

KNIGHTLIFE



Volume 23 Issue 5

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

November 2017

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

A Grateful Nation Remembers



VETERANS DAY

November 11, 2017

Arlington National Cemetery





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Chaplain Thoughts. . .

“You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbor as yourself.”

by Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr.

The Sadducees had just approached Jesus, telling Him that they did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. Jesus answered them saying *“Have you not read what was said to you by God, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?’ He is not the God of the dead but the living.”* Yet, despite Jesus’ answers that they could not argue with, the Sadducees and the Pharisees continued to constantly try to discredit Him in public.

LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL OUR MIND AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.

This time, they wanted to discredit Jesus over which of the more than 600 religious laws, which they created, was the most important. They were trying to again place Jesus in a position where His answer would anger one faction over the other, as they tried in last week’s Gospel about the validity of the Census Tax.

When asked which commandment is the greatest, Jesus tells them, *“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”* In the time of Jesus, the heart was associated with the mind or will; the soul was associated with life. What is meant here is that the love of God must be comprised of a total response without distraction or competition.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.

Then Jesus immediately added the second great commandment, *“You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”* We see that these two commandments are inseparable. How can we love God, whom we have never seen, if we cannot love our neighbors, who we see often?

God created each of us in His image and likeness. Therefore, each of us is meant to resemble God; just as each child in a family resembles their parents. Jesus is telling the Pharisees and Sadducees, and us, that we are more than neighbors to each other. Each of us is God’s child; therefore, we truly are sisters and brothers to each other. We are called to love each other the way we are called to love God, selflessly and completely.

EACH OF US IS GOD’S CHILD; THEREFORE, WE TRULY ARE SISTERS AND BROTHERS TO EACH OTHER.



*** THANK YOU ***
DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT
MICHAEL E. YOUNGER
FOR ALL THAT YOU DO.



Your Grand Knight For The 2017 - 2018 Fraternal Year

"Trust in the Lord with all thy Heart."

J. Bernard Broadus



Brother Knights,

What is "Charity"? By definition, it is...

- an organization set up to provide help and raise money for those in need;
- the body of organizations viewed collectively as the object of fundraising or donations;
- the voluntary giving of help, typically in the form of money to those in need;
- help or money giving voluntarily to those in need;
- kindness and tolerance in judging others;
- love of humankind, typically in a Christian context.

Hmm, sounds a lot like the James C Fletcher Jr. Council's knights. It is not only our duty as knights, but also a command from our Lord to love our neighbors.

Brothers, we will have plenty of opportunities through our upcoming fall programs to show charity, "Christian love to our fellow men". Which program (or maybe all) will you participate in this fall?

Cup Of Joe, Religious Night Priests and Nuns Appreciation Dinner, Box of Joy, Baby Bottles for Forestville Pregnancy Center, Thanksgiving Baskets for Council Brothers, I would encourage you all to participate as our Lord leads you.

Take it to prayer and ask our Lord to guide you where He wants you to go. He will answer, all you have to do "is listen and do as he tells you". And going forward, ask yourself each night, what act of charity did I do today for my fellow man? It is not just a council thing, but the way we live our lives daily.

Veterans' Day



Remember, November 11th is Veterans' Day.

*Take a moment to reflect on all of those who made
the supreme sacrifice and thank a
Veteran for his or her service to our country.*

Hanging Out With The State Deputy



Yes Sir, that is our very own District Deputy G. Emeka Onwezi and District Warden Michael Akpan showing off with State Deputy Steven Cohen at the State's Fall Meeting.



District Deputy's Report

State Deputy's Report



G. Emeka Onwezi
District Deputy

As we enter the month of November, please remember to honor our brother Knights who have gone before us. Also, we should pray and remember their widows that they left behind. The council should organize a memorial for these faithful that have departed. Have a Memorial Mass in your parish in remembrance of them.

On council growth, I was happy to attend the Maryland State's Star Council Award held on October 28, 2017. Out of 23 councils in the whole state with Star Council awards, two of them were from our District 2. Congratulations to *St. Mary's of Landover Hills Council 10046* for receiving Double Star Council Award and *St. Jerome Council 5564* for receiving Star Council Award. *James C. Fletcher, Jr., Council 11422* is in the right track this fraternal year in growing the order and close to get the highest council award of Star Council this fraternal year. Continue growing your council.



With the Church Drive completed, I know the council was able to sign up potential members to be member of the Knight of Columbus. Please do not sit on that Form 100. Schedule Admission Degree as soon as you get those Form 100 approved by your council, or take the candidate to other Admission Degrees scheduled around the area.

Please continue to promote your council's activities out there. Create Facebook account for your council, twitter, website, WhatsApp and other social media. It does pay when you broadcast your activities to the public. Others will ask to join our order if they see what we do, thereby growing our council and order at the same time.

Continue working on charitable outreach. These people need us. The poor, sick and needy do not take break or go on vacation. They are always in need of us and we should not take breaks in reaching out and helping those who cannot help themselves. Remember to participate in *Box of Joy Program*, *Pennies From Heaven Campaign*, and the *Iraqi Town Initiative*. More information about these initiatives can be found in our Maryland State Council website, or attend one of the monthly Grand Knights Chapter meetings.

As our State Deputy said *"keep the momentum going – we cannot let up. It is not I – It is we. It is one goal - and it is our goal. And that goal is to make this our best year ever."*

Vivat Jesus!



