



The Blue Mantle



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

November 2008
All Saints / Thanksgiving

Knights of Columbus Mater Dei Council

Inside this issue:

GK's Message	1
DD's Report	2
Budget, Insurance	3
Book, Can, Soccer	4
Bereavement, Flag	5
Thanksgiving	6

Pope on Saints

“This, then, is the meaning of today's Solemnity: looking at the shining example of the Saints to reawaken within us the great longing to be like them; happy to live near God, in his light, in the great family of God's friends. Being a Saint means living close to God, to live in his family. And this is the vocation of us all, vigorously reaffirmed by the Second Vatican Council and solemnly proposed today for our attention.

But how can we become holy, friends of God? We can first give a negative answer to this question: to be a Saint requires neither extraordinary actions or works nor the possession of exceptional charisms. Then comes the positive reply: it is necessary first of all to listen to Jesus and then to follow him without losing heart when faced by difficulties.

“If anyone serves me”, he warns us, “he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if any one serves me, the Father will honour him” (Jn 12: 26).

Like the grain of wheat buried in the earth, those who trust him and love him sincerely accept dying to themselves. Indeed, he knows that whoever seeks to keep his life for himself loses it, and whoever gives himself, loses himself, and in this very way finds life (cf. Jn 12: 24-25).”

Pope Benedict XVI, Nov 1, 2006

GK's Message

My brothers all,

October was the busiest month of the year for Mater Dei Council. October was so busy that I didn't have time to write a Grand Knight's message last month. October was the month of the Columbus Day Ball, Soccer Shootout, Raffle Ticket Sales, Entertainment Book Sales, Membership Blitz, and most of all, the Tootsie

Roll Campaign. November, on the other hand, is the quietest month for Mater Dei. November is a chance for us to take a breath, to regroup, and prepare for our Christmas events and for our Garage-to-Attic Sale, which will take place on February 14, 2009.

Throughout the month of September and the first weekend of October, we sold and bought \$2100 worth of Raffle Tickets for the Columbus Day Ball Raffle. The Columbus Day Ball took place on Saturday, October 11th, at the LaFontaine Bleu in Glen Burnie. The highlight of the Columbus Day Ball is the drawing of the winning raffle tickets. Despite turning in 2100 tickets, Mater Dei was shut out of the 1st and 2nd prizes again. Once again, the winners of both prizes were from Baltimore, thus further fueling our belief the Columbus Day Raffle Ticket contest is fixed in favor of Baltimore.

October was also the month of the Mater Dei Soccer Shootout and our District Soccer Shootout. 157 kids participated in the Mater Dei Soccer Shootout on October 8th. We sent 10 winners to the District 18 Soccer Shootout on October 18th. Of those 10 that we sent to the

District 18 Championship, 6 of them won to qualify for the State Championship in November. Congratulations to all of our Mater Dei kids, and thank you to John Li for organizing our Soccer Shootout at Mary of Nazareth School.

On October 19th, we had our annual Membership Blitz at St. Raphael's. Even though we have over 150 members who are St. Raphael's parishioners, only 9 of us bothered to volunteer to help recruit or help work at the Coffee & Doughnuts. Thank you to Ray Gasper, Joe Doane, John Gallagher, Paul Sullivan, Tom Sherman, and Tony Cammarota for helping out. Because of the general lack of interest from the rest of Mater Dei Council, our Chancellor Federico Sologuren had to work every Sunday mass, and we were only able to recruit one member for our October 23rd 1st Degree Exemplification.

We will have another opportunity to recruit new members on December 14th at the Coffee & Doughnuts. Please mark that date on your calendars now, and hopefully we will get more than 9 (Continued on next page)

members to help out.

We are also very far behind in our sales of Entertainment Books. We have only sold 40 so far, and we need to sell 130. If each one of us spends \$25 to buy an Entertainment Book, we should easily reach our sales goal and be able to pay for events that we might have next year. We will also sell Entertainment Books after each mass in November outside of St. Raphael's. Please put on your hat,

scarf, and gloves, and sign up with Pat DeGraba to sell Entertainment Books this month.

Finally, on a more positive note, thank you to all who helped out with the Tootsie Roll sales throughout the month of October. Everybody should thank Don Novotny for helping to organize the Tootsie Roll sales again this year. Thank you also goes out to both Jack Wohlhieter, and Ted Tate for making the phone calls to get members

to help out.

