



KNIGHTLIFE



*JAMES C. FLETCHER, JR. COUNCIL 11422
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - STAR COUNCIL*

Volume 22 Issue 10

April 2017

"WE ARE ADVOCATES OF THE LORD"

Behold, There Stood A Bishop





KNIGHTLIFE

FEATURES

- 3 Chaplain Thoughts**
"I am the resurrection and the life."
- 4 Grand Knight's Chronicle**
Let's continue to do the best for our faith, church and Community.
- 5 State Deputy Report**
On behalf of First Lady Vicki and I, we extend to you a Happy and Blessed Easter.
- 6 District Deputy Report**
The more you put in, the more you will enjoy the Order.
- 6 Supreme Knight' Message**
Councils can strengthen Catholic Family Life.
- 7 Fraternal Benefits Advisor**
Our Story: Founded by a Priest to protect Catholic Families.
- 8 Bishop Walsh Assembly News**
Welcome Sir Knights.
- 9 Bishop McNamara Chapter**
I am sad to say, yet happy to say, we are now in the Chapter Officer Election Cycle.
- 14 Reflections**
Being Catholics in Today's Society.



**14 Bishop-Elect
Roy E. Campbell, Jr.**

PROGRAMS

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Program Director's Report
Brothers, remember, we are strongest when we are united together! 10 Church Activities
The Holy Family Icon prayer service was held at St. Joseph. 10 Cultural of Life Activities
Human life is sacred and inviolable at every moment of existence. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 Community Activities
A Field of Dreams. 11 Council Activities
The council put on another very successful Lenten Fish Fry. 12 Youth Activities
We are gearing up for the Annual Youth Talent Show. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 Membership
"Wanted", Catholic Gentle-Men for an experience of a life time. 13 Family Activities
Parishioners of St. Joseph and Fletcher Council honored the "Brooks" family. Miscellaneous <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Convention Schedule of Events 14 Behold, There Stood a Bishop 16 Congratulations Corner 17 Smiley Central 17 Council Officers 18 Birthdays & Calendar 18 Marian Title For April |
|---|---|--|



Chaplain Thoughts...

"I am the resurrection and the life."

by Bishop-Elect Roy E. Campbell, Jr.



Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" Mary replied, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe." This must also be our response to the message of our Gospel.

Jesus chose the death of Lazarus to show the power and glory of the Son of Man. Lazarus was dead, but Jesus brought him back to life. When Lazarus came out of his tomb, he was wrapped in burial cloth. Jesus said, "Untie him and let him go." Jesus freed Lazarus from the bondage of death, to live in the new life Jesus gave him. That is why Jesus told Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live." Lazarus believed in Jesus and our Lord brought him back to life.

Jesus continued by telling Martha, "and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." Now Jesus is speaking to us and everyone who is baptized in the "Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." We now live in the life of Christ and will never die! Do we believe this?

Lazarus died a mortal death again, and we will die a mortal death; however, through our Baptisms and our faith, we will never die a spiritual death, unless we turn away from Christ. Saint Paul says in his Letter to the Romans, "if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness."

The Pharisees entombed their sins in the darkness of their hearts, by condemning the Lord to death. Often we place our sins inside our own dark tombs, where we hope that nobody will see them, where we hope that they will not be discovered. In our dark tombs, they will only cause us more decay and emit a stench of hopelessness and depression.

The story of Lazarus teaches us that nothing can be hidden from God, no matter how grave the sins are that we have hidden in our tombs. We commit a grave, or mortal, sin through our own free choice, a choice so contrary to God's will, that it ruptures our friendship with Him. Jesus desires to approach our sins and to bring life where there is death.

Jesus is not afraid of the gravity of our sins. We must have faith and believe that light always overcomes darkness. That resurrection always conquers death. That love and forgiveness always overshadows the power of sin. Our faith in Jesus and His love for us, should lead us to say, as Martha said: "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe."



Congratulations Bishop-Elect Roy E. Campbell, Jr.



Alan M. Davis

adavis1960@verizon.net

301-808-8009

"Let's continue to do the best for our faith, church and community"

Happy Easter Brothers All!



Brothers, we are two weeks from *Easter Sunday* and as we come closer to the resurrection of our *Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*, we should take time to remember the commitments and promises we made for changes in our lives at the beginning of Lent. If we find that we have fallen behind on some of those promises,

now is the time to refocus so that we can accomplish those promises.

We are also only two months from the end of our Fraternal Year and now is the time to rededicate ourselves to the final programs and events the council has scheduled from April to June. There are still many programs left that need all of our council members participation and efforts. In April, the council's *Annual Kite Flying Extravaganza* and *Talent Show* auditions will take place. Please volunteer to help promote the youth of our parish and community.

The month of May brings our *State Convention*, the council's *Annual Talent Show*, *Knight's Sunday* and the *Election of Council Officers* for the 2017-2018 Fraternal Year. Finally in June, we have *Knight's Sunday*, *Father's Day* and the council's *Annual Flea Market*.

As you can see, opportunities exist for us to still fulfill our commitment to serve the council and the St. Joseph community. Please remember the promises you made during your Admission Degree, and join with your brother knights in service these next 2-months. **"Working together, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation."** 2 *Corinthians, Chapter 6, vs 1-2.*

Opportunity

To Step Up!

Council

Elections

Are On The

Horizon.





State Deputy's Report



Stephen M. Cohen
State Deputy

My Brothers All,

Here we are starting the month of April. Spring is here and we have three months to go in the Fraternal Year. Hopefully, your Church Drives proved fruitful and we have Admission Degrees lined up for these new members. Many councils through their Church Drives will now have those additional men needed to make their Star Council goal. At the Spring Meeting I reported to the District Deputies and District Wardens that three councils have already achieved this goal and that thirty-one more are very close.

As a whole, the Maryland State Council is a little above 50% of our goal for the year. So of course that leaves 50% more. This appears to be a daunting figure; but really it is not when broken down amongst the TEAM. This works out to two members each month being brought into our councils. This number will put Maryland into the Supreme Knight's Circle of Honor. Remember, this is an award for the State. Maryland is very highly regarded at the Supreme Headquarters, it is only fitting that we strive for this prestigious award. I know that our councils and our leaders can make this happen. If you need help, just contact our State Membership Team and we will be there.

Do not forget that in order to achieve the Star Council award, you must fulfill your Domestic Church requirement. If you need help with this, when completing the Columbian Award application, please call one of the State Officers.

