

VALLEY VIEWS

MARCH 2014



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GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

Robert Renshaw 410-592-8406 baltobob@comcast.net

Dear Brothers,

Last month we submitted our Council's Survey of Fraternal Activity. Although only 13 members submitted their information, those Knights had contributed over 1100 hours of service to the Church. When we consider that we have roughly 200 members, it is evident that our presence in our parishes is very significant. Thanks to Church Activities Chair Pat Donohue, the Knights were active in the food and beverage preparation and service at the St John's Mystery Dinner Theater and the following night at the Discover Christ.

As we enter Lent, we have several activities that will need help and participation. We will have two Fish Fries that we are counting on to provide our major source of fund raising. The last Sunday in March we demonstrate our solidarity by attending the 9 AM mass followed by a breakfast in the Hall. This is a good way to demonstrate our unity and fraternity.

There are many people that deserve my thanks for their service to the Council. This month, I want to thank Jim Schmidt, SR. for all the work that he does in the Hall. Last month he had to replace a length of water pipe that had frozen and split. We still have issues with a roof leak, poor water pressure and doors that do not fit the frames. The Home Committee has a job cut out for them.

Our program reports are due in mid-March and there are no more due until September. This gives us plenty of time to decide what program areas you are interested in chairing next fraternal year. We need volunteers in each of the program areas who can continue the fine achievements we have enjoyed this year. We particularly need volunteers for Community Activities, Family Activities, and Pro-Life. The officers will help anyone willing to step up and try their hand at being a program chair.

Vivat Jesus



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Long Green Valley Council
No. 8736
Hydes, Maryland 21082
Established June 25, 1984

Staff
Ted Burns
Mike Sallase

Volume 30, No. 08

CAPLAIN'S CHORNER

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

Dear Brothers,

With the call to grow spiritually, I again offer two points this month that I believe will help each of us, as members of the Knights of Columbus, grow in our faith and commitment to the Order.

In All Things Charity: The basket is passed for a special cause or an ailing Knight, and the charity is obvious. The parish has a need or there is a local calamity, and the Knights respond. The annual statistics of service hours and dollars raised by the Knights are impressive. What is behind such action?

The first principle a Knight learns is charity, and the first lesson a Knight is taught is to be charitable. It stems from the fact that the Knight is first a baptized Catholic, and every Christian knows that charity is the pre-eminent virtue. The Lord has given so generously, and we share those blessings. The Knight is called to keep that Christian motivation forefront in his actions, remembering that a Knight does not engage in charity because the one served is necessarily Catholic, but because the Knight is Catholic.

It was concern for the widows and orphans of his day that inspired Fr. McGivney, and it is concern for any brother or sister in need that prompts the Knight's desire to respond. It is so clear that the Lord's graciousness will not be outdone; it will be "in giving that we receive." (Peace Prayer of St. Francis) [For further reflection: Matthew 6:1-4; Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 10: 25-37.]

Gathered Around the Table: The second principal of a Knight is unity. It is also an attribute of the Church (the Church is one, holy, catholic, apostolic), and reflects what we share in the community of our faith. But the Knight also aspires to be united with the principles and goals of the Order, and to be united with like-minded men in his local council. It is good to remember that while unity is critical in the essentials, there is still much room for diversity. We are not all alike, we don't like all the same things, and there is generally more than one way to reach a goal. Accept-ing our diversity, even celebrating it, can avoid much discord and unpleasantness. Indeed, as we reflect, we realize even the 12 Apostles were a very diverse group, and this continued with the first disciples. The Acts of the Apostles shows there were disagreements, and answers were found in prayer and discussion. These answers, and our answers, must always conform to what we learn from Jesus and His Good News.

Unity is found most profoundly around the Table of the Lord, where we receive Communion, and are nourished for all we strive to do. Knights must pray together, and when this is through the Eucharist it will be most profound. It is not by accident that we are encouraged to have an Installation Mass, a Memorial Mass in November, corporate Masses, and so on. The Order encourages that the Eucharist be a special part of the annual state convention. Needless to say, the Knight's regular attendance at Mass, and the nourishment of Communion, will keep him on the path of unity. [For further reflection: John 17: 9-26.) I trust these reflections will be helpful.

