



# The Explorer



The Monthly Newsletter of Fr.A. Leo Abendschoen Council 11615

Overlea/Rosedale, MD

Knights of Columbus

December 2018



## Jesus Is The Reason For The Season



### Grand Knight's Message

Brothers,

The second weekend in November Wayne and I attended three masses to recognize our altar servers.

They were given certificates of service and a gift card to Texas Roadhouse. Only two servers were not able to attend. This worked much better than last year.



On Nov. 12th we celebrated our memorial mass for our passed Brothers and Sisters. I want to thank Friar Romuald Meogrossi , Deacon Frank Zeiler, Joe Schaum and Walt Wankowski for making our mass a memorable occasion.

Dec. 1st starts out with "The Breakfast With St. Nicholas" and our bingo the same evening. We can all take a break the following weekend at our council Christmas Party.

*Emrick Spacek*

Grand Knight

### Upcoming Meetings

**Officer's Meeting** – There will be no Officer's Meeting in December.

**General Meeting** – Our only General Meeting for December will be on Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Annunciation Parish Hall. Hospitality will begin at 6:15pm.

### Assistant Chaplain's Message

Brothers,

Our thoughts focus on Christmas as we enter the month of December surrounded by all things Christmas. Do memories of Christmas past come to mind bringing back recollections of the anticipation and joy that you experienced as a child before this great feast? Do you recall your favorite presents and how you couldn't wait to show them off to your friends on Christmas day? It is good for us to sit quietly and let such memories wash over us. Hopefully these memories are pleasant ones.



Now most of us are into our senior years and sadly, our anticipation of Christmas is often not what it used to be because of health reasons and perhaps the loss of someone near and dear to us. But why should this be? Jesus, the best present ever, is coming to us in just a matter of weeks! He will come bearing gifts for us that are the key to life without end. Now is the time to sit quietly reading Sacred Scriptures and let Jesus and His dear mother Mary, flood our minds with visions of what is to come. Hopefully, the anticipation of Jesus' coming on Christmas will renew the joy and happiness in your life at Christmas and beyond.

I pray that Christmas will bring great joy to you and your loved ones.

God bless you,  
*Deacon Frank*

### ***Upcoming Degree Ceremonials Admissions (1<sup>st</sup>)***

Dec. 12 – St. Phillip Neri - Linthicum

### ***Formation (2<sup>nd</sup>)***

Dec. 11 – Pangborn - Hagerstown

### ***Knighthood (3<sup>rd</sup>)***

There are no Knighthood Degrees in December

### ***Happy Times***

The following members of our Council family are celebrating Birthdays in December:

- 9 - Stacey Coppock & Robert Gresdo
- 12 - Joan Fricke & Alidia Irene Yeager
- 18 - Rosanne Houck
- 19 - Andrea Spacek
- 23 - John Moran & Dana Moran

### ***Anniversaries***

6 – Harold & Carole Payne

Have Happy Times you would like to see published? Weddings, Baptisms, Births, Graduations, Promotions, etc? See a birthday or anniversary that's incorrect or not announced? Send them to Walt at [wwanko@comcast.net](mailto:wwanko@comcast.net)

### ***Sick & Shut-In***

Please remember Brothers Robert Priller and Ed Yeager, and sisters Joan Gresdo, Charlotte Schaum and Margaret Wyatt in your prayers. If you know of any Brother or Sister who is in need of our prayers, please contact Walt at 410-866-6546 or [wwanko@comcast.net](mailto:wwanko@comcast.net).

### ***1<sup>st</sup> Degree Team***

We are always looking for guys who are able to step in for someone who can't make it on a particular night. There are four major speaking parts, two minor speaking parts, and five non-speaking parts. Those who have speaking parts are required to memorize their words. If you are interested in being a part of the degree team, please contact Walt at 410-866-6546 or [wwanko@comcast.net](mailto:wwanko@comcast.net), and we will get your training started.

