

# VALLEY VIEWS

## JULY 2014



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### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Long Green Valley Council

No. 8736

Hydes, Maryland 21082

Established June 25, 1984

#### Staff

Ted Burns  
Mike Sallesse

Volume 31, No. 01

### GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

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

Dear Brothers,

July begins a new Fraternal Year, a clean slate, so to speak. However, this is only partially so because as a Council we have 30 years of history and tradition. This presents a challenge to me, as your Grand Knight, because I want to maintain the service and accomplishments that have come before. On the other hand, I have the benefit of so much institutional experience that many of our programs are almost self-sustaining by the experience of so many leaders who have run these various programs in the past and continue to lend their expertise year after year. There is no way that I could single out the many people who have my thanks and appreciation for all that they have done for the Council my first year.

The one exception is that I want to thank PGK Joe Wenderoth for serving as Program Director this year. He was able to provide continuity between his administration and mine. He has stepped aside from that role now and I will need to depend upon my cadre of program chairs to pull it all together this year. Fortunately, most of the program directors have agreed to remain for another year and other outstanding brothers have volunteered for programs that needed filling. My last area of concern is Family Activities. I need someone to volunteer to take this over this year. Lastly, I encourage all program directors to attend the State Program Seminar at Cardinal Gibbons Council on Thursday, July 24. This is a great way to see what the State and other councils are doing in your area and to get ideas for the coming year.

The Council Installation of Officers is Thursday, July 17 starting at 7 PM in the Chapel. I did not send printed invitations to the membership but all are invited. I only ask that you call or email me to confirm your attendance so that we will have a good count. Since the installation is so late in the evening, we are providing a reception of light hors d'oeuvres in the Hall after the mass and before the program begins. I'm hoping that this will be an enjoyable and appropriate observance of the beginning of our second term.

*Vivat Jesus*

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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

As we begin another chapter in the life of the Maryland State Council, let me briefly introduce myself to you. I do so here so that you may have some idea who it is that will be trying to fit into the shoes of Fr. Don Grzynski whose six years with you were clearly years of successful pastoral leadership. He departs, leaving me no small challenge. So, here is who I am.

Currently I am working at St. Matthias Parish, Lanham, MD, Archdiocese of Washington. Before returning to my home Archdiocese, the Society of Jesus, Maryland Province, was my home for some 29 wonderful years of which 16 years were as a Jesuit priest. It was while I was a youngster that I learned about the Knights from my Dad who was a member of the Prince George Council for many years. [I remember so well those 3rd Degree Installation Saturdays when he would be sitting at dinner and suddenly start to laugh. And, yes, he would not tell us of whatever it was. Mom would answer our inquiries with "Something about those Knights and their 3rd Degrees!"]

When I moved from the Jesuits into the Archdiocese of Washington, I worked with then Archbishop Hickey in the Development Office. In 1991, I moved to Mother Seton Parish as Pastor. 9 years later, it was off to Rome and NYC, working for Saint John Paul II (what an honor) and The Papal Foundation for 4.5 years. Cardinal McCarrick then called me home to Jesus the Divine Word Parish, Huntingtown, MD. 2.5 years later he called again: "I need your help in a DC parish." Off to Our Lady of Victory Parish for another 2.5-year stint when health issues (my heart) made my move to Senior Priest status at St. Joseph's Parish (Capitol Hill) a necessity (heart). After a year full retirement began and ultimately I landed at St. Matthias where I presently hang my biretta!!! I also serve in the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, helping with the Formation Program.

You should know that the new State Deputy, Stephen Adamczyk, told me he would nominate me to this position when and if he were to become the State Deputy. So, brothers, here I am.