Vivat Jesus!

This article was written by our Worthy State Chaplain Father Donald Grzymiski in the State Council Newsletter for March 2014.

SUPREME COUNCIL NEWS

www.kofc.org

In Service to One, in Service to All

Culture of Life Fund

Do you want to make a difference in the world, and help to save the lives of unborn children? Your prayers and donations to the Culture of Life Fund can do just that.

The Knights of Columbus Culture of Life Fund was established by a vote of the delegates to the 2008 Supreme Convention in Quebec City. The resolution states: "In order to further our commitment to building a culture of life, it has become desirable to establish a permanent fund with monies contributed from members, councils and assemblies that will support a broad range of initiatives that advance the culture of life."

The fund has since been used to provide millions of dollars for the Order's own Ultrasound Initiative, as well as funding for other groups and projects, including: the Sisters of Life, Birthright International, the National Life Center, the National Catholic Bioethics Center, the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Catholic Organization for Life and Family in Canada, and various state referenda on pro-family and pro-marriage issues, among others.

Gifts, no matter how large or small, can help us continue this work. If you are able, please donate online today – it only takes a moment, and your contribution can help save lives at home and abroad:

Please note that, to the extent permitted by law, your gift is tax deductible in the United States or tax creditable in Canada. Canadian donors will receive a tax receipt by mail.

Want to find another way you can help the Culture of Life Fund? Talk to your Knights of Columbus insurance specialist today to find out if you can make a contribution through your "United in Charity" insurance policy. He can explain your options, as well as provide you with brochures and background literature about these types of gifts.

In a world struggling with moral issues concerning life, the Culture of Life Fund offers an easy way for believers to get and stay involved. Your continued support is vital in allowing us to stand up in defense of life.

Want to know more about the Culture of Life Fund, or to ask a question? Feel free contact us by e-mail at www.kofc.org/un/en/about/contact/charities.html; by toll-free phone: at 1-800-694-5713, or by mail to the Office of the Supreme Treasurer, Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc. One Columbus Plaza New Haven, CT 06510

The Culture of Life fund is a restricted fund, wholly managed, maintained, and operated by Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc., a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and Knights of Columbus Canada Charities, Inc., a registered charity with the CRA.

STATE COUNCIL NEWS

William C. Kuchmas, State Deputy
Strengthen the Bonds of Faith and Fraternity

As we enter into the last 4 months of this Fraternal Year, it is a good time to review and evaluate your council's progress regarding Membership and Star Council requirements. Many councils are very close to meeting their goals. It is time to implement your *March/April Membership Drive* and assure that your council will receive the Star Council Award for this year. If you need help, don't forget to contact our State Membership Team and your Fraternal Benefits Advisor. They are waiting for your call! Please remember, our Supreme Knight has challenged each of us to offer Membership in our order to every eligible Catholic man and his Family and afford him *"The Experience of a Lifetime."*

I want to thank the Grand Knights who have submitted their Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity Forms and Semi- Annual Audits on time. At the same time I would ask those of you who have not turned in your forms to do so NOW.

The *Maryland March for Life* will be held on Monday, March 10, 2014 in Annapolis, MD. At 5:15 P.M. there will be a Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 111 Duke of Gloucester Street. The march will begin at 6:30 P.M. The march will start at St. Mary's Church and proceed through downtown Annapolis to the State House for a rally in support of Life. We hope and expect that all Maryland Knights and their Families will participate in this event and show our legislators that Pro-Life issues are very important to us and we offer a great deal of support.

The *Founders Day Mass* will be celebrated on Sunday, March 23rd at St. Clements Mary Hofbauer Church in Baltimore, Maryland. Dinner and program will follow at Columbus Gardens (Cardinal Gibbons Council 2521). Please plan to join the State Family as we celebrate Founders Day and the 132rd Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus. To make your dinner reservation, contact your Grand Knight for the form. This is also a special day of recognition for those who have served our community so well, and your presence is an affirmation of their sacrifices. We thank them for their service.

