



PATAPSCO KNIGHT

Supreme Chaplain's Message

I don't know about you, but some nights I have trouble sleeping. At bedtime, the events of the day are still ringing in my ears. When I turn out the light, the stubborn problem I wrestled with at 9 a.m. comes back for a nocturnal visit. An unpleasant encounter in the early afternoon returns for a repeat performance. The letter or email I wish I hadn't received is there for my mind's eye to read with 20/20 clarity. All the while, I'm thinking about what awful shape I'll be in the next day if I don't get some sleep.

An old song by Irving Berlin advises, "If you're worried and you can't sleep, count your blessings instead of sheep. And you'll fall asleep counting your blessings."

Not bad advice. But we should not only count our blessings at the end of the day; we should also give God thanks and praise for all the ways he has blessed us.

The Church, in fact, figured all of this out a long time ago and has an official prayer to bring the day to a close.

THE CANTICLE OF SIMEON

The Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office or breviary, marks the hours of the day with prayer — morning, midday, evening and nighttime. Bishops, priests and deacons are obligated to pray it, but all are encouraged to pray as well. The last prayer of the day is called Compline, which comes from a Latin word that means "complete." Compline, or night prayer, is a way of making our day complete.

This prayer consists of an examination of conscience, a hymn in which we ask God to be with us through the night, a psalm that speaks of remembering God and his mercy even at night, and then, the pièce de résistance: the Canticle of Simeon.

In the beautiful scene in St. Luke's Gospel where Mary and Joseph, in accord with the Law of God, bring the Child Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to dedicate him to the Lord, they meet a layman named Simeon. Simeon was part of the remnant of Israel that looked forward to the coming of the Messiah. He was a prayerful man whose heart was full of hope in all that God had promised. No doubt he frequently prayed in the Temple, but on this occasion he was prompted by the Spirit to go there, where he encountered the Holy Family.

When Simeon took the Child Jesus into his arms, his eyes of faith were opened and he knew he held the longexpected Savior. Filled with the Holy Spirit, he uttered this canticle, which forms the centerpiece of the Church's night prayer: "Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel" (Lk 2:29-32).



Archbishop William E. Lori
Supreme Chaplain

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Supreme Chaplain's Message (Continued)

What a beautiful prayer to offer as each day's work comes to an end! Instead of ruminating over my worries or reliving any mishap the day has brought, I find that when I truly concentrate on the meaning of this canticle, I am better able to put the whole day in its proper perspective.

ENTRUST, EXAMINE, REST

While we know very little about Simeon's life, he can surely be counted among those who struggled to "hope against hope." When he saw Jesus, all that he spent his life and energy hoping and praying for came to pass. Jesus put Simeon's whole life in its proper perspective, and Simeon experienced an exquisite peace. So, if I follow Simeon's lead, as each day comes to an end, I need not avoid my worries and wounds, nor do I have to salve them with artificial happiness of self-induced positive thinking. On the contrary, all I need to do is to entrust the whole package — all my strengths and weaknesses, together with the events of the day — to the Lord Jesus, who is just as present to me as he was to Simeon.

In that moment of trust and love, I can also serenely examine my conscience. If I continue to follow Simeon's lead, I realize that,

in the day that is ending, the Lord has been placed in my arms — entrusted to me in the Eucharist I have celebrated and received; in the Word of God I have proclaimed and listened to; in the people I have encountered, including those who are in need and those with whom I may have disagreed.

When I am spiritually alert, I will ask if I paused during the course of the day and really opened my heart to the living presence of Christ in the Eucharist, just as Simeon opened his heart to the Child Jesus. I will look to see if, like Mary, I truly held Jesus, the living Word of God, in my heart. Did I try to see the face of Christ in those I encountered over the course of the day? Did my eyes of faith perceive the light of Christ in others and truly glimpse the salvation that God has prepared for every person whom I am privileged to serve? Did my words, actions and demeanor reflect the light and goodness of the Christ I held in my arms? Then, entrusting myself to the Lord, I fall asleep in his peace.

So as each day begins and ends, my prayer for you is this: "May the Lord protect you as you stay awake and watch over you as you sleep, that awake you may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace."

Chaplain's Message

Deacon Dave Ludwikoski
donnadavelud@verizon.net

Brother Knights and Lovely Ladies:

February could be referred to as the Month of Love, since it seems to be centered around Valentine's Day. As most of us think of ways to show our significant others how much we care for them, what about showing some love and respect to those we don't love so much, too?

Perhaps it's the neighbor who just drives us crazy, or the driver who cuts in front of you in traffic without signaling, or the boss who just can't seem to get off your back at work.

