



# THE KNIGHT CHATTER

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## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

FR. MARK HUGHES

## GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

MICHAEL HOULIHAN

Brother Knights,

For 46 weeks a year, our Christian faith tells us to look outside ourselves. We are told to look at the world and the needs God puts before us rather than our own needs as the primary focus of our lives. What can we do for others, how can we serve and what sacrifices must be made are the questions that the Gospel raises for us to answer with our lives.



Fr. Mark Hughes

Now for six weeks in Lent we are asked to look inward. We are asked to focus on what is in our minds and hearts.

Is this a contradiction? Is there inconsistency in what the Church places before us in Lent? The answer is, Not in the least. In fact the Lenten experience is all about looking outward by at first looking inside. We look inside in order to see what motivates us, what is going in the wrong direction, what is selfish.

No human being lives in a vacuum. We are affected by the distractions around us and the many options available on

*(Continued on page 2)*

Brothers,

March brings to us the beginning of Lent. The Lenten season is such a significant part of Catholic and popular culture that, like Christmas, it is easy for many to engage it at a distance, only as a curiosity. It is of course much more than that, though, for us Catholics and Knights. It is a season for acknowledging our humility, our dependence on God, and our obligations as Christian men.



Grand Knight Houlihan

As you know, the season of Lent is a time for fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. These three aspects of Lent have significance to our commitments as Knights. Fasting is intended to help us clean our hearts and lives of unnecessary clutter that distracts us from our relationship with God; as Knights, we have committed to lives of honesty, virtue, and morality, which require a close connection with God that is undistracted by desires for things of this world that we don't want or need. Our prayers during Lent are intended to connect us more closely with God and to help us recognize where our relationship with Him is lacking and needs

*(Continued on page 2)*



## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

not just a daily basis but on an hourly basis. Choices that look good for the moment can be very damaging to what we want to do or what we should do. Easter is coming so that means there will be a lot of Reese's Peanut Butter Candy available to eat. If you are fighting off diabetes or trying to lose weight, this availability of maybe the best candy ever invented (not sorry) is not helpful.

Worse than distractions and many choices are our desires. We want a lot and we want it now. Being weak just makes the challenge of 46 weeks of giving of ourselves even more difficult. And we cannot leave out the terrible sins of selfishness and pride. Those two parts of our lives can destroy any good intention and efforts we have.

So the Church is wise to ask us to look inside for six weeks and evaluate just how powerful all those factors are. We must ask what the consequences can be, as well as recognizing how we have given in and lost our momentum. We have six weeks to repent and recommit so that the next 46 weeks will be more productive in carrying out the challenges of faith that God needs from us to make our world a holier place.

Sincerely,

*Fr. Hughes*

## Congratulations Jason Wan

Jason Wan, the Council's Recorder, recently was installed as an usher serving the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. This ministry is a Supreme Council Program overseen by the State Deputies of Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

As an usher, Jason will welcome the congregation entering the Basilica for Mass, be attentive at the Processional, assist with the collection prior to the Offertory, be a **Guardian of the Blessed Sacrament** at Communion and at the conclusion of Mass be attentive at the Recessional.

Congratulate Jason the next time you see him. If you have an interest in this ministry, ask him about it.

## Our Newest Member

On February 18, the Council held its last Admissions (1st Degree) ceremony. A new consolidated ceremony combining the first three degrees, called the "Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity," took effect on March 1.

In that last degree, we welcomed **Robert M. Smith, Jr.** as a new member of the council.

A schedule of future degrees will be announced shortly. For more information in the meantime, check with Grand Knight Michael Houlihan (houlihangk2797koc@gmail.com or 410-707-8550).

## GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

improvement; as Knights, we commit to pray for those in need, particularly our Brother Knights, and with a special dedication to our Blessed Mother Mary for her intercession. Our almsgiving during Lent is intended to help the needy and live the social principles of the Church, by which we bring about the conversion in us that is needed for us to see God; as Knights, we are dedicated first and foremost to the theological virtue of charity, which is our duty and not merely a courtesy.

As Knights, we also recognize that we need each other, and that collective action is much more effective than individual action. Supreme Chaplain Archbishop Lori explains this nicely in this month's issue of Columbia Magazine, describing that our illusions of self-reliance result from our selfish pride and prevent us from realizing our dependence on the Lord for our strength. Our illusions of self-reliance also interfere with our ability to understand those in need and to have loving compassion for them.

