



Grand Knight's Message

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Grand Knight has requested that Lawrence Grayson's January *Reflections* article be published in lieu of his monthly message.

Chaplain's Reflection

Clergy Abuse Scandal

Jesus told his disciples, "I am the bread of life." While this is absolutely true, sometimes, the gravely unholy actions of a very small minority of our clergy can raise doubts. The issue of clergy sanctity actually dates back to 4th century. St. Augustine actively disapproved of the ministry of notorious sinners among the clergy. However, he maintained that clerical sin is personal. So, a priest's sins, no matter how grave, could never impede the Church's holiness. Sacramental efficacy does not depend upon the cleric's uncompromised moral status because Christ himself is their actual agent of sacramental action. The priest is only "acting in persona Christi." The origin of the Church's holiness is found in Jesus and not in the cleric's human merits.

What insights can a Biblical reading offer? First, we should not be surprised that people behave badly. The Bible clearly teaches that we human beings have been made in the image and likeness of God and that we are destined for eternal life with God. Nevertheless, it teaches with equal clarity that we are a fallen race, marked by the original sin which has compromised us in body, mind, and will. The Scriptural narratives are remarkably honest about this. They make reference to rape, theft, murder, adultery, blind ambition, and yes, sexual abuse. More to it, many of these crimes are committed by God's chosen instruments: Saul, David, Solomon, Jacob, Peter, Paul, and John, to name just a few. Why does this happen? From a Biblical perspective, sin is the most fundamental and clarifying response.

Second, the Church has enemies. The message of God's love is not one that is necessarily received with enthusiasm by a sinful world. The sexual abuse of children is not new. It is a plague that has been around throughout the ages.

Continued Next Column

Chaplain, Continued

Jesus said, "heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not." Biblically minded people should understand that the moral compass of the Church cannot be corrupted by sins of its clergy or the laity. Third, God regularly, and sometimes harshly, chastises his people Israel in order to cleanse them. On the biblical reading, God raises up figures who name the sins of the nation and call its leaders to repentance and reform. We might recall Samuel, Nathan, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Jesus himself.

Nor is everyone who brought the clergy sex scandal to light, an enemy of the church. Many should be understood as instruments of God's vengeance, who is compelling a reluctant church to come to grips with a problem that it has had for far too long. The God of Israel sometimes used the enemies of Israel—Philistines, Babylonians, Romans, etc.—to work out his cleansing purposes. Might the God also be using the Washington Post or the New York Times in much the same way? We should never forget that the most clarifying perspective is the one provided by God's holy word.

Rev. Mr. Alan Jeeves
Associate Chaplain

Council 5567 Earns STAR COUNCIL Award

St. Joseph Manyanet Council has earned the coveted Star Council Rating for the Fraternal Year that ended June 30, 2018. The plaque is hanging on the wall in our Council chamber, so be sure to check it out at the next meeting. For a small Council such as ours, this is a major achievement.

REFLECTIONS - Lawrence P. Grayson

Bless the Mother, Kill the Child

For several weeks at the end of each year, Catholics in America celebrate the beauty and joy of motherhood. The liturgical feasts and biblical readings describe how God instilled hope by creating life in the wombs of virgins and barren women.

Continued on Page 2

Council Officers

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Rev. Don VanAlstyne	Honorary Chaplain
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Toni Brito	Inside Guard
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Seth Asso	Outside Guard
Danny Orino, PGK	Trustee 3 Years
J.P. Flagg, II, PGK	Trustee 2 years
Bill Newbrough, PGK	Trustee 1 years

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Michael White	Culture of Life
Reggie Flagg	Youth Activities
Frank Carroll	Church Activities
Mike Holder, PGK	Community Activities
J.P. Flagg, II, PGK	Family Activities
Bill Newbrough, PGK	Council Activities

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Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to our Brother Knights who celebrate a birthday in January!

