



THE KNIGHT CHATTER

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Fr. McGivney to be beatified. See pages 6 and 7.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

FR. MARK HUGHES

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

MICHAEL HOULIHAN

Brother Knights,

I keep hearing people on TV saying there is no point in praying about the VIRUS that is crippling our nation. They say that only science can help this horrible situation. They mock the idea that prayer has any impact. Doctors, news people and politicians discount prayer without knowing what they are criticizing.



Fr. Mark Hughes

Here is how prayer helps the tragic consequences that continue to destroy lives. First, we pray for those who get the disease that they may get better or that they find the courage to not give up the fight. We pray for their families who go through the stress of supporting their loved ones who have it. We pray that they continue to offer the vital love and support those who are sick desperately need. We pray they do not give into fear and false hopes.

We also pray for the political leaders and medical professionals who have to make the huge and consequential decisions about how to combat the virus. We pray especially

(Continued on page 2)

Brothers,

With this issue, we approach the end of another Columbian Year. And, as is our practice, we will be changing officers at the end of this month. Our Council held elections last week and elected new officers (see page 4 for the officer names). Thank you, to all of you officers who served this past year. You represented our Council and your offices well, and you were a reliable group for me to work with in our charitable and fraternal pursuits over the past year.



Grand Knight Houlihan

I want to also thank several Knights who provided mentoring and advice to me that was invaluable, including Advocate Kevin Kittka, PGK Larry Grayson, PGK Joe Doniger, PGK Terrance Ryan, PGK Roberto Ibanez, and PGK Joe Murphy. And a most special thanks to PGK Mike Horan, who every year is the central figure driving activity in our Council, and DD William Newbrough, whose enthusiasm and advocacy for our council and for me have been motivating and inspirational.

(Continued on page 2)



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

for medical people who have to treat the patients. We pray for the people who are sick with other illnesses who can't get proper or timely medical treatment because of shutdowns.

We pray especially for those who have lost their jobs or for small business owners who have to make tough decisions about survive this crisis. We pray for people who have lost hope or patience or control of their lives out of fear and poverty.

We pray for so many more intentions like for those who have died. The list is endless. So when arrogant people on TV question the need for prayer, change the channel.

Sincerely,

Fr. Hughes



Incoming State Officers

The following were elected as State Officers for the 2020-2021 Fraternal Year:

- State Chaplain — Rev. Jose D. Opalda, JCL
- State Deputy -- Vincent Grauso
- State Secretary -- Christopher L. Powers
- State Treasurer -- Anthony N. Salvemini'
- State Advocate -- John F. Winfrey
- State Warden -- Ronald G. Hassan

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!



GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

We accomplished a lot this year! I'm really proud of your record of charitable activities and involvement during the past year, without which we would fail in our efforts to live up to the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. Your record of support for disabled and recovering veterans, the physically disabled, the unborn, the needy, and our members' spiritual pursuits advance our mission of acting as the eyes, hands, and hearts of Christ on earth. I hope you will look back at our record this year and feel encouraged about our ability to make a difference in our members' lives and our community through service, and that you will be motivated to improve on that record next year by engaging more of our brother knights in these activities.

But despite our good record for this past year, I feel like we got cut off in the midst of our most productive time of the year. As you know, we had to cancel most of our Fish Fry events and we were not able to complete some of our most significant events, including Teacher Appreciation Night, our First Responder's Appreciation Event, and the Exemplification ceremonies for new members. My feeling, on concluding my term as Grand Knight, is that we have a lot of unfinished business, and I want to make up for it next year. I will be working with incoming Grand Knight Jon Schneider and his officers next year to help make sure that we continue making progress in our charitable events, and I'd like you to find a way to help incoming GK Schneider too – maybe just pick one more thing to do this year than last year, even that would be enough.

Finally, as we enter the summer months with the health and economic crisis still with us, please pray for the health of our members and neighbors, pray that we all may have the patience to work constructively through this time as a society, and pray that the experience of these past few months will give us a deeper understanding of what is most important in our lives.

Have a safe month, Brothers, God bless you, and *Vivat Jesus*.

Michael Houlihan

Grand Knight

State Awards

Rock Creek Council received three major awards from the Maryland State Council for your achievements during this past Columbian Year.

