



COUNCILAIRS

Bel Air Council 4714



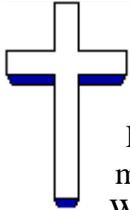
Phone: (410) 893:6442

23 Newport Drive, Forest Hill, MD 21050

Initiated Dec 1958

December 2013

Culture of Life



The following article is taken from St. Margaret Parish pastor, Msgr. G. Michael Schlepner's weekly "Inbox Inspirations".

He extended an invitation to all council members to sign-up to receive his weekly Wednesday reflection. You may do so by sending an email to ksaccenti@stmargaret.org requesting that you be added to the distribution.

Dick Belmonte, PGK, Trustee 410-838-6329
rbbelmon@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

We often use the expression "pro-life." I adopted a conviction about what this means twenty years or so ago. I was "converted" to realize that being pro-life must mean respecting and caring for all of human life. I think I came to this conviction when I worked in the city. Every day I encountered hungry people asking me for lunch money.

In the winter I saw homeless people sleeping on steam grates. I became aware of how many people lacked access to health care. I became convinced that pro-life must mean pro-all-life. I could no longer just pick out one area of human life. And in many ways, this made things more complicated for me. I had to begin stretching and thinking about the human life of all persons.

May the peace of the Lord be with you,
Fr. Mike

"Cardinal Bernardin...was the first to call for a 'consistent ethic of life.' He made it clear that until the Church starts being honest and defending all life from beginning to end, it cannot truthfully call itself 'pro-life.' Otherwise, the very moral principle falls apart. All policies that needlessly destroy life - abortion, war, capital punishment, euthanasia, poverty itself, and the

selfish destruction of the earth and its creatures - are anti-life...It is a 'seamless garment,' as Cardinal Bernardin brilliantly called it. Such a theology has teeth and real authority behind it and does not pander to the cultural values of either the Left or the Right. Like the Gospel itself, it challenges both sides and pleases nobody."

From *The Spiral of Violence* by Richard Rohr

Grand Knight's Message

Merry Christmas to all and thank you for all the support you have provided to our Bel Air Knights this year.

The precepts of the church are the barebones minimum that God requires of us, the handful of important things that the Church commands us to do in order to be considered practicing, practical Catholics. To break one of these precepts is to commit a mortal sin, so it's important that we know them, and keep them within our heart. The six precepts are as follows:

1. To assist at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
2. To fast and abstain on the days appointed.
3. To confess one's sins at least once a year.
4. To receive the Holy Eucharist during the Easter time.
5. To contribute to support the Church
6. To observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage.

Most of these are things we had ingrained in us during our raising: attending mass, tithing, going to confession, abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but a certain word in the first precept merits further attention: assist. It isn't enough to simply go to Church, half-awake, and murmur along with the responses like a particularly religious zombie. Rather, it is our duty to aid in any way we can, whether that be as a greeter, an usher, a Eucharistic Minister; even helping your parish outside of masses on Sunday is a fulfillment of your Christian duty. As a Knight you already understand this.

Bel Air Council 4714 Monthly Schedule of Events

First Tuesday - 7:30 pm - **Business meeting** - open to KC members only

Second Tuesday - 7:00 pm - **Home Corporation meeting** - open to KC members and invited guests

Third Tuesday - 7:00 pm - **Social Meeting** - open to general public

Fourth Tuesday - 7:00 pm - **Officers' Meeting** - open to KC members and invited guests

All Fridays - 7:00 pm - **Bingo** (board is lit) - open to the general public

In a similar way, it isn't enough to be a Knight in name only; it is by your actions and your use of time and effort that you truly follow the intentions of our order. Take an active part in the business and social meetings, contact your committee chairs to see what programs you can lend your talents to. I am amazed at how many times our membership has stepped up to assist the Council. I will give some recent examples.

At St. Mark's: Bob Jump has done an outstanding job organizing the Friday Adoration effort. He has acquired commitments from Knights and Ladies for both permanent times and to cover as alternates when needed. Fr. Jerry now has Knights and/or Ladies committed to support Adoration weekly for every time period except 11-12 and 2-3. An incredible job! Thank you to everyone who has made the commitment to support Adoration.

For the Council: At our November Memorial Mass, members of our Knights and Ladies came together to ensure all the components came together for what was a beautiful Mass followed by an excellent social event. During the social portion, our members voted on the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest.

