



Maryland State Council Newsletter

December 2017 Volume 2, Issue 6

State Deputy's Report



Stephen M. Cohen
State Deputy
Maryland Knights of Columbus

My Brothers All,

December is upon us. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Holy New Year. This is the season to give the gift of membership in our Order to all those Catholic men who are not yet part of us. Vicki and I look forward to seeing many of you during the Holiday Season.

In November, we honored those members and their Ladies who went to their eternal reward during the last year. Many thanks to all those who helped with the planning and execution of our Annual Memorial Mass.

On December 5, 2017, The State Officers along with Archbishop Lori will again be handing out Coats for Kids at Saint Peter Claver Church in Baltimore City. This annual event gives us the chance to reach out to the peripheries and make sure those

that might not have a winter coat to receive a new one. This year many Councils participated in Coats for Kids throughout the State. All three Chapters helped with this very worthwhile program. As soon as all the figures are in we will present them to you.

Now is the time to start to pull together all the numbers for your Council's Annual Fraternal Survey. This is where you show the Charitable Outreach efforts of your council for the last year. It is important that all councils submit this report. You will be reminded by the State, Your District Deputy and your Grand Knight to get those numbers in.

The Supreme Convention in August is not that far away. The Committee has been hard at work getting everything ready to showcase Baltimore at this year's convention. Volunteers are needed to help before and during the convention. Please contact Jack Giacolone to sign up.

I look forward to seeing all of the Grand Knights and Deputy Grand Knights at the Mid term Meeting on January 6, at Columbus Gardens. This will be a day of new and exciting information, as it pertains to our Order. Make you plans now to attend.

(State Deputy Report continues on the next page)

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State Chaplain's Message**Reverend Jason Worley**

Rev. Jason Worley
State Chaplain
Maryland Knights of Columbus

Brothers! Vivat Jesus!

My time as pastor here in Libertytown is coming to an end. As of January 1, 2017, I will become the pastor of Saint Ursula's in Parkville, Maryland.

From the moment I received the news of my next assignment, I have been spending time reflecting on the fact that we are all in a constant state of change. Whether we are moving from one thing to the next, aging day by day or growing in our faith as we should - none of us remains the same and no one of truly remains in the same place in life. The question we should ask is: 'do I allow myself to grow in and through God's grace when God calls me to do so.' Because there is only one thing that does not change, and that is God and the love He has for each and every one of us.

During this Advent Season, as we prepare to celebrate the Birth of the Lord - grow in your faith!

God Bless and Merry Christmas!

Vivat Jesus!
Fr. Jason

(State Deputy Report - con't)

Even though it is winter, our goals must still be in the forefront. Remember our mantra. It is not I, It is we; It is one goal and it is our goal; And that is for this to be our best year ever.

We are Advocates of the Lord.

Vivat Jesus

Steve

State Membership Report**Thom Partenope****Growing Our Order**Maryland Numbers as of 11/24/2017

Awards Progress							
	Quota	Month to Date			Year to Date		
		Gain	Loss	Net	Gain	Loss	Net
MBR		67	34	33	388	131	257
INS		27	16	11	150	88	62
Total Membership 11/24/2017							
27,498							

I hope you all had a fantastic Thanksgiving. We are coming to that time of year when we can focus on the Advent and Christmas seasons. What a wonderful gift to our fellow Catholics: the offer of Faith, Fraternity, Family. Form 100s are great stocking stuffers and are easily placed in with Christmas cards and gifts too. Have new prospects and old members get together to practice and provide Charity during this time of year when Giving is on everyone's mind.

We are also getting prepared for the Mid-Term Meeting in January. Start your planning now for the next six months. Where are you with your membership and insurance numbers? This is an exciting time to meet a lot of new friends during the Christmas Masses.

And don't forget E-Membership
www.knights.net

The Knights provide many training aids for you to perfect your recruiting techniques. The Membership Recruitment and Retention Manual (#10237) is an excellent source. Another source is the State Membership Team. All you have to do is ask!

