



THE KNIGHT CHATTER

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Fr. Michael J. McGivney will be beatified on October 31, most likely at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut. See page 10 for further information.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

FR. MARK HUGHES

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

JON SCHNEIDER

Brother Knights,

Six months ago it was common to see signs in stores and around the city saying "Help Wanted" or "Now Hiring". Now most of the signs you see condemn the police or support radical groups. What you see on the news is chaos. Riots, fires and destruction are the norms of our culture. Lawlessness has taken over our cities and a lot of people are being harmed and killed.

What should we do? What can we do? If we speak out against all of this we may be attacked or "canceled". If we go to the wrong area to protest against violence, we may not come back.

It may not seem like much at the moment, but we can pray about all of this. In prayer we keep the victims in mind. We remember all the young children who have been shot the last few weekends. In prayer we un-



Fr. Mark Hughes

(Continued on page 2)

Worthy Brothers,

July is the start of a new Columbian Year and with that comes a new Grand Knight. I have the honor this year of being your 83rd Grand Knight of the Rock Creek Council.

I would like to thank our Past Grand Knight Michael Houlihan for his leadership, commitment and valued hard work for the council this past year. Michael's dedication was much appreciated. Even with the sudden halt of activities due to Covid-19, he continued his work, kept everyone informed and together. We were very fortunate to have him lead us through. I would also like to thank the many Knights who have supported the council and each other this past year, volunteering their time and resources. A lot has gone on, and with your continued dedication, we have remained strong through this tough time.

This year has already created some challenges, however, with these challenges comes opportunities. We have the chance to show our neighbors and communities how important the Knights are and what it is to be a Knight. With



Grand Knight Schneider

(Continued on page 2)



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

derstand the pain and grief of those children's parents and families. In prayer we remember all the people who lose their jobs when the stores and other businesses they work at are destroyed. In prayer, we remember the police who are killed and injured trying to protect the citizens who live in terror of being the next victims. Most importantly in prayer we have the opportunity to clarify our understanding of what is going on and why.

We should pray for clarity of vision for ourselves and the voters who will determine the future of our nation in a few months. We need to ask in prayer are we believers in the Christian message of love. Are we trying to practice it in our lives? And are we willing to condemn attitudes and actions that believe in the opposite agenda.

Sincerely,

Fr. Hughes

Checkout Our Website

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

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

And follow Us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/Rock-Creek-Council-2797-Knights-of-Columbus-161422011011482/

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

the space and land we own, we have a wonderful chance to showcase our work and dedication. Food and blood drives are one way we could donate. Fundraisers and close work with our parishes is another opportunity.

There will be many chances to volunteer, whether there's another shut down or not. Keep an eye out for emails from me and other brothers throughout the year. As Knights, it is our duty to serve. If you know of anyone who needs aid personally, please notify me or another brother and we will act accordingly.

In years past, our council has hosted many events for families to be involved, for members to be involved. I have already heard from many members about possible events coming up. However, given the situation, everything has been up in the air. Hopefully this trying time ends sooner than later, and functions can resume as planned. You will hear from me or Programs Director PGK Mike Horan. We will send out notifications, and post dates in upcoming issues of the Chatter for upcoming events.

The lounge is open and operating under strict protocol to make sure all members feel safe when relaxing at the lounge. Mike Horan and the lounge employees have done a great job cleaning, disinfecting, making temperature checks and keeping social distancing. The lounge is a great place to meet members and friends, take the time and enjoy our lounge.

In closing, we have a tough year ahead of us. However, it should not prevent us from achieving our goals. We can strive to accomplish council goals, our own personal goals, and make this year as successful as year's past. I look forward to this year and everyone's support.

Please feel free to contact me at any point at j.schneider120@yahoo.com. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your 2020-2021 Grand Knight.

Vivat Jesus!

Jon

Grand Knight

Remember Our Sick and Deceased

Sick and Distressed:

PGK Roberto and Mary Jo Ibáñez, Leslie Ibáñez (wife of PGK Tony Ibáñez), PGK Vince and Glenda Bunag, PGK Joseph Murphy, Greg Curtin, Charlene Hubbard (wife of Deacon Bob Hubbard), and those on the Seniors' sick list (p. 11).

