



THE KNIGHT CHATTER

May 2020 Published Monthly, at no charge, by Rock Creek Council, 5417 W. Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814 Year 82, No. 10

In This Issue

<i>Chaplain's Message</i>	1
<i>Grand Knight's Report</i>	1
<i>District Deputy</i>	3
<i>Your Council in Action</i>	4
<i>Grand Knight's Annual Report</i>	6-7
<i>Virtual Exemplification</i>	2
<i>Fourth Degree</i>	8
<i>Fraternal Benefits</i>	5, 11
<i>REFLECTIONS</i>	9
<i>Seniors' Club</i>	11
<i>Club News (Lounge)</i>	5
<i>Dues Notice</i>	2
<i>Pray the Rosary</i>	2, 7
<i>Rental</i>	10
<i>Sick & Distressed</i>	10



The new side entrance to Cantrell Hall at the Mansion

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

FR. MARK HUGHES

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

MICHAEL HOULIHAN

Brother Knights,

May is the month we honor our Blessed Mother. We pray through Mary to intercede for our intentions. I would like to request that you add to your intentions this month the families of all who have died during this virus shutdown.

This is an untold story of true grieving beyond the normal loss of a loved family member or friend.

One of the tragedies of this period is the shutdown of traditional funerals. It is bad enough that people are not able to visit the hospitals and nursing homes to see the patients, but when they die the funeral experience is very difficult.

We are not allowed to have any service in the church with more than 10 people so a traditional funeral Mass is not possible. Even the time at a funeral home is very restricted to the same standards. As a result, families have to choose between a small prayer service, sometimes in which the entire immediate family cannot be there at the same time, and postponing the funeral until we are allowed



Fr. Mark Hughes

Brothers,

As we continue to endure this pandemic, I hope you are all holding up well. Our Council is holding up well where possible – as you will read in this issue of the Chatter, we are keeping up our charitable work as we are able, and we are continuing to add to our membership. We are not able to keep up our in-person meetings, but trust that will be able to happen soon. A great disappointment has been the need to cancel certain events that define us, like our annual Teacher Appreciation event. Hopefully we will be able to return to normal soon.

Our Knights of Columbus organization has been deeply involved throughout the world in trying to help others during this pandemic through the "Leave No Neighbor Behind" program. Your fellow Knights have been involved in reaching out to their home-bound brothers to care for their needs, conducting food drives, caring for the elderly in their neighborhoods, and caring for the homeless. The Knights of Columbus organization is also making needed funds



Grand Knight Houlihan

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued on page 2)



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

to be back in the church without restrictions.

Most people have the prayers at the funeral home or church and then have to choose which 5 people can go to the cemetery.

So there is no real opportunity to share grief with extended family and friends. Plans then are made to have the funeral Mass later this summer, but without the person's remains which have already been buried. It is not a great way to conduct a funeral, but under the circumstances is the best we can do. I have participated in six funerals so far and have another six that will be delayed until the restrictions are lifted.

It is hard enough to say goodbye to someone you love and under normal conditions, but so much more difficult in these terrible times in which we live. So as you pray for intentions this month, please ask the Blessed Mother's intercessions for the deceased and their grieving families.

Sincerely,

Fr. Hughes

Virtual Exemplifications

As many of you know, the three exemplification ceremonies of Charity, Unity and Fraternity have been combined into a single ceremony. It is intended to be held at the council level, but because of the restrictions on gatherings because of the coronavirus, Supreme held an Online Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity on April 16.

The event was a huge success with 2,138 men admitted to the Order and 7,009 others advanced to the third degree. This showed that men are eager to join our ranks and advance even during this time of pandemic and social distancing.

To accommodate the many candidates and prospects who were unable to participate in this initial event, Supreme hosted additional online exemplifications on April 23 and 30, and may plan additional ones. Hopefully, with the easing of restrictions in some states, in-person exemplifications may soon be scheduled at the council level. Rock Creek Council is ready as soon as permission is given.

