



THE KNIGHT CHATTER

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Vivat Jesus — Jesus Lives

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

FR. MARK HUGHES

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

MICHAEL HOULIHAN

Brother Knights,

A long time ago I heard the phrase: "Everyone wants to go to heaven, but no one wants to die". As we close out this season of Lent, we are very aware that death is a reality for all of us.

This terrible threat of the coronavirus is bringing that reality very close to our world. Maybe the fact that this tragedy is happening during Lent has some long-term benefits. We make great sacrifices to defeat this virus. We isolate ourselves; give up sports and eating out to stay ahead of this disease. We practice self control in order to find self-preservation.

During Lent, we do many of the same things. We sacrifice and practice self-control to repent and build positive skills that will give us spiritual health. We isolate ourselves from things that cause us to sin. We cooperate with God to defeat not an invisible enemy, but to discover more deeply God's invisible Grace which draws us back to Himself.

This time of the coronavirus is difficult and brings great fear

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Fr. Mark Hughes

Brothers,

I hope you are all well and staying safe. As you read this, we are in the midst of a health and financial crisis the likes of which we will seldom see in our lives. Regardless of the news you read and the actual causes of the current situation, there is no denying that it will have a real and damaging effect on many lives. Some of our brother Knights or their family members have already contracted the coronavirus, and all of us will feel the social and financial strain of this time for, perhaps, years to come.

In past crises, the Knights of Columbus has been highly active in organized relief efforts. We have a great history of providing needed help, supplies, and money to disaster-stricken areas. But this situation is unlike those in its global reach, its suddenness, and its nature – "stay at home" guidelines and orders limit our ability to act as a group to care for the needy at this time. The very act of helping, if done without proper care, can even spread the virus.

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Grand Knight Houlihan



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

to many. If we use this season of Lent in a positive way, we will escape from fear and find a more complete sense of joy when we celebrate what our lives are about -- Eternity with God.

Sincerely,

Fr. Hughes

Advice on the Coronavirus

To help lessen the spread of the new coronavirus and COVID-19, the disease it causes, here are important steps that can help protect you, your family and others.

Avoid close contact with others.

It's important to understand that the new coronavirus spreads mainly from person to person. If an infected person coughs or sneezes, their droplets can infect people nearby. That's why it's important to avoid close contact with others. Understand that people (including children) may be infected with the new coronavirus and have only mild symptoms.

Some measures you can take to avoid close contact with others include:

- Stay home as much as possible and reduce visitors.
- Practice social distancing:
- Stay at least six feet away from others in public places.
- Call friends and family or visit by video.
- Avoid people who appear sick.
- Go grocery shopping and run errands during off-peak times.

Healthy people do not need to wear a mask unless they are caring for someone diagnosed with, or being monitored for, COVID-19, or respiratory illness.

Practice good hygiene wherever you are.

The new coronavirus can survive for hours or even days on some surfaces. Touching a contaminated surface and then touching your face is one of the ways to become infected.

The virus is no longer detectable on plastic after 72 hours, and on stainless steel or cardboard after about 48 hours. With that in mind:

- Wash your hands with soap and water frequently and thoroughly for at least 20 seconds, especially:
- After being in public places and touching door handles, shopping carts, elevator buttons, etc.
- After using the bathroom
- Before preparing food
- If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, especially with unwashed hands.
- If you cough or sneeze, do so in the bend of your elbow. If you use a tissue, throw it away immediately.

FROM: *Lisa Maragakis*, senior director of infection prevention, Johns Hopkins Medicine

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

How do we put our faith into action at a time like this? First, we can and should pray -- for those affected and suffering, for those who have been or will be lost, and for an outpouring of patience, love, and support. Second, we can be ready to help those in need now, helping those most at risk to the virus and those least able to care for themselves, by getting the food and supplies they need. And last, we can start preparing ourselves now to help the many who will be in need after these initial few months of crisis. The economic damage and human need will probably last much longer than the health crisis. Our Council will be discussing ways we can help in the coming months.