On March 30, 2017; we celebrated Founder's Day with a Mass and Banquet. Thank you to all of those who participated and made this a success. At the Banquet we presented our Awards for Police, EMT, Firefighter, Teacher, CCD Teacher, Citizen and Family of the Year. My congratulations to all of our award winners. Thanks also to our Chairmen for judging and selecting our winners.

The State Convention will soon be here. This year the Supreme Representative assigned to the Maryland State Convention is our Deputy Supreme Knight, Patrick E. Kelly. This is truly an honor for Maryland. It is not often a jurisdiction is assigned a Supreme Officer to their convention. Please help in welcoming Patrick at our convention. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Ocean.

Keep up the great work that we are doing in our councils. Remember, in everything that we do - We Are Advocates of the Lord.

Vivat Jesus,
Steve

Have You Visited The State Website Lately

<http://kofc-md.org/>

Or the Maryland State Yahoo Group

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/MDstatecouncil/info?yguid=46983702>

MARYLAND STATE COUNCIL



119th Annual Convention - May 5, 6, 7, 2017

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY

11:00 AM Convention Golf Tournament
5:00 PM to Pre-Convention Registration
7:00 PM (Barbados Room)

FRIDAY

9:00 AM Mass (Make Room) with Exposition of
The Blessed Sacrament until 11:30 AM
Convention Registration
4:00 PM (Barbados Room)
1:00 PM to Youth Activity
3:00 PM (Eleuthera Room)
2:00 PM District Deputy Meeting. (Caribbean Hall)
3:00 PM Grand Knights' \$1000 Olympics
for Charity (Atrium Area)
6:00 PM to Convention Registration
8:00 PM (Barbados Room)
7:00 PM Mass & Opening Session of
Convention (Caribbean Hall)
7:00 PM Ladies Activities - (Palmetto
Ballroom), Doors open 6:30 PM
7:00 PM Youth Activity
9:00 PM (Eleuthera Room)
8:30 to Open House - Hospitality Rooms
Midnight (Atrium Area)

SATURDAY

7:30 AM to Convention Registration
10:30 AM (Barbados Room)
8:30 AM Assemble for Grand Knight March
(Sun Deck - Coat & Tie)
9:00AM Awards Program (Atrium Area)
11:00 AM Second Session of Convention
(Caribbean Hall)
11:00 AM to Youth Activity
1:00 PM (Eleuthera Room)
3:00 PM Assemble for Convention Mass
(Front of the Hotel)
4:00 PM Concelebrated Mass (St. Luke's)
5:45 PM Convention Banquet (Black Tux)
(Palmetto Ballroom)
(Cash Bar - Doors Open 5:15 PM)
5:45 PM to Youth Activity
8:00 PM (Eleuthera Room)
8:00 PM to Open House - Hospitality Rooms
Midnight (Atrium Area)

SUNDAY

7:30 AM Mass (Mako Room)
9:00 AM District Deputy Meeting
(Dominica Room)
9:30 AM Closing Session of Convention
(Caribbean Hall)

CONVENTION BADGES

Are required for admission to all Convention Activities, Hospitality Rooms and the Atrium and should be worn at all times.

Only Brother Knights are allowed to attend Official Convention sessions and they must present a current 3rd Degree Card



District Deputy Report



G. Emeka Onwezi
District Deputy

We have exactly three months before this fraternal year is over. I know that the *Grand Knight* is seeing the end of the tunnel and smiling. Nevertheless, we will continue to push until the end. Therefore, the *Maryland's State Council's* top priority for the remaining months is growing our Order for our Councils and our Assemblies. That means, continue to recruit and exemplify the admission for two men each month. So, ask yourself if you have recruited anyone this fraternal year. If your answer is in negative, you still have a few months to make it happen. It is not too late.

The Maryland State Council's goal to attend the prestigious Circle of Honor award lies on each and every Council in the State to recruit and exemplify Catholic men into our ranks. Remember that the Supreme Knight's Circle of Honor is for jurisdiction as a whole, and not for the State Deputy. It is the highest award a State can receive from the Supreme.

As you know, the *Maryland State Council's Convention* for this year is approaching. Maryland is honored this year to have the Deputy Supreme Knight as our Supreme Representative. As you may know, having a supreme officer does not occur many times. This is a tribute for our state.

The *Maryland State Council's* upcoming numerous trips are closer than you thought. Council members and their families are encouraged to be part of these trips. You do not have to go to all the trips. The following trips are in the pipeline: *Hershey*

Park, a family day, will be on April 30, 2017. *Mackinac Island* bus trip will be in September 2017. The exact date will be passed out when it is available. *Key West 4 Days Valentine's* trip will be in February 2018. The Exact date will be passed on when it is available. Finally, the *Alaska* trip will be sometime in May or June 2018. Be ready, and come out to enjoy with your *Maryland State Council* family.

The Maryland State Council and the three insurance agencies will conduct a benefit for Past State Deputy (PSD) *Sir Knight William "Bill" Kuchmas* and his family. SK Kuchmas and one of his children have Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) disease, often called Lou Gehrig's disease. The benefit will be on June 3, 2017 at Columbus Gardens from 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. For those that do not know Sir Knight Bill Kuchmas, he was once the State Deputy of Maryland State Council and he has been very active in our jurisdiction. If you are interested in attending, tickets are \$41 per person. Those in District 2 can get the ticket through me. Also, a raffle tickets are being sold for \$10 per raffle to be drawn at the event. The winner will get a 50-inch Big Screen TV.

I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate all those that have been nominated in respective council officers' positions. I also encourage all others to step up and take one of the leadership positions in your council. The more you put in, the more you will enjoy the Order.

Also, congratulations to all the council members who took their patriotic degree on March 25, 2017 at Colony South in Clinton, Maryland.

Vivat Jesus!

Supreme Knight's Message

LAST MONTH, I wrote about Martin Scorsese's remarkable film *Silence*, based on the historical novel of the same title by the Japanese Catholic author Shusaku Endo. Through the journey of two young Jesuits, Father Francisco Garpe and Father Sebastião Rodrigues, *Silence* explores the 17th-century persecution of Christians in Japan — and the consequences of the apostasy, after torture, of Father Cristóvão Ferreira, the Jesuit provincial there.

