



KNIGHTLIFE



Volume 24 Issue 1

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

July 2018

**Winner of the Supreme and State of Maryland Council 2017-2018
Program Director's Awards**

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

*Behold! And There Stood
A Deacon*



Deacon Patrick Mullan



Chaplain Thoughts...

“Little girl, I say to you, arise!”

by Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr.



Each of the Gospel stories for the past several weeks have been about having faith in God. Saint Mark gives us two stories of faith in God, by faith in the One He sent, Jesus Christ. They are also stories of hope and of God’s love for His people.



Jairus had faith that Jesus loved and cared about his daughter, because he believed that merely touching her would be enough to cure her. As great as Jairus’ faith was in Jesus to cure his daughter, I think the poor woman with the hemorrhages had even greater faith. She hoped that her cure came, not from Jesus touching her, but her touching only His garments.

We go back to Jairus, but now there is a difference in his faith in Jesus. Before, Jairus had faith that Jesus’ touch was enough to cure his daughter. Jairus’ servants have informed him that his daughter has died. Now, Jairus’ faith has grown, because now he believes that Jesus’ touch will raise his daughter from the dead!

Today, our love of our families and friends must compel us to turn to our faith in God. And we are compelled to put that faith into action. Just as Jairus and the poor woman reached out to Jesus, we must reach out to Jesus, for His healing touch. We then must bring Jesus’ love and healing to each other. As members of the Body of Christ, we must especially reach out to those most in need. We must let Jesus’ healing touch come to others through u



He gives us these stories in the form of a “*Marcian Sandwich*.” The story of Jairus and his critically ill daughter is cut in half. Saint Mark creates his “*Marcian Sandwich*” by placing the “*meat*” of the story of the woman afflicted with hemorrhages in the middle of Jairus’ story. Then he goes back to finish the story of Jairus’ daughter. Saint Mark does this to show us that both stories are bound together as “one sandwich” in their outcomes.

*...we must reach out to Jesus,
for His healing touch.*



ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN MESSAGE

Rev. Robert P. Boxie, III
Parochial Vicar

*This Season of
Summer*



As we enter “*this season of summer*”, three things come to mind: vacations, ordinations, and anniversaries. On the surface, these all may seem unrelated, but they share something in common. These represent moments in our lives where God truly manifests himself and showers his unmerited gifts upon us.

Families usually spend time together for vacation and travel during the summer, for rest and relaxation, certainly a great gift and a respite during the busy-ness of our daily lives. Many families will drive or fly to destinations either to the beach, to different parts of the country, to favorite locations, or simply to visit family members, among other things. Growing up, my family was blessed to take vacations every year, and even now as my sister and I are adults, we still try to get together as often as our schedules permit for family vacations. This year, we will be vacationing together this August, heading to the “*Emerald Isle.*” This trip coincides with my parents’ 45th wedding anniversary, and we will celebrate together the great gift of marriage! My mom has been planning this trip for quite some time. And as with every vacation, we certainly do not take a vacation from God. He is there on vacation too, present in the time we spend together as a family. And on vacation, we still continue to seek him out, in prayer, at Mass, in the sacraments - even on vacation! We are called to be saints and to lead lives of holiness every moment of the day, regardless of what season of the year it may be.

Last month, we were blessed with a new Deacon for our parish with the ordination of Deacon Patrick Mullan on June 9th. Cardinal Wuerl ordained seven new Deacons for the Archdiocese of Washington, including Deacon

Ebuka Mbanude, a former seminarian at St. Joseph. We thank God for the gift of these men, for their YES to the God, and for their lives of service to the Church. Deacon Patrick had a wonderful weekend of First Masses at St. Joseph, with his family and relatives in attendance. We will continue to pray for him and his ministry at our parish and to this local Church in Washington. We look forward to his priestly ordination next summer!

