



KNIGHTLIFE



Volume 23 Issue 7

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

January 2018

*OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF JAMES C. FLETCHER, JR. COUNCIL NO. 11422
HOME OF McNAMARA CHAPTER PRESIDENT VERNON HAWKINS, DISTRICT DEPUTY G. EMEKA ONWEZI,
FORMER DISTRICT DEPUTY MICHAEL P. DAVENPORT, VERNON HAWKINS, JR.,
DAVID D. MARTIN & CARLTON L. WILLIAMS*

Thank You Fletcher Council For All That You Do



Grand Knight - J. Bernard Broadus



Bishop - Roy E. Campbell, Jr.



Parochial Vicar - Fr. Robert P. Boxie, III



Chapter President - Vernon Hawkins, Jr.

OUR FOCUS

CHURCH * COUNCIL * COMMUNITY * FAMILY * YOUTH * PRO LIFE



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Chaplain Thoughts. . .

“The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.”

by Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr.

Joseph and Mary were devout Jews, living by the laws of their faith. Joseph was a carpenter, a man who worked to provide for his family. Joseph was not a wealthy man, for when he took Jesus to the Temple to be circumcised and Mary to be purified he offered the sacrifice of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons, allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb. There, they met Simeon, the holy man who foretold the great things that would come about, because of this new born baby. Mary realized from Simeon’s words, how great her suffering would be, in bearing witness to her Son’s sacrifice to redeem mankind.

We hear a lot in Scripture about Mary, but not much about Jesus’ human foster father. Joseph revealed in his humanity the unique role of fathers to proclaim God’s truth by word and deed. His paradoxical situation of “foster father to Jesus” draws attention to the truth about fatherhood, which is more than a mere fact of biological generation. A man is a father most when he invests him-

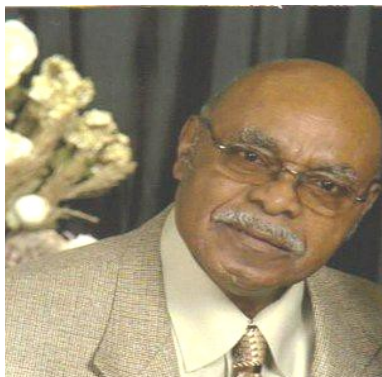


self in the spiritual and moral formation of his children. Joseph was keenly aware, as every father should be, that he served as the representative of God the Father.

Joseph’s life reminds us that a home or community is not built on power and possessions but goodness; not on riches and wealth, but on faith, fidelity, purity and mutual love.

Joseph took Jesus and Mary to their new home in Nazareth as a family firmly bonded in love and respect for each other, and obedience to the will of God. The family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is the family described in our readings from St. Paul’s letter to the Colossians and in the Book of Sirach; for children to respect their parents and for everyone to love each other as the Lord loves us.

The family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is the family we are called to imitate. We must learn to live in our own families with the love, respect, and obedience shown in the Holy Family.



*** SIR KNIGHT ***

Howard Leon Joseph Wynn

January 26, 1927 - December 18, 2017



Your Grand Knight For The 2017 - 2018 Fraternal Year

"Trust in the Lord with all thy Heart."

J. Bernard Broadus



Happy and Blessed New Year to all the Knights of James C. Fletcher Jr. Council 11422, your families and friends.

As I look back at the last six months of this administration, we have had some great times and a few sad times.

And through those times we have become a better council and better knights. I now often wonder what my life would be like had I not become a Knight? And then I realized, we are all called to be Knights for God's children, our brothers and sisters. And being a Knight of Fletcher Council has allowed us to focus on that calling and to act. I am so proud to be a member of this council because of the "good works" we accomplish on a daily-bases. So many times, Knights had heard or seen a need and on their own have step up to deliver "good works" to our brothers and sisters. And not just in our parish.

As we prepare to finish the second-half of our fraternal year, the opportunities to increase our "good works" are unlimited. I implore all knights to attend our *Mardi Gras Ball* this year on February 10th (you owe it to yourselves to be jubilant) and afterwards roll up your sleeves as we

begin our fundraising season for the charities we support.

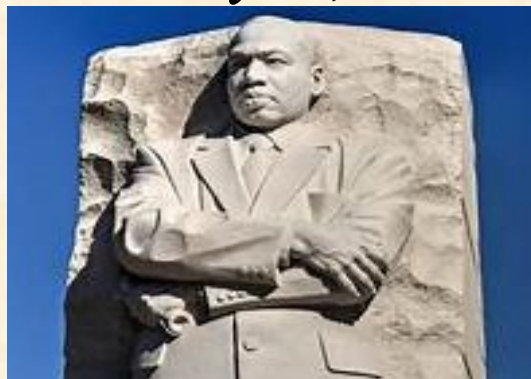
Also remember our fallen brothers, and if you can, support the Fletcher Council Memorial Fund, that helps our brother's widows and family in their time of bereavement.