1st Place Award for the best Life Activities under Faith in Action Programs

1st Place Award for recruiting the highest number of members among large council

Columbian Award for conducting programs in each of the Community, Faith, Family, and Life Program Areas.



DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT



William Newbrough, DD

Dear Brother Knights, Family and Friends,

As I sit down to write my final monthly message to you as your District Deputy, I would first like to thank each and every one of you for the honor and privilege of participating in the fraternal and charitable life of your councils over the past two years. What a blessing it has been

for me to be welcomed into your councils and to get to know your members and your families. One of the great joys of serving as District Deputy is the opportunity to be received as an honorary member in all the councils I have served. I have had the great good fortune of joining the councils of District 18 not only for business meetings but for memorable degrees, parish picnics and inspiring charitable programs. I have also joined our councils for sad moments, including the funerals of long-time members and now in responding to the challenges and sacrifices of the COVID-19 pandemic.

When I was initially asked to serve the District as DD by the incoming State Deputy Dale Trott, I was apprehensive and to some degree doubtful that I was up to the job. But in the end, I placed my trust in God and in our Blessed Mother and asked for the grace to do my best. I know that my attempts at service have often fallen short and my limitations are always before me. But more than anything, I have sought to serve to the best of my ability. Though my father, a proud West Virginia coal miner and member of the Knights of Columbus, passed away years ago, I can still hear his words spoken to me in times of indecision. He would simply say, "Give it your best shot, Honcho." And that is what I have tried to do. In serving, my goals have been simple – to assist, counsel, promote and support my Brother Knights in becoming the best Knights they could be. Most importantly, I have tried to assist my Brothers in putting their "**Faith into Action.**" as they work to realize the vision of our Founder, Fr. Michael J. McGivney. I thank each of you for that opportunity.

In extending to me your hospitality and support, you have inevitably had to put up with my long windedness. I beg your pardon in that regard and I thank you for your attentive ear and tolerant attitudes. Brevity was never my strong suit. In fact, you may have had to put up with much longer exhortations were it not for my excellent District Warden Dave Czarnecki. In addition to his dedication and unswerving commitment to serving the Knights and councils of District 18, Dave has been an invaluable resource to me in assisting with degrees, covering business meetings and hosting district wide events. Most importantly, Dave accomplished the near impossible by helping me to focus on essential matters while promoting a professional level of thoroughness and discipline with regard to district administrative duties. As District Warden, Dave

has been a wise counsellor and a true friend. I am ever grateful for Dave's contributions to the good of the District over the past two years and I am confident that he will make an exemplary District Deputy. Thank you Dave!

As you have no doubt heard me say throughout my term as DD, I believe that active membership in the Knights of Columbus can transform lives. That active participation can certainly be transformative in the lives of those we serve. Acts of kindness and compassionate service help to lighten the burdens imposed by poverty, disabilities and persecution. As we stand up for a Culture of Life and provide public witness against the great scourge of abortion, we may transform the lives of mothers and children we will never meet. That transformative impact was witnessed by the great friend of the Knights of Columbus, St. Pope John Paul II, when he referred to the good works of the Order as the "Charity that Evangelizes!"

But that transformation is not only evident in the lives of those we serve. Putting your Faith into Action will change your life and the lives of your family members as you become the husband, the father, the brother and the friend that God made you to be. You may find that through true service you become a better neighbor, a better citizen and a better Catholic. What is it worth to you to have the opportunity for your children to see you put your Faith into Action? I will never forget the Thanksgiving Turkey giveaway at our council when my young son looked at me after a morning of delivering holiday turkeys to needy families and said, "Dad, I'm proud of you." I can tell you what that meant to me. It was life changing. And no organization with the exception of the Church, will give you as wide an array of opportunities to put your faith into action as the Knights of Columbus.