In closing I want to thank all of you for the hard work and effort that you have made in obtaining your own personal goals, your council goals, your district goals and those of the Maryland State Council. I urge you to continue to "Strengthen the Bonds of Faith and Fraternity."

DISTRICT DEPUTY REPORT

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

One Member per Council per Month

Dear Brothers,

For Sunday February 9, the first reading was from Isaiah, 58:7-10. "Thus says the Lord: Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own...then light shall rise for you in darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday." The full four verses describe what we as Knights and Christians are called to do for others and the blessings we will receive from our Lord. Are we doing what we are called to do? Are we adding such acts into our plans for the new council year?

For those brothers who are ready to take the 2nd Degree, the District team will hold a 2nd Degree on Monday March 17 at Father Maurice J. Wolfe Council. The Degree begins at 7:30 PM; candidates must be there by 7:00 PM. Long Green Valley Council has scheduled a 1st Degree on Tuesday March 25 beginning at 8:00 PM and candidates must be there by 7:30 PM. For those ready to take their 3rd Degree, the State Council will hold a 3rd Degree Exemplification on Friday March 21 at Father A. Leo Abendschoen Council beginning at 7:30 PM. Candidates must be there by 7:00 PM.

Each Council will hold election of officers in May or June. A nominating committee will be established to prepare a slate of officers for the election. If you are asked to stand for election for an officer's position, please give it serious thought and consider the opportunity presented to serve your brother Knights in the Council. There is no bylaw stating that only one man can stand for election for any office. Your Council and our Order needs your leadership qualities.

I hope to see you at the next Council meeting.

Vivat Jesus

BALTIMORE CHAPTER OF GRAND KNIGHTS

Gregory McClain...410-608-9529...GAG50401@verizon.net

Dear Brothers

I hope all is well with you and yours. I ask that you take a few minutes from clearing snow and send me the name of your brother Knight who you wish to be honored at the Chapter's Honored Guest Night meeting on March 13th. This is an outstanding opportunity for a brother knight in your Council to be recognized outside of the Council for his outstanding achievements and contributions to your Council. Honored Guests will be recognized at the meeting and will receive a framed Chapter certificate of recognition for their good works. The only effort on your part is to send me the name of your Honored Guest. I request your response by March 1st.

The Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights will conduct its Honored Guest Night on Thursday March 13 2014 at 8:00 p.m. hosted by Saint Charles Borromeo Council 3960 at their facility located at 10019 Liberty Road, Randallstown, Maryland 21133. Please make plans to attend and recognize your Council Honoree for this 2013-2014 fraternal year.

Fraternally
Gregory E McClain
President

FOURTH DEGREE NEWS

Archbishop John Carroll Assembly #2378

Lee Eder 410-591-1948 salesbylee@comcast.net

Sir Knights,

The next meeting of the Archbishop John Carroll Assembly will be on Thursday March 20 beginning at 8:00 PM at Long Green Valley Council.



We have been asked to assist the veterans at the Loch Raven VA Center to attend Mass on Saturdays. We would meet the veterans and push their wheelchairs or walk with them to Mass and then return with them to their quarters. With sufficient men taking part, we could split this activity into 4 crews. If you can help, please let me know. You do not have to be a member of the Assembly, just a Knight who is interested in helping a fellow Catholic to attend Mass.

Fraternally,
Lee Eder,
Faithful Navigator

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Long Green Valley Council offers many opportunities in our Programs for you to join in the fun and contribute your talents as you choose. Please advise the chair person or an officer of your availability and interest in an activity. Your participation will be rewarding and you'll make closer friendships with Brother Members.

How can you join in? Just shoot us an email, call or tell us in person. The activities, times and places where we need some help are specified in the Activity Reports that follow.

Here is a summary of coming events for your participation. We can also use some volunteer help.