And finally, this summer I celebrate two anniversaries of my own. On June 25th, I celebrated my second-year anniversary of my priesthood ordination, as well as my first-year anniversary as an Associate at St. Joseph on July 12th. Where has the time gone? I will be forever grateful to God for this wonderful gift of priesthood, for calling me to be one of his priests to serve in the Archdiocese of Washington, and in particular, to be the Parochial Vicar serving alongside Bishop Campbell at St. Joseph. I have immensely enjoyed my time here so far, and the parishioners have made my transition from the seminary to the parish a smooth one, especially with your prayers, support, encouragement, generosity, and kindness. It has been quite a full year for me, learning pretty quickly how to be an Associate, and I would not change any of it!

I look forward to many more years and anniversaries (and hopefully future ordinations of young men from our own parish) here at St. Joseph, as we all grow in our faith together and marvel at how God continues to show his mercy, his blessings, and his love upon us.

Safe travels wherever you may spend your summer vacations and may God be with you and bless you and your family abundantly!



GRAND KNIGHT'S CHRONICLE
Michael Younger



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 2018-2019 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 24 year history. My theme for 2018-2019 is ***“Serving Christ By Serving Others.”***

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 2018-2018 is that of the State Deputy: ***“Serving Christ By Serving Others.”*** 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 4TH 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*



STATE DEPUTY'S REPORT
Dale W. Trott



It is truly an honor and privilege to have been elected as the State Deputy of the great jurisdiction of Maryland by the delegates of the 120th Annual State Convention. It is also very humbling and exciting. Humbling to know that I am following in the footsteps of many Past State Deputies

who have guided our jurisdiction to its many successes. Exciting, because Linda and I have the opportunity to serve with so many dedicated men, ladies and their families carrying out the vision of our Founder, The Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney. That being said, my theme for the next two years is, ***“Serving Christ by Serving Others.”***

Linda and I have just returned from the State Deputies Organizational Meeting in New Haven and what an experience it was. Not only did we have the opportunity to meet State Deputies and their wives from around the world, but we met so many wonderful people at Supreme; including, our Supreme Knight and Lady Dorian, all of the Supreme Officers, Board of Directors, Membership & Program Consultants and, the many, behind the scenes folks that make things happen.

We toured the Headquarters building, had an opportunity to visit the Museum and, where it all began, St. Mary’s Church. As we entered the church for Mass and the Installation of the New State Deputies, we passed by the crypt containing our Founder where the ladies placed a red rose.

Then we sat in the very pew that is designated for Maryland, which by the way our jurisdiction was instituted on March 2, 1899. While sitting in that very special pew, I reflected on many things and prayed for the intercession of our Founder



to help me be a good leader. I also couldn’t help but wonder if my predecessors felt the same way when they were in this very same position.

By now, word has traveled that the ***“Surge with Service”*** Program is being replaced by the ***“Faith in Action”*** Program. We received materials and training on this new program model at Supreme and have shared it with the District Deputies and Grand Knights at our recent Leadership Seminar. Additionally, the Membership & Program Seminars will also provide details about the Faith in Action Program and I encourage all to attend.

I am very excited and feel that this change will ultimately inspire our members and, just as important, capture the hearts of those Catholic men and encourage them to become a member of our Knights of Columbus family. I firmly believe that this new program model will ensure that we re-invigorate the vision of Father McGivney and grow our honored Order.

In closing, please remember that by putting our ***Faith into Action***, we are ***Serving Christ by Serving Others***.

Vivat Jesus





DISTRICT DEPUTY REPORT
George T. Riddle

District #1



District Deputy George T. Riddle & Terry Reinhart

My Brother Knights,

Let me introduce myself. My name is George T. Riddle and am a Past Grand Knight of Sacred Heart Council 2577. Our Worthy State Deputy Dale W. Trott has appointed me as the District Deputy of District #1. I am both honored and humbled to receive such an appointment. Serving as my District Deputy will be Past Grand Knight Terry Reinhart of Fr. Michael C. Kidd Council 14455. District #1 consist of the following councils:

Sacred Heart Council 2577

St. Mary of the Assumption Council 9302

James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422

Father Peter C. Boyle Council 12254

Father Michael C. Kidd Council 14455

I congratulate the Past District Deputies Emeka Onwezi and Romeo Paternoster, for their outstanding leadership as the District Deputy for the past two years. I wonder what they will be doing now during their spare time since they will not be going to those meetings and events that District Deputies are required to attend. I took over from them and I have to fill in the big shoes that they left for me, thank you Emeka and Romeo!

