



KNIGHTLIFE



Volume 23 Issue 12

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

June 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 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*



Sir Knight Kermit Elsworth Carlton Gresham

September 23, 1936

May 16, 2018





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Chaplain Thoughts...

“Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

by Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr.



Jesus told Phillip and the other Apostles, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.” Jesus is telling us that He does not just resemble His father, He is the exact image of His Father, and the Holy Spirit is the exact image of the Father and the Son. This is the Holy Trinity, this is God.

The mystery of the Holy Trinity is that God is one, yet the one God exists in three individual and distinct Persons. God has only one nature, Divine, and each Divine Person, though individual and distinct, is wholly God with the same exact divine essence. What does that mean? It should not be a surprise if we do not understand the nature of God. St Augustine wrote: “What wonder is it you do not understand God? If you do understand, then it is not God.” Only God can know Himself completely.

The Father is unbegotten, the Son is begotten by the Father, and the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son, yet each Divine Person has always existed. Each Person is distinct in their relationship to each other, each is the true, eternal God, yet there is only one God. We understand that three individual men are distinct from each other yet possess human nature in common. The unity of the three Divine Persons is altogether different. When we speak of them as one God, we mean not only that each is God, but that each is the ONE and same God.

At Jesus’ baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, the three Persons of the Holy Trinity revealed themselves to us. In today’s Gospel, there is no clearer statement that God is three Divine Persons in a Holy Trinity than when Jesus told His Apostles, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

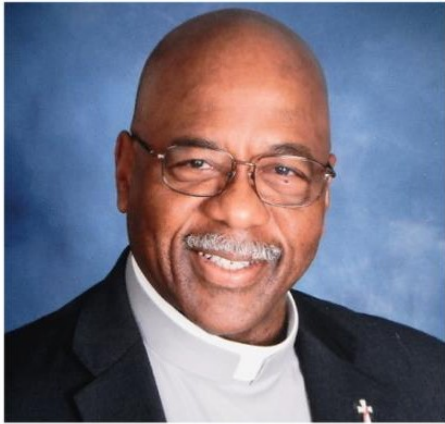
God is love, therefore, the Holy Trinity is love and love, by its very nature, extends beyond itself. God did this in His creation, the universe and everything in it, especially His creation called man. His love extends to us to so great an extent, that we are created in His image and likeness, given an immortal, rational soul with free will. Yet, while we were still sinners, the Father proved His self-giving love for us when He sent His Son to become what He was not, man. Jesus humbled Himself by becoming man, like us, but remains all that He was, God, without change. He died for our sins so that we could live, in His eternal love. Jesus told His Apostles, “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” The Bible tells us that we are created in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, if the essence of God’s nature is love, so is ours!



Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception



IT IS SO HARD TO SAY GOODBYE TO YESTERDAY

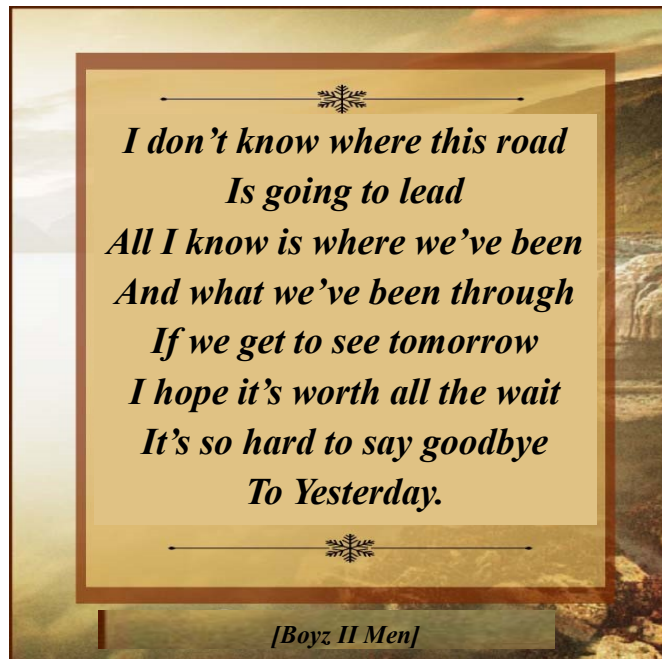


**Sir Knight
Deacon Al Douglas Turner**

Excerpts from Deacon Turner’s homily at Mass on Sunday, May 13, 2018:

“The second theme in today’s readings is the meaning of good-bye. This is the last weekend I will give a homily as one of the Deacons in this parish. We are relocating to Georgia. These days of transition have been difficult, and in some ways, painful days. It is bitter and sweet. I am so appreciative of the support, warmth and care Jane and I have received from this great parish family. The young people of St. Joseph have particularly affected me these past weeks. “I don’t want you to leave,” a number of them have told me. It is humbling to find out that you have been a positive influence for so many. The deepest impression came from one of our long-time parishioners. He was, I confess, a man I did not know well, but he was always faithfully present at Sunday Mass. After Mass, he approached me, “Deacon Turner,” he said, “you have been a good spiritual leader.” These encounters reminded me so much of my loved ones, who have departed, and what that meant, that it almost broke my heart.”

“Saying good-bye can be one of the most painful things in life. Even if we have good hope of seeing each other again, to say good-bye reminds us of the final separation that we all must face We who believe, know that these good-byes are not permanent.”



To Our Beloved Saint Joseph Parish Family: THANK YOU!

We are deeply touched and humbled by your outpouring of love and appreciation during our final weeks in Maryland. Your many well-wishes, hugs, cards, gifts, and receptions have totally overwhelmed us — leading us to constantly marvel, in awe and gratitude, at the greatness of mighty God we serve.

Thank each of you for your role in making our nearly seven years of ministry at St. Joseph-Largo our happiest and most satisfying. We’ll still be reachable by email and cell: Deacon Al: revmral@msn.com; 301-503-3170 and Ms. Jane: jn_trnr@yahoo.com; 301-800-5310.