Next time any of these happens, stop for a moment and remember, these are people, too, who have their own problems, challenges, successes and failures just like you and me and the people we love.

Don't they deserve your love and respect just as much because they are human - just like you and me?? No matter how much we dislike (or even hate) someone, we can't forget that he/she is a human

being, made in the image and likeness of God just as we are, and that we need to show him/her love and respect, just as Our Lord and Savior would.

This is something we must, as Catholic Christians, do each and every day if we are to obtain eternal life in His heavenly kingdom.

Pope Francis is always asking us to pray for him. If you haven't been doing so, I ask you to please add him to the list of people that you pray for.

And finally, while you're at it, in these troubled, uncertain times, please also pray for country and its leaders (love them or hate them) and ask Our Lord and His Blessed Mother to guide them (and us) so that the decisions that are made are made for the good of all.

May God Bless each of you with His peace.

Vivat Jesus!

February Events

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

Wednesday, February 8

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

Thursday, February 9

Beaumont Holding Company Meeting

Thursday, February 9

Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights
 Chapter Meeting/Ladies Night, 7:00 pm, Patapsco
 Council #1960, 1010 Frederick Rd, Catonsville,
 MD 21228.

Note: Meeting time will be 7 pm this night! Meal to follow with the Ladies.

Wednesday, February 15

Admissions Degree 7:00 pm
 Formation Degree 8:30 pm

Wednesday, February 22

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

Tuesday, February 28

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:00 pm

Patapsco Knight Newsletter

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



“Give praises to God always and be thankful...”

Grand Knight’s Message

Grand Knight Bernie Wrisk
bwriskgk1960@gmail.com

Blessings to all my Brother Knights and your families. Sometimes it seems our lives are more full of trials and tribulations than other times. Remember to keep your trust in our Lord with His divine plan. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you (1 Peter 5:6-7). Also know that what you do and your actions do have a profound effect on others around you. Give praises to God always and be thankful for the company of Knights around you. Our fraternity truly does act as the hands of God and I am so thankful to be a part of it. Trust in our Lord is essential as we go through our lives on earth.

This past month has been another great example of our brotherhood working as the hands of God in so many ways. In the beginning of the month Robert Carter organized the blood drive for

the Red Cross which served 25 donors. On January 13, it was an honor to represent our council alongside our District Deputy Scott Luco and our Culture of Life brother Tim McCarthy as our State Deputy Stephen Cohen presented a check to the Pregnancy Center West for a new ultrasound machine. It is wonderful that our council was a part of that great contribution for the sake of those unborn in our community. In that same regard I was so happy to be able to join the thousands in DC for the March for Life on Jan 27, including many other brother Knights. Thanks to Paul Buckley and Scott Fridley for running a successful Free Throw competition for the youth.

Of course we all have to give thanks to the many helping hands that have been helping to refinish the main hall floor in our council home. Mike Karpers, Ed Schmitt, Ed Fuller, Warren Norris, John Rear- don, Jim Ralston, Henry Dulaney and more have

put in many sweat equity hours to save thousands of dollars for the Beaumont Holding company.

The month of February provides more opportunities for us to share and build our faith together. Our council degree team is putting on a double header on Feb 15. For any candidate you are recruiting they can receive both their Admissions (first) and Formation (second) de-

gree in the same night. Also I hope many of you take out time to attend the council annual weekend retreat over the last weekend of the month. I highly encourage it from my experience of attending it before. It is a glorious place to enjoy the peace of Christ and rejuvenate your faith amongst many other brother Knights.

Vivat Jesus!





Deputy Grand Knight's Message

Deputy Grand Knight John Journell
 58DGK1960@gmail.com

Brothers, I just have a couple of quick notes. First, and I know that we get tired of hearing about new membership, but it is imperative that we recruit new membership, primarily in the 18-30 age bracket. I know that younger age group excludes most of us, which is the problem in the first place. Not that we aren't happy for anybody who joins- that's not the point. The point is that the Knights of Columbus seriously needs to build up its membership percentage in that age group

and we don't have years to do it. The bottom line is we should continue recruiting practical Catholic men of any age, but keep a special eye out for the younger guys.

Secondly, It is not too late to get your Fourth Degree (Patriotic Degree) coming up March 4th at the Princess Royale in Ocean City. Please contact me ASAP if you think you are interested. I strongly encourage ANY, and I mean ANY, third degree member to join the Patriotic Degree. We have several Fourth Degree's in the Council and we welcome any new members.

Vivat Jesus!

Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Rick Ostopowicz
 rickounc@gmail.com

Brothers all, I want to confess something to you in this report. Today, I watched a groundhog come out of a box in the hope that the person who took him out of said box would announce that the groundhog had seen his shadow and, therefore, winter would end six weeks early.

That, good sirs and ladies, is **FAITH**.

You see, I am not a simple man. I am educated. I have a calendar that tells me when the first day of spring arrives. I know enough about meteorology to know that a season will not arrive early (and, if it did, the damage to the planet would be substantial). Yet, I stared at the screen and hoped beyond hope that the rodent would see his shadow.

Isn't that what faith is all about? We know the probable outcome, yet we hope and pray for something else. And we believe in our hearts that we have some sort of power over the outcome.

That is what prayer does to us as faithful Catholics. We believe that we have the power to change things. We believe that we can, metaphorically, move mountains and boil seas. We believe that nothing is impossible as long as we are able to pray about the outcome.

That is what I love about my faith. Prayer is very powerful, and I realize that power every time a prayer is answered. And our prayers are always answered--just not always to our satisfaction. As a priest told me in my younger days, "God always takes the time to answer your prayers. However, sometimes he says 'No.'"

And I know that God is watching over me with a plan that I cannot truly comprehend. Even when things don't go as I had hoped, I know that it is God's will, and things are as they should be in His eyes. Some days I even thank God for those seemingly "unanswered" prayers, because I see in hindsight the troubles that I have been spared because God loved me enough to say no.

No matter the outcome, I am thankful for the opportunity to utilize my power of prayer daily. I am humbled that the Almighty will often grant my requests. And I am blessed that I get to talk to God about anything at any time.

I have faith, and that faith sustains me. I hope that it does the same for you. If so, please include me in *your* prayers.





Program Director’s Report

Program Director PGK Barry Casanova

BWCasanova@msn.com

Brothers and Patapsco Council family: Okay Mr. Groundhog, I wanted to see you come through big time—yet you did NOT signal the end of winter. Even with some escape to the South, I cannot handle 6 more weeks of cold miserable weather. Yes, the Council still has many events going on, but I just must move on to seeing more sun. January was certainly eventful on Capitol Hill, including an adjusted date DC March for Life, but the next few months should be really interesting on the world and national level. Here in Catonsville, life still seems pretty normal. The kids’ Basketball free throw, Dances, Council Retreat, Pancake Supper for Shrove Tuesday the last of February, plans for Rigadoo next month just before St. Patrick’s Day, yep, Patapsco is still busy. For me, the good news is that the LAST set of Surge for Service Reports go in for the Dec-Feb time period. Chairmen, I MUST have everything by February 20th. They must be in the GK’s in-box by February 24 for his review and then transmission to the DD and State. One question: Have you

kept your New Year’s Resolutions—especially that one about attending a KofC Business Meeting? One Serious Reminder: Gentlemen: For the sake of the Brotherhood, DO NOT forget that special someone on February 14th, St. Valentine’s Day. I also do not want to jump the gun, but the first of March is Ash Wednesday this year. Lent, time to reflect. Easter is on April 16th so there is more Good News: The Resurrection ... and Income Taxes are not due until Monday the 17th this year. Look for upcoming Council events—there always is something to do. Keep up the prayers for those threatened with religious violence worldwide and our men and women in uniform, including those wearing blue. Mary, Queen of Knights, pray for us.

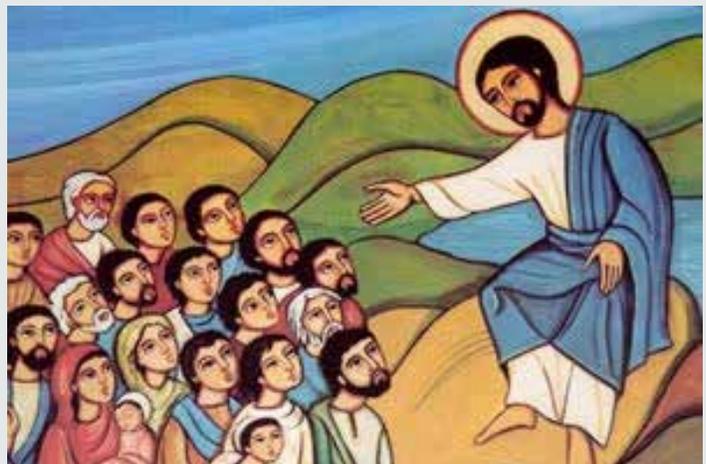


Sensitivity After the Election

Co-Editor Tim McCarthy

worthywarden7@gmail.com

For many, the last national election was a moment for celebration. For many others it was a grave disappointment. The best response is to say nothing about it when we are in the presence of strangers. Christ tells us, “Never rejoice in another’s pain.”



