



The Blue Mantle



Knights Of Columbus
Mater Dei Council #9774
www.geocities.com/materdei9774

December 2008
Christmas

Knights of Columbus Mater Dei Council

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Pope on Christmas

“In the stable of Bethlehem, the very town where it had all begun, the Davidic kingship started again in a new way – in that child wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. The new throne from which this David will draw the world to himself is the Cross. The new throne – the Cross – corresponds to the new beginning in the stable. Yet this is exactly how the true Davidic palace, the true kingship is being built. This new palace is so different from what people imagine a palace and royal power ought to be like. It is the community of those who allow themselves to be drawn by Christ’s love and so become one body with him, a new humanity. The power that comes from the Cross, the power of self-giving goodness – this is the true kingship. The stable becomes a palace – and setting out from this starting-point, Jesus builds the great new community, whose key-word the angels sing at the hour of his birth: ‘*Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to those whom he loves*’ – those who place their will in his, in this way becoming men of God, new men, a new world.

Pope Benedict XVI, Dec 25, 2007

GK's Message

My brothers all,
Advent is upon us, and it is time to prepare for Christmas, the anniversary of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Knights of Columbus are among the best in understanding the true meaning of Christmas – Keeping Christ in Christmas. At our Business Meeting in November, we all received a little booklet called “*Five Minutes with*

the Word”. This booklet contains 5-minute readings for each day of Advent to prepare for Christmas. There are more copies of this booklet in the front of the church, if you are interested.

November was a quiet month for us. We finished off the Tootsie Roll Campaign, where we collected nearly \$12,000 this year. Thanks to the 125 Mater Dei Knights who participated this year, and a giant thanks goes out to our Tootsie Roll Coordinator, Don Novotny, who organizes the campaign each year. We also spent nearly every weekend in November selling Entertainment Books outside of church. We sold over 100 books this year. Thanks to out to PGK Pat DeGraba for running the Entertainment Books sales this year.

November was also noteworthy for the Maryland State Council Soccer Shootout. Mater Dei Council had a State Champion this year in the Soccer Shootout. Conner Davis is an 8th grader at Mary of Nazareth School, and he won the Boys 13-14 age group in the Maryland State Soccer Shoot-

out. Congratulations to Conner Davis, and a big thank-you to John Li, our Youth Program Chairman, who makes the Soccer Shootout happen each year.

December is a short but busy month for us. We start with our kickoff meeting for the Garage-to-Attic Sale on December 3rd. All are welcome to attend. On December 6th, we have our Breakfast-with-Santa and Lunch-with-Santa in the Trumpet Room. Saturday night, December 6th, Tod Sloan and Terry Harrington host the 4th Annual Christmas Ice Skating Benefit at the Rockville Ice Arena up on Southlawn Court. The Breakfast-with-Santa, Lunch-with-Santa, and Ice Skating Benefit are great events for all the Knights with young children.

December 13th is our annual Mater Dei Council Christmas Party in the Trumpet Room at St. Raphael’s. Hope you all can attend.

On December 14th, we are hosting another Coffee & Doughnuts and (Continued on next page)

Membership Drive at St. Raphael's. We need a lot more help than we received in our first membership drive. I urge you all to contact our Chancellor, Federico Sologuren, and volunteer to work one of the masses on December 14th. If we get enough candidates interested in joining our council, we will host an open house on Tuesday, December 16th. On December 18th, we will have a

1st Degree Ceremony for new Knights. Our Past State Deputy, Edgar Haynes, will attend. Hope you can too.

Our Knight of the Month for the month of November is Jack Wohlhieter, for working many hours on the Tootsie Roll campaign. Jack visited many of the local stores to request permission to hold the Tootsie Roll drive at that store. He called up

many of the Mater Dei Council members to sign them up to work. He followed up many days by collecting money at the end of each shift. Jack was a great help to our Tootsie Roll Campaign coordinator, Don Novotny!

Fraternally,

Bob McCaffrey
Grand Knight

DD's Report



By E. Roberto Ibáñez,
DD #18

Worthy Brothers and Ladies,

November is the month to remember our deceased and to honor our Veterans, and the Order held services for that purpose, especially for those we lost over the past year. The State Memorial Mass was held on November 16th, at Saint Clement Mary Hofbauer Church in Rosedale, Maryland, the home parish of our current State Chaplain, Rev Donald Gryzmski, OFM. The McNamara Chapter of Grand Knights had its own Memorial Mass just a few days later, on November 19 at Sacred Heart Council in Bowie. If your Council sent its necrology, the names of those members who died the previous year were read aloud during said services.

