

VALLEY VIEWS

AUGUST 2013



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GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

Robert Renshaw, Grand Knight...410-592-9718
Baltobob@comcast.net

Thank you to all who made my installation such a successful evening: Msgr Rick for a beautiful Mass in the Chapel, Doug Byerly for providing the music, Paul Weber for his guidance and advice, Mary Weber and the Knight's Ladies for such beautiful decorations, delicious desserts and the contribution of napkins and table cloths, and Larry Polk, Jim Schmidt, Sr and Bill Davison for planning and preparing a delicious dinner. I appreciate all of their hard work.

Now that the pomp and circumstance is behind us, we can begin the daily work of maintaining this great Council. Our financial strength is sound, thanks to the success of a new fund raiser and the stability of a hall rental arrangement. I intend to maintain that stability through careful spending decisions coupled with increased income where possible. Our first significant fund raiser is the Incentive Car Raffle. This is a win-win project in that the Council receives 60 cents of every dollar sold and the remaining 40 cents go to the State Council's Charity Fund which benefits members in economic distress and the Scholarship Fund which benefits deserving youth who want to attend Catholic Schools. Every member will receive tickets in the mail this month. Please try to sell these to family and friends or at least purchase them for yourself. If you need more tickets, you may contact Tom Rowan and he will see that you receive as many as you can sell. We will also be selling tickets outside of mass or at commercial locations. Please agree to help with this effort at least once.

If you are one of the members who has not been able to attend meetings or participate in activities for a while, please consider helping with a program, attending a business or social meeting or participating in a social activity. We rejoice when we see new or infrequent members come through the doors. If you have a special need that prevents you from participating, let me know. We will try to help any way that we can.

Vivat Jesus



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

Staff
 Ted Burns
 Mike Sallèse
 Tom & Jane Zaegel

Volume 30, No. 02

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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



State Chaplain's Message .. Fr. Donald Grzymski, OFM Conv.

The quote attributed to St. Francis of Assisi on the new state pin, ***"While proclaiming peace with your lips, have it even more fully in your heart,"*** may lead us to the question: where do I find such peace? I think the answer is clear: we find it in Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Without a relationship with the Lord Jesus, without confidence in His grace and His promises, it is indeed difficult to be at peace. This peace will not re-move all tension in life, but will help us deal with tension in a constructive way rather than a destructive one that leads to more tension. May our daily prayer, and our at-least weekly Eucharist, help us grow in our relationship with Christ. I am sure the more the Maryland State Council can be seen as a source of peace and reconciliation, the more successful will be those projects we strive to accomplish.

Drawing from the State Deputy's theme of ***"Strengthen the bonds of faith and fraternity,"*** I would like to briefly reflect on how an event such as the recent Grand Knights Seminar helps us see the richness of our shared faith and fraternity.

I am always heartened by the participation in prayer at such gatherings, including the prayers to open and close the sessions, but especially the participation at Mass. Over the years so many have told me how much they enjoy the State Masses because of the participation—and I concur. We help one another to pray well when we are present in body, mind and spirit.

The second is the shared fraternity. Each night when I got to my room my feet hurt—but I only noticed it when I got to my room. During the socials, walking around and speaking to so many Knights and their Ladies—some who I've now known for quite a while and others who I was just meeting—I realized how blessed we are. The more we meet the members of our Councils, and others at the District and State levels, the more we will enjoy the Knights of Columbus experience. I hope you, too, look forward to the opportunities in the months ahead to work together, to play together, and to pray together.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

SUPREME COUNCIL NEWS

www.kofc.org

In Service to One, in Service to All

New Marian Prayer Program

Continuing a decades-long tradition, the Knights of Columbus will launch their fifteenth international prayer program this August.

The new program, dedicated to the Blessed Mother under her title of the Immaculate Conception, was announced by the Supreme Knight Carl Anderson at the Organizational Meeting of State Deputies in New Haven, Connecticut on June 8, the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Since 1979, more than 16 million faithful have participated in K of C-sponsored prayer services conducted through this program.

