



KNIGHTLIFE



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James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

January 2019



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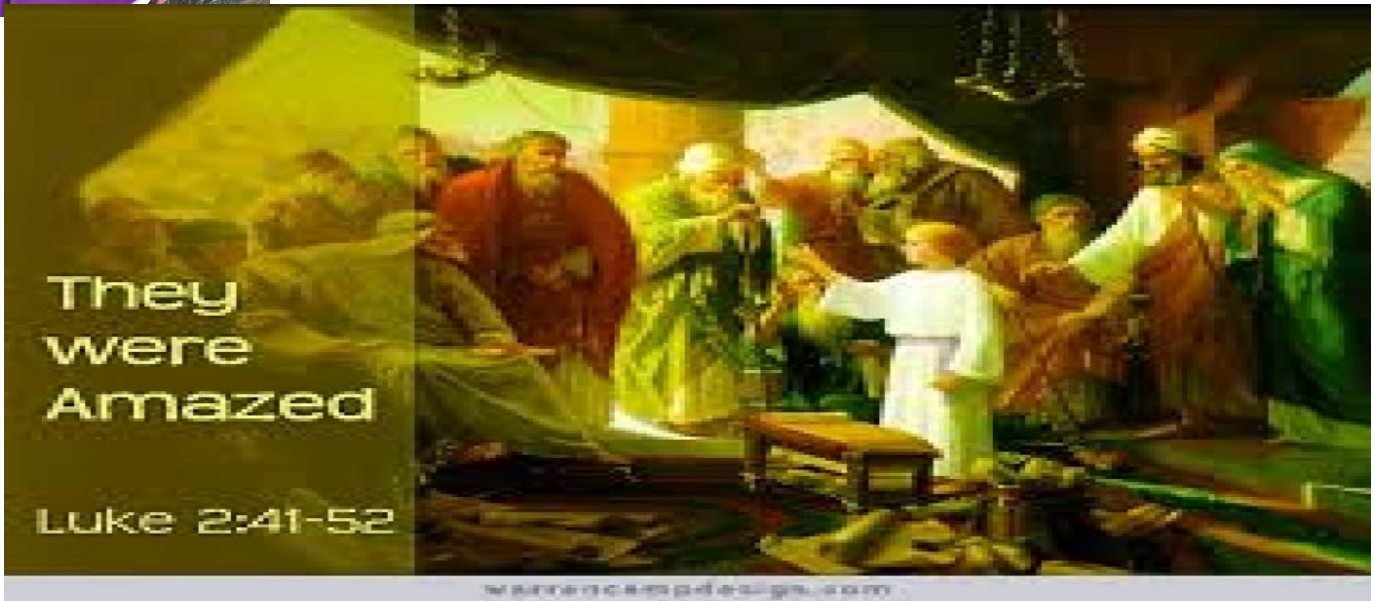
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Chaplain's Thoughts. . .

"His parents found him sitting in the midst of the teachers."

by Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr.



Most of us grew up, or are growing up, in a family with both parents, and maybe a sister, or brother, or two, or more. How important is it to grow up in a family? We cannot place a value on the family into which we were born.

Our reading from the Book of Sirach, a wisdom book from the Old Testament, tells us of the graces and benefits that come to children in families, who honor their fathers and mothers. He calls on children to respect their parents, and by extension, everyone in their family. He tells us to take care of our parents and to show them only kindness in their old age.

The Book of Sirach is telling us that honoring and respecting our parents and our families is living Christ's Second Great Commandment of love, to love our neighbor as ourselves. It also tells us what we accomplish for ourselves, in God's eyes, by showing our love for Him when we do good works for others. These words, written 2,200 years ago, hold true today.

St. Paul echoes this message in his Letter to the Colossians, telling members of a family how they should treat each other. Husbands must love their wives as they do their own bodies, as Christ does for His Body, the Church. Joseph protected and provided for Jesus and Mary. He named Jesus, taught Him how to pray, how to work, how to be a man.

When their 12-year-old child stayed behind in the Temple we are told Joseph, along with Mary, searched with great anxiety for three days for Him. They were looking for God, in Mary's Son, Jesus. Jesus had His priorities in order. He was being obedient to His Father in heaven, first. However, when Mary and Joseph found Him, to take Him home with them, Luke's Gospel tells us that Jesus was obedient to His earthly family.

