



# THE KNIGHT CHATTER

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After the Installation (L-R): DW David Czarnecki, Chaplain Fr. Mark Hughes, GK Joseph Dpniger, and DD William Newbrough. For more photos of the Installation, see page 7.

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

FR. MARK HUGHES

Brother Knights,

It was a mid-summer day trip for the grandsons. I was included with the family. We took the three boys (aged 11, 9 and 8) to the Frostburg Flyer scenic train ride out of Cumberland, MD.

The three-hour journey on the slow moving train was O.K., not so scenic, but a new experience for all the children from the many families with same idea. The busload of Amish families (with lots of kids) was an added element to the trip.

After the novelty of the train wore off, the best part of the day happened. We were in the last car of the train on the return trip. You are allowed to stand in the open area between cars to look out at the passing scenery on the two sides and the tracks behind the train (because it was the last car).

I noticed the same tendency for all people who came out of the car for the view. The children were drawn to the side views where they looked ahead at where the train was go-

(Continued on page 2)



Fr. Mark Hughes

## GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

JOSEPH DONIGER

My Brothers,

I am honored to serve as Grand Knight once again, and hope to meet your expectations for a successful and enjoyable year ahead.

We have lots of plans for great activities, which I will be describing in the months ahead. For now, I am keeping this column short so that we can include excerpts of an letter from the Supreme Knight discussing the recent report of clerical sexual abuse. His comments appear below.

*Joe*

Grand Knight

*Letter from the Supreme Knight*

*The issues that have come to light concerning sexual abuse by Archbishop Theodore McCarrick and in the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report are cause for grave concern among Catholics and Brother Knights. Many feel deeply betrayed by those whom they*

(Continued on page 2)



Grand Knight Doniger



## GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

*long held in high regard.*

*There are many wonderful and faithful among our priests and bishops. However, in addition to devastating criminal acts, we have seen many other moral failings by clergy.*

*Now, the Knights of Columbus — laymen, priests and chaplains together — will have an important role to play in rebuilding the Church. We must commit the Knights of Columbus to work for repentance, reform and rebuilding of the Church.*

*Repentance should include a full accounting of the misdeeds by those who have committed them. Reform must include many good ideas that have been proposed. Reforms will be difficult, and we must support our bishops and our priests in embracing these reforms in order to rebuild.*

*The Knights of Columbus will help renew our Church on a national level through a Novena of Masses in reparation for these sins that have so grievously wounded the Body of Christ. Beginning in November, we will sponsor, in cooperation with the Shrine of St. Jean Vianney in Ars, France, a national tour of the relic of the heart of this great patron saint of priests.*

*We will continue to strengthen and rebuild our Church through our Building the Domestic Church program, with its elements of imbuing families with faith and strengthening parish life.*

*Now is the time for all brother Knights to stand steadfast in faith. We will assist priests, bishops and our fellow Catholics in helping the Church chart a course for the future that puts Christ at the center.*

The full letter can be found at  
[www.kofc.org/en/resources/communications/supreme-knight-letter-to-chaplains.pdf](http://www.kofc.org/en/resources/communications/supreme-knight-letter-to-chaplains.pdf)

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

ing and the older adults were drawn to the view out of the back of the train -- looking at where we had been.

The three grandsons could not get enough of the side views, while I talked with other people my age looking out the back, about our experience. The formula was simple and natural. Young children excited about the future and what is around the next bend, while older people were content with the past reflecting on where they have been in life.

One of the great gifts of faith is that in our relationship with God we get to do both. It is all about our eternal journey back to our Creator. We are always young in God's eyes (even though our bodies don't seem to agree), while we have the luxury of a lifetime of experiences that helps us see how the relationship has brought us purpose and happiness. Because of our faith, we can be satisfied that we were part of the solution to the world's problems, not part of the problems themselves. Because of our faith, we can look ahead with confidence and wonder about where we are going and why we are headed in that direction.

After the train arrived at the station, it was time for McDonald's for the grandsons. For people of faith, the journey continues on into the mystery of eternity – always looking for what is around the next bend and grateful for where we have been.

*Vivat Jesus!*

Sincerely,

*Fr. Hughes*

## Rental Corner

We celebrate Rock Creek Council members who chose our Mansion for their wedding celebration!

Keep us in mind for your milestone events - weddings, anniversary and special birthday celebrations, family reunions, graduation parties... and pass the word to your family, friends, colleagues and neighbors. And remember, Rock Creek Council members get a rental discount!

Contact me for information and a tour . We are booking into 2019!



