



The Blue Mantle



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

September 2008
Reconciliation

Knights of Columbus Mater Dei Council

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Pope on Confession

"[...] it is very helpful to confess with a certain regularity. It is true: Our sins are always the same, but we clean our homes, our rooms, at least once a week, even if the dirt is always the same; in order to live in cleanliness, in order to start again. Otherwise, the dirt might not be seen, but it builds up. Something similar can be said about the soul, for me myself: If I never go to confession, my soul is neglected and in the end I am always pleased with myself and no longer understand that I must always work hard to improve, that I must make progress. And this cleansing of the soul that Jesus gives us in the sacrament of confession helps us to make our consciences more alert, more open, and hence, it also helps us to mature spiritually and as human persons. Therefore, two things: Confession is only necessary in the case of a serious sin, but it is very helpful to confess regularly in order to foster the cleanliness and beauty of the soul and to mature day by day in life." — Pope Benedict XVI, Lay Witness magazine, Jan/Feb 2006 issue.

GK's Message

My brothers all,
We finally got ourselves formally installed as officers of Mater Dei Council on August 16th. My thanks go out to Tony Cammarota, Eric Gregrich, Dick Jasinski, and Tom Schneider for acting as last-minute stand-ins at the ceremony for officers who were ill, injured, or out-of-town. Big thanks also go out to Wilsie Adams who emceed the Installation Dinner for the very first time. Our Installation Dinner was attended by 70

knights, their wives, dignitaries, and guests.

We had three other successful events in August. The first was the Inova Blood Drive on August 6th where 35 units of blood were donated.

On August 21st, we had our 3rd annual end-of-summer Mater Dei Council picnic on the grounds of St. Raphael's. When word spread that our DGK Don Titzman would cook Texas style barbecue again, over 75 knights and their families showed up – our biggest turnout yet!

We had our first Manna Food Drive in years on August 23rd, and that turned out to be a big success. We had about 20 Knights show up to collect food and monetary donations, and we had enough donations to fill up 100 crates of food. Thank you to all who spent time on Saturday to collect the donations and to the many good donors who helped the Manna Food Center in their time of need.

September will be a month of transition, adjustments, and more big events. It is back to school for St. Raphael's. With the growth of St. Raphael's School, space is at a premium, and Mater Dei Council has been affected. During the school year, all of

our 1st Tuesday Executive Board Meetings will be held in the Upper Rooms at St. Raphael's. Also, our September 11th Business Meeting will be held in the Youth Center behind the Trumpet Room at St. Raphael's. I ask you to be patient with us as we adjust to these new venues, and I urge you to check the Blue Mantle Calendar to see where our future meetings will be held.

On a relatively historical note, one of our own: Tom Schneider, PGK, PFN, FDD, will be installed as President of the Bishop McNamara Chapter of the Knights of Columbus. This may be the first time that a Mater Dei Knight serves as a Chapter President. To celebrate this momentous occasion, Mater Dei Council will host the Bishop McNamara Chapter Installation on Saturday, September 13th at 1:30 PM in the Trumpet Room.

On Thursday, September 25th, we begin our Speaker Series including the U. S. Flag Folding and Narration Ceremony presented by The Sullivan Brothers Assembly 2861 Ceremonial Flag Team. It has been a while since the (Continued on next page)

Ceremonial Flag Team made a presentation at Mater Dei Council, so you are encouraged to attend.

The St. Raphael's Parish Picnic takes place on Sunday, September 28 after the 1:00 mass. Inspired by DGK Don Titzman's Texas Barbecue, St. Raphael's has asked Mater Dei to arrive early to cook for the Parish Picnic. If you are willing to cook or help out, please contact Don Titzman to sign up.

October is our biggest month of the year with many events to look forward to. October is 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. If you want to help out with the organizing, or if you want to reserve a spot, now is this time to sign up. Please contact Don Novotny, our Tootsie Roll Campaign Chairman, to get involved.

Our Family of the Month this time around is the family of our Immediate Past Grand Knight, Bill Shaffer, for all the work they did as the Grand Knight family for FY 2007-2008. Congratulations!