May our Lord continue to bless this council and may His Grace rest upon us all.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day January 15, 2018

During his lifetime, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sought to forge the common ground on which people from all walks of life could join together to address important community issues. Working alongside individuals of all ages, races and backgrounds. Dr. King encouraged Americans to come together to strengthen communities, alleviate poverty, and acknowledge dignity and respect for all human beings. Service he realizes, was the great-equalizer.



On January 15, 2018, as we celebrate the 32nd anniversary of the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday, Americans across the country will celebrate by honoring the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Hundreds of thousands of Americans will remember and memorialize Dr. King by participating in service projects in their communities. Together, they will honor King's legacy of tolerance, peace, and equality by meeting community needs and making the holiday **"A day ON, not a day OFF."**

"When we allow freedom to ring—when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual:

Free at last! Free at last! Great God Almighty, we are Free at last!"



District Deputy's Report

State Deputy's Report



**G. Emeka Onwezi
District Deputy**

New year brings new things. As we enter 2018, I, my wife Chizoba, and my children wish everyone a very happy new year with good and better things in 2018. Last year went so fast. It is normally to learn from last year and apply what we learned from last year into the new year.

We normally drop the negatives we may have in 2017 and take the positive things in 2017 as a foundation or stepping stone for our council's success in 2018. We are half way gone through the fraternal year. This is

the last stretch to meet our fraternal goals, including achieving the star council and improving our council programs, thereby strengthening our domestic church.

I am looking forward to working with the Grand Knights and councils in District 2, to make sure that each council's goal for this fraternal year is achieved. With efforts of each member of the council, those goals will be attained.

There are many programs that are in the pipe lines that we would like council members to support, to include the March for Life in Washington, DC. coming up on January 19, 2018. Please arrange with your local parishes and come out to speak up and stand for the unborn children who cannot speak and stand up for themselves. This event can be used as your council's Culture of Life Report for this quarter. More information will be found on the Maryland State Council's website.

Also, please do not forget the first annual Tri-Chapter Ball that is being organized by the three chapters of the Grand Knights in Maryland. The ball will be on February 2, 2018 from 8:00pm at Columbus Gardens in Baltimore. For more information, please contact any of the three Chapter Grand Knights Presidents, or the flyers that will be circulating in council meetings and other Knight of Columbus meetings. Deadline for payment is January 15, 2018. No ticket at the door!

Another reminder is the Maryland State Council Convention in 2018. The online registration will start on January 9, 2018. If you plan to attend the convention, you must register online. More information should be found in the Maryland State Council's website.

Continue working on charitable outreach. These people need us. The poor, sick and needy do not take break or go on vacation or disappear because it is too cold. They are always in need of us and we should not take break in reaching out and helping those who cannot help themselves.

We are half way done. Do not give up now. As our State Deputy said "keep the momentum going – we cannot let up. It is not I – It is we. It is one goal- and it is our goal. And that goal is to make this our best year ever.

Vivat Jesus!



**Stephen M. Cohen
State Deputy**

My Brothers All,

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year's Holiday. Now we begin the second half of the Fraternal Year. January 6, our Mid Term Meeting, will be full of information to keep us charted on the right course and to achieve our goals. Let me say Thank You to everyone for making the first half of the year a success and I know I can count on each of you to continue to step up and make Maryland the best.

Please keep up the good work that we are doing in Membership. Each day we continue to increase our intake numbers. Retention has also been good so far. Let's keep it up. You will hear considerably more about membership at the Mid Term Meeting.

Don't forget the March for Life is quickly approaching. Let's show everyone that Maryland is Pro Life and be in DC on January 19th for the March.

The Supreme Convention in August is not that far away. The Committee has been hard at work getting everything ready to showcase Baltimore at this year's convention. Volunteers are needed to help before and during the convention. Please contact Jack Giacalone to sign up.

Continue to recruit, continue to hold Admission Degrees and continue to make your council interesting for our members. Strive for STAR Council. Ensure all forms and reports are turned in on time. If you have questions, please contact any member of the State Team for assistance.

We Are Advocates of the Lord - in everything that we do.

Vivat Jesus,

Steve



Have You Visited The State Website Lately
www.kofc-md.org
Or the Maryland State Yahoo Group
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/MDstatecouncil/info?yguid=46983702>



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPREME KNIGHT

The Future of Roe

Carl A. Anderson - Supreme Knight

THE SUPREME COURT'S INFAMOUS 1973 ABORTION DECISION REMAINS AN UNSETTLING –AND UNSETTLED–ISSUE



AS A SPECIAL ASSISTANT to President Ronald Reagan in 1986, I was privileged to work on the nomination of Antonin Scalia to be a member of the U.S. Supreme Court. At the time, I could not imagine that 30 years later we would be considering a new nominee to fill the vacancy resulting from his untimely death.

