



# The Blue Mantle



**Knights Of Columbus**  
Mater Dei Council #9774  
[www.geocities.com/materdei9774](http://www.geocities.com/materdei9774)

**September 2007**  
**Pope Benedict XVI pleads for Peace,**  
calls war a "useless bloodbath".

## Knights of Columbus Mater Dei Council #9774

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### Knights News:

(Zenit: 7/22/2007) Pope Benedict XVI made a plea for a rejection of the arm race and the attempt to solve problem with war, which he called a "useless bloodbath". He proclaimed: "It is [what] the Servants of God Paul VI and John Paul II followed in their memorable speeches at the United Nations, repeating in the name of the Church: 'No more war!' [...] If men lived in peace with God and with each other, the earth would truly resemble a 'paradise.' Unfortunately, sin ruined this divine project, generating divisions and bringing death into the world. This is why men cede to the temptations of the evil one and make war against each other. The result is that in this stupendous 'garden' that is the world, there open up circles of hell."

## Grand Knight's Report

Before I look forward to the work ahead I want to personally thank all those who worked so hard to make our booth at the fair a success (see the article under Council Activities). It is an honor and a privilege to work closely with such dedicated men. Our worthy District Deputy Tom Schneider worked on 3 different shifts, including set-up and two early morning shifts that required getting ice. Our Deputy Grand Knight Bob McCaffrey (along with his lovely wife Carla) worked four different shifts. Dick Bianchi, Paul Sullivan, and Don Novotny each work 2 shifts. Finally, Mike Perez, Ray Gaspar, Dick Jasinski, Larry Boesche, Don Titzman, Pat DeGraba, Frank Della Penna, Mike Herman, Jack Phillips, John Li, John Frey, Joe Doanne, and Scott Graham also took shifts. I commend each and every one of you for helping to chart new territory for this council.

As we move into September we anticipate four major efforts that define the fall season for Mater Dei Council. The first is the

Incentive Raffle. You should have already received your tickets in the mail (if not, or if you would like more please contact me). The Incentive Raffle is one of the primary means by which the council acquires its operating funds. Please sell or buy your tickets and return the stubs and proceeds to me as soon as possible (the drawing is October 8<sup>th</sup> in Baltimore).

The second event is the St. Raphael Parish picnic (Sunday September 30<sup>th</sup>). We will be responsible for cooking again this year by special request of Father Finch. This is always a fun time for the Knights and provides an excellent opportunity to serve the parish. Joe Doane will be seeking volunteers and Don Titzman will be the lead chef.

The third effort will be the annual Tootsie Roll Campaign. We have already gotten off to a good start on this at the fair; our share of the proceeds from the fair will be over \$900. Don Novotny will be heading our campaign again this year and he will need the

help of all of us to continue our phenomenal success in this. The time you spare to volunteer for this effort directly results in desperately needed funds to help those with intellectual disabilities. In these times of reduced public services this is more important than ever; so please help.

The final effort is the upcoming membership blitz in October. Remember that sharing the many benefits with other qualified men is not only a privilege but also a responsibility for all Knights. Please make it your personal mission to ask your qualified friends, relatives, and acquaintances to join the Knights. Bring them to our planned blitz events so that we can educate them on the benefits of membership.

I look forward to working with you all on these important activities and I thank you all in advance for a highly successful Fall.

Vivat Jesus  
Bill Shaffer  
Grand Knight

## DGK's Message

Welcome back from summer vacation! Even though the Mater Dei Council fraternal year started in July, I figured that this would be the best time to greet my fellow Knights. We were quite busy with the Montgomery County Fair last month, but now is when our Council activities swing into full gear. We just had our Council picnic at St. Raphael's, and at the end of September is the St. Raphael's Parish Picnic. Martin Begley is the chairman of this year's Parish Picnic, and the Knights have been asked to man the grills again. There will be six grills - two Knights per grill. Last year, we had 12 Knights grilling for the entire picnic. This year, we would like to have more Knights - two shifts hopefully - so our fellow Knights can get away from the grills and find time to enjoy the Parish Picnic. Also starting at the end of this month and running through October is our annual Tootsie Roll Campaign. Last year, Don

Novotny led a very successful campaign with a lot of assistance from Jack Wohlhieter. As you read this, Don & Jack are in the throes of planning for this year's campaign. Planning is the most difficult and time consuming part of the Tootsie Roll Campaign. Don & Jack could use all the help that you can provide them, so please get in touch with them to help plan this year's Tootsie Roll Campaign. Next, I would like to introduce you to this year's Program Chairs for Mater Dei Council:

