



KNIGHTLIFE



Volume 20 Issue 11

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - STAR COUNCIL

May 2015

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF JAMES C. FLETCHER, JR. COUNCIL NO. 11422

HOME OF DISTRICT DEPUTY MICHAEL DAVENPORT & FORMER DISTRICT

VERNON HAWKINS, JR., DAVID D. MARTIN & CARLTON L. WILLIAMS

"BE NOT AFRAID, OUR FAITH IS OUR COURAGE"

Council Website

www.kofc11422.org



SUPER NOVA



Grand Knight
Thomas "Tim" Matthews
2014 — 2015

THANK YOU FOR A SUPER NOVA YEAR

"MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU"



CHAPLAIN'S THOUGHTS

Fr. Roy E. Campbell, Jr.

Picture a grapevine. The vine grows and has branches growing out from it. What do you suppose the vine grower would do when he checks this vine and finds that there are branches that appear dead, because they are not bearing fruit? These branches have ceased to receive nourishment from the vine, so they no longer live in the vine and can no longer bear fruit. He will cut them off since they have become useless to him.

Now the vine grower turns his attention to the branches that are bearing fruit. The branches that bearing fruit willingly receive nourishment from the vine, using that nourishment to produce fruit. The fruit of these branches will be more branches attached to and living in the nourishment of the vine. He lovingly trims or "prunes" them so that they get more nourishment and can bear even more fruit.



God the Father is the vine grower, Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. The Father will "prune" us to bear even more fruit, as long as we are willing to receive nourishment from Jesus, the vine. The fruit that we must bear is bringing others to Christ. We bear that fruit by living as the Jesus, our vine, lives. We are called to a life growing in holiness, because we willingly receive the nourishment of Jesus' love and grace. Our heavenly Father will "prune" us to increase our capacity to receive that love and grace.

Then, we will be able to bear more fruit as the Father commands, which is to lead more souls to Christ by the love and care we give them.

The Father's command is this: "Believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as He commanded us." "Children, let us love not in word or speech, but in deed and truth."



GRAND KNIGHT'S CHRONICLE

Thomas F. Matthews, II - Grand Knight



The Fraternal year is swiftly coming to a close. It is now time to elect a new Executive Board to continue to run our Council as efficiently as so many have done in the pass. We all have an obligation to vote for the individual that we want to lead us into the next Fraternal Year. This Worthy Brother not only needs to want the position but has to be capable of handling his charge. Whomever we elect, we must trust his judgement and be willing to follow his lead.

We have accomplished great tasks this Fraternal Year, non of which could have been done without the assistance of every member of our Council. I want to thank everyone for the confidence that they have placed in me and I only hope that I lived up to your expectation.

This month is the time of year when the Maryland State Convention is held in Ocean City, Maryland. I will be there representing our Council and I expect nothing less than the State Deputy recognizing the James C Fletcher Jr Council as being one of the top Councils in the State. This is only possible because of all the hard work from our members.

The Ladies KCs held there Annual Tea on Saturday April 25, 2015 at St Joseph Catholic Church and thanks to the Brothers that assisted in this endeavor by serving at this event, it was a great success. The Ladies were glad that the Council thought enough of them to serve them on this glorious day and make them feel like Royalty.

We still have two more months left in this Fraternal Year. Let's not let our guard down. There are still numerous Catholic Brothers that have not had the opportunity to experience the Blessing of being a Knight. It is our duty to at lease let them know what is available to them.

We have a business meeting scheduled on May 7, 2015 at which time we will take the final nominations for Council Officers and we will conduct the election for the next Fraternal Year. I would truly like to see as many Brothers at the meeting as possible. This is one of the most important meeting that the council will conduct.

We have a 1st Degree schedule for May 21, 2015. It will be great to recruit as many Brothers as we can to bring into such a worthy organization. There are only a few things left on our calendar. The Youth Talent show on May 15 and the 1st of three Flea Markets on June 27, 2015. Please mark your calendars and come out to assist. Remember, **"If everybody does a little, nobody has to do a lot."**

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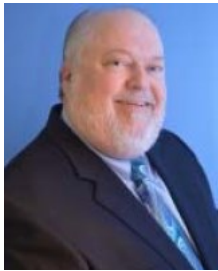
COME PRAY WITH US



All Council Members
Are Invited To
Knight's Sunday
Every 3rd Sunday
Of The Month
At The 11 A.M. Mass

STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

Stephen J. Adamczyk - State Deputy



Hail Mary, Full of Grace! Blessed art thou, amongst women, and Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. When we say this prayer with every decade of Mary's Rosary we carry as Her Knights, and pray often, do we really think about what she did for us as sinners on earth? It is through her we receive the Lord or Savior into this world! She is the vehicle of our Salvation! Remember that when you pray to Mary, Jesus would refuse his mother nothing, so ask for her intercession.

What else is happening May? Well we have the convention in Ocean City, awards to the councils for the programs they have completed this Columbian year for the advance of the Order and its membership, and the last real push to make the quest for the **"STAR"** and **SUCCESS** a reality. I know that the District Deputy's State Officers, Program Chairman and Directors and Membership TEAM are all anxious and willing to help you make your goal a reality. **DON'T WAIT!** Plan your strategy NOW! Make your council officer's and chaplains aware of your plans. Let them help.....ask them for their help. Your Deputy Grand Knight can be a **GREAT ASSET** as the membership he helps you attain now; he gets credit for next year for the State Membership Awards. Let him try his approach to gain new brother knights, and perfect it before he takes the reins of the council. Let's do it in "Mary's Name."

