



KNIGHTLIFE



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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

March 2018

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

IN SOLIDALITY WITH OUR PRIESTS





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Chaplain Thoughts. . .



“The water that I shall give you will become a spring of eternal life”

by Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr.

We have a group of elect entering the Church and a group of candidates receiving full communion in the Church at the Easter Vigil, so my reflections are from the Third Sunday in Lent, Cycle A.

In the first reading from Exodus, the Israelites thirsted for water to drink. However, their thirst showed their lack of trust in God. He had led them out of the captivity of slavery in Egypt and parted the Red Sea for them. Yet, their thirst led them to “put God to the test”, that is what the word Massah means in Hebrew. Meribah is Hebrew for “quarreling”, which is what the Israelites did with God, because they constantly wanted assurance that He was with them and would take care of them. Why did they always need reassurance?

They needed reassurance, because the Israelites were always wallowing in self-pity. They were hurting and angry with God. The Israelites did not have true “faith and trust” in God. The Israelites had “faith and trust” in God only when He worked a wonder for them. However, when that wonder faded from memory, so did their “faith and trust” in God. The Israelites’ “insatiable thirst” for another sign from God, was the result of feeling sorry for themselves, living in their own self-pity.

In the Gospel, the Samaritan woman came alone at midday to Jacob’s well to draw water, because she was rejected by the other women, probably because of her lifestyle. She too was

living in self-pity. Jesus saw in her, a woman who had an “insatiable thirst.” He saw a woman who thirsted for love, who had five husbands and currently had another lover. Jesus offered this woman “living water,” and the Samaritan woman went from self-pity and rejection and thirst, to “faith and trust” and fulfillment in Jesus, in His graces, and in His gift of the Holy Spirit. The Samaritan woman’s thirst for “living water” led her to the source of “living water,” Jesus Christ. It is the same “insatiable thirst” that has led our Catechumen, Candidates and children to seek full reception, full initiation into the Church, the Body of Christ. These Catechumen and Candidates are seeking the waters of eternal life through Baptism, Confirmation and especially the Eucharist.

So, how does our “insatiable thirst” lead the rest of us to trust and believe in Jesus’ gift of “living water” and eternal life through the Holy Spirit during this Lenten Season? It leads us to make our “daily trip to the well.” We need to come to the same well from which the Samaritan woman left as a disciple of Jesus. We need to come to the well of prayer. When we pray, we draw from the well of Jesus’ grace, wisdom, and love, refreshing and nourishing our souls, strengthening us for the discipleship He calls us to. –





Your Grand Knight For The 2017 - 2018 Fraternal Year

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart”

By Grand Knight J. Bernard Broadus



What a start to our Lenten season. Our first Fish Fry was a huge success. Everyone I have spoken with has nothing but good compliments for all involved. I would like to personally thank the following for the help to make the first fish fry a success. Our Ladies, Sharon Thompson, Sheila Hinton, Carla Ratcliffe, Gladys Ramey, Etoile Hawkins, Alicia Sanders, Cecelia Clayton, Beverly Starks,

Sandy James, Sheila Davis, Cherry Neal, Dottie Newman, Pam White and Karen Marshall. Our Brother Knights, Cal Thompson, Alan Davis, Harold Sanders, David Martin, Tim Matthews, Ike Agbim, Michael Younger, Michael Akpan, Charles Okpah, John Grier, Fidelis Ajudua, Terrance Holmes, John Huntley, Bob Sistare and Bernard Broadus. An awesome group of people and I am excited about doing it again on March 9th at our second fish fry. A huge Fletcher Council Thanks to all. Please reach out to Cal Thompson, our chairman, and volunteer to help with set up, staff and clean up at our next event. We also had our Fletcher Council readings for the Stations of the Cross. Always a very rewarding service, and again thank you my fellow knights for turning out to make this a success.

March will bring about change as it has always done. It is a time of action, of movement, of progress of prayer and a time to reflect on our roles as knights and Christian leaders of our Roman Catholic principles. This month has begun with us doing the Stations of the Cross, with our next fish fry the following week. During this Lenten season please prevail yourselves to the Tuesday evening Adoration, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Mass, Wednesday evening's "Light is On" confession services and charitable services to our fellow man.

It is our DUTY as Knights of Columbus to serve, protect and help our brothers, widows and children. This brings me to my next topic, Knights Sunday. We are asking all Fletcher Council Brothers to go with us on March 18th after the 11 A.M. Mass, as we visit Sir Knight Mervyn Chancellor and pray the rosary. I know our brother Mervyn would great appreciate all who are able to attend.

We will also have nominations for council officers 2018-2019 at during our business meeting on March 1st. Please consider accepting a nomination for an executive position for our next fraternal year. Brothers, we have numerous opportunities for you to do charity and unity within your council, parish, family and ministry organizations. Please contact any officer or program director to volunteer your time and talents. Trust in God, your faith and pray as we enter our Lenten Season. May all your prayers be answered, and your hearts and souls drawn closer to God.