Yes, I am delighted to be a Knight who can walk with you, especially during these days of a New Evangelization. And yes, it is a challenge to many who are my age (73) to adapt to something "New" that seems to be perhaps tedious, perhaps unnecessary, etc. HOWEVER, after all these years and the assignments I have been privileged to add to my resume (!!!), I know that we, our Church, need a shot in the arm, a shot of Vitamin B12. Why? Because the years since Saint John XXIII opened those famous Vatican II windows (infamous for some, I know) to allow a breath of fresh air into our Church, we have been riding in the Baroque of Peter through very rough seas. With so many of our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters leaving our Church, we of the early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century have a genuine challenge: **we are called by the Holy Spirit to renew, revive and might I say, save our Church in the Modern World and in our nation!**

Let us do that for our God, our Order, and Nation and, indeed, for our personal growth!

Brothers,  
Vivat Jesus!

*This article was written by our Worthy State Chaplain Father Milton Jordan in the State Council Newsletter for July 2014.*

## **SUPREME COUNCIL NEWS**

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

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

### **Religious Liberty**

*"It is in accordance with their dignity that all men, because they are persons, that is, beings endowed with reason and free will and therefore personal responsibility, are both impelled by their nature and bound by a moral obligation to seek the truth, especially religious truth. They are also bound to adhere to the truth once they come to know it and direct their whole lives in accordance with the demands of truth. But men cannot satisfy this obligation in a way that is in keeping with their own nature unless they enjoy both psychological freedom and immunity from external coercion. Therefore the right to religious freedom has its foundation not in the subjective attitude of the individual but in his very nature."*

**(Dignitatis Humanae, Second Vatican II Declaration on Religious Liberty, 2).**

The Knights of Columbus promotes a robust vision of religious liberty that embraces religion's proper role in both its private and public dimensions. As both Catholics and Americans, we celebrate the essential relationship shared between religion and liberty, a relationship which has uniquely defined our country's identity and has fostered our country's development.

Every major achievement has taken place within the American enterprise – the American Revolution; the abolition of slavery; the civil rights movement; reform in education, labor and woman's rights – has been at the urging of religious people seeking a more just and humane society.

## **STATE COUNCIL NEWS**

**Steve Adamczyk, State Deputy**

**Be Not Afraid, Our Faith is Our Courage**

It is truly an honor to serve the Maryland State Council as its State Deputy. I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me and promise I will do everything in my power to fulfill the goals and expectations that have been placed on the office I hold. My hopes are that you feel the same pride in being elected Grand Knight, and feel the same way towards your council. As we hold these leadership roles, within our jurisdictions, we owe it to the members that elected us to these esteemed positions, to fulfill the oaths we have taken, and bring our councils and its membership to a new level.

I have often spoken of "getting back to the basics". To me there is no greater treasure that the Order offers each individual member, than fraternity. It is the lifeblood that makes our organization survive while others fail. The fact that we as men of faith can stand side by side with others of like beliefs, and carry out works of charity, is unequalled in other similar organizations. As Bill Kuchmas promoted the fraternity and unity of the Order in his administration, I will continue to build on the foundation he built. I want every member in the Maryland State Jurisdiction to be proud to be a knight, be proud to belong to the Maryland Knights of Columbus.

My goal for my administration is simple. **"SUCCESS"**! I want every Grand Knight and every District Deputy to have the most successful term in office as possible. This sentiment is echoed by my entire TEAM, from the State Officers, The Benefits Advisors and General Agents, the Regional Directors, Dis-

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[www.kofc8736.org](http://www.kofc8736.org)

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**Home of Dick Siejack, Past State Deputy**

**"IN SOLIDARITY WITH OUR PRIESTS"**

strict Deputies, Directors and Chairmen. The one way we can assure that occurs, is to be a TEAM and work together. No knight ever stands alone is something we learn in our 1st degree and if we use that same principle to help each other to fortify strengths, repair insufficiencies, and build a mutual trust, we can build a brighter future for our councils and our State.

I have just completed my State Deputy Training and have been given my goals for the coming year. My expectations are that as a TEAM, working toward Council Success, and District Success, ***we will*** not only achieve these goals, but ***exceed the expectations that Supreme has given us.***

Looking forward to seeing all the Grand Knights and their wives, at the Leadership Training on July 11th, 2014. This will start the train moving on the track of SUCCESS. From Kathleen and I, God bless you all and keep you safe.

