



KNIGHTLIFE



Volume 23 Issue 10

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

April 2018

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

IN SOLIDALITY WITH OUR PRIESTS





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Chaplain Thoughts. . .



“He has been raised from the dead.”

by Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr.



Mary Magdalene was crying as she rushed to the Tomb where they buried Jesus, in the early hours of First Day of the Week. She was shocked and bewildered when she saw that huge stone removed from the tomb. She ran to tell Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved (John), what she had found. Peter first, then John, went into the empty tomb, and John saw and believed. John knew that his faith in Jesus was true, that his faith in God’s promise to send Israel a Savior, was justified.

Jesus’ suffering, death and resurrection bought eternal life with God for us. Jesus rescued Mary Magdalene from her troubles and gave her another chance at life as His disciple. Jesus forgave Peter for his denial of Him during His passion and gave Peter another chance as His Apostle and the Rock on whom He would build His Church on earth. Through His obedience to His Father’s will, in His suffering, death and resurrection, Jesus gave all of mankind another chance at life with God, by baptism into His Body. Jesus’ resurrection from the dead has changed everything! It has changed our fundamental relationship with God. A relationship with God that Adam and Eve lost for all of mankind by disobedience.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul says that if Christ has not been raised from the dead, our faith is in vain. If Christ has not been raised from the dead, we are still separated from God. If Christ had not risen from the dead, He has no more authority over our lives than any other historical person. But He did rise from the dead!

Now, Easter Sunday has dawned, and with it, the absolute victory of the Resurrection. The tomb is empty. The stone is overturned. The shadow of the cross is replaced by the morning light of a new life in truth. Christ’s apparent failure has risen in victory.

We have another chance at life with God.

*That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
{Romans 10:9}*



Your Grand Knight For The 2017 - 2018 Fraternal Year

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart”

By Grand Knight J. Bernard Broadus



What a start to our Lenten season. Our first Fish Fry was a huge success. Everyone I have spoken with has nothing but good compliments for all involved. I would like to personally thank the following for the help to make the first fish fry a success. Our Ladies, Sharon Thompson, Sheila Hinton, Carla Ratcliffe, Gladys Ramey, Etoile Hawkins, Alicia Sanders, Cecelia Clayton, Beverly Starks,

Sandy James, Sheila Davis, Cherry Neal, Dottie Newman, Pam White and Karen Marshall. Our Brother Knights, Cal Thompson, Alan Davis, Harold Sanders, David Martin, Tim Matthews, Ike Agbim, Michael Younger, Michael Akpan, Charles Okpah, John Grier, Fidelis Ajudua, Terrance Holmes, John Huntley, Bob Sistare and Bernard Broadus. An awesome group of people and I am excited about doing it again on March 9th at our second fish fry. A huge Fletcher Council Thanks to all. Please reach out to Cal Thompson, our chairman, and volunteer to help with set up, staff and clean up at our next event. We also had our Fletcher Council readings for the Stations of the Cross. Always a very rewarding service, and again thank you my fellow knights for turning out to make this a success.

March will bring about change as it has always done. It is a time of action, of movement, of progress of prayer and a time to reflect on our roles as knights and Christian leaders of our Roman Catholic principles. This month has begun with us doing the Stations of the Cross, with our next fish fry the following week. During this Lenten season please prevail yourselves to the Tuesday evening Adoration, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Mass, Wednesday evening's "Light is On" confession services and charitable services to our fellow man.

It is our DUTY as Knights of Columbus to serve, protect and help our brothers, widows and children. This brings me to my next topic, Knights Sunday. We are asking all Fletcher Council Brothers to go with us on March 18th after the 11 A.M. Mass, as we visit Sir Knight Mervyn Chancellor and pray the rosary. I know our brother Mervyn would great appreciate all who are able to attend.

We will also have nominations for council officers 2018-2019 at during our business meeting on March 1st. Please consider accepting a nomination for an executive position for our next fraternal year. Brothers, we have numerous opportunities for you to do charity and unity within your council, parish, family and ministry organizations. Please contact any officer or program director to volunteer your time and talents. Trust in God, your faith and pray as we enter our Lenten Season. May all your prayers be answered, and your hearts and souls drawn closer to God.

*“Trust in the Lord with all thy heart and lean
not on thy own understandings”.*

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 on the Maryland State website at:

http://kofc-md.org/docs1617/Volunteer_Information_Sheet_2018_BaltimoreConvention.pdf

or 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 jgiacal@verizon.net. Thank you in advance for your participation and support.