Dues

Are your dues in the red? If you have not paid them, please do so ASAP. If you're not sure, ask me or FS Doug Yeatman. We've been instructed by Supreme to clear our rolls of inactive members (i.e., didn't pay dues in last 3 years), so be sure to pay and stay active.

Michael Houlihan, Grand Knight

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

available to parishes to sustain their needs. Our organization is, in many ways, defined by our visibility at times of crisis, like this. I hope you are finding a way to be a visible force for support and charity at this time.

Despite the difficulties, there have been many stories of neighbor helping neighbor, unexpected acts of kindness, and thoughtful acts of charity. Maybe you've also noticed folks walking in your neighborhood that you didn't realize were your neighbors, or kids playing in the street, a different kind of connection building in your communities? Or maybe you've learned some new skill out of necessity to do your work at home or communicate with distant family or stay connected with whom you can't meet now in person? For me, it's been like a forced sabbath – less need to think about all the activities I'm involved in since they are all cancelled, less distraction from things I should be planning for since they are all postponed, etc. Despite the obvious downsides of this pandemic, it has been an opportunity for us all to reflect on what's important and what life is about. When Jesus said: "Blessed are the clean of heart", he was talking about this – having a heart so undistracted by things that don't really matter that we can focus on the things that truly matter. When we simplify and refine our outlook, we can see what is truly important. I hope that you are finding some blessings (i.e., anything that brings us closer to God) in this difficult time, too.

Soon, we hope to reconvene and reach out to each other and the needy in person. We plan to have events at the Mansion after the social distancing restrictions are relaxed to show our appreciation for first responders in our area and to serve the charitable organizations again that have come to rely on us over the years.

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

Michael Houlihan

Grand Knight

PRAY THE ROSARY OFTEN

**We pray the Rosary
before our meetings —
online or in-person —
each month**

**Pray for our nation and
for your individual
needs**

Join us at 7:30 PM!





DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT



William Newbrough, DD

Dear Brother Knights, Friends and Family,

As we navigate through the turmoil and uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, I would first like to recognize the joy of the Easter Season and extend to each of you my best wishes for the health and well-being of your families. These are challenging days indeed. For

Catholics, that challenge comes with the hard sacrifice of not being able to attend Holy Mass and participate in the Eucharist. Who among us ever imagined a time when we might not be able to attend mass, participate fully in the sacraments or attend a wedding, graduation or funeral of a friend or family member?

Such restrictions were unimaginable to most of us, until very recently. They are not however unimaginable to many persecuted Christian communities around the world. Today, just as the world is ravaged by a killer coronavirus, Christians in over 25 countries worldwide are also subject to daily harassment, persecution and death. In Nigeria, Christian communities are under almost constant assault by elements of the Boko Haram Islamic terrorist group. Christians in India, Pakistan, Egypt and China face daily obstacles and threats that keep them from attending Mass, participating in the sacraments and attending the weddings, funerals and baptisms of their loved ones.

I mention the suffering of persecuted Christians because I have had the blessing of serving these precious Christian brothers and sisters over the last few years. In doing so, I have learned a valuable lesson. The authentic experience of God requires the Cross and at the heart of Christian life is charity – our loving response in the face of suffering. And in the midst of our suffering, Catholic Christians are sustained, uplifted and edified by the graces that flow from our participation in the sacramental life of the Church.

At this moment of communal suffering, I believe we can all appreciate now more than ever – how very much we miss attending Easter Mass, the consolation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the comfort of attending the Mass of Christian burial of a friend or family member.

If anything, these difficult days should renew our appreciation for full participation in the sacramental life of the Church. Whereas before the pandemic, our options to attend Mass at our convenience were nearly unlimited, today we are restricted to “virtual” Mass and “online” liturgical celebrations. Given the opportunity today, how far would you walk and what hardships would you endure if only you could attend Holy Mass in person?

Just as persecuted Christians today are restricted in their

ability to practice their faith due to physical threats of violence, so today we begin to understand in some small measure what it means to suffer the loss of daily access to the sacraments. We should use this time of social distancing and quarantine to renew our appreciation for the deep meaning, the beauty and richness of our Catholic faith. Hopefully this time of necessary separation from the sacraments will help us to value the experience of full participation in the sacramental life all the more.

