



KNIGHTLIFE



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

Volume 21 Issue 7

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"BE NOT AFRAID, OUR FAITH IS OUR COURAGE"

Pope Francis opens Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica, opens Jubilee



FLETCHER COUNCIL WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGE

<http://www.council11422.org> & Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/JamesCFletcherCouncil11422KofC?fref=ts>



KNIGHTLIFE

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Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee



Pope Francis has composed a special prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy which will run from 8 December 2015 to 20 November 2016. In the prayer, the Holy Father entreats the Lord to make the Jubilee of Mercy a year of grace so that the Church, “with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.”

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from
being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene
from seeking happiness only in created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us,
the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:
“If you knew the gift of God!”

You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by
forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible
face in the word, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that
your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they
may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error:
let everyone who approaches them feel sought
after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its
anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be
a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church,
with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to
the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the
oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy,
you who live and reign with the Father and
the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.

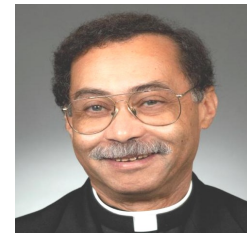


Chaplain Report

Chaplain Thoughts. . .

“His parents found Jesus sitting in the midst of the teachers.”

by Rev. Roy E. Campbell, Jr.



Most of us grew up, or are growing up, in a family with both parents, and maybe a sister, or brother, or two, or more. How important is it to grow up in a family? We cannot place a value on the family into which we were born.

Our reading from the Book of Sirach, a wisdom book from the Old Testament, tells us of the graces and benefits that come to children in families, who honor their fathers and mothers. He calls on children to respect their parents, and by extension, everyone in their family. He tells us to take care of our parents and to show them only kindness in their old age.

The Book of Sirach is telling us that honoring and respecting our parents and our families is living Christ's Second Great Commandment of love, to love our neighbor as ourselves. It also tells us what we accomplish for ourselves, in God's eyes, by showing our love for Him when we do good works for others. These words, written 2,200 years ago, hold true today.

St. Paul echoes this message in his Letter to the Colossians, telling members of a family how they should treat each other. Husbands must love their wives as they do their own bodies, as Christ does for His Body, the Church. Joseph protected and provided for Jesus and Mary. He named Jesus, taught Him how to pray, how to work, how to be a man.

When their 12-year-old child stayed behind in the Temple we are told Joseph, along with Mary, searched with great anxiety for three days for Him. They were looking for God, in Mary's Son, Jesus. Jesus had His priorities in order. He was being obedient to His Father in heaven, first. However, when Mary and Joseph found Him, to take Him home with them, Luke's Gospel tells us that Jesus was obedient to His earthly family.

Do we look for God, searching sometimes all our lives to find Him? Jesus told Mary and Joseph, *“Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?”* God, the Father wants each of us to be His house, the temple where Jesus can be found. When Jesus can be found in us, we bring Him to the home where our family lives.

Each of us wrestles with identity issues, while at the same time embracing responsibilities toward our family. Every parent wrestles with freedom issues for their child, while at the same time cooperating with God, trusting that their child is being protected. Let us pray for all families this weekend, that this balance may be found, so that as families, we will always grow spiritually and in our trust in God, finding Jesus in *“His Father's house.”*

Grand Knight's Chronicle

Ikechukwu R. Agbim

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“... give a couple of hours a month to our council...”

Brothers All,



This is the season of Advent! We are indeed in an expectant spirit, and looking forward to Christmas and the period into the new year-2016.

Council Christmas tree sales are well underway. The volunteers have worked very hard from setting up fence, receiving the trees, and preparing the space and conducting sales which has been on for over two weeks now.

The recently held Christmas party was a blast. Santa was in the house, lots of food and drinks, with spectacular background music. All families had fun, and the knights enjoyed every bit of the comradery and socializing.

We are indeed blessed, as we continue to experience much prosperity in our works as a Council.

Our key programs next calendar year will include the Mardi Gras Gala, St Josephs Priests and Clergy Appreciation Dinner, Fish Fry and many others. Our works at Fletcher Council continue to embody Charity, Church and Community Support and our love for our neighbors and mankind in general.

We continue to encourage participation of greater number of Knights in our programs; so that when we *“...give a couple of hours a month to our council”*, there is no mountain we cannot climb!



A MARYLAND TRADITION



State Deputy's Report



Stephen M. Cohen
State Deputy

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope everyone had a joyous holiday season. We are now entering into the second half of the Fraternal Year. Everyone's eyes should be on the prize and prize is **STAR**. Star Council that is. Continue recruiting and scheduling and exemplifying your First Degrees.

Recently, the Knights of Columbus conducted a public opinion survey. What they found was those who were interviewed said that the Knights was an "old mans" organization. We have been saying for years that seventy-five percent of the Fourth Degree was seventy-five years of age or older. The average age of the Third Degree Orderwide is sixty. So, I guess the solution is to recruit younger men. Yes, but that is only part of it. Statistics show that we also suspend more of our younger members. Why do we think, that is so? Many will say that they don't pay their dues. TRUE. The question, we should be looking at is why? Possibly because they have found nothing to be active in. Possibly because the older guys didn't let them in. Possibly because new ideas were met with resistance. We have all heard, we have never done that before; it won't work.

How about starting an under 40 club or even an under 30 club. Let them take the point and run with some programs. Include the younger families. Draw the whole family in with movie nights, etc. The sky is the limit. We really have to change our mindsets as we move forward. None of us are getting any younger.

This is also a good time, to step back and evaluate are we doing enough for our parishes. Are we participating in every area of the parish we can. Grand Knights should meet with their pastors formally twice per year. Once in June or July and the other is now, to plan out the rest of the year. Let's make a solid effort to ensure that our programs are hitting all areas of the parish.

Please don't forget the Polar Bear Plunge. John Durbin and Steve Adamczyk are in need of volunteers, please give them a call.

Our work, thus far, has been outstanding. Let us continue to promote the good works of the Order and stay on target for **STAR**.

Vivat Jesus!