In the meantime, let's all count our blessings in this time of forced retreat and see God at work in the world now. Jesus uses difficult situations as a chance to show God's glory and His love for us. In these difficult times we, too, are called to be the light of the world as we show through our actions that God enables us to draw good from every situation. Our faith in God enables us to see that difficult times like these are an occasion - and an obligation -- to fulfill the commandment to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Have a safe month, Brothers, and I hope we will be able to get together again very soon.

Michael Houlihan

Grand Knight

Leading the State

At the MD State Council Spring meeting in Easton MD on March 7, State Deputy Dale Trott presented the "Contest of Champions" Award to Rock Creek Council 2797 for having the greatest increase in membership in the state in 2018-2019 -- 28 new members. Accepting on behalf of the council was District Deputy William Newbrough. Great going guys!





DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT



William Newbrough, DD

Dear Brother Knights, Friends and Family,

So much has changed since my last communication that it's difficult for me to put into words. As we are all aware, the normal rhythm of life has changed dramatically with the arrival of the pandemic threat of the coronavirus. Each of us has had to suspend planned events, work commitments, family gatherings and certainly Knight's sponsored meetings and programs to comply with restrictions that seem to expand on a daily basis. I recently received a call from my sister, asking me to contact my nephew who is in the final months of his senior year of high school. Nathan is a great student and athlete. He is a stand out player on his high school's varsity baseball team. He is looking forward to college and as with most young adults these days, he has a busy social life and loads of friends that he enjoys spending time with. He is devastated by the current state of affairs and who can blame him? He just doesn't understand why this had to happen "to him" and why now of all times?

I'm not sure that I had the answers to his questions. But I did reach out to him with the following advice. As a person now entering my senior years, it is clear to me that the defining moments of my life have been those that involved a challenge. Challenges usually call for self-sacrifice. They also tend to sharpen our perspective and help us to prioritize and appreciate the truly important things in life – family, faith, country. Challenges frequently bring us together. Without question, the most formative moments of my life involved a crisis and some degree of suffering. Looking back across the decades, I must admit that the "crosses" of my life (those difficulties that I would certainly have wished to avoid) resulted in some form of personal growth. Often they result in a relationship with someone I might never have otherwise met. Whatever strengths I may now possess, limited though they may be, resulted from how I chose to handle a particular burden or cross. And I know that my crosses have not been as heavy as those carried by others. But I can now see that in those tough times, I came to a certain realization. I could not overcome these difficulties alone. I needed the grace of God in my life. And that realization became the foundation of my faith.

As I spoke to my young nephew, I asked him to challenge himself to see the difficult days ahead as an opportunity. I asked him to consider **making time in every day for prayer**. And in those prayerful moments, I asked him to pray each day for the strength, the wisdom and the patience to endure whatever comes so that he might in the end – become the Christian man that God wills him to be. In a sense, I was asking him to embrace this cross at this time even as he experiences the disappointment of a lost

baseball season and the discouragement of a senior year cut short. I challenged him to be keenly aware of the suffering of others around him. And to look for opportunities to respond compassionately when he sees others struggling with the cross of fear, uncertainty or illness. I reminded him that in these moments, a loving response to suffering can be transformative and life changing in many ways. And I reminded him that he cannot do this alone. I asked him to rely on the saving grace of God, the protection of our Blessed Mother and the good will and support of friends, family and all people of good will. My young nephew listened carefully and thanked me.

It's easy to give advice. But there's nothing easy about living through difficult times, especially when we see a threat to our loved ones. As Knights, we have a special opportunity to step up to the plate as faith filled brothers focused on serving our families, our Church and our communities. The Supreme Knight has offered words of encouragement in a recent message, dated March 24, in which he said: "My sincere hope is that we will all grow closer to God and to one another during this time so that we can serve as a beacon of light and hope to those around us. If we are faithful to Christ's call to us as Knights, he will certainly help us shine the light of his love on those around us. Together, brothers, let us step into the breach and live lives 'worthy of the high call that God has given us.' (Eph. 4:1)" He goes on to say, "The Knights of Columbus was founded for times such as these, and I believe that this crisis will ultimately make us stronger as a force for good. Now is the hour of the Knights of Columbus!"