At St. Margaret's: We have members planning and executing the December First Friday Luncheon and we had Dennis Grzebien organize the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest. I was not sure if we were doing the Poster Contest this year but Dennis Grzebien, took charge and made it happen. The three winning posters are shown on the right.

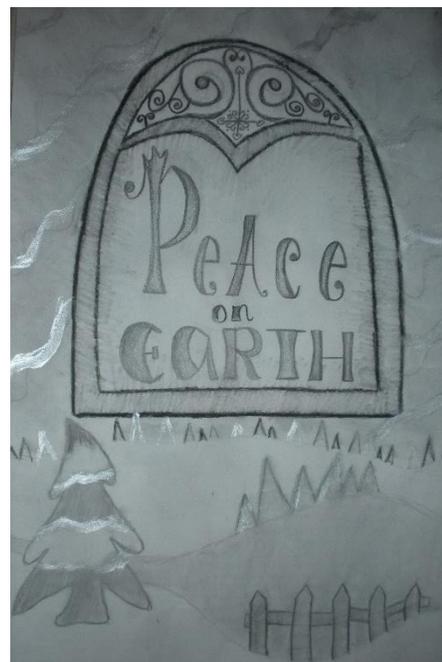
Vivat Jesus,
Stephen Conley, Grand Knight, 443-417-7538,
knightsfc@gmail.com



Katie Borlie, Grade 6



Laura Hojnacki - Grade 7



Meghan Sheehan - Grade 8

District Deputy

The Supreme Council is once again responding to recent tragedies around the world. People in Oklahoma, The Philippines, and Illinois are reeling from the devastation. The Knights of Columbus is often the first organization to send monetary aid when these events occur. They're now collecting donations. If you can spare it, please go to the KofC website and donate to help these people who have lost nearly everything.

Congratulations to Bishop Becker Council for once again hosting a very successful Soccer Challenge. They sent 11 of their winners to the State competition, and 8 of them were winners! Thanks, also, to Tom Mulkern for running that program, and for allowing me to hold the District competition at the same time.

I'd like to remind you that it is every Knight's duty to promote membership in our order. Without new members, we can't continue the work we do for our church and our community. The next first degree exemplification in our district will be 3 December at Corpus Christi Council in Edgewood. If you have candidates who wish to attend, please notify the GK or FS at least a few days ahead of the exemplification.

There will be a second degree on 18 December at Fr. Maurice Wolfe Council in Abingdon, and the next second degree in our district will be on 6 January at Bel Air Council home. Let me know if you, or someone you know would like to take their second degree at one of these exemplifications.

In December and January, please consider attending another council's event such as Christmas breakfasts or winter dances. We rely on each other for ticket sales to make our events a success. If your event isn't listed in this monthly article, please contact me so I can get the word out to others.

Upcoming district events:

- 1 Dec - Havre de Grace Advent Breakfast at St. Joan of Arc Church
- 3 Dec - First degree at Corpus Christi council
- 7 Dec - Bishop Becker Council - Christmas parade in Northeast
- 7 Dec - Corpus Christi Council - Christmas parade in Aberdeen
- 7 Dec - Bel Air Council Winter Wonders event
- 8 Dec - Bishop Becker Council Corporate Communion

17 Dec - Corpus Christi, St. Ignatius, and Bel Air Christmas celebrations

18 Dec - Bishop Becker Christmas celebration

22 Dec - Corpus Christi Breakfast with St. Nicholas at Prince of Peace church

Upcoming State Council events:

4 Jan - Mid-term meeting at Columbus Gardens

On behalf of DW Tom, his wife Nancy, and my wife Pam, I want to wish everyone a very happy Thanksgiving! Take the time to enjoy your family and friends, but be sure to thank God for them.

Walt Williams, District Deputy #16

Fraternal Benefits

LTC is an important piece of the puzzle

There are many financial consultants and retirement authorities who emphasize the need for a long-term care (LTC) product for estate preservation and family protection as you near or attain the age of 60.

While many commercial life insurance companies have gotten out of the long-term care business, the Knights of Columbus considers LTC a very important piece of the family protection puzzle. The Order has been actively offering our members this product for nearly 15 years without a single premium increase on current policyholders. Members who wisely purchased an LTC plan from the Knights in 2000 are still paying the same premiums today. Even better, our LTC coverage is backed by the full strength of the Order, which remains rooted in our strong Catholic values. Talk about stability when it counts.