Finally, let me just say that our unity as Brothers means the world to me and I thank you all for the blessings of friendship and for all your support over the past two years. I had a very strong experience of that fraternal bond over the Memorial Day weekend when my wife and I visited Black Water Falls State Park near Thomas, West Virginia. During our visit to Thomas, we stopped in the beautiful Catholic Church of St. Thomas for a few moments of prayer. As we knelt before the Blessed Sacrament, the parish priest passed through the sanctuary followed closely by a parishioner who I soon learned was Brother Knight Jeff Dean of Thomas Council #2010. They were setting up for the first Mass to be held in the parish since the COVID shutdown began. Jeff asked if we would be attending? I said, "Can we?" He responded, "Come and get fed Brother!" Needless to say we were thrilled to attend Mass for the first time in two months. Afterwards, I thanked Brother Jeff for this great gift at which point he dropped his head and said, "Let's pray together." We offered three Hail Marys and a Glory Be and thanked God for the blessings of the Church, of Holy Mass and for the Knights of Columbus. Our lives were blessed and trans-



In-Coming Council Officers

In a virtual meeting on June 2, the following were elected as officers of Rock Creek Council for the 2020-2021 Columbian Year:

Grand Knight	-	Jon Schneider
Deputy Grand Knight	-	Ivan Galic
Chancellor	-	Alex Lieb
Warden	-	Kevin August
Treasurer	-	Charles Gormly
Recorder	-	Jason Wan
Advocate	-	Kevin Kittka
Inside Guards	-	Michael Naas Aston Williams Matt Trebon
Outside Guards	-	John Titus Phillip Sheridan
Trustees 1 Year	-	Tom Tappan
2 Year	-	Joe Doniger
3 Year	-	Mike Houlihan
Delegates to State Convention	-	Jon Schneider Ivan Galic
Alternates	-	Larry Grayson Mike Horan

Kay-Cee Club News

Shareholders Report 2020

The Carona Virus Pandemic and all the associated gathering restrictions will cause us to be unable to have our annual Shareholders Meeting in June. I will, however, be sending out end of Columbian Year financial statements after July 1, 2020.

The unsure nature of what we can and cannot do with booking Cantrel Hall rentals is preventing me from forecasting any future rental income at the present time. I know Julie Carter is working extremely hard trying to re-schedule events booked for this Spring and Summer. Hopefully, we will be able to accommodate them.

The new vestibule at the side entrance to Cantrel Hall is now complete. Additionally, the replacement of the slate shingles on all sloped roof areas will be completed this June.

Thank you.

Tom Tappan
President



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

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When We Return to... Normal?



Steve Upton, PGK,

The world is slowly beginning its return to the way things were - at least as much as it can. It'll likely be months before we know what normal looks like now.

You've probably heard the saying attributed to an unsavory (to say the least!) historical figure that "there are decades where nothing happens, and there are weeks where decades happens." It certainly feels that way now. We have crammed decades of changes into these last several weeks, and it's hard to know what change permanent, and what changes will prove temporary.

Not everything is fluid though. I am struck by the resilience of the permanent things - our faith, our fraternity, our families. I'm sure you've seen the tremendous ways in which the Knights of Columbus has proven itself equal yet again to this current challenge. Whether it was the establishment of the Leave No Neighbor Behind Initiative, or the launch of the diocesan loan fund, or just the every-day, every-city response of councils across the globe, we have responded as we always do; swiftly, powerfully.

Sure, we've had to cancel some things. We've had to have some virtual meetings. We've had to stay a safe distance apart. But our distance hasn't diminished our unity, nor has it changed our impact.

I continue to be proud to be a part of this great organization - especially in moments like these. And I know you are too. That's why, for me, being financially committed to the Knights is such a point of pride. We all need life insurance. We all need to plan for retirement. We all

need to think about and prepare for life's what-ifs.

But when it comes time to decide who to make those preparations with, and who to choose to buy those products from, we can choose to spend our money with the company who establishes a multi-million dollar loan funds for Catholic dioceses in their most desperate time of need, or we can go another route. We can choose to buy our insurance from a company who leaves no neighbor behind, or a company who has no real concept of who their neighbor is. We can prepare for our retirement with a company whose members are - once again - setting an example of true Christian charity for all to follow, or we can go in a different direction.

I would challenge you, whether you've never inquired or it's been a long time - to take a fresh look at the Knights of Columbus as a trusted financial partner, and see what products and services we may have that might help you and your family. As we all start to get back to things, I can meet with you in person or by video, whichever you prefer, and we can have stress-free, no-commitment conversation about the possibilities.

