



KNIGHTLIFE



Volume 24 Issue 4

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

October 2018

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

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

“FAMILIES, THE HEART OF CHRISTIAN FAITH”





KNIGHTLIFE

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Chaplain Thoughts. . .

“Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

by Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr.



Last week, Jesus told His disciples “If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.” Jesus told them that applied even to Himself, telling them, “ the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.” Our Lord is telling His disciples, and us, that anyone wishing to “be served,” is full of selfish ambition.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus deals with envy and scandal. Even the Apostles had fallen victim to envy, when they wanted to stop anyone not following Jesus, from performing “good deeds” in Jesus’ name. They felt that only those in their group, who were following our Lord, should be able to do “good deeds.” Our Lord tells them that there is “no middle ground” with God. “For whoever is not against us is for us.”

Then there is scandal, an evil so great, that falling victim to it could cause one not to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Our Lord tells His disciples that entering the Kingdom of Heaven lame is better than to give scandal to a child, or anyone else, for that matter.

Why must we avoid selfish ambition, envy and scandal? Because these evils make us turn away from God. When we give in to these temptations, we think only about ourselves, not about others. We forget that God the Father loves us so much that He sent His only begotten Son to save us, by dying for us and rising from the dead, to give us eternal life.

Let us pray to God for the grace to see Christ in each other, and the grace to love Christ in each other. Because of our love for Him and our neighbors, we should always remember the words of Jesus, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Considering a Vocation to Priesthood?

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



BOXIE

ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN MESSAGE

Rev. Robert P. Boxie, III



I always look forward to the arrival of a new season, especially now as we move from the heat and humidity of the summer to cool, crispness of autumn. I await the color changes of the leaves on the trees as they begin their preparation for winter. Lucky for us, in this transformation, we gain a glimpse of God's beautiful creation, so artistically decorated with the divine paintbrush that we cannot help but to stand in awe.

***While the seasons change,
God does not.***

This month, I will be returning home to witness another transformation—the occasion of my twentieth high school reunion. I attended St. Louis Catholic High School in Lake Charles, Louisiana, the only Catholic high school in the Diocese of Lake Charles. It seems like it was two years ago (honestly, more like 10 or 12 years, who am I kidding!) that I just graduated. How time flies!! I was fortunate to make my ten-year reunion, 10 years ago. This one will be different. We are now all firmly entrenched in our careers (or vocations) as doctors, lawyers, businessmen, artists, engineers, educators, moms and dads, and priest! I have kept in touch with quite a few of my classmates, even more thanks to Facebook.

It will be good to see how each of us has changed over the years or probably have remained the same; how our life experiences, family and the addition of children, and personal tragedies have colored our current outlook on life. No doubt, there will be lots of memories shared of times past, reminiscing on the good times of high school. I certainly look forward to seeing how all of our lives have unfolded in the past twenty years and to connect with those classmates I have not seen in twenty years. All of us hopefully are a little wiser. All of us, I'm sure, have experienced what our high school teachers and counselors called "the real world," and now we can come together and share our stories. One of the highlights for me during the weekend will be celebrating our class Mass at my home parish—a double treat for me personally!

We know that while the seasons change, God does not. We know that while we may get older with time, God does not. We know that while the events of life have its own way of "weathering us," it does not do so to God. He remains the same. In the words of St. Augustine, God is "Beauty, ever ancient, ever new." In our ever-changing and often uncertain world, we hold fast in faith with all of our being to Him, who is unchanging, enduring, eternal.



PAST GRAND KNIGHT'S CORNER
Bernard Broadus



Brothers, would you believe that after only 90 days removed from my office as Grand Knight of James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422, I am still walking up to the front of the council chamber without realizing that I now sit in a different seat! (smile) I was told from a previous past grand knight (PGK) it takes a minute. However, there is one thing that has not changed, that would be the Fletcher Council "will" to get things done. Congratulations to Worthy Harold Sanders and his team for the very successful Flea Markets this summer. It also appears a new cook (Harold Countee) has been born! Great job done by all.

Now once again it is time for us to shine again. The Grand Knight has announced some of his fall programs and I couldn't be more excited.

- The Soccer Shootout is always fun for the kids and family.
- The Tootsie Roll program allows brother knights to fellowship together on weekends and after masses collecting donations for disabilities charities.
- The Box of Joy brings happiness to those at Christmas all over the world.
- We have an opportunity to assist with the East of the River Revival, Coats for Kids, Pro-Life, Faith In Action Programs Youth and Christmas events this fall. Whew! That should get the juices flowing.