Do we look for God, searching sometimes all our lives to find Him? Jesus told Mary and Joseph, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" God, the Father, wants each of us to be His house, the temple where Jesus can be found. When Jesus can be found in us, we bring Him to the home where our family lives.

Each of us wrestles with identity issues, while at the same time embracing responsibilities toward our family. Every parent wrestles with freedom issues for their child, while at the same time cooperating with God, trusting that their child is being protected. Let us pray for all families this weekend, that this balance may be found, so that as families, we will always grow spiritually and in our trust in God, "finding Jesus in "His Father's house."

Grand Knight Report

Michael E. Younger

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Footprints in the Sand *Foots in the Sand, a beautiful poem!*

*One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.*

*After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.*

*This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me."*

*He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testing's.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you."*



WoW! Santa was at St. Joseph last month, and the Bechet family were there. Who was that Santa?

He walks amongst us.

PAST GRAND KNIGHTS CORNER
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Sir Knight
Joseph L. Marshall, Sr., PFN, PGK
November 14, 1942 - December 19, 2018
James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422

STATE DEPUTY'S REPORT
Dale W. Trott



Before we discuss January, I want to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate our Coats for Kids Chairman, Ray Traube and Community Activities Director, Terry Waters for an outstanding Coats for Kids distribution in the Park Heights Community of Baltimore. I also want to

thank and acknowledge my Fellow State Officers and Ladies; IPSD Steve Cohen; DD John Holley; VP Jamie Gouldin of the Baltimore Chapter; the Councils of the Baltimore Chapter; State Photographer, John Fox; Father Paul of St. Ambrose Parish, the Daughters of Charity; St Vincent de Paul; and, anyone else that took part or helped in any way with this year's Coats for Kids distribution. What a Fantastic Day and a heart-warming success during this year's Advent Season! On top of that, it is such an honor to have our Supreme Chaplain, Archbishop Lori, personally join us for this annual event. I also want to thank and congratulate the Bishop McNamara and Seton Chapters for their support and participation of the Coats for Kids Program in their areas. Knowing that many children all around Maryland will have a warm coat this winter is the greatest reward anyone could ask for.

Now onto January. Wow, where has the time gone? We've completed six months of this fraternal year and have begun the second half. Like football, we have moved forward towards the goal line and have scored, but we have also had our loss of downs and setbacks. None-the less, I firmly believe that the Maryland Jurisdiction is for the most part doing well all things considered. However, we need to encourage our members to pick up the pace and finish strong when it comes to membership. Based on Supremes' projections, every council should have met 50% of their membership goal by the end of December. Unfortunately, we have councils that haven't accomplished that percentage and, even more concerning is that there are still 30 councils who have still *not* recruited one new member! I have to ask...Why is this? To me, there is absolutely no excuse imaginable as to why any council wouldn't want to grow their membership or invite a Catholic man and his family to become a member of our Knights of Columbus family.

That being said, I'm calling on each and every member in the Maryland Jurisdiction to make a conscientious effort to recruit one new member before the end of May, 2019. Why the end of May and not the end of June is simply to ensure that we give the Supreme Membership Department plenty of time to get all of those new members recorded. Let's all do our very best to help the Maryland Jurisdiction finish strong!

As we kick off the month of January, we begin the month with the State "Mid-Year" Meeting on Saturday, January 5th. The State Family, including District Deputies, District Wardens and Grand Knights come together in preparation for the second

half of this fraternal year while the Deputy Grand Knights get a head start towards preparing for their year. While the men are meeting, the ladies are treated to an interesting day. It is also a perfect opportunity for the sharing of information and ideas among districts and councils as well as learn about Faith in Action Programs, Membership and more.

Also, in January, there is a very important event taking place in Washington, DC. The Annual "March for Life" will be held on Friday, January 18th. Those wanting to join up with the Maryland State Council, should head to 14th & Madison Drive, NW (on the National Mall) between 10:15 A.M. and 10:45 A.M. The nearest Metro Stations are the Federal Triangle and Smithsonian. Look for the Maryland Knights of Columbus Banner. The group will move to the staging area to watch the program. Make sure you wear Knights of Columbus apparel and bring Council, Assembly or, Chapter banners. Let's unite and speak for those that can't speak and defend themselves.

