

# KNIGHTLIFE

*Official Newsletter of James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422*

*Knights of Columbus - Star Council*

Volume 22 Issue 1

July 2016



## *HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY*



*JAMES C. FLETCHER, JR. COUNCIL 11422*

*KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS*

*St. Joseph Catholic Church*

*2020 St. Joseph Drive*

*Largo, Maryland 20774*

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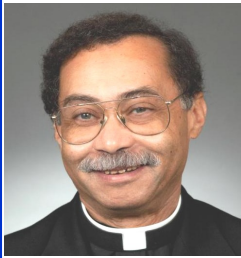
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Chaplain Report



# Chaplain Thoughts. . .

*“The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few.”*

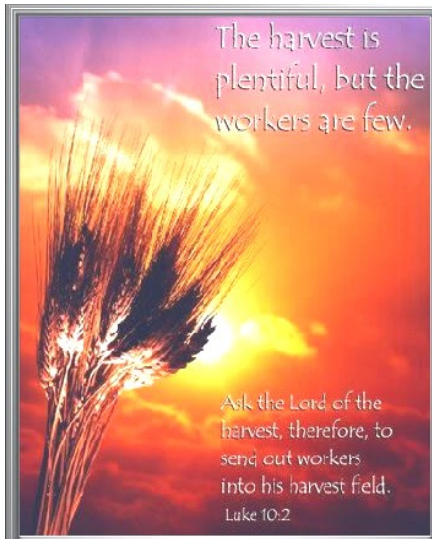
by Rev. Roy E. Campbell, Jr.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus calls the 72 disciples, to have “complete faith and trust” in Him. Jesus calls them to work God’s wonders among the peoples, households and towns to which He sent them. Jesus sent 72 disciples, one for each of the nations believed to exist in the world at Christ’s time. This meant that His disciples were being sent to all of the nations of the earth to proclaim that the kingdom of God is at hand.

The urgency of proclaiming Jesus’ message is so great that the disciples are to go immediately, not taking anything with them, and not to be distracted by unnecessary greetings and conversations. They are to go to where they are sent, as they are, “Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way.”

They were sent to bring God’s peace to any house they enter. But only a house willing to hear the Word of God and accept it, will receive that peace. A house unwilling to hear and accept the Word of God and His peace will be judged harsher than Sodom, since they are rejecting the kingdom of God which is already among them.

Jesus had prepared them, as He prepares us today, to complete His work of proclaiming that God’s kingdom is at hand. We too, are called to go out and proclaim that the kingdom of God is among us. Jesus sent the 72 to all of the nations of the world, just as He sends us today, to all the nations of the world, starting in our own communities.



Jesus told the 72, “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.” Today, it is not only the bishops, priests and deacons that are the laborers our Lord refers to. All of us are the laborers He needs to gather the harvest of souls. Each of us, by our Baptism into the Body of Christ, is commissioned to bring the kingdom of God to every person we meet.

The best way for us to do this is by living as Christ commands us, by loving, serving and being compassionate to every person we meet. Yet, we are not alone in living as Christ commands us. Christ will always be with us, to help us, every step of the way.



## GRAND KNIGHT'S CHRONICLE

***Your Grand Knight  
For The 2016 - 2017  
Fraternal Year***

*The Council to continues its charitable support  
for its Church and Community*

*By Grand Knight Alan Davis*



I am humbled by the confidence the members of the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422 has shown in electing me to the office of Grand Knight for the 2016-2017 Fraternal Year. Becoming Grand Knight for this extraordinary council is truly a high honor and I pledge to do everything in my power, and with the help of my fellow council brothers to maintain and hopefully exceed the excellence this council has attained over its 22 year history. My theme for 2016-2017 is ***“Charity is Love.”***

This new year will be very rewarding for all of us and we will strive to uphold each principle of our order and complete our traditional service programs and activities while embarking on new programs that further enhance our charitable contributions to the church and community. Thus, my theme for 2016-2017 is: ***“Charity is Love.”*** The emphasis this year will be service to all, especially to our children, seniors and disadvantaged brothers and sisters.

We pray for God's grace to guide us this year and we pray for the intercession of our Blessed Mother to help us achieve in all of our charitable endeavors. My brothers, always remember that in everything you do, you will never be alone in service to our council. We are strongest when we are united together in Christ.