As I wrote last month, Scorsese views his film as a sort of pilgrimage, and I encouraged those who see it to do so in the same light. *Silence* presents in an extraordinary way an important chapter — but only one chapter — in the long history of missionary activity and evangelization. What is *missing* from *Silence* is also worth recalling.

When news of Father Ferreira's action reached Europe, many Jesuits sought to travel to Japan not to ascertain the facts but to join those who were suffering martyrdom. Among them was a group of Jesuits led by an Italian, Father Marcello Mastrilli.

Before leaving for Japan, Father Mastrilli composed a new novena asking the intercession of St. Francis

Xavier, one of the first Jesuits, for the success of the missions and especially for those suffering overseas for the Catholic faith, that they would "live and die in the state of grace." Father Mastrilli's novena, traditionally recited in March, has come to be known as the Novena of Grace.

Father Mastrilli and his companions were captured shortly after their arrival in Japan. Horribly tortured, they suffered martyrs' deaths. Indeed, Father Mastrilli's witness, not Father Ferreira's apostasy, better represents the Jesuit mission in Japan.

A Japanese account from the time states that during the 17th century approximately 100 Jesuits died as martyrs while only five renounced their faith, after torture.

There is even evidence that toward the end of his life Father Ferreira recanted his apostasy, after which he, too, was tortured to death.



And regarding the question of whether Christianity could take root in Japan, the fact remains that when Commodore Matthew Perry entered Japan's Edo Bay in 1853 there were thousands of Japanese Christians.

Today, we see throughout parts of the Middle East, Africa and Asia the brutal persecution, torture and killing of Christians. The daily heroism of these brothers and sisters in the faith is an inspiration to their fellow Christians everywhere.

As we know, the situation is particularly acute in the Middle East, where so many Christians have been targeted for genocide and hundreds of thousands have lost virtually everything. During the past several years, the Knights of Columbus has become one of the international leaders in helping these people — providing thousands with food, clothing, shelter and medical care.

This year, we will continue our leadership role and we will look for ways to provide even more help. The corporal works of mercy continue to be indispensable.

Councils Can Strengthen Catholic Family Life Through Our Prayer Program And Consecration To The Holy Family

But we can also do more to foster a greater spiritual solidarity with Christians who are suffering. This month, we will launch a new initiative to pray for those Christians

suffering persecution. In this way, we will join a new spiritual work of mercy with our ongoing corporal works of mercy.

We are proposing a new prayer, a Novena of Grace and Solidarity (see page 15), based on the prayer of Father Mastrilli. I urge all brother Knights and their families to join in this Novena of Grace and Solidarity for persecuted Christians throughout the world March 12-20. The novena may also be prayed any time throughout the year.

In many ways, 2017 may be the decisive year in determining whether many Christian communities throughout the Middle East will continue to exist. Many Christians in the region tell me that our efforts give them renewed hope and determination.

Let us pray that, in spite of all the tribulations they face, they will remain faithful and that we will remain worthy of their trust in us.

Vivat Jesus!



Fraternal Benefits

David Benjamin, Fraternal Benefit Advisor

David.benjamin@kofc.org

202-494-6527

Our Story Founded By A Priest To Protect Catholic Families



David Benjamin

The Knights of Columbus insurance story begins in the winter of 1882 in the basement of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn.

It was there that our Venerable founder, Father Michael J. McGivney, gathered the men of his parish together to create a solution to a recurring problem.

Many Catholics — most of whom were immigrants — were working and living in unfavorable conditions. And many, tragically, were dying young, leaving behind widows and orphans with insufficient financial resources.

It was a cold reality that had confronted Father McGivney all too often — not only in the lives of his parishioners — but in his own. As a seminarian, he was forced to leave school and return home to aid his family when his father died unexpectedly.

Though this story of financial ruin for Catholic families was common, Father McGivney was convinced that there was a way to change the ending. He knew that if the Catholic men in his parish came together in mutual aid, widows and orphans could receive the support they needed.

He also knew that if Catholic men banded together, united by charity and unity, they could strengthen their faith, their families, and their communities.

So, he established the Knights of Columbus, and with it, a “pass-the-hat” insurance system to protect the Catholic families in his parish. Over time, that system has evolved, and today we stay true to our founding mission through our multi-billion dollar, top-rated insurance program. Members in the United States and Canada have exclusive access to our insurance program and products, including life insurance, retirement annuities, long-term care insurance, and disability income insurance.

Our charitable giving and fraternal service have continued to grow too. Nearly 2 million men in over a dozen countries across the globe are proud to call themselves Knights. Last year alone, these men and their families donated more than \$175 million to charity and performed more than 73.5 million hours of service.



BISHOP WALSH ASSEMBLY NEWS

Ikechukwu R. Agbim - Faithful Navigator

fn2016,jjfc1548@gmail.com

202-276-7749

Welcome Sir Knights



The month of March was a very remarkable month, not only due to preparation for the 4th Degree Exemplification but several activities especially the Color Corps turnouts. Most remarkable was the installation of the Parish Priest of St Mary's Landover Hills by **Archbishop Donald Wuerl**. Our Assembly had 8 Sir Knights present. The Mass was very well attended by parishioners and Clergy alike.

The Patriotic 4th Degree Exemplification was very successful. With a 27 members in a class of 150, our Assembly was one with the highest number of new members. The new Sir Knights were implored to be active and to strive to participate actively in the Patriotic Degree.

Congratulations to **Sir Knight Robert Sistare** who was recognized as the best Color Corps Commander of the 2016 - 2017 Fraternal Year.

