



# The Blue Mantle



**Knights Of Columbus**  
Mater Dei Council #9774  
[www.geocities.com/materdei9774](http://www.geocities.com/materdei9774)

**October 2008**  
**Rosary & Tootsie Roll Month**

## Knights of Columbus Mater Dei Council

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### Pope on Rosary

“Today, together we confirm that the Holy Rosary is not a pious practice banished to the past, like prayers of other times thought of with nostalgia. Instead, the Rosary is experiencing a new Springtime. Without a doubt, this is one of the most eloquent signs of love that the young generation nourish for Jesus and his Mother, Mary. In the current world, so dispersive, this prayer helps to put Christ at the centre, as the Virgin did, who meditated within all that was said about her Son, and also what he did and said. When reciting the Rosary, the important and meaningful moments of salvation history are relived. The various steps of Christ's mission are traced. With Mary the heart is oriented toward the mystery of Jesus. Christ is put at the centre of our life, of our time, of our city, through the contemplation and meditation of his holy mysteries of joy, light, sorrow and glory. “

Pope Benedict XVI,  
Basilica of Saint Mary Major, May 3, 2008

### DD's Report



On top of all the other seasonal celebrations and festivities, the month of October features the Order-wide "blitz" to bring Catholic men into our fold. To continue being successful, our Order must grow. Recruiting Catholic men to become Knights is a duty all

of us should share. It requires us to ask a worthy man to become a member. It also requires us to be prepared to answer his questions concerning what it means and what it takes to become a Knight. Following the lead of a worthy predecessor, I offer here a few pointers to that effect.

We are a "Catholic, fraternal, family, service organization." The Knights of Columbus is not a men's social club. It is an organization designed to help Catholic men strengthen their faith, to support the Catholic Church and the Holy Father, to increase family relationships between members and their wives and children, to foster development of close friendships between Catholic men, to guide men to become involved in assisting the needy, to enhance the financial security of our families, and to enhance our love for our country and its flag.

The Order's basic principles are charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism, and our programs are created to serve Church, community, council, family and youth. Each year, Councils develop a wide array of activities and programs keyed to these central principles and objectives. This brings up a couple of questions: Does every Catho-

lic man need help in all these areas? With our demanding business and family obligations, can every Catholic man become involved in all of these activities? Of course, the answer to both questions is "No."

Actually, being a member of the Knights of Columbus means different things to different men, and to their families. For example: a man with growing children may need help reinforcing the value of a moral life as a role model for his children. With us he can become involved in activities with other men who share his values, thus demonstrating to his children the acceptability of living a faith-directed life. To a man who is new to the community or a recent convert to the faith, the Knights offer opportunities to develop social relationships with other Catholic families in the Parish. If a man feels the need to give back to the community and to help the disadvantaged, through the Knights he and his family can join others to support a particular charity or the community in a way that would not be possible as a single individual or family.

(Continued on next page)

Now an often asked question: Does membership in the Knights require a major time commitment? Easy answer: No. The strength of our Order is its diversity of activities. Unless a man accepts a position as an officer, members may participate in only those activities that are significant to themselves and their families. In truth, membership in the Knights can be reconciled with, and actually enrich, otherwise busy lives.

Is it expensive to be a member? No. The annual dues range from \$30 to

\$50 from one Council to another. These dues are a major source of funds for operation of the Council, including supplies, refreshments at meetings, organization of family and youth programs, etc. Are there other benefits of membership? Yes. Membership brings benefits which include a rosary, the monthly Columbia magazine, access to the top rated insurance and annuity programs, access to long-term care insurance, accidental death coverage for member and spouse at no cost, eligibility for

various scholarships, the opportunity to build personal leadership skills, and a list too long to include here. Please use these easy pointers when you go out this Fall, thus allowing you to increase your Council's and the Order's numbers.

Mary, Queen of the Knights, Pray for us.

E. Roberto Ibáñez

District Deputy No. 18

## The Public Rosary - A prayer of proven might

The Rosary is a powerful prayer that has proven to be effective numerous times throughout history. Our Lady has often interceded with Our Lord to alter the course of events when people have asked for her assistance through this invocation. One of the earliest, history-altering incidents affected by the Rosary occurred on October 7, 1571. The Mohammedan Ottoman Empire, which then was at the peak of its naval power and threatening to overrun Christian Europe, sent a fleet of some 300 galleys into the Gulf of Lepanto. A smaller fleet of about 200 galleys was formed in defense. In the weeks preceding their engagement, Pope Pius V had ordered all churches and monasteries to offer the Forty Hours Devotion, with public processions and recitation of the Rosary for a Christian victory. The resulting battle was decisive, as the invaders lost some 25,000 men and most of their ships. Never again was the Ottoman Empire a threat in the Mediterranean Sea. The Venetian Senate declared that it was not the might of arms that brought victory, but the Blessed Virgin's intercession. In thanksgiving, the Pope designated October 7 as the Feast of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary.