*"May the Lord bless you and keep you and let His Face shine upon you and be gracious to you."*

# HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY



*On this Independence Day I am reminded of all those who  
have sacrificed for my freedom, following the example  
of your Son, Jesus Christ.*

*Let me not take my freedom, both physical and spiritual,  
for granted.*

*May I always remember that my freedom was purchased  
with a very high price.  
My freedom cost others their very lives.*

*Lord, today, bless those who have served and continue to  
give their lives for my freedom.  
With favor and bounty meet their needs and  
watch over their families.*

*Help me to live my life in a way that glorifies you, Lord.*

*Give me the strength to be a blessing in someone else's  
life today,  
and grant me the opportunity to lead others into the freedom  
that can be found in knowing Christ.*

*Amen*

**District Deputy's Report**



**G. Emeka Onwezi**  
District Deputy

I will like to introduce myself as the new District Deputy for District #2. Yes, that is correct. We are no longer District #3. We have moved up to District #2 due to Worthy Dale Trott new position as the State Secretary. We are lucky that the State Secretary is in our district and he is the second top state council officer for this fraternal year. Because of that, we are given that honor to become District #2.

It is an exciting thing and honor to be the District Deputy for this fraternal year. Under District 2, we still have the same four councils as we had when we were District 3, namely; St. Jerome Council 5564 in Hyattsville, Maryland, St Mary's of Assumption Council 9302 in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, St. Mary's of Landover Hill Council 10046 in Landover Hill, and my home council, James C. Fletcher, Jr., Council 11422 in Largo, Maryland.

I congratulate the Past District Deputy Michael Davenport, for his outstanding leadership as the District Deputy for the past two years. I wonder what he will be doing now during his spare time since he will not be going to those meetings and events that District Deputy is required to attend. I took over from him and I have to fill in the big shoes that he left for me, thank you Mike! I also will like to congratulate and introduce my District Warden, Past Grand Knight Michael Akpan. Both of us have to work as a team to make sure that District 2 is a successful district and the four councils within District 2 are successful councils during our tenure.

I congratulate all the Grand Knights of the four councils. Our main goals are to make sure that all of the councils are successful councils and all councils will focus more on domestic church programs. Basically, we as councils will be here to support our local churches and local priests.

Also, one of my duties as the District Deputy is to install the officers of the councils within my district. So far, I have been scheduled to install the officers of the James C. Fletcher, Jr., council on July 10, 2016, after the 11 am mass at St. Joseph Church and to install the officers of St. Mary's of Assumption on August 14, 2015 after the 10:30 A.M. Mass at St. Mary's Church in Upper Marlboro.

I am looking forward to work and meet all the officers and members of the four councils in District 2. With everyone's participation, we will have a fun, family and church oriented district.

*Vivat Jesus*

**State Deputy's Report**



**Stephen M. Cohen**  
State Deputy

*My Brothers All,*

Happy beginning to the next Fraternal Year. We should all be up and running on Programs and Membership recruitment. Plans should already be in place and the execution starts now. Remember, we do not take the summer off from what we do as Knights. Those same people and organizations that need our help and service do not take the summer off. So if that is true, neither should we.

My thanks to all those who assisted with a very successful Leadership Seminar, especially Paul Weber, the Secretary to the State Deputy who handled all of the arrangements at Solomons. For those that missed it, you missed a lot. Information that you need to have a successful year, being with your Brother Knights and bonding, and meeting the new team which will be leading the State Council are all things you missed. Please plan to attend next year.

Building the Domestic Church while Strengthening our Parish is truly the highlight of this Fraternal Year. This program is not an option, it is to be supported by all councils. Many of your councils already participate in programs in this area and don't even know. For example, the ICON program is part of this area, Praying the Rosary on the fifth Sunday is part of this program, including our parish in what we do is part of this program. Please get with your Pastor and talk about this special program if you have not already done so.

We are going to have a very busy year. Keep informed as to what is going on. Besides mailings and information from the District Deputies, we are starting a large Social Media campaign to get the word out. Visit our newly designed website at [www.kofc-md.org](http://www.kofc-md.org) to keep abreast of all that we are doing.

I look forward to seeing that all Councils in the Jurisdiction of Maryland are successful and continue to be successful. If you need assistance in any area, I am sure that the State Council has someone to assist; just contact us.

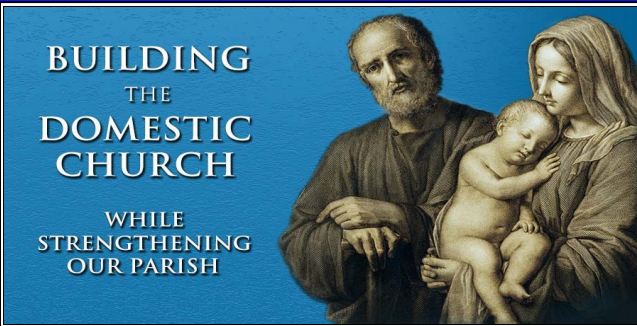
*Vivat Jesus*



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

# SUPREME KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Carl A. Anderson - Supreme Knight



*"Today, the Knights of Columbus is providentially positioned to play a key role in the new alliance between the Church and the family called for by Pope Francis ... What is necessary now is our greater involvement in the renewal of parish and family life."*

- Supreme Knight Carl Anderson

*"It is in the parish that one becomes engaged with the Church community, learns how to become a disciple of Christ, is nurtured by Scripture, is nourished by the sacraments, and ultimately becomes an evangelizer. Successful evangelization and catechetical initiatives must be focused on the parish."*

- USCCB

On November 20th, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson announced that, through the Order's wide-reaching new Domestic Church initiative, Knights and their families will have greater opportunities to participate in a variety of activities that promote the New Evangelization, strengthen our parishes and grow the Order.