Programs and Committees

Church

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held Tuesday, February 28. The Stations of the Cross will be presented by the St. Joseph Monastery youth following the supper. All are welcome to attend. Call Michael Doetzer for more information at 410-242-6130.

Community

Though the holidays may have just ended another grand holiday will soon be upon us St. Patrick's Day. In the long tradition of Patapsco Council our Annual Irish Night with Rigadoo will be on Friday, March 10th. There is a cover of \$6.00 at the door. The Knights Out Inn menu that evening will feature Corn Beef and Cabbage, Fish N' Chips, Crab Cake and Fried Tilapia all at reasonable prices. Dinners will be served from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Rigadoo will play from 8:00 pm until midnight. Reservations are available from Mike Karpers 410-744-1472 or at the Council Home 410-744-8754. Of course Harp and Guinness will be on tap and other beverages will be available at modest prices, with complementary coffee also being served. We hope to see you on this festive evening.

The Shake, Rattle, and Roll dance had to be cancelled due to health concerns of the performer. Please keep him in your prayers, and we hope to reschedule it for the summer.

Council

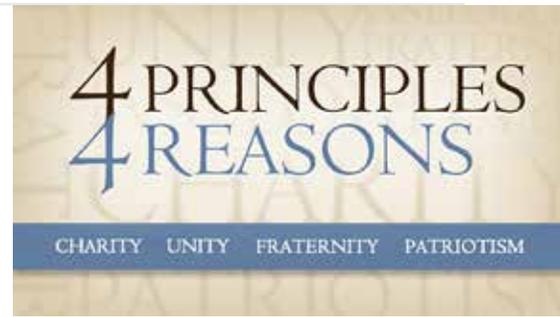
There are many restaurants looking to pay our nonprofit charitable fraternity for dining out with them. We need some brothers to step up and plan the dates and advertise them to our community to help us with these easy fundraiser opportunities. Please contact your Grand Knight if you can help us run one of these.

The next council Flea Market date has been set for April 30.

Culture of Life

40 Days for Life began in 2007 and expects 725,000 volunteers in the next program beginning March 1.

The Centers for Disease Control reports that between 2007 and today abortions fell by 21%. For those of us who trust in the power of prayer, this is not a coincidence.



Youth

The annual Basketball Free Throw competition took place at St. Mark on January 14. We had several outstanding performances by the competitors. For information about the winners, contact Paul Buckley at 703-859-5194 or Scott Fridley at 410-428-4946.

Charity

Our Scholarship support funds need some extra help due to some lower than expected turn outs at some recent fundraisers this year. Please consider purchasing an additional Scholarship raffle ticket this year or help to sell them to others. For other means of supporting this fund via donations please contact Dennis Brose at 443-498-3898.

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.

Milestones

Financial Secretary Michael Doetzer

mdoetzer@aol.com



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

Thomas J Bonner
Honorary Life Member
12/19/2016

John Mohler Jr
Reapplication
12/21/2016

Anne DuBay, wife of PGK Joseph DuBay, passed away on 1/20/2017



District Deputy's Report

District Deputy PGK Scott Luco

lucogk1960@gmail.com

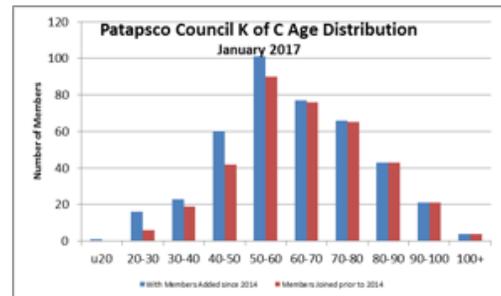
Congratulations to all of the Councils in our District for a fantastic Ultrasound Project. By pooling resources and with the hard work and generosity of our Brother Knights we were able to complete and pay for the placement of a new Ultrasound machine at Pregnancy Center West in under 6 months! This is an accomplishment of which you can be proud. The staff members are extremely grateful and report that the improved resolution of the pictures and reduced maintenance work and cost will greatly improve the effectiveness of their ministry to women in crisis pregnancy. Each Council should write up their efforts as a Culture of Life Project for this Fraternal Year.