The new program will be the second time the Immaculate Conception is used as the centerpiece for prayer services. The Immaculate Conception was also highlighted from 1981 – 1982, for the Order's centennial celebration.

The Supreme Council is preparing 300 framed images, copies of the Immaculate Conception painting that hangs in the Cathedral-Basilica of Notre Dame de Quebec, in Quebec City. This image was selected to coincide with the upcoming 350th anniversary of Notre Dame de Quebec parish, the first parish north of present-day Mexico. Each image will be blessed by Pope Francis through the Apostolic Almoner of His Holiness, Archbishop Guido Pozzo.

The program will be inaugurated during the 131st Supreme Convention in San Antonio. At the conclusion of the Mass on Wednesday, August 7, State Deputies will participate in a special commissioning ceremony.

The images will then travel Order wide through the local councils, which will organize prayer programs for their parishes and communities.

STATE COUNCIL NEWS

William C. Kuchmas, State Deputy

Strengthen the Bonds of Faith and Fraternity

My Dear Brother Knights,

I want to thank the 93 Grand Knights who attended our annual District Deputy and Grand Knight's Seminar. The Grand Knights received updated training on recruiting new members and how to conduct effective membership drives. They also received a new and expanded approach on how to retain members. Retention is not waiting until a member is behind in his dues for one or more years. Each Grand Knight was encouraged to make a list of the members who have not been to a Council meeting in the past couple of months. The Grand Knight needs to divide up that list among the members who attend Council meetings and ask them to make contact personally with the member who hasn't been around for a while. This is the fraternal thing to do.

Another most important task the Grand Knights and the entire State Council was asked to do, was for all of us to remind all our Brother Knights to remember and practice the principle of fraternity. We must remember, if we don't have Fraternity, we cannot have Unity. If we don't have Unity, we won't be able to accomplish all we want to do in our Councils.

I also want to thank our State Program Director, Tony Salvemini, and our State Membership Director, Tom O'Hara, and their entire teams for the outstanding job they did at our annual Seminar.

Thanks also to Executive Secretary to the State Council, PSD, Romeo Gauthier; Secretary to the State Deputy, Paul Weber; Administrative Assistant to the State Deputy, Bob Snyder; Special Assistant to the State Deputy, PSD, Andy Bauer; Chief Warden, Owen McGinley and his Wardens; and especially my fellow State Officers for the great job they did at the Grand Knight Seminar.

In conclusion, let us continue to *"Strengthen the Bonds of Faith and Fraternity" throughout the State of Maryland.*

+

8 Night Bahamas Cruise on the Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship the "Grandeur of the Seas"

There's nothing like a quick getaway in the sun. And there's no better way to do it than to pay a visit to the amazing ports we visit on our Bahamas cruises. Explore our private island, Coco-Cay, experience the wonders of Paradise Island, or check out Atlantis Aquaventure. It's a dream vacation you'll never forget.

Leave Baltimore on Friday January 31 2014 at 4:00 PM. Spend Feb. 02 in Port Canaveral, FL; spend Feb. 03 in Nassua; spend Feb. 04 in Coco Cay, Bahamas. Spend Feb. 05 in Key West. Arrive in Baltimore on February 08. See your Grand Knight for more information and deposit amounts. **Let's go cruising!**

Annual Family Picnic Sponsored by the State Council

Who: Brother Knights and their families

What: Maryland State Council's Annual Family Picnic

When: Saturday September 07, 2013 1 pm to 5 pm

Where: Prince Georges Council #2809, 9450 Cherry Hill Road College Park, MD

How Much: \$12.00 per Adults – Children 12 and under FREE

Why: To strengthen the bonds of fraternity
Food: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, BBQ Chicken, Corn on the Cob, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Assorted Desserts, Soda, Iced Tea, Water, Beer and Wine
Music: Rajun Cajun
Games: Lots & lots of games
Deadline for Reservations: August 24, 2013
See your Grand Knight for more info or contact Roger Donnelly at RD5472@Verizon.Net

DISTRICT DEPUTY REPORT

Mike Sallèse, PGK... 443-852-1442... MSallèse11@verizon.net

My dear Brothers,

Thanks to all who attended the Membership and Program Seminar in July. There is always a lot of information presented to the Program and Membership Teams.