Summary of Upcoming Council Activities

Activity	Leader	Date / Time
Fish Fries	Tom Rowan Sr	March 21st, April 11th
5 th Sunday	Pat Donohue	March 30 th (9 AM Mass)
Grandparents Day	Tom Zaegel	TBD

No matter where you look at St Johns you'll find Knights donating their time and talents. These are not always Long Green Valley Council activities, but you'll find Knights in action.

Next time at Church, take a look around and you'll likely see Knights as the Priest (Msgr Rick), Music Director Doug Byerly, Lectors, Cantors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Choir Members, and other roles. Behind the scenes there are Money Counters, Capital Campaigners, Parish Council Members and other regular contributors.

Some step up to help in special one time activities such as St John school functions, Music Programs, or technical support or labor for school and church committees. These may be very active Knights, or some who rarely attend meetings but all are Council members contributing time and talents. These activities embody the true spirit of K of C. You ARE the strong right arm of the Church. Thanks for all you do!

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Pat Donohue

410-941-5025

donohuepj@comcast.net

The St Johns Murder Mystery Theater presentation was a success that triumphed over the weather. Reduced from 2 performances on two successive nights to a single performance on Saturday Night, February 15th, the Council team prepared and served about 120 dinners along with refreshments to those attendees who were able to dig out of the snow and get to the Church Hall.

If you weren't there it might be a surprise to learn who was "murdered", but you will be relieved to know that he was resurrected after the show! Thanks to those Knights who helped in the kitchen, with refreshments and clean up.

The Fifth Sunday observation will be at the 9 o'clock mass at St Johns on March 30. Please plan to attend, sit on the left side of the Church in front of the statue of the Blessed Mother wearing your name badge to demonstrate your solidarity with the Knights. We will have a brunch in the Hall after mass. This is a great way to demonstrate to Parish who we are!

On March 29, the Catholic Men's Fellowship of Maryland is conducting a one day Lenten Retreat at Calvert Hall College High School. The Retreat runs from 8 AM to 4 PM and includes Cardinal Donaki Wuerl and other dynamic speakers ending with a mass celebrated by Archbishop Lori. The cost is \$40 and preregistration at www.catholicmensfellowship is recommended.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Ted Daniecki

410-692-4399

daniecki@zoominternet.net

Our Thanksgiving Food Drive in the Fall continues with a donation at Christmas followed by a subsequent donation of remaining resources in the early Spring. Thanks to Paul Wimmer for chairing this important and time consuming activity.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

"Chair Person Sought"

410-941-5025

joewenderothesr@gmail.com

Council Activities promote fraternity among members so that we become a more cohesive team in our fraternal programs. Whether in meetings, projects or just for social occasions, the bonds of fraternity forge a synergy of energy in everything we do and serve as a force multiplier as we perform good deeds.

Our monthly **Lunch Bunch** meetings bring back some of the retirees who fondly recall council activities of the past and pass along some good advice as well. Come join them, if you can, for meetings on the Third Tuesday of the month at 11:30, usually in the Council Home. Hope to see you next Lunch Bunch on March 18th.

Last year's fish fry was so successful that we are scheduling two this year. The first will be on March 21 and the second will be on April 11. We need Knights to volunteer to help with the cooking, ticket sales, serving food and beverages and helping in the dining room. Encourage your family and friends to attend since this excellent dinner is our Council's major source of income.

We'll try some new programs in 2014 that are made possible by our audio visual equipment suite. We have been hampered by winter weather but we're starting to thaw. Some programs will include movies we can enjoy together using our Blu Ray player, projector and big screen. Others may be informational talks about world-wide travel. Still others may take advantage of our television programming capabilities. Stay tuned for special announcements, especially by newsletter and email. Hope to see you there for fun, entertainment and fraternity.



Join us on Facebook, soon! Social Media is just the latest new communications technology that allows virtual participation in group activity, just right for Council Activities! We know that the "digital divide" over internet usage is age related and many of our older members are nervous about using Facebook and similar new technologies. We just happen to think that these new-fangled computers will catch on! We will have an official launch soon but the LGVC Facebook page is already available.

