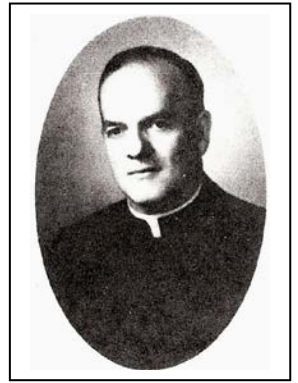


Father Maher's Knightly News

FR. PETER PAUL MAHER COUNCIL 6793 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Chartered April 21, 1976 • District 30 • Member of McNamara Chapter
Charter Council of the Sullivan Brothers Assembly 2861
P.O. Box 570 Olney, MD 20830 • www.kofc6793.org



SEPTEMBER 2019 • VOLUME XLII • ISSUE 3



Visit our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/KnightsOfColumbus6793/>

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Reverend James Boccabella, Pastor
Our Lady of Grace Church

E-mail: jimboccabella@msn.com Phone: 301-924-0067



Summer's over – time to get back to work. I hope you all had the opportunity to take some time for relaxation, for glorying in God's creation. Because we have work to do. As I mention often to many of the parishioners at Our Lady of Grace, if we're still here, it means God has something else for us to do, something that He specifically desires from us, for our benefit and that of others.

Although not normally thought of as a Marian month, September boasts of Mary's Nativity on the 8th, the Most Holy Name of Mary on the 12th, and Our Lady of Sorrows on the 15th (the day after the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross). As pastor of OLOG, these days certainly keep me mindful of the importance of Mary as our mother and as a powerful intercessor for us with God. As a momentary plug for OLOG serving as the host parish of the Council's meetings and many of its programs, I would also like to remind my fellow Knights from St. Peter's and St. Patrick's that you are always welcome here. Entering Leisure World from Norbeck Road, you do not actually have to go into Leisure World (past the security booth) but can make an immediate left into our parking lot and, by proceeding to the left of the church building, you will find our parish center just behind the church. Greater participation in our meetings and in our activities helps the Council to do more of the things our good God wants us to do, even for activities in our own parishes.

Motto: "Mary, fill our Hearts with Charity and Love."

Following on last month's report on GK Fred Taylor's focus on the spirituality of our members, we will be holding a Holy Hour as part of our Social Meeting at the end of the month, and I hope to schedule some adult catechesis programs here at OLOG that would be convenient for Knights and their families to attend to increase their understanding of our faith, to be better prepared to give a good reason for why we believe and why others should, also. More information on this will be forthcoming, but I certainly welcome any suggestions any may have, such as times for meeting, etc. There is a very real war on, as the devil knows his time is short. May we, as Mary's soldiers, gear up for the battle. May God bless us all.

Fr. Jim

DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

SK Joseph F. Krempasky, District Deputy (30)
E-mail: JKrempasky@gmail.com ~ Phone: 301-570-4891



September 3 - St. Phoebe (1st century) was a deaconess of the Church at Cenchrea. She was recommended to the Christian congregation at Rome by St. Paul, who praised her for her assistance to him and to many others. It is thought that she may have brought Paul's epistle to the Romans to Rome with her.

Yes, I will start this month's report with a comment about membership. It seems as though the summer months have sent membership recruitment on vacation. Labor Day is just around the corner, and District 30 has had no Admission Degrees during this time. Our membership director, Ron Hassan, is encouraging all councils to now begin planning for our October church drives. Ron must report to Supreme the status of admissions by September 15. It's time to approach those men coming back from vacation. Hopefully, they will be receptive to our worthy cause.

As most of you are aware, Past State Deputy, Steve Cohen, Supreme Regional Training Director, is planning another Delta Church Drive training session. These are worthwhile sessions held to disseminate necessary information. Go online and sign up for a session.

Please don't forget that the Columbus Day Ball is scheduled for October 12 at the BWI Marriot. Should you intend to attend, your reservations must be received by Jack Giacalone no later than September 10. (Car raffle tickets must be submitted no later than the evening of the ball.)

Just a quick, and very serious reminder - I am encouraging all Knights (not just the officers) to take the Youth Protection on-line training. We must have this training to protect ourselves and our children, when sponsoring a Knights event. I took the training courses (three of them) in less than an hour. You can do this without a officer code number.

I promise that I will "dig in" to find out where our Tootsie Rolls are. I haven't received any notice, as of yet.