So what can we do in the days to come? Of course our first duty is to our families. There is no more important imperative than looking to the health and well-being of our families – both immediate and extended. By caring for our families, we are indeed helping to care for our communities as each family looks to provide safety, food, material and spiritual support for each other. But let us also remember to be the servant of our neighbors, the elderly and the disabled – offering to pick up food items or run errands for those who cannot leave their homes at this time. This is a great time to reach out to every member of our councils, especially our seniors and check in on them. Councils should work to form outreach committees and make contact with each member!

For those with a steady pay check coming in, let's look for ways to support local food drives, Catholic Charities and continue to support our parishes with weekly contributions (this is so important!). We can be especially supportive of our priests by helping to promote and disseminate access to online Masses and spiritual exercises available on parish websites. Let's check in with our pastors and offer our assistance! The forced slowdown of our daily routine provides ample opportunity for prayer – especially the most

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District Deputy's Report

(Continued from page 3)

holy rosary.

Finally, please make an effort to check the Supreme website at www.kofc.org and click on the "Knights & Coronavirus" tab. You'll find important information, including: the Supreme Knight's message, the "Five Pillars to Live by in Difficult Times", important updates on "Fraternal Operations with Coronavirus Restrictions", and where to watch Mass online. Most importantly, you'll find the "The Prayer for Protection in Time of Pandemic". May Our Lady Queen of the Knights watch over each of you and your families!

Vivat Jesus!

William Newbrough

District Deputy No. 18

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 individual and national needs

Come and join us at 7:30 PM!



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)



Keep in mind those who are sick or distressed as a result of the coronavirus. Specifically, include Brother Bob Metzler and his wife, Mary Louise, who have tested positive for the illness.

If you know of any members of our council or their families who have come down with the virus, please contact GK Mike Houlihan (houlihanGK2797KoC@gmail.com, 410-707-8550) or PGK Mike Horan (mike_horanbros@yahoo.com, 240-793-1169) with their names so that we can them in our council prayers.

As always, do not forget all of our departed members, families and friends.



Club News

Due to the coronavirus, the council home has been closed until further notice.

Even though the council is a private club, we still must follow the guidelines outlined by Governor Hogan and the Maryland Department of Liquor Control regulations. We are a nonessential business, all of which have been ordered to close. The patio is included in the closure. It may be outside, but our liquor license makes it illegal to bring outside alcohol on to the property. These are not house rules; they are state laws.

So until further notice, the patio and the grounds of the property are closed. The only exceptions include food pick up by approved caterers, parking for contracted companies, and maintenance, construction and landscaping activities.

For the latest information about the council and lounge, watch for list-serve blasts, read the Chatter and check the council website www.kofc2797.org.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. We will keep you posted as things change.

* * * * *

In the uncertain days ahead, I want you to know that we are here for you. Let me know if we can be of help. We will do our best, whenever possible. You can email, text or call me.

Mike Horan

240-793-1169
mike_horanbros@yahoo.com



Keeping Our Commitment to You



Steve Upton, PGK,

The mission of the Knights of Columbus today remains the same as when it was founded in 1882: to protect Catholic families financially and to help strengthen the Catholic faith of our members.

While the current medical, social and economic issues we face are unsettling, it's not the first time we have risen to meet such challenges.

Our Order has stood strong through past crises such as the Spanish flu in 1918, the Great Depression and the financial crisis of 2008.

Just as we stood together during those times, we stand ready in our own difficult times to provide life insurance, annuities, long-term care and disability insurance. Knights of Columbus Insurance agents are fully equipped and eager to help you understand how the current climate may affect your personal finances and how our products can help.

While meeting you in person may not be the appropriate action now, we can talk to you over the phone or through

a virtual meeting using Skype or similar software. Much if not all of the needed paperwork can now be done electronically or by email. Agents are ready to answer questions, assist with service-related issues and help show you how you can reduce your financial risk.

As the Knights of Columbus turns 138 years old, it is an opportune moment to thank our founder, Father Michael McGivney, for his foresight in founding an Order that consistently provides reliable financial protection for Catholic families. You do not face the current challenges alone. Our commitment to helping you and your family remains strong.

Praying that you and your family remain healthy and safe.

Vivat Jesus!

Steve Upton

STEVE UPTON, GK, FDD
Field Agent
 301-873-7450 cell
 301-421-1430 office

If you know of any member of the Council or his family who needs prayers, contact Mike Horan (240-793-1169) or Mike Houlihan (410-707-8550). A prayer list will be sent out each Sunday.