That being said, there are many things that we can do now by praying and working for the good of others. In this dark moment, we can embrace the cross of suffering and respond with charity, fraternity, unity and patriotism. We can put our Faith into Action by placing ourselves at the service of the Church, our families and our communities and live out the vision of our Founder Fr. Michael McGivney. In fact our Order was born out of the necessity for just such charitable, selfless giving.

In 1882, Fr. McGivney witnessed the tragic effects of illness, poverty and death visited upon the members of his community in New Haven Connecticut. He saw priests serving their suffering flock grow old in their thirties, fall ill and die due to the “Priest’s Disease” acquired during visits to their ailing parishioners often suffering from influenza or tuberculosis. In fact, Fr. McGivney’s predecessor at St. Mary’s parish in New Haven died of tuberculosis in his thirties and Fr. Michael McGivney was dead at 38.

I encourage each member and every council to embrace the Order’s “Leave No Neighbor Behind” initiative focusing our efforts on 5 key areas; 1) Support for our Brother Knights, their families and their widows 2) Support for our pastors and parishes 3) Support for our communities 4) Support for local food pantries and food distribution programs and 5) Support for blood drives sponsored by the American Red Cross. Please visit the Supreme website at www.kofc.org for guidance, direction and examples of successful programs.

The Order has established the “Leave No Neighbor Behind” Fund to provide food assistance across the nation with a \$1 million dollar starting contribution. You may contribute to this fund online on the Supreme website. Also, I strongly encourage you to visit www.kofc.org/intothebreach to view an amazing series of inspiring and informative Knight’s produced videos.

Please be assured of my continued prayers for each of you and your families during these challenging days. May Our Lady Queen of the Knights continue to protect and intercede for us as we serve Our Lord in the final weeks of the fraternal year. All the best.

Vivat Jesus!

William Newbrough

District Deputy No. 18



Your Council in Action

As we move forward and out of the pandemic, it is our duty as Knights to reach out and help those around us who are in need. The Council is participating in the Order's "Leave No Neighbor Behind" initiative, and has established a Coronavirus Committee. The group has met and discussed ideas for how to support our community during the outbreak.

Children's Inn At NI: This is a donation-driven facility where families can stay while their children receive treatment at NIH. It is truly a tremendous place. They currently have 20 families on site. Due to the coronavirus their donations are down. They are now in need of pantry items. The council has and continues to accept donations of prepackaged foods, such as canned goods, mini cereal packs, crackers and cookies as well as Visa-style gift cards. The new entrance door to Cantrel Hall is usually open Monday through Friday from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. If it is, you will be able to drop off items in the new vestibule. If it is closed, bring your donations to the bar.

Fisher House: This is one of our regular beneficiaries, but we can't make meals for them now as we usually do. So we plan to send them gift cards for residents to buy food with, as soon as their legal folks agree with us on an approach.

Bethesda Cares: We will put together a food drive for Bethesda Cares after our Children's House @ NIH drive is done.

Catholic Charities: We'll be making a \$1,000 donation to Catholic Charities this week.

Parishes: The church pews are empty. The baskets

aren't being passed. We'll be sending checks to each of our six parishes. Although we can't defray much of their lost income, we want to support them as best we can.

First Responder's Appreciation Day: At the Mansion, when businesses reopen, possibly in June.

Blood Drive: We have been in contact with the Red Cross and will host a drive in the Mansion. It likely will be scheduled in June or July.

Outreach to Members: We have several members ready to help those in need and asking for help. Contact Mike Horan (see below) with your request, he has the list of Knights who are ready to assist you. They are willing to make store or pharmacy runs, or even provide some help around the house. We will do our best to accommodate you.

Sick and Distressed: As Knights it is a duty to Pray for those sick or in distress. Please let us know of Brothers, family and friends sick or who have passed. Please remember in your prayers all of the front line heroes, along with all our previously mentioned brothers and friends, especially those on the Sick and Distressed List (p. 4) and those mentioned in the Seniors' Club column (p. 11).