One more thing. As a formal end to summer, the State Council is planning a picnic at North Point State Park, September 7, 2019, 12 -5 PM. Food and games are supplied by the State Council. Cost? \$8.00 per person, and \$28.00 per family.

Vivat Jesus

GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

SK W. Fred Taylor, Grand Knight

E-mail: taylorwf8@verizon.net ~ Phone: 301-871-8928



Our Council continues to serve with exciting events in the "Faith in Action" theme. We recently sponsored an afternoon party at the Grace House for its residents. My thanks to Steve Sutkowski for a great job of leading that event. Nearly every resident was present as well as staff and management. They mentioned that another party at Christmas would be to their liking!

Joe and Lynn Feakes again put together the State Program Seminar at Good Counsel High School. My thanks to both of them and the administration at Good Counsel for productive event sharing news about our Faith in Action programs. The hot dogs were also a hit and thanks to Steve Goldhammer and Kevin Kennedy for their help. We hosted our first fundraising dinner at Our Lady of Grace on August 25. The event was well attended and we all had great fun and food. Proceeds from that event will support our Seminarians and students at our Parish schools and Catholic High Schools.

I have a special thank you for Don Hemke who reinstated the Divine Mercy Chaplet before each of our Business Meetings at 7PM. This is something I have been recently missing and it is a wonderful way to bring us together and begin our meeting.

Good news is that our new storage facility is up at Our Lady of Grace. My sincere thanks to both Monsignor Essex and Father Jim Boccabella for their kindness and help providing space and welcoming us to the Parish. Thanks also to Joe Krempasky for leading this effort through so many unexpected twists and turns! More good news is that our new insurance field agent, Ken Storck, joined us at our August Business Meeting. Please contact Ken for any insurance needs you may have. He is a St. Patrick's parishioner.

Our "Day of Spiritual Reflection" is quickly approaching on September 14. This is something you, your Lady and family really don't want to miss. Please let Ed Shaffer or me know if you plan to join us. You can see more details in the Faith article in this newsletter. We are also working with Fr. Jim to have a "Holy Hour" at our September Social meeting on September 25. This promises to be a special Faith event and please plan to join us with your Ladies, families and friends.

We have recruited an exceptional group of new Knights in recent years. We must engage them and their Ladies and families, let them know they are welcome, wanted and needed, and make room for them in our upcoming schedule. They are the life's blood of this Council. Join us at a meeting, become a more active member of our Council, and help plan and execute our activities for the year. Please take the time to care for and love each other and pray the Rosary frequently.

Visit our website at www.kofc6793.org or Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KnightsOfColumbus6793/ to stay informed of our future activities. Attend our business meetings and read our Newsletter to find activities that interest you and join in. Become a more active Brother Knight and support our Council activities.



Above: The Council's new storage facility

FRATERNAL BENEFITS ADVISOR REPORT

NEW FIELD AGENT FOR FR. PAUL MAHER COUNCIL



I am pleased to announce the appointment of Ken Storck as your new Field Agent for the Fr. Maher Council. Ken is a parishioner at St. Patrick's parish and comes to us after a long career as a loan officer in the mortgage banking field. Ken and I will be visiting his assigned members together for the next few weeks. Please welcome Ken.

Fraternally,

Bob Callaway, FICF, LUTCF
General Agent

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Jim Street, Chairman, Church Activities

E-mail: streetjames@aol.com ~ Phone: 301-717-2667

In a recent issue of KnightLine, Vol 36, No. 5, membership was the focal point and emphatically stressed. We as knights must work together to stabilize and promote our Council. As we should all recognize, the continuation of our duty to serve is dependent on the membership growth which ensures our current success and future health. With this growth, men are given the opportunity to function regularly in charitable endeavors and to be a part of a membership that shapes men's lives by enhancing their roles as Catholics, husbands, fathers and citizens.

With the average age of our brothers being 60 years old, we need to broaden our outreach to younger men so that our works will continue over the coming years. To this end, my search for Catholic brothers will begin by visiting our three churches' RCIA and Adult/or Formation programs. Further, I will be visiting other councils to learn how they approach recruitment and what they attribute their recruitment successes to. However, we must remember that recruitment is every knight's responsibility to reach out to our Catholic brothers in our neighborhoods, our work, and our social environments.

Again, recognizing our individual strengths, this is a call to all in our Council to work with me to promote membership by speaking with people in all avenues of life. Please contact me, at the above email address or phone number, with your ideas and ways to execute them.