*“Trust in the Lord with all thy heart and lean
not on thy own understandings”.*

2018 Supreme Convention

The **2018 Supreme Convention** will be held in Baltimore, MD August 6 - 9, 2018. We are beginning to recruit volunteers to assist with the various duties that will be undertaken to make the convention a success. The success of the organization of the convention and convention itself relies on the participation of Brother Knights and their families to help with pre-convention activities, hosting duties and support opportunities throughout the convention. Please take a few minutes to review, complete and submit the Volunteer Information on the Maryland State website at:

http://kofc-md.org/docs1617/Volunteer_Information_Sheet_2018_BaltimoreConvention.pdf

or www.kofc.org and see the homepage slide show "Supreme Convention 2018 is in Baltimore" and select "Click Here to Volunteer as Part of the Team." We will communicate all plans and schedules, via e-mail, with our volunteers as we get closer to the convention. If you have any questions or need additional information please let me know, 301-774-6338 or jgiacal@verizon.net. Thank you in advance for your participation and support.

Jack Giacalone
McNamara Chapter
Volunteer Coordinator



District Deputy's Report

State Deputy's Report



G. Emeka Onwezi
District Deputy

The month of March is a month for membership drive. We still have three months to go before the end of this fraternal year. Please continue all your efforts to grow your council and the order by recruiting catholic man who is at least 18 years of age. Every member in a council is part of the council's membership team. So, keep that in mind and make this fraternal year a successful one for you, your council and the order.

Whatever we do, please continue to remember to practice the first principle of our order, charity. Charitable outreach is always

important, and it is a virtue that all are expected to participate in it. Charity does not have to be only monetary in nature. Volunteering your time and free services are part of charity. There is a joy driven in giving. Further, when we give, we should not expect compensation or reward.

Please come and join us in this year Lenten Pilgrimage at Saint John Paul II national Shrine in DC on March 17, 2018 from 12 pm to 5pm. The space is limited. The cost is \$20 per person, up to a maximum of \$75 per family. The price will be used to offset the cost of a boxed lunch and provides donation to the shrine. Please make a check payable to Maryland State Council and send it to SK Vince Grauso, the State Treasurer at 14771 Betula Way Dayton, Maryland 21036. This event can be used to prepare your council's council activity, or family activity. It is also part of the domestic church requirement.

Remember that the Maryland State Council's basketball free throw is on March 18th from 12 pm to 3:30pm. It is opened to boys and girls from 9 years old to 14 years old. This event will be held at Archbishop Spaulding High School at 8080 New Cut Road Severn, Maryland 21144. Bring the youths in your Churches to come and represent your councils.

Please continue to support your council and your Grand Knight as we get closer to the end of the fraternal year. We should not slow down now. In fact, this is the right time to speed up whatever we are doing and motivate each other so as to close this fraternal year in a big bang!



Stephen M. Cohen
State Deputy

Here we are in March already. I want to thak everyone who participated in the Box of Joy Program, the Mid-Term Meeting and the March for Life. All three had a great showing of the Knights and their families here in Maryland. Let's keep up the great work that we do.

As we are in the last four months of this Fraternal Year, let's make sure that all of our Council are Membership Active. This means recruiting at least one new member and getting them through the Admissions degree and then onto the others. There are many incentives out there for recruiters, let's take advantage of them. These are both Supreme and State Incentives. The biggest of which is the \$4.50 rebate for those councils making Star Council.

We need to continue to grow our Order, Our State and Our Councils. As we lose members, particularly to death, we need to replace them. The State has seen almost 300 deaths already this year. If we are to continue to do the good works that we do; we need new members. We have done well thus far. Keep up the good work. Your District Deputy and the State Membership Team are here to assist you - Just ask.

The Box of Joy Program, our partnership with Catholic Outreach, was very successful this year. This program will continue to be an excellent one to get involved in. Next year we are looking for 2,000 boxes from our councils, auxiliaries, and friends. In early January, myself, Vicki and Dale and Linda Trott had the opportunity to witness something that was truly spectacular. Catholic Outreach took us on a Vision Trip to Guatemala. It was both an eye opening and heart warming experience. We visited many places that are helped by Catholic Outreach. A home for abused women and the children, a school for girls, a village where people live in very small houses with unpurified water and an orphanage for special needs children. Not one of these places receives any assistance from the government. Cross Catholic is there for them. They build \$2000 houses, they do well projects to get them water, they provide assistance any way they can. One is these ways is the Box of Joy Program. We had the great honor of being the first donors to go on a trip like this and present boxes of joy. You can only imagine the smiles on the children's faces when they received their box. The people that we visited with were so faithful and so believing in the fact that God will provide. We did produce a video while on this trip and our intention is to show it at our Spring Meeting and then place it on our website.

As always, remember, **WE ARE ADVOCATES OF THE LORD** in everything that we do.

