.geocities.com/materdei9774)

---

## From the Grand Knight's Station



Brothers All,

The end of August marks the end of summer. I hope all were able to get away for at least part of the summer.

Our August social meeting featured a wonderful presentation by Jack Walsh (father of Brother Bob Walsh) on Montgomery Hospice. The event was attended by over 40 knights and family members, who were treated to an interesting and informative presentation and discussion about Hospice care.

Sadly, August was also marked by the passing of Brother Anthony St. George Sr. Our prayers and sympathy go out to Rosalie and the entire St. George family who have contributed so much to the Mater Dei family.

September will be a busy month. One of our most important activities in September is our Incentive Car Raffle which supports the K of C scholarship fund as well as many of our council activities. Brothers have received their tickets by mail and I want to thank those brothers that have already sold and returned their tickets. But there is still much work to be done. I encourage those who have not yet sold theirs to do so as quickly as possible. In addition we are scheduled to sell ticket at St. Raphael on the second and third weekends of September (Sept 10 -11 and 17-18). Please volunteer to help after the mass that you attend on those weekends.

September 25 will be the parish picnic and we will again be manning the grills. This is a fun event for all. We still need volunteers for the early shift (12-3pm) and the later shift (3-5:30pm).

Plans are still being finalized for our September Social meeting which is scheduled to be an ice cream social to be held on Friday, September 23, at Our Lady of Mercy. Stay tuned for further details!

October will be even busier than September as we support the mentally handicapped with our tootsie roll campaign, sell our entertainment books, and hold our October recruiting blitz which will culminate in our first first degree ceremony of the fraternal year to be held on October 27.

## IN MEMORIA

Anthony A. St. George, Sr.

1933 - 2005

The Brothers of Mater Dei Council extend their sympathy to Brother St. George's family, and offer their prayers for the repose of the soul of our Brother.

---

While the fall is the busiest time of year for us, I remind you that it is working together to accomplish our goals that strengths the friendships and the brotherhood of our order. Thank you in advance for your dedication in the coming months.

God bless you and your families,  
Patrick DeGraba  
Grand Knight

## District Deputy's Message



As I write these comments, the Supreme Convention has just ended.

Several significant statements dealing with our Order's

commitment to human life were made at that meeting. In his annual address to the delegates, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said that in *Roe v. Wade*, "the Supreme Court created out of whole cloth a 'right' to extinguish the life of an innocent unborn child. And in the process, it seized for itself a power that no one has a right to exercise." This statement was supported by the passage of three resolutions that make clear our Order's overt support for life in the present political climate.

The first resolution states that the Knights of Columbus will continue working to build the "culture of life," and "reaffirms its historic commitment to be unconditionally pro-life and to seek the restoration of full legal protection for the unborn, the sick, the handicapped, the terminally ill and the elderly, and that we will continue to oppose vigorously any governmental actions that in any way promote, legalize, or finance the performance of abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, or assisted suicide." Further, the Order will continue its "long-standing policy of not inviting to any Knights of Columbus

event persons, especially public officials or candidates for public office, who do not support the legal protection of unborn children, or who advocate the legalization of assisted suicide, euthanasia, or the infanticide known as partial-birth abortion, and of prohibiting such persons from renting or otherwise using facilities over which we have control, or speaking at Knights of Columbus events, or bestowing on them honors or privileges of our Order of any kind, or inviting them to serve as honorary chairpersons of events, celebrations, or committees, or hold any office in the Knights of Columbus."

The second resolution states that the Knights "will never consider *Roe v. Wade* to be settled constitutional law, and will always seek ways to restrict its application, limit its reach and eventually to overturn it." It states that the 1973 decision is "bad constitutional law," and was based on "multiple and profound misapprehensions of law and history." It states that the Knights "condemn any use of a pro-Roe litmus test by members of the U.S. Senate when considering nominees for the federal courts, especially the Supreme Court, and we call on Catholic senators to cease and desist from opposing, directly or indirectly, the teaching of the Catholic Church on the inviolability of innocent human life." Recognizing our limitations, "we once again commit ourselves to praying the Rosary frequently, to fasting and to doing penance in reparation for these grave evils, asking the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for an end to these offenses against human life and for the establishment

of the 'culture of life.'"

The third resolution "urges the Senate Judiciary Committee to conduct prompt, fair and expeditious hearings on the nomination of John G. Roberts to the Supreme Court," and "to consider his nomination without delay or filibuster, and to allow him an up-or-down vote on his confirmation." It states that "we strongly condemn any effort to block or impede his confirmation based upon his position on whether *Roe v. Wade* should be reconsidered," and urges all U.S. Knights urged to contact their senators asking them to support an up-or-down vote.

