



THE KNIGHT CHATTER



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CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

FR. MARK HUGHES

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

MICHAEL HOULIHAN

Brother Knights,

How many times do you have a bad dream and wake up with great apprehension or fear that only fades when you realize it is not real. Imagine what kind of feeling you would have if you wake up and found that some of those dreams were true. What would happen if everybody stopped believing in God? If no one cared or knew about the eternal truths of the world that only God can provide. What would be the foundation for our lives?

What would be our goal in life -- getting more stuff? Would taking trips or doing things that have great risk become the most exiting events to keep life interesting? Would we seek more attention for ourselves or try to gain more power over other people to satisfy our needs?

It seems that a lot of people do these things now. Maybe that is how they find meaning or excitement for themselves. I think it is a solution for the absence of a spiritual life.



Fr. Mark Hughes

Brothers,

I hope you all had a very Happy Thanksgiving. As you'll see in this issue of the Chatter, the Council celebrated the holiday early, with a great feast on Tuesday, November 26th. As shown in the photographs on page 9, we had a large and enthusiastic turnout. Thanks to all our volunteers, led by PGK Wes Chin who organized the event and served as head chef.



Grand Knight Houlihan

We have very much to be thankful for. One of our great blessings as Knights is the blessing of fellowship. Our council is fortunate to have an inviting and friendly meeting space here at the Rock Creek Mansion, and it provides us a home in which to organize and hold our fraternal activities. We all benefit greatly from the time we spend together, and our families and community benefit from it, too. Unfortunately, not all of our Brother Knights are able to join us as often as they might like, and may suffer from loneliness.

Columnist George Will recently described America's

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CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

They have let go of their relationship with God and are in constant search of finding a replacement, something to fill that void. This is the ultimate nightmare for me.

Fortunately, we have this season of Advent to meet our need of knowing God. We have three weeks before Christmas to think about why Jesus had to come into our world. We have time to dwell on the eternity of our existence and the purpose of that truth. We have this opportunity to take one step closer to Christ, rather than let the world distract us and pull us into a place where we don't know God anymore. This is an important time of year.

Sincerely,

Fr. Hughes

Brrrr!

Brothers Michael Houlihan, Alex Lieb and DD Bill Newbrough will take the "plunge." On Saturday, January 25, these hearty Polar Knights will jump into the Chesapeake Bay as part of the Polar Bear Plunge, to raise funds for Special Olympics in Maryland. They will be among some 10,000 courageous plungers at Sandy Point State Park to raise funds for 7,782 athletes of Special Olympics Maryland. For more information, to join them, or to pledge some funds, go to <https://support.somd.org/team/262004>.

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

"epidemic of loneliness", citing a study concluding that the effects of loneliness can be as detrimental to the human body as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, and describing how the underpinnings of the nation's social infrastructure are at risk.

The Knights of Columbus has always recognized the human need for fellowship and community. Fraternity, accordingly, is one of the four principles on which our Order is founded. The fellowship and community that come from fraternity is needed now as much as ever. One of our duties to our Brother Knights is to share our time and talents with them.

At this time of year, think about our Brothers who are home-bound, sick, or recovering, and who are not able to join us or their families, and consider making a visit. Visits to the sick are especially needed at holiday time, when the effects of loneliness are often pronounced. Remember also that visiting the sick is a Corporal act of Mercy, and is greatly appreciated. You can find a list of sick and needy members of our Council on page 12 of this issue of the Chatter, or you can call me for a suggestion.

On behalf of the Officers and Trustees, I wish you a very blessed and Merry Christmas, filled with the joy of the miracle of the Savior's birth.

Michael Houlihan

Grand Knight

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

The 58th Assembly Memorial Mass was held at the Old St Johns (OLQOP) Church on Thursday, November 21, beginning 7 pm. Total turnout was 30 members and guests, including five Color Corps Honor Guard Team members. Friar Father Ryan Pineda celebrated Mass and was assisted by SK Bob Waters, acolyte. This Mass honored seven Sir Knights who recently passed away.