**Church** Chair: Wil Adams  
Deputy: open

**Community** Chair: Bob McCaffrey  
Deputy: open

**Council** Chair: Dick Eckenrode  
Deputy: open

**Family** Chair: Camille Ng  
Deputy: open

**Youth** Chair: John Li  
Deputy: open

As you can see from this list, there are five program chairs and no deputies to assist them. The Community Program, which includes Right to Life, the Tootsie Roll Campaign, and Garage to Attic Sale, and many other events, is fairly large, and many fellow Knights help

out in this program. Although I wouldn't mind a Deputy Chairman, I have faith that these events would continue to run successfully if I wasn't able to chair them for some reason. However, the other programs appear to me to be one-man operations, and if these Program Chairs retire, move away, decide to no longer chair their program, or something else - who will step in to take their places? That's why I feel that out of our 220+ membership, we need to find 6 Knights who are willing to help out as Deputy Program Chairs. If you are fairly active in any of these programs, but are not the Program Chair, you wouldn't have to do much more than what you are already doing. You'll just have your name listed as Deputy Chair. If you are willing and able to help out any of the Program Chairs, please contact them or myself (we're listed in the Blue Mantle). Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Fraternally yours,  
Bob McCaffrey, DGK

## The Family's Column

Pope Benedict XVI echoed the voices of Paul VI and John Paul II, repeating in the name of the Holy Church: "No more war!". He launched an appeal for an end to war saying that the "senseless slaughter" of the human family must stop. Pope Benedict XVI, as his esteemed predecessor John Paul II, described war as a temptation from the "evil one". Succumbing to his temptation, he said, "open up circles of hell". As Jesus stood firm against the evil one in the desert, all Christians are called to resist the temptation of war. "The choice between Peace and War in the context of the current international situation is also the choice between Good and Evil which calls all Christians ... to reject Satan's temptations, the same way Jesus rejected them in the desert." (John Paul II)

Pope benedict XVI continued: "**War, with the mourning and destruction it brings, has always been rightly consid-**

**ered a calamity that contrasts with God's plan."**

He went on to express "how **unacceptable** the 'useless bloodbath' are."

He then renewed his call "to follow with tenacity the way of law, to firmly renounce the arms race, to reject in general the temptation to face new situations with old systems."

Our Pope closed his address by "offer [ing] up a special prayer for peace in the world, entrusting it to Mary Most Holy, Queen of Peace."

Brother Knights, let us pray the Rosary with John Paul II who conveyed to us: "The great cause of peace is in danger throughout the world, especially in the Holy Land, and the international situation is very tense. I call upon all of you to INVOKE PEACE through the recitation of the Rosary."

Let us heed the call of the Holy Father to choose Good over Evil, Life over Death, Peace over War.

Let us follow in the footsteps of the Prince of Peace by working for peace

against the temptations of the evil one. Our Lord Jesus-Christ taught us: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." (Mt 5:9)

Let us be instruments of God's peace, and pray along with Saint Francis:

*"Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace,  
Where there is hatred... let me sow love  
Where there is injury... pardon  
Where there is doubt... faith  
Where there is despair... hope  
Where there is darkness... light  
Where there is sadness... joy.*

*O, Divine Master*

*Grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled... as to console  
To be understood... as to understand  
To be loved... as to love;  
For it is in giving... that we receive,  
It is in pardoning, that we are pardoned,  
It is in dying... that we are born to eternal life."*

For Mary & Jesus  
Camille Ng

## Advocate Advisory

What exactly is the KofC? To many members it is no more than one more parish organization, a group of men that meet at the Church just like any parish organization. Let me make this clear "The KofC is NOT a parish organization". The KofC is a world wide organization that supports the Church, from involvement in activities initiated by the Pope down to activities initiated at the parish level. This is not all there is to the KofC. You are a member of an organization that is involved in so much more. Your Council, the State Council and the Supreme Council all sponsor activities to aid the Church in fulfilling its mission, to support the families of members, to aid our youth in developing into responsible adults, to help with the needs of our communities and lastly but not the least to foster fraternalism among our members.

Most members know the Council as their main involvement in the KofC. They see the Grand Knight as their leader, his officers and committee chairmen as the support that the

Grand Knight needs to get his job done and themselves and other members as workers, friends or just members of an organization.

