



# THE KNIGHT CHATTER



January 2012

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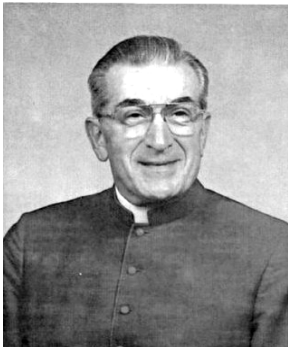
The Council's First Family, (l-to-r) Mary del Castillo, Maggie, Emily, and GK Terence Ryan, with Santa

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

REV. MSGR. VINCENT S. GATTO, KHSH

## GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

TERENCE RYAN



Chaplain Gatto

Dear Knights,

The twenty second of January has been designated by the bishops of the United States as a day of prayer for the legal protection of the unborn. Protection of the weakest and least able of its members is one of the most important responsibilities of any society. Governments are required, by rules of morality and common sense, to provide that protection. Laws against child

abuse, child labor, elder abuse and similar acts reflect consciousness of this responsibility. The unborn are really the least able to protect themselves. Only through their mothers can they be protected.

Society can help through general attitude and through laws. Probably the most obvious law is the banning of abortion. That would reduce the number of abortions substantially, but there are other legal protections that would reduce the number of children who do not survive to birth. According to a former executive director of Abortion Alternatives, a

(Continued on page 10)

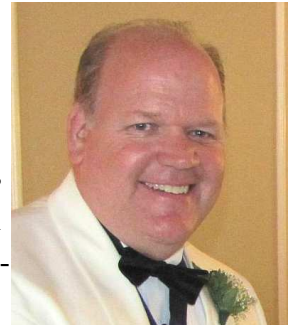
Worthy Brothers All,

A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year to you and your families!

As the holidays, football season (at least the Redskins) come to an end, the New Year comes and breathes new life into me. We all had plenty to do in our personal lives this Holiday Season, and I wanted to share with you what I consider the "Best" gift of all. During the Christmas Season, the one thing that stands out for me, is not all the gifts being unwrapped, but the smiles on children's faces? One of the best gifts I give and receive each year is the Gift of Time. I was first clued into this gift during my daughter's first Christmas by her godmother. Twelve years later the tradition continues.

We use this Gift of Time in many ways, but the best use is the time spent doing things with our family; immediate and extended. When you reflect on this, you wonder where did all the quality time go? You then realize you must block off time to spend together and with each family member sepa-

(Continued on page 9)



Grand Knight Ryan



## DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

Worthy Brothers All,

During the quiet dark days of January we are fully alive! At our mid point of the year, we are at our busiest. Mark your calendars for the March for Life this month. Many of the councils in our district have supported those who come to march whether it's providing a place to sleep to preparing meals. Thank you for all your council does!

The Mid-term meeting also occurs Saturday, January 7. The Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight are asked to attend the meeting at Cardinal Gibbons Council in Baltimore as we look at our first six months and plan for the second half of the year.

The two most important items that occur this month are the Annual Fraternal Activities Form due January 31, and your council credentials sent to our State Secretary, Bill Kuchmas. Grand Knights should contact their council recorder to get the names of the delegate from council minutes if your council elected delegates at last spring's election. If you have not done so, elect your delegate soon.

Our district is also busy with degrees in January. Mater Dei Council will be hosting a second degree and third degree the second week of January. Contact John Frey, the council Financial Secretary if you have candidates.

As we begin this year continue to grow in your faith as well as your commitment to service. If you have not had the opportunity, pick up a copy of Matthew Kelly's book, *Rediscover Catholicism*. It is a wonderful spiritual guide.

Be well and do good!

*Richard Earenfight*

District Deputy No. 18

"Mary, Make Us Always Aware"

## Remember Our Sick and Deceased

### Sick and Distressed:

**PGK Jack Cunningham, PGK Jim Kane, Kay Cee Club Pres Burt Murray, Carole Hanley, Barbara Waters, Paul Horan, Sr., Lisa Davis (wife of Scott Davis), Molly Bucher (friend of Terence Ryan), Ellen Kerr (sister-in-law of Jamie Caulfield), James Sullivan, and those on the Seniors' sick list (p. 11)**

### Deceased

**PGK Jerry Forlenza, Honorary Life Member (57 years) James Maguire, Honorary Life Member (67 years) Raymond Timm, Renato Ibanez (cousin of PGK Roberto Ibanez), Father John McCay's uncle, and the law enforcement officer killed at Virginia Tech**

**Please keep the above folks, and all of our ailing and deceased members, families and friends in your prayers.**



## Membership Corner

As members of the Knights of Columbus, we believe in the importance of friendship, the church, and helping others. The Knights of Columbus is an organization of Catholic men and their families that derive a great sense of satisfaction from being able to develop lasting friendships with each other while helping the less fortunate. Every day, the Knights of Columbus provides its members with the opportunity to discover the importance of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. I urge all members of the Rock Creek Council to encourage all of the Catholic men in your lives, who are not already members, to discover the what the Knights of Columbus has to offer.

The Rock Creek Council will be hold a 1<sup>st</sup> Degree on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30pm. This will be the first 1<sup>st</sup> degree of 2012 so let's start off the year with a big turnout.