### ***Please Remember for When the Time Comes***

Whenever a Knight passes on to his Eternal Reward, he is eligible for a Rosary Call and a presentation is made to the family. His wife is also eligible for a Rosary call. But, the family of the deceased must request the Rosary Call. Please do not count on the church, the funeral director or anyone reading the newspaper to notify the council. The easiest way to obtain the Council Rosary Call is to contact the Grand Knight of the Council.

And if nothing else, please at least notify the council that the member has passed away.

### ***Wish You Were Here!***

Did you know you can win money just for showing up at a meeting? Every member corresponds to a number on the roster and if your number comes up, you win! There was no Attendance Prize winner drawn for November 12<sup>th</sup> because that was our annual Memorial Mass. But the Attendance Prize winner for November 26<sup>th</sup> was Anthony Ciampaglia, and he went home with some extra cash in his pocket. If you are not sick or a shut-in, why not try making a meeting once in a while? It could prove profitable.

***The Explorer***  
 Published monthly by the  
**Fr. A. Leo Abendschoen Council # 11615**  
 of the  
**Knights Of Columbus**  
 Meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday  
 at 7:00 pm at the  
**Church of the Annunciation**  
**5212 McCormick Road**  
**Baltimore, Maryland 21206**

**Grand Knight:** Emrick Spacek 410-687-0529  
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 Email: [wwanko@comcast.net](mailto:wwanko@comcast.net)

**Chaplain:**  
**Assistant Chaplain:** Rev. Mr. Frank Zeiler

**Time to Pay Up !**



Billings for annual dues will be mailed out just prior to Christmas. We ask that you remit your dues as quickly as possible. In addition to the bill, you will also find the annual

Survey of Fraternal Activity, and a request for personal information. The Survey allows us to report to Supreme the types of activities and the number of hours that each of you expend on an annual basis in helping your parish and your community. The request for personal information will provide us with information that will be used to update our Member Management database. It also gives us the information we need to publish our Happy Times. All personal information is kept confidential between the Financial Secretary and the Supreme Council. *Note: When providing Wedding Anniversary dates and Wife's Birthday dates, the entire Month, Day & Year are needed. Supreme's Member Management database does not accommodate partial information. If we don't have the month, day and year, we can't put it in.*

After we receive your annual dues, your 2019 Membership Cards will be mailed to you.

**Council Christmas Party**

LAST CALL ! Our annual Council Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Carson's



Creekside Restaurant, 1110 Beech Drive in Middle River. **Council Members and their wives are free of charge. Single members may bring one guest.** Additional guests may attend at a nominal fee of \$22 each. The meal will feature a buffet

and desserts, with soft drinks, coffee, hot tea & iced tea. A Cash Bar will be available. Reservations MUST be made so we know how many seats we will need. To reserve your place contact Shawn Ruby at 410-866-4932 or [sruby98@yahoo.com](mailto:sruby98@yahoo.com), **No Later Than Dec. 1st.** #

**BINGO**

Our next Monthly Cash Bingo will be held on **Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm** in the Annunciation parish hall. The \$500 Jackpot will be played for 56 numbers or less. This is our most important source of regular income and has been for the last 12 years.

4	26	43	59	70
9	30	41	55	68
7	23	32	50	63
8	20	31	60	75
13	18	34	52	69

The profits enable us to conduct many of our programs. As always, we could use additional help both in the Kitchen and on the floor. No experience is necessary. We will show you what to do.

Everyone working inside the kitchen should try to report by 4:00 pm. Everyone else needs to report by 5:00 pm or as close to it as possible. The Bingo starts at 6 pm and we are usually finished by 9:15 pm. So everyone gets home at a reasonable hour.

**Membership**

We need to continue to concentrate on drumming up some additional membership. Surely there must be someone else out there that we haven't talked to. Let's try to recruit as many new members as possible, but remember, no matter how many guys fill out a Form 100, it doesn't count until we get them to their Admissions Degree. And please make sure they know that. Talk to guys in church, at work, in your community, talk to their wives! We need to grow this council. If we do, we can do great things.

Keep in mind that any prospective member doesn't have to belong to any particular parish. The only requirement is that he be a practical Catholic male, 18 years of age or older.

