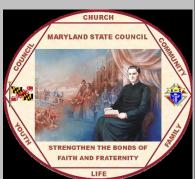
VALLEY VIEWS MAY 2013



INDEX

| Grand Knights Report | 1 |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Chaplain's Corner | 2 |
| Supreme News | 2 |
| State Council News | 4 |
| District Deputy's Report | 4 |
| Baltimore Chapter News | 5 |
| Fourth Degree News | 5 |
| | |

Surge with Service News Church Community 7 Council **Culture of Life Family** 9 9 Youth 10 Chancellor's Report Membership 11 **Fraternal Benefits** 12 13 **Birthdays** 13 **Anniversaries Dates to Remember** 17 **Knights Ladies**



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Long Green Valley Council No. 8736

Hydes, Maryland 21082 Established June 25, 1984

Staff
Ted Burns
Mike Sallese
Tom & Jane Zaegel

Volume 29, No. 11

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

Joe Wenderoth, Grand Knight...410-592-9718
Joewenderothsr@gmail.com

Membership: We have only a few new members this fraternal year, but they are participating members. In addition, a number of members have taken their second and third degrees, an encouraging indicator of building Council strength. Please ask a Catholic man if he knows about the Knights, encourage him to consider joining, and let Membership Director Dick Siejack know if you have contact information.

Council Home Facility: Many more people now know that we are renting the Council Home and have attended events there. We are building a good base for continuing operation for rentals that will help defray Hall operating costs so that funds collected from our other events can be devoted to charity, the first principle of the order.

Communications: The Council Communications policy was recently mailed to all members, along with the annual appeal for the State Charity Fund. We stated our procedure formally and asked members to specify the types of communication they want to hear from us, in respect for other demands on their time.

Service: Please be generous, if you can, for the State Charity fund using the envelope that was recently sent to you. We have reached out to help Brother Knights and their families and parish families who have illnesses or mobility issues. Most of these initiatives take only a few hours and most can be a one time commitment. Please let Chancellor Paul Wimmer know that you can help.

Remember, above all is charity, a selfless commitment inspired by our faith and extended to our LGVC and SJE community. I close with an altered phrase circa 1960. "Ask not what your Council can do for you, but what can you do for your Council."

Vivat Jesus

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Msgr. Rick Cramblitt...410-592-6206...Cramblittre@sjehydes.org



Considering that we still face many challenges to religious liberty, the U.S. bishops have announced that there will be another Fortnight for Freedom this year. It will take place from June 21-the vigil of the feast of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More – to July 4, Independence Day. Our Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori will celebrate the Fortnight's opening Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore on June 21, and Cardinal Wuerl will celebrate the closing Mass on July 4 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

All councils are encouraged to plan events to support and celebrate the Fortnight at the local level. Last year, many events had an ecumenical or interfaith component, such as prayer services, conferences, and public rallies. Knights and their families can also set aside a little time each day to pray for religious liberty. Prayer, study, and public action during the Fortnight for Freedom will all help to preserve the fundamental right of religious freedom, for now and the future, for Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

Information can be found at the website "www.Fortnight4Freedom.org"



SUPREME COUNCIL NEWS

www.kofc.org

In Service to One, in Service to All

A Pope of Charity, Unity and Fraternity

Just days ago, I stood in St. Peter's Square in Rome as the new Holy Father, Pope Francis, was introduced. As the pope came out onto the balcony to address Rome and the world for the first time, he said: "And now let us begin this journey, [together] as bishop and people. This journey of the Church of Rome, which is to preside over all the Churches in charity, is a journey of fraternity, of love, of trust between us. Let us always pray for one another. Let us pray for the world, so that a great brotherhood may be created."

When I heard those words, I felt the way our first supreme knight, James T. Mullen, must have felt 131 years ago when he heard Father Michael J. McGivney speak of our Order's call to charity, unity and fraternity. The pope's address was a clear call to these virtues, which are the fundamental principles of our Order.

How inspiring for us to have those principles highlighted and reinvigorated by Pope Francis' call for charity, love, trust, fraternity and brotherhood — and how clearly his words highlight the timeless relevance of our Order 131 years after its establishment by Venerable Father McGivney!