If you need any help or if you have any questions please feel free to contact:

Michael Horan

240-793-1169

mike_horanbros@yahoo.com





The Five Pillars of Being a Knight



Steve Upton, PGK,

Most of you know me as your Knights of Columbus Field Agent but before that I'm a Brother Knight and as such I wanted to send you a quick note that reflects the posture of the Knights of Columbus and my own commitment to serve you and your family in these unprecedented times.

As a framework, I want to employ the five pillars that Supreme Knight Carl Anderson has pointed to as characteristics found in men who, in time of crisis, not only survive but lead.

First, we remain rooted in the truth of the faith. We pray for one another, for the sick and the dying, and for the Church and world. In this we remain true to Fr. McGivney's vision of protecting families within the sure tracks of the Catholic faith.

Second, the Knights can be counted on to step into the breach. When disasters strike, the Knights are there with prayer and work, supporting first responders, providing shelter and assistance to those affected. This time is no different. Working together, we remain united and strong.

Third, a Knight stays at his post. I understand that you have concerns about health, finances, job security, savings, retirement, and these have only increased in these days. I am here to help allay those concerns and to answer any questions you may have.

We are ready **to suffer for the good.** It has fallen to us agents and our Supreme Council leadership to roll up our sleeves and get to work so we can remain effective as we work remotely and maintain social distance. To that end, we are employing new technology that allows us to meet

“virtually,” using a secure video conferencing software. It allows us to see each other, and to share a screen that features forms and other graphics.

Finally, **a Knight maintains humble confidence.** My commitment to you, our members and families, remains steady and is built not primarily on my qualifications but on the strength of our Order, which has grown and strengthened over more than 135 years. Our Order is strong, and our guarantees remain in place.

By now you may have heard the S&P Global Ratings recently issued a report (April 6, 2020) that ranked all its rated North American Life Insurance Companies from strongest to weakest. You should be proud to know that your Knights of Columbus are tied for first!

The Knights is one of six companies - out of a total of 66 - that has a AA+ rating on financial strength, and a stable outlook. S&P also lists the Knights as having a “very strong” business risk profile, and an “excellent” financial risk profile.

Financial strength and stability are on a lot of people's minds lately, and it's reassuring to know that the Knights stand tall among the competition.

As always, I stand ready to help. If you or anyone you know are in need of assistance of any kind during these trying times, please feel free to contact me.

Steve Upton

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



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



Rock Creek Council Annual Report

1. Overview

The Rock Creek Council was founded in 1938 to offer the fraternal and service benefits of the Knights of Columbus to Catholic men in the Bethesda, Maryland area. Over the past 82 years, our council has become an institution in the community and a visible source of Catholic ideals in our area. We meet twice monthly (1st and 3rd Tuesdays) at our home, the Rock Creek Mansion, once for a monthly business meeting and once for a social meeting. Before each meeting, Brothers meet to recite the rosary and pray for the needs of our members and our community.

2. Our Members

Our Council has over 900 members, who join us from our six member parishes in and near Bethesda, Maryland: St. Jane de Chantal, St. Bartholomew, Holy Cross, Little Flower, Our Lady of Lourdes, and Holy Redeemer. Many of our members have been active for over 40 years in our Council, and many have only recently joined. Our membership embraces all walks of life and includes prelates and priests, judges and lawyers, doctors and dentists, artists and architects, plumbers and electricians, carpenters and bankers, sailors and soldiers, engineers and businessmen. Our wide range of activities, from our Seniors Club to Family nights and fish fry's, offer opportunities for fellowship and service to Knights of all ages, making the Council truly a home for all. We connect in person at our Council Home (see below), through our service activities, and through our monthly Council Newsletter the "Chatter", which has been published nearly continuously since September 12, 1940.