The Father Robert V. Zylla Memorial Chalice, engraved with the names of these seven deceased SK's, was presented to Deacon Stefan Yap, from the Archdiocese of Washington. Deacon Yap, who is attending Mount St. Mary's Seminary, will be ordained as a priest within the next year. Following the Mass, all were invited to attend a social and pot luck dinner in the Fr. Rosensteel Council's Emerald Hall.

At present, O'Boyle Assembly has 357 paid-up members. The new Color Corps Uniforms could not be ordered during the month of November, as Supreme is contracting with a new manufacturer. Uniform cost will increase from \$300 to \$450.

The next Assembly meeting will be the annual Christmas

party, scheduled for Thursday, December 19, beginning 7:30 pm. There will be a brief business meeting, followed by a pot luck dinner.

Sir Knights are reminded that they may pay their 2020 dues (\$30) no later than December 31 to be eligible for a drawing to have their dues reimbursed for the coming year.

The January 16, 2020 Assembly business meeting will include the Renewal of Obligations. This is a very impressive ceremony, and all Sir Knights are encouraged to attend and witness. As usual, the monthly business meeting will begin at 8 pm and be held in the Rosensteel Council Emerald Hall.

For more information or to join the Fourth Degree O'Boyle Assembly, contact SK Neil Dorian at 301-237-0552 or neildoriankc@yahoo.com.

Neil Dorian, SK

Past Faithful Navigator





DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT



William Newbrough, DD

Dear Brother Knights, Family and Friends,

I trust that you have all had an enjoyable and relaxing Thanksgiving celebration with your families. Truly, we have so much to be thankful for including our loved ones, our families and friends; the comfort of our homes and our ability to support our families. We are grateful for good health and the grace to deal with illness. We are grateful for the lives of those friends and loved ones who have passed on and we pray for them even as we trust that they are praying for us in the presence of Almighty God. We are also thankful for the gift of our faith and of our holy religion. But I'm not sure that we are always quite as aware as we should be of the great gift of religious liberty and the freedom to worship in peace. The ability to worship without fear of persecution or physical harm is not enjoyed by all Christians today.

As you know, I frequently speak of the many opportunities presented to each of us as members of the Knights of Columbus to put our Faith into Action. I experienced one of those opportunities recently, when I joined a number of my brother Knights in attending "A Night of Witness and Vespers for Today's Christian Martyrs" at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday November 23rd. This was a night of prayer and deep reflection on the plight of persecuted Christians. There was a special focus on honoring the memory of today's Christian martyrs and raising awareness of our Christian brothers and sisters who continue to suffer for their faith.

I attended the prayer vigil with my friend and brother Knight John Smith who recently joined the Order after seeing first-hand the work of the Knights of Columbus to support persecuted Christians in the Nineveh Plain region of Iraq. John is an engineer and former executive with Kraft and Proctor & Gamble. Today, he is serving the Holy Father through the papal foundation ACN (Aid to the Church in Need) to help rebuild nine ancient Christian

towns that were heavily damaged by ISIS. The prayer vigil was organized by ACN.

During the evening we heard the personal testimony of Fr. Romeo Saniel, a priest of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and the Administrator of the Vicariate of Jolo Philippines, whose cathedral was bombed by Islamic extremists in early 2019. Fr. Saniel spoke of the suffering of his community and the assassination attempt that nearly took his life.

We also listened to the personal witness of Fr. Neville Fernando of the Third Order Regular Franciscans in Sri Lanka who witnessed the bombing of the Shrine of St. Anthony by an ISIS affiliated group on Easter Sunday 2019. The attacks in Sri Lanka targeted, three Christian churches and three hotels. Over 200 Christians were killed as they attended Easter mass and over 40 children died in the blasts as they waited to receive their 1st Holy Communion. Fr. Fernando personally witnessed the bombers enter St. Anthony's and experienced the horror of the aftermath as he sought to comfort the victims.

According to the Pew Research Center, Christians were the most persecuted religious group in the world in 2019. From China, Philippines and India to Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Nigeria, Christians face every level of persecution from political marginalization and economic harassment to murderous assaults on their homes and churches. The Supreme Knight challenges each of us to: #1 - Stand in prayerful solidarity with persecuted Christians; #2 - Help raise awareness of their suffering; and #3 - Help raise funds to provide relief. The Knights of Columbus is committed to meeting this challenge and providing each of us opportunities to support persecuted Christians through prayer, awareness raising and relief efforts.