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.

I am looking forward to work and meet all the officers and members of the four councils in District #1. With every-one's participation, we will have a fun, family and church oriented district.

Vivat Jesus!



SUPREME KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Carl A. Anderson - Supreme Knight

INTRODUCING FAITH IN ACTION A NEW MODEL FOR A NEW AGE

Revised program takes effect during the 2019-2019 fraternal year, replacing Surge With Service

Faith In Action arrives July 1 to bring a new focus on faith, family, community and life to councils worldwide. The first change of this kind since 1971, the model more fully integrates Christ-centered family programs into daily council activities. Faith In Action is straightforward and easy to implement. It provides all Knights the opportunity to do what they do best: stand shoulder to shoulder as a force for good in their home, parish, community and the world.

WHAT IS FAITH IN ACTION? Faith In Action is the new umbrella program covering all Supreme Council recommended programs. It replaces Surge With Service which began in 1971.

WHY THE CHANGE? Faith In Action is more simple for councils, and it makes clear the roles and requirements of all Supreme Council-recommended programs. It offers a stronger call to action, better inspiring Knights to lead their families and parishes in quality, faith-filled family programs.

WHAT INSPIRED THE FAITH IN ACTION MODEL? The new model takes its inspiration from the Domestic Church program, which focuses on creating dynamic parish-based councils. Likewise, spiritual renewal is at the center of the new model, especially the renewal of family, council and parish life.

HOW IS THE NEW MODEL STRUCTURED? It is divided into four categories of programs as shown in the below chart:

"The Faith In Action model is exactly what the Knights of Columbus should be focused on: quality, faith-filled family programs via dynamic parish-based councils."

— Knight Joseph J. Cudzilo, South Dakota

"Surge with Service has done its job. But the world has changed and our religion is taking a back seat in families, communities and governments. I am excited for the new direction being set for the Knights of Columbus."

— Grand Knight Ed Monteiro, British Columbia

FAITH IN ACTION RECOMMENDED PROGRAMS

FAITH	COMMUNITY
Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP)* Into the Breach Marian Icon Prayer Program Building the Domestic Church Kiosk Rosary Program Spiritual Reflection Program <i>New</i> Holy Hour <i>New</i> Sacramental Gifts <i>New</i>	Coats for Kids* Global Wheelchair Mission* Habitat for Humanity* Disaster Preparedness Free Throw Championship Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest Soccer Challenge Helping Hands <i>New</i>
FAMILY	LIFE
Food for Families* Family of the Month/Year Keep Christ in Christmas Family Fully Alive Family Week Consecration to the Holy Family Family Prayer Night <i>New</i> Good Friday Family Promotion <i>New</i>	Marches for Life* Special Olympics* Ultrasound Program* Christian Refugee Relief Silver Rose Mass for People with Special Needs <i>New</i> Pregnancy Center Support <i>New</i> Novena for Life <i>New</i>

Leaders and members in the Knights of Columbus have to meet the demands of a changing world.



FRATERNAL BENEFITS

Harold Sims, Fraternal Benefit Advisor

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202-701-2415



INSURE YOUR LIFE FOR LIFE

What is it?

Permanent life insurance is our signature product. It provides money to your family when you die, and builds cash value while you live. It's guaranteed. It's secure. It's dynamic.

Who needs it?

Permanent life insurance is a great way to provide security for your family. It may be an ideal solution for people who are interested in:

- Providing money for final expenses so your family doesn't have to.
- Replacing income so that your family's financial life doesn't have to change in case you pass away suddenly.
- Providing college funds for your children in case of an untimely death.
- Protecting your spouse from the burden of a mortgage in the event of the unexpected.
- Giving a donation to a charity or special interest.
- Supplementing an estate or mitigating estate taxes.

How does it work?

