



The Explorer



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

Overlea/Rosedale, MD

Knights of Columbus

February 2018

Grand Knight's Message

Brothers,

The Christmas decorations are being taken down and stored for next year. Only the good times with friends and family remain in our memories. Deputy GK Wayne Ciampaglia and I went to St. Michaels Church to recognize the winners of The Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest. The original designs and art work were exceptional this year.



The girl scouts of service unit 86 invited our council to participate in the Wreaths Over America ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Thanks for a very memorable afternoon.

The Annunciation soccer team is on a roll. Ended regulation play in 1st place and started the next set of games with a win. I seem to be getting interested I soccer.

Emrick Spacek

Grand Knight

Upcoming Meetings

Officer's Meeting – Monday, February 5th at 6:30 pm in the Annunciation parish Board Room.

General Meetings – Mondays, February 12th and 26th at 7:00 pm in the Annunciation Parish Hall. REMEMBER that Hospitality begins BEFORE the meeting at 6:15 pm.

4th Degree Exemplification

The next Exemplification of the 4th Degree will be held on Saturday, March 24th at the Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel in Ocean City. Full details can be found on pages 5 & 6.

Assistant Chaplain's Message

Brothers,

With the arrival of Ash Wednesday on February 14, we may be tempted to groan at the thought of entering the penitential season of Lent. The thought or mention of the word Lent often reminds us of Jesus' suffering and death and of our call to penance for our failings. A difficult time, yes, but it should also be a joyful time when we consider why Jesus suffered, died and rose from the dead. He did all these things because He loves us more than we can imagine and He wants us to be with Him now and forever. We need to do our part to cement this relationship through acts of charity and penance. As we journey with Jesus in this Lenten Season, concentrate, not on penance, but on establishing a love relationship with Jesus.



God bless you,

Deacon Frank

Upcoming Ceremonials

Admissions (1st) Degree

Feb. 6th – Pope John Paul the Great Council, Middle River

Feb. 21st – Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Council, Essex

Formation (2nd) Degree

Feb. 15th – Patapsco Council, Catonsville

Knighthood (3rd) Degree

Feb. 16th – Knights of Fatima Council, Highlandtown

Anyone wishing to take any degree must contact Financial Secretary Walt Wankowski so that the proper paperwork can be prepared.

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.

Please Remember for When the Time Comes

Whenever a Knight passes on to his Eternal Reward, he is eligible for both a Rosary Call and an Honor Guard. His wife is also eligible for a Rosary call. But, the family of the deceased must request it. Please do not count on the church, the funeral director or anyone reading the newspaper to notify the council. The easiest way to obtain both the Council Rosary Call and/or an Honor Guard is to contact the Grand Knight of the Council. He can relay the request for the Honor Guard to the Navigator of the Assembly.

And please, if you would like to have a Rosary Call and or an Honor Guard at your viewing, please make sure your family members are aware of this so they can give the Grand Knight a call.

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! Our Attendance Prize winner for the January 22nd meeting would have been Mike Witemore, Sr. If you are not sick or a shut-in, why not try making a meeting once in a while? It could prove profitable.

Time to Pay Up !



We still have a few members who have not yet paid their annual dues for 2018. Second notices went out on Jan, 17th. We ask that you remit your dues as soon as possible. Any member who did not get his dues notice should contact Walt Wankowski at 410-866-6546.

Happy Times

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

- 2 - Rev. Justin Ratajczak
- 3 - David Fabiszak
- 6 - Charles P. Franz Sr.
- 16 - Richard S. Houck
- 17 - Thomas A. Koviak
- 19 - Lynn Hilditch
- 20 - Barry Sewell
- 25 - Alfred Hilditch
- 28 - Frank Charvat

Anniversaries

- 19 - Michael & Cathy Schlepner

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

1st Degree Team

We are looking for alternate team members for our 1st Degree team. These include the six speaking parts and three non-speaking parts. If you would like to be part of our 1st Degree team, contact Walt Wankowski at 410-866-6546, and we will get your training started.