Our next Assembly meeting will be a special one. While welcoming all new Sir Knights at their first meeting, we have very important business matter to discuss. All members are encouraged to attend, as we bid farewell to a long serving officer of the Assembly, our Faithful Comptroller (FC) SK Andres Padilla



St. Pius X Council 4076

Mark A. Richardson

Mother Seton Council 5381

Philip A. Anyacho
Ephraim O. Eke
Emmanuel T. Ereme
Muted Fofung
Albert L. Hayling
Christopher O. Okorie
Darren J. Watson

St. Mary of the Assumption Council 9302

Britt S. Howard

St. Mary's of Landover Hills Council 10046

Lennox R. Alleyne
Raymond J. Fangmann
Christopher J. Nippy
Nonso K. Okoye
Jude D. Okpala
Uchenna F. Onuchukwu
Pious C. Thattassery
Hyacinth N. Uzoma

James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422

Vincent Agubokwu
Fidelis K. Ajudua
Efrain Anderson
J. Bernard Broadus
Chiedozie O. Ojimba
Godwin Ikechukwu-Okafor
Michael E. Younger

Father Michael C. Kidd Council 14455

Emmanuel A. Abongwa
Reynaldo X. Bandong
Roscoe Ridley

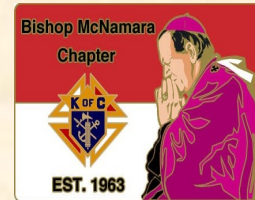
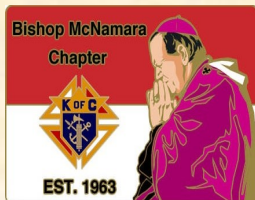


McNAMARA CHAPTER

Tom Santangelo- Chapter President

toms89vette@comcast.net

410-231-1861



I am sad to say, yet “happy” to say, that we are now in the Chapter Officer Election Cycle. At our meeting in February, I appointed the Nominating Committee to pull together a slate of candidates to run for each of the Chapter officer positions.

Thus far, the nominating slate is as follows:

Chaplain	Fr. Joe Jenkins
Assist. Chaplain	Deacon Jim Dominic
President	Vernon Hawkins, Jr.
Vice President	Joseph Massimini
Secretary	Jack Giacalone
Treasurer	Jeffrey Koscho
Marshal	Michael Davenport
	Terry Reinhart

Nominations will be accepted at our April and May meetings. The elections will be held at St. Elizabeth Council 12796 on May 17, 2017 and the exchange of jewels will occur at our June 21st meeting at the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422.

BTW, the Annual Past Chapter President (PCP) Ball continues to be an enjoyable annual tribute to our PCPs. It was held on March 19th at Sacred Heart Council 2577 Home in Bowie, Maryland. I look forward to next year’s gala, when I will be able to enjoy the annual occasion as a Past Chapter President.

Please join us at our next Chapter meeting on April 19th at Father Peter Paul Maher Council 6793, 15663 Norbeck Blvd., Silver Spring, Maryland. Meetings start at 8 P.M. Remaining meetings for this fraternal year are as follows:

April 19 Fr. Peter Paul Maher Council 6793

May 17 St Elizabeth Council 12796

June 21 James C. Fletcher Council 11422



A MARYLAND TRADITION



Thank You!

Past Grand Knight Kermit and Lady Cathy Gresham continues to give of their time and talents in support of the Knights of Columbus.

Vivat Jesus!



PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

J. Bernard Broadus, DGK

bbroadus53@gmail.com

301-262-2350

Brothers, two of our major upcoming events in April and May are Youth Activity Events and are the last of our youth activity events for this council year. Our annual **Kite Flying Extravaganza** is Saturday, April 1st from 11:00 A.M. to 2 P.M. on the church grounds. This event, along with our Halloween Party, is a huge hit with the children and their parents. Free kites, kite flying lessons, music, food and fun makes for an exciting day for kids of all ages. Volunteers are needed in the morning to assemble kites and to help the Squires Club serve lunch. Contact Phil Beauboeuf, Bernard Broadus or Grand Knight Alan Davis to sign up to participate.

Our annual **Youth Talent Show** is Friday, May 19th from 7 P.M. to 9 P.M. in the Rosemont Room. This is our 7th year sponsoring the Talent Show, and each year new and more talented students arrive to surprise and entertain the parish. If you have never attended the show, I strongly

urge all council members to come witness a truly remarkable experience and I extend an invitation to the children of our council members to participate. Everyone who auditions is accepted into the show and also receives prizes.

More youth events are in the planning for next year and I am actively planning events for the youth of St. Joseph in concert with other ministries and organizations. Please contact me or Phil Beauboeuf if you wish to assist with our youth programs.

Happy Easter to One and All!

Brothers, remember we are strongest when we are united together!

UNITY IS THE WORD FOR 2017.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

J. Bernard Broadus, Church Activities Director
bbroadus53@gmail.com



301-262-2350



The James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422 held the Holy Family Icon Prayer service on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 8:15 A.M. at St. Joseph Catholic Church. The Icon was displayed at the altar for veneration after Mass and prayer service. The service began with a morning Mass celebrated by Reverend Roy E. Campbell, Jr. Following the Mass, a Novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary was led by Father Campbell. The Holy Family Icon service followed the Novena. The opening song, the Rosary (Joyful Mysteries), Holy Family Prayer, Prayer for Pope Francis and the Final Prayer were led from the pulpit by Grand Knight Alan M. Davis.

In attendance were Father Campbell, members of the St. Joseph Our Lady of Grace Sodality, members of James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422, members of the Bishop James E. Walsh Assembly 1548 Color Corps and St. Joseph parishioners. District Deputy Emeka Onwezi, FDD Michael Davenport, PFN John Huntley and PFN Robert Sistare served as escorts (Color Corps) to the Pastor and also stood next to the Holy Family Icon during the Icon prayer service. There were 27 total attendees.

CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES

Peter Methodius Pro-Life Activities Director
pmethodius@yahoo.com

301-728-7827



“Human life is sacred and inviolable at every moment of existence, including the initial phase which precedes birth. All human beings, from their mother’s womb, belong to God who searches them and knows them, who forms them and knits them together with his own hands, who gazes on them when they are tiny shapeless embryos and already sees in them the adults of tomorrow whose days are numbered and whose vocation is even now written in the ‘book of life.’ There too, when they are still in their mothers’ womb—as many passages of the Bible bear witness—they are the personal objects of God’s loving and fatherly providence.” (Evangelium Vitae, 61).

In his 1995 Encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae*, St. John Paul II called on all Catholic faithful to bear witness to the Gospel of Life and to build the “civilization of life and love” (100). In keeping with this mission and our Order’s Catholic principles of charity, unity, and fraternity, the Knights of Columbus stands strong in its conviction that every human life is a gift of God, endowed with certain inalienable rights — the first among these being the right to life. Even in the midst of difficulties and uncertainties, we believe that human life is sacred and inviolable, and ought to be defended with maximum determination. To this end, the Knights of Columbus supports policies that promote a Culture of Life and opposes legislative efforts that promote abortion, contraception, sterilization, cloning, the destruction of embryos, assisted suicide, euthanasia, unjust war, and the death penalty when there is an acceptable alternative.