**Julie Buckingham Carter**

Event Coordinator

cell phone: 240-426-1220,

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

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

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## DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

Worthy Brother Knights and friends,

It is my great honor and privilege to serve as District Deputy #18 in the upcoming fraternal year. Many who know me are aware that I am an avid student of history. I often encourage our Knights (both new and longtime members) to expand their knowledge of the origins and history of the Knights of Columbus. That history will amaze and embolden you to participate in what St. John Paul II called the "Charity that evangelizes."

Our history includes Maryland's important role in the life and priestly ministry of our founder Fr. Michael J. McGivney. Here in Maryland, Fr. McGivney studied for the priesthood at St. Mary's seminary and was ordained at the old Basilica of the Assumption in downtown Baltimore. From its founding, Maryland has been a standard bearer of religious freedom as documented in the Maryland Religious Toleration Act of 1649. This year we are honored to host the 136<sup>th</sup> Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus in Baltimore.

For many, August is a time of vacation, summer reading and a general slowing down of life's hectic pace. As the heat index rises, our activity level often declines and our minds focus on family getaways and relaxation. Paradoxically, July is a busy time for our councils as we kick off our fraternal year with installations, program seminars and business meetings. This is a time for our newly installed Grand Knights and chair officers to perhaps get their first taste of running a meeting or chairing a program. This year, the rush of activity includes the implementation of a new program model – "**Faith in Action**".

The "Faith in Action" program condenses our long established "Surge with Service" program categories into 4 focal points – **Faith, Family, Community and Life**. These anchors of the program speak to the core values and mission of the Knights of Columbus. As the "Domestic Church" initiative, sought to promote and celebrate Christian families as the basic building blocks of the Church, so "Faith in Action" challenges us to plan, promote and host programs that incorporate some aspect of each of the 4 categories into our charitable work.

I believe it's useful to see this initiative, more as a shift of perspective than as a major overhaul of our charitable programs. Instead of looking to tag our good works to a specific category; I urge our members to look for ways in which we might incorporate elements of Faith, Family, Community and Life in every program we host. And why not? Frankly, I think we might all agree, that the majority of our programs are faith based, are beneficial to our families and communities and serve to affirm a culture of life.

Many of our programs will remain unchanged. We are simply asked to look at them through a different lens. In the course of the year, our councils will be introduced to 4

**required programs** – one for each of the 4 categories. In order to achieve Star Council, each council must host a 1) Spiritual Reflection Program 2) a Consecration to the Holy Family 3) a Novena for Life and 4) a Helping Hands program at least once during the fraternal year. Also, each council hosting a **featured program** such as Coats for Kids, Food for Families, Special Olympics or March for Life will earn **two program credits** toward the Columbian Award. You can find a detailed explanation of the Faith in Action program at [www.kofc.org/en/programs/index.html](http://www.kofc.org/en/programs/index.html) or by searching for [kofc.org/faithinaction](http://kofc.org/faithinaction). Please plan to attend the State Program Seminar at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School located at 17301 Old Vic Blvd in Olney MD on Monday August 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm to learn more about these great programs.

The Faith in Action program is an exciting opportunity to renew and reenergize our commitment to live our faith every day. Let's be pro-active in planning and promoting each council activity. **Remember, no program ever benefited from lack of planning!** And let's remember to work with our pastors and keep them informed and involved in our charitable outreach. Make sure they know, we are their Knights! As we do so, we are reminded that our charitable work is not simply the result of good intentions. We are in fact, living the life we are called to live as Christians. Our good works are corporal and spiritual works of mercy. This is the charity that evangelizes! Let's share that opportunity and blessing with others by continuing to issue the invitation to all potential new members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our worthy outgoing District Deputy Joe Stewart for his hard work and dedication over the past two years. Joe's unflagging support and selfless commitment to the growth and success of each council in District 18 is greatly appreciated! Joe will continue to support our efforts to stand in solidarity with our persecuted brothers and sisters in the Middle East by serving as Program Chair of Christian Refugee Relief for the MD State Council. Thank you Joe for all your hard work and support!

Please, be assured of my support and eagerness to assist you at all times. I may not have the answer to every question. But I will work to resolve any obstacle you might encounter and assist you to the best of my ability. As we move toward summer's end, I do hope that you and your families have enjoyed some well-earned rest and relaxation. I look forward to working with each of you and I wish you all the very best in the coming fraternal year.

*Vivat Jesus!*

*William Newbrough*  
District Deputy No. 18



### Families Fully Alive

#### A Higher Purpose

This program has been designed by the Knights of Columbus to help families place God and the Catholic faith at the center of their lives, year-round. Using the Family Fully Alive Booklet as a devotional guide, families can follow monthly themes, reflections, meditations and group projects.