### Building the Domestic Church

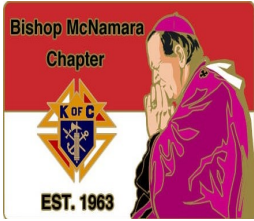
Knights of Columbus has always been an organization dedicated to the well-being and support of Catholic family life. The family is the first and primary place where we experience and are formed in our Catholic faith. By building upon our current programs and activities, the Knights of Columbus continues to promote the family as a "domestic church" where husbands and wives, parent and children, grow in their knowledge and practice of the Catholic Faith. In order to perform its important mission of evangelization, each family needs to find support in the sacramental life of the parish.

### Strengthening our Parishes

Knights of Columbus councils have always responded to the most urgent needs of the Church, particularly through charitable and social outreach. In order to support the evangelization of family life today, our councils must be even more fully integrated into our parishes. As the world's largest Catholic fraternal and family organization, we have a responsibility to dedicate our time, talent and resources to ensuring that our parishes our beacons of the new evangelization.

## McNAMARA CHAPTER

Thomas Santangelo - Chapter President



The Bishop McNamara Chapter of Grand Knights will celebrate its 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary this year with the installation of Officers at St. Aloysius Church in Leonardtown, Maryland on September 18, 2016. Congratulations to all the new Bishop McNamara Chapter Officers, State Officers, Assembly Officers and Council Officers.

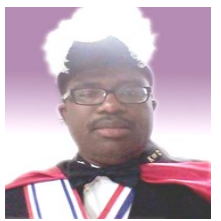
We will continue to have breakout sessions of all the new Grand Knights on membership and how to run your councils. The meetings are open to the full membership so don't be shy, come on out and bring your fellow council officers, Activities Directors and members. Our meetings in the summer will be casual so get your red Chapter shirt and/or council shirt ready.

Our July meeting will be at Resurrection of the Lord Council 14099 in Maryland City, Maryland on **Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>**. Come on out and hear about all the exciting events and activities we will have for the year.

## WALSH ASSEMBLY NEWS

Ikechukwu R. Agbim - Faithful Navigator

I hope and trust that this summer is bringing an opportunity for fun, rest, relaxation and time to spend with family and friends. By way of introduction, my name is **Ike Agbim**, Past Grand Knight of James C. Fletcher Council 11422.



I am the Bishop James E. Walsh Assembly 1548 Faithful Navigator for the fraternal year 2016-2017. I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve in this capacity. So much good work has been accomplished by our Assembly and I would like to thank and acknowledge our immediate Faithful Navigator, Emeka Onwezi, and past officers for all the tireless hours and contributions of talent that have been made to improving our services, membership, especially during the past year.

I hope to continue the tradition of leading by example. Please join me at our next meeting on July 14<sup>th</sup> at Sarto Hall in Forestville, Maryland.

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

*J. Bernard Broadus , DGK*

*bbroadus53@gmail.com*

*301-262-2350*

I will start my first report by expressing my most profound gratitude to all brothers in our Council for their confidence in me to serve our Council in this leadership capacity. I have been very honored to work in different past programs of our Council, and with such a collection of dedicated brothers. I will do my very best, assisting the Grand Knight, to make sure that we record continued success in all our programs.

**Exciting times at James C Fletcher Council this Fraternal year!** The excitement arises from our current tides and the initiatives, programs and schedule put forward by incoming Grand Knight Alan Davis. We need all hands on deck to make our goals a success. I propose a text message communication system to augment the already successful email system being used for announcing council programs, providing updates and necessary reminders for key dates.

The Grand Knight and I have big shoes to fit into. With the high success recorded by outgoing Grand Knight Ike Agbim (2015-2016) and Past Grand Knight John Huntley (2014-

2015), we have to hit the ground running in order to matching their excellent records. Incoming Grand Knight Alan Davis has called for ideas on ways we can improve our programs. **Please send in any suggestions to me. All ideas are welcome!**

As we work towards a year better than last, let me emphasize PGK Tim Matthews' plea and echoed by PGK Ike Agbim to all brothers to "...give a couple of hours a month to our council." This is one way of assuring that we not only sustain our current level of success, but can grow and improve in our performances this fraternal year.