Vivat Jesu!

State Program Report**Mike Sallèse**

Dear Brothers and Ladies,

Welcome to December! Thank you to all councils that submitted names of deceased Brother Knights and Ladies for the Memorial Mass, and for participating in the Memorial Mass.

While you are getting ready to honor the birth of our Lord, we have several tasks to complete in the next two weeks. Task 1 is to get your reports and proceeds in to Chairman Jack Fowler for the Intellectually Disabled (Tootsie Roll) Program. Task 2 is to submit your Council's winning entries in the Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest for Statewide judging. The Chairman is David Wilson. Finally, Task 3 is to get your electronic reports for the second reporting period submitted by December 15 to me. The second reporting period runs from September 1, 2017 through November 30, 2017.

Are you ready for the new year? Do you have your activities planned through June 2018? These seven months go by very quickly so there is little time to ponder about activities, but just enough time to act.

The statewide tour of the Holy Family Icon for the first half of December occurs in Districts 13, 15, 24, and 31. For the second half of December, the Icons are in District 05, 17, 22, and 28. Check with your District Deputy about availability of the Icon and make plans to host a prayer service in your parish or council. You can contact our Worthy PSD Ed Haynes with questions.

Thank you to all the councils and children who participated in the Soccer Shootout at Spalding High School. There were many participants. The State Council Free Throw Competition will be held in the spring. Are your Council and District free throw contests planned so as to get your winners to the State Competition? Contact Chairmen Joe Massimini or Mike Ragolio for information. We have medals for your District competition.

Are you honoring a family every month? If not, why not? The family does not have to Council members, but can be a family in your parish who deserves some recognition for their efforts. We need to nominate more families to Supreme for this honor. Talk with Chairman Mike Clements for ideas.

Remember that even though we are entering winter, don't let your council hibernate. Keep up your activity level.

On behalf of the Brothers and Ladies of the State Program Team, and their spouses. We wish you a Blessed and safe Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Vivat Jesus!

Fraternally yours,

Mike

Mike Sallèse
State Program Director for the State Program Team

State Program Report**Mike Sallese****Culture of Life**

To date, the Maryland State Council has donated 20 ultrasound machines to pregnancy care centers throughout the state. For each machine, the State Council contributes about \$25,000 that is matched by funds from the Knights of Columbus Supreme Headquarters. The program needs funds. Several councils and districts are planning to hold or have held fundraisers specifically for the Ultrasound Project. Can your council do the same? For more information or to make a donation, contact Richard Siejack at RVSiejack@aol.com.

Since 1973, nearly 60 million children in America have been denied their right to live. Some were killed because of their race, their mother's income or other reasons for which the child was not at fault. Others were killed for no other reason than convenience. Can we, as Knights stand by and do nothing? This year, take a stand. Every single Knight in Maryland should palm on going to the annual March for Life in Washington D.C. The upcoming 45th March for Life will be Friday, January 19, 2018, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Councils should have already begun helping parishioners and others that wish to march, by sponsoring buses or organizing fundraisers. More information can be found at <http://marchforlife.org/mfl-2018/>

Have you ever wanted to become more engaged in the legislative process and weigh in on issues important to you as a Catholic? Please join Maryland's bishops and hundreds of fellow Catholics for the Maryland Catholic Conference's 34th Annual Catholics in Annapolis on Thursday, February 22. Catholics in Annapolis provides parishioners the opportunity to speak in person with elected officials about issues important to our faith. The event begins at St. John Neumann Mission Church with briefings on the relevant issues considered by the General Assembly from a faith perspective. Shuttles will be provided to downtown Annapolis where you can meet your legislators. More information can be found at <http://www.mdccathcon.org/lobbysnight>.

Action without prayers will not be effective. Will your council or church host a pro-life Mass? The State Council is available to help with publicity, suggestions, and after-Mass speakers. Even if you do not need help, let us know of your activity. For more information, contact Mike Furst at mfurst1@yahoo.com.