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*

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



SUPREME KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Carl A. Anderson - Supreme Knight

An Ethics of Fraternity

“The Knights of Columbus is committed to Catholic values and leading by example.”



LAST MONTH, I shared some thoughts on the tremendous growth of the Knights of Columbus Insurance program since the year 2000: Our insurance in force has grown from \$40 billion to nearly \$110 billion, and our assets under management are up from \$8.5 billion to nearly \$25 billion.

We can all be proud of this long-term, superior performance that, year after year, extends greater financial protection to the families of our brother

Knights.

I am also especially proud that once again this year we were selected as one of the World's Most Ethical Companies by the Ethisphere Institute.

We are one of only 135 companies named from 23 countries — and we are one of only three honorees in the life insurance category.

This is the fifth consecutive year that the Knights of Columbus has been so honored.

This designation recognizes that the Knights of Columbus continues to show “exemplary leadership” in such areas as “improving culture, leading authentically and committing to transparency.”

At the Knights of Columbus, we share the Ethisphere Institute's commitment to “continually raising the standards of corporate behavior” and to “values-based leadership.”

And I am particularly grateful to have personally been named by Ethisphere as one of the “100 Most Influential People in Business Ethics” in 2014 and 2015.

As I have often said, we will not sacrifice our ethics in order to chase profits. On the contrary, we believe a values-based, ethical strategy in both marketing and investments is the best way to achieve sustainability and to remain competitive in a free-market economy.

We are proud that the Knights of Columbus way of doing business is both ethical and successful. We maintain a decades-long tradition of superior performance in operations and on the balance sheet.

Our designation by the Ethisphere Institute came soon after the release of the 2018 Edelman Trust Barometer, which found that the United States is enduring the worst collapse in trust ever recorded in the 18-year history of the survey.

The report stated: “In a year marked by turbulence at home and abroad, trust in institutions in the United States crashed, posting the steepest most dramatic decline the Trust Barometer has ever measured.”

It continued, “It is no exaggeration to state that the U.S. has reached a point of crisis that should provoke every leader, in government, business, or civil sector, into urgent action. Inertia is not an option, and neither is silence. The public's confidence in the traditional structures of American leadership is now fully undermined and has been replaced with a strong sense of fear, uncertainty and disillusionment.”

Its conclusion was perhaps most interesting: “Today, business and NGOs are viewed equally as the institutions holding the most hope for our respondents.”

This places a very special responsibility upon the Knights of Columbus as the greatest Catholic business and fraternal organization in the world. And it is a challenge that we will not turn away from.

We will continue in our mission to maintain a strong, successful business model based upon an ethics of fraternity. And we will continue to promote our values of charity, unity and fraternity as the best foundation to rebuild trust in our social and governmental institutions.

In fact, working to return these values to the center of our national life may be one of the most patriotic actions we can take today.

Some may say that the values we cherish are becoming increasingly outdated. I would ask they to remember the words of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.: “It is always the right time to do the right thing.”

Today, we have a unique opportunity to bring our Catholic values into both the marketplace and the public square.

Vivat Jesus!





FRATERNAL BENEFITS

Harold Sims, Fraternal Benefit Advisor
harold.sims@kofc.org

202-701-2415



The Knights of Columbus insurance story begins in the winter of 1882 in the basement of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn.

It was there that our Venerable founder, Father Michael J. McGivney, gathered the men of his parish together to create a solution to a recurring problem.

Many Catholics — most of whom were immigrants — were working and living in unfavorable conditions. And many, tragically, were dying young, leaving behind widows and orphans with insufficient financial resources.

It was a cold reality that had confronted Father McGivney all too often — not only in the lives of his parishioners — but in his own. As a seminarian, he was forced to leave school and return home to aid his family when his father died unexpectedly.

Though this story of financial ruin for Catholic families was common, Father McGivney was convinced that there was a way to change the ending. He knew that if the Catholic men in his parish came together in mutual aid, widows and orphans could receive the support they needed. He also knew that if Catholic men banded together, united by charity and unity, they could strengthen their faith, their families, and their communities.

So, he established the Knights of Columbus, and with it, a “pass-the-hat” insurance system to protect the Catholic families in his parish. Over time, that system has evolved, and today we stay true to our founding mission through our multi-billion dollar, top-rated insurance program. Members in the United States and Canada have exclusive access to our insurance program and products, including life insurance, retirement annuities, long-term care insurance, and disability income insurance.

Our charitable giving and fraternal service have continued to grow too. Nearly 2 million men in over a dozen countries across the globe are proud to call themselves Knights. Last year alone, these men and their families donated more than \$177 million to charity and performed more than 75 million hours of service.

McNAMARA CHAPTER

Vernon Hawkins, Jr. - Chapter President



We experienced a first last month with a Tri-Chapter Gala. The McNamara Chapter, Baltimore Chapter and Elizabeth Seton Chapter of Grand Knights teamed up to step out of the box and pulled off a unique, special and very successful celebration at Columbus Garden in Baltimore. Honorees from each Chapter were as follows: McNamara Chapter - Bryan Adamczyk; Saton Chapter - Robert Jack; and Baltimore - Jamie Gouldin. McNamara Chapter will host the 2018 PCP Gala.