I hope you were able to spend some happy moments with your families at Thanksgiving. It's good to pause and thank our Creator for the multiple blessings with which He has showered us.

And that brings us to the realization that Christmas is upon us. It is hard

to believe. It feels like only yesterday I gathered with some of your Grand Knights for the Grand Knights' Seminar at Mount Saint Mary's College last June.

The councils in the district have been very busy with the car raffle, the Tootsie Roll program, and a multitude of individual council programs. At the time of this writing, preliminary returns from the Tootsie Roll campaign indicate it too will be very successful. Thanks to all who gave up so many hours to help the Maryland State Scholarship Fund and to aid God's special children. You know your efforts are well known in heaven, and your rewards will be sure to come.

My commendations to those of you who are making such a success with membership and recruiting. Our District in general is doing quite well. Each of our Councils can achieve Star Council this Columbian Year. Continue your efforts and enjoy the benefits of increased membership, new blood, and new energy in your meetings and functions. There will be a 1st Degree on December 18th at Mater Dei Council and another at Rock Creek Council on January 8. If your Council has candidates, don't let them wait too long! Bring them to either of these exemplifications and have them join our Order! Also, our district will be sponsoring a 2nd Degree on January 9th and a 3rd Degree on January 16,

both at Rock Creek. Our District has a large number of 1st degree members who have not progressed to the higher degrees. This is a good opportunity to encourage them to do so. Start planning NOW.

In all the noisy activity associated with the holiday season where we see the feeding frenzy brought by commercialism, remember what the advertising seems to want you to forget – **THE REASON** we are celebrating. Have a moment of quiet with the Lord in preparation for the great feast. During the Advent Season, pause and meditate on the wondrous gift our God has given us with the birth of His only Son, our Lord and Redeemer. Consider seriously buying and sending only religious-themed Christmas cards. Share your Christmas spirit, smile. Show to the world that we are Christians, and we are happy people.

In the name of my Worthy District Warden, Richard Earenfight and his wife Ronda, my wife MaryJo and I wish for all of you and your families, the most blessed Christmas, and may our Lord and His Blessed Mother smile upon you and keep you well.

Fraternally,

E. Roberto Ibáñez, PDK

District Deputy No. 18

"We are Called to Serve"

Christmas Card Sale

The Respect for Life Committee at St. Raphael's will sell Christmas cards after all Masses on December (6 – 7). We are looking for at least two Knights to man the two tables. If anybody is interested, they can contact Sharon or Jose Carbonell at jrcarbon@comcast.net or at 301.765.6954.

Garage to Attic Sale Kickoff Meeting

On Wednesday December 3, 2008 at 7:30pm in the Duffy Center, the kickoff meeting for 19th Annual Garage to Attic Sale will be held. This is the first meeting for the 2009 Garage to Attic Sale scheduled for February 14, 2009 at St. Raphael's Duffy Center. The Mater Dei Council of the Knights of Columbus sponsors this annual event. Anyone interested in volunteering is welcome. For more information, please contact Don Titzman at (830)583-5166 or don.titzman@occ.treas.gov.

Donations to Wounded Veterans

Donate Items to Wounded Veterans at Naval Medical Center

The Sullivan Brothers Assembly of the Fourth Degree is gathering various items to support our wounded heroes at the National Naval Medical Hospital Bethesda. Bethesda Naval Hospital has identified the following items they need:

- ◆ *Athletic (basketball) shorts*
- ◆ *Athletic shirts (sleeveless and with sleeves)*
- ◆ *Current/up-to-date DVDs*
- ◆ *DVD players*

Other needs include:

- ◆ *Break-Away pants (snaps better than zippers)*
- ◆ *Plain/Marine Corps sweatshirts*
- ◆ *Anything with a USMC emblem such as tee shirts and sweatshirts*

- ◆ *Athletic Socks*
- ◆ *Phone Cards*
- ◆ *Disposable Cameras*
- ◆ *and Electric Razor with chargers*

Brother David of the Pastoral Care Services has informed us that many of these heroes arrive at the hospital shortly after they are wounded, and it may take a while for their personal belongings to catch up to them. The Sullivan Brothers Assembly will make a delivery to the Marine liaison unit shortly after Christmas. You can call FN Joseph Murphy (301) 762-2418 to donate the items, you can deliver them to the Sullivan Brothers Christmas Party on December 13th at 1:00 PM at Montgomery Council, or you can bring them to the Mater Dei Council Christmas Party on December 13th at 6:00 PM at St. Raphael's Trumpet Room.

