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COUNCILAIRS

Bel Air Council 4714

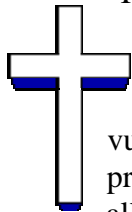
23 Newport Drive, Forest Hill, MD 21050



Initiated Dec 1958

February 2008

Chaplain's Message



This month we continue on with the fourth major theme of Catholic Social Teaching - the preferential option for the poor. The moral test of every society is how it treats its most vulnerable members. It means that our laws, practices, and attitudes should reflect a love for all people, especially those who do not have sufficient means to care for themselves. Jesus' message brought good news to the lowly, the poor, and the disadvantaged. To have the attitude of the poor is to possess the kingdom of heaven. Pope Benedict said that the preferential option for the poor reminds us that Christ became poor for us "to enrich us with his poverty." Even though we were poor, Christ still came to save us.

Some nations support only the very rich and powerful, and have established systems which divide people along economic lines. Our nation's guarantee of equal protection means that we all have the same protection of the law regardless of our economic status. Seeing how we treat the poor is a good measure of our own attitudes. If we think that the poor are beneath us, then we have placed ourselves above them. If we think that all the poor have simply failed to care for themselves, then we have judged them and missed Christ's message. Our attitude should be: if the poor are deprived, then we are all deprived. Giving the poor preference is not easy. When we think of making charitable donations, we can suddenly think of many reasons why we need to keep our money and why someone else doesn't need or deserve it. When we are asked to part with something we think we have earned and deserve, especially money, then we find out what our true depth of charity is.

We are often inclined to think that wealthier is better than poverty. Pope John Paul II even finds biblical support for this thinking. He states "In the Old Testament we often see the common human conviction that wealth is better than poverty and wealth is the just reward for the upright and God-fearing person. (Psalm 112: 1, 3). He notes that "Poverty was even thought to be a punishment for those who rejected the instruction of wisdom (cf. Prv 13: 18)." The poor were subjected to harsh treatment which lead

some to think that they were deprived of the protection of God. Proverbs 13:18.

But God identifies Himself as the protector of the poor. "You shall not afflict any widow or orphan. If you do afflict them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry (Ex 22: 22-23; cf. Prv 22: 22-23; Sir 4: 1-10). To defend the poor is to honor God, Father of the poor. Generosity to them is therefore justified and recommended (Dt 15: 1-11; 24: 10-15; Prv 14: 21; 17: 5)."

No wonder people were shocked to hear Jesus proclaim good news to the poor, who were thought to be excluded from and beyond the reach of God. In the parable of the great feast, the poor, the blind, and the lame are invited to the banquet. The poor are treated the same as the rich. Those who were thought to be excluded are now invited. Mary's Magnificat proclaims the heart of God -"He has filled the hungry with good things and the rich he has sent away empty." The rich held themselves to be self-sufficient and beyond the need for God.

The Knights follow the heart of Christ in focusing their attention on the poor. Any organization which focuses inwardly on its members only cannot grow. For 125 years, the Knights of Columbus has grown because it has supported programs for the poor. Its focus has been on serving others. The Knights continue to increase in membership because the heart of the Knights is to follow the heart of Christ to serve, particularly the unborn who are the most vulnerable in society. As the very poor, the unborn have no vote except ours. The Knights offer their support to those who have no ability to voice their concerns. The poor and the vulnerable will always be a part of the Knights because the poor are a part of the heart of Christ.

This Lent, let us be more aware of simple acts of charity, especially those opportunities we encounter in daily life. Giving helps us find who God created us to be.

Deacon Greg Rapisarda

Grand Knight's Message

It feels as though we just came out of holiday mode and here we are entering another major holiday season. With Ash Wednesday in early February Easter is coming sooner this year. It seems too soon after celebrating the birth of Christ to be commemorating his crucifixion and death. Let us make our hearts pure in preparation for this holy season.

Thank you to the members of the First and Second Degree teams who gave up a Saturday to travel to Bishop Becker Council for the exemplifications on January 12. The First Degree took place in the morning followed by a lunch provided by host Council Bishop Becker. Immediately following lunch the Second Degree was exemplified. In attendance for the First Degree were 8 new brother Knights from various districts throughout Maryland, one of which was from Bel Air Council and 10 members were on hand to take their Second Degree. Congratulations to the new Knights on joining one of the finest fraternal organizations in the world.