This month's Bishop McNamara Chapter meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 21st at St. Mary's Council 1470, 41605 Fenwick St., Leonardtown, MD 20650. The meeting will start promptly at 8 P.M. Remember **all** Grand Knights, Deputy Grand Knights, District Deputies, District Wardens are strongly urged to attend and meet and greet our State Officers and Chairman. Grand Knights are also encouraged to bring their Chair Officers and Committee Chairman. Future McNamara Chapter meetings and events for the remainder of this fraternal year are : March 15th, St. Mary's Council 1470; April 19th, Fr. Peter Paul Maher Council 6793; May 16th, St. Elizabeth Council 12796 (Chapter Elections); June 20th, Sacred Heart Council 2577 (Exchange of Jewels) and June TBD, Regency Furniture Stadium (Blue Crabs Game)

Please note that during this quarter, the election cycle commenced for Chapter Officers for the 2017-2018 fraternal year will commence at this month's meeting. The Election Committee will accept nominations for all officer positions, elections will take place at the May Chapter meeting.



WALSH ASSEMBLY NEWS

Michael P. Davenport - Faithful Navigator

Renewal of Obligations



Renewal of Obligations Exemplification

The Renewal of Obligations for Assembly officers and Assembly members was held on Monday February 12, 2018 at St. Pius X Council, Sarto Hall, in Forestville, Maryland. The ceremony was attended by over 30 Sir Knights and was led by the Master Archdiocese of Washington District (AWD) Fourth Degree Sir Knight Micheal W. Thumm and assisted by District Marshall, Sir Knight Joseph Feakes. The ceremony which began promptly at 7 P.M. was concluded giving way to Assembly Business Meeting.

Fourth Degree Exemplification Ceremony

Several applications have been submitted by candidates for the upcoming Fourth Degree Exemplification scheduled for the April 7, 2018 at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School, 17301 Old Vic Blvd, Olney, MD 20832. So far we have 42 applications and hope to have a few more read in time for the ceremony.

Nomination Committee

As we approach the end of the Fraternal Year, a Nomination Committee has been appointed to accept nomination of officers for elections for next Fraternal Year.

Next Assembly Meeting

The next meeting of the Bishop James E. Walsh Assembly 1548 will be held on Monday, March 12, 2018 at Sarto Hall in Forestville, Maryland.

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





PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Michael Younger, Community Activities Director
mrwhy@verizon.net

301-980-6779

Fletcher Council has had a very productive year thus far in completing all of our scheduled service programs. In all six service areas, **Church, Community, Family, Pro Life, Council and Youth**, Fletcher Council has again shown why it is one of the premiere councils in the state of Maryland.

The final months of this fraternal year are full of programs which are in dire need of volunteers or coordinators to ensure a successful finish for this administration. Brother Peter Methodius is soliciting volunteers for the **40 Days of Life Campaign**. Brother Cal Thompson needs assistance for the **March 9th Lenten Fish Fry**. Brothers Alan Davis and John Huntley request assistance with the bread and food pickups and deliveries from Costco and Panera Bread to local homeless shelters and churches. Grand Knight Bernard Broadus needs help with Church Activities, Brother Efrain Anderson with Family Activities, Brother Phil Beaubouef with this month's **Kite Flying Extraganza** and Brother Vernon Hawkins with the **Knighlife Newsletter**.

Remember gentlemen, we are in the **Season of Lent**, a season of prayer fasting and alms giving. If you have yet to participate in any of our activities, I urge you to contact me or any of the brothers listed above and **VOLUNTEER!!**

This council has over 150 member and I challenge all members to commit to one activity before the end of the year. Serving our fellow brothers and sisters is the essence of who we are as Christians and as Knights.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

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



202-802-8155

March is a month of change, a month when daylight lengthens and the earth begins its renewal for spring. Change always takes effort, commitment and a will of spirit. When we change for Christ, we allow ourselves to be open to His love and then share that love with others. We are now in the season of Lent and we as Catholics know we must change our hearts and souls in preparation for Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday is in April this year, so any changes we make must occur before April 1st.

The church provides us the opportunity to change our souls through the sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession as it is commonly known. "The basic requirement for a good Confession is to have the intention of returning to God like the prodigal Son and to acknowledge our sins with **true sorrow** before his representative, the priest". **"The Light is on For You,"** offers us the sacrament of Reconciliation each Wednesday night during Lent from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. and Saturday from 3:30 P.M. to 4:40 P.M. at St. Joseph.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is also available at St. Joseph every Tuesday evening from 6:00 P.M. to 6:45 P.M.