Recruitment and retention will be given a prominent place in this year's plans because of the need for new members. In 2011 there was only a total of 162 new members in the councils of Canada and the United States. We cannot survive as an Order on such small numbers. This is equivalent to one new council the size of Long Green Valley. To encourage councils to recruit the new motto is One new member per Month per Council. To support the councils, there will be one First Degree per Month per District. Get a man interested in the Knights and we will help you get him quickly into the Order.

Do you know a Catholic Gentleman who doesn't belong to the Knights but should? Ask him to join us.

Vivat Jesus

BALTIMORE CHAPTER OF GRAND KNIGHTS

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

Brothers,

The Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights will be wrapping up its summer meetings on August 8 2013 at Archbishop Fulton J Sheen Council #7612 located at 10817 Stang RD Owings Mills MD 21117 and Bethlehem Council #2605 located at 7401 Bay Front RD Edgemere MD 21219 on September 12 2013. Both meetings start at 8:00 PM and the September meeting will be the "Shrimp Night" with a surcharge of \$15.00 per person for those who would like shrimp with the rest of the available refreshments. Ladies are invited to this meeting.

The training topic for the August 8th meeting will be ***"Portraying the benefits of joining MY COUNCIL at OUR CHURCH"***. Grand Knights, Deputy Grand Knights, and Membership Directors are encouraged to attend. ***Everyone is welcome.***

FOURTH DEGREE NEWS

Archbishop John Carroll Assembly #2378
Lee Eder...410-591-1948...salesbylee@comcast.net



Sir Knights and Dear Ladies,

First I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your Faithful Navigator for the 2013-2014 fraternal year. I look forward to working with my fellow officers who have stepped up to the challenge of leading our Assembly. I promise to do my absolute best in maintaining the high standards this Assembly has maintained for the past 17 years.

The Installation of new Officers will be held on **Saturday, August 17th** after the **5:00 PM** Mass at St. Francis De Sales Church. 1450 Abingdon Road, Abingdon, MD 21009. Dress for the officers is Tuxedos w/white jacket, tuxedos or business suit for all others and optional dress for the ladies. Reception will be held in the church hall immediately after the ceremony is completed. If you wish to attend the installation and reception please call me at 410-591-1948 or E-Mail me at salesbylee@comcast.net by **July 26th**, as the reception will be catered and I need a head count for the affair.

A special thanks goes out to our past Faithful Navigator Thomas Wojtek and his wife Pat for a wonderful year. God bless you Tom and Pat.

Finally, have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Vivat Jesus!

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

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

Our activities team is off to a running start for the 2013-2014 Fraternal Year. We have already completed several successful events. Just to mention a few, we had a group at the Ironbirds Game (a sellout of 42 tickets). Also in July the Council conducted a beautifully Installation of Officers on Wednesday, July 17th.



Star Council Award



During the Installation of Officers, Worthy State Deputy Bill Kuchmas presented Long Green Valley Council and me with the highly valued Star Council Award for Fraternal Year 2011-2012. Though delivered over a year late, it was highly appreciated because it identified us as a highly achieving Council that year, having met our Membership quota and several other requirements. Council activities are an important part

of a vibrant Council. We will be appealing for your help **AND** participation at a variety of activities during the year. Try it, you'll like it!



The Scavenger Hunt is in progress and we are planning the Family Picnic for August. The Ravens are preparing for a new season to follow their Super Bowl Championship and we will have Tailgate Parties at the Council Home for Sunday afternoon games. Check the schedule and join us for fraternity and fun as well as good food – a bargain at \$10. The small fee not only covers food costs but helps defray Council Home operating costs.