FAITH IN ACTION

John Feldmann, Chairman, Faith Programs
E-mail: jjf3353@comcast.net ~ Phone: 301-924-3353

Pilgrimage to Saint John Paul II National Shrine

The Council will make Pilgrimage to the Saint John Paul II National Shrine on September 14. All Knights and family members are encouraged to participate in this Faith Activity. The agenda for the Pilgrimage is listed below. Box lunches will be available for \$8.00-\$10.00. Those Knights planning to attend should RSVP to Ed Shaffer at ed.shaffer75@gmail.com to let him know that you are planning to attend and how many guests you will be bringing. Also let him know if you want a box lunch. Box lunch payment will be collected at the shrine.

9:00 AM	Depart Our Lady of Grace Church
9:45-10:00 AM	Arrival, welcome, and spiritual talk based on 1 of 5 unique themes
11:00 AM	Confessions, veneration of the relic of Saint John Paul II, personal prayer, visit to our permanent exhibit, A Gift of Love: The Life of Saint John Paul II, followed by the Rosary with the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy at 11:30 AM.
12:00 PM	Mass offered for members of the Council who passed away during the last fraternal year
12:30 PM	Consecration of the Council, families, and Totus Tuus pilgrims to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (inspired by a similar act of consecration made by Saint John Paul II in 1984).
1:00 PM	Public tour of the Shrine's sacred art
2:30 PM	Talk by the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy followed by prayer at the hour of Mercy and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

FOURTH DEGREE NEWS

SULLIVAN BROTHERS ASSEMBLY 2861

"WE STICK TOGETHER!"

SK George Silvas, Faithful Navigator [www.sullivan2861.org]



Assembly Business Meetings are held the **third Thursday** of each month at 8PM. See this newsletter's calendar for details.

Fourth Degree Exemplification

The next Fourth Degree Exemplification for the Archdiocese of Washington District will be held on October 19, 2019 at Saint Francis Xavier Church 2800 Pennsylvania Ave SE Washington, DC, 20020. Candidates report at 9:30AM. Exemplification begins at 11:00AM.

For more information please contact: Joe Feakes, Master Fourth Degree, Archdiocese of Washington District, Tel: (301) 774-0137, Email: josephfeakes@aol.com.

CHURCH NEWS

Jim Street, Chairman, Church Activities
E-mail: streetjamese@aol.com ~ Phone: 301-717-2667

OUR LADY OF GRACE

Website: <http://ourladyofgracelw.weebly.com/>
Reverend James Boccabella, Pastor



“An Experience of Hope”

On Thursday September 12, Father Early will lead a rosary after the 11:15AM. Mass. Also, there will be with a catered luncheon served by Innovative Gourmet.

For further information, everyone who has paid their \$16 by September 1, should call Mary Dugan at (301) 873-3902.

ST. PETER'S PARISH HIGHLIGHTS

Website: <http://www.stpetersolney.org>
Reverend Thomas M. Kalita, Pastor



Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible (Every-Other Monday Evening)

Many people want to read the Bible because they know it is God's Word, but they give up because it seems so complicated. **Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible** helps you to get the “big picture” of the Bible by showing how 14 narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church. **Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible** will help you pick up the Bible with confidence and understand how you fit into God's plan.

Participants of Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible will meet every-other week to view an engaging video presentation followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship. Our Bible Study will begin on Monday, September 9, at 8 PM, in the Shepherd's Room. For more information or to register for the study, please contact Sherrie at 301-260-8539. We hope you can join us!

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH HIGHLIGHTS

Website: <http://www.stpatricksmd.org>
Monsignor Charles J. Parry, Pastor



Yard Sale

Save the date, mark your calendars! The yard sale to help Life Connection Mission, Haiti is scheduled for Saturday, October 19. We need furniture, clothes, toys, bicycles, yard tools, sports equipment, lamps, art work, and more! For more information contact Christie Anne Short at christianne.short@stpatrickadw.org.

Please begin telling friends and family and encourage them to join our efforts. Look through garages, basements, and spread the word for neighbors to do the same. Thank you in advance for your help and support, and be on the lookout for more information to come in September.

Please no books, mattresses, or electronics..

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Kevin Kennedy, Chairman, Community Activities
E-mail: streetjamese@aol.com ~ Phone: 301-717-2667

Soccer Shootout

The Council will hold its Soccer Shootout on Saturday morning September 21 from 9AM to 12PM at the lower field at St Peter's Church in Olney. Look for further details in the church bulletins.