If we have not spoken about your need for LTC coverage in your family portfolio, please take some time out of your schedule to meet with me.

Remember, long-term care policies are purchased with your health, and you most likely will never be any healthier than you are today.

Edward A. O'Keefe, CLU, ChFC, CASL
Chartered Financial Consultant

<http://okeefefinancialplanning.com>

edward.okeefe@kofc.org 410-569-6141

Council Activities

A Note from Your Financial Secretary

Early during the month of December, I will be sending out your dues invoices. Dues this year will remain at the same \$32.00 as it was for the last several years. I encourage you to return the upper portion of the invoice with your payment as soon as possible. Between 30 and 45 days following that invoice, if your account has not been paid up, a second notice will be sent. About a month following the second notice, a Knight Alert Letter will be sent out. As you can see, delays in making your payment will cost the Council for additional mailings. These rules are from Supreme and not the Councils'. Please try to be prompt. Once again, if you have a problem in making your payment, please call me to discuss and we may be able to work something out.

Tom Sutera, FS

Pot of Gold

Each month at the Business Meeting, the Council conducts a "Pot of Gold" drawing. All that is required is your attendance. The prizes range from \$5.00 to \$50.00. After there is a winner, the prize starts at \$5.00 and each month that a name is drawn and the winner is not in attendance, \$5.00 is added to the kitty until it reaches the maximum prize of \$50.00. You must be in attendance to win. See you at the next meeting! The name drawn at the November meeting was Joseph Snee and he was not in attendance. The drawing at the December meeting will remain at \$50.00.

Tootsie Roll Fund Raiser

"Fantastic" – "New Record"

Job Well Done

It took 83 brother knights and their ladies to complete a record breaking campaign which raised \$6, 616.19 for the Arc and the Harford Center. This could not have been done without your help. A special thank you to all weekly captains, Jack Fuchs, Bob Cassilly, and Tom Krista, who volunteered for two weeks each, plus Joe Klein and Dick Belmonte for one week each. I also thank Chuck Lasek, who made all the reminder phone calls. Also thanks to George Gambichler, who volunteered 5 hours on each of two Saturdays at Safeway.

May God Bless all of you, and reward you for your charitable hearts.

Paul Zarachowicz, Chairman

Tootsie Roll Fund Raiser

We collected over 6000 dollars and that both the ARC and Harford Center are being invited to our January social for their presentation. We would like to see everyone who participated in attendance at the Jan social so they can appreciate the level of effort that goes into this and it's a great way to thank the men and women who take turns and make this happen.

Stephen Conley, Grand Knight

Sick and Deceased

Brothers: Ray Caralle, Bernie Classon, David Custer Jr., Frank DiAngelo, William Edge. Sr., John Grigaliunas, Raymond Horney, Peter Kozak, Al Kramer, Vince Lagrotterria, Ross Liberati, Vernon West, and Bernie Sporney.

Ladies: Olga Barkkume, Jean DiAngelo, Kitty DiDio, Juliette Drouin, Joan Keenan, Charlotte Kozak, Owena Liberati, Jean Monohan, Marguerite Ward, Martha West, Mary Sporney, and Pat Wilhem.

Family and Friends: Dorothy Dimler, mother of LuAnne Belmonte; Bernice Wilhelm, daughter of Pat and Bill Wilhelm; Tom Ellis, son of Ann Stallings; Joe Fantacone, husband of CLSO Lady Dolores Fantacone; Barbara McMillan, daughter of Earl and Anna Marie McMillan; Jean Potter, wife of Joseph Potter; Regina Pisani, wife of Joe Pisani; John Wills, grandson of Betty Bourgeois; and John Zito Jr., son of John Zito, Sr.

Please remember in your prayers Bill Wilhelm who passed away this week. Bill, may your Guardian Angel lead you into Paradise where you will enjoy eternal happiness with God! May your soul and the souls of all the Faithful Departed who through the mercy of God, rest in peace!

If you know of anyone who is in need of our prayers, please get in touch with me.

Every time you pick up a three leafed clover you behold the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity!