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: rcmansion@gmail.com
 website: www.rockcreekmansion.com
 LIKE us on Facebook



KofC Video Series for Men

The Knights of Columbus has created a 12-episode online video series titled *Into the Breach*, the Knights address many of the challenges modern men face, including fatherhood, marriage and leadership.

The series was inspired by Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted's 2015 document, *Into the Breach: An Apostolic Exhortation to Catholic Men*, which called men to be prepared for the spiritual battle for their souls and the souls of their families.

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson commented, "Catholic men and fathers shoulder a great responsibility. Our role in evangelization is indispensable, especially within our homes — building the domestic church." He added, "Our families and our parishes need our faithful witness more than ever. As Catholic men and as Knights of Columbus, it is our duty to 'step into the breach' and play our part in the renewal of our families and the Church."

The series builds off the success of the K of C's *Everyday Heroes* series that focused on remarkable Knights whose courage, faith and commitment to charity show that heroism is attainable to the everyday man. The *Into the Breach* series contends that men are made for greatness and that the true expression of that greatness is to be heroically virtuous — to have a character marked by goodness and truth, strength and courage, in imitation of Christ.

The *Into the Breach* series offers Catholic men a tool and opportunity to grow in their faith, pursue Christ-like virtue, and become better Catholics, husbands and fathers. Contributing commentary to the series are Phoenix Bishop Olmsted, prominent author and theologian Dr. Scott Hahn, prominent Catholic speaker Father Mike Schmitz, former NFL player Matt Birk, and FOCUS founder Curtis Martin.

The episodes include: "Masculinity," "Brotherhood," "Leadership," "Fatherhood," "Family," "Life," "Prayer," "Suffering," "Sacramental Life," "Spiritual Warfare," "Evangelization," and "The Cornerstone." All videos and resources were released on Ash Wednesday, February 26, and can be found at kofc.org/intothebreach.



Charity Chess Tournament

Rock Creek Council hosted its spring 2020 semi-annual Scholastic Charity Chess Tournament at the Rock Creek Mansion on Sunday, March 8. There were about 90 players who participated from over 25 local schools, including players from some schools new to our tournament. After expenses, about \$1,200 was raised for local charity.

At the event, we mentioned the charity was the Children's Home at NIH, which drew a lot of thanks and appreciation from the parents and coaches. We got several comments from them about how good they felt about participating in a charity event and how happy they were to know the recipient of the funds.

The winners were:

- **Team Champions:** 1st – North Chevy Chase; 2nd – Veirs Mill Elementary; 3rd – St. Andrew the Apostle.
- **Overall Grand Prize Winner:** Thomas Byrne, 4th Grade, Woods Academy.
- **K-2nd Grade Section:** 1st – Simon McGray, St. Andrews; 2nd – Alex Clay, Rosemary Hills; 3rd – Andrew Faustino, St. Louis
- **3rd – 5th Grade Section:** 1st – Greg Lanzo, NCC; 2nd – Jack Leninger, Bradley Hills; 3rd – Brandon Lowe, Veirs Mill
- **6th – 8th Grade Section:** 1st – Patrick Donahue, Roberto Clemente MS; 2nd – Pavan Bengheri, Takoma Park MS; 3rd – Olivier Payen, St. Martin.
- **Nolan Sportsmanship Award:** Emmett O'Donnell, a 4th Grader from NCC.

Thanks to our volunteers from the Knights of Columbus who helped, including Rock Creek Knights Bob Metzler (judging and scoring), Alex Freed (judging and scoring), Andrew McDonald (photographs), Mike Horan and John Schneider (concessions), and Mike Houlihan (organization), as well as non-KoC parent-volunteer Chad Charowhas from NCC. Thanks also to our student volunteers Grady Jiggins (NCC), Nicholas Chong (Silver Creek), and Shannon Naas (Rosa Parks). Finally, thanks to Julie Carter, Mansion Event Coordinator, for her support and help.