A big thank you to SK Ike Agbim and his FedEx Field crew for their hard work and dedication for raising council funds this football season. And there is so much more going on in this busy council of ours. That's why I love being a member of Fletcher Council.

I know I have left some things out, but read this newsletter and communications from the Grand Knight for other announcements. Please volunteer your time when asked or called upon.

Looking forward to seeing my brother knights at some if not all of these events.

Vivat Jesus,

From The Fletcher Council's Archive
Do You Remember?

What Year Did He Serve As Grand Knight?
Of the 24 Grand Knights, What # Was He?



Sir Knight
G. Emeka O. Onwezi
FDD, PFN, PGK



STATE DEPUTY'S REPORT Dale W. Trott



September was a very active month beginning with the State sponsored **"Family Picnic"** held on Saturday, September 8th at North Point State Park. While the weather didn't want to cooperate, we had a fantastic turnout for this annual event. My thanks to everyone who attended, and I want to especially thank State Picnic Chairman Buzzy Stockman; State Family Director, Mike Little and his fabulous team of cooks; and, those that donated or

contributed to the success of this event from behind the scenes. The large pavilion gave us protection and the location on the water was absolutely breathtaking.

Our State Tour Program had its first trip in September. A group of 30 travelers left by bus on September 9th headed for Branson, Missouri. Our first stop was Knoxville, TN and then onto Memphis, TN for two days of touring around town. Our group visited Graceland, Beale Street, St. Jude's Hospital and other historical sites before heading onto Branson. In Branson, we enjoyed great food, saw six fabulous shows, visited historical downtown Branson, shopped at Branson Landing and, toured the College of the Ozarks. On Sunday, as we departed Branson, we attended Mass at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church. We were warmly welcomed by Father and the parishioners. Linda and I were even asked to bring up the gifts. We left Branson and headed onto St. Louis where we took a quick trip to the Arch before heading to our hotel in Illinois. The next day, we headed to our hotel in Columbus, Ohio and then returned home the next day. It was an awesome 10 days of making new friends and seeing parts of the country we haven't visited.

As we bring September to a close and look towards October, we kick off the month on Saturday, October 6th with our premier event.....*The Columbus Day Ball!* From what I have heard, we have a sellout event with maybe one or two seats left. My congratulations to our Chairmen for their hard work in making this event so successful. I also want to congratulate our Program Book Chairmen on an outstanding job. Linda and I look forward to meeting you at the Ball. Please remember the Baltimore Parade the next day (Sunday, 10/7). This is the "OLDEST" Columbus Day Parade in the country, but will it continue? There are those out there that want to erase history and it is up to us to protect our Namesake – Christopher Columbus. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE consider coming and participating in this year's parade. The parade begins at 2 P.M., so bring your council, assembly, chapter, auxiliary or squire banner and show your support. Hope to see you there!! Lastly, for the Columbus Day weekend, on Monday, October 8th, we will celebrate Columbus Day at the Columbus Statue located in front of Union Station beginning at 10:45 A.M.

The second weekend of October finds us returning to the Navy Marine Football Stadium in Annapolis for the first time in a while. Our State Sports Promotion Couple, Bryan & Rhonda Adamczyk have secured tickets for the Navy vs. Temple

Game which promises to be a hard hitting and exciting game. Don't wait to purchase your tickets, they are going fast. Contact Bryan and Rhonda at (301) 922-6336 or smchawk13@hotmail.com.

Financial Secretaries please remember that there are two Financial Secretary Seminars being held for the purpose of helping to carryout your duties and responsibilities. Also, please remember that there is the Supreme required Financial Training online.

Unfortunately, I was recently advised by Supreme that the Star Council Plaques for last year's recipients will not be received until sometime in November. Having received this news, State Treasurer, Chris Powers, the Chairman of this event will be corresponding with the recipients to advise them of a new date on which we will present these prestigious awards.

Lastly, I want to talk a little about membership. For our first quarter, we have lost more members than we have recruited. As with any organization, it is understandable that members will be lost for one reason or another, but what troubles me, is when I see councils removing members from their rosters left and right and they have ***NOT*** recruited one new member. This leads me to ask: Do these councils have a plan in place to save these members? Do these councils have a plan in place to replace these lost members? Sadly, I have to believe that the answer is no and unless these councils establish a plan for the future, they will be running the risk of more membership issues. On a good note, there are those councils and individual members who are doing an outstanding job inviting Catholic men and their families to become a part of our Knights of Columbus Family and I want to congratulate and thank them for their outstanding efforts to grow our honored Order. Please keep up the great work!

