

# VALLEY VIEWS

## MAY 2014



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### GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

Robert Renshaw, Grand Knight...410-592-8406, [Baltobob@comcast.net](mailto:Baltobob@comcast.net)

Dear Brothers,

By now, all brothers have received my request for help with the maintenance expenses for the Hall. As a Council, we have a great history in our Council Home and continually appreciate the convenience of being located on the campus of St Johns parish. We had originally intended to be totally self-supporting and in most instances we have been. This recent crisis cost more than we could bear, but I am hoping that we still will be as little a burden upon the parish as possible. Please respond to our appeal for help so that we can demonstrate our appreciation to the parish for funding this major repair.

The Council has much to be proud of this past month and many people to thank. The second fish fry was as successful as the first both as a fund raiser and as a social activity. The comments I have heard from those who attended are all enthusiastic raves. Thank you to chairman Tom Rowan for all of his organization and hard work and thank you to all of the Knights and Knights Ladies who pitched in and made the affair so successful. Willing volunteers also turned out to help with the school's Grandparents Day and to help with membership recruitment. The Divine Mercy service was very well attended and the reception was excellent thanks to Church Activities Chair, Pat Donohue.

There will be an election of officers this month. The current officers have agreed to continue for another year but we need to plan ahead. Being Grand Knight is an honor and a privilege and what better way is there to prepare than to serve a year as Deputy. If you are unsure that you want to take this step feel free to speak with me or anyone who has served in this position. You will be doing a service for the Council as well for yourself.

*Vivat Jesus*



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
 Long Green Valley Council  
 No. 8736  
 Hydes, Maryland 21082  
 Established June 25, 1984

**Staff**  
 Ted Burns  
 Mike Sallèse

Volume 30, No. 11

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Msgr. Rick Cramblitt...410-592-6206...[Cramblittre@sjehydes.org](mailto: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.

*Celebrating Life:* The Book of Genesis begins with God creating the world, culminating in human creation, and God “*saw it was good.*” Fr. McGivney had aid to widows and orphans as a primary focus in founding the Order. By each tradition, it is natural that Knights are pro-life and pro-family. In a world that is often hostile to both, a Knight does well to keep up with the Church’s teachings on marriage and family, and on medical and scientific is-sues relating to life. He needs such clarity of vision when popular culture calls our values “out of date” or “bigoted.”

By prayer, projects (think “*tootsie rolls*” and Special Olympics), respectful social action, and informed voting the Knight can work for the “*Culture of Life*” that our Order supports, allied with our Holy Father and the bishops. Many social issues are complex in our world, and informed reflection, and openness to a change of view enlightened by the Holy Spirit, is a stance of faith by any disciple-Knight.

*Faithful Sons:* Most Knights come to realize that there are many priests and bishops, and the Pope himself, who have said “*Thank you Knights of Columbus.*” It is not only for Color Corps members and ushers, but so importantly for the presence of Knights and their families in significant numbers at Mass and parish events, for consistent presence is a sign of faithfulness. Men may sometimes be short on words, but their love and devotion for their family and for the Church is strong and deep. Christ established the Church to help us on the way to salvation, and our faithfulness to the Church is a response in prudence and wisdom.

We have the Lord’s promise the Church will survive, not that she won’t suffer. A Knight’s growth in the faith through reading, study and reflection will bolster him spiritually, and help him to both under-stand and explain what the Church teaches. Faith is a gift from God, but it can become static and die if not nurtured. It is a pity to neglect any gift from God, and so the Knight remains alert and steadfast in preserving such gifts. These gifts can and should be shared, and in so going they are never diminished— isn’t that a sign of the divine at work?

I trust these reflections will be helpful.

***Vivat Jesus!***

*This article was written by our Worthy State Chaplain Father Donald Grzyski in the State Council Newsletter for May 2014.*

## **SUPREME COUNCIL NEWS**

[www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org)

**In Service to One, in Service to All**

### **Knights Join Rome Canonization Celebrations**

In celebration of the canonizations of St. John Paul II and St. John XXIII, the Knights of Columbus was active in Rome, lending financial support to Vatican television's broadcast of the canonization ceremony, and hosting numerous pilgrims at K of C facilities.