Fraternally,

Bob McCaffrey
Grand Knight

DD's Report



It was gratifying to see many of you at the Membership and Programs seminar

at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School on July 30. Yes, I know this is September already, but the seminar took place after the deadline for the August issue... so here we are. Now each council is busy putting to work the ideas they gathered there.

I would also like to congratulate all the new council officers from our entire District as by the time you read this all would have been properly installed; and it would be unforgivable if I did not especially thank our Worthy District Warden, Richard Earenfight, for the invaluable help he gave me these last two months, especially before, during and after each Installation Ceremony. Of course, I must also mention the excellent presence and performance of O'Boyle and Sullivan Brothers Assemblies, who provided such dignity and pageantry to said ceremonies. I only voice the sentiments of all the membership when I offer them our thanks and congratu-

lations for a job perfectly done. They certainly made my work easier.

Next month's highlight of State sponsored activities is the Columbus Day Ball. Each Council is encouraged to reserve a full table. Each place will be reserved, so they want the name of every person attending. That is an excellent gathering, formal, with sit-down dinner, open bar and dancing to a live band. Ask your Grand Knight for details, and send for your reservations. You may want to have your ad in their program as well. All those details were distributed to each Grand Knight; there is still time to do both.

Our Worthy District Warden and I will start meeting with each of the Grand Knights to see where each Council is and how can we help them achieve the goals set by Supreme and State. Sometimes an event cannot be held by a Council on its own... but in conjunction with other councils it can easily come to reality. If a District function can help one or more councils to achieve those goals, then we should study that possibility. If any brother knight has ideas which can help his Council, this is the time to contact your Grand Knight. Then, when we meet with him, all plans will be

ready for review and discussion. All this is really important because with September we finish our First Quarter, and in early October each Grand Knight must have his Church, Community, Family, Youth and Council Activity Reports ready for my signature and submission to the State Council. Unless the event has not yet taken place... start putting those reports together, right now!

Finally, I remind all of you that this September 11 marks the 7th anniversary of the terrorist attacks in the U.S. It will also be our Order's 4th annual **World Day of Prayer for Peace**. I urge all four of our Councils to conduct a program of prayer, as small or elaborate as each can, to be held on that day. Three of us have a meeting that very day! New prayer cards and posters are available from Supreme's Supply Department.

Mary, Queen of the Knights, Pray for us.

E. Roberto Ibáñez
District Deputy No. 18

August Blood Drive

Thank you to all who participated in the August Blood Drive in the Trumpet Room at St. Raphael's. We registered a total of 42 donors who donated 35 pints of blood. Nearly every donor indicated that the donation process was one of the best they had experienced on our blood drives. The Inova staff was efficient, professional, and friendly. In most cases, the do-

nors did not have to wait more than a few minutes before an Inova staff member started the interview process. Most donors were out in less than an hour.

Our next blood drive will be in October. Please check your October Blue Mantle for the date, time, location, and other details.

Mike Donahue

Manna Food Drive

On a hot Saturday, August 23, Brother Knights came together to participate in the Manna Food Drive. They greeted Food Donors from St Raphael's and Our Lady Of Mercy Parish at the St Raphael's parking lot—taking the non perishable food items from the drive by parishioners. Brother Knights, of Mater Dei Council, have been participating in this event for many years past. However, this year was significant since this tradition has subsided for the past seven years. We felt that this year was especially important because of rising food prices and people having problem finding employment.

For our Brother Knights it was charity that begins at home. Manna Food serves the need of poor families living here in Montgomery County. The food supply at Manna is very low during the summer months. They are very grateful for our support. The total effort was all volunteers who spent anywhere from two to six hours. Many Knights canvassed their neighborhood going door to door asking for contribution either in money or food. The drive lasted for six hours from 9 AM to 3 PM during which time parishioners in their cars came by to drop off their food items. We all pack boxes of food and loaded them

onto the truck which Manna Food had left for us to attend.