In closing, please continue to put your ***Faith into Action*** as you ***Serve Christ by Serving Others***.





DISTRICT DEPUTY REPORT
George T. Riddle



District #1



District Deputy George T. Riddle & District Warden Terry Reinhart and bring us closer together, so please attend as many of these events as you can.

My Brother Knights,

We got off to a pretty good start in our District, but as always we need to step it up a notch. We had two Admission Degrees and added 5 new Knights to our ranks, two from our District, and three from out of District. We have a chance to add to that with a Admission Degree coming up September 17th at Fr. Kidd Council. Let's get out there and find those men who haven't been asked yet.

We as a District have been slow to get paperwork in. Please **DO NOT** wait until the last minute to get forms in to the State or Supreme.

October will be a busy month with all of the **Columbus Day** activities planned including the Ball and the parade. Please see the State website for details. These activities give us all a chance to meet Knights from other Councils and Districts

October 7th will be our District # 1 **Soccer Shootout**. It will be at St. Edwards Church in Bowie following the 11:30 Mass. It will be held in conjunction with the St. Edwards Family Fun Day, so bring your kids for a fun day. We need volunteers from each Council to help chase down balls so please come down. Please have this activity announced in your parishes to bring more youth out to participate.

Winners in each age group move on to the **State Soccer Shootout**.

With school starting this month **Please, Please, Please** be more aware on the roads for children and school buses.



Front Row: Baffour Owuso-Adjei and Fr. Joe Jenkins
Back Row: Kennard A. Dalrymple and PGK Aland Davis

**CONGRATULATIONS
ARE IN ORDER FOR
Kennard A. Dalrymple
Baffour Owuso-Adjei**
*On Friday, September 28th, they successfully
completed their Knighthood Degree.
(Third Degree)*



SUPREME KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Carl A. Anderson - Supreme Knight

PILGRIMAGE TO THE ST. JOHN PAUL II NATIONAL SHRINE



Brother Knights,

I invite you, your family and fellow council members to make a pilgrimage to the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C.

Since 2011, the Knights of Columbus has created a remarkable sanctuary to learn about the life and legacy of this saintly pope, and to prayerfully invoke his powerful intercession. Our catechetical events will help you apply his teachings to your daily life. You can also attend daily Mass or pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet in the Redeemptor Hominis Church, and venerate a first-class relic of Saint John Paul II in the Luminous Mysteries Chapel. These chapels are adorned with beautiful mosaics that invite pilgrims to prayerful reflection and give insights into God's mercy and redemptive sacrifice through Christ — the Redeemer of Man and Light of the World.

Tens of thousands of pilgrims have already deepened their faith and rediscovered the world-changing importance of this modern-day saint, with whom the Knights of Columbus had a special and enduring friendship. I invite you to do the same.

I also want to share with you two very important announcements:

- A pilgrimage to the Saint John Paul II National Shrine satisfies certain requirements of the new Faith in Action program model. Additionally, Pope Francis grants a Plenary Indulgence to the faithful who make a group pilgrimage to the shrine. Please email visitorservices@jp2shrine.org for more information about the requirements for each.
- October 16 marks the 40th anniversary of Saint John Paul II's election to the papacy, beginning a year-long celebration that will feature lectures, prayer services and other activities. Details will be posted at jp2shrine.org and on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

To schedule a pilgrimage, please visit jp2shrine.org/requestform or email visitorservices@jp2shrine.org today.

Fraternally,

Carl A. Anderson
Supreme Knight



FRATERNAL BENEFITS

Harold Sims, Fraternal Benefit Advisor

harold.sims@kofc.org

202-701-2415

IS YOUR PAYCHECK PROTECTED?

Most people see work as something that will always be there. We live our lives expecting to wake up, go to work, and complete our tasks throughout the day to provide for our families. Work, and the financial stability that it provides, is often taken for granted. What if one day you wake up and you are no longer able to go to work, through no fault of your own? Accidents and illness can affect anyone, at any stage in their career. How will you react to unforeseeable adversity? Do you have a plan in place if you are no longer able to perform your duty?