The Knights of Columbus provided nearly \$100,000 to support Vatican Television's (CTV's) broadcast of the canonizations.

In addition, the Knights of Columbus opened two of its sports fields in Rome to give a thousand pilgrims – primarily from Poland – a place to camp for the events. Within the city of Rome, these sports fields are about three miles from St. Peter's, which is easily accessible by foot or public transportation.

The Knights has been active in a variety of charitable roles in Rome for more than 90 years. Following the Knights' service to American troops in Rome in World War I, Pope Benedict XV in 1920 invited the Knights to continue the Order's good works in the city and develop playgrounds for the city's youth, who had few open spaces for exercise in the post-war years. The Knights did so, and continue to manage and maintain athletic fields, which are free to the young people of Rome.

The work at the playgrounds continued unabated even during World War II, when the United States and Italy were at war. During the war, food delivery to the people of Rome from the Vatican was often coordinated from a K of C athletic field. After the war, a Knights' athletic field became a distribution point for food to the children of Rome suffering food shortages.

The K of C has also supported the Eternal City in other ways, promoting its cultural and artistic heritage through restorations of Vatican and civic artworks and monuments, and the sponsoring of many renovation projects at St. Peter's Basilica – including the restoration of the façade in the 1980s. The Knights has also sponsored a number of Vatican communications initiatives, including several satellite broadcasts each year, and the co-sponsoring with Sony of the Vatican's acquisition of a mobile high definition television studio.

## **STATE COUNCIL NEWS**

**William C. Kuchmas, State Deputy**

### **Strengthen the Bonds of Faith and Fraternity**

*The following was written by our State Program Director Tony Salvemini in the State Council Newsletter for May 2014.*

There are still two months left in this fraternal year and we want to keep conducting meaningful programs as we have done all year long. Just because we submitted all of our activity reports for the fraternal year it is not an indication that this year is over and we can sit back for the next couple of months and do nothing. Several State Council programs still remain on the calendar. I refer you to the Activity Directors' articles in this month's State Bulletin to keep abreast of these programs. Remember that any activities conducted in this last quarter, which runs from March 15th to June 30th, can be submitted as a first quarter report for the next fraternal year

Repeating what I said last month, now that all of your State Council Activity reports have been turned in for this fraternal year don't forget that the Columbian Award Application, Form SP-7, must be turned in to the Supreme Council in order for your council to receive this award and also remain eligible for the Star Council Award. The directions for filling out the application and, the application itself can be found in the Supreme Council Report Forms Booklet. SP-7, and is also available on the Supreme Council's website.

## **DISTRICT DEPUTY REPORT**

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

***One Member per Council per Month***

Dear Brothers,

My congratulations to the Council Officers who will be elected this month. Thank you for making the commitment to serve your brother knights in this capacity.

At the Convention this past weekend, Long Green Valley Council was honored with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place award for the newsletter, a 3<sup>rd</sup> place award for our Church activities, a 3<sup>rd</sup> place award for our Culture of Life activities, and 2<sup>nd</sup> place for our Youth activities. We also were awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place for General Excellence in our division. Congratulation brothers for all your hard work,

At the same time that the Council was receiving its awards, The Knights Ladies were awarded two 1<sup>st</sup> places for both New Activity and Recurring Activity. See the Knights Ladies article for further details.

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](mailto:GAG50401@verizon.net)

Dear Brothers

The next meeting of the Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights will be held on Thursday May 8 at Westminster Council, on the campus of St. John Church 47 Monroe Street in Westminster.

Fraternally  
Gregory E McClain  
President  
Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights

## FOURTH DEGREE NEWS

Archbishop John Carroll Assembly #2378

Lee Eder... 410-591-1948... [salesbylee@comcast.net](mailto:salesbylee@comcast.net)

Sir Knights,

The next meeting of the Archbishop John Carroll Assembly will be on Thursday May 15 beginning at 8:00 PM at Father Maurice J. Wolfe Council. We will have the election of Assembly Officers this evening.