Vivat Jesus!

Mike Furst
State Director Culture of Life Programs

Fourth Degree Report

God Bless America,

First I wanted to let you know that Former Master Carl Roberts is home and doing better. He and Audrey appreciate all of the prayers and cards. Please keep praying for them and all on our sick lists.

Christmas cards are due back to me by Dec 5th or they will not make it overseas. We did not have nearly the support we have in previous years. Send the cards directly to me and I will get them to our troops.

We are half way though the fraternal year. Have you accomplished all that you wanted to do? Has your council done at least two patriotic programs? Has your council taken on the challenge the Master gave to the assemblies and invited veterans out for the day from the three VA hospitals? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? Encourage your council to run a patriotic program for our current military and first responders. If you need help with ideas I would be more than happy to share a bunch of them with you. Let's all go out and make a difference in the lives of our veterans, military, first responders and show our community what it means to be a patriotic Catholic gentleman.

The District Staff and I want to wish everyone a very joyous blessed Christmas and a Happy new Year. Please pray for our active military and first responders that will not be home for the holidays. Remember the reason for the season and God Bless us one and all.

Thomas Greul
Master Maryland District

2018 Supreme Convention

The 2018 Supreme Convention will be held in Baltimore Md. August 6 – 9, 2018. We are beginning to recruit volunteers to assist with the various duties that will be undertaken to make the convention a success. The success of the organization of the convention and convention itself relies on the participation of Brother Knights and their families to help with pre-convention activities, hosting duties and support opportunities throughout the convention. Please take a few minutes to review, complete and submit the Volunteer Information Sheet attached. In addition, the Volunteer Sheet can be submitted electronically and is available on line via this link http://kofc-md.org/docs1617/Volunteer_Information_Sheet_2018_BaltimoreConvention.pdf or at www.kofc.org and see the homepage slide show "Supreme Convention 2018 is in Baltimore" and select "Click Here to Volunteer as Part of the Team." We will communicate all plans and schedules, via e mail, with our volunteers as we get closer to the convention. If you have any questions or need additional information please let me know, 301 774 6338 or gjialcal@verizon.net. Thank you in advance for your participation and support.

Jack Giacalone
Volunteer Coordinator

(ed note: volunteer form can be found on page 11)

First Lady's Message



First Lady's
Message

Vicki Cohen

I hope that everyone enjoyed a very Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving with family and friends and then shopped till you dropped on Black Friday and Cyber Monday!

As we are in the midst of one of the busiest---and joyous--- times of the year, I look forward to the beginning of celebrating the Christmas season with the State sponsored bus trip to Lancaster. I am sure all of us will have a marvelous day of shopping, eating and enjoying the "Miracle of Christmas" at Sight and Sound Theater.

In this season of giving to those less fortunate, the outpouring of support for the new state program, Boxes of Joy, was heart-warming. Many councils, auxiliaries, individuals and families donated hundreds of these boxes to be given to under-privileged children in Guatemala for Christmas. For most of these children, these Boxes of Joy will be the only gift they will receive.

In the same spirit of giving, we are collecting shoeboxes of necessities and goodies for the Apostleship of the Sea program at the State Christmas party. The State Deputy's charity for Christmas is the Little Sisters of the Poor. Donations can be mailed to State Secretary Dale Trott or given to him at the State Christmas party. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity in meeting the needs of others.

Ladies, mark Saturday, January 6, 2018 on your calendars---this is the date of the Midterm Meeting being held at Cardinal most welcome to join us.

While the men are busy, the ladies will experience a grace-filled and delightful day touring the beautiful St. John Paul II Shrine and the newly opened Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. Of course, lunch will be provided and Mass will be celebrated at the end of the day when we return to Cardinal Gibbons Council. You will be receiving information in the mail soon with more details about this day.

The trip to Key West from February 22-26, 2018 is on! We will be in the throes of winter by then, so sign up now to enjoy some warm weather. The group that went with us on the trip to Jamaica last February had a blast.