“Do you have your Rosary in your pocket?”

## **DISTRICT DEPUTY REPORT**

**Lee Eder, PGK... 410-591-1948...salesbylee@comcast.net**

**Be Not Afraid, Our Faith is Our Courage**

My dear Brothers Knights,

My name is Lee Eder. I will be your new District Deputy (District 27) for the next 2 years. Michael Georgulas, PGK, PFN will serve as my District Warden. I know I will have big shoes to fill, taking over for Michael Sallese. Mike Georgulas and I will be there to help guide your council in any way we can. I am looking forward to a great year. See you soon.

God Bless,

*Lee Eder, PGK, PFN*

## **BALTIMORE CHAPTER OF GRAND KNIGHTS**

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

Dear Brothers

The next meeting of the Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights will be held on Thursday July 10 at the home of Bethlehem Council #2605, 7401 Bay Front Road, Edgemere 21219. We look forward to having you join us for our monthly meetings.

Fraternally  
Jason McGinley  
President

## FOURTH DEGREE NEWS

**Archbishop John Carroll Assembly #2378,**  
 Keith Arndt...410-420-0074...kmaba123@yahoo.com

Sir Knights,

The next meeting of the Archbishop John Carroll Assembly will be on Thursday July 10 beginning at 8:00 PM at Long Green Valley Council. Please make plans to attend.

Our Assembly's Installation of Officers is scheduled for Saturday, August 23rd at St. Francis de Sales, Abingdon. Our Faithful Friar, Fr. Bob Wojtek, will celebrate Mass at 5:00 pm, followed by the Installation and on to a dinner in the parish hall. Please do your best to attend. Last year the Maryland District Master, Steve Thomas, stated that our Installation had the largest participation of any he had attended.



The 2015 Fourth Degree Exemplification has tentatively been moved from March to Saturday, April 18th in Frederick, MD. Start asking 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Knights to join our Assembly.

Fraternally,  
 Keith Arndt  
 Faithful Navigator

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Long Green Valley Council Program opportunities offer fun activities as you contribute your talents how you choose. Please advise the chairperson or an officer of your availability and interest. Participation will be rewarding and you will make more 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
Ironbirds Game	Tom Rowan Sr	Thursday, July 3rd, 5:30 PM Sold Out!!
Installation of Officers	GK Bob Renshaw	Thursday, July 17 <sup>th</sup> , 7 PM
Lunch Bunch	GK Bob Renshaw	Tuesday, July 15 <sup>th</sup> , 11:30 AM



## CHURCH ACTIVITIES

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

On Sunday, June 8, the Council grilled hamburgers and hot dogs for the Parish picnic. Thanks to PGK Tom Zaegel, PGK Paul Weber, PGK Chuck Bogdanowicz, GK Bob Renshaw, Tom Rowan, Michael Bathon, Willie Schammel and Larry Polk we were able to serve about 150 people in a relatively short period of time. Although things got a little hectic for a while, overall we did a great job and I wouldn't be surprised if we were asked to do this again in the future.



PGK's Tom Zaegel, Chuck Bogdanowicz and Paul Weber ready to serve the masses

The Council observed the Fifth Sunday by sitting together at the 9 AM Mass on June 29. This simple gesture of unity underscores that we are indeed a Catholic organization and that our Church is the foundation of all that we do. The parish community sees us together and is reminded of who we are and what an integral role we play at St. Johns. Every time we do this, however, we see members sitting in other pews. Next time you see us sitting as a group, come on over. Even if you do not regularly attend meetings, you are still our brother and we need your presence.