#### Overview

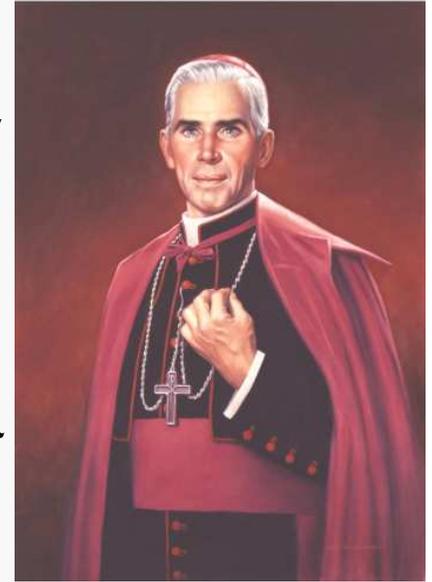
During his visit to the Philippines, Pope Francis cited the need for “holy and loving families to protect the beauty and truth of the family in God’s plan and to be an example for other families”).

The Family Fully Alive program asks families to invite God into their homes and cultivates each family as a miniature domestic church. To this end, the program provides monthly themes, scripture verses and activities. Through prayer and reflection, each family has the opportunity to grow in holiness together. The Family Fully Alive monthly devotions are concrete ways that Knights of Columbus, in solidarity with Pope Francis, can support the growth of holy and loving families in the Church.

The program that can be started at any time of the year and continues year-round. Booklets and other program resources can be obtained at no cost on kofc.org.

### “Who will save the Church?”

*“Not our bishops, not our priests and religious. It is up to you the people. You have the minds, the eyes, the ears to save the Church. Your mission is to see that your priests act like priests, your bishop like bishops, and your religious act like religious.”*



Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen in an address at the 90<sup>th</sup> Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus, June 1972

### Your Council Program Team

- Program Director — Michael Horan
- Faith Director — Robert Hubbard
- Community Director — Christopher Horan
- Family Director — Matthew Morin
- Life Director — Lawrence Grayson
- Membership Director — James Bergmann
- Recruitment Committee — Richard Strachan
- Recruitment Committee — Alexander Lieb
- Retention Chairman — Jonathan Schneider
- Insurance Promotion — Stephen Upton
- Vocations Chairman — Michael Houlihan
- Health Services — Michael Naas
- Public Relations — Christopher Ryan

## New Council Officers

On Tuesday, June 5, the following persons were duly elected as officers of the council for the 2018-2019 Columbian Year:

- Faithful Chaplain ----- Fr. Mark Hughes
- Grand Knight ----- Joseph Doniger
- Deputy Grand Knight ----- Jon Schneider
- Chancellor ----- Michael Houlihan
- Warden ----- Ivan Galic
- Treasurer ----- Charles Gormly

- Advocate ----- Joseph Murphy, PGK
- Recorder ----- John Daria
- Lecturer ----- John Titus
- Inside Guard ----- Michael Naas, Sr.
- Outside Guard ----- Alex Lieb
- Trustee, 3 yr. ----- Terence Ryan, PGK
- Trustee, 2 yr (carry over) ----- Richard Heim, PGK
- Trustee, 1 yr. ----- Thomas W. Tappan
- Delegate (to Convention, by office) - Joseph Doniger, GK
- Delegate ----- James Schneider, PGK



**Club News**



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

We are in the midst of summer. It is a good time to stop by the Lounge with some friends for a game of shuffle board, shoot some pool, watch TV or just relax on the patio.

The baseball season is in the dog days of summer, and the Nationals are red hot with the best record in the majors. Watch the home team in action during this second half of the season. Bring a friend! It's a great recruiting opportunity. Watch all the big games on our great TVs.

Come and cheer the team on. On special dates, the lounge may open earlier to fit the baseball schedule.

Sign up for the listserve. Make sure you get the frequent emails about special events and food in the Lounge.

It's your lounge. Have fun — And don't forget to sign the BOOK!

Lounge phone: 301-530-1628

Mike Horan: 240-793-1169

**Supreme Convention Coverage**

The 136th Supreme Convention is being held in Baltimore from Tuesday, August 7 through Thursday, August 9. For the latest news, visit the KofC's special convention website as well as its media channels on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. The Opening Mass is on Tuesday at 9:30 am, with the Opening Business Session, featuring the Supreme Knight's annual report at 1 pm, and the States Dinner at 7 pm. The Masses on Wednesday and Thursday begin at 8 am. EWTN will broadcast the proceedings, as well as stream them at [www.ewtn.com/multimedia/live.asp](http://www.ewtn.com/multimedia/live.asp). SiriusXM will also stream at <http://player.siriusxm.com/welcome>.