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>

District Deputy Report

Brothers All,

November was the month in which we remember our deceased brothers and their windows. Maryland State has had Memorial Services and activities to honor our lost ones.



Michael Davenport
District Deputy

December was the month of holidays and time spent with families and we remember as a primary protocol of our Order "**Family is First**". While breaking bread on *Thanksgiving* we give thanks for our family which included our church and Knights family. We celebrated the coming of *The Christ*, with a joyous *Christmas* Season and happy healthy *New Years*.

January is upon us and the finish line of the Fraternal Year quickly approaches. The coats for kids program is still aflame and continues to grow. The submission of our activity reports was, as usual timely and the reports spectacular. To assist us we have an everlasting well of energy and wisdom in the form of our very worthy brother Vernon Hawkins who I sometimes envision in the long draping tunic and white hair and beard walking in sandals through the months and years Fletcher Council History. Yes I believe Vernon would have played the part equal if not better than Charlton Heston!

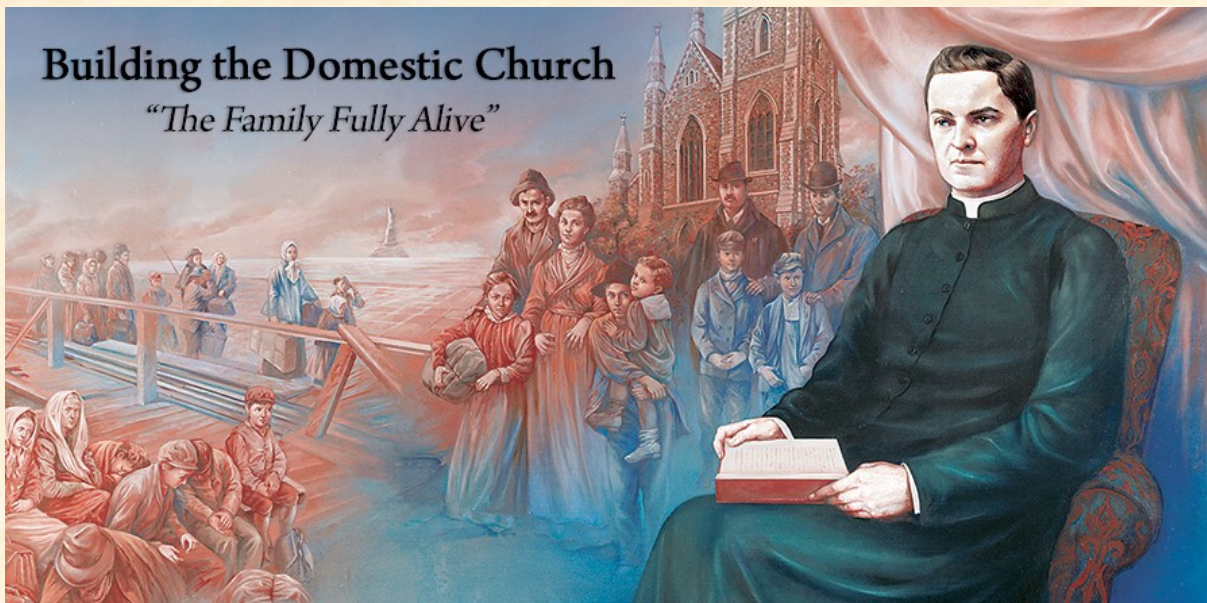
As we approach the half way mark we should take a deep breath raise our chins and begin our sprint to the end. This isn't the 100 yard dash or the 1600 yard sprint. It's the 360 day marathon for Charity. With that in mind recruitment efforts over the next 6-months should be our focus on keeping in mind "**One Member, per Council, per Month**" and follow through with our monthly degrees. Achieving *STAR Council* again this year isn't an option, it's a given and now a part of the James C. Fletcher Jr. Heritage. Last year we focused on what was working for my Council and were Degrees being held. We looked at what was holding us back from having Degrees and what were the most "*out of the box*" ideas that worked for our Council. We were asked by State what more did we need from them to make our goals and how your DD could assist. We were successful!

We continue to be blessed with the pride of being active members of the Largest Catholic Fraternal Family Service Organization in the World. Once again, use that pride and make it personal as you approach other eligible Catholic Men to join us. Give them the opportunity to be blessed as you have been. Do you have your rosary with you? Do you pray it often?

"Be not Afraid, Our Strength is Our Faith."



Building the Domestic Church by Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson



In founding the Knights of Columbus Father Michael J. McGivney sought to respond to the crisis in family life affecting Catholics in 19th century America. As a young man he witnessed firsthand the challenges his widowed mother faced with seven children at home. Later, as a priest he confronted on a daily basis the problems affecting the families of his parish community due to poverty, violence, alcoholism, immigration, anti-Catholic prejudice and discrimination.

Fr. McGivney's vision for family life was not simply that each family might find financial and material aid. He understood that holiness is the calling of all baptized Christians. And, seeing as his two brothers followed him into the priesthood, we can understand how truly important the "sanctuary of the home" was to the McGivney family.

His family was a living example of what the Second Vatican Council later taught, that each man, woman and child is called to holiness through proclaiming the Gospel and communicating the divine gift of love through the activities of their daily lives.

When Christian families respond in this way to the design of the Creator, they become a "domestic Church" that, as Pope Paul VI explained, mirrors "the various aspects of the entire Church."

Since the Second Vatican Council, and especially during the pontificate of St. John Paul II, it has become clear that the family is "the way of the Church." In one sense this obviously means that the family is the object of the Church's evangelization efforts.

But the Christian family too has its own indispensable mission. As St. John Paul II wrote in *Familiaris Consortio*, "The family has the mission to guard, reveal and communicate love." This mission is at the heart of the "community of life and love" that begins with the married couple in the sacrament of matrimony.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us, "Conjugal love involves a totality, in which all the elements of the person enter ... It aims at a deeply personal unity, a unity that, beyond union in one flesh leads to forming one heart and soul."

In other words, sacramental marriage involves not just an agreement between the spouses but a radical transformation of the spouses.