I wish to thank the entire State Family for the excellent progress we have made this year to date. The attention to detail has been superlative and your energy and enthusiasm has been infectious. We have accomplished many of the goals I had set for myself as the State Deputy, and will continue to do so through the end of this fraternal year. The open communication from all of you has assisted the State Officers in achieving many **SUCCESSSES** where if it were not for you bringing it to our attention, we may not have seen the issue. Your hospitality and friendship is very appreciative, and means a great deal to all of the Officers and our wives. I ask Mary to bless all of you and your families during the month of May.

Dear God, Please keep my family, friends and love ones safe Please watch over them always, and let good health, happiness, and good fortune befall them. Amen!

Have You Visited The State Website Lately?

<http://kofc-md.org/>



DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

Michael P. Davenport - District Deputy



Spring is here and Summer will soon be upon us. It too is a wonderful time of the year. Trees and flowers will be at full bloom and the beautiful evening sunset will be a site to behold. What a wonderful place to be, in Maryland, America in miniature! Along with the aforementioned images, it seems to me we need to foster and support a positive attitude on life. You have heard it before, so many of us predict rain on the day of the picnic! We are simple negative!

Think it: have you ever met a truly negative person? They are really a trip! You just want to run away and hide! Or, tell them to "shut up". You want to feel good and they want to regale you with their terrible problems. You have never had a more terrible time than they have had; you simply can't imagine the horrible boss they have or the level of pain with which they suffer as they struggle to get through the workweek. Oh the pain!

Seriously, I know people like this; I'm sure you do as well. Please God, if you happen to be one of them who is reading this column, don't read another word without first saying this prayer: **"Please dear God, give me a positive attitude about life. Help me to see the sunshine and to feel the joy of laughter. Help me to know that all will be O.K. since God is in His heaven and all is really going to be O.K. with the world."**

All too many of us are dull and grey when we have another person's ear. We need to get hold of ourselves and "be happy" for a change. Sometimes people hurt themselves living in the darkness of depression and the grey of a gloomy day. We are people of light, of the day, of the warm summers and gently fall season of autumn. We are not supposed to be that negative and that down on ourselves, or our lives, so as never to be able to pull ourselves out of the dreariness of melancholy!

As I continue my term as your District Deputy, I will try in my actions and communications to give you something to think about. Throughout this fraternal year, I have received from several of you thanking me for concentrating on the positive aspects of life. I hope all of you will concentrate on the positive and not the negative. **Life is good because God made it so, and He doesn't make junk!**

"Be not Afraid, our Faith is our Courage"

Vivat Jesus

SUPREME KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Carl A. Anderson - Supreme Knight

First Korean Councils Receives Its Charters



In a historic ceremony that signaled the continued international expansion of the Knights of Columbus, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson presented charters for two new councils in Seoul, South Korea. Named for 19th-century Korean martyrs, the new councils are St. Andrew Kim Daegun Council No. 16000 and St. Paul Chong Hasang Council No. 16178.

These are the first councils instituted in Korea outside of a U.S. military base, with Korean citizens as members, and the first instituted on the mainland of Asia.

The charters were presented during Mass on April 18 at the Cathedral of the Korean Military Ordinariate. Presiding at the ceremony were Auxiliary Bishop F. Richard Spencer of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, and Bishop Francis Yu of the Korean Military Ordinariate.

Earlier in the week, Cardinal Andrew Yeom of Seoul had welcomed the Knights to his archdiocese in a meeting with the supreme knight and other K of C officials. The supreme knight expressed the Order's solidarity with the cardinal and assured him "of our desire to be of service to his pastoral ministry to the Catholic community of this great city."

In remarks at the charter presentation, Supreme Knight Anderson noted that the Knights made its first expansion into Asia in 1905, with the founding of a council in Manila, Philippines. Now that country has more than 340,000 Knights.

"It is with similar expectations that we begin activities in Korea," he said.

The Church is growing rapidly in South Korea, with about 5.3 million Catholics making up a little more than 10% of the nation's total population.

Recalling that Pope Francis visited South Korea last year, the supreme knight said, "Pope Francis has called upon Catholics throughout the world to take up a new 'missionary spirit' and to go out into the world with confidence. The Knights of Columbus welcomes his call and we continue our expansion which has taken us in the early days of our history to Canada, Mexico, the Philippines and Cuba; and in this century to Poland, Ukraine and Lithuania. And now to Korea."

He added, "We hope to bring to Korea the benefits of our Catholic brotherhood and its principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. In return, we hope to receive the great gift of the faithful and courageous witness of the laity which is the proud legacy of the Catholic people of Korea."

"We can learn from each other, we can help each other, we can truly be missionaries together, and in this way we can help make our universal Church a truly global Church."

In his homily at Mass, Bishop Spencer spoke of a "historic moment in the life of the Catholic Church in Korea as the Knights of Columbus expands its membership and passes the torch of the Catholic faith with the formal chartering of a new council of Korean members."

At a celebratory dinner that evening, the supreme knight spoke of the mission of the Order. "The Knights of Columbus must be a special place for an exchange of gifts among all the nations in which we are active," he said. "In this way, we can better strengthen the faith and life of every brother Knight and his family."

Considering a Vocation to Priesthood?