Be ready to talk about the programs we get involved in, the contests we run for youth, the things we do for the parish, the things we do in the community, etc. And have a Form 100 and a pen ready when you do. If you need a Form 100, contact Financial Secretary Walt Wankowski at 410-866-6546 or [wwanko@comcast.net](mailto:wwanko@comcast.net).

## Church Programs

### **Religious & Seminarian Vocation Program**

Just a reminder that our Council is continuously collecting money for those studying for the priesthood and the religious life. If you'd like to contribute to the cause, you can place your donations into the transparent acrylic boxes that sit near the doors of Annunciation Church, or contributions can also be sent directly to Walt Wankowski, 5211 McFaul Road, Baltimore, MD 21206. Checks should be made payable to "Knights of Columbus 11615."



We thank you in advance for your generosity.

## Youth Programs

### **Altar Server Recognition**

We are happy to say that all but two of our Altar Servers were able to attend the respective ceremonies that were held at Annunciation church on November 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>. As each name was called, they received a Certificate of Appreciation and a \$25 Gift Card for Texas Roadhouse.



### **Keep Christ In Christmas Poster Contest**

Fr. A Leo Abendschoen Council 11615 is sponsoring our annual

"Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest



This contest is open to all school aged children grades one through eight. Posters will be judged in three categories: Age eligibility is determined by the age of the contestant as of November 1<sup>st</sup>.

1. Ages 5-7 (Grades K-2)
2. Ages 8-10 (Grades 3-5)
3. Ages 11-14 (Grades 6-8)

Posters should be 11 in x 17 in. may contain water colors, crayon, ink, or any combination. If pastels, chalk or charcoal are used, the poster must be laminated or covered with clear plastic. **Posters may not contain computer graphics, pictures from books, magazines, etc. or collages!**

[Each poster must be submitted with a Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest entry form on the back of the poster.](#)

All Posters will be judged using the following criteria:

A 100 point scoring system will be used to determine the winner.

**30 Points:** Slogan — How clearly is the theme presented?

**30 Points:** Visuals — How well do the visuals convey the message?

**40 Points:** Overall impact — How effective was the poster in capturing your attention and causing you to reflect on the topic?

Council Level Prizes:

- 1st place winners of each age group will receive a \$50 check, certificate and represent our council in the state competition.
- Second place winners will receive a \$30 check and a certificate of participation.
- Third place participants will receive a \$20 check and a certificate of participation.

The council deadline for this event is Saturday, December 1, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. Entries can be submitted to Jason Karolkowski at 1322 Chapel Hill Dr., Rosedale, MD 21237 or by calling 410-687-2738.

**Box Tops For Education**

Box Tops for Education may be placed in the plastic pouch attached to the council display in the back of Annunciation Church or you may mail them to Jason Karolkowski, 1322 Chapel Hill Drive, Baltimore, MD 21237. All box tops collected by our council are donated to St. Michael & Clement's School.

**Family Programs**

**Breakfast with Saint Nicholas**

Will be held on

**Saturday, December 1, 2018**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Church of the Annunciation  
Parish Hall**

There will be a hot breakfast for all who attend. Children will listen to a special Christmas story and have their pictures taken with St. Nick! Children will also have the opportunity to enter the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest during the event. The cost of the breakfast is \$15.00 for families of 3 or more or \$5.00 for individual tickets.



To assure that there is enough food, we ask that you pre-register for this event. Please complete the information on the flyer included in this newsletter, and return it in an envelope in the collection at Annunciation Church or to the Annunciation parish office by **Wednesday, November 28, 2018**.

Checks should be made payable to *K of C 11615*.

For more information, call Jason at 410-687-2738. You can also download the flyer from our council website at [www.kofc11615.com](http://www.kofc11615.com), or take one from the K of C display in the back of Annunciation church.

**Immaculate Conception**

Just a reminder that Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and is a Holy Day of Obligation.