The Knights of Columbus can help you put this plan in place and prepare for unexpected life events.

Retirement is often planned, but disability is not. Chance favors no man. Too often people say “that will never happen to me” or “I will cross that bridge if it comes.” There is no bridge that carries you over the void from gainful employment to disability unless you start planning today.

Disability insurance is often dismissed by working men and women because they think their jobs are fairly safe. Their lives are fairly healthy. Disability — they say — is simply something they will never experience.

The statistics tell a different story.

A staggering 1 in 4 of today’s 20-year-olds will become disabled before reaching the age of 67. The nature of the job is irrelevant. According to the Social Security Administration, 95 percent of all disabling illnesses and accidents happen outside of the workplace.*

Consider a typical male, age 35, nonsmoker, who works at an office job with some outdoor responsibilities and leads a very healthy lifestyle. He has a 28 percent chance of being injured or becoming ill and unable to work for three months or longer prior to retirement.**

If this happens to you, not someone else, will you have a bridge to carry you and your family?

If your illness or injury is among the 95 percent that happen outside of work, workers’ compensation will be of no assistance to you. 7 in 10 employed Americans say they would feel the financial pinch in a month or less without their paycheck.*** What if your last paycheck really is your last paycheck?

There is a solution, however.

Your membership in the Knights of Columbus gives you and your eligible family members exclusive access to disability income insurance that can help safeguard your paycheck.

With Knights of Columbus Disability Income Insurance, you can ensure you and your family are provided for in the event of unexpected loss of work.

Our disability income insurance is designed to be flexible so that, working with your brother Knight field agent, you can customize it to fit your needs. You choose the monthly benefit amount that’s right for you, the elimination period that makes the most sense, and the maximum benefit period for your policy.

By purchasing a disability income insurance policy from the Knights of Columbus, you have the added security of knowing that you are doing business with a Catholic company that makes sure its investments do not violate Church teaching and which has been repeatedly recognized as a “*World’s Most Ethical*” company.

You owe it to yourself and to your family to make sure that your financial future is secure, regardless of what happens. Don’t be caught off guard by surprises. Be on guard and be prepared.

Contact me, your agent, today to learn more about the coverage available to you.



McNAMARA CHAPTER

Joseph Massimini - Chapter President



CHAPTER MEETING CALENDAR

- 17 OCT 18** Calvert Council 7870,8816 Chesapeake Ave, North Beach, MD
- 14 NOV 18** Sacred Heart Council 2577, 6111 Columbian Way, Bowie, MD
- 19 DEC 18** Fr. Michael C. Kidd Council 14455, 12010 Woodmore Rd, Mitchellville, MD
- 16 JAN 19** Fr. Rosensteel 2169 Council, Rosensteel Ave., Silver Spring, MD
- 20 FEB 19** St. Rose or Father McKenna Council
- 20 MAR 19** St. Mary's Council 1470, 41605 Fenwick St. Leonardtown, MD
- 24 APR 19** McDonough Council 12128, St. Joseph's Church, Pomfret, MD
- 15 MAY 19** St. Elizabeth Council 12796, 917 Montrose Rd., Rockville, MD
- 19 JUN 19** Fr. Peter Paul Maher Council 6793, 15663 Norbeck Blvd., Silver Spring, MD

WALSH ASSEMBLY NEWS

John O. Grier - Faithful Navigator



The Walsh Assembly made the second school supplies donation on September 25, 2018. The supplies were presented to Cora L. Rice Elementary School located at 950 Nalley Road, Landover, Maryland.

The teachers and students were very appreciative in receiving the school supplies. Next month, October, Veterans Administration (VA) Comfort Kits will be presented to veterans residing in VA Hospital in Washington, DC.





PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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



The Month of October will start with council members participation, led by Worthy Alan Davies to the annual **East of the River Revival**. The nightly event schedule is from October 1-3, at 7 P.M. The event theme is **Jesus, Heal Our Land: What We Must Do.**

I will like to thank council brothers for helping to achieve our Car Raffle Goal this year. Thanks to worthy Thomas Matthew and Trevor Gordon for spearheading this effort. Columbus Day is Monday, October 8th and the event will be preceded with a Columbus Day Ball on Saturday, October 6th. Council brothers are advised to be there and not miss the opportunity to win a 2019 Mustang Ford or \$18,000 cash option.