We have a very active Council with lots of activities planned for the year. I have asked some new members to step up as Activity Chairmen. They will be a little uneasy until they see how easy it is when volunteers step up to help conduct our programs. And that is why we joined the Knights in the first place! So please let them know that **you** will be available to help them. Or, take the next step and start a new program of your very own initiative and Long Green Valley backing that expresses your concern for the community.

Lots of people talk about what needs to be done, but few step up. The Knights offer many opportunities for charity and service. We can help with food distribution, wheel chairs for veterans and much more. Take advantage of the opportunity. If you have questions, don't hesitate to talk to me about your idea.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES

A 5th Sunday Breakfast

Each year we celebrate three or four 5th Sundays as a Church Activity. This year the 5th Sundays on the calendar are the last Weekends in September, December, March and June. Our 5th Sunday practice is to designate a mass on the 5th Sunday weekend and appeal to members to try to attend that mass, and sit together in one section at church to show unity. Several members take up the gifts during mass and we are usually recognized as an attending group during the announcements. Following the mass we meet for a meal at the Council home or at a restaurant. We vary the mass and the location to keep the activity fresh and to make it available to more members who typically attend at only one mass time. Please consider joining us for one or more of our 5th Sundays this year.



We welcome the Sunday School Catechists each year in September with a breakfast in the Council Home. Each November we have a Memorial Mass for Brothers we have lost the previous year and the widows are invited. The Memorial Mass is held in the Chapel. We also support the Divine Mercy Mass each year. Your participation is welcomed in all these events to show the parish how Long Green Valley is involved to strengthen the church community.

We participate in various St Johns activities during the year such as the Spring Fling. This is a big effort and we offer the beer concession as well as support for other Spring Fling venues. The last two years we

have also supported the music program at St John's by providing a meal for a Dinner Theater production. And there is always our Pancake Supper before lent. So there are plenty of chances for you to participate in Church Activities.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Ted Daniecki 410-692-4399 daniecki@zoominternet.net

Community Activity kicks into high gear in the fall with the sponsorship of the Red Cross Blood Donation drive, a one day event. We sign up people to recruit and contact donors and get names after a mass one weekend.

The Thanksgiving food drive in the Fall is a complex and lengthy process that lasted into the winter last year. We always get a good volunteer turnout from the Council and experience great participation by the School, parish and community for this important activity. There are a number of food collections, food shopping trips and delivery downtown. It is gratifying to see the appreciation of the Sisters of Charity when we deliver the food to their pantry at St Wenceslaus. If you haven't done this before, try it. I guarantee you'll enjoy it.

Meanwhile, we can use your help selling raffle tickets for the Maryland State Car Raffle. Raffle tickets will be mailed to members and you can purchase them or sell them to friends and family. It is only a buck to get a chance to win a new car, pretty good odds compared to most contests. There are attractive second and third place prizes as well. We will also sell the tickets through the school and at business establishments as customers come and go. The Council gets 60 cents of each dollar we collect, so it is an important fund raising opportunity for us that rewards our level of effort proportionately

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

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

The Council Family Picnic is a shared Council and Family Activity. It is a great opportunity for Council families to socialize in addition to member Fraternity.

On Wednesday, July 17th we transitioned to our newly elected Council Leadership team as Bob Renshaw took over as Grand Knight. A well attended mass was celebrated by Msgr Cramblitt complete with the honors of the Fourth Degree Team. After Mass, we immediately proceeded to a beautiful Installation Ceremony in the Chapel. As the ceremony prescribes, a Living Cross is formed by the Officer Team for the instruction and swearing in of the elected slate.



Dinner Crowd



Installation was followed by a wonderful dinner at the Council Home prepared by Larry Polk, Michael Bathon, Bill Davison and Jim Schmidt Sr. Over 60 were in attendance. The food was delicious and the

Desert Fare



presentation exquisite.

