



PATAPSCO KNIGHT

Supreme Chaplain's Message

THE SCOURGE OF PORNOGRAPHY PREVENTS THE TRUE HAPPINESS THAT COMES WITH INTEGRITY AND SACRIFICIAL LOVE

In 2015, THE BISHOPS of the United States issued a letter titled Create in Me a Clean Heart. The title is drawn from the profound and penitential Psalm 51, which pleads, "A clean heart create in me, O God; renew within me a steadfast spirit" (Ps 51:12). The letter is a call to Catholics to seek interior purity, the free and single-hearted love that the Lord wills for his disciples. It also warns us about one of the greatest threats to this purity and discipleship – namely, pornography.

Unfortunately, pornography is pervasive and deeply rooted in our society. It is readily available on the internet, television and elsewhere. Sexually explicit and often violent images, from which the pornography business profits, distort how we think of and relate to others. Pornography relentlessly signals that it is acceptable to regard other people as objects for one's pleasure and even that sexual violence is acceptable.

Some people seek to normalize pornography use, claiming that it doesn't hurt anyone, and portray its opponents as backwards and out-of-step with the times. However, far from being victimless, pornography is deeply harmful.

THE LANGUAGE OF THE BODY

Pornography use has reached epidemic levels. Tragically, many young people, still in their formative years, are exposed to pornographic images. Today, even conscientious parents find it very difficult to shield their children from this menace and its harmful effects. For very many people, viewing these degrading images is habit-forming, even addictive.

Although it is sometimes promoted as an aid to marital intimacy, pornography undermines the mutual trust of spouses and destroys the virtuous love which should be at the heart of family life. As the U.S. bishops noted in Create in Me a Clean Heart, "Everyone is vulnerable to pornography. Many good people struggle with this habit, including faithful Catholics, married and single people, fathers and mothers, and so on." This struggle is often dealt with in Catholic men's gatherings, in the confessional and in other pastoral settings.

We need to focus on the holiness and godness that God desires for our lives, on the ways in which pornography undermines both our happiness and holiness, and on the remedies that are available.

God created humanity in his image and thus endowed each person with inherent dignity (cf. Gen 1:27). Indeed, he created us to reflect his own goodness and self-giving love in our relationship with him and with one another. Sin marred the image of God in us and wounded our relationship with God and one another. The Father sent us his only-begot-



Archbishop William E. Lori
Supreme Chaplain

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Supreme Chaplain’s Message (Continued)

ten Son to become one of us, to assume our humanity and repair our wounded dignity, and to call us anew to a life of fidelity and love. In human flesh, Jesus gave his own “gift of self” and taught us to emulate his self-giving love. As the U.S. bishops wrote, “The human body speaks a language of gift and communion and has great dignity. It should be treated with greatest respect. As persons, we are meant to be loved, not used.”

CHASTITY AND FREEDOM

God wills a life of happiness and joy for us, not degradation. In the Beatitudes and throughout the Gospels, Jesus teaches us that the pure of heart are blessed – that is to say, they are happy because their lives are in sync with God’s generous love and his plan of mercy and redemption. Those who are pure of heart can relate to God and to others openly and lovingly, whereas impurity leads one to see others as objects to be used for pleasure or profit. Jesus teaches us that those who regard others with lust have already committed adultery in their hearts (cf. Mt 5:28). Furthermore, the New Testament writers are unanimous in teaching that those who engage in various acts of impurity have no place in the kingdom of God. We are called to freedom and holiness through the virtue of chastity – a mastery of self and one’s desires that enables a person to love others as the Lord has first loved us.

The truth of the Gospel is expressed in the Church’s teaching that sexual love is meant for marriage alone. Using pornography (even in marriage) and producing or selling it constitutes a serious sin against chastity and human dignity. And, to be clear, the use of pornography often leads to other sexual sins.

What remedies exist to this pervasive challenge to human dignity and holiness? First, let us remember that the Lord came to call sinners and that he wants nothing more than our salvation. True to the Lord’s mission, the Church must be, as Pope Francis famously said, “a field hospital” where wounds are healed. For this reason, the Church reaches out to all those ensnared by pornography, first and foremost through the sacrament of reconciliation. The sin of pornography and all related sins should be confessed with honesty and trust in God’s mercy.