Brothers, please resolve to spend some time during this Lenten Season to prepare your soul for Christ's triumphant victory over sin and death on **Easter Morning**.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Michael Younger, Community Activities Director
mrwhy@verizon.net



301-980-6779

Annual Lenten Fish Fry



We are back by popular demand with the finger licking tummy filling, and smoking Fletcher Council Fish Fry. Our opening session last month initiated the craving for more of the same and we will go again to satisfy those cravings. This month's Fish Fry will be held on Friday, March 9th. Fish dinners are \$11.00 and Fish Sandwich's are \$8.00.

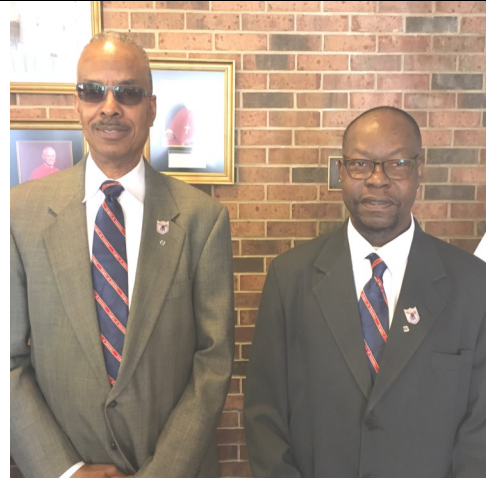
BTW, although we have a standard crew, additional help is needed. Please consider putting in an hour or two and give Cal Thompson (301) 928-2157 or Harold Sanders (301) 390-7150 a call to sign up to assist in our Annual Lenten Fish Fry.

MEMBERSHIP QUEST

Alan M. Davis, Membership Director
adavis1960@verizon.net



301-808-8009



Harold M. Countee Kennard A. Dalrymple

These Brother Knights, Harold and Kennard celebrated their 1-year anniversary as a Knight of Columbus and a member of Fletcher Council. And, they have each been busy participants in council activities. We are proud to have you and thank you for not setting back, but setting a final example of what knighthood is all about.



COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Cal Thompson, Council Activities Director
calthompsn@msn.com



301-249-2955

The council's Annual Mardi Gras was a fantastic success. It was held last month on Saturday, February 10th in the beautifully decorated Rosemont Room at St. Joseph Catholic Church. It was again, a sell out, with many on the waiting list for tickets. Our Decorating Committee, did it again, transforming the event hall into a colorful New Orleans Mardi Gras environment.





FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Efrain Anderson, Family Activities Director
canal511@aol.com

301-372-6426



Pam White has been a member of the St. Joseph Catholic Church for over 8 years. She first attended St. Joseph in 2001 then transferred to St. Thomas More in S.E. DC in 2008. She returned to St. Joseph recently in September 2016. Pam is a native Washingtonian now living in Bowie, Maryland. She is a product of our catholic schools (Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception Academy) of the Archdiocese of Washington. She is a graduate of the Mount Vernon College for Women. She has two sisters, Patricia in DC and Beverly in Ohio, a very good sister-friend Rozina, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Pam retired in 2013 after working some 37 years in management at the United State Census Bureau in Suitland, MD. Her favorite things to do include gardening and traveling abroad to Caribbean islands, and more recently, cruising the Mediterranean Sea.

Pam is an active member in the church. In December 2017, she began serving as vice president of our St. Vincent De Paul Society. This is a Catholic lay organization that leads men and women to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those in the community who are suffering and in need. She recently helped organize the 2017 Thanksgiving Baskets donation program.

Pam also is a member of the Repast Ministry whose mission is to show God's love through bringing comfort to those who suffer the loss of a loved one. After serving 12 months in the ministry, Pam recently became one of three Team Leaders responsible for preparing and serving meals at repasts to bereaved families. While it can be a bit of work to accomplish, she mostly enjoys the fellowship and comradery with the various team members.

Right around the time she joined the Repast Ministry, she also joined the Counters Ministry where once a month she joins other team members in counting the tithes and offerings collected each weekend.

"I am sincerely happy to be a part of such a wonderful community that appreciatively extends itself to those looking for a church home."

FAMILY FULLY ALIVE



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

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

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

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



IN SOLIDARITY WITH OUR PRIESTS

Vernon Hawkins, Jr., Editor
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301-336-0284

It is at the parish level and in support of parish priests that the Knights of Columbus will continue to make its mark on the Church. That was the commitment Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson made to more than 100 priests and bishops from throughout Connecticut who were guests of honor at a banquet hosted by the Supreme Council. This year, in honor of the parish priest who was our founder [Father Michael J. McGivney], the Knights of Columbus pledges to increase the vitality and spirituality that will help our parishes become the leading edge of a renewed and energetic Catholic Church,” said Anderson. And so too it is the pledge of the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council of the Knights of Columbus at St. Joseph Catholic Church.



Reverend Robert P. Boxie, III, Parochial Vicar

Anderson said every parish should have an active Knights of Columbus presence. Guided by Father McGivney’s vision, he said, “we have worked hard to establish parish-based councils and promote greater solidarity with our priests.”