The pope's election was a joyful moment for the Knights of Columbus and the Church. We have in Pope Francis a holy man, a dedicated man and a man who will lead the Church forward in its mission of the new evangelization. As his greeting to the world made so clear, there is much in common with the core principles of our Order and those of our Holy Father. And in many ways, we share a very similar history with him.

His roots, like the Knights, are in the Americas. And as more than one person has remarked to me, Pope Francis is the son of European immigrants in the New World, just as Father McGivney was. What's more, Pope Francis — like Father McGivney and generations of Knights after him — is well known for his personal work with the poor and those most in need.

Even his choice of name — Francis — evokes not just St. Francis of Assisi's charity, but also the words the Lord spoke to that humble saint: "Rebuild my Church." It is a stirring reminder of the need to continue our work of the new evangelization, of rebuilding the Church through prayer and living out faith through charity.

St. Francis' life, like that of our new Holy Father, was a daily witness to love of God and neighbor — and ours must be too. Our principles are just words if we do not live them out.

In his first homily as our Holy Father, Pope Francis said, "If we do not profess Jesus Christ, things go wrong. We may become a charitable NGO, but not the Church, the Bride of the Lord. When we are not walking, we stop moving. When we are not building on the stones, what happens? The same thing that happens to children on the beach when they build sandcastles: everything is swept away, there is no solidity."

So as we celebrate Pope Francis' election and the recent 131st anniversary of our Order's founding, let us all as Knights redouble our efforts as men of faith — and men of action based on that faith.

Let us also pray for our Holy Father as he requested the evening of his election, and let us work even harder for those who need the most help in our society. Let us invite the men of our councils to become even more active in service to their neighbors. In short, let us take the call of both Father McGivney and Pope Francis to heart and live out charity to our neighbor, in unity with our Church and our Holy Father, and in the spirit of fraternity.

Vivat Jesus!

STATE COUNCIL NEWS

William C. Kuchmas, State Deputy

Strengthen the Bonds of Faith and Fraternity

In just a few days we will gather in Ocean City for our **115th Annual Convention** of the Maryland State Council. This is a great time when we as Knights assemble to conduct the business of the State Council, review what we have accomplished in this past year and recognize those individuals and Councils who have excelled this past Fraternal Year. Not every Council will earn an award, but all of your pro-grams and activities are important. The real winners are those individuals and families who have benefited from your programs and all our charitable efforts.

Special recognition is extended to the Convention Committee under the direction of Chairman, John Trainor. They have worked very hard to make this Convention a most memorable and pleasant weekend for all. A special thanks to the Ladies Activities Commit-tee under the direction of Jan McGinley, Jean McMahon and Jo-Ann Chachulski who have some very enjoyable activities planned. Congratulations are in order also for our Honoree couple, Past State Deputy James Olivarri and Bobbi, who will be recognized at our Saturday evening banquet.

We will also be honored this year by the presence of the Supreme Vice President of Membership Growth, Lou Barbour and his lovely wife. They will be representing our Worthy Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson and his wife. We extend our best wishes for an enjoyable weekend.

Another reminder to Grand Knights, don't forget the most important requirement for achieving Star Council status! You must send in the Columbian Award Application before June 30th. Every year we have councils that do not file the application and because of it fail to receive the award. Don't wait, do it now! File the original with the Supreme Council of Fraternal Services and be sure to mail or fax a copy to the State Deputy and District Deputy.

Since May is Mary's Month and she is the Mother of Jesus, what better way to honor her than to celebrate and honor all Mothers on Mother's Day. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Mother's a very blessed and happy day.