Deceased:

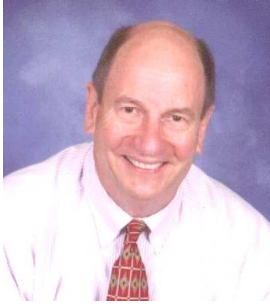
No one that we know of at this time.

Pray for our ailing and deceased members, families and friends, both those who are listed and those who are not.





DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT — JULY



Dave Czarnecki, DD

Worthy Brothers,

The start of a new Fraternal Year begins with the first of July. First off, a tremendous Thank you, from the State Council, to the Council Officers who now have completed their terms and responsibilities of the past Fraternal Year. A lot was accomplished in the last 12 months and a few surprises were encountered as the

Fraternal Year closed out. Congratulations to the new Council Officers as you adjust to your new positions and ramp up your planning for the new fraternal year. Obviously no one last year at this time dreamed that we would now be in the middle of a pandemic and social strife, but as everyone keeps saying; "Welcome to the New Normal".

I would caution that there is nothing normal about "This Normal". Just as "The Normal" temperatures during the winter would usually be in the 20s and 30s, while "The Normal" temperatures during summer are in the 80s and 90s, we need to adjust our response to different environmental Normals.

At the State Leadership Seminar conducted this past weekend (6/26-27/2020) we witnessed presentations from the Officers from the State Council, occasionally supplemented with presentations from Supreme Officers. The messages were positive and constructive. The Order is healthy, active and is adjusting to the current normal, as well as preparing for the new normal that we hope to return to soon.

At the Supreme level, our numbers have continued to grow, the number of brothers worldwide have eclipsed two million. At this time most Councils are forced to meet virtually and as a result; Online Exemplifications have

been made available by Supreme. Once we begin to meet face to face again, Councils will finally be able to implement the new Exemplification Ceremony, designed to adjust to a new community of candidates. In response to current financial challenges encountered by local Councils, their community and their members, Supreme has suspended the membership per Capita assessment for the coming fraternal year. Supreme has implemented a number of programs in response to COVID-19, specifically "Leave No Neighbor Behind". I would recommend you visit the Supreme Website, www.kofc.org for specific details.

At the State level, the Council continues to be active and proactive, in the current "Normal". The back cover of the June issue of the *Columbian* magazine documents the then, current State Deputy, Dale Trott, personally delivering supplies to the Little Sisters of the Poor in Catonsville, MD. Councils in our own District (#5567, St Manyanet) have participated to the effort. At the June 2020 State Leadership Seminar, Officers and Directors of the new fraternal year administration were introduced. All positions are filled and presentations from each of the Chairs were given. Adjustments to several State programs were announced, including announcing both the Tootsie Roll and Car Raffle Programs are being pushed out to the spring timeframe. For the benefit of the Council administration, a number of the reporting requirements have been simplified and sometimes scaled back.

So given the new "Normal", the Order is ready and able. Gentlemen – Best of Luck in the new Fraternal Year and in the New Normal and pray that a Normal "Normal" returns soon.

Vivat Jesus,

Dave Czarnecki

District Deputy No. 18

Do You Need a Reusable Mask?

The Council is selling attractive reusable face masks for \$10. See the pictures below. They are available in the lounge or by calling Mike Horan at 240-793-1169.



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



DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT — AUGUST



Dave Czarniecki, DD

Worthy Brothers,

We are already into month two of the new fraternal year. Our Grand Knights have completed their Leadership Training, Council Program Directors have been identified, the State has conducted several virtual Programs Seminars and no less than five training sessions have been conducted by Supreme specifically for

our local Region. As of the first of August, two of our councils in the District have completed their installation of Officers, one installation executed theirs virtually and the other in-person. On July 13th, as a District, we conducted our 1st Quarter District Meeting. Gentlemen, the pandemic may have made conducting activities challenging, but as we continue to adjust to this crisis, our Councils remain productive. Well done to the Council leadership.