Worthy Brothers, let us continue to participate in the life of the church and numerous council activities planned for the rest of the year. I will be calling members to solicit your involvement in these events. Each member of the council should participate in at least one activity this year, especially our monthly Knights Sunday Mass and Community Sunday coming up on October 21st.

The Church's Ministry Fair for the Fall is Sunday, October 21st (Community Sunday) after the 8:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. Masses. It is an excellent opportunity to showcase our council activities and recruit new members. The Youth Halloween Party and The Tootsie Program will roll out this month, and council brothers are urged to volunteer for these events. New ideas are always welcome, and I am available to meet with any member to discuss programs and activities we as a council can pursue. Brothers, remember; it is all about our ***Faith in Action.***

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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



KC LADIES TEA



A Spot of Tea was served by members of the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council on Saturday, September 29th to over 90 Senior Citizens at the St. Joseph parish Rosemont Room. It was the Annual KC Ladies Auxiliary Senior Tea. Also in attendance were Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Rev. Robert P. Boxie, III, Deacon Steve Nash and Patrick Mullan. Serving our honored guest were a cadre of Four Star, Elegant, Stupendous, Second to None, Classy Servers in all of Knighthood Land: Alan Davis, John Grier, Vernon Hawkins, Tim Matthews, and Harold Sanders,





FAITH ACTIVITIES

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



MARIAN ICON PRAYER OUR LADY HELP OF PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS Coming To Fletcher Council



A Higher Purpose Spread devotion to Our Lady and pray for our brothers and sisters of faith who are at risk around the world through the Marian Icon Prayer Program. As the new Marian Icon is brought on pilgrimage through the jurisdiction, councils will host the Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians Icon for a prayer service at their parish.

Overview The 2018-2019 Marian Icon Prayer Program presents the 18th Marian Icon sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Like its predecessors, the program features a Marian image, this time of Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians.

Each Knights of Columbus jurisdiction receives several Marian images, which serve as the centerpieces for prayer services conducted in churches and council meeting places throughout the Order for the duration of the initiative. This year, the prayer service is intended to raise awareness of the plight of Christians persecuted for their faith and to stand in prayerful solidarity with them



COUNCIL ACTIVITIES



Cal A. Thompson, Council Activities Director
calthompsn@msn.com 301-249-2955

FEDEX FIELD CONCESSION STAND TEAM



The FedEx Field Concession Stand Team is a triad of councils from District 1 and District 14: James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422, Mother Seton Council 5381 and St. Mary's of Landover Hill. During the Fall season, September through February the Team mans a Concession Stand at Redskins Games, College Football, Soccer Games and various Entertainment venues at FedEx Field. Although it is an enjoyable event, councils are provided payment for their service, based on the number of participants per council. Although Fletcher Council has a cadre of participants, we would like more members on the Team. How about joining us. For more information, please contact: Past Grand Knight Ike Agbim and Deputy Grand Knight Fidelis Ajudua.



FAMILY ACTIVITIES - FAMILY OF THE MONTH

Ike Agbim, Family Activities Director
iagbim@gmail.com

202-276-7796

The Baptiste Family



Eunice Winnifred Domally Baptiste was born in Bocas del Toro, in the Republic of Panama. She feels very blessed to have been born on December 25th, 1923. She has three daughters, Yolanda Hanson who resides in Los Angeles, Ca.), Eulalia Robinson and Delia Johnson who both live in the Bowie area, and a son, Vernon Jenkins, who also resides in Bowie.

Throughout the years, serving as a spiritual leader to her many friends and family members, she held a monthly prayer meeting for 17 years in her home and the home of her close friend. While still attending novena services at the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, she moved to the Walter Reed area of the city and became a member of Nativity Catholic Church where she joined the church choir and the Black Catholic Mass Choir. In 1991 she moved to Mitchellville and became a member of the St. Joseph Catholic Church family in Largo, MD.

In 1991, she embarked on a long time membership with the St. Joseph Gospel Choir. For A few years, she served as the chaplain of the St. Joseph Gospel Choir. She refers to many of the members as her children and all as part of her family. She is also a member of the St. Joseph's Sodality and the Bereavement Ministry both of which have had the pleasure of her many years of membership.

Eunice has strong roots in her Catholic Christian faith and believes that God is the source of her strength. She is especially proud of her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and all of her many nieces and nephews.