FRATERNAL BENEFITS

SCROOGE DIDN'T BELIEVE

We can all remember the story of Scrooge and his failure to believe in the spirit of Christmas. To all but the Scrooges of the world, the celebration of the birth of Christ brings with it a warm feeling of family ties, a joy and pleasure that our faith brings to others.

That same warm feeling comes from owning life insurance. Just knowing that, because of what you have planned, your loved ones will have joys and comforts for years to come if something should happen to you.

I don't think Scrooge would have believed in life insurance either, but men of good will do. And the world is a better place because of them. Through life insurance, they know that comfort and security will not be only for one day, but instead, a gift that will provide for their loved ones for years to come.

This Christmas, give the gift of security and protection.

From my family to yours- Happy and Holy Holidays to all of you!

Fraternally,
Rick Morin, FICF, CSA
301-384-7627

Tootsie Rolls

Nearly \$12,000 Collected for Intellectually Disadvantaged Children!

Once again, Mater Dei can be proud! Despite some rainy weekends and recently pinched pocketbooks, shoppers remained receptive and appreciative right through to the end, and our take reached nearly \$12,000.

This year's campaign stretched over 6 weeks, so there were time-slots to fit everyone's schedule. Roughly two-thirds of the able-bodied portion of our

membership participated, which demonstrated once again a sincere and widely-held interest in the charity-oriented activities of our Council. Of the 115 members who joined in the curbside fun this year, about 40 gave 4 or more hours to the effort, including quite a few who gave 8 or 10 hours, and even more. Having said that, there were, as every year, some mix-ups where either set-up supplies or a replacement-Knight failed to show up, or where we found ourselves competing with Scouts selling

popcorn; to those affected, the organizers express their sincere apologies, and their hopes that it won't keep anyone from volunteering again next year!

The average take, per curbside man-hour, was roughly \$32 this year – a little down from last year – probably due to the economy squeeze. All told, this project entails over 500 hours of volunteer time annually. But ALL of this year's participants can attest to this: our volunteers again got LOTS of smiles from the shoppers, and countless heartfelt expressions of admiration, e.g., “thank you for what you're doing” etc. That, Brothers, is our reward – giving a huge swath of the general public – probably something like 10,000 persons over a period of 6 weeks – a heightened awareness of good in the community, and of the power of pausing to do good works.

Early next year, there'll be a dinner honoring the organizations who will be benefiting from the funds we've collected, and details will appear in the Bulletin. Meantime, THANK YOU, Brothers!!!

Below are listed the 124 Knights who volunteered this year (including a scattered few who actually didn't get to do their stint due to last-minute conflicts!) THANKS, ALL!!