GRAND KNIGHT'S CHRONICLE



“Trust in the Lord with all your heart”
By Grand Knight J. Bernard Broadus



My Brothers, can you believe it is June already? I guess it is true, time flies when you are having a good time! As this council’s fraternal year comes to an end, I am looking forward to the new heights of achievement awaiting this noble council. I am very proud to announce to you that because of the hard working brother knights, our prayerful Chaplain and Associate Chaplains, Fletcher Council’s continuation of excellence lives on.

Our council programs and activities were highly recognized this year at the State of Maryland Knights of Columbus annual convention on May 5th, in Ocean City Maryland. To name a few, Fletcher Council won first place in 5 (Council, Youth, Family, Community and Church) of the 6 program activity awards, 3 Supreme Awards, Program Director’s Award and first place General Excellence Award in our division, (Top Council). The council hosted the Silver Rose Holy Icon, 5th Sunday Rosary prayer, Altar Server Appreciation Dinner, and several visits to our homebound brother knights. WE hosted Knights Sunday, presented Family of the Month to Saint Joseph’s hard working parishioners each month and participated in the March for Life last January. We collected donations for the Tootsie Roll Disabilities Program and Baby Bottle donations for Forestville Pregnancy Center. The Box of Joy program is where we collected Christmas toys for needy kids overseas. The council purchased winter coats for children and continued the bread donation pick-ups. We also instituted a memorial fund to assist the families of our deceased brother. These are not all, but these and other programs and some new ones will continue under our Grand Knight Elect Michael Younger. Congratulations to all of the new officers and I solicit the council’s support and prayers for the new 2018-2019 administration.

I am forever thankful and blessed to have been your Grand Knight this year and pray that I have represented Fletcher Council well in the district, State Council and Supreme.

My Brother Knights, Always “Trust in the Lord with all thy heart, and lean not on thy own understand”.

Our Santa Has Made His Ultimate Trip
Past Grand Knight Kermit Elsworth Carlton Gresham





**Stephen M. Cohen
State Deputy's Report**

Here we are in the month of June. Soon summer will be here. Remember, we just keep moving, do not stop and restart because we are in a new fraternal year. Continue recruiting, continue to have Admission degrees and continue to do good work in our Parishes.



**Stephen M. Cohen
State Deputy**

The State Convention was a great success, My sincere thanks to all who played a role in making it happen. My thanks also to all who attended. This has been our largest convention in many years. Congratulations goes out to all of our Award Winners, they can be seen in the State's Newsletter, which you should be receiving shortly.

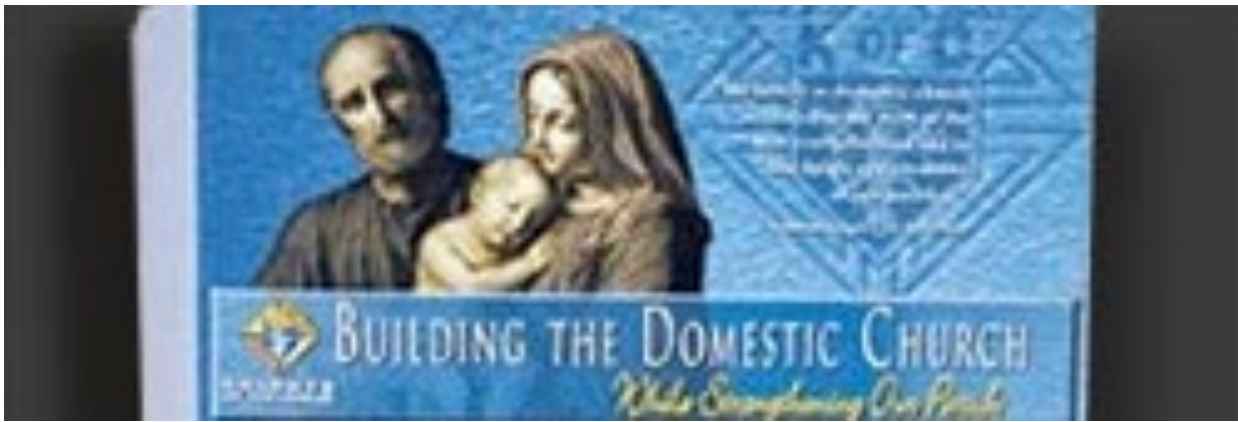
Building the Domestic Church, While strengthening our Parish continues to be in the forefront. The State is planning a large State Sponsored Event for this program. Each council should be following the recommendations in Columbia magazine and Knightline for sponsoring events in your parish. This is our New Initiative and one in which our Holy Father truly believes. Continue to work with your Pastors to implement programs in this area.

Don't forget as we enter the New Fraternal Year, some very important reports are due. Namely, these are the Forms 185 and 365. Let's get them in as soon as possible after your council's election. In addition, your council's Credentials for next year's Convention are also due.

So what is due now. Your Report of Roundtables and of course the Columbian Award application. It is never too early to submit.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a GREAT TEAM, who made this year the success that it was. Everyone chipped in and made this a great Columbian Year for the Jurisdiction of Maryland. Hopefully, when the end of the month comes, We can say that the Great State of Maryland is again in the Supreme Knight's Circle of Honor. Remember, this only takes each council bringing in two new members before June 29th.

Remember Always, *We Are Advocates of the Lord.*



A father's physical and emotional presence is vitally important in the lives of his children.

Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori



As we celebrate **Father's Day**, let us celebrate the role of our dads in building the domestic church, in working hand in hand with their wives to make their homes places of prayer, learning, virtue and service, and in handing on the faith to the next generation. I hope many parishes will make Father's Day a time for the renewal of wedding vows and that every Knight of Columbus who has children will recommit himself to being an active, faith-filled father who loves his family with a love that is generous and strong.



**District Deputy's Report
G. Emeka Onwezi**

Maryland State Council District Deputies 2016-2018



Truly, Tempus Fugit! Two years is almost over since I accepted to serve the four councils in District 2 as their District Deputy and two years prior to that as their District Warden when the councils were under District 3.

