



The Explorer



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

Overlea/Rosedale, MD

Knights of Columbus

March 2018

Grand Knight's Message

Brothers,
Congratulations to Brother
Dave Fabiszak on attaining the
Knighthood (3rd) degree.



We hosted a District Planning
meeting here at Annunciation
on Feb. 21. I will update those not able to attend
at our next general meeting on Feb 26.

On Saturday March 10 at 9:30 a.m. we will have
our "Laetare Weekend Breakfast and Egg Hunt".
The Easter Bunny will not be attending this event.
He will make a special appearance after the 11 a.m.
mass on Easter Sunday. Children are welcome to
have their pictures taken with the Bunny at that
time.

In support of the Annunciation soccer program we
are having a "Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo" on April
21, 2018 in the church hall after the 4 p.m.
mass. Members of the team will be helping with this
event. More details to follow.

Emrick Spacek

Grand Knight

Upcoming Ceremonials

Admissions (1st) Degree

March 14th - Cardinal Gibbons, Fullerton

March 21st - Notre Dame, Baltimore

Formation (2nd) Degree

March 6th - St. Peter the Apostle, Libertytown

Knighthood (3rd) Degree – None on the Western
Shore.

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

Assistant Chaplain's Message

Brothers,
Go in Peace, Glorifying the
Lord by Your Life!



How often do you recall and
follow these words sometimes
used by the Deacon or Priest in
dismissing the people at the end
of Mass? The words are few, but they are strong in
how they direct us to live our lives.

The first three words instruct us to be at peace with
our lives as Jesus directs us in many parts of sacred
Scripture. Finding peace in our daily lives is very
difficult when we fail to follow the directions Jesus
lovingly offers to us.

The concluding words "Glorifying the Lord by
Your Life" help us examine our relationship with
God, especially in this season of Lent. We should
ask ourselves at the end of each day, how have I
failed and in what ways have I succeeded in
glorifying the Lord by the way I lived my life
today? In what ways have I harmed someone else or
how have I improved the life of another person?
Such introspection can offer us guidance in
changing our habits toward a better relationship
with our Lord and those we meet.

God bless you,

Deacon Frank

Upcoming Meetings

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

General Meetings – Mondays, March 12th and 26th
at 7:00 pm in the Annunciation Parish Hall.

REMEMBER that Hospitality begins BEFORE the
meeting at 6:15 pm.

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 February 12th meeting would have been Robert Cole. If you are not sick or a shut-in, why not try making a meeting once in a while? It could prove profitable.

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.

Happy Times

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

- 3 - Deborah Peppersack
- 7 - Lucille Fabiszak & Charles F. Peppersack
- 10 - Patricia DiGennaro
- 11 - Romeo G. Dalangin
- 14 - Anthony V. Ciampaglia
- 15 - William E. Edgeworth
- 16 - Carol A, Ciampaglia & Susan Conrad
- 17 - Harold F. Payne
- 21 - Gerard Dirscherl
- 22 - Gary Kendzierski
- 24 - Gregory D. Brotzman
- 27 - Carole Payne
- 28 - Robert F. Miller, Jr.
- 31 - Edward J. Yeager

Anniversaries

- 16 - John & Susan Conrad

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

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 of the
Knights Of Columbus
 Meeting on the 2nd and 4th Monday
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Church of the Annunciation
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Assistant Chaplain: Rev. Mr. Frank Zeiler

BINGO

Our next Monthly Cash Bingo will be held on **Saturday, March 3rd at 6:00 pm** in the Annunciation parish hall. The \$500 Jackpot will be played for 57 numbers or less. This is our most important source of regular income and has been for the last 11 years.



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

And February rolls into March and we still have not recruited any new members. Imagine if we could get just one guy to join. Not one guy per member; just one guy. 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, March 17th at 9:00 am. We hope that more of you will consider joining in.



Youth Programs

Annunciation Soccer

Our council will be holding a Spaghetti Dinner and Cash Bingo to benefit the Soccer Team on Saturday, April 21st in the Annunciation Parish Hall. Details are included in the attached flyer.