Our Family of the Month for the month of October is Don Meyer, who organized the Thursday rosaries at St. Raphael's during the month of October. Congratulations!

Fraternally,

Bob McCaffrey
Grand Knight

DD's Report



By E. Roberto Ibañez,
DD #18

My Brother Knights and Dear Ladies:

The seasons are changing; we are enjoying the display of color as this northern hemisphere prepares for a restful, renewing sleep. As we plan for Thanksgiving and Christmas, take a moment to appreciate this beauty, and the wonder of God's gifts of life, family, and our world.

This is the time of year to remind you of the State Council's active scholarship programs for both high school and college. Information and application forms are available on the web at <http://www.kofc-md.org/state/committees/scholarships.htm>

And we have another change: our **Form 100** has a new look. Your Financial Secretaries have received a fresh supply and will be more than happy to re-supply you. Of course, these forms will not fill themselves out. It requires YOU to ask a friend, relative or neighbor to join; only then can we grow. Also, if you know of a new member, ask him to attend a meeting with you.

Our District's membership blitz is continuing into November. We identified a good number of men (and ladies) interested in the Order and what offers to

Catholic men and their families. Many have already taken their 1st and 2nd Degrees, on the way to full knighthood. I welcome them and their families. I encourage each new Knight to become involved in the activities of their Councils and to pursue the distinguished Shining Armor Award, available only to new Knights during their first year of membership. See your Grand Knight for more information.

As I visit Councils in the District, I am encouraged to see the activity and evident enthusiasm. I want to express my appreciation for the many sacrifices made by our Brother Knights, their Ladies, and families. The Incentive Raffle drive is behind us, we enjoyed another fine Columbus Day weekend, and several Councils conducted a Soccer Shoot Out. I want to thank our **District Warden Richard Earenfight** and those Brother Knights who came to support the District Shoot Out at St. Elizabeth's school grounds. Our District winners are headed for the State Soccer Shoot Out.

The turnout of Knights and family to collect donations for the mentally handicapped – our "Tootsie Roll Drive" – is heartening. This activity publicly exemplifies our first principle, Charity, accomplishes great good for our local community, and brings many graces to all who participate. If your Council is continuing the drive in November, please volunteer to help.

November is also a time for remembrance. In addition to All Saints and

All Souls Days, our Order makes a special effort to remember and acknowledge the contributions of those Brother Knights and Ladies who passed away during the preceding year. I encourage each of you to attend one of the memorial Masses being offered: by the State on November 16, by the McNamara Chapter of Grand Knights on November 19, or by your own Council. Let each of us honor those who passed before us. Remember, one day your council will be praying FOR YOU. Better to attend the memorial now, while you can...

Finally, I would like to give you two reminders. First, on Tuesday, November 4, we will elect the next President of these great United States. This election will be a close contest between two men who offer a stark contrast on core issues of the Catholic Church, particularly with respect to life and marriage. I encourage all to participate and be heard through your ballot. Second, the window for reservations at the Princess Royale for the State Convention in May opens on Monday, November 3. Please call early to make your reservation; they fill up very quickly. If you have never attended a state convention before, make an effort to join us this year. You will not regret it!

As we close our liturgical year, continue to pray for the safety of our troops overseas, and for our country. My wife MaryJo and I wish you and your family a blessed Thanksgiving.

Vivat Jesus!