In this season of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, we have an opportunity to work together to overcome these tendencies in ourselves and to make the world better as we improve ourselves. Our parishes all have numerous opportunities for communal activities around these Lenten themes. And of course, we each will have personal goals. I wish you well in your Lenten efforts, and look forward to seeing you at the Council during our communal activities this Lent.

Have a good month, Brothers.

*Michael Houlihan*

Grand Knight

## YOUR RESOLVE TO PRAY

### THE ROSARY OFTEN

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

**The Rosary is a  
proven, effective  
prayer in meeting in-  
dividual and national  
needs**



**Come and join us at 7:30 PM!**



## DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT



William Newbrough, DD

Dear Brother Knights, Friends and Family Members,

It's hard to believe that the season of Lent is here. The Christmas holidays seem such a recent memory. As Catholics, our preparation for Lent is traditionally centered on three areas: 1) prayer, 2) fasting, and 3) alms giving. Although for most of us, the idea of "giving something up" for Lent tends to predominate and that would be considered a form of fasting. Often, we think in terms of denying ourselves our favorite food item or activity. And most commonly, we see our Lenten sacrifices as something that we offer up and will do without for the duration of Lent.

However, "giving something up" is only one way of drawing closer to our Lord and experiencing in some small way the suffering he endured for us. As Knights, we are also afforded an amazing array of opportunities to increase our prayer life during Lent -- to fast by restricting our leisure time while at the same time dedicating ourselves to the service of another and to give alms by donating to one of the many worthy causes supported by the Knights of Columbus and the Church.

**Prayer:** One of the great opportunities provided by the Knights of Columbus is the great gift of prayer -- prayer before, during and after nearly everything we do. During this Lenten season, take advantage of council rosary time and group Masses attended by the members of the council. Councils in the Maryland jurisdiction regularly plan and facilitate spiritual reflection programs and retreats. Two weeks ago, I attended a day-long retreat hosted by Pangborn Council at St. Joseph's Church in Hagerstown. The day was filled with inspirational talks, prayer and a keynote address offered by our Supreme Chaplain Archbishop Lori. The day ended with Holy Mass celebrated by Archbishop Lori, and was such a blessing for all who attended. In addition, the St. John Paul II Shrine, owned and operated by the Knights of Columbus, is a spiritual power house offering daily Mass and weekly spiritual programs that are open to all.

**Fasting:** Of course we all know that the most common method of fasting involves denying ourselves food and drink. But another form of spiritual fasting includes denying ourselves the enjoyment and leisure time of our ordinary life and replacing it with some form of service. During this Lenten season, I challenge each of you to forgo some past time or activity that you typically enjoy and replace it with an act of service. Take account of the many service opportunities offered by your council, the district or the state council. Spend time writing a letter or email to your elected representative to support a culture of life by opposing physician assisted suicide or supporting the

Time to Care Act by accessing the Maryland Catholic Conference website at <http://www.mdccatholic.org>. Choose to give up an evening to attend a prayer vigil in support of persecuted Christians or serve food to the needy at a local food bank.

**Alms:** Today there are so many groups actively clamoring for your money. However, during Lent, our financial contributions to the Knights disaster relief funds, pregnancy centers, Gabriel Project and wounded warrior programs are a great way to witness to our solidarity with those who suffer and struggle each day. Making contributions to Catholic Charities, Special Olympics and the Knights relief fund for persecuted Christians are all great ways to support and walk with those who experience devastating hardships. During this Lent, may we challenge ourselves to act with empathy and compassion and to do so with a generous heart.

One of the great gifts of our Order is the experience of serving – **not as an individual**, but as one brother among many brothers and their families who seek to put their faith into action. This faith inspires and motivates acts of kindness that will touch the lives of individuals we may never meet. This week I was invited to participate in the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner of St. Rose of Lima Council #14297 by Grand Knight Rene Sorra. The dinner benefited the Knights relief efforts for persecuted Christians. I brought the icon Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians along with some literature on the Knight's relief efforts. In the course of the dinner, we helped raise awareness of the suffering of persecuted Christians while also raising funds. I must admit that before that Tuesday, I had never met a single member of St. Rose of Lima Council. By the end of this wonderful evening, I could count 10 Brother Knights as my dear friends and I enjoyed the company of their families and fellow parishioners. On occasions like this, I can only say, "**What a blessing it is to belong to the Knights of Columbus!**"