3. Our Council Home

Due to the foresight of our Council's founders, we are very fortunate to have a home property. We purchased the Rock Creek Mansion, on Cedar Lane in the heart of Bethesda, in 1952. The Mansion is a three-story building on an approximately two-acre property. It has a full lounge and recreation space in the lowest level, a commercial-grade kitchen and banquet hall on the main level that can accommodate as many as 200 guests, and offices and meeting rooms on the upper level. This property gives us a unique focus for our Council's activities and greatly enhances our ability to connect with each other. The lower-level lounge is open daily and is a great place to relax and catch up with fellow Knights, with its multiple HD flat screen TVs, a pool table, meeting spaces, and friendly atmosphere. In serving the community's needs for banquet space, the Mansion also provides us a source of income to fund our charitable activities.

4. Our Faith in Action

Our Council, like all Knights of Columbus Councils, is dedicated to personally sharing the good news of the Gospels by putting our faith into action. Our Council has the good fortune of having a home property, numerous involved members, and a committed group of leaders that allow us to contribute to our parishes and community. Our Programs Director, Mike Horan, coordinates all of our efforts and leads many of our outreach activities. Our "Faith in Action" activities for the year are summarized below.

Faith

As an order of committed Catholic men, we share our faith with our Brother Knights and with others. This year, we conducted a number of faith activities, including our annual Memorial Mass in November, several lectures at our Council home, a pre-lent day of reflection, and our regular recitation of the Rosary at the beginning of our meetings. We strongly support our seminarians and priests, too, through our outreach and financial support. Our members also share their faith in the individual activities of our six parishes, including for example Saturday morning men's groups, stations of the cross events, and catechesis.

Family

We are committed to celebrating and supporting the family as the fundamental building block of the kingdom of God on earth. We support the family through activities such as: (i) sending food twice monthly to the Fisher House, which provides comfort homes where veterans and their families can stay free of charge while a loved one is in the hospital; (ii) our annual 'Breakfast with Santa' event at the Rock Creek Mansion; (iii) our annual Teacher Appreciation event, attended by ~200 teachers, administrators, and priests from our six Catholic community elementary schools; and (iv) our monthly Saturday "Mind Mass" event, in which families having intellectually disabled youth attend Mass together and then return to the Rock Creek Mansion for a morning of breakfast, fun, and support.

Community

The Rock Creek Council has become a central figure in our community over our 82 years as a Council, and we are particularly visible through our community activities. This year we continued our tradition (since 2003) of host-



Rock Creek Council Annual Report (cont.)

ing quarterly dinners for the Aleethia Foundation, an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to helping wounded/injured/ill service members recovering at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. We held our annual fund raiser “Redskins and Blue Crabs” event for needy children with the help of our Alumni friends from the Washington Redskins, and we supported the Tootsie Roll drive. In January, our members participated in the Special Olympics “Polar Plunge”, and we held two charity chess tournaments this year, each drawing about 90 players from our area schools, with the proceeds benefitting the National Institutes of Health Children’s House.

Life

Our Knights are deeply dedicated to supporting the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. To express that dedication, we routinely conduct events in support of life. Our members supported events this year in protest of the late-term abortion clinic in Bethesda, and we hosted the “Face the Truth” tour event in our area in July. In January, we hosted a lecture Mr. Sean Flannigan and social event at the start of the week of activities commemorating the Supreme Court’s decision in the case “Roe vs. “Wade”, including a sharing of literature and fellowship among those joined in the cause of the unborn. This year, we also participated in the “9 Days for Life” Novena in January to pray for an end to abortion and for the reconciliation of all those affected by abortion. One of our most joyful “Life” activities of the year was a large fundraising event at the Rock Creek Mansion in October for Special Olympics, organized and sponsored by our members. At the event, we hosted athletes and their parents from Special Olympics Montgomery County, Maryland for an evening of food, dancing, fellowship, and celebration of the simple joys of friendship and family – truly a wonderful event, and a significant fundraising success.