2008-2009 Budget

Non Event Revenue	Amount	Daily Operations	Amount
Donations	0.00	Degrees - 1st-4th	0.00
Dues from Membership	8,000.00	Financial Secretary Compensation	(600.00)
Incentive Car Raffle	1,900.00	First Degree Supplies	(30.00)
Entertainment Books	1,600.00	Grand Knight Expenses	0.00
Recycle Program	0.00	Insurance	0.00
Initiation Fees	300.00	KofC Supplies - Office (paper)	(50.00)
50/50 Chances	200.00	KofC Supplies - Supreme	(100.00)
Total	12,000.00	Member Awards	0.00
		New Member Recruitment	(50.00)
KofC Assessments		Notices and Publications	(250.00)
State Assessments	(1,700.00)	Office Supplies	(250.00)
State Convention Delegates	(200.00)	Postage	(1,400.00)
Columbus Day Ball Advertisement	(70.00)	Printing	(1,300.00)
Supreme Assessments	(900.00)	Refreshments & Food - Meetings & Events	(2,350.00)
State Convention Advertisement	(100.00)	Rent	(300.00)
Total	(2,970.00)	Second Degree Food & Drinks	(100.00)
		Service Council - Programs	
Events		Teacher Awards	(125.00)
Anniversary Dinner	200.00	Working Fund Transfer (Rent)	(700.00)
Baseball Game	0.00	Youth Awards and Programs	(125.00)
3-on-3 Basketball Tournament	0.00	Total	(7,730.00)
Christmas Party	200.00		
County Fair Booth		TOTAL WORKING FUND	0.00
Ice Cream Social	(200.00)		
Installation Ceremony	(200.00)	Building Fund	
Installation Dinner	(1,400.00)	Bank Interest	50.00
Poker	100.00	St. Raphael Support (Rent)	(700.00)
Total	(1,300.00)	Transfer from Working Fund	700.00
		TOTAL BUILDING FUND	50.00

RENDERING PECUNIARY AID

The month of November in the Knights Of Columbus is traditionally the time during which we remember our deceased Brother Knights – those who have gone to their eternal reward.

Our thoughts also turn, naturally, to those who our Brother Knights have left behind their widows and children. These are the same people, though a different generation, who occupied Father McGivney's thoughts in 1882 when he founded the order.

The first two reasons listed on our charter for the establishment of the Knights Of Columbus are: "*rendering pecuniary aid to its members, their families and beneficiaries of members*" and "*rendering mutual aid and assistance to its sick, disabled and needy members and*

their families."

My position as a fraternal benefits advisor for the Order has evolved from those principles. I am here to help you plan financial security; both for yourself and for those who you may leave behind. I am not here to sell you insurance because you might die and be a part of our remembrances next November. I am here to sell you insurance because someone else might live; and I think you love that someone and would like her to continue to live with dignity.

It's not a pretty thought, but picture the first November your loved ones will spend without you. How does it look?

Call me today for an appointment.

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

Entertainment Books

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

The 2009 Entertainment books have arrived. Last year, the sale of Entertainment Books earned over \$1,200 for the Knights of Columbus. Proceeds from the sales assist us in sponsoring our various church, community, council, family and youth programs. This year, we hope to do even better, but we need your help. You can help in two ways.

First, the book is filled with coupons that can save you hundreds of dollars over the next year on restaurants, movies, groceries, and afternoon and evening entertainment. Please consider purchasing one (or more!) of these books. These books easily pay for themselves. I've found that 15 minutes of looking through the books and putting the coupons from places you patronize regu-

larly is an easy way to make sure you have the coupons when you need to use them. The books will be available our November meetings, after mass one weekend in November (see below) or from Patrick DeGraba (301-279-2873) Tom Sherman (301-340-2042) or Tony Cammarota (301-424-6138).

Second we will sell books after all Masses on a weekend early in November. There is no hard sell. We advertise that the books will be available and need one Knight per Mass to be there to accept payments and hand out the books. Parishioners buy these books because they offer discounts on a wide range of purchases from formal restaurants to informal dining to movies and other entertainment. They also make excellent Christmas presents! Please consider helping out with sales after mass when you are asked.

Thank you for your support of our Council.

Soccer Shoutout

Council Shootout

On October 8, Mater Dei conducted its 2008 Soccer Shootout at Mary of Nazareth School in Darnestown, Md. 157 students from ages six to fourteen participated in the three competitions involving goal scoring, ball throwing, and ball kicking. Boys and girls winners were determined in all age classifications.

Many thanks to Brother Knights Ted Tate, Tom Sherman, Tom Luxner, Don Novotny, PGKs Wilsie Adams and Tom Schneider, and GK Bob McCaffrey for their stellar assistance in scoring and retrieving soccer balls. Special thanks to the school's PE teachers Rich Huelbig and Karen Fowler for arranging for the beautiful soccer field and the many enthusiastic student participants.

District Shootout

On October 18, the District 18 competition was held at St. Elizabeth School in Rockville. Six of our Council winners won their age categories and will now advance to the Maryland State Finals scheduled for Our Lady Queen of Peace on November 15.