Doesn't it make you proud to be part of an organization that is willing to take a strong stand to protect the innocent and vulnerable, to stand four-square behind the teachings of our Church, and to seek spiritual assistance through works of mortification!

Finally, at the convention, our State Deputy, Ronald B. White, was appointed as a Supreme Director of the Order for a three-year term beginning this month. This is a great honor, not only for Ron, who will continue as our State Deputy, but for all Knights in the State of Maryland. Congratulations, Ron, and may God guide your decisions.

Lawrence P. Grayson

## FRATERNAL BENEFITS

### BACK TO SCHOOL

Is there anyone out there who has not noticed the absence of children on the streets during the day? No question about it, school has reopened. Never before has more emphasis been placed on school costs – and how to pay for them. Sure, the Order has a scholarship program and a student loan program and our Swift-Matthews Educational Trust Fund does answer particular needs. But most still must borrow money from banks in order to finance a college education for their sons or daughters. Costs, of course, are up. This comes as no great surprise. In fact, while most people loudly protest increases in food prices, taxes and costs of other services, seldom do they oppose increases in the cost of education. Most parents seem to view college costs as an investment. They are investing money in their children's future. It has been definitely established that college graduates earn, on

the average, from 1 ½ to two times as much as non-college grads. Perhaps this is the reason why costs are so infrequently questioned. Wise members prepare for these expenses by planning for them in advance. I can tell you of a plan specifically designed with college in mind. It enables you to plan, in advance, for your child's college bills. It guarantees that if your child has the desire, the ambition, and the drive, he or she will also have the money. Moreover, it has a feature that no other financial institution can offer. If you die, the money you had planned to save will still be there. Call me today to discuss these needs. I want to hear from you.

Fraternally,

Rick Morin

301.384.7627

## 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:

<b>September 28</b>	Monsignor Wells Council
<b>October 13</b>	Rock Creek Council
<b>December 14</b>	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>.

## 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 - 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 Open House and more willing to 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.

## ST. RAPHAEL SODALITY INVITES

all the Knights and their ladies to the October 11, 2005, meeting at 7:30 pm in the Duffy Community Center. Father Mark White will give a presentation on "Mary". It is an appropriate topic for the month of the Rosary. Please join with the Sodality and to visit with Father White.

For further information, you may contact Betty Gill at [Bjtegill@aol.com](mailto:Bjtegill@aol.com)

## ROCKVILLE PREGNANCY

**CENTER** searches for new space for their facility. Their current lease which expires in February 2006, will not be renewed due to expense being incurred by the landlord.

The Center need 3500 to 4000 sq. ft. in the Rockville area, preferably on a bus route. They are considering building an office. This is the second time their lease has not been renewed.

Gail Teirney asked for your prayers to help direct the Center to a new home. They have one person who may be willing to help buy a building, but need othersto join him. If you can offer any help, please call Gail Teirney at 301-770-4444.

## Religion in American Public Life: The Founding to the Pre-Civil War

In the more than two-and-a-quarter centuries since America declared its independence from England, the nation's philosophy of governance and its views toward religion have changed significantly. As a result, while the basic premises set forth in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights are still espoused, they are interpreted today in ways that are vastly different from how they were when first adopted.

In 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed by men who believed in God, His Divine Providence, and the Creator's authority over men and nations. They publicly placed their reliance on God and felt He would intervene in their struggle for freedom if their cause was just. Christianity and a deep knowledge of the Bible shaped the political and social philosophies of these early Americans, and gave them a common set of moral principles. All of the Christian sects in America, with the exception of Catholics, were products of the Reformation and had roots in the teachings of John Calvin. As these men were of many religious denominations and were familiar with the problems inherent in a national church, they left the role and support of religion in public life to the individual States.

Under the Articles of Confederation, the States retained their sovereignty and independence, and entered into a "league of friendship with each other, for their common defense, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare." While freedom to worship existed, there still was discrimination in some States, particularly against Catholics, even though there probably were not more than 20,000 Catholics at the time of Independence in the overall population of 5,000,000. Maryland, which was founded by the Catholics George and Cecil Calvert for religious toleration, prohibited Catholics from holding public office as early as 1691 and did not remove a religious test until after the Civil War.