Mike Houlihan

Grand Knight





Rock Creek's Charity Chess Tournament in Photos



Photos by Andrew McDonald



Knights and Pandemics

What we can learn from the Knights' charitable reaction during the Spanish influenza

By Andrew Fowler 3/19/2020, at www.kofc.org/en/news-room/articles/knights-and-pandemics.html

The World Health Organization has classified the coronavirus outbreak as a global pandemic with the number of cases continuing to grow. Masses have been cancelled. Schools closed. Sports tournaments and seasons suspended. Cities and countries on lockdown to contain the virus' spread. In light of the pandemic, Pope Francis has called upon Mary, the Mother of God, to protect not only the city of Rome, but the whole world.

The Knights of Columbus has taken similar precautionary measures, advising councils to cancel meetings, planned events and travel until further notice. It seems unprecedented, but have we been here before.

More than 100 years ago, the Spanish influenza ravaged the world, killing approximately [50 million people](#) including more than 3,000 members of the Knights of Columbus. A 1919 issue of *Columbiad* stated that the epidemic killed "more persons than had been lost in the American forces on the firing line" during World War I.



At Camp Zachary Taylor, Sister Nurses flanked by an Army Chaplain (L) and KofC General Secretary Thomas Cines.

Then, like now, meetings and events were canceled, including several Columbus Day parades across the country. But the Knights carried on their mission of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

When the flu swept through Camp Zachary Taylor outside of Louisville, KY, the Knights of Columbus' USO-style recreation huts were repurposed as "emergency hospitals." In Nome, Ark., Knights also transformed their recreational facilities to care for more than 1,000 Native Americans whose parents fell victim to the epidemic.

One case in particular earned the Knights local attention. In fall 1918, at Fort Benjamin Harrison outside of Indianapolis, the situation was "so intense, that human effort in combatting it seemed useless," according to *Knights of*

Columbus in Peace and War. However, the K of C secretaries — personnel who ran the recreational facilities on site — didn't panic, showing an "apparent lack of fear of infection or contagion," stayed to care for the sick "even when the physicians would have encouraged them to look on the struggle as one which could only end in the loss of their own lives."

Their resilience and reliance on the Order's principles and Catholic faith serve as a model for Knights today. It is the Knights' mission to go into the breach, to display Catholic virtue in a time of crisis, because there is hope in Jesus Christ.

In the aftermath of the Spanish influenza, the Knights were a testament to strength in both charity and in insurance by revolutionizing their business model as a step-rate plan and building up a mortuary reserve fund. And they still are. From the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 to natural disasters such as Hurricane Harvey, Knights are there to exhibit that charity when

hope seems lost.

The Supreme Council recently shared several ways Knights can still put their faith into action including donating blood, praying the Novena Prayer for Protection in Time of Pandemic, canceling council activities to limit the virus' spread and checking-in on the elderly and the immunocompromised to see if they have basic necessities. And as in the past, the Knights will be there to show that faith in Christ's love spurs them on.

As Supreme Knight Carl Anderson shared in a letter to K of C leaders, "This is a moment to deepen our commitment to the very principles which define us: charity, unity and fraternity. There will likely be many opportunities in coming weeks to live out these principles in service to our



REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson, PGK

Prayer at a Time of Collective Crisis

Pope Francis said in his weekly Angelus message on Sunday, March 22, he will deliver a special “Urbi et Orbi” (to the city and the world) blessing this coming Friday evening as a response to the coronavirus. Normally given only at Christmas and Easter, his decision to give this blessing underscores the gravity of the situation worldwide.

The Pope also called on all Christians of every confession to pray the “Our Father” together at noon Rome time (7:00 am, EDT) on Wednesday, March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, as a response “to the pandemic of the virus,” showing “the universality of prayer, of compassion, of tenderness.”

A week earlier, President Donald Trump proclaimed March 15 a national day of prayer in the United States. He stated, “In our times of greatest need, Americans have always turned to prayer to help guide us through trials and periods of uncertainty...we must not cease asking God for added wisdom, comfort, and strength, and we must especially pray for those who have suffered harm or who have lost loved ones...pray for God’s healing hand to be placed on the people of our Nation...pray for the health and well-being of your fellow Americans and...remember that no problem is too big for God to handle.”

With the coronavirus spreading, travel restricted, schools and businesses closed, church services suspended, entire communities – including cities – in lockdown, and growing public anxiety, those in charge are not only taking action but calling on God for help.