I pray that you have a blessed and uplifting Lenten season. All the best and *Vivat Jesus!*

*William Newbrough*

District Deputy No. 18



PRAYER



FASTING



ALMSGIVING



## *Knights Continue to Help the Church Navigate Rough Waters*

**Russell Shaw**

*(The following remembrance of Past Supreme Virgil Dechant was published on February 24, 2020 in Our Sunday Visitor)*

Virgil C. Dechant, the longest-serving supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, holding the office from 1977 to 2000, died in his sleep at age 89 Feb. 15, 2020, in his hometown of Leawood, Kan. He is pictured in an undated photo. (CNS photo/Knights of Columbus)

Obituaries of Virgil C. Dechant, former supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus who died at age 89 on Feb. 16 at his home in Leawood, Kansas, were factually correct but superficial. Dechant was a much larger man, with far more influence on the Church than merely listing dates, offices held and honors bestowed can suggest.

Joining creativity to love of tradition and business acumen, he shaped a profoundly Catholic organization suited to changing times. The question for the Knights of Columbus now is whether it can rise to the contemporary challenge of relevance put to it by a secular culture radically opposed to what it stands for.

In a way, of course, the Knights have been here before.

At the urging of a young parish priest, Father Michael McGivney, whose cause for beatification and canonization is currently under consideration in Rome, a small group of Irish-American men met in February 1882 in the basement of a New Haven, Connecticut, church. Three years earlier, a newspaper had headlined a story about the same church: "How an Aristocratic Avenue Was Blemished by a Roman Catholic Edifice." The men had come together to launch a new organization as a bulwark against anti-Irish, anti-Catholic bigotry like that.

The name chosen for the new group was Knights of Columbus. Selecting Columbus as patron sent a message: "We [Catholics] got here [America] before you [Protestants] did."

Many fraternal organizations of those times have withered and died, but the Knights survived and flourished. Combining religion and patriotism was a brilliant move that made the group, in the words of a historian, "a classic instance of a minority's drive to assimilate."

Years later, out in Kansas, a young man named Virgil Dechant joined the group. Laid up after an accident, he noticed that, family aside, most of those who dropped by to cheer him up were his brother knights. Motivated now, he began his rise through the organization's ranks, eventually becoming the top knight in Kansas. In 1967, by now a successful businessman and wheat farmer, he went to New Haven as supreme secretary. Ten years later, the directors elected him supreme knight, the position he held until retiring in 2000.

Membership and insurance soared in those years, while business and investment success made the Knights an important source of financial support for popes, bishops and innumerable Catholic groups. Locally, many pastors became increasingly aware of the Knights as a can-do group whose members were always ready to lend a hand to parish projects.

Even more important, the Knights imparted much-needed stability to the Church during the troubled years after the Second Vatican Council. While others fretted about what it meant to be Catholic, these men knew the answer and, at their best, sought to exemplify it.

At the same time, the group showed it could move with the times. Hence its strong commitment to the pro-life movement and the defense of family life. That openness to adjustments has continued under Dechant's successor, Carl Anderson, as illustrated by recent changes in the Knights of Columbus' ceremonial garb and ritual, for many years considered virtually untouchable.

Today, challenges to things dear to the Knights of Columbus are on the rise again. Fidelity to Catholic values, the glue holding the group together from the start, has situated this historically assimilationist and American group in opposition to powerful secular forces on life issues, marriage and religious liberty. Columbus sometimes sailed on rough seas. As the secular environment becomes increasingly hostile, the Knights may be doing the same..





ROCK CREEK SENIORS

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

LUNCHEON AND MEETING

Sunday, March 22

1:00 PM—3:00 PM

Rock Creek Council

Irish Entertainment

Catered Luncheon

Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner  
includes

Salad and Dessert



**\*\* Food allergies? Let us know by March 28\*\***

\$20 per person      \$2 cash bar

*Paid reservations a must by March 28*

**Make checks payable to "Rock Creek Seniors" and mail to:**

**Marcie Pekar, 9307 Adelaide Drove, Bethesda, MD 20817**



### Rental Corner

The Rock Creek Mansion is booking into 2021! Pass the word to friends and colleagues planning weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs, anniversary parties and milestone birthdays.

We are the best kept secret in Bethesda.. And remember, Rock Creek Council members get a 50% rental discount!

Contact me for information, a tour, and availability.