**Pro-Life Programs**

**Pro-Life Rosary**

All members are invited to join in on the monthly Rosary for Life which is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at the Beltway Plaza Shopping Center, 7702 Belair Road in Fullerton. This shopping center houses an abortion clinic. The next date for this activity will be Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. We hope that more of you will consider joining in.



**46th Annual March for Life**

**Friday, January 18, 2019**

National Mall – 12th St.  
Washington, D.C



*Schedule*

**10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.** Ben Shapiro Live Podcast

**11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.** Musical opening with Sidewalk Prophets

**12:00 p.m.** Rally Program

**1:00 p.m.** March up Constitution Avenue to Supreme Court and Capitol Building

**3:00 p.m.** After finishing marching:

- Silent No More testimonies outside U.S. Supreme Court.
- Advocate for life to your Representative or Senators.
- Visit the March for Life Expo.

*Location*

The March for Life Rally will take place at noon at 12th St. on the National Mall, in between Madison

Drive and Jefferson Drive. Following the Rally, the March will begin on Constitution Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets at approximately 1:00 pm.

### **Travel Info**

Please use the Metro to arrive at the rally site. Recommend locations: Federal Triangle, Smithsonian, Metro Center. For metro info: <https://www.wmata.com/fares/smartrip/>. (Check out our March for Life map — [you can print off paper copies](#) OR [download the March for Life app](#).)

**Have your metro card easily accessible, before you enter the station.** Metro Stations are crowded during rush hour, and even more crowded on the March for Life, during rush hour. Keep in mind that in the Washington Metro system, you need to tap in and tap out of their fare gates. One way to alleviate long lines, and avoid the frustration of fellow metro riders is to have your metro card ready, in your hand, before you enter the line for the fare gate. Also you do not need to wait for the gates to close after the person in front of you walks through, just ensure you tap your card to the SmarTrip target and proceed through the gate.

### **Important Notes**

While walking, and riding the metro in D.C. **be respectful of residents and commuters.** Let's show the Nation's Capital how passionate and polite and respectful pro-lifers really are! Please read these 6 tips for riding the metro.

Do not leave trash or signs on the grounds of the National Mall, Supreme Court, or Capitol. This is our Nation's Capital and we should treat it with dignity and respect. If trash bins are full, carry your trash or sign with you until you find an available trash bin.

Do not engage with counter-protesters. Once again, be respectful of all people and stay focused on the cause of promoting and celebrating life, lovingly, prayerfully, and graciously.

## Community Programs

**Tootsie Roll Time** The council would like to thank all the members who volunteered their time to solicit donations for our tootsie roll drive this year. Through their dedication we were able to collect \$1024.74. The council kicked in an additional 26 cents to round out the figure to an even \$1025. Exceptional Enterprises thanks you very much as well.



### **Polar Bear Plunge**

The Knights of Columbus invite you to **volunteer to work** at the 2019 Polar Bear Plunge to benefit Maryland Special Olympics on **Saturday, January 26, 2019** at Sandy Point State Park in Anne Arundel County. This is a day-long event that many Knights across Maryland and their families and friends have been involved with for several years now. But you do NOT have to have any affiliation with the Knights to participate, and you do not have to stay for the entire day.



Once again we will need volunteers to assist with directing parking, food preparation, food and drink distribution, memorabilia sales, arcade game operation, etc. **No one is asking you to jump into the icy Chesapeake Bay.** However, yes, some of the volunteers, especially the ones who volunteer to help with the parking, may get cold. But it's for a good cause. And it is a "party" day; especially for young people. There are celebrities, contests, people dressed in costumes, and prizes. Never a dull moment. Bring your camera!

If you are at least 16 years old (required by law), can stand being outside in the cold for several hours and can stay on your feet for that amount of time, you are eligible to be a volunteer. It will cost you nothing to park, nothing get in, you will witness one of the greatest "party" atmospheres of the year, and a lunch will be provided. And if you get one of the good jobs, the time should pass quickly because you will be very busy.

For more information, contact Walt Wankowski at 410-866-6546.