The Church also seeks to strengthen marriages and to help parents form their children with integrity and love. It offers resources, counseling and other support for those struggling to lead lives of chastity.

In our charity, fraternity and unity, let us pray for one another and seek to strengthen one another in virtue and discipleship, so that we may follow the Lord wholeheartedly and give generously of ourselves with freedom and integrity.



Chaplain’s Message

Deacon Dave Ludwikoski
donnadavelud@verizon.net

Brother Knights and Lovely Ladies,
 As the dog days of summer descend upon us, we celebrate the Transfiguration of Our Lord, where Jesus reveals Himself to a select few of His disciples: Peter, James and John. They are given a glimpse of what Jesus will be like after His crucifixion, in His full divine glory. It also gives them (and us) a glimpse of what we can gain if we only take up our crosses and follow Him, as He asks us to do.

We’ve often heard the phrase, “Nothing is worth having without having had to work for it.” So we ask ourselves, Do we want a share in Christ’s kingdom? Do we want to have eternal life in glory? If the answer to either or both of these questions is “Yes!” then we have to work for it, each and every day.
 May God bless each of you and keep you safe during your travels and adventures this summer,
 Vivat Jesus!

August Events

*For more calendar items, visit
www.kofc1960.org/patapsco-council-calendar/*

Wednesday, August 9

Council Business Meeting 8:00 pm
 (Rosary at 7:30 pm)

Thursday, August 10

Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights
 Msgr. Raymond P. Kelly Council #10966, 8513 St. Jane Dr., Pasadena 21122

Saturday, August 19

4 Miles 4 Charity
 UMBC Campus 8:00 am

Wednesday, August 23

Officer Meeting 7:00 pm
 Lecture Meeting 8:00 pm

Thursday, August 24

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Assembly (4th Degree)
 Meeting, St. Agnes Council Hall

**Patapsco Knight
 Newsletter**

Send submissions
 to Co-Editor Rick
 Ostopowicz at
rickounc@gmail.com or
 call 410-207-0939



“Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord...”

Grand Knight’s Message

Grand Knight Bernie Wrisk

bwriskgk1960@gmail.com

I hope my brothers are enjoying this warm but not yet too hot summer that God has blessed us with. Of course, August is usually the hottest month to endure, so you may think otherwise when you read this post. Keep in mind nothing can compare to the heat of the fire in Jesus’ parables we recently heard about in the Gospel readings at church. From the thirteenth chapter of the book of Matthew we were reminded of the judgement day coming in the parables of the wheat and tares and the dragnet. Matthew 13:49-50, “So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

Our council served our community well in the month of July thanks to many brothers’ participation. The fourth of July celebration needed many hands to set up and feed and serve all that came to the parade. The blood drive helped many to give of themselves to help others with their blood. Our Worthy Chaplain Fr Gene Nickol provided a wonderful Installation Mass for our council and the church. Then we ended the month with a very successful crab feast that took so many to plan and prepare for and then serve and clean up. Please come to our August business meeting on the second Wednesday of the month to hear the summary reports of the success of these events.

August will be another exciting and opportunistic time for us. By the time you receive this you may have already enjoyed our annual family picnic where we recognized our scholarship recipients. Then our super Degree Team will put on the Admissions Degree on August 16. All are welcome to come and support it and welcome in the new members. Then August 19 will be our 5th annual Charity run, walk, hike or bike. Please help to push it to get more registrants, and then offer to help on that day at UMBC where it will be located this year for the first time. Then soon after that there will

be an announcement of a date at the end of the month for anyone interested in helping with our Centennial Celebration Committee.

I have a hunch this is our year for a big expansion of recruitments. Please keep your form 100 handy and invite fellow Catholic men into our fraternity any chance you can.

Thanks for all you do in helping us continue to be a thriving, active, supportive, prayerful force in our community.

Vivat Jesus!





Deputy Grand Knight's Message / Program Director's Report

Deputy Grand Knight John Journell

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Brothers:

This is my combined Deputy Grand Knight and Program Director's Report. After about ten years of being our council's Program Director, Barry Casanova is stepping down. I don't blame him. He has done an exceptional job keeping track of all of our varied programs, editing them, making sure they get to the powers that be at the State Level. The proof is in the number of awards that this council has received at the State Convention during the last several years. It takes more than one man, of course, but Barry has been the cog that has kept it running and taken a huge burden off of the Grand Knights he has supported. Those are huge shoes to fill and I find stepping into them somewhat overwhelming. I look forward to a very good year as I work with all of the Surge for Service Directors and Committee Chairmen to keep the momentum going.