**Vivat Jesus!**

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

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



*301-249-2955*

You are invited to join your fellow council members and their families as we welcome a new fraternal year at the installation of council officers, as well as those of the KC Ladies Auxiliary. The installation will be held on Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at St. Joseph Catholic Church. The installation will be conducted by recently appointed **District Deputy G. Emeka Onwezi**, assisted by **District Warden Michael P. Akpan**.

The installation ceremony will be conducted immediately after the 11 A.M. Mass followed by a reception in the Rosemont Room. The dress for the afternoon is our council attire or business suits for the men and afternoon wear for Ladies.

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

*Michael Young, Community Activities Director*  
*mrwhy@verizon.net*



*301-*



Brothers, our June Flea Market was a success. The day was pleasantly warm and breezy. A large part of that success was due to the outstanding help provided by my **Brother Knights**. At 6:15 A.M. there were three brothers assisting me and waiting for our first vendor to show up. Throughout the day other brothers arrived to help with the grill, assist in taking orders and handing out the food and beverages at the council's concession stand. At the end of the day, the clean up went smoothly. As one Past Grand Knight used to say, "If everyone does a little, no one has to do a lot". Our next Flea Market will be held on July 30th. Please put this date on your calendars. Come out and spend the day or just a couple hours. Everyone's help is needed and appreciated to ensure another successful Flea Market. *[Harold Sanders]*

**Have You Visited The Fletcher Council's Website Lately?**

<http://www.council1422.org>

**CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

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



301-262-2350

***Living Rosary Conducted At St. Joseph Catholic Church***



On Saturday, May 28th, members of the Fletcher Council and St. Joseph Catholic Church joined together to pray and conduct a "Living Rosary". Fr. Aaron Qureshi led the hour of prayer and devotion, with parishioners at each of the 60 stations reciting various prayers of the rosary cycle. Each station was highlighted with a blue or red light bulb that was lit as the prayer at that station was recited. The aim of the Living Rosary is to ask God, through the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary, for the conservation of the Faith in Catholic countries, the conversion of sinners, the strengthening of the just, and the exaltation of the Holy Church.





**CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES**

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

301-728-7827



The St. Joseph Church Women’s Ministry has incorporated the **Gabriel Network** into their outreach program. St. Joseph has become part of a network of churches and other organizations inspired by Christ to offer service to women and families in our community challenged with a crisis pregnancy.

The **Gabriel Network** is an alternative for women who choose life over abortion. Motivated by the belief that *“Nothing is Impossible with God”* (Luke 1:37); Angel Friends (volunteers) work alongside pregnant mothers and provide practical, emotional and spiritual support. These volunteers develop Christ-centered relationships with mothers through selfless giving that reaches beyond a mother’s pregnancy.

The volunteers provide clients with transportation to doctors’ appointments, social services, the grocery store, etc. The network will even assist pregnant women in their educational goals with tutoring, scholarships, tuition, books, software and childcare assistance. If you feel you could be an *“Angel Friend”*, please contact Karen Barrington at: sjwomen@stjosephlargo.org.

**FRATERNAL BENEFITS**

*David Benjamin, Fraternal Benefit Advisor*  
 David.benjamin@kofc.org

202-494-6527

**Something To Consider**

A recent survey revealed that 75 percent of people interviewed did not have a personal financial advisor. It further revealed that 68 percent of these people viewed the current economic condition as somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable. Are you in this 75 or 68 percent group?

If so, what will you do about this situation? Do you believe you should do something about this situation? I would like to ask, “Can you ignore the consequences of doing nothing, today?”

Several questions need to be asked by you and your spouse; each of us must answer truthfully. This is our responsibility as Catholic gentlemen and gentlewomen. One, when I die, will you be able to continue to live in the style that together we created? Will you have to adjust your living style to accommodate the reduced income that will occur when I die? Even if I have a very large permanent life insurance package or a very large 401 (K) or 403 (B) or TSP or FEGLI program, will there be enough for you to live on for 10, 15, 20, or more years after I am buried? Will I become a burden to my children, or society?

Answer these questions today, or make a list and discuss them over a leisurely breakfast this summer. But, do answer them. Put answers on paper; do the math; check your figures. Then, call me. I am your Financial Benefits Advisor – trained to help you make the proper plans for your future. The Knights of Columbus was founded by Fr. Michael J. McGivney for two purposes – to get men and their families to heaven and to help them take care of their families and children in this life.