The KofC involves much more than what is seen on the Council level. The Grand Knight is similar to the mayor of a city and reports the State Deputy, similar to a state governor, through someone known as the District Deputy. The District Deputy usually is responsible for the activities of 4-5 Councils. He transmits the message of the State Deputy, pushes the Councils to fulfill their obligations as Councils and is responsible for communication between the State Council and the local Councils.

The State Deputy reports to the Supreme Knight in New Haven Connecticut whose job function could be likened to that of our President. The Supreme Knight directs the worldwide activities of the KofC from its support of programs initiated at the request of the Pope to management of an insurance company that develops products to fulfill the needs of Brother Knights at reasonable prices. The insurance company is a non-profit organization with the

excess proceeds from sales used for charitable purposes.

The KofC at all levels from your Council to the Supreme Council level are deeply involved in support of the five areas every Knight should know and find a way to get involved in one or more. The areas are Church, Family, Youth, Community and Council.

The KofC is a fraternal organization and many great friendships are formed through participation in KofC activities. There are many activities above the Council level that need your help and many great friendships to be formed by expanding your horizons. If you have an interest and do not know how to get started just ask. I, or your District Deputy whose phone number is in the Blue Mantle or any long time member could probably guide you.

I hope this article helps you understand what a great organization you belong to I would be most happy to explain anything in this article or help you in any manner.

Fraternally,  
Richard Weller, Advocate

## Mater Dei celebrates the Family with a Barbeque

On Thursday, August 23, Mater Dei Council hosted a Family Barbeque as a way to honor the family. In all 60 knights, family members and guests attended the feast. Attendees were treated to a sumptuous menu of ribs, barbeque and all the fixings cooked up by Council Warden and master chef Don Titzman. In addition to council members the barbeque was advertised in both St. Raphael and Our Lady of Mercy parish bulletins, inviting all those interested in joining the Knights of Columbus. Several of the guests expressed interest in joining Mater Dei Council and we hope to see them again soon as brothers.

A fun time was had by all as evidenced by the complete lack of leftovers at the end of the affair.



Mater Dei Council serves up fun for the whole family at its Family Cookout

## Mater Dei welcomes New Member

## Parish Round Table



Mater Dei Council would like to extend a hearty welcome to its newest member Gary Coulter. Gary took his First Degree at St. Manyanet Council on August 23. Gary is a member of St. Mary's parish in Rockville, is single, and works as a news writer for a local firm. Let us all make sure that Gary gets involved in council life as quickly as possible.

**Mater Dei Council's newest member Gary Coulter (second from left) is flanked by his mentor PGK Wilsie Adams, DD Tom Schneider and GK Bill Shaffer at his 1st Degree on August 23.**

### Mater Dei Council Supports Potomac Community Resources

On July 21, Mater Dei Council's Parish Round Table at Our Lady of Mercy helped Potomac Community Resources (PCR) host a picnic at Our Lady of Mercy Church for PCR members and their families. PCR is a volunteer organization, with an office at OLOM, that provides recreational and vocational opportunities for young adults with intellectual disabilities. Round Table chairman Wilsie Adams led a crew of 5 volunteers (Pat DeGraba, Mike Moran, Tom Schneider, Bill Shaffer, and Don Titzman) responsible for setup and clean-up of the dining areas for the 200 attendees. The PCR volunteers expressed their appreciation for the crucial help provided by the Knights and look forward to working with the Parish Council in the future.

**Pat DeGraba, Don Titzman, Tom Schneider, and Mike Moran setting up a dining area for the PCR picnic.**

## How do Annuities compare with other Investments

Feature	KofC Ann.	CDs	Mutual Funds
Tax-Deferred	✓	✗	✗
Avoids Probate	✓	✗	✗
Safety	✓	✓	✗
Guar. Lifetime Income	✓	✗	✗
Liquidity	✓	✓	✓

Which are important to you? Which make a difference to your financial well being? Annuities are growing in popularity. Why? The annuity may be used to fund an IRA (new or a rollover), save money for retirement, leave to children (avoids probate), provide a lifetime monthly income -- all these possibilities with guaranteed interest and safety. "Time is money"; tax deferral buys time.

The more time you can buy, the faster and larger your assets can grow. The Knights of Columbus is a 62+ billion dollar nonprofit insurance company for Catholics with the highest possible rating given by the A. M. Best Company (A++ superior) and Standard & Poor (AAA superior).

Call your Brother Knight and council's field agent today... so he can review the "ins and outs" of our Order's outstanding Annuity Programs.