Jack Giacalone
McNamara Chapter
Volunteer Coordinator



District Deputy's Report

State Deputy's Report



G. Emeka Onwezi
District Deputy

Halleluiah! Halleluiah!! Halleluiah!!!, Christ Has Risen from the Death, let us rejoice and be glad. I, my wife Chizoba, and my children wish everyone a happy Easter.

The month of March was a busy one for everyone. From the Maryland State Council spring meeting, to Lenten pilgrimage to the National Shrine of St. Pope John Paul II, to the Founder's Day celebration, to the State Council basketball free throw competition, to the holy week activities, to council fish fry, to March for life in Annapolis, Maryland, to March for our lives in Washington,

D.C., to March madness for basketball lovers, etc. I know each one of us found one or more things that energized us both in our faith, community and entertainment, which kept us busy last month.

Let's that energized spirit be carried on into this month of April, as we have two more months to go to the end of this fraternal year. At the spring meeting, we were reminded that council's activities do not end at the end of the fraternal year and restart at the next fraternal year. Rather, council activities are continuous endless efforts. We as Knight of Columbus do not take a break, our charity outreach activities do not take a break, and people who rely on our charity outreach do not take a break. If you considering more charitable outreach, please do not forget our seminarians, do not forget the pennies from heaven campaign, and start planning for the next year's box of joy program.

In the same manner, our recruitment does not take a break. We still have enough time to recruit new members and attain the goal of star council. Your council has done it in the past numerous times and it can restart that tradition again. Every member of the council is a member of the recruitment team. It is not only the council's Grand Knight's responsibility.

Some of the State Council's upcoming events ate family day at Hershey park coming up on April 22nd, from 10am to 6pm. Price per person is \$32 and children 2 and under are free. Everyone is invited – family, friends, parishes, youth groups, schools, CCD classes. To order tickets use this links <http://tinyurl.com/mdstatecouncil> . Promo Code: 71568 or go to or <http://www.kofc-md.org>. Also, the Maryland State Council's State Convention is on the first weekend in May. Currently, more than 850 have registered.

Vivat Jesus!

COME PRAY WITH US

All Council Members

Are Invited To

Knights Sunday

Every 3rd Sunday

Of The Month

At The 11 A.M. Mass




Stephen M. Cohen
State Deputy

Have You Visited The State Website Lately

www.kofc-md.org

Or the Maryland State Yahoo Group

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/MDstatecouncil/info?yguid=46983702>



SUPREME KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Carl A. Anderson - Supreme Knight

St. Joseph's Humble, Decisive Witness Speaks Volumes To Our Culture Today



As Catholic fathers, one of our main responsibilities is to pass on the faith to our children. We do this best by living the faith in an engaging way and by attending Mass with our family. But we also need to teach our kids the basics of the faith at a young age and make sure their Catholic knowledge grows as they do.

In teaching about Jesus and Mary, a summary of Gospel stories and a review of the mysteries of the rosary provide an excellent primer. What can we say about St. Joseph, the husband of Mary and adoptive father of Jesus, who has no words recorded in the Bible? In our online age in which every stray thought can be texted or tweeted, we can present Joseph as a model for our times — a man of action who goes against the tides and trends of the world.

As we approach St. Joseph's feast day March 19, consid-

er these five “countercultural” qualities of Joseph that can be instructive to our children, as well as to us.

Attentive. Our kids are bombarded by distracting media, yet they long for peace of heart and mind. As Pope Francis has observed, Joseph was “constantly attentive to God” and responded with courage to heavenly messengers who told him to put aside the opinion of others. St. John Paul II also said that because of his attentiveness, Joseph had the “power of making great decisions.” Our children, too, can do great things with St. Joseph at their side.

Humble. Social media, as forums for idealized personas and perfect images, are not noted for fostering humility. With a little guidance, our children can see through the online posturing and appreciate the value of honesty, the foundation of humility. Setting aside his own plans in order to follow God's will, Joseph “lowers himself and takes this great responsibility upon his shoulders,” explains Pope Francis. St. Joseph teaches us that humility does not mean passivity. Rather, his hidden life was defined by integrity and strength.

Protective. Our kids can feel vulnerable amid what Pope Francis calls a “throwaway culture,” which does not respect the dignity of the human person — especially the unborn, the poor, the elderly, the sick and others on the periphery. In the face of harmful influences such as cyberbullying and online pornography, we should appeal to our children's desire for protection. St. Joseph was the guardian, or *custos*, of Jesus, and he is now the patron of the universal Church. As a father, show your children that you stand strong with Joseph.