Permanent life insurance – like all life insurance – is designed primarily to provide money (also known as a death benefit) to your designated beneficiary when you pass away – guaranteed.

All Knights of Columbus permanent life insurance policies (with the exception of Graded Premium – see below) have premiums that are guaranteed not to increase, so you won't have to worry about any surprises.

Our permanent life insurance policies also accrue cash value over time. Should the policy be eligible for any dividends (which are not guaranteed), you can also elect to put those proceeds back into your policy by purchasing additional paid-up insurance. Additional paid-up insurance increases your policy's death benefit and cash value. Your policy's cash value can be used as cash, either through a partial loan or a full surrender of the policy*, or as collateral.

What options do I have?

Knights of Columbus permanent life insurance products are flexible to fit your needs.

Product Options

Single Premium Whole Life – Secure protection and start your legacy with one, single payment.

10-Pay Life – Pay your premiums in just ten years, and your death benefit is guaranteed for life.

20-Pay Life – Pay your premiums in just twenty years, and your death benefit is guaranteed for life.

Life Paid-Up at 65 – Pay your premiums until 65, so that you don't have to worry about additional expenses in retirement.

Life Paid-Up at 100 – Pay level, guaranteed premiums until your 100th birthday.

Graded Premium Whole Life – Enjoy lower premiums for your first few years to help you get started. Premiums will then gradually increase before leveling off.

The Knights of Columbus also offers several specialty products including: Discoverer – a unique blend of the best features of both permanent and term insurance; Graded Death Benefit – a guaranteed issue final expenses product; and Survivorship Universal Life – a second-to-die policy for couples, families, or business partners.

Beneficiary Options

You decide who you want your death benefit to go to: a spouse, children, family, a trust, or even charity. You can have more than one beneficiary, and can divide up the proceeds proportionally.

Additional Features and Benefits

There are a number of special features and benefits – often called riders – that are available on Knights of Columbus products, such as the spousal waiver of premium, which pays for your spouse's Knights of Columbus premiums when you pass away.

Contact me, your Knights of Columbus field agent, today to learn more about our Permanent Life Insurance products, and about the safety and security that we can help provide.



McNAMARA CHAPTER

Joseph Massimini - Chapter President



The Bishop McNamara Chapter of Grand Knights will celebrate its 55th Anniversary this year with the installation of Officers at St. Pius Church in Bowie, Maryland on August 26, 2018. Congratulations to all the new Bishop McNamara Chapter Officers, State Officers, Assembly Officers and Council Officers.

Chapter 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 18th meeting will be at Monsignor Keesler Center at 114 St. Mary's Place in Laurel, Maryland. It will include an Admission/First Degree. Mark your calendar, and come on out and hear about all the exciting events and activities we will have for the year.

WALSH ASSEMBLY NEWS

John O. Grier - 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 **John O. Grier**, Financial Secretary (FS) of James C. Fletcher Council 11422.

I am the Bishop James E. Walsh Assembly 1548 Faithful Navigator for the fraternal year 2018-2019. 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, Ikechukwu R. Agbim, 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 9th at Sarto Hall in Forestville, Maryland and the Assembly installation on Sunday July 22nd at Holy Family Church.

136th Supreme Convention
Baltimore, Maryland
August 4-9, 2018





PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Fidelis Ajudua, Deputy Grand Knight
ajudua32@yahoo.com 301-283-1985



To all my brothers in the council, I am expressing my profound appreciation for their confidence in me to serve. I am honored to work with such a cadre of dedicated brothers. I will do my best, assisting the Grand Knight; to make sure that we record continued success in all our programs.

There is no gainsaying that James C Fletcher Council will have a great fraternal year!

The excitement arises from our myriad of programs, and events to be rolled out by the incoming Grand Knight, Michael Younger. All brotherly hands will be on deck to make our goals a success. As a result, text message communication system will continue to boost the already successful email system being used for announcing council programs and providing council updates.