The coming year will again be active with Church activities. We have agreed to help the parish sell tickets for the Wine Festival again this year. Therefore, we will need volunteers to man the ticket table before and after masses probably beginning next month.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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

The Blood Drive on June 6 was very successful resulting in 75 units of blood collected. Chairman Michael Bathon again did an excellent job organizing the event. He thanks the brothers who helped in any way: John Jenkins, Jim Schmidt, Sr., Pete Stankoski, Bob Cyphers, Willie Schammel, Chris Phillips, Josh Pippin, John Bushman, and Ray Dietz. This was indeed well supported by the Council and will be a significant benefit to the community.

The Fourth Degree Assembly is organizing teams to help the Catholic Chaplain at Loch Raven Veterans Hospital by helping patients who are wheel chair bound to attend mass on Saturday afternoons. Grand Knight Bob Renshaw would like to see



Long Green Valley Council members commit to one Saturday per month between 1 PM and 3:30 PM or so. We only need a half dozen volunteers per session. If you can help, let him know ([baltobob@comcast.net](mailto:baltobob@comcast.net) or [410-592-8406](tel:410-592-8406)) and he will consider you as part of the Long Green Valley team. You do not have to be Fourth Degree member to help.

## COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Paul Weber 410-879-0558 [apaulweber@verizon.net](mailto:apaulweber@verizon.net)

**‘Take me out to the ballgame’**..... Make that ‘Take me out to the Ballpark’ ... The Council is planning a new Council activity on August 19, 2014 at 11:15am. We will take a private tour of Oriole Park at Camden Yard seeing firsthand the Orioles Dugout, the Press Level, the Scoreboard/ JumboTron Control Room and the exclusive Suite Level. We will also be treated to the historical perspective of Camden Yards including the B&O Railroad, Baltimore’s Inner Harbor and Baltimore’s own Babe Ruth.

Immediately following the tour we will have lunch at Jerry D’s Saloon, 7808 Harford Rd. 21234, in Parkville. Lunch choices are: Chicken Caesar Salad, Crab Cake w/fries, Hamburger/Cheeseburger w/fries, Hot Beef or Hot Turkey Sandwich, Shrimp Salad Platter including non-alcoholic drinks, tax and gratuity.

Cost of the tour and lunch is \$22.00. All are welcomed to join us including Council Members, our ladies, children and grandchildren. Transportation is on your own but carpools can be arranged. Those desiring to carpool will meet at the council home at 10:15am. Parking at Camden Yards (Lot C) is \$8.00 to \$10.00. Space is limited so don’t delay. Your check is your reservation. Please indicate your luncheon choice at that time. Mail checks made payable to Long Green Valley K of C and mail to Paul Weber, 2223 Larchmont Dr., Fallston, MD 21047. ALL CHECKS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 9.

All are encouraged to attend Mass and the Installation of Officers on July 17th at 7 pm in the chapel at St. Johns. Light refreshments will be served in the council home immediately following the ceremony. If you plan to attend, please notify GK Bob Renshaw by July 10 at 410-592-8406 or [baltobob@comcast.net](mailto:baltobob@comcast.net)

I am pleased and excited to return as Council Activity Director for the 2014-15 fraternal year. I hope to have some new and interesting activities for the enjoyment of the council. As always, your suggestions are welcomed. Please feel free to contact me at 410-879-0558 or [apaulweber@verizon.net](mailto:apaulweber@verizon.net)

## Lunch Bunch

Bob Renshaw, GK 410-592-8406 [baltobob@comcast.net](mailto:baltobob@comcast.net)

The June **Lunch Bunch** meeting was well attended. We had some new members as well as the core membership we have always counted on. GK Bob Renshaw and PGK Joe Wenderoth demonstrated the Council Facebook page. Everyone seemed to enjoy the homemade shrimp salad. This month we plan to have cold cut subs. Come join us, 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 July 15. The food contributions will be \$5.

The August Lunch Bunch will be combined with the Camden Yards Council Activity. This should be an enjoyable change of pace for our Lunch Bunch regulars. Make your reservations and payments directly to

the Council Activities Director, Paul Weber.

### Long Green Valley Council Facebook Page



**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 have an official launch soon but our LGVC Facebook page is already available. Look for Long Green Valley Council # 8736.