Wilsie Adams	Frank Della Penna	Vito Lombardo	George Prokop
Stephen Aguzin	Roger DiFato	Timothy Long	Dennis Ramirez
William Arcieri	Leon Discavage	Thomas Luxner	Hector Rojas
Jeffrey Bateman	Joseph Doane	John Lyons	Daniel Rueda Posada
Erich Baumgartner	Michael Donahue	Gregory Maier	Michael Ryon
Charles Bell	Jorge Duarte	Kreag Maloy	Larry Sancilio
Larry Boesch	C. Dennis Elliott	David Mason	Hans Schierling
Brad Braford	Albert Ferzacca	Robert McCaffrey	Thomas Schnieder
Maurice Brice	William Fitzsimmons	Michael McClimens	Robert Scott
R. Bruce Brown	Juan Flores	James McDonough	Patrick Senftle
Gerald Brown	Thomas Folkes	Timothy McDonough	Robert Settersten
Thomas Buck	Robert Fontana	Darius McHenry	William Shaffer
John Burke	William Gallagher	Walter McKee	Thomas Shallow
Richard Burns	John Gallagher	Donald Meyer	Thomas Sherman
Walter Burns	Daniel Garges	David Minarich	Richard Sinatra
Tony Cammarota	Ray Gasper	Mike Moran	Federico Sologuren
Jose Carbonell	Joseph Gervasio	James Moyer	Donato Soranno
Ralph Carestia	Eric Gregrich	Joseph Murray	Paul Sullivan
Westley Chang	Terrance Harrington	Camille Ng	Frank Suraci
William Chisholm	Michael Herman	Donald Novotny	Eugene Tallia
John Cini	John Hoyle	Nicholas Nylec	James Tate
John Ciucci	Michael Hsur	Luis Ochoa	Charles Thomas
John Clemens	Richard Jasinski	Edward O'Donnell	John Thomas
Vincent Clements	John Keating	Andrew O'Lone	William Thompson
Brendan Combs	Steven Kelley	William O'Sullivan	Henry Valdes
Gregory Daly	David Kerr	Joseph Pauley	Lloyd Welter
Harry Daly	Robert Kruth	Robert Perrelli	Andrew Weiblinger
Antonio David	Fernand Lavallee	John Phillips	Glenn Wienhof
George David	David L'Heureux	John Potter	William Wilkinson
Jeffrey Davis	John Li	Norm Poulin	John Wohlhieter
Patrick DeGraba	Gregory Locraft	Hugo Prado	Peter Zautke

4th Annual Christmas Ice Skating benefit



Host: Tod Sloan

Location: Rockville Ice Area
50 Southlawn Ct.,
Rockville, MD 20850

When: Saturday, December 6,
6:45PM to 9:00PM

Phone: (301) 438-8447

Bring the whole family to the **4th Annual Christmas Ice Skating Benefit**.

If you can't make it, send the kids. There are car pools forming and there is no charge for admission. We will have a whole rink to ourselves. Feel free to come at the last minute!

This is a SAME LOCATION as last year www.rockvilleicearena.com. Non-skaters are welcome! There is a full service restaurant/snack bar, The Village Grill. It will be open and is in the arena. They also serve Starbucks! Santa will also be making a visit (but maybe not on skates)! This event will bring new meaning to our rallying cry, Skate for your life!

ANY monetary donations will be accepted with ALL proceeds going to our local St. Catherine Laboure

Gabriel Project (www.gpscl.org, Wheaton, MD, 301-946-4815) and local Birthright (www.birthright.org, birthrightmc@verizon.net Wheaton, MD, 301-946-3339) and Project Rachel (projectrachel@adw.org , 301-982-2008) organizations. Gabriel Project assists women and families facing crisis pregnancies by providing practical, emotional and spiritual support. After the baby is born, they continue to help as long as there is a need and stay in touch their mothers indefinitely. Birthright is an inter-denominational crisis pregnancy center. They give free pregnancy tests, plus non-judgmental and confidential guidance to woman. After a pregnancy test, they do as much follow up, to include material aids, with the woman as she desires. Project Rachel is a post-abortion healing ministry that offers compassionate help to men and women who have experienced emotional and or spiritual pain after abortion. This is available regardless of his or her faith background.

Please make your checks payable as follows:

Life Force Inc.
c/o Mary Sloan
2307 Pondside Ter
Silver Spring, MD 20906

* Note "**Christmas Ice Skating Benefit**" in the Memo field.

For your convenience, you can also donate online using Paypal. Please put "**Christmas Ice Skating Benefit**" in the Subject/Note field.

Bring your own skates if you have them. Otherwise, skates can be rented at the rink. Please respond by November 30th with number of skaters in your family or extended family so we

can get a head count. Ice skate rentals and number of skaters on the ice are limited so please respond and get there on time. Last year, we did max out with the number of skaters on the ice. Feel free to send this invite to other friends and family. Our goal is to have as many families as possible.

Merry Christmas!

Entertainment Books Sale

The Fall 2008 E-book sale was a great success. With the help of Tom Sherman Mike Herman, Dick Jasin-ski, Tony Cammarota, Bob McCaffrey, Scott Graham, Jack Lyons, Eric Gregich, Dick Bianchj, Joe Doane, Bill Arcieri, Paul Sullivan, Tom Schneider, Larry Boecsh, and Wilsie Adams, Mater Dei conducted sales on 4 weekends after all the masses at St. Raphael and one weekend at Our Lady of Mercy. We have sold 126 books so far which will net the council over \$1500. E-books will continue to be available until December 10th. If you would like to order one please e-mail me at pdegraba@comcast.net. Aside from coupons for local restaurants and shopping the e-books contain lots of coupon for activities with your children including Shadowland Laser Tag, AMC and Regal Movies, mini-golf, Frederick Keys and Bowie Baysocks minor league baseball, and WNBA basketball. Thanks again for all who helped.