Barry's last official act was to submit the Columbian Award package. The next package to submit is for the first period, which ran from roughly mid-March until the end of August. I am asking all chairmen to get your reports in to me by August 15.

Looking ahead, there is a combined Crab Feast between our council and the St. Joseph Monestary in September and Shredding Day sometime in Mid October.

We need, people to

step up and take over Community, Council, and Family. Let me know if you are interested in getting more involved in our programs. But we really need new blood stepping up to the plate, and service is a huge reason we all joined the Knights of Columbus for in the first place. I welcome anybody who wants to help and join the leadership team.

Again, we can't thank Barry enough for all that he has done and accomplished during his tenure as Program Director. As we step off in this new Columbian Year, lets strive to keep the momentum going that allows us to help so many and so many people who depend on our selfless efforts. And watching our Grand Knight carry off so many awards that he is barely able to hold them all at the State Convention is an added bonus.

Vivat Jesus!





Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Rick Ostopowicz

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Brothers all, I want to start this month's report with the latest update from our Council's new RSVP candidate, Zachary Robinson:

"Right now, and for the remainder of the summer, I am at the Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF) in Omaha, NE. IPF is an incredibly powerful summer program for seminarians that helps men deepen their love relationship with Jesus Christ. We had an eight-day silent retreat already, and have had classes on prayer, celibacy, and priestly identity. It has been an amazing experience for me so far.

This video does a great job summarizing IPF:

<http://priestlyformation.org/about/ipf-video.html>

I am here with five other men from the Archdiocese of Baltimore. When seminary resumes in the fall, all of us will be entering our third year of seminary, called 'First Theology,' where we move on from philosophy studies and start to study the good stuff, theology.

I hope the Council is having a great summer!

Thanks and God bless,

Zack Robinson"

The month of August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart. Since the 16th century Catholic piety has assigned entire months to special devotions. The month of August is traditionally dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The physical heart of Mary is venerated (and not adored as the Sacred Heart of Jesus is) because it is united to her person and is the seat of her love (especially for her divine Son), virtue, and inner life. Such devotion is an incentive to a similar love and virtue.

This devotion has received new emphasis in this century from the visions given to Lucy Dos Santos, oldest of the visionaries of Fatima, in her convent in Tuy, in Spain, in 1925 and 1926. In the visions Our Lady asked for the practice of the Five First Saturdays to help make amends for the offenses committed against her heart by the blasphemies and ingratitude of men. The practice parallels the devotion of the Nine First Fridays in honor of the Sacred Heart.

On October 31, 1942, Pope Pius XII made a solemn Act of Consecration of the Church and the whole world to the Immaculate Heart. Let us remember this devotion year-round, but particularly through the month of August.

Our very consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary calls upon us to make reparation for the offenses that we and others have committed against her. The Church, in inviting us to consecrate ourselves to her Immaculate Heart, implicitly calls upon us for this reparation. But more explicitly, and even before Fatima, Saint Pius X offered a plenary indulgence to all who on the first Saturday of the month would observe special devotions in honor of the Immaculate Virgin in a spirit of reparation for the blasphemies uttered against her.

There is, however, an even more basic reason why each one of us owes reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary: every sin of ours caused grief and suffering to her in union with her divine Son. For sin was the cause of that terrible day on Calvary when she, as the New Eve, shared in the torment of the great sacrifice, and, amidst indescribable pain, brought forth spiritually all the members of the Mystical Body of her divine Son. God willed that Mary should be intimately associated with His Son in bearing the burden of all sin; surely then, her Immaculate Heart, in union with His divine Heart, should receive reparation from us who have caused them such pain. If anyone causes hurt to even a very ordinary human being, he does not overlook the need to make amends. How much more do we owe to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary!

Vivat Jesus!

What is Natural Law?

