



# THE POTOMAC DISCOVERER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
POTOMAC COUNCIL #9259

## Meeting Times

Officers Meeting: Second  
Thursday of each month, 7-8 p.m.

Council Meeting: Fourth Thursday  
of each month, 7-8 p.m.

## Where are we?

We meet in the basement of St.  
Francis of Assisi Catholic School.  
18825 Fuller Heights Rd., Triangle,  
VA. 22172

## Join us

We are always looking for Catholic  
gentlemen 18 years or older to  
help our mission of Faith,  
Community, Life and Charity. It is  
great for you and your family to  
participate and you can participate  
at a level you are comfortable  
with.

## K of C Financial Advisor

Jeff Ghering  
866-868-1492 Ext 1706  
[jeff.ghering@kofc.org](mailto:jeff.ghering@kofc.org)

## Upcoming Events

### December 9<sup>th</sup> Christmas Food Basket Distribution To Families...

Potomac Council and Father Capodanno Council (MCB  
Quantico) are assembling and delivering Christmas food  
baskets for families on **Saturday, December 9, 2022  
from 9 AM to 1 PM**. The event will take place in the  
cafeteria of St. Francis School. Coffee, doughnuts,  
bagels, and juice will be served. Family and friends are  
encouraged to participate.

A half-dozen Knights with strong backs are needed to  
pick up the pre-ordered food from the Wal-Mart on Route  
1 in Dumfries on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.  
Please contact Mike Buckley if you have any questions.  
You can reach him at [buckley16@verizon.net](mailto:buckley16@verizon.net) or by  
phone at (H) 540-720-6907, (C) 540-273-9657.

We have been blessed with strong participation in the  
past. Consider helping—it is a great way to get into the  
Christmas spirit!



**2022 Christmas Baskets**

Our next meeting is December 14. It may be moved from the K of C Hall, depending on how the Untrim a Tree is going along. Alternates would probably be the gym, cafeteria, or library. There will be a note coming if it changes from the K of C Hall.

The annual Dues Billing will go out in mid-December. You can pay your dues online at [www.kofc9259.org](http://www.kofc9259.org), but you will need your statement to know what you need to pay.

You can send any questions to our Financial Secretary Dan Sullivan at [dan\\_irene@icloud.com](mailto:dan_irene@icloud.com)



# YOU'RE ALL INVITED

## COME ONE & ALL, BIG & SMALL ALIKE

This year the Latino community of our parish invites **ALL** to participate in a traditional,

one-night celebration of the Advent ***POSADA (BILINGUAL)***.

**DATE:** TUESDAY, 19 DEC

**TIME:** 7:30PM

**START:** in front of St Catherine Room,  
St Francis of Assisi Church, Triangle, VA

audience interactive dramatization & song, pilgrimage, procession, prayer, songs,  
& after the celebration traditional food/sweets



***POSADA*** in Spanish means INN / SHELTER / HOUSING.  
In the celebration of the ***POSADA***,  
we accompany Joseph & Mary on their journey to Bethlehem.

This celebration has been a Mexican tradition for over 400 years, starting in 1586. Many Mexican holidays include dramatizations of original events, a tradition which has its roots in the ritual of Bible plays used to teach religious doctrine to a largely illiterate population in 10th- and 11th-century Europe. In Mexico *Las Posadas* became a nine-day novena during Advent (Dec 16-24) as an addition to the Christmas pageant — a new kind of religious ceremony to accompany the Christmas holiday. The practice quickly spread through other Central American countries.

There are two parts to the traditional *Posada* song. Those outside the house sing the role of Joseph requesting shelter for Mary & himself and the family inside responds, singing the part of the innkeeper saying that there is no room. The song switches back and forth a few times until finally, the innkeeper agrees to let them in. The hosts open the door, and everyone goes inside for a celebration.

ART & TEXT: <https://lakefrontollu.com/las-posadas/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Las\\_Posadas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Las_Posadas)

Below are the upcoming dates and locations for Financial Seminars by the Abbate Agency.

- *December 9, 2023: Inwood, WV – [Register Here](#)*
  - *December 10, 2023: Inwood, WV – [Register Here](#)*
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## KNIGHTS' CHAPLAIN'S CORNER DECEMBER 2023

### POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST

Take a look at Pope's Francis' prayer request for this month:

#### 1-INTENTION

##### **For persons with disabilities**

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

#### 2-VIDEO

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8EpBQ\\_6Ndw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8EpBQ_6Ndw)

#### 3-ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & REFLECTION

People with disabilities are among the most fragile among us.



## THE POPE VIDEO

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



Some of them suffer rejection, rooted in either ignorance or prejudice, which then marginalizes them.

Civil institutions need to support their projects through access to education, employment, and places where they can express their creativity.

Programs and initiatives are needed that promote their inclusion.

Above all else, big hearts are needed who want to accompany.

It means changing our mentality a little and opening ourselves to the abilities and talents of these people who are differently abled, both in society as well as in the life of the Church.

And so, creating a completely accessible parish does not only mean eliminating physical barriers. It also assumes that we stop talking about “them” and start talking about “us.”

Let us pray that people with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions offer inclusion programs that enhance their active participation.

### **Pope Francis asks the Church and civil institutions to embrace inclusion and to foster the active participation of people with disabilities**

In The Pope Video for December, Pope Francis asks for prayers for people with disabilities so that they “may be at the center of attention in society.”

“It means changing our mentality a little and opening ourselves to the abilities and talents of these people who are differently abled,” the Holy Father reflects.