Stephen M. Cohen
State Deputy

My Brothers All and Lovely Ladies,

October was a very busy and fruitful month for us as a State jurisdiction. This is the month in which we remember our patron, Christopher Columbus. My very special thanks to all that organized, participated and attended our Columbus Day events. The Parade in Baltimore was fantastic. The Ball was outstanding. The DC Celebration just fabulous. Although all reports are not yet in, the Incentive Raffle seems to have had another banner year.

The Fall Meeting in Cumberland was very well attended and those required to attend brought home a ton of information. Information that will help us to meet and exceed our goals for this Fraternal Year.

Again, much thanks to our State Treasurer Vince Grauso for chairing the Statewide Domestic Church event. This proved to be a great day for the Family. The Supreme Council sent their Domestic Church display for us to use.

On Saturday, October 28th, we held Star Night as we celebrated all those Councils and Districts that achieved STAR status last Fraternal Year. A Gala event again hosted by our State Treasurer Vince and his wife Mary Jane.

Formation Degree Teams are beginning to be certified. This new degree enhances our story for the candidates and leaves them looking for more. If you have not yet scheduled your teams certification contact either myself or Andy Bauer State Ceremonials Chairman.

From a Membership perspective we are doing well. At the Fall Meeting our goal was to be at twenty percent and we were. By Mid Term we should be at fifty percent of our goal and I believe we will. We continue to grow each and every day. Also by Mid Term we would like to see Every Council membership Active. This means that they have recruited one new member. Please continue to recruit and continue to hold Admission degrees and continue to get those Form 100s in within forty-eight hours.

November is the month when we remember our fallen brothers and their ladies. Please plan to attend our Annual Memorial Mass. Get your responses into Pat Corcoran. Remember this is a State Sponsored Event, it is open to everyone, especially Grand Knights. We look forward to seeing you there.

We are Advocates of the Lord.

Vivat Jesus

Steve

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>



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPREME KNIGHT'S

Carl A. Anderson - Supreme Knight

MLK's Example Holds the Answers to Both Racism and Political Violence

In the current climate, our country desperately needs to rediscover the moral example of **Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** His commitment to loving **nonviolent struggle and protest** was a principled response to the verifiable injustices committed against defenseless black people in our society.

From King's conception of love and non-violence sprang the equally weighty duty of confronting those responsible with the call to end a system of racial subjugation.

In his essay "Nonviolence and Racial Justice" published in the *Christian Century* in 1957, King laid out a path forward for the country modeled on a love-based, **nonviolent resistance**. He wrote:



"At the center of nonviolence stands the principle of love. In struggling for human dignity, the oppressed people of the world must not allow themselves to become bitter or indulge in hate campaigns. To retaliate with hate and bitterness would do nothing but intensify the hate in the world. Along the way of life, someone must have sense enough and morality enough to cut off the chain of hate. This can be done only by projecting the ethics of love to the center of our lives."

RELATED



POLITICS

What We Miss When We Ignore Asian Americans

If **King** were here today, we know from the historical record, that he would have condemned in the most explicit terms, any form of violent political protest.

He would have condemned both the program and the violence of neo-Nazis, **white supremacists**, and other **racist hate groups**. While even these – like all Americans – have the constitutional right to speak and protest, they have neither a constitutional nor a moral right to violence. King would have spoken up clearly on all of that. In fact, his entire program was designed to show the moral and political bankruptcy of those who traded in racism.

But King would not have sanctioned the violent actions of extremists such as **Antifa** either. If they seek to resist racism, they should adopt him as the exemplar of legitimate opposition.

For King, nonviolence did not mean staying silent, it meant speaking and acting against racism while avoiding the violent tactics of the racists.

Six decades after **Dr. King** wrote, we – and other religious leaders from throughout this country – have added our voices to his, signing a letter embracing the principles that he laid out in that essay. We understand that trying to justify violence based from any political viewpoint is a recipe for coming apart at the very moment we need to come together.

Now as then, we must choose whether this country will overcome deep racial and political divisions with justice and forgiveness, or deepen them with hatred and violence.

Concrete examples of the power of forgiveness continue to show the importance of heeding the better angels of our nature. In **Charleston, S.C.**, in 2015, the congregation of **Mother Emmanuel AME Church** reacted with **love and forgiveness** to an act of domestic terrorism. The pastor and eight members of the congregation were murdered immediately following a prayer meeting which the killer had attended with them. Their reaction stood in sharp

contrast to the urge to retaliate that has met violence elsewhere. **Dylann Roof** had wanted to launch a race war, but the forgiveness expressed by the families of the victims and the congregation affected meant that love stopped that outbreak of racist violence from going any further.

That church community reminded us of the truth of Rev. King's words 50 years ago in his book *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community*, where he wrote:

"Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

The actions of the community of Mother Emmanuel captured the attention of the country because hatred and revenge are often easier paths to follow than love, nonviolence, and forgiveness. When wronged, *"an eye for an eye"* is often more appealing to us mortals than the tougher admonition *"love your enemies."*

For that reason – among others – love and nonviolence are all the more powerful. Especially in a democracy, nonviolent principles do not enable evil or violence to triumph, rather they break their hold and show a better path forward by staking out a moral high ground that is indisputable. Acting on these standards underlines the deficiencies of the opposite path while also showing a better way to our antagonists.

The better path, the only path to our salvation as a country, was made clear by Rev. King in 1967: "The beauty of nonviolence is that in its own way and in its own time it seeks to break the chain reaction of evil." We can again break that chain reaction, and the prescription is the same one given by Rev. King. Now as then, religious leaders have taken the first step. For their own sake – and that of future generations – the rest of the country should do so as well.