**Julie Buckingham Carter**

Event Coordinator

cell phone: 240-426-1220,

email: [remansion@gmail.com](mailto:remansion@gmail.com)

website: [www.rockcreekmansion.com](http://www.rockcreekmansion.com)

LIKE us on Facebook



## Club News

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

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.



The Council's **Friday Family Fish Fries** are underway each Friday in Lent from 6 pm to 9 pm. The menu includes fish and chips, crab cakes, shrimp, cream of crab soup, and more.

The next **Trivia Night** will be held on March 21. Registration opens at 7 pm and competition starts at 7:30 pm. Teams of up to 8 people will compete in six rounds of 10 questions. The team fee is \$25.



It's March and that means it is **March Madness** basketball tournament time. Come by the lounge for all the big games. The Terps are looking good and will be making a run at the Big Ten Championship; they should go deep into the NCAA Tournament.



**St. Patrick's Day** is Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, which means it is time to break out your best green outfits and your best Irish Brogue. Stop by the club on your way out or your way home for some traditional Irish fare and fun. We will

have an Irish buffet starting at noon -- Corned beef and cabbage, Shepherd's pie and more. The buffet will open at noon and will cost \$8 per plate. And if haven't heard, we now have Guinness on tap.



### Upcoming live music-

**March 20** — Dave Phenicie and The Keepers / \$5 donation

**April 3** — J DUB – 70s & 80s Dance Band / \$5 donation

**April 17** — Tom Blood and Late as Usual Featuring the Up Late Horns / \$5 donation

More bands to come.

See you around the Council!

For the latest information about the happenings in the Lounge, watch for list-serve blasts, read the Chatter and check the council website [www.kofc2797.org](http://www.kofc2797.org).

Lounge phone: 301-530-1628  
Mike Horan: 240-793-1169



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

On February 20, the Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly held its annual Renewal of Obligations, with 25 Sir Knights in attendance. The Ceremony was conducted by District Master Joe Feakes, assisted by District Marshall Tom Firestone. Following the ceremony, the monthly business meeting was held, and then a complimentary social, including food and beverage.

Those worthy knights who are Third Degree are encouraged to become Fourth Degree Sir Knights. This is the patriotic and highest degree in the Knights of Columbus.

The next Exemplification is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, beginning 10 am, and will be held at St. Mary of the Mills Parish Center, Laurel, Maryland. Registration may be done online or by mail. The cost is \$70, which includes the registration fee, the Baldric, and the banquet.

Sir Knight James Lear's name was drawn to receive a year of free dues. James will receive free membership dues for the year 2021.

In April, the Nomination Committee will be busy selecting Sir Knights to fill the slate of officers for the upcoming 2020-21 Fraternal Year, which begins July 1. Any SK interested in becoming an officer should contact Faithful Navigator Tom Kelly at [thomasjkelly431@yahoo.com](mailto:thomasjkelly431@yahoo.com) or phone 301-593-9284.

The next monthly business meeting will be held Thursday, March 19 in the Emerald Room of Fr. Rosensteel Council, in Forest Glen. The Rosary begins at 7:30 pm, meeting at 8 pm, and a social to follow including free meal and beverage.

If you have any questions regarding the Fourth Degree, or would like to join, contact me at [neildoriank@yahoo.com](mailto:neildoriank@yahoo.com) or 301-237-0552 cell.

**Neil Dorian, SK**  
Past Faithful Navigator





## March — Spring Cleaning Time



**Steve Upton, PGK,**

March brings thoughts of spring. For some, it's time to begin Daylight Savings Time; a little more sunlight into the evenings as the days become longer. Chances of snow and frigid weather begin to fade away and we now realize that the hot Maryland and DC summer is not far away.

Spring also brings thoughts of spring cleaning. After being cooped up all winter, it's traditional in many households to do that deep cleaning all throughout the house. That means washing down walls and moving furniture to clean behind pieces that haven't seen the light of day since last year's cleaning. It means taking down and washing drapes and curtains; windows are washed inside and out. (Thank goodness for modern tilt windows that mean no time outside in the chillier weather.) This is a time when the whole family is expected to pitch in and the "Honey Do" list gets longer and longer.

While you're getting rid of all the old cobwebs of winter and freshening the house, now is a great time to do some sprucing up with a fresh look at your family's financial security.