Respectfully Submitted
John Li - Youth Programs

CAN MAN MILESTONE

We have reached the milestone of collecting over \$1,000 from the redemption of aluminum cans since the program began over 10 years ago. This income has gone into our working fund to help with Council expenses. Many thanks to Ray Gasper, Pete Zaudtke, Larry Boesch, George Prokop, Dan Garges, and Marty Piper who save their household cans and drop them off at my house. We also collect cans at meetings and Council functions. If you want to join in, please call Tony Cammarota at 301-424-6128 for more information.

Tony



Knights in picture: Wilsie Adams, John Li, Ted Tate, and Don Novotny

"Living in Loss" Bereavement Program

Dr. Carolyn Huard gave a wonderful presentation on the "Living with Loss" Bereavement program 7-week series offered at St. Raphael's Parish. The presentation was part of the Mater Dei Council social meeting on Thursday, 25 September 2008. She explained that the "Living with Loss" program is for persons who have lost a family member, a relative, or a friend and are in need for bereavement support. The participation is not restricted to members of St. Raphael Parish nor to Catholics. There is no fee for the bereavement program sessions, just a commitment to attend the weekly sessions.

We learned that "our lives are busy and full particularly in time of bereavement." The bereavement seven-weekly sessions in the Spring and Fall provide persons in a state of bereavement "with a special time and a safe place to focus on their personal experience, dis-

cuss grief related issues, learn some techniques to move toward healing, and receive and give support to all group members." We got some insights on the program "topic areas, such as: our own stories; what is grief; personal journaling; remembrances; the many aspects of our personal reaction to the loss; our changing roles in life; ways of nurturing ourselves during this stressful time; and spiritual meditations and reflections."

The very rewarding Bereavement program, which began during the Fall of 2007, is conducted in series of seven weekly sessions held Thursday evenings. There is a structured format that forms the basis for the discussions, but it can be varied during the sessions to accommodate particular needs of participants. Of course, the focus is Christo-centric. The sessions are held in small groups of no more than twelve attendees plus two fa-

cilitators. The people in attendance pledge to keep the discussions in confidence.

People requesting to participate in the Bereavement program are screened beforehand as to their readiness to be in the group. Some applicants are asked to wait until a later time, or if the immediate program at St. Raphael's Parish is filled to capacity and the person is qualified, they may be referred to program at another parish bereavement program, such as the recently initiated program at St. Elizabeth's Parish in Rockville. St Raphael and St. Elizabeth try to schedule their sessions so they do not conflict in schedule.

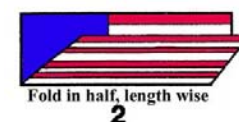
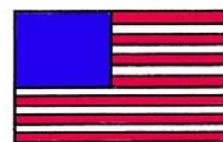
To join a program in the future, contact Ursula Boesch at 301-762-7134.

US Flag Folding and Narration Ceremony

Six Fourth Degree Sir Knights of the KofC fourth degree assembly, The Sullivan Brothers Assembly, No. 2861, Ceremonial Flag Team presented a U.S. Flag-folding ceremony that included a moving narration. The ceremony opened the Mater Dei Council No. 9774 social meeting on 25 September 2008. All in attendance were inspired. Thank you to the Ceremonial Flag Team from the Sullivan

Brothers Assembly.

Sir Knights participating in the ceremony were Wil H. Adams, PGN, John L. Durbin, DD, PFN, PGK, John E. Moore, Sr., Joseph A. Murphy, PCP, FDD, PGK, James F. Parshall, PFN, PGN, and Thomas J. Schneider, DD, PFN-C, PGK, CP.

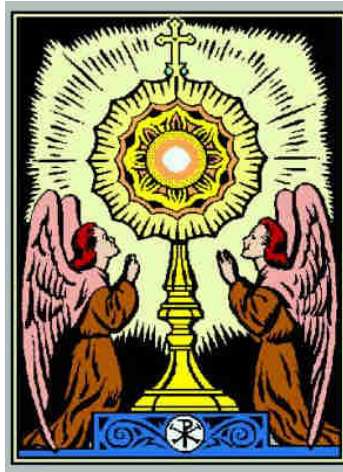


Fold into triangle



Thoughts on Thanksgiving

- ♦ *"What great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?"* (Deut 4:7) Saint Thomas Aquinas took up this saying in his reflections for the Feast of Corpus Christi. In doing so, he showed how we Christians in the Church of the New Covenant can pronounce these words with yet more reason and more joy and with thankfulness than Israel could in doing so, he showed how this saying, in the Church of Jesus Christ, has acquired a depth of meaning hitherto unsuspected; God has truly come to dwell among us in the Eucharist." (Pope Benedict XVI, "God is near us: The Eucharist, The Heart of life.")
- ♦ "Grace is always given to those ready to give thanks for it" (Thomas À Kempis).
- ♦ "Be loving and thankful to God for the least benefits that He gives you, and then you will be better prepared and more worthy to receive greater