President Reagan had pledged to appoint judges who respect “the sanctity of innocent human life.” Americans knew his language was to be understood in light of his repeated criticism of the Supreme Court’s 1973 abortion decision in *Roe v. Wade*. With the nomination of Justice Scalia, he kept his promise, and Scalia was unanimously confirmed by the Senate.

Whenever there is a Supreme Court vacancy, we are told by supporters of *Roe v. Wade* that the decision is “settled law.” But such supporters face this difficulty: *Roe v. Wade* will never be settled law, because *Roe v. Wade* is founded on the lie that we do not know that the victim of every abortion — an unborn child — is a human being.

There is another difficulty as well: Since *Roe v. Wade*, millions of women have concluded that instead of being helpful, abortion is deeply hurtful.

In America, judicial decisions that are contrary to the dignity of the human person simply cannot be sustained over time. This is the lesson we learned long ago from those tragic court decisions which held that African-Americans were not entitled to the equal protection of our laws.

Roe v. Wade will never be settled constitutional law as long as Americans say, “It is not settled.”

This was precisely the approach President Abraham Lincoln took regarding the Supreme Court’s 1857 decision in the *Dred Scott* case and laws on slavery. It was the right approach then, and it remains the right approach today.

Virtually unrestricted abortion continues to be morally unsettling for a majority of Americans. More than four decades after the Su-

preme Court handed down its decision, abortion remains one of our most controversial issues.

At the time, Justice Byron White called the court’s decision in *Roe v. Wade* an exercise of “raw judicial power.” His dissenting opinion remains one of the strongest critiques of the case. Appointed by President John F. Kennedy, Justice White continued to be a strong critic of *Roe v. Wade* during the 20 years he remained on the Supreme Court.

He later wrote, “The Judiciary, including this Court, is the most vulnerable and comes nearest to illegitimacy when it deals with judge-made constitutional law having little or no cognizable roots in the language or even the design of the Constitution.”

“Raw judicial power” has not convinced Americans that *Roe v. Wade* is right.

In recent years, our Knights of Columbus-Marist polling has consistently shown that more than 8 in 10 Americans would limit abortion — at most — to the first three months of pregnancy. Almost 6 in 10 would limit it — at most — to cases of rape or incest or to save the life of the mother, and that includes the majority of Americans who describe themselves as “pro-choice.”

Almost two-thirds of Americans say that our abortion rate is too high. And 6 in 10 Americans continue to believe that abortion is morally wrong.

During my address to last year’s Supreme Convention, I stated that we will never build a culture of life if we continue to elect public officials who defend a legal regime of unrestricted abortion. The same must be said of those who are appointed as our judges.

As we look ahead to how the new president will keep his promise to be pro-life, we remember the words of the current occupant of that office who at the beginning of his administration famously said, “Elections have consequences.”

When it comes to defending the lives of millions of unborn children, we sincerely hope so.

Vivat Jesus!

The 45th Annual March For Life



The 45th Annual March For Life

The Washington DC 2018 March for Life is scheduled for January 19th.



FRATERNAL BENEFITS

David Benjamin, Fraternal Benefit Advisor
David.benjamin@kofc.org 202-494-6527

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY WITH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS INSURANCE *A Vocation to Serve*

Every month the Supreme Council welcomes approximately 25 brother Knights to New Haven for a week of fellowship and instruction.

These men come from all across North America to hone their craft and develop their skills.

They've done many things: They've built houses. They've served in the military. They've taught students. They've discerned the priesthood. They've been fraternal leaders. They've been business leaders. They've been farmers. They've been foremen. They've been firefighters and police officers, truck drivers and bankers.

Now, despite their different backgrounds and different locales, they share two common bonds: They are Knights, and they are newly contracted agents.

Though challenging and demanding, such a career with the Knights provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for men to do well for themselves and their families while doing good for others.

A career as a dedicated, professional agent is principally a career of service. Working with their general agent and our Supreme Council team, each Knights of Columbus agent has a dedicated group of Knights of Columbus families to care for with his expertise and guidance.

The agent meets with his members regularly, helps them review their financial situation and offers them access to our exclusive line of insurance products.

Our agents receive extensive training and, through our compensation program, have the opportunity to enjoy an income limited only by the work they put into their career.