Advancing to a higher degree is part of you growth as a brother Knight. I encourage all 1<sup>st</sup> degree members to join us on March 22<sup>nd</sup> for the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree exemplification. This is a great opportunity to continue your growth as a Knight right here at your home council.

Happy New Year!

*Art Harris*

Membership/Retention Director

## Council Leads Recruitment in State

In the last Columbian Year (July 2010-June 2011), Rock Creek Council led all 154 Maryland councils in recruiting new members. Our 72 new brothers accounted for 6.3 percent of the 1,144 members recruited state-wide.

In the last four years, we have been averaging annually over 4 percent of the state total. That is why we have achieved "Double Star" status (exceeding twice our recruitment quota) twice in that period. We have been the only large council to do so.

Congratulations, fellows. Special kudos to Art Harris and Mike Horan, who have accounted for most of those new members. You have reason to be proud. Keep up the good work.

Now let's get all of these new brothers active in the many activities the council has to offer.



## From the State Chaplain

In late November I had the wonderful opportunity to attend a meeting of state chaplains in Nashville. The last morning of the chaplains' meeting, we met and worked with the state deputies who had gathered for their mid-year meeting, and I think all found this session helpful.

As the New Year gets underway it is a wonderful opportunity to share some of this meeting with you. It's real focus was on the faith growth of each of us as Knights, and how we can help our brother Knights, and their families, to be better Catholics, better parents and spouses, better neighbors and parishioners, better in all we do for Church and society because of our faith.

The Knights of Columbus accomplish many good things for many needs, but if we aren't becoming better disciples in the process we are only social workers. As a chaplain and a priest, I am excited by this new emphasis in our Order, and I feel challenged to find ways—along with our council chaplains—to help our Knights and their families grow spiritually each and every year.

Since it is a new year I will make a few suggestions for resolutions:

Make attendance and active participation in Sunday Mass a priority of your week.

Pray daily: for your family, for the Church and your par-

ish, for your council and its activities, for peace, for vocations.

Remind yourself when doing charitable work that it is for love of God and neighbor, and out of gratitude for your blessings.

Read something about our Faith each week (in *Columbia* magazine, your diocesan paper, or a book you choose).

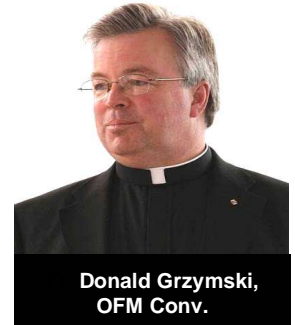
Go to confession periodically. It's really the only way to put the sins of the past behind, and to start fresh with God's grace.

Pray for the beatification of Fr. McGivney, and if not a member, join the Fr. McGivney Guild. (It's free, go to [www.fathermcgivney.org](http://www.fathermcgivney.org)).

Speak up for your faith, and let it guide your actions, your voting, all aspects of your life.

Show you are a person of joy, because you are a child of the Father, saved by the Son, given hope by the Holy Spirit.

May you and your loved ones have a New Year of many blessings.



Donald Grzymiski,  
OFM Conv.

## Cardinal Burke Speaks About America

Cardinal Raymond Burke, former Archbishop of St. Louis and now head of the Vatican's highest court, in a recent interview with the Catholic News Agency, said that the United States is "well on the way" to the persecution of Christians. He pointed to areas of social outreach, such as adoption and foster care, where the Church has had to withdraw rather than compromise its principles. This trend could reach a point where the Church, "even by announcing her own teaching," is accused of "engaging in illegal activity, for instance, in its teaching on human sexuality."

Asked if he could ever see American Catholics being arrested for their faith he replied, "I can see it happening, yes." There is a battle between "a culture of secularization which is quite strong in our nation," and "the Christian culture which has marked the life of the United States strongly during the first 200 years of its history."

"It is a war," and it is "critical at this time that Christians stand up for the natural moral law," especially in defense of life and the family. "If Christians do not stand strong, give a strong witness and insist on what is right and good for us both as individuals and society," he warned, "this secularization will in fact predominate and it will destroy us."

The Cardinal takes a dim view of self-professed Catholic politicians, such as U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, who oppose the Church on key moral issues. The HHS Secretary, through regulations issued by her Department, is seeking to force most of the country's employers, including Catholic institutions, to cover contraception and sterilization in employee health plans. "To the degree to which (Sebelius) proclaims herself to be a practicing Catholic, she is very wrong," said Cardinal Burke. It is "simply incomprehensible" for a Catholic to "support the kind of measures that she is supporting."

America's election in 2012 will be "very significant," said the Cardinal. Catholics "have a serious duty to vote and to try and find the best candidate to elect."

There is reason for hope, however. He believes "things are getting better" in America, particularly among the young. "I think that sometimes the young people understand much better the bankruptcy of a totally secularized culture because they've grown up with it," he observed. Many of them "have seen their families broken" and "have been exposed to all the evils of pornography," leading them to conclude that the secularization project "is going nowhere and that it will destroy them" if left unchecked.



## PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter and Mary Ann Ferrigno, Pro-Life Chaircouple



Should the Obama administration have their way with Obamacare, employers would be forced to insure

their employees for birth control and drugs that could cause abortions. This is contrary to the "conscience rights." Where this would hit hardest would be if a Catholic hospital were told that it must provide insurance for its employees and for drugs that would abort a child. How can people like Rep. Pelosi claim to be a devout Catholic go against the conscience rights? How can some "Catholics" among our lawmakers be "pro-abortion?"

This, to me, seems to be an oxymoron. I know that there should not be any brother knight who thinks the same as Congresswoman Pelosi? Have you ever wondered why so many Catholics are leaving their faith? I am sure that there are women who would not justify being a Catholic and allow an abortion. At least they are honest. More people should be the same. This is an example of "being a practicing Catholic." You really should not be able to have it both ways.

Planned Parenthood states that both the federal and state money they receive is used for "HIV/AIDS testing and prevention." How can anyone truly know where this money is being funneled? Truly, this is a "Catch 22." It seems as farfetched as a "pro-

abortion Catholic.

Rep. Diana DeGetta, a Colorado Democrat, said, "Millions of women work for colleges, hospitals and health care systems that are nominally religious, but these folks use birth control and need coverage." I wonder what happened to the idea of paying yourself for items one needs. Why are we becoming so socialistic a country, expecting everything to be given to us"? This has all been thought out prior to our president taking his residence at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. It would be years from now before the public learns about the entire "behind closed door meetings" that brought all this to the forefront.

God Bless.

## ROCK CREEK SENIORS

### NEW YEAR CELEBRATION ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**Sunday, January 15, 2012**  
**12:30 to 3:00 PM**

### **La Panetteria**

4921 Cordell Ave., Bethesda, Md  
301-951-6433

\$25.00 per person (includes tax and tip)

**CASH BAR**

### **ALL INCLUSIVE MENU**

**Primo Appetizer**

**Choice of Entrée:**

**\*Tender Breast of chicken**

**\*Ravioli Con Portabello**

**\*Veal chunks cooked in olive oil**

**\*Fresh rainbow trout**

**Dessert, Coffee and Tea**

**ADVANCED PAID RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY THURSDAY,**  
**JANUARY 12, 2012 WITH A CHECK (no refunds)**

Seating is limited! Make reservations EARLY!

Make checks out to **Rock Creek Seniors** and send to  
Helen Brennan, 5915 Wilmet Rd., Bethesda, MD 20817



## CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Peter D. Ferrigno, PGK

From a May 2011 article in *Columbia*, Alton J. Pelowski, writing about Marriage and Family and the Legacy of Blessed John Paul II, quoted a statement from Cardinal Caffarra, now archbishop of Bologna, Italy. He said that the Holy Father was convinced that “the defense and promotion of marriage and the family was one of the most important elements in the mission of the Church in the third millennium.”

Every Catholic should be strongly impressed that a marriage between one man and one woman is the basis of a family, which constitutes the basic unit of society. Altering any part of this, you should no longer have a “true way of life.” By now, we all should know that there are elements about us that are trying to make major changes by bring in same-sex marriages. The Church needs to strongly impress this upon its followers. We are going through an important time for Church guidance with the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and we must remember what happened when Pope Paul VI came out with his encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*. Many Catholics rejected the guideline of the Church’s regulations on birth control.

Although some states, like California and, I believe, Maryland, have supported propositions against same sex marriages. I am sure, however, that with placements of liberal judges in circuit courts of appeal, time will come where there will be rulings that will favor same-sex marriages marriage. There may be hope, should this go before the Supreme Court. Although it was this court that put us into the mess we have with Freedom of Choice, leading us to over 50 million abortions. We still have people, like our governor, who do not support DOMA.

Robert Knight, a writer for the *Washington Times*, brings up a good point. He stated “the media has turned the meaning of marriage on its head. Calling the law DOMA a ‘ban’, he stated its only purpose is to discriminate against homosexuals.” However, bringing true meaning to the word ban, he states, “A license to practice law or medicine is not a ‘ban’ on those without law or medical degrees. It is recognition of the holder’s qualification. Marriage, the union of a man and a woman, predates all

other human intuitions. It was not created to annoy homosexuals.” Any time in the future you see or hear the media speak about DOMA being a ban, remember what this author had to say.

Also remember this name, U.S District Judge Vaughn R. Walker. This individual is the one who was responsible for striking down Proposition 8 in California. He denied that there was any rational basis to distinguish between a marriage between a man and a woman or between two men or two women. He reasoned this by stating that “a child can equally relate to a man or a woman. A child can adjust to either one equally.” Alan Wisdom, vice president of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, providing these facts of Judge Walker, stated that he only could hope that a higher court will alter the judge’s attack on DOMA.

