



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL NEWS

Monsignor Thomas M. Wells Council

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February 2006

## Grand Knight's Message



**Grand Knight Wayne Miller**

Worthy Brothers All:

That's right! The right to life. I am very impressed with our council and church community. We stood tall in the face of those who believe their lives are more important than the life of an unborn. I was impressed with the MASS at the MCI center and the number of people who marched. Many also opened their homes to students (pilgrims) for the night and provided them with meals and entertainment. Our council sponsored Ice Cream and cookies for them. Msgr. Mellone gave a prayer and said some moving remarks to the Students. Our social meeting was a big success (thanks to Mike Bond) the speaker filled out a form 100 and is going to join our council. Not to stop there, but a big attabooy, goes to our youth basketball chairman Bill Taylor. With his great motivation and dedication to the council, he ran a flawless basketball free throw contest and we had 11 participants (4 boys and 7 girls). Seven of them were council winners, 10 yr. old boys (Tie) Kyle Amann and Teddy Flood with 4 out of 15 free throw and 10 yr. old girls Mia Flood with 7 out of 15 free throw, 11 yr. old boys Keith Hollister, 12 yr. old girls Lauren Ballenger with 9 out of 15 free throw and 13 yr. old boys Sean Hollister with 2 out of 15 free throw (using his non dominant hand due to an injury) 13 yr. old girls Victoria Patton with 6 out of 15 shots. The District Shootout will be 2/11/06 at "The Heights" 9 AM. Wish them luck and say lots of prayers. Honorable Mention went to 10 yr. old girls Kelly Amann with 5 out of 15; 12 yr. old girls (Tie) Anna Femiano & Karen Ayok with 8 out of 15. We are proud to announce January Knight of the Month. Congratulation to Outside Guard Anthony Gatti. Family of the Month is awarded to, Lecturer Michael Bond. Job well done. Paul Sanneman will be organizing the Community Scouts Sunday. Please give him you full attention and volunteer to help. Tall KUDOS goes out to Chancellor David Keefe- Don't forget to talk up "Knight at the Movies" 4th Wednesday of the month, Located at St. Andrew's multi-purpose room, for strengthening our faith thru Movies. All knights be aware, we

*Grand Knight's Message*

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## Knights Recognize Scouts

On Sunday, February 5th, the St. Andrew the Apostle parish celebrated Scout Sunday for the parish's scouting organizations. There were numerous cub scouts, boy scouts, brownies, daisies and girl scouts represented in the processional and Mass celebration. Scouts provided the readers, intentions and brought forward the gifts. After Mass, there were refreshments and social time in the Multi-Purpose Room, hosted and provided by the Msgr Thomas Wells Council. About 60 boys and girls, and their families, were served donuts, coffee cake, coffee and punch. The council's event coordinator was Paul Sanneman, and the refreshments were prepared and served by brother Dennis Salamone.\*

## "Knight at the Movies"

Due to a scheduling issue, the planned "Knights at the Movies" originally planned for this month's social meeting, is being reschedule. Be on the alert for further announcements.\*

## Parish Men's Retreat

At the January's social meeting, Don McCallum spoke about the annual St. Andrew Apostle Parish men's retreat at Loyola-On-Potomac this coming March 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. Don presented a slide show of a typical weekend at the picturesque Jesuit retreat house in Faulkner, MD. Men of the parish are encouraged to participate. Details for the event can be found in the church bulletin or contact Don directly at 301/649-6150.\*

## Monsignor Wells Message

*[From the Pastor's Desk, Spiritual Reflections by Monsignor, Thomas M. Wells]*

### **"Uh Oh, Lent is coming"**

*February 25, 1996*

When trivia games were so popular a few years ago, there were, inevitably, several Catholic Trivial Pursuit spin-offs. I

*Monsignor Wells' Message*

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are having our first 1st. degree this year. Let's make it special for the council and the candidates. This 1st. degree exemplification will be in honor of Fr. Joseph Kennedy. We are looking at 8-10 new members. I am proud and speechless over the dedication of our council. Also I wish a big thank you to all who prayed for the sick and needy during January.

“FOOD 4 THOUGHT”. Keep the elderly in mind this month and send a valentine card to a stranger who is elderly. Visit a nursing home and thank them for the life they lived. Remember our Presidents; we have a duty to Patriotism. God Bless America, our Priests, the Knights, the unborn and everyone else.