The Explorer
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Fr. A. Leo Abendschoen Council # 11615
 of the
Knights Of Columbus
 Meeting on the 2nd and 4th Monday
 at 7:00 pm at the
Church of the Annunciation
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BINGO

Our next Monthly Cash Bingo will be held on **Saturday, February 3rd 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 11 years.

B I N G O				
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.

We hope you will find the time to pitch in and help.

Membership

It's February and we still have not recruited any new members. Imagine if we could get just one guy to join. He might bring in another guy. 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.

And keep in mind that it's not enough to get them to fillout and sign the Form 100; we also need to get them to take their 1st Degree.

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 generally collect enough money to award \$500 per year to five different Franciscans.

We thank you in advance for your generosity.

Pro-Life Programs

Pro-Life Rosary

All members are invited to join in on the monthly Rosary for Life which is held on the 3rd 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, February 17th at 9:00 am. We hope that more of you will consider joining in.



Catholics in Annapolis

Catholics in Annapolis Night (formerly known as Lobby Night) will be held on Thursday, February 22, from 3:00 to 8:00 PM. This will be held at St. John Neumann Church in Annapolis. Free shuttles will take participants to the events.



Catholics in Annapolis Night gives Catholics the opportunity to promote laws that our bishops endorse, as well as the opportunity to oppose laws

that our bishops oppose. We do these by taking issues directly to our State Senators and Delegates.

Catholics in Annapolis Night is organized by the Maryland Catholic Conference, which fully represents our Maryland bishops in the Maryland Legislature.

You should sign up prior to participating in Catholics in Annapolis Night. This can be done online:

<http://www.mdccathcon.org/lobbysnight>

This website contains additional information as well. I encourage you to watch the following Catholics in Annapolis Night video (length 1:35):

"<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLL2jeXTSjA>"

Youth Programs

James E. Pierce, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund

Applications are now being accepted for the Jim Pierce Memorial Scholarship Awards. This scholarship was established to encourage the parishioners of Annunciation Church to send their children to St. Michael/St. Clement Mary Hofbauer School.

With the merger of St. Clements and St. Michael the Archangel (Overlea) schools now completed, the scholarship awards are now extended to both schools. Applications MUST be submitted by March 1st. Applications and other information may be obtained from the pouch in the K of C display in the back of Annunciation church or call Walt at 410-866-6546.

Annunciation Soccer

Our council will be holding a Spaghetti Dinner and Cash Bingo to benefit the Soccer Team sometime in April in the Annunciation Parish Hall. Details will be forthcoming.



District Message

The holidays are done, all is put away, and we enter the period that many would call the doldrums of the year. The weather isn't good and many of the usual activities are curtailed for that reason.

That being said, there is still plenty to do to get ready for the spring and the renewal of activity and the joy of new life.

If your council has not yet completed all the activity to make Star Council, now is the time to make that push. Your numbers this year have not been so good, and that will make things a little tougher. The Supreme Incentive is still there as they offer all councils making Star Council a \$4.50 per billable member rebate. That is a rather enticing incentive. You've been up to date on all your reports, so the only left is find and invite a good Catholic Gentleman the opportunity to join.

It is time for you to submit the names of your Family, Catholic Teacher, CCD Teacher, Police Officer, Fire Fighter, EMT, and Citizen of the Year to either Chairman Mike Clemens or Chairman Tom Reumont. Your Grand Knight should have the information sheets. I also have the required forms. Your nominations must be in the chairmen's hands by February 14, 2018.

The State is also offering a trip to Key West Feb 22-26 (a chance to beat some of this not so hot weather.) See the State Newsletter for details. June 5-15 will bring us a State Sponsored 10 night Alaskan Cruise. Again, see the State Newsletter.

Feb 14th brings us the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday (also Valentine's Day, kind of appropriate). April 1st culminates in Easter, the resurrection and what I consider the birth of the Catholic Faith. For the non-believers, we have April Fool's day. Funny how that works out.

Worthy Brother Knights – Tis not the time to rest but to keep pushing thru. Make the second half as productive as the first. Let's make this one to fulfil our mission to serve our parish and our community with our abilities to improve the lot for all. Be safe and look after one another.

Vivat Jesus!