Delia who has followed her mother as a devoted Catholic, and Parishioner became a member of St. Joseph' Church in 1989. Some of Delia's children completed their confirmation at St. Joseph. Delia serves as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Children's Liturgy of the Word, and Women's Ministry. Through the encouragement of her mother, she recently became a member of the St. Joseph Sodality.

Eunice Baptiste is perhaps one of the most caring and compassionate elders of the St Joseph Parish Community. It is worthy of note that she has adopted many as part of her extended family and friends. Former Pastor, the Late Levester Jones referred to her as "Mother Baptiste."

The Eunice Baptise family is 3 generations that have contributed immensely to the Liturgy at Catholic Parishes and here at St Joseph. Join the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422 of the Knights. of Columbus to applaud and recognize the Baptiste Family as the September, 2018 Family of the Month.

Heavenly Father, guide and richly bless the Baptiste Family forever and ever in Jesus Holy name. Amen!



REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson

Roads That Lead We Know Not Where

"[T]he Church is facing very hard times. The real crisis has scarcely begun. We will have to count on terrific upheavals." Fr. Joseph Ratzinger, the future Pope Benedict XVI, made these comments about the future of the Church in a radio address on Christmas 1969.

Now, half-a-century later, his perceptions have become reality. Widespread sexual abuse of children and adults by priests and bishops and their cover up has shaken the Church at all levels. Revelations of immoral behavior extending over the past 70 years in countries throughout the world – the United States, Ireland, Chile, Australia and India, among others – are leading to further investigations, me-too-type accusations, massive payouts, the resignation and removal of bishops and priests, and disillusionment and possible loss of faith among the laity.

When tranquility is restored – although it appears distant -- what will the Church look like, particularly in America? Fr. Ratzinger's speculated:

"From the crisis of today the Church of tomorrow will emerge — a Church that has lost much."

In 1970, according to data from Georgetown University's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, there were 7 million people (3.4% of the population) in America who had been raised Catholic, but no longer identified with the faith. Today, there are 30 million (9.2% of the population) who are fallen away Catholics.

"She will become small and will have to start afresh more or less from the beginning."

The fact that there are 74 million self-identified Catholics in the country today is misleading. Only 68 million of them belong to a parish, and only about 16 million attend Mass at least weekly. In 1970, 23 million people -- almost half of the parishioners at that time -- attended Mass each week.

"She will no longer be able to inhabit many of the edifices she built in prosperity."

Between 1970 and 2017, the number of parishes declined only slightly from 18,224 to 17,156, but 3,552 of today's parishes do not have a resident priest. Similarly, the number of elementary schools decreased from 9,366 to 5,178; secondary schools from 1,986 to 1,201; colleges and universities from 279 to 225; and hospitals from 727 to 545.

"As the number of her adherents diminishes, so it will lose many of her social privileges."

The number of adherents will likely decline in the future as the next generation is not being educated in the faith. Even as the number of parishioners has increased by 43% since 1970 -- driven by the overall population growth -- the number of students in Catholic elementary and secondary schools dropped from 4.4 million to 2.0 million, and the number of students enrolled in parish religious education programs declined from 5.5 million to 3.0 million.

"In contrast to an earlier age, it [the Church] will be seen much more as a voluntary society, entered only by free decision."

From 2000, just before the clergy sex abuse scandals became a public issue, to 2017, prior to the release of the Pennsylvania report on the

same subject, the number of baptisms, first communions, confirmation, marriages, and converts all declined significantly. With many state investigations of the Church being initiated and continuing media reports of clerical abuse, the marginally faithful may choose to no longer identify as Catholics. Those who convert in the future will do so because they view the Church as the way to their salvation, despite the failings of its ministers.

"[T]he full-time ministry of the priesthood will be indispensable as formerly." The type of priest who will be needed is one who "in the name of God places himself at the disposal of man, who is beside them in their sorrows, in their joys, in their hope and in their fear."

The number of priests has declined sharply, from 59,192 in 1970 to 37,181 in 2017. About 70% of the priests are diocesan priests, while the remainder belongs to religious orders. Compounding the shortage of priests is the fact that in 1970, 90% of diocesan priests were active in ministry; today, it is only 63%.

"As a small society, it will make much bigger demands on the initiative of her individual members. Undoubtedly it will discover new forms of ministry and will ordain to the priesthood approved Christians who pursue some profession."