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





FRATERNAL BENEFITS ADVISOR PROTECT YOUR FAMILY WITH

Knights of Columbus Insurance - Your Shield of Strength

David D. Benjamin - Field Agent - 202-494-6527 - david.benjamin@kofc.org

In March, the Knights of Columbus was named one of the World's Most Ethical Companies by the Ethisphere Institute for the second year in a row. All Knights should be proud of this tremendous honor and achievement. You are part of a fraternal benefit society that puts integrity above all else.

Tremendous though it is, being one of the world's most ethical companies is not just an achievement; it's our legacy and our responsibility. We owe it to our founder, to our Church, and to our members.

As a business, the Knights of Columbus holds a unique place in the world. Writing in the March edition of *Co-lumbia*, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson reflected on that uniqueness, noting that:

Whether we consider the development of our insurance products, the investment strategies that support them, or the outstanding agents who make them available to our brother Knights, our Catholic fraternal "business" model is truly unique in today's marketplace. We do not divide the world among consumers and customers, shareholders and stakeholders, union members and management. Instead, our business decisions are measured by a fraternal calculus: What is best for our brother Knights and their families?

It's an approach that runs counter to modern cultural expectations, which is one reason why so few companies earn the "World's Most Ethical" distinction. "Some may say that this is a kind of idealism that cannot compete in the real world of business," Supreme Knight Anderson continued. "On the contrary, the tremendous success we have achieved in recent years demonstrates that our approach is the height of what I would describe as Catholic realism. We deal with real persons, not with economic abstractions. Our focus is on the person who is always worthy of respect and who always should take precedence over profit."

The focus stems from our roots. It is our responsibility to continue the business in the way that Father McGivney intended. He founded this organization so that a caring community of



Catholic families could come together and protect widows and orphans from financial devastation upon the death of the breadwinner. Our mission remains the same 133 years later.

That's why, from our founding to the present day, we continue to be unapologetically Catholic.

For us, this means that we must conduct our business in accordance with Catholic principles. We have established a strict screening process for our investments, and we refuse to invest in companies that provide or fund abortions, contraception, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research and pornography.

We are an organization by brother Knights, for brother Knights.

We don't worry about stock price, shareholders or corporate takeovers. We don't obsess over profit margins and golden parachutes. We worry about doing what's right for our members and their families. We rigorously train our agents and hold them to the highest ethical standards. Each agent must sign a code of ethics, which affirms that they agree to always present facts honestly and accurately for the benefit of our members' decision-making.

"Our fraternal ties to our members," it states, "make it more incumbent on us, in our dealings with them, to assure that their interests are uppermost in our minds as we provide solutions to their financial needs. It all boils down simply to the golden rule — do unto others as you would have them do unto you." After all, we are our brother's keeper.

That's our commitment to you. That's our commitment to conducting our business in line with Church teaching, and in line with the vision of our holy founder.

We are honored that the Ethisphere Institute has yet again acknowledged this commitment. It is what makes doing business with the Knights of Columbus truly different.

Discover the benefits of doing business with one of the world's most ethical companies. For more information, contact me at 202-494-6527 or email at david.benjamin@kofc.org.



MAY 7, 2015 - You and your wife are invited! Fletcher Council will host a Supreme Council, Maryland State Council and District 3 Fraternal Benefits Seminar at St. Joseph Catholic Church. This seminar will be tailored for Fletcher Council and members of District 3. The seminar will start promptly at 7:30 P.M.

MASTER'S LOG REPORT

John F. Winfrey - Master AWD

Archdiocese of Washington District Knights of Columbus - Fourth Degree



The Archdiocese of Washington District, Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree held its 45th Exemplification on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at the Colony South Conference Center in Clinton, Maryland. A class of 148, consisting of Priest, Deacons, members of the Armed Forces and candidates from throughout the Archdiocese of Washington District (AWD) participated in a spectacular Fourth Degree Ceremonial.



The Class was named in honor of the Exemplification Honoree, the Reverend Monsignor Walter R. Rossi, J.C.L., M.Div., B.S., Rector, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Father Walter took Perpetual Vows and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Scranton in 1987. In 2005, Monsignor Rossi was appointed the 2nd Rector (11th Director) of the Basilica of the National Shrine. Under his supervision the National Shrine has completed several new construction projects, including two mosaic domes, four new chapels, a new archive, three oratories, new statuary, new mosaics, the installation of sculptures in relief and a state of the art Television Broadcast and Production Room.



AWD Class of 2015



WALSH ASSEMBLY NEWS

Francis P. Blidi - Faithful Navigator



The Bishop James E. Walsh Assembly 1548 welcomed into its assembly at the Archdiocese of Washington District (AWD) Exemplification on April 11th at the Colony South Conference Center, the following new Sir Knights the following new members:

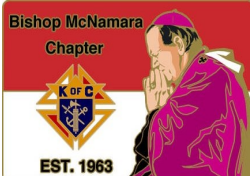
- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Michael M. Achankeng | Dr. Kingsley N. Anurugwo |
| Ikechukwu M. Ezekwu | John O. Grier |
| Onyema G. Nmorka | Steven M. Nwamkpa |
| Christopher C. Okala | Victor C. Onyekwere |
| Joseph O. Oratokhai | Jean-Marie Tcheffo |



Welcome Sir Knights

McNAMARA CHAPTER

Richard Earenfight - Chapter President



It has been a fantastic year for the Bishop Chapter, and we ain't finish yet. We will continue our support of councils of the Maryland State Council. Join us at our next meeting on May 20th at St. John Francis Regis, SJ Council 7914 in Hollywood, Maryland. This meeting will include the election of officers for the 2015-2016. Come out and cast your vote. The slate of officers thus far is as follows:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| President | Tom Firestone |
| Vice President | Tom Santangelo |
| Secretary | Vernon Hawkins, Jr. |
| Treasurer | Joe Massimini |
| Marshall | Andres Padilla |

Charles Springmann

We are ramping up for the Annual Bishop McNamara Chapter Southern Maryland (SOMA) Blue Crabs Baseball Game. See the adjacent flyer for all the details. The primary point of contact for ticket is our Past Chapter President (PCP) Brian Werring. However, as an alternate, feel free to contact any of the chapter officers to pick up and/or to reserve your tickets.