As Pope Benedict XVI wrote in *Deus Caritas Est*, "marriage based on an exclusive and definitive love becomes the icon of the relationship between God and his people and vice versa. God's way of loving becomes the measure of human love."

In this way the witness of husband and wife within the daily life of the family can guard, reveal and communicate love as they make their own the gifts of marriage — unity, indissolubility, faithfulness and openness to new life.

A recent Vatican document on the role and mission of the family has stated, "the family needs to be re-discovered as the essential agent in the work of evangelization." It also pointed to the necessity to better understand the "missionary dimension of the family as a domestic church."

These observations echo those of St. John Paul II who said in 1979 during his meeting with the Latin American bishops that "in the future, evangelization will depend largely on the domestic church."

Clearly, the role of the family in the work of evangelization is not primarily a matter of programs, projects or strategies. These all have their place, but they are secondary. Their place is to be at the service of what is essential the love between a husband and wife which, sanctified through the love of Christ, radiates to each member of their family.

The family as "domestic church" as a place of encounter with Christ within the community of a particular Christian family — a place where each member of the family has an important role.

In other words, the "mission" of the family in the task of evangelization is to be what it is called to be - that is, to live its daily life as a Christian family or as St. John Paul II said so often, "Families become what you are!"

The family's mission to "guard, reveal and communicate love" - like the parish community - does not exist in an ideal place. The truth and beauty of the family remains to be communicated to every Christian family, even those that are fragile, wounded or broken. These families too may read the words of St. Paul with confidence: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" (Rom 8:35) And they may find in that confidence a path of hope and healing.

During his visit to the Philippines, Pope Francis cited the need for "holy and loving families to protect the beauty and truth of the family in God's plan and to be an example for other families."

Building the Domestic Church is one concrete way that the Knights of Columbus, in solidarity with Pope Francis, can offer "holy and loving families" for the Church's mission of evangelization in our time.



A New Career Path To Consider

David Benjamin, Fraternal Benefit Advisor

David.benjamin@kofc.org

202-494-6527



A career with the Knights of Columbus could be the missing piece for your peace of mind.

We all know someone who is “looking for a new career.” Someone who, despite their best efforts and their tireless commitment has reached a point in their career where they feel stuck or underwhelmed.

Maybe this someone works in a family business, but doesn’t belong to the family. Maybe he has maxed out on compensation, but hasn’t maxed out on new assignments and new responsibilities. Maybe he works at a company where the workforce has been reduced, and is waiting for the next round of layoffs to be announced.

Even during the best of times, we know there are a number of men who fall into these categories (and other), and are looking to chart a new path. While we pray that the livelihood of no member of the Order is affected by the economy, we know better. It’s a fact of life.

To anyone reading this who is looking for a new career – the Knights of Columbus can offer you a conversation about the future; a conversation – not a commitment. We don’t ask for one, nor do we offer one automatically. But we do offer the opportunity to sit and talk with someone about the possibility of [a career as a Knights of Columbus Field Agent](#).

There is great privilege and great potential in working for our beloved Order. There is great pride in knowing that you are helping Catholic families each day, and helping to further Father McGivney’s founding mission for the Knights of Columbus.

It may be tempting to dismiss the possibility up front because of lack of experience or lack of knowledge. But before you do, understand that most of our agents had never sold life insurance products before we contracted them. So while your first reaction may be that this is not for you, we urge you to think again.

As a field agent for the Knights of Columbus you control your own destiny. Working with your exclusive market of Knights of Columbus families, you change people’s lives for good – and your own. There is no limit to your compensation. There is no cap on your success. There is no maxing out or laying off. There is a protected territory with a whole host of training and resources – including a working visit to our headquarters in New Haven, Conn. -- and there is a vocation. There is an opportunity to blend your faith and your work, and to be truly fulfilled by your daily duties.

This really could be the opportunity you have been looking for.

So let’s start with a conversation, not a commitment. We won’t offer you a contract on day one. We have a process we go through, beginning with an informal interview. We won’t put you in the position if we don’t think you can succeed. But for the right man, with the right attitude, the right effort, and the right heart, a career as a Knights of Columbus field agent can not only be a career, but a calling.

So if you are looking for a new career these days, give us a call and we can talk. Remember: it’s just a conversation. We look forward to hearing from you. *For more information on this career opportunity, give us a call at 203-752-4136.*

Jubilee Year of Mercy Logo



The logo and the motto together provide a fitting summary of what the Jubilee Year is all about. The motto *Merciful Like the Father* (taken from the Gospel of Luke, 6:36) serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure (cfr. Lk 6:37-38). The logo - the work of Jesuit Father Marko I, Rupnik - presents a small *summa theologiae* of the theme of mercy. In fact, it represents an image quite important to the early Church: that of the Son having taken upon his shoulders the lost soul demonstrating that it is the love of Christ that brings to completion the mystery of his incarnation culminating in redemption.

The logo has been designed in such a way so as to express the profound way in which the Good Shepherd touches the flesh of humanity and does so with a love with the power to change one’s life. One particular feature worthy of note is that while the Good Shepherd, in his great mercy, takes humanity upon himself, his eyes are merged with those of man. Christ sees with the eyes of Adam, and Adam with the eyes of Christ. Every person discovers in Christ, the new Adam, one’s own humanity and the future that lies ahead, contemplating, in his gaze, the love of the Father.

The scene is captured within the so called *mandoria* (the shape of an almond), a figure quite important in early and medieval iconography, for it calls to mind the two natures of Christ, divine and human. The three concentric ovals, with colors progressively lighter as we move outward, suggest the movement of Christ who carries humanity out of the night of sin and death. Conversely, the depth of the darker color suggests the impenetrability of the love of the Father who forgives all.