5. Closing

Our Council is blessed with a large, active, and compassionate community of Knights and their families, and for that we are very thankful. We are blessed with a rich history, and we benefit from the wise and generous contributions of our past officers and Grand Knights, which put us in a position to do much good and to share our friendship and good fortune. We are further blessed with a strong faith community that is the foundation of our fraternity. And we remember and pray for our Brothers who died in the past year, who are a listed below.

Francis J. Cantrel, PGK Jan. 15, 2019	James Young, Feb. 27, 2019	Eugene O’Neill, Mar. 28, 2019
Alexander Dromerick, May 11, 2019	Deacon J.B. Shewmaker, Jun. 22, 2019	Gilbert Fuentes, Nov. 24, 2019

Mike Houlihan

Grand Knight

March 29, 2020

Five Reasons to Pray the Rosary

The rosary, which every Knight receives, has been prayed by Catholics across the centuries. Pope Francis is encouraging all Catholics to “rediscover the beauty of praying the rosary”

Here are 5 reasons why everyone should pray the rosary.

1) The Blessed Mother gave 15 promises to those who prayed the rosary

The Blessed Virgin gave 15 promises to Christians who prayed the rosary, including the assurance of receiving the sacraments at the time of death; never being conquered by misfortune; and her own special protection.

2) To obtain world peace

Our Lady at Fatima in 1917 told the three children to whom she appeared, “Continue praying the rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary, in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war, because only she can help you.”

3) Time to reflect on the Gospel mysteries

In the rosary, we are invited to reflect on the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous mysteries revealed in the Gospels and discover the real meaning of those events in the silence of our hearts.

4) Spiritual healing

Another purpose of praying the rosary is to allow God to enter our hearts. As we meditate through the repetitive prayers, we can better hear God. We hear him in the silence of our hearts, where Christ’s spirit dwells. Take 15 minutes a day, the time it takes to pray the rosary, to open your heart to him.

5) Prayer works

The power of prayer is unspeakable. It is our lifeline to God. Take some time to become a Knight better dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God, by rediscovering the beauty of the rosary.



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

Worthy Sir Knights,

In this unprecedented time following instructions from Governor Hogan, Supreme and the Archdiocese of Washington, we have canceled our upcoming meetings until further notice. We are requesting guidance from Supreme and State on how to proceed in conducting business as we have upcoming elections that the bylaws require be done by secret ballot. As we get additional information from our leadership we will send to the members via email.

Stay home as much as possible, take care of yourselves, do not take any chances my friends. This disease can live on hard surfaces for days and some people who have it will show no signs of sickness and can make you sick. None of us in our lifetimes have ever been through anything like this. This is one of those things that you cannot smell, feel, hear, or see which makes it seem like it is not out there. Be cautious. We care about each one of you and want you to stay healthy.

Your assembly has undertaken a program to put our faith into action and "Leave No Neighbor Behind." We have teamed up with 4 Corners Pub, a local small business in Silver Spring, and the Maryknights Auxiliary of Fr. Rosensteel Council to prepare and deliver food to nurses, doctors, and hospital staff on the front lines fighting COVID-19.

We have donated enough meals to feed approximately 450 front line workers and it is growing. It is a win-win situation for both the first responders working so hard to keep us safe and healthy and to support local small business in these unprecedented times. It helps everyone and also creates and saves jobs in our community for our small business by teaming up with them. Working enables their staff to pay their rent and feed their families.

On April 22, food was delivered to Suburban Hospital. The next day, the Catholic Standard and WUSA Channel 9 arrived to photograph, film, and witness the delivery to Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center. The article in The Catholic Standard can be found at <https://cathstan.org/news/local/knights-of-columbus-members-local-business-provide-food-to-first-responders>

The gratitude shown by the hospital staff as we dropped off the food was overwhelming. One of the nurses said to me that they were so busy that they did not have time on many days to go to the cafeteria and eat and this solves that problem. They thanked us 1000 fold for looking out for them and I returned the thanks to them for keeping us safe and healthy. They were truly grateful and it makes

me proud to part of this organization.