Rev. Alphonso Carew – 2	Patrick McNerney - 12
Orlando Lau – 4	Chris Colburn - 15
Michael R. Huff – 5	Primo Roman - 15
Thomas G. Curro – 6	Robert E. Kane – 19
Martin Sedegah – 6	Leo Bauman – 20
Paul W. Buol – 8	Joseph Young - 22
Richard A. Palya – 9	Michael Nittol - 28
Robert A. Gombas – 10	Chris Glaser, Jr. - 29
Stephen E. Richter – 11	Joseph Lamour – 29
	Francesco Gambe - 30

Please Remember in Your Prayers:

Luke Barr, grandson of Bernard Wikramanayake ❖
Bernadette Barr, daughter of Bernard Wikramanayake
❖ Connie Berens, mother of Pattie Kane ❖ Harry
Canter ❖ Christina Cooper ❖ David V. Dube, Jr. ❖
Patrick J. Freimuth , PGK ❖ Chris Glaser, Jr. ❖
Thomas Strobel ❖ Charles Hudson ❖ John Kominski
❖ Alfio & Rosemary Mazzaglia ❖ Gloria Pelletier ❖
Roger Vales ❖ Mary Wells (Bob Kane's Sister) ❖
William Cooper ❖ Nimal Perera's Daughter Savini ❖
Fr. Val Keveny ❖ Ron Dunn ❖ Jack McCue ❖ Bill
Hanna ❖ Maria E. Cooper, daughter of Christina
Cooper (widow of George Cooper) ❖ Carl Dabbs, PGK
❖ Orlando Lau ❖ Marlene Trimble ❖ Chris Glaser ❖
family of Ted Sintetos ❖ Mary Masto ❖ Sharon Kassel
❖ Peter Latora ❖ Dawn Szabo ❖ Alice Clair ❖
Aristotle Prado's Nephew ❖ B.G. Thompson, PGK and
his wife Caroline ❖ Fr. Alphonso Carew ❖ Joe
Fantom's daughter ❖ the Grandfather of Danny Grant
❖ John Naughton ❖ Wally Stack, PGK ❖ John Pettit ❖
Melba Aquedulo, grandmother of Alex Lopez-Bueno ❖
Roger Szabo ❖ James Stack ❖ Elvira Oriño ❖ Oliva
Bell Monte, grandmother of Cesar Sanchez-Luna ❖
Bob Kammer, PGK ❖ Carol Kammer ❖ Ed Nedimala
❖ Pedro Esteban ❖ Martha Gomez

Upcoming Events and Activities

- Jan. 10 Social Meeting 8pm in Room 11 of the
Avalon School at St. Catherine Laboure
Jan. 10 Admission Degree at Mater Dei Council –
Degree begins promptly at 7:30pm, report
time for candidates is 7:00pm
Jan. 12 Polar Bear Plunge to benefit Maryland
Special Olympics.
Jan. 18 March of Life in Washington DC
Jan. 24 Business Meeting in Room 11 of the
Avalon School at St. Catherine Laboure.
Jan. 27 Fellowship Sunday at St. Jude after the
8:30, 10:30, and 12 noon Masses in the
Thaddeus Room.

Reflections, Continued from Page 1

On December 8, the Church honors the Immaculate
Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She, who was
destined to become the Mother of God, was conceived in
the womb of her mother, Anne, free from original sin, a
pure vessel to bring forth the Savior of the World. Then,
four days later, Catholics celebrate the Feast of Our
Lady of Guadalupe. On that date in 1531, the Blessed
Virgin appeared to Juan Diego and imprinted on his
tilma an image of herself, clothed in native garb that was
adorned with Aztec pictographs identifying her as a
pregnant virgin.

Continued on Page 3

Reflections, Continued from Page 2

On both feasts and on many other days preceding Christmas, events in the lives of Mary and Elizabeth are told from the Gospel of Luke: An angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah and said, “Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John.” Then, the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and said, “you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus,” and continued, “behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived* a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren.” Upon her cousin’s visit, “When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, ‘Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.’”