Hardworking. Although life today is vastly different than in the time of St. Joseph, the demands of hard work are still essentially the same. “Work was the daily expression of love in the life of the family of Nazareth,” wrote St. John Paul II. While our virtual age seeks pleasure first and is quick to demean or outsource menial labor, Joseph the carpenter rolls up his sleeves and reveals the dignity of human work. He is an example of someone who knows that hard work can be its own reward.

Loving. Our world is filled with distorted images of love that can cause our children great harm and heartache. Joseph is an antidote. Love for him was not red hearts and arrows but self-giving for the good of others. He also expressed a “tenderness,” notes Pope Francis, a “strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love.” Through St. Joseph, your kids can learn the true nature of love that is rooted in his care for Mary and Jesus.

Presenting St. Joseph with these countercultural virtues, we fathers should seek to imitate him in our own lives. That will be a win for our children, our families and ourselves.



FRATERNAL BENEFITS

Harold Sims, Fraternal Benefit Advisor
harold.sims@kofc.org

202-701-2415

Protect What Matters Most — Your Family

Since its inception, the Knights of Columbus has been a family-first organization. Father McGivney strove to create an organization where Catholic men could come together to protect and support the families in their communities who needed it the most — including their own.

Today, the mission is the same. The Knights of Columbus has more than \$109 billion of life insurance in force, covering the lives of hundreds of thousands of our members and their families.

Knights across North America continue to trust the Order to protect them and see to it that their loved ones are well taken care of once they're gone. Are you one of those members?

Life insurance can help you protect your loved ones in all stages of your life. And understanding how life insurance can help you protect your family while achieving your financial goals is easier than you might think.

As brother Knights, we have the honor of being part of an organization that carries out its founding mission even hundreds of years later. Your Knights of Columbus dedicated field agent is here to help you achieve this same mission — now and for years to come. His job — his mission — is to help you determine the most cost-effective means of providing your family with the coverage they need. It's a proven fraternal system that has helped countless families.

Your dedicated field agent is available to provide a complimentary, comprehensive analysis to assess your family's situation. He will determine any financial shortfalls. He will also provide a solution that fits your family's budget through top-quality products: lines of life insurance, disability income insurance, long-term care insurance and retirement annuities.

We are an organization guided by ethical and moral values that has consistently earned the highest ratings of financial strength. Our charge remains the same as it did in 1882: To protect and provide for those in need. As your first commitment is to your family, our first commitment is to you.

Contact your local agent today and learn more about the coverage available to you through your membership with the Knights of Columbus. To find your local agent, visit kofc.org/findagent.

McNAMARA CHAPTER

Vernon Hawkins, Jr. - Chapter President



We experienced a first last month with a Tri-Chapter Gala. The McNamara Chapter, Baltimore Chapter and Elizabeth Seton Chapter of Grand Knights teamed up to step out of the box and pulled off a unique, special and very successful celebration at Columbus Garden in Baltimore. Honorees from each Chapter were as follows: McNamara Chapter - Bryan Adamczyk; Saton Chapter - Robert Jack; and Baltimore - Jamie Gouldin. McNamara Chapter will host the 2018 PCP Gala.

This month's Bishop McNamara Chapter meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 21st at St. Mary's Council 1470, 41605 Fenwick St., Leonardtown, MD 20650. The meeting will start promptly at 8 P.M. Remember **all** Grand Knights, Deputy Grand Knights, District Deputies, District Wardens are strongly urged to attend and meet and greet our State Officers and Chairman. Grand Knights are also encouraged to bring their Chair Officers and Committee Chairman. Future McNamara Chapter meetings and events for the remainder of this fraternal year are : March 15th, St. Mary's Council 1470; April 19th, Fr. Peter Paul Maher Council 6793; May 16th, St. Elizabeth Council 12796 (Chapter Elections); June 20th, Sacred Heart Council 2577 (Exchange of Jewels) and June TBD, Regency Furniture Stadium (Blue Crabs Game)

Please note that during this quarter, the election cycle commenced for Chapter Officers for the 2017-2018 fraternal year will commence at this month's meeting. The Election Committee will accept nominations for all officer positions, elections will take place at the May Chapter meeting.



WALSH ASSEMBLY NEWS

Michael P. Davenport - Faithful Navigator

"Day of The Dome" Walking with Mary at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception - Proud to be a Knight with my Brothers in Regalia and New Uniform We Stand Together and the Tradition Continues! CHARITY!