## District Message

Brother Knights, we are approaching the end of another year, a year witch we again have served the Catholic Church our communities and family. We celebrated Columbus Day with the Columbus Day Ball and Parade for Thanksgiving we celebrated by gathering with family and sharing food. Now we gather again with family and friends this time celebrating Christmas sharing gifts and a joyful time.

Let's add something different by starting a new family tradition try this. As we celebrate with and for Our Lord Jesus Crist this Christmas.

Before opening gifts get those who are interested or willing to try something new have them one at a time tell three things that happened to them during this year that they know or believe were blessings. After you have herd each participants story and discussions that could come about, have them hold hands, give thanks to God. Thank him for all blessing you knowingly received and for those you unknowingly received.

You might be surprised, and see a person differently for the first time, giving this chance to see and understand a person better, You may even hear something that helps as you continue your life's journey.

Brother Knights my family and I pray that you and your family celebrate a very special and happy Christmas.

DD #28

*John Holley*

## 4<sup>th</sup> Degree News

The next meeting of the Archbishop Francis P. Keough Assembly will the annual Christmas Social which will be held on Tuesday, December 11th at 7:00 pm at Columbus Gardens. This is an Open Meeting, with families invited to attend.



## Chapter News

The next meeting of the Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights will the annual Chapter Christmas Party which will be held on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at St. Agnes Council # 4449, 2021 Frederick Rd., Catonsville, MD 21228, 7:00 PM

## Insurance News

*William J. Murray to lead Knights of Columbus Insurance Field Force and Marketing*



William J. Murray has been appointed as Senior Vice President, Agency and Marketing, effective September 14, 2018.

Bill began his career with the Knights of Columbus in 1978 after graduating from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. Throughout his career with K of C, he has served in several management positions in a variety of departments in the insurance business, to include Claims, Fraternal Services, New Business and Agency, before being promoted to Vice President of Specialized Products and Projects in Field Management in 1999.

Bill was later promoted to Vice President of Corporate Business Improvement and began working with the Executive Office of the Supreme Knights on a variety of corporate business improvement projects. In 2017, Bill was designated by the Board of Directors as Assistant Supreme Secretary.

In addition to his career with the K of C, Bill is past president of the Hartford Chapter, Society of Financial Service Professionals and is also past president of the board of directors of the Fraternal Field Managers Association.

Bill holds CLU, ChFC, FIC, FLMI and CLTC professional designations and is a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt. He is the past grand knight of and current member of 14664 at Divine Mercy Parish in Hamden, Connecticut and is the council's immediate past grand knight.

## State Council News

### ***Yahoo!***

The Maryland State Council sponsors a communication vehicle at Yahoo.com. Any Knight who has a computer, can sign up for it and it costs nothing. Among the items regularly passed on via the Yahoo site are notifications of illness and deceased members, upcoming activities at the local, State, and Supreme Level, access to information on State Programs, notifications of upcoming degree ceremonies, etc. To sign up for this service, simply go to <http://www.kofc-md.org/state1415/yahoo.asp> and then follow the instructions.

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### ***State Scholarship Opportunities***

#### ***State Scholarship Opportunities***

##### ***Maryland State Council High School Scholarship Programs***

The Maryland State Council of the Knights of Columbus is the sponsor of several High School scholarships for its members and for Catholic Students in general. Below is the complete information on these scholarships and information regarding eligibility for scholarship awards. Awards may be applied to tuition payments only. Application period is from October 1, 2017 to February 1, 2018. All applications must be received in their entirety by the Scholarship Committee no later than February 1, 2018. Scholarship information and application information is included below (preferred) or write to:

Maryland State Council  
Knights of Columbus Scholarship Committee  
PO Box 165  
Westminster, MD. 21158