From January 12th to February 8th, 2020, District 18 will host the Marian icon "Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians". I encourage each council to plan, promote and host a Prayer Vigil or Awareness Event on behalf of persecuted Christians while hosting the Marian Icon in your parish. This is a great way to stand in solidarity with our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. I also encourage you to go to the Knight's website christiansatrisk.org and learn more about the suffering of persecuted Christians and what you can do to help by supporting the Knights of Columbus relief efforts.

I pray that each of you have a blessed and holy Advent season! May Our Lady Queen of the Knights continue to watch over our brother Knights and their families as we prepare for the coming of our Lord and Savior on Christmas Day.

Vivat Jesus!

William Newbrough
District Deputy No. 18



Fr. Neville Fernando, TOR, flanked by John Smith (L) and DD Bill Newbrough



Remembering Our Brother Knights

On November 30, Fr. Mark Hughes, assisted by Deacon Bob Hubbard, celebrated the annual Memorial Mass for our deceased Brother Knights. Members, widows and friends prayed for all deceased members, especially the 15 brothers who died in the last two years. Following a moving homily, the names of those who recently departed were read, while a bell was tolled after each name. Members of the Cardinal Patrick A. O'Boyle Assembly Color Corps saluted the brothers. The names of deceased wives of our members were read next. After Mass, everyone went to the lounge for a buffet breakfast and some conversation.

As Knights, we take our duty seriously to pray for those who are sick and to those whom the Lord has called to his side. Even if you cannot come to a meeting, say a prayer for our sick and deceased brothers.



For Whom the Bell Tolls

- Manuel A. Aragon Aug. 30, 2017
- Joseph P. Cantrel, PGK Dec. 21, 2017
- Victor B. DeSouza Feb. 26, 2018
- Donald A. Tuozzo Mar. 15, 2018
- Frank P. Rossomondo, Jr. Mar. 29, 2018
- William Morris, Jr., PGK Apr. 8, 2018
- Domenic R. Cappabianca May 3, 2018
- Charles L. Peterson May 18, 2018
- Peter D. Ferrigno, PGK Aug. 12, 2018
- Francis J. Cantrel, PGK Jan. 15, 2019
- James Young Feb. 27, 2019
- Eugene O'Neill Mar. 28, 2019
- Alexander Dromerick May 11, 2019
- Deacon John B. Shewmaker June 22, 2019
- Gilbert Fuentes Nov. 24, 2019



Wives

- Evelyn A. Royal Dec. 28, 2017
- Helen Fincutter Feb. 7, 2019
- Margaret E. Colliton Feb. 27, 2019
- Mary Ann Ferrigno May 19, 2019
- Edwina K. Wittrock July 16, 2019





Money Lessons for Children



Steve Upton, PGK,

Children who grow up learning about financial concepts like saving and spending will (hopefully) grow into adults with healthy financial habits. Here are some activities to consider for children:

Go to a store “just to look.” This teaches children that going into a store doesn’t always mean you’ll buy something. They need to learn that it’s OK to leave a store empty-handed. “Just looking” allows children time to comparison-shop. This can help them prioritize their wants or gather product knowledge to better decide how they really want to spend their money.

Create three jars – labeled “Spending,” “Sharing” and “Saving.” Every time your children receive money, whether for doing chores or from a birthday, divide the money equally among the jars. Money in the spending jar can be used for small purchases such as candy or stickers. Money in the sharing jar can go to a cause or to someone you know who needs it. The saving jar should be for longer-term items, such as their first car. Consider matching their monthly savings and watch their interest peak. You just ignited their future understanding of the value of an employer-matched 401(k) plan.

Have children set a goal, such as buying a toy. Make sure it’s not so pricey that they won’t be able to afford it for months. Every time they add money to the spending jar, help them count how much has accrued. Kids usually find counting their money fun, and the waiting teaches them the important concept of delayed gratification.

You want to set children up for success in managing their money as adults. Teaching good financial habits to youngsters can help carry them through their adult buying decisions.



Let’s sit down and do some planning and put your mind at ease.

Vivat Jesus!