To follow up on the average age of Knights in Maryland, I have researched the average age of Knights in our District Councils. While the average age of a Maryland Knight is 59.6 years, Woodlawn's is 66.7 years, St. Agnes is 64.2 years, Patapsco is 62.0 years, and St. Benedict is 58.4 years. Our Lady of the Angels is 84.2 years, which is expected and remarkable considering the amount of activity in the Council! The Council average ages have been positively affected by recruiting. For example, Patapsco would have an average age of 64.0 years but for the recruiting of over 50 new members since 2014. St Benedict's brought in two young men in January and dropped their average age from 60.3 years. As the Patapsco Distribution Chart shows, our distribution of age is skewed to the ranges over 50 years old, but our recruiting efforts have shifted the distribution. Ideally, we would have a more uniform distribution of members across all age groups.

The work is not done; in order to thrive in the coming years, we need to balance our distribution with those younger members!

On the recruiting front, Patapsco Council's Admissions Degree was postponed to February 15 at 7:30, so you have another week to get a Form 100 in front of your Catholic friend and sign him up! I hope to see all our Councils represented with new members and look forward to greeting them in February. Incidentally, the February Degree will be a "Double Header", with the Formation Degree immediately following the Admissions Degree Exemplification.

Vivat Jesus!



Beaumont News



Our 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 there 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.

Knights Out Inn Specials

- Feb 3
Pork Chops
- Feb 10
Ribs & Shrimp
- Feb 17
Stuffed Chicken Breast
- Feb 24
Pepper Steak
- Mar 3
Baked Salmon

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!



Reflections

Lawrence P. Grayson

A WINDOW TO ADVANCE THE CULTURE OF LIFE

The unpredicted results of the 2016 election have created the most significant opportunity for restoring the protection of life at all stages, since abortion was legalized in 1973. The Vice President and newly-nominated Cabinet members heading key departments are steadfastly pro-life, and both Houses of Congress have pro-life voting records. Most encouraging, less than 72 hour after he was inaugurated, President Trump issued an Executive Order to reinstate the Mexico City Policy which bans the use of federal funds from promoting or performing abortions in other countries. The President also has stated he will sign the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which prohibits abortion after 20 weeks of gestation, make the Hyde Amendment, which prevents taxpayer-Medicaid dollars from funding abortions but requires annual approval, permanent law, defund Planned Parenthood, and appoint constitutional-originalists who believe in pro-life to the Supreme Court.

This political alignment is unlikely to occur again in our lifetimes. If significant changes are not made – and done quickly – to eliminate oppressive executive orders and regulations and enshrine in law the protection human life from conception until natural death, the pro-life movement will have no one to blame but itself.

The predominance of religious believers in the present Congress will be hard to retain. Currently, 91 percent of the members identify themselves as Christian, compared to 71 percent of the general population. The overrepresentation is even greater among Catholics – 31.4 percent of the members claim that faith, while 21 percent of the adults in the country do.

Conversely, 23 percent of U.S. adults are “nones” – that is, they consider themselves to be atheists, agnostics or have no religious persuasion – while only 0.2 percent of the members of Congress have no denominational affiliation. It is too early to tell when and how the increasing number of religiously-unaffiliated voters will express their political influence, but any group that represents nearly one-quarter of the electorate cannot be ignored. If the unaffiliated become a significant political bloc, they most likely will oppose Catholic teaching on marriage, abortion, religious freedom, assisted suicide, and transgender prerogatives.

It is time for bold action. Political and social change requires strong leadership, a committed constituency and principled courage. This is certainly true in dealing with moral issues, such as abortion. The political leadership is in place. An unanswered question, however, is: Will Christian religious leaders, including the Catholic hierarchy, support them?

In the short term, when political gains can be made, a lot will depend on how Christian politicians vote. Will they adhere to the teachings of their claimed faiths or follow opposing desires of vocal and often minority segments of the people they represent? Will many Catholic politicians continue to claim they are personally opposed to abortion or same-sex marriage or other violations of Church teachings, but will not deny others from having those options? If they do, will they receive censure from the bishops?

There also is a constituency, as a majority of Americans identify as pro-life and favor restrictions on abortions. A Knights of Columbus/Marist poll released on January 23 found that 74 percent of the U.S. population, including 55 percent of those who supported Hillary Clinton for president, would restrict abortion to at most the first three months of pregnancy. A similar poll in January 2016 found that 61 percent of Americans, including 6 in 10 pro-choice supporters, favor laws that would ban abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy, except to save the life of the mother.

Further, in contrast to the segment of the population advocating abortion, the pro-life movement has a large and growing component of passionate young people. This bodes well for the future. Students for Life, for instance, which hired its first staff member in 2006, now has pro-life groups on 1,031 campuses in all 50 states. At the March for Life in recent years, the Verizon Center and Armory in Washington, DC, which combined have seating for over 30,000 people, have been filled to capacity for the Youth Rally and Mass for Life. The number of teenagers and young adults who participate in the March so awed then-NARAL President Nancy Keenan that in 2012 she bemoaned, “There are so many of them, and they are so young.”