Finally, try to take some time out to pay homage on Memorial Day. So many have done so much in order that we could enjoy the freedoms we have. Let us not take those freedoms for granted, nor the price that must be continuously paid to protect those freedoms

DISTRICT DEPUTY REPORT

Mike Sallese, PGK...443-852-1442...MSallese11@verizon.net

My dear Brothers,

To our new Brother Knights, let me explain the Shining Armor Award that is available to you alone. The Shining Armor award is only available to those men who are in their first year as a Knight. To qualify for this award you must be involved in at least 3 council activities, attend at

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Home of Dick Siejack, Past State Deputy

least 3 council business meetings, receive your Second and Third degree, meet with the council's insurance representative and finally recruit one new member. Your Grand Knight can obtain a qualification card for you to track your progress on these 5 requirements. Upon achieving this award you will be presented with a lapel pin in the shape of a shield that is silver tone with the Knights of Columbus symbol and the words "Shining Armor Award". Please see your Grand Knight for more information.

All councils are to hold elections for new Council Officers between May 15 and June 15. Your Grand Knight has appointed a nominating committee to prepare a full slate of Officers for the new fraternal year. If you are asked to serve the council as an Officer or Program or Activity Chairman, please give it your full consideration and agree to serve your Brother Knights.

I look forward to meeting you at your Council meeting.

Vivat Jesus Mike Sallese

BALTIMORE CHAPTER OF GRAND KNIGHTS

Gary Gray...410-608-9529...GAG50401@verizon.net

Brothers,

On Thursday May 9, 2013 we will hold our 1228th Meeting at Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Council #7612. We will be accepting nominations for Chapter Officers for the new fraternal year.

Vivat Jesus

FOURTH DEGREE NEWS

Archbishop John Carroll Assembly #2378
Tom Wojtek...410-893-1934...twojtek@comcast.net

At our May 16, 2013 meeting we will hold elections for Assembly Officers. If you are interested in running for an office, please attend the meeting and volunteer to stand for election for an office of your choice.



Contact me at twojtek@comcast.net or 410.893.1934 for information about joining the Fourth Degree!

Vivat Jesus!

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Tom Zaegel, PGK...410-557-4465...TomZaegel1@comcast.net

Grand Knight, Joe Wenderoth, and I are very grateful for the volunteers, and support that many of our brothers have contributed to our Council Programs once again this year. Some of the projects have become annual and routine, and yet we added a couple new items. I hope that many of you veterans are becoming more knowledgeable with these programs and activities, and would be willing to step up to a leadership role soon. We are in the planning stages for the next Fraternal Year and now is the time for you to become more involved in our council. There are plenty of us willing to help you and guide you along, and we certainly could use some fresh new ideas. If you are not sure, or just want to explore the possibilities, please do not be afraid to check with me, GK Joe, or DGK Bob. While there are many of us who would like a little relief, we certainly will not abandon you and would love the opportunity to share our experiences with you first hand. And even if you do not get directly involved, please provide us with your thoughts, ideas, concerns, recommendations and critique. As we strive to constantly improve our council, it is more critical than ever that all members, active or passive, local or extended, be involved in some way.

Vivat Jesus

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Pat Donohue...410-941-5025...donohuepj@comcast.net

Haiti Outreach April 20th and 21st

Fr. Marc-Edy Dessalines from St Michel the Archangel (our new affiliate parish) in the town of St. Michel spoke at all masses on April 20th and 21th and attended a reception at St John's that was hosted by the Haiti Outreach Committee. During his talks, Fr. Dessalines outlined the needs of his parish which includes 12 rural "out-chapels" and two schools which include over 800 students. St John's will again help with the school lunch program (the only meal of the day for some students), school supplies, and teacher salaries. In addition, we will fund some sorely needed facility improvements to include a water well for the school. Thanks to the generosity of St. John's parishioners, we were able to collect \$10,996 during Fr. Dessalines visit. Please continue to support these worthwhile programs and to pray for the people and children of Haiti.

St. John's Annual Spring Fling May 9th to May 11th

The St. John's Annual Spring Fling will be held from Thursday May 9th through Saturday May 11th. As is our tradition, LGVC will be coordinating and staffing the "beer garden", please contact Brother Tom Rowan if you can help. We also encourage council members to volunteer in other areas of need or to simply attend and support the parish. If you are interested in volunteering in any way, please contact Martha Schumacher at the parish office (410) 592-6206 x 100. Martha will also solicit volunteers after all masses leading up to the event.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Our Spring 2013 Blood Drive will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2013 from 7am to 1pm at the St John's Parish Hall.