*I am here to serve you. Put me to work, on your family’s behalf.*

**MEMBERSHIP QUEST**

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



240-441-9086



Fletcher Council closed out the 2015-2016 fraternal year with a fantastic recruiting effort. Through a Hercules effort led by Grand Knight Ike Agbim, twelve, yes 12, new members came joined the council in June. Please congratulate and welcome:

- Justin Okpah
- Bartholomew Akpuaka
- Ikechukwu Ofodile
- Vincent Agubuokwu
- Jidefo Omeili
- Chiedozie Ojimba
- Justice Delcarmen
- Chidubem Oparaoggi
- Patrick Nnaebue
- Uche Osuorah
- Yves Pamphile
- Grzegorz Okulewicz

*Family of the Month*

***Eprain Anderson, Family Activities Director***  
***canal511@aol.com***

***301-372-6426***

***The Joseph Family***  
***June Family of The Month***

The Fidelis and Janice Joseph family's selfless contributions to the smooth conduct of weekly masses in St. Joseph Church is very worthy of note. They ranked top of the family of the month nominees' list in June. The Knights of Columbus, James C. Fletcher, Jr., Council, #11422 is therefore, delighted to recognize the Joseph family as this month's Family of the Month.

Fidelis and Janice have been members of St. Joseph Church since 2004 and have ever since been very active through their participations in various church ministries. Their daughter Jesse is also very active and assists her father in audio visual duties at the 11am masses.

Fidelis is a 4<sup>th</sup> degree Knight with the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council, Knights of Columbus, and has held different officer positions at both the Council and Assembly levels. He is very active and participates in many Council programs as well as the Parish annual multicultural picnic. Fidelis is also known to some parishioners as the A-V man! He is one of the parishioner responsible for the audio and video systems of not only the sanctuary but the entire church building. He has been a member of the St. Joseph Gospel Choir and has served in the Archdiocese of Washington mass choir. Although he is a Redskins fan, his favorite sport is Cricket.

Janice has been a volunteer of the children's liturgy since 2012 where she actively assists with providing instruction to the parish children during the 11 A.M. Masses. She and Fidelis have been members of the Cursillo since March 2008.

Jesse grew up in this Parish where she received her First Holy Communion she was also a member of the children's choir for several years and was recently Confirm at the Easter Vigil mass. She recently graduated from middle school at St Francis international Catholic School in Silver Spring (formerly St Camillus, CS) and will be attending Archbishop Carroll High School in the fall. Jesse currently assists with the running of the Parish A-V systems during the Sunday 11o'clock Mass.

According to Fidelis Joseph: their family's love for the Parish community at St Joseph's came on their first visit and made them feel at home and reminds them of mass in St. Lucia a Caribbean island. He especially loves the choir, the lively Masses, the real welcome of the parish community and of course the blessings of excellent priests.

Let us always remember this family in our prayers and ask the Almighty Father to reward them abundantly. In Jesus Name, Amen!





## *Thank You From Past Grand Knight Ikechukwu R. Agbim*



**B**rothers All, It has been my pleasure and an Honor to have served as your Grand Knight for the past Fraternal Year. The trust that you had in me to lead this Council was not wasted. I only wish is that I stood up to the standards that you believed that I had when you elected me to the Position of Grand Knight. Everything I did the pass Fraternal Year was done from the Heart and for the Good of the Order. I truly believe that the James C Fletcher Jr. Council 11422 is one of the Greatest Council in the State of Maryland.

We have accomplished a lot this year for the good of the Church and the Community. None of which could have happened without the help of each and every member of the council. If you were physically there and lifted a chair, a table, a cross, fried a fish, served a member of the community or any other physical task that was performed this year, *We Saw You*. If you were unable to lift heavy objects or stand for long periods of time and you came out and just kept the member company, *We Appreciate You*. If you were not able to come out due to heath reason and you thought about us and just said a pray, *We Heard You*. Whatever you did to assist your council to succeed, *We are truly grateful*.

The James C. Fletcher Jr. Council is like a chain. We are no stronger than the weakest link. Our Council has no weak links, only strong brothers, dedicated to assisting each other along with the Church and Community. *When one brother is in pain, we all hurt, when one brother experience a lost, we all feel the pain, when one brother celebrates a happy occasion, we all smile and enjoy the event.*

We, the members of the Council worked hard the past year to maintain the standard of being called Knights of Columbus, the largest fraternal organization in the Catholic Church. This was demonstrated at the 118<sup>th</sup> Maryland State Convention which was held in Ocean City, Maryland on May 13– 15, 2016. The James C. Fletcher Jr. Council was awarded and recognized with plaques and certificates in 15 different categories. Two of the categories which are very important to the council that we won first place were Church and the other was Family. The one for Church is because we realized that we are the part of the church community and without them we would be nothing. The one for Family was because we realize that without the backing of family, there would be no Knights. I want thank all the Wives, Children, Friends and neighbors that support everything that the Knight participate in throughout the year.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank Our Worthy Chaplin, Rev. Fr. Roy E. Campbell, Jr., who was always there for the Council and supported us in everything we did. I also must thank the Executive Board of the Council for assisting in and supporting everything that council did this Fraternal Year. Without their ideas, support and encouragement, I don't believe I could have made it through the term.