FRATERNAL BENEFITS

David Benjamin, Fraternal Benefit Advisor
David.benjamin@kofc.org *202-494-6527*

OUR STORY

FOUNDED BY A PRIEST TO PROTECT CATHOLIC FAMILIES



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 OF GRAND KNIGHTS

Vernon Hawkins, Jr. - Chapter President - vhawkinsjr@aol.com - 301-367-1881



We had a Crab & Shrimp good time at the Annual Bishop McNamara Chapter dinner hosted by Calvert Council 7870 in North Beach, Maryland on Wednesday, October 18th. Below, see members of the McNamara Chapter, Calvert Council and some of our satisfied customers:

Council members are invited to join us at the next McNamara Chapter meeting for our Memorial Mass, as we pray and remember our brothers and sisters who have died since November 2016. Grand Knights are requested to submit names to be included in the necrology readings. The Mass will be followed by a Silent Auction and lite refreshments. It is all happening at Sacred Heart Council 2577 in Bowie, Maryland. Please see the flyer below for details.



Bishop McNamara Chapter of Grand Knights Memorial Mass and Silent Auction

(and abbreviated November Chapter Meeting)

November 15, 2017

Sacred Heart Council No. 2577

6111 Columbian Way, Bowie, Maryland 20715

Memorial Mass at 7:30 P.M.

Silent Auction before and after Mass

Jacket and Tie for Mass

Ladies are Invited

Food will be served after the meeting

Necrology

Send your Council Necrology to the

Chapter Vice President no later than

November 1, 2017

Joe Massimini – joemassi@comcast.net 240-997-0402

Silent Auction

It's not too early for you to mark your calendars to ensure you attend and help to support the important charitable works of our Chapter. The silent auction helps us to raise money for our Chapter's charity for this fraternal year; St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth, and Families. Your donations of auction-able, new or like new, items are greatly appreciated. You can bring your donation to the September 20th, October 18th or on November 15th Chapter meetings. If you have any questions you can contact Jack Giacalone at 301 774 6338 or at jgiacal@verizon.net.



WALSH ASSEMBLY NEWS

Michael P. Davenport - Faithful Navigator



We are almost half way through our fraternal year and the programs we put in place for this fraternal year are in full force, especially partnering with councils, making 4th Degree presence known in our community and patriotic support for veterans. First, we had a successful Religious Night on October 26, 2017, honoring Priests and Nuns in our area. The event was co-sponsored by Bishop Walsh Assembly and St Pius X Council 4076. It was held at Sarto Hall in Forestville, Maryland.

The event was well attended by priests, nuns, Knights and their families. We were blessed with more than six priests in attendance and more than 50 nuns presence. Some of the nuns came from Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus & Our Lady of Guadalupe, Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul, Mother Teresa Navarro, and Religious of Mary Immaculate Centro Maria. Some of the priests at the event were, our Faithful Friar Fr. Joseph Jenkins of Holy Family Church, Fr. Thomas LaHood of St. Mary of the Assumption, Fr. Aaron.

The event was to honor the Priests and Nuns. It is a saying that when you honor one priest, you honored the priesthood. In the same manner, when you honor one nun, you honored all nuns. We had more than 150 guests at this event. We hope to make this an annual event and next year event will be bigger and better.

Vivat Jesus!

“New Color Corps Uniform Coming”



L/R - The Master of the Archdiocese of Washington District (AWD), Sir Knight Micheal Thumm dressed in the new 4th Degree regalia, accompanied by Vernon Hawkins, President of the Bishop McNamara Chapter, and Sir Knight Tom Santangelo in the “current” regalia.





PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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



I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my brother knights for their support of a multitude of events in October, from the Cup of Job project, Children's Halloween Party, to the 5th Sunday Rosary. My brother knights were there. And I am confident that you will continue to be there as we continue to help those in need during the coming months, to include: Thanksgiving Baskets, Coats for Kids and Box of Joy projects .

Thanksgiving is on the horizon, and we will be there to help the St. Joseph St Vincent DePaul Society, we will be there to support the many Advent events, and we will be there throughout the fraternal year to provide assistance and prayers for our brothers and sisters. Charity is the first principle of our Order, may you never forget.

The End of an Era: On a sad note, the end of a council's annual tradition is upon us this Christmas season. The Annual Christmas Tree sales will **NOT** occur this year. Due to increasing cost, insufficient profits and local competition, it has been determined that it is too costly for the council to remain as a seller. Brother Cal has been on the forefront of this effort for over twenty-years and I extend my sincere thanks for his dedication and a gallant effort throughout the years. He has truly set an example for one and all, and is a true legend in our time. **Thank you Sir Knight Cal A. Thompson for all that you do.**

Breaking News: Our KC Ladies Auxiliary is bringing back its **Annual Christmas Gala**, and you are invited to attend. Please join the KC Ladies Auxiliary on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at St. Joseph, Rosemont Room. Tickets are \$30.00 per person, see the KC Ladies flyer on page 20 for more details. It is essential that we/you support these wonderful Ladies, for they have been a true blessing of support to the Church and Fletcher Council throughout its existence. **I am in for two (2) tickets. How about YOU?**

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Chidubem M. Oparaoji, Activities Director
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“Prayer can truly change your life. For it turns your attention away from yourself and directs your mind and heart toward the Lord.”