Working independently but not without support, our agents set their own schedules and are eligible for a benefits package. For agents in the U.S., this package includes group health, life, dental and disability insurance; a non-contributory defined benefit pension plan; a 401(k) plan; expense allowance; reward trips and other incentives.

Eligible benefits in Canada include a non-contributory defined-benefit pension plan, supplemental medical insurance, dental insurance, expense allowance, reward trips and other incentives.

It's a tremendous career opportunity — and it's now available in many communities in the United States and Canada.

Do you love the Order and have a passion for helping it grow? Are you a man of faith who wants to serve the Church? Are you a family man who needs to provide for loved ones? Are you looking for a vocation through which you will find happiness and fulfillment? Are you entrepreneurial and looking to set your own schedule and earn an income according to your effort?

If you, or someone you know, would answer "yes" to any of these questions, then you owe it to yourself to explore the possibility. You just may be the person we're looking for, and we just may be that company for which you've been searching.

To learn more about the career opportunities in your area and speak to your local general agent, send an email to careers@kofc.org or call 203-752-4136.

Who knows what the future will hold? In a few short months, maybe you'll be among the few who gather in New Haven for a week of training in fellowship.

We look forward to welcoming you.



A 'Thank You' to All

As 2017 comes to a close, we look back with a sense of deep gratitude for all the time, commitment and dedication of everyone whose tireless sacrifices this year have made so many good James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council works possible.



McNAMARA CHAPTER OF GRAND KNIGHTS

Vernon Hawkins, Jr. - Chapter President - vhawkinsjr@aol.com - 301-336-0284



Happy New Year! You are invited to join us at the next meeting of the McNamara Chapter on January 17, 2018 at the St. Mary of the Assumption Council 9302, 14908 Main St., Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

The primary goal of the Bishop McNamara Chapter is to promote the welfare of its member Councils and to work for the common good of the Order. Bishop McNamara Chapter consists of councils within the Archdiocese of Washington and several adjoining areas. The Chapter meets the third Wednesday of each month at member councils.

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.

2018 MSP Polar Bear Plunge January 25 - 27, 2018 Celebrating 22 Years of the



"COOLEST" Maryland Tradition



Are you BRAVE enough to take a dip into the 30 degree bay?

Every January over 10,000 courageous plungers head to Sandy Point State Park seeking thrills and chills all to benefit the 7,549 athletes of Special Olympics Maryland.

The MSP Polar Bear Plunge is a fundraising event in which individuals pledge \$75 or more for the privilege of plunging into the Chesapeake Bay in January in support of 7,549 athletes around Maryland

For more information and registration, please visit www.plungemd.com-police.com

First Annual Tri-Chapter Ball



Honoring Three Men of Columbianism:

Johnny Price

Bryan Adamczyk

Bob Jack

Stuffed Pork Loin

Twice Baked Potato

Green Beans Almondine

Dessert, Beer, Wine and Soda

Music by Mike Davenport

\$30.00 per person

Deadline for payment 1/ 15/2018

No tickets at door

Date: February 2, 2018

Time: 8:00 until ??

Where: Columbus Gardens
4301 Klosterman Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21236

CHECKS PAYABLE TO BCGK AND MAIL TO CHAPTER TREASURER:

Paul Messina
9757 Gingerwood Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042
301-875-1554 | pgk4154@gmail.com



WALSH ASSEMBLY NEWS

Michael P. Davenport - Faithful Navigator



Bishop James E. Walsh Assembly 1548 Color Corps was there as St. Joseph Catholic Church celebrated its 95th Anniversary. Also in attendance were Five Generations of current and present Very Special Priests: Fr. Raymond Moore, Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr., Fr. Peter J. Sweeney, Fr. Robert P. Boxie, III, and Fr. Michael King. Deacon Al Douglas Turner was also in attendance.

Brother Knights,

In the past few months we have lost several of our beloved Knights. Among them were way too many of our Charter Members. We must remember that with every Knight lost we adopt their cherished wives. Taking care of these First Ladies of our order is our original purpose. Don't forget them just as you won't forget the memories of our departed Brother Knights. Reach out to them. They hold memories even more cherished than the memories we have of their husbands, our Brother Knights.

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 Christ, with a joyous Christmas Season and look forward to a blessed Happy New Year.

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. To assist us we have an everlasting well of energy and wisdom in the form of our very Worthy Brother Vernon Hawkins who continues to shepherd us through the months and years of Fletcher Council History.

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 few months should be our focus not just for the Council but also for the life blood of our Assembly, new members. Achieving STAR Council is a given and now a part

of the James C. Fletcher Jr. Heritage. We must continue to think about the most "outside of the box" ideas that worked for the Council.