Steve Upton

STEVE UPTON, GK, FDD
Field Agent
 301-873-7450 cell
 301-421-1430 office
 steve.upton@kofc.org

Upcoming Degrees at the Council

The next Admissions Degree at the council will be held on Tuesday, December 3 at 8:00 PM. Candidates should arrive by 7:30 PM and report to the lounge.

Future degrees scheduled for the Council are:

Admissions Degree (1st):

December 3
 February 18
 April 7

Formation Degree (2nd):

January 21, 2020

Knighthood Degree (3rd):

January 31, 2020

The ceremony will be followed by a reception in the lounge, including complimentary food and drinks. The lounge will be closed to all non-members until 10:00 PM.

Ask a fellow Catholic to join our ranks and enjoy the benefits of your council and the KofC.

ROSARY AT 7:30 P.M.

**We pray the
 Rosary before our
 meetings on the
 1st and 3rd Tues-
 days of each month**

**The Rosary is a
 proven, effective
 prayer in meeting
 individual and na-
 tional needs**

Come and join us!





NORTH POLE BREAKFAST

On December 14th
the elf report begins in the
Downstairs Lounge
at 9 o'clock in the morning

\$5 per person, \$15 per family

RSVP to Mike Horan by 12/13

at 240-793-1169

So be good for goodness sake!

Santa





ROCK CREEK COUNCIL
LOUNGE CHRISTMAS PARTY
HOLIDAY BUFFET / LIVE MUSIC



LIVE MUSIC BY
TOM BLOOD & LATE AS USUAL
FEATURING THE UP LATE HORNS

HOLIDAY BUFFET

GLAZED HAM, BEEF TENDERLOIN,
PORK TENDERLOIN, WINGS
MEATBALLS, VEGGIES & MORE



DRINKS SPECIALS

FRIDAY DECEMBER 20, 2019

BUFFET 7:30 / MUSIC 8:30

\$10.00 PER PERSON / CASH BAR

MIKE HORAN 240-793-1169





Club News

**Hours: Monday Thru Thursday 2-10
Friday 2-Midnight, Saturday 2-11, Sunday 2-8,
Meeting Nights 1-8**

The Holidays are here. Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving.

Be on the lookout for list-serve blasts, read the Chatter and open our website. The new Rock Creek website has all the updated events. Here are the events on the books and tentatively scheduled for the near future.

Christmas Parties



Breakfast with Santa will be held on December 14, 2019. Santa's workshop has been moved downstairs to the lounge this year. Doors to the workshop will open at 9 am. See page 6.

The lounge Christmas Party will be on December 20th. The Holiday buffet will be expanded this year to include beef tenderloin, pork tenderloin, glazed ham and much more. Buffet opens at 7:30 pm, band starts at 8:30 pm, with the cost set at \$10 per person. See page 7.

What? The Redskins Aren't Out of it Yet?

The lounge will open at noon for 1:00 pm games and will stay open for late games. The Football Sunday menu will be available for all Skins games.



The lounge will also be open for all the big college and NFL games.

College hoops are gearing up fast and the Terps look very impressive.

Our two new dart boards are getting lots of play. Stop in and show off your dart skills.

Trivia Returns in January

Trivia Night will return in January for two nights. Keep an eye out for blasts and the Chatter calendar for dates.



Upcoming Live Music-



Zimmerman Telegram, featuring Mark, Paul & Anna Zimmerman will be closing out the 2019 lounge music schedule on December 21st. This will be a great way to kick off Christmas week with family and friends.

Fisher House

For the past four years Rock Creek has provided dinner one night a month to The Fisher House. The meals are for the service personnel and their families who are staying at the Fisher House, while receiving treatment at Walter Reed Hospital.



On the third Thursday of each month, food is prepared by Mike Horan and delivered primarily by Vin George, Patrick Tuite and some of their children. Grand Knight Houlihan has agreed to add an additional dinner a month to Fisher House.

We are looking for a few people to help with the delivery on the first Thursday of the month. Anyone interested please contact Mike Horan at 240-793-1169 for details.

For the latest information about the happenings in the Lounge, check the council website www.kofc2797.org

Lounge phone: 301-530-1628

Mike Horan: 240-793-1169

Knight of the Month

Our **Knight of the Month for November is PGK Wes Chin.**

Wes led the planning and cooking for our annual Thanksgiving feast, and has done so for many years. This year's feast, as usual, was a huge success. It is not surprising with the "groaning board" Wes puts out.