The traditional scheduled, in-person, State Program and Membership Seminars have been substituted by four repeating virtual Seminars. The dates in July were 22 and 29th and again in August, 11 and 18th. Most of us should be able to find a convenient date to attend and you are encouraged to attend. To compliment the Seminars, the State Council has made available updated *Council Growth* and *MD State Council Programs Handbooks* specifically for Council Grand Knights, Council Growth Team Members, Program Activity Directors and Program Chairmen. The documents can be found on the State Council web site at kofc-md.org/council-growth-and-programs-handbooks. Also related, presentations from State sponsored leadership weekend (June 26-27th) can also be found on the State website at: kofc-md.org/training.

The Supreme Regional Training Director has provided a

list of 5 Training sessions offered by Supreme during the month of August. Topics include; Membership, Recruitment, Programs and E-Membership. The list of sessions, descriptions and instructions for sign up, is available from your Grand Knight.

The 51st Annual Car Raffle tickets are now available. As previously announced, the duration of the program has been extended into the spring. The drawing for a 2021 Ford Mustang will be held on Sunday, March 21, 2021, at the Founders Day Dinner, to be held at Fr. Rosensteel Council #2169. By now the GK will have provided their expected ticket counts to the District Deputy. Tickets can be picked up at PG Council #2809, the afternoon of Saturday, August 15.

The State Deputy reminds us that, it is important to recruit new members now because our pastors, parishes and communities need the Knights of Columbus now more than ever. Councils are encouraged to use the new exemption to bring men into the order and to affirm the principles of the Order. Councils can use the virtual exemptions provided by Supreme including the on-demand version. In the future as the situation permits, councils will be encouraged to reengage their exemption teams, scheduling regular exemptions.

On July 5th, at the Installation of State Officers and District Deputies, at Our Lady of the Fields Church in Millersville, State Deputy Vincent Grauso stated that as Knights we "change lives and save lives" and as Knights we "lead by example". Remember the State Deputy motto, "We Are Servant Leaders".

Vivat Jesus!

Dave Czarniecki

District Deputy No. 18

ROSARY AT 7:30 P.M.

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!



Pro-Life Prayer Vigils

LeRoy Carhart, a late-term abortionist who kills babies in the womb up to the point of birth, is located in the Medical Building at Wildwood Shopping Center on Old Georgetown Road. Several prayer initiatives are underway to drive this evil business out of Maryland.

The 40 Days for Life prayer vigil will be held outside his facility on the sidewalk in front of the bank, daily from September 23 through November 1 from 7 am to 7 pm. For more information about the 40 Days for Life campaign, contact Jill Gadwood, 40DaysBethesda@gmail.com.

In addition, a more intense sidewalk vigil and public education campaign is being held each Monday from 9 am to 11 am, year-round. For details about the Monday morning vigils, contact Dick Retta at dickretta61@verizon.net or 301 538 2500.



Who Needs Long-Term Care Insurance?



The need for long-term care insurance continues to grow as our population ages. According to a study by the US Department of Health and Human Services, more than 70% of Americans over the age of 65 will need some form of long-term care services during their remaining lifetime.

Steve Upton, PGK, FDD What is your plan to pay for Long-Term Care if you need it? – You have three (3) choices:

- Pay for care out of your own pocket until impoverished and then apply for Medicaid assistance;
- Plan to have your children and grandchildren care for you (just be sure to tell them about your plan well in advance);
- Use "other people's money" to pay for your care (i.e., obtain Long-Term Care Insurance).

Five Reasons to Carry Long-Term Care ("LTC") Insurance:

1. Statistically there is a very high probability you or your spouse will need long-term care before you die. A 65-year old married couple has a 90% probability of one of them needing LTC;
2. Contrary to popular belief, neither Medicare, VA, nor conventional health insurance will pay for LTC. Medicaid is the only government program that will pay for LTC, but you must be *impoverished* to qualify for benefits;
3. Being a caregiver to an impaired individual is a grueling job – one that can destroy the health, career and family of the caregiver(s) – who most often (80%) are uncompensated female members of the family;
4. To protect the savings/assets of the impaired individual which would have to be spent down to near zero before Medicaid assistance becomes available (i.e., to avoid

becoming impoverished and a welfare recipient);

5. To provide the widest choice of care options possible for the independence/quality of life of the impaired individual.