— Saint John Paul II

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COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Cal Thompson, Council Activities Director


calthompsn@msn.com

301-249-2955



Brother Knights, tickets for our Annual Mardi Gras on February 10, 2018 went on sale in October. They are being snapped up at a record pace. There were 150 tickets initially available, within minutes after they went on sale, 64 were sold. Therefore, if you have plans to attend, I urge you to **NOT** procrastinate, but to purchase/reserve Your ticket(s) **NOW**. See the flyer below and get your order in.

MARDI GRAS




FEATURING
"THE EXCLUSIVES"



Date: Saturday, February 10, 2018
Time: 7pm 'til Midnight
Where: St. Joseph's Rosemont Room
 2020 St. Joseph's Drive
 Largo, MD 20774
 (301) 773-4838



Menu

- Seafood Gumbo w/Rice
- Chicken Gumbo w/Rice
- Baked Chicken
- Meatballs
- Potato Salad
- Rice Pilaf
- Green Beans
- Rolls/Butter
- Cake
- Punch/Ice Tea
- Bottled Water
- "Open Bar"

**Mask Optional
Or
Semiformal**



"A Truly New Orleans Gala - Traditional Mardi Gras - Superb Music & Entertainment"
ADMISSION ONLY \$45.00 PER PERSON

For Tickets Call/Email
 Vernon Hawkins - 301-336-0284 - vhawkinsjr@aol.com
 Cal Thompson - 301-928-2157 - calthompsn@msn.com
 Sponsored By The James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422
 Knights of Columbus



COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Michael Younger, Community Activities Director



mrwhy@verizon.net

301-980-6779



KNIGHTS IN ACTION



BK Harold M. Countee

The Tootsie Roll Drive is a Knights of Columbus fundraiser in which Knights distribute tootsie rolls in exchange for donations. The donations support programs geared to improve the quality of life for people with Intellectual Disabilities. During the 2017 campaign, members of Fletcher Council has collected monies canvassing in front of the Bowie, Maryland *WALMART*. The dates so far were on Saturday, October 14th and Saturday, October 21st. The brothers have been doing 2-hour shifts beginning at 10 A.M. and ending at 6 P.M. There has been a lot comradery and competition between the various shifts. Various fund collecting techniques have been mentioned and applied by the various shifts:

- Establish eye contact, smile and speak with a Good Morning /Evening.
- Mention that you're collecting funds for children with disabilities.
- Offer a tootsie roll to children and their parents will usually make a donation.
- Some brothers say bringing their own children to assist in fund collection is a plus.
- Have a Sir Knight in full Color Corps regalia during the shift.

We all used some of the above techniques listed above. With the aid of many of these techniques, one evening shift collected \$304.00 during their 2-hour shift. Thus far, nearly \$2,000.00 has been collected for people with Intellectual Disabilities. It is a great feeling volunteering and just hanging out with your brothers, knowing that you are doing something positive. I encourage members to sign up for one of the upcoming fund collection shifts. *

* Prepared by SK John O. Grief



SK Leon F. Williams



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Efrain Anderson, Family Activities Director

canal511@aol.com

301-372-6426

Each Family Is Central To The New Evangelization

In the New Testament we read of communities that met in their homes for prayer and private devotion. As Pope Francis explains in his exhortation *The Joy of Love*, each meeting place was considered “a domestic church . . . A home filled with the presence of God, common prayer and every blessing.”

The phrase “domestic church” has been used to describe families since the beginning of Christianity. Today, the Church still uses this unique description, saying, “The family is, so to speak, the domestic church. In its parents should, by their word and example, be the first preachers of the faith to their children; they should encourage them in the vocation which is proper to each of them “ (*Lumen Gentium*, 11).

More precisely, a domestic church is a Christian family that, strengthened by the graces of the sacrament of matrimony, lives together in a community of prayer; learns about the faith, human virtue and Christian charity; and helps evangelize the world.



SK Judge William “Bill” Missouri and the Missouri Family

Families are the domestic church where Jesus grows; he grows in the love of spouses, he grows in the lives of children.”

MEMBERSHIP QUEST

Alan M. Davis, Membership Director

adavis1960@verizon.net

301-808-8009



(L/R) DW Michael Akpan, FBA David Benjamin, PGK Ike Agbim and DD Emeka Onwezi

BREAKING NEWS

Sir Knight Ikechukwu “Ike” Agbim is honored with the Golden Knight Award. The presentation was made by David Benjamin, Fraternal Benefit Advisor. The presentation took place at the Fletcher Council meeting on Thursday, October 26, 2017. SK Ike was so honored due to his outstanding leadership and very successful recruitment efforts. As a result of his efforts. ***Congratulations Worthy Sir.***

Have You Visited The Fletcher Council’s Website Lately?

<http://kofcknights.org/CouncilSite/index.asp?CNO=11422>



YOUTH ACTIVITIES



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

240-353-1460

**“ OUR KIDS KNOW HOW TO PARTY ON HALLOWEEN “
THEY DID JUST THAT ON FRIDAY OCTOBER 27, 2017**





CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES

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

301-728-7827



The Silver Rose

On Friday, October 20th, Fletcher council members and St. Joseph parishioners came together in a special prayer service to pay tribute to "Our Lady of Guadalupe and to *"The Silver Rose Run"* as it continues its transition from Canada, through the United States to Mexico' The prayer service exemplified the Knights of Columbus devotion to *Our Lady* and commitment to the *Culture of Life*.

Silver Rose Program Homily Fr. Robert P. Boxie, III

Good evening! Thank you to the Knights of Columbus, James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council, for hosting this special event and for the invitation to preside; to all those who have come this evening, especially to the Sodality members present, and all who have chosen to spend part of your Friday evening in prayer, with our Lord and his Mother!