Head Table



Dinner was followed by a welcome from Master of Ceremonies, Worthy State and Council Lecturer Chuck Bogdanowicz. Chuck worked the crowd and then introduced District Deputy Mike Sallese, Grand Knight Bob Renshaw and Worthy State Deputy Bill Kuchmas so that each could provide their remarks.

Mike Sallese, as District Deputy is the conducting official for a Council Installation. Mike congratulated the new slate of officers and turned the gavel over to Worthy

Grand Knight Bob Renshaw.

Bob spoke about his goals for the new fraternal year saying that he wished to maintain the level of Council activity and broaden participation and fraternity. He presented PGK Joe Wenderoth with a gift, a PGK a gavel plaque. The Council will use some of the money normally set aside for a PGK gift and present a check, as Joe requested, for a donation to a State Council ultrasound machine fund raising effort.

WGK Bob Renshaw



Worthy State Deputy Bill Kuchmas



SD Kuchmas spoke about the great traditions of K of C and of the tough times upon us for membership growth. He asked that we redouble our efforts to recruit new members. Bill remarked upon the importance of an involved and supportive Chaplain as he thanked Msgr Rick for his support of the Council. SD Kuchmas knows Long Green Valley Council well and is familiar with our good works. He personally attended to present the 2011-2012 Star Council Award to Long

Green Valley Council.

Lunch Bunch

Thank you for understanding my last minute decision to cancel the July meeting. Since it was the day before our Installation of Officers, we would have been in conflict with the folks setting up

for that.

We will be back in the swing of things this month. The next meeting is August 20 at 11:30 in the Hall. Since we probably want something light for summer, I plan to make hamburgers on the grill, so if this sounds appealing, give me a call at 410-592-8406 or email at baltobob@comcast.net so I will have an idea how much to buy. If you make your decision at the last minute, that's all right, too. We'd rather see you than worry about the food. If you are not able to attend meetings at night and want to remain active in the Council, this group is for you, plus where else can you get a decent lunch for only \$3.00?

CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES

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

As Brother Knights we support life affirming activities in every form. 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 have participated in marches for pro life 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.



Our Council Tootsie Roll Drive will start soon and we will ask for your support handing out Tootsie Rolls at local businesses and asking for free will donations. We also had them out after Mass one weekend. Money collected is used to support causes for Mentally Disabled Citizens such as Camp Glow, run by the Archdiocese. Please join us and take a turn handing them out. Many people look forward to this drive each year and it is a great opportunity to make friends for the Knights of Columbus and

Long Green Valley.

On July 23, 2012, new regulations requiring the first-ever inspections of and stricter regulations for surgical abortion facilities went into effect in the State of Maryland.

For the first time in Maryland history, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene had the discretion to deny a license permitting abortions.

IN LESS THAN A YEAR, these regulations led directly to the suspension of surgical abortion licenses at FOUR abortion facilities. After inspection, TWELVE more abortion facilities were cited by the State of Maryland for one or more deficiencies.

The Knights of Columbus, INCLUDING THIS COUNCIL, have fought long and hard for the passage of these regulations in the State of Maryland, through public protests, Marches on Washington, Lobby nights, meetings with State elected officials, Parish petition drives, the purchase of and installation of Ultrasound machines and the training of personal to operate them, the support of our Archbishops, Bishops and Clergy and constant prayer for Life in all of it stages.

Through these new regulations, the State of Maryland has taken a good step forward toward ENDING ALL ABORTIONS

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

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

Council Family Picnic



The Long Green Valley Council summer picnic is Sunday, **August 25th 1 to 5** @ Tom Rowan's house 2010 Carrs Mill Rd Fallston, Md. 21047. Council will provide Picnic food and drink. There will be games and a pool for swimmers. **Cost is \$10 per person. Under 13 free.** Send checks made to Long Green Valley Council K of C to Tom Rowan's address to be received NLT Monday, August 19th so that Tom knows how much food to buy and how many tents we'll need. **No payment can be accepted at the door.**

The Council will provide the main dishes and some drinks for attendees though you may want to supplement with your own special picnic favorites for your family. Games and entertainment will be planned to take advantage of the summer weather while making friends and sharing fraternity.