Co-Editor Tim McCarthy

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The Natural Law is best summed up in our Declaration of Independence which speaks of everyone's rights to "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness". At its creation, the notion that government exists only with the consent of the governed threatened dictatorships, and monarchs alike. Yet this is the only way that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness can exist for all. This is the hidden key, so long as it is followed, to our success as a nation.

Every word in our magnificent Declaration is based on principles of Natural Law. When we abandoned such

principles in events like the Civil War everyone paid a price.

Our Constitution is compatible with Natural Law. Yet too often in matters of law today the Courts look to prior precedents rather than to the Constitution they have sworn to uphold.

Using Natural Law as our benchmark means that what was good in the past will always be good in the future. We have standards that everyone can affirm and follow. So those who seek to "improve" our Constitution or Declaration wander into dangerous territory. Circumstances change, but the nature of man does not. Fidelity to the words of our founders offers the best hope for a successful tomorrow.

Programs and Committees

Council

Mark your calendars to join your GK and other Officers of our council at the annual State-wide Program Seminar held at the Cardinal Gibbons council on Tuesday, August 22 from 7:30 – 9:30pm. It is an eye-opening experience for all Brothers to see many examples of established events you can take a lead in for our council. Let's carpool together. Please contact our DGK who is also our Program Director.

Kegs and Corks 6th Annual Craft Beer and Maryland Wine Festival on Saturday, August 12 from noon to 7:00pm. This is a new council opportunity that has just been offered to us by one of our guests at the crab feast. We can set up a table at no charge and sell Scholarship Car Raffle tickets or spin our wheel or whatever to raise money for our council charities. We can also get tickets at discounted prices to attend this fun event. If you are available and have any interest please contact your GK.

Community

The Monday night men's prayer meetings have been suspended for the summer. The group is planning for when to start up again. If you have any interest and suggestions please reach out to Brother Stephen Schwing at 410-960-4132. Please consider joining this fraternal bonding and faith building opportunity.

Save the date for our next Flea Market on Saturday, September 16. Talk it up and contact Robin Kinzer to make your reservations of spaces or tables. Robin can be reached at 410-765-2548 or Robertakinzer@ngc.com.

Culture of Life

It started in a small town in Texas in 2005 when a handful of people just didn't know what to do to stop abortion. Last year the

40 Days for Life campaign operated in all 50 states and involved over half a million people world wide. It is about: "The beginning of the end of abortion".

Eighty six of the abortion facilities we prayed before have gone completely out of existence. Come join members of Patapsco Council for the new campaign from September 27 thru November 5. Contact Tim McCarthy at 443-610-7584 for more information.

Charity

The "4 Miles 4 Charity" event will take place on Saturday, August 19. Participants can either run, walk, hike, or bike around the UMBC campus inner loop--a 2-mile course. Another way you can take part to make this a successful fundraiser is to sponsor the Captain of Charity aka your current Grand Knight Bernie Wrisk. Although he hasn't run a complete 4-mile run since last year's event he is currently in training. His unbelievable task is to start last after all the runners and try to finish in front of them. This amazing feat has never been done before but he will be inspired by your support thru sponsorship. You can commit a monetary amount for each runner he surpasses in hopes to encourage him to pass more. Go to our website for the form to fill out for this commitment or else pick up at our council home. His results will be published in the next month's newsletter so you can determine how much you will give to Charity. All your support will be used for our Charity funds.


Fourth Degree

The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Assembly No. 1620 meets every fourth Thursday at the St. Agnes Council Hall. All Fourth Degree Sir Knights are welcome.



14th Annual St Joseph Monastery Parish - Patapsco Council Crab Feast
Sunday September 24, 12:30 - 5 PM
Music by DJ John Armetta
Steamed Crabs 1-4 PM, Pit Beef, Ham & Turkey, Fried Chicken, Hot & Cold Foods
Beer, Wine & Soda
Tickets \$47 per person, due by Sept 16
Call Michael Doetzer 410-242-6130 for information & tickets
This event will support the parish and the council charity fund.

Beaumont News

ur Knights Out Inn that provides wonderful meals to our council family and guests at great prices could use some additional helping hands. We have certified cooks that can help to teach you the ropes of how they work their labor of love on Fridays. Please consider volunteering one Friday a month or every other month or as often as you can. To do so just call our Beaumont office at 410-744-8754 and let them know. We need to have more members trained to continue to provide all that we do each Friday night.