One of the most effective ways in which the Knights of Columbus has promoted a Culture of Life and helped thousands of women save their children is through the Ultrasound Initiative. As of December 2016, the initiative has funded and placed 752 ultrasound machines – valued at more than \$36 million – in all 50 states, as well as in Canada, Jamaica, Guatemala and Peru.



COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Michael E. Younger, Community Activities Director
mrwhy@verizon.net



301-262-8974

A Field of Dreams



Would you believe it? The council's Flea Market season is quickly approaching. Our season includes one Saturday per month, June 24th, July 29th and August 26th. It is one of the many successful events conducted during the summer and is fully supported by the church and surrounding community. It has grown from a few vendors and tents to a metropolis of sales advocates and eager bargain hunters.

Our success depends on active council members participation, to assist with set up, traffic control, grill cooks, operation of the refreshment stand, raffle ticket sales, clean up and the many awesome task required for this event. Don't wait to be called on, volunteer some of your time. No joke, we need your support. More info will be fore coming at our next council meeting. Point of contacts are Harold Sanders and Alan Davis.

Did your spring cleaning reveal a trove of items you no longer use? Are you downsizing to prepare for a move? Or maybe you want to simplify your lifestyle and minimize your belongings. Our Flea Market sale is an opportunity to give your unwanted stuff a new home - and make a little cash for yourself, too. But it takes more than just throwing your things out there and expecting the crowds to come swooping in.

Below are some suggestions to help make your sale a success.

- Put some thought into the appearance of your sale by making it inviting and interesting.
- Got unusual items for sale, or hard-to-find collectibles?
- Be sure the showstoppers are clearly visible. Make sure your merchandise is reasonably clean. It shows each item is cared for and shoppers can better envision how it'll fit into their lives.
- Group similar or coordinated items together, like sections in a store. For example, position a baby stroller near baby clothes, and kitchen gadgets near dishware.
- Tidy up the area as the day goes on and keep your sale looking as presentable (and approachable).
- Create an inviting atmosphere, and shoppers will feel more comfortable.
- Thank them for their business.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Cal A. Thompson, Council Activities Director
calthompsn@msn.com



301-928-2157



Brothers and Sisters of the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council and the KC Ladies work as a team to put on another Annual Lenten Fish Fry.

The first was held on March 17th and a second on March 31st.

The quality of the meal were tested every 15-minutes by PGK Kermit Gresham.



Parishioner and community support for this event has been awesome over the years, and it was no different this year. Our main shortfall is not the food, but manpower. Although the KC Ladies have been consistent helpers, we often run short of men to help with the many/many chores necessary to keep up with the customer demands.



Again, the Council put on another very successful Lenten Fish Fry. Our helpers were very please with their efforts, just note the smiles of some of our servers above. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all that assisted with this program and also to the many parishioners and community member who brought and enjoyed our menu offerings. **Lets do it again next year.**



MEMBERSHIP QUEST

Ike Agbim, Membership Director
Fn2016.kofc1548@gmail.com



202-276-7796

WANTED!

CATHOLIC GENTLEMEN FOR AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFE TIME



**AS A MEMBER OF THE
JAMES C. FLETCHER, JR. COUNCIL
ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
IN SERVICE FOR ONE IN SERVICE FOR ALL
GIVE ME A CALL**

IKE AGBIM - 202-276-7796

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Phil Beauboeuf, Youth Activities Director
pabeaub@us.ibm.com



240-353-1460



Youth Talent Show

Friday, May 19, 2017
7 PM - 9:30 PM

St. Joseph Catholic Church - Rosemont Room
2020 St. Joseph Drive, Largo, Maryland 20774

BE A PERFORMER!

Calling all singers, musicians, dancers, actors, poets, and performers! Share your talent with the community and win prizes! Solo and group acts are welcome!

Participants: Youth ages 7 to 18 years

Performers must be pre-registered by April 17th.

Short auditions will be held April 28th, 7:30 p.m. and April 29th, 7:30 p.m.

SEE THE SHOW!

Vote for your favorite act!
Enjoy a great night of entertainment

**Prizes
Awarded!**

Free will donations are requested to benefit the Youth and Charities.

TO REGISTER CONTACT

Virginette Scott - youth@stjosephlargo.org - 301-773-4838

Alan Davis - adavis1960@verizon.net - 301-508-8009

SPONSORED BY

James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council Charities, Knights of Columbus
The Youth Ministry of St. Joseph

Maryland State Council Knights of Columbus' 2nd Annual

FAMILY FUN DAY



@ HERSHEY PARK

DATE: SUNDAY, April 30, 2017

TIME: 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

PRICE: \$31.00 per person Children 2 & under free. (Regular Admission Price is \$62.95)



**Park is closed to the public
Everyone is invited.... family, friends, parishes,
youth groups, schools, CCD Classes**

NO REFUNDS or RAIN DATE.

Free parking will be provided * Concessions open
Water Park Rides will not open until Memorial Day

Hershey provides a Cost Saving LUNCH:

All you can eat picnic lunch served 12:00 noon thru 3:00 p.m.
Price \$18.55 per person. (much cheaper than concession stands)
Lunch includes: Flame-broiled all-beef hamburger, hot dog, potato chips,
pasta salad, fruit salad, lettuce, tomato, cheese, ice cream, novelties, sodas &
lemonade. Lunch Tickets not sold after 4/23/17

How to order tickets:

CREDIT CARD - use this link and promo code <http://tinyurl.com/MDSTATECOUNCIL>

Promo Code: 71568 or GO TO OUR WEBSITE <http://www.kofc-md.org>

We have made this the easiest and best way to order tickets. After ordering, you will be able to print your tickets.

Discounted Hotels: Holiday Inn Express: (717) 534-2272, Best Western Inn Hershey: (717) 533-5685 Days Inn Hershey:
(717) 534-1262- Holiday Inn: (717) 939-7841

ITALY PILGRIMAGE

11 DAYS: NOVEMBER 6-16, 2017

Venice
Schio
Padua
Florence
Assisi
Orvieto
Rome

Hosted by:
MSGR. CHARLES POPE & FR. AARON QURESHI

\$3079 from Washington, D.C.*



*Air/land tour price is \$2449 plus \$630 government taxes/airline surcharges

Featuring: Daily Mass, A Papal Audience, roundtrip air from Washington, D.C., first class/select hotels, most meals, comprehensive sightseeing with a professional English-speaking guide, entrance fees, hotel service charges and porteraage.