It's a way to further your commitment to all that we stand for, and - at the same time - obtain some much-needed peace of mind in times like these.

Vivat Jesus,

Steve Upton

STEVE UPTON, GK, FDD

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Club News

Hello Brothers, Family & Friends,

It looks like we may be moving to some form of opening. But please remember, we must follow all guidelines set forth by the county, as well as the state. We will keep you updated as we receive more information.

Even though things are looking up, the virus is still out there. Please stay safe and remember the Council is here for you. Reach out if you are in need of a helping hand.

The club reopening may take some time. It looks like we will be able to open the patio soon with social distancing. As we move forward please understand that we will need to follow the rules. That being said, we will be rolling out some great activities including some live music and family dinner nights, movie nights and BBQ's.

Who wants to start a summer golf league? We had one a few years back on Friday afternoons/evenings. It was a

blast. Anyone who is interested let me know.

Please let me know if you know of a Brother, Family or Friend who is sick or in distress. We will add them to our prayer list.

Missy Carr, John Teare and the good people at Off The Hook Catering will again be offering meal pick-ups at the council on Fridays. They have added some great new items this week. Deadline to order is Thursday at 5 pm. When ordering for pick up at the council write KofC or Knights in the notes box.

The ordering link is - <http://www.othpreparedmeals.com>.

Hope to see you soon and stay safe.

Mike Horan

240-793-1169

mike_horanbros@yahoo.com



Fr. Michael J. McGivney to Be Beatified

The Vatican [announced](#) on May 27 that Pope Francis approved the promulgation of a decree recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney. Fr. McGivney was a Connecticut priest who served his flock during the pandemic of 1890, before himself becoming ill and dying of pneumonia.

The pope's action means that Father McGivney can be declared "Blessed," the step just prior to sainthood. An additional miracle attributed to Father McGivney's intercession will be required for his canonization as a saint.

McGivney is best known for founding the Knights of Columbus in 1882. Nearly a century before the Second Vatican Council, his prescient vision empowered the laity to serve Church and neighbor in a new way. Today, the Knights of Columbus is one of the largest Catholic organizations in the world with two million members in North and Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and Europe.

The miracle recognized as coming through Father McGivney's intercession involved an unborn child in the United States who in 2015 was healed in utero of a life-threatening condition after prayers by his family to Fr. McGivney.

A date will soon be set for the beatification Mass, which will take place in Connecticut. It will include the reading of an apostolic letter from the Holy Father and the bestowing of the title "Blessed" on Father McGivney.

Earlier this year, in an address to the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors, Pope Francis said the organization has been faithful "to the vision of your founder, Venerable Michael McGivney, who was inspired by the principles of Christian charity and fraternity to assist those most in need."

"Father McGivney has inspired generations of Catholic men to roll up their sleeves and put their faith into action," Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said. "He was decades ahead of his time in giving the laity an important role within the Church. Today, his spirit continues to shape the extraordinary charitable work of Knights as they continue to serve those on the margins of society as he served widows and orphans in the 1880s. Fr. McGivney also remains an important role model for parish priests around the world and left us a transformative legacy of effective cooperation between the laity and clergy.



Born of Irish immigrant parents in 1852 in Waterbury, Connecticut, Fr. McGivney was a central figure in the dramatic growth of the Church in the United States in the late 19th century. Ordained in Baltimore in 1877, he ministered to a heavily Irish-American and immigrant community in the then-Diocese of Hartford. At a time of anti-Catholic sentiment, he worked tirelessly to keep his flock close to the faith in part by finding practical solutions to their many problems – spiritual and temporal alike. With a group of the leading Catholic men of New Haven, he

founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 at St. Mary's Church to provide spiritual support for Catholic men and financial resources for families that had suffered the loss of their breadwinner.

The fledgling group soon became a major force in the areas of evangelization, charity, racial integration, and the defense of religious freedom.

Fr. McGivney spent his entire priesthood in parish ministry and died of pneumonia on August 14, 1890 -- two days after his 38th birthday – after falling ill amid a pandemic. Recent

scientific evidence indicates that that pandemic – like the current one – may have been [caused by a coronavirus](#).