As this is my last article being a District Deputy for the District number 2, the home of the incoming Maryland State Council State Deputy Dale Trott, instead of making my regular report, I will rather use this medium to reflect on the last four years (two years as the District Warden and two years as District Deputy) and thank all those who helped me in one way or the other to be successful in serving the four councils, namely; St. Jerome Council 5564, St. Mary's of Assumption Council 9302, St. Mary's of Landover Hills 10046 and my home council, James C. Fletcher, Jr., Council 11422. During these four years period, I have met so many brother Knights and their families from different councils and across the Maryland State Council. I have made great friends and acquaintances. I have worked and teamed up with people of different backgrounds for common goals; to grow our order and improve our domestic church. I have learned from others and others have learned from me. I will miss the regular weekly meetings and other activities, from both the Council level, to the District level, and to the State level.

I am first, thankful to the Almighty God for giving me the strength, good health and endurance for these past four years to serve others. I thank my dearly lovely wife, Chizoba and my children for allowing me to share my times between them and the councils I served in these past three years. I am also grateful to our out- going Maryland State Deputy Stephen Cohen for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to be one of his District Wardens for two years in a row. I also thank some of the Past District Deputies who I had consulted for advices, such as FDD Mike Davenport, FDD Vern Hawkins, Jr., FDD David Martins, and FDD Terrance Holmes, all are members of my home council, James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council.

I also appreciate all the Grand Knights and Past Grand Knights whom I worked with during this my journey. All their efforts to make their respective councils to be successful during their tenures are recognized with the Columbian awards they received during their respective tenures and recognitions within the Maryland State Council. James C Fletcher, Jr. council's continuous yearly performance during award ceremony at the Maryland State Council Convention is one of the many ways these councils' efforts are recognized.

I am also grateful and appreciate all the teamwork, cooperation and respects that I received from all the council officers and council members in District 2. As a team, my journey as District Warden and later District Deputy were made much easier.

I am also grateful to my church pastor and my home council's chaplain, the Most Rev. Bishop Roy E. Campbell, all the parish priests at St. Mary's of Assumption, St. Mary's of Landover Hill, St. Jerome and St. Joseph Church in Largo, council chaplains, Deacons, Associate Chaplain and Assistant Chaplain that I worked with during these past four years. With their prayers and moral support, I was able to continue to do the work I was called to do for the councils.

With my services to District 2 in particular and the Maryland State Council as a whole, I feel that I have become a better husband, father, and catholic. I have learned from my mistakes and improve on my faith. I cherished all with no regrets.

I finally, thank and appreciate my District Warden Michael Akpan for putting up with me and for all his supports. Without his assistance, I could not have done it either. I congratulate him on his appointment as the District Deputy for District number 14. I know he is ready and able to lead and serve the councils that are assigned within his district for the next two years. I will always be there to extend my support and advice as needed.

As we were taking our group picture of the District Deputies at Ocean City, during the Maryland State Convention, I looked around and it occurred to me that I may not see or be with all such fine Catholics and brother Knights at the same time and place. The interactions I had with each and every one of them during these past years, is priceless. That group picture will be hung in my office as a refresher.

Lastly, I do apologize to anyone that I may have been offended during the time that I was performing my duties as the District Deputy. Nothing is done intentional or taken personal. Remember it was not about I. Rather it is about the good of the order.

I may be retiring as the District Deputy, but that does not mean that I am tired or retiring as a Knight.

**Vivat Jesus!
G. Emeka Onwezi**



SUPREME KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Carl A. Anderson - Supreme Knight

'HOLD ON TO WHAT IS GOOD'

NATIVE AMERICAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES DEMONSTRATE DIVERSITY OF CULTURE AND THE UNITY OF FAITH



THIS YEAR, I spent much of Holy Week in the Diocese of Gallup, N.M., encountering the presence of our Catholic faith among Native Americans.

I met Mercy Corps volunteers at the St. Michaels Association for Special Education on the Navajo Reservation; greeted Navajos at the Villa Guadalupe residence of the Little Sisters of the Poor; visited San Estevan del Rey mission church in "Sky City" on the Acoma Pueblo — the scene of a dramatic episode in Willa Cather's *Death Comes for the Archbishop*; and spoke with a missionary priest about his pastoral work on the Zuni reservation.

But the high point was the Easter Vigil at San José Mission on the Laguna Pueblo reservation, after Dorian and I shared dinner with a parish family.

Mass was an extraordinary experience as the church, built in 1699, filled with light during the procession. As Communion ended, the congregation sang a hymn in the native Keresan language.

Later, the governors of the pueblo stood in front of the altar and spoke of the need to continue to live in a way that brought their Catholic faith "in harmony with their Indian way of life," to treat each other in a Christian way and "to speak to each other with respect."

The experience brought to life what St. John Paul II had said in Fort Simpson, in the Northwest Territories, three decades ago: "The worthy traditions of the Indian tribes were strengthened and enriched by the Gospel message. ... Thus not only is Christianity relevant to the Indian peoples, but Christ, in the members of his Body, is himself Indian."

Often, in *Columbia* and elsewhere, I have written about Pope Francis' challenge to bring the Gospel to the peripheries. But Holy Week made clear to me that there is a "periphery" in the heart of our own continent — one largely overlooked by many Catholics but where the Gospel has already been lived for centuries.

"Today, people are realizing more and more clearly that we all belong to the one human family," John Paul II said during his 1987 meeting with native peoples in Phoenix, days before his visit to Fort Simpson.

"Within this family," he continued, "each people preserves and expresses its own identity and enriches others with its gifts of culture, tradition, customs, stories, song, dance, art and skills."

An outstanding example of this is Nicholas Black Elk, whose cause for canonization has recently been opened in the Diocese of Rapid City, S.D.

He fought at the Battle of Little Bighorn and later witnessed the death and destruction of the Minneconjou at Wounded Knee. These experiences could have led to a life of anger, hatred and despair.

Instead, after his baptism, he lived a life of hope and reconciliation — for 50 years evangelizing his fellow Native American people.