We filled 120 crates with 2,655 pounds of food. That's over one ton of food! We collected \$2,650 in checks and cash donations. That's the best food drive we ever had at Mater Dei!

Thanks to all our wonderful parishioners who donated all this food and cash.

We sincerely thank those who volunteered their time and effort doing this good work.

These are the Knights that participated in the food collection:

Rev Carlos Benitez
FDD, PGK Tom Schneider
GK Bob McCaffrey
DGK Don Titzman
PGK Pat DeGraba
PGK Larry Boesch
PGK Dick Jasinski
Warden Mike Herman
Past Warden Richard Bianchi
Past Chancellor Joe Doane
Bro. Ray Gasper
Bro. Teddy Tate
Bro. Bill Hunter
Bro. John Li
Bro. Don Novotny
Bro Tom Luxner
Bro. Brad Bradford
Bro. John Thomas and his
Young Son Jaayden Thomas

Parish Picnic Call for Volunteers

Again this year, the Mater Dei Council will be tasked with the grill duty for St. Raphael's Parish Picnic and possibly cooking a few hundred pounds of beef barbeque. If the Picnic Committee goes with the grill only duty, we will need about 15-20 Knights to work in shifts from about 9am to 3pm. If the Picnic Committee goes with the beef barbeque, we will need addition help since we will have to construct a large barbeque grill and cook the beef for 12-15 hours. We would need volunteers Friday, Saturday and Sunday for varying task. Friday, we would need assistance in moving and setting up the grill. Saturday, we would start barbequing about 6pm and continue until about 8am Sunday. Sunday we would need volunteers to cut up meat and grill the hamburger and hot dogs. The beef barbeque option would be a lot more work, but it could be a great social event. I done it for years at my previous parish and the action is always around the barbeque grills. Please let me know if you are interested in helping. The St. Raphael's Parish Picnic will be held Sunday, September 28, 2008. Contact Don Titzman at don.titzman@occ.treas.gov

We look forward to another successful year, this time next year during the summer months. It was a complete success - Thanks be to God.

Bill Wilkinson

Flag Ceremony and Bereavement Presentation - A Double Header

At the Thursday, September 25th, social meeting at 8 p.m. Mater Dei Council will have two fairly short presentations: The first is a beautiful, patriotic U. S. Flag Folding and Narration Ceremony presented by The Sullivan Brothers Assembly 2861 Ceremonial Flag Team. You will be inspired.

Immediately following this opening ceremony, Dr. Carolyn Huard will enlighten us on the acclaimed "Living with Loss" Bereavement Program offered at of St. Raphael's

Parish. We will learn 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, discuss grief related issues, learn some techniques to move toward healing, and receive and give support to all group members." You will get 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 spiri-

tual meditations and reflections." You will learn when it is appropriate to attend the bereavement sessions. There is no fee for the bereavement program sessions, just a commitment to attend.

If you know someone who has had a family member or close friend die during the past year or who has someone who is dying, or anyone else, bring them with you to this informative presentation. This is an open meeting and will be held at St. Raphael, but the room location is to be announced.

Vivat Jesu,
Larry Boesch, MDC Lecturer

State Council Columbus Day Ball

Saturday, October 11, 2008
7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
LaFontaine Bleu
Glen Burnie, MD

Tickets: \$42.50 per person
(\$85.00 per couple)

- Deluxe Sit-Down Dinner
- Premium Open Bar
- Dancing
- Music by The Monaldi Brothers

Make reservations early.
800 person maximum.

If you are interested in attending the 2008 Columbus Day Ball, please contact Bob McCaffrey (301) 251-5225 or bmacc38@yahoo.com.

We need 10 people to have our own table. Checks must be delivered to Bob McCaffrey by September 22nd.