Also, mark your calendars for the Alaska Land/Cruise tour scheduled for June 5-15, 2018.

See flyers in this newsletter for details about these trips and contacting the travel agent for reservations.

Wishing you a very Blessed Advent, Joyful Christmas and Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

God Bless Us Everyone!



Visit our page and Like us on Facebook---[The Ladies of the Maryland Knights of Columbus](#)

2017 Maryland State Council Soccer Shootout

On a day that was better for ducks than for shooting goals, nearly 40 children participated in the Maryland State Council Soccer Shootout. This culminates a year of Soccer Shootouts at the Council and District levels where over 370 children did their best at penalty kicks, throw ins, and kicks for distance to advance from the Council to the District and eventually the State.

The winners of the State level Shootout were as follows:

6 and Under boys:

1st Place: Ben Los, Father Burggraff Council 6021, District #1

2nd Place: Joaquin Baron, Saint Francis of Assisi Council 12524, District #23*

3rd Place: Christian Belong, Bishop Becker Council 2427, District #16

6 and Under girls:

1st Place: Jacqueline Stohl, Saint Andrew by the Bay Council 11552, District #13

2nd Place: Samantha Kaman, Saint Francis of Assisi Council 12524, District #23*

3rd Place: Khloe Buckholdt, Resurrection of the Lord Council 14099, District #10

7-8 Boys:

1st Place, Alex Los, Father Burggraff Council 6021, District #1

2nd Place, Mario Belong, Bishop Becker Council 2427, District #16

3rd Place, Nathan Kaman, Saint Francis of Assisi Council 12524, District #23*

7-8 Girls:

1st Place: Sophie Cook, Father Burggraff Council 6021, District #1

2nd Place: Lila Keating, Bishop Thomas W. Lyons Council 9808, District #10

3rd Place: Mariann Argerson, Annapolis Council 1384, District #24

9-10 Boys:

1st Place: Ronan Gunning, Saint Francis of Assisi Council 12524, District #23*

2nd Place: Karson Rice, Bishop Becker Council 2427, District #16

3rd Place: Nicholas Argerson, Annapolis Council 1384, District #24

9-10 Girls:

1st Place: Grace Figueroa, Annapolis Council 1384, District #24

2nd Place: Bella Johnson, Saint Francis DeSales Council 3489, District #22

3rd Place: Ashley Bokal, Saint Francis of Assisi Council 12524, District #23

11-12 Boys:

1st Place: Evan England, Bishop Becker Council 2427, District #16

2nd Place: Beneket Mayanger, Monsignor Thomas M. Wells Council 13008, District #18

3rd Place: Jeremy Carpio, Resurrection of the Lord Council 14099, District #10

11-12 Girls:

1st Place: Maya Gunning, Saint Francis of Assisi Council 12524, District #23*

13-14 Boys:

1st Place: Christopher Gunning, Saint Francis of Assisi Council 12524, District #23*

2nd Place: Jacob Kiwanuka, Monsignor Thomas M. Wells Council 13008, District #18

3rd Place: Kevin Carpio, Resurrection of the Lord Council 14099, District #10

13-14 Girls:

1st Place: Shawna Ganley, Jesus the Devine Word Council 14775, District #9

15-18 Boys:

1st Place: Nicholas Henderson, Father Burggraff Council 6021, District #1*

2nd Place: Joseph Wagner, Jesus the Good Shepherd Council 14572, District #9*

3rd Place: Alex Klinger, Bishop Becker Council 2427, District #16

15-18 Girls: No participants

As part of the Maryland State Council Soccer Shootout we also award the best scores for Penalty Kick, Throw-in and Kick. One each for the best score in the boys category and the best score in the girls categories.