As your Knights of Columbus Field Agent, I've been trained to help you through that important exercise. Sit

down with me for a free financial need's analysis using our Profiles+ Forecaster platform. I'll take the time to gather information from you, ask about your wants, needs and desires, and put together any recommendations to help you meet those needs.

With a wide range of products; life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability income insurance and retirement annuities, I can help you plan for your family's financial security now and for many years to come -- all with the safety and security of dealing with a company that shares your faith and beliefs and invests in accordance with Church teaching. Be sure to ask about the new life insurance product, the Protector NLG Universal Life. It may be a fit for your particular needs.

Get ready for spring, get your home freshened up and make sure your financial house is spruced up. It's an easy and friendly visit from me, a brother Knight.

*Vivat Jesus!*

*Steve Upton*

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

## Friday Family Fish Fry

Lenten Fridays in the Lounge  
 (closed Good Friday) 6 pm to 9 pm

<b>Homemade Cream of Crab Soup</b>	<b>\$7</b>
<b>Garden or Caesar Salad</b>	<b>\$5</b>
<b>Steamed Spiced Shrimp</b> ½ Pound	<b>\$10</b>
1 Pound	<b>\$18</b>
<b>Basket of Fries</b>	<b>\$5</b>

**House Specials (w/ fries & slaw)**

<b>Fish &amp; Chips</b>	<b>\$12</b>
<b>2 Crab Cake Platter</b>	<b>\$18</b>
<b>Crab Cake Sandwich</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>8 Fried Jumbo Shrimp Platter</b>	<b>\$16</b>
<b>DGK Platter (Crab &amp; Fish Combo)</b>	<b>\$19</b>
<b>Grand Knights Platter (Shrimp, Crab Cake &amp; Fish Combo)</b>	<b>\$22</b>

**For Those 13 & Below**

<b>Cheese Pizza (12 inch)</b>	<b>\$7</b>
<b>Chicken Tenders (3) w/ fries</b>	<b>\$6</b>
<b>Fried Shrimp (3) w/ fries</b>	<b>\$6</b>
<b>Hot Dog (1/2 lb) w/ fries</b>	<b>\$5</b>
<b>Side of Cole Slaw</b>	<b>\$3</b>
<b>Small Fries</b>	<b>\$3</b>





## The State of Our Union is Strong

Thomas Wong, Council Lecturer

(Given at Rock Creek Council on February 6, 2020)

In just a few minutes, President Donald Trump, duly elected by the American people and under the watch of Almighty God, will address the government, the American people, and the world to fulfill his constitutional duty of giving “to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient.”

“The state of our union is strong” is not just a catchy slogan our presidents have traditionally declared.

Our country has its flaws, for sure, but it’s through these deficiencies that the very best of America can shine through all the stronger. In spite of today’s partisan bickering, impeachment, or government shutdowns we remain absolutely blessed to be able to call America our home.

Our union is strong when we support our first responders, veterans, teachers, and other heroes.

Our union is strong when we gather to peacefully address injustice or corruption in society and stand up for our liberties and the rights of those who cannot speak for themselves.

Our union is strong when we care for our families, friends, the forgotten, and the helpless with love, compassion, and the dignity of having been made in the holy image of God.

Our union is strong through our prayers, labors, advancements, and embrace of diversity.

Our union is strong when we share the bounty and blessings of our lives with less fortunate.

America is a generous, free, and place of incredible opportunities for prosperity.

But it has not always been so.

In times of strife and turmoil, however, groups like the Knights of Columbus were able to rise to the challenges of the times and care for the needs of poor families and American Catholics who found themselves discriminated against by society. Thanks to the steadfast wisdom and witness of Fr. McGivney and his associates, the Knights of Columbus has developed into an incredible force for good throughout the world.

Our Order is strong not only because of our incredible membership or insurance products but because of our enduring principles: charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

Our Order is strong whenever we humbly serve the local needs of our parishes, schools, and communities, seeking no fame, nor recognition, nor glory.

Our Order is strong when we defend life at the Vigil and

March for Life, Special Olympics, and stand firm against places of hell like Dr. Carhart’s abortion mill up the road.

Our Order is strong when it upholds the truths about life, liberty, and even Christopher Columbus against threats of relativism, revisionism, or secularism.

Our Order is strong when we exemplify our faith through our actions and indeed through our very lives. We do not hide our faith whenever it is hard or inconvenient to do so. We reconcile with God, the Church, and our loved ones when we fall short and recommit ourselves to the tasks of and calls to holiness at hand.