For those who are thinking of colleges or universities to send your children, give this a lot of thought. Even a so-called “catholic university,” may not be truly church Catholic. The Cardinal Newman Society recently provided evidence that two schools, Fordham of New York and Fairfield of Connecticut, both Jesuit universities, held a conference series which attempted to undermine the Church’s teaching on marriage. “Speakers questioned Catholic teaching on homosexuality, alleged the Vatican’s ‘official repression’ on gay priests, said that the Catholic Church would be much better off if all of its priests were having sex with each other, and disputed the necessity of priests for consecration of the Eucharist at Catholic Mass.” It becomes more interesting when you hear who financially supported this. The publicity money came from a firm that works with such groups as Catholics for Choice, Freedom to Marry, Lambda Legal, and the International Planned Parenthood Foundation. I am sure Archbishop Dolan of New York and Bishop Lori of Bridgeport will direct some questions and suggestions to the presidents of these two schools. It should be worthy to note, conferences of this type have been going on for some time.

God Bless.

### Council Hosts Pro-Life Pilgrims

For the 11th consecutive year, Rock Creek Council is hosting 26 high school and college-age students, chaperones, and clergy from three states (New Mexico, Texas, and Tennessee) for the March for Life. We will be providing sleeping accommodations and continental breakfast for the Pilgrims, who will arrive Friday, January 20, and stay four nights and five days, before returning home January 24. Highlights of their visit will include taking part in the Vigil Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral on Saturday evening, Mass for Life at the National Shrine on Sunday, and the Rally and March for Life from the National Mall to the steps of the Supreme Court Building on Monday.

Council members are needed to serve as Monitors during the stay. Each Monitor will sleep in the PGK Lounge and assure that the Pilgrims’ visit proceeds smoothly and comfortably. To help out, contact me at 301-237-0552.

*Neil Dorian*, Chairman



## Your Fun-Filled Lounge

Hours: Monday Thru Thursday 4-8  
Friday 4-12, Saturday 2-8 (later for football), Sunday 12-7

**Join us for the big games!** The lounge has a busy fall schedule lined up this year.

Enjoy sporting activities on our five flat-screen TVs.

Call the lounge for details on games.

Its your lounge! Enjoy it!

Lounge phone 301-530-1628

## Cardinal Patrick A. O'Boyle Assembly, No. 386

On December 15, the Assembly had a very enjoyable Christmas Social, with about 45 members and wives attending. There was a potluck dinner, refreshments, a raffle for turkeys, hams, and bottles of cheer, and three winning tickets drawn on a special raffle to provide funding to purchase an Ultra-Sound Machine.



The annual Fourth Degree Exemplification is scheduled for Saturday, April 14. Each candidate must complete a form 4 membership application, and pay a \$70 fee which covers the Fourth Degree processing, a social baldric and pin, and the banquet meal.

Our annual "Renewal of Obligations" is scheduled for Thursday, February 16. We will begin with the rosary at 7:30 pm, with the meeting to follow at 8 pm. Officers wear black tux and Sir Knights dress accordingly or business suits.

Your dues for the 2012 calendar year (\$35.00 dues + \$8.00 to be listed in ads throughout the year) is now due. You may mail a check made out to the Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly #386 to our Faithful Comptroller Ernest Harley, 14721 Harvest Lane, Silver Spring, Md. 20905.

We pray that all Sir Knights, their families, and our clergy enjoy a safe and healthy New Year full of peace and harmony, and that each day be blessed by our Lord and Savior.

If you are a Fourth Degree member of O'Boyle Assembly, you are encouraged to attend an upcoming meeting. The Assembly meets the third Thursday each month at Fr. Rosensteel Council beginning with Rosary at 7:30pm and meeting at 8pm. Following each meeting, there is a brief social, including a food and beverage.

If you have any questions, call either S/K Neil Dorian 301-237-0552 or S/K Greg Curtin 301-654-5543.

## Around the Kay-Cee Club

As we enter the new year, the KC Club is proud to announce the completion of the ADA-compatible bathroom on the main floor of the mansion. Thanks to member Jim Whitty and his company, Whitty Construction, for his excellent and conscientious work, and to all the other members and contractors who were involved in the project.

Our next project is the removing of the carpet on the main floor and stairway, and installing new hardwood floors in the front hall, bar area and coat room. We're also refurbishing the stairway and applying a carpet runner exposing the wood. Hopefully, with these continuous upgrades, we will further enhance the hall and make Rock Creek Mansion one of the premium rental halls in the area.



The old mop closet is a new handicapped-accessible bathroom.

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers our KC Club president, Burt Murray, who is bouncing back from a bout with cancer. He attended our last meeting and everyone was glad to see that he's on the upswing. We wish him well and expect him back soon.

Happy New Year to all of our Council members!

**Robbi Corrado**  
Vice President



## Standing for Justice Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson

This month we observe nearly four decades of pro-life activity in response to the infamous decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade*. I am proud that the commitment of the Knights of Columbus in building a culture of life has grown stronger each year.

Some say that *Roe v. Wade* should be accepted as “settled law” and that attempts to restrict or overturn it should end. This argument has appeal because there should be clarity and certainty in our laws. But it falls short because there is a principle more important than certainty in our legal system — justice.

Although there are many problems with the legal reasoning in the Supreme Court’s opinion in *Roe v. Wade*, the most fundamental is that the court’s decision rests upon a falsehood, which is expressed in Justice Blackmun’s statement, “We need not resolve the difficult question of when life begins.”

Whatever Blackmun may have believed in 1973, it is simply untrue in 2012 to say that abortion does not take the life of an unborn human being. Because of this reality, abortion will never be settled law in the United States and must someday be overturned.