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 your membership to join the fourth and final degree, Patriotism. Give your Council 1st 2nd and 3rd Degree members the opportunity to be blessed as you have been. Do we look forward to our rewards in heaven.....YES! But we're given glimpses of those rewards on earth through the Grace that each of us has. Our Worthy Master reminds us that strength is in numbers and that one example was the support for full coverage of Arlington National Cemetery for the Wreath laying Ceremony. In total, 1,570,000 wreaths were placed at 1,422 participating locations nationwide. Fletcher Council was a part of that contingency.

This is the strength of the Council and Assembly. Activities like the Nuns and Priests Appreciation dinner and the Annual Fletcher Council *Mardi Gras* which will be held on Saturday, **February 10, 2018** are examples of what we can do. Another example is the Baltimore, McNamara and Seton Chapters Annual Tri-Chapter Ball, coming together of many levels of Brother Knights. It will be held on February 2, 2018 at Columbus Gardens in Baltimore and will begin at 8 PM. What a way to honor your sacrifices and service to Christ, his Church and to all those in need. May you and yours continue to be blessed and enjoy the Joy of returning those blessings to others less fortunate throughout the next New Year.

God Bless and remember that your Knights are always with you. Pray for our fallen but risen Brother Knights and their Widows.



PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Michael Younger, Community Activities Director
mrwhy@verizon.net

301-980-6779



Once again, the James C. Fletcher Council 11422 knocked the ball out the park. Great food and a lot of conversation between each other. I think the Grand Knight had a hidden agenda for this event. Maybe we should change the name to "*The taste of St. Joseph's.*" There were all sorts of comments about the food. From the meat categories, ham and turkey. The jerk chicken was the

standout in the meat category. The veggies commented the meat. But the other category that stands out was the desserts, aka "diet killer" Like they say in a commercial you just cannot eat just one. Let's not forget Brother Cal masterfully running the kitchen with his helper.

Happy New Year

KC LADIES

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 2018 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.**

Coming in March will be the **Annual KC Ladies Pancake Breakfast** in February or March 2018. Breakfast include the works: pancakes, sausage, eggs, grits and more. I'm sure you re-member the delicious fried apples! It is a great opportunity to fellowship with your St. Joseph family.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Chidubem M. Oparaoji, Activities Director
cmatriot@gmail.com



202-802-8155

A New Year leads many of us to evaluate our lives and see what changes we can make to improve ourselves by becoming more spiritually active in our church and community. January is traditionally the month we make our New Year's resolutions to change; change many of us keep for only for a short time. This year, let us challenge ourselves that when we make a commitment, we keep that commitment in the coming year and beyond. Brothers, the church needs good men, in particular Knights, to be involved in growing God's kingdom. As Knights, this is the perfect time for us to resolve to involve ourselves more in the council's church activities, St. Joseph ministries and community organizations.

This month, The Martin Luther King Annual Memorial Mass for the Archdiocese of Washington will be celebrated at St. Joseph on January 13th at 5:00 p.m. Our chaplain Bishop Roy Campbell will be the celebrant and Knights will be needed to volunteer in Color Corp, as Extraordinary Ministers and Hospitality Ministers.

Bishop Campbell will also lead the Youth Ministry and others on a bus trip to The Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. on January 19. Brothers, please sign up for the trip to assist the Bishop and to help defend the lives of the unborn. Assistant Chaplain Deacon Steven Nash is currently seeking volunteers, especially men (Knights) to serve as mentors for those serving in prison and also for those recently released. This is a very noble cause as are the other ministries at St. Joseph; Good Samaritans, Knights bread donations, St. Vincent DePaul Society, Welcome Ministry, Landings Evangelization, Social Justice Cup of Joe and Youth Ministry Tutoring.

Brothers, a New Year is here and a new day has come. Please rise to the occasion in 2018 and serve those in need.

*"Come, you who are blessed by My Father,
Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink,

A stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me."



Please, Remember In Your Prayers

Members Who Are Ill

James Shorter Mervyn Chancellor
Joseph Marshall William Tolbert
Charles Ratcliff

Deceased

SK Judge William D. Missouri
SK Howard Leon Joseph Wynn



Considering a Vocation to Priesthood?

"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men!" Mt 4:19





COUNCIL ACTIVITIES


Cal Thompson, Council Activities Director

calthompsn@msn.com


301-249-2955

Brother Knights, tickets for our Annual Mardi Gras on February 10, 2018 went on sale in October. They are being snapped up at a record pace. There were 150 tickets initially available, within minutes after they went on sale, 68 were sold. Therefore, if you have plans to attend, I urge you to **NOT** procrastinate, but to purchase/reserve Your ticket(s) **NOW**. See the flyer below and get your order in.