We had an excellent Fall 2012 Drive and this upcoming Drive holds out to be even more promising. Please contact Ray Dietz @ 410-592-5377 or craytrek@comcast.net to make your appointment. Also any Knights able to volunteer that day and to help make contacts for appointments please contact me asap.

Our goal is 100 units. To achieve this we need to consistently book 5 appointments each 15 minutes. Over 6 hours this would result in 120 sign-ups. So please even if you are not personally able to donate please help me recruit. If you can provide to me a name and contact number/email I'll do the rest.

Remember each unit can save 3 lives. Let's save 300 lives! Again, this Drive is held the Saturday immediately following Memorial Day. Let's establish a new standard of excellence.

Gratefully Ray Dietz

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Paul Weber, PGK...410-879-0558...apaulweber@verizon.net

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME...Continue your 4th of July holiday celebration by joining your council family at Ripken Stadium on Saturday, July 6. The Ironbirds will be hosting the Brooklyn Cyclones (New York Mets). Gates will open at 6:00 pm for 7:05 pm start time. Following the game there will be a spectacular fireworks presentation which will be enjoyed by all.

We have purchased tickets for the Party Deck which includes admission to the game and a pregame buffet. The "all you can eat buffet" will be available from 6:15 pm until 7:45 pm. Buffet includes hot dogs, hamburgers, Italian sausage, baked beans, cole slaw, cookies, watermelon, soda and iced tea. You will also receive an Ironbirds baseball hat, a game program and free parking.

There are 42 tickets available on a first-come, first served basis. Tickets are priced at \$35.00 a person. Children under 5 are free. Tickets can be obtained by mailing your check (payable to KC #8736) to Tom Rowan, 2010 Carrs Mill Road, Fallston, MD 21047. **ALL TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BY JUNE 1, 2013.**

The Lunch Bunch
Bob Renshaw....Baltobob@comcast.net

The Lunch Bunch provides an opportunity to socialize with old friends and make new ones while

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Home of Dick Siejack, Past State Deputy

Page 7 of 17

keeping current with council activities. We have developed into a very genial group and look forward to each month's meeting. I know that there are several valued members who have not been able to attend our evening meetings in quite some time. This is your chance to re-connect with the council and your old friends.

The next meeting will be on May 21 at 11:30 in the Council Home. We look forward to seeing new and old friends alike.

CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES

Ed Gibbons...410-592-2750...PGibb1@aol.com

AN ENORMOUSLY POSITIVE IMPACT

A follow-up to the Annual Catholic Lobby Night in Annapolis

From the Maryland Catholic Conference..."Thank you...to everyone who took action during the General Assembly. The session had "an enormously positive impact" and was "hugely successful."

Successes

Death Penalty Repeal
Textbook Funding
Aging School Construction Funds
Driver's Licenses for Immigrants Violence Poverty Safety Net

Significant Progress

Home Act Stem Cell Research

Failed to Pass

Abortion Statistics and Fetal Pain Adoption Gender Identity

For more information on these Bills, please see www.mdcathconf.org.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Joe Wenderoth...410-592-9718...joewenderothsr@gmail.com

Long Green Valley is finally showing us a spring landscape, reminding us of our beautiful surroundings – a veritable Garden of Eden that we often take for



granted. Msgr. Rick made the reference when Archbishop Lori visited St John's on St Patrick's Day. The Archbishop echoed the remark when telling us he would return to visit again. Of course there is all that clean up and landscaping to do, now that flowers and the lawn are growing. Families need the same care and maintenance to become stronger. Look for opportunities to share family activities this spring, not only within a Council Family activity, but also within your family unit. If nothing else, pick up the telephone and call family members in faraway places. I look forward to seeing some of our

Council Families at the State Convention, first weekend of May.

Family of the Month recognition was not part of our regular meeting protocol this year as it has been in the past. As Grand Knight, I also took on the role of Family Activity Chair since that position fell through the cracks. Though we have had a pretty full set of Family events this year, I was busy and did not get around to naming a Family of the Month each month. Family chairman



is not a huge responsibility, but added to Grand Knight Duties, something had to give – for the moment.