As I wrote in my first book, *A Civilization of Love*, our situation is similar to that faced by the civil rights movement after the Supreme Court ruled in the 1896 case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* that “separate but equal” laws were constitutional. That decision enshrined the hateful system of *de jure* segregation throughout much of the United States and took 58 years to overturn.

The Supreme Court’s decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson* was based upon an untruth — the court rejected the obvious fact that the legally enforced separation of the two races “stamped” African-Americans “with a badge of inferiority.” The court went on to say that if African-Americans thought “separate but equal” laws were demeaning and unfair, it was only because they chose “to put that construction on” such laws.

In his dissent, Justice John Marshall Harlan contended

that the court’s view was pure fiction and that people knew it to be so.

The same must be said of *Roe v. Wade*. If we remain determined and committed, it too will one day be brushed into the dustbin of history.

*Roe v. Wade* will also one day be swept away for another reason: As I showed in my latest book, *Beyond a House Divided*, the decision has failed to gain the support of the American people after nearly four decades. Most Americans want legal restrictions on abortion that go far beyond what is permitted by the court’s ruling.

This presents another lesson that can be learned from the civil rights movement. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. never hesitated to remind the people of the United States of their Judeo-Christian values. In his famous 1963 *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, he even relied upon the Catholic natural law tradition. King wrote: “One may well ask, ‘How can you advocate breaking some laws and obeying others?’ The answer is found in the fact that there are two types of laws: there are just and there are unjust laws. I would agree with Saint Augustine that ‘An unjust law is no law at all.’”

He continued, “Now what is the difference between the two? How does one determine when a law is just or unjust? A just law is a man-made code that squares with the moral law or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law. To put it in the terms of Saint Thomas Aquinas, an unjust law is a human law that is not rooted in eternal and natural law.”

A law “that is out of harmony with the moral law” can never be regarded as “settled” as long as there are men of conscience, men of determination and men who understand that our nation will be judged by the respect we give to every person — even to “the least among us.”

*Vivat Jesus!*



Carl A. Anderson

### Resources to Strengthen Your Faith and Your Family

There are many resources available through the Knights of Columbus to strengthen your Catholic knowledge, such as:

- Two religious formation courses are available online through the Supreme website [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org). One addresses the questions: What does a Catholic believe?, How does the Catholic worship?, and How does the Catholic live? The other treats topics such as issues facing Catholics around the world today, guides to prayer, Catholic insights on dating, thoughts on the

saints, and much more

- The booklets on which these courses are based can be viewed online or downloaded for use
- Fathers for Good ([www.fathersforgood.org](http://www.fathersforgood.org)) is an online community for men to consider the quality of their fatherhood, ask questions, learn from experts, grow in their Catholic faith, gain guidance about questions that are central to a man’s life: faith, family, finances, the economy, the domestic church, teens and sex, love and marriage, grace and God.



## REFLECTIONS ON A HERO

Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, PFN

### The Angel of the Trenches

The Western Front in the “Great War” was at a virtual stalemate. German troops faced a combined Allied force of French, British and Belgium soldiers along a 400-mile-long trench line, with neither side able to make significant, sustained advances. In April 1917, three years after the war began, America entered the conflict on the side of the Allies. As the nation had a small army, this required a major expansion of its forces through the federalization of National Guard units, recruitment, and the initiation of compulsory service.

With the rapid growth in troop size, the number of chaplains to minister to these troops was woefully inadequate. The Church hierarchy knew of only eight Catholic chaplains in the entire army. The Knights of Columbus previously had established centers on domestic military posts to provide recreational and spiritual activities for the troops. Now they obtained permission from General Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force, to provide Catholic priests to serve as volunteer, civilian chaplains.

Fr. John B. DeValles was one of the first five priests to leave for France as a Knights of Columbus chaplain, arriving in September with the first National Guard units. These doughboys, newly mobilized and inexperienced, received several months of training in methods of trench warfare, procedures for gas attacks, and the techniques of using grenades and bayonets. Now, as spring approached, they were ready to gain front-line experience. The Americans would relieve French units in areas that were relatively quiet.

Fr. DeValles was attached to the 104<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the 26<sup>th</sup> Division, known as the Yankee Division, which was composed of National Guard units from throughout New England. The chaplain quickly exhibited his concern for the men and his courage. On March 11, 1918, while still in a reserve capacity, his unit came under heavy shelling. Fr. DeValles choose to remain with the wounded when they could not be moved to a safe area.

In April, the 104<sup>th</sup> Regiment was replacing a veteran French unit in the Bois Brule, near the village of Apremont. Another French unit remained on its left. The terrain was rugged, the trenches assigned to the Americans

were in poor condition, and the land marshy making drainage difficult. In the distance, Mont Sec gave the enemy a splendid vantage point to observe the U.S. area.

On April 5, and continuing for five days, there was heavy shelling of the American position. Then, in the predawn hours of April 10, the bombardment intensified. With first light, the enemy came over a hillcrest in a relentless assault. The U.S. troops, forgetting much of their newly-learned techniques, battled fiercely, repelling the veteran German soldiers. On the night of the 11<sup>th</sup>, the Americans checked another attack. The following day, the enemy came again. The French pulled back, exposing the U.S. left flank, but a vigorous counterattack by the Americas regained the ground the enemy had taken. Fighting continued sporadically on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and then stopped.