MARDI GRAS




FEATURING
"THE EXCLUSIVES"





Menu
Seafood Gumbo w/Rice
Chicken Gumbo w/Rice
Baked Chicken
Meatballs
Potato Salad
Rice Pilaf
Green Beans
Rolls/Butter
Cake
Punch/Ice Tea
Bottled Water
"Open Bar"

Date: Saturday, February 10, 2018
Time: 7pm 'til Midnight
Where: St. Joseph's Rosemont Room
2020 St. Joseph's Drive
Largo, MD 20774
(301) 773-4838



Mask Optional
Or
Semiformal



"A Truly New Orleans Gala - Traditional Mardi Gras - Superb Music & Entertainment"
ADMISSION ONLY \$45.00 PER PERSON

For Tickets Call/Email
Vernon Hawkins - 301-336-0284 - vhawkinsjr@aol.com
Cal Thompson - 301-928-2157 - calthompsn@msn.com
Sponsored By The James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422
Knights of Columbus



COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Michael Younger, Community Activities Director
mrwhy@verizon.net



301-980-6779

We will kick off our **Lenten Fish Fry Season** in March. Council members, parishioners and community support for this event has been awesome over the years. However 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 customer demands. Council members and family members are requested to come out and help during course of the day on **Fish Fry Friday** during Lent. Volunteers are welcomed to call, email me or contact a council member.

Vivat Jesus

YOUTH ACTIVITIES



Phil Beauboeuf, Youth Activities Director
pabeaub@us.ibm.com 240-353-1460



Coming up in the January/February 2018 timeframe is the Annual Maryland State Free Throw Contest. Fletcher Council will be fielding a team this year, consisting of boys and girls ages 9 to 14. There are three levels to the Free Throw Contest: 1) Council, 2) District and 3) State.

Lets get in some practice before the start of the contest. If you or they should need some assistance in the fundamentals, please let me know. The council has several previous near-NBA pros amongst its membership.

I anticipate announcements of dates, time and locations of the Fletcher Council Free Throw Contest by early January. I look forward to having your son and/or daughter on the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Free Throw Team. **Practice / Practice.**

MEMBERSHIP QUEST

Alan Davis, Membership Director
Adavis1960@verizon



301-808-8009

First I would like to wish the entire Council a **Happy Year**. We are about to embark on another successful year and I know that all of the Brother are ready to tackle any challenges. Recruiting new members is essential to the continued growth and well-being of our Council and the Order. Offering a man membership in the Knights of Columbus gives him the opportunity to improve his own life and his community. Membership allows him to experience the fraternal bond that Knights share while growing closer to his family and faith.

Retention is as important as recruiting. Imagine you're trying to fill a bucket with water. Every drop you put in should increase its contents, but if there's a leak you may end up losing more water then you gain. Think of the membership in our Council in the same way- every new Knight you add won't help your membership in-crease and grow stronger if we lose existing members.

Words to motivate and inspire: *"Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishments"*

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**

ALAN DAVIS - 301-808-8009



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Efrain Anderson, Family Activities Director

canal511@aol.com

301-372-6426

Family of the Month John & Cecelia Clayton



John and Cecelia Clayton, are native Washingtonians. They have been married for 43-years. They are blessed with five children, 4 sons and 1 daughter, seventeen grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

Cecelia retired from the Federal Government and currently serves at St. Joseph Catholic Church as an Extraordinary Minister, Minister of Hospitality, Altar Server. She is a member of Our Lady of Grace Sodality, the Black History Month Committee, the Bereavement Support Ministry and the Arts and Environment Ministry. Cecelia is also a member of the Sisters in the Spirit of the Archdiocese of Washington. When she is at home, her hobbies are fusing glass, beading jewelry and scrapbooking.



***“FLETCHER COUNCIL
MARDI GRAS
FEBRUARY 10, 2018
GET WITH IT
GET YOUR TICKET NOW.
SEE CAL OR VERN
FOR TICKETS”***



CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES

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

301-728-7827

As the pro-life movement slowly continues to gain momentum, we continue to need to make it clear that pro-life issues are important and cannot be ignored. The largest human rights march in history takes place on the Washington Mall every January - the National March for Life. We need to continue our increased emphasis and participation from the Maryland State Family. Let's once again show the rest of our country that we in Maryland support the preborn, and that we are in solidarity with our bishops. The upcoming 45th March for Life will be Friday, January 19, 2018, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. More details to come later. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND MAKE PLANS TO PARTICIPATE.**

Are you coming to the 2018 National March for Life?



Everyone else will be there!