We will deliver meals to MedStar Montgomery Medical Center on May 14. Donations are continuing to come in, and it appears that we will have enough donations to make yet a fourth donation. Please show your support and make a contribution large or small to continue this program. Mail checks payable to Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly to Russell Sutton (10200 Day Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20910-1042) and note that it is for the COVID-19 program. You can also give on your credit card by calling Russell Sutton on 301-332-0517.



I assure you that 100% of the money that you give will be put to feed the front line workers in our community – And there will be no weeks-long delay in turning this money over for this purpose. Your donation will be used immediately.

Thank you for your generosity to "Leave No Neighbor Behind."

If you or any Sir Knight needs assistance during this time, please feel free to reach out to me or any of the other officers of the Assembly.

Vivat Jesus,

Thomas J. Kelly

Faithful Navigator



Assembly Comptroller Russell Sutton helping to deliver food to Adventist Medical Center

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!

Visit the **Council Website** at www.kofc2797.org



REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson, PGK

What Will be the Lasting Effect of Covid-19?

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the fragility of existence as we know it. The virus has led to a total disruption of our social, economic and familial lives. Within a few weeks beginning in mid-February, shortly after the country's first coronavirus cases were recorded, the U.S. economic boom that developed over the past three years was decimated. Millions of people lost their jobs, all non-essential businesses were shuttered, the stock market lost one-third of its value, and some 45,000 Americans had contracted the disease. A month later, the number of cases rose to over 600,000, taxing the health care facilities of the nation, particularly in densely populated urban areas. This highly contagious disease has been indiscriminate – felling rich and poor, young and old, celebrities and the unpublicized, elected officials and day workers, athletes and the sedentary.

Government entities at all levels responded with mitigation strategies of various severity – from social distancing to closing schools, from forbidding gatherings of a given size to staying at home, from wearing masks in public to prohibiting adults from visiting their parents in nursing homes, from closing most businesses to banning church services.

The social-distancing dictates were soon strictly enforced. Cities employed drones to observe violators. Municipal authorities ticketed cars at a drive-in church service. A few people praying near abortion clinics, while maintaining mandated separation, were threatened by police for not staying at home. People have been fined, arrested and even jailed for violating restrictions on their every movement and gathering.

The restrictions on individual freedom and the severe methods of enforcement were rapidly accepted out of a combination of caution and fear arising from worst case predictions of death due to the virus. As May begins, the peak of new cases appears to have passed. The number of fatalities nationwide due to COVID-19 is about 68,000, which is slightly more than the 61,000 flu-related deaths that occurred in 2017-18. Whether the extreme mitigation efforts were necessary or there was an over-reaction to media-driven anxiety can be debated, but COVID-19, though serious, has not become the apocalyptic event that was initially projected.

Some states are now beginning to lessen the restrictions

they imposed and open their economies. More states will soon follow. The question arises: Will the individual freedoms and way of life that existed before the pandemic return or will certain state intrusions on personal liberty remain?

When there is a community emergency, government officials must often take measures that impinge on individual rights to assure public order, security or health. But in doing so, they must recognize that people are created by God with an inherent dignity and natural rights.

In dealing with the coronavirus outbreak, restrictions were placed on the right to assemble (e.g., no gatherings over a given size), freedom of religion (e.g., church services were forbidden), and freedom of speech (e.g., no protests in front of abortion clinics) -- all of which are guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution. While most people have accepted these restrictions, they

will continue to do so only if they deem them absolutely necessary.

Actions to limit human rights and constitutional freedoms should meet several principles. First, there must be a compelling government interest to take action. Merely the fact that government can do so is not satisfactory. The required action must be necessary and beyond the capability of individuals, the private sector and lower levels of government. Second, the action taken must be the least

burdensome on those affected of the various possible ways to proceed. Requiring attendees to wear masks, for example, and maintaining social distancing at a church service would be less burdensome on parishioners than banning church services entirely.

Third, it must be temporary, terminating when the need no longer exists. As part of its action, government should create circumstances and criteria for the community to return to normalcy. Fourth, the action should be taken at the lowest governmental level possible, the one closest to those in need.