Boys Best Kick for Distance: Nicholas Henderson – 145 feet

Girls Best Kick for Distance: Shawna Ganley – 98 feet

Boys Best Throw-in: Joseph Wagner – 66 feet

Girls Best Throw-in: Grace Figueroa – 43 feet

Boys Best Penalty Kick Score: Joseph Wagner – 70 out of 100 possible points

Girls Best Penalty Kick Score: Grace Figueroa – 45 out of 100 possible points]

Thank you to all the participants for the Maryland State Council Soccer shootout.

None of this could happen without the support of many Knights throughout the State at the Council, District and State levels. Today's event was no exception. Knights from all over the State came to help with today's events. The following volunteered to judge, organize and provide hot dogs to today's participants: State Deputy Steve Cohen, State Program Director Mike Sallesse, Soccer Co-Chair Mike Ragolio and Joe Massimini, Steve Bayliff, Bob Douglass, Tony Durso, Bruce Evarrt, Mike Little, Paul Mullenhoff, Ray Szyperski, Harry Wacke, and Bob Windsor. We thank all of these Knights for their service to our Youth.

We thank Archbishop Spaulding High School for the use of their field for this great event.

In the list of those receiving awards, some of the people have stars after their names. We ask the District Deputy or the Grand Knight from the Council to make arrangements to get the award from Joe Massimini and provide it to the winner.

We hope everyone enjoyed themselves this year and will be coming back to participate next year.

2018 MARYLAND STATE COUNCIL ELECTIONS INFO

This flyer provides an overview of the campaigning policy to keep the Membership informed as the public portion of the campaign process begins. All Brother Knights are reminded that the election is at the Maryland State Council convention in May 2018. In the meantime, campaigning must never overshadow the good works of our Order.

The current candidates are listed below. Each Grand Knight will receive copies of the Information Sheets on Candidates for State Warden to provide the candidate's summary of his qualifications and vision. The Grand Knight will distribute this mailing to his delegate and alternates listed on the current credentials. The candidates, in alphabetical order, are:

State Warden

SK Bryan M. Adamczyk, FDD, PCP, PGK, PFN
 SK R. Lawrence Houck, Jr. PGK, PDW
 SK Gregory Everett McClain, FDD, PCP, PGK, PFN
 SK Daniel J. Ward, PGK, FDD
 SK John Winfrey IFM, PGK, PFN, FDD

State Advocate

Stephen J. Adamczyk, Immediate Past State Deputy
 Anthony N. Salvemini, State Warden

Campaigning opportunities & limits

Campaigning is limited to participation in the Regional Candidate Forums, and campaigning in the Atrium during the State Council Convention (except within 1 hour of the Friday Grand Knight Olympics and the Saturday morning Awards Program). ***Any candidate attempting to influence Brother Knights outside these venues violates his promise of obedience to his senior officers and the laws of the Order. Brother Knights, especially delegates to the Maryland State Council convention, will immediately instruct such a candidate to limit campaigning to the approved venues, and should consider this behavior critically when evaluating candidates.***

Regional Candidate Forums

Attendance limited to prospective voters based on currently submitted credentials (Grand Knight, Delegate, Alternates 1 & 2, in addition to the host Regional Advisor and the State Officers). Any of these credentialed Knights may attend any forum session. During the forum, each candidate will have 6 minutes to present his own message without negative comments or comparison with any other candidate. After candidates for Warden, the candidates for Advocate will present. Forums are informational only - no Q&A - candidates may answer questions individually after the forum.

Schedule

Nov 6	7pm	Eastern Shore Forum at Regina Coeli Council #2274
Nov 16	7pm	Western Baltimore Forum at Patapsco Council #1960
Dec 9	9am	Prince Georges Forum at Sacred Heart Council #2577
Jan 20	10am	Southern Maryland (lower) at Fr Sebastien de Rose Council #13091
Jan 24	7pm	Montgomery Forum at St. Elizabeth Council #12796
Feb 28	7:30pm	Northern Baltimore Forum at Cardinal Gibbons Council #2521
Mar 12	7pm	Frederick Forum at St. Peter the Apostle Council #13290
Mar 20	7pm	Southern Baltimore Forum at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Council #2452
Mar 22	7pm	Southern Maryland (upper) at Immaculate Conception Council #8159
Apr 8	1pm	Western Maryland Forum at Cumberland Council #586