March with the Maryland Knights of Columbus:

- **Friday, January 19, 2018**
- **Meet at 14th St. and Madison Dr., NW (on the Mall) between 10:45 and 11:15 AM. (Nearest Metro stations: FEDERAL TRIANGLE or SMITHSONIAN)**
- **Look for brother Maryland Knights and the Maryland Knights of Columbus banner.**
- **At 11:15, we will move to the staging area to watch the program.**

**STAND UP FOR THE UNBORN
COME TO THE MARCH
BE PRO-LIFE**



REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson

Creating a Robust Pro-Life Voice

For 45 years, ever since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion, Catholics and people of other religious persuasions have tried to stir the conscience of the country about the consequences of this ruling. Since the decision in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, over 60 million children in the United States have been killed in the womb. What a tragedy of epic proportions – sixty million children destined to be born in the image and likeness of God destroyed by acts of their mothers' free will and abetted by an industry of death.

Despite almost half a century of opposition, there remains a determined offensive against life at every stage. As a society, we prevent its beginning, manipulate the elements of conception, create life in a laboratory and extinguish it in the name of research, destroy the child in the womb from the moment of conception through the point of (and occasionally after) birth, condone the taking of one's own life, and assist others to exterminate themselves. These acts are justified with terms like mercy, choice, tolerance, medical progress, and personal rights, which mask the selfishness, materialism, callousness and disdain for others that actually exist. This acceptance brings the nation closer to being permeated by and accepting of a "culture of death."

While abortion is the most heinous attack on life, it is not the only one. A reverence for life is assaulted through euthanasia, suicide, sterilization, homosexual acts, *in vitro* fertilization, embryonic stem cell research, and contraception. Each is an affront to man's role as God's partner in the fulfillment of creation through "pro-creating" in marriage other humans to "know, love, and serve God in this life, and to be happy with him in the next." When spiritual concerns are disregarded, decisions about life and death rest on social, economic and similar temporal factors, which can always be judged significant enough to allow the termination of a life.

To willfully destroy life, the most fundamental of all human rights, is an intrinsic moral evil. For too long, Catholics in significant numbers have been silent on anti-life issues. Often they are quieted by a fear of causing dissension, by political correctness, by the argument of a woman's choice. Tolerance of life-destroying practices is not a virtue. Not repudiating these acts implicitly acknowledges that they are socially acceptable and thus encourages their proliferation.

As Archbishop Charles Chaput reminds us: "Pluralism in a democracy doesn't mean shutting up on inconvenient issues. It means speaking up -- respectfully, in a spirit of justice and charity, but also vigorously and without apologies." There are many effective national pro-life organizations, each addressing specific needs. The existence of multiple organizations is healthy for it allows actions to be taken by those closest to and most focused on specific problems. But this also leads to multiple speakers competing for attention in the national arena.

Can it be said that pro-life concerns are heard when Catholic politicians continue to support legislation and provide funding for abortion services? When in the presidential elections of 2008 and 2012 a majority of Catholics voted for a candidate who strongly supported abortion? When Planned Parenthood, the largest provider of abortions in the nation, has been receiving over \$500,000,000 per year from the federal government? When more than 2,500 unborn children are destroyed in the womb each day?

A strong, coordinated, consistent national voice is needed. There must be a balance between the solidarity of everyone working toward a common end, and subsidiarity with each organization addressing its specific concerns. While clergy are necessary to provide moral clarity to the pro-life message, it is the laity who must counter the immoral practices daily in the community, the workplace, the schools, among friends, acquaintances and the public-at-large.

One organization that is well positioned to provide lay leadership is the Knights of Columbus. With two million members, an international presence, a local community structure and extensive resources, it can deal with strategic and policy issues at the national and state levels, while addressing and meeting communal concerns. The Order is unabashedly pro-life, fully in line with the Magisterium, and stands in solidarity with the Pope, bishops and priests. It donates millions of dollars to pro-life causes, has given more than 500 ultrasound-imaging machines to pregnancy care centers, provides pro-life literature, files and supports friend-of-the-court briefs on pro-life issues that have come before the Supreme Court, erected hundreds of memorials to the unborn, takes a primary role in the annual March for Life, and has passed resolutions supporting the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.

The many initiatives of the Knights of Columbus are laudable, but as a response from the largest Catholic, fraternal organization in the world, it is less than robust. Its outcry should be loud and booming. In addition to what it is doing, the Order could:

- Have every council encourage its members to join with the public witnesses already praying before abortion centers nationwide.
- Follow the lead of those bishops who occasionally pray at abortion clinics and offer Masses for the unborn, and request that all council chaplains do the same.
- Replicate the Order's participation in the national March for Life in January at the state marches for life, such as in Maryland each March.
- Create state initiatives to link local councils with pro-life centers and other organizations that assist women with unplanned pregnancies to provide assistance on a continuing basis.