Danny Hamilton's Souvenir



An exciting Ironbirds game on July 6th turned out to be a perfect summer evening. Danny Hamilton, one of our attendees, shows off the ball that landed in our area. The game was followed by a great fireworks display. After our successful Ironbirds Outing, the Picnic

should be another great family activity for Long Green Valley. Hope to see you and your family there.

Fireworks at Ironbirds Game



The Family of the Month for July 2013 is our Warden Tom Rowan Sr, wife Dana and son Tommy. Not only did the Rowans line up the Ironbirds game, but they are also hosting the Family Picnic in August at their home.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

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



Youth Activities start with the 2013 version of our successful Scavenger Hunt contest. St John school children signed up before the school year end. The Scavenger Hunt keeps the participating children busy during the summer, reading the clues and finding the landmarks that they refer to as they complete their answer sheets. Cash prizes will be awarded in the fall to the winners.

If you have a school age youngster in your Family, send an email to me to get the details for entering the contest. There is a small entry fee. The whole family can get involved. You will learn lots of interesting and useful facts about our community.

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

We look forward to our typical variety of Youth Activities this year including: Soccer Shootout, Basketball Free Throw Contest, Poster Contests, Support for School Events, Trunk and Treat and more. Stay tuned for details.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson has stated: "We have a moral obligation to offer membership to every Catholic Gentleman." Who have you asked lately to join the Knights?

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

PGK Bob Dee

PGK Larry Flynn

PSD Gene Hogan

Brother Frank Huebler

PGK Joe Owens

PGK John Robinson

Brother John Stansfield

Brother Bob Snyder (Administrative Assistant to the State Deputy)



Relatives/Friends of Brother Knights:

Lillian Beachman, Mother-in-Law of Brother Sam Gibson

Margaret Dee, Wife of PGK Bob Dee

Stan Gibson, Brother of Brother Sam Gibson

Kenny Kreiner, Friend of Brother Bill Zoli

Dr. Cam Martin, brother-in-law of Brother Pete Stankoski

David Pusey, Cousin of Chancellor Paul Wimmer

Tory Robinson, Wife of PGK John Robinson

Nancy Tejnecky, Sister of DGK Bob Renshaw

Deceased

Relatives/Friends of Brother Knights:

J.B. Schott, Nephew of PGK Jim Schmidt, Sr.

Donna Schott, Wife of J.B. Schott

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:

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

CURRENT INITIATIVES:

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

FRATERNAL BENEFITS

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

For 38th consecutive year, A.M. Best reaffirms top A++ rating for Knights of Columbus

For the 38th consecutive year, the Knights of Columbus has earned A.M. Best's highest financial strength rating, A++ (Superior).

Established in 1882 as a fraternal benefit society, the Knights of Columbus has worked since its inception to help members protect their families' financial futures. What began as a "pass-the-hat" benefit program has grown into one of the nation's premier insurers. The K of C now offers a diverse portfolio of permanent and term life insurance, disability income insurance, annuities, and long-term care programs to members and their immediate families.

In addition to the Knights of Columbus' strong market presence in Catholic communities in the United States and Canada, A.M. Best, a global leader in the rating and analysis of insurance companies, also cited the Order's large network of local councils and "consistently positive statutory ratings, excellent persistency and a solid level of risk-adjusted capitalizations" as positive ratings factors.

The report also observed that the Knights of Columbus' continued growth in membership reflects its wide geographic coverage, expanding network of local councils, and variety of fraternal benefits.

"Earning A.M. Best's top rating again this year underscores the strength of our sustainable business model, despite the slow recovery and continued economic uncertainty," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. "We have continued to outpace the industry, reflecting a growing flight to quality."