The following Sir Knights have been nominated to serve:

Faithful Navigator	Keith Arndt
Faithful Captain	John Young
Faithful Pilot	Robert Renshaw
Faithful Comptroller	Glenn Wilmer
Faithful Scribe	Mike Sallese
Faithful Purser	Mike Novak
Faithful Admiral	Lee Eder
Faithful Inner Sentinels	Ray Bloom/Paul Bartha
Faithful Outer Sentinels	John Mayni/John Caine
Faithful Trustees	1 Year Mike Georgulas
	2 Year Pete Fritz
	3 Year Tom Wojtek

We will accept nominations prior to the elections.

Fraternally,  
Lee Eder,  
Faithful Navigator



**PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

Joe Wenderoth, PGK... 410-592-9718... [Joewenderothsr@gmail.com](mailto:Joewenderothsr@gmail.com)

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

How can you join in? Just send an email, or call, or tell us in person. The upcoming activities and times where we need some help are specified in the Activity Reports that follow. Thanks for all you do!

**Summary of Upcoming Council Activities**

Activity	Leader	Date / Time
Marigolds for Mothers	Bob Renshaw	Friday, May 10th and After Weekend Masses for Mothers Day
Spring Fling Beer Garden	Tom Rowan	May 8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10th
Catholic Bee	Joe Owens	May 17 <sup>th</sup>

**CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

Pat Donohue 410-941-5025 [donohuepj@comcast.net](mailto:donohuepj@comcast.net)

Divine Mercy was celebrated on Sunday afternoon, April 27<sup>th</sup> in the Chapel. Deborah Jenkins led the service and was assisted by readers Ben Jenkins, John Jenkins and PGK Joe Wenderoth. Attendance for the Divine Mercy service was over 80. The Chapel was beautifully decorated for the Divine Mercy service and the Knights provided the tapestry and stand.



Forty attendees accepted the invitation of the Knights to come to a baked Ziti dinner reception in the Knights Home following Divine Mercy. The scene below shows the crowd.



**Reception Dinner Following Divine Mercy**

Pat Donohue did an excellent job preparing the Hall, organizing the dinner and selecting a menu. The team of crack kitchen team of Chuck Bogdanowicz, Pat Donohue and Michael Bathon (pictured below manning the service line) prepared and served the meal. John Reed (not shown) manned the refreshments so that dinner was a relaxed and enjoyable affair.

Attendees enjoyed lively conversation that helps build relationships and fraternity in the Council. The Free Will donation helped cover the food supply expenses.



Reception Dinner Following Divine Mercy

St. John the Evangelist Parish relies on the fund-raising through the Spring Fling May 8 through 10. The Council provides the volunteers to man the adult refreshment stand throughout the carnival. That is to say, we move our beer tap up from the Hall and sell a variety of beers for the parish. Chairman Tom Rowan will need help with set-up and volunteers to man the stand. If you can help, contact him at [trowan.sr1@gmail.com](mailto:trowan.sr1@gmail.com) or 410.365.6575.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Ted Daniecki 410-692-4399 [daniecki@zoominternet.net](mailto:daniecki@zoominternet.net)

Our second Lenten Fish Fry on Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> was our signature event in April and it went very well with over 300 dinners served. Thanks to the many Knights and Knights Ladies who volunteered to help at this major fund raising activity and Catholic tradition. The turnout was outstanding. Tom Rowan Sr. did a fantastic job of organizing and leading this ambitious venture and making it a big success.



Brother Knights and Knights Ladies turned out in big numbers to work the event and enjoy the camaraderie of working the event. They served as ticket takers, refreshment stand operators, dough fryer, table setters, table busing people, French fry servers, fish servers, kids' entertainment operators, and more. Everyone just asked what they could do to help and then jumped right in.



Tom Rowan thought of all the details. He had a whale of an advertising campaign and provided the movie *Frozen* while their parents socialized. Great food, good company and dinner well executed - Job well done!!!



Fish Frying Team at Work.

*Frozen* Plays for the Kids





## COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Joe Wenderoth, PGK... 410-592-9718... [Joewenderothsr@gmail.com](mailto:Joewenderothsr@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.

### A KNIGHT AT THE IRONBIRDS!!

Chair Tom Rowan



Long Green Valley Day at Ironbirds Stadium is Thursday, July 3rd. Join us for MVP pre-game food package and fun! Gates open at 5:30PM for a 7:05 start time. Buffet food service starts at 6:35PM. Plan ahead and commit for your tickets.