Depending on location, nursing home care can cost an average of \$83,000 per year, while at-home care can cost more than \$60,000 per year. Costs in the Maryland/DC area can be much higher.

Members who want to ensure that they or their survivors aren't economically impacted by long-term custodial-care costs, while maintaining dignity and choice of care options when long-term care services are needed will want to consider Long-Term Care Insurance from the Knights of Columbus.

We offer our members two types of coverage.

• **Comprehensive Long-Term Care Plus Contract** – reimburses expenses for facility based services plus home health services and homemaker services in the insured's home or adult day care and hospice care in a licensed facility.

• **Facility Only Long-Term Care Plus Contract** – reimburses expenses incurred for nursing home care in a long-term care facility or assisted living facility.

What is your plan for Long-Term Care? Call or write me today to learn more about Long-Term Care Coverage from the Knights of Columbus.

Vivat Jesus!

Steve Upton

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

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

The Cardinal O'Boyle Fourth Degree Assembly meetings are held the third Thursday each month in the Emerald Room, Fr. Rosensteel Council in Forest Glen. The Rosary begins at 7:30 pm, followed by the monthly business meeting at 8 pm. After each meeting, a social is provided with free food and beverage. All fourth degree members are welcome.

At this time, because Montgomery County is in a modified Phase 2 reopening, it is uncertain when in-person meetings will be held again.

The Color Corp as of right now is in stand down mode until

further notice. When restrictions ease, the Clor Corps will resume practices. That would be a good opportunity for anyone interested in becoming a member of the Corps to join.

In the meantime, feel free to reach out to me.

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

Neil Dorian, SK
 Past Faithful Navigator





Club News

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

As of now the lounge and patio are open at limited capacity. We still must follow all the regulations provided by Montgomery County, State of Maryland and the CDC.

When you visit the council you must wear a mask when not seated at a table. There is no seating is permitted at the bar. Everyone must sign in and provide contact information in the event of a council outbreak. We are sanitizing all surfaces each morning including door handles, tables, bars and bathrooms. Bathrooms and frequently touched surfaces will be sanitized every 2 hours and tables after use.

If you don't feel well or if you have a family member at home who is sick please stay home. We are taking temperatures as people enter. If you have visited the council and have tested positive or have come into contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please let us know as soon as possible.

We are planning a series of events and the reintroduction of bands, as soon as regulations permit it.

One upcoming event is the 2020 Rock Creek Council 9 Hole Golf League. See the announcement to the right.

In the meantime, please help us keep all of our members and guests safe. Follow the rules and be safe, while you have fun!

For information about the Lounge, watch the council listserve.

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

Is This You?



Rock Creek Council 2020 9 Hole Golf League

Rules

The Rock Creek Council Golf League is open to members of the council.

Any member of the league is eligible to sponsor 1 guest.

The league will run from July 15 through September 15.

The courses we will play are Sligo, Needwood Executive, and North West Executive.

Golfers over 65 will be allowed to play from the senior tees.

Each golfer will be required to turn in at least 6 scores and at least 1 card from each course.

Cards will only be valid with at least 2 league members listed. Turn in cards at the bar as soon as you can.

It will be up to the golfers to set tee times and matches.

The final scores will be calculated from your 6 best scores turned in.

You can turn in as many scores as you wish.

Important Dates

Wednesday July 15 -- Play begins

Tuesday September 15 – Play ends

Wednesday September 16 – Card turn in deadline

Thursday September 24 – Awards Banquet, 7:00 pm

Awards Banquet

Low Gross – Trophy & \$\$\$

Low Net – Trophy & \$\$\$

Hole in One – Trophy & \$\$\$

Includes 2 drink tickets and heavy apps

Cost

\$50.00 per Golfer, includes 2 drink tickets and heavy apps at the awards banquet

For more information or to register, contact Mike Horan at 240-793-1169





Are You Willing to Go Into the Breach?

A few years ago, Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix published an Apostolic Exhortation to the men of his diocese, entitled *Into the Breach*. In explaining the need for it, he wrote:

“Men, do not hesitate to engage in the battle that is raging around you, the battle that is wounding our children and families, the battle that is distorting the dignity of both women and men. This battle is often hidden, but the battle is real. It is primarily spiritual, but it is progressively killing the remaining Christian ethos in our society and culture, and even in our own homes.