Ron Koelbel DD28

Insurance News

LTC Is an Important Piece of the Puzzle

There are many financial consultants and retirement authorities who emphasize the need for a long-term care (LTC) product for estate preservation and family protection. While many commercial life insurance companies have gotten out of the long-term care business, the Knights of Columbus considers LTC a very important piece of the family protection puzzle. The Order has been actively offering our members this product for nearly 15 years without a premium increase on current policyholders. Members who wisely purchased an LTC plan from the Knights in 2000 are still paying the same premiums today. Even better, our LTC coverage is backed by the full strength of the Order, which remains rooted in our strong Catholic values. Talk about stability when it counts.

If we have not spoken about your need for LTC coverage in your family portfolio, please take some time out of your schedule to meet with me.

Remember, long-term care policies are underwritten based on your health, and you most likely will never be any healthier than you are today.

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4th Degree News

The next meeting of the Archbishop Francis P. Keough Assembly will held on Tuesday, February 13th at 7:00 pm at Columbus Gardens.



The next Exemplification of the 4th Degree will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at the Princess Royale Ocean Front Hotel in Ocean City, MD.

What You Will Need to Bring with You

1. Proper Uniform (Dark suit)
2. Your, Third Degree Membership card
3. Your banquet tickets
4. Name and number of the Assembly you are joining.

EXEMPLIFICATION SCHEDULE

Registration of Candidates.....	9:30 AM
Ladies of Candidates report	9:45 AM
Ladies Entertainment	10:00 AM
Exemplification.....	11:15 AM
Mass	4:00 PM
Reception (Cash Bar).....	5:00 PM
Banquet	5:30 PM

SCHEDULE OF FEES

Candidate Initiation Fee includes one banquet ticket (if reserved before March 16), lapel pin, social baldric, and processing fees.

Lay Candidates, Deacons and Seminarians.....	\$70.00
Priests & Members of Religious Orders	\$40.00
Additional Banquet Tickets	\$50.00
Ladies Activities	\$35.00

Each candidate will receive one free banquet ticket, but reserve a seat through the event website. No credit allowed if the candidate does not attend the banquet. **After March 16, candidates will not receive a banquet ticket. Tickets are not transferable.**

If paying by check, make payable to the Master of the Fourth Degree.

LADIES ENTERTAINMENT

There will be entertainment for the Ladies beginning at 9:45 AM. Dress will be casual. Lunch and Entertainment included. Cost is \$35.

DRESS

The official dress for the Fourth Degree Exemplification is:

- Dark suit
- White dress shirt
- Dress shoes
- Members of the armed forces, police and firefighters may wear dress uniforms
- Religious may wear their clerical garb

Current members may also wear the current Tuxedo Uniform with social baldric, (under the jacket) and PG-113 lapel pin.

CANDIDATES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Candidates with medical or physical disabilities are to report to the District Marshal. Their assembly will escort those with special needs to and from the exemplification room.

DEADLINES

- Room reservations**March 03, 2018**
- Applications for membership**March 16, 2018**
- Banquet reservations**March 16, 2018**
- Ladies Activity reservation**March 16, 2018**

Tickets required for Banquet admission

- Room reservations: bit.ly/2018MDRrooms
- Banquet & Ladies Activity: [.bit.ly/2018Exemp](http://bit.ly/2018Exemp)

NOTE: Banquet deadline strictly enforced!

Applications for membership received after March 16, will not receive a banquet ticket!

The Princess Royal Hotel in Ocean City will be our host for this Exemplification. Hotel reservations can be made online at www.princessroyale.com or by calling (800) -476-9253.

Chapter News

The next meeting of the Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights will be on Thursday, February 8th, 2018 at Patapsco Council #1960, 1010 Frederick Road, Catonsville 21227. All Knights are invited and encouraged to attend.

State Council News

The Maryland State Council Convention

Will be held the weekend of May 4-6, 2018 at the Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel in Ocean City. For information or to register, go to https://www.mdkocconvention.org/Convention_Registration.aspx

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 ceremonials, etc. To sign up for this service, simply go to <http://www.kofc-md.org/state1415/yahoo.asp> and then follow the instructions.

Supreme Council News

Did You See Any of This on The National News?