9/20/2017—V4

2018 Supreme Convention Baltimore Md. Volunteer Information Sheet

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT IN CAPITAL LETTERS

COUNCIL #

MEMBERSHIP #

KNIGHT'S NAME (Last, First, Middle)

SPOUSE'S FIRST NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE AND ZIP CODE

KNIGHT :

MOBILE #

WORK #

HOME #

E MAIL ADDRESS

SPOUSE:

MOBILE #

WORK #

HOME #

E MAIL ADDRESS

Please Indicate Day (s) and Times (s) you are willing to volunteer. Please identify up to three activities you Prefer to be assigned (use Activity Legend below to select activities B,C,D etc. and record it in the "CODE" box)

KNIGHT

SPOUSE

Day/ Date	7am-11am	11am-3pm	3pm-7pm	7pm-10pm	7am-11am	11am-3pm	3pm-7pm	7pm-10pm
Friday, August 3	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE
Saturday, August 4	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE
Sunday, August 5	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE
Monday, August 6	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE
Tuesday, August 7	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE
Wednesday, August 8	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE
Thursday, August 9	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE

* Friday August 10 and Saturday August 11 are primarily for a limited number of Hierarchy drivers

*Friday, August 10	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE
*Saturday, August 11	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE	CODE

Code	Activity Legend	Dates Needed
A.	Pre-convention Programs - additional Information will be provided	July 30—Aug 3
B.	Registration - assistance distributing guest packets and provide information to guests	Aug 4—Aug 7
C.	Hierarchy Transportation - transport Bishops, Archbishops and Cardinals to and from airports to hotel	Aug 4—Aug 11
D.	Greeters—at hotels , greet and provide information to arriving guests	Aug 4—Aug 7
E.	Youth Activities— help with youth programs during ladies lunch, States Dinner, others act & times TBD	Aug 7— Aug 8
F.	Country Store—assist with setup, sales, cashier duties and take down of merchandise on the last day	Aug 4—Aug 9
G.	General Help— not assigned to a specific activity, provide help as needed	Aug 4—Aug 9
H.	Ladies Luncheon	Aug 8

Please complete the above form and mail to
Knights of Columbus , 2018 Supreme Convention—Volunteers
3901 Shallow Brook Lane Olney Md. 20832

or complete, scan and e-mail to Jgiacal48@gmail.com, the form is also available at www.kofc-md.org
Questions, please contact Jack Giacalone, Volunteer Coordinator, 301 774 6338

Are you coming to the 2018 National March for Life?



Everyone else will be there!

March with the Maryland Knights of Columbus:

- **Friday, January 19, 2018**
- **Meet at 14th St. and Madison Dr., NW (on the Mall) between 10:45 and 11:15 AM. (Nearest Metro stations: FEDERAL TRIANGLE or SMITHSONIAN)**
- **Look for brother Maryland Knights and the Maryland Knights of Columbus banner.**
- **At 11:15, we will move to the staging area to watch the program.**

**STAND UP FOR THE UNBORN
COME TO THE MARCH
BE PRO-LIFE**



Maryland State Council
Knights of Columbus Presents...

Fairfield Inn & Suites Key West at The Keys Collection Travel Dates: Feb 22-26, 2018

Land only: \$913.26 per person (single or double occupancy)

Round-trip Air: \$577.73 per person

Key West, the southernmost location in the continental United States, offers a tropical blend of azure waters, exotic foliage and four-star restaurants. Visitors are drawn to the southern charm and Caribbean flavor of this laid-back island nation called the Conch Republic.



Home-away-from home for 5 days | 4 nights in this newly built in May 2015; hotel sets the stage for a remarkable visit to Key West. 133 spacious rooms, free Wi-Fi access, flat-screen TV, pillow top mattress. The location of the hotel makes it easy to explore Key West and is close to the excitement of Duval Street and much more. Access to shuttle service to Old Town is available.