Victor V. Ferrara, 410-569-4171

Bingo

Toys for Tots collections will be held at the Friday Bingo events of November 29, December 6 and December 13. The Annual Bingo Christmas party will be held on December 13. Arrangements have been made for the US Marine Corp Reserve to pick up all toys collected on December 13. The Bingo Committee and the Council request that anyone wishing to donate an unwrapped toy for this program to bring it to the hall at any of the above bingo dates, the business meeting on December 3, the CLSO meeting on December 10. Contact Tom Rappold at 443-371-6862 for more information.”

Tom Rappold

Church Activities

Robert Jump of St. Mark’s Church in Fallston is asking the Knights who are parishioners of St. Mark’s Church to consider attending The Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays. If interested please call Robert Jump at 410-879-6198.

Community Activities

Perry Point Program

The Bel Air Council had another good turnout for the second Sunday of November at Perry Point.

We will once again be looking for help on the second Sunday of December (8th) for our turn to aid the patients at Perry Point. I would also encourage our Brother Knights to join us at 10:30 AM Mass on our next Sunday in the Chapel at Perry Point. Father Jonathon and his homilies are very interesting and enjoyable. He would love to see a larger attendance at Mass.

Father has requested us and the other Councils in the District to help at Perry Point on Christmas Day. I told Father that I would try to get some support for our Veterans this Christmas. Please give it some thought

Tom Sutera

Veterans

Thanks to all who participated in various Veteran's Day activities. If this was your first experience with the VA we hope that you will consider being a regular volunteer. A 'special thanks' to our ladies group, CLSO, for the many Christmas Cards they sent to the veterans at Perry Point Hospital. Tentatively, we will be packing Christmas gifts for the veterans at Perry Point on or about Dec. 20 for distribution on Dec. 24.

If you would like to participate in this program please contact me.

Again, if you are eligible for VA benefits and are not yet registered, please consider doing so in the near future.

Fraternally,

W. Wayne Davis, Jr., PGK,

VAVS Rep. Perry Point VA, 443-956-9572

Family Activities

Tickets for the Santa Breakfast are available at the business meeting or by calling Jerry, 410-638-6489. The event is scheduled Sat. Dec. 14, 8:30 or 10:30 a.m. at the St Ignatius Parish Center.

Jerry Wagner

Catholic Ladies Service Organization

Hi Everybody!

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving with family, friends and good food. It is always a good to count our blessing with loved ones. Speaking of gratitude and thanksgiving, I wish to thank everyone who attended our Applebee’s fundraiser last month.

Our Bob Evans Fundraiser will be held Monday, December 16, 4-9 pm., at 14 Bel Air South Parkway/ Rt. 24, Bel Air, MD 21015. (A portion of the evening sales assist us to reach our goals of giving and service to others.) Santa will be there with a few of his helpers and as always he’s making his list and checking it twice. So be sure to tell him about your heart’s desires. Mark your calendar and join us for a great time. The food is tasty, wholesome and reasonable, the service is great and the people are friendly. Turn off your kitchen lights, take a night off from cooking! There will be raffle for a Christmas Basket of Bob Evans Goodies. Tickets are only 3 for \$2! These events enable us to support our charities like the Sharing Table and the “Perry Point Medical Center” and others.

Card night will be December 9 and our next CLSO Business Meeting will be December 10 at the council home at 7 pm. We will be having a cookie exchange. Bring a sample of your favorites to share. (Nobody counts calories at Christmas!)

Dee Kozlowski –President CLSO – 410-676-2862

Parting Thought: Be Nice! Santa Claus is watching!

Reflections

Lawrence P. Grayson

A Season of Hope in Dark Times

The Church experienced a rebuff recently in the culture war against religion. In spite of a letter from the U.S. Catholic bishops about dire effects of the proposed Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), the Senate voted overwhelmingly on November 7 in favor of it. The act bans workplace discrimination based on a person's self-proclaimed gender identity. The battle now moves to the House of Representatives.

This is the latest assault on religious liberty in America. *Roe v. Wade*, *Obamacare*, a growing number of states recognizing same-sex marriage, statutes legalizing physician-assisted suicide, and a host of other laws and regulations are creating a dark moral climate in the nation. In just the past few months, Christian photographers in New Mexico were fined for declining to photograph a commitment ceremony between lesbians; a Christian-owned bakery in Oregon was harassed out of business for not creating a wedding cake for a gay couple; bathrooms and locker rooms in California schools now can be used by any student regardless of his or her gender; and under the HHS healthcare mandate companies soon will be heavily fined if they do not provide their employees with health insurance that covers contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs.