New 2009 Entertainment Books Now Available

A Free Dinner is waiting for you (with a paying guest) at some of your favorite restaurants such as Chadwicks, Brookville Farms, Copelands, Houlihan's, Golden Bull, Il Forno, Tally Ho, and the Potomac Grill. Why not stop in for a quick bite to eat for half price at informal restaurants like Pizza Hut, Arby's, Subway, Pizza Boli's, Cici's, Domino's, Burger King, Popeye's, Jerry's, or Armand's. Choose from hundreds of restaurants. There are \$20 worth of coupons that can be used just at Safeway! In addition, there are many other discount opportunities for entertainment and attractions, cultural and sporting events, air travel, cruises, amusement parks, rental cars, hotels, movies, merchandise, and even discounts at the beach. You can start using the special offers immediately and they are good until November 2009. **The price is still just \$25.** Books can be purchased by calling Patrick DeGraba (301-279-2873) or Tony Cammarota (301-424-6138).

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. First, please consider purchasing a book this year. Second, we will sell books after all Masses on three weekends in the fall. Please volunteer a few minutes after a mass to help sell these books when those weekends have been set.

Oakmont Green Golf Club, Hampstead, MD

Friday, September 12th, 2008

Shotgun Start @ 1PM

(Reporting time, no later than 12:30 PM)

\$75.00 per golfer // \$300.00 per team

(Includes green fees, cart, steak dinner, prizes, and liquid refreshments)

Captain's Choice (Foursome)

The course will determine play in case of inclement weather

Tournament is open to all golfers

DIRECTIONS

From Baltimore Beltway, take I-795 to MD-30

Take MD-30 North toward Hanover. Travel MD-30 for about 12 miles

Golf Course is on the right.

Captain _____ Phone _____

Player #2 _____

Player #3 _____

Player #4 _____

**RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT MUST BE
RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 9/5/2008**

Make checks payable to Knights of Columbus and send to either:

**Romeo Gauthier, PSD
1195 Glenside Court
Hampstead, MD 21074
(410) 374-3202**

**Bill Norton, FDD
2534 Littlestown Pike
Westminster, MD 21158
(410) 848-5494**

**Joseph Gauthier, FDD
14 Concord Court
Littlestown, PA 17340
(717) 359-0459**

The sacrament of Penance and Padre Pio

It is called the **sacrament of conversion** because it makes sacramentally present Jesus' call to conversion, the first step in returning to the Father from whom one has strayed by sin.

It is called the **sacrament of Penance**, since it consecrates the Christian sinner's personal and ecclesial steps of conversion, penance, and satisfaction.

It is called the **sacrament of confession**, since the disclosure or confession of sins to a priest is an essential element of this sacrament. In a profound sense it is also a "confession" - acknowledgment and praise - of the holiness of God and of his mercy toward sinful man.

It is called the **sacrament of forgiveness**, since by the priest's sacramental absolution God grants the penitent "pardon and peace".

Confession was the principal daily activity of Padre Pio.

He had the ability to look within the souls of his penitents. It was not possible to lie to Padre Pio during a confession. He saw inside people's hearts. Often, when the sinners were timid, Padre Pio listed their sins during the confession.

Padre Pio invited all believers to confess at least once a week. He said: "*Even if a room is closed, it is necessary to dust it after a week.*"

In the sacrament of confession Padre Pio was very demanding. He couldn't bear people that went to him only out of curiosity.

A monk once told the following story: "One day Padre Pio didn't give absolution to a penitent and he told him: '*If you go to confess to another priest to have gain absolution you will go to hell together with him*'. He meant that if the sacrament of confession is profaned by people that don't want to change their lives. They are guilty in front of God."

To Hell and back: a dream of Don Bosco

Don Bosco is known for his prophetic dreams. In this one, he is taken on the way to hell:

Taking my hand, he led me into the cave. As I stepped in, I found myself suddenly transported into a magnificent hall whose curtained glass doors concealed more entrances.

Above one of them I read this inscription: **The Sixth Commandment**. [Editor: It is "You shall not commit adultery" which is the sin against purity.] Pointing to it, my guide exclaimed, "Transgressions of this commandment caused the eternal ruin of many boys."

"Didn't they go to confession?"