##### ***The Frederick M. Gossman Memorial High School Scholarship***

Designed to assist members of the Knights of Columbus holding membership in councils within the jurisdiction of Maryland in paying tuition for their sons and daughters at accredited Catholic High Schools, two (2) grants of \$1,500.00 per year for up to four years, and one (1) additional grant of \$1,500.00 per year for up to four years funded by

the Maryland Knights of Columbus Insurance Advisors, will be awarded. Awards will be made on the basis of academic excellence, personal qualifications, and financial need. Continued support after the first year is contingent on continued academic success. The children of deceased members are also eligible, provided the member was in good standing at the time of death. Funds are applicable to tuition only. Application packet [MS Word](#) [PDF](#)

##### ***The William J. O'Brien Jr., Memorial Catholic High School Scholarship***

Three (3) grants of \$1,500.00 per year for up to four years will be awarded. Eligibility for a grant under this program is open to Catholic students who are residents of the State of Maryland. Affiliation with the Knights of Columbus is not required. However, children and grandchildren of a member of a Knights of Columbus council within the jurisdiction of Maryland are also eligible. Applicants must have been officially accepted at or must be students at accredited Catholic High Schools. Applications will be judged on academic excellence, personal qualifications, and financial need. Continued support after the first year is contingent on continued academic success. Funds are applicable to tuition only.

For more information and to download forms go to <http://www.kofc-md.org/state1617/committees/scholarships.asp>

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## Supreme Council News

### ***A Day in Paradise's Inferno***

*Jim Collins is Grand Knight for Council 7773 located in Paradise, Calif., an area that the Camp Fire wildfire has devastated. The wildfire is the **most destructive and deadliest in the state's history**, with almost 16,000 structures destroyed and claiming 79 lives. Nearly 700 people are still missing. Meanwhile, the wildfire has been 70 percent contained.*

*Collins' council has established the Arise and Rebuild Program in order to bring disaster relief to people affected by the blaze.*

*The following is an account of Collins' day on Nov. 19, 2018.*



Another challenging day in the Arise and Rebuild program for St. Thomas More Church and Knights of Columbus Council 7773, Paradise, CA. The plan was to start the day with daily mass at St. John's in Chico. On the way, a text caught my attention. Kitty Campbell needed a place to stay because she will lose her hotel loggings in a few days. Our Brother Knights had helped her pick olives in their small family olive grove a week before the fire. Her husband *and Brother Knight*, Larry, was losing his battle with cancer and could only watch. A few days after the harvest, Larry and Kitty fled the Camp Fire as their home was reduced to ashes. Then, safe in nearby Chico, Larry suffered a major stroke. When I visited Kitty in Larry's ICU room, she explained her plight with the hotel and that she hadn't heard if the olive grove was burned (it wasn't insured). I promised to find her a place, squeezed Larry's ankle and said a Hail Mary before heading to our temporary parish center in CSU Chico's **Newman Center**.

By 9:00, a Brother Knight from Council 13765, a parishioner, and a bi-lingual volunteer from Oakland had arrived to help return hundreds of calls from evacuees and possible donors. A while later our council's Advocate who had escaped the fire with only the clothes on his back conferred with me about the day's agenda and helped configure replacement laptops and cell phones. Our District

Deputy, who lost his home and vintage car in the fire, called to update the parish website to list ways to donate to the parish and council. Then our Lecturer and his wife joined us to sort donations for distribution. Our Brother Knight and Pastor, Fr. Godwin (he lost everything in the ashes of the rectory), dropped by to check on our progress and to minister to a drop in parishioner.

In the afternoon Brother Dave joined the laptop and cell phone efforts. He lost his only truck and trailer (home to himself and his two children) in the fire because he waited too long helping other evacuate. He asked about using the Newman Center's kitchen to prepare meals for his family and others who he had bonded with in an evacuation shelter. His eyes brightened when I told him a Brother Knight from Council 1137 was setting up RV spaces on a vacant lot owned by St. John's Parish. My thoughts returned to Kitty. If I could only find an RV for her to stay on the vacant lot. I called the Knight setting up the lot and he volunteered his fifth wheel for Kitty. This was an answer to a prayer, so I called Kitty. She thanked me then told me that her family was gathering by Larry's bedside because his breathing apparatus had been removed.