— with [Thomas Greul](#).



A MARYLAND TRADITION



PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Michael Younger, Community Activities Director
mrwhy@verizon.net

301-980-6779

Fletcher Council has had a very productive year thus far in completing all of our scheduled service programs. In all six service areas, **Church, Community, Family, Pro Life, Council and Youth**, Fletcher Council has again shown why it is one of the premiere councils in the state of Maryland.

The final months of this fraternal year are full of programs which are in dire need of volunteers or coordinators to ensure a successful finish for this administration. Brother Peter Methodius is soliciting volunteers for the **40 Days of Life Campaign**. Brother Cal Thompson needs assistance for the **March 9th Lenten Fish Fry**. Brothers Alan Davis and John Huntley request assistance with the bread and food pickups and deliveries from Costco and Panera Bread to local homeless shelters and churches. Grand Knight Bernard Broadus needs help with Church Activities, Brother Efrain Anderson with Family Activities, Brother Phil Beaubouef with this month's **Kite Flying Extraganza** and Brother Vernon Hawkins with the **Knighlife Newsletter**.

Remember gentlemen, we are in the **Season of Lent**, a season of prayer fasting and alms giving. If you have yet to participate in any of our activities, I urge you to contact me or any of the brothers listed above and **VOLUNTEER!!**

This council has over 150 member and I challenge all members to commit to one activity before the end of the year. Serving our fellow brothers and sisters is the essence of who we are as Christians and as Knights.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Chidubem M. Oparaaji, Activities Director
cmatriot@gmail.com



202-802-8155

Brothers, Spring is upon us and the warmth that is the glory of Easter now fills our hearts with the joy, grace and peace of a new life in Christ. Now is the perfect time for us to renew our commitment to actively serve the church and to become more involved in our council. Let us **Knights spring into action** and take an initiative to help the St. Joseph ministries and the activities of our council serve our fellow parishioners, council members and community. We are tasked to be ambassadors for Christ and what better way to serve than by volunteering or joining a Church ministry or Council Social Activity.

Currently, The Repast Committee (Lady Etoile Hawkins), Good Samaritans Ministry (Keisha Jackson), Hospitality and Lector Ministries (Beverly Starks), Altar Server (Deacon Al Turner), Social Justice Ministry (Sheila Tyler), St. Vincent dePaul Society (Debbie Duckett) and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (Grand Knight Bernard Broadus) are in need of new members as our church continues to grow.

Our Fletcher Council Charities (SK Peter Methodius), Squires Circle (FDD, PGK, FN Mike Davenport) and Project Heal (FDD, PFN, PGK Terrance Holmes) are also seeking council members to aid in the development of our young men, the promotion of healthy lifestyles and the educational and spiritual growth of all our young people. These ministries and groups are an important part of our stewardship and evangelization and help us as Christians advance the Kingdom of God.

If you or any of your family members have time to give to these ministries, please consider volunteering. Contact any of the chairpersons listed above or access the church website, Church office, or the James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council website, newsletter or Grand Knight.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Michael Younger, Community Activities Director
mrwhy@verizon.net



301-980-6779

Annual Lenten Fish Fry



We are back by popular demand with the finger licking tummy filling, and smoking Fletcher Council Fish Fry. Our opening session last month initiated the craving for more of the same and we will go again to satisfy those cravings. This month's Fish Fry will be held on Friday, March 9th. Fish dinners are \$11.00 and Fish Sandwich's are \$8.00.

BTW, although we have a standard crew, additional help is needed. Please consider putting in an hour or two and give Cal Thompson (301) 928-2157 or Harold Sanders (301) 390-7150 a call to sign up to assist in our Annual Lenten Fish Fry.

MEMBERSHIP QUEST

Alan M. Davis, Membership Director
adavis1960@verizon.net



301-808-8009



Harold M. Countee Kennard A. Dalrymple

These Brother Knights, Harold and Kennard celebrated their 1-year anniversary as a Knight of Columbus and a member of Fletcher Council. And, they have each been busy participants in council activities. We are proud to have you and thank you for not setting back, but setting a final example of what knighthood is all about.



COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Cal Thompson, Council Activities Director
calthompsn@msn.com



301-249-2955

The council's Annual Mardi Gras was a fantastic success. It was held last month on Saturday, February 10th in the beautifully decorated Rosemont Room at St. Joseph Catholic Church. It was again, a sell out, with many on the waiting list for tickets. Our Decorating Committee, did it again, transforming the event hall into a colorful New Orleans Mardi Gras environment.





FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Efrain Anderson, Family Activities Director
canal511@aol.com

301-372-6426



Pam White has been a member of the St. Joseph Catholic Church for over 8 years. She first attended St. Joseph in 2001 then transferred to St. Thomas More in S.E. DC in 2008. She returned to St. Joseph recently in September 2016. Pam is a native Washingtonian now living in Bowie, Maryland. She is a product of our catholic schools (Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception Academy) of the Archdiocese of Washington. She is a graduate of the Mount Vernon College for Women. She has two sisters, Patricia in DC and Beverly in Ohio, a very good sister-friend Rozina, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Pam retired in 2013 after working some 37 years in management at the United State Census Bureau in Suitland, MD. Her favorite things to do include gardening and traveling abroad to Caribbean islands, and more recently, cruising the Mediterranean Sea.

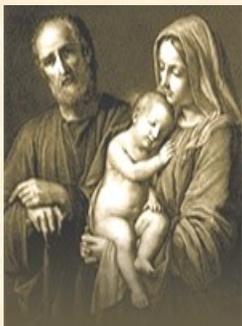
Pam is an active member in the church. In December 2017, she began serving as vice president of our St. Vincent De Paul Society. This is a Catholic lay organization that leads men and women to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those in the community who are suffering and in need. She recently helped organize the 2017 Thanksgiving Baskets donation program.

Pam also is a member of the Repast Ministry whose mission is to show God's love through bringing comfort to those who suffer the loss of a loved one. After serving 12 months in the ministry, Pam recently became one of three Team Leaders responsible for preparing and serving meals at repasts to bereaved families. While it can be a bit of work to accomplish, she mostly enjoys the fellowship and comradery with the various team members.

Right around the time she joined the Repast Ministry, she also joined the Counters Ministry where once a month she joins other team members in counting the tithes and offerings collected each weekend.

"I am sincerely happy to be a part of such a wonderful community that appreciatively extends itself to those looking for a church home."

FAMILY FULLY ALIVE



In founding the Knights of Columbus, Father Michael J. McGivney sought to respond to the crisis in family life affecting Catholics in 19th-century America. As a young man he witnessed firsthand the challenges his widowed mother faced with seven children at home. Later, as a priest he confronted on a daily basis the problems affecting the families of his parish community due to poverty, violence, alcoholism, immigration, anti-Catholic prejudice and discrimination.

Father McGivney's vision for family life was not simply that each family might find financial and material aid. He understood that holiness is the calling of all baptized Christians. And, seeing as his two brothers followed him into the priesthood, we can understand how truly important the "sanctuary of the home" was to the McGivney family.

His family was a living example of what the Second Vatican Council later taught — that each man, woman and child is called to holiness through proclaiming the Gospel and communicating the divine gift of love through the activities of their daily lives.

When Christian families respond in this way to the design of the Creator, they become a "domestic Church" that, as Pope Paul VI explained, mirrors "the various aspects of the entire Church."



IN SOLIDARITY WITH OUR PRIESTS

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

301-336-0284

It is at the parish level and in support of parish priests that the Knights of Columbus will continue to make its mark on the Church. That was the commitment Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson made to more than 100 priests and bishops from throughout Connecticut who were guests of honor at a banquet hosted by the Supreme Council. This year, in honor of the parish priest who was our founder [Father Michael J. McGivney], the Knights of Columbus pledges to increase the vitality and spirituality that will help our parishes become the leading edge of a renewed and energetic Catholic Church,” said Anderson. And so too it is the pledge of the James



C. Fletcher, Jr. Council of the Knights of Columbus at St. Joseph Catholic Church.



CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES

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

301-728-7827



YOUTH ACTIVITIES



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

240-353-1460

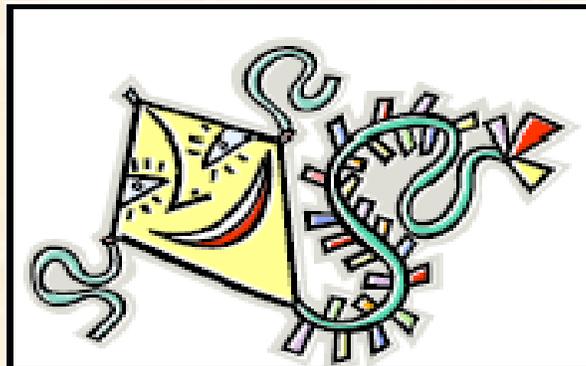
Kites Are Coming



SK Michael Davenport, with his lovely daughter and granddaughter were all wrapped up in kite flying several years ago at the Annual Fletcher Council Kite Flying Extravaganza. I would say that it is time to take to the skies again. The windy month of March is traditionally kite flying time in the Washington Metropolitan area, and our Largo, Maryland area is right in there with our kite flying neighbors.