Other Upcoming Activities

Tootsie Roll Campaign - We will be beginning this worthwhile program in September. As all of you know we need volunteers for this campaign. If you can spare a few hours during that month, all the beneficiaries of this program would really appreciate it. There will be more to come on this program.

Another program for September will be the resurrection of the **Council Soccer shootout**. I am looking for a field and a goal to be able to host this event. This will be early in September as the District competition will take place, I believe in early October. If you know of a field with a regulation size goal, please let me know so I can contact that group for a time slot.

Over the year we will be **hosting additional parties at Inwood House and the Marian Center, donating Coats for Kids to the local parishes, the Basketball free throw contest, and other programs.**

Please keep these in mind and give me 24 hours of your time this year. Your donation of time will pay great dividends to those who look forward to these events.

If you have any questions, please call me Kevin Kennedy 301-807-9749.

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY

As part of our Faith in Action Family service programs, we have instituted our Food For Families program. We will be collecting food for St. Martin's Pantry, who provides food to needy families.

There will be a box at all meetings for collecting food items. All food must be unexpired, sealed items. Items in shortest supply are canned soup, canned fruit, pasta sauce, "meals in a can (canned pasta, canned chili, etc.) and dry, unsweetened cereal. So, when you are grocery shopping this month, pick up an item or two and help feed those in need.

FAMILY NEWS

Innocent D'Almeida, Chairman, Family Programs
E-mail: ipdalmeida@verizon.net ~ Phone: 301-871-6156

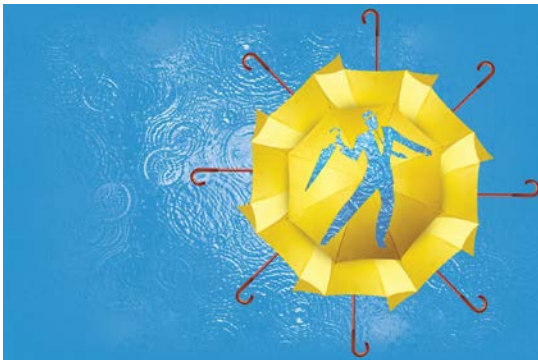


Family of the Month and Knight of the Month

July's Family of the Month was Joe and Susan Krempasky and the Knight of the Month was Kevin Kennedy.

The August Family of the Month is Innocent and Donna D'Almeida and the Knight of the Month is Fred Whitman.

SAVE THE DATE
Olney Theatre, November 15, 2019



"SINGING IN THE RAIN"

Our annual gathering includes a pre-performance reception, first-class seating, intermission snacks and an all-round great time.

MORE INFO TO COME. TICKETS \$45 Show at 8PM, reception begins at 7PM. The show will go on come snow or RAIN!!!

Contact Joe Feakes by phone at (301) 774-0137, or email: josephfeakes@aol.com

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy Returns

The council is bringing back the praying of The Chaplet of Divine Mercy prior to each council business meeting. Open to all brother knights, please arrive at Our Lady of Grace Church at 7PM, prior to the business meeting at 730PM. Prayer materials will be provided. Also bring your prayer intentions. This is in keeping with the council "Faith in Action" emphasis.

W. Fred Taylor, Grand Knight

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep these Knights and families in your prayers.

INDIVIDUAL'S NAME	RELATIONSHIP
Rev. Fr. Thomas Kalita	Pastor/St. Peter's Church
Rev. Fr. Louis Tou	Past Chaplain/Council 6793
Kayla MacBride	Niece/Fr. Kalita
Bill Gulban	Brother Knight
Barbara Mazonkey	Brother Knight
Karen Mazonkey	Daughter/Bob and Barb Mazonkey
Hunter Shaffer	Brother/ Ed Shaffer
Donna Conway	Wife/ Gerald Conway Jr
Barbara Campanaro	Friend/ Don Hemke
Ed Goodwin	Brother Knight
Oliver Nelson	Grandson/ Harry Bushar
Elaine Burch	Friend/Fred Taylor
Mark Liscinsky	Friend/ Kevin Kennedy
Donna Kuchmas	Wife/ PSD
Ed Padgent	Friend/ Jack Giacalone
Hanni Salvetti	Friend/ Pete Towson
Dennis Gehley	Friend/ Fred Whitman
Donna D'Almeida	Wife/ Innocent D'Almeida
Innocent D'Almeida	Brother Knight
DECEASED'S NAME	DATE OF DEATH
N/A	N/A

Continue to pray for the souls of our deceased armed forces.