In addition, Pope Francis calls on institutions to promote “inclusion programs that enhance” the active participation of persons with disabilities.

(Vatican City, 28 November 2023) – “Programs and initiatives are needed that promote their inclusion,” Pope Francis says in the December edition of The Pope Video in which he asks that we pray for people with disabilities. Through the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network, the Holy Father asks “that people with disabilities be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions offer inclusion programs that enhance their active participation.”

This prayer intention coincides with the month in which the UN established the International Day of People with Disabilities (December 3) with the objective of promoting their rights and well-being. Pope Francis insists on the concept of “differently abled” to underline the huge contribution that the full inclusion and appreciation of the most fragile people can bring to society.

This is attested to by the images that accompany the Pope’s words: different stories that together show the capacity of enhancing the talents of people with disabilities. From scenes of paralympic athletes who successfully challenge their own limitations in various international competitions, to those of showing the friends of the Community of Sant’Egidio painting works of art or serving tables in a restaurant. Others show a Jesuit theologian in Australia who has a visual disability, another, a nun with Down’s Syndrome ministering in Lourdes, both of whom participated in a meeting prior to the General Assembly of the

Synod of Bishops which was recounted in the #IAmChurch campaign sponsored by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life. The Pope Video this month, produced in collaboration with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, is a song to life itself, as well as an appeal to change our way of thinking.

### **Society and the Church**

In our world today, Pope Francis reports, some people with disabilities “suffer rejection, rooted in either ignorance or prejudice, which then marginalizes them.” It is, therefore, time to “change our mentality a little and open ourselves to the abilities and talents of these people who are differently abled, both in society as well as in the life of the Church.” The Pope then asks civil institutions to support the projects of people with disabilities, by providing “access to education, employment, and places where they can express their creativity” and with initiatives “that promote their inclusion.” The Church, he says, should not limit itself to eliminating physical barriers,” but should also “stop talking about ‘them’ and start talking about ‘us.’” He reiterates to all of us that, “big hearts are needed who want to accompany.”

### **A deeper way of seeing**

Regarding the Holy Father’s video for the month of December, Cardinal Michael Czerny, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, adds: “The Pope’s invitation to welcome people with disabilities in the life of the Church and society is a huge help toward recognizing the mystery each person is. Jesus was in contact with people who experienced physical, psychological and spiritual fragility. He saw beauty and promise in them. By perceiving the divine mystery in Him, they felt the presence of the One who saves, of the One who is Father. In a world where productivity seems to be more important than the human person, and beauty is regulated by commercial standards, the Christian community gains a deeper and freer way of seeing in prayer. The Church denies participation in the Word and the Sacraments to no one, but rather shares the right way with every person. Our very often non-inclusive societies need a common and concrete commitment so that, following Jesus’ example, everyone’s dignity might be respected and fraternity might grow.”

### **Inclusion, the rock on which we must build**

Father Frédéric Fornos S.J., International Director of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network, backs up Pope Francis’ invitation: “the focus of this month’s Pope’s prayer intention is to promote the active participation of people with disabilities, building programs and initiatives that no one is excluded from, so that they might be supported, welcomed, integrated and recognized by society. This is what Jesus did – he welcomed everyone. No one felt excluded by him. We know this, but we find it difficult to live it. This is why we must pray, because it requires a change of mentality, of how we see things, beginning with our own way of seeing things. This is how, the Pope tells us, we can ‘open ourselves to the abilities and talents of these people who are differently abled, both in society as well as in the life of the Church.’”



Images, text, & video: <https://www.popesprayer.va/>

## **SUPREME CHAPLAIN'S MONTHLY CHALLENGE DEC 2023**

**“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples ...” (Gospel for Dec. 31, Lk 2:29-31)**

The Jewish people had waited many centuries for God's promise of a Savior to be fulfilled. Here, Simeon realizes the wait is over. Like Simeon, we can count ourselves among the fortunate ones who “have seen [God's] salvation” in Christ, and we must proclaim this good news of salvation as he did. May we seek to share the gift of Christ with others in a particular way this Christmas.



### **Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:**

This month, I challenge you to reach out to others — family, friends, acquaintances — and invite them to a celebration of Christmas, especially Christmas Mass. Second, I challenge you to participate in the Faith in Action Keep Christ in Christmas program.

**Questions for Reflection:** Do you share the true joy of Christmas with others? Do you take time to invite others to deeper faith in the Christ Child? Do you speak of and celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons in a way that reminds those around you of their true significance?

Images, text, & video: <https://www.kofc.org/en/who-we-are/our-faith/monthly-challenge.html?1tab=1tab0>

## **KEEP YOUR EYE ON YOUR EMAIL IN-BOXES**

This month I will be sending you information about the seasons of Advent & Christmas.

*peace & all that is good, friar Chris*  
*864-202-8740 [cdunn@stfrncis.org](mailto:cdunn@stfrncis.org)*



## News and Links of Interest

### St. Francis of Assisi Parish

I'm sure I'm not the only one that has noticed the continuous improvements made to the St. Francis of Assisi parish website. It is a great resource to learn about events at our church, and to connect with the broader community through ministries, learning, and special programs. Please take a few minutes to browse the site here: <https://stfrncis.org>.

### Knights of Columbus News

Get the latest new about the Knights of Columbus here: [Recent News - News Hub | Knights of Columbus \(kofc.org\)](#)

### News from the Arlington Diocese

Find the latest news releases from the Arlington Diocese here:  
<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/pressreleases/>

## Prayers

Please remember those in need of prayers – our brothers and sisters impacted by war, disasters, disease, and all those who are marginalized in our world.