Master' Log



*John F. Winfrey
Master 4th Degree*

46th Annual Exemplification of the Fourth Degree Archdiocese of Washington District Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Saturday, April 2, 2016 at 10:00 AM - Sunday, April 3, 2016 at 11:00 AM (EDT) Clinton, MD



Thank you for the response on the need for Turkeys. There was a need and you responded. The AWD and State of Maryland Council, Knights of Columbus sent out just under 6,000 Christmas cards to the troops around the world. A huge statement by many other than Knights just saying thank you, we're thinking of you, Merry Christmas! Great impact. All assemblies in both AWD and Maryland districts contributed.

Also, thanks for supporting Father Kramer and Mass at the Basilica on December 12th. Afterward, the Master had a meal with Bishop Holly, and he commented on the Knights being there! They notice!

Finalizing preparations for the Exemplification are on going. 100% participation by assemblies in hospitality rooms. That's for the candidates to know they joined a family and for us to welcome them. A great first impression! I recommend having a greeter in hospitality room to greet new Sir Knights and introduce them around. They will then want to come and be a part of all assembly activities.

The next AWD meeting will be held at St. Hugh on Saturday, January 16th, to deconflict with the Maryland State Mid-Term meeting. Neither the Master nor Secretary will be in attendance, a Former Mast will lead the meeting.

The 46th Annual Exemplification of the Fourth Degree schedule for Priest and Third Degree members is as follows:

Friday, January 29, 2016

Deadline for Priests' exemplification registration Jan 29, 2016

Saturday, February 20, 2016

Priests' Exemplification Ceremony February 20, 2016

Monday, February 29, 2016

Deadline to reserve hotel room

Monday, February 29, 2016

Deadline to reserve KofC events

No refunds or changes after this date

Friday, April 1, 2016

KofC registration 1:00pm - 4:00pm (completed by Faithful Navigator & Faithful Comptroller)

Hotel check-in 3:00pm

Master's dinner (by invitation) 6:00pm

Evening entertainment 8:00pm

Saturday, April 2, 2016

Breakfast 6:00am - 9:00am

Candidate check-in 10:30am

Ladies' activities 10:30am

Exemplification commences 12:00pm (all Sir Knights seated by 11:40am)

Ladies Luncheon 12:00pm

Banquet 5:00pm

Sunday, April 3, 2016

Breakfast 6:00am - 9:00am

Mass (2nd Sunday of Easter / Divine Mercy Sunday) 9:00am

Hotel check-out 12:00pm

WALSH ASSEMBLY NEWS

G. Emeka Onwezi - Faithful Navigator

onwezi@gmail.com

240-644-3537

As we enter the New Year, a lot is expected from Sir Knights of the Bishop James E. Walsh Assembly to push more in accomplishing all the goals this administration set to accomplish. I am happy the way Bishop Walsh Assembly members participated in the previous year, and I am optimistic that this New Year will even be better and more fun.

The Assembly's first meeting of the year will be on January 11, 2016 and the Assembly's Renewal of Obligations will be held on February 8, 2016.

The Assembly's recruitment of new members drive is still in full force. Thus far, six candidates have been recruited. The assembly's target this year is to have at least 20 candidates to take their 4th Degree Exemplification on April 2, 2016. Every member of the Assembly should take the recruitment personal and talk to the Third Degree Members in their respective councils about the need to join the Patriotic Arm of the Knights of Columbus.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and did enjoy the warm weather on Christmas day. Those that had white Christmas, you will not know what it means to have summer weather on Christmas day.

I, my wife Chizoba, my entire family and Assembly Officers wish everyone a Happy New Year.

REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE CHANGED OUR MEETING TIME FROM 8 P.M. TO 7 P.M., WITH REFRESHMENTS SERVED AT 6:30 P.M.

McNAMARA CHAPTER

Tom Firestone - Chapter President

tf6687@aol.com

240-753-5200



How about that wonderful turnout and enjoyable evening at the Chapter Christmas Party hosted by Fr. Michael C. Kidd Council 14455 on December 16th. The Christmas spirit was certainly in the air as we prayed together, sang and enjoyed the fellowship. An example of the comradery and enjoyment shared is displayed on the faces of the Chapter and State Officers in the photo above.

Happy New Year! You are invited to join us at the next meeting of the McNamara Chapter on January 20, 2016 at St. Elizabeth Council 12796, 917 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD. All District Deputies, District Wardens, Grand Knights and Deputy Grand Knights are strongly urged to attend and meet and greet our State Officers and Chairmen. Grand Knights are also encouraged to bring their Chair Officers and Committee Chairmen.



PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Alan M. Davis, DGK

adavis1960@verizon.net

301-808-8009

Brothers, we have completed half of our fraternal year and the first six months have been extremely successful for Fletcher Council. We have excelled in all of our program areas and have submitted excellent and in my opinion, award winning reports to the state. Special thanks and acknowledgement to Vernon Hawkins, Jr. for his outstanding work as Communications Director, Newsletter Editor and Surge Report Coordinator.



Brothers, remember we are strongest when we are united together! UNITY IS THE WORD FOR 2016.

The Blessings Of A

New Year

PEACE * HOPE * JOY * LOVE

As we continue into the second half of the fraternal year, membership participation **will be the key to our future success!** Please **make time** to volunteer and be involved in our winter and spring events. **Mardi Gras, Lenten and Easter Services, Kite Flying, Talent Show, Living Rosary and Knights Sunday** are **just a few** of the programs and events scheduled for 2016. Grand Knight Ike Agbim and myself, along with all our council officers and members are a phone call, text, email or personal conversation away.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Alan M. Davis, Church Activities Director
adavis1960@verizon.net



301-808-8009

A **New Year** leads many of us to evaluate our lives and to see what changes we can make to improve ourselves. January is traditionally the month we make our resolutions to change; resolutions many of us keep for only a short time.

This year has been declared the **Jubilee Year of Mercy** by Pope Francis. This is the perfect time for us as Knights to **resolve to involve** ourselves more in the council's Church Activities. Brothers, the church needs good men, in particular Knights, to be involved in growing God's kingdom. In January, members may participate in **The March for life, The Martin Luther King Memorial Mass** or in any of the liturgical ministries in need of new members here at St. Joseph. Please contact **Alan Davis** for more information or to volunteer for these or any other upcoming church activities.