With the high success recorded by previous Grand Knights, the incoming council officers have a big role to play. Our model program "Surge with Service" will focus on **Faith, Family, Community and Life**. As we strive to have a better fraternal year, I will continue to encourage all council members to continue to give a couple of service hours, every month to the noble course our council is set to implement. Doing so as **group** of brothers, we will continue to sustain our current level of success, and improve our performance during the fraternal year.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Michael Younger, Grand Knight
mrwhy@verizon.net 301-980-6779



Flea Market



We Are Going To Do It Again

Hey! Word is out that several of you did not make it to the Fletcher Council's Flea Market at St. Joseph last month. Not to worry, there is another on the horizon this month, Saturday, July 28th and also on August 25th. Helpers are needed to assist in set-up, refreshment stand, monitoring of vendors and to clean up the area. You



CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Alan M. Davis, Church Activities Director
adavis1960@verizon.net 301-808-8009



Behold! There Stands A Deacon.



Cardinal Donald Wuerl

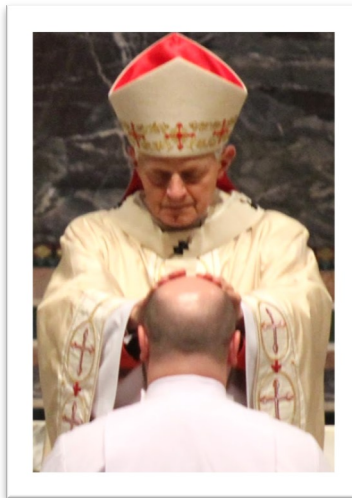


Deacon Patrick Mullan



Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr.

Congratulations to Brother Knight Patrick Mullan on his ordination as a Deacon of the Archdiocese of Washington. Cardinal Donald Wuerl ordained him a Deacon along with six others on June 9th at the *Shrine of the Immaculate Conception* in Washington. Deacon Patrick Mullan offered his first Homily the following day, Sunday, June 10th during Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Largo, Maryland. He joins Deacon Steve Nash as a member of the clergy at St. Joseph Church. ***Congratulations and welcome Deacon Patrick.***





COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Cal Thompson, Council Activities Director
calthompsn@msn.com

301-249-2955



***YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
JAMES C. FLETCHER, JR. CHARITIES
AUCTION
LIVE & SILENT***

***FRIDAY JULY 20, 2018 7 - 11 PM
ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
ROSEMONT ROOM***

GOING

GOING

SOLD !!!



***DINNER WILL BE SERVED
ADULTS \$8.00 AND CHILDREN (12 AND UNDER) \$5.00***

***DONATIONS OF AUCTION ITEMS ARE
TAX-DEDUCTIBLE SINCE THE CHARITIES IS A 501-(C3)
ORGANIZATION***

***KINDLY CONTACT CAL THOMPSON AT (301) 928-2157
AND MAKE YOUR
DONATION NO LATER THAN JULY 10, 2018.***



FAMILY ACTIVITIES - FAMILY OF THE MONTH

Efrain Anderson, Family Activities Director

canal511@aol.com

301-372-6426

The Bowser Family



The late Francis Bowser, brother of Theresa Bowser, is the main reason that Theresa is now a member of the St. Joseph parish community. In 1995, Theresa, a cradle Catholic, was looking for a parish to nurture her thirst for knowing Jesus. Theresa's brother Francis suggested that she join him for Mass. That was the beginning of a 23 year long association with St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Theresa grew up in a strong Catholic home in Washington, DC, in a family deeply rooted in the Faith. She was the seventh of nine children born to Leroy and Emily Bowser. She attended Catholic elementary schools and public high school. Theresa's mother was from a family of 15 children, of which one became a priest and two became consecrated religious.

Theresa Bowser uses Jesus Christ as her model for serving others. There is no aspect of her life that has not been marked with some deed of service. For her family, she is the mother of three daughters; Robin in Las Vegas, Nevada; Roslyn of Ft. Washington and Renee who is deceased. Her home is the hub for her 12 grandchildren and 5 great-grands. For six of her grandchildren, Theresa took on the role of parenting, when circumstances deemed her to attend to the welfare of the children. She now spends several days a week performing Grandma care -giving duties for three great grands.