If you aren't familiar with what we are doing tonight, the Silver Rose program is a joint initiative of the Knight of Columbus in Canada, the US, and Mexico, under the protection of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas. The "Silver Rose" takes a journey throughout these countries, arriving in Guadalupe, Mexico, by means of multiple pilgrimage routes. Various councils host the *Silver Rose* with a prayer service as part of the Knights' commitment to promoting the sanctity of human life! I want to speak about the sanctity of human life and *Our Lady of Guadalupe*, who is also patroness of the unborn.

Recall the story—the year is December, 1531. There is a poor peasant farmer named Juan Diego in the field. And this beautiful woman appears to him, dressed as an Aztec princess, identifying herself as the *Virgin Mary*, the *Mother of God*. She requested a church be built on that very spot in her honor. Juan Diego goes to the Bishop and delivers this message from *Mary*, but who asks for sign as confirmation. So, *Mary* gives him this sign. Juan Diego is to pick roses in a designated location and bring them to the bishop. Remember: there should be NO flowers in December! He picks these roses and gathers them in his tilma—his outer garment—and presents them to the bishop. As he opens his tilma, the roses fall out leaving behind a miraculous image of *Mary* imprinted on the tilma. This is



the famous image of *Our Lady of Guadalupe* that we know today. This is why the Rose is significant—it plays a huge part in the story of Juan Diego and the Virgin of Guadalupe—"miracle of the roses," the sign that our Lady gave to Juan Diego as proof of her presence and identity.

The *Blessed Mother* appeared to Juan Diego at a time and in a culture that was violent, that was sexualized, that practiced human sacrifice, including killing of children and infants—essentially a culture of death. Fast forward 500 years. We still live in a culture of death: a culture that is very violent, hyper-sexualized, and we still practice human sacrifices by aborting and killing our children in the womb, through euthanasia, allowing the elderly and the terminally ill to end their lives at will, through capital punishment. It doesn't seem that much has changed.

However, in 1531, within just a few years of this image, 11 million people were converted, and the practice of human sacrifices stopped. Thru this image, an unprecedented cultural transformation took place! And we too are in need of a cultural transformation—from the culture of death we live in now, that Pope Francis calls the "throw away" culture. It's the "mentality where everything has a price, everything can be bought and sold." It reduces people to things, with a numerical value or quantitative value to be bought, sold, or discarded when there is no use or when they're inconvenient or serve no purpose for me. It's one everything and everyone is disposable, cheap, instantaneous, individualistic, self-possessed, self-absorbed, and one that devalues *LIFE!*

(Silver Rose Homily continues on the next page)



CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES

Peter Methodius Pro-Life Activities Director
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(Silver Rose Homily - con't)



In this miraculous image, *Our Lady of Guadalupe* comes to us, as she did 500 years ago, **bearing new life**. You will notice that the image clearly shows that she is wearing a sash around her waist, above her womb. It was part of the belt that Aztec women wore when they were pregnant. She carries in her womb *Jesus*, the *Savior of the World*, who has come into this culture of death and bring *God*, the *DIVINE*, the fullness of life within it.

She affirms that *God* is the *God* of life—he alone is the author of life. And we are all made in his divine image, having received his *Spirit*, the breath of life. We belong to him and no one else. We have done absolutely nothing to merit this precious, most sacred gift of life. And because of *Jesus Christ*, the child in *Mary's* womb, we can live life to its fullest. But that gift, unfortunately, is not realized for so many babies and children who are never given the opportunity to experience this great gift.

The problem is made clearer when we point out how we live in a state of constant contradictions. We rejoice in the announcement of the news of a baby—the prospect of being a mother, father, grandparent, aunt or uncle—and especially when it has been particularly difficult to conceive. BUT yet, in an instant we can simply get rid of the same baby when it is inconvenient or doesn't fit into my plan and "*terminate the pregnancy!*" We put in so much effort, resources, technology **to keep babies alive** that may have been born pre-mature or have some difficulties at birth, BUT yet we allow and have the means to kill it. And what is the difference between the lives of those babies who live and those babies who don't? Someone, other than *God*, decided they weren't needed or necessary or wanted—or worse—disposable!

This is truly the work of the evil one. He takes something good and twists it ever so slightly into an evil, and makes it look like an "*apparent good*," when in fact it is evil, it is sin, it is wrong! Here, he's taken something purely good, a gift directly from *God*—a new child, a baby, new life—and distorts it slightly so that to so many men and women, a child becomes a hindrance, an obstacle, a problem to get rid of, a stumbling block to our selfish desires. And because of this, he makes us think that getting rid of it—killing, terminating, disposing, aborting—use whatever term you want—is an apparent good, when in fact, it flies in the face of *God* the creator!

The Gospel we proclaimed recounts the annunciation to *Mary* by the angel *Gabriel*. This was THE MOST unexpected, unplanned, unprepared pregnancy in the history of the universe!! And how did she respond? In faith! She may not have had a plan for this unplanned event, but *God* surely had a plan. It was part of his plan for the redemption of all humanity. She trusted in him, with humility, with faith, with love! And you can imagine the shame and public ridicule she would have received... BUT despite this, she trusted.

And this issue is particularly salient in the black community. The statistics are off the charts in terms of the number of black babies that are aborted every year compared to the general population and other races. Some have coined abortion in our community as black genocide! Since abortion was made legal in 1973, over 15 million black babies have been aborted! (AIDS, violent crimes, accidents, cancer, heart disease—all these added together pale in comparison!) For those who have been affected by this grave evil, both men and women, the Church has many resources and programs and offers assistance to heal from these wounds—*Project Rachel*. There's no shame at all in acknowledging the hurt and pain that this may have caused and to seek help and healing, both physical and spiritual—especially from *Bishop Campbell* or myself.