CULTURE OF LIFE NEWS

Steve Goldhammer and Marco Colombini,
Co-chairs, Life Programs
E-mail: segoldhamm@aol.com ~ Phone: 301-570-9613

Prayer for Pro-Life

Heavenly Father, Creator of us all, we pray that your children may see that every life you create is wonderfully made, a reflection of you, with a purpose, and ever the recipient of your boundless mercy and love. Amen.

Birthright: Looking for a Place to Use Your Gifts in Service to Others?

Do you feel called to empower and educate women? Do you feel called to partner with women, helping them make life-affirming decisions? Birthright is a pregnancy resource and compassionate counseling service that strives to accomplish those goals.

Birthright is seeking volunteers who will walk alongside women and men who are facing an unexpected pregnancy. If you feel called to this vocation of life and nonjudgmental love, give Birthright a call at 301-570-3339, ask for Fran, and learn more about the Birthright mission and training opportunities.

Project Rachel Ministry



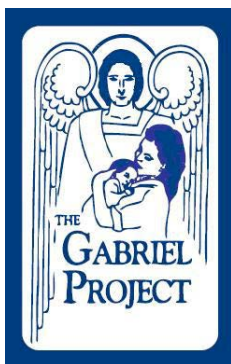
project rachel

Peace starts here

Project Rachel Ministry provides abortion recovery services for those involved in or affected by abortion decisions. Services include referrals to priests or deacons who have sensitivity to the needs of women and men after being involved in abortions, and to licensed mental health professionals.

Please call the confidential help line at 301-853-4565. You may also e-mail the ministry at ProjectRachel@adw.org (English and Spanish).

The Gabriel Project



The Gabriel Project assists needy women in crisis pregnancies in Montgomery County. Women volunteers (especially bilingual, Spanish-speaking women) are needed to stay in touch with client mothers. This work includes keeping in touch with them via phone or e-mail during their pregnancy, bringing them needed items such as diapers, baby clothes, etc., that are provided by the Gabriel Project, and praying for them. The average time commitment would be approximately one-four hours per month (or less).

Men are needed to pick up donations once or twice per month. Daily prayer supporters are also needed. Donations of diapers, formula, and baby clothes are very much appreciated. For more information, text Kathy Schwartz at 301-704-7508 or you may call or text Silvia Romero at 240-328-4776.

UPCOMING EVENTS

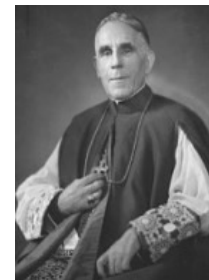
- **September 25 through November 3 – The Fall campaign of 40 Days for Life campaign** will include seven locations in Maryland where vigils will be held. Plan on coming to one of the sites, where there will be prayer, fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful, constant vigil in front of a local abortion center. These campaigns have closed many abortion businesses, had staff resign, and significantly reduced the number of abortions conducted. Bethesda: vigil at LeRoy Carhart's clinic in the Wildwood Medical Center; local coordinator is Jill Gadwood, 40daysforlife@gmail.com [In addition, there is a year-round prayer group that prayer there every Monday morning from 9-11 AM; for more information check PrayfoBethesda.com]
- **September 25 – Office of Respect Life, Archdiocese of Baltimore, is sponsoring a panel discussion titled, “In Joyful Hope”**, on embracing life and living it abundantly while preparing for a natural transition to eternal life in Christ. Topics include theology, legal, financial, elder care, hospice, and funeral planning. It will be held at Church of the Annunciation (Baltimore), from 6:00-8:00 pm. For more information, contact Kimberly LaValley at 443-224-8362 or 410-866-5255.
- **September 28 – The Centro Tepeyac Women’s Center will hold its 20th annual gala at the Bethesda Marriott.** This semi-formal evening includes a dinner, program, and silent auction to celebrate the center’s accomplishments during the past year and to cast a vision for the future work of the ministry. The keynote speaker is abortion survivor and TV personality Victoria Robinson. For more information or to register, contact Mary Hamm at maryhamm12@gmail.com.

CHAPTER NEWS

Bishop McNamara Chapter - Established 1963

[Website: <http://kofcknights.org/ChapterSite/?D=103>]

McNamara Chapter Marshall – Michael P Davenport



The September Meeting will be hosted by Dr John Henry Griffin Council #2293.