Throughout the entire history of America – from the time of the first settlements in Plymouth and Jamestown to the present day – leaders have issued calls for prayer and fasting in times of disease, natural disasters, war, and threats of terrorism, as well as in gratitude for the beneficence and mercy of the Almighty. After surviving the harsh realities of a new world, the Pilgrims celebrated their first harvest in 1621 with a feast of thanksgiving for God’s blessings. In colonial English America, as raids from France and Spain increased, Benjamin Franklin in 1747 proposed a General Fast so “that Almighty God would mercifully interpose and still the rage of war among the nations.”

At the time of the Revolutionary War, virtually every colonial leader of prominence called for days of humiliation,

fasting and prayer for the Lord’s intervention. As the war progressed, the Continental Congress issued proclamations annually from 1777 through 1784, calling for days of “public thanksgiving and praise” and “humble supplication” to Almighty God. General George Washington, in turn, issued general orders to assure that the troops observed those days of prayer.

In 1789, the first year of his presidency, Washington designated November 26 as a day for “prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations” both in thanksgiving for his “signal and manifold mercies” and to request him to “pardon our national and other transgressions.” President James Madison proclaimed days of prayer and fasting three times during the War of 1812, first to request God’s assistance and later to thank him for a successful outcome.

In 1849, during a severe cholera epidemic, President Zachary Taylor proclaimed a day of prayer, stating: “The providence of God has manifested itself in the visitation of a fearful pestilence which is spreading itself throughout the land, it is fitting that a people...acknowledging past transgressions, ask a continuance of the Divine mercy.”

During the Civil War, the Union and Confederate Congresses both called for days of prayer. As the war raged, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a National Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer on March

30, 1863, stating: “The awful calamity of civil war...may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins...We have forgotten God...We have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become...too proud to pray to the God that made us! It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins.” Then, in October 1863, Lincoln urged that the last Thursday of November be observed “as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens” for his “singular deliverances and blessings” and “with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience.”

Reliance on God continued. During World War I, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed May 11, 1918 a Day of Public Humiliation, Prayer and Fasting: “It be-

“Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become... too proud to pray to the God that made us! It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins.”

— Abraham Lincoln

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REFLECTIONS

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ing the duty peculiarly incumbent in a time of war humbly and devoutly to acknowledge our dependence on Almighty God and to implore His aid and protection...I...exhort my fellow-citizens...to pray Almighty God that He may forgive our sins.”

Similar days of supplication and appreciation continued to be held on dates of the president's choice. Then, in 1941, Congress enacted that a Thanksgiving Day would be celebrated each year on the fourth Thursday of November.

With the onset of World War II, Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed many days of petition and gratitude. On June 6, 1944, D-Day, he prayed: “Almighty God, our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our Religion and our Civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity...Help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice.”

When the war ended, President Harry Truman declared August 16, 1945 to be a Day of Prayer, stating, “Our global victory...has come with the help of God...Let us...dedicate ourselves to follow in His ways.” In 1952, President Truman enacted a law establishing the National Day of Prayer, for “In times of national crisis when we are striving to strengthen the foundations of peace...we stand in special need of Divine support.” The date was set as the first Thursday in May when signed into law in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan.

It is quite remarkable that in spite of continuing efforts to remove any reference to a Supreme Being from America's public conscience -- from the nation's coinage, the Pledge of Allegiance, the schools -- two national, public observances to God have developed -- a day of prayer in May and of Thanksgiving in November.

Every President since Lincoln has issued a thanksgiving

proclamation annually. Many have participated in days of prayer, and even called for additional ones for special occurrences. In April 1970, President Richard Nixon had the nation observe a Day of Prayer for the safe return of the Apollo 13 astronauts. President George W. Bush declared Days of Prayer after the Islamic terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and after Hurricane Katrina in August 2005.

While these public declarations have been called proclamations of prayer and thanksgiving, they have expressed much more than gratitude over the years. As all prayers, they have been used to *petition* God for assistance, to *thank* him for his mercy and abundance, to *atone* for our personal and national sins, and to *praise* him as the “Lord and Ruler of Nations.”