Family Programs

Laetare Sunday Breakfast Celebration and Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, March 10, 2018
9:30 a.m.**

Church of the Annunciation Parish Hall



As we prepare for Easter, the celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection, through this period of fasting and prayer we call lent, we highlight Laetare Sunday.



The word "Laetare" means "rejoice." We rejoice because it's the 4th week of lent and Easter is around the corner.

There will be a hot breakfast for all who attend. The cost of the breakfast is \$15 dollars for families of 3 or more or \$5 for individual tickets. There is no additional cost to participate in the Egg Hunt.

The ONLY visit by the Easter Bunny will be on Easter Sunday after the 11 am Mass. Children are welcome to have their pictures taken with the Easter Bunny at that time.

To assure that there is enough food, we ask that you pre-register for this event. Please complete the form below and return it in an envelope in the collection or to the parish office by **Wednesday, March 7, 2018**. Checks may be made payable to *K of C 11615*. For more information, call Jason at 410-687-2738.

The flyer with full details is included in this newsletter. Pass it around.

4th Degree News

The next meeting of the Archbishop Francis P. Keough Assembly will held on Tuesday, March 13th at 8:00 pm at Columbus Gardens. Hospitality begins at 7:00 pm.



District Message

You know the old axiom, March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. Well, March is about upon us and let's let the lions roar with a renewed push to make it to Star Council. The required reports are done, now we just need to get a few new members and insurance members to make it happen. 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. The only thing left is to find a good Catholic Gentleman and invite him to join.

We held a District Meeting on Feb 21, and are planning a Benefits Event that will have speakers on subjects not usually connected with Insurance. This event will probably be in April, and will be open to all members as well as non-members. Details are being worked out and the announcement will forthcoming. And for those who would like to volunteer manning some of the Information booths at the Hotels during the Supreme convention in August, we are putting together a plan with another council in our District to make that effort much easier and more comfortable for traveling in the city.

Worthy Brother Knights – May the season of Lent bring renewed spirit to you and your loved ones. Easter Sunday is not only the resurrection of Jesus, but the birth of the Christian Faith and Catholic Church. Let's make every effort 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

Chapter News

The next meeting of the Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights will be held on Thursday, March 8th at 7:00 pm at the Knights of Fatima Council#10137, 6400 East Pratt Street, Highlandtown. All Knights are invited to attend.

Insurance News

Update Your Beneficiaries

Sometimes it is easy to overlook the simplest of things.

Take, for example, the beneficiaries on your life insurance policies. If your policy was applied for and issued several years ago, it may very well be that the person you originally selected as the beneficiary is no longer the person you would want to receive the policy proceeds. If you bought the policy when you were single, for example, you may have named your parents as beneficiaries. If you have since married, your policies should be updated to reflect your spouse as beneficiary. Maybe you've had children since, who are not named on the policies.

Most people list a primary beneficiary, who is specifically designated as the first in priority to receive policy proceeds. We also encourage the naming of a contingent beneficiary, an alternate person designated to receive policy proceeds, usually in the event that the original beneficiary predeceases the insured.

I routinely call all of my policyholders for annual review appointments, usually near the anniversary date of your policy – that is, the date it was originally issued. One of the matters that I'll discuss during this review is the status of your beneficiary designations. If they need updating, and they often do, I can complete the paperwork during that appointment.

I look forward to meeting with each of you to discuss your family's needs.

Thomas A. Strassner, FICF
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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. Rooms at the Princess Royale Oceanfront are currently sold out. However, you can put your name on a waiting list for the Princess Royale Oceanfront OR you can book a room at the Princess Bayside on 48th Street. For information or to register, go to https://www.mdkocconvention.org/Convention_Regserviation.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 ceremonies, 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

In 1924, Jim Crow laws were still enforced in many parts of the United States. Martin Luther King, Jr. was not yet born, and the height of the civil rights movement wouldn't be for another 40 years. Nonetheless, it was