At the time of Our Lord's birth, Rome sanctioned homosexuality, suicide, gay marriage, abortion, pornography, and other lustful perversions. Does the permissiveness of that ancient culture not appear familiar? Are we not recreating a pre-Christian pagan moral climate?

The movement toward an anti-Catholic, anti-Christian, secularist, anything goes society has been underway for many decades. Like a viscous fluid running downhill, the movement to replace religious constraints on behavior with an unrestrained licentiousness has been slow, but steady. Each encroachment typically has been a small change from what was previously accepted, and thus has gained continued toleration. The cumulative effect, however, is staggering. The current moral temper of the nation

is far removed from that of the 1990s, farther from that of the 1970s, and farther still from that of the 1950s.

Christmas soon will be here. This marks the most-significant religious, historical and cultural event in the Western world. It is the overt celebration of the Son of God coming into the world, assuming a human form, and leading a life that would make atonement for our sins. For many years, there has been an effort to secularize this religious remembrance – to ban Nativity scenes from city halls and shopping malls, to expunge Christmas programs and carols from school plays, to replace the greeting “Merry Christmas” with “Happy Holidays,” in effect, to expel from public notice that same Christ Child who could find no place in the public inn.

This is occurring in spite of the fact that 95% of Americans say they celebrate Christmas, and 62% claim to attend religious services either on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. It is probable that most of these people do not know or have forgotten the meaning of Christmas. It is more likely that they celebrate Xmas, a month-long frenzy of shopping, gift-giving and partying.

We can no longer hide our religious beliefs and deemphasize their public expression? There can be no further accommodation without a total annihilation of Catholic identity, of its erasure from the memories of our young. There can be no further retreat without a total loss of religious freedom, of societal mores based on virtue and morality, and of a public recognition that we and this nation owe our existence to God.

In spite of the moral darkness of our time, there is hope. And that hope rests on Our Lord. Things can change. Many good Catholics and other Christians still live in America. The answer is to begin a counter-movement – and it must start now.

A new liturgical year began with Advent on December 1. Since the 4th century, the Church has designated this as a period of preparation and expectant waiting for the coming of the Lord. It is a season of hope. St. Paul reminded the Ephesians that before their encounter with Christ, they were without hope. In spite of their gods, they were without God, in a dark world, facing a dismal future. Pope Benedict XVI, in his encyclical *Spe Salve* (Saved in Hope), points out

that with the coming of Christ, Christians “have a future: it is not that they know the details of what awaits them, but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness... The dark door of time, the future, has been thrown open. The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life.”

If people really understood and acted on the meaning of Advent, the world would be a different place. Advent originally was designated as a preparatory period of mortification and fasting. The rules for observance were later relaxed, but the season remains one of penitence.

Is it difficult to prepare ourselves spiritually for Christmas? Can we not do something each day to ready ourselves for the coming of Christ – say the rosary daily, spend an hour each week in Eucharistic Adoration, abstain from meat on Fridays, go to Confession, attend Mass more frequently, meditate on the liturgical readings through which the penitential spirit of the season is exemplified?

If we do, the results will be profound. As Pope Benedict reminded us, “we have been given hope, trustworthy hope, by virtue of which we can face our present.” For our own sake, and the sake of the people

we love, have hope and pray. When we do, the world will be a different place.

**ANNUAL
KEEP CHRIST IN
CHRISTMAS
CHRISMAS CARD SALE
POINSETTIA/AMARYLLIS**



CONTACT
W. Wayne Davis, Jr., PGK

443-956-9572

The Catholic Ladies Service Organization



Presents



Dinner with Santa at Bob Evans

Monday December 16, 2013 4-9 PM

14 Bel Air South Parkway/ Rt. 24 21015

Come have dinner and help us continue our charitable giving to organizations as the “Sharing Table” and the “Perry Point Medical Center” and others. A portion of the evening sales assist us to reach our goals of giving and service to others.

Raffle tickets are available for a basket of goodies including Bob Evans products.

Tickets are 3 for \$2



For additional information please contact Pat 410-879-5872.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Bel Air Council No. 4714

23 Newport Drive

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