Fraternally,

Rick Morin, FICF/LUTCF  
Your K of C Insurance Agent  
(301) 384 7627

## District Deputy News

This month we welcome St. Rose of Lima Council 14279 to District 18. The council's first Installation is September 15 at St. Rose of Lima Church. The Council's Grand Knight is Bruce Alexander and I welcome you Bruce and the Council on behalf of District 18. The Montgomery County Fair event was a big success, even though this was the first time that the District used the Fair as a venue for recruiting and for Tootsie Roll contributions. Over \$2,000 was collected in Tootsie Roll donations and seven men either asked to be reinstated or to join as new members. Thanks to Bill Shaffer, Grand Knight of Mater Dei Council

9774, and all the knights who participated. Look for a larger effort next year. As a reminder, you are all members of your Council's recruiting Team. How do you get new members into your Council? Just ask, and that actually works. Also, don't forget the incentive awards for recruiting. For Knights who just joined the Order, they can get a Shining Armor Award for meeting with the Council Fraternal Benefits Advisor, attending three Council meetings, participating in three Council events, recruiting one new member, and become a Third Degree Knight. I requested that each new member, regardless of Council, be assigned a mentor to inform the new member of Council

activities, help the new member get higher degrees, and make certain that the new member is welcomed fully into the Council. The easiest way to lose a new Knight is to ignore the person at meetings and leave him to fend his own way in Council activities and additional degrees. For third degree Knights, if you attend three Council meetings, attend three Council events, and recruit two new members, you earn the Silver Knight Award. This is an award unique to our State Council. Last year approximately 200 Knights out of 26,500 State-wide earned the Silver Knight Award.

Tom Schneider, DD

## Importance of culture (2 of 2)

In America today, as former Cardinal Ratzinger reminds us in his book, *'Values in a Time of Upheaval'*, three values underlie the national mores: **freedom, science, and progress.**

The first and most fundamental is **freedom.** This is the nation's distinguishing mark and underlies everything else. There is freedom of religion, which leads to the religious neutrality of the state; freedom of expression in speech and in the press; freedom to form political parties; freedom from unwarranted searches and seizures of one's property; freedom from being deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law; freedom from slavery and involuntary servitude; freedom to vote and elect national representatives. The concept of freedom, however, has grown from an ordered liberty in which freedom is balanced by moral constraints to an unrestricted ability to do whatever one wishes.

**Science,** the second value, and its applications have brought significant benefits to mankind in meeting basic human needs through understanding and harnessing the forces of nature. But science too must be subject to

moral criteria. In today's society, the guiding principle is that man's capability determines what he is permitted to do. Once the ends are demonstrated, they quickly become rights to be granted. Any restraints on science are in opposition to freedom, which is the supreme value. But man has knowledge of how to do many things. He can build weapons of mass destruction, clone human beings, manipulate stem cells in medical research, and farm human organs for the purpose of transplantation. Although each of these activities is justified to meet a societal need, they often run counter to human dignity and basic human rights. They denigrate people and if carried further may reduce man to an object dispensable for the good of society.

**Progress,** the third standard, has been a key value, especially since the beginning of the industrial age. With the introduction of scientific management, manufacturing productivity increased. As production grew and profits increased, the concept of progress spread to other industrial and business sectors, then to the military and government, and into the political arena. It was not long before it became an ideal for human behavior. Progress, however, brought with it a

secular philosophy, focusing on material gain and technological advances. Prosperity in this world for the individual or for the group has become the sole conscious aim. The concept of progress was indifferent to religion, separated from tradition, and detached from the reason for our existence. Like freedom and science, progress, as beneficial as it can be, must be pursued with moral aims and limits.

We are living in a period in which our culture is changing. As we focus more on material ends and eliminate God from the public sphere, there is a growing and significant incompatibility between Christian principles and a great deal of our social practice. America, in spite of its enormous economic success and global influence, is hollowing its spirit. The communal moral values that have provided the foundation for democracy are waning. Once we recognize this, we must task ourselves to reinvigorate, even on a small scale, in our own families, in our own communities, the general ethical and religious forces of our culture.

Lawrence P. Grayson

## Visit to Baltimore Basilica

Brother Frank Della Penna and his wife Nancy have organized a trip on September 13 to America's first cathedral which has recently been renovated in Baltimore. No one should miss this architectural gem and representative of the history of Catholicism in America. After the tour and opportunity to visit the gift shop, we will have lunch at *Germano's* in Baltimore's historic Little Italy. Transportation is by bus, leaving St. Raphael parking lot at 9am and returning by 3pm. The cost is only \$40 if you are a member of the St. Raphael Adult Club, and \$45 for nonmembers. Call Frank or Nancy at 301-983-1167 to make your reservation and lunch selection. Seating is limited.