There are thousands of parish priests who are active members of the Knights of Columbus, and there are thousands of councils already active in local parishes. We are providentially positioned to help lead the renewal of parish life in every country where we are active,” Anderson said.



CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES

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

301-728-7827



The Lord blessed all participants with a clear, blue sunny 50 degree day. The youth were very well behaved and enthusiastic about attending the Mass and Rally. We were given signs for Pro Life from Archdiocese and Knights of Columbus and proudly wore our blue hats and scarves with the logo "St. Joseph-Largo, MD. 95 Years Standing for Life". At the Mass, Deacon Turner served as a liturgical consultant for video feed ensuring the cameras focus on the Mass was consistent with the Liturgy. He spent the entire Mass in the Control Room.

“95 Years Standing For Life”

Our past Seminarian Ebuka served the Altar, as did Father Steven Wyble. The youth were able to share experiences and snacks with other groups from the United States and with various clergy, religious orders and members of the Knights of Columbus from different states and countries.



We all returned with a greater sense of the importance of protecting life in all stages of growth and how important it is for us to remain vigilant in our call to treat everyone, unborn, poor, sick, immigrant and homeless with respect and dignity.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES



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

240-353-1460

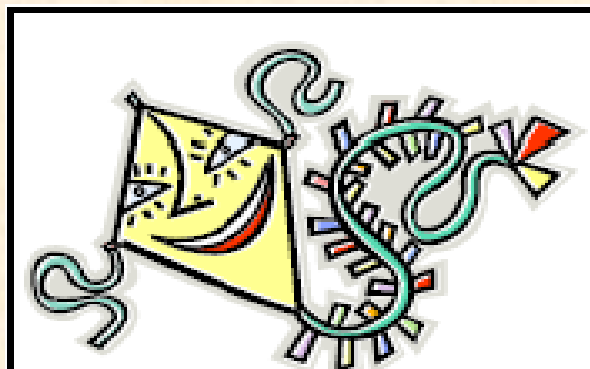
Kites Are Coming



SK Michael Davenport, with his lovely daughter and granddaughter were all wrapped up in kite flying several years ago at the Annual Fletcher Council Kite Flying Extravaganza. I would say that it is time to take to the skies again. The windy month of March is traditionally kite flying time in the Washington Metropolitan area, and our Largo, Maryland area is right in there with our kite flying neighbors.

Our event is usually held each year, preferably in March, with early April as an option. It is called the “*Kite Flying Extravaganza*.” It is open to family members of not only council members, but parishioners as well.

During the event, the council provides refreshments, music and free kites. Also, the council has an excellent pool of experts schooled in the art of kite flying to help the novice. Participants may also bring their kites. The date and time for this year’s “*Kite Flying Extravaganza*” will be announced shortly.





REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson

From Butchery to Blasphemy

Have we developed societal beliefs that are promoting a repeat of some of the worst behaviors of the past?

In 1581, Fr. Edmund Campion was captured in England and under the penal laws of the day was sentenced to death for being a Catholic priest within the realm. He was stretched on a rack, dragged through London behind a horse to the public gallows, hanged and taken down before the point of death, disemboweled, his entrails pulled out and burned, and then the body torn into quarters by four horses. It is hard to imagine the gruesome butchery that was socially acceptable in the Medieval Ages.

In 2018, in America, children in the womb may be aborted legally to the moment of birth. In the second trimester of a pregnancy, the abortionist uses a dilation and evacuation procedure, in which, often without anesthetizing the child, he reaches into the womb with a long clamp, grasps a limb and pulls it off and out. This is repeated for the other limbs and torso, before the skull is crushed and the parts removed. The child must undergo excruciating agony, for science has shown that an unborn child can feel pain at 20 weeks of age and perhaps earlier.

Is the American abortionist any less barbaric than the medieval executioner? America is one of only seven nations in the world that permit abortions after 20 weeks. According to a 2014 report by the Charlotte Lozier Institute, among 198 nations, only North Korea, Vietnam and China have more permissive gestational limits.

As barbaric as abortion is, its advocates in the United States continue to fight successfully to maintain its legality. On January 19, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, a bill to prohibit abortions at 20 weeks and beyond. The President promised to sign it when it reached his desk. But it never did. On January 29, a companion bill was filibustered in the U.S. Senate preventing a vote to take place. It is a shameful blot on the nation that its legislators cannot summon the political will to stop abortions even when they involve excruciating fetal pain. Rev. Franklin Graham wrote: "Sin has an enormous price. Our nation will one day have to answer to God for the millions of innocent lives taken by abortion, and that applies to every politician who voted for and defended abortion."

But abortion is not done simply to satisfy a woman's desire. As a series of undercover videos by The Center for Medical Progress has shown, Planned Parenthood makes a business in selling parts of aborted, dismembered children. In one video, Dr. Deborah Nucatola, Senior Director of Medical Services for Planned Parenthood Federation of America, casually sips wine and has lunch while she describes the grotesque manner in which organs and body parts are harvested to improve their economic return.