There is a Pueblo Indian prayer familiar to the Laguna tribe that reads like a poem: "Hold on to what is good, even if it's a handful of earth. Hold on to what you believe, even if it's a tree that stands by itself. Hold on to what you must do, even if it's a long way from here. Hold on to your life, even if it's easier to let go. Hold on to my hand, even if someday I'll be gone away from you."

We encourage our children to read the great literature of pagan Greece such as Homer's *Iliad*, not because we somehow endorse such things as King Agamemnon's bloody sacrifice of his daughter Iphigenia to the goddess Artemis, but because such stories tell us something important about human nature and the moral life. We should not hesitate to explore similar lessons in our own history.

Pope Francis recently reminded us, "Each culture that receives the Gospel enriches the Church by showing a new aspect of Christ's face."

If we are truly the people "who long to see His face," then there is one further voyage of discovery, this time close to home, that we have been invited to make.

Vivat Jesus!





FRATERNAL BENEFITS

Harold Sims, Fraternal Benefit Advisor

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202-701-2415



PROTECT YOUR FAMILY WITH

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS INSURANCE

Five Things You Need to Know Before Talking to Your Insurance Agent

Our agents can advise you on what insurance policies are best for you and your family — that’s why they’re so helpful. Still, you might be hesitant to sit down with your agent for various reasons. Here are a few things to keep in mind the next time you sit down with a K of C agent to alleviate all your fears.

1. What should a family expect when sitting down with a K of C agent? A family should expect to visit with a professional and intelligent representative of the Knights of Columbus who is going to bring a great deal of value to their family.
2. What would they discuss? The agents will start by discussing the history and current events of the Knights of Columbus, then transition into discussing what is going on in the member’s life, and then finally educate the member on how we may be able to better their situation financially.
3. Why is this meeting important? A member’s life can change in an instant, and everyone should always be prepared for the unthinkable to happen so their family is okay.
4. Why should families meet regularly with their agent? Life is always changing. New jobs, new houses, etc. All these things change the financial needs of a family.
5. Why should families choose K of C Insurance? Personal service is a lost art in our world today. But our agents are not just business men, they are brother Knights and your well-being is their business 24/7. This type of service is so important when you need help the most.

Did You Know?

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BISHOP McNAMARA CHAPTER

Vernon Hawkins, Jr. - Chapter President



Winner of The Maryland State Council's Chapter of the Year Award

The 120th Maryland State Council, Knights of Columbus Annual Convention was another spectacular event at Ocean City, Maryland on May 4-6, 2018. It was an election year and our brother knights and their families were there to participate and to enjoy the festivities. Councils of the Bishop McNamara Chapter jurisdiction were well represented. Congratulations to the newly elected State Officers. How about that Awards Ceremony. Next to the election, it is the most exciting and nail-biting time of the weekend. Hats off to the councils of the McNamara Chapter jurisdiction, they were well rewarded in all facets of the Surge With Surge Program areas. The first award of the award session was presented to the Bishop McNamara Chapter of Grand Knights, as it capture the Chapter of the Year Award. This is the second consecutive year that the Chapter was so honored. **Wow!** That was a very nice surprise.



L/R Michael Gilliam, Rev. Jason Worley, Vernon Hawkins, Steve Cohen

The Plaque Was Inscribed As Follows

In recognition of the Chapter's charitable work, work to support the councils of the Chapter, and dedication and service on behalf of the Maryland State Jurisdiction and our Order.

Stephen M. Cohen
State Deputy

The Chapter has had a fabulous year, due to the superb support of the State Officers, active participation of our councils and the awesome leadership my Chapter staff: Joe Massimini, Jack Giacalone, Jeff Koscho, Michael Davenport and Phil Tabbita.

You are requested to join me at our next Chapter meeting on June 20th at Sacred Heart Council 2577, 6111 Columbian Way, Bowie, MD. The meeting will include the Exchange of Jewels Ceremony. The meeting will commence promptly at 8 P.M.

Vivat Jesus



WALSH ASSEMBLY NEWS

Michael P. Davenport - Faithful Navigator



This past year has been a humbling experience and full of Team work moving forward with the business of the Fourth Degree. The assembly has been able to recruit 14 candidates for the Fourth Degree. Thank you for your efforts and candidates.

Our Worthy Master reminded us that the Exemplification plan is moving forward and is at the Monsignor Kessler parish center. The rooms will hold what we need. We will enjoy carved pit beef, hot dogs, Italian sausage, barbeque chicken, salads, cookies, iced tea and lemonade, a feast for a Knight. The new master will be named 31 August. There will be training at the next District meeting on June 9 at Boswell Hall in Bowie for incoming officers. June 2 is a 3rd degree at the JP II Center. We will be there with Form 4's so we can get those last-minute people to sign up.

The month of May was a productive but very sad month with the loss of our Brother Kermit Gresham. Kermit was a beacon of



light and mentor to many. In honor of his memory and to replace the St Josephs, tattered emblem of our great country we performed a Flag retirement and raising during the reception following his funeral. The noble ceremony was performed with reverence to our country and thankfulness to our departed brother. We are reminded that as our brother Knights are remembered for the good that they do and the good that they are the Assembly embodies the good that you do and the visibility of what you do and how it impacts others. Similar to a simple piece of colored cloth, sewn together in a red, white, and blue design representing the history of every flag that has flow before it, we as Knights represent our Order and all of the noble men who have embodied our principles before us.

We're here for the love of Christ and our brothers. Reflect for a moment why you became a Knight and bask in the glory of your achievements for Christ and your families.



This is my last report as your Faithful Navigator. I am proud to be a 4th Degree Knight and I am proud to call you all my brothers.
Vivat Jesus!



PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Michael Younger, Community Activities Director
mrwhy@verizon.net 301-980-6779

120th State Convention Awards



On May 5, 2018 at the Maryland State Council's 120 State Convention in Ocean City, MD, Grand Knight Bernard Broadus accompanied by seven (7) Past Grand Knights were present as the James C. Fletcher Council was once again honored as the "Number #1 Council in the State of Maryland. This was signified by its winning of the prestigious Program Director's and the Supreme Director's Awards. Overall Fletcher Council were the recipient of twelve (12) awards at the convention, see chart below:

Convention Awards

First Place:

- Church Activities
- Council Activities
- Community Activities
- Family Activities
- Youth Activities

Second Place

- Culture of Life Activities

Supreme Director's Awards

- Church Service Award
- Council Activity Award
- Community Service Award

Surge With Service Award

General Excellence Award

Program Director's Award





CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Chidubem M. Oparaoji, Activities Director
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COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Michael Younger, Community Activities Director
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301-980-6779

St. Joseph, our patron saint, is the perfect example for us Knights as to what it means to be a father. His devotion, dedication, stewardship and love of our Lord Jesus Christ and our blessed Mother shows us how men of faith should provide and care for our wives, children and families.

This month, we Knights have several opportunities to fellowship with the men of the Archdiocese, St. Joseph and Fletcher Council and express our faith by our actions. On Saturday, June 9th, the Archdiocese will ordain those seminarians who are eligible to the office of Transitional Deacon. This class includes St Joseph's current Seminarian Patrick Mullin and our former summer seminarian Ebuka Mbanude. The ceremony will be held at St. Matthew's Cathedral and council member are encouraged to attend and support these men who will be ordained priests next year.

Sunday, June 17 is Father's Day and also Knight's Sunday at the 11 P.M. Mass. This is *the perfect time* for us to celebrate our faith and service to the church with our families, the Family of the Month Awardee and fellow parishioners in union with all the fathers of the parish.

Finally, the Annual St. Joseph Church Picnic kicks off on June 24th from 2 to 6 P.M. on the church grounds. Council members have traditionally helped with all aspects of the picnic, from planning, to purchasing supplies, to organizing games and music, to cooking, serving, set up and clean up. Please sign up early this month to volunteer and show the faithful leadership the men of James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council are known to exhibit throughout the Archdiocese and the Maryland State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

"Blessed are all who fear the Lord and who walk in His ways.

What your hands provide you will enjoy:

you will be blessed and prosper:

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your home,

Your children like young olive plants

around your table.

Just so will the man be blessed who fears the Lord".

[Psalm 128, vs1-4]

Plans are underway to conduct the Annual Multi-Culture Picnic. It will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church on Sunday, June 24th from 2-6 P.M. The picnic committee consist of several council members and parishioners. Those planning to attend are requested to bring a covered dish to serve 10-people.



As usual, there will be a need for volunteers to assist throughout the day. Sign-up sheets will be placed in the church welcome room for:

- ◆ Set Up/Clean Up
- ◆ Food Servers
- ◆ Game Coordinators
- ◆ Hall Monitors
- ◆ Kitchen Help/Food Preparation
- ◆ Grill Workers
- ◆ Beverage Station
- ◆ Covered Dish

Let us continue our tradition of supporting these church and community activities. Sign up, round up the family and come prepared to have a wonderful time with your St. Joseph family.

Our Lady Of Guadalupe Patron Saints of the Americas



Deacon Nash at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass at St. Joseph Church on Thursday, May 31, 2018



COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Cal Thompson, Council Activities Director
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★ ★ Flag Retirement Ceremony ★ ★



Title 36, Section 176, of the United States Code states, "No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America." Furthermore, Paragraph (K) of this same Title 36, Section 176 states, "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." The BSA publication "Our Flag" states, "When the national flag is worn beyond repair, burn it thoroughly and completely on a modest, but blazing fire. This should be done in a simple manner with dignity and respect. Be sure the flag is reduced to ashes, unrecognizable as a former flag."

On Thursday, May 26, 2018 at St. Joseph Church, Grand Knight Bernard Broadus along with members of the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council, District Deputy Emeka Onwezi, District Warden Michael Akpan, and the Bishop McNamara Chapter of Grand Knights President Vernon Hawkins participated in the Flag Retirement and Replacement Ceremony. We were honored to have as our guest, the District Marshal, SK Joseph M. Feakes of the Archdiocese of Washington District (AWD) Fourth Degree.

The ceremony was conducted under the auspicious of the Bishop James E. Walsh Assembly 1548, with Faithful Navigator Sir Knight Michael P. Davenport presiding. He was accompanied by the Walsh Assemblies superb Color Corps Team. The old flag was lowered, removed, burned and a fresh new flag now flies in it's place.





FAMILY ACTIVITIES - FAMILY OF THE MONTH

Efrain Anderson, Family Activities Director

canal511@aol.com

301-372-6426

The Lolita Vanessa Cheeves Family



Lolita Vanessa Cheeves is an active and committed parishioner of St. Joseph's Church. Vanessa is always among the first to volunteer for a task and she is effective as a leader as well as a team member.

Born and raised in Prince George's County, one of seven siblings, Vanessa's mother was determined to raise her children in the Catholic Church and instill in them the importance of the Catholic faith and God's love.

Through the years, Vanessa attended Prince George's County public schools and graduated with a Communications degree from Bowie State University, while working as an intern for the federal government.

In 1977, Vanessa married Ronald Cheeves here at St. Joseph Church by the then - assistant pastor Rev. William Lori who is now Archbishop of Baltimore William Lori and the Supreme Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus. While the marriage later ended in a divorce, Vanessa was blessed with two beautiful children from the union: Kiona Cheeves Graham and Kyle Cheeves. Kyle is a charter member of the Martin Luther King Squires Circle, the youth arm of Fletcher Council. In 2003, a wonderful son-in-law, Michael Graham joined the family circle and God's blessings again flowed into the family as two fun loving grandchildren, Kyla and Michael Jr. whom Vanessa adores and loves dearly, brought new joy to Vanessa's life.

In 2012, after years of service as a Public Affairs Specialist, Vanessa retired from the Federal Government.