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Efrain Anderson, Family Activities Director
canal511@aol.com

301-372-6426



Family of the Month The "Brooks" Family



The Brooks family (Roger & Joyce) has been part of St. Joseph Family since 1975. Roger worked for the DC Public Schools for 29 years. After retirement he did odd jobs, however, he decided to volunteer his time at the church by helping with the cleaning of the Sanctuary. That service spilled over into working with the St. Joseph's Maintenance Staff for seven years. He has been a member of The Good Samaritans Ministry since 2005 and also he's involved with the Social Justice Social Concern Ministry. Roger hobbies are running, bowling and watching the Western movies on TV.

Joyce, worked for the Federal Government for 36 years and when she retired she wanted to do something different. Let me spread my wings outside the box, she decided to volunteer at John Carroll Elementary School in the classroom and now she's a Substitute Teacher in the Prince Georges County Public Schools (PGCPS). Joyce is a member of the Gospel Choir, the Archdiocese Mass Choir and a former member of the Greater First Baptist Church Choir. Joyce traveled with them to Germany to sing in the Oktoberfest - 2004. She's a member of the Extraordinary of Holy Communion, Hospitality Ministry, Repast Ministry, St. Joseph's Ladies Auxiliary #141, Knights of St. Johns, Vacation Bible School and Cursillo. Joyce was blessed to sing with two Pope Papal Masses in 1980 on the National Mall/St. Joseph Gospel Choir and with Archdiocese Mass Choir at the National Stadium - 2008.

Roger & Joyce have three sons, one daughter-in law, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The Brooks Family are truly blessed and we are working in the vineyard, giving God the praise. Just remember the battle is not yours it's the Lord. *Amen*

EACH OF US IS A
MASTERPIECE
OF GOD'S CREATION.



Behold, There Stood A Bishop



On March 8, 2017, Pope Francis named Rev. Roy Edward Campbell, Jr. pastor of St. Joseph Church in Largo, Mdaryland, as an auxiliary bishop of Washington. Bishop-elect Campbell will assist Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, who serves as spiritual leader to over 620,000 Catholics living in Washington, D.C. and suburban and southern Maryland. The role of an auxiliary bishop is to assist the diocesan bishop in meeting the pastoral needs of the diocese. Cardinal Wuerl released the following statement on the news from the Vatican this morning:

“All of us at St. Joseph Catholic Church and the members of the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council are deeply grateful that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has named Father Roy E. Campbell, Jr. to be an auxiliary bishop in our Church of Washington. Father Campbell, who was born, grew up, worked and served in this archdiocese, brings to his new ministry recognized talent and demonstrated ability. He also bears witness to the great cultural and ethnic richness of the Church of Washington reflected in all of the faithful, lay, religious and clergy.

“I just wanted to be a Deacon.”



We are so very proud that our Pastor and Chaplain, Fr. Roy Edward Campbell, Jr., was named by Pope Francis on March 8th as Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Washington D.C.



REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson

Being Catholics in Today's Society

America is in transition from being a nation in which Christian principles guide public actions to one in which religion has no place in the public square, from a country where governmental policies allow free expression of religion to one in which government can force individuals and institutions to violate Church teachings. In 1965, there were 10,600 Catholic elementary schools, the Legion of Decency, Hello Dolly on Broadway, and singer Julie Andrews; today, there are 5,200 Catholic elementary schools, the Freedom from Religion Foundation, The Vagina Monologues, and Lady Gaga. Culture, wither thou goest?

Catholics, who constitute 20 percent of the population and occupy many positions of power and influence, could fill a moral need in American society. Currently, 31.4 percent of the members of the U.S. Congress identify themselves as Catholic, as do five of the eight sitting justices of the Supreme Court, many Cabinet members and nominees, and numerous leaders in business, industry and the media. Allied with like-minded Christians, Catholics could have a significant role in returning this nation to its founding values. But it is unlikely to happen.

Since the end of World War II, Catholics have made a decisive effort to blend into the American culture and advance in society. They have been highly successful, but at the cost of subordinating their religious beliefs to the secular tenets of society. Today, their public stances on moral issues are indistinguishable from those of non-Catholics. Nay, as a group, their views are frequently more in opposition to Catholic dogma than are those of their Protestant brethren.

Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia is a prime example. Raised as a Catholic, his votes as a senator supporting abortion earned him perfect ratings from Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice America and a rating of zero from the National Right to Life Committee. While campaigning to be vice president in 2016, Kaine had the hubris to say that although his position in favor of same-sex marriage was "at odds with the current doctrine of the [Catholic] Church that I still attend," the Church would someday adopt his view. Several bishops soon thereafter issued statements reaffirming the Church's immutable position on marriage.

The senator's opposition to Church teaching is not unique. The 2014 Pew Religious Landscape Study found that among self-identified Catholics, 48 percent believe that abortion should be legal in most cases; 57 percent favor same-sex marriage; and 70 percent accept homosexuality. Further, when religious liberty conflicts with LGBT demands, as experienced in wedding-related businesses, 57 percent of Catholics say the business should be required to provide services at same-sex marriages. This fraction of Catholics is higher than the 49 percent of the public-at-large.

Too many Catholics, unfortunately, do not believe the dogmas of the Faith they claim. In the Baptismal vows which are renewed each Easter and in the Apostles Creed taught in all Catholic schools and repeated each time the Rosary is prayed, one proclaims, "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth." At every Mass, the Nicene Creed is said, expressing comparable declarations about the existence of God

and heaven. Yet, the Pew study found that among Catholics only 64 percent are absolutely certain God exists, and another 27 percent are fairly certain; the remainder either are not sure or do not believe. Similarly, only 85 percent of Catholics believe in heaven and 63 percent in hell. One questions whether these people understand what they are saying or are simply parroting words.

One reason for this lack of certainty is that too many Catholics are lax in practicing their Faith. CARA (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate) data show that only 23 percent of Catholics attend Mass every Sunday; another 21 percent attend at least once a month and the remainder seldom or never attend.