While it is true that many young people do not use good judgment by making too much personal information available on the "web", that doesn't mean that the technology such as Facebook are unsafe. It all depends on how you use it. Here is our plan and policy for a Facebook page.

First, the Council Facebook page is just an **added Council communication feature** and **does not replace** our Council web page www.kofc8736.org where we will have all the details in a formal presentation. The LGVC web page is a top down, one-to-many **broadcast** of information about Council activities, State Activities, Supreme information and Catholic faith. **Our web page is the world's eye view of our Council.** Anyone can see it but only members can log in for special access.

Secondly, and conversely to our web page purpose, our Facebook page is intended as an **INTERNAL LGVC private conversation about the Council, by members only**. We limit the Long Green Valley Council Facebook page to members of the Council. Administrators, such as the Grand Knight, will approve requests for LGVC Facebook page membership applications and maintain surveillance of member activity on the page. In any case, wise use by members of Facebook will limit participation to casual conversation without posting personal information.

Third, and more precisely, we intend our Facebook page as a virtual place to post photographs and announcements concerning Council activities for members to view and perhaps comment upon. We just want a timely and continuing display of Council information. Comments can be made in reference to posted information and pictures, but remember to keep it casual. Jests and jibes that are shared at meetings might be misinterpreted on a Facebook page - be civil with your postings!

We will demonstrate the Facebook page and web pages at meetings and invite our members to use both forms of internet media.

We hope you'll join us on the LGVC page and just visit to see what is posted. You can add content if you like.

CULTURE OF LIFE

Mike Curran 410-557-8492 mjcurr@gmail.com

As Brother Knights we support life affirming activities in every form as the goal of our Culture of Life Activities. There are many opportunities for participation in these activities at the local, state and national levels. During the year we will advertise these programs and solicit your participation. If the program catches your interest, we welcome you as a volunteer. We have participated in Pro Life marches in Washington and Annapolis. We have registered parish members for the Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) and have organized a bus trip to participate in Lobby Night with our State representatives.

The Maryland March for Life will be on Monday, March 10 starting at St. Mary's Church in Annapolis. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Rozanski. The march will start at 6:30, through downtown Annapolis, with a rally at Lawyers' Mall near the State Capital. After the rally, there will be food and displays at St. Mary's Church. For more details, go to www.marylandmarchforlife.org.

On the first Sunday of each month, March 2nd this month, there will be a **Rosary for the Unborn** after the 9AM mass. Please join in on the Mother Mary side of the church after the mass.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Franz Wittelsberger 410-667-1432 franz@thewittco.com

Our **Family of the Month** of January for Long Green Valley Council is the Dietz family, Ray and Margie. Ray has been our Blood Drive Chairman and was very helpful in grooming Mike and Kathy Bathon to take over that role. Now they are doing a great job as well each fall and spring.

Ray has taken on the challenging role as Membership Director which is very hard work. Though recruitments are down all over for K of C and other fraternal organizations, Ray has not been discouraged. He has recruited several great new members and has advanced some existing members through higher degrees in the Order.

Margie has been a long term member in the Choir and joined the Knights' Ladies.

Thanks, Mike and Margie!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Bill Vogt 410-557-9876 pieface@zoominternet.net

Grandparents Day is an opportunity on Friday, April 25th for us to support the school and our youth. We help with parking so that the school personnel, grandparents and kids can focus on their day and objectives. It is a half school day. Let us know if you can help with this activity.

The Council 2014 **Basketball Free Throw Contest** was completed on February 16th. We conducted the contest with the St John's School Teams at their practice session. Conducting the contest was so easy that all we had to do was count to ten! After the kids finished we invited parents to try to sink a few. Awards for our 7 winners are regulation size basketballs for each, presented after the 8:45 school mass on March 13th.