To those individuals who were unable to attend the Degrees on January 12 take heart, the next scheduled First Degree is February 5 at Bel Air Council. Then on March 10 there will be a Second Degree also at Bel Air Council. The taking of these two degrees will make a candidate eligible for the Third Degree at Cardinal Gibbons on Friday March 14. Any member wishing to take any of the above Degrees should contact the Financial Secretary or the Grand Knight.

First Degree Members wishing to take their second degree should mark their calendar for March 10 at 7:30 pm. That is the date of the next Second Degree at Bel Air Council. This will make you eligible for the Third Degree later the same month at Cardinal Gibbons Council on March 14. Any First Degree members wishing to take their Second Degree need to contact the Financial Secretary or the Grand Knight.

Second Degree Members mark your calendar for Friday March 14, which is the date for the closest Third Degree to Bel Air. The Degree will be exemplified at Cardinal Gibbons Council. If the March date does not fit your schedule another Third Degree is scheduled for Dundalk Council on April 12. Second Degree members wishing to take their Third Degree need to contact the Financial Secretary or the Grand Knight.

Third Degree Members wishing to take the Fourth Degree your opportunity is drawing near; April 5 in Frederick there will be an exemplification of the Fourth Degree. Contact any member of the Fourth Degree for your application.

While on the subject of Degrees, the Council is seeking members interested in becoming a part of the First Degree team. There is one speaking part and several non-speaking parts open. If enough members express an interest in speaking parts back ups would not be turned down. Contact the Grand Knight if you are interested in becoming a part of one of the best teams in the State.

The District Warden is also working on filling some openings on the Second Degree team. Like the First Degree team there are both speaking and non-speaking parts available. Contact the Grand Knight if you are interested in becoming a part of this team.

There is no better way to welcome a new member into our Order than to perform a flawless degree, consider giving your time and talent.

Members wishing to submit resolutions to the 110th annual Maryland State Convention have until March 17 to submit them to the State Council. Resolutions must follow the established format and be read on the Council floor prior to submittal.

Members attending the 110th annual Maryland State Convention should register if they plan on participating in any of the activities during the Convention. See the GK for a registration form or download a copy from the State Council web site. Registrations received after April 15 will be assessed a late fee. Registration fees go to offset the Maryland State Council Convention expenses.

Remember: It is together we can achieve great things.

Thomas Classon, Grand Knight

teclasson@comcast.net (410) 838-0378



District Deputy Message

Thank you to all the Grand Knights and the Deputy Grand Knights who attended the Mid Term Meeting on Jan 5th. The meeting was very informative with a lot of useful information discussed by the presenters. Attendance at these meetings is an excellent way to get to know the state officers as well as the individuals in charge of the various state programs. The ladies enjoyed a tour of the Shrine of St. Anthony located in Ellicott City, a Neil Diamond impersonator and lunch at Dundalk Council. The day was concluded with a Pro Life Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Fullerton and a sit down dinner at Cardinal Gibbons Council.

A First and Second Degrees were hosted by Bishop Becker Council on Jan 12th at their Council home. Bishop Becker is in the process of selling their council home and these will probably be the last degrees held at this location. The 1st Degree was conducted by a joint team made up of members from Havre de Grace, Bel Air and Corpus Christi Councils and the 2nd degree was conducted by the District 16 team. A total of eight new Knights received their First Degree while 11 Knights advanced to the 2nd Degree. Both Degree teams performed outstandingly and are congratulated for a job well done. The Councils of District 16 extend their appreciation to Bishop Becker Council for hosting the Degrees and for providing lunch and refreshments for all in attendance.

By now, the Blitz program should be in full swing at all councils. This is a great opportunity to recruit new members for your councils. Work with your parish to obtain a Blitz station at every Mass. Keep in mind that only 2% of eligible Catholic men are members of the Knights of Columbus. Consequently, your parish is rich with potential members and the Blitz program will give you access to these potential members. Let's offer every eligible Catholic man the opportunity to become a Knight.

Keep in mind that the results of your Blitz efforts are due to the District Deputy by Mar. 29th. The DD must provide a consolidated district report to the State Membership Chairman by Mar. 31st. In turn, his report is due to Supreme by Apr. 2nd.

