



# The Blue Mantle



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

**February 2009**  
**Lent**

## Knights of Columbus Mater Dei Council

### Inside this issue:

GK's Message	1
DD's Report	2
GAS, Tootsie, Blood	3
Lobby, Dues, Speaker	4
Contacts, Calendar	5

### Pope on Possession & Charity

According to the teaching of the Gospel, we are not owners but rather administrators of the goods we possess: these, then, are not to be considered as our exclusive possession, but means through which the Lord calls each one of us to act as a steward of His providence for our neighbor. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, material goods bear a social value, according to the principle of their universal destination (#2404)

In the Gospel, Jesus explicitly admonishes the one who possesses and uses earthly riches only for self. In the face of the multitudes, who, lacking everything, suffer hunger, the words of Saint John acquire the tone of a ringing rebuke: *"How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help?"* (1 Jn 3,17). In those countries whose population is majority Christian, the call to share is even more urgent, since their responsibility toward the many who suffer poverty and abandonment is even greater. To come to their aid is a duty of justice even prior to being an act of charity.

Pope Benedict XVI, Oct 30, 2007

### GK's Message

My Brothers All:

February is the shortest month of the year, but (with October) it is one of the two biggest months for Mater Dei Council in the Fraternal Year.

After we recover from Super Bowl Sunday on February 1st, we have our first

Inova Blood Drive of 2009 on Saturday, February 7th, from 9:00AM-1:00PM in the Trumpet Room. If you haven't given blood in a while, I highly recommend that you give Inova a try. I found the Inova staff to be friendly, courteous, and efficient. I was in-and-out the door in about half the time that I'm used to. If you are interested in giving blood, please sign up with Mike Donahue, our Blood Drive Coordinator.

On the evening of February 7th, starting at 6:00PM, Mater Dei Council hosts the annual Tootsie Roll Awards Dinner. During the 2008 Tootsie Roll Campaign, the 19 Councils in Montgomery County collected over \$51,000 in donations. Mater Dei Council led the way with over \$12,000 collected. At the Tootsie Roll Dinner, representatives from all 19 Councils will be in attendance. We will hand out awards to 17 different Montgomery County Charities at this dinner. All of the Montgomery County Councils will bring their banners to line the walls of the Trumpet Room, and the charities will bring posters to place on the stage. So far, we have received con-

firmation from the Maryland State Secretary Peter Davio, State Programs Director Dan Ward, and State Council Programs Director Joe Feakes (all Montgomery County Knights) that they will attend the dinner. Mater Dei Council has reserved two tables for this dinner, and every Mater Dei Council Knight is invited to the dinner. Hope you can make it.

The 2nd week of February is the 2009 Garage-to-Attic Sale on Saturday, February 14th. We will have our final Garage-to-Attic Sale meeting on Tuesday, February 10th. Thursday, February 12th, at 8:00PM, we will begin setting up the rooms. On Friday, February 13th, we begin receiving and setting up donated items, and on Saturday, starting at 8:00AM for the early birds, we have our sale. If you would like to help out, please contact DGK Don Titzman.

Please join me in congratulating Fr. Carlos Benitez, Maurice Brice, Marcellino Lopez, and Walt McKee for receiving their 3rd Degrees last

month.

On March 22nd the annual 4th Degree Exemplification will take place at the University of Maryland University College. Last month, the Faithful Navigator of the Sullivan Brothers Assembly, Joseph Murphy, addressed Mater Dei Council about the upcoming 4th Degree. If you are interested in receiving your 4th Degree, please contact either PGK

Wil Adams or PGK Larry Boesch. They will be more than happy to give you details about the 4th Degree.

Congratulations to Ted Tate for being the Knight of the Month for January. Ted Tate is very active in our Council and at St. Raphael's Church. In December, Ted helped out with cooking at the Christmas Party. In January, he helped out with the annual Free-Throw Competition at The

Heights School. At St. Raphael's, Ted sets up the church and sacristy for the Saturday masses. He is also a lector at the Sunday masses.

Finally, here's a second reminder to pay your annual dues to John Frey if you haven't already done so.

Fraternally,  
Bob McCaffrey, GK  
Mater Dei Council 9774

## DD's Report



By E. Roberto Ibáñez,  
DD #18

My brothers all,

I write this message while the area is hit with a very cold spell. When you read this, both Inauguration Day and the March for Life will be a memory. I hope many of you were able to join thousands from all around the nation to march in defense of those without voice: the babies still in their mothers' womb. There are many other Pro-Life activities offered by our Councils and by the Order throughout the year. Please, please, attend as many as possible. Show your support for Life Affirming issues. Call or write your Representatives in Congress showing your views in these matters. We must fight against the Culture of Death; LIVES depend on it, literally!

January was busy with other activities as well; within our District, Rock Creek Council deserves a special word of recognition. Their very active Membership and Recruitment committees allowed them to hold TWO 1st Degree exemplifications, on the 8th and 13th, thus welcoming 21

new members to the Order. The Council also hosted our District's "Unity Team" for the exemplification of the 2nd Degree for 21 candidates on Friday, January 9. Finally, a State 3rd Degree Team exemplified that Degree on the 16th, bringing 45 members into full knighthood. It requires a lot of preparation and planning to accomplish this and I am pleased to congratulate and thank Rock Creek for a job well done. They made our District proud!