Up-coming events include; Renovation of the Confessionals, Alter Servers receptions 2/11 and 2/18 Noon at St. Andrew's, multipurpose room (drinks and snacks will be donated), 1st. Degree 2/8/06 7:30 PM (Candidates 7:15 PM), St. Andrews. St. Andrew's Mardi Gras. 2/18/06 6:00-9:00 PM. (GK will provide music for the event.), National Salute to Hospital Veterans (GK and several other knights from different councils will provide entertainment, games and love to Hospitalized Veterans) 2/14/06 Noon to 3 PM at the VA Medical Center/DC, retirement community (Riderwood retirement home), Silver Spring, MD. Cherry Hill Rd. and Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda Naval Hospital. Providing Valentines and entertainment By GK Wayne Miller and several other entertainers. \*

## Chaplin's Message



Associate Chaplin Rev. Mr. Kevin Mukri

### Vocation of Marriage

Many people believe that the term vocation applies only to a call to the priesthood or religious life. However, one's vocation is the divine calling to follow a certain course of action in life, especially with regard to the choice of a state in life (married, single, or religious).

The Church's most fundamental building block is the vocation of marriage. Vatican II called the family the domestic Church in that this is where new life experiences Almighty God's love for the first time.

The Church teaches that there are many “Goods of Marriage” both for the specific family and for the entire Body of Christ. The family, the domestic Church, gives us a vision of what the Catholic Church should aspire to becoming and gives us a positive example of who Almighty

God is.

Children are the first “Goods of Marriage.” The man and woman join as Almighty God intended and unite with Almighty God in the mission of creation, the creation of new life. Life is a gift from Almighty God and He chooses to create new life through marriage. Thus the husband and wife, through their free will, unite with Almighty God in creating new life.

Another “Good,” is that of fidelity. In a marriage, both husband and wife are completely faithful to their covenant with one another and their children. Because of their faithfulness to one another, the husband and wife demonstrate in a very real way what Almighty God's faithfulness to His covenant with each one of us is all about.

A third “Good of Marriage” is permanence. Because the husband and wife make public vows that they will be united “until death do us part,” and live their lives of permanency, we gain an understanding of Almighty God's permanent relationship and love for us. No matter whether or not we turn away from him, He is always there ready to forgive us and remain in a permanent relationship with us.

As Knights, we are committed to promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life. But we must always remember that strong vocations to marriage and the single state are important to the life of the Church also.

Because many of us are married, we have the opportunity to live the vocation of marriage to the fullest and provide an example to the world of what true love is—the unconditional love of total giving—the same love that Almighty God has for each of us.

Considering the values of today's society, the example of strong marriages is vital to the future of the Church and to the world. This is the time for all married knights to be visible members of society.\*

## District Deputy's Message



District Deputy Lawrence P. Grayson

My Brothers and Sisters all:

Several weeks ago, we had two very successful degree ceremonies in the District. On January 5, at Rock Creek Council, 27 members advanced to the Second Degree. The following evening, 32 members participated in the Third Degree. While these numbers are encouraging, it

## COUNCIL #13008

### OFFICERS:

Chaplain	Rev. Joseph Kennedy
Associate Chaplain	Msgr. Michael Mellone
Associate Chaplain	Deacon Kevin Mukri
Grand Knight	Wayne Miller
Deputy Grand Knight	William Bolin
Chancellor	David Keefe
Warden	Dennis Salamone
Recorder	Prosper Youm
Financial Secretary	Jim Lehr
Treasurer	Paul Sanneman
Advocate	Thomas Murphy
Lecturer	Michael Bond
Inside Guard	Sean Hardman
Outside Guard	Anthony Gatti
Trustee	David Czarnecki
Trustee	Gary Yeck
Trustee	Eugene Cottilli

### CHAIRMAN:

Program Director	William Bolin
Church Activities Dir.	Michael Bond
Community Activity Dir	Nick Luketic
Council Activities Dir	Tom Devlin
Family Activities Dir	Paul Sanneman
Youth Activities Dir	Bill Taylor
Membership Director	Prosper Youm
Vocations Chairman	Dennis Salamone
Recruitment Chairman	Wayne Miller
Retention Chairman	Dave Czarnecki
Tootsie Roll Chairman	Werner Moeller
Pro-Life Couple	Wayne & Elesa Miller
Health Services	Tony Gentilcore
Columbian Squires	Michael Bond
Public Relations Chairman	David Keefe
Newsletter Editor	Dave Czarnecki
Webmaster	David Keefe

## MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

All council meetings are held in the Teachers' Lounge of the school. Officer's meetings are held at 7:30 on the first Wednesday of the month. Business meetings are held at 7:45 on the second Wednesday of the month. Social meetings are held at 7:45 on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

### February Meetings

Feb. 01	Officer's meeting	7:30 PM
Feb. 08	Business meeting, 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	7:45 PM
Feb. 22	Social meeting	7:45 PM

## January Knight of the Month

Outside Guard Anthony Gatti.\*

## January Family of the Month

The family of Lecturer Michael Bond.\*

## February Birthdays

Chaplain Msgr. Mellone on the 5<sup>th</sup>; George Hardman on the 6<sup>th</sup>; Carl Stitz on the 9<sup>th</sup>; Dennis Gorres on the 10<sup>th</sup>; and, Chancellor David Keefe on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Also, Elesa, wife of Grand Knight Wayne Miller on the 25<sup>th</sup>; and, Erin, wife of Jeffery Sylvester on the 19<sup>th</sup>.\*

## February Anniversaries

Recorder Prosper and Josephine celebrate their twenty-first on the 9<sup>th</sup>.\*

## Remember In Your Prayers

The brother of GK Wayne Miller who is suffering from cancer, Joseph Barrett who is in and out of the hospital, Robert Cowley who is ill, and Chaplain Father Joe Kennedy who is in rehabilitation recovering from orthopedic surgery, as well as other Brothers who are ill or in need.\*

## Vocations Support Increased in 2004-05

From Supreme: For the second year in a row, financial help from local Knights of Columbus units to future priests and religious sisters topped \$2.5 million. Over 25 years, the Order's Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP) has provided \$34.7 million in direct support to seminarians, postulants and novices.

Since RSVP was launched in 1981-82, Knights have raised and donated more than \$34.7 million through the program. Over that same time period, gifts were given to nearly 57,000 seminarians, postulants and novices.

In 2004-05, K of C units supported 4,392 individuals. Gifts average around \$500 annually and are given directly to the individual for miscellaneous expenses not covered by his or her diocese or religious order. For every \$500 donated by a local unit, the Supreme Council refunds \$100. The Supreme Council reported refunds in 2004-05 of \$502,650.\*

# Insurance Agent's Message

Bob Callaway, LUTCF, FICF

## TAX TIME AGAIN

This month, I chose to pass up the opportunity to use the old cliché about two things we must do...although the timing should certainly bring it to mind.

This season, in most homes, is financial accounting time. I'd like to wager that, at some point in the process, someone will ask (probably you!) "Where did all our money go?" Surely all of the money we earn finds a home somewhere...the grocer, the mortgage, the tax man. Very little, if any, is left over for a personal bank account or other investments. Most of us consider ourselves fortunate if we've managed to pay our bills! Folks usually save what's leftover...and for most folks, that's nothing.

The point is, whatever the amount earned, chances are good that it is spent providing for and rearing a family. Think about that for a minute. The needs of that family continue – food, shelter, and clothing – even if the breadwinner suffers an untimely death.

So what does income tax have to do with insurance? Simply this...it can serve as a reminder that protection for dependents should include an estimate of the current needs for money. While it may be convenient to say "I can't afford it," that's probably not accurate – when you consider that your family will be without any income should you die.

With this in mind, your Order has designed a plan that guarantees to continue income to your family for as long as they will need it. What's more, this plan will enable you to systematically save some of those dollars so difficult to account for at tax time.

Call me today for an appointment. I want to hear from you.\*

Fraternally,  
Bob Callaway, LUTCF, FICF301-210-5855  
rjcalla@aol.com \*



wonder if they included questions about the three Sundays before Ash Wednesday. These Sundays, were given a long Latin name denoting the number of days before Easter, and were warning signals to Catholics that Lent was on its way. The priest wore purple vestments at Mass, but no Lenten practice was observed. The person in the pew saw the purple and said, "Uh oh, Lent is coming. What am I going to do this year?"