In 1789, "We the People of the United States" adopted the Constitution, and two years later ten Amendments known as the Bill of Rights, as a means for organizing a government under which the people could operate. Again, Calvinistic beliefs came into play. As the nation's leaders distrusted the concept of long-term office holders because of the weakness of human nature, they created a federal government with limited and clearly delineated powers. They established checks and balances at the federal level, and left any powers not delegated to the central government to the States and to the people. Freedom of assembly, speech and religion were important issues. Since these basic liberties were not mentioned in the Constitution, they were reserved for the States to guarantee. But there was a concern that, since they were unmentioned, the power of the federal government could in time infringe upon them. Therefore, these freedoms were addressed in the Bill of

Rights, the first Amendment of which specifies that the "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This was the beginning of federalism, in which power was shared among the federal government, the States and the people.

Religion was very much a part of public life, as people believed that only a virtuous citizenry could sustain a democratic form of government. Thomas Jefferson allowed the use of government buildings for religious services on Sundays. Jefferson, and Madison who succeeded him, regularly attended church services in the House of Representatives. This practice continued until after the Civil War. Jefferson considered this acceptable as the services were voluntary and nondiscriminatory — preachers of every Protestant denomination participated, and even Catholic priests began officiating in 1826.

There was no wall of separation between state and church, as the First Amendment was viewed as a pertaining to the federal government, not the states. Decades after that Amendment was adopted, states continued to promote established churches. It was not until 1818 that Connecticut disestablished the Congregational Church and guaranteed religious freedom, and as late as 1832 Massachusetts still supported churches through taxes. The profession of Christianity was dominant, even though it took the form of many Protestant sects. It was so accepted that President Andrew Johnson could say: "Let us look forward to the time when we can take the flag of our country and nail it below the Cross, and there let it wave as it waved in the olden times, and let us gather around it and inscribed for our motto: 'Liberty and Union, one and inseparable, now and forever,' and exclaim, Christ first, our country next!"

Immigration began to increase significantly in the 1840s and 1850s, expanding the population eight-fold from the founding until the Civil War. Large number of Catholics emigrated primarily from Ireland because of a severe famine in the late 1840s, as well as from France, and Germany. With them came their priests. The large influx of immigrants resulted in an intense backlash of anti-Catholic feeling. American nativists, steeped in the residue of the Protestant Reformation, viewed Catholic Europe as undemocratic and the Pope as a tyrannical despot. Although religious freedom was guaranteed, Protestants developed political strategies designed to stiffen immigration laws and exclude Catholics and foreigners from public office. As a result, Catholics settled in enclaves within a militant Protestant society, which strengthened their devotion and loyalty to their Church. The First Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1852 laid the foundations for a strong parish life. Catholicism began to grow, and by sheer numbers, Catholics began to have an influence on the country

.Lawrence P. Grayson, DD, PGK, PFN

## 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  
kofcfrey@comcast.net

### TRUSTEES

John Cavallo 301-762-3081  
jcavallo@comcast.net  
Bob Fontana, PGK 301-765-7997  
rjdsf11403@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

### September 2005

- Sept 6** Executive Board Meeting - DCC - 7:30 pm
- Sept 8** Council Business Meeting - DCC - 8:00 pm
- Sept 11 & 18** Incentive Car Raffle following Masses at St. Raphaels
- Sept 23** Council Social Meeting - Ice Cream Social - Our Lady of Mercy
- Sept 25** St. Rapahel Picnic - Parish Grounds - 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- Oct 4** Executive Board Meeting - DCC - 7:30 pm
- Oct 13** Council Business Meeting - DCC - 8:00 pm
- Oct 16** Council activity following all Masses at St. Raphaels
- Oct 23** Council host Coffee & Doughnuts after St. Raphael Masses
- Oct 25** Membership recruitment Open House - DCC - 7:30 pm
- Oct 27** Council Meeting - Exemplification of First Degree - DCC - 8:00 pm
- Oct 30** Council activity following all Masses at St. Raphaels

### 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**

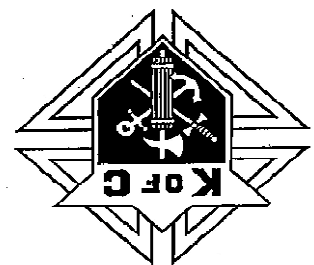
### EMAIL ADDRESS ? ?

Does the Financial Secretary have  
your email address? Please advise

John Frey

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

**SEPTEMBER 2005**



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

**Non-Profit Organization  
U. S. Postage Paid  
Suburban MD  
Permit No. 2302**