The world is under attack by Satan, as our Lord said it would be (1 Peter 5:8-14). This battle is occurring in the Church herself, and the devastation is all too evident...

One of the key reasons that the Church is faltering under the attacks of Satan is that many Catholic men have not been willing to “step into the breach”...A large number have left the faith, and many who remain “Catholic” practice the faith timidly and are only minimally committed to passing the faith on to their children...

As our fathers, brothers, uncles, sons and friends fall away from the Church, they fall deeper and deeper into sin, breaking their bonds with God and leaving them vulnerable to the fires of Hell. While we know that Christ welcomes back every repentant sinner, the truth is that large numbers of Catholic men are failing to keep the promises they made at their children’s baptisms – promises to bring them to Christ and to raise them in the faith of the Church.”

Inspired by the Exhortation, the Knights of Columbus produced a video series which seeks to answer the question of *what it means to be a man and how to live as a man in today’s world*. In addition, Supreme developed a study guide, coupled it with the Exhortation, and published the two as a booklet in the Domestic Church series, published by the Catholic Information Service; it can be downloaded at

<https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/cis/cis340.pdf>.

The 12 videos in the series cover the following topics:

Masculinity — The Church is facing a “man crisis.” Men are made for greatness. “Authentic masculinity” means to live for excellence. Mike Phelan explains how he discovered the nature of true masculinity and how to live it.

Brotherhood — Man was not meant to “go it alone,” but to be in communion with others. It is important to build close friendships with other men of faith. Master Sergeant Sompaul Vorapanich shares lessons on the importance of brotherhood.

Leadership — Men must become leaders through devel-

oping their character. True leadership seeks greatness and brings out greatness in others. Robert Yates discusses his service in the Air Force and highlights the importance of being servant leaders.

Fatherhood — The presence and involvement of a loving father is critical in the development of a child. True fatherhood models itself on God the Father. Former MLB player Mike Sweeney shares how the faith of a man should shape his role as a father.

Family — There is a “battle for the very soul of the family.” Men’s service of their families requires sacrifice. Greg and Julie Alexander explain how discovering the true nature of marriage transformed their relationship and their family.

Life — Human life is sacred. Men have a responsibility to protect society’s most vulnerable. Men’s participation in the pro-life movement is vital. John Morales shares his story of regret, healing and hope as a testimony to the importance of life.

Prayer — Prayer must be a priority in the life of a man. Eucharistic adoration, reading scripture and saying the rosary are central to prayer. Robert Feeney tells his story of the power of prayer on the battlefield in Vietnam and life in general.

Suffering — Suffering is a mystery which can bring us closer to God and help us grow in holiness. The answer to suffering is Jesus Christ. Frank Ramirez shares his story of responding to intense suffering by worshiping God.

Sacramental Life — Christ offers his grace through the sacraments. The Eucharist and Confession need to be central to every man’s life. Jared Zimmerer explores how his experience as a bodybuilder helps him understand aspects of the sacramental life.

Spiritual Warfare — The life of a believer is a spiritual battle. Men have multiple spiritual weapons in the fight against Satan, and the stakes are high. Don O’Mara recounts his experience with abuse and addiction and finding forgiveness and freedom in Christ.

Evangelization — All Christians are called to be witnesses of their faith to others. To share the faith a man must know the faith. Ryan Young shares how his Eucharistic-centered camp for teenagers allows for an encounter with Christ.

The Cornerstone — Christ is the only sure foundation of a man’s life. We are to know, love and serve God, so we can be with him forever. Actor Clarence Gilyard Jr. shares his testimony of straying from God’s plan and how God led him to enter the Catholic Church.

Each of the videos runs between 10-1/2 and 13 minutes, so they can easily be viewed in one’s spare time. To view the series, go to [kofc.org/en/campaigns/into-the-breach.html](https://www.kofc.org/en/campaigns/into-the-breach.html).