BISHOP McNAMARA CHAPTER

INVITES YOU

TO

VS

Long Island Ducks

Saturday, 6 June 2015, 6:35pm

\$15.00 Ticket Price Includes:

Box Seat Admission to Game (GREAT SEATS!!!)

Tailgate Party (4pm-6pm)
Grilled All Beef Hot Dogs, Hamburger
Chicken and Ribs
Crunchy Potato Chips
Soda & Beer
Grilled Twinkies

Kids Park/Play Area * Fireworks after Game

Colors to be presented by Fr. Andrew White Assembly Flag Team

For more info and Tickets contact:

Brian Werring
 240-925-5668
bwerring@md.metrocast.net

11765 St. Linus Drive
 Waldorf, MD 20602

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ikechukwu R. Agbim, DGK
iagbim@gmail.com

202-276-7796



My tenure as Program Director is slowly coming to an end. I am so proud to have worked with such a fine group of men. We are winding down a very successful activities program year. I don't know how to thank the wonderful jobs that our Activities Directors and our council members have provided to each program throughout the year.

Still, there remains a dire need for "more manpower" to provide the additional help needed for the remaining various events for the remainder of this Year.

Please consider giving of your time to an event or two, to share the load. Our success depends on the participation of its members.

A **BIG THANKS** to the brothers who volunteered and assisted with the two very successful Lenten Fish Fries that were held in February and March. Many of the brothers show up to assist with the cleanup and this made the event extremely helpful to the brothers that were there all day cooking, serving and delivering the meals.

A **Big Thanks** go out to the KC Ladies, because without them and the other Ladies of the Church community the fish fry would not have been as successful as it turn out to be.

I am extremely proud of the two very successful "**Cup of Joe**" programs sponsored by the council this fraternal year. This was a new venture for the council and St. Joseph parish which provided breakfast for over 800 homeless shelter residences in the Washington Metropolitan area.

Coming up on May 15th is the Youth Talent Show and June-August our summer Flea Markets.

These and several council events are on tap and welcome your assistance as we endeavor to support all of the major elements of Church, Council, Community, Family, Youth and Pro-Life.

My sincere thanks for all you do.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Cal Thompson, Council Activities Director
calthompsn@msn.com



301-249-2955

My Brothers All, it is quickly approaching and we are gearing up for "**Flea Market Mania**" and there is much excitement in the air. Phones are already ringing as anxious vendors and individuals call in to register and reserve their Flea Market space. Council members support of this event has been what has made it so successful in the past. Thus, volunteers are needed to ensure that this year is just as successful. Now, pass the word about the Flea Market, invite your family and friends and lets have some fun.

Fletcher Council – Knights of Columbus

Flea Market

St. Joseph Church – Parking Lot
 2020 St. Joseph Drive
 Saturday, June 27 (8:00 AM to 1:00 PM)
 July 25, & Aug 22 (8:00 AM to 1:00 PM)

Find A Good Deal
 OR
 Buy A Space and Keep the Cash



Vendor Info:

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
 301-390-7150

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Alan Davis, Church Activities Director
adavis1960@verizon.net



Pope Francis will visit Washington, D.C. between September 22 and September 25, 2015. During his time with us, among other things, the Holy Father will meet with President Barack Obama at the White House, address a joint meeting of both houses of Congress, and on the afternoon of September 23 will declare Junípero Serra a saint during a Mass celebrated at the East Portico of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception which adjoins the campus of The Catholic University of America.

Pope Francis has captured the imagination of people around the world and touched the hearts of Catholics and others who do not share our faith. We look to his visit to Washington as a time of grace and an opportunity for each of us to grow closer to our Lord, Jesus Christ, and experience his Gospel of joy and mercy. To learn more, I invite you to visit our archdiocesan webpage to sign up to receive papal visit updates via text or email.

The many ministries at St. Joseph provide spiritual comfort, friendly greetings and economic assistance to our parishioners, their families and our community. Currently, the Repast Committee, the Bereavement Support Ministry, Good Samaritans Ministry, Social Justice Committee, Hospitality Ministry, Altar Servers (adult and children), Lector Ministry and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are in need of volunteers to increase their membership. All of these ministries are an important part of our stewardship and evangelization as Christians and help us advance God's kingdom. If you, your wife, children, grandchildren or other family members have *any* time to give to these ministries, please consider volunteering. To volunteer, contact the ministry chairperson listed on the church website or bulletin, the church office (301) 773-4838 or contact Alan Davis (301) 808- 8009 (adavis1960@verizon.net).

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

*Bernard Broadus, Community Activities Director
Bernard.broadus@xerox.com*



301-262-2350

SENIOR TEA 70+

The KC Ladies Auxiliary put on a fantastic Senior Tea event on Saturday, April 22, 2015, in the magnificently decorated Rosemont Room at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Seventy-Two seniors, seventy and older, attended the event. The ladies were dressed for the affair in beautiful dresses, hats and heels. So too were the men dressed for the occasion, in their Sunday best. Fletcher Council members were on hand as waiters, serving the guest trays of scones, fruit, a selections of sandwiches, desserts and a myriad of tea selections.