These descriptions of divine events are complemented by Old Testament readings from Judges, Isaiah, and Samuel: “An angel of the Lord appeared to the woman [wife of Manoah] and said to her, “though you are barren and have had no children, you will conceive and bear a son”; they named him Samson. The Lord gave King Ahaz a sign saying, “the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.” And Hannah said to the high priest Eli, “I prayed for this child [Samuel], and the Lord granted my request.”

These narrations are preparatory to December 25, when Christians throughout the world observe the birth of Our Lord through Mary. This most solemn of holydays is liturgically celebrated for eight days, ending on its octave of January 1, which the Roman Catholic Church designates as the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. The old year thus ends with the birth of Our Savior, and a new year begins with a celebration of Mary’s motherhood.

But even as life is proclaimed, the shadow of death looms. On December 28, the Church remembers the Holy Innocents, the boys two years and younger who were ordered massacred by Herod for his fear that the Lord would be an earthly king.

Today, this heinous slaughter has been repeated daily since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion in 1973. Some 60 million children in America have been destroyed before birth, exterminated by acts of their mothers’ free will and abetted by an infrastructure of death. No past society in the history of the world has ever tolerated such voluntary, massive destruction of its own people.

The promotion of death is big business in the United States, with thousands of people making their living killing unborn babies.

Continued Next Column

Reflections, Continued from Previous Column

It is not compassion for a distressed mother, but money that is the driving force. The Planned Parenthood Federation of America, which performs more than one-third of all abortions in the nation, is abetted in its grizzly business by the federal government, having received \$544 million of taxpayer money in fiscal year 2016-17. With an outspoken advocate for abortion – sadly, a Catholic -- having been nominated to be Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, it is unlikely that federal support will decrease.

After 46 years of battling legalized abortion, pro-life efforts are bearing results. The Center for Disease Control recently reported that the number of abortions in the United States decreased 24% over the decade 2006-2015, to an historic low. However, there also is a disturbing shift from surgical abortions to medication abortions. Since the Food and Drug Administration approved RU-486, commonly known as the abortion pill, in September 2000, medication abortions have increased to one quarter of all abortions.

As abortifacients become easier to obtain – an increasing number of universities are making morning after pills available via campus vending machines -- more and more abortions will occur by simply “popping a pill.” There soon will be no need to go to an abortion clinic, face pro-life prayer warriors and counselors, possibly see graphic images or view an ultrasound picture, and undergo a surgical procedure. The woman will have less anxiety or feelings of guilt about taking a self-procured pill, as her actions will seem normal.

The pro-life movement is faced with a new significant challenge. As increasing numbers of abortions are done at earlier stages with pills, not only the hearts and minds, but the consciences of people must be formed to acknowledge the existence and dignity of the human person at the earliest stages of development and recognize the evils of abortion in all its forms.

With the low level of religious observance in America – one quarter of all adults have no religious affiliation, while only 23% of Catholics attend Mass each week -- this will not be easy to achieve, but must be done.

America needs a religious revitalization. There must be an endeavor by religious and laity to live one’s faith openly and fully in public, and to develop a societal reverence for life. But most importantly, there must be a concerted effort of prayer – to rededicate this nation to its patroness, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, and to call upon that pregnant virgin, Our Lady of Guadalupe, who has been declared Empress of the Americas.

Continued on Page 4



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ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

“When people ask what Knights do, say, ‘We help people, change lives, and save lives!’”

Mark McMullen, Vice President, Membership and Fraternal Mission Department, K of C

January, 2019 Edition

Reflections, from Page 3

With prayer and faith, with Our Lady’s intercession to her Son, the nation’s culture can change, for as Our Lord assures us, “with God, all things are possible.”

January, 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God 1	2	3	4	5
6 Epiphany	7	8	9 Adm. Degree @ Mater Dei 7:30p	10 Social Meeting 8pm	11	12 Polar Bear Plunge
13	14	15	16	17	18 March for Life	19
20 Free Throw Contest @ SJ	21 Martin Luther King Day	22	23	24 Business Meeting 8pm	25	26
27 Fellowship Sunday @ SJ	28	29	30	31		