For four days, Fr. DeValles virtually lived in “No Man’s Land,” an area pitted with shell holes and strewn with barbed wire, broken trees and other war-torn detritus. Ignoring shelling and machine-gun fire, he comforted the wounded, helped carry those who could not walk to aid stations and ministered to the dying, making no distinction between friendly and enemy soldiers. He was indefatigable. When his hands were numb and could no longer grip the handles of a stretcher, he tied telephone wire around his wrists and looped the ends over the bars.

Several days after the battle, the French awarded the 104<sup>th</sup> Regiment the Croix de Guerre for its bravery and achievements. This was the first such award to an American unit. Fr. DeValles received the same award, being cited for his “extraordinary heroism and exceptional devotion to duty, under uninterrupted fire and the constant risk of his life.” He became known as the *Angel of the Trenches* because of his zeal and charity in caring for the injured and dying.

For the remainder of the year, the Division took part in major offenses at Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, and the Meuse-Argonne. Fr. DeValles remained on the frontlines. At one point, outside of his dugout in a trench, he placed a handmade sign that read, “Fr. John’s Office,” indicating that he was always available to the men. In July 1918, his request was approved and Fr. DeValles was appointed a

*(Continued on page 9)*



Fr. DeValles in France, 1918



## GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

*(Continued from page 1)*

rately so they truly have your individual attention to do what they want to do with you, be it for a whole day or just an hour. This time of year is also special to me as my wife and I will be celebrating our 18<sup>th</sup> year of marriage on January 8<sup>th</sup>. (Happy Birthday, Elvis.)

And Time really does fly. As we reach Mid Term and I am half way through the Columbian Year, there remain many goals to be reached for our council.

So as we move into this New Year 2012, I ask you how you can give the Gift of Time, not only at home, but at our council. To sustain the work that has been done and is ongoing, we will need more of our Brother Knights to get involved. Forthcoming is the March for Life, and we will be hosting approximately 26 Pilgrims from Texas, New Mexico and Tennessee. We will need volunteers to help bring coffee and pastries to the Hall on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> through Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup>, as well as a few members to spend the night at the council. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, contact PGK Neil Dorian at 301-237-0552 or myself.

In the coming weeks we will be delivering Coats for Kids and gearing up for the annual Free Throw Contest in March (details to follow). Notices via the list serve will be sent in regard to our upcoming degrees this February and March, so start thinking who you would like to invite to join our ranks.

Remember to attend your council meetings. They keep you informed and your attendance will build a stronger bond with your fellow Knights.

Remember to pray for the unborn, sick and deceased.

*Vivat Jesus!*

*Terence Ryan, GK*

## REFLECTIONS

*(Continued from page 7)*

chaplain in the regular army with the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant.

After one engagement, he was found unconscious and wounded, lying next to a dead soldier he had been trying to help. He was to be sent home, but refused and insisted on being treated in France so that he could be near his men. When partially recovered, he returned to the regiment. Several months after the fighting ended with the Armistice on November 11, 1918, Fr. DeValles sailed for America with his unit.

A series of stateside assignments followed, until he was operated on for a malignant tumor in January 1920. On May 12, thirty minutes before his death, he was told that he was to receive the Distinguished Service Cross. Major General Clarence Edwards, former commander of the Yankee Division, pinned the medal on him at his funeral. The general stated that Father DeValles' "bravery was unsurpassed by that of any man fighting under the American colors in France."

Joao Baptista DeValles was born in 1878 at San Miguel, Azores, and emigrated to New Bedford, Massachusetts, at the age of two. After college, he entered the seminary and in 1906 was ordained a priest for the Fall River Diocese. With knowledge of six languages, he served in several parishes, including Espirito Santo, where he established the first parochial school in America for Portuguese students. Then, with his bishop's permission, he volunteered as a Knights of Columbus chaplain, when the U.S. entered World War I. His medals -- French Croix de Guerre, Legion of Honor and American Distinguished Service Cross -- and uniform reside today in the Order's museum in New Haven.

## Rental Corner



It has been a fantastic year for rentals. The Rock Creek Mansion has held numerous weddings, fundraisers, meetings and social parties for individuals and groups such as Jubilee Associates and the Wellness Community.

We are now booking for the new year and continue to fill up next year's calendar with social rentals. This is a great spot to hold parties and special events, such as weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs, birthday parties, rehearsal dinners, anniversary or other memorable occasion celebrations.

Check out our website, [www.rockcreekmansion.com](http://www.rockcreekmansion.com). And remember — members get a rental discount!

*Julie Carter*

tel: 240-426-1220, email: [rcmansion@gmail.com](mailto:rcmansion@gmail.com)



# I Already Have Insurance at Work



Tempus fugit. Time flies. The older we get, the more that statement seems to ring true. Especially as we prepare to ring in another new year. I hope that 2011 was a healthy, prosperous year for you and your family.