Greed certainly drives the abortion industry. But now those who destroy children in the womb are trying to couch their hideous activities as religiously motivated. The statements of three late-term abortionists epitomize these perverted and sacrilegious views. LeRoy Carhart, who operates in Maryland and Nebraska, asserts he believes in God "very strongly," even though he doesn't attend regular church services. He considers his abortion practice a ministry and "feels he is living out his faith" by helping women through what is often the worst time of their lives. Mississippi abortionist

Willie Parker considers himself a Christian whose spirituality places a higher value on compassion for the mother than the life of the child. Texas abortionist Curtis Boyd, a former ordained Baptist minister, has admitted that abortion is killing, so after each abortion he offers a prayer "that the spirit of this pregnancy be returned to God with love and understanding."

As twisted as the views of the abortionists are, the actions of ordained clergy are more hypocritical. On the same day that the Pain-Capable Act was filibustered in the Senate, four Christian pastors and a rabbi gathered at Carhart's Maryland facility to pray for and bless the abortion clinic and staff. The Rev. Carlton Veazey, a Baptist pastor, prayed in God's name for the doctor and nurses who facilitate abortions at the clinic and for their patients, so that "they always know that all that they do is for Thy glory." Several staff members intoned, "Amen." The clergy then sprinkled water throughout the clinic and in the parking lot, and the Rev. Cari Jackson of the United Church of Christ said: "We sanctify this space and we honor this as holy."

This was not the first time pro-abortion clergy have given religious cover to abortion clinics. In January 2017, ministers from 20 religious sects gathered to pray, chant mantras and conduct a liturgical dance as they blessed Planned Parenthood's newly-opened megaclinic in Washington, DC. The CEO of Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington said, "This confirms the sacredness of the work we do."

In early November 2017, lawyers for Whole Woman's Health argued in a Texas court that abortionists should be allowed to continue second-trimester abortions in which living, unborn babies are dismembered while their hearts are beating. A few days later on November 9, pro-abortion clergy gathered at the abortion chain's facility in Fort Worth, blessing its staff and patients, praying and singing "Hallelujah." On October 8, 2015, United Methodist Church pastor Rev. Laura Young blessed an abortion facility in Cleveland, because Christianity is founded on love, and she wanted to protect women who go to Planned Parenthood and other abortion facilities from "preachy protesters" who have "misguided faith."

Are these clergy reverting to pre-Christian worship? Those who offer prayers for abortionists and their staffs are more likely appeasing Molech, the Old Testament, Ammonite idol who demanded child sacrifice, rather than calling upon God, the author of life, whose son sacrificed himself for our sins. "The religious person," Pope Francis said, "knows that among the greatest blasphemies is to invoke God as the justification for one's own sins and crimes." These ministers should pay heed to the admonition of Isaiah: "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness."

If once again, our nation is to revere life at all stages, it will take God working through us. Pray for our nation. Urge the nation's leaders to hold Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers accountable for laws they may have broken and the atrocities they have conducted. Be a public witness to end abortion and uphold the sanctity of life.



James C. Fletcher Jr. Council 11422

LENTEN FISH FRY

FEB 23 & MAR 9

12 Noon – 5 P.M.

St Joseph Church
2020 Saint Joseph Drive
Largo, MD 20774

Dinner \$11.00 Fish Sandwich \$8.00



Soda \$1



Cake \$1

DINNER MENU

WHITING FILLET or CROAKER(w/Bone)
2 SIDES
CORN BREAD / SLICED BREAD

SIDES

Potato Salad Cole Slaw
Macaroni & Cheese
String Beans Collards

PLACE YOUR ORDER / INFORMATION

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

St. Joseph Youth Ministry Fundraiser

All parishioners and friends are invited to
join the St. Joseph's Youth Ministry (SJYM)
for an afternoon of fun.



WHEN: Saturday, March 10, 2018, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

COST: \$25.00 per person

WHERE: AMF Capital Plaza

4601 Cooper Ln, Hyattsville, MD 20784

301-772-6565

*****This event is a SJYM Fundraising Activity*****

For more information, please contact Ms. Beverly Dandridge at
301-452-8765, or via email at fntraveler6@gmail.com

Archdiocese of Washington District Day at the Ballpark



Saturday, 28 April 2018

Nationals Park

1500 South Capitol Street, SE, Washington DC 20003

Join us in Right field – all are welcome

Washington Nationals vs. Arizona Diamondbacks

First Pitch 4:05 PM



Price includes admission to the baseball
game

Cost: \$15/ Person (Super cheap)

Reserve by 28 March 2018

Contact: Jeff Koscho jkoscho@hotmail.com, 301-659-9101

Proceeds will benefit the Master's Fund –
Archdiocese of Washington District.