**Remember Our Sick and Deceased**

**Sick and Distressed:**

**Leslie Ibáñez (wife of PGK Tony Ibáñez), PGK Victor Khayat, PGK Peter Ferrigno, Greg Curtin, Brandon Waters (grandson of PGK Bob Waters), and those on the Seniors' sick list (p. 11)**

**Deceased:**

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



**ROSARY AT 7:30 P.M.**

**We pray the Rosary before our meetings on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month**

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

**Come and join us!**



*Novena for the Legal Protection of Human Life*



**USCCB Call to PRAYER**  
Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty

Due to the significant moment in U.S. Supreme Court history, the Knights of Columbus is urging everyone to join the USCCB in praying a nine-week *Novena for the Legal Protection of Human Life*.

The novena begins on Friday, August 3, 2018, and concludes Friday, September 28. On each of the nine Fridays, the bishops are urging Catholics to fast and to pray one *Our Father*, *Hail Mary*, and *Glory Be* for the protection in law of very human life.

Join the prayer movement at [www.usccb.org/pray](http://www.usccb.org/pray).

*Our Lady of Fatima*

On May 13, 1917, Our Blessed Mother appeared to three young children at Fatima, Portugal. In five additional appearances, she showed them a vision of hell, asked that everyone say the rosary for the conversion of sinners, and have the Pope with the Bishops consecrate Russia to Her Immaculate Heart.

Our Lady also predicted a world war (WWII) if people did not pray. To demonstrate that she actually appeared, the sun "danced" on October 13, at the last of the apparitions.

To learn more about Our Lady's appearance and what it means to us today, read the brief article at [kofc.org/en/columbia/detail/fatima-at-100.html](http://kofc.org/en/columbia/detail/fatima-at-100.html)



## Providing Care Doesn't Bring Families Together: It Often Tears Them Apart



**Steve Upton, PGK, FDD**

Extended care not only changes your life completely, but also and more importantly, the lives of your loved ones who have no choice but to provide care if you don't have the right plan in place. You might be thinking, "My kids/spouse/other family member will take care of me". Ad of course they will. They love you and often have no choice.

A long-term care plan allows them to take care of you LONGER and BETTER.

Aside from personal consequences, extended care also leads to financial consequences for you and your loved ones, which begin to accrue when families seek to relieve the burden of the personal, emotional costs by hiring paid, professional help. If you ever need care one day, it's your loved ones – not you – who will feel the brunt of the personal and financial consequences of extended care.

Ask yourself, who is important to me to protect should I require care in the future? A long-term care plan from the Knights of Columbus will make sure those people are protected financially and emotionally while allowing you to remain safe at home or in a facility.

On average, nursing home care can cost upwards of \$83,000 per year, while at-home care can cost more than \$60,000 per year.

Yet most regular health insurance plans or government assistance programs do not provide sufficient coverage for long-term care needs. Long-term care insurance from

the Knights of Columbus helps mitigate that risk by helping you cover your costs.

Knights of Columbus Long-Term Care policies are customizable to fit your needs, and come in two basic forms: comprehensive coverage, which covers you in a nursing home or at home; and facility-only coverage, which covers you in a nursing home only.

If you haven't yet spoken with me about long-term care insurance, you owe it to yourself to do so. There are a few decisions to make in choosing a "plan" – a comprehensive plan that covers care whether you're at home or in a facility, or one that covers facility only; daily benefit amounts and benefit durations (how much and how long it will last); and the length of the elimination period (waiting period) before benefits kick-in.

Having a professionally trained agent – and a brother Knight you can trust – to help guide you through the process is yet another valuable benefit that comes with your membership. Take advantage of it.

I will be happy to meet with you and explain the benefits of our long-term care insurance plans, as well as our top-rated life insurance, annuity, and disability income..