Pro-life advocates have sat in the shadow of the U.S. Supreme Court’s infamous 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision for 45 years. However, to the hundreds of thousands of pro-life advocates, including Knights of Columbus and their families, gathered at this year’s national March for Life in Washington, D.C., the last four decades have offered an irreplaceable opportunity to demonstrate their perseverance, love and commitment to the defense of all human life.

The Friday, Jan. 19 event began with a rally sponsored by the March for Life Education and Defense Fund under the theme “Love Saves Lives.” The thousands of attendees from various political parties, creeds, ethnicities, ages and backgrounds reflect the diversity of the current pro-life



movement, which was essentially born from grassroots efforts in the 1970s. Today, pro-lifers remain fully convicted that every single unborn child should be afforded the dignity and protection due all human life, from conception until natural death. President Donald Trump addressed the rally via a live-stream video from the White House Rose Garden. Introducing the president, Vice President

Mike Pence shared, “Forty-five years ago the Supreme Court turned its back on the inalienable right to life, but in that moment, our movement began. A movement that continues to win hearts and minds.”

Standing with young marchers and others — including Deputy Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly; his wife, Vanessa; and their children — the president shared that he was “really proud” to be with pro-lifers on the day. “Because of you, tens of

thousands of Americans have been born and reached their full God-given potential.”

“You come from many backgrounds, many places, but you all come for one beautiful cause: to build a society where life is celebrated, protected and cherished. The March for Life is a movement born out of love. ... And you love every child — born and unborn — because you believe that every life is sacred, that every child is a precious gift from God.”

Commenting on the U.S. law permitting abortions up to the ninth month of pregnancy, Trump declared, “It is wrong. It has to change.” Back at the National Mall, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI) shared, “It is so exciting to see so many young people here today. Your energy is so infectious.”



Ryan, who is a member of Knights of Columbus Father Gilbert Carlton Council 9360 in Janesville, Wis., explained that the presence of the youth “tells us that this is a movement that is on the rise. You know why the pro-life movement is on the rise? Because truth is on our side. Life begins at conception. Do you know why the pro-life movement is on the rise? Because science is on our side. Most importantly, the pro-life movement is on the rise because we have love on our side.” Explaining that pro-life representatives are working to make their time in Congress its own march for

life, he announced, “Just a few minutes ago today, we passed the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.”

The act amends the federal criminal code so that any health care practitioner who is present when a child is born alive following an abortion or



attempted abortion must take life-saving measures and admit that child to a hospital.

Also at the rally were Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund; NFL/MLB star Tim Tebow’s mother, Pam Tebow; former NFL player Matt Birk; Dan Lipinski (D-IL), Chris Smith (R-NJ) and other U.S. representatives; and Sister Bethany Madonna of the Sisters for Life. Joining these greater known public figures was Joseph Basalla, a member of The Catholic University of America Council 9542 who led the rally with the Pledge of Allegiance, and 14-year-old McKenna Donohue, a choir singer from Buzzards Bay, Mass., who sang the national anthem at the opening of this year’s march.

“I think it’s a great way to show my support and my family’s support of pro-life,” she shared.

McKenna’s parents and three siblings also lent their cheers to the crowd. Her father, Sean, a member of Knights of Columbus Bishop D. F. Feehan 2911, explained that his family has “strong feelings about pro-life and about the message that the march represents.” He continued, “It just means a lot that we can be a part of the March for Life going forward. Even if it’s just a small part in it.”

Like the Donohues, other families and young people came to the March to represent the generations of Americans who hope to protect the children of the future. From Waterbury, Conn., birthplace of our founder Father Michael McGivney, came more than 80 men, women and children from a Connecticut- and Massachusetts-based homeschooling group who attend the March together each year. Charlie Mihaliak, a Knight and member of the group, said that “the energy is palpable” at the march. Being at the march, he continued, you become a part of a movement “that really means something, something real. Something that as a person you need to do.” Others came from closer distances. Ryan Budd, a Third Degree Knight of St. Rita Council 14664 in Emmitsburg, Md., and a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Hartford, traveled from Mount St. Mary’s in Maryland.