I want to congratulate Immediate Past State Deputy, Steve Cohen on behalf of the entire Maryland Jurisdiction. Steve recently joined the Supreme Council and will be a member of our Regional Director's Staff.

On behalf of Linda and myself, my fellow State Officers and ladies, Executive Staff and ladies, we wish you and your family a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year! Always remember that by putting your faith into action, you are truly **Serving Christ by Serving Others.**



District #1



I am hoping everyone had a wonderful holiday season and has hope for the New Year.

The start of the year also marks the halfway point of our Fraternal Year. We have done some amazing things so far this year; let us continue the hard work for a dynamic finish.

The one thing I would like to see happen more is communication between the Councils in our District. Each Council has their events, but we haven't intermingled. If you have an event coming up, share with the other Councils, it may give them ideas of an event they can try.

Maybe we can do a Bingo night. All 5 Grand Knights gather together at a table with other officers and mem-

bers and play Bingo together.

Sacred Heart # 2577 has Bingo every Tuesday night, so if you want to try that, let me know.

As always, thank you all for the work that you do.

Vivat Jesus



5th Sunday Rosary Prayer Team

SUPREME KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Carl A. Anderson - Supreme Knight

An Apostle of Hope

ST. JOHN PAUL II ENCOURAGED US TO CONFRONT EVIL IN THE WORLD AND TO BE WITNESSES OF GOD'S LOVE



IN OCTOBER, I had the opportunity to be in Kraków, Poland, on the 40th anniversary of St. John Paul II's election as pope. While there, I visited the ground floor apartment at No. 10 Tyniecka Street, where the young Karol Wojtyła and his father lived during the Nazi invasion and occupation of

Poland.

They had come to Kraków so that Wojtyła could attend the Jagiellonian University. But after the Nazis closed the university, Wojtyła began working in a limestone quarry. In 1941, he returned from work one evening to find his father in bed, dead of a heart attack. He would later say, "At 20, I had already lost all the people I loved."

Standing in the small, austere apartment in front of the wooden desk at which Wojtyła studied, the bed in which his father died and the tiny wooden stove in the kitchen, one could image the questions Wojtyła asked himself, and the prayers he recited, as his world crashed down around him and he struggled to make decisions about the future.

The day after the visit to Tyniecka Street, I was asked whether St. John Paul II is still relevant. With the images of his apartment still in mind, I said, "For St. John Paul II, evil and suffering were not abstractions, they were very real in his life.

"St. John Paul II was an apostle of hope. He told us, 'Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good' (cf. Rom 12:21). And he showed us that this could be done.

"He knew that the good is also not an abstraction but is a person — a person whose hands and heart care for others. And he called on each of us to take up this task."

I had also left the apartment convinced it was the experiences Wojtyła lived while there that gave him such great connectivity with young Catholics when he was pope — especially at World Youth Days.

In 2002, during the World Youth Day in Toronto, he said: "You are young and the Pope is old.... But the Pope still fully identifies with your hopes and aspirations. Although I have lived through much darkness, under harsh totalitarian regimes, I have seen enough evidence to be unshakably convinced that no difficulty, no fear is so great that it can completely suffocate the hope that springs eternal in the hearts of the young. You are our hope."

Nearly a decade earlier, in Denver, he said to the young pilgrims: "Christ needs you to enlighten the world and to show it the 'path to life.' ...The struggle will be long, and it needs each one of you. Place your intelligence, your talents, your enthusiasm, your compassion and your fortitude at the service of life!" In the same homily, he called on young Catholics to "become more conscious of your vocation and mission in the Church and in the world." And he repeated to them the words of St. Paul, "I have great confidence in you, I have great pride in you; I am filled with encouragement, I am overflowing with joy"(2 Cor 7:4).

Still today, I meet bishops, priests and nuns who tell me that such encounters with St. John Paul II kindled their religious vocations. Others have said how his words strengthened their vocation to marriage and in the world.

As we prepare for what 2019 will bring to our Church and the world, let us as Knights of Columbus reflect on his words at World Youth Day in Toronto: "The world you are inheriting is a world which desperately needs a new sense of brotherhood and human solidarity. It is a world which needs to be touched and healed by the beauty and richness of God's love. *It needs witnesses to that love.*"

I am confident that a young priest from New Haven would have agreed!