There already is an extensive and growing involvement of the laity in the life of the Church. Since Pope Paul VI reestablished the permanent diaconate in 1967, the number of deacons has grown rapidly. In 2017, there were 18,287 permanent deacons in the United States and another 2,670 candidates. They perform a number of functions previously limited to priests, such as baptisms, marriages, preaching, grave site services, and certain religious observances. In addition, lay people now serve as Eucharistic ministers, lectors and sacristans, as well as in a wide variety of financial, management and administrative positions in a parish.

While many of Fr. Ratzinger's conjectures about the future of the Church have come about, there undoubtedly will be further upheavals before equanimity is restored. His comments were made just four years after Vatican Council II in which he participated as a *peritus* or expert for the Archbishop of Cologne. Changes resulting from the Council had barely begun, but theologians were already interpreting the findings of the Council in divergent ways. Some viewed them in the light of Scriptures and tradition, while others saw them as an opportunity for radical change in the spirit of the Council. The divergent views have never been reconciled and the current turmoil caused by clerical sexual abuse has given each side an opportunity to advocate for its ideas.

Many in the hierarchy have conflicting views on the involvement of the Church in society, its administration, the distribution of authority, the priesthood, the role of women, the importance of celibacy, the possibility of married clergy, same-sex unions, the reception of the Eucharist by non-Catholic spouses and those who are divorced and remarried without a decree of nullity, and other issues that once were thought to be long settled.

Until the dogmatic disputes, which can take the Church along roads that lead we know not where are settled, there will be continuing strife. But have hope. Have faith. For, as the future pope assured us, *"when the trial of this sifting is past, a great power will flow from a more spiritualized and simplified Church."* It will arise, he said, *"from those whose roots are deep and who live from the pure fullness of their faith."*



James C. Fletcher Jr. Council 11422, presents

KC Ladies Auxiliary

“Fall Costume Dance”

(Casual Attire Optional)

Saturday-October 27, 2018

8:00 PM—12:00 Midnight

\$35 per person

Prizes for Best Costumes

Dinner, Dancing, Open Bar

St. Joseph Church—Rosemont Room

2020 St. Joseph Drive, Largo, MD 20774

For Tickets Call:

- Sharon Thompson 301-928-3690
- Deborah Robinson 301-332-1793
- Gale Bell 301-499-0877
- Etoile Hawkins 301-366-0284
- Lyndia Countee 301-785-2146
- Val Davenport 301-883-0281

Music by Jam Star Production





SAVE THE DATE!
FREE EVENT! **DON'T MISS OUT!**
Saturday, October 27, 2018
 Registration begins at 7:30 am
 Race begins at 9:00 am
Watkins Regional Park
 301 Watkins Park Dr, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774



SHATTER THE SILENCE
 on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
5K RUN/WALK


Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 27, 2018 and plan to join with members of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Maryland National Capital Park Police and the University of Maryland Capital Region Health Center for its Third Annual "Shatter the Silence" on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault 5K Run/Walk.

T-Shirts: \$10.00 (SML) \$12.00 (1X - 4X)

CONTACTS AT ST. JOSEPH SOCIAL JUSTICE SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY
 Lisa Smith 301-390-1137
 Roger Brooks . . 240-476-7930 Vernon Hawkins . . 301-336-0284

1 in 5

Mental illness affects us all—the individual, his/her family and the community. Treatment works, but stigma is a barrier for many who need but do not seek mental health services. Mental health awareness, education and support can make a difference!




MONDAY, OCTOBER 15
 Join Us from 7:00 PM TO 9:00 PM for a mental health awareness program

1 IN 5 LIVING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Saint Joseph Church
 Social Justice/Social Concerns Ministry
 2020 Saint Josephs Drive
 Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Presenters will share their own compelling stories on living with mental health conditions and about community resources.

SPONSORED BY



Only \$1 for your chance to WIN a 2019 FORD MUSTANG

48th Annual Car Raffle Benefit

- 2019 FORD MUSTANG
- or \$18,000.00 Cash Option
- 2nd Prize: iPad Air
- 3rd Prize: \$200.00 Gift Card



\$1.00



DRAWING: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018

Contributions, Gifts, etc., paid to Maryland State



Smiley Central™

A man is bragging about his new hearing aid. "It's the best I've ever had," he says. "It cost \$3,000."

His friend asks, "What kind is it?"

He says, "Half past four!"

A poodle and a collie were walking down the street. The poodle turned to the collie and complained, "My life is a mess. My owner is mean, my girlfriend is having an affair with a German shepherd, and I'm nervous as a cat."