We hope you will 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

Ben Jenkins 410-592-2493 [jbjenkins1@verizon.net](mailto:jbjenkins1@verizon.net)

A Rosary for the Unborn will be held the first Sunday of each month after 9 AM Mass in the Mother Mary side of the church.

The Council promoted but did not support a dance on June 7 to benefit Pregnancy Center North. We have been advised that about 90 people attended and that they have donated about \$1500 to the Pregnancy Center.

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

*YOUR NAME WILL FIT HERE*

Our **Family of the Month** for July at Long Green Valley Council is **Jim and Joanne Cross**. Past Grand Knight Jim is our Treasurer and has been District Deputy as well as Deputy Grand Knight. Joanne is a Knight's Lady and an active participant in many Council activities. She can be counted on to help out in most activities.



Tom and Dana Rowan have again graciously offered their home for the Council Picnic. We have set the date as Saturday, September 6. The cost will be \$10 for adults and children under 13 are free.



**Flag Day** Flag Day was Saturday, June 14th this year and this is an especially auspicious year for the Flag and the Baltimore, Maryland locale.

It was exactly 200 years ago that the Battle of North Point and Fort McHenry was fought which reversed the fortunes of the young United States in the War of 1812. Please consider visiting the Fort or other battle sites with your family this year. There will be a reenactment of the Bombardment of Fort McHenry in September. Watch the news for more information.





The Council is planning a special event to celebrate locally. Bring your family to see a video concerning the National Anthem in the Council Home in July to commemorate Flag Day. The date will be announced in a Grand Knight's weekly message.



We have a rich and proud tradition in the Baltimore, Maryland area as the birthplace of the American Flag and the Star Spangled Banner, our National Anthem. The Anthem is played at the start of every major American sports event and other significant patriotic activities. The video will be followed by light refreshments. A free will donation will be made to contribute toward the costs of the food.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

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

I have volunteered to chair Youth Activities this fraternal year. This program will become very busy once school is back in session. The Council will again be assisting with the school Race for Education in October and the Soccer Shootout. Please help with both of these activities when called upon.

## 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:**

PSD Phil Asplen, Jr.  
Msgr. Jack Collopy  
PGK Larry Flynn  
Brother Frank Huebler  
PGK (Bel Air Council) Al Kramer  
Brother Kevin Krivacsy (Past LGVC Member)  
Brother Gerry Lynch  
PDD Brian O'Connor  
PGK Joe Owens  
Brother Chris Phillips  
PGK John Price, Past Chapter President of Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights  
PGK John Robinson  
PSD Dick Sherbert  
Brother Frank Sliwka  
Brother Russell Smick  
Brother Bob Snyder (Administrative Assistant to the State Deputy)



Father Leo Tittler  
Brother Bill Vogt

**Relatives/Friends of Brother Knights:**

Michelle & Alex Bronzert, Daughter-in-Law & Son of Brother Norm Bronzert  
Joanne Cross, Wife of PGK/PDD Jim Cross  
Marilyn Donohue, Wife of Brother Pat Donohue  
Ava Dorsey, Great Niece of Brother Ted Daniecki  
Alex Gibbons, grandson of Brother Ed Gibbons  
Stan Gibson, Brother of Brother Sam Gibson  
Kathy Gutberlet, Wife of Brother Matt Gutberlet  
Kathleen Lanham, Granddaughter of Brother Dick Lanham  
Irene Norocki, Cousin-in-Law of Brother Ted Daniecki  
Tina North, Wife of Brother Michael North  
Michael Polk, Son of Brother Larry Polk  
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

**Deceased**

**Brothers:**

None.

**Relatives/Friends of Brother Knights:**

None.

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

Brothers,

When you are talking with friends and family about joining the Knights, use the following to explain why a Catholic gentleman should join the Knights of Columbus.