### 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 new Assembly Officers for the coming Columbian Year are:

Faithful Friar - Rev. Ryan Pineda  
 Faithful Navigator - Russell R. Sutlon, PGK  
 Faithful Captain - Charles Hayes, FD, PGK  
 Faithful Pilot - Isidore G. Sobgo  
 Faithful Comptroller - Francis Moran  
 Faithful Purser - Jude O. Onwumelu, PFN  
 Faithful Admiral - Thomas Devlin III, PFN  
 Faithful Scribe - Yen V. Le, FDD, PGK, PFN  
 Color Corps Commander — John A. Fox, FDD, PGK, PFN  
 Vice Commander — Yen V. Le, FDD, PGK, PFN  
 Faithful Inner Sentinel - Mark Borkoski  
 Faithful Inner Sentinel — Charles Pittsburg Roe  
 Faithful Outer Sentinel - Evaristus S. Ojiaku  
 Faithful One-Year Trustee - Neil Dorian, PGK, PFN  
 Faithful Two-Year Trustee - Marvin J. Schuttloffel, FDW, PFN  
 Faithful Three-Year Trustee — Stephen P. Holowenzak,

PGK, PFN

Monthly business meetings are held the third Thursday of each month. They begin with praying the rosary at 7:30 pm, a meeting at 8 pm, and then a social including free food and beverage. Speakers are occasionally scheduled.



In June, at the semiannual exemplification, Rock Creek Council member Jason T. Wan moved up to the Fourth Degree. Congratulations Sir Knight Wan!

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

**Neil Dorian, SK**

Past Faithful Navigator



# Installing Our New Officers

On Sunday, July 8, the new officers of Rock Creek Council were installed at Holy Redeemer Church by DD Bill Newbrough and DW Dave Czarnecki. Fr. Mark Hughes, Faithful Chaplain, provided the blessings. A reception at Rock Creek Mansion followed. We wish our officers a very productive and enjoyable year ahead. *Vivat Jesus!*



## Maryland State Officers 2018-2019



Newly-elected State Officers and their Wives (L-R): Warden John Winfrey and and Gloria; Treasurer Christopher Powers and Annie; State Deputy Dale Trott and Linda; Chaplain Rev. Joseph Jenkins; Secretary Vincent Grauso and Mary Jane; Advocate Anthony Salvemini and Kathy; and Immediate Past State Deputy Stephen Cohen and Vicki



## REFLECTIONS – JULY

Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, PFN

### Restoring America's Proposition

The President has vowed to make America great again by improving the economy, protecting the nation's sovereignty, and enhancing its prestige among the world's nations. As laudable as these aims are, they are incomplete.

America is more than a wealth-generating entity with borders. It was founded as the embodiment of a vision, an idea, a set of idealistic principles. Perhaps no one summarized more cogently and effectively what America stands for than Abraham Lincoln in his Address at Gettysburg:

“[O]ur fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal...We here highly resolve that...this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.”

The concept of a nation dedicated to liberty, equality and democracy, and subject to an Almighty Being, set forth the fundamental principles upon which America is based. A nation under God was not deemed an objective, but a founding proposition. It was enunciated in the Declaration of Independence and is reaffirmed each time anyone stands before the nation's flag and recites the Pledge of Allegiance.

While the elements of liberty and equality are in common with the political tenets of Western Europe, the belief in a sovereign God who reigns over nations as well as men sets America apart. In the European tradition of laicism, as shaped by Enlightenment thinkers, religion is a private concern and irrelevant to public affairs. Political development is centered on the rationality of man to the exclusion of the transcendent. Hence, ultimate sovereignty resides in the state which is bound by nothing higher than the will of the people. Since it is the state that defines the rights of the individual, those privileges are provisional for the state can rescind what it grants.

America's premise of freedom under God is alien to the concept of laicism. The idea that there is a supernatural authority to which the state is subject is intrinsic to this nation's governance. Americans recognize certain rights of the individual as unalienable because they were bestowed on man by the Creator God. These innate, pre-existing grants may be ignored or violated, but cannot be

revoked by the state.

Although certain rights are unalienable, they are not unrestricted. Rather, they are subject to a higher natural law that was instilled by the Creator in the nature of man and are to be regulated through his 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 people as a whole were not inwardly governed by a higher imperative.

The great danger to the nation today is a loss of religious faith. As the substance of being an American is rooted in the transcendental, then a loss of belief in God leads to a loss of belief that the rights bestowed by Him are intrinsic and unalienable. If these rights are to be retained, then a belief in God must be maintained.

The early Americans were very aware of the importance of faith among the people. They were convinced that without a societal belief in God the nation's founding principles would be at risk. From the time of the Pilgrims onward, colonial governors, legislatures, Revolutionary leaders, presidents and the Congress have issued hundreds of proclamations acknowledging the existence of God and calling for public fasting and prayer to seek His grace and thank Him for His beneficence. In time of war, in the Christmas season, and in their traditional Thanksgiving Day proclamations, most presidents have made reference to the Almighty.