**Vivat Jesus!**

## *REFLECTIONS*

*Lawrence P. Grayson*

### *With My Hand Over My Heart*

July is a time filled with expressions of patriotism -- flags flying, parades, Sousa marches, firework displays accompanied by martial music, and recitations of the Pledge of Allegiance. How often have we placed our hands over our hearts, faced the nation's flag, and recited this brief statement of fealty? Do we understand, however, what we are saying, or has the recital become a ritual, a mere collection of words, a formality before certain public events?

The Pledge is an outward declaration of fidelity to a nation uniquely conceived and to the values and beliefs for which it stands. Consider the significance of what is being expressed in the brief 31 words.

***I pledge allegiance*** – This says that it is a personal and individual promise of loyalty. It is a continuation of the oath made by the signers of the Declaration of Independence who pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to create this nation. It is a commitment to the patrimony that has been handed down from generations past and a vow to maintain the nation's precepts for generations to come.

***to the flag*** – The banner is not a mere piece of colorful bunting, but a symbol of the nation, a memorial to the sacrifices that were made to create, maintain, protect and develop this country. It is a reminder of the nation's history, traditions, culture, the principles upon which it was founded, and the values which it espouses.

***of the United States of America*** – It does not refer to any country, but only this country, which is an embodiment of fifty states and tens of thousands of communities, each with its individual character. It is a country composed of people with heritages from every corner of the earth.

***and to the Republic for which it stands*** -- This nation formed a government, as President Lincoln so eloquently stated, "*of the people, by the people, for the people.*" The power of governance resides in the people who elect individuals to exercise authority according to the rule of law on their behalf.

***one nation*** – The country is not a confederation of sovereign entities, but a united set of states. It is a single nation with a Constitution which enumerates a division of powers between the national government and the states and localities.

***under God*** – America was established by people of faith, founded on a belief that everyone is created equal, that they possess certain unalienable rights provided to them by their Creator. As a gift of God, the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness cannot be justly abrogated or abridged by any state, government, dictator, or will of the majority. The primary purpose of government is to provide the assurance that people can exercise those pre-existing rights; it does not create, grant or dispense them. The government exists for the people, not people for the government. This endowment of unalienable rights by a transcendent being is the essence of the American premise.

***indivisible*** – The union of states was forged as a single country with the blood and sacrifices of some three million men who fought a Civil War among themselves, from which emerged a "*resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation....shall not perish from the earth.*"

***with liberty and justice for all*** – America was established on the basis of liberty and justice, as a country where people could enjoy freedom in their homes, churches, businesses, schools, private organizations and public associations, where political liberty would allow faith to flourish, where religious liberty would be protected by just laws.

This brief vow and solemn remembrance of what the United States stands for should be internalized, said regularly, and adhered to by all who cherish this nation.

The great danger to America today is a loss of religious faith, a lack of recognition that this is a nation under God. If the substance of being an American is rooted in the transcendental, then a loss of belief in God leads to a loss of belief that the rights bestowed by Him are intrinsic and unalienable. If these rights are to be retained, then a belief in God must be maintained.

The early Americans were very aware of the importance of faith among the people. They were convinced that without a societal belief in God the nation's founding principles would be at risk. John Adams stated, "*Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.*" George Washington, in his Farewell Address to the Nation, cautioned that "reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." Patrick Henry warned, "*It is when a people forget God that tyrants forge their chains.*"

From the time of the Pilgrims onward, colonial governors, legislatures, Revolutionary leaders, presidents and the Congress have issued hundreds of proclamations acknowledging the existence of God and calling for public fasting and prayer to seek His grace and thank Him for His beneficence. In time of war, in the Christmas season, and in their traditional Thanksgiving Day proclamations, most presidents have made reference to the Almighty. Congress, even today, opens its daily sessions with a prayer.

For decades, however, vocal minorities, operating through the courts, have been driving God from virtually all public recognition. Although the vast majority of the people in America currently state that they believe in God, a large and growing number no longer affiliate with any organized religion. Further, almost half of adults under 30 years of age do not feel certain that there is a God. Our society today is more anti-religious in its policies and regulations, its views and attitudes, its behavior and temperament than it has ever been.

Catholics, indeed all Christians, can play a catalytic role in combating the secularization of this nation and in restoring and preserving its founding values. Let us demonstrate the complementarity of religion and patriotism.