By founding the Knights of Columbus, Father McGivney gave us a practical way to bring a greater sense of charity and unity within our Church and our communities. *Vivat Jesus!*

FRATERNAL BENEFITS

Harold Sims, Fraternal Benefit Advisor

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The Most Overlooked Aspect of Retirement Planning

A Knight since 1983, General Agent Robert Marlowe has been selling insurance in the greater Baltimore area for nearly four decades. His insights show why we need to add retirement planning into our New Year's Resolutions.

Working with Brother Knights and their wives over the past 35 years has led me to observe that it's a natural inclination to overlook what is perhaps one of the most important aspects of retirement planning — having the sufficient amount of life insurance coverage.

Consider the elements of retirement planning that most people fully consider:

- What their income streams will be in retirement; their pension and social security amounts?
- What will their monthly expenses be?
- What their 401k or investments will yield to supplement expenses?
- Will they have sufficient health insurance coverage? All of these areas are vital, certainly. They are the basic architecture of a good retirement plan. However, we must consider some effects death will have on our spouse. Here are some crucial facts to consider:
 - The surviving spouse will receive the greater of the two social security amounts — which is about a 30 percent loss of income.
 - The surviving spouse will typically receive only 50 percent of their spouse's pension (if they have one).
 - Most group life insurance either reduces greatly or entirely upon retirement.
 - There is a strong probability that one of the two spouses will live into their 90s and an early death could leave a surviving spouse 20-30 years to live with these reduced incomes.
 - Term insurance will eventually become cost prohibitive or terminate in coverage as the spouse ages.
 - Health care costs and taxes will go up — the longer the surviving spouse is alive, these costs can impinge on budgets.

So what is the answer? A simple analysis by your Knights of Columbus field agent will help you address retirement financial planning: a permanent life insurance policy that will never go up in cost and has a built-in guaranteed cash value. I like to call this the last "love letter" you will write to your spouse.

By purchasing a life insurance policy from Knights of Columbus, you make a choice to make a difference — not only for your family, but for the many charitable and humanitarian causes our organization supports.



WALSH ASSEMBLY NEWS

John O. Grier - Faithful Navigator



Worthy Sir Knights,

I hope everyone had a nice Christmas, Happy New Year, and everyone is in good health. The Year 2018 is now past and I am sure that we are wondering just where the time went. The holiday season is now over and it's time to get back to work. Our first meeting of 2019 is Monday, January 14 and I am looking forward for a good turnout to get the year started off right.

We lost two Sir Knights during the month of December, our Faithful Lecturer- SK William "Bill" Malkowski and SK Joseph L. Marshall, Sr. Please pray for the repose of their souls and in support of their families so God can give them comfort. Our sincere condolences go out to their families. SK Bill Malkowski was a fixture as Lector and attended all our meeting unless he was ill. Not only did he attend the meetings over the years, he brought in the refreshments and refused reimbursement for member out of pocket expenses. He just stated that was his way of giving back! Bill will be sorely missed by our Assembly members.

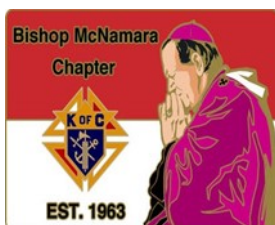
With the Exemplification coming up in April, it is time to start looking for new members to sign up. With our aging membership, we need new, younger members to lead us into the future as 4th Degree and Color Corps members.

Continued thanks to all our Color Corps members for all you do! We have been having some great turnouts and much positive feedback. Please don't forget our *Renewal of Obligations* is February 11, 2019.

**The next Assembly meeting will be held on Monday, January 14th.
Refreshments will be available at 6:30 P.M and the meeting will commence at 7 P.M. at
St. Pius X Council 4076, Sarto Hall, 3611 Stewart Road, Forestville, MD 20747.**

McNAMARA CHAPTER

Joseph Massimini - Chapter President



Chapter meetings are open to the full membership, so don't be shy, come on out and bring your fellow council officers, Activities Directors and members. This months meeting will be held on January 16, 2019 at Father Rosensteel Council 2169 in Silver Spring, Maryland. The remaining meetings dates for this fraternal year are as follows:

- 20 FEB 19** St. Rose or Father McKenna Council 11024
- 20 MAR 19** St. Mary's Council 1470, Leonardtown, MD
- 24 APR 19** McDonough Council 12128, Pomfret, MD
- 15 MAY 19** St. Elizabeth Council 12796, Rockville, MD
- 19 JUN 19** Fr. Peter Paul Maher Council 6793, Silver Spring, MD