Now, promoting this culture of life means, not only protecting life in the womb, but also providing access to affordable and quality health care, access to education, adequate housing, sufficient employment, a living wage, security and protection for our families. And we have to fight for these issues because they all promote a culture of life! BUT it all begins in the womb.

Mary comes to us now, as she did back in 1531 in that culture of death, bearing her Son, the fruit of her womb. She comes to heal and to transform our wounded culture of death into one that truly promotes the fullness of life. She needs us to help her and her Son, as co-workers in the vineyard of the *Lord*.

We pray for an end to the sin of abortion; we pray an end to euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide; to the death penalty; to all forms of violence. We pray for the promotion of life in all its aspects, from the conception in the womb to its natural end as determined by *God the Creator*.

**Mary, Mother of God...Pray for us.
Our Lady of Guadalupe...Pray for us.**

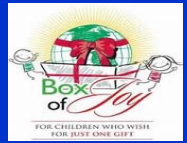


*Pope Francis
With the Silver Rose*



BOX OF JOY

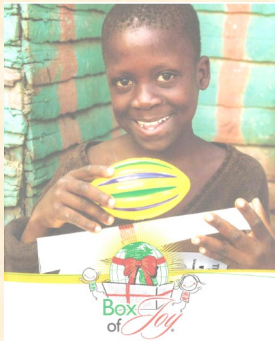
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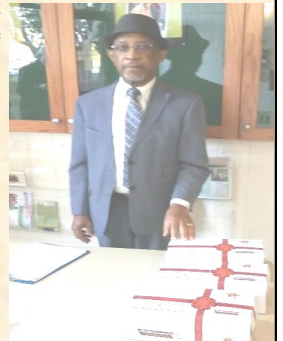
FOR CHILDREN WHO WISH
FOR JUST ONE GIFT

Brother Knights, Fletcher Council brings back the **Box of Joy** project. It was the suggestion of our brother knight **Ruthven John Blake** a couple of years back. This year it has been elevated to a Supreme/State sponsorship. The **Box of Joy** is a charity program sponsored by the Cross Catholic Outreach (CCO) organization to help "the poorest of the poor." Their efforts reach those suffering extreme poverty in countries throughout the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Latin America. CCO sponsor several projects to provide this worldwide assistance, one of which is the Box of Joy project. **Box of Joy** is an annual Christmas Gift Campaign organized by local Catholic parishes, schools and groups across the United States and facilitated by CCO. Our council's chairman for its **Box of Joy** project is again Ruthven John Blake.

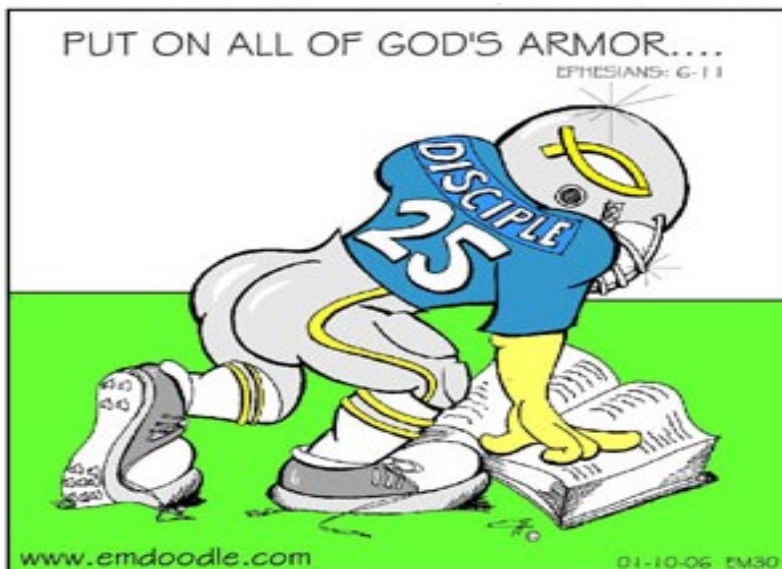
After reviewing the materials provided by Supreme and the Maryland State Council, it was agreed that the council would pursue the **Box of Joy** project with plans to have prepared 100 boxes for children for Christmas. With the project being a fun and simple hands-on mission project for all ages, it was undertaken by the council as a Family Activities project.



After much preparation, the **Box of Joy** project was launched at St. Joseph Church on the weekend of October 13th at the 5 P.M. Mass on that Saturday. A registration/information table was placed in the Church foyer. Brother Ruthven John Blake had the honor of manning the table for our first outing. It just happened to be near the entrance/exit door where Bishop Campbell and/or Fr. Boxie greeted parishioners after Mass. This also allowed for them to encourage parishioners to participate in the **Box of Joy** project. I encourage you to also pick up a carton and become a **Box of Joy** participant.



Brother John has a box for you.





REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson

The Abortionist and The Pro-Lifers: Round 2

LeRoy Carhart, the notorious third-trimester abortionist, was dealt a setback, but not stopped. Pro-life groups are disappointed, but not discouraged.

On October 17, the day Carhart planned to open an abortion clinic in Bethesda, Maryland, more than a hundred individuals and representatives from several pro-life organizations gathered nearby to protest his presence. Sidewalk counselors were in the area. The rally opened with an invocation by Pastor Charlie Baile of Shady Grove Presbyterian Church and ended with a prayer from Fr. Patrick Lewis of Little Flower Catholic Church. That evening, a candlelight prayer vigil was held.