She is devoted to serving God through various ministries at St. Joseph. In addition to leading her Eucharistic Ministers Team, she has lovingly served the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist to the sick and shut in. Here in the parish, Vanessa combines her devotion and commitment by serving as a member of the Finance Committee and the St. Vincent De Paul Ministry where she held past positions as Secretary and President. Her dedication to this ministry is immeasurable. Each month, the ministry prepares meals for the homeless men who are sheltered at Prince George's House. Vanessa shops and delivers groceries to the Prince George's House and volunteers to help prepare and serve meals. In addition, she makes weekly visits to clean wine cups, Cibboriums and vessels prior to weekend Masses and volunteers to help setup for 6 P.M. Mass.

In Vanessa's spare time, she works out with the seniors at Prince George's Community College under the Health & Fitness program. She loves traveling abroad for vacation with family and friends. Indisputably, she loves to listen to soothing and relaxing music, especially jazz and is always searching for the next jazz artist or concert to attend.

Overall, she gives credit to God for his continuous blessings throughout her life because without her faith and love for Him, she wouldn't be where she is today. The James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council is proud to present the May Family of the Month Award to Vanessa Cheeves.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

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

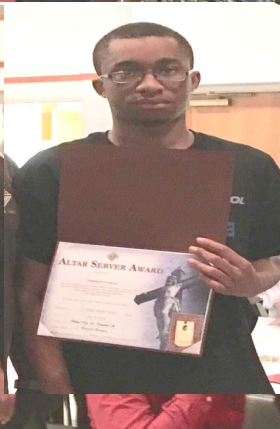
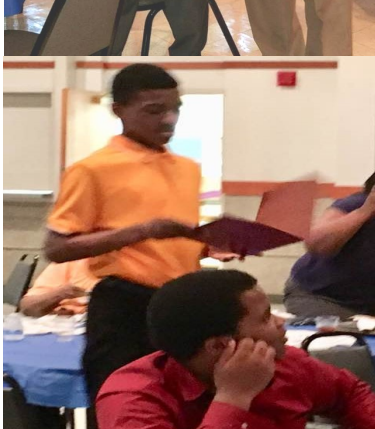


240-353-1460

Altar Servers Awards & Appreciation Dinner



The evening of Friday, May 25, 2018 the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422 held its Annual Altar Servers Award and Appreciation Dinner. Due to construction at St. Joseph Catholic Church, the event was held at Holy Family Catholic Church in Mitchellville, Maryland. The Master of Ceremony (MC) for the evening was Deacon Al Turner and his wife, Lady Jane, and were assisted by members of Fletcher Council, shown above. During the evening, 90 certificates and several special awards were presented. Plus a delicious dinner was served. Fr. Robert P. Boxie, III thanked the Altar Servers and their parents for helping to make the Masses at St. Joseph so complete.





SQUIRES CIRCLE

Michael P. Davenport, Chief Councilor
qstorm3@aol.com

301-523-7374



The Maryland State Chapter is ready for another year. Following that charge, our *Martin Luther King, Jr. Squires Circle 04712* members are gearing up for a new beginning with a change of guard of officers chosen. On May 20, 2018 business meeting was held and the Officers were nominated and a vote was made. Congratulations to the following current officers and future Knights:

Isaiah Scott – Chief Squire
Jordon Joy – Deputy Chief Squire
Wilson - Notary
Emerson Tiwong - Bursar
Justin Bechet – Marshal
Leo Keyen – Sentry

As Knights we are encouraged to not just become leaders but to support other leaders and to nurture and forge new leaders that will go back into the world and into their environments and make a difference. Our young leaders are taught that how they live their lives motivated by the Grace inside gives them the power to affect the world as it changes as they walk through it.

Although our Supreme Council currently supports existing circles there will be no new Circles on the horizon. This doesn't mean we can't reach out to the sons of brother Knights from other parishes. As always the James C. Fletcher Jr Council will blaze the trail with the largest multi Council Squires Circle in Maryland. We can build it and they will come.

The Squires are looking forward to many activities as the season warms up. A calendar of charity is forthcoming. This year we will be concentrating on growth and stability as we assist the Church and it's Ministries in addition to welcoming Catholic young men from other Parishes to join our Circle. A heart felt thank you to Tim Mathews, Ike Agbim and all of the other knights for your continued support and presence.



Vivat Jesus
Esto Dignus

CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES

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

301-728-7827

From The Maryland State Council Culture of Life Director:

The State Culture of Life team would like to thank you for your support during this fraternal year but reminds you that the fraternal year is not over yet. Has your council taken action?

To date, the Maryland State Council has donated 20 Ultrasound Machines to pregnancy care centers throughout the state. In addition, the Supreme Council has approved 2 more Ultrasound Machines, that when matched by the State Council, will leave a small balance in the Ultrasound Machine Program Fund. For each machine, the State Council contributes about \$25,000 that is matched by funds from Supreme. Can your council help with a fund raiser before June 30th? For more information or to make a donation, contact PSD Richard Siejack at RVSiejack@aol.com.

Do you need a Culture of Life activity? Consider the Cemetery of the Innocents. So far this fraternal year there have been 9 cemeteries installed for a total of 322 since 2004. As of May 2018, there is only 1 cemetery standing. That means cemeteries are available for installation. For more information, contact Chairman Jim McFillin at jimmcfillin@cs.com.

Vivat Jesus,

Mike Furst
State Director Culture of Life Programs
mfurst1@yahoo.com



There is a New Train A Come'N



Michael E. Younger *Grand Knight - Elect*



Sir Knight Kermit Elsworth Carlton Gresham

Obituary

"Here's to life...here's to love...here's to you..."

Kermit Elsworth Carlton Gresham was born September 29, 1936 in Richmond, Virginia to Ruth Melinda Gresham and Thomas Augustus Gresham. He was the six of nine children: Thomas, Wellington, Brandon, Joan, Guerman, Tyrone, Roderick, and Frederick. Kermit matriculated through the Richmond Public School System as child. He attended Epiphany Josephite Seminary in Newburgh, New York as a pre-theologian student prior to returning to Richmond and graduating from Maggie Walker High School. He joined the United States Air Force as a pharmacist and medic in 1955, where he was stationed in France. Upon honorable discharge in 1959, Kermit attended Virginia Union University and the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, Virginia. He graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Physical Therapy in 1965. His love of medicine would lead him to pursue further studies, and he received his Master's of Science degree from Howard University in Physical Therapy in 1970.