Now that the spring season is here, I am catching up with Family of the Month designations. At the May Business Meeting I will announce a Family of the Month for each month of this 2012-2013 Fraternal Year. These Families deserve the recognition. All Family of the Month awards for the fraternal year will be recognized at our

meeting, submitted to the State Family of the Month Program and listed in the newsletter.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

John Canoles...443-299-6269...espijc@aol.com

Our last Youth Activity event was support for St John the Evangelist School for their Grandparent's Day on Friday, April 26th. We directed traffic, parking and provided other logistics so that the School was able to devote the day to showing the grandparents around and have them participate in school activities. Thanks to the volunteer team of Knights who helped Tom Zaegel conduct this Grandparents Day event: Chuck Bodanowicz, Jim Schmidt,Sr., Bob Cyphers, Tom Gorius, John Reed, Paul Wimmer, Tom Wagner, and Jack Murphy. Their efforts continue to make the Knights an integral part of the campus and St Johns Community and spread the word about the



Knights at Long Green Valley Council. Once again Mrs. Blake, the faculty and staff expressed their sincerest appreciation of our efforts.

Our previous activity was the Catholic Bee which Joe and Barbara Owens conduct each year and which they started, turning it into a state wide event considered for International recognition. Thanks to the team that gave of their time to support the event as an annual LGV Council Youth Activity. There were 15 participants from 5 schools. First and second place winners were from St. Clement School, and St. John the Evangelist took third. The children were quite impressive and showed a deep knowledge of our Catholic faith.

If **you** would like to help with Youth Activities, especially if you can attend during the day time when school is in session, please consider taking STAND training required by the Archdiocese when we work with youth. The test can be taken on-line at the archdiocesan web site. You will also need to provide contact information for references. It is sad that the world has come to this need to certify character, but it is easy and quick to be certified and you'll be ready to help with our youth events. It protects both the children and us. Let us know if you need more information.

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Paul Wimmer...410-592-5943...PCWimmer@comcast.net

Please contact me by e-mail (preferred) or by phone if you know of any brother or family member that is in need of our prayers.

Please pray for the following:

Sick/Prayer List

Brothers:

Msgr. Jack Collopy PGK Bob Dee PGK Larry Flynn

PSD Gene Hogan

PGK Joe Owens

PGK John Robinson

Brother Bob Snyder (Administrative Assistant to the State Deputy)



Father of Steve Cohen, State Treasurer Stan Gibson, Brother of Brother Sam Gibson Kenny Kreiner, Friend of Brother Bill Zoli Dr. Cam Martin, brother-in-law of Brother Pete Stankoski Tory Robinson, Wife of PGK John Robinson Angela Sallese, Sister of PGK Mike Sallese



Jered Wenderoth, Son of GK Joe Wenderoth Andy Stromberg, Son of Dave and Carol Stromberg (Friends of Brother Paul Wimmer) Carol Schoenborn, Friend of John Walega Patricia Gauthier, wife of PSD Romeo Gauthier

Deceased

Relatives/Friends of Brother Knights: Ian Mulholland, Son-in-Law of Brother Tom Wagner

PLEASE NOTE: We have no system of routinely identifying those people whose health has improved to the point that they no longer need to be on the prayer list. Consequently, at the end of each quarter, we will delete all names that have been on the list for three or more months. Anyone with a request should contact the Chancellor, Paul Wimmer, by email (preferred) or by phone and they will be listed/reinstated on the prayer list.

SERVICE:

In support of Grand Knight Joe Wenderoth's fourth focus area of Service for the 2012/2013 fraternal year, please consider adding your name to the Council Welfare Volunteers List by contacting me by e-mail (preferred) or by phone. Our primary focus will be service to brother Knights and their families who are in need. In addition, as resources permit, we will strive to offer service or assistance to other St. John the Evangelist parishioners and we will consider other service projects.