TRIP INCLUSIONS:

- 4 nights accommodations
- **Complimentary Full American breakfast daily**
- Round-trip air BWI-Key West
- Poolside Bar
- Heated outdoor pool
- Fitness Center
- Downtown shuttle transportation daily
- In-room Mini Refrigerator & Microwave
- Complimentary High-speed Internet access in all Guestrooms
- Round-trip transfers in Key West
- All taxes

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL 410.224.0101

Or email:

Nita Kreuzburg: cig.nita@verizon.net

Michelle Corpuz: cig.michelle@verizon.net

Creative Travel
177 Defense Highway, Suite 7
Annapolis, MD 21401

Confirm reservation with \$200.00 per person Deposit before November 1, 2017
Final payment due before January 12, 2018.



**MARYLAND STATE COUNCIL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
PRESENTS...**

**Royal Caribbean Radiance of the Seas
10- Night Alaska Interior Cruisetour**

Dates: June 5-15, 2018



Ocean View Staterooms

3 Night Land Tour – Fairbanks (2 nights) and Denali
7 Night Cruise – Southbound Alaska

Cruise Itinerary

- Seward, Alaska
- Hubbard Glacier (cruising)
- Juneau, Alaska
- Skagway, Alaska
- Icy Strait Point, Alaska
- Ketchikan, Alaska
- Inside Passage (cruising)
- Vancouver, British Columbia

Included Experiences

Fairbanks City Tour

Denali Natural History Tour

Gold Dredge 8

Wilderness Express, glass-domed train cars to Denali



Royal Caribbean Radiance of the Seas

10- Night Alaska Interior Cruisetour Dates: June 5-15, 2018

Total Cruisetour Cost Per Person: \$2,819.04

Round-trip Air Per Person: \$1,327.81 (approximate)

*Call today: Nita or Michelle @ 410.224-0101 or email:
cig.nita@verizon.net*

Reserve your stateroom with a \$250.00 per person deposit before
December 4, 2017

Full payment due on or before March 1, 2018.

Make checks payable to...

**CREATIVE TRAVEL
177 DEFENSE HIGHWAY, SUITE 7
ANNAPOLIS, MD 20401**

Reflections
Lawrence P. Grayson

Reclaiming Christmas

Two thousand years ago, Rome was the center of the civilized world – economically, commercially, socially, militarily. Its material greatness, however, was accompanied by moral depravity. Prostitution, pornography, homosexuality, same-sex unions, suicide, and other lustful perversions were accepted.

Does not the permissiveness of that ancient culture appear familiar? As we in America – and indeed the West -- strive for material greatness, are we not recreating a pagan moral climate?

The Roman world changed, however. On a day now known as Christmas, the *“Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.”* God came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ. Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, the Second Person of God assumed a fully human nature, with all of the joys and agonies, trials and tribulations, thoughts and emotions, sufferings and death that are innate to man.

Through His teachings and the Church He left behind, a new era began for the human race. His doctrines elevated women to equality with men, asserted the role of charity and social justice, showed the debasement and immorality of slavery, established the sanctity and indissolubility of marriage, and raised the status of the family and children. The recognition of Christ’s birth with its profound implications, became a special event for His followers.

Ever since the first settlers landed in America, Christmas has been celebrated in this land. But now, with declining religious beliefs among the populace, for many Christmas has been replaced with a secular, commercial holiday, preceded by a month-long marketing blitz focused on an inordinate amount of buying and gift-giving. Today, this Christian observance is not only being deemphasized, but God Himself is being expunged from public recognition.

Nativity scenes are banned from government property; Christmas programs and traditional carols are forbidden in public schools; the greeting “Merry Christmas” is replaced with “Happy Holidays”; shopping malls are decorated with winter scenes, sleighs, trees, bells, birds, Santa Clauses, and anything other than a reminder of what occurred 2000 years ago; and there are recent efforts to place satanic displays next to crèches. The same Christ Child who could find no place in the public inn in Bethlehem is now being proscribed from receiving public acknowledgement in America.