Come see some great baseball and an outstanding fireworks display after the game!! We have reserved seating on the Party Deck for 60 people!! Please help us fill the deck for a pre 4th of July Blast!!

The Party Deck package includes your game ticket, free IronBirds 22oz commemorative plastic mug, free game program, food and free parking!

The food includes Italian Sausage with peppers and onions in marinara sauce, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Cookies, Watermelon, Potato Chips and non-alcoholic beverages. The food is "all you can eat" for a period of 1-1/2 hours!!

Our Party is limited to 60 people, so don't delay. First come; first served! Mail a check for \$35 per person (made out to Long Green Valley Council 8736) to:.....(or call me @ 410.365.6575)

Thomas P. Rowan, Sr.  
2010 Carrs Mill Road  
Fallston, MD 21047

You can also bring your check to a meeting. Remember, only 60 tickets will be available. Don't be shut out - hit a home Run for your family!

## Lunch Bunch

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. It is an excellent opportunity to remain current with the Council's activities if you find it difficult to attend evening meetings. We even have some brothers who work night shifts and stay in touch through our lunch-time gatherings. 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 May 20.



**Join us on Facebook!** Social Media is a social media communications technology that allows virtual participation in group activity, just right for Council Activities! We just happen to think that these new-fangled computers will catch on! We will soon be inviting all of our members via email to join this closed group. If you are not already a member of Facebook, you will need to register to become a member of our group. Look for Long Green Valley Council # 8736.

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. Just keep it limited to Council discussion threads.

## CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES

Mike Curran 410-557-8492 [mjcurr@gmail.com](mailto:mjcurr@gmail.com)

We will pot Marigolds (obtained in flats from the State Council) on Friday, May 9, just before the Spring Fling weekend activities. Please come to the "pot party" if you can. They will be extracted from the flats and put in small labeled cups.

We also ask Brother Knights to help distribute these Marigolds to Mothers as they leave church that weekend which includes Mother's Day, to thank them for giving life. Just remember to wear your name badge that weekend and be prepared to leave the church after communion to take up a position at the door to hand out a flower to each Mother and to say **Thank You** as we do.

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 Wittlesberger 410-667-1432 [franz@thewittco.com](mailto:franz@thewittco.com)

Our **Family of the Month** for May at Long Green Valley Council is PGK Paul Weber and his wife Mary. Paul is currently Financial Secretary, a busy job that he has held for years. He has served in many other capacities such as council Officer Roles and was Council Activities Chair. He can always be counted upon to do a top notch job. Paul has also been an important member of the State Council team for years as well. As an assistant to the State Deputy he has performed much of the hard work behind the scenes that makes successful State events such as the golf tournament, State meetings and the annual convention.

Mary is President of the Knights Ladies and has been a principal member of the organization since its inception. She is also active in a number of numerous other community groups and is often the leader. These community groups keep us connected and keep our community vibrant. Mary is a primary advisor and co-worker with Paul in numerous Council Activities.

Thanks to the Webers for all they do for the Council. Please congratulate them when you see them.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Bill Vogt 410-557-9876 [pieface@zoominternet.net](mailto:pieface@zoominternet.net)

**Grandparents Day** was Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at St John's School. Brother Knights met in the morning to park cars and help with logistics for the event so that the school could better enjoy their activities. Knights were on job at 7 AM, setting up in the parking lot and finished the activity just after lunch. A major benefit of our participation is that the school safeties were not involved in the dangerous activity among moving cars.

PGK Tom Zaegel again did a great job organizing and leading the activity and GK Bob Renshaw, PGK Jim Schmidt, Sr, Youth Program Director Bill Vogt, Brothers Pat Donohue and Ted Daniecki contributed to its success. Special accolades go out to Brother Vogt who literally threw himself into this project.

The Catholic Bee is Saturday, May 17 in the Church Hall. Registration will start at noon. Chairman Joe Owens needs Knights to help with set up, registration, the snack table and to serve as judges. This is a great Council activity in that you will be awed and inspired by the knowledge of these elementary school children. Their knowledge of the Catholic faith puts some of us old timers to shame. Even if you cannot help, show up to observe and to help make the participants and their families to feel welcome.

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](mailto: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  
Father Leo Tittler  
PSD Phil Asplen, Jr.