benefits from Him. Think that the least gift that he gives is great, and take the meanest things as special gifts and as great tokens of love. If the dignity of the Giver is well considered, no gift will seem little." (Thomas À Kempis)

- ♦ "That we must recognize and acknowledge every good as a gift and that even the patient endurance of suffering for Christ's sake is of God. That we should not accept in silence the benefactions of God, but return thanks for them." (Rule 55 from St. Basil)
- ♦ "And let those who will, laugh and

scorn--I shall not be silent; nor shall I hide the signs and wonders which the Lord has shown me many years before they came to pass, as He knows everything even before the times of the world. Hence I ought unceasingly to give thanks to God Who often pardoned my folly and my carelessness, and on more than one occasion spared His great wrath on me, who was chosen to be His helper and who was slow to do as was shown me and as the Spirit suggested. And the Lord had mercy on me thousands and thousands of times..." (St. Patrick)

- ♦ "...We are led to give thanks to God, because seeing that God is the Creator of all things, it is certain that all that we are, and all that we have come from God: hence the Apostle says: What hast thou that thou hast not received?--The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and all that dwell therein. For which reason we owe Him thanksgiving: What shall I render unto the Lord for all the things that he has rendered to me?" (St. Thomas Aquinas)

Continual Thanksgiving for God's Blessings

You should continually and unceasingly call to mind all the blessings that God in his love has bestowed upon you in the past, and still bestows for the salvation of your soul. You must not let forgetfulness of evil or laziness make you grow unmindful of these many and great blessings, and so pass the rest of your life uselessly and ungratefully. For this kind of continual recollection moves the heart constantly to confession and humility, to thanksgiving with a contrite soul, and to all forms of sincere effort,

repaying God through its virtue and holiness. In this way the heart meditates constantly and conscientiously on the words from the Psalms: *"What shall I give to the Lord in return for all his benefits towards me"* (Ps 116: 12). Thus the soul recalls the blessings of God's love which it has received from the moment it came into existence: how it has often been delivered from dangers; how in spite of having often fallen by its own free choice into great evils and sins, it was not justly given up to destruc-

tion and death at the hands of the spirits of deception; and how God with long-suffering overlooked its offences and protected it, awaiting its return. It also recalls that although through the passions it had become the willing servant of hostile and malicious spirits, he sustained it, guarding it, and in all ways providing for it; and finally that he guided it with a clear sign to the path of salvation.

Saint Mark the Ascetic (5th century)

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Knights of Columbus
Mater Dei Council #9774

Message Board

- Articles are due on the 25th by noon. Whenever possible, please submit early.
- "The Saints have no need of honor from us; neither does our devotion add the slightest thing to what is theirs.... But I tell you, when I think of them, I feel myself inflamed by a tremendous yearning." — St Bernard
- Entertainment Book Sales - November 9th, 16th, 23rd after mass at St. Raphael's**
Mater Dei Council will sell Entertainment Books after mass at St. Raphael's on November 9th, November 16th, and November 23rd.
We need to sell 130 Entertainment Books. We've only sold 40 so far. We need more help to sell the Entertainment Books. If you are interested please contact Pat DeGraba, (301) 279-2879, pdegraba@comcast.net.

Schedule of Events: November-December 2008

Tue Nov 2 Executive Meeting, 7:30pm-10pm, U Room
Sun Nov 9 Entertainment Book Sale, St Raphael's after mass
Thu Nov 13 Business Meeting, 8pm-10pm, DC 4&6
Sun Nov 16 Entertainment Book Sale, St Raphael's after mass
Sun Nov 23 Entertainment Book Sale, St Raphael's after mass
Thu Nov 27 NO MEETING

HAPPY THANKSGIVING !!!

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, Trumpet
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 !!!



All Saints

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