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[www.kofc8736.org](http://www.kofc8736.org)  
Home of Dick Siejack, Past State Deputy

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**"IN SOLIDARITY WITH OUR PRIESTS"**

### **Why you should become a Knight**

If you're interested in helping those in need, serving your parish, growing in your faith or having exclusive access to top-rated insurance protection for your family, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you.

Becoming a Knight of Columbus can transform your life. As a Knight, you have the opportunity to support your parish, give back to your community, grow in your faith and gain exclusive access to our top-rated insurance program to protect your family.

These are just some of the reasons to become a Knight.

We are a band of brothers, a network of men in communities around the world dedicated to doing good in the service of God and our neighbor.

### **What we provide**

#### **SERVICE**

- Support the parish with its needs
- Help meet the needs of those in the local community
- Provide "Coats for Kids" and "Food for Families"
- Support programs that benefit people with intellectual disabilities
- Aid victims of natural disasters and other catastrophic events, local and worldwide
- Donate wheelchairs to people without mobility at home and abroad
- Save lives through initiatives such as the "Ultrasound Program"

Charity is the first principle of the Knights of Columbus. Knights are men who get things done. We volunteer our time to serve our parishes and our communities. And by working together, we were able to donate more than \$1.4 billion and 664 million volunteer hours to worthy causes in the past decade.

#### **SUPPORT**

- A unique "band of brothers"
- Shared values and the support to live out our Catholic faith more fully
- The ability for our network to accomplish things together that we could not accomplish alone

Unity and Fraternity are the second and third principles of the Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus was founded so that men could work together to serve their parishes and communities, protect the well being of their Catholic families, and support each other in faith and in many other ways along life's journey. The Knights of Columbus offers its members the opportunity to grow in their faith through living the example of a charity that evangelizes and personifying what it means to be a Catholic gentleman through the practicing of good works.

#### **STABILITY**

- Exclusive access to our top-rated life insurance products, available only to members and their families
- Your insurance agent is a Knight dedicated to helping his brother Knights protect their families

As a Knight, you and your family have exclusive access to our top quality insurance products. In fact, no insurer in North America is more highly rated than the Knights of Columbus. As an organization founded to protect the well being of Catholic families, we have continued to take that mission seriously for more than 130 years. Generations of Catholics have counted on the Knights of Columbus, and in an increasingly turbulent world, you can trust the Knights of Columbus to affordably and securely protect the future of your loved ones and to be there when you need us most.

For 130 years the Knights of Columbus has provided all of the opportunities in this brochure and more for its members.

The Knights of Columbus is not just a fraternity in name. It is a brotherhood of Catholic men who each play a part in improving the world around them, one community at a time. They stand together in faith, dedicated to uphold the principles they cherish while lending their support and strength to parish, home and fellow Knight.

From charity for worldwide causes, to helping closer to home with volunteer activities, to a top-rated insurance program that protects those closest to you, the Knights makes the most of its brotherhood. Make a stand among them, and you can discover how easy it is to make a difference in your life and that of others.

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

## FRATERNAL BENEFITS

Jason McClain 443-926-2981...[Jason\\_McClain@KOFC.org](mailto:Jason_McClain@KOFC.org)

Knights of Columbus Earns Top Rating from A.M. Best for 39th Consecutive Year

Financial Strength Rated A++ (Superior)

Citing the Knights of Columbus' strong presence in Catholic communities and its members' loyalty, ratings agency A.M. Best reaffirmed the K of C's rating of A++ (Superior) for financial strength.

The rating announcement marks the 39th consecutive year that the Knights of Columbus earned A.M. Best's top marks. The Order has \$94 billion of life insurance in force and \$21 billion in assets under management. No insurer in North America is more highly rated than the Knights of Columbus.

"Our top rating from A.M Best underscores our commitment to our members and their families," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. "We were founded to protect the financial futures of Catholic families, and we take that obligation seriously. In our sales, operations and investments, we keep in mind that Knights and their families are more than customers, they are members of our fraternal family."

Supreme Knight Anderson added: "We credit our commitment to our members, our excellent sales force of agents who are all Knights of Columbus, and our commitment to our Catholic values, which are the keys to the work we do."