Operation Rescue had previously filed protests with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Maryland Board of Physicians. The abortionist, in turn, cancelled all appointments for the week, and opened on October 23.

Carhart had operated as a contract abortionist at Germantown Reproductive Health Services, located about 15 miles north of Bethesda, since December 2010. That clinic -- one of only four in the nation at which abortions were performed throughout the entire period of pregnancy -- was shut down after being purchased by the pro-life Maryland Coalition for Life. The closing on September 29 was a moment of thanksgiving for the pro-life groups that had been praying and protesting Carhart's activities for more than six-and-a-half years. The moment, however, was short lived.

Two weeks later, it was announced that the abortionist was opening a new clinic in Bethesda. This was not unexpected. The man is tenacious regarding abortion, increasing his activities each time he suffers a loss. In 1991, when an extremist burned his barn in opposition to his abortion activities in Bellevue, Nebraska, Carhart declared, "I decided I wasn't just going to be a provider, I was going to be an activist." When President George W. Bush signed the federal *Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003*, outlawing that gruesome procedure, Carhart brought suit, but the Supreme Court upheld the ban.

When an anti-abortion fanatic killed late-term abortionist George Tiller in 2009, Carhart announced that he "would carry on his legacy by performing some later-term abortions in his clinic in Bellevue." Then, when Nebraska lawmakers passed a law banning most abortions after 20 weeks from conception, Carhart opened a second facility in Maryland, where abortions can be performed through all nine months of pregnancy. With the persistence of a zealot, the 76-year old Carhart and his wife would fly every few days to perform abortions in both locations each week.

In Germantown, he operated from Sunday afternoon through Wednesday. In his new Bethesda location, he initially announced that abortions would be performed six days a week, but then scaled back to his previous schedule, splitting his time between his Nebraska and Bethesda clinics.

Carhart's record of providing for the safety of his patients is hardly stellar. During his years in Germantown, at least ten women were rushed to hospital emergency rooms with life-threatening issues. As Carhart does not have admitting privileges at any hospital and has been known to leave the area shortly after an ambulance departs with a critically-ill patient, the emergency room physician is deprived of medical information about the incoming condition of the woman. Jennifer Morbelli, who was 33-weeks pregnant, developed severe bleeding shortly after her abortion, and was rushed to the

emergency room of a nearby hospital where she died. Carhart could not be contacted. Wendy Devine developed complications after her abortion procedure, required extensive emergency surgery in a nearby hospital and nearly died.

Carhart may be resolute in providing abortions, but the pro-life community is equally determined to save the children.

Andrew Glenn is one of the founders of Maryland Coalition for Life and the director for 13 campaigns of 40 Days for Life in Germantown, during which several thousand volunteers, including members of 30 area churches, prayed peacefully in front of the Germantown clinic for almost seven years. In speaking about that effort, he said: "I think a lot of Christians who had been on the side lines woke the sleeping dragon, just coming to the realization that late-term abortion was happening in our neighborhood. Multiple denominations, both Catholic and non-Catholic, got involved together. We just prayed and asked God what we could do to stand up and help these women who are faced with unexpected pregnancies and difficult situations." He believes the same response will occur in Bethesda.

A Monday morning prayer group, similar to one which operated in Germantown, is expected to be announced soon. Lauren Handy, founder of Mercy Missions DC, stated that there will be a candlelight vigil every Tuesday evening near Carhart's clinic. Pastor David Sayne of Wildwood Baptist Church has promised the involvement of his parish. Two coalitions, PrayForBethesda.com and STOP Carhart, were formed to help pregnant women choose life for their children and to exhort Maryland authorities to enforce health and safety policies.

Carhart can continue his lucrative practice of late-term abortions because the United States is only one of 7 nations in the world that allow elective abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy. If the *Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*, which is now being considered by Congress, is enacted, it is doubtful the abortionist would remain in Maryland. The law would protect pre-born children from twenty weeks gestation, the same limitation Nebraska imposed which caused Carhart to come to Maryland. The bill was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on October 3, and President Donald Trump has signaled his strong support for the legislation promising to sign it if it reaches his desk. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell expects the Senate will vote on the measure.

Some may be discouraged by the enormous efforts that have been expended to stop abortion, with seemingly little progress. But we should take hope in the words of our Lord as expressed in the Book of Malachi (3:14-15, 18): The faithful have said "It is vain to serve God, and what do we profit by keeping his command...evildoers prosper, and even tempt God with impunity." But the day is coming, the Lord continued, when "you will again see the distinction between the just and the wicked; between the one who serves God, and the one who does not serve him." God's mercy and justice will prevail.