It is not surprising that Catholics who regularly attend Mass believe in Church teachings in greater numbers than those who do not. Yet, even among those who faithfully attend, there is doubt about so central a dogma as the Eucharist, which the Catechism of the Catholic Church describes as "the source and summit of the Christian life." Catholic dogma holds that the Eucharist is the true presence -- body and blood, soul and divinity -- of Jesus Christ. But, according to a 2015 Knights of Columbus/Marist poll, only two-thirds of practicing Catholics (65 percent) agree with the teaching, while 64 percent of non-practicing Catholics say the Eucharist is merely a symbol.

When such a large portion of Catholics does not believe in the most basic doctrines of the Faith, there is a significant problem in catechesis. Today, one-in-eight American adults is a former Catholic. Nearly one-third of American adults (31.7 percent) say they were raised Catholic, but only 20.8 percent still identify with the Faith. The hemorrhaging among Catholics is significant. While the total number of Catholics has held relatively steady, it is due principally to Hispanic immigration, not births or conversions. The Pew study found that for every two U.S. adults who convert to Catholicism from another religious tradition, 13 adults leave the Catholic Faith. No other religious group in the study has such a lopsided ratio of losses to gains.

Before Catholics can have a notable effect on society, they themselves must know the Faith and live according to its teachings. There is a need, even among those who faithfully attend Mass, for catechesis so that they, in turn, can teach the Faith to their children and grandchildren. Then, the faithful must evangelize among the Catholic population-at-large, before they can successfully proclaim the Faith to non-Catholics and affect society as a whole.

The task of changing society is daunting, but not unattainable. With prayer, sacrifice and living in accord with God's will, it can be done. As St. Matthew (19:26) wrote, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

What is your council doing to help your members and their families?



“Congratulations Corner”

“Congratulations”

Fletcher Council Recipient of Supreme Council Vocation Program Refund

The James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council was one of the recipients of a \$100.00 refund from the Refund Support Vocations Program. Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus, Department of Fraternal Services, sponsors the Refund Support Vocations Program. The council exchanged emails with our Seminarian, Ryan Braam, regarding council connection, events, and other works of support. Fletcher Council also made a monetary gift of \$500.00 to Seminarian Ryan Braam. Grand Knight Alan Davis extends his sincere thanks to all Council members for their commitment to the program and the work everyone did to make it a success. **Keep up the good work!**

John Grier



“Congratulations”

Yes, congratulations are in order for District Deputy Emeka and Lady Chizoba Onwezi. On March 20, 2017 they were blessed with an adorable Baby Girl. At 5:07 A.M. on March 20th Zinachi Onwezi weighed in at 9.6 pounds. Mom, Dad and the Onwezi family are celebrating their new arrival. **Congratulations and God bless.**



“Congratulations”

Proud, majestic and humble is our very own Sir Knight Robert B. Sistare. And, so he was as he received the honors of the Archdiocese of Washington District (AWD), 4th Degree, Knights of Columbus, Color Corps Commander of the Year Award. Bob was presented the award by the Master of the AWD at its Patriotic Degree Exemplification on March 25th. **Well done brother Bob.**



Please, Remember In Your Prayers



Members Who Are Ill

Howard Wynn	James Shorter
Mervyn Chancellor	William Missouri
Joseph Marshall	William Tolbert
Kenneth Hinton	Charles Ratcliff
Deacon Al D. Turner	James Gant

Deceased

Elizabeth Aghim

COME PRAY WITH US



All Council Members

Are Invited To
Knight's Sunday
Every 3rd Sunday
Of The Month

At The 11 A.M. Mass



Smiley Central™

A crook mistakenly made a counterfeit \$8 bill instead of a \$10 bill. He decided to try it out anyway, so he went to the bank and asked for change. The teller looked at the \$8 bill and gave the crook two \$4 bills as change.

A couple wants a divorce, but first they must decide who will be the main guardian of their child. The jury asks both the man and woman for a reason why they should be the one to keep the child. So the jury asks the woman first. She says, "Well I carried this child around in my stomach for nine months and I had to go through a painful birth process, this is my child and a part of me." The jury is impressed and then turns to ask the man the same question. The man replies, "OK, I take a coin and put it in the drink machine and a drink comes out, now tell me who does the drink belong to me or the machine?"

A construction worker accidentally cuts off one of his ears with an electric saw. He calls out to a guy walking on the street below, "Hey, do you see my ear down there?" The guy on the street picks up an ear and yells back, "Is this it?" "No," replies the construction worker. "Mine had a pencil behind it."

A gorilla walks into a bar and says, "A scotch on the rocks, please." The gorilla hands the bartender a \$10 bill. The bartender thinks to himself, "The gorilla doesn't know the prices of drinks," and gives him 15 cents change. The bartender says, "You know, we don't get too many gorillas in here." The gorilla replies, "Well, at \$9.85 a drink, I ain't coming back, either."

A native American hitchhiker was picked up by a slick city man who was driving pass the reservation. As they were driving along, the Indian noticed a brown paper bag on the dashboard and inquired as to its contents. The city man replied: "It's a bottle of wine, I got it for my wife." The Indian looked forward at the road, nodded his head solemnly, and said: "Good trade."

A barber gave a haircut to a priest one day. The priest tried to pay for the haircut, but the barber refused, saying, "you do God's work." The next morning the barber found a dozen bibles at the door to his shop. A policeman came to the barber for a haircut, and again the barber refused to pay, saying, "you protect the public." The next morning the barber found a dozen doughnuts at the door to his shop. A lawyer came to the barber for a haircut, and again the barber refused payment, saying, "you serve the justice system." The next morning the barber found a dozen lawyers waiting for a free haircut.

Two hunters were dragging their dead deer back to their car. Another hunter approached pulling his along too. Hey, I don't want to tell you how to do something...but I can tell you that it's much easier if you drag the deer in the other direction. Then the antlers won't dig into the ground." After the third hunter left, the two decided to try it. A little while later one hunter said to the other, "You know, that guy was right. This is a lot easier!" "Yeah, but we're getting farther from the truck," the other added.