CURRENT INITIATIVES:

At present, our greatest need is for visitors to PGK John Robinson. John is at home, but goes to adult day care. Please contact me if you can arrange time to visit with John.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Dick Siejack, IPSD...410-557-9298...rvsiejack@aol.com

Brothers,

Congratulations to our newest member, Joseph Sliwka, proposed by his Dad, Frank Sliwka. Joe took his First Degree at Fr. Wolfe Council on 4/15/13. We extend our best wishes to him and his family as he continues on his Knighthood Journey.

Please be aware that with less than two months remaining in this Fraternal Year, there is still time to ask a Catholic man to join the Knights of Columbus. **Recruiting and Retention** is a continuous program, it never stops! Carry that **Form #100** with you at all times and offer it to a Catholic man and his family.

A reminder, the LGVC will have a speaking **ministry minute** at Mass on the second weekend in **May.** We ask for your support of standing in the Narthex and being available to discuss our mission as Knights of Columbus to any inquiring prospects. You should wear your **Name Badge** and hand out any K of C literature.

We thank you for your continuing **Recruitment** efforts.

"May the good Lord continue to touch your heart with love and mercy."

Vivat Jesus

FRATERNAL BENEFITS

Mark Bateman 410-340-8561...Mark.Bateman@KOFC.org

Ask eligible men to join

Today, I want to address the growth of the Order. Membership growth is the fuel that keeps this great fraternal engine running. All of our charitable works in the council, state, national and international level are thanks to our hard-working members.

We also recognize that the membership blitz is a tried and true way for councils to increase their numbers. We see these pushes often in March, in celebration of Founder's Day, and again in October. These drives are successful because brother Knights are more visible than normal, during and after Masses and at special events. We must remember to ask each and every Catholic gentleman to join our ranks for the good of the Church, the community and the Order.

During the rest of the year, we often "forget" to ask men to join our ranks and bring their families into the Knights of Columbus family. You probably know an eligible Catholic man you could ask today. Chances are that the only reason he hasn't joined already is because no one asked him.

When telling a prospect about the strengths of the Order, don't forget our greatest fraternal benefit: our insurance program. This is often an interesting "selling point" to a potential member who is on the fence. Many members come into the Knighthood simply to be able to buy coverage for their family. Soon after, they realize the good our charitable works do for their community and they are proud to be members.

As your professional Knights of Columbus insurance agent, I look forward to helping us grow in fraternity in any way that I can.



Mark T. Bateman Fraternal Benefits Advisor 600 Fairmount Avenue #100 Towson, Maryland 21286

Phone: 410-340-8561 Fax: 410-823-3841



MAY BIRTHDAYS

| Don Temple | 3 |
|------------------|----|
| Ed Marciniak | 4 |
| Denis Biscoe | 5 |
| Jim Schmidt, Jr. | 5 |
| Chris Rossi | 7 |
| J. Gary Bowers | 9 |
| Pete Stankoski | 9 |
| John Robinson | 12 |
| Frank Huebler | 12 |
| Bob Elliott, Sr. | 17 |
| Bill Vogt | 17 |
| Bill Buckingham | 19 |
| Glenn Dodson | 20 |
| Ken Pellatiro | 22 |
| Bob Infussi | 25 |
| Ed Dalton | 28 |
| | |

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

| Tim & Carol Calvert | 7 | (47 years) |
|---------------------------|----|------------|
| Russ & Evelyn Smick | 19 | (56 years) |
| John & Barbara Caine | 25 | (45 years) |
| George & Marion Landefeld | 26 | (62 years) |
| Tom & Janie Zaegel | 26 | (40 years) |

If you don't see your anniversary listed above, please give the date to Paul Weber and we'll gladly add you to our listing.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS

At our second meeting in May, on Tuesday May 28 we will conduct our election of Council Officers for the Fraternal Year of July 1, 2013 through June30, 2014. The following Brother Knights have been nominated for Council Offices:

| Bob Renshaw |
|-------------------------|
| |
| Paul Wimmer |
| Tom Rowan |
| Jim Cross, PGK |
| <u>John Bushman</u> |
| Chuck Bogdanowicz, PGK |
| John Stansfield (OG) |
| Ted Daniecki (OG) |
| Pete Stankoski (IG) |
| <u>John Walega (IG)</u> |
| Joe Wenderoth, PGK |
| |

The Chaplain and Lecturer are appointed by the Grand Knight. The Financial Secretary is appointed to a 3-Year term by the Supreme Knight. A single Trustee is elected each year to serve a 3-Year term. All other Officers serve a 1-Year Term.