Her home has been a safe haven for many, including a parish family with two children who lived with her for 6 months while the mother recuperated from a serious illness. Subsequently, she took in a teen age girl from St. Joseph to live with her while her mother worked as a live-in caregiver during the week.

When she is not caring for the great grands, she is visiting the sick, taking them for doctors' appointments; taking the shut-in to the grocery store and performing her duties as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Her friends in nursing facilities look forward to her regular visits.

Theresa serves the parish with her involvement in RCIA, The Good Samaritans Ministry, Life in the Spirit Charismatic Prayer Group, Eucharistic Minister, the lector ministry and the Martha Ministry. Theresa

is an active member of the Cursillo Movement and Sisters in the Spirit in the Archdiocese of Washington. She has worked on the picnic committee, having served as chairman in the past. She has encouraged family members to serve in the parish as well. Her sister Regina Lindsey serves with her in the Martha Ministry as stewards of keeping the sanctuary in good housekeeping order. When her grandsons were teens, she encouraged them in their duties as altar servers. Her granddaughter, now in the U. S. Air Force, was a member of the dance ministry.

Theresa was an employee of the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority for 27 years. She was a bus driver for 10 years; a train operator for 10 years, and was a station manager for 7 years.

Among the factors fostering her spiritual growth, Theresa looks at her experience as a graduate of the former Education for Parish Service (EPS) at Trinity University. It was during this tenure that she developed her yearning for evangelism. Theresa often talks of her attempts at evangelizing her fellow Metro employees, encouraging them to find a church to worship the Lord. She was so successful that in the end, she found herself having to work on Sundays because her co-workers had heeded her advice and found a church!

Theresa found an unusual avenue for spiritual growth and that was through her trips abroad. She has traveled to Rome, France, Greece, Israel and Africa and on each journey; she experienced the love of God through the people, the history and the beauty of the country.

Theresa is forever grateful to her late brother Francis for steering her to St. Joseph Catholic Church. Her spiritual growth began under the former pastor Fr. Michael King, continued under Fr. Ray Moore and she is now on a spiritual journey with Bishop Campbell and Fr. Boxie.

Theresa Bowser follows the precept of St. Francis of Assisi: "Preach the Gospel always; use words when necessary." Her deeds speak for themselves. Theresa has provided food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless and needy; visited the sick; and has been a beacon of light for those in the darkness of knowing Jesus. Our sister in Christ Theresa Bowser looks forward to many more years of serving God through his people at St. Joseph Catholic Church.



REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson

Restoring America's Proposition

The President has vowed to make America great again by improving the economy, protecting the nation's sovereignty, and enhancing its prestige among the world's nations. As laudable as these aims are, they are incomplete.

America is more than a wealth-generating entity with borders. It was founded as the embodiment of a vision, an idea, a set of idealistic principles. Perhaps no one summarized more cogently and effectively what America stands for than Abraham Lincoln in his Address at Gettysburg:

"[O]ur fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal...We here highly resolve that...this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

The concept of a nation dedicated to liberty, equality and democracy, and subject to an Almighty Being, set forth the fundamental principles upon which America is based. A nation under God was not deemed an objective, but a founding proposition. It was enunciated in the Declaration of Independence and is reaffirmed each time anyone stands before the nation's flag and recites the Pledge of Allegiance.

While the elements of liberty and equality are in common with the political tenets of Western Europe, the belief in a sovereign God who reigns over nations as well as men sets America apart. In the European tradition of laicism, as shaped by Enlightenment thinkers, religion is a private concern and irrelevant to public affairs. Political development is centered on the rationality of man to the exclusion of the transcendent. Hence, ultimate sovereignty resides in the state which is bound by nothing higher than the will of the people. Since it is the state that defines the rights of the individual, those privileges are provisional for the state can rescind what it grants.

America's premise of freedom under God is alien to the concept of laicism. The idea that there is a supernatural authority to which the state is subject is intrinsic to this nation's governance. Americans recognize certain rights of the individual as unalienable because they were bestowed on man by the Creator God. These innate, pre-existing grants may be ignored or violated, but cannot be revoked by the state.