Maryland State Council Officers

State Deputy	Stephen Cohen
District Deputy	G. Emeka Onwezi
District Warden	Michael P. Akpan

James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council Officers

Chaplain	Rev. Roy E. Campbell, Jr.
Associate Chaplain	Deacon Al Douglas Turner
Grand Knight	Alan M. Davis
Deputy Grand knight	J. Bernard Broadus
Chancellor.	Michael E. Younger
Warden.	Floyd E. Duckett
Financial Secretary	John O. Grier
Recorder.	Fidelis K. Ajudua
Treasurer	Harold F. Sanders, Jr.
Lecturer.	Calvin A. Thompson
Advocate	David D. Martin
Trustee 3 year.	Ikechukwu R. Agbim
Trustee 2 year.	Thomas F. Matthews, III
Trustee 1 year.	John W. Huntley
Inside Guard.	Charles N. Okpah
Outside Guard.	William N. Tolbert, III
Convention Delegate	
First Alternate	
Second Alternate	

Program and Activity Committees

Service Program Director	J. Bernard Broadus
Church Director	J. Bernard Broadus
Council Director	Calvin A. Thompson
Community Director	Michael E. Younger
Family Director	Efrain Anderson
Youth Director	Philippe A. Beauboeuf
Culture of Life Director	Peter Methodius-Ngwodo
Vocation Chairman	Michael E. Younger
Health Services	Peter Methodius-Ngwodo
Public Relations	Vernon Hawkins, Jr.
Columbian Squires	Michael P. Davenport
Membership Director	Ikechuwu R. Agbim
Recruitment Committee	David D. Martin
Recruitment Committee	Alan M. Davis
Admissions Director	Alan M. Davis
Admissions Committee	Fr. Roy E. Campbell, Jr.
Admissions Committee	Harold F. Sanders, Jr.
Admissions Committee	Bernard Broadus
Admissions Committee	Robert Sistare
Retention Chairman	Thomas F. Matthews, III
Insurance Promotion	Robert B. Sistare
Pro-Life Couple	Peter Methodius-Ngwodo
Admission Degree Team Captain	Harold F. Sanders, Jr.
Asst. Degree Team Captain	David D. Martin
Newsletter Editor	Vernon Hawkins, Jr.
Web Master	Fidelis K. Ajudua
Scholarship Program Chairman	Peter Methodius-Ngwodo
Historian	Vernon Hawkins, Jr.
Photographer	Thomas F. Matthews, III





“HAPPY BIRTHDAY”
****APRIL****
- 2017 -

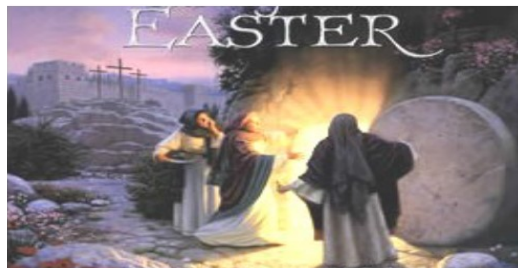


- 02 Kennard A. Dalrymple
- 06 John A. Adeleye, Sr.
- 10 George G. Benyella
- 12 Vincent Akas
- 13 Onyema G. Nmorka
- 24 Fidelis E. Joseph
- 28 Chidubem M. Oparaoji
- 29 Nelson O. Okpah

**“The Joy
 Of An
 April
 Birthday”**

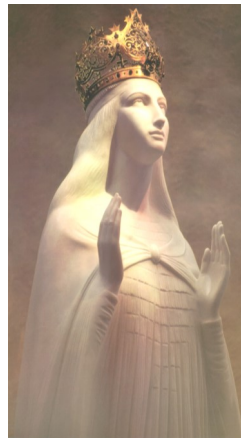
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

****APRIL****



- 01 April Fool’s Day
- 01 Kite Extravaganza
- 06 **Fletcher Council Meeting, @ 7:30 PM**
- 07 Stations of the Cross by Fletcher Council @ 7 P.M.
- 09 **Palm Sunday**
- 10 Bishop Walsh Assembly Meeting
- 10 Passover Begins At Sundown
- 13 Holy Thursday, Mass @ 7 P.M.
- 14 Good Friday, Veneration of the Cross @ 7:00 P.M.
- 16 **Easter**
- 17 Income Tax Day
- 19 McNamara Chapter Meeting, Fr. Maher Council 6793
- 20 **Fletcher Council Meeting, @ 7:30 PM**
- 21 **Bishop-Elect Campbell Installed**
- 30 5th Sunday Rosary led by Deacon Nash

Marian Title for April
**Our Lady of
 Knock**



On the evening of August 21, 1879 Mary McLoughlin, the housekeeper to the parish priest of Knock, County Mayo, Ireland, was astonished to see the outside south wall of the church bathed in a mysterious light; there were three figures standing in front of the wall, which she mistook for replacements of the stone figures destroyed in a storm. She rushed through the rain to her friend Margaret Byrne’s house.

After a half hour Mary decided to leave and Margaret’s sister Mary agreed to walk home with her. As they passed the church they saw and amazing vision very clearly: Standing out from the gable and to the west of it appeared the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph and St. John. The figure of the Blessed Virgin was life-size, while the others seemed to be neither as large nor as tall. They stood a little away from the gable wall about two feet from the ground. The Virgin was erect with her eyes toward Heaven, and she was wearing a large white cloak hanging in full folds; on her head was a large crown.

Mary Byrne ran to tell her family while Mary McLoughlin gazed at the apparition. Soon a crowd gathered and all saw the apparition. The parish priest, Archdeacon Cavanaugh, did not come out, however, and his absence was a disappointment to the devout villagers. Among the witness were Patrick Hill and John Curry. As Patrick later described the scene: ‘The figures were fully rounded, as if they had a body and life. They did not speak but, as we drew near, they retreated a little towards the wall.’ Patrick reported that he got close enough to make out the words in the book held by the figure of St. John.

An old woman named Bridget trench drew closer to embrace the feet of the Virgin, but the figure seemed always beyond reach. Others out in the fields and some distance away saw a strange light around the church. The vision lasted for about three hours and then faded.

The next day a group of villagers went to see the priest, who accepted their report as genuine; he wrote to the diocesan Bishop of Tuam; then the Church set up a commission to interview a number of the people claiming to witness the apparition. The diocesan hierarchy was not convinced, and some members of the commission ridiculed the visionaries, alleging they were victims of a hoax perpetrated by the local Protestant constable! But the ordinary people were not so skeptical, and the first pilgrimages to Knock began in 1880. Two years later Archbishop John Joseph Lynch of Toronto made a visit to the parish and claimed he had been healed by the Virgin of Knock.

The Church approved the apparition in 1971 as being quite probable, although it has never been formally stated. The Shrine at Knock is opened year round. In 1994 three life-size statues were erected of Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. John.