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

*Gabriel O. Nmorka, Family Activities Director
ogmorkson@comcast.net*



301-350-7637



- The Wallace Family -

The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ indeed brings us new life and renewed hope for eternal life. Therefore living as new people, our daily actions both in the Church and Community should demonstrate our will to pursue the Christian ideal. It's worthy of note that in St Joseph Parish, we have families whose daily actions remind us of what our Christian Faith demands of us. It is with great pride and honor in this last quarter of the 2014 - 2015 Fraternal Year of the Knights of Columbus that the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422, has chosen to acknowledge the family of **Keith and Vanetta Wallace** as the top Family of the Month for their contributions to St. Joseph Church and Community.

Keith, Sr., is an active Parishioner, a member of the Men's Club. He participates in the Parish Ministries. With his family, he holds daily Bible study in their home, studying the scripture and ways of proclaiming the message.

Vanetta, is a member of the Young Adult Ministry. She is an Ultreya Leader for the Central PG Ultreya under the Archdiocese of Washington's Cursillo Movement, a Worldwide Organization within the Catholic Church. She serves as the Assistant Choir Director for both the Youth and Adult Choirs and a popular Cantor in the Gospel Choir.

Keith, Sr. and Vanetta Wallace have two children and have been members of St. Joseph Parish since 2001. They are involved in different activities in the Church and/or Community.

Keivana, the daughter is a member of the Children of Virtue Dance Ministry, a Peer Tutor, a Cantor and a very active member of the Children Choir.

Keith, Jr. the son is also active as a member of the Children Choir and a Cantor. He is an excellent Saxophonist, often playing during the 11:00am Mass. And he is an active participant in the St. Joseph "Grow our own Musician Program".

We are indeed proud to have the Wallace family in St. Joseph Parish. God Bless the entire family.

MEMBERSHIP QUEST

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



240-441-9086

MEMBERSHIP IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS is open to men 18 years of age or older who are practical (that is, practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See. This means that an applicant or member accepts the teaching authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, aspires to live in accord with the precepts of the Catholic Church, and is in good standing in the Catholic Church.

Fletcher Council has been blessed with an average increase in its membership of 10+ new members per year. Thus far this year, we are on track to reach this year's membership goal of 14. We have a First Degree scheduled for May 21st, and Form 100s applications in hand to do so. If you should have a friend, relative and/or pew mate that are interested in becoming a Knight of Columbus, I welcome there application or an opportunity to speak with them. I am just a phone call and an email away.

The following is a listed of members that were welcomed into our council this fraternal year:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Michael N. Atabongakeng | George Benyella |
| Jordan Gill | John O. Grier |
| Thomas F. Matthews IV | Uzochukwu Nnanna |
| Christopher C. Okala | Nelson Okpah |
| Chino Osondu-Anyanwu | Francis N. Somerville |



PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES

Dr. Peter Methodius-Ngwodo, Pro-Life Director
pmethodius@yahoo.com 301-328-9142



The Archdiocese of Washington **Birthing and Care Program** provides assistance and resources to women in difficult pregnancy situations. Help is available when challenges such as unemployment, lack of health insurance, immigration status, financial difficulties or the fear of telling the baby's father or loved one about the pregnancy make it difficult for a woman to choose life for her unborn child.

The Birthing and Care Program provides emotional and spiritual support, crisis pregnancy information, help with prenatal care, labor, and delivery services, information and referral to various programs such as Medicaid, WIC, mother and baby classes, and post abortion information and referrals. The center is located at 4700 Berwyn House Road, Suite 240, College Park, Maryland 20740, telephone 301-441-1472.

EDITORS NOTE

Vernon Hawkins, Jr., Editor
vhawkinsjr@aol.com

301-336-0284

This is the final edition of the ***KnightsLife*** for this fraternal year. ***KnightsLife*** was formatted and edited to inform you about the accomplishments and plans of the James C. Fletcher Council and of our Order. We wanted everyone to know of the good things happening, and perhaps to learn something new along the way about our Church, our Order, and our Founder. If we occasionally raised an eyebrow or put a smile on your face, we did our job. It is hoped that the new Fletcher Council administration for the 2015-2016 fraternal year will endeavor to implement a new and improved version of ***KnightsLife***.

Vernon Hawkins, Jr., Editor

K C LADIES AUXILIARY

Cathy Gresham, President

301-868-5795

"Senior (70+) Tea"



Sisters and Brothers, my sincere thank you, thank you, thank you for your help, support and being there for a sensational KC Ladies Auxiliary Fourth Annual Senior Tea program. It is often said, but truly said in this case, "We could not have done it without you."

We had over 72 very satisfied guest. The accolades are still coming in via phone, emails and the grapevine network. The Tea, Food and the socializing were the drawing card. However, being served so eloquently by the Knights was the icing on the cake. Also, the beautiful pictures and superb DVD provided by Grand Knight Tim Matthews are greatly appreciated. If at all possible, please provide two additional copies of the DVD.

God Bless you my Sisters and Brothers for all you do.



Youth Talent Show

Friday, May 15, 2015
7-9 PM

St. Joseph Catholic Church - Rosemont Room
2020 St. Joseph Drive, Largo, Maryland 20774

BE A PERFORMER!

Calling all singers, musicians, dancers, actors, poets, and performers! Share your talent with the community and win prizes! Solo and group acts are welcome!