REFLECTIONS - JULY

Lawrence P. Grayson, PGK

Thoughts for the Fourth of July

The Fourth of July is typically a day of joyous festivities celebrating America's birth as a nation. And so it should be. Today, however, the country is experiencing spirit-wrenching events. The nation has undergone several months of lockdown and restrictions on the freedoms of assembly and religion due to a viral pandemic. Riots have occurred in cities across the country sparked by the egregious death of a black man by an overly combative policeman. Abortion continues to be a nationally divisive issue, with roughly half of the population approving of it and half protesting it, more than 47 years after it was legalized by the Supreme Court. These are not simply the results of disagreements over public policy. Rather, they indicate fundamental differences in the worldview through

which the founding values of this country are interpreted – or ignored. On this Independence Day, take a moment to reread, or perhaps read, the Declaration of Independence. Think about what it says and what it implies.

After a brief statement of purpose, the Declaration states, "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." This nation was established by people of faith, founded on a belief in a sovereign God who reigns over nations as well as men, who endows each individual with certain innate entitlements.

This view is also the basis of Christian social teaching: We are made in the image and likeness of God. As such, each of us has an innate dignity worthy of respect. As that dignity comes from God, every person has certain intrinsic rights to personal liberty, freedom of conscience, and basic well-being. The Declaration of Independence is a political statement developed by people who had a theistic worldview regarding man. That view was shaped by the teachings of the Christian sects to which they belonged.

A great danger to the nation today is the decline in religious faith and the exclusion of God from consideration in

the public affairs. As the permanence of American rights is rooted in the transcendental, a loss of belief in God leads to a loss of belief that the privileges bestowed by Him are intrinsic and unalienable. If God is no longer sovereign, the rights He endowed are no longer immutable. If these rights are to be preserved, then a belief in God must be sustained.

The Declaration continues, "That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." Hence, the purpose of government is to provide the assurance that people can exercise those pre-existing rights; it does not grant them. Government exists for the people; its authority resides in their will.

The state may ignore or violate these God-endowed rights, but it cannot revoke them. In a secular worldview, in contrast, there is no supernatural authority to which the state is subject. When belief in God is considered a private affair, unrelated to public matters, ultimate authority to define the rights of



the individual resides in the state. Those privileges are then provisional, for the state can rescind what it grants.

Although these innate rights are deemed unalienable, they are not unrestricted. Rather, they are subject to a higher natural law that was placed in human nature by the Creator and are to be regulated through one's conscience. This was done so that people would utilize their freedom in a morally and socially acceptable manner.

Indeed, America as a nation of liberty under law could not be sustained if the public was not inwardly governed by a higher imperative. Religion thus plays a significant role in support of governance by fostering public virtue among the citizenry so that they are capable of governing themselves with righteous norms.

The concluding sentence of the Declaration of Independence reads: "[W]ith a firm reliance on the protection of

(Continued on page 10)



REFLECTIONS - AUGUST

Lawrence P. Grayson, PGK

The Catholic Church and Me

Time is passing quickly as we race toward eternity. Each of us has been created by God, endowed with free will, tasked to aid in the fulfillment of earthly Creation, and has the opportunity to eventually enter the kingdom of God.

It is not easy to fulfill God's expectations for us in today's world. We must be in the world to earn a living, to care for our families, to aid our neighbor, to bring our Faith into the public square. Yet, we must not be of the world, accepting its materialism as a primary value, pursuing success at all costs, becoming inured to the sordidness, blasphemy, vulgarity and hedonism that surround us. The world is alluring. Even our first parents, who were placed in the Garden of Paradise, fell to the wiles of Satan.

To aid us in our earthly journey, we have been given the Church – one, holy, catholic, and apostolic – to help us see more clearly the distortions of the world, seek forgiveness for our failings, reorient ourselves to our purpose, and focus on the things that matter most.

But what is the Church? It is easy to think of it as the structures with which we are familiar – be it a grandiose cathedral or the local parish building where we attend Mass. We may think of its hierarchical format with the pope, cardinals, bishops and priests. But it is more than buildings and organization. It is the people in our local parish community. And it is the assembly of All Believers – those presently in the world, those who preceded us and are now in heaven, and those in purgatory awaiting entrance into the kingdom.