Now, of course, the season is suddenly upon us. Every year, we receive phone calls on Ash Wednesday from people asking for Mass times because they have seen people on the street with ashes and realized what day it was. It is a shame that Lent does kind of sneak up on us because there is real wisdom in preparing for this spiritually and psychologically important time of year.

In some ways, the Church year mirrors life. There are times of celebration (Christmas and Easter), but most of life is living from day to day, something like what the Church calls ordinary time of the year. Inevitably, though, in differing ways throughout our lives, we are forced to step back and look at where we are, where we are going and what really is important to us. In the Church year, of course, Lent invites us to that same kind of self-examination.

The three traditional practices of Lent (prayer, fasting and almsgiving) challenge us to remember our place in the world and how easily we lose focus. The added prayer of Lent, and especially the struggle to focus on God and to give Him time that He deserves, reminds us that while we are commanded to love God with our whole being, we fall incredibly short. Likewise the challenge of fasting and, by extension, all our Lenten self-denial, give witness to the self-gratification that we so take for granted. Whether it is time before the TV or eating between meals that we "give up, we recognize, especially as we fail after the enthusiasm of the first few Lenten days that, talk aside, our love for God must not be so strong if we have such a hard time giving up such trivial things for love of Him.

Finally, Lent invites us to give to the poor, traditionally called almsgiving. As we consider our gift to the Cardinal's Appeal, for example, we can examine whether we really do consider the poor, the dirty, the homeless, the mentally ill—all of the weak ones of the earth—to be our brothers and sisters. St. Paul says, "Where your heart is, there will your treasure be." Lent is that time of them year where, especially, the Church asks us to see if our hearts recognize a brother or sister in that wretched person who seems so different from me.\*

is not enough simply to have brother Knights progress through the levels of our Order. As explained in the accompanying column on the value of association in a democracy, it is active members, not members that are important. It is up to each Council to assure that its members are engaged in the life of the Council and the parish or parishes it serves. Without involvement, members are no more important than an accountant's tallies.

On January 8, at the State Mid-Term meeting, Rateb Rabie, president of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, who is a member of Rock Creek Council, described the plight of Christians in the Holy Land, three-quarters of which is in Israel and one one-quarter in Palestine. Today, only two percent of the residents in this area are Christian, and they are under severe constraints. Due to the political situation, a 30-foot high wall, 550 miles long has been erected around the area of Bethlehem. People cannot travel easily to the site of the Nativity, many homes are in dire repair, unemployment is at 60 percent, and the operation of Christian schools is economically difficult. With the approval of our Supreme Knight and of our State Deputy, Mr. Rabie has asked the Knights to assist the Christian residents of the Holy Land (many of whom can trace their Christian ancestry back to the early centuries of the Church) and to help preserve the land of our Mother Church.

At the recent meeting of Grand Knights in District 18, we said we would do what we can to help. One way is to support the education of a child. It only costs \$300 to provide a year's education in a Catholic school in the Holy Land. I encourage each Council in our District to support one child. This will not only help a child learn his or her Faith, but will allow the Council to better understand the Holy Land. Mr. Rabie has stated that his Foundation will arrange for that child to correspond with the supporting Council. Here is a small, but excellent way for us to help other Christians in serious need, and to learn more about our Christian heritage.

Thank you all for your efforts in the Car Raffle last fall. Although there was no accounting by District, it was announced that of the 138 Councils in the State, Rock Creek sold the third largest number of tickets (5,375 – the winner sold 5,798), and Mater Dei sold the sixth largest number with 4,277. Add the results of our other three Councils, and

it is evident that District 18 did very well.

Further, the Councils in Montgomery County collected over \$61,000 through the Tootsie Roll drive. The Grand Knights have met, reviewed proposals from organizations that serve the mentally handicapped, and made grants to 22 organizations. Congratulations to the many Knights who participated in collecting and awarding these funds.