Although certain rights are unalienable, they are not unrestricted. Rather, they are subject to a higher natural law that was instilled by the Creator in the nature of man and are to be regulated through his conscience. This was done so that people would utilize their freedom in a morally and socially acceptable manner. Indeed, America as a nation of liberty under law could not be sustained if the people as a whole were not inwardly governed by a higher imperative.

The great danger to the nation today is a loss of religious faith. As 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. From the time of the Pilgrims onward, colonial governors, legisla-

tures, 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. But much of the present public acknowledgement of God seems to be more traditional or symbolic, rather than sincere.

Presently, too many national leaders profess a faith, but do not publicly practice it. There is a disconnection between what they say they believe and their actions which demonstrate what they believe. This partition between a private conscience and a public position has allowed many individuals to advance their political aims. Rather than using their religious convictions to shape societal practices, they have diluted their beliefs in pursuit of worldly prosperity, acclaim, or social acceptability.

For decades, vocal minorities operating through the courts have been driving God from virtually all public recognition. As a result, God has become less relevant in many lives. According to a recent Gallup poll, persons who self-identified as Christians declined from 92% in 1960 to 68% in 2017, while persons with no religious affiliation increased from 3% to 20%. Currently, only 46% of the people attend a church or synagogue even once a month. Not surprisingly, 20% of people in America are convinced, or are fairly certain, that God does *not* exist. The nation's society today is more anti-religious in its policies and regulations, its views and attitudes, its behavior and temperament than it has ever been.

The agnostic secularization of this nation must be rejected and its founding values restored and preserved. 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 is a patrimony that has been handed down from generations past and requires a commitment to maintain it for generations to come. As President Ronald Reagan reminded us, "Freedom is never more than one generation from extinction... It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them [*our children*] to do the same."

As Americans, let us commit ourselves to support the Constitution, enact laws that protect the rights of every person from conception to natural death, 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 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, equality and justice for all.



Fletcher Council – Knights of Columbus

Flea Market

St. Joseph Church - Parking Lot

2020 St. Joseph Drive

Saturday June 30

Saturday July 28

Saturday Aug 25

Come Browse and Find a Good Deal
Over 70 vendors



Flea Market Info:

- \$25 per vendor space, bring your own table.
- Hours 8:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., Setup starts at 6:15 A.M.
- Free Parking and refreshments for sale by Knights of Columbus
- No food or beverages can be sold by vendors.
- All vendor spaces are reserved and prepaid before each event.
- Make checks or money orders payable to Knights of Columbus 11422, please include your phone number on check, and mail to St Joseph Church, Knights of Columbus, 2020 St. Joseph Dr., Largo, MD 20774.
- No cash payments accepted at church.



Smiley Central™

Two golden-agers were discussing their husbands over tea.

"I do wish that my Elmer would stop biting his nails. He makes me terribly nervous."

"My Billy used to do the same thing," the older woman replied. "But I broke him of the habit."

"How?" "I hid his teeth."

A big-city counterfeiter decided the best place to pass off his phony \$18 bills would be in some small "hick town." So, he got into his very expensive new luxury car and off he went.

After driving for a while, he found a tiny town with a single store. He entered the store and handed one of the bogus bills to the man behind the counter. "Can you change this for me, please?" he asked.

The store clerk looked at the \$18 bill for a short time, then smiled and said to the man, "Ah reckon so, mister. Ya want two nines or three sixes?"

We telemarketers know we're universally loathed. Still, some people are quite pleasant on the phone.

One day I called a number and asked to speak with Mr. Morgan. The woman who answered explained that he no longer lived at that address, but she did have a number where he could be reached.

I thanked her, rang that number, and was greeted with, "Good morning, Highland View Cemetery."

A blind guy on a bar stool shouts to the bartender, "Wanna hear a blonde joke?" In a hushed voice, the guy next to him says, "Before you tell that joke, you should know something. Our bartender is blonde, the bouncer is blonde. I'm a six foot tall, 200 lb black belt. The guy sitting next to me is six foot two, weighs 225, and he's a rugby player. The fella to your right is six foot five, pushing 300, and he's a wrestler. Each one of us is blonde. Think about it, Mister. Do you still wanna tell that joke?" The blind guy says, "Nah, not if I'm gonna have to explain it five times."