The Church, in our daily experience, is Our Lord present in the Eucharist. It is Our Lady, St. Joseph, the Apostles, martyrs and saints. It is the elderly priest still hearing confessions and the impassioned, newly-ordained priest offering Mass, as well as missionaries serving the poorest of the poor throughout the world. It is the monks and friars, mendicants and preachers, members of religious orders and diocesan priests. It is the religion teacher in a parish school and the mother listening to her children recite their evening prayers. It is the early morning weekday

Mass and the Pontifical High Mass; the Novos Order liturgy and the Traditional Latin service; the candle-lit Holy Thursday Procession, Eucharistic Adoration, and the Rosary said solemnly for a deceased friend. It is the sacristan, altar servers, lectors, the women who launder the altar cloths, the men who clean the church, the children who go to the parish school each morning and their parents who sacrifice to pay the tuition. It is the tabernacle, stained glass windows, the sanctuary lamp, the crib at Christmas, the statues draped in purple cloth during Lent,



the rose vestments on Laetare Sunday and the green ones of Ordinary Time. It is the couple exchanging vows at their wedding, the baby wailing as the baptismal water is poured over its head, the line of penitents outside a confessional, the children in their finest clothes receiving their First Communion, the hospital chaplain giving last rights to a dying man. It is the uplifting sermon and the doze-producing one, the person with a misplaced vocation and one with a true religious calling. It is the brothers, contemplative nuns, sisters in public ministry, deacons, and consecrated men and women of every type who labor in schools, colleges, hospitals, homes for the aged, orphanages and charitable centers, carrying out missions of all types. It is the lay members of the third-orders of religious group, as well as the parishioners who serve the Church as members of the sodality, bible study group, arimatheans, con-

fraternity, RCIA team, Knights of Columbus, and the myriad ministerial groups. All of these vocations, activities, ministries, religious orders, structures, pastoral approaches and more constitute the Church. They are available to aid you and me on our journey through life.

In spite of its diversity, the Catholic Church is unified as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

The Church is *one* for it is united under its spiritual head, Jesus Christ, who came to reconcile all humanity through His Death and Resurrection. There is a single, unchanging deposit of faith found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, which has been preserved, taught, defended, and handed on by the apostles through their successors,

(Continued on page 10)



REFLECTIONS—JULY

(Continued from page 9)

divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.” What was intended by the expression “sacred Honor”? In Colonial America, honor referred to traits of character of the individual. It defined a person’s sense of self-worth, his personal qualities and self-esteem. It meant living a life with integrity, guided by an internalized set of moral standards, in accordance with the natural and revealed laws. It was in effect the core of his identity.

It was their sacred honor which they pledged to support an idea – that there are certain unalienable rights bestowed by a Creator God – that led the 56 signers of the Declaration to make great sacrifices to establish this nation. In asserting that the 13 united colonies were free and independent, they became traitors to England, the country of which they were subjects. If the Revolution failed, many, if not all, would likely have been hanged and their property forfeited to the Crown. As it was, many of them suffered greatly, both during and after the Revolution. Yet, not one defected or recanted on his pledge.

This is part of the legacy that we have received from the nation’s founders and which has been added to by generations of Americans who have toiled, contributed to and sacrificed for this country. This heritage is often reflected in the spirit of the nation, and expressed as a pride in its history, traditions, symbols, and achievements, and in the genius of its people. Through these elements of culture, one often develops feelings of allegiance to the country.

This affection for the nation is patriotism. A healthy loyalty to the nation is not an uncritical commitment to its every aspect, but rather demands recognition of the country’s failings and shortcomings and inspires efforts to improve them. Patriotism is a commitment to the ideals upon which the nation was founded and to what it can be.

On this Fourth of July, enjoy the parades, flags, music, firework displays, and family gatherings. But also recall the values upon which this country was founded – ideals such as freedom, equality, human dignity, justice. And where the nation has fallen short, commit yourself on your sacred honor to live your life according to those values. One patriot may not change the country, but the country will not change until there is a first patriot.

REFLECTIONS—AUGUST

(Continued from page 9)

and occasionally added to by popes speaking *ex cathedra* under the guidance and protection from error of the Holy Spirit.

The Church is *holy* because it is centered on God, established as Our Lord’s agent for the sanctification of all Peoples. Through the ministry of the Church and the power of the Holy Spirit, our Lord pours forth abundant graces to all who seek and accept them through the sacraments, teaching, prayer, worship, and good works.