The **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception** has a need for Ushers in support of Masses in January, 2016. The need includes these Masses:

Jan 1: 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 PM, 4:30 PM
Jan 21: 9:30 AM, 6:00 PM (Report time is 4:30 PM)
Jan 22: 7:30 AM, (:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:30 AM, 3:30 PM
Jan 23: 9:30 AM, 10:45 AM, 7:00 PM

Knights wishing to help out should email: Patrick.McAleer@KofC.org

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

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Bernard Broadus, Community Activities Director
Bernard.broadus@xerox.com



301-262-2350



The **Maryland State Council Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge** will celebrate its 20th year on January 30, 2016. The **Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics Maryland** is a fundraising event in which participants pledge \$75 or more for the privilege to "Take to the Waters" of the Chesapeake Bay on Saturday, January 30th, in support of 7,169 athletes around Maryland.

As much a tradition to Maryland as Ocean City, Baltimore Ravens and Orioles and crab feasts in the summer, the Polar Bear Plunge has become a must do annual winter event. Whether you are a wily veteran or planning to join us for the first time we want to become part of your winter planning.

So if you are a toe-dipper, ankles count or full immersion plunger we can't wait to see you at Sandy Point Beach on January 30th. The **Polar Bear Plunge** benefits Maryland's children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Your participation in this event enables athletes with intellectual disabilities enjoy the life-changing benefits of participating in over 24 sports with Special Olympics Maryland.

Fletcher Council is again planning on fielding a team of to represent it in 2016 at Sandy Point Beach on January 30th. Join us as we take one icy, cold and invigorating step for our Special Olympians. I look forward to your volunteering to be a member of the **2016 Fletcher Council Polar Bear Team**. Below is the registration site for the Polar Bear Plunge:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016PlungeVols>





COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Cal Thompson, Council Activities Director
calthompsn@msn.com

301-249-2955

Congratulations and Thank You All Around for another outstanding effort on the part of so many dedicated council members, Squires and St. Joseph parishioners for their manning of the Christmas Tree lot during the Christmas season, participants are listed below:

John Adeleye	John Huntley
Ike Agbim	Adrian Matthews
Fidelis Ajudua	Tim Matthews
Vincent Akas	Wade Matthews
Jose Barberena	Peter Methodius & Family
Phil Beauboeuf	Chris Nwachukwu
Bernard Broadus	Charles Okpah
Alex Brown	G. Emeka Onwezi
Mervyn Chancellor	Harold Sanders
Michael Davenport	Errol Sanderson
Alan Davis	Michael Saulsberry
James Gant	Kevin Taylor
John Grier	Cal Thompson



Thanks everyone for a job well-done. A special thank-you goes out to Mervyn and Errol Sanderson for being there every week-day evening and to Alan Davis for his continuous support.

Have a Blessed and Happy New Year everyone.

The Joy of a Christmas Tree

CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES

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

301-728-7827



“Pro-Life and Pro-Woman Go Hand-and-Hand” will be the theme of the 2016 *March for Life* this coming January. Pro-Life Americans will gather in our Nation’s Capital to bring our important simple message to Washington officialdom and to all our Neighbors. At the 43rd Annual March for Life, January 22, 2016, pro-life Americans will continue to educate Wash-

ington officialdom about the evils of preborn innocent blood as a crime against humanity which can never be legal and for which future generations will apologize.

Mark Your Calendars! In 2016, the anniversary date of the Roe v. Wade decision will fall on Thursday, thus the *March for Life* will be held on Friday, January 22, 2016. It is an annual pro-life rally protesting abortion, held in Washington, DC, on or around the anniversary of the United States Supreme Court’s decision legalizing abortion in the case *Roe v. Wade*. The march is organized by the *March for Life Education and Defense Fund*. The overall goal of the march is to overturn the *Roe v. Wade* decision.

Please plan now to attend. Your presence, in growing numbers every year, is the best way to draw attention to the untenable legacy of Roe v. Wade, and to persuade our leaders to eradicate it from America’s fu-

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

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



240-353-1460

Within the St. Joseph Catholic Church parish province, several outstanding high school, college and professional athletes were born and raised. You name the sport, and a member of our community has participated in. Basketball is one such sport. *ESPN* recognized the basketball hotbed that is Prince George’s County in their *ESPN the Magazine* article. Shall I say more? I say this for with the Maryland State Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw on the horizon in February, I expect to pull together a competitive team of free throw shooters to represent Fletcher Council this year. So, for those of you who have youth ages 10-14 (Girls& Boys), who know how to put the ball into the basket, I am looking forward to hearing from you.

*Maryland State
Knights of Columbus*

Basketball Free Throw

Coming In February 2016

Open to Girls and Boys, Ages 10 – 14

School of the Incarnation
2601 Symphony Lane
Gambrills, MD 21054



Co-Chairmen
Michael Furst – 410.931.0954
Paul Mullenhoff – 301.262.3963





FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Gabriel O. Nmorka, Family Activities Director
ognmorka@gmail.com

301-350-7637

Family of the Month The "Leeke" Family



This is indeed the most Wonderful time of the year and we must be joyful to justify the Second Coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ at Christmas. This Knights Sunday, the James C. Fletcher, Jr., Council 11422, Knights of Columbus has selected the Family of John and Theresa Leeke as its December, 2015 Family of the Month. John and Theresa Leek registered as members of St Joseph Church in 1969; now over four decades. John and Theresa are religious parents of four adult children. Three sons: Michael, Mark and Mathew and a daughter: Madelyn. The Leeke family has now grown to include two wonderful daughter-in-law's namely Lu and Pam.

In the fall of 1970, Theresa at the request of Fr. Casey developed the Church Choir. That prompted the entire family to become involved in the Church Ministries. She has served as the Director of the Choir from its inception. It is this same Choir that is often showered with praises at Masses by regular Mass and first time worshipers alike for their well-orchestrated songs. During her tenure, she developed Cantors, Youth and Junior Choirs, small Adult groups, and a Music Department. The Music Department includes: the Gospel Choir, Youth and Children's Choir, Cantors, Adult and Youth Musicians for Liturgies, Liturgical Dancers, and Grow Your Own Musicians, a Ministry for Youth to learn to play at various Liturgies.