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. You will 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:

PSD Phil Asplen, Jr.
Msgr. Jack Collopy
Father Leo Tittler
PGK Bob Dee
PGK Larry Flynn
PSD Gene Hogan
Brother Frank Huebler
PGK (Bel Air Council) Al Kramer
Brother Kevin Krivacsy (Past LGVC Member)
Brother Dick Lanham
PDD Brian O'Connor
PGK Joe Owens
PGK John Robinson
Brother Bill Seibert
Brother Frank Sliwka
Brother Bob Snyder (Administrative Assistant to the State Deputy)

Relatives/Friends of Brother Knights:

Lillian Beachman, Mother-in-Law of Brother Sam Gibson
Michelle & Alex Bronzert, Daughter-in-Law & Son of Brother Norm Bronzert
Stan Gibson, Brother of Brother Sam Gibson
Kathy Gutberlet, Wife of Brother Matt Gutberlet
Carol Messenger, Wife of Brother Gene Messenger
Tina North, Wife of Brother Michael North
David Pusey, Cousin of Chancellor Paul Wimmer
Helen Radcliffe, Wife of Brother Carl Radcliffe (Deceased)
Tory Robinson, Wife of PGK John Robinson
Margery Schammel, Wife of Brother Willie Schammel
Carolyn Thuman, Wife of Brother George Thuman

Deceased Prayer List:

Brothers:

Brother Leo Hebert, Member of Mason-Dixon Council and the John Carroll Assembly

Relatives/Friends of Brother Knights:



Nonea

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 e-mail (preferred) or by phone and they will be listed/reinstated on the prayer list.

SERVICE:

Visits or telephone contacts needed for Brother Knights on our Sick/Prayer List, particularly members of Long Green Valley Council.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Ray Dietz 410-790-7484 craytrek@comcast.net

Brothers,

Just as time moves on, so does our membership drive. We continue to be in full new member mode. Please call me with any leads at 410-790-7484 or email craytrek@comcast.net.

We all know Catholic men who should be Knights.

Fraternally
Ray Dietz

Members as of 02/25/14	204
Inactive	13
Honorary	17
Honorary Life	38
Disability	0
Membership Goal	13
New Members	2
Insurance Goal	5
New Insurance Members	0

FRATERNAL BENEFITS

Jason McClain 443-926-2981...Jason.McClain@KOFC.org

LTC Is an Important Piece of the Puzzle

There are many financial consultants and retirement authorities who emphasize the need for a long-term care (LTC) product for estate preservation and family protection. While many commercial life insurance companies have gotten out of the long-term care business, the Knights of Columbus considers LTC a very important piece of the family protection puzzle. The Order has been actively offering our members this product for nearly 15 years without a premium increase on current policyholders. Members who wisely purchased an LTC plan from the Knights in 2000 are still paying the same premiums today. Even better, our LTC coverage is backed by the full strength of the Order, which remains rooted in our strong Catholic values. Talk about stability when it counts.

If we have not spoken about your need for LTC coverage in your family portfolio, please take some time out of your schedule to meet with me.

Remember, long-term care policies are underwritten based on your health, and you most likely will never be any healthier than you are today.

COUNCIL BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

March Birthdays:

Pat Donohue	06	Jim Hock	07
Keith Kruse	09	Preston Shelton	09
Vince Pipitone	10	John Reed	10
Joe Schmidt	10	Bob Elliott, Sr.	13
Pat Martino	13	Dick Siejack	14
Tom Gorius	15	Matt Gutberlet	15
Harry Pippin	15	Deacon Don Murray	18
Al "Pop" Stritzinger	20	Frank Sliwka	23
Jim Smith	25	John Schmidt	26
Jody Satterfield	29	Mike Talipan	29
Dean Manzoni	30	Bob Sapp	31

March Anniversaary:

Jack & MaryBeth Lindung 14 (16 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.

REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson
The Emerging Pro-Life Challenge

There is a feeling of hope among pro-life advocastes that after 41 years of battling legalized abortion their efforts are bearing results. The Guttmacher Institute recently reported that the number of abortions in the United States decreased from 1.21 million in 2008 to 1.06 million in 2011, a dramatic 13 percent decline, while the number of abortions per 1,000 women fell to 16.9, a historic low. In addition, 87 abortion clinics closed or stopped offering surgical abortions in 2013, reducing the total number of such facilities in the United States to 582, which is 73% below a high of 2,176 clinics in 1991. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared that “abortion is a failing business.”

While abortions are decreasing and children in the womb are being saved in significantly increasing numbers, there is a disturbing trend that may be the forerunner of increased abortions, but at earlier stages of pregnancy. There is a shift from surgical abortions to medication abortions, that is, through the use of the pill. While the number of abortions continued to decline from 2001 to 2011, medication abortions increased from 6 percent to 23 percent of all abortions in that decade.

Contraceptive pills operate in one or more of three ways. First, they attempt to prevent ovulation. If ovulation does occur, they then try to block the sperm from joining the ovum or egg. When this fails, the drug acts to prevent the fertilized ovum from attaching to the uterus. The earliest birth control pills, approved for use in the United States in 1960, operated to prevent ovulation, and secondarily to inhibit fertilization. These two effects are truly contraceptive, for the ovum is never fertilized. Although the Catholic Church disapproves of all contraceptives because they thwart the generative aspect of the conjugal act, these first two actions do not involve the destruction of new life. The third effect – to impede the fertilized ovum from attaching or remaining attached to the mother’s uterus -- terminates a life. That is abortion.

A fertilized ovum, called a zygote, is the first stage of human life. This simple cell has all of the genetic information and capabilities to continue developing through its embryonic and fetal stages into a newborn child, and then toward becoming an aged adult. This is a continuous progression, and the pre-born stages only require nourishment and protection gained through attachment to the mother’s uterus. The process of life begins at fertilization; there is no scientific disagreement on this.

Organizations such as the Guttmacher Institute and Planned Parenthood, as well as some federal government policies, attempt to finesse the fact. They state that pregnancy starts not at fertilization, but when the fertilized ovum is implanted in the uterus. The distinction between the beginning of a child’s life and the onset of a mother’s pregnancy is critical. It allows drug companies to claim that a drug which prevents implantation is a contraceptive since it prevents pregnancy, rather than an abortifacient that terminates a life.

In September 2000, the Food and Drug Administration approved mifepristone (previously known as RU-486) for abortions. The drug, taken as a pill, blocks the action of the hormone progesterone, which is

necessary to sustain a pregnancy. The result is that the embryonic child is detached from its mother's uterine lining and expelled.

Ella, a relatively new drug, has been included among the con-contraceptives to be provided to women under Obamacare-mandated health insurance plans. It has been approved for use, according to its manufacturer, in case of "birth control failure." This "morning-after" pill acts to prevent the attachment of the fertilized ovum to the uterus and, thus, like mifepristone, is an abortifacient.

As medication abortions replace surgical ones and contraceptive drugs become more effective and even easier to obtain, more and more abortions will occur by simply "popping a pill." There will be no need to go to an abortion clinic, face pro-life prayer warriors and counselors, possibly see graphic images or view an ultrasound picture, and undergo a surgical procedure. The woman will have less anxiety or feelings of guilt, as her actions will seem akin to taking an aspirin or a vitamin.

An unaddressed challenge for the pro-life movement is that many who claim to be pro-life approve of contraception. At the 2014 March for Life, Michael Voris of Church Militant TV interviewed a large number of the young, pro-life marchers about whether they thought birth control was wrong. Although the poll was admittedly more representative than precise, nearly one-third of these young people, the majority of whom are likely Catholic and who by their presence showed themselves to be strongly pro-life, thought that birth control was acceptable in some circumstances.

There is a discontinuity in the beliefs of the marchers. They profess to be pro-life, yet, approve of contraceptives, many of which have abortifacient effects. Young people, particularly those who are Catholic, are not being taught the Church's position. But who will teach them? A recent global survey on social issues, commissioned by Univision, indicate that four out of five self-identified Catholics in the United States support the use of contraceptives, while three out of four say that abortion should be allowed at least in some cases.