With God's Blessing We Will Continue to Live Our Faith
Vivat Jesus

Ross Liberati, DD District #16

Fraternal Benefits

“You Never Know”

A brother knight called me to discuss Knights life insurance -- it turns out the Knights' high dividend rate on his Knights life insurance was doing better than his state pension.

We had a meeting and he decided to purchase more life insurance. He was more interested in the cash value that would accumulate, and not so much in the immediate death benefit. As it turns out, this brother Knight was diagnosed with bone cancer 17 days after his new policy was delivered. At this point, his “cash value policy” became a death benefit policy. Unfortunately, he passed away six painful months later and the Knights paid this valuable \$100,000+ policy to his widow. Since the brother Knight did not know he had bone cancer when I delivered his policy, we paid the claim.

As a result, his widow had money to pay off the mortgage and help with her retirement. In other words, the widow keeps her and her children's home and the stress of finding enough money for day to day expenses was alleviated. After all, losing your spouse and parent is stress enough.

I am an advocate for your wife and children when the unforeseen happens. That's what is important ... because you never know. God bless!

Edward O'Keefe, CLU, ChFC

edward.okeefe@kofc.org (410) 569-6141

Sick and Deceased

Please remember in your prayers all the Brothers, Ladies, Family Members and Friends who are experiencing serious health problems at this time, especially:

Brothers: Richard Barkkume; Jack Bauernschub; Bernie Classon; William Collins; Ross Liberati; Paul Manager; Joe Rink; Jerry Shoul, and Vernon West.

Ladies: Olga Barkkume; Jean DiAngelo; Kitty Didio; Juliette Drouin; Owena Liberati; Marie Manager; Barbara Staniewicz, and Martha West.

Family Members and Friends: Mildred Herold's great-granddaughters, Sophie and Anna Belle; Helen

Michels, wife of Robert Michels; John Spampinato, brother-in-law of Francis Stallings, and John Wills, grandson of Betty Bourgeois. Joseph Glenowiecki, brother of Mary Jane Zarachiwicz; Adolph Puszcz, father of brother Peter Puszcz who is presently on his death bed.

Deceased Members, Ladies, Family Members and Friends: May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Make the Rosary an integral part of your life. Pray the Rosary each day. For the Brother Knights who attend the Business Meeting, please join us at 7:30 pm prior to the meeting. We will join together to honor Our Blessed Mother by the recitation of the Holy Rosary.

If you know of anyone who is in need of our prayers, please get in touch with me.
Victor V. Ferrara (410) 569-4171

Programs

Program Director Notes

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV

Giving, it is what Catholic Gentlemen think about as Valentine's Day approaches. What can I give to my wife or girlfriend to show her how much I care and to tell her thank you for the blessings she has given?

Giving, it is displayed in the service that Knights give to their churches and family, to a program or event in the areas of community, council, and youth. It is the Friday evenings that our Bingo workers serve, or a commitment to the Degree team. I want to thank everyone who has given their time, talent, and treasure to support your programs this fraternal year.



Giving, serving, it is a way of life for some of our Knights: anyone serving our country in the Armed Forces, or as a federal, state, or local employee. I want to give a special thanks to some of our members who currently live their life serving, giving back to their community; Jonathan Vanden Eynden, USAF; Bob Stone, Air Guard Chaplain's Assistant and Sheriff; Sean Kahler, Sheriff. Thank you all for your self-less service, God bless.

If there is anything you would like the Council to consider hosting or a service you're interested in providing, I am listening. Please contact me as your program director:

Stephen Conley knightsfc@gmail.com (443) 417-7538

Council Activities

50th Anniversary Gala

50th Anniversary Gala: Planning is underway. A session to develop ideas and find people willing to help out will be held at 7:15 PM on January 29, just prior to the social meeting. If you are unable to attend that meeting, please consider filling out the survey found in this issue of the Councilairs and return it to Dick Belmonte by the February social meeting on February 19.

Dick Belmonte, Co-chair, 50th anniversary gala, rbbelmon@gmail.com (410) 838-6329

Club Steward Message

If you are interested in being a bartender at our council home you may attend the next Techniques of Alcohol Management (TAM) class to be held at our council on Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Call Jerry for more information.