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

Some midshipmen were tasked at the maritime museum to do the "dirty work" of restoring a 60-year-old destroyer. One day the Navy sent a crew of 20 men, while the Marines sent a crew of three.

The curator teased one of the Navy midshipman, saying, "You mean it takes twenty Navy guys to do the work of only three Marines?"

"Sir, no sir," he snapped back. "The truth is, sir, it takes six or seven of us to supervise each one of those Marines!"



Wishing All Americans a Safe and Blessed July 4th

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



Please, Remember In Your Prayers



Members Who Are Ill

*Mervyn Chancellor
Joseph Marshall*

*James Shorter
William Tolbert*

Charles Ratcliff

Deceased



JULY - 2018



“The Joy Of A Summer Birthday”

- 02 Michael H. Saulsberry
- 04 Festus Nnaka
- 06 Alex Brown, Jr.
- 07 James W. Shorter
- 07 John W. Ramey
- 09 Harold M. Countee
- 08 Johnbosco N. Nwamadi
- 12 Rev. Michael J. Murray
- 14 Robert B. Sistare
- 16 Isaiah A. Teasley
- 21 Aaron Y. B. Adade
- 21 Frederick S. Thomas
- 22 Thomas F. Matthews, III
- 22 Albert Robinson
- 23 Charles N. Okpah
- 24 Arthur C. Osuorah
- 24 Boniface O. Ezeosim
- 25 Victor C. Onyekwere
- 25 Bartholomew C. Akpuaka
- 28 Francis J. Mayweather
- 30 Christopher C. Okala

Maryland State Council Officers

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| State Deputy | Dale W. Trott |
| McNamara Chapter President | Joseph Massimini. |
| District Deputy | George T. Riddle |
| District Warden | Terry Reinhart |

James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council Officers

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Chaplain | Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr. |
| Associate Chaplain | Rev. Robert P. Boxie, III |
| Assistant to the Chaplain | Deacon Steven Nash |
| Grand Knight. | Michael Younger |
| Deputy Grand knight | Fidelis K. Adjudia |
| Chancellor. | John Bechet |
| Warden. | Robert Sistare |
| Financial Secretary | John O. Grier |
| Recorder. | Efrain Anderson |
| Treasurer | Harold F. Sanders, Jr. |
| Lecturer. | Calvin A. Thompson |
| Advocate | David D. Martin |
| Trustee 3 year | Alan M. Davis |
| Trustee 2 year. | Bernard Broadus |
| Trustee 1 year. | Ikechukwu R. Agbim |
| Trustee 1 year. | Thomas F. Matthews, III |
| Inside Guard. | Charles N. Okpah |
| Outside Guard. | Gilbert Neblett |

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY



- 01 MD State Council Leadership Seminar, Solomons
- 04 **Independence Day**
- 05 Fletcher Council Meeting, @ 7:30 PM
- 07 MD State Council Officer Installation
- 09 Bishop Walsh Assembly Meeting @ 7 PM
- 14 AWD 4th Degree Meeting @ 10 AM
- 15 Knights Sunday Mass @ 11 AM
- 18 McNamara Chapter Meeting @ 8 PM
- 19 Fletcher Council Meeting, @ 7:30 PM
- 20 Fletcher Charities Auction 7-11 PM
- 22 Bishop Walsh Assembly Installation
- 29 Fr. Kidd Council Installation



SURVEY TIME

The objective of the Fletcher Council’s Newsletter is to keep our council members informed of recent and planned Council/Order activities and at time to put a smile on your face.

Has it met these goals?

What say you?

What changes would you recommend?

What say you?

Do you recommend that the council continues this form of communications, the Newsletter?

What say you?

*Email Your Survey Comments To
Grand Knight-Elect*

Mike Younger

mrwhy@verizon.net & vhawkinsjr@aol.com