*Incentive - Car Raffle
Maryland State Council, MD*



***Congratulations to the 2018
Incentive Raffle Program Winners.***

1st (2017 Ford Mustang or \$18,000.00)

Clara I, Silver Spring, MD

2nd (iPAD Air)

Beth M., Emmitsburg, MD

3rd (\$200 Gas Gift Card)

Kimberly M, Mt. Airy, MD



HAPPY Holidays!

please join the
“KC Ladies Auxiliary”

on

Saturday - December 2, 2017

8:00 PM—12:00 AM

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

for an evening of
Dinner, Dancing, Open Bar

\$30 Per Person

Featuring Music by DJ Cowboy

For Tickets Call:



Sharon Thompson—301-928-3690

Deborah Robinson—301-332-1793

Catherine Gresham—301-868-5795

Etoile Hawkins—301-336-0284

Val Davenport—301-535-2004

Gale Bell—301-379-0462





Black Catholic History Month
Celebrating Steadfast Witness in Music




HONORING:
**The Archdiocese of Washington's
GOSPEL CHOIR**

Friday, November 10, 2017
PRAISE & WORSHIP - 7PM
MASS - 7:30PM

Celebrant: Most Rev. Roy E. Campbell, Jr.
Auxiliary Bishop of Washington

St. Joseph
2020 St Josephs Dr, Largo, MD 20774

Sponsored by the Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach
culturaldiversity@adw.org



Celebrating 95 Years!
1922 - 2017



ORIGINAL ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
1922-1967
7331 Potomac Avenue
Glenville, Maryland

We've
Come
This
Far
By
Faith!



ST. JOSEPH
1967 - 2017
2020 St. Joseph Drive
Largo, MD

Mass of Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 30, 2017
7pm
St. Joseph Catholic Church
2020 St. Joseph Drive
Largo, Md

Light Reception to Follow

**Fall
BACK!**

**SET CLOCKS BACK
ONE HOUR BEFORE BED
SATURDAY NIGHT**





Smiley Central™

Fred and his wife Edna went to the state fair every year. Every year Fred would say, "Edna, I'd like to ride in that airplane." And every year Edna would say, "I know Fred, but that airplane ride costs ten dollars, and ten dollars is ten dollars." One year Fred and Edna went to the fair and Fred said, "Edna, I'm 71 years old. If I don't ride that airplane this year I may never get another chance." Edna replied, "Fred that airplane ride costs ten dollars, and ten dollars is ten dollars."

The pilot overheard them and said, "Folks, I'll make you a deal. I'll take you both up for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and not say one word, I won't charge you, but if you say one word it's ten dollars." Fred and Edna agreed and up they go. The pilot does all kinds of twists and turns, rolls and dives, but not a word is heard. He does all his tricks over again, but still not a word.

They land and the pilot turns to Fred, "By golly, I did everything I could think of to get you to yell out, but you didn't." Fred replied, "Well, I was gonna say something when Edna fell out, but ten dollars is ten dollars."

* * * * *

Near Death Experience

A boss asked one of his employees, "Do you believe in life after death?"

"Yes, sir," replied the new employee.

"I thought you would," said the boss. "Yesterday after you left to go to your brother's funeral, he stopped by to see you."

* * * * *

A police car pulls up in front of Grandma Bessie's house, and Grandpa Morris gets out.

The polite policeman explained that this elderly gentleman said that he was lost in the park and couldn't find his home.

"Oh Morris," said Grandma. "You've been going to that park for over 30 years! So how could you get lost?"

Leaning close to Grandma so that the policeman couldn't hear, Morris whispered, "I wasn't lost. I was just too tired to walk home."

* * * * *

Jim was sitting at the bar having a few drinks after work. A woman walks into the bar and Jim smiles as he thinks he recognizes her. "Why that is my wife," Jim thinks to himself. Jim walks up behind the woman says "hello dear" and gives her a big kiss. Immediately the woman slaps Jim and says, "Who do you think you are? You are so rude." "I am so sorry," Jim says. "I thought you were my wife. You look exactly like her." "You are a worthless, no good, drunken bum," the woman says to Jim. "Wow," Jim replies, "and you sound like her too!"

Marian Title for November **Our Lady of Kibeho**



The apparitions of Our Lady of Kibeho began on November 28, 1981 in the African college of Kibeho, Rwanda. The Virgin Mary repeatedly appeared to Alphonsine Mumureke, NTHALIE Mukamazimpaka, and Marie Claire Mukangan-go. The apparition identified herself in the native Rwandan dialect as "Nyina wa Jambo", ("Mother of the Word") which is synonymous to "Mother of God."

The apparitions communicated various messages to the schoolchildren, urging the people to love each other, and warning of an apocalyptic vision of Rwanda descending into violence and hatred, foretelling the 1994 Rwandan Genocide. In 2001 the Holy See released a declaration approving the apparitions. The Marian sanctuary at Kibeho was named "Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows" in 1992, two years before the genocide. An estimated 500,000 pilgrims visit the site every year.

Considering a Vocation to Priesthood?

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





- 02 Maurice E. Sutton
- 05 Eric Harder
- 05 Justice Delcarmen
- 15 Mark E. Blenkle
- 17 Baffour Owusu-Adjel
- 18 Ikechukwu R. Agbim
- 19 Bishop. Roy E. Campbell
- 20 Alan M. Davis
- 20 Kingsley N. Anuruawo
- 20 Harold F. Sanders, Jr.
- 22 Terrance Holmes
- 24 Vincent U. Akas, Jr.
- 24 Joseph L. Marshall, Sr.
- 29 Fidelis k. Ajudua



*“The Joy
Of A
November
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

****NOVEMBER****



*Happy
Thanksgiving*

NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH

- 01 All Saints' Day
- 02 All Souls Day
- 04 Deacon Convocation Mass - St. Joseph Church
- 05 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 09 Bishop Walsh Assembly Meeting, 7:30 P.M.
- 11 Veterans Day
- 15 McNamara Chapter Mtg, Memorial Mass & Silent Auction
- 16 Fletcher Council Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 19 Knights Sunday, 11 A.M. Mass
- 23 Thanksgiving Day
- 30 Mass of Thanksgiving & 95th Anniversary at St. Joseph



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*