With regard to moral courage, it certainly is not lacking among the youth. Lila Rose was 15 when she started Live Action, and did her first undercover investigation of abortion providers three years later. David Daleiden was in his early 20s when he founded the Center for Medical Progress to engage in citizen journalism. Shortly thereafter, he exposed Planned Parenthood’s illegal selling of parts of aborted children. In spite of strong social, political and legal opposition, Rose and Daleiden have persisted in their efforts to demonstrate that abortion is not a compassionate response to women’s health, but a sordid and callous business. In less dramatic ways, but also requiring moral firmness, many young people have started pro-life groups on college campuses in spite of hostility from pro-choice students and resistance from faculty members and administrators. Many of them are unrelenting in their desire to support life.

Enacting laws to restrict abortion, as important as this is, is only a partial solution. Laws can be rescinded or amended. What is needed is a conversion of the hearts and minds of the American people, a spiritual renewal, the development of a public morality. When a majority of the American people truly believes in God, recognizes that He created men and women in His image and likeness, and acknowledges the innate dignity of every person, laws will be less necessary and it will be possible to create a societal culture of life that will prevail for generations to come.

This will not be easy or quick, but it is not unattainable. It can be won with God’s help enlisted through prayer, penance, and the Sacraments. Let us support the pro-life efforts of the nation’s new political leadership, and pray for their success.



State Deputy's Report

State Deputy Stephen M. Cohen

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My Brothers All:
January was another busy and productive month throughout the State. Besides the Mid Term Meeting. The Archdiocese of Baltimore held two events. The Ordination of two new Auxiliary Bishops – Bishop Parker and Bishop Brennan. The second event was the Pro Life Mass. Thank you to members of the Color Corps for participating in both of these events.

The Father Rosensteel Council held its 25th Pro Life Kick Off event. This is always a great evening with good speakers. It gets us ready for the March For Life. Many of our members attended the March in Washington D.C. The good weather this year proved to be a plus.

Members also participated in the Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge and the

Family Night with the Baltimore Blast. Look for pictures elsewhere in this newsletter.

As a State we continue to grow. Thanks to everyone who has recruited at least one new member this Fraternal Year. It is not too late to get onboard. Remember everyone is a member of the Membership Committee. Look past your parish, each one of us knows a Catholic gentleman that is eighteen or older. Ask them to join us. Help us as we look to encourage young men between the ages of eighteen and thirty to join us. Remember, we are looking for an hour of their time each month.

On February 5th we will welcome our second new council this year. The Father Maximilian Kolbe Council will be instituted at the JP II Shrine. How fitting to be at the Shrine as these new members of Pol-

ish decent become part of our Honored Order. Please come and welcome them. Call or see Charles Hayes – District Deputy for details.

Now is the time to start planning for our Annual Convention in Ocean City. Chairman John Trainor and his team have been working hard to make this year enjoyable for all. If you have any question do not hesitate to contact John.

In everything that we do - We are Advocates of the Lord.

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:

Keep the family of recently deceased Ann Dubay in your prayers. She was the wife of PGK Joseph Dubay.

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

A NEW FILM ABOUT 17TH-CENTURY MISSIONARIES SHEDS LIGHT ON THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH TODAY

By Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson

Recently, I had the opportunity to view Martin Scorsese's new film, *Silence*, about two Jesuit missionaries who travel to Japan during the terrible 17th-century persecution of Christians there. They make the journey seeking to disprove rumors that a more senior Jesuit missionary in Japan has publicly renounced the faith.

Silence is based upon the 1966 novel of the same name by the late Japanese Catholic author Shusaku Endo. The book raises profound questions regarding the challenge to Christian faith in the midst of suffering and a hostile culture. The most obvious is suggested by the film's title: How are we to understand the silence of God amid great suffering and evil?

This is one of the deepest questions of our time, and it is explored in works about the Holocaust such as Elie Wiesel's book *Night* (1956) and Steven Spielberg's film *Schindler's List* (1993).

Catholics have also long admired three exceptional films that have masterfully

dealt with the question of conscience and martyrdom: *Becket* (1964), *A Man for All Seasons* (1966), and *The Mission* (1986). Now, 30 years after the last of these, a fourth must be added to the list: *Silence*.

Some Catholics might wish that a film exploring this topic did not involve a plot about the apostasy of priests. But Scorsese has made a beautiful and important film, one that raises many profound moral and spiritual questions. He said making the film was a sort of "pilgrimage" for him.