Date: September 18, 2019

Time: 8PM (Dinner at 7PM)

Location: Our Lady of Help Church, 100 Village St, Waldorf MD 20602

SUPREME NEWS

[WEBSITE: <http://www.kofc.org>]

Source: K of C Supreme Website

A TRUE KNIGHT FOR TODAY (by Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson)



THE HEROIC WITNESS OF KENDRICK CASTILLO DEMONSTRATES THE FULLNESS OF A LIFE LIVED FOR OTHERS.

THERE ARE THOSE who say we don't have heroes anymore. Kendrick Castillo proves them wrong.

One day last May, Kendrick woke up as if it were any other day. An 18-year old young man, he went through his normal morning routine, packing his backpack and heading to school in a suburb of Denver. It was an exciting time for him. As a high school senior, he looked forward to his graduation only days away and the promising life that lay before him.

But on that Tuesday afternoon, everything changed. After lunch, as Kendrick sat at his desk, a troubled student entered his classroom and pulled out a gun. In that instant, Kendrick made his decision. He charged the assailant.

Kendrick gave his fellow classmates the precious seconds they needed to hide or escape, before he was shot. But while he courageously saved lives, he selflessly gave up his own. In Kendrick Castillo, a life was tragically lost but a true hero was born.

As a nation, we mourn Kendrick's death, even as we celebrate his courage. As an organization, the Knights of Columbus is especially moved by his example of selfless sacrifice. His father, a member of the Knights, has said that his son "wanted to be a Knight of Columbus because he wanted to help not only people, but his community."

Kendrick Castillo did exactly that. A faithful Catholic to the end, he lived and died according to the teaching of Jesus Christ: "Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (Jn 15:13).

In a better world, Kendrick Castillo would still be with us. That Tuesday would have gone like any other - no shooting, no grief, no resulting search for answers. Sadly, that is not the world we live in. Ours is marred with sin and strife and suffering. But that doesn't mean we have no hope. Heroes give us hope.

There have always been and there will always be those who inspire us with their selfless actions. Some, like Kendrick Castillo, have given up their lives for the sake of others. Others are still among us, living their lives for others, in ways big and small.

To find them, we must know where to look. Some think of heroes as having supernatural powers, only to be found in comic books or movies, and in the mythic tales of ancient Greece and Rome. Others associate heroes with celebrities - great athletes, talented artists, the beautiful, the wealthy, the powerful, and so on. Yet true heroism has a different face.

Heroism lives in ordinary people who do extraordinary things. They practice the timeless principles of courage, truthfulness, humility and self-sacrifice. Like Kendrick Castillo, they put the interests of others ahead of themselves, even if it costs them everything.

If we look around, we'll see that plenty of people still embody these characteristics in their daily lives. They are often unknown or unacknowledged because they don't seek publicity. They also come from unexpected places and their heroism emerges at unforeseen times.

One of the most inspiring aspects of serving as supreme knight has been meeting so many brother Knights who are true everyday heroes - heroes who sacrifice to advance our principles of charity, unity and fraternity.

A famous 14th-century treatise on knighthood advises Christian knights to be men of integrity and devotion, for as the writer observes, "they are in danger every day, and at the moment when they think themselves to be the most secure, it is then that they may suddenly have to undertake demanding and dangerous adventures."

The integrity of the knight included the commitment to defend those in danger who could not defend themselves and the courage not to recoil in the face of danger.

We are told that Kendrick Castillo wanted to join the Knights of Columbus and so to be more like us. My sincere hope is that because of his example, our brother Knights will want to be more like him.

To learn more about the Knights, visit: <http://www.kofc.org/un/joinus/en/index.html>.

MARYLAND STATE COUNCIL NEWS

[Website: www.kofc-md.org]

REFLECTIONS

A Papal View of Socialism

(by Lawrence P. Grayson)

Almost a century ago, many influential Americans became enamored with the socialistic programs being developed in Europe and wanted to apply them in this country. In the 1920s, Benito Mussolini was favorably depicted on the cover of Time magazine and the efficiency he achieved through government control of Italy's economy was extolled on the pages of Forbes. About the same time, delegations of union leaders, academics and journalists traveled to Russia to tour collective farms, government-run factories and massive infrastructure projects being promoted by Joseph Stalin. A decade later, the totalitarian ambitions of these socialistic leaders would become evident in Fascism and Communism.

Today, Americans are once again expressing favor toward socialism. A May 2019 Gallup poll found that 43% of the people think socialism would be good for the country, although 51% think it would be bad. This is significantly more positive than a 1942 Roper poll in which 25% of Americans thought socialism would be “good” for the country and 40% thought it would be “bad”; the remainder at the time had no opinion.