In 1683, Christian Europe again was under assault by Turkish Muslims; this time by land. The invading army of 140,000-180,000 men put Vienna under siege. As an opposing force was being assembled, Pope Innocent XI called for a Christendom-wide recitation of the Rosary for its victory. The city was about to fall when King Jan Sobieski of Poland, who had placed his kingdom under the protection of Our Lady of Czestochowa, arrived at the head of an army of 85,000 men. The Turks were totally routed, losing about four times as many men as the Christians. In tribute, the Pope designated September 12, the day of the victory, as the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary.

On August 6, 1945, Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, the world's first use of this horrendous weapon. For miles in every direction buildings were leveled, people were burned beyond recognition, and bodies littered the streets. Eight blocks from the epicenter was the Church of Our Lady's Assumption, with an adjoining residence where eight Jesuits missionaries from Germany lived. The Church was severely damaged by the blast, but the residence was intact. Although some

## Lawrence P. Grayson

50,000 people were killed by the blast and another 20,000 died soon after from radiation exposure, the priests were unharmed. None suffered radiation sickness, blistering from the heat, loss of hearing, or other bomb-related illness, and all lived for several more decades. Fr. Hubert Schiffer, one of the survivors, attributed the miracle to the group's devotion to the Blessed Mother and their faithfulness in praying the Rosary every day.

At the end of World War II, Austria, a country strategically located between East and West, was divided among the victorious allies. Soviet Russia took the most important quarter, which included Vienna, and subjected it to the oppression of Communism. Fr. Petrus Pevlicek, obeying a voice he heard at a Marian Shrine, founded the Holy Rosary Atonement Crusade in 1947 to pray for the nation's freedom. The faithful began saying the Rosary almost continuously, and on the 13<sup>th</sup> of each month paraded through the streets praying to Our Lady of Fatima for independence. The marchers grew in number, reaching in 1955 about 500,000 people, one tenth the population of Austria. Then, on May 13, 1955, the anniversary of the first (Continued on next page)

apparition of Our Lady at Fatima, the Russians unexpectedly withdrew. Inspired by Austria's independence, Hungary, in October 1956, demanded similar freedom from the Soviets. Instead of prayer, however, Hungary relied on tens of thousands of Freedom Fighters and mass demonstrations. In less than three weeks, the Soviets suppressed all public opposition. The Rosary succeeded, while reliance on arms failed.

When Nikita Khrushchev visited the United Nations in October, 1960, he pounded the desk with his shoe shouting that the Soviets "would bury" America. This was no idle threat, as the Soviets were completing development of the R-16 Inter Continental Ballistic Missile. Pope John XXIII instructed the Bishop of Leiria (whose see includes Fatima) to write to the bishops of the world, asking them to unite with the pilgrims of Fatima on the night of October 12, 1960, in prayer and penance for Russia's conversion and world peace. That evening, about a million pilgrims at Fatima spent the night outdoors in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, and some 300 dioceses throughout the world joined with them. On October

26, as the final test launch was in progress, the ICBM exploded killing some 250 people, including the commander of the Russian Strategic Missile Forces and the chief designer of the R-16, setting the Russian nuclear missile program back many years. Again, the Rosary prevailed.

On March 1, 2008, a crisis between Colombia and its neighboring states, Ecuador and Venezuela arose. The President of Columbia had ordered a military raid into Ecuador's territory against a rebel camp used by Marxist guerrillas to launch terrorist strikes. In response, Ecuador's President cut all diplomatic relationships with Colombia, while Venezuela, Ecuador's political ally, ordered a massive military surge to the Colombian border. On March 5, as tensions increased, Columbia's President invited all officials to pray the Rosary in the chapel at the Presidential Palace. It was offered to Our Lady of Chiquinquirá, Our Lady of Coromoto and Our Lady of Mercy, respectively the patronesses of Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador. Two days later, Columbia's President apologized and the presidents of the three countries shook

hands ending the crisis.

These are just a few of many examples of how public devotion to the Rosary has affected world events. Jamie Cardinal Sin speaking of the effect of the Rosary in the overthrow of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, said: "All the ends of the earth have seen the Power of the Rosary, the Power of prayer, the Power of GOD... More Powerful than funds are Prayers. More effective than strategic planning are 'fasting and sacrifices.' Mightier than military force is the mighty Power of a vigilant people. Indeed when we give our best to the Lord, and leave the rest to His Providence, the Lord always responds."

As Knights of Columbus, we have a special devotion to the Blessed Virgin and to the Rosary, which she asked to be said for world peace. Every Council should say the Rosary before every meeting. Every Knight should carry the Rosary with him always, and say it as often as he can. The world will be a better place if the Rosary is the weapon of choice.