PSD Dick Sherbert  
PGK Bob Dee  
PGK Larry Flynn  
PGK Joe Owens  
PGK John Robinson  
Brother Frank Huebler  
Brother Kevin Krivacsy (Past LGVC Member)  
Brother Dick Lanham  
Brother Bill Voigt  
Brother Frank Sliwka  
PDD Brian O'Connor  
PGK Al Kramer, Bel Air Council  
Brother Bob Snyder (Administrative Assistant to the State Deputy)  
GK John Panzer, Mason Dixon Council  
DGK Jim Nelson, Our Lady of Grace Council  
PGK Dick Doyle, Our Lady of Grace Council

**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  
Irene Norocki, Cousin-in-Law of Brother Ted Daniecki  
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  
Alex Gibbons, Grandson of Brother Ed Gibbons  
Ava Dorsey, Great Niece of Brother Ted Daniecki  
Michael Polk, Son of Brother Larry Polk

**Deceased Prayer List:**

**Brothers:**

Brother Bob Dee, PGK

**Relatives/Friends of Brother Knights:**

Richard Foley, Brother of Fr. William Foley

***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.



## ELECTION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS

The following Brother Knights have agreed to be nominated for their respective offices for the new fraternal year.

Grand Knight	Bob Renshaw
Deputy Grand Knight	Jim Schmidt, Jr.
Chancellor	Paul Wimmer
Warden	Tom Rowan
Recorder	John Bushman
Treasurer	Jim Cross
Advocate	Chuck Bogdanowicz
Inside Guard	Ted Daniecki, Pete Stankoski
Outside Guard	John Stansfield
Trustee (3 year term)	Jim Schmidt, Sr.

The Grand Knight appoints the Council Lecturer each year. The other 2 Trustees Tom Zaegel and Joe Wenderoth are serving out the remainder of their 3 year terms and have 2 years and 1 year remaining respectively.

Additional Nominations will be accepted until the election is held.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Ray Dietz [craytrek@comcast.net](mailto:craytrek@comcast.net) 410-790-7484

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](mailto:craytrek@comcast.net).

We all know Catholic men who should be Knights.

Fraternally  
Ray Dietz

Members as of 05/05/14	203
Inactive	13
Honorary	17
Honorary Life	37
Disability	0
<b>Membership Goal</b>	<b>13</b>
New Members	4
<b>Insurance Goal</b>	<b>5</b>
New Insurance Members	2

## FRATERNAL BENEFITS

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

### Update your beneficiaries

Sometimes it is easy to overlook the simplest of things.

Take the beneficiaries on your life insurance policies. If your policy was applied for and issued several years ago, it could very well be that the person you originally selected as the beneficiary is no longer the person you would want to receive the policy proceeds. If you bought the policy when you were single, for example, you may have named your parents as beneficiaries. If you have since married, your policies should be updated to reflect your spouse as beneficiary. Maybe you've had children who are not named on the policies.

Most people list a primary beneficiary, who is specifically designated as the first in priority to receive policy proceeds. We also encourage the naming of a contingent beneficiary, an alternate person designated to receive policy proceeds, usually in the event that the original beneficiary pre-deceases the insured.

I routinely call all of my policyholders for annual review appointments, usually near the anniversary date of your policy – the date it was originally issued. One of the matters that I'll discuss during this review is the status of your beneficiary designations. If they need updating, and they often do, I can complete the paperwork during that appointment.

I look forward to meeting with each of you to discuss your family's needs.

## COUNCIL BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

### May Birthdays:

Don Temple	03	Ed Marciniak	04
Denis Biscoe	05	Jim Schmidt, Jr.	05
Chris Rossi	07	Gary Bowers	09
Pete Stankoski	09	Frank Huebler	12
John Robinson	12	J. R. Elliott	17
Bill Vogt	17	Bill Buckingham	19
Glenn Dodson	20	Ken Pellatiro	22
Bob Infussi	25	Ed Dalton	28

### March Anniversaary:

Tim & Carol Calvert	07 (48 years)	George & Carolyn Thuman	07 (54 years)
Russ & Evelyn Smick	19 (57 years)	John & Barbara Caine	25 (46 years)
George & Marion Landefeld	26 (63 years)	Tom & Janie Zaegel	26 (41 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 Nation's Withering Soul