Known by his contemporaries for his devotion to the faith and his embodiment of the characteristics of the "Good Samaritan," his cause for sainthood was opened in the Archdiocese of Hartford in 1997. St. John Paul II – who was pope at that time – lauded Fr. McGivney's principles, stating in 2003, "In fidelity to the vision of Father McGivney, may you continue to seek new ways of being a leaven of the Gospel in the world and a spiritual force for the renewal of the Church in holiness, unity and truth."

In March 2008, he was declared a Venerable Servant of God by Pope Benedict XVI, who during his visit to St. Patrick's Cathedral cited the "remarkable accomplishment of that exemplary American priest, the Venerable Michael McGivney, whose vision and zeal led to the establishment of the Knights of Columbus."

Two recent books also tell the story of Father McGivney and his legacy: [Parish Priest](#) (2006), his biography; and the [The Knights of Columbus: An Illustrated History](#) (2020).

More information is also available at www.FatherMcGivney.org



Ten Things You Didn't Kow About Fr. McGivney

You know that Father Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in New Haven, Conn. in 1882. And that he envisioned a Catholic order that would help Catholic men to remain steadfast in faith while providing insurance for their families.

But you probably didn't know *these* facts:

1. Not only Catholics, but even Protestants were inspired by Father McGivney's witness of faith.

Alida Harwood, the daughter of a prominent Episcopal minister in New Haven, frequented Mass at St. Mary's Church where Father McGivney served. When Alida contracted malaria at the age of 25 and lay on her death bed, it was Father McGivney that she asked to see.

2. He was a heck of a baseball player.

We know that in one game with his seminary team he scored three runs, contributing to a big victory with a score of 23-6. He paved the way for a long history of baseball players who would join the Knights, including [these MLB legends](#).

3. More forward-thinking than Yale? Father McGivney pushed the boundaries as a theater director.

At a time when nearby Yale University was limiting theater to only male actors, Father McGivney welcomed women to perform when he directed his parish's St. Patrick's Day play in 1880.

4. He helped young people take charge of their lives and create a better future.

Father McGivney saw that many young men were neglecting their religion and turning to alcohol abuse. In response, he founded St. Joseph's Total Abstinence and Literary Society, a group that helped young men stay strong in the faith and become active in their communities. They organized and participated in sports and theatrical productions. McGivney offered members a meeting space with books, magazines, newspapers and a piano. No doubt, Father McGivney's experience with this group prepared him when he later founded the Knights of Columbus.

5. His vision for the role of the laity was very unusual for the time.

Seventy-seven years ahead of the Second Vatican Council, the idea that a Catholic organization could be led by laymen was quite extraordinary. Yet that was Father McGivney's vision for the Knights of Columbus.

6. He ministered to inmates.

Father McGivney was responsible for ministering to inmates in the city jail. One inmate was 21-year-old Chip Smith, who — while drunk — shot and killed a police officer. Smith was convicted for first-degree murder and sentenced to be hanged.

Father McGivney visited him daily, and, on the day of Smith's execution, the priest was filled with sorrow. Just before he died, Smith comforted him: "Father, your saintly ministrations have enabled me to meet death without a tremor. Do not fear for me, I must not break down now."

7. He was only 38 years old when he died.

And that's actually not surprising — life expectancy was short for priests in Connecticut in the 19th century, when the Catholic population was growing, disease was common and the priests were overworked.

8. He's on the path to sainthood

His cause for canonization is open and he was given the title "Venerable Servant of God" by the Holy See in 2008, and after approval of a miracle attributed to him declared Blessed in 2020

9. His belongings were burned when he died.

When Father McGivney died of tuberculosis, his personal items were burned to prevent the spreading of the disease. Only a small

number of his [writings](#) and belongings survived.

10. He is known to intercede especially in four areas:

•Employment and finances.

Just as parishioners looked to Father McGivney for help when "No Irish need apply" was often included in job postings, so today many receive help when they are laid off or seeking a better job.

•**Substance abuse.** In Father McGivney's day, alcoholism afflicted the immigrant population, and many now find relief from drug or alcohol abuse after praying to him.