Back at my son's home around 5:00, my wife, Barbara, had prepared a fabulous meal for me and my son, Jeff. He joined us after a rough day supervising volunteers for Red Cross. Jeff gave me an update on local resources for our parishioners. I updated my list of Brothers who lost homes in the fire and prepared to send the latest version to Columbian Charities. We had just opened the overnight mail: 22 checks for \$3,000 each for those whose homes were burned. I prepared to send nine more Brothers' names for checks. Our council has 107 members on the books. If we can contact all of them, we expect that 80 percent will lose their homes. We also need to raise fund for those who lived in trailers and rentals who will not qualify for the \$3,000 checks. I am also raising money for the 80 percent of our 800 parishioners who are projected to join the list of destroyed homes victims.

Paradise has been compared to Hiroshima after the Bomb. It's not much of an exaggeration. My home

still stands, so I can help with the Arise and Rebuild program. We haven't been allowed to pick up anything from our home yet. We hope to be allowed a short visit by the end of November. Then it will be

a month or so before electricity, gas, and water will be restored, and we can adjust to life in a very toxic zone.

## *K of C Film Wins Emmy*

A Knights of Columbus produced documentary short was recognized at the 2017-18 Chicago/Midwest Emmy Awards.

The red carpet event, which honors regional Emmy winners in a wide range of broadcast and craft categories, was hosted by the Chicago/Midwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

The Emmy was awarded in the following category: Outstanding Achievement for Public Affairs/Current Affairs Programming Everyday Heroes: Warrior for Christ. The winning film was part of the "Everyday Heroes" series.



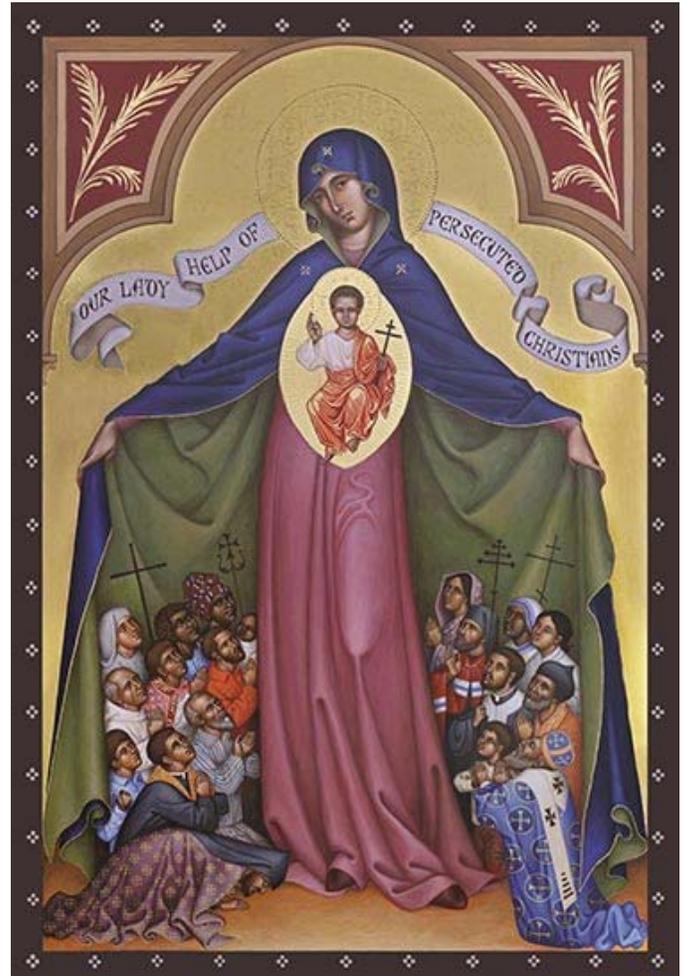
The video tells the story of U.S. Army Special Forces First Sergeant Sompaul Vorapanich has led men into the crucible of war. A founding member of St. Michael the Archangel Council located at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Sompaul also annually leads wounded warriors on a Knights of Columbus-sponsored pilgrimage to Lourdes.