Thank you Wes, for all you do and have done for our Council.

Michael Houlihan
Grand Knight



Did You Know?

Our website (<https://www.kofc2797.org>) is completely responsive and works wonderfully on your phone or mobile device? Add us to your home screen and keep us in your pocket wherever you go!

- Easily keep track of our events - <https://www.kofc2797.org/events>
- Contact your officers - <https://www.kofc2797.org/officers>
- Access our monthly newsletter, the Chatter - <https://www.kofc2797.org/chatter>
- Recruit a Catholic brother - <https://www.kofc2797.org/become-a-knight>



Thanksgiving at the Council

On November 30, Rock Creek Council held its Annual Members-Only Thanksgiving Dinner. PGK Wes Chin and his *sous chefs* provided a groaning board heaped with turkey, stuffing, potatoes, several veggies, pies, creams puffs and ice cream. No one left hungry. About 70 members, including Fr. Joseph Perkins, attended. The proceeds of the annual 50-50 went to the Holy Cross Sisters work in third world countries.. Other raffles and games of chance followed. Everyone enjoyed the event.





ROCK CREEK SENIORS CHRISTMAS PARTY



Wednesday, December 11
1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Cantrel Hall

Catered Luncheon Buffet
\$20.00 per person
\$2.00 Cash Bar
Reservations required

Make checks payable to “Rock Creek Seniors”

Send your name and check by Monday, December 9th, to:

Helen Brennan
5915 Wilmett Rd, Bethesda, MD 20817
301-530-5120

INVITE YOUR CLERGY

Note: 2020 Dues are \$15 and may be sent in with your reservation

Rental Corner

December will be a bustling month with weddings, holiday parties, and birthdays celebrations. Pass the word to your family, friends, colleagues and neighbors who are planning events.

The Rock Creek Mansion already is booking well into 2020. And remember, Rock Creek Council members get a huge rental discount!

Contact me for information and a tour.



Julie Buckingham Carter

Event Coordinator

cell phone: 240-426-1220,

email: rcmansion@gmail.com

website: www.rockcreekmansion.com

LIKE us on Facebook



REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson, PGK

Christmas, A Celebration of Family

Christmas is a nostalgic time that evokes feelings of joy, serenity, love, and a desire for family gatherings. Songs like “I’ll be Home for Christmas” and “It’s a Wonderful Time of the Year” arouse memories of holidays past celebrated in the warmth and love of family life. Now more than half a century since their release, these emotive songs are still seasonal standards.

The true beauty of Christmas, however, is more than sentimental reminiscences. Its essence is religious, centered on the celebration and meaning of God becoming man. Churches will be beautifully decorated, prominently displaying a crèche with statues representing the infant Jesus and those who were with him at his birth in Bethlehem. People will attend Mass and join in hymns praising God. In spite of the secular influences that shape our daily lives, Christmas helps us experience the wonder and comfort of God’s presence.

We are very familiar with the story of Our Lord’s birth, especially as related in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke: the angel’s announcement to Mary, her fiat, the angel’s visit to Joseph, the census, the couple’s trip to Bethlehem, the rejection at the inn, finding room in the stable, the angelic hosts, the guiding star, the shepherds and wise men, and most of all the babe lying in the manger wrapped in swaddling clothes. Yet, the images, as beautiful as they are, are almost too well-known so that we do not fully appreciate the thoughts and meanings they present.

That Holy Night was the beginning of the redemption of man. Without his birth, there would be no Resurrection and the gates of heaven would still be closed to us. On that first Christmas, the “*Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.*” God had come to earth in the person of Jesus Christ. He assumed a human nature, with all of the joys and agonies, trials and tribulations, thoughts and emotions, sufferings and death that are innate to man.

People saw Jesus, heard him, spoke with him, ate with him, and touched him. He had parents and relatives, mingled with neighbors, practiced a religion, learned a trade, worked, and finally assumed his public mission to teach, gather followers, suffer and die on a Cross. These are human experiences to which we can relate. Because of this birth, God was no longer an unseen, unknown divinity that was beyond our comprehension. Now he was a

personal God.