On February 7th, the Councils of Montgomery County will hold the annual Tootsie Roll Awards Dinner in the Trumpet Room at St. Raphael's. At that time the Councils will award the more than \$48,000 collected within the County to the various organizations that support citizens with developmental disabilities. This is an exceptional event which demonstrates the best of being Knights. If you have not attended it in the past I urge you to come this time and be proud to belong to our Order. Here I must congratulate and thank Mater Dei Council and Grand Knight Bob McCaffrey for their leadership in this annual event.

Another rapidly approaching deadline is March 1st, the last date to present applications for the various high school and college scholarships offered by the Maryland State Council of the Knights of Columbus. If you or your children are interested, contact

your Grand Knight. More information and application packets can be found at <http://www.kofc-md.org/state/committees/scholarships.asp> or by writing to:

Scholarships,  
Maryland State Council,  
Knights of Columbus,  
10815 Stang Road,  
Owings Mills, MD 21117.

The Supreme Council offers other scholarships as well, you may obtain more information by going to their web site at <http://www.kofc.org/un/about/contact/scholarships.cfm>

Finally, March 6th brings the annual Fourth Degree Exemplification for the Archdiocese of Washington District. If you are a 3rd Degree member and have taken your 1st Degree at least one year ago, you qualify to become a Sir Knight. Please consider joining the patriotic arm of the Order.

And so, while we wait for Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent on February 25, let's look at that friend or relative, that good Catholic man we know, and ask him to join us for an experience of a life time. Sign a new member to our Order!

Fraternally,

*E. Roberto Ibáñez, PDK*  
*District Deputy No. 18*  
*"We are Called to Serve"*

Greetings Fellow Knights,

As we continue to prepare for our 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Garage Attic Sale, we are requesting volunteers to assist in the effort. The GAS is one of the largest events held by the council each year. In an effort to make this year's event a success, we are asking for your assistance. Several of the departments could still use volunteers and as always we can use plenty of help after 3pm on the cleanup crew. If you can help, please attend one of the meetings, contact me via email or call 830.583.5166. The following is schedule of events:

# Garage Attic Sale

- GAS Meeting Wednesday, January 28 at 7:30
- Final GAS Meeting Tuesday, February 10 at 7:30. **Please Attend.**
- Council Business Meeting setup for GAS Thursday, February 12 at 8pm
- GAS Collection & Setup Day 8am – 8pm – Complementary Lunch and Dinner
- GAS Sale Date - 9am – 3pm (Cleanup starts at 3pm must be completed by 5pm)

Don J. Titzman  
Deputy Grand Knight  
Mater Dei Council

## **Volunteer Some Garage-Space for a Few Days?? (For GAS, early-delivery stuff)**

For this year's GAS, we have as yet found NO place in which to store those donated items, particularly larger things like furniture, which the donor cannot deliver without our help and where, for whatever reason, the donor also cannot be on hand for our pick-up service on 13<sup>th</sup>. Without a temporary storage-place for such donations we will simply have fewer donated goods to sell, and especially a smaller array of furniture. (short-term commercial space is too expensive, and too distant) So, it will be much appreciated if perhaps two or three Brothers could let us use a portion of their garage-space (if & as needed) for just a few days immediately prior to GAS. Whomever could volunteer to help our GAS in this way, please call Paul Schunke 301-762-8969.

## **Annual Tootsie Roll Dinner - February 7**

The Tootsie Roll Dinner will be held on Saturday February 7th in the Trumpet Room beginning at 6:00 PM. All the Councils in Montgomery County will attend to distribute the funds collected during the 2008 Tootsie Roll Campaign to many worthy local organizations that help individuals with intellectual disabilities. Representatives from the honored charities will be on hand to receive their awards from their council sponsor. If you participated in the Tootsie Roll Campaign, this is an excellent chance to see how your hard work pays off. All are invited to this special event. The cost will be \$20 per person and will be collected at the door. Please come and be inspired by the stories of how your simple labor has helped those less fortunate. If you plan on attending please RSVP the Grand Knight and Chair for the Tootsie Roll Dinner, Bob McCaffrey (301) 251-5225.

## **Blood Drive**

The next Red Cross blood drive sponsored by the K of C will be held in the Trumpet Room Saturday, February 7, 2009 from 9 am to 1 pm. Donors are urgently needed and should make appointments by calling Michael Donahue at 202-821-3046 or emailing [mpdonahue@comcast.net](mailto:mpdonahue@comcast.net)

Volunteers are also needed to staff the appointment table before and after masses February 1, to help out the morning of the drive and to make solicitation and reminder phone calls. Volunteers can sign up by calling or emailing the above number or address.