*Vivat Jesus!*

## Insurance

### INSURANCE ODDS ARE SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

When the buyer of a new home takes possession of his dream house, the first thing he usually does is to protect his investment with an insurance policy against loss or damage by fire. It's the sensible thing to do, but the homeowner who lets it go at that is making a mistake which could later be a source of great hardship to his family.

Insurance actuaries, the people who

calculate the risks and set the premiums, offer statistical evidence that fire is not the greatest hazard to the average homeowner. For every home destroyed by fire, sixteen homeowners will die before they pay off their mortgage.

This means that the homeowner who protects his investment against fire and similar hazards without also protecting his family against his own death, is playing a long shot at sixteen-to-one odds with his family taking all the risk!

The simple and relatively inexpensive answer to this problem is mortgage redemption insurance. This in-

surance is a guarantee that if the breadwinner dies at any time prior to full payment of the mortgage, his family will inherit their home debt free. Such policies usually become a source of substantial savings.

Call me today for your free analysis.

Fraternally,

Rick Morin, FICF/LUTCF  
Your K of C Agent  
301-384-7627

## 2008 Soccer Shoutout

Brother Knights All:

We have confirmed this year's soccer shootout at Mary of Nazareth School for Wednesday Oct 8. We need all able bodied members (and even lessers) to help out with scoring and chasing soccer balls down the athletic field. Starts at 8 am and ends at around 3 pm. (but you can choose your own times.)

We're expecting about 200 students between the ages of 6 to 14.

Call me at the office (301) 309-2654, cell phone (301) 980-6018, or home (301) 424-2713, with your positive responses

Regards

John Li

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## Tootsie Rolls Campaign

DEAR BROTHER KNIGHTS

It's time again for our yearly "tootsie-roll" campaign, to help area youngsters who are intellectually disabled. This is one of the simplest and most satisfying ways in which we as Knights can each do a bit of volunteer work for charity.

Of all our yearly activities, this one probably best allows us to be seen performing Christian service out among the general public. The presence of our volunteers outside the stores is cheerfully-received and kindly-supported by the local public, as well as by the cooperating stores. And it's a nice opportunity to meet and get better acquainted with fellow Knights. So, it's a fun thing.

In case you've not done "tootsie rolls" before, the routine is simple: signboards already posted curbside at each location mostly speak for themselves; the volunteer's role is mainly to smile lots, greet each customer happily, and, to those who contribute, hand them (or their kiddies!) a tootsie roll as a token of appreciation.

Compared with any of our other yearly activities, this one needs EVERYONE'S participation. This is not an activity where a few members can do it all. No one need worry about getting in someone else's way. Not



only is there ROOM for each of you, we NEED each of you! The amount collected depends DIRECTLY upon the number of volunteers and the number of hours each one undertakes. Even those who due to age or disability need to sit rather than stand can be very effective; they simply need to bring their chair!

Phone (Don Novotny 301-424-6772 or Jack Wohlhieter 301-424-7926) to sign up. For your info, Knights who don't use email will each be phoned in the next few days, so, everyone IS contacted!

THANKS for your cooperation, and God Bless you all!

Yours in Faith, Bob McCaffrey, Grand Knight

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## Message Board

- Articles are due on the 25<sup>th</sup> by noon. Whenever possible, please submit early.
- "The Rosary is the most excellent form of prayer and the most efficacious means of attaining eternal life. It is the remedy for all our evils, the root of all our blessings. There is no more excellent way of praying."  
- Pope Leo XIII
- This prayer is perfect because of the praise it offers, because of the lessons it imparts, because of the graces it obtains, and because of the triumphs it achieves.  
- Pope Benedict XV
- "The rosary is my weapon."  
"Our Lady has never refused me a grace through the recitation of the rosary."  
"Love the Blessed Mother and make her loved. Always recite the rosary."  
- Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

## Schedule of Events: October-November 2008

Tue Oct 7 Executive Meeting, 7:30pm-10pm, U Room

Wed Oct 8 Soccer Shoutout, 8am-3pm, M. Nazareth

Thu Oct 9, Business Meeting, 8pm-10pm, Youth C.

Oct 11-13 Columbus Day Activities

Sun Oct 19 Coffee & Donuts, 8pm-1pm, Trumpet

Tue Oct 21 Open House, 7:30-10pm, DC 4 & 6

Thu Oct 23 First Degree, 7:30-10pm, DC 4 & 6

Tue Nov 2 Executive Meeting, 7:30pm-10pm, U Room

Thu Nov 13, Business Meeting, 8pm-10pm, DC 4&6

Thu Nov 27 NO MEETING.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING !!!



**Our Lady of  
Fatima**

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