Do you have a club or organization that needs a place to meet? Your group can rent the council hall for as little as \$25 per meeting. Ask one of the Home Corporation officers.

Jerry Wagner, Club Steward (410) 638-6489

Youth Activities

To support the Council's focus of service to our Catholic community and to facilitate a closer working relationship with the John Carroll School, the Council would like to find a group of Knights or Knight's Ladies who are interested in the following service programs.

Knights or Knight's Ladies are invited to the Wednesday John Carroll chapel Mass (normally starting around 10:15 a.m.), and stay afterwards to assist with the monitoring of peak times in the cafeteria. This would enable faculty members an additional opportunity to establish connections between the students and adult members of the John Carroll family while providing a K of C presence in the school.

Another service opportunity is Knights or Knights Ladies to accompany groups of students to service activities. In either service effort interested members would have to participate in STAND training (required by the Archdiocese) in advance, as is required with all John Carroll volunteers who interact with the students. Please contact:

Tom Vierheller tvierheller@johnncarroll.org or
Stephen Conley knightsfc@gmail.com (443) 417-7538.

Family Activities

Congratulations to Steve and Cindy Conley for being selected as Family of the Month for January.

Terry Lijewski tlij@comcast.net (410) 879-5872

Community Activities

Perry Point

February is another of Bel Air Council's months to aid our veterans at Perry Point V.A. Hospital. District 16, which we are a part of, serves those who served. Most Councils in the District take turns in this program. The four Councils share the year and each one is assigned a month. Our months are February, June and October.

Starting on the 3rd of February, we will leave McDonalds on Route 1 and 24 at 8:00 AM and drive up together. Arrive earlier if you plan on having breakfast. As of the previous month last year, there were only a few patients that we helped. We have been told that there will be some consolidating of a few wards and that could give us an increase in the amount of patients to take to the chapel for Mass on each Sunday in February.

Please plan on joining us on one of the Sundays and be a part of this worthwhile program. If you have any questions, you may call:

Tom Sutera (410) 638-1096 or
Pat Dolan (410) 679-7058.

Senior Essay Contest

To all male and female citizens 60 years of age and older; tell us in a short essay, "What Person, Guideline, or Values Inspired You To Live Your Faith?" Submit typed

or computer printed essay on 8 1/2 by 11 inch, white, unlined paper. Word count is limited to 500 words. Submit it to the Maryland State Essay Chairman, Bernie Classon, no later than February 15, 2008. Put your name, address, and phone number on your submission. Participants need not be a Knight or a member of a Knight's lady's group. Your submission could be chosen the winner and announced at the State K-C Convention in Ocean City in May, 2008.

Ladies Korner

Happy New Year to all and wishes for a Blessed Year. Christmas Season is hardly over and Lent starts in two weeks. This past Sunday the priest remarked that we have a very early Lent this year so we can lose the Holiday pounds that much sooner. He is right about that.

The Ladies are not wasting any time getting ready for Lent. We are having a Retreat this March 1st at the Upper Room Retreat Center. Father Jesse will be our Retreat Master. Please join us for this wonderful chance to spend time with Our Savior. Sign up at the Social Meeting or call Natalie Boyd.

There will be several other events during the next few months. We are planning another Quarter auction this spring and a Birthday Luncheon in June. The men are planning a family picnic again this year and they also have a Bull Roast planned September 21st. The Ladies have Bob Evans scheduled December 8th. We are looking into other activities and we welcome all suggestions.

Our January Social Meeting is January 29th and we are asking each member to bring two Valentine Cards for the Vets at Perry Point.

I ask you to also remember all of the families that have been on our prayer tree this past year. Several of our families have gone through very hard times and some still are working things out. We keep them in our hearts and prayers.

In God We Trust!