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Fidelis Ajudua, Deputy Grand Knight
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Worthy brothers,

As Knights of Charity, the new year brings fresh hope and relentless faith on the council mission of continuing building the domestic church and strengthen our parish life. As we all know, half of our fraternal year was successful, and the next six months is going to define the councils highly coveted position in the Maryland State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

We have excelled in all our program areas and have submitted excellent award-winning reports through the editorship of Vernon Hawkins, Jr. for his outstanding work as the Surge Report Coordinator.

As we progress into the last half of the fraternal year, brotherly participation will be key to our future success. January is Pro-Life Month leading to the Mardi Gras, Lenten Season, Fish Fries event and the kids Kite Flying Extravaganza. These programs are slated from now through the Springs and require worthy knights to roll up our sleeves and get to work through Faith In Action. Brothers do make time to volunteer and be involved in our winter and spring events.

FAITH ACTIVITIES

Alan M. Davis, Faith Activities Director
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A New Year is here! A time to make changes, a time to resolve to be better and to act with kindness towards family, friends and all of humanity. As Knights and Christians, to be compassionate towards others is what we should always strive to achieve. This year, 2019 is the 137th anniversary of the founding of the Knights of Columbus by Father Michael J. McGivney. Fletcher Council will continue to exemplify the principles of our order by focusing on the needs of our members, their families, our church and our community.

My brothers, please reach out this year to our fellow council members and their families. Visit them, call them, bring them communion, take them to dinner, to the store or their doctor's appointments. Offer to bring them to church, to council meetings or be there just to talk with them. These past few years, we have lost a significant number of council members and their wives. Their families have expressed their sincere gratitude for the kindness and compassion Fletcher Council provided their loved one during their lives and at their passing. Please continue these acts of charity. Remember, **"CHARITY IS LOVE."**

"How marvelous would it be if, at the end of the day, each of us could say: I have performed an act of charity towards others." - - Pope Francis

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Michael Younger, Grand Knight

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The annual *March For Life* will be held on Friday, January 18, 2019 in Washington, D.C. The event will be held in observance of the 46th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's infamous *Roe v. Wade* abortion decision. Knights from throughout the nation are encouraged to participate in the march along with their families, brother Knights and other parishioners.

Council participation in, or sponsorship of a qualifying March For Life or Walk for Life event fulfills two of the four Life activities requirements on the Columbian Award application (#SP-7). In order to qualify, councils must involve a minimum of 50 Knights/family members.

Events in support of the March for Life commences in the Washington Metropolitan area on Thursday, January 17th and concludes on Saturday, January 19th. In addition to the March For Life, you your encouraged to attend the following events:

National Prayer Vigil for Life: Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception – Washington, DC. On January 17th, the evening before the March For Life, thousands will gather in prayer for the 5:30 p.m. Opening Mass in the Great Upper Church. The Mass will be followed by prayer throughout the night, concluding with a 7:30 a.m. Closing Mass on Friday, January 18.

Youth Rally and Mass for Life - Verizon Center and DC Armory: Once again the Archdiocese of Washington will host the Youth Rally and Mass for Life on the morning of the National March. The event will be held at the Verizon Center and the DC Armory, both in Washington, DC.

For more information on these and other events surrounding the March For Life event in Washington, DC, visit the March For Life website at: <http://marchforlife.org/mfl-2019/related-events/>

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES



Cal A. Thompson, Council Activities Director
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Brothers and Families,

Thanks for your support of the Council and the St. Joseph Church Community during the past year.
I wish you a Happy and prosperous New Year and would like to share this poem with you.

THIS YEAR

*Mend a quarrel. Seek out a forgotten friend.
Dismiss suspicion, and replace it with trust.
Write a love letter. Share some treasure.
Give a soft answer. Encourage youth.
Manifest your loyalty in word and deed.
Keep a promise. Find the time. Forgo a grudge.
Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you are wrong.
Try to understand. Flout envy. Examine your demands
On others. Think first of someone else. Appreciate. Be kind,
be gentle. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more.
Deserve confidence. Take up arms against malice.
Decry complacency. Express your gratitude. Have faith.
Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart of a child.
Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth.
Speak your love. Speak it again.
Speak it still once again.*

Author "Unknown"

Unanswered Questions

It is 2019 and I still have so many unanswered questions!!!! I still haven't found out who let the dogs out...where's the beef...or how to get to Sesame Street... why Dora doesn't just use Google Maps...Why do all flavors of fruit loops taste exactly the same, or how many licks does it take to get to the center of a tootsie pop.....why eggs are packaged in a flimsy carton, but batteries are secured in plastic that's tough as nails...what does the fox say... why "abbreviated" is such a long word; or why is there a D in 'fridge' but not in refrigerator... why lemon juice is made with artificial flavor yet dish-washing liquid is made with real lemons... why they sterilize the needle for lethal injections... and, why do you have to "put your two cents in" but it's only a "penny for your thoughts" where's that extra penny going to... why does The Alphabet Song and Twinkle Twinkle Little Star have the same tune... why did you just try to sing those two previous songs... and just what is Victoria's secret? ... You know I am not really this witty?? ... I actually got this from a friend, who stole it from his brother's girlfriend's, uncle's cousin's, baby momma's doctor who lived next door to an old class mate's mail man...

FAMILY ACTIVITIES - FAMILY OF THE MONTH

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The Bechet Family



John Bechet has been a parishioner of St. Joseph Catholic Church since 1970. He received the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation at St. Joseph and also served as an Altar Server. He was married to his wife Pricilla here by Father Saunders in 1997. He and his wife are the proud parents of 3 children, Ella, Justin and Jacob. All of them have served as Altar Servers and Ella won a scholarship from the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Charities in 2108. Justin and Jacob are members of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Squires Circle and John serves as the council's Warden. John's father, Deacon Leon Bechet was a charter member of Fletcher Council, its 3rd Grand Knight and served as a Deacon at St. Joseph for over 30 years. John's mother, Barbara Bechet is a member of the St. Joseph Sodality, a past Prefect and serves in multiple ministries in the parish. John is a faculty member of Prince Georges Community College and president of Bechet Photography.

The James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council 11422 is proud to present the December Family of the Month Award to the Family of John and Pricilla Bechet. May God's blessing be forever on them as they continue to serve the church and community with humility, grace and peace.

REFLECTIONS
Lawrence P. Grayson

Bless the Mother, Kill the Child

For several weeks at the end of each year, Catholics in America celebrate the beauty and joy of motherhood. The liturgical feasts and biblical readings describe how God instilled hope by creating life in the wombs of virgins and barren women.

On December 8, the Church honors the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She, who was destined to become the Mother of God, was conceived in the womb of her mother, Anne, free from original sin, a pure vessel to bring forth the Savior of the World.

Then, four days later, Catholics celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. On that date in 1531, the Blessed Virgin appeared to Juan Diego and imprinted on his tilma an image of herself, clothed in native garb that was adorned with Aztec pictographs identifying her as a pregnant virgin.

On both feasts and on many other days preceding Christmas, events in the lives of Mary and Elizabeth are told from the Gospel of Luke: An angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah and said, "Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John." Then, the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and said, "you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus," and continued, "behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived* a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren." Upon her cousin's visit, "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, 'Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.'"

These descriptions of divine events are complemented by Old Testament readings from Judges, Isaiah, and Samuel: "An angel of the Lord appeared to the woman [wife of Manoah] and said to her, 'Though you are barren and have had no children, you will conceive and bear a son'; they named him Samson. The Lord gave King Ahaz a sign saying, 'the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.'" And Hannah said to the high priest Eli, "I prayed for this child [Samuel], and the Lord granted my request."

These narrations are preparatory to December 25, when Christians throughout the world observe the birth of Our Lord through Mary. This most solemn of holydays is liturgically celebrated for eight days, ending on its octave of January 1, which the Roman Catholic Church designates as the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. The old year thus ends with the birth of Our Savior, and a new year begins with a celebration of Mary's motherhood.

But even as life is proclaimed, the shadow of death looms. On December 28, the Church remembers the Holy Innocents, the boys two years and younger who were ordered massacred by Herod for his fear that the Lord would be an earthly king.

Today, this heinous slaughter has been repeated daily since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion in 1973. Some 60 million children in America have been destroyed before birth, exterminated by acts of their mothers' free will and abetted by an infrastructure of death. No past society in the history of the

world has ever tolerated such voluntary, massive destruction of its own people.

The promotion of death is big business in the United States, with thousands of people making their living killing unborn babies. It is not compassion for a distressed mother, but money that is the driving force. The Planned Parenthood Federation of America, which performs more than one-third of all abortions in the nation, is abetted in its grizzly business by the federal government, having received \$544 million of taxpayer money in fiscal year 2016-17. With an outspoken advocate for abortion – sadly, a Catholic -- having been nominated to be Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, it is unlikely that federal support will decrease.

After 46 years of battling legalized abortion, pro-life efforts are bearing results. The Center for Disease Control recently reported that the number of abortions in the United States decreased 24% over the decade 2006-2015, to an historic low. However, there also is a disturbing shift from surgical abortions to medication abortions. Since the Food and Drug Administration approved RU-486, commonly known as the abortion pill, in September 2000, medication abortions have increased to one quarter of all abortions.

As abortifacients become easier to obtain – an increasing number of universities are making morning after pills available via campus vending machines -- more and more abortions will occur by simply "popping a pill." There soon will be no need to go to an abortion clinic, face pro-life prayer warriors and counselors, possibly see graphic images or view an ultrasound picture, and undergo a surgical procedure. The woman will have less anxiety or feelings of guilt about taking a self-procured pill, as her actions will seem normal.

The pro-life movement is faced with a new significant challenge. As increasing numbers of abortions are done at earlier stages with pills, not only the hearts and minds, but the consciences of people must be formed to acknowledge the existence and dignity of the human person at the earliest stages of development and recognize the evils of abortion in all its forms. With the low level of religious observance in America – one quarter of all adults have no religious affiliation, while only 23% of Catholics attend Mass each week -- this will not be easy to achieve, but must be done.

America needs a religious revitalization. There must be an endeavor by religious and laity to live one's faith openly and fully in public, and to develop a societal reverence for life. But most importantly, there must be a concerted effort of prayer – to rededicate this nation to its patroness, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, and to call upon that pregnant virgin, Our Lady of Guadalupe, who has been declared Empress of the Americas. With prayer and faith, with Our Lady's intercession to her Son, the nation's culture can change, for as Our Lord assures us, "with God, all things are possible."

MARDI GRAS



FEATURING "THE EXCLUSIVES"



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"

Date: Saturday, March 2, 2019
Time: 7pm 'til Midnight
Where: St. Joseph's Rosemont Room
2020 St. Joseph's Drive
Largo, MD 20774
(301) 773-4838



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



One reason the Military Services have trouble operating jointly is that they don't speak the same language. For example, if you told Navy personnel to "secure a building," they would turn off the lights and lock the doors. The Army would occupy the building so no one could enter. Marines would assault the building, capture it, and defend it with suppressive fire and close combat. The Air Force, on the other hand, would take out a three year lease with an option to buy.

Several days ago as I left a meeting at our church, I desperately gave myself a personal TSA pat down. I was looking for my keys. They were not in my pockets. A quick search in the meeting room revealed nothing. Suddenly I realized that I must have left them in the car. Frantically I headed for the parking lot.

My wife, Diane, has scolded me many times for leaving the keys in the ignition. My theory is the ignition is the best place not to lose them. Her theory is that the car will be stolen. As I burst through the doors of the church, I came to a terrifying conclusion: her theory was right. The parking lot was empty. I immediately called the police. I gave them my location, confessing that I had left my keys in the car and that it had been stolen.

Then I made the most difficult call of all. "Honey," I stammered. I always call her "honey" in times like these. "I left my keys in the car, and it has been stolen."

There was a period of silence. I thought the call had been dropped, but then I heard Diane's voice. "Ken," she barked, "I dropped you off!"

Now it was my time to be silent. Embarrassed, I said, "Well, come and get me."

Diane retorted, "I will, as soon as I convince this policeman I have not stolen your car!"

Billy and Bubba, two farmers from a small town outside of Little Rock, Arkansas, were walking home together after each had purchased a pig. Billy said to Bubba, "How are we going to tell them apart?"

Bubba answered, "We'll cut the left ear off of your pig." And so they did.

After a while, the pigs got into a fight and they had bitten off each others ears. Billy asked, "Now what are we going to do?"

"Well, how about if we cut the tail off of my pig?" Bubba replied.

"That sounds like a good plan to me," Billy agreed.

A little while later, the pigs got into another fight, and when it was over, they were both missing their tails.

"What will we do now?" Bubba asked Billy.

After giving it some thought, Billy replied, "Well, we could cut the leg off of yours."

"That's not humane!" Bubba cried.

So after some more thought, Billy said, "Well, let's do this. We'll just call the white one yours and the black one mine."

Marian Title for January

Our Lady of Hope of Pontmain



Our Lady's visit occurred at the height of the Franco-Prussian War. Pontmain lay between the oncoming Prussian invaders and the city of Laval. With the sound of gunfire in the distance, two young brothers, Eugene and Joseph Barbadette, were pounding animal feed with their father when they saw a beautiful woman above the village church. Years later, an adult Joseph (who became a priest) recounted:

She was young and tall of stature, clad in a garment of deep blue, like balls of indigo such as laundresses use for rinsing linen. Her dress was covered with brilliant gold stars. The sleeves were ample and long. She wore slippers of the same blue as the dress, ornamented with gold bows. On the head was a black veil half covering the forehead, concealing the hair and ears, and falling over the shoulders. Above this was a crown resembling a diadem, higher in front than elsewhere, and widening out at the sides. A red line encircled the crown at the middle. Her hands were small and extended toward us as in the 'miraculous medal.' Her face had the most exquisite delicacy and a smile of ineffable sweetness. The eyes, of unutterable tenderness, were fixed on us. Like a true mother, she seemed happier in looking at us than we in contemplating her.

A crowd gathered to pray as word quickly spread among the anxious villagers. Children saw the beautiful Lady, and gleefully pointed up to her. Adults, however, only saw 3 stars forming a triangle! As they prayed the Rosary, the children saw the garment's stars multiply until it was almost entirely gold. Next, the children saw a banner unfurl beneath the Lady. Slowly, a message appeared: "But pray, my children. God will hear you in time. My Son allows Himself to be touched." Upon hearing the message read aloud, the crowd spontaneously began the hymn "Mother of Hope." As they sang, Our Lady laughed and joined in the singing.

The children squealed with delight as her hands kept time with the music, conducting their song. When the crowd began "My Sweet Jesus," her expression changed to profound sadness and a red crucifix appeared in her hands, with the words "Jesus Christ" above it. Her eyes mournfully contemplated the cross during the hymn. As the people sang the "Ave Maris Stella," the cross vanished, and her smile returned, though with a touch of melancholy. Two small white crosses then appeared on her shoulders before Our Lady disappeared behind a cloud.

The apparition lasted for 3-hours. In that time, the people of Pontmain heard a lessening in the distant sounds of war. During the evening, the Prussians ceased their advance and, 12-days later, the war ended. Just as Our Lady promised, God heard their prayers for peace. Devotion rapidly spread under the title Our Lady of Hope of Pontmain and, in 1900 the Bishop consecrated a magnificent Cathedral commemorating the apparition. The tiny chapel over which she appeared remains nearby in its original state.



JANUARY - 2019**

- 01 Vincent O. Agubokwu
- 06 Jacques Moukouri
- 06 Deacon Al Douglas Turner
- 11 Donald C. Egbuonu
- 11 Steve B. Miller
- 12 James C. Vidale
- 12 Leon F. Williams
- 13 Michael P. Davenport
- 17 Ansanus C. Obizuo
- 21 Henry O. Onyeador
- 23 Adolbert N. Onyima
- 26 Andre J. Steward
- 30 Gregory P. Harrod



***“The Joy
Of A
Winter
Birthday”***

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

****JANUARY****



- 01 New Year's Day
- 03 Fletcher Council Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 05 State Mid Term Meeting For GK & DGK
- 06 Epiphany
- 14 Bishop Walsh Assembly Meeting, 7 P.M.
- 16 McNamara Chapter Meeting, Fr. Rosensteel Council
- 17 Fletcher Council Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 18 March for Life, Washington, DC
- 19 Polar Bear Plunge
- 20 Knights Sunday Mass, 11 A.M.
- 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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 E. Younger
Deputy Grand knight	Fidelis K. Ajudua
Chancellor.	Harold Countee
Warden.	John Bechet
Financial Secretary	John O. Grier
Recorder.	Gerry 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



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