Our event is usually held each year, preferably in March, with early April as an option. It is called the “*Kite Flying Extravaganza*.” It is open to family members of not only council members, but parishioners as well.

During the event, the council provides refreshments, music and free kites. Also, the council has an excellent pool of experts schooled in the art of kite flying to help the novice. Participants may also bring their kites. The date and time for this year’s “*Kite Flying Extravaganza*” will be announced shortly.





MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SQUIRES CIRCLE

Michael P. Davenport, PGK, FDD, FN
qstorm3@aol.com

301-523-7374

Squires Circle Report

This month, April, Christ has risen. Last month, March, we prepared for that rising with lent and sacrificing small pieces of our lives. We can't forget other small pieces of our lives that we sacrifice for. As small as they are they are what we live and work for, our precious jewels, our youth, our Squires. The Martin Luther King Jr. Squires Circle 04712 has survived many challenges over the years including the recent notice from Supreme that we, once again, had been dissolved. A phone call later it was realized that a mistake was made and that the Circle was compliant in all aspects and intact.

The Mini Me's of the James C. Fletcher Council have risen to the task and increased their numbers by 12 members to a total of 16 for the year. The Maryland State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus conveyed his gratitude and recognized the Circle to Supreme Council as an outstanding group of young Candidate Knights in good standing.

A meeting with the Squires and parent was held on Sunday March 18th 2018. Applications were reviewed, and the members rounded up. New candidates were asked to stand, introduced themselves and gave backgrounds. The current Chief Squire, Isaiah Scott, spoke and congratulated the new Squires on their wise decision. He stated that he has learned never to give up and that perseverance was the key to success. He stated that the reason he was Chief Squire was because he didn't give up and worked hard by serving his Church and his Circle and stated that with no work there is no play. Kind of sounds like what we've all heard many times before and that is that you get out what you put in. The meeting was attended by Sir Knight Tim Matthews and Sir Knight Ike Agbim (Alias Supper Man) who popped in when he could while simultaneously attending the African Community meeting in the next classroom. It's Knights like these that show how passionate we are as Knights and how that passion is passed on to our young men.

The next meeting will be on Sunday April 15th, 2018. Following the 11AM Mass. A nominations committee will be formed and nomination for officers will commence. The following meeting will continue the expedited nomination process and outline activities for remainder of the year which will be developed with an emphasis on "With no work there is no play". All Brother Knights are welcome to attend. It's a wonderful experience to walk into a room filled with our youth and immediately receive a standing applause worthy of a District Deputy State or other State Official.

The trumpet is sounded yet again and our Young Knights to be stepped up. As the Squires membership continues to grow, so does the future of our Council membership. This year we expect at three Squires to become First Degree Knights.

Vivat Jesus
Esto Dignus



REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson

The Battle Over Morally-Offensive, Compelled Speech

On March 20, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case of *National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) v. Becerra*. The issue to be decided is whether the government can compel a faith-based ministry to proclaim a message that is in opposition to its mission.

Compelled behavior and speech have been tactics used by governments, throughout the ages, in many nations and in many cultures, to stigmatize, penalize and suppress minority religious views. In Elizabethan England, Catholics were fined if they did not attend Sunday services in an Anglican Church. Until the 20th century, Muslim nations imposed a jizya or yearly tax on non-Muslims living in the country. In Nazi-occupied territory during World War II, Jews were required to wear a Star of David on their clothing.

In October 2015, California passed the *Reproductive Freedom, Accountability, Comprehensive Care, and Transparency (FACT) Act*, which requires all pregnancy care facilities to post notification in their waiting areas and in their advertising that the state offers free or low-cost abortions to women who qualify, along with a phone number that provides quick access to abortion clinics. These centers must do so even though they find the government-provided message morally offensive and it directly contradicts the purpose for which the centers exist.

The California law also requires pro-life, non-medical centers to inform clients that they are not licensed medical providers and have *no licensed medical provider who supervises the provision of services* -- effectively requiring them to advertise what they don't do or claim to do.