Participants: Youth ages 7 to 18 years

Performers must be pre-registered by April 21st.

Short auditions will be held April 24th, 7:30 p.m. and May 1st 7:30 p.m.

SEE THE SHOW!

Vote for your favorite act!
Enjoy a great night of entertainment

**Prizes
Awarded!**

Free will donations are requested to benefit the Youth and Charities.

TO REGISTER CONTACT

Virginette Scott - youth@stjosephlargo.org - 301-773-4838

Alan Davis - adavis1960@verizon.net - 301-808-8009

SPONSORED BY

James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council Charities, Knights of Columbus
The Youth Ministry of St. Joseph

TRAVELING CHALICE PROGRAM



During the month of April, the family of SK Ikechukwu "Ike" Agbim experienced the spiritual gratification of hosting the **"Traveling Chalice"**. On a daily basis the family prayed together for an increase in Vocations in the Catholic Church, especially at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Participation in the **"Traveling Chalice"** program is open to all members of

Fletcher Council, as well as St. Joseph parishioners. To learn how you may participate in the **"Traveling Chalice"** program, see Grand Knight Tim Matthews or Deputy Grand Knight Ike Agbim.

Marian Title for May
Mary, Mediatrix
Of All Graces



“*Mary, Mediatrix of all graces*” is a title that some give to Mary the mother of Jesus, in line with a belief that all the graces that her son gives come through her. In suffering with Him as He died on the cross, she cooperated in the work of the Savior, in an altogether singular way, by obedience, faith, hope, and burning love, to restore supernatural life to souls. As a result she is our Mother in the order of grace.

This motherhood of Mary in the economy of grace lasts without interruption, from the consent which she gave in faith at the annunciation, and which she unhesitatingly bore with under the cross, even to the perpetual consummation of all the elect. For after being assumed into heaven, she has not put aside this saving function, but by her manifold intercession, she continues to win the gifts of eternal salvation for us. By her motherly love, she takes care of the brothers of her Son who are still in pilgrimage and in dangers and difficulties, until they be led through to the happy fatherland.

Let Us Always
Remember



MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 25, 2015



Please, Remember In Your Prayers

Members Who Are Ill



Howard Wynn
Joseph Marshall
Ken Hinton
Donald Wilson
Hugo Braden

James Shorter
William Tolbert
Roscoe Campbell
William Missouri
Mary Julius

REFLECTIONS*Lawrence P. Grayson****Secularism Trumping Religious Freedom***

St. Patrick's Day, which is a holy day of obligation for Catholics in The First Amendment to the Constitution was adopted to guarantee that all Americans can practice their faith as they see fit. The government is neither to establish a state religion nor prohibit the free exercise thereof. This restraint on government, however, is being subverted, not only to constrain the free exercise of religion, but to force business owners and religious institutions to promote secularist doctrines.

In the guise of diversity, non-discrimination and separation of church and state, laws, regulations and policies are being passed that infringe on religious practice and the exercise of individual conscience throughout society, including business, education and the military. Aggressive secularism is inhibiting religious freedom.

The number of law suits brought against small businesses for not assisting at same-sex weddings is large and growing. In the last year alone, a 70-year old florist in Richland, WA, was found liable for refusing to create floral arrangements for a lesbian wedding. The owners of Liberty Ridge Farm, who manage celebratory events on their property and home in Schaghticoke, NY, were fined for not hosting a gay wedding. The owners of the Hitching Post wedding chapel in Coeur d'Alene, ID, who are ordained pastors, were threatened with fines of \$1,000 per day, if they did not perform a same-sex wedding. And recently, immediately after the passage of Indiana's Religious Freedom Reformation Act, the owners of Memories Pizza in Walkerton, IN, were asked by a local TV station if they would cater a same-sex wedding if requested; they said their religious convictions would not allow them to do so. The backlash from the gay community, even though the owners had a right to refuse under Indiana law, was so vicious that they had to temporarily close their business.

These individuals have universally held that that they are willing to provide regular services to homosexuals without distinction, but are unwilling to contribute to ceremonies that violate their religious beliefs. The first is simply a business transaction, while the latter is a statement of endorsement of the wedding. Photographers, florists, bakers, owners of event facilities, wedding coordinators and others need protection because the goods and services they provide are inherently expressive. They do not offer standardized products, like canned goods in a supermarket, but use their talents to tailor messages according to the desires of their customers.

Constraints on religious freedom continue to grow. In Washington, DC, two laws have just been enacted that would coerce religious organizations to act against their religious beliefs. One bill, called the *Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Act*, could, for example, force pro-life employers in the city from considering a job seeker's views on abortion as a condition of employment. A second bill, called the *Human Rights Amendment Act* (HRAA), seeks to prohibit religious-affiliated schools from discriminating against gay and lesbian student groups. This policy could force a Catholic school to support an LGBT club or student-led gay pride event in opposition to the school's stance on homosexuality.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) recently ruled that Mount de Sales Academy, a Catholic prep school in Macon, GA, discriminated against its homosexual band director when he was terminated for his impending marriage to another male. In arriving at its ruling, the EEOC interpreted the Civil Rights Act to include "discrimination based on gender identity, change of sex, and/or transgender status." Under this expansion, Catholic schools are forbidden to require their employees to live by the Catholic understanding of marriage.