The narrative about Christmas is not only about Our Lord, as central as he is, but about family. Mary accepted motherhood with her fiat to the angel’s announcement. Joseph took her as his wife. They traveled to Bethlehem as a couple, as a family. He negotiated a place to stay and was present as Mary gave birth. Joseph likely arranged the straw in the manger, and Mary wrapped the child in swaddling clothes. She fed, dressed and nurtured him. On the eighth day, they had him circumcised and on the fortieth presented him in the temple in obedience to Jewish law.

Mary may have held her Son when she and Joseph welcomed the Magi. Soon after that visit, the family fled to Egypt to protect the child from Herod’s persecution. Upon the tyrant’s death, they returned to Nazareth, where in the love of his earthly family, “the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.” (Lk 2:40)



In those years, Mary reared Jesus, while Joseph taught the boy a trade and worked to support them. They experienced the same delights and griefs of typical families. After one of their annual trips to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of Passover, the boy was missing. Mary and Joseph searched for three days before locating

him in the temple. Mary said, “Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.” Would not any loving parent have had the same worries, and had the same relief upon finding him? Jesus then returned with them “to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother kept all of these things in her heart.” (Lk 2:48-51)

From a theological perspective, Christmas brings forth an even deeper tenet of family, for God himself has a familial nature. As Pope John Paul II expressed it: “God in his deepest mystery is not a solitude, but a family, since he has in himself fatherhood, sonship, and the essence of family, which is love.”

Thus, the human family, being centered in love, is a reflection of the nature of God. It is love for one another that binds a family together. It is God’s love for us that allows us repeatedly to receive his forgiveness for our sins and his grace for our salvation. It is through love that parents sacrifice their pleasure and wellbeing for their

(Continued on page 12)



Volunteers Needed

As Knights, one of our goals is to be of service to the community, spreading the message of the Gospel through our charitable works. Our Council has a number of charitable events coming up for which we need your help. Our council has hundreds and hundreds of members - we are asking each of you to find some time in your schedules to participate in your Council's charitable activities. I urge you to pick a couple of these events and sign up at the appropriate link so we will know to expect you. These events are opportunities to serve others and also get to you your fellow Knights by working on worthwhile activities together.

Events are identified below, with the dates and the link to the "Sign-Up Genius" site where you can see what times we need volunteers and register.

- **Fisher House** - First Tuesday of each month, 430 pm, done by 630 pm, one additional volunteer needed each month, sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A48ABA82FABF58-fisher>
- **North Pole Breakfast**, Christmas event with families and children of our Council: December 15 at 10 am, 10 volunteers needed, sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A48ABA82FABF58-christmas>

Michael Houlihan

Grand Knight

Remember Our Sick and Deceased

Sick and Distressed:

PGK Roberto and Mary Jo Ibáñez, Leslie Ibáñez (wife of PGK Tony Ibáñez), PGK Victor and Wally Khayat, PGK Vince and Glenda Bunag, PGK John Vivian, Greg Curtin, Cecilia Wan (mother of Jason Wan), Billy Horan, Mrs. Buckingham (mother of Julie Carter), Brandon Waters (grandson of PGK Bob Waters), Tony Durso, SD Dale Trott's mother, Grant Bonavia, Steve Moglia, and those on the Seniors' sick list (p. 11)



Departed:

Ngan Ha Wong, Audrey Miller, Regis Miller, Andrew George, and Pete Cocco

Pray for our departed members, families and friends.

REFLECTIONS

(Continued from page 9)

children. It is for love that Jesus died on the Cross for our sins.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his Angelus Address on December 27, 2009, expressed this relationship between God and family as:

“God had chosen to reveal himself by being born into a human family and the human family thus became an icon of God! God is the Trinity, he is a communion of love; so is the family despite all of the differences that exist between the Mystery of God and his human creature, an expression that reflects the unfathomable Mystery of God as Love...The human family, in a certain sense, is an icon of the Trinity because of its interpersonal love and the fruitfulness of this love.”