Pope's Christmas Homily

In the stable at Bethlehem, Heaven and Earth meet. Heaven has come down to Earth. For this reason, a light shines from the stable for all times; for this reason joy is enkindled there; for this reason song is born there. At the end of our Christmas meditation I should like to quote a remarkable passage from Saint Augustine. Interpreting the invocation in the Lord's Prayer: "*Our Father who art in Heaven*", he asks: what is this – Heaven? And where is Heaven? Then comes a surprising response: "*... who art in Heaven – that means: in the saints and in the just. Yes, the heavens are the highest bodies in the universe, but they are still bodies,*

The Holidays are Here.

*Please join your fellow Knights and their families
for cocktails, dinner and cheer.*

Annual Christmas Dinner

*Saturday, December 13, 2008
6 o'clock in the evening
St. Raphael Trumpet Room
\$10 per person and \$25 per family*

*You are invited and encouraged to bring a neighbor or
friend at no charge As guest of the Grand Knight.
We use this event as a recruiting event.*

RSVP early or by December 11

Don Titzman 301.545.1910 or don.titzman@occ.treas.gov

This event includes Our Annual Seminarian Collection.
If you are unable to attend and wish to support to
Mater Dei Council's Charities, please mail your contribution to
John Frey, Financial Secretary
Knights of Columbus Mater Dei Council # 9774
P.O. Box 10237
Rockville, MD 20849-0237

which cannot exist except in a given location. Yet if we believe that God is located in the heavens, meaning in the highest parts of the world, then the birds would be more fortunate than we, since they would live closer to God. Yet it is not written: 'The Lord is close to those who dwell on the heights or on the mountains', but rather: 'the Lord is close to the brokenhearted' (Ps 34:18[33:19]), an expression which refers to humility. Just as the sinner is called 'Earth', so by contrast the just man can be called 'Heaven' (Sermo in monte II 5, 17). Heaven does not belong to the geography of space, but to the geography of the heart. And the heart of God, during the Holy Night, stooped down to the stable: the humility of God is Heaven. And if we approach this humility, then we touch Heaven. Then the Earth too is made new. With the humility of the shepherds, let us set out, during this Holy Night, towards the Child in the stable! Let us touch God's humility, God's heart! Then his joy will touch us and will make the world more radiant. Amen.

- Pope Benedict XVI, Vatican, Dec 25, 2007

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Mater Dei Council #9774

Message Board

- Articles are due on the 25th by noon. Whenever possible, please submit early.
- *"What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace."*
~ Agnes M. Pharo
- "A scientist said, making a plea for exchange scholarships between nations, "The very best way to send an idea is to wrap it up in a person." That was what happened at Christmas. The idea of divine love was wrapped up in a Person." ~ Halford E. Luccock
- *"When we were children we were grateful to those who filled our stockings at Christmas time. Why are we not grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs?"* ~ G.K. Chesterton

Schedule of Events: Dec 2008 — Jan 2009

Tue Dec 2 Executive Meeting, 7:30pm-10pm, U Room
Sat Dec 6 Breakfast with Santa, 9am-12pm, Trumpet
Sat Dec 6 Lunch with Santa, 12:30pm-2pm, Trumpet
Sat Dec 13 Council Christmas Party, 6-10pm, Trump.
Sun Dec 14 Coffee & Donuts, 8am-1pm, Trumpet
Tue Dec 16 Open House, 7:30pm-10pm, DC 4&6
Thu Dec 18 1st Degree, 7:30pm-10pm, DC 4&6
Thu Dec 25 NO MEETING

MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!

Tue Jan 6 Executive Meeting, 7:30pm-10pm, U
Thu Jan 8 Bus. Meeting, 8-10pm, Youth
Wed Jan 14 Blood Drive ???
Thu Jan 22 Social w/ speaker, 8-10pm, DC4&6



Fra Angelico's
Nativity

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