Milestones

Financial Secretary Michael Doetzer
mndoetzer@aol.com

Note: To provide information for this column, please contact Michael Doetzer at 410-242-6130

Paul Grabowski Honorary Life Membership 6/19/2017
Michael Doetzer Honorary Membership 6/28/2017



JOIN US FOR OUR 5th ANNUAL EVENT!!!



Title Sponsor:



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5TH ANNUAL CHARITY EVENT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2017 - 8:00 AM
UMBC Campus - "Inner Loop"

Join us for a run, walk, hike, or bike!

Each participant will receive a FREE T-shirt and a beer (if over 21), as well as food and beverages.

Prizes and certificates will be awarded to ALL participants.

Proceeds will help support the Knights' charity programs: Refund Support Vocations Program, Catholic School Scholarships, Food for the Needy, youth sports activities, and other community support endeavors.

Participation fee is \$25 – family and team discounts are available!

To register, visit www.kofc1960.org/4miles today!

For more information, contact Rick Ostowicz at 410-207-0939 or rickounc@gmail.com.

Knights Out Inn Specials

August 4
Fried Hard Crab

August 11
Pork Chops

August 18
Ribs & Shrimp

August 25
Imperial Crab

In addition to our specials, we serve a regular menu of crab cakes, chicken tenders, shrimp salad, fried shrimp, cheese steak subs, and rib eye steaks. All meals are served with delicious sides and salads.

Please come and join us for a great evening of fraternity and family fun.

Join Us!

Basilica of the Assumption Speaker Series



Basilica of the Assumption

411 Cathedral Street Baltimore, MD

September 21st, 2017 at 7PM

Basilica doors open at 6PM

Speaker: Mr George Weigel

How a Local Baltimore Boy Became Papal Biographer for Saint John Paul II

Admission tickets are not required, but a free will offering to help fund this and future presentations in this speaker series will be gratefully accepted.

Parking:

Parking is available in the Franklin Street Garage adjacent to the Basilica and limited street parking is also available.

Reception and book signing:

Immediately following the presentation, a reception that will include refreshments and a book signing will be held in the Archbishop Borders Hall, located in the Archdiocesan Building, 320 Cathedral Street, across the street from the Cathedral Basilica and the Enoch Pratt Central Library.

Bio:



George Weigel, Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, is a Catholic theologian and one of America's leading public intellectuals. He holds EPPC's William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies.

From 1989 through June 1996, Mr. Weigel was president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, where he led a wide-ranging, ecumenical and inter-religious program of research and publication on foreign and domestic policy issues. From June 1996, as a Senior Fellow, Mr. Weigel prepared a major study of the life, thought, and action of Pope John Paul II. *Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II* was published to international acclaim in the fall of 1999, and has since been translated into twelve languages, with a Chinese edition currently in progress.

Mr. Weigel is the author or editor of some twenty other books, including *The End and the Beginning: Pope John Paul II – The Victory of Freedom, the Last Years, the Legacy* (Doubleday, 2010); *Practicing Catholic: Essays Historical, Literary, Sporting, and Elegiac* (Crossroad, 2012); *Evangelical Catholicism: Deep Reform in the 21st-Century Church* (Basic, 2013); *Roman Pilgrimage: The Station Churches* (Basic, 2013) and *City of Saints: A Pilgrimage to John Paul II's Kraków* (Image, 2015). His essays, op-ed columns, and reviews appear regularly in major opinion journals and newspapers across the United States. A frequent guest on television and radio, he is also Senior Vatican Analyst for NBC News. His weekly column, "The Catholic Difference," is syndicated to eighty-five newspapers and magazines in seven countries.

Mr. Weigel received a B.A. from St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore and an M.A. from the University of St. Michael's College, Toronto. He is the recipient of eighteen honorary doctorates in fields including divinity, philosophy, law, and social science.