In contrast to this favorable shift, every pope, from Pius IX in 1849 through Benedict XVI has opposed socialism. Pope Pius XI, in his encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno*, went so far as to say that socialism is “irreconcilable with true Christianity,” and thus “no one can be at the same time a good Catholic and a true socialist.”

What is it that merits such consistent and emphatic papal rebuke?

Socialism refers to state ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange of wealth exercised through the government and its officials. It aims for economic justice and the general welfare of all by having people contribute according to their ability and to receive benefits according to their needs. This worthy though idealistic goal has been tried many times and failed repeatedly.

Under socialism, government officials develop rules and regulation that dictate how others can or cannot operate, and thus impose their judgement for that of the individual. As a result, it discourages personal initiative while introducing state control.

From the perspective of Catholic doctrine, socialism has several significant flaws. Two of the most fundamental are its view of the person and its treatment of private property.

Socialism treats people as groups, not individuals. Pope John Paul II, in *Centesimus Annus*, described this error as “anthropological in nature. Socialism considers the individual person simply as an element, a molecule within the social organism, so that the good of the individual is completely subordinated to the functioning of the socio-economic mechanism.”

The collective nature of socialism violates an individual’s freedom to decide matters that lie within that person’s competence and reason. It usurps a person’s natural, God-given rights, which are inalienable, and replaces them with class privileges, whether based on economics, race, color, gender or, more recently, sexual identity. In radical attempts to promote equality among classes, it fosters an unequal treatment of groups, bestowing benefits on some but not others.

Socialism also denies a man’s natural law right to private property and calls for redistributing wealth by taking from the rich to give to the poor. It matters little whether the state directly confiscates a person’s property or imposes overly high taxation; either way, an injustice is committed by denying a person his or her due. One congressional representative recently suggested a marginal income tax rate of 70 percent on the top earners, while another said rates could be “as high as 90 percent.” As Pope Leo XIII wrote in *Rerum Novarum*: “The State would therefore be unjust and cruel if under the name of taxation it were to deprive the private owner of more than is fair.”

As a philosophical construct, socialism substitutes government-provided security for personal freedom, state paternalism for self-initiative, government mandates for individual responsibility, and communal directives for personal

conscience. In the extreme, socialism tends toward totalitarianism, for when people pursue their own interests in opposition to the state’s aims, the power of the government is often used to equalize the inequalities. As Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen wrote, “If the sheep will not of themselves run together in the unity of the sheepfold, then dogs must be sent barking at their heels.”

Some may argue that today’s trend toward socialism in America is not totalitarian but democratic. Socialism in any form, however, whether presented as “democratic socialism,” or “moderate socialism,” or even “Christian socialism,” conflicts with Catholic teaching. Pope John XXIII stated in *Mater et Magistra* that “no Catholic could subscribe even to moderate Socialism.”

While Americans have become more favorable toward socialism, they do not appear to know what it is. A September 2018 Gallup poll found that only 17% of Americans understand it as government ownership of the nation’s means of production – its traditional meaning and the one that excited the thought leaders of the 1920s. In contrast, 23% view it as equality in rights and benefits, while another 10% as free social services such as medical care for all. The remaining half of the populace either have no opinion (23%), or a smattering of ideas such as getting along with people, social media, political liberalism, restrictions on freedom, or a modified form of communism.

If Americans have such a wide diversity of ideas of what socialism means, how can so many intelligently say socialism would be good for the country? Without clarity of vision, how can the nation progress?

Catholic social doctrine, with its emphasis on human freedom, charity and love of neighbor, provides a way forward between socialism in its many guises and unfettered capitalism. The Church emphasizes the dual aspects of the right to own and the duty to share. The human person should use his God-given talents to the fullest and assist others with the fruits of his accomplishments.

Pope Francis speaks often about the Church’s social responsibilities. Although he has not rejected socialism, neither has he adopted it. Rather, in a recent letter addressed to young economists and entrepreneurs around the world, he proposed a new and different type of economic system: “one that brings life not death, one that is inclusive and not exclusive, humane and not dehumanizing, one that cares for the environment and does not despoil it.”

Pope Benedict XVI, in *Deus Caritas Est*, presents an approach to these lofty goals. “We do not need a State”, he wrote, “which regulates and controls everything, but a State which, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, generously acknowledges and supports initiatives arising from the different social forces and combines spontaneity with closeness to those in need.”