The "Everyday Heroes" series spotlights remarkable Knights whose courage, faith and commitment to charity that embody the mission of the Knights of Columbus. The entire series can be found at [kofceverydayheroes.org/](http://kofceverydayheroes.org/).

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson was the executive producer on the documentary that was produced by David Naglieri, producer and media manager for the Knights of Columbus.

## *Knights Worldwide Are #FollowingMary*

Knights worldwide are using the hashtag #FollowingMary to spread devotion to the Blessed Mother while raising awareness for persecuted Christians in the Middle East.



During the Supreme Convention last August in Baltimore, the Knights of Columbus launched its 18th Marian Prayer Program—this year featuring an icon of “Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians,”

created by Italian artist Fabrizio Diomed. The icon was recently blessed by Pope Francis himself. Each state deputy will host an icon and share it with local councils throughout their jurisdictions. The icon will serve as the centerpiece for prayer services intended to raise awareness of the plight of Christians persecuted for their faith and to stand in prayerful solidarity with them.

As the icons travel on their individual journeys, we encourage Knights to track their experiences by posting photos to Twitter and Instagram using the hashtag #FollowingMary. The Supreme Council will share many of these photos on its own social media accounts in an effort to unite Christians around the world in prayer.

The prayer program is the latest in a series of efforts undertaken by the Knights of Columbus to aid those who suffer for their faith. Since its inception in 2014 the Christian Refugee Relief Fund has raised and distributed close to \$20 million to help feed and clothe needy families in the Middle East and to resettle and rebuild villages destroyed by ISIS.

### ***Who Started The Nativity Scene to Celebrate Christmas?***

According to Smithsonian.com (a secular organization)

Blame St. Francis of Assisi, who is credited with staging the first nativity scene in 1223. The only historical account we have of Francis' nativity scene comes from *The Life of St. Francis of Assisi* by St. Bonaventure, a Franciscan monk who was born five years before Francis' death.

According to Bonaventure's biography, St. Francis got permission from Pope Honorius III to set up a manger with hay and two live animals—an ox and an ass—in a cave in the Italian village of Greccio. He then invited the villagers to come gaze upon the scene while he preached about “the babe of Bethlehem.” (Francis was supposedly so overcome by emotion that he couldn't say “Jesus.”) Bonaventure also claims that the hay used by Francis miraculously acquired the power to cure local cattle diseases and pestilences.



The nativity scene's popularity took off from there. Within a couple of centuries, nativity scenes had spread throughout Europe. We don't know if people actually played Mary and Joseph during Francis' time, or whether they just imagined those figures' presence. We do know that later scenes began incorporating dioramas and life actors, and the cast of characters gradually expanded beyond Mary, Joseph and sweet baby Jesus, to sometimes include an entire village.

Nativity buffs will know, however, that the familiar cast of characters relied upon today—the three wise men and the shepherds—is not biblically accurate. Of the New Testament's four gospels, only Matthew and Luke describe Jesus' birth. Matthew mentions wise men, while Luke comments on shepherds. But nowhere in the Bible do shepherds and wise men appear together. What's worse, no one mentions donkeys, oxen, cattle or other farm yard friends in conjunction with Jesus' birth. But what would a nativity scene be without those staples? Luckily for all the kids cast as King #2 or random shepherd, some artistic interpretation is permitted.

Articles for the January edition of *The Explorer* must be received by Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Send all inputs to:

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### ***Calendar Reminders***

- December 1 – Breakfast with St. Nicholas – 9:30 am – Annunciation Parish Hall  
Monthly Cash Bingo – 6:00 pm – Annunciation Parish Hall
- December 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
Council Christmas Party – 12 to 3 pm - Carson’s Creekside
- December 10 - Council General Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm – Annunciation Parish Hall
- December 11 - 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly Christmas Social – 7:00 pm – Columbus Gardens
- December 13 - Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights Christmas Party – 7:00 pm – St. Agnes Council
- December 15 – Pro-Life Rosary – 9:00 am – Beltway Plaza Shopping Center, Fullerton
- December 25 – Christmas Day