Under questioning from the Supreme Court justices, the California deputy solicitor general admitted that if a pro-life pregnancy center took out a billboard advertisement with the words "Choose Life," it would have to include in the same size font the 29-word government statement. If the billboard were in Los Angeles, the statement would have to be in 13 languages.

Pro-life pregnancy care centers are virtually the only groups affected by the mandate. Organizations, such as Planned Parenthood, which serve as the abortion providers for California's Medi-Cal and Family PACT (Planning, Access, Care, and Treatment) programs, are exempt from the requirement. The latter are not required to notify clients about the non-abortion services offered by pro-life organizations, such as prenatal care, material support, and adoption services, or to show ultrasounds to their patients. Thus, the mandate is not designed to make known maternity options, but rather to force pro-life centers to convey the government's viewpoint and advertise for abortion providers.

NIFLA, on behalf of the 140 pregnancy resource centers in California that are its members, sought a preliminary injunction to prohibit enforcement of the FACT Act, claiming that the law violated their First Amendment rights to free speech and free exercise of religion. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the law, and on November 13, the Supreme Court agreed to review NIFLA's free speech argument.

Laws similar to California's FACT Act have been enacted across the nation. They have been challenged with varying results. In March 2014, Centro Tepeyac, won a suit overturning a Montgomery County, MD, law requiring pro-life pregnancy centers which counsel expectant women to advise clients to speak with licensed medical professionals; the law did not apply to abortion providers, such as Planned Parenthood, even if they offer counseling by non-medical persons.

In June 2014, Austin LifeCare, part of the Care Net network in Texas, won a suit overturning an Austin city law requiring pro-life pregnancy care centers to post signs stating they do not offer abortions or birth control drugs.

New York City passed an ordinance in 2011 requiring pro-life pregnancy centers to provide printed and oral notices that emphasize abortion and encourage women to go elsewhere. After the courts struck down most of the provisions, a settlement was reached in 2016 that frees the centers from posting messages that are contrary to their beliefs.

In July 2017, an Illinois court issued a statewide preliminary injunction against a 2016 statutory change to the state Health Care Right of Conscience Act that would force pro-life medical professionals to refer patients for abortions and to counsel patients on what the legislation calls the "benefits" of abortion.

On January 5, 2018, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the Greater Baltimore Center for Pregnancy Concerns, a pro-life Catholic charity, which had sued to overturn a Baltimore city ordinance passed in 2009. The ordinance, which pertained only to "limited-service" pro-life pregnancy centers, required them to post a disclaimer in their waiting rooms that they do not provide abortion or birth control services. After seven years of litigation, the appellate court ruled that the ordinance violated the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of speech because it forced "a politically and religiously motivated group to convey a message fundamentally at odds with its core belief and mission."

But even as laws are being overturned by the courts, others are being enacted. In July 2017, Hawaii passed a pregnancy center signage law similar to the one in California; pro-life groups have said it will be contested in the courts.

The various signage laws are classic examples of content and viewpoint discrimination in compelled speech. The messages to be conveyed are antithetical to the religious and ideological reasons the pro-life centers exist. The laws should only be sustained if the relevant government body can substantiate that it is meeting a compelling government interest that cannot be achieved in a less restrictive way.

That is why *NIFLA v. Becerra* is important. If the Supreme Court rules in favor of California, other abortion-promoting statutes will likely follow. If NIFLA wins, but with a narrow ruling, California will not be able to enforce the law, but there will be little guidance for other pregnancy-related, compelled-speech cases pending in the lower courts. A broad ruling could resolve the question of such laws once and for all.



Archdiocese of Washington District
Day at the Ballpark



Saturday, 28 April 2018

Nationals Park

1500 South Capitol Street, SE, Washington DC 20003

Join us in Right field – all are welcome

Washington Nationals vs. Arizona Diamondbacks

First Pitch 4:05 PM



Price includes admission to the baseball
game

Cost: \$15/ Person (Super cheap)

Reserve by 28 March 2018

Contact: Jeff Koscho jkoscho@hotmail.com, 301-659-9101

Proceeds will benefit the Master's Fund –
Archdiocese of Washington District.





The president, tired of his low approval ratings, called up the head of the CIA and said, "I want your very best agent over here first thing in the morning."

Moments later, a call went out to the Middle East, and the most gifted American agent was headed back to Washington.

The next morning, the agent was escorted into the Oval Office. The president said, "I hear you're the best in the business. I can't trust what my staff tells me. So I want you to visit every state in the union, every major city. I want you to stay out on the road until you have an idea of what the vast majority of Americans would like to see happen in the Oval Office. Understand?"