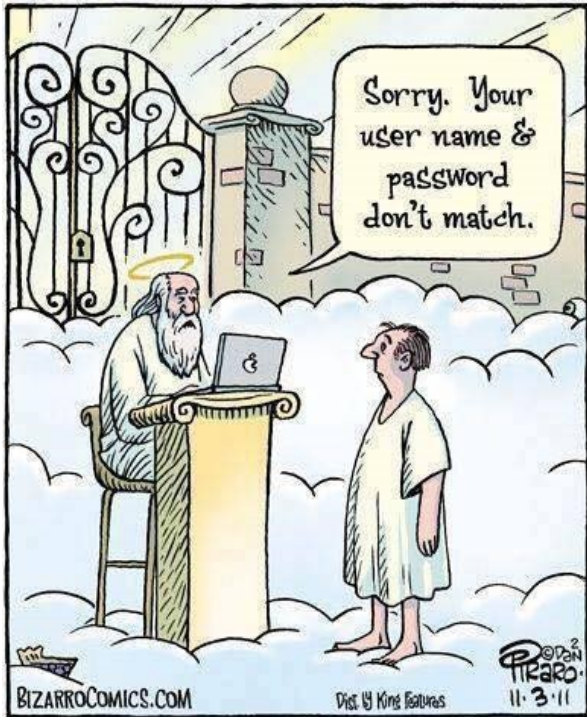
Smiley Central™

Harry walked over to the Priest after services, "You know Father, I am really stuck in a quandary I would like to attend church next week but I just can't miss the big Redskins game next Sunday, it's just out of the question." "Oh Harry Harry" said the Priest putting his arm around Harry, "don't you know? that's what recorders are for." Harry's face lit up "you mean I could record your sermon?"

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

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

Tom had this problem of getting up late in the morning and was always late for work. His boss was mad at him and threatened to fire him if he didn't do something about it. So Tom went to his doctor who gave him a pill and told him to take it before he went to bed. Tom slept well and in fact beat the alarm in the morning. He had a leisurely breakfast and drove cheerfully to work. "Boss," he said, "The pill actually worked!" "That's all fine" said the boss. "But where were you yesterday?"



Marian Title for March Our Lady of the Poor (Banneux)



Our Lady of Banneux' is the sobriquet given to the apparition of the Virgin Mary to Mariette Beco, an adolescent girl living in Banneux, province of Liege (Belgium). Between January 15th and March 2nd, 1933, Mile Beco told her family and parish priest of seeing a Lady in white who declared herself to be the 'Virgin of the Poor', saying *I come to relieve suffering and believe in me and I will believe in you.*

In one of these visions, Mariette said the Lady asked her to drink from a small spring, telling her the spring was for healing and "for all nations". Over time the site drew pilgrims. Today, the

small spring yields about 2,000 gallons of water a day with many reports of miraculous healings.

Her claims were subject to an official investigation from 1935 to 1937 by an episcopal commission. The evidence collected was submitted to Rome for further analysis. In May 1942 Bishop Kerkhofs of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Liege (Belgium) gave a first recognition of the authenticity of the facts. Then, in 1947, approval for the apparitions came from the Holy See. It was declared definite in 1949.

After the apparitions, Beco decided to remain a private person, married and had a quiet family life. A small chapel stands where the Virgin of the Poor requested it to be built.

Mariette Beco died on December 2, 2011 at the age of 90. In 2008 she made a final statement about her role in the apparitions. "I was no more than a postman who delivers the mail. Once this has been done, the postman is of no importance any more".

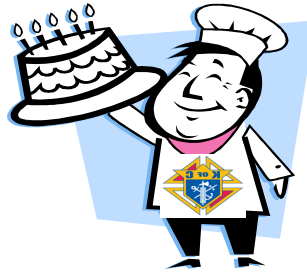
Considering a Vocation to Priesthood?

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





“HAPPY BIRTHDAY”
****MARCH****
- 2018 -



- 02 Alfred M. Sibedwo
- 06 Errol Sandersons
- 08 Calvin A. Thompson
- 11 Paschal I Ejiogu
- 17 Christopher A. Chimezie
- 21 Dennis Clifton
- 23 Michael T. Scott
- 23 Kene J. Emelife
- 28 Paul Mensah Kane
- 29 Steve S. Kueberuw
- 30 Chiedozie Ojimba

**“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

****MARCH****



- 01 Fletcher Council Meeting - 7:30 P.M.
- 03 World Day of Prayer
- 09-10 Spring Meeting
- 11 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 12 Bishop Walsh Assembly Meeting, 7:30 P.M.
- 15 Fletcher Council Meeting, 7:30 P.M.
- 17 St. Patrick Day
- 18 Knights Sunday, 11 A.M. Mass
- 21 McNamara Chapter Meeting, St. Jerome Council
- 25 Palm Sunday
- 25 Founders Day Mass
- 29 Holy Thursday
- 30 Good Friday
- 31 Holy Saturday