Our Order is strong when we engage young people at our sporting competitions, coat giveaways, and provide scholarships and other donations.

Brothers, the state of our union is strong, and with your help and God’s blessing we shall always remain so.

Never doubt our effectiveness: every single life saved is a victory, every child spared of the cold or a family from hunger is a triumph, and every vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life is accomplishing God’s will.

The Knights keep on, and keep on keeping on. We are the strong right arm of the Church. We are Christ’s body on earth, each of us here tonight as well as our faithful collaborators.

Finally, the eyes of the world and Church are always upon us. We even set an example and make an impression upon those we are unaware are watching. As an example, here is part of an e-mail I received while soliciting potential speakers to our Council:

In my hometown of Richland, Washington (State) the Knights continue to operate consistent with their high reputation. I’m an admirer of the organization, both its values and its activities...I do wish you all the best as you demonstrate locally those values I am proudest of. Please extend my respects to your fellow members.

I am very pleased to have been welcomed to this council over a year ago and to have been entrusted as the Worthy Lecturer for this fraternal year. I have been watching the activities and generosity of you brother Knights with great joy and pride.

May God bless you always. And may God continue to bless and protect the United States of America.

*Vivat Jesus!*







## REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson, PGK

### A Fractured Nation in Need of God

As the President concluded his State of the Union Address before a Joint Session of Congress, the Speaker of the House of Representatives – a leader of the opposition party – tore up a copy of his speech on national television. This staged, churlish act dramatized the depth of resentment between the nation's two major political parties.

It also illustrated how shattered is the culture of the country. The lines of fracture appear to be legion: red/blue, conservative/liberal, traditional/progressive, socialist/capitalist, religious/nones, white/brown/black/yellow, male/female, binary/fluid, etc., etc., etc.

As intense as the controversies arising from these differing positions are, they are more like fractures on the surface of society resulting from an underlying seismic rift. The deeper, more fundamental split centers on divergent beliefs in God and the importance of religion for leading our lives, both as individuals and as a society.

The American public and their political representatives function more and more as if God does not exist, or if he does, his existence does not matter. There is a continuing effort to remove all influence of religion from public life, to limit religious freedom and restrict religious beliefs to private practice by building restraints and penalties into the nation's political, legal and cultural structures. The result is a growing, state-enforced practical atheism.

When God is not considered relevant to public life, there no longer are any absolutes. Disconnected from immutable standards, democracy becomes an unrestrained oligarchy with the many ruling in their own interest. Anything becomes possible.

Today, in America, abominations abound. Sexuality is separated from marriage; abortion is rampant, acceptable even to the point of birth and beyond; assisted suicide is gaining legality; marriage is redefined to include people of the same sex; the personal selection of one's gender is being treated as a civil right; pornography, adultery and cohabitation are commonplace; and there even is a delusion that men can become pregnant and that a person with male genitalia can be a woman. The disdain for human life and the absurdity with which human nature is

treated are the outcomes of a society that is becoming spiritually depleted.

America is in a rapid religious decline. In the early 1970s, 89% of the U.S. population identified as Christian, 62% as Protestant and 27% as Catholic; only 6% said they had no religion. The latest Pew Research Study found that in 2019, Protestants had diminished to 43% of the population and Catholics to 20%, while nones rose to 26%. It is not just defections that are of concern, but at least among Catholics, there is a growing apathy toward religious obligations. A Gallup poll showed that over the six decades from 1955 to 2017, the percentage of Catholics who attended Mass weekly dropped from 75% to 39%. Further, today, 27% of the U.S. population never attends any religious service.



The combination of religious defections and apathy among those who remain has allowed a large segment of society to morph into extreme secularism. The religiously-committed and the religiously-indifferent have very divergent perspectives on the purpose and value of human existence. A person who believes that life on earth is transitory and that one will

spend an eternity in heaven or hell depending upon how that life is lived will make vastly different choices than one who believes that the here and now is all there is.

Religiously-committed people overwhelmingly uphold the sanctity of human life, maintain the traditional view of marriage as only between one man and one woman, and promote religiously-formed consciences to guide one's public actions. In contrast, the religiously-indifferent for the most part support abortion, gay marriage, and religion as a strictly private matter totally irrelevant to public policy. The two groups conflict not only theologically, but clash culturally and politically, as well. The gulf between belief and unbelief has no middle ground, no room for compromise. It borders on the unbridgeable.