•**Family reconciliation.** Father McGivney helped immigrant families struggling to stay together and to make ends meet. Today, Father McGivney continues to respond to the prayers of families.

•**Return to the faith.** Father McGivney founded the Order to keep men from joining anti-Catholic societies. Today, many Catholics receive favors when calling upon him to help their fallen-away children return to Mass.





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

Worthy Sir Knights,

On Saturday morning, May 23, Sir Knights placed American flags on the graves of military veterans at the Old St. John's Cemetery across from Fr. Rosensteel Council. All SK's wore facemasks and maintained social distances. Coffee and pastries were provided to all attending.



Our Assembly continues to make donations of meals to Coronavirus frontline workers. Among other groups, meals have been donated to Suburban Hospital, Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center, and MedStar Montgomery Medical Center. Please consider donating to this charitable cause! Checks for any amount may be mailed to: Russell Sutton, 10200 Day Ave., Silver Spring, Md. 20910-1042. Please make out checks to: Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly.

On May 21, at a virtual meeting conducted by Zoom, the following were elected as officers of the Assembly for the coming Columbian Year:

- Faithful Admiral: Thomas J. Kelly, FDD, PGK
- Faithful Navigator: George G. Carter, FDD, PGK PFN
- Faithful Captain: Isidore G. Sobgo
- Faithful Pilot: Jason T. Wan
- Faithful Purser: Jude O. Onwumelu, PFN
- Faithful Comptroller: Russell R. Sutton, Jr. PGK, PFN
- Faithful Scribe: Yen V. Le, FDD, PGK, PFN
- Faithful Trustee 3 year: Thomas F. Devlin, PFN
- Faithful Inner Sentinel:
- Faithful Outer Sentinel: Yannick F. Sobgo

The next monthly meeting will be held beginning 8pm on Thursday, June 18 at Rosensteel Council. This will be a virtual meeting accessible via Zoom login. Exchange of jewels between existing officers and newly elected officers for 2020-21 Fraternal Year will take place. Faithful Navigator Kelly will pass out certificates to officers.

If you have any questions regarding the Fourth Degree, or would like to join, contact me at neildori-ank@yahoo.com or 301-237-0552 cell.

Vivat Jesus!

Neil Dorian, SK

Did You Know?

Our website (www.kofc2797.org) works on your phone and mobile device?

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

Knight-of-the-Year

Our **Knight of the Year for 2019-2020 is Alex Leib.**

Alex was involved in almost all of our charitable events over the past year, and he led many of them. He spearheaded our participation in the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics event, Drop in the Bucket fundraiser, and others, including a few that we were not able to complete due to the health pandemic. He participated in nearly 20 different events over the past year for the Council, becoming a regular sight and pair of helping hands at our functions. Alex regularly comes up with new ideas of how we can reach out and help those in need and is an example of the Charitable Knight of Columbus, and became a 4th Degree Knight this year.

Thank you, Alex, for your leadership and participation, and for doing the hands-on charitable work that we as Knights are called to do. You are an example for us all and an inspiration.

Michael Houlihan
Grand Knight

3 Pillars of Retirement Happiness

Money. It's simple. People with money in retirement tend to be happier than those without. It's never too late to make saving a priority. Sooner is better than later.

Health. If you're not healthy, money likely won't help you enjoy your retirement. If you're not exercising four or five times a week; if you're carrying more weight than you know you should; if you're consuming more calories than your exercise is burning, change now or realize that you won't like the outcome later.

Social well-being. Your relationship with your spouse, your significant other and your network of friends is one of the strongest predictors of your retirement happiness.

All three pillars require putting effort in today to get something of greater value in the future. You may easily understand that concept with saving money, but it's the same with health and social relationships. Eating right, monitoring your weight and exercising may likely deliver great rewards for your future. Quality time and finding common interests with a spouse or friends doesn't just happen without thoughtful intention. If all your social interaction is at your place of employment, it's not enough. Nurture some outside relationships that you will continue to embrace past employment.

If you want to maximize your happiness, decide now to start making an effort into each of the three pillars. The payoff is likely to be significant.



REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson, PGK

The Rosary: A Prayer for All Needs

The global increase of radical secularism has had devastating effects on religious beliefs, the traditional family, the sanctity of life, and the abuse of human nature. In response, Catholics in many Western nations are turning to the Rosary as a means of seeking through His Blessed Mother Our Lord's intercession.

On October 7, 2017, some one million Catholics assembled along Poland's border to pray to the Virgin Mary for peace among nations, families and youth, and the conversion of the world. A week later, on October 13, Catholics throughout Italy fasted and prayed "to save Italy and Europe from Islamic nihilism and from the denial of the Christian faith." The following month, on November 26, more than 30,000 people convened across Ireland to pray for a renewal of the Catholic faith and against the threat of abortion. Then, on April 29, 2018, tens of thousands of Catholics gathered at the coasts of Scotland, England and Wales to pray for the restoration of faith, life, and peace in the British Isles. The United States has followed with several similar rallies.

The Rosary is a simple, yet powerful set of prayers that has been invoked by popes and saints, groups and individuals to affect world events, restore peace among nations, meet personal needs, and provide serenity of soul. Pope Pius XI said that, "If you desire peace in your hearts, in your homes, and in your country, assemble each evening to recite the Rosary."

Most Catholics are familiar with this devotion. Virtually all have or have had a rosary at some point in their lives. But how often do they say it? How many have ever asked, why is it special?

The primary invocations of the Rosary date back to the first days of our Faith, expressed in the words of the Archangel Gabriel, the Blessed Mother, and Our Lord himself. Its recitation consists principally of three prayers, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be.

The Our Father was given to us by Jesus when the Apostles asked Him how they should pray. As St. Louis de Montfort wrote, this prayer "contains all the duties we owe to God, the acts of all the virtues and the petitions for all our spiritual and corporal needs." Every time we say the Our Father, we are saying Our Lord's own prayer.

The Hail Mary begins with the words of the Archangel Gabriel when asking Mary to be the Mother of Our Lord: "Hail [Mary], full of grace, the Lord is with thee." It con-

tinues, "Blessed are thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb," the greeting of Elizabeth when Mary came to visit her shortly thereafter. As the prayer evolved, the couplet of praise was joined to a statement of recognition and petition. The Council of Ephesus in 431, in resolving an existing heresy, declared that Mary gave birth to the Lord in His Divinity, and added "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death" to the angelic greeting.

In the early stages of monastic development, monks often prayed the entire 150 psalms and after each gave glory to the Trinity. Their statement of praise evolved and was added to the Rosary. The Creed was included in the early 17th century, as a proclamation of belief in the principal Christian truths.

In 1917, when Our Lady appeared at Fatima, she asked that after each mystery people include the petition, "O Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who have most need of your mercy." And so, we have the present form of the Rosary with its individual prayers. The beads evolved as a means of keeping count of the prayer iterations.

The Rosary incorporates two types of prayer, invocative and contemplative. The invocative is the repetition of the decades – sets of the Hail Mary, preceded by the Our Father and ended with a Glory Be. In this, the intercession of the Blessed Mother with her

Son is sought for our requests.

The contemplative portion focuses on the life and glory of Our Lord and His Mother. The original 15 decades follow Our Lord's birth, childhood, passion, death, resurrection and ascension. They were expanded by St. John Paul II to 20 decades to include Our Lord's public life. These reflections are Christ-centered, but Marian in character for Mary lived these incidents.

While the saintly John Paul II described the Rosary as, "A marvelous prayer! Marvelous in its simplicity and its depth," it also has brought about profound effects in the world. In 1571, a powerful fleet of the Mohammedan Ottoman Empire sailed into the Gulf of Patras, near Lepanto, threatening Christian Europe. A smaller fleet was formed in defense. Pope Pius V ordered public processions and the recitation of the Rosary throughout Christendom. The resulting battle was a decisive Christian vic-

(Continued on page 10)



REFLECTIONS
(Continued from page 9)

tory.

In 1683, Christian Europe again was under assault; this time by land. The invading Turkish army was opposed by a smaller force placed under the protection of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Pope Innocent XI called for a Christendom-wide recitation of the Rosary for its success. The Turks were totally routed.

In 1945, an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima killing some 70,000 people. Eight blocks from the epicenter was the residence of eight Jesuit missionaries. None were affected by the blast. They attributed the miracle to their devotion to the Blessed Mother and faithfulness in praying the Rosary.