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SEP 14 SAT -- Day of Spiritual Reflection, Saint John Paul II Shrine. Those Knights planning to attend should RSVP to Ed Shaffer at ed.shaffer75@gmail.com to let him know that you are planning to attend and how many guests you will be bringing. Also let him know if you want a box lunch. Box lunch payment will be collected at Our Lady of Grace Church before we depart.

SEP 25 WED -- Social Meeting, featuring a Faith Activity (Holy Hour with introduction by Fr. Jim), 7:30PM, Our Lady of Grace Parish Center, Leisure World. This is an event for Knights, Ladies and families.

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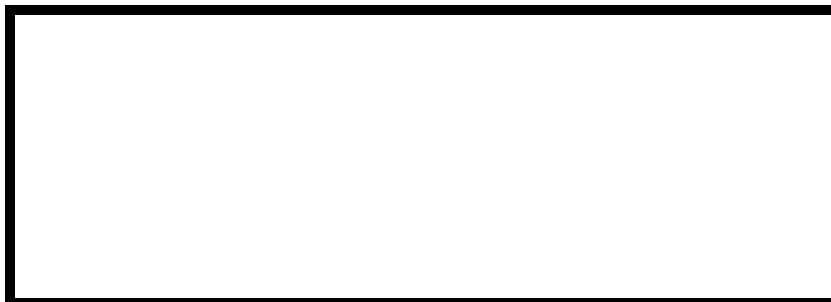
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- SEP 04 WED **Executive Meeting**, 7:30PM, St. Patrick's Parish Center
SEP 11 WED **Business Meeting**, 7:30PM, Our Lady of Grace Parish Center, Leisure World. **A Divine Mercy Chaplet Devotion before the business meeting at 7PM.**
SEP 14 SAT Day of Spiritual Reflection, Saint John Paul II Shrine, For more information, contact: Ed Shaffer at ed.shaffer75@gmail.com.
SEP 18 WED Bishop McNamara Chapter meeting, 8PM (and dinner at 7PM), Dr John Henry Griffin Council #2293, Our Lady of Help Church, 100 Village St, Waldorf MD 20602
SEP 19 THU Sullivan Brothers Assembly 2861, 8PM, Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road Derwood, MD, 20855
SEP 22 SUN Bishop McNamara Chapter Installation, Our Lady of Grace Church, 15661 Norbeck Rd, Silver Spring, MD, 20906, Mass at 2 PM
SEP 25 WED **Social Meeting, featuring a Faith Activity, 7:30PM**, Our Lady of Grace Parish Center, Leisure World



- OCT 02 WED **Executive Meeting**, 7:30PM, St. Patrick's Parish Center
OCT 09 WED **Business Meeting**, 7:30PM, Our Lady of Grace Parish Center, Leisure World. **A Divine Mercy Chaplet Devotion before the business meeting at 7PM.**
OCT 16 WED Bishop McNamara Chapter meeting, Calvert Council #7870 – at St Anthony of Padua Church Hall, 8816 Chesapeake Ave, North Beach MD, 20714, Crab & Shrimp Dinner, abbreviated meeting at 7 PM, dinner follows
OCT 17 THU Sullivan Brothers Assembly 2861, 8PM, Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road Derwood, MD, 20855
OCT 19 SAT Fourth Degree Exemplification, Saint Francis Xavier Church 2800 Pennsylvania Ave SE Washington, DC, 20020. Candidates report at 9:30AM. Exemplification begins at 11:00AM. Email: josephfeakes@aol.com
OCT 23 WED **Social Meeting, 7:30PM**, Our Lady of Grace Parish Center, Leisure World

► **For more information about or to participate in any council event, contact Grand Knight Steve Sutkowski on 301-890-9308.**
► **Council Calendar:** View it at: www.KofC6793.org (Select "Event Calendar" at the left and the current month's calendar will be displayed.) Scroll forward to view upcoming events.) To view **Monthly Business Meeting Minutes** on the website: (On the HOME screen, scroll to the bottom of the page, on the right, select "Access Minutes" in the Council Minutes section.)
► **DEADLINE:** Newsletter content **MUST** be sent, via e-mail, to **Daniel Musiitwa** [DMusiitwa@hotmail.com] **NO later than the 20th of the month** to be included in the **following month's publication**. Newsletter content questions or story ideas may be sent to **Daniel** via e-mail, anytime or call him on (202-320-6806).