He added: "A.M. Best's top rating for almost four decades is a testament to our commitment to our mission of protecting Catholic families, our excellent sales force made up exclusively of members of the Knights of Columbus, and the fact that we view our members as part of our family."

In just over a decade, under Supreme Knight Anderson's leadership, the Knights of Columbus insurance in force has doubled to more than \$90 billion, with more than \$19.8 billion in assets under management.



Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

Mark T. Bateman
Fraternal Benefits Advisor
600 Fairmount Avenue #100
Towson, Maryland 21286
Phone: 410-340-8561
Fax: 410-823-3841



COUNCIL BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

JULY BIRTHDAYS:

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

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

02 Craig Dozier
 02 Bill Ensor
 02 Ken Furman
 13 Bob Cyphers
 14 Jim Cross
 15 Bob McGraw
 15 Jim Schmidt, Sr.
 17 Jim Hubbard
 18 Paul Schmidt
 20 Dick Spinner
 21 Russ Smick
 23 Bob Dee
 23 Mike Rusk
 26 Doug Byerly
 26 Mike Curran
 27 Larry Daniels
 27 Dick Weger
 28 Tom Weber

JULY ANNIVERSARIES:

06 Gary & Julianne Bowers (45 years)
 06 Pete & Pat Stankoski (50 years)

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

02 Bill & Fran Seibert (55 years)
 12 Pat & Marilyn Donohue (35 years)
 15 Bob & Diane Elliott (26 years)
 16 Bob & Mary Cyphers (61 years)
 16 Ed & Carol Nordberg (55 years)
 20 Gene & Carol Messenger (53 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
Governance Without God

Religious convictions, traditional notions of opposite-sex marriage and moral disapproval of homosexuality should not be the basis for establishing public law. So stated a federal district judge in 2010, as he over-rode the will of California's electorate. Voters had approved Proposition 8, a ballot measure to amend the state constitution and negate the state's Supreme Court ruling which legalized marriage between same-sex couples. The judge stated that the voters enacted "a private moral view" and which he deemed to be unconstitutional. The decision was stayed, and the U.S. Supreme Court, which heard testimony in March 2013, will soon render a judgment.

To America's founders, the district court's opinion that religious convictions should not influence public law would have been perverse. These early leaders opened the sessions of the first Continental Congress with a prayer from a clergyman, declared their independence "with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence," frequently proclaimed, in the words of George Washington, national days of "prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations," hired chaplains to provide spiritual guidance to the members of the legislature, and from 1801 to the Civil War held Sunday church services in the House of Representatives which Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Madison regularly attended. James Wilson, one of the original justices of the Supreme Court and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, epitomized the thinking of the day, stating: "Human law must rest its authority ultimately upon the authority of that law which is divine."

But the religious convictions of the nation have been changing and with it legal opinions. The American public and the politicians who represent them are conducting their lives more and more as if God does not exist – *etsi Deus non daretur*. A principal effect of this trend is a continuing effort to remove all influence of religion on public life, to limit religious freedom and restrict religious beliefs to private practice.

As late as the 1990, only 8 percent of Americans said they had no religious affiliation. In 2012, 20 percent reported they had "None". More ominous for the future is that one-third of the people under 30 reported identification with no religious denomination. Catholics are in the vanguard of this shift. While they represent one-quarter of the U.S. population, 35 percent of the "None" were raised Catholic. Based on adherence to a denominational teaching and religious behavior, the number of people in the "None" category is probably much higher. As an indicator of this, consider the large number of politicians who claim a religious affiliation – Catholics are a prime example – but do not act in accord with the teachings of their faith.

The public mores, which affect political action and shape the nation's laws, are becoming, if not atheistic, at least agnostic. America's leaders are operating with disregard for the limits set by a Creator-God, without reference to a higher order that curbs the excesses of human nature. A democracy, that is, a government of the people, is no less immune from tyrannical actions than is a dictatorship or an oligarchy. It is religion that provides a transcendent authority for the rights of man, that makes them unalienable and not dependent on the state or political system.