Congress, even today, opens its daily sessions with a prayer. But much of the present public acknowledgement of God seems to be more traditional or symbolic, rather than sincere.

Presently, too many national leaders profess a faith, but do not publicly practice it. There is a disconnection between what they say they believe and their actions which demonstrate what they believe. This partition between a private conscience and a public position has allowed many individuals to advance their political aims. Rather than using their religious convictions to shape societal practices, they have diluted their beliefs in pursuit of worldly prosperity, acclaim, or social acceptability.

For decades, vocal minorities operating through the courts



Portrait of George Washington praying at Valley Forge

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## REFLECTIONS – AUGUST

Lawrence P. Grayson, FDD, PGK, PFN

### Reproductive Science: Questions We Must Answer

In 2017, attempting to grow human organs for medical transplant, researchers at Salk Institute injected pig embryos with human stem cells, achieving a human-to-pig cell count of about one in one hundred thousand. This year, researchers at the University of California, Davis reported that using sheep embryos they had boosted the human cell count to one in ten thousand – a ten-fold increase in one year.

Science and technology are advancing at a prodigious rate, providing man with ever increasing capabilities to change virtually every aspect of the world in which he lives, including life itself. It is now possible to perform curative surgery in the womb, correct abnormalities in a woman's egg, predict developmental issues in utero, decipher the human genome, and alter the building blocks of life.

Once more fiction than science, he has also brought forth children with three genetically-related parents, created human-animal chimeras, and developed tests for embryonic disorders that could lead to the virtual eradication of scores of diseases – but presently requiring eugenic selection, that is, termination of the unwanted. “Defective” children may never be born. Down syndrome births already have been reduced by over 90% through genetic identification and abortion.

Disorders in a mother's mitochondria, the cellular component that generates more than 90% of the body's energy, are passed on to her children, who in turn can suffer catastrophic organ failure. The pre-conception treatment is to remove the nucleus from the mother's egg and place it in an enucleated healthy egg from a donor. The reconstructed egg is fertilized with the father's sperm and implanted in the mother's womb to develop “naturally.” The resulting child will be free of the mitochondrial disease, but will have three genetic parents, which raises significant moral concerns.

In 2016, Congress banned federal support for genetic modification techniques that affect the next generation. But the genie was out of the bottle. It was [reported](#) in September 2016 that a child was born earlier that year as

a result of mitochondria replacement therapy. The procedure was done by a New York fertility clinician in a clinic in Mexico. In August 2017, the FDA sent him a letter to desist, stating that “such human subject research cannot legally be performed in the United States. Nor is exportation permitted.”

In the Ukraine, where the procedure is not illegal, physicians at the Nadiya Clinic have created four children, each possessing DNA from three different parents. Three more of their patients are pregnant by this method.

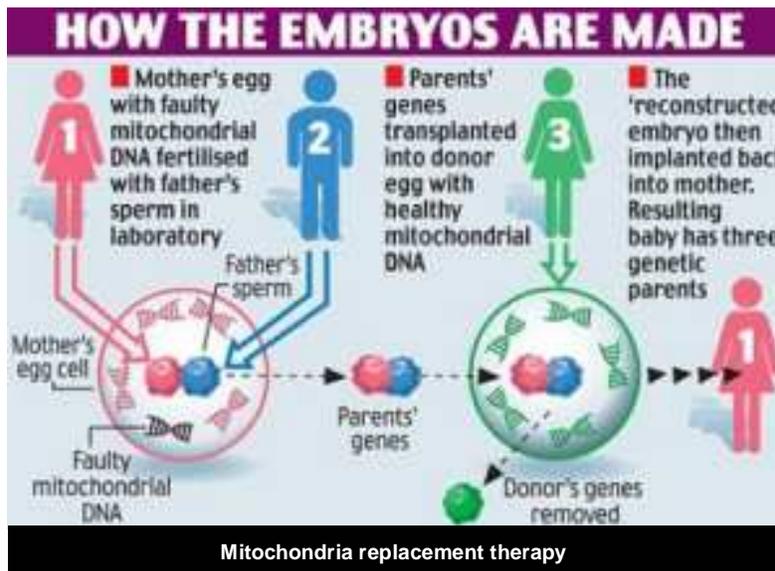
Experimenting with genetic modifications puts society on a slippery slope. Once initial sanction is given, a growing approval creep is hard to stop. If a child can have three genetically-related parents, why not four? Or more? Why

can't both same-sex partners be genetically related to a child, rather than only one? As pluri-potent stem cell research progresses, will an individual be allowed to “self-breed” with an egg and sperm created from cells of his own body?