As Americans, let us commit ourselves to support the Constitution, promote laws that are just and respect the dignity of every person, mold public opinion on issues that affect our religious precepts, and promote virtue and morality that must underlie a nation of, for and by the people. As Catholics, let us practice patriotism and citizenship consistent with Catholic virtues and Church teachings. It is when we live our religious beliefs conscientiously and faithfully and advance them in the public square that we make our most beneficial contributions to the nation.

May America remain one nation under God with liberty and justice for all.

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July 2016

Fletcher Council – Knights of Columbus

## Flea Market

St. Joseph Church - Parking Lot

2020 St. Joseph Drive

Saturday, June 25 (8:00 AM to 1:00 PM)

Jul 30 (8:00 AM to 1:00 PM)

Aug 27 (8:00 AM to 1:00 PM)

Find A Good Deal

OR

Buy A Space and Keep the Cash

Vendor Info:

- \$25.00 per Space - Bring your own table.
- Hours 8:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Make checks or money orders payable to "Knights of Columbus" and mail to Knights of Columbus, 2020 St Joseph Drive, Largo MD 20774.
- No cash payments accepted at church.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL****301-390-7150**

## STATE PROGRAM REPORT

*Worthy Grand Knights, dear Brother Knights and Ladies,*

Happy New Year! Welcome to the new fraternal year. Are you ready? Do you have your activities planned for the year, or at least for the first six months? The first six months go quickly, just ask your council's Past Grand Knights.

The State Programs Team is here to help with ideas and suggestions. We will be holding Program and Membership Seminars in your area. On July 13th, we will be at Regina Coeli Council in Easton. On July 25th, we will be at Sacred Heart Council in Bowie. On August 8th, we will be at Good Counsel High School in Olney. On August 23rd, we will be at Cardinal Gibbons Council in Baltimore. Bring all your officers and your program team. We'll review the state sponsored programs and can talk with you about your programs. In the Grand Knight Handbook given out at the Leadership Seminar there is a section about the State sponsored activities and lists of suggested activities.

We have prepared a list of State-sponsored activities that you can take part in as a council activity. In August, we will sponsor the State Family picnic. Put together a bus load of council families and attend. Walk with us in the Columbus Day Parade in Baltimore. Attend the Memorial Mass, where we will remember all our Brother Knights who went to the Lord in the past year. In January we will participate in the March for Life in Washington, DC. In March we will celebrate Founder's Day, when the Knights of Columbus were instituted. And there are many other activities to take part in.

The State Program Team will also be attending the Chapter of Grand Knights meetings around the state so you can talk with us there, and our contact information will be in the State Council Directory.

To all the returning Grand Knights, thank you for your decision to step up and assume the mantle of leadership in your council. You'll find this to be a very rewarding experience.

Our Activity Directors for this fraternal year are: Charles Smallwood - Church Activities; Phil Tabbita - Community Activities; Bob Heverly - Council Activities; Mike Furst - Culture of Life Activities; Chris Ryder - Family Activities; and Mark Mangus - Youth Activities. Each activity areas has a number of activity chairmen. We are all here to help you have a successful program year.

*Vivat Jesus,*

*Mike Sallese*

*State Program Director*

## STATE OFFICERS

The officers for the Maryland State Council, Knights of Columbus for the 2016-2017 fraternal year are shown below:



**State Chaplain**  
Reverend Jason Worley



**State Deputy**  
Stephen M. Cohen



**State Secretary**  
Dale W. Trott



**State Treasurer**  
Vince Grauso



**State Advocate**  
Christopher Powers



**State Warden**  
Anthony Salvemini



*An old, tired-looking dog wandered into the yard. I could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home.*

*He followed me into the house, down the hall, and fell asleep on the couch. An hour later, he went to the door, and I let him out. The next day he was back, resumed his position on the couch and slept for an hour. This continued for several weeks. Curious, I pinned a note to his collar: 'Every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap.'*

*The next day he arrived with a different note pinned to his collar: 'He lives in a home with four children -- he's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?'*

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*"Dad, will you be able to get me a car?" Asked the boy, having just passed his driving test.*

*"I suppose a car would be in order if you can raise your grades from C's to B's, you study your Bible, and cut your hair." Replied the father.*

*After contemplating for many hours, the boy decided it was a good and fair compromise. Six weeks later, the father is astonished. His son was excelling in school, he studied his Bible every day, but his hair was still long and shaggy. "I am very impressed with you" said the father "you are passing all of your classes, and you read the Bible every day. But why wont you cut your hair?"*

*"After reading the Bible, I have noticed something." Said the boy "Moses, Samson, and Absalom all had long hair. There is even evidence that Jesus may have had long hair!"*