The Church is *catholic*, in that Christ is universally present in the Church, which He has commissioned to evangelize the world. The Church is for all times and all people, past, present and future. We here on earth, the Church militant, are united to the Church triumphant in heaven and the Church suffering in purgatory.

The Church is *apostolic*. Christ founded the Church and entrusted His authority to St. Peter, the apostles and their successors, saying, “I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven”. This authority has been handed down through the Sacrament of Holy Orders from bishop to bishop, and through them to priests.

These four attributes or marks define what is termed the universal or spiritual church. It is the assembly of all Believers in all times under the kingship of Christ. Unfortunately, the members on earth – both lay and consecrated -- are imperfect human beings with free will and, like our first parents, can fall to the temptations of the world. The earthly, local church to which we belong, though endowed with spiritual gifts, is present in the flawed world.

Each of us is called to holiness and, by God’s grace, we can attain it. If I fall, however, to the seduction of the world, accept its material values as supreme, stop practicing my religion or even give up the Faith, who will save me? The pope who leads a flock of 1.2 billion people? The bishop who never heard of me? My pastor – although he among the ordained clergy is most concerned about my salvation – who must soon return to the myriad duties of running a parish with hundreds and perhaps thousands of souls? Ultimately, I, and only I, am responsible for my salvation. The Church is here to help me, but the path I take whether to heaven or to hell is mine to choose.

Fr. McGivney to be Beatified

Fr. Michael McGivney will be beatified on October 31, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints announced on July 20. A miracle credited to the intercession of McGivney was approved by the Vatican and announced by Pope Francis on May 27. A child who was diagnosed as terminally ill in the womb was miraculously healed following prayers for the intercession of Fr. McGivney.

Beatification, being declared “blessed” by the Church, is the final step of recognition before a person can be declared a saint. Fr. McGivney will become the fourth U.S.-born man to be beatified, joining Bl. Stanley Rother, Bl. James Miller, and Bl. Solanus Casey. While the Church has recognized three women born in the United States as saints--St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Katharine Drexel, and St. Kateri Tekawitha--there have been no U.S.-born canonized men.



SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

We havenot met in a few months because of the ovid-19 restrictions. God willing, as soon as the restrictions are eased, we will resume our monthly parties – err, I mean, social meetings.

In the meantime, stay well, enjoy whatever you can, and pray for a return to normalcy.



PGK Bob Waters

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, Estelle Stoltz, Stephanie Suff, Alex Swanke, Marge Swanke,

Regina Walter, Barbara Waters, and Fran and Frank Zello.

Our special prayers for Charlene Hubbard. I understand that she was in the hospital for about a month. She has been moved to Collinswood Nursing Home in Rockville, as she needs dialysis. Pray for Charlene and her husband, Deacon Bob.

GOD BLESS AMERICA AND OUR MILITARY!

PRAYER CORNER

In your prayers remember: Eureka and Elizabeth Arcand, Dorothy Bush, Maureen Collins, Kevin Dyer, Helen Fincutter, Susan Gordon Garcia, Lois Gargano, Katharine Giodati, Bill Gordon, Joselyn



Rental Corner

As soon as the covid-19 restrictions are eased, we aer prepared to resume holding fun-filled rental activities, including birthday parties, anniversaries, special celebrations, bar and bat mitzvahs, and weddings. We already have bookings for 2021.

Remember, Rock Creek Council members get a huge rental discount!

Julie Buckingham Carter

Event Coordinator

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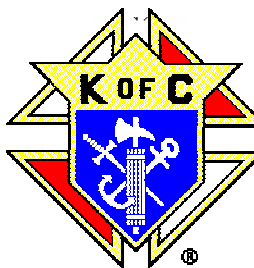
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September CHATTER Deadline:
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ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
August						1
2	3	4 Rosary 7:30 PM Business Mting 8:00 PM	5	6 Transfiguration	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Assumption
16	17	18 Rosary 7:30 PM Social Meeting 8:00 PM	19 K-C Club 7:00 PM	20 O'Boyle Assem. Rosary 7:30 PM Meeting 8:00 PM	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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