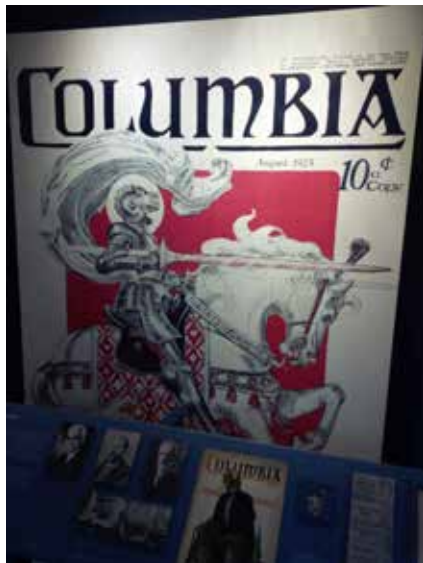
Degree Team News

Warden Anthony Viscardi

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Our Degree Teams made it through another fraternal year, but it wasn't easy! Sure it needs more practice than what it's been given, but we suffer from two critical points! First we need more brothers in two areas, we need more members to fill all of the roles, mostly in non speaking roles, but also to show up to support our new candidates, we need to show them we care! Secondly, I am asking some of you younger guys to form a two or three member kitchen crew, it's only 8 nights a year! Everyone likes coming to Patapsco Council cause we have a good team and real good eats! Not too much to ask...I think?

Grand Knight's Visit to Supreme HQ





State Deputy's Report

State Deputy Stephen M. Cohen

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MAKING THIS OUR BEST YEAR EVER

The headline above was the tagline for this year's Leadership Seminar. In order to do exactly that we must concentrate on two things; Growth and Charitable Outreach. Growing our Councils and our order must be a priority if we are to survive. Replacing those we have lost must be at the top of our goal list. Every member in the State of Maryland, knows at least one catholic man eighteen years of age or older that they can ask to join us. Remember we are all part of the membership/recruitment committees in our councils. It is not just the Membership directors job to get new members, that task is for all of us.

The second thing we need to concentrate on is expanding our charitable outreach. Reaching into the peripheries and putting the first principle of our order to work. Your work with Special Olympics, Coats for Kids, Food for Families, the Ultrasound program and your individual council projects will expand this outreach. Please don't forget the Pennies

from Heaven Campaign started in Ocean City. This will add funds to the State's three programs – Ultrasound, Scholarship and the Charity Fund so we will be able to assist more folks in need.

These two items, growth and charitable outreach go hand in hand. We need more men to carry out our good works. How can we accomplish both at the same time? By taking our programs to the parish and letting others see what we do will make growth so much easier. We need to publish what we do in the church bulletin, on social media and in local newspapers in order to attract men to us. It is a fact, that people want to do good things and be involved in good works. These men will be able to offer us one hour of their time per month to do these good works. Our selling point is that through our good works we help men become better husbands, better fathers and better Catholics.

August is Family Month in the Knights of Columbus. Make sure your council highlights the families sometime during the

month. Don't forget the State Sponsored Family Picnic at Prince Georges Council on August 26th.

This event is open to everyone, make it a council event, come and have fun. We hope to see you there.

Remember that the monthly Chapter Meetings in your area are open to all Knights, not just Grand Knights and Past Grand Knights. Plan to attend one of the Chapters and soon.

With everything we do in Maryland – We are Advocates of the Lord.

Remember – We are one Team, it is Our Team and we have one goal – Making this our best year ever.

Vivat Jesus!



Visit the State Council website: www.kofc-md.org



We believe in the power of prayer! Please join us in praying for the following people:

George Mack, Dave Leinhardt, Fr. Francis Butler, Bill Zimmerman

If you have any prayer intentions for someone in your family, please contact Chancellor Rick Ostopowicz via e-mail at rickounc@gmail.com to get the person's name included in our prayers. You may also fill out a prayer request form on our Council website.

Our Lady, Queen of the Knights, bless all the activities of our Order. Keep us true to our pledge, to extend the kingship of thy divine son on earth. Through Thine intercession, win for us the grace, ever to exemplify in our public and private lives, the virtues that should characterize those especially dedicated to the service of the heavenly court. Make us always aware that as your Knights, we are constantly observed, our faith judged, and our Order appreciated. Accept, O Mary, this renewed pledge of fealty and devotion, of Thy Servants, the Knights of Columbus.



Supreme Council News

IN ANNUAL REPORT, SUPREME KNIGHT ANNOUNCES INITIATIVE TO REBUILD IRAQ TOWN

In his annual address delivered at the 135th Supreme Convention in St. Louis, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson announced a new initiative to rebuild a town in Iraq destroyed by ISIS.