It was a duly-elected parliament, the *Reichstag*, that allowed Hitler to rise to power and which gave him the authority to invade Poland, establish concentration camps, and carry out the Holocaust. In recent America, it was a duly-appointed Supreme Court that legalized the willful destruction of 55 million (and still counting) unborn children, regularly-elected state legislatures that are sanctioning same-sex marriage and approving physician-assisted suicide, and businesses operating within the law that are promoting the scourge of pornography. The evils of our time are not external threats to a moral society, but are becoming ingrained, built into the nation's political, economic and cultural structures.

As dark as the future may appear, there is no need for despair. Pope John Paul II, in his book, *Memory and Identity*, reminds us: "There is no evil from which God cannot draw forth a greater good. There is no suffering which he cannot transform into a path leading to him... In the love that pours forth from the heart of Christ, we find hope for the future of the world."

For thousands of years, the Jewish people have survived dispersion, suffering and persecution. They endured the Babylonian exile, slavery by the Egyptians, 40 years of wandering in the desert, discrimination in the Middle Ages, the Nazi's final solution, and presently threats of annihilation from their neighboring nations. Similarly, for the last eight centuries, Poland has been over-run from the east and from the west, partitioned several times, occupied by foreign powers, subjected to efforts to destroy its culture, and even ceased to officially exist for 123 years, but it still continues. The Jewish people and the Polish nation have survived not because of military prowess, diplomatic finesse, or organizational strength, but because of strong religious convictions which permeated their cultures. This is the essence of the long-term survival of a people.

Regardless of present efforts to make America a secular nation and the trials that may ensue, we should be confident about the future, placing our faith in God and relying on his grace. Pope Francis, through example and exhortation, is showing us the way to live. In his homily on Palm Sunday, 2013, he counseled: "Never give way to discouragement! Our joy is not a joy of having many possessions, but from having encountered a Person: Jesus, in our midst; it is born from knowing that with him we are never alone, even at difficult moments, even when our life's journey comes up against problems and obstacles that seem insurmountable... Christ's Cross embraced with love never leads to sadness, but to joy, to the joy of having been saved and doing a little of what he did on the day of his death."

DATES TO REMEMBER

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY TIME</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
AUGUST			
6 - 8		Annual Knights of Columbus Convention	San Antonio, Texas
8	Thurs 8:00 PM	Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights	Archbishop Fulton Sheen Council
12	Monday	Fr. Michael J. McGivney's Birthday	
13	Tues 8:00 PM	Council Business Meeting	Council Home
14	Wednesday	Anniversary of Fr. McGivney's Death	
15	Thursday	Assumption of Mary	
17	Sat 5:00 PM	Archbishop John Carroll Assembly Mass & Installation of Officers	St. Francis de Sales Church
19	Mon 7:30 PM	1 st Degree Exemplification	Fr. Maurice J. Wolfe Council
20	Tues 11:30 AM	Lunch Bunch	Council Home
25	Sunday 1 to 5	PICNIC @ Tom Rowan's House	2010 Carrs Mill Rd, Fallston MD
27	Tues 8:00 PM	Social Meeting	Council Home
SEPTEMBER			
2	Monday	Labor Day	
7	Sat 1 - 5 PM	State Council Family Picnic	Prince Georges Council
10	Tues 8:00 PM	Council Business Meeting	Council Home
12	Thurs 8:00 PM	Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights	Bethlehem Council
19	Thurs 8:00 PM	Archbishop John Carroll Assembly Mtg	
24	Tues 8:00 PM	Social Meeting & 1 st Degree	Council Home
28	Saturday	Financial Secretary & Tax Seminar	
29	Sunday	5th Sunday Mass and Breakfast	

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,

Thank you for a very successful year. Although we are a small 'auxiliary', we have made a difference to so many in our Council, parish, and community. Mark your calendars for our 'Welcome Back Dinner' on October 1st. See you in the Fall!

Mary

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