“I can, so I will” has become the mantra of today’s society. Science and technology have advanced at a prodigious rate, providing man with a greater control over the world in which he lives and with ever increasing capabilities to change virtually every aspect of it. He has produced material benefits and accomplished things that could not even have been imagined a few generations ago. He has viewed the outermost reaches of space, gained knowledge of the earliest days of creation, deciphered the human genome, and discovered the basic elements of life. But how are this knowledge and these capabilities being used? Science and technology may have progressed, but the same cannot be said of morality. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. described the current imbalance as: “The means by which we live have outdistanced the ends for which we live. Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.” Then, in his acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize, he warned: “If we are to survive today, our moral and spiritual ‘lag’ must be eliminated. Enlarged material powers spell enlarged peril if there is not proportionate growth of the soul.”

Without ascendant principles to govern his increasing abilities, man has produced nuclear power and unleashed nuclear destruction, performed corrective surgery in the womb and, in the United States alone, destroyed some 56 million fetal children since 1973, learned to correct abnormalities in a woman’s egg and to have a child genetically-related to three or more parents.

Reproductive science is perhaps the foremost area in which technical capabilities have outstripped morality. The result is that children are beginning to be treated as commodities and their creation as services. A couple desiring a child, but not wanting the “inconvenience” of child bearing, can have her eggs and his sperm united in a laboratory and then hire a surrogate woman to carry the child through term. Gametes from young college-educated men and women are sought after by fertility centers for resale, like consumer products, to infertile couples. In America’s anything goes culture, the modern, self-absorbed couple want to design and produce the ideal baby, when they want it, by the means they choose. The idea that a child is the result of his parents’ love is giving way to hedonistic license wherein marriage, lifelong commitment and the traditional family have been reduced to options.

While scientific advances have the promise to eliminate much human suffering, in a society unrestrained by a moral code, by a belief in the inherent dignity of every human being, they threaten to create a dystopian future. We are reaching a point where each individual’s biological outcome can be predicted *in utero* through his or her DNA. Diseases such as Down syndrome, Lou Gehrig’s disease, and muscular dystrophy could be eliminated by genetic selection, with the “defective” pre-born children never coming to term.

Are we prepared, as a society, to expunge the imperfect among us? According to some estimates, in Western countries, more than 90 percent of children diagnosed with Down syndrome before birth are aborted. As even more accurate tests for Down syndrome are developed, no one with the condition may ever be born.

And it is not only the pre-born who are in danger. Euthanasia now is legal in many European countries. There are increasing reports of euthanizing persons who are disabled with no terminal condition, who are cognitively impaired, who are very elderly, and who, like Terri Schiavo, are in long-term comas. In the Netherlands, a healthy woman who was going blind was euthanized because she believed it would be intolerable if she could not tell if her clothes were clean, while an elderly British woman flew to Switzerland to be euthanized because

she was disillusioned with modern life. Assisted suicide, which is a voluntary form of euthanasia, is already legal in several American states.

Are there limits to cleansing society of the unwanted? Will it stop at disability? Will the disposable be identified by intelligence, age, family history, genetic purity – criteria which already are used by fertility clinics in accepting donors? Will society move towards becoming genetically-perfect through genetic cleansing?

These are not unrealistic possibilities created by a fertile imagination. In February of this year, the Food and Drug Administration held hearings on gene replacement therapy. If approved, a woman who has a mutation in her mitochondrial DNA -- a condition that could result in her offspring developing epilepsy, blindness or organ failure -- could have the mitochondria in her egg replaced by a healthy version from another woman. The resulting egg would be fertilized in a laboratory with the husband's sperm and implanted in the woman's womb so a "normal" pregnancy could proceed. The resulting child would have three genetic parents. In Britain, the therapy has been approved by the government's Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, and only awaits Parliament's action to be available.

While the initial justification for the procedure is to remedy a genetic defect, once perfected other purposes will likely be sanctioned. Will the legal system deny both partners in a lesbian relationship to be genetically related to a child one of them will bear? Will the many participants in a polyamorous relationship be allowed to contribute to the genetic pool? As pluripotent stem cell research progresses, will an individual be allowed to clone himself with an egg and sperm created from cells of his own body? Once initial sanction is given, a growing approval creep is hard to stop.