Too many Catholics today are in the vanguard of the religiously-indifferent. They relegate their faith to an occasional Mass and the rest of the time live as if God has no effect on their lives. Catholic politicians oppose Church teachings, while proclaiming they are doctrinally faithful.

*(Continued on page 10)*



## Kay-Cee Club News

## REFLECTIONS

(Continued from page 9)

Construction of the new vestibule to Cantrell Hall is essentially complete. Only a few “punch list” items remain to be done. The P V C fence surrounding the catering area was a special order item and will be completed by March 6<sup>th</sup>.



Rental commitments are picking up. Julie has booked \$ 74,750 for 2020 and \$14,900 for 2021. Keep up the great work, Julie!

Hopefully, the new look of the vestibule will create a better “Curb Appeal” to prospective clients, and result in even more events business.

Remember that the Kay-Cee Club exists to manage the building and property on behalf of the Council. In addition to having an attractive facility for the members to enjoy, the net income after expenses is provided to the council to support many of its charitable activities.

*Tom Tappan*

President

### Remember Our Sick and Deceased

#### Sick and Distressed:

PGK Roberto and Mary Jo Ibáñez, Leslie Ibáñez (wife of PGK Tony Ibáñez), Billy Horan, Wally Khayat, PGK Vince and Glenda Bunag, PGK Joe Murphy, PGK John Vivian, Greg Curtin, Vinny Mancini, Andrew Dolan Miller (son of Alex Lieb), PGK Bob Waters and his grandson, Brandon Waters, Bill Freehan, and those on the Seniors’ sick list (p. 11)



#### Deceased:

PGK A. Victor Khayat, Ann Kestel, Kathleen Dwyer, Jimmy Naccarato, Tom Fleetwood

Pray for all of our departed members, families and friends.

Catholic voters support candidates who favor abortion and gay marriage. Further, guidance from the clergy has been weak. Priests have been reluctant to speak about moral implications of political issues, while statements of the hierarchy often have not distinguished between matters of doctrinal certitude and of social justice on which there can be legitimate differences of opinion. Abortion and climate change are not doctrinally equal.

True faith is more than a set of dogmas to be accepted; rather it is a way of life whose ends are not the temporal comforts of this world, but the fulfillment of why we were created, to gain an eternity with God. It is only when Catholics – and Christians in general -- truly practice their faith that society will change. Catholics must be re-evangelized: to learn once again, if they ever knew, what it means to be Catholic; to understand the timeless truth of its doctrines; to develop the moral values and commitment to live their lives in accord with the faith.

While leadership from the pulpit is necessary, priests and religious alone cannot reshape society. They are not in the offices and stores, factories and laboratories, unions and professional associations, media organizations and judicial chambers, where secularism is rampant, where God is a non-entity. It is here that laymen can evangelize from within. Today, Catholic lay activism – laymen guided by the truths of the Gospel acting in the world – is needed. The laity, acting in their individual capacities, can have an effect, one person, one locality at a time.

Although action is necessary for societal change, by itself it is insufficient. It must be accompanied by prayer in order to center the action on what God intends us to do. We must strengthen our devotion to the Mass, the rosary, Marian hours of prayer, retreats, spiritual readings, Eucharistic adoration, and other means to connect with the will of God. Otherwise, the work, built solely upon a human foundation, will fail, undermined by the superficiality and distractions of modern life. As stated in Psalm 127: “Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.”

## Knights of the Month

This **Knights of the Month for February is Al Kish.**

Al routinely volunteers at our Knights of Columbus charitable events, and is a regular at our Council’s faith events, particularly those involving life issues.

A member of St. Jane de Chantal, Al is very active in the parish, and for many years has been a dedicated volunteer leader for the Boy Scouts of America. He is particularly passionate about maintaining the traditional scouting values within a Catholic troop.

Thank you, Al, for your service and example of participation in our Council and in the community.



# SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

We had over 30 members and guests at our Annual St. Valentine's Meeting and Party. Our guests were Fr. Ryan Pineda, Fr. Joe Perkins, and Deacon Bob Hubbard.

The Deltones Barbershoppers entertained us, and also serenaded our "sweethearts" for this year, Judy Pretka (left in photo) and Mary Ann Jacobs.



PGK Bob Waters

We received a very nice letter from Fr. Mark Hughes, pastor of Holy Redeemer Church and chaplain for Rock Creek Council. He thanked us for the \$1,000 donation we made to Fr. Bill Ryan, who was raised in Holy Redeemer Parish and now serves as a missionary at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Togo, Africa.