John has served as a Eucharistic Minister and Coordinator during Fr. Raymond Moore's Pastoral assignment. He to this day participates in this ministry. He also served on the Parish Council and on several Church Planning Committees and most recently on the Black History and Black Catholic Committees.

Michael, the oldest son participated in the Youth Ministry and was an Altar Server from grades 4-12. Madelyn, the only daughter served in the Youth Choir in her years at St. Joseph Church. Mark, the middle son on the other hand, participated as an Alter Server from grades 3-12, contributed in the Youth Ministry and has worked in the Media Department of St. Joseph at the Gospel Choir's Concerts. While Matthew, the youngest son was an Alter Server from grades 4-12, he was the Co-Founded of the Teen Club now known as the Youth Ministry. He also served in the Media Department and continues to serve at the Gospel Choir's Annual Concerts.

For those outstanding services to St. Joseph Church our Community, the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council of the Knights of Columbus recognizes the family of John and Theresa Leeke as the December, 2015 Family of the Month. Father Almighty, may you continue to guide and richly bless this family in Jesus name. *Amen!*

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



MEMBERSHIP QUEST

John W. Huntley, Membership Director
jhuntley@some.org

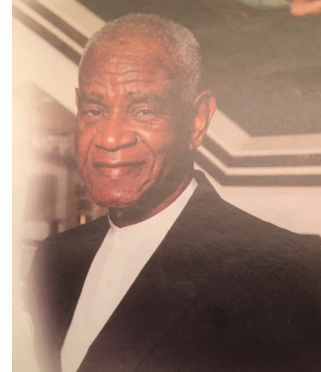


240-441-9086

HELP is needed to acquire new members to fill several open Fletcher Council positions. Candidates must be 18-years of age or older, a practicing catholic and have a desire to help others. The focus areas for these positions include a multitude of activities associated with Church, Council, Community, Family, Youth and Pro-Life. For assistance in your efforts to become a member of the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council of the Knights of Columbus, contact me for details, I am just an email and/or a phone call away. New members are essential if the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council is to continue its support to St. Joseph Church parish community. Referrals are welcomed. The Knights of Columbus is an Experience of a Lifetime.



Let Us Always Remember



December 26, 1929 - December 11, 2015

Giles Govin Bragg
Fletcher Council
Charter Member

KC LADIES AUXILIARY

Cathy Gresham, President
catstew@aol.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! At the beginning of each year we are all challenged to improve our lives through dieting, exercise and other self-improvement activities. The KC LADIES would like to offer the following five (5) resolutions for your 2016 consideration and hopefully each of you will add your personal resolutions to this list:

- Spend ten (10) minutes each day reading the bible
- BEGIN and END each day with a prayer
- PRAY THE ROSARY at least once a week
- Be giving of your service and time to help your church and community
- Although we are all struggling, seek out those in need and **REALLY HELP.**

Mark your calendars! Spread the news! The KC Ladies Annual Pancake Breakfast will be Sunday, February 14, 2016 immediately following the 8:30 and 11:00 Masses. Breakfast include the works: pancakes, sausage, eggs, grits and more. I'm sure you remember the delicious fried apples! It is a great opportunity to fellowship with your St. Joseph family.



Please, Remember In Your Prayers

Members Who Are Ill



Howard Wynn
Mary Julius
Joseph Marshall
Ken Hinton

James Shorter
Hugo Braden
William Tolbert
Donald Wilson





JAMES C. FLETCHER, JR. COUNCIL 11422

MEMBERS

2016 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION



New Year's Resolution

Lets all strive to be a much better Catholic. Help others who need help and always try to make the day our Lord has given us a better day. We can all strive to be better persons not just today, but every day, for God has given us one great gift, said so graciously by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

New Year's has always been a time for looking back to the past, and more importantly, forward to the coming year. It's a time to reflect on the changes we want (or need) to make with respect to our Council and resolve to follow through on those changes. Join with my fellow council officers and I as we pledge to fulfill our Council resolutions for 2016.

- * I resolve to attend more Knights meetings this year.
- * I resolve to become more active in my council.
- * I resolve to take an active part in Knight's meetings.
- * I resolve to step up and chair a Knight's project.
- * I resolve that I will work on at least two projects this year
- * I resolve that I will sign up at least one new member this year.
- * I resolve that I will accompany my new member to all degrees.
- * I resolve that I will contact the Knight's insurance agent to review my needs.
- * I resolve this year that I will invoke the First Degree principle of "Charity" more in my life.
- * I resolve to pray the Rosary more as I promised at my First Degree
- * I resolve that I will seek an office in my local council this year.
- * I will work and strive to insure that I fulfill these resolutions this year!





REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson

Justice and Mercy, Complementary Virtues

Justice and mercy, which are perfectly blended in God, are necessary for a fair and harmonious society. Justice creates order and adherence to obligations. It assures that all obtain what they are due, whether that be the good they have earned or the punishment they have warranted. It is impartial and objective. Without mercy, however, justice can be insensitive and harsh. How many of us truly want complete and pure justice for all, including ourselves? Have we not failed more often than we like to admit in our obligations, in our relations with others? Are we not all flawed? Are we not all sinners? Everyone needs God's forgiveness.

Mercy, in contrast, is compassion for the failings and difficulties of others. It is understanding, patient and forbearing, even if it makes our own life more difficult. Mercy forgives other's offenses and the punishment that may be due, and gives offenders a chance to repent and to reform their lives. In this broken world, to which we with our fallen natures contribute, mercy makes relationships possible.

Mercy without justice, however, is entitlement. Without accountability and a fear of punishment, would we not repeat our offenses, especially if they brought pleasure or material gain? True mercy is more than simply forgiveness, for it requires a response. We must reform our lives and heed the words of Our Lord in the Gospel of St. John, when He said to the woman who was to be stoned for adultery, "Go, and sin no more."