"They did, but they either omitted or insufficiently confessed the sins against the beautiful virtue of purity. Other boys may have fallen into that sin but once in their childhood, and, through shame, never confessed it or did so insufficiently. Others were not truly sorry or sincere in their resolve to avoid it in the future. There were even some who, rather than examine their conscience, spent their time trying to figure out how best to deceive their confessor. Anyone dying in this frame of mind chooses to be among the damned, and so he is doomed for all eternity. Only those who die truly repentant shall be eternally happy. Now do you want to see why our merciful God brought you here?" He lifted curtain and I saw a group of Oratory boys – all known to me – who were there because of this sin. Among them were some whose conduct seemed to be good.

"Now you will surely: let me take down their names so that I may warn them individually," I exclaimed.

"It won't be necessary!"

"Then what do you suggest I tell them?"

"Always, preach against immodesty. Bear in mind that even if you did admonish them individually, they would promise, but not always in earnest. For a firm resolution, one needs God's grace which will not be denied to your boys if they pray. God manifests His power especially by being merciful and forgiving. On your part, pray and make sacrifices. As for the boys, let them listen to your admonitions and consult their conscience. It will tell them what to do."

"May I mention all these things to my boys?"

"Yes, you may tell them whatever you remember."

"What advice shall I give them to safeguard them from such a tragedy?"

"Keep telling them that by obeying God, the Church, their parents, and their superiors, even in little things, they will be saved. Warn them against idleness. Tell them to keep busy at all times, because the devil will not then have a chance to tempt them."

I bowed my head and promised. Faint with dismay, I could only mutter, "Thanks for having been so good to me. Now, please lead me out of here."

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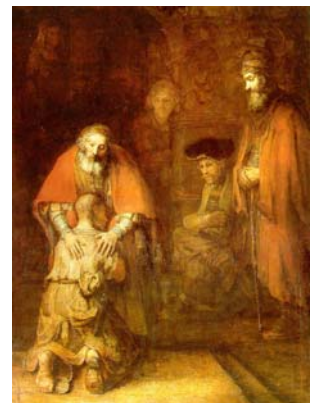
Message Board

- Articles are due on the 25th by noon. Whenever possible, please submit early.
- "The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works."
— Saint Augustine
- "Priests have received a power which God has given neither to angels nor to archangels. It was said to them: 'Whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever you shall loose, shall be loosed.' Temporal rulers have indeed the power of binding; but they can only bind the body. Priests, in contrast, can bind with a bond which pertains to the soul itself and transcends the very heavens. Did [God] not give them all the powers of heaven? 'Whose sins you shall forgive,' he says, 'they are forgiven them; whose sins you shall retain, they are retained.' What greater power is there than this? The Father has given all judgment to the Son. And now I see the Son placing all this power in the hands of men [Matt. 10:40; John 20:21-23]. They are raised to this dignity as if they were already gathered up to heaven."
— John Chrysostom (*The Priesthood* 3:5 [A.D. 387]).

Schedule of Events: September-October 2008

Tue Sep 2 Executive Meeting, 7:30pm-10pm, U Room
Thu Sep 11, Business Meeting, 8pm-10pm, Youth C.
Sat Sep 13 Installation Dinner, 6pm-10pm, Trumpet
Thu Sep 25 Social (Speaker), 6pm-10pm, DCC
Sun Sep 28 Parish Picnic

Tue Oct 7 Executive Meeting, 7:30pm-10pm, U Room
Thu Oct 9, Business Meeting, 8pm-10pm, Youth C.
Oct 11-13 Columbus Day Activities
Sun Oct 19 Coffee & Donuts, 8am-1pm, Trumpet
Tue Oct 21 Open House, 7:30-10pm, DC 4 & 6
Thu Oct 23 First Degree, 7:30-10pm, DC 4 & 6



The return of the prodigal son - Rembrandt

"The Blue Mantle" is a publication of Knights of Columbus, Mater Dei Council No. 9774, Rockville, MD. It is an unofficial publication and does not represent official opinion of the Knights of Columbus. It is published monthly.



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Mater Dei Council # 9774
P.O. Box 10237
Rockville, MD 20849-0237

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Suburban MD
Permit No. 2302

September 2008