America – indeed the Western world – needs a spiritual renewal, the development of a public morality that can balance the scientific and technical capabilities at man's disposal. The nation's culture must be re-anchored in a deep belief in God, who created men and women in His image and likeness. It must acknowledge the innate dignity of every person and guarantee the right to life from the moment of conception until natural death. It must recognize that every new discovery and every new development is not necessarily an advance for mankind.

The situation is not beyond hope. Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, shortly before his election as Pope, offered guidance to overcome the present societal narcissism:

“Our greatest need in the present historical moment is people who make God credible in this world by means of the enlightened faith they live...It is only by means of men who have been touched by God that God can return to be with mankind.”

With God's help, leadership from the pulpit, and our actions and prayers, everything is possible. Will the Knights of Columbus be in the vanguard?



**DATES TO REMEMBER**

DATE	DAY TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
<b>MAY</b>			
2-4		116 <sup>th</sup> State Council Convention	Ocean City
3	Sat.	Fr. Maurice J. Wolfe Council; #11372 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	
4	Sun. 9:00 AM	Rosary for the Unborn	St. John Church
6	Tues. 7:00 PM	Knights Ladies of Long Green Marian Devotion & Baby Shower	Chapel & Council Hall
8	Thurs. 7:00 PM	Officers Meeting	Council Hall
8	Thurs. 8:00 PM	Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights Nominations of Chapter Officers	Westminster Council #1393
11	Sun.	Mother's Day	
13	Tues. 8:00 PM	Council Business Meeting Election of Council Officers	Council Home
15	Thurs. 8:00 PM	Archbishop John Carroll Assembly Mtg	
16	Fri. 7:30 PM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree Exemplification	Westminster Council
17	Sat. 1:00 PM	Catholic Bee	Church Hall
17	Sat.	Armed Forces Day	
20	Tues. 11:30 AM	Lunch Bunch Meeting	Council Home
23	Fri.	Our Lady of Grace Council #9815 26 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	
27	Tues. 8:00 PM	Council Business Meeting and 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Exemplification	Council Home
29	Thurs.	The Ascension of Our Lord	
<b>JUNE</b>			
5	Thurs 7:00 PM	Officers Meeting	Council Hall
7	Saturday	Children's Activity by Baltimore Chapter	Villa Maria
10	Tues 8:00 PM	Council Business Meeting	Council Home
12	Thurs 8:00 PM	Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights Election of Chapter Officers	Father A. Leo Abendschoen Council #11615
15	Sunday	Father's Day	
17	Tues 11:30 AM	Lunch Bunch Meeting	Council Home
24	Tues 8:00 PM	Council Social Meeting	Council Home

## 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,

News Flash... The Knights Ladies of Long Green won top honors at the 116th Maryland State Knights of Columbus Convention in Ocean City. We won 2013-2014 Best Ladies Auxiliary FIRST PLACE - Division B, 2013-2014 Ladies Auxiliary Award Best New Activity Division B and 2013-2014 Best Recurring Activity Second Place Division B.

Thank you for a great year. We have accomplished so much in such so little time..... our Welcome Back dinner, sponsoring our Eagle Scout Brian Swab, making cookies for our seminarians in Rome, supplying gifts for our three children at Christmas, our Christmas Tea Party in the Valley, our blueberry muffins for Gift of Hope, our Soup supper, helping our Council with the cost of well repair, our Cash In the Attic Auction, our financial support of seminarian Kevin Ewing, our endless baking for the Fish Frys and Spring Fling, our Marian devotion and Birthright Baby shower. Thank you for all you did to make this a very successful year. Take the summer off...we'll see you in October.

I also want to thank our retiring officers ...Dana Rowan, Marilyn Donahue and Carol Messenger... you made this possible. Thanks also to Diane Elliott for signing up again for another year. Our new officers are Mary Weber, President (Ok I'm not new), Jane Zaegel, Co-Vice President, Carolyn Polk Co-Vice President, Bridget Bushman, Secretary, and Diane Elliott, Treasurer.

Celebrate the year and our friendships at our farewell luncheon Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> 12 Noon at Friendly Farms Restaurant 17434 Foreston Road, Upperco, MD. 21155.

*Mary*

marygweber@verizon.net

410 879-0558