The new initiative is part of the Order's continuing efforts to help Christians and other minorities who have suffered genocide in the Middle East.

The supreme knight also cited the major accomplishments of the Knights of Columbus, such as the Order's record levels of charity, with over \$177 million in donations and over 75 million hours of volunteer service, growth in membership, and the continued strength of the insurance.

At the opening of his report, the supreme knight officially announced the convention's theme.

"This year marks our 135th anniversary. We celebrate our anniversary in a city named for a great and saintly Catholic king, a city of missionaries, and a gateway city opening up the promise of a new continent. And, like those early missionaries, we come to St. Louis because, in the words of this year's convention theme, 'We are convinced of God's love and power.'"

The supreme knight spoke to an audience of distinguished guests, members of religious communities, and approximately 2,000 Knights and their families from throughout North and Central America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Europe.

"No other Catholic organization offers men what we do,"

Supreme Knight Anderson said. "We help a man to protect his family with our exclusive, top-rated insurance. We help a man to bolster his faith and strengthen his family through our Domestic Church program. And we offer him the opportunity to live out his faith through charity — as part of a brotherhood of Catholic men. We have done this for 135 years, and today we continue to do this in even greater ways. For 45 years, membership in the Knights of Columbus has grown. We now stand at the all-time high of 1,941,728 members."

In founding the Knights of Columbus, Father Michael McGivney sought to respond to the difficulties affecting Catholic families in 19th-century America and strengthen his parishioners' faith and their lives as Catholics, the supreme knight said. Knights continue Father McGivney's work when they "support families in their vocation to holiness through the Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish initiative."

Along with growth in membership and charity, the Knights of Columbus achieved records in its insurance program.

"Last year, we achieved our 16th consecutive year of growth in insurance sales with a new record: \$8.54 billion, in new life insurance. The Knights of Columbus now has more than \$105 billion of life insurance in force — a \$50 billion increase in the last decade — and a 4.4 percent increase over last year," the supreme knight said. "These impressive sales numbers — and the overall success of our insurance program, is due in large measure to the commitment of our more than 1,500 agents. Our agents are all brother Knights who are dedicated to the principles of the Order — and to serving our families."

The Knights of Columbus Investment Department also saw a

successful year, especially in the Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, which in its nearly two years of operation has 137 clients, including 14 dioceses. "In this way, we can help other Catholic organizations put their money to work in ways consistent with Catholic principles."

He added that for the fourth year the Knights of Columbus was named a World's Most Ethical Company® by the Ethisphere Institute.

One of the Knights of Columbus' greatest endeavors during the past fraternal year was the assistance it brought to Christians facing persecution, especially those facing genocide in the Middle East.

"Christians who endure suffering and death for their faith in places like Iraq, Syria and Egypt, show us how to confront terrible evil with the weapons of love and truth. They are a brilliant witness to God's love and power," Supreme Knight Anderson said. "Our support for these persecuted Christians has taken two forms. First, since 2014, we have provided more than \$13 million for Christian refugees. Second, we advocate on their behalf in the hope that someday they may live their faith in peace — and live in their own communities not as second-class citizens, but as free and equal citizens."

The supreme knight announced two new initiatives to assist Christians at Risk.

On November 26, the Knights of Columbus and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will sponsor a day of prayer for persecuted Christians followed by a Week of Awareness and Education.

"I am pleased to announce that the Knights of Columbus is taking a concrete step to save Christianity in Iraq," Supreme

Knight Anderson said regarding the second new initiative. "The board of directors has authorized a new effort to raise \$2 million to save a Christian town on the Nineveh Plain. The town the Knights of Columbus is saving is Karamdes. It is a town in Iraq that until recently was controlled by ISIS.

The terrorists desecrated churches and graves and looted and destroyed homes. Now we will ensure that hundreds of Christian families driven from their homes will return. We will give them and many others hope for the future. For \$2,000, a council, a parish or an individual can move a family back home."

For more information on, or to contribute to, this initiative, please visit christiansatrisk.org.

"This year let us be in even greater ways who we are called to be as brother Knights," he told the gathered Knights. "Let us strive to be that radiant and attractive witness of fraternal communion that our Church and our world so desperately need. Let us strive to be authentic witnesses of how to care for one another, and how to encourage and accompany one another. We can and we will do these things as the spiritual sons of Father McGivney. We can and we will do these things because we are convinced of God's love and power."