If you're like most people, you've made some resolutions for the new year. If I may, I'd like to add to your list of resolutions by two. First, write them down. A resolution is really a goal for the year and, until you commit a goal to writing, it's nothing more than a wish. So write your resolutions down. Whether they be to lose

weight, contribute more time and money to charity, read more or watch less television, you're more likely to stick to them if you write them down.

Second, schedule some time to visit with me, your professional Knights of Columbus insurance agent. The "insurance check-up" that I'll provide (free of charge, by the way!) will quickly identify any gaps in your family's life insurance program. And you'll want to fill those gaps now, not later. Because unlike many other products, you need more than money to obtain life insurance. You also need good health, and no one will ring a bell warning you when your health is about to change.

Knights of Columbus life insurance offers something precious few other

financial products can – guarantees. As long as you pay your premiums, the policy proceeds will be there for your beneficiaries should something happen to you. We call that peace of mind, and that's – as they say in the credit card commercial – priceless.

I'll be happy to meet with you and provide a free, custom-tailored needs analysis, so that you'll know exactly where you stand.

Call me – let's talk.

Fraternally,

**MICHAEL PATTEN**  
Fraternal Benefits Advisor  
240-305-6996  
[michael.patten@kofc.org](mailto:michael.patten@kofc.org)

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

*(Continued from page 1)*

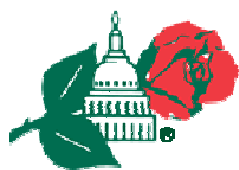
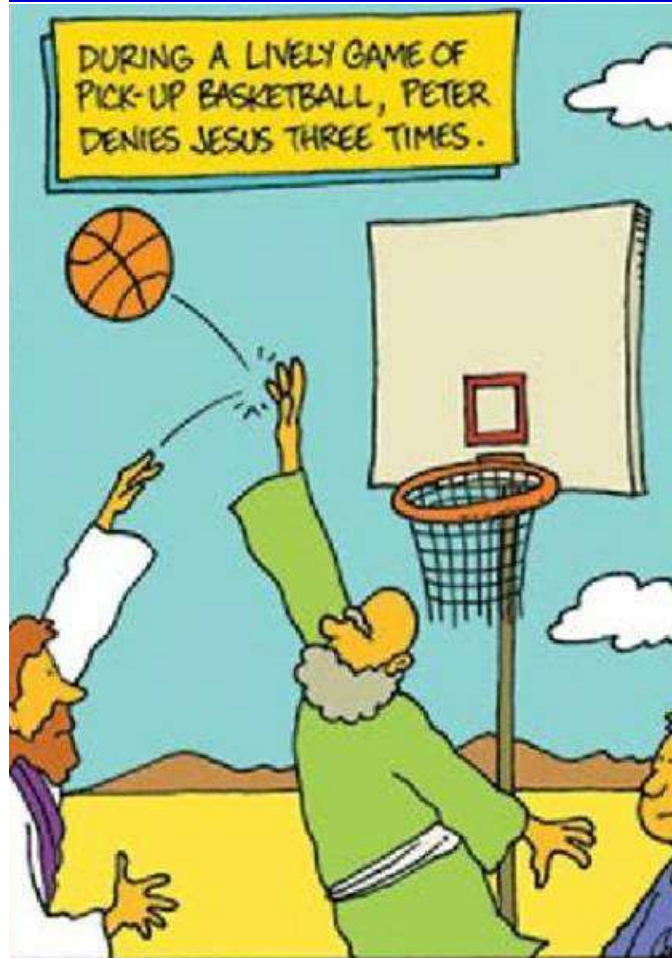
pro-life emergency service, most women who are considering abortions do so because they feel there is no other way out of a desperate situation.

Let us never downplay the power of prayer in changing things. Jesus could cast out devils because He perfectly embodied God's almighty power. He is not less able to cast out the fears that drive women to abortion, to cast out the injustices that lead to the fears or the greed that drives the abortion industry. If we ask Jesus, He can even cast out the indifference that enables people to ignore the plight of the unborn, and the unwillingness to help their mothers' to protect them.

Right to Life Day is a day of prayer for the legal protection of the unborn. May we pray for that protection. Laws follow the values of society. Let us continue to pray for that fundamental change.

*Monsignor Gatto*

## For a Lighter Moment



# March for Life

## Monday, January 23

### Will you be there?



## SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

Our annual Christmas Party was a huge success. We had 75 members and guests. They included Br. Ed Adams, Sr. Mary Adams, Msgr. John Brady, Deacons Chester Chen and Bob Hubbard, Fr. Percival D'Silva, Fr. Paul Nguyen, Fr. Joe Perkins, and Msgr. Maury O'Connell (a cousin of Ann O'Connell).



PGK Bob Waters

Many thanks to our treasurer, Darlene Coleman, for chairing this function. She did a great job! Also, thanks to Helen Brennan for the mailing and "manning" the front door, Jean Gordon for the flyer, Dora Bailey for the 50/50, Marge Swanke for the table decorations, Fr. Paul and Deacon Bob as our "holy" bartenders and, as usual, Chesapeake Catering and Dorothy Bush for the food and Christmas music.

There seems to be some confusion about paid reservations for a catered event. If we have to pay the caterer for a cancelled reservation, it is not returned. Normally, someone would take the meal home to that person.