Mike Sallese has been appointed to chair the Nominating Committee and may approach you to run for an office. Please give his request your kind consideration and seriously consider running for office in our Council. We have built a great history with the leadership provided by men like you that were willing to serve their Brother Knights as Council Officers.

If you are interested in serving as an Officer, you can nominate yourself by contacting Mike and letting him know of your interest. Mike has a summation of the responsibilities of each Officer.

REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson

War is Peace. Freedom is Slavery. Ignorance is Strength. These beguiling statements appear on the building which houses the Ministry of Truth in George Orwell's novel, 1984. This government agency's purpose was to ideologically distort language through news, entertainment, education and the fine arts in order to change the values of the populace. A tactic to make the people totally subservient to the state was to drive out any consciousness of God and any sense of accountability to Him.

In America, we do not have a Ministry of Truth, but strong forces in society are having similar perverting effects. The words that express the principles and values upon which the nation was founded are being modified, diluted and deformed to create new meanings and thus to change the mores and culture of the country. The latest attempt at distortion is the effort to narrow the definition of "freedom of religion" to mean "freedom of worship," thus allowing the government's actions to remain within the limits of the Constitution, while coercing organizations and the individuals who lead them to violate their religious beliefs.

This nation was established for people to be free from tyrannical rule, with the proposition, as set forth in the Declaration of Independence, that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." The fundamental values expressed in these words are so familiar that they are heard without giving thought to their meaning or to the significance they have for the way we may live our lives – individually and as members of society. Consider how the nation's foundational values are being twisted.

When we speak of the equality of individuals, no one believes that all people are created with identical physical attributes, mental abilities, personalities or interests. Rather, we are all alike in human dignity, each created in the image and likeness of God. Everyone should be guaranteed equal opportunities to pursue their desires within the limitations of their abilities and the rights of others. But efforts continue to redefine equality as a sameness of results among groups characterized by race, gender and ethnicity. This has led to quotas, unequal standards and discriminatory practices.

Every person has a right to life simply by being human. There are groups in society, however, who try to void that right through a schizophrenic use of the word person. Abortion is often justified by claiming that the child in the womb is not a person and thus has no rights. Yet, if that same child is killed as a result of an attack on the mother, the perpetrator can be charged with the murder of a person. A number of states, like Maryland, allow abortion until the point of delivery. Nine states, in contrast, prohibit abortion when the conceived child is 20 weeks of age, thus defining personhood with the onset of the ability to feel pain. Arkansas recently passed a law proscribing abortion after 12 weeks of gestation. North Dakota then banned abortion when a fetal heartbeat can be detected at about six weeks of age, while Kansas law states that life begins at fertilization. The meaning of the word person, and therefore the right to life, is

becoming, to paraphrase Alice in Wonderland, whatever the user intends it to mean, no more and no less.

Liberty is the cornerstone of American political philosophy, but it must be exercised responsibly. When a government derives its powers from the consent of the governed, liberty must be rooted in a culture that flows from individuals freely obeying the imperatives of an inner set of standards that are common to all people. It must be a liberty of self-mastery, protected by virtuous people governing by moral norms. Lord Acton, the 19th-century English historian, expressed this as, "Liberty is not the power of doing what we like, but the right of being able to do what we ought."

But individual liberty is being pursued in America without constraints. Free reign is granted to passions. As a result, pornography is rampant; a hook-up culture is developing; cohabitation and divorce are common; the definition of marriage is being distorted; children are being aborted in the womb at enormous rates; and euthanasia is becoming accepted. With unfettered liberty, the very foundations of democracy are put at risk, for a people who cannot control their appetites in private life are unlikely to exercise responsible self-government in public life.