*The father replied back "Did you also notice how they had to walk everywhere too?"*

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*At a dinner party, several of the guests were arguing whether men or women were more trustworthy. No woman, said one man, scornfully, can keep a secret.*

*I don't know about that, answered a blonde woman guest. I have kept my age a secret since I was twenty-one.*

*You'll let it out some day, the man insisted.*

*I hardly think so responded the blonde lady. When a woman has kept a secret for twenty-seven years, she can keep it forever.*

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*A three year old walked over to a pregnant lady while waiting with his mother in the doctors office.*

*He inquisitively ask the lady, "Why is your stomach so big?" She replied, "I'm having a baby."*

*With big eyes, he asked, "Is the baby in your stomach?" She said, "He sure is."*

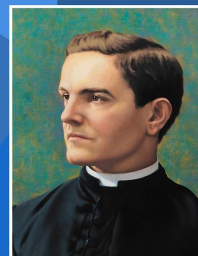
*Then the little boy, with a puzzled look, asked, "Is it a good baby?" She said, "Oh, yes. It's a real good baby."*

*With an even more surprised and shocked look, he asked... "Then why did you eat him?"*

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## Let Us Always Remember



### Father McGivney

is a heavenly patron for young men and women of the third millennium.



### Please, Remember In Your Prayers

#### Members Who Are Ill



Howard Wynn  
Mary Julius  
Joseph Marshall  
Ken Hinton  
Paul Newman



James Shorter  
William Missouri  
William Tolbert  
Donald Wilson

## Considering a Vocation to Priesthood?

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



**“HAPPY BIRTHDAY”**

**\*\*JULY\*\***

**- 2015 -**

- 02 Michael H. Saulsberry
- 04 Festus Nnaka
- 06 Alex Brown, Jr.
- 06 Kester O. Onyema
- 07 James W. Shorter
- 07 John W. Ramey
- 08 Johnbosco N. Nwamadi
- 12 Rev. Michael J. Murray
- 13 Ricardo E. Hall
- 13 Luis G. Mejia
- 14 Robert B. Sistare
- 16 Donald H. Wilson
- 20 Jose D. Fajardo
- 21 Aaron Y. B. Adade
- 21 Frederick S. Thomas
- 22 Thomas F. Matthews, III
- 22 Albert Robinson
- 22 Apolinario Sandoval
- 23 Charles N. Okpah
- 24 Arthur C. Osuorah
- 25 Victor C. Onyekwere
- 28 Francis J. Mayweather
- 30 Christopher C. Okala



**“The Joy  
Of A  
Birthday”**

**Maryland State Council Officers**

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

**James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council Officers**

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

**Program and Activity Committees**

Service Program Director	J. Bernard Broadus
Church Director	J. Bernard Broadus
Council Director	Calvin A. Thompson
Community Director	Michael Younger
Family Director	Eprain Anderson
Youth Director	Philippe A. Beauboeuf
Culture of Life Director	Peter Methodius-Ngwodo
Vocation Chairman	Jose R. Barberena
Health Services	Peter Methodius-Ngwodo
Public Relations	Vernon Hawkins, Jr.
Columbian Squires	Michael P. Davenport
Membership Director	
Recruitment Committee	
Recruitment Committee	Alan M. Davis
Recruitment Committee	
Retention Chairman	
Insurance Promotion	Robert B. Sistare
Pro-Life Couple	Peter Methodius-Ngwodo
First Degree Team Captain	David D. Martin
Newsletter	Vernon Hawkins, Jr.
Web Master	Michael P. Akpan
Scholarship Program Chairman	Peter Methodius-Ngwodo
Historian	Vernon Hawkins, Jr.
Photographer	

**Squires Circle Officers**

Chief Squire  
Deputy Chief Squire  
Notary  
Bursar  
Sentries  
Spiritual Committee Chair  
Membership Committee Chair  
Service Committee Chair

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**\*\*JULY\*\***



- 02 MD State Council Officers & DDs Installation
- 04 **INDEPENDENCE DAY**
- 07 **Fletcher Council Meeting, 7:30 PM**
- 10 **Fletcher Council Mass & Installation 11 P.M.**
- 11 Bishop Walsh Assembly Meeting, 8 P.M.
- 10 MD State District Deputy Seminar
- Holiday Inn Conference Center at FSK, Frederick, MD
- 10-11 MD State Leadership Seminar
- 17 **Knights Sunday, 11 A.M. Mass**
- 20 McNamara Chapter Meeting, Resurrection of the Lord  
14099, Maryland City, MD
- 21 **Fletcher Council Meeting, 7:30 PM**
- 25 **Program Seminar, Sacred Heart Council 2577**
- 30 Flea Market - St. Joseph Church Parking Lot