On June 25, 1960, Kermit married the love of his life, teacher Elizabeth Catherine Stewart. The couple resided in Richmond for six years before moving to Spring Valley, New York, where Kermit began his professional career at the New York State Rehabilitation Hospital (Now Helen Hays Rehabilitation Hospital). It was there that on June 4, 1967, the couple gave birth to their only child Jennifer Kathleen Gresham. In 1969, Kermit received a job offer that brought him to the Washington, DC area and the family settled in Maryland. Kermit worked for Howard University Hospital as the Director of Physical Therapy prior to beginning his own private practice in 1987. Gresham Physical Therapy not only treated patients, but also became a training ground for young, new faces interested in entering the field of physical medicine, and Kermit mentored and coached each student with open arms. In 1996, Kermit decided to leave private practice and work in home care with the Visiting Nurses Association. He also returned to private practice as an associate physical therapist for a time before officially retiring in 2010.

Kermit was a member of the Knights of Columbus, James C. Fletcher Council, where he served as Deputy Grand Knight, Grand Knight, and a member of the Color Corps. He was also a devout member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, where he attended regularly.

Family was the cornerstone of Kermit's life. He was so incredibly loving husband, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth Catherine; daughter Jennifer Kathleen; granddaughters Isabel Melinda Grace and Melina Julius Argueta, brother Tyrone Gresham; godchildren Frederick and Lauren Gresham; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, friends.

Kermit Elsworth Carlton Gresham

September 23, 1936 – May 16, 2018

*What though the radiance
which was once so bright
Be now forever taken from my sight,
Though nothing can bring back the hour
Of splendor in the grass,
of glory in the flower;
We will grieve not,
Rather find strength in what remains behind.*

[William Wordsworth]



REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson

Induced Death and the Right to Life

Life is being devalued in Western society and induced death becoming acceptable. The unborn, physically handicapped, seriously ill, elderly, and those incapable of leading economically-productive lives are at particular risk. While the abortion industry eliminates the “burdens” of unplanned pregnancies, there now is a movement to halt the continuing afflictions of old age and of persistent illness through euthanasia and assisted suicide.

A recent case of purposeful death that gained worldwide attention was that of Alfie Evans, a young child in England, who had a rare neurodegenerative disorder that put him in a continuing coma. The doctors could not treat it, but refused to allow him to be moved to Italy for therapy, despite a plea from the Pope. The hospital, claiming it was in the child’s best interest for him to die, removed his life-support on April 23, 2018, and he passed away five days later.

The case of Alfie Evans is not unique. A year earlier, infant Charlie Gard was diagnosed in a London hospital with a terminal, neurological condition. His parents wanted him moved to New York for a new, experimental procedure, but the hospital refused. After six months of litigation, Charlie died on July 28, 2017. In each of these cases, the courts overruled the parents and allowed the hospitals to decide what was in the best interest of the children.

As a result of a car accident ten years ago, Vincent Lambert is in a French hospital, a severely injured quadriplegic, but not in a coma or with a terminal illness. In April 2018, a doctor decided that because of “unreasonable obstinacy” in his persistent survival, Lambert should have his feeding tubes removed, which would starve him to death. A court has appointed a panel of medical experts to examine Lambert’s health and, based on its report, will either confirm or void the hospital’s decision.

Euthanasia currently may be more prevalent in Europe, but is increasing in the United States. In 1976, the New Jersey Supreme Court sided with the parents of Karen Quinlan, who was in a long-term coma, to have her life-sustaining equipment removed; although done, she remained alive for almost another decade. Then, in 2005, a Florida court ruled in favor of her husband’s request that Terri Schiavo, who also was in a lengthy coma, have her feeding tubes disconnected; it was done and she starved to death over a two-week period.

Stephanie Packer, a California mother of four young children, was diagnosed in 2012 with an autoimmune disease and given three years to live. In June 2016, one week after the state legalized physician-assisted suicide, her health insurance company reversed its earlier decision and denied her doctor-recommended treatments. It would allow her, however, to obtain a lethal dose of suicide pills for a co-pay of \$1.20. After media attention, the insurance company relented and covered her treatments. On May 15, 2018, after testifying at a legislative hearing against physician assisted suicide, she posted a message on Facebook that she is “feeling fantastic.”

Today, seven U.S. states and the District of Columbia permit physicians to assist persons in committing suicide; attempts have been made to legalize it in many other states. This movement toward physician-sanctioned death has ominous implications. The medical community cannot predict with assurance or accuracy how soon a patient might die. Stephen Hawking was diagnosed with ALS at the age of 21 and given 2-3 years to live; although completely crippled, he lived until the age of 76, and when he died recently he was renowned as a theoretical physicist and cosmologist. There are many cases in which patients declared terminally ill have lived well beyond a physician’s projected life span. Some have even recovered from years-long comas.

While conditions established for physician-assisted suicide may appear to be compassionate, experience shows that reasons for sanctioning procured death expand over time. In the Netherlands, where euthanasia has been legal since 2002, many of the reasons given for choosing to be euthanized are depression, dementia, old age, and loneliness, none of which qualify as a terminal illness, and there are movements to allow any person over 70, regardless of health, and terminally-ill children to request it.

Is a life not worth living if the individual is in a coma, significantly handicapped, has Alzheimer’s, severe autism, Down syndrome, cannot live without constant pain, or needs significant assistance for daily living? Stephanie Parker answered the question, when she recently wrote, “Though it is a struggle, so much joy and beauty is right in front of you if you are willing to open yourself up and see the possibilities.”

The position of the Catholic Church is clear: Life begins at conception and continues until natural death. Humans have spiritual souls as well as physical bodies, and their souls are created in the image and likeness of God. As such, they have inherent worth and dignity and an unalienable right to life, even if their quality of life is not up to some social norm.

When the quality of life is considered more important than life itself, when cost containment becomes a criterion for medical decisions, when euthanasia becomes a therapeutic option, life is no longer treated as a right endowed by the Creator. No person or government has the right to usurp a gift of God, no individual the right to throw it away.