One might say that these calls are a form of public hypocrisy. They are issued with more than perfunctory meaning only in times of national distress -- when human action falls short and the divine is needed. But in another sense, they may be considered overt expressions of a deeper societal recognition of our dependence on a Creator God.

While America has a government that neither promotes a given religion nor prohibits the free exercise thereof, belief in God is an integral part of the nation's history, culture and society. As long as the people as a whole have not rejected all public reference to God nor abandoned religious practices, and if principles based on religious teachings continue to regulate their societal and political behavior, it will be possible to maintain a spirit of virtue to advance the well-being of our republic and its populace.

So, let us heed the calls of the pope, the president and other leaders and pray for our nation and the world, for an end to this pandemic and for a renewed awareness of God in our lives.

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

Those worthy knights who are Third Degree Members are encouraged to become Fourth Degree Sir Knights. This is the patriotic and highest degree in the Knights of Columbus. It operates through assemblies, rather than through councils.

An Exemplification, that is, the entrance ceremony, had been scheduled for Saturday, April 18. However, with the restrictions imposed because of the coronavirus pandemic, it will be rescheduled as soon as the future is clear.

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 or

phone 301-593-9284.

The meetings of the Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly, which serves the Color Corps needs of Rock Creek Council, are on the third Thursday of each month. They are held at 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 neildori-ankc@yahoo.com or 301-237-0552 cell.

Neil Dorian, SK
Past Faithful Navigator





SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

With the coronavirus pandemic still with us, the Seniors' St. Pat's Party an Meeting has been canceled.

We will hold off scheduling another meeting until we have an "all clear" signal.

As previously mentioned, I received a letter from Montgomery Police Chief Jones' office (before the virus hit) that they will try to schedule him or another police officer for one of our future meetings.

I also have been working through a friend to have Dr. Anthony Fauci attend one of our meetings, and he said he would like to do so. We will wait until he has some free time. I will follow up on this at a later date.

We have had a number of names on our Chatter Sick List for a very long time. Some perhaps should be removed, but I do not want to do so if they still need our prayers. Please call me about anyone who should be



PGK Bob Waters

removed. My number is 301-493-8883.

Let's all pray that this pandemic ends soon and that the Lord continues to protects us .

**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.

Congratulations to Bob Waters

Bob Waters was chosen as the Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly's Knight of the Month for April. He joined the Knights (Rock Creek Council) in 1962, and became a member of the Fourth Degree in 1973. Bob is a regular attendee at Assembly meetings, and never misses serving as "altar boy:" at their annual Memorial Mass.

Incidentally, Bob served as our council's Grand Knight in 1976-77, and is now the "dean of the past grand knights," i.e., most senior living PGK. He is the perpetual president of the Seniors and the regular altar server at the council's Memorial Mass.

Congregations, Bob, for all you do for the Assembly, as well as the Council.

Did You Know?

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

Knight of the Month

Knight of the Month for April is Bill Jeffers.

Bill is a regular volunteer for the Council and has been very active in helping out on the Fish Fry's. He is always helpful and a friendly face to our visitors at the Mansion, and we appreciate his participation and support.

Thanks, Bill, for all you do to make our Council and the Mansion a welcoming and fraternal place.

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 COMMITEE

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

Anniversary
& Birthday
Receptions,
Weddings,
Meetings

Rock Creek Council's

ROCK CREEK MANSION

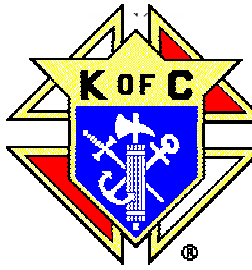
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THE KNIGHT CHATTER

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ROCK CREEK COUNCIL, No. 2797

5417 WEST CEDAR LANE

BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814-1517

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May CHATTER Deadline:
April 25, 2020

ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Fast and Abstinence on Good Friday			1	2	3	4
Abstinence on all Fridays of Lent						
5 Palm Sunday	6	7 Business Meeting Canceled	8	9	10 Good Friday	11 Holy Saturday
12 Easter	13	14	15 K-C Club Canceled	16 Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly Meeting Canceled	17	18 4th Degree Exemplification Cancelled
19 Divine Mercy Sunday	20	21 Social Meeting Canceled	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	April	