Many thanks to Marcy Pekar for taking reservations, Mike Horan for handling the food, and the "Fab Five" for all their work!

Our elections were held at this meeting, and the current slate of officers was reelected. Thank you for your confidence, as this will be my 30th year as your president.

Our special prayers were offered for our long time senior members Jimmy Naccarato and PGK Victor Khayat who have died.

Our next meeting will be our Annual St. Pat's Party on Sunday, March 22. See the announcement on page xx. Reservations are required! If all goes well with my recuperation, I probably will be in Florida (Ah, Shucks!) for this meeting. Our VP Neil Dorian will then run the meeting.

The letter from Montgomery Police Chief Joes will be read at this meeting. We will continue to support our local police.

We are planning to have a "Spring Fling" for our April meeting.

## 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.

## Council Leaders

### CHAPLAINS

Rev. Mark Hughes—301-942-2333, x-109  
Deacon Robert Hubbard—301-942-1522

### GRAND KNIGHT

Michael Houlihan—410-707-8550

### DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT

Jon Schneider—301-279-0291

### CHANCELLOR

Ivan Galic—301-633-3998

### WARDEN

Alex Lieb—301-233-0125

### FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Douglas Yeatman—301-785-3747

### RECORDER

Jason Wan—

### TREASURER

Charles Gormly—202-669-0479

### ADVOCATE

Kevin Kittka, PGK—301-469-8453

### INSIDE GUARDS

Michael Naas—  
Aston Williams—

### OUTSIDE GUARD

John Titus—  
Philip Sheridan—

### TRUSTEES

1-Year—Richard Heim—240-888-1240  
2-Year—Thomas W. Tappan—301-365-3128  
3-Year—Joseph Doniger—240-566-2150

### PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

Michael Horan, PGK—240-793-1169

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Christopher Horan—

### FAITH ACTIVITIES

Robert Hubbard—301-942-1522

### FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Matthew Moran—

### LIFE ACTIVITIES

Lawrence Grayson, PGK—301-933-8731

### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

James Bergmann—

### RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE

Richard Strachan—

### VOCATIONS CHAIRMAN

Michael Houlihan—410-707-8550

### RETENTION CHAIRMAN

Jon Schneider—

### LECTURER

Michael Newman—

### PRESIDENT, SENIORS CLUB

Robert C. Waters, PGK—301-493-8883

### FIRST DEGREE TEAM CAPTAIN

Neil Dorian—301-237-0552

### 4th DEGREE - O'BOYLE ASSEMBLY

Neil Dorian—301-237-0552

### PRESIDENT, KAY-CEE CLUB

Thomas W. Tappan—301-365-3128

### WEBMASTER

Matthew Flynn—301-875-9293  
Ivan Galic—301-633-3998

### CHATTER EDITOR

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

### COUNCIL OFFICES

LOUNGE—301-530-1628

KAY-CEE CLUB—301-530-0258



## Did You Know?

Our website ([www.kofc2797.org](http://www.kofc2797.org)) works on your phone or mobile device? Add us to your home screen and access us wherever you go!

Anniversary  
& Birthday  
Receptions,  
Weddings,  
Meetings

Rock Creek Council's

## ROCK CREEK MANSION

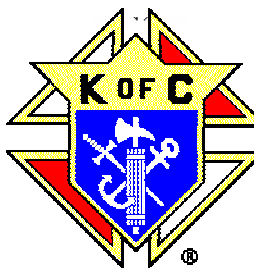
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## THE KNIGHT CHATTER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY (EXCEPT AUGUST), AT NO CHARGE, BY

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BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814-1517

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April CHATTER Deadline:  
**March 25, 2020**

### ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 Rosary 7:30 PM Business Meeting 8:00 PM	4	5	6 Lenten Fish Dinner 6-9 PM	7
8	9	10	11 K-C Club 7:00 PM	12	13 Lenten Fish Dinner 6-9 PM	14
15	16	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 Lenten Fish Dinner 6-9 PM Dave Phenie & The Keepers	21 Trivia Night 7:30 PM
22 Seniors' St. Pat's Party 1:00 PM	23	24	25	26	27 Lenten Fish Dinner 6-9 PM	28
29	30	31	<h1>March</h1> Abstinence on all Fridays of Lent			