Catholics should see his film in just this way — as a kind of pilgrimage, as a challenging and at times uncomfortable spiritual journey that can deepen our understanding and living of the faith.

Silence could not be more relevant today as globalization presents new challenges to the Church's mission of evangelization.

During one of the film's high points there is an exchange between two Jesuit missionaries. The younger Jesuit asserts that Christianity is universally true — if it is not true in every culture, then it cannot be true for any. But the older one replies that Christianity cannot take root in Japan.

The reality is, however, that thousands of Japanese had become Christians and endured horrible torture and death rather than renounce

their faith. But to this fact, the older Jesuit claims that these Japanese martyrs do not really understand the faith; they embrace a mere shell of Christianity.

There is something deeply troubling about this scene, where the sophisticated, highly educated Westerner rationalizes his abandonment of Christianity, while "wretched" Japanese peasants willingly give their lives for their faith.

In many places in the West today, the light of Christian faith is diminishing, while throughout much of the rest of the world Christianity is growing stronger. This is especially true in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, where many Christians are being persecuted and killed because of their faith.

That *Silence*, written by a Japanese Catholic, would have such impact in the West should tell us something important about the future of global Christianity.

Years ago, I visited the Hawaiian island of Molokai on a private pilgrimage in the footsteps of Father Damien. The "leper priest" was canonized in 2009, and the "colony" he served still exists on the island, with an active Catholic church.

I will never forget seeing a photo of a woman of Japanese descent who suffered from leprosy. She prayed the rosary many times a day. When she no longer had

fingers, she held the rosary beads with her toes. Finally, when this, too, became impossible, she would have the rosary placed in her mouth and moved the beads with her tongue.

I thought of this woman as I reflected on the questions raised by *Silence*: How can Christianity take root in non-Western cultures? What is the meaning of suffering in the midst of God's silence? Can the sophisticated learn faith from the poor and suffering? What is the impact of globalization on the solidarity of Christians?

Christians will need to contend with these questions in the coming years, and how we do so will determine in many ways the future of Christianity. Through our principles of charity, unity and fraternity, Knights of Columbus are already providing concrete answers on all these fronts. And we must continue.

Vivat Jesus!

Visit the Supreme
Council website at
www.kofc.org



Fraternal Benefits News

A PORTFOLIO OF PROTECTION

Over the course of the last 134 years, the products and protection offered by the Knights of Columbus have grown to meet changing needs.

As we begin our 135th year of operation, we are proud to say we offer a complete portfolio of protection to our members — a portfolio that we think is our best yet, with high quality, customizable products designed to fit your family's needs and budget.

Permanent Life Insurance — Insure your life for life.

Permanent Life Insurance is our signature product. Why? It provides guaranteed protection for your loved ones. And while you're still alive, it builds cash value. It's a great solution for many basic needs, such as final expenses, income replacement and debt protection. It can also serve specialized purposes, such as estate planning and charitable giving.

Whatever the planned use, permanent life insurance is reliable. It will be there when you won't be, regardless of when that happens. Put simply: As long as you have paid your premiums, your beneficiaries will receive the guaranteed death benefit (if not more) that you established for them.

There is one exception, though. Should you be fortunate enough to live to the ripe old age of 120, your Knights of Columbus Permanent Life Insurance policy will pay you your death benefit. It wouldn't be the worst 120th birthday present you receive.

Term Life Insurance — Affordable protection for temporary needs.

Sometimes financial obligations are temporary, and that's where term insurance brings the most value. Like permanent insurance, term insurance provides a death benefit to beneficiaries, but only within the specific term period.

Maybe you have a 30-year mortgage. Maybe you have 10 years left until retirement. Maybe you have two children who are about to go through college. In time, the mortgage will be paid off, retirement will arrive at last and the kids will finish college. Once those days come, your insurance needs will change. Term insurance can provide extra protection at affordable rates that — if structured properly — will go away once the needs themselves go away.

The Knights of Columbus offers two basic types

of term insurance: level term (which is offered in 10-, 15- and 20-year periods) and annual renewable term.

Retirement Annuities — Retirement income you can count on. Guaranteed.

During our working lives, there are probably few financial matters we give more thought and attention to than our retirement. We want to make sure that once we finally stop working, we don't have to stop living the way we want to.

Retirement income can be a tricky thing to calculate, especially with a changing landscape of federal- and employer-provided benefits. But with a properly structured retirement annuity from the Knights of Columbus, you can have retirement income that you cannot outlive, guaranteed.

It's a peace of mind that most of us hope to achieve.