The CIA agent responded affirmatively. He left the White House and wasn't heard from for nearly four months. Finally, he showed up early on a Saturday morning, and the president saw him immediately.

The president said, "Did you find out what an overwhelming majority of Americans want done here in this office?"

"Yes, sir."

"Well, then, express the will of the people," the president ordered.

So the agent stood up, made a fist, and punched him in the nose.

So a guy walks into a bar and orders a pint of less. The bartender asks, "What's less?" The guys says "I don't know but the doctor told me I have to start drinking it."



Marian Title for April Our Lady of Knock



On the evening of August 21, 1879 Mary McLoughlin, the housekeeper to the parish priest of Knock, County Mayo, Ireland, was astonished to see the outside south wall of the church bathed in a mysterious light; there were three figures standing in front of the wall, which she mistook for replacements of the stone figures destroyed in a storm. She rushed through the rain to her friend Margaret Byrne's house.

After a half hour Mary decided to leave and Margaret's sister Mary agreed to walk home with her. As they passed the church they saw and amazing vision very clearly: Standing out from the gable and to the west of it appeared the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph and St. John. The figure of the Blessed Virgin was life-size, while the others seemed to be neither as large nor as tall. They stood a little away from the gable wall about two feet from the ground. The Virgin was erect with her eyes toward Heaven, and she was wearing a large white cloak hanging in full folds; on her head was a large crown.

Mary Byrne ran to tell her family while Mary McLoughlin gazed at the apparition. Soon a crowd gathered and all saw the apparition. The parish priest, Archdeacon Cavanaugh, did not come out, however, and his absence was a disappointment to the devout villagers. Among the witness were Patrick Hill and John Curry. As Patrick later described the scene: 'The figures were fully rounded, as if they had a body and life. They did not speak but, as we drew near, they retreated a little towards the wall.' Patrick reported that he got close enough to make out the words in the book held by the figure of St. John.

An old woman named Bridget trench drew closer to embrace the feet of the Virgin, but the figure seemed always beyond reach. Others out in the fields and some distance away saw a strange light around the church. The vision lasted for about three hours and then faded.

The next day a group of villagers went to see the priest, who accepted their report as genuine; he wrote to the diocesan Bishop of Tuam; then the Church set up a commission to interview a number of the people claiming to witness the apparition. The diocesan hierarchy was not convinced, and some members of the commission ridiculed the visionaries, alleging they were victims of a hoax perpetrated by the local Protestant constable! But the ordinary people were not so skeptical, and the first pilgrimages to Knock began in 1880. Two years later Archbishop John Joseph Lynch of Toronto made a visit to the parish and claimed he had been healed by the Virgin of Knock.

The Church approved the apparition in 1971 as being quite probable, although it has never been formally stated. The Shrine at Knock is opened year round. In 1994 three life-size statues were erected of Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. John.



"HAPPY BIRTHDAY"

****APRIL****

- 2018 -



- 02 Kennard A. Dalrymple
- 06 John A. Adeleye, Sr.
- 10 George G. Benyella
- 12 Vincent Akas
- 13 Onyema G. Nmorka
- 24 Fidelis E. Joseph
- 28 Chidubem M. Oparaoji
- 29 Nelson O. Okpah

***"The Joy
Of A
Birthday"***

Maryland State Council Officers

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McNamara Chapter President	Vernon Hawkins, Jr.
District Deputy	G. Emeka Onwezi
District Warden	Michael P. Akpan

James C. Fletcher, Jr. Council Officers

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Assistant to the Chaplain	Deacon Al Douglas Turner
Assistant to the Chaplain	Deacon Steven Nash
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Chancellor.	Fidelis K. Ajudua
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Trustee 1 year.	Thomas F. Matthews, III
Trustee 1 year.	John W. Huntley
Inside Guard.	Charles N. Okpah
Outside Guard.	Gilbert Neblett

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

****APRIL****



- 01 Fletcher Council Meeting - 7:30 P.M.
- 03 World Day of Prayer
- 09-10 Spring Meeting
- 11 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 12 Bishop Walsh Assembly Meeting, 7:30 P.M.
- 15 Fletcher Council Meeting, 7:30 P.M.
- 17 St. Patrick Day
- 18 Knights Sunday, 11 A.M. Mass
- 21 McNamara Chapter Meeting, St. Jerome Council
- 25 Palm Sunday
- 25 Founders Day Mass
- 29 Holy Thursday
- 30 Good Friday
- 31 Holy Saturday