At the collegiate-level, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has ruled on the degree of religiosity of several religious colleges. Adjunct faculty members at Pacific Lutheran University, Seattle University, Saint Xavier University, and Manhattan College have appealed to the NLRB to allow them to unionize. The universities, citing a Supreme Court decree, claim that as religious institutions they are exempt from NLRB jurisdiction. Although initial rulings have gone against the universities, final judgements have not been made. The question arises as to who judges whether an institution that claims it is religious is religious enough.

It is not just in civilian life that religious belief and expression are being castigated. Military chaplains are being penalized for promoting their creeds. In March 2015, a highly-commended Navy chaplain was removed from his post for advocating celibacy outside of marriage in private counseling sessions. In December 2014, a chaplain for the 5th Ranger Training Battalion was reprimanded because he was perceived to advocate Christianity and referenced scripture in a mandatory suicide-prevention training session. In January 2013, soldiers in Afghanistan were ordered to take down a steeple and board-up the cross-shaped windows of a chapel at a remote forward operating base.

Although at least 80 percent of U.S. troops are Christian, chaplains are reprimanded if they use the name of Jesus in public events. Military guidelines instruct chaplains to use brief, nonsectarian prayers during military ceremonies. When references to God are generic and public prayers must be approved by a government authority, when a chaplain cannot express his religious beliefs if they conflict with current politically-correct views, when the government can punish a religious leader based on the state's moral disapproval of a church's teachings, the chaplain becomes an agent of the state.

This small sampling of attacks against religious freedom demonstrates the aggressiveness and hostility of secularist groups within American society. They are attempting to remove all references to God from public expression. The seminal principles of this nation – equality, human dignity, unalienable rights, limited government, rule of law – are rooted in Judeo-Christian teachings. Without religious underpinnings, the civic virtue and morality necessary for a government of and by the people cannot survive. There must be a counter-movement to bring God back into the public square. The government, as was the intent of the nation's founders, must adhere to the First Amendment, not establish secularism as a state creed, nor prohibit the free exercise of religion.

Ora pro gente nostra – Pray for our nation.



Smiley Central™

Seeing her friend Sally wearing a new locket, Meg asks if there is a memento of some sort inside.

"Yes," says Sally, "a lock of my husband's hair."

"But Larry's still alive."

"I know, but his hair is gone."

In the hardware store, a clerk asked, "Can I help you find anything?"

"How about my misspent youth," joked my husband.

The clerk shot back, "We keep that in the back, between world peace and winning lottery tickets."

A pastor, a doctor and an engineer wait for a particularly slow group of golfers. The engineer fumes, "What's with these guys? We've been waiting for 15 minutes!"

The pastor says, "Hey, here comes the groundskeeper. Let's have a word with him."

"Say, George, what's with that group ahead of us? They're rather slow, aren't they?" the doctor asks.

The groundskeeper tells them that the other golfers are a group of blind firefighters who lost their sight saving the clubhouse from a fire and that they come and play for free whenever they want.

The group is silent for a moment.

The pastor says, "That's so sad. I will say a special prayer for them tonight."

The doctor says, "Good idea. I'm going to contact my ophthalmologist buddy and see if there's anything he can do for them."

The engineer says, "Why can't these guys play at night?"

Jim decided to tie the knot with his longtime girlfriend. One evening, after the honeymoon, he was cleaning his golf shoes. His wife was standing there watching him. After a long period of silence she finally speaks. "Honey, I've been thinking, now that we are married I think it's time you quit golfing. Maybe you should sell your golf clubs." Jim gets this horrified look on his face. She says, "Darling, what's wrong?" "There for a minute you were sounding like my ex-wife." "Ex-wife!" she screams, "I didn't know you were married before!" "I wasn't!"

A police officer stops a blonde for speeding and asks her very nicely if he could see her license. She replied in a huff, "I wish you guys could get your act together. Just yesterday you take away my license and then today you expect me to show it to you."

A husband was trying to prove to his wife that women talk more than men. He showed her a study which indicated that men use about 10,000 words per day, whereas women use 20,000 words per day. His wife thought about this for a while. She then told her husband that women use twice as many words as men because they have to repeat everything they say. Her husband looked stunned. He said "What?"

MARYLAND STATE COUNCIL
117th Annual Convention - May 1, 2, 3, 2015

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY

11:00 AM Convention Golf Tournament
 5:00 PM to Pre-Convention Registration
 7:00 PM (Barbados Room)

FRIDAY

9:00 AM Mass (Mako Room) with Exposition of
 The Blessed Sacrament until 11:30 AM
 Convention Registration
 (Barbados Room)
 1:00 PM to Youth Activity
 3:00 PM (Eleuthera Room)
 2:00 PM District Deputy Mtg. (Caribbean Hall)
 3:00 PM Grand Knights' \$1000 Olympics
 for Charity (Atrium Area)
 6:00 PM to Convention Registration
 8:00 PM (Barbados Room)
 7:00 PM Mass & Opening Session of
 Convention (Caribbean Hall)
 7:00 PM Ladies Activities – (Palmetto
 Ballroom), Doors open 6:30 PM
 7:00 PM to Youth Activity
 9:00 PM (Eleuthera Room)
 8:30 to Open House - Hospitality Rooms
 Midnight (Atrium Area)