The Knights offers a variety of annuities to members and their families, including traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs and nonqualified annuities, which are available as both single premium and flexible premium annuities.

Long-Term Care Insurance — Protect your assets. Get quality care. Prepare for the future.

Because life expectancies have been steadily improving, living longer may very well mean needing more care. Statistics show that nearly 70 percent of individuals over the age of 65 will require at least some type of long-term care services during their lifetime.* Those services are becoming more and more expensive, with nursing home care costing upward of \$83,000 per year and at-home care 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 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.

Disability Income Insurance — Receive an income even when you can't work.

Many people receive disability coverage from their employer, yet they don't know too much about the particulars. Is it short-term disability? Is it long-term disability? Is it both? Does it cover your entire salary? Or only part? How much?

Despite the confusion, disability income insurance provides critical protection to families, especially those who rely on their paychecks to pay the bills.

That's why the Knights of Columbus introduced

disability income insurance in 2011. Now, Knights and their families have a trusted provider who can help protect their paychecks from the unexpected.

If you're among the more than 100 million workers without private disability income insurance**, or among the 38 million families who live paycheck to paycheck***, a tailored Knights of Columbus Disability Income Insurance plan may be just the right solution for you — even if it's a supplement to what you already have.

Insurance by Brother Knights, for Brother Knights

Remember that you have a dedicated professional Knights of Columbus agent who will help you consider your current situation, evaluate the options and put a plan in place to help protect you and your family according to your terms and budget.

Whenever you do business with the Knights of Columbus, you get the added benefit of knowing that your insurance company stands apart from any old insurance company — not only are we Catholic, but we are also recognized as one of the most highly rated life insurers in North America.****

So be sure to reach out to your agent today, and invite him to hold a Fraternal Benefits Night for your council so that you and your brother Knights can learn more about this exclusive portfolio of protection that is available to you and your families. Find your agent at kofc.org or by calling 1-800-345-5632.

* U.S. Department of Health & Human Services National Clearinghouse for LTC Information, March 3, 2014.

** Data for March 2013 was obtained from an online beneficiary database maintained by the U.S. Social Security Administration's Office of the Chief Actuary, available at ssa.gov/oact/ProgData/icp.html (last accessed April 2013).

*** CNN Money, *Middle Class & Living Paycheck to Paycheck*, April 25, 2014.

**** As of Jan. 1, 2017, rated A++ (Superior) for financial strength, by A.M. Best.

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Vice President Speaks at March for Life

On Friday, Jan. 27, just days after the presidential inauguration, Vice President Mike Pence spoke to hundreds of thousands, including members of the Knights of Columbus, gathered to participate in the 2017 March for Life.

The event has taken place every January since 1974, on or near the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion throughout the nation.

The event kicked off with a rally sponsored by the March for Life Education and Defense Fund, which was born out of the grassroots movement that gathered on the first anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

At the rally, Vice President Pence, the highest ranking government official to attend the event during its 44-year history, said, "I am deeply humbled to be the first vice president of the United States ever to attend this event." On behalf of President Trump, he also thanked the attendees for their stand for life and their compassion for the women and children of America.

Citing the Mexico City Policy that restricts funding for abortion services to foreign countries, Pence assured pro-lifers that the Trump administration will continue to devote its time and energy to making America a country for life, announcing that President Trump will name a pro-life Supreme Court nominee next week.

"We've come to a historic moment in the cause for life," he said. "Compassion is overcoming convenience, and hope is defeating despair. ... In a word, life is winning in America because of all of you." He added, "Be assured that along with you, we will not grow wearied, we will not rest, until we restore a culture of life in America for ourselves and for our posterity."

The rally began with the introduction of Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund, by Deputy Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, who referred to the march as "the largest annual civil rights gathering in the world." After greeting the crowds, Mancini welcomed Kellyanne Conway, senior counselor to President Trump.

"I am a wife, a mother, a Catholic, counselor to the president of the United States of America. And yes, I am pro-life," Conway told the crowd. "It is such an honor to stand with the vice president of the United States



Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and Deputy Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly talk with Vice President Mike Pence prior to his address to the tens of thousands attending the rally prior to the March for Life (Photo: Matthew Barrick).

and with students from places near and far to defend the unborn. This is a new day, a new dawn for life."

"Why are we here? What does it mean to stand together?" she continued. "It means to protect and promote the most precious gift in the world, the gift of life."

The number of attendees at the pro-life march has grown throughout the years, with attendees coming not just from nearby states but from across the country to participate. This year, the marching crowd grew following the rally, reaching — according to EWTN reporters at the event — approximately half a million attendees.

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