Visit the Supreme
Council website at
www.kofc.org



Fraternal Benefits News

WHAT DOES A CATHOLIC LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LOOK LIKE?

It's an important question to ask. As you consider all the options for your family's life insurance and financial services, you might wonder if any of them are actually unique. After all, every life insurance company sells life insurance.

But the Knights of Columbus is, in fact, unlike any other company. We do things differently — because both our faith and our members demand it.

We call it the Catholic difference. Here are a few of the things that make us unique:

We invest morally. The Knights of Columbus screens all of its investments according to guidelines published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. We will not invest in companies that deal in abortions, pornography, embryonic stem cell research, human cloning and related endeavors.

We support the Church. Last fraternal year, the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council and local councils together donated \$48 million to the Church. The Order gives generously through various programs such as the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP), which, in partnership with our councils, has provided more than \$67 million in scholarships to more than 110,000 men and women pursuing religious vocations

since 1981. The Knights also helped to restore the facade of St. Peter's Basilica in 1999 for the Millennium Jubilee and purchased satellite equipment that has since broadcasted the recent popes' messages to the world. The Order's aid to the Vatican and the pope is ongoing, with an annual donation from the proceeds of the Vicarius Christi fund given to the Holy Father for his personal charities.

We put our Catholic families first. We are not a commercial company. We have no stockholders. We answer only to our members. We return a share of our profits through dividends to our participating policyholders, and we donate generously.

We have given more than \$1.55 billion to charity in the last decade. Most of these funds are generated by proceeds from our insurance business. The proceeds have gone to causes such as pro-life initiatives, disaster relief or aid to persecuted Christians in the Middle East — wherever help is needed most.

We put ethics first. Our corporate commitment to ethics and our ethical business practices have been applauded by the business community. Recently, the Ethisphere Institute named the Knights of Columbus a "World's Most Ethical Company" for the third consecutive year. We are currently one of only two companies to have earned the designation in the "life insurance" category.

Our members, their spouses and their dependent children have exclusive access to our insurance program. Working with your brother Knight field agent, you can purchase top-quality products to protect your

family's future, all while knowing that you are supporting an organization that shares your faith, your beliefs and your values.

More than 130 years after our venerable founder, Father Michael J. McGivney, set our insurance program in motion, we strive to stay true to his mission and our commitment to our members and our Catholic difference.

Other companies may come along and try to convince you that they are just like us. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. But on closer examination, you will find what you always suspected: There is only one Knights of Columbus. We'll be happy to get to know you better and show you that being Catholic always makes a difference.

The Knights of Columbus has been recognized by the Ethisphere Institute as a 2017 World's Most Ethical Company for the fourth consecutive year. This recognition underscores the organization's commitment to leading ethical business standards and practices. K of C, known also for its extensive charitable activities, was one of only two life insurance companies to earn the designation for 2017.

**Contact your Knights of Columbus
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Your Opportunity to Lock in Future Scholarship Support

This Council takes pride in having awarded Catholic elementary and high school scholarships since 1985. During that year, a carnival was conducted on the Council/Beaumont grounds for a whole week. The proceeds from it were placed in separate accounts and invested until 1998 when the Patapsco Council No. 1960 Charities was formed. This Charities corporation run by members of our council is a separate entity from the council so that all contributions to it can be tax deductible. It was formed to raise funds for scholarships and the other charities of the Council. One of the funds maintained by this Charities corporation is an endowment account from which the earnings only are used to provide for the scholarships awarded. We have earned over 8% return on this special account, and it currently is used to completely fund our elementary school scholarships. This endowment account has grown from \$5,000 to over \$20,000. This fund receives all personal contributions of \$250 or more to help us always be there for scholarship support. We would like to ask you if you can help us grow this endowment account to ensure a greater amount of scholarship support to go on into perpetuity. If you can assist, please send your check or cash to the Council marked for this purpose. Contributions to this charity are tax deductible. Contact PGK Dennis Brose at 443-575-6445 for more information.



PATAPSCO KNIGHT NEWSLETTER

Knights of Columbus Patapsco Council No. 1960

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www.kofc1960.org

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