SATURDAY

7:30 AM to Convention Registration
 10:30 AM (Barbados Room)
 8:30 AM Assemble for Grand Knight March
 (Sun Deck)
 9:00AM Awards Program (Atrium Area)
 11:00 AM Second Session of Convention
 (Caribbean Hall)
 11:00 AM to Youth Activity
 1:00 PM (Eleuthera Room)
 3:00 PM Assemble for Convention Mass
 (Front of the Hotel)
 3:30 PM Rosary (St. Luke's)
 4:00 PM Concelebrated Mass (St. Luke's)
 5:45 PM Convention Banquet (Palmetto Ballroom)
 (Cash Bar – Doors Open 5:15 PM)
 5:45 PM to Youth Activity
 8:00 PM (Eleuthera Room)
 8:00 PM to Open House - Hospitality Rooms
 Midnight (Atrium Area)

SUNDAY

7:30 AM Mass (Mako Room)
 9:00 AM District Deputy Meeting
 (Dominica Room)
 9:30 AM Closing Session of Convention
 (Caribbean Hall)



"HAPPY BIRTHDAY"

****MAY****

- 2015 -

- 01 Francois M. Diadhiou
- 02 Anthony T. Stevenson
- 05 Anthony L. Marshall
- 05 Okechukwu F. Mbadugha
- 05 Justin Sinkpon
- 07 Maurice Carpenter
- 07 Moses I. Offiah
- 09 Vincent King
- 09 Alexander C. Nnabue
- 10 Edmund J. Gary
- 12 Paul M. Nicholas
- 14 Mervyn Chancellor
- 17 Lawrence Ekeagweu
- 19 Alex Akpan
- 23 Elias Anochirim
- 24 Frederick K. Martins
- 24 Derrick W. Wilson
- 25 Vincent E. Jordan
- 26 Dr. Mark P. Neri
- 30 Anthony K. Fidelis
- 30 Michael Nyame-Mireku



*"Oh' The Joy
of a
Birthday"*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

****MAY****



Thanks for always being there...

- 1-3 Maryland State KofC Convention, Ocean City, MD
- 05 Cinco de Mayo
- 07 Fletcher Council Meeting, 7:30 PM (**Elections**)
- 07 National Day of Prayer
- 10 Mother's Day
- 11 Bishop Walsh Assembly Meeting 8 P.M. (**Elections**)
- 14 **Ascension of the Lord**
- 15 Youth Talent Show
- 16 Armed Forces Day
- 17 Knights Sunday Mass @ 11:00 A.M.
- 20 McNamara Chapter Meeting, (**Elections**), St. John Francis Regis, SJ Council 7914, Hollywood, MD 8:00 PM
- 21 Fletcher Council Meeting, 7:30 P.M. (**First Degree**)
- 25 Memorial Day

Maryland State Council Officers

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| State Deputy | Stephen J. Adamczyk |
| District Deputy | Michael P. Davenport |
| District Warden | G. Emeka Onwezi |
| Field Agent | David B. Benjamin |

James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council Officers

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Chaplain | Rev. Roy E. Campbell, Jr. |
| Associate Chaplain | Deacon Alton Davis, Jr. |
| Associate Chaplain | Deacon A. Douglas Turner |
| Grand Knight | Thomas F. Matthews |
| Deputy Grand knight | Ikechukwu R. Agbim |
| Chancellor. | Jose R. Barberena |
| Warden. | Alan M. Davis |
| Financial Secretary | Robert B. Sistare |
| Recorder. | Damel S. Goddard |
| Treasurer | Harold F. Sanders, Jr. |
| Lecturer. | Michael P. Akpan |
| Advocate | J. Bernard Broadus |
| Trustee 3 year. | John W. Huntley |
| Trustee 2 year. | G. Emeka Onwezi |
| Trustee 1 year. | Charles N. Okpah |
| Inside Guard. | Vincent Akas |
| Outside Guard. | Ernest E. Bennett |
| Convention Delegate | Thomas F. Matthews |
| First Alternate | G. Emeka Onwezi |
| Second Alternate | Vernon Hawkins, Jr. |

Program and Activity Committees

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Service Program Director | Ikechukwu R. Agbim |
| Church Director | Alan M. Davis |
| Council Director | Calvin A. Thompson |
| Community Director | J. Bernard Broadus |
| Family Director | Onyema G. Nmorka |
| Youth Director | Philippe A. Beauboeuf |
| Culture of Life Director | Peter Methodius-Ngwodo |
| Vocation Chairman | Jose R. Barberena |
| Health Services | Peter Methodius-Ngwodo |
| Public Relations | Vernon Hawkins, Jr. |
| Columbian Squires | Michael P. Davenport |
| Membership Director | John W. Huntley |
| Recruitment Committee | G. Emeka Onwezi |
| Recruitment Committee | Alan M. Davis |
| Recruitment Committee | Calvin A. Thompson |
| Retention Chairman | Charles N. Okpah |
| Insurance Promotion | Robert B. Sistare |
| Pro-Life Couple | Peter & Justina Methodius-Ngwodo |
| First Degree Team Captain | Harold F. Sanders, Jr. |
| First Degree Team Asst. | Alan M. Davis |
| Newsletter | Vernon Hawkins, Jr. |
| Web Master | Michael P. Akpan |
| Scholarship Program Chairman | Peter Methodius-Ngwodo |
| Historian | Vernon Hawkins, Jr. |
| Photographer | Thomas F. Matthews |

Squires Circle Officers

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Chief Squire | Isaiah Scott |
| Deputy Chief Squire | Ikenna Azubike |
| Notary | Vacant |
| Bursar | Justin Okpah |
| Sentries | Nelson Okpah |
| Spiritual Committee Chair | Stephen Bazuaye |
| Membership Committee Chair | Kofi Nyome Mireku |
| Service Committee Chair | Chinazom Ojiaku |