More vigorously implement the Order's long-standing policy of not inviting to any Knights of Columbus event or bestowing honors or privileges on persons, especially public officials or candidates for public office, who support abortion or who advocate the legalization of assisted suicide, euthanasia and other violations of the right to life.

The Knights of Columbus working with the many pro-life organizations at the national, state and local levels can create a resounding voice throughout the land and make respecting life a national norm. There is no need, however, to wait for direction from Supreme. Developing that voice can begin now, with your council, with you. To start, join the March for Life on January 19.



Smiley Central™

Friends - please be careful. Yesterday I went to a Christmas Party. I had a few beers, followed by a few cocktails, followed by a few shots....

I still had the sense to know that I was over the limit. That's when I decided to do what I have never done before: I took a cab home.

Sure enough, there was a police road block on the way home, and since it was a cab, they waved it past. I arrived home safely without incident.

This was both a great relief and a surprise because I had never driven a cab before. I don't even know where I got it from and, now that it is in my garage, I don't know what to do with it.

Last year I replaced all the windows in my house with those expensive double-pane energy-efficient kind.

But this week I got a call from the contractor who installed them, complaining that his work had been completed a whole year ago, and I had yet to pay for them.

Boy oh boy, did we go around!! Just because I'm blonde doesn't mean that I am automatically stupid.

I proceeded to tell him just what his fast talking sales guy had told me last year: namely, that in one year the windows would pay for themselves.

There was silence on the other end of the line, so I just hung up... and I have not heard back.

Gladys Dunn was new in town and decided to visit the church nearest to her new apartment.

She appreciated the pretty sanctuary and the music by the choir, but the sermon went on and on. Worse, it wasn't very interesting. Glancing around, she saw many in the congregation nodding off.

Finally it was over. After the service, she turned to a still sleepy-looking gentleman next to her, extended her hand and said, "I'm Gladys Dunn."

He replied, "You and me both!"

A priest was getting ready for a trip to Rome, and a man came to him with a request: "When you get to Rome, could you light a candle for me and my wife? We really want children and the doctor just told us we might not be able to have any."

The priest agreed to the request. Ten years later, he ran into the man again in a super market. With him were about twelve kids.

"Oh, this is wonderful!" said the priest. "But tell me, where's your wife?"

"Oh, she's gone to Rome to blow out the candle."

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 original state.



- 01 Vincent O. Agubokwu
- 03 Jordan S. Gill
- 06 Constantine Efantis
- 06 Jacques Moukouri
- 06 Deacon Al Douglas Turner
- 11 Dr. Donald Egbuonu
- 12 James C. Vidale
- 12 Leon F. Williams
- 13 Michael P. Davenport
- 18 Ansanus C. Obizuo
- 21 Henry O. Onyeador
- 26 Andre J. Steward
- 30 Gregory P. Harrod



*“The Joy
Of A
January
Birthday”*

Maryland State Council Officers

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| State Deputy | Stephen Cohen |
| McNamara Chapter President | Vernon Hawkins, Jr. |
| District Deputy | G. Emeka Onwezi |
| District Warden | Michael P. Akpan |

James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council Officers

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
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| Assistant to the Chaplain | Deacon Al Douglas Turner |
| Assistant to the Chaplain | Deacon Steven Nash |
| Grand Knight. | J. Bernard Broadus |
| Deputy Grand knight | Michael Younger |
| Chancellor. | Fidelis K. Ajudua |
| Warden. | Robert Sistare |
| Financial Secretary | John O. Grier |
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| Treasurer | Harold F. Sanders, Jr. |
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| Advocate | David D. Martin |
| Trustee 3 year | Alan M. Davis |
| Trustee 2 year. | Ikechukwu R. Agbim |
| Trustee 1 year. | Thomas F. Matthews, III |
| Trustee 1 year. | John W. Huntley |
| Inside Guard. | Charles N. Okpah |
| Outside Guard. | Gilbert Neblett |

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

****JANUARY****



- 01 **HAPPY NEW YEAR**
- 04 **Fletcher Council Meeting, 7:00 PM**
- 06 State Mid-Term (GK & DGK), Columbus Garden, Baltimore
- 08 Bishop Walsh Assembly Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 12 **Our Lady of Guadalupe**
- 13 AWD Meeting, 10:00 AM
- 13 Martin Luther King Mass at St. Joseph, 5:00 PM
- 15 **Martin Luther King Day**
- 17 McNamara Chapter Meeting, St. Mary of the Assumption
- 18 **Fletcher Council Social Meeting, 7:00 PM**
- 19 **March For Life, Washington, DC**
- 21 Knights Sunday, 11 A.M. Mass
- 25-27 **Polar Bear Plunge**



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*