The United States is a vast country, with great differences among the regions, states and communities. New York, for example, has had over 313,000 confirmed cases of the virus, while Wyoming has had only 579 cases. Clearly, the



(Continued on page 10)



REFLECTIONS

(Continued from page 9)

restrictions imposed in Wyoming need not be as severe as those in New York. But even within each state, conditions can vary by locality. In Maryland, Prince Georges County has had 7,600 confirmed cases, while adjoining Calvert County has recorded 171.

There is no one set of actions that suits every community. For entities that are minimally affected, only a slight amount of mitigation may be needed. For cities and states that have a significant need, however, a more drastic and longer-term response may be required. The resources required to deal quickly with the emergency may even be beyond their capability so that a higher-level of government may have to be involved. The general strategy guiding the governmental response to the coronavirus in the United States follows this pattern of subsidiarity – federally-provided resources, state management, and local execution.

Freedom cannot be taken for granted. It is hard to win and difficult to retain. It is frequently lost through unanticipated threats and unperceived consequences of well-intentioned actions. Governmental restrictions of liberty must occur only when absolutely necessary, limited to as long as needed, and then rolled back. As John Adams



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, PGK William Parker 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.

Deceased:

Bill Gates, and Carleton Hanson (son-in-law of late-PGK BoB Peternell). Do not forget all of our departed members, families and friends.

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.

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



SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

I didn't think anything could slow our Seniors' Club down, but this coronavirus has done that. Because of the restrictions on social gathering, there was no meeting last month. As soon as the restrictions are lifted, we will "crank" things up and resume our meetings and parties.



PGK Bob Waters

In the meantime, stay safe. Let's also pray for our country and all of our seniors who are in assisted living facilities.

I have asked several times for information about those who need prayers. Some of the names on our prayer list have been there for years. Many may no longer need our prayers. Your help in up-dating the list will be appreciated.

Many thanks to all who called or sent cards

for my 86th birthday! Time certainly goes quickly.

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.



From Your Field Agent

Brothers:

Much has changed over the past few weeks. However, my commitment to my members remains the same. I am here to help you and your family.

As we all navigate the current crisis, I want you to know that I am still available. I am able to meet with you virtually over Skype, a communication platform that provides video chat and voice calls between computers, tablets and mobile devices. In order to keep all of us safe, we can have a "virtual" appointment without either of us leaving our homes.

So, whether you have questions about your policy, have services requests, or want to explore the newest product offerings from the Knights, I can help.

Now might be a great time to update your Family Service Record and make sure you have everything in order.

You can also stay up to date on what is happening across the Order in response to the Covid-19 health crisis by visiting <http://kofc.org/en/news-room/knightline/special-edition/indexhtml>.

Do not hesitate to contact me if I can help in any way (301-873-7450; steve.upton@kofc.org).

Till then I pray you and your family are safe.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Steve Upton

Visit the **State Website** at www.kofc-md.org

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

Anniversary
& Birthday
Receptions,
Weddings,
Meetings

Rock Creek Council's

ROCK CREEK MANSION

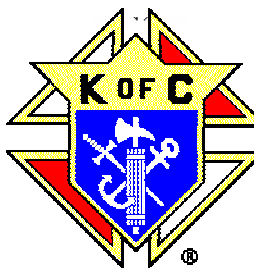
A Private Party Site in the
Heart of Bethesda

Excellent location near the
Capital Beltway, just north
of NIH.

For more information,
check the website
www.rockcreekmansion.com

Schedule a tour by calling

Julie Carter
240-426-1220



THE KNIGHT CHATTER

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

ROCK CREEK COUNCIL, No. 2797

5417 WEST CEDAR LANE

BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814-1517

<http://www.KofC2797.org>

Place 1st
Class
Stamp
Here

Address Service Requested

June CHATTER Deadline:
May 25, 2020

ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May					1	2
3	4	5 Business Meeting Online	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Social Meeting Canceled	20 K-C Club Canceled	21 Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly Mtng Canceled Ascension Thur	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Pentecost	Memorial Day					

Visit the **Council Website** at www.kofc2797.org