Pope Francis has reminded us that: “All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are the masterpieces of God’s creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.”



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.



2018 COLLEGE BOUND FUNDRAISER CONCERT

Featuring

*Dr. Michael A. Clarke,
Pianist and Virtuoso*

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2018, 3:00 PM
ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
2020 ST. JOSEPH DRIVE
LARGO, MD 20774

\$10.00 Adults; \$5.00 Children 12 and Under
FOR TICKETS, CONTACT CHURCH OFFICE
(301) 773-4838

His Excellency, The Most Reverend Roy E. Campbell, Jr.,
Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, D.C., Pastor



Smiley Central™

A new celebrity restaurant chain is opening up nationwide. It is a partnership between Kareem Abdul Jabarr, Ryan Coffee, and Sugar Ray Leonard. They're going to call it: "Coffee, with Kareem and Sugar"

According to a news story, if global warming continues, in 20 years the only chance we'll have to see a polar bear is in a zoo. So in other words, nothing is going to change.

John is out with his friends and stops by his grandmother's house for a visit. There's a bowl of peanuts on the coffee table, and John and his friends start snacking on them. When they're ready to leave, his friends say, "Nice to meet you, ma'am, and thank you for the peanuts." Grandma says, "You're welcome. Ever since I lost my dentures, all I can do is suck the chocolate off of them."

For her 40th birthday, my wife said, "I'd love to be ten again." So that Saturday, we had a heaping stack of chocolate-chip pancakes, her favorite childhood breakfast. Then we hit the playground and a merry-go-round. We finished the day with a banana split. "So how did you enjoy being a kid for a day?" I asked. "Great," she said. "But when I said I wanted to be ten again, I meant my dress size."

My wife, a real estate agent, wrote an ad for a house she was listing. The house had a second-floor suite that would be accessed using a lift chair that slid along the staircase. Quickly describing this feature, she inadvertently made it sound even more attractive: "Mother-in-law suite comes with an electric chair."

When I overheard one of my cashiers tell a customer, "We haven't had it for a while, and I doubt we'll be getting it soon," I quickly assured the customer that we would have whatever it was she wanted by next week. After she left, I read the cashier the riot act. "Never tell the customer that we're out of anything. Tell them we'll have it next week," I instructed her. "Now, what did she want?" "Rain."

There was a Catholic bishop and a Baptist preacher who were fishing buddies. They use to go to the same lake all the time. Well, over time, a Jewish rabbi moved into town. They decided to take him fishing with them to make him feel at home.

On this particular morning, they loaded up the boat and pushed out. They always anchored at the same spot to fish. After about an hour, the bishop realized he had left his favorite lure in the truck. He said, "I'll be right back". He stepped out of the boat and walked across the lake to the truck, got his lure and returned. The rabbi looked in amazement, but said nothing.

A short time later, the preacher realized he had forgotten his lunch. He also said, "I'll be right back. " He stepped out of the boat, walked to the truck and returned with his lunch. The rabbi is amazed at this but says nothing. He begins to think he needs to prove his faith and duplicate this feat.

So he begins to think what excuse he can use to walk to the truck. After a while, he announces, "I left my drink in the truck. I'll be right back." He steps out of the boat and disappears beneath the water surface. The bishop looks at the preacher and say, "You think we should have told him where the rocks were? "

Marian Title for June Our Lady of Queen of the Apostles



The picture of Mary, Queen of Apostles precisely represents her in the office, in the mission, that she had: to give Jesus to the world. She is holding Jesus, not tightly to herself, but offering him as light to all who pass by. He carries the scroll of the gospel, the Word of life. With his right hand he is gesturing with two fingers; in the first centuries this indicated not so much a blessing as the authority of the teacher explains wisdom.

Mary enables us to understand the Word; she is the listening, discerning woman. To understand Christ we need to see him in the mystery of the Incarnation, Word made flesh. Mary's motherhood reminds us that he came to us in the flesh, and he touches us in our flesh, in our bodies, healing us and making us whole in the power of his glorious, resurrected body. Mary is united to the mission of her Son-to bring all men and women into the light and warmth of God's goodness, mercy, and love.

Mary almost hides herself in order to more strongly indicate the presence of the Christ. She gives herself over completely to him, giving without measure. Her genius is a particularly powerful one: the feminine genius. Her femininity, gentleness, and sweetness combine for a strength that can permit her to be incisive.

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 James Shorter
Joseph Marshall William Tolbert
Charles Ratcliff

Deceased

SK Kermit Gresham





****JUNE - 2018****

- 02 Kenneth U. Nnawuba
- 06 Ephraim I Okoro
- 09 John L. Bechet
- 10 John O. Grier
- 13 Justin C. Okpah
- 16 Marquis D. Barnes
- 17 Gary T. Monroe
- 19 James W. Wilson
- 20 Kevin C. Akor
- 20 David D. Martin
- 24 Ephraim A. Okoro
- 26 Chukwudubem L. Eze
- 26 Sylvanus M. Ifeamazi



***“The Joy
Of A
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

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Chaplain | Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr. |
| 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 |
| 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. | Ikechukwu R. Agbimi |
| 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

*****JUNE*****



- 03 St. Joseph First Holy Communion, @ 11 AM Mass
- 07 Fletcher Council Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 09 AWD 4th Degree Meeting @ 10 AM
- 10 Special Mass For New Deacon (Patrick) @ 11 AM Mass
- 11 Bishop Walsh Assembly Meeting @ 7 PM
- 14 Flag Day
- 16 AWD Exemplification of the 4th Degree
- 17 Father’s Day
- 17 Knights Sunday Mass @ 11 AM
- 21 Fletcher Council Meeting, @ 7:30 PM, Exchange Jewels
- 20 McNamara Chapter Meeting @ 8 PM
- 21 First Day of Summer
- 21 Opening Mass for the Fortnight for Freedom, Baltimore
- 24 Church Picnic 2-6 PM
- 30-1 MD State Council Leadership Seminar, Solomons



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