In his Farewell Address as President, George Washington cautioned that "reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." The First Amendment to the Constitution was passed to assure a vibrant state of religion among the people. It requires that government remain neutral toward religion, neither promoting a given set of religious tenets nor interfering in the right of the people to conduct their religious beliefs as they see fit. But in 1947, the Supreme Court created a "wall of separation" between church and state," a phrase originally used by Thomas Jefferson to assure the Danburv Baptists that government would not interfere with their religious practices. Since that decision, the term "wall of separation" has been redefined to drive any mention of God out of civic discourse and restrict the public practice of religion. Are we not seeing the dark theme of 1984 becoming a reality?

At the root of this distortion of values and rights is a lack of personal responsibility to God. There is a large and growing number of people, Catholics included, who fail to bring an awareness of God into their lives as individuals and members of society. They are focused totally on the material aspects of this world to the exclusion of the spiritual. To stem the Orwellian trend in our nation, we need a reordering of our actions as individuals, as families, and as a society. We must make God relevant in our lives, guide our actions by the Church's moral teachings, and see to it that our children are imbued with those same beliefs and desires.

An initiative to reorient our culture has begun with the effort of New Evangelization proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI. This beginning must be continued to instill in Catholics a greater knowledge of and zeal for their faith, and to create a desire among all people to act publicly as if God exists. Only then can religious freedom truly be secure.



DATES TO REMEMBER

| DAT | E | DAY TIME | ACTIVITY | LOCATION |
|-----------|-----------|----------|---|-------------------------------|
| MAY | , | | | |
| 02 | Thurso | day | State Council Convention Golf Tourname | ent |
| 03,0 | 4,05 | | State Council 115 th Annual Convention | Ocean City |
| 06 | Mon | 7:00 PM | Officer Meeting | Conference Center |
| 07 | Tues | 7:00 PM | Knights Ladies | Council Home |
| 09 | Thurs | 8:00 PM | Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights | Archbishop Fulton Sheen #7612 |
| 09,1 | 0,11 | | Spring Fling | St. John Church |
| 11 | Saturo | lay | Membership Blitz at all Masses | St. John Church |
| 12 | Sunday | y | Membership Blitz at all Masses | St. John Church |
| 12 | Sunday | y | Mothers' Day, Marygold Program | St. John Church |
| 14 | Tues | 8:00 PM | Council Meeting | Council Home |
| 16 | Thurs | 8:00 PM | Archbishop John Carroll Assembly Mtg | |
| 21 | Tues | 11:30 AM | Lunch Bunch | Council Home |
| 27 Monday | | у | Memorial Day | |
| 28 | Tues | 8:00 PM | Social Meeting & Council Elections | Council Home |
| | | | | |
| JUN | E | | | |
| 01 | Saturd | ay | Blood Drive | St. John Hall |
| | | 7:00 PM | Knights Ladies Meeting | Chapel & Council Home |
| | | 7:00 PM | Officer Meeting | Council Home |
| | | 3:00 PM | Council Business Meeting | Council Home |
| | 14 Friday | | Flag Day | |
| | Sunday | | Father's Day | |
| 18 | | 11:30 AM | Lunch Bunch | Council Home |
| | Thurs | | Council Bus Trip | |
| | Sun | ` | District Horseshoe Tournament | |
| 25 | | 8:00 PM | Social Meeting / Officer Transition | Council Home |
| 29-3 | 30 | Sat&Sun | GK Seminar | Mt. Saint Mary's University |

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Long Green Valley Council No. 8736 c/o Tom Zaegel, PGK 3206 Wellington Way Baldwin, MD 21013



Knights Ladies of Long Green Valley

Ladies.

On Tuesday May 7th the Knights' Ladies will honor Mary at our Marian Devotion which begins at 7:00pm in the Chapel. With this chilly weather, we know there aren't many "blooms 'out yet so this year the Knights Ladies will provide the flowers for Mary. After wards we head to the Council hall to celebrate 'Life'. After a short meeting, we will host a baby shower for Birthright of Bel Air. Ladies are asked to bring a baby gift in a gift bag (do not wrap). After wards we celebrate all our 'birthdays' with a Birthday Party.

Mary marygweber@verizon.net 410 879-0558

MAY 2013

www.kofc8736.org Home of Dick Siejack, Past State Deputy

Page 18 of 17