An even more haunting, yet exciting development for the benefits it promises, is genome-editing. This technology can change the nature of any cell and modify every life form by adding,

removing, or altering genetic material at particular locations in the genome. The technique is currently being used to treat disease, but could allow human enhancement through introducing specific genes for certain desirable characteristics. By modifying traits that pass from one generation to the next, it has the potential to shape the future of humanity. Could the next step be to design babies with parent-selected characteristics, such as intelligence, beauty, strength and height? This may not be possible today, but will not be beyond future advances.

The technical capabilities of reproductive science have outstripped moral development. In mitochondria replacement therapy, for example, two embryonic children are destroyed to create a third. In vitro fertilization, multiple eggs are fertilized, but only one allowed to develop; the rest are destroyed or warehoused. Genetic screening is



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## REFLECTIONS-JULY

(Continued from page 8)

have been driving God from virtually all public recognition. As a result, God has become less relevant in many lives. According to a recent Gallup poll, persons who self-identified as Christians declined from 92% in 1960 to 68% in 2017, while persons with no religious affiliation increased from 3% to 20%. Currently, only 46% of the people attend a church or synagogue even once a month. Not surprisingly, 20% of people in America are convinced, or are fairly certain, that God does *not* exist. The nation's society today is more anti-religious in its policies and regulations, its views and attitudes, its behavior and temperament than it has ever been.

The agnostic secularization of this nation must be rejected and its founding values restored and preserved. America was established on the basis of liberty and justice, as a country where people could enjoy freedom in their homes, churches, businesses, schools, private organizations and public associations, where political liberty would allow faith to flourish, where religious liberty would be protected

by just laws. This is a patrimony that has been handed down from generations past and requires a commitment to maintain it for generations to come. As President Ronald Reagan reminded us, "Freedom is never more than one generation from extinction... It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them [*our children*] to do the same."

As Americans, let us commit ourselves to support the Constitution, enact laws that protect the rights of every person from conception to natural death, mold public opinion on issues that affect our religious precepts, and promote virtue and morality that must underlie a nation of, for and by the people. As Catholics, let us practice patriotism and citizenship consistent with Church teachings. It is when we live our religious beliefs conscientiously and faithfully and advance them in the public square that we make our most beneficial contributions to the nation.

May America remain one nation under God with liberty, equality and justice for all.

## REFLECTIONS-AUGUST

not about altering imperfect embryos, but about recognizing and abolishing them to produce a "perfect" child. Abortion in America has killed over 60 million children in the womb since 1973. Are we prepared to continue selecting out the imperfect, as well as the unwanted, among us?

Children are beginning to be treated as commodities and their creation as services. A couple desiring a child, but not wanting the "inconvenience" of child bearing, can have her eggs and his sperm united in a laboratory and then hire a surrogate woman to carry the child through term.

Gametes from young college-educated men and women are sought after by fertility centers for resale to infertile couples. Embryos are frozen and stored to meet a couple's possible future desire for a child. Are components of conception items to be bought and sold? Are children consumer objects to be acquired or discarded? Will the traditional means of having children be reduced to an option?

In experimenting with chimeras, researchers restrict where human cells reside, to ensure that they do not invade an animal's brain or reproductive organs. But what if they fail in their targeting? Could an animal-hybrid develop that has a partial human nature, say the capacity for rationality, and can pass on its new traits to its offspring? That would be a societal nightmare.

Genetic engineering, female egg manipulation, laboratory-produced sperm, designer babies, human/animal hybrids, cloning -- with each mal-applied advance, man is creating a society where human beings are worth having only when they are wanted and only if they are perfect. How long will it be before the capability exists to create genetically-designed, factory-produced children? The human "hatchery and conditioning center" of Huxley's *Brave New World* may have been the fantasy of a fertile imagination, but present reality already surpasses yesterday's fiction.

Science has the promise to eliminate much human suffering, but every new discovery is not necessarily an advance for mankind. In a society unrestrained by a belief in the inherent dignity of every human being at every stage of life, so-called progress can create a dystopian future. Science and technology have no moral direction in themselves; their development and use must be guided by external principles to assure their compatibility with man's purpose on Earth.

Without an understanding of why he exists, man's conquest of nature leads him to mold his world and himself to his personal desires. What is needed are moral values to guide man's genius. The fundamental questions that must be asked arise not from what we *can* do, but rather from what we *ought* to do.