"Why don't you go see a psychiatrist?" asked the collie.

"I can't," replied the poodle. "I'm not allowed on the couch."

A young couple moved into a new neighborhood. The next morning while they were eating breakfast, the young woman saw her neighbor hanging the wash outside.

"That laundry is not very clean," she said. "She doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap."

Her husband looked on, but remained silent.

Every time her neighbor would hang her wash to dry, the young woman would make the same comments.

About one month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband, "Look, she has learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this?"

The husband said, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows."

A farmer had 5 female pigs. Times were hard, so he decided to take them to the county fair and sell them. At the fair, he met another farmer who owned 5 male pigs. After talking a bit, they decided to mate the pigs and split everything 50/50.

The farmers lived 60 miles apart, so they decided to drive 30 miles each morning and find a field in which to let the pigs mate.

The first morning, the farmer with the female pigs got up at 5 a.m., loaded the pigs into the family station wagon (the only vehicle he had) and drove the 30 miles.

While the pigs were in the field mating, he asked the other farmer, "How will I know if they are pregnant?"

The other farmer replied, "If they're lying in the grass tomorrow morning, they'll be pregnant. If they're lying in the mud, they're not."

The next morning the pigs were rolling in the mud. So he hosed them off, loaded them into the family station wagon again and proceeded to try again.

This continued each morning for more than a week and the farmers were worn out.

The next morning, one was too tired to even get out of bed. So he called out to his wife, "Honey, please look outside and tell me whether the pigs are in the mud or in the grass."

"Neither," yelled his wife, "They're in the station wagon. And one of them is honking the horn."

Marian Title for October

Our Lady of the Pillar



According to tradition, on January 2, 40 AD, in the early days of the Church, James the Greater, one of the original Twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ, was evangelizing the Gospel in what was then the pagan land of Caesaraugusta, now Zaragoza. He was disheartened with his mission, making little progress having only few converts who had been traveling with him. In his despair, while praying by the banks of Ebro River, Mother Mary miraculously appeared before him and his group, comforting him and promised to help.

Mary gave him a column or pillar as a symbol, being carried by angels with an image of the Mother on top. James was instructed to build a chapel on the spot where

Mary left the pillar, a place where she and the pillar would dwell forever; so that by the grace of God, will marvel those who believed and asked in their hour of need.

James returned to Jerusalem after establishing the church in Zaragoza and was ordered beheaded in 44 AD by King Herod Agrippa I. The land he left eventually became believers of Christ through the works of his disciples.

This is believed to be the very first apparition of Mary, and the only one before her assumption. Mary was still living in Jerusalem at that time, and was believed to have appeared to James through bilocation. The church established by St. James is the very first church dedicated to Mother Mary in the history of Roman Catholicism.

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



****OCTOBER - 2018****

- 01 Paul O. Awunor
- 05 Floyd E. Duckett
- 06 Norris M. Foster
- 06 Matthew J. Koker
- 08 Adewale T. Olaiya
- 09 Steve M. Nwamkpa
- 15 Carlos R. Macres
- 15 Michael E. Younger
- 16 Michael T. Petz
- 21 William J. Harris
- 26 Anthony A. Falodun
- 27 Wade N. Matthew
- 28 James A. Barnes
- 28 Basil E. Fomanka
- 30 Felix C. Osuchukwu



***“The Joy
Of A
Fall
Birthday”***

Maryland State Council Officers

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

James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council Officers

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

****OCTOBER****



- 04 Fletcher Council Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 06 Columbus Day Ball
- 07 Columbus Day Parade, Downtown Baltimore
- 08 Columbus Day
- 08 Columbus Day Celebration, Union Station, Washington
- 13 Financial Secretary Seminar, St. Pius X Council 4076
- 13 Navy Football, Navy vs Temple
- 17 McNamara Chapter Meeting,
- 18 Fletcher Council Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 20 AWD 4th Degree Exemplification
- 21 St. Joseph Church Ministry Fair
- 21 Knights Sunday, 11 A.M. Mass
- 27 Council & KC Ladies Halloween Party
- 27 State Council Fall Meeting
- 31 Halloween



SURVEY TIME

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

Has it met these goals?

What say you?

What changes would you recommend?

What say you?

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

What say you?

***Email Your Survey Comments To
Grand Knight-Elect***

Mike Younger

mrwhy@verizon.net & vhawkinsjr@aol.com