Alicia Rappold, Knights Ladies President

(410) 879-0854

Dates to Remember

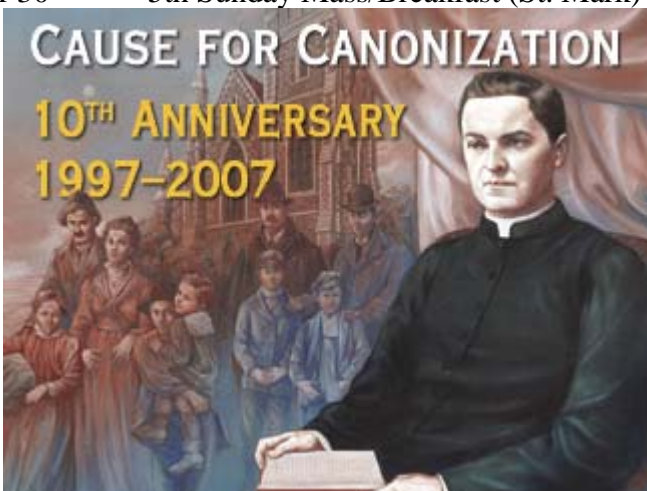
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|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Feb 1 | BINGO |
| Feb 3 | Perry Point Volunteer |
| Feb 4 | Monday Night Ballgame |
| Feb 5 | 1st Degree Ceremony |
| Feb 5 | Business Meeting |
| Feb 6 | Ash Wednesday |
| Feb 8 | BINGO |
| Feb 9 | Perry Point Volunteer |
| Feb 11 | Card Party 7-11 PM |
| Feb 12 | Primary Election |
| Feb 12 | KC Club Meeting |
| Feb 15 | BINGO |
| Feb 16 | Perry Point Volunteer |
| Feb 18 | Washington's Birthday |
| Feb 19 | Ladies/Social Meeting |
| Feb 22 | BINGO |
| Feb 23 | Perry Point Volunteer |
| Feb 24 | Cabaret |
| Feb 27 | Officers Meeting |
| Mar 3 | Monday Night Ballgame |
| Mar 4 | Business Meeting |
| Mar 7 | BINGO |
| Mar 10 | 2nd Degree Ceremony |
| Mar 10 | Card Party 7-11 PM |
| Mar 11 | KC Club Meeting |
| Mar 14 | BINGO |
| Mar 16 | Palm Sunday |
| Mar 18 | Ladies/Social Meeting |
| Mar 21 | Good Friday |
| Mar 21 | BINGO |
| Mar 23 | Easter |
| Mar 26 | Officers Meeting |
| Mar 28 | BINGO |
| Mar 29 | Founder's Day 125th Anniversary |
| Mar 30 | 5th Sunday Mass/Breakfast (St. Mark) |



Photo Credit: CNS photo/Tony Gentile, Reuters

Prayer for Pope Benedict XVI's
Apostolic Visit to the United States
April 15–20, 2008

Almighty Father, who pours forth blessings in abundance upon us, we humbly pray that you will inspire, guide and protect Pope Benedict XVI on his pastoral visit to the United States. Lord God, bless our Holy Father who comes as a messenger of peace and charity to all people of faith and good will. May his presence in the United States serve to build up the bonds that unite us who are each made in your image and likeness, and may his teaching and witness strengthen the faith of the People of God. Father, we lovingly entrust Pope Benedict's visit to the care of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Queen of the Americas. Through her prayers may he be preserved from all harm, and may he shine forth with the truth of the Gospel that he proclaims, and may his presence among us foster a renewal of the Church in our country. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Bel Air Knights of Columbus Council 4714 50th Anniversary Gala Survey

Bel Air Knights of Columbus Council will be holding a gala event to celebrate its first 50 years on Saturday or Sunday, January 17/18, 2009. Presently, we are getting cost proposals from Richlin Ballroom and Columbus Gardens for an upscale event similar to the annual Columbus Day Ball. We're leaning towards having the event on a Sunday afternoon to accommodate those who prefer not to drive at night and to incorporate a Sunday Mass into the overall event. Beyond that, most of the details have yet to be developed. I would like your ideas and help to make this event fun and meaningful to our members and the Knights Ladies.

Some areas to consider

| | | | | |
|----------|------------------------|---------------|----------|-------------|
| Theme | Decorations | Fundraising | Mementos | Logos |
| MC | Speakers | Presentations | Videos | Music |
| Honorees | 4 th degree | Invitations | Programs | Advertising |

Ideas for the gala event. Give a brief explanation.

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. I would be willing to help out by _____

Other Comments:

Your Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Please return to:
Dick Belmonte
110 N. Lynbrook Rd.
Bel Air, MD 21014-5418

Please return to:
rbbelmon@gmail.com

410-838-6329

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