## Membership

The upcoming degrees scheduled to be held at Rock Creek Council for the current Fraternal Year are:

### Admissions (1st) Degree:

September 18, 2018  
December 18, 2018  
February 19, 2019  
April 16, 2019

### Formation (2nd) Degree:

January 15, 2019

If you are not already a 2nd degree member, plan to do so now.



## SENIORS' CLUB REPORT

By PGK Bob Waters, President

The Seniors are on the move again! We completed our annual July indoor picnic and meeting. Over 40 members and guests attended. Including Msgr. John Macfarlane, Fr. Joe Perkins, Br. Ed Adams, and Deacon Bob Hubbard.



PGK Bob Waters

All were well fed with plenty of chicken and sides to take home. Many thanks to Mike Horan and all of the ladies who brought desserts. Also, a big thanks to Helen Brennan who chaired this function.

During the meeting, I announced that the Seniors Group had decided to donate \$3000 to the Order's program to support seminarians. This is the largest donation we have ever made to support these young men!

Our next meeting will be at Alfio's La Trattoria on Wednesday, August 8th. Watch for the flyer and see the advertisement in this issue of the Chatter. Note that you have to make a selection of your entree.

We are looking at possible meetings in September and October, but with all of the rentals at the Mansion, it is difficult to find

convenient dates. I will update you on these meetings in my report next month.

Our special prayers include our long-time member Mary Heneghan and Rich Orsi, both of whom have departed this life. Also, pray for Peter Ferrigno and Fr. Michael Briese.

**GOD BLESS AMERICA  
AND OUR MILITARY!**

### PRAYER CORNER

In your prayers remember: Eureka and Elizabeth Arcand, Dorothy Bush, Lily Callowhill, Maureen Collins, Kevin Dyer, Helen Fincutter, Susan Gordon Garcia, Lois Gargano, Katharine Giodati, Bill Gordon, Joselyn Walter Graham, Frank Hayden, Marie Horan, Saunders Jacobsen, Alex Lee, Julia Marcus, James Marketos, Joe Murphy, Eugene O'Neill, Ralph Oviedo, Sr. Maureen Patrice, Fr. David Pollak, Mary Rainey, Joan Reed, Anne Ryan, Bridget Shanahan, Midge Shanahan, Gloria Skapik, Pilar Stark, Estelle Stoltz, Stephanie Suff, Alex Swanke, Marge Swanke, Susan Tise, Regina Walter, Barbara Waters, Louise Young, and Fran and Frank Zello.

### Rock Creek Seniors

Luncheon, Wednesday, August 6

Alfio's

4515 Willard Ave, Chevy Chase  
Free Valet Parking in Building

\$20 per person (including tax and tip), with Cash bar

Select your Entrée:

1. Eggplant Parmigiana
2. Breast of Chicken Doran
3. Veal Parmigiana
4. Broiled Filet of Flounder

All entrees served with spaghetti, chef salad, bread and butter, coffee or tea, and ice cream

*Reservations with entrée selection and check made out to Rock Creek Seniors (no refunds) must be received by Monday, August 6 to:*

Jean Gordan

10013 Sinnott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817 — phone 301-530-4926

## Council Leaders

### CHAPLAINS

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

### GRAND KNIGHT

Joseph Doniger—240-566-2150

### DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT

Jon Schneider—301-279-0291

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Michael Houlihan—410-707-8550

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Ivan Galic—301-633-3998

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Douglas Yeatman—301-785-3747

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John Daria—202-607-0688

### TREASURER

Charles Gormly—202-669-0479

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Joseph Murphy, PGK—301-897-5314

### INSIDE GUARDS

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2-Year—Richard Heim—240-888-1240

3-Year—Terence Ryan—301-693-6854

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### LIFE ACTIVITIES

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Neil Dorian—301-237-0552

### 4th DEGREE – O'BOYLE ASSEMBLY

Neil Dorian—301-237-0552

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### WEBMASTER

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KAY-CEE CLUB—301-530-0258

RENTAL COORDINATOR

Julie Carter—240-426-1220

Anniversary  
& Birthday  
Receptions,  
Weddings,  
Meetings

Rock Creek Council's

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September CHATTER Deadline:  
**August 22, 2018**

## ROCK CREEK COUNCIL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>August</b>			1	2	3	4
5	6  Transfiguration	7 Rosary 7:30 PM Business Meeting	8 Seniors Group Alfio's Noon	9 Supreme Convention	10	11
12	13	14 Holy Day of Obligation  Assumption of BVM	15	16 O'Boyle Assem. Rosary 7:30 PM Meeting 8:00 PM	17	18
19	20	21 Rosary 7:30 PM Social Meeting 8:00 PM	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	