At the end of World War II, Austria was divided among the victorious allies, with the Soviet quarter subjected to Communist oppression. Fr. Petrus Pevlicek founded the Holy Rosary Atonement Crusade in 1947 to pray to Our Lady of Fatima for the nation's freedom. On the 13th of each month, the faithful marched through the streets, praying and increasing in number to 500,000. Then, on May 13, 1955, the anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady at Fatima, the Russians unexpectedly withdrew.

These are just a few of many examples of how devotion to the Rosary has affected world events. But the Rosary is also a prayer for individual intentions. As St. Padre Pio advised us, "Love the Madonna and pray the Rosary." Pray it at a rally, with a group, in your council, in church, at home, with your family, whenever you have a moment. If it is said devoutly and regularly, our lives will change. How can our heavenly Mother and her Son not answer our petitions? "Indeed," said Jamie Cardinal Sin, "when we give our best to the Lord, and leave the rest to His Providence, the Lord always responds."



**Bishop McNamara Chapter
of Grand Knights**

Bishop McNamara Chapter of Grand Knights elected the following Officers for the 2020-2021 fraternal year:

Chapter President - Jeff Koscho
 Vice President - Michael P. Davenport
 Secretary - Phil Tabbita
 Treasurer - Roger Lie
 Marshal - Terry M. Reinhart

Steve Law was appointed as Chapter Activities Director

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), Brandon Waters (grandson of PGK Bob Waters), Bill Freehan, PGK William Parker and those on the Seniors' sick list (p. 11)



Specifically, include Brother Bob Metzler and his wife, Mary Louise — and others — who have tested positive for the coronavirus.

Deceased:
 Bill Gates, Carleton Hanson (son-in-law of late-PGK BoB Peternell), Betty Lou Millihram (wife of deceased member Julien Millihram), and John R. (Jay) Dugan. 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 add them in our council prayers.

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.



SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

As things begin to open up, we will begin to see what types of fictions we can hold.

Perhaps, we can have a summer picnic. We will send out flyers and make phone calls to inform our members of upcoming events, when they are scheduled.

I continue to ask for your help in updating our sick list. Specifically, let me know (no calls) let me know of anyone who is no longer sick or who has passed away so that they can be removed and we can focus on those who need our prayers now.

Please continue to contact members to be sure they are okay. If anyone needs help, let me know (BobH2OWaters@gmail.com; 240-460-1857)

Stay well. We will get through this pandemic!



PGK Bob Waters

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.



What is a "Practical Catholic"?

When you joined the Knights of Columbus, you said you were a "practical Catholic." Do you know what it means?

Since 1882, membership in the Knights of Columbus has been open to men 18 years of age or older who are "practical" Catholics in union with the Holy See. The term "practical Catholic," as understood by the Knights means a Catholic who accepts the teaching authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, aspires to live in accord with the Precepts of the Catholic Church, and is in good standing in the Catholic Church.

And what are the Precepts of the Catholic Church? As explained in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (items 2041-2043), the Precepts are laws binding upon the Catholic faithful. Specifically, they are:

1. To keep holy the Lord's Day by attending Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and to rest from servile labor.
2. To confess your sins in the sacrament of Confession at least once a year during the Easter Season.
3. To receive Holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter season.
4. To observe the days of fast and abstinence according to the norms of the Church.
5. To observe the marriage laws of the Church.
6. To contribute to the needs of the Church.

In short, "practical Catholic" as used by the Knights is simply another way of saying "practicing Catholic".

Council Leaders

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Deacon Robert Hubbard—301-942-1522

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& Birthday
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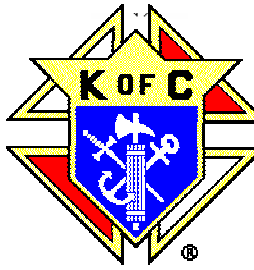
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July-August CHATTER Deadline:
July 17, 2020

ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Business Meeting Online	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Kay-Cee Club Canceled	18 Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly Mtng Canceled	19	20 Summer Begins
21	22	23 Social Meeting Canceled	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	June			

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