## Action and Contemplation: Ignatian Spiritually for the 21st Century

Brother Knights, wives, and friends are welcome to learn more about contemplation and the action that follows from it. We can learn about this from James P. Kelley, Regional Director of the Ignatian Volunteer Corp (IVC), Washington D.C./Northern Virginia Region. Jim is dynamic and well worth listening to.

When? At the KofC Mater Dei council social meeting at 8pm on September 27, the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of September. This is an open meeting, so everyone is welcome. Come yourself and bring a friend or a few.

What is the IVC? It is the Ignatian Volunteer Corp. Some of us want to learn more about approaches to contemplation, especially the Ignatian approach. Many of us volunteer to the hilt but others are partially or fully retired and want to give a little more. There are many of us who want to share our knowledge with others through such entities as the IVC.

There will be refreshments.

Vivat Jesus,  
Larry Boesch, PGK

## District 18 Hosts Successful Booth at Montgomery County Fair

From August 10-18<sup>th</sup> the councils in Maryland District 18 manned a Knights of Columbus booth at the Montgomery County Fair. The booth was organized and managed by Mater Dei Council Grand Knight, Bill Shaffer. Each of the councils split the costs for the space and supplies and volunteered to staff the booth for all of the hours that the fair was open. Mater Dei Council volunteers staffed the booth for 48 of the 108 fair hours.

The purpose of the booth was to seek new members, raise funds for the Tootsie Roll Campaign, and celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Knights of Columbus through a depiction of the activities of the knights at all levels. The booth was provided by Mater Dei with membership literature, including plenty of Form 100s, and a television and DVD player to display "Experience of a Lifetime". The Tootsie Roll Campaign was augmented, especially for the fair, with the offer of ice cold bottled water (in addition to Tootsie Rolls) as a thank you for contributions. The 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated through the creation of a new District 18 banner, poster sized 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary logos, a poster board with photos of both council and supreme activities, tri-fold brochures from each council, and information sheets on supreme charitable activities.

The activities at the fair were a resounding success. The booth produced 4 signed Form 100s and a number of potential candidates for each of the councils. The Tootsie Roll Campaign produced an estimated \$2,066, of which Mater Dei will receive in excess of \$900. In addition, the invaluable public relations and community goodwill generated for the benefit of the Knights of Columbus should bear fruit in the future in increased membership and public participation in our charitable activities.

District 18 District Deputy Thomas Schneider has indicated his satisfaction in the outcome of this event by requesting that Grand Knight William Shaffer convene a lessons-learned meeting (involving all of the councils) to discuss ways of improving the booth for next year's fair.



Bill Shaffer, Scott Graham, John Frey, Bob McCaffrey, and Joe Doane man the District 18 booth at the Montgomery County Fair

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Knights of Columbus  
Mater Dei Council #9774



## Special Notices

- All articles for the October issue must be received by the Editor by Friday Sep 21<sup>st</sup>.

“Please choose the way of peace.. In the short term there may be winners and losers in this war that we all dread. But that never can, nor never will justify the suffering, pain and loss of life your weapons will cause.” (Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta)

“The choice between Peace and War in the context of the current international situation is also the choice between Good and Evil which calls all Christians ... to reject Satan’s temptations, the same way Jesus rejected them in the desert.” (John Paul II)

“War is murder on a very large scale... Let’s denounce its uselessness and intrinsic stupidity.”  
(L’Osservatore Romano, Vatican Official newspaper)

“There were not sufficient reasons to unleash a war against Iraq. To say nothing of the fact that, given the new weapons that make possible destructions that go beyond the combatant groups, today we should be asking ourselves if it is still licit to admit the very existence of a “just war.” (Cardinal Ratzinger - Pope Benedict XVI )

“No to war! War is not always inevitable. It is always a defeat for humanity.” ✠ “The future of humanity will never be secured through terrorism or the logic of war, **NEVER, NEVER, NEVER!**” (John Paul II)

## Schedule of Events: September - October 2007

Tue Sep 4	Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC
Thu Sep 13	Business Meeting, 8pm, DCC
Sun Sep 23	Parish Picnic
Thu Sep 27	Social Meeting (speaker), 8pm, DCC
Tue Oct 2	Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC
Thu Oct 11	Business Meeting, 8pm, DCC
Sun Oct 21	Coffee & Donuts, Trumpet Room
Tue Oct 23	Open House, 7:30pm, DCC
Thu Oct 25	1st Degree, 7:30pm, DCC



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