Earlier this year, the Knights of Columbus was named a 2014 "World's Most Ethical Company" by the Ethisphere Institute — an independent center for research promoting best practices in corporate ethics and governance. It was one of two companies named in the "life insurance" category, and one of fewer than 150 total companies worldwide.

A.M. Best noted that the rating of the Knights of Columbus "reflects its strong fraternal and insurance presence within the Catholic communities in the United States and Canada, its strong risk-adjusted capitalizations as measured by Best's Capital Adequacy Ratio, and its consistently positive statutory operating results." It added that the Knights of Columbus "has a strong affinity with its large membership base through its charitable programs and competitive portfolio of life insurance and annuity products."

## COUNCIL BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

### July Birthdays:

Bob Renshaw	04
Rev. Willie Franken	05
Jim Billingslea	06
Mark Ewing	08
John Ventura	09
Mike Curran	10
Franz Wittelsberger	13
Charles Meyer	16
Ed Pfister	18
Phil Gill	19
Josh Pippin	19
Mike Naumann	24
John Cannon	26
Tom Wagner	26
Eric Schumacher	27

### July Anniversaries:

Gary & Julianne Bowers	06	(46 years)
Pete & Pat Stankoski	06	(51 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

### I Pledge Allegiance

July is a time filled with expressions of patriotism -- flags flying, parades, military marches, firework displays accompanied by the *1812 Overture*, and recitations of the Pledge of Allegiance. How often have we placed our hands over our hearts, faced the nation's flag, and recited this brief statement of fealty? Do we understand, however, what we are saying, or has the recital become a ritual, a mere collection of words, a formality before certain public events?

The Pledge is an outward promise of loyalty to our nation, its history, traditions, culture, the principles upon which it was founded, and the values which it espouses. It is a commitment to the patrimony that has been handed down to us from generations past and a vow to maintain the nation's precepts for generations to come.

America was established by people of faith, founded on a belief that everyone is created equal, that they possess certain unalienable rights provided to them by their Creator. The early Patriots acknowledged God as the Supreme Being, and prayed for His beneficence to establish a nation where people could enjoy freedom in their homes, churches, businesses, schools, private organizations and public associations, where political liberty would allow faith to flourish, where religious liberty would be protected by just laws.

In this nation, the unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are considered innate to the individual, bestowed by a transcendental power. As a gift of God, they cannot be rightfully abrogated or abridged by any state, government, dictator, or will of the majority. This endowment is the essence of the American premise.

As stated in the Declaration of Independence, "to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men." The primary purpose of government is to provide the assurance that people can exercise those pre-existing rights; it does not create, grant or dispense them. Governments exist for the people, not people for the government.

If the substance of being an American is rooted in the transcendental, then a loss of belief in God leads to a loss of belief that the rights bestowed by Him are intrinsic and unalienable. If these rights are to be retained, then a belief in God must be maintained.

A great danger to America today is the loss of faith. From the time of the Pilgrims onward, colonial governors, legislatures, Revolutionary leaders, presidents and the Congress have issued hundreds of proclamations acknowledging the existence of God and calling for public fasting and prayer to seek His grace and thank Him for His beneficence. In their traditional Thanksgiving Day proclamations, almost every recent president has made reference to the Almighty.

Today, although some 97 percent of the people in America state that they believe in God, one-in-five is not affiliated with any organized religion.

Vocal minorities, operating through the courts, have driven God from virtually all public recognition. Our society today is more anti-religious in its policies and regulations, its views and attitudes, its behavior and temperament than it has ever been.

The early Americans were very cognizant of a possible loss of faith among the people and its consequences. They were convinced that without a societal belief in God the nation's founding principles would be at risk. John Adams stated the concern as, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." George Washington, in his Farewell Address to the Nation, cautioned that "reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." Patrick Henry warned, "It is when a people forget God that tyrants forge their chains."