Vivat Jesus!\*

## The Value of Associations in a Democracy

Lawrence P. Grayson, DD, PGK, PFN

When Alexis de Tocqueville visited the United States in the 1831, he was highly impressed with the number of associations that he found and which he believed were essential to America's ability to make democracy work. In his seminal work, *Democracy in America*, he stated:



Alexis de Tocqueville

"Americans of all ages, all conditions, and all dispositions, constantly form associations. They have not only commercial and manufacturing companies, in which all take part, but associations of a thousand other kinds --religious, moral, serious, futile, general or restricted, enormous or

diminutive. The Americans make associations to give entertainments, to found seminaries, to build inns, to construct churches, to diffuse books, to send missionaries to the antipodes; they found in this manner hospitals, prisons, and schools. Nothing, in my opinion, is more deserving of our attention than the intellectual and moral associations of America."

His observation was a reflection both of the civic life that existed and of the way that individual Americans assured themselves of a voice in the political and social concerns of the day. In autocracies, oligarchies, and theocracies, one person or a small group of individuals hold enormous power and can determine how a nation will operate – what the laws

will be, how they will be enforced, how the economic system will operate, what opportunities will exist for the population, etc. In a democracy, in contrast, individuals have a good deal of independence to do as they wish, but alone have very little power to control events. They can exercise their influence best by joining like-minded persons, and through their association have greater effect in pursuing common objectives.

In America, people are not members of a single organization, but of many different groups depending upon their interests and desires. They may belong to a church, labor union, neighborhood association, political party, professional society, social club, mothers' group, sports team, literary guild, nature organization, and so forth. Involvement in these groups fosters social interaction, creates networks, builds trust in others, connects people with the life of their community, and develops norms for social engagement that allow people to collaborate and cooperate for their mutual benefit.

Associations have had a powerful and beneficial influence on American society for over 200 years. But beginning in the 1960s, and continuing ever since, most major civic organizations have experienced a steady and substantial decline in membership. Fraternal organizations, veterans groups, youth associations, service groups, and others which are organized on a chapter, lodge, or other local unit model and require the involvement of individuals for their vitality are struggling for want of active members. Even though national in scope, these types of associations operate at the local level and connect people to one another in joint activities.

In contrast, organizations that are flourishing are those national groups, such as the American Association of Retired Persons, National Rifle Association, Sierra Club, and National Organization for Women, which do not require a personal commitment. People are associated by common ideals or causes or characteristics, and linked through mailing lists, newsletters and magazines, but not personal contact. Although these organizations have strong lobbying influence, they do not establish the social interaction, personal trust, or connection of the individual to the local community that de Tocqueville found essential to democracy.

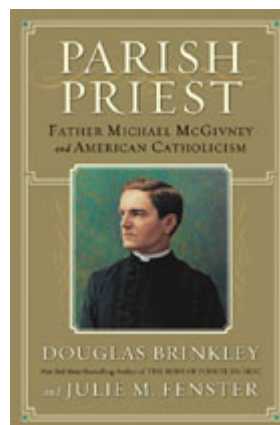
While the decline may be detrimental to specific organizations and their ability to carry out their purposes, its

implications are much greater. Without engagement in associations, the commitment and involvement of the populace in community life erodes. People are less likely to be actively concerned about politics and government – less likely to assist a political party, attend a political rally or speech, or even cast their ballot. It is a sad and dangerous fact that more American's voted in Fox TV's recent competition on *American Idol* than in the last presidential election.

People also are likely to have no more than a cursory knowledge of the issues before their community, and are less likely to have trust in government and its elected leaders. Without trust, without knowledge, without participation, how can America have a government of and by the people? How can the nation's democracy survive?

While membership in fraternal organizations, such as the Shriners, Elks, Jaycees, Lions, and Masons, has been declining over the last quarter century, the Knights of Columbus is an exception. Its membership has been increasing. In 1980, there were about 1.3 million Knights; today, there are almost 1.7 million. It will be a hollow "success," however, if men join, but do not attend meetings or become active in their local Councils. If the Knights of Columbus is to fulfill its potential, not only in wielding national influence through the dint of numbers, but in serving our parishes and communities, then we must not only enlist new members in our Order, but must engage them in the affairs of the Council. Every Knight should be an involved Knight.\*

## Father McGivney Book Now Available



*Parish Priest -- Father Michael McGivney and American Catholicism*, a new biography on the Order's founder, is now available online. Written by best-selling author Douglas Brinkley and Julie M. Fenster, the book is a fascinating account of Father McGivney's world and the people who influenced him and came to know his greatness.\*