God is just and we will be judged accordingly. As stated in the Book of Revelation: "I saw the dead, great and small alike, standing in front of his throne while the books lay open. And another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged from what was written in the books, as their deeds deserved."

As presented in Scripture, God does pass judgement and inflicts chastisement when the sins of mankind deserve it. But he tempers his justice with mercy. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they were banished from Paradise, but were given a second chance through toil and repentance on earth. When wickedness was widespread throughout the world, God brought the flood as a punishment, but was merciful to the righteous Noah in having him build an ark so that he and his family would be saved. When God was about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, he showed mercy in having an angel tell Lot to take his wife and daughters and flee the city.

Presently, abominations abound throughout the world. They violate God's laws as written into our nature and defy the teachings of His Church. Abortion, pornography, sex outside of marriage, homosexual behavior, gender redefinition, same-sex marriage, euthanasia, and other atrocities against human life and dignity are daring God to release His justice. God has been patient, but He is just. Evil matters. Sin matters. We should not expect His mercy without repentance.

God will inflict punishment, but does so unwillingly. As recorded in St. Faustina's *Diary*, Our Lord told her:

"I do not wish to punish aching mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to My Merciful Heart. I use punishment when they themselves force Me to do so; My hand is reluctant to take hold of the sword of justice. Before the Day of Justice, I am sending the Day of Mercy."

In 2000, Pope John Paul II, concerned about the future of mankind, consecrated the world to Divine Mercy. He declared a jubilee year to emphasize God's love for us and ask for the forgiveness of sins, and established the Feast of Divine Mercy to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter.

With continuing serious problems in the world, especially, as Pope Francis stated, the "widespread and insensitive mentality" toward the sacredness of human life, the pontiff has proclaimed this year a Jubilee of Mercy. It began on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and extends through November 20, the Feast of Christ the King. The pope wants to provide "all believers a true moment of encounter with the mercy of God."

"The tragedy of abortion is experienced by some with a superficial awareness," said the pope, "as if not realizing the extreme harm that such an act entails." Many women believe that "they have no other option" but to have an abortion. "I have met so many women who bear in their heart the scar of this agonizing and painful decision," the pope continued. When such a woman has repented and seeks absolution in the sacrament of confession, "the forgiveness of God cannot be denied." The pontiff has granted, during this Year of Mercy, all priests the authority, normally reserved only to bishops, to absolve women who confess to having had an abortion and who, with a contrite heart, seek forgiveness.

The pope also has granted indulgences for remission of the punishment for sin to those who during the year cross the threshold of the Holy Door at the Vatican or in their local diocese, confess their sins, receive the Eucharist and pray for the pope's intentions. The pontiff asked "the Church in this Jubilee Year to rediscover the richness encompassed by the spiritual and corporal works of mercy."

Today, our request, both as individuals and as a community of believers, for God's mercy is essential. Our Lord told St Faustina, "mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy," and added, "He who refuses to pass through the door of My mercy must pass through the door of My judgement." Our Lord has asked that people pray the chaplet of Divine Mercy for, "This prayer will serve to appease My wrath." The directive is clear; the response desired is prescribed; the time is right. Say the chaplet daily, pass through the designated Holy Doors in the diocese, and express your gratitude for God's forbearance and mercy.



Smiley Central™

A man is overweight so his doctor puts him on a diet. "I want you to eat regularly for two days, then skip a day and repeat for two weeks and you'll lose at least five pounds."

When the man returns, he's lost nearly 20 pounds. The doctor exclaims, "That's amazing! Did you follow my diet?" The man nods. "I thought I was going to drop dead every third day from all the skipping!"

There were two evil brothers. They were rich, and used their money to keep their ways from the public eye. They even attended the same church, and looked to be perfect Christians.

Then, their pastor retired, and a new one was hired. Not only could he see right through the brothers' deception, but he also spoke well and true, and the church started to swell in numbers. A fund-raising campaign was started to build a new assembly.

All of a sudden, one of the brothers died. The remaining brother sought out the new pastor the day before the funeral and handed him a check for the amount needed to finish paying for the new building.

"I have only one condition," he said. "At his funeral, you must say my brother was a saint." The pastor gave his word, and deposited the check.

The next day, at the funeral, the pastor did not hold back. "He was an evil man," he said. "He cheated on his wife and abused his family." After going on in this vein for a small time, he concluded with,

"But, compared to his brother, he was a saint."

Little Mary was attending a wedding for the first time. As she sat in the church, she watched the bride slowly approach the altar. Mary whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

"Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life," her mother tried to explain, keeping it simple.

The child thought about this for a moment, then said....

"So why is the groom wearing black?"

A man came into a shop with a "Salesman Wanted" sign in a window. He went up to the owner and said, "I-I-I w-w-waannn-t the j-jooob-b."

"I don't know if this job would suit you because of your speaking impediment," said the owner.

"I h-h-have a w-wi-wiiiife and s-s-s-six k-kkids. Iiii-I re-really needeed thi-thi-this j-j-job!" said the man.

"OK. Here are three Bibles. Go out and sell them," said the owner.

So the man went out and came back an hour later. "H-here-sss your m-m-money," said the man.

The owner was impressed, so he gave the man a dozen more Bibles and sent him out.

The man came back in two hours and said, "Her-ers y-yoouur m-m-money."

The owner said, "This is fantastic. You sold more Bibles in three hours than anyone has sold in a week. Tell me, what do you say to the people when they come to the door?"

"W-welllll," said the man, "I r-r-ring the d-door bell, a-a-and s-s-say 'H-Hel-Hello, M-m-maaaaddam, d-d-do you w-w-want t-t-t-to buy thi-thi-this B-B-Bible, ooooo d-d-d-do y-you w-w-want m-me t-toooo read it t-t-t-to you?'"