Not too many decades ago, Church teachings were presented in Catholic elementary and high schools by nuns, priests and brothers. Today, that is not the case. Catholic schools and religious teachers do not exist in adequate numbers. Despite self-identified Catholics in America increasing from 49 million in 1965 to 78 million in 2013, the number of students in Catholic elementary and secondary schools plummeted from 5.2 million in nearly 13,000 schools to 2.0 million in 6,800 schools in that same period. As for religious teachers, they are almost non-existent. There were 180,000 nuns in 1965 and most of them taught; today, there are 51,000 and most of them do not.

The pro-life movement is faced with a growing, significant challenge. As increasing numbers of abortions are done at earlier stages with pills, not only the hearts and minds, but the consciences of people must be formed to recognize the existence and dignity of the human person at the earliest stages of development and the evils of contraception and abortion in all its forms. This will be counter-cultural and not easy, but must be done.

DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
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MARCH

4	Tue.	7:00 PM	Knights Ladies of Long Green	Council Hall
5	Wed.		Ash Wednesday	
6	Thurs.	7:00 PM	Officers Meeting	Council Hall
8	Sat.		4 th Degree Exemplification	Frederick Holiday Inn
11	Tues.	8:00 PM	Council Business Meeting	Council Home
13	Thurs.	8:00 PM	Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights	Charles Borremeo Council
15	Sat.		State Council Spring Meeting	Immaculate Heart of Mary Council
17	Mon.	7:30 PM	2 nd Degree Exemplification	Fr. Wolfe Council
18	Tues.	11:30 AM	Lunch Bunch Meeting	Council Home
20	Thurs.	8:00 PM	Archbishop John Carroll Assembly	Long Green Valley Council
21	Fri.		Fish Fry	Council Home
21	Fri.	7:30 PM	3 rd Degree Exemplification	Fr. A. Leo Abendschoen Council
23	Sun.	3:00 PM	Founders Day Mass	St. Clement Rosedale
23	Sun.		Dinner & Awards after Mass	Gibbons Council
25	Tues.	8:00 PM	Council Business Meeting	Council Home
29	Sat.	9:00 AM	Catholic Mens Fellowship	Calvert Hall College
30	Sun.	9:00 AM	Fifth Sunday Mass and Breakfast	Church & Council Hall

APRIL

1	Tues.	7:00 PM	Knights Ladies of Long Green	Council Hall
3	Thurs.	7:00 PM	Officers Meeting	Council Hall
5	Sun.	12:00PM	Catholic Bee	Council Hall
8	Tues.	8:00 PM	Council Business Meeting	Council Home
10	Thurs.	8:00 PM	Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights	
11	Fri.		Fish Fry	Council Home
13	Sun.		Palm Sunday	
15	Tues.	11:30 AM	Lunch Bunch Meeting	Council Home
17	Thurs.		Holy Thursday	
17	Thurs.	8:00 PM	Archbishop John Carroll Assembly	St. Ignatius Council
18	Fri.		Good Friday	
20	Sun.		Easter Sunday	
22	Tues.	8:00 PM	Council Business Meeting	Council Home
25	Fri.		Ladies Auction	

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,

Our March Knights' Ladies meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 4th** beginning at **7:00pm**.

To welcome everyone back from the cold, snowy months of January and February, our March Meeting will be a 'Soup Supper'. We will have a variety of warm Soups, Bread and dessert...what more does a girl want? The cost of the 'Soup Supper' is free but we ask all to bring cans of vegetable beef soup (any brand) for Our Daily Bread.

Our meeting will highlight a slideshow from Kevin Ewing's Christmas visit to the Holy Lands and hear from his Mom, Elizabeth Ewing. As always, we enjoy hearing from our 'adopted' seminarian.

As a side note... if time allows, we will be playing a new game so please bring a roll of nickels to get in on the fun. Remember to scour those basements, attics and cupboards for items for our Cash in the Attic Auction in April.

Mary

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