Presently, too many national leaders profess a faith, but do not publicly practice it. There is a disconnect between what they say they believe and their actions which demonstrate what they believe. Ironically, this partitioning between private beliefs and public actions was begun by John F. Kennedy, the first Catholic to become president. In 1960, as a candidate for the office, he stated: I believe in a president whose religious views are his own private affair... Whatever issue may come before me as president — on birth control, divorce, censorship, gambling or any other subject — I will make my decision in accordance with these views, in accordance with what my conscience tells me to be the national interest, and without regard to outside religious pressures or dictates.

This partition between public and private consciences has allowed many individuals to advance their political aims. Rather than using their religious convictions to shape societal practices, they have diluted their beliefs in pursuit of worldly prosperity, acclaim, or social acceptability. But is the temporal gain worth the spiritual duplicity? One is reminded of the question Thomas More, in *A Man for All Seasons*, posed to Richard Rich, who had falsely accused him for political gain: "Why Richard, it profits a man nothing to give his soul for the whole world... but for Wales?"

With the continued secularization of this nation, the rejection of its Christian heritage, and so many Catholics in public life opposing Church teachings, the Knights of Columbus can have a catalytic effect on the nation. As the world's largest fraternal organization of Catholic men and their families, we can demonstrate the complementarity of religion and patriotism. As American citizens, we commit ourselves to support the Constitution, promote laws that are just and respect the dignity of every person, mold public opinion on issues that affect Catholic precepts, and promote virtue and morality that must underlie a nation of, for and by the people. As Catholics, we avow loyalty to the Magisterium, support our bishops and priests, and promote and practice patriotism and citizenship consistent with Catholic virtues and Church teachings. It is only when we live our religious beliefs conscientiously and faithfully and advance them in the public square that we can make our most beneficial contributions to the nation.

The effect the Knights can have was exemplified in 1954, when after national urging by the Order, President Dwight D. Eisenhower added the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance. As a result for 60 years, every time the Pledge has been said, people have been reminded that ours is a nation under God with liberty and justice for all.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

DATE	DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
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**JULY**

1	Tuesday		First day of new fraternal year	
1	Tues	7:30 PM	Officers Meeting	Council Home
3	Thurs	6:00 PM	Long Green Valley Night	Ripken Stadium
4	Friday		Independence Day	
6	Sun	9:00 AM	Rosary for the Unborn after Mass	St. John Church
8	Tues	8:00 PM	Council Business Meeting	Council Home
10	Thurs	8:00 PM	Archbishop John Carroll Assembly	Council Home
10	Thurs	8:00 PM	Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights	Bethlehem Council #2605
11 to 13			State Council Leadership Seminar	Solomon's Island
12	Sat	2:00 PM	Council Home Clean Up	
15	Tues	11:30 AM	Lunch Bunch	Council Home
17	Thurs	7:00 PM	Installation of Council Officers	St. John Chapel
22	Tues	8:00 PM	Council Business Meeting	Council Home

**AUGUST**

3	Sun	9:00 AM	Rosary for the Unborn after Mass	St. John Church
4-7			Supreme Convention	Orlando, FL
12	Tues	8:00 PM	Council Business Meeting	Council Home
14	Thurs	8:00 PM	Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights	Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Council #7612
16	Sat	5:30 PM	Installation of Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights	St. Clement Church
19	Tues	11:15 AM	Tour Camden Yards & lunch at Jerry D's	
23	Sat	5:00 PM	Installation of Archbishop John Carroll Assembly Officers	St. Francis de Sales Church
23	Sat	7:30 PM	Past State Deputy Testimonial	Columbus Gardens
26	Tues	8:00 PM	Social Meeting	Council Home

**SEPTEMBER**

1	Monday		Labor Day	
6	Saturday		Council Picnic	
7	Sun	9:00 AM	Rosary for the Unborn after Mass	St. John Church

## 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,

Keep your eyes on this space for news about our plans for the new year!

Thank you for all you did to make this a very successful year. Take the summer off...we'll see you in October.

**Mary**

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