“It’s amazing to see the joy here. Love is joyful,” Budd shared.



After the rally, the families joined the marching crowd, which reached tens of thousands, according to EWTN, which was reporting live from the event. Together, they traveled the march’s nearly two-mile route from the National Mall to the Supreme Court building, passing the U.S. Capitol amid a sea of pro-life signs and banners, including the more than 20,000 Knights of Columbus “Defend Life” and “Choose Life” signs distributed by the D.C. State Council.

Their attendance supports the recent Marist Poll commissioned by the Knights of Columbus in 2017, which shows that advocacy against abortion-on-demand is favored by the majority of Americans, including those who identify as pro-choice.

According to the poll, 56 percent of pro-choice Americans oppose abortion after 20 weeks. A shockingly high 60 percent of pro-choice Americans also want significant restrictions on abortion.

“It is hardly surprising that after 50 million abortions in this country, an overwhelming majority of the American people want substantial limits,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. “This survey shows clearly that the pro-choice label can no longer be assumed to mean support for abortion on demand. Nor can abortion be thought of as a partisan issue, since majorities of Democrats, Independents and Republicans all agree that it should be substantially restricted.”

Of those polled, 52 percent say having an abortion is more likely to cause a woman harm than good. This includes 1 in 4 who consider themselves pro-choice.

As Deputy Supreme Patrick Kelly noted about the attendees of this year’s march, “We are part of a bipartisan majority who recognize that unrestricted abortion is not good for mothers, not good for children and not good for our country.”

“We can find a better way than abortion,” said Supreme Knight Anderson. “We can give hope to every woman and every child. Today, I see thousands of helping hands ready to make this hope a reality, and I know there are millions more willing to give. Together we can bring change.”

A Subdued Valentine’s Day

Just a reminder that this year, Valentine’s Day falls on Ash Wednesday. So that steak dinner with the wife will have to be postponed. And since you are only allowed one full meal that day,



switching to Lobster probably isn’t going to work either. Remember to keep holy the solemn spirit of Lent. You can have that special date another day.

So Who Was He?

Saint Valentine, officially **Saint Valentine of Terni**, is a widely recognized 3rd-century Roman saint commemorated on February 14 and since the High Middle Ages is associated with a tradition of courtly love.

All that is reliably known of the saint commemorated on February 14 is his name and that he was martyred and buried at a cemetery on the Via Flaminia close to the Ponte Milvio to the north of Rome on that day. It is uncertain whether St. Valentine is to be identified as one saint or the conflation of two saints of the same name. Several different martyrologies have been added to later hagiographies that are unreliable.

The Roman Catholic Church continues to recognize him as a saint, listing him as such in the February 14 entry in the Roman Martyrology, and authorizing liturgical veneration of him on February 14 in any place where that day is not devoted to some other obligatory celebration in accordance with the rule that on such a day the Mass may be that of any saint listed in the Martyrology for that day.

Saint Valentine is commemorated in the Anglican Communion, as well as in Lutheranism. By some of the Eastern Orthodox Church, Saint Valentine the Presbyter of Rome is celebrated on July 6 and Hieromartyr Valentine (Bishop of Interamna, Terni in Italy) is celebrated on July 30.

Articles for the March edition of *The Explorer* must be received by Friday, February 23rd. Send all inputs to:
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 Or by email to: wwanko@comcast.net



Fr. A. Leo Abendschoen Council 11615
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Calendar Reminders

- February 3 - Monthly Cash Bingo – 6:00 pm – Annunciation Parish Hall
- February 5 – Council Officer’s Meeting – 6:30 pm – Annunciation Board Room
- February 8 - Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights – 7:00 pm – Patapsco Council
- February 12- Council General Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm – Annunciation Parish Hall
- February 13 – 4th Degree Assembly Meeting - 7:00 pm – Columbus Gardens
- February 14 – Ash Wednesday/ Valentine’s Day
- February 17 - Pro-Life Rosary – 9:00 am – Beltway Plaza Shopping Center, Fullerton
- February 22 – Catholics in Annapolis – 3 to 8 pm - Annapolis
- February 26 - Council General Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm – Annunciation Parish Hall