Our next meeting will be at the La Panetteria Restaurant in Bethesda. Many thanks to Jim Young for chairing this event, making the reservations, and creating the beautiful flyer. Well done, Jim! This meeting will include elections for president, vice-president, and secretary. As I previously mentioned, after 20 plus years as your president, I cannot continue for various reasons this work load entails. For years I have asked for additional help, but to no avail. Please make plans for this election.

In February 2012, we should have a Valentine's Party, and in March a St. Pat's Party. Please volunteer to help out at

these functions.

Congratulations to our newest members: Barbara Desiderati and Marilyn Wood! We continue to grow.

Continue to invite the clergy and religious to our functions. You are doing a great job on this matter!

### GOD BLESS AMERICA AND OUR MILITARY!

### PRAYER CORNER

In your prayers remember: Eureka & Elizabeth Arcand, Tom Becker, Dom Bellia, William "Will" Bello, Maggie De Bettencourt, Larry Bisnett, Lily Callowhill, Jinny Chwirut, Maureen Collins, PGK Jack Cunningham, Kevin Dyer, Jerry Forlenza, Susan Gordon Garcia, Lois Gargano, Katharine Giordani, Bill Gordon, Carole Hanley, PGK, Frank Hayden, PSD Gene Hogan, Marie Horan, Paul Horan, Saunders Jacobsen, PGK Jim Kane, Julia Marcus, James



L-to-R: Bob Waters, Darlene Coleman, Santa (Tom Locraft) and Midge Shanahan

Marketos, Clarence Mayberry, Rich Mlynarczyk, Burt Murray, Eugene O'Neill, Ralph Oviedo, Sr. Maureen Patrice, Fr. David Pollak, Mary Rainey, Joan Reed, Anne Ryan, Bridget Shanahan, Gloria Skapik, Pilar Stark, John and Estelle Stoltz, Stephanie Suff, Mike Veith, Joselyn Walter Graham and Regina Walter, Barbara Waters, R. Joyce Waters, Louise Young, Karen Zack, and Fran and Frank Zello.

Please also remember to pray for our newly deceased: our past president Jerry Florenza, my cousin Bernice Wilt, Ray Timm (a seniors' member), and Jim Maguire (a senior member).

## Council Leaders

### CHAPLAINS

Rev. Msgr. Vincent S. Gatto - 301-762-2143  
Deacon Robert Hubbard—301-942-1522  
Deacon John Shewmaker - 301-986-8658

### GRAND KNIGHT

Terence P. Ryan—301-215-9197

### DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT

James Caulfield—301-365-2580

### CHANCELLOR

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Kevin Giblin—301-502-7735

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### TREASURER

F. Douglas Yeatman—301-897-3265

### ADVOCATE

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### INSIDE GUARD

Gregory Curtin—301-654-5543

### OUTSIDE GUARD

William R. Ruane—301-530-6755

### TRUSTEES

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2-Year—John Vivian—301-461-3597  
3-Year—Thomas Tappan—301-365-3128

### PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

Michael Horan—240-793-1169

### CHURCH & PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES

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### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Chris Ryan—301-335-6082

### COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Daniel Doane—301-802-1195

### FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Felice d'Avella—301-717-0784

### YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Matthew Dugan—202-412-9982

### MEMBERSHIP

Arthur Harris—301-530-4868

### RETENTION

Bret Strachan—301-933-2920  
Matt Chalfont—

### LECTURER

Christopher Horan—301-440-4199

### PRESIDENT, SENIORS CLUB

Robert C. Waters, PGK—301-493-8883

### FIRST DEGREE TEAM CAPTAIN

TBD

### 4th DEGREE - O'BOYLE ASSEMBLY

Gregory Curtin—301-654-5543

### PRESIDENT, KAY-CEE CLUB

Burt Murray—301-946-3573

### PRESIDENT, LADIES AUXILIARY

Erin Dolan Bailey—301-

### WEBMASTER

Matthew Flynn—301-942-8491

### CHATTER EDITOR

Lawrence P. Grayson, PGK - 301-933-8731  
e-mail - LPGrayson@verizon.net

### COUNCIL OFFICES

LOUNGE—301-530-1628

FINANCIAL SECRETARY—301-530-2427

KAY-CEE CLUB—301-530-0258

Anniversary  
& Birthday  
Receptions,  
Weddings,  
Meetings

Rock Creek Council's

## ROCK CREEK MANSION

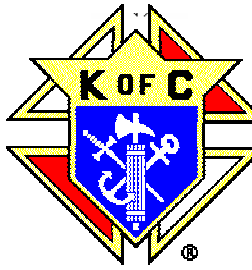
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**February CHATTER Deadline:**  
**January 21, 2012**

### ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Seniors Election Meet- ing & Luncheon Noon	12 Rosary 7:30 PM Business Mtg 8:00 PM	13	14
15	16	17	18 K-C Club 7:30 PM	19	20	21
22	23  March for Life	24	25	26 Rosary 7:30 PM Social Mtg 8:00 PM	27	28
29	30	31	<b>January</b>			

Visit the Council Website at [www.kofc2797.org](http://www.kofc2797.org)