James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422 Council Officers

2015 - 2016

Chaplain
Associate Chaplain
Associate Chaplain
Grand Knight
Deputy Grand knight
Chancellor.
Warden.
Financial Secretary
Recorder.
Treasurer
Lecturer.
Advocate
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Trustee 2 year.
Trustee 1 year.
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Arthur C. Osuorah
Mervyn Chancellor
Ikechukwu R. Agbim



It Is Not To Early To Say "Mardi Gras"



FEATURING "THE EXCLUSIVES"

Menu
Creole Seafood Gumbo
w/Rice Marinated Herb Baked
Chicken Leg (quarters)
BBQ Meat Balls
Southern Style Potato Salad
Seasoned Green Beans
Roll & Butter
Funch, Cake
Louisiana Coffee
"Open Bar"

Date: Saturday, February 6, 2016
Time: 7pm 'til Midnight
Where: St. Joseph's Rosemont Room
2020 St. Joseph's Drive
Largo, MD 20774

Mask Optional
Or
Semi-formal



"A Truly New Orleans Gala - Traditional Mardi Gras - Superb Music & Entertainment"
ADMISSION ONLY \$40.00 PER PERSON

For Tickets Call - Vernon Hawkins (301) 336-0284 - vhawkinsjr@aol.com
Sponsored By The James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422
Knights of Columbus



JAMES C. FLETCHER, JR. COUNCIL 11422

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

KC LADIES' ANNUAL

PANCAKE

BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2016

After the 8:30 & 11:00 Morning Masses



Pancakes

Eggs

Grits

Fried Potatoes

Fried Apples



Sausage

Ham

Coffee

Milk

Juice

Adults \$9.00

Children, 9 and under \$5.00





James C. Fletcher Jr. Council 11422

LENTEN FISH FRY

FEB 26 & MAR 11

12 Noon – 5 P.M.

**St Joseph Church
2020 Saint Joseph Drive
Largo, MD 20774**



Dinner \$10.00 Fish Sandwich \$7.00



Soda \$1



Cake \$1

DINNER MENU

WHITING FILLET or CROAKER(w/Bone)

2 SIDES

CORN BREAD / SLICED BREAD

SIDES

Potato Salad Cole Slaw
Macaroni & Cheese
String Beans Collards

PLACE YOUR ORDER / INFORMATION

Cal Thompson 301-928-2157 Harold Sanders 301-390-7150
Calls Must Be Placed Between 9 A.M. & 5 P.M. Weekday Only
No Call in Orders Accepted After 2:30 PM Day Of The Event



“HAPPY BIRTHDAY”
****JANUARY****
- 2016 -

- 03 Jordan S. Gill
- 05 Jose Franco
- 06 Constantine Efantis
- 06 Jacques Moukouri
- 11 Dr. Donald Egbuonu
- 12 James C. Vidale
- 12 Leon F. Williams
- 13 Michael Davenport
- 18 Ansanus C. Obizuo
- 18 Moses Offiah
- 21 Henry O. Onyeador
- 23 Judson Tallandier
- 26 Joseph Hall
- 26 Howard L. Wynn
- 30 Gregory Harrod, Sr.



**“The Joy
 Of A
 January
 Birthday”**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

****JANUARY****



- 01 New Year’s Day
- 07 Fletcher Council Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 09 State Mid-Term Meeting
- 11 Bishop Walsh Assembly Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 17 Knights Sunday, 11:00 AM Mass
- 18 Martin Luther King Day
- 20 McNamara Chapter Meeting, St. Elizabeth Council
12796, Montrose Road, Rockville, MD
- 21 Fletcher Council Meeting, 7:30 PM, First Degree
- 22 March For Life, Washington, DC
- 30 Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge

Marian Title for January
**Our Lady of
 Hope of Pontmain**



Our Lady’s visit occurred at the height of the Franco-Prussian War. Pontmain lay between the oncoming Prussian invaders and the city of Laval. With the sound of gunfire in the distance, two young brothers, Eugene and Joseph Barbadette, were pounding animal feed with their father when they saw a beautiful woman above the village church. Years later, an adult Joseph (who became a priest) recounted:

She was young and tall of stature, clad in a garment of deep blue, like balls of indigo such as laundresses use for rinsing linen. Her dress was covered with brilliant gold stars. The sleeves

were ample and long. She wore slippers of the same blue as the dress, ornamented with gold bows. On the head was a black veil half covering the forehead, concealing the hair and ears, and falling over the shoulders. Above this was a crown resembling a diadem, higher in front than elsewhere, and widening out at the sides. A red line encircled the crown at the middle. Her hands were small and extended toward us as in the ‘miraculous medal.’ Her face had the most exquisite delicacy and a smile of ineffable sweetness. The eyes, of unutterable tenderness, were fixed on us. Like a true mother, she seemed happier in looking at us than we in contemplating her.

A crowd gathered to pray as word quickly spread among the anxious villagers. Children saw the beautiful Lady, and gleefully pointed up to her. Adults, however, only saw 3 stars forming a triangle! As they prayed the Rosary, the children saw the garment’s stars multiply until it was almost entirely gold. Next, the children saw a banner unfurl beneath the Lady. Slowly, a message appeared: “But pray, my children. God will hear you in time. My Son allows Himself to be touched.” Upon hearing the message read aloud, the crowd spontaneously began the hymn “Mother of Hope.” As they sang, Our Lady laughed and joined in the singing.

The children squealed with delight as her hands kept time with the music, conducting their song. When the crowd began “My Sweet Jesus,” her expression changed to profound sadness and a red crucifix appeared in her hands, with the words “Jesus Christ” above it. Her eyes mournfully contemplated the cross during the hymn. As the people sang the “Ave Maris Stella,” the cross vanished, and her smile returned, though with a touch of melancholy. Two small white crosses then appeared on her shoulders before Our Lady disappeared behind a cloud.

The apparition lasted for 3-hours. In that time, the people of Pontmain heard a lessening in the distant sounds of war. During the evening, the Prussians ceased their advance and, 12-days later, the war ended. Just as Our Lady promised, God heard their prayers for peace. Devotion rapidly spread under the title Our Lady of Hope of Pontmain and, in 1900 the Bishop consecrated a magnificent Cathedral commemorating the apparition. The tiny chapel over which she appeared remains nearby in its orig-