## Maryland Catholic Conference Lobby Night

Worthies,

*More than once I have heard that it is difficult to find a "doable" Pro-Life activity. Well, here is a chance for something rather easy, especially if those who either have the time, or are able and willing to take the time to do it.*

*As you can read by the notes below from Ms. Nancy Paltell of the Maryland Catholic Conference, and of PSD Phil Asplen, the **Lobby Night** at the Maryland State Legislature in Annapolis, is normally of the utmost importance, and more so this year with the several proposals looming in the Pro-*

*Life horizon. Some legislation could erase the work and toil of thousands, over three decades... in one swift move.*

[Editor: Lobby Night is Monday, February 16 (Presidents' Day) from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Annapolis. To register, or for more information to go [www.mdcathcon.org](http://www.mdcathcon.org) or call 410-269-1155 / 301-261-1979]

*By attending the event, your members will become acquainted with Annapolis and what happens there, and not only bring that information back to your councils... but will allow these individuals to present their view directly to the people who will be responsible for proposing, passing or stopping legislation there. I cannot over-emphasize the*

*importance of this event.*

*Please pass the information at your council meetings, print the enclosed flyer and post it at your meeting place, and everywhere you are authorized to do so.*

*Can you even imagine what impact would have the presence of 1,000 or better yet, 2,000 Catholic lobbyists that night?*

*May our Blessed Mother help you make a prayerful decision.*

Faternally,

*E. Roberto Ibáñez, PJK*

*District Deputy No. 18*

*"We are Called to Serve"*

## A Word from your Financial Secretary

Brothers, it is that time again for annual dues. Bills were mailed out at the end of November and there has been a good response to date. If you have not paid yet, I would urge you to do so at your earliest opportunity, your 2008 membership card is good until the end of March. Regular dues remain at \$40.00, \$15.00 for those under 25, \$9.00 for Honorary members, and \$0.00 for Life members. This year the council is being assessed \$3.00 per regular member (Honorary and Life are excluded) for Supreme's Culture of Life Fund and that is reflected on your statement as well. If you have misplaced your membership bill, please do not hesitate to contact me for either a replacement or your balance due.

John J. Frey, F.S.  
Mater Dei Council, No. 9774  
[kofcjfrey@comcast.net](mailto:kofcjfrey@comcast.net)  
(301) 424-3386

## Bringing Wellness into Your Home

Is your home a healthy home? Are you getting "poisoned" inside your own home? Are you protecting yourself and your family members from household toxins? Learn about areas of wellness that you can control. Find out about easy and affordable steps to make your home safe and "green."

On Thursday, 26 February 2009, at 8:00 PM at the Mater Dei Council 9774 of the Knights of Columbus social meeting we are having a wonderful presenter, Suja Ali, a parishioner from St. Elizabeth's Church in Rockville. She is an excellent, interesting presenter with much practical information on how to improve the healthiness of the atmosphere in your home. She includes recipes for safe and inexpensive cleaners that can be made at

home to replace toxic ones. She provides an extensive resource list of government and association websites you can consult regarding health and safety.

The Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) connects 150 chemicals commonly found in our homes to allergies, asthma, birth defects, cancer and psychological disorders.

According to the EPA, most homes have airborne concentrations of hazardous chemicals that are TWO to FIVE TIMES HIGHER indoors than outdoors.

Come, she is most interesting and has a practical presentation.

This is a social meeting, so encourage your wife, children and friends to come. Refreshments will be provided.

## KEY CONTACTS

### GRAND KNIGHT

Robert McCaffrey, 301-251-5225  
[bmacc38@yahoo.com](mailto:bmacc38@yahoo.com)

### DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT

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This year, make a resolution to bring Gospel values to the public square.

## Lobby Night 2009

Monday, February 16 (Presidents' Day)

3 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Annapolis

To register, or for more information:

[www.mdcathcon.org](http://www.mdcathcon.org)

410-269-1155/301-261-1979

"For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love."  
*(2 Timothy 1:7)*

## Schedule of Events: February — March 2009

Tue Feb 3, Executive Meeting, 7:30pm-10pm, U Room

Sat Feb 7, Blood Drive, 9am-1pm, Trumpet

Sat Feb 7, Tootsie Roll Dinner, 6-10pm, Trumpet

Thu Feb 12, GAS Set up, 8-10pm, DC 4&6

Fri Feb 13, GAS Set up, All Day, Trumpet & DCC

Sat Feb 14, Garage to Attic Sale, 8am-3pm, Trumpet & DCC

Wed Feb 18, McNamara Chapter Meeting, 8-10pm, Fletcher Council Largo

**Wed Feb 25, Ash Wednesday — Fast & Abstinence**

Thu Feb 26, Social w/ Speaker, 8-10pm, DC 4&6

Tue Mar 3, Executive Board, 7:30-10pm, Upper Rooms

Thu Mar 12, Business Meeting, 8-10pm, Youth

Wed Mar 18, McNamara Chapter Meeting, 8-10pm, Mater Dei Council

Sat Mar 21, Anniversary Dinner, 6-10pm, DC4&6

Sun Mar 22, 4th Degree Exemplification, TBD, UMUC

Thu Mar 26, Our Lady of Mercy Open House, 8-10pm, OLOM

Sun Mar 29, Founder's Day Mass, 3pm, Holy Trinity Council

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