Do not limit your reflection on this consequential birth which linked heaven and earth to December 25. Live everyday as a preparation for Christ's coming. Spend time each week in Eucharistic Adoration, go to Confession, attend Mass more frequently, meditate on the liturgical readings, and make the Rosary a frequent family prayer. If you cannot pray with your family, pray for them. As Fr. Patrick Payton stressed, “The family that prays together stays together.”

Each time you say the Hail Mary, think of the Archangel Gabriel's salutation to Mary, “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee,” and the invitation to her to become the mother of God. Meditate upon this event and on the birth that followed. Be thankful for the great gift we received through the birth of Jesus.

May you and your family have a very *Blessed and Merry Christmas!*

Drop in the Bucket

For November, the “Drop A Few Bucks In The Bucket Campaign” raised money for Fisher House at Walter Reed where Mike Horan, PGK and Program Coordinator, provides several meals each month. He is assisted by volunteers from the Council.



In December, proceeds from the campaign will go the Gold Star Mothers of Maryland.

After the holidays, we are looking forward to the possibility of some meet and greets in the Lounge with Bethesda Cares and the Gold Star Mothers of Maryland to hear their stories and their experiences.

Alex Lieb

Community Activities Chairman



SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

We have not had a meeting since our annual Halloween Party. We are now preparing for our annual Christmas Meeting and Party. This will be held on Wednesday, December 11th. Each year, this is a special meeting that will feature a meal that costs more than a member's reservation price. It is designed to lose money, which allows the members to get some of their dues back. Mike Horan will be preparing this special meal.

As I mentioned several times in the past, I have been trying to set up a method for inviting Montgomery County Police Officers to our meetings. As commander of the American Legion, I was sitting next to Chief Jones at a function and explained to him what I wanted to do. The chief said he would take care of it. I have sent him a letter inviting him and his officers to our functions.

We also are working on finding a place for our January Luncheon Meeting and Elections. Watch for the flyer. If elected, this will be my 35th year as your president.



PGK Bob Waters

Could I be close to a possible retirement, with a big pension and a move to Florida?

The Council has sent our \$1,000 donation to the supreme Council's Bahamas Hurricane Relief Fund. At our next meeting, there will be a motion to make another donation.

GOD BLESS AMERICA AND OUR MILITARY!

PRAYER CORNER

In your prayers remember: Eureka and Elizabeth Arcand, Dorothy Bush, Maureen Collins, Kevin Dyer, Susan Gordon Garcia, Lois Gargano, Katharine Giodati, Bill Gordon, Joselyn Walter Graham, Marie Horan, Saunders Jacobsen, Alex Lee, Julia Marcus, James Marketos, Joe Murphy, Eugene O'Neill, Ralph Oviedo, Sr. Maureen Patrice, Fr. David Pollak, Joan Reed, Anne Ryan, Bridget Shanahan, Midge Shanahan, Gloria Skapik, Pilar Stark, Stephanie Suff, Alex Swanke, Marge Swanke, Regina Walter, Barbara Waters, and Fran and Frank Zello.

Kay-Cee Club

Rentals continue to be strong this year. Revenue is projected to be over \$125,000 for the calendar year 2019. Julie Carter has already booked \$55,000 for 2020. Keep up the great work, Julie!

Construction has started on the new vestibule at the side entrance to Cantrell Hall. It is being built in 2 phases due to rental commitments in November and early December, 2019. Phase 1 (The wet work, i.e. excavation, concrete and asphalt) is now complete. Phase 2 will begin on December 16, 2019 and work is scheduled for completion on January 10, 2020.



Enjoy your council.

Tom Tappan

President, Kay-Cee Club

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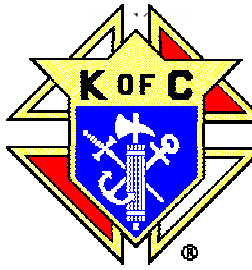
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January CHATTER Deadline:
December 27, 2019

ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 Rosary 7:30 PM 1st Degree 8:00 PM	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Seniors Christmas Party K-C Club 7:00 PM	12	13	14 Breakfast with Santa 9:00 AM
15	15	17 Rosary 7:30 PM Social Meeting 8:00 PM	18	19 Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly Rosary 7:30 PM Meeting 8:00 PM	20 Lounge Christ- mas Party 7:30 PM	21
22	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve	December			