The silencing of Christmas is more than just being concerned about the sensitivities of non-Christians. It is a step toward suppressing those moral beliefs that are rooted in Christian doctrine: the protection of the unborn, the sanctity of life at all stages, the inviolability of tradition marriage, the ability to live one’s religious beliefs in the public square. There can be no further restrictions without a total suppression of Catholic identity, a loss of religious freedom, a denigration of societal mores based on virtue and morality, and a weakened ability to develop the faith among the young.

In spite of the moral darkness of our time, things can change. But it will take a concerted effort by all Christians, Catholics included, to live their faith in public. They must create a counter-cultural

movement, and it can start by taking back Christmas and once again publically celebrating the birth of Our Savior.

Pope Pius X, at the beginning of the 20th century, said: "The greatest obstacle to the apostolate of the Church is the timidity or rather the cowardice of the faithful." As harsh and as true as that observation has been, Christians today must be forthright in expressing their faith. They no longer can be hesitant to confront the secular forces that are removing God from the culture. They must express their religious beliefs and publicly celebrate their traditions.

A new liturgical year begins on December 3, with Advent, the prelude to Christmas. This period of preparation, penitence and expectant waiting for the coming of the Lord, can be a period of moral strengthening. It is an opportunity to reflect on why God chose to become man and its implications for our lives. We are in this temporal life to work out our salvation so that we may merit an eternity in the kingdom of God. Jesus, through His coming taught us the way and gave us the means – grace, the Eucharist, his Church – to attain that salvation.

In the days ahead, as a sign of gratitude and fidelity to our Lord, make a public statement about Christmas. There are innumerable ways to do so, limited only by your imagination. Display a crèche in your yard as well as your home, send religious greeting cards, use stamps displaying the Madonna and Child, promote traditional songs that praise God, join a neighborhood caroling group, set up an Advent wreath, include religiously-themed ornaments on your Christmas tree, visit the Nativity scene in your church, take a card from a church's "giving tree" and return a gift for a needy child, include religiously-themed ornaments on your Christmas tree, and tell your children or grandchildren the story of Christ's birth.

As you prepare for Christmas, do not neglect the most important step -- strengthen yourself spiritually. Say the Rosary, spend time in Eucharistic Adoration, go to Confession, meditate on the liturgical readings, so that when you go to Mass on Christmas Day, you can be truly joyous about the arrival of our Lord.

Do not stop these activities on December 25. Continue them at least until the Epiphany -- Feast of the Three Kings, *Little Christmas* -- which will be celebrated on January 7. Then, throughout the year, pray the Rosary and meditate on its mysteries, which recount the life of Our Lord. Every time we recite the Hail Mary, we say, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee," the words the Archangel Gabriel used to invite Mary to become the mother of God. Reflect on when these words were first said and of the birth that followed.

If we live everyday as a preparation for Christ's coming, the results will be profound. If we do, the world will be a different place.

May you and your family have a very *Blessed and Merry Christmas!*

* * *

December 2017

What's coming up in the State

December 2017

Dec 1 - State Tour - Lancaster, PA

Dec 9 - State Christmas Party

Dec 25 - Merry Christmas

January 2018

Jna 1 - Happy New Year

Jan 6 - State Midterm Meeting - Cardinal Gibbons Council

Jan 19 - March for Life, Washington, DC

Like & Follow



Where social media is more prevalent than ever, the Knights of Columbus Maryland State Council will be providing more state related updates via these platforms, such as Facebook, with the intent to keep all members and their families informed. Maryland State Council will also use these platforms to post event photographs from state events! We encourage all to follow us on our Facebook and Instagram pages

The new Facebook page not to replace the community-group established in the past. Members and their families should also continue to connect to this page for events in within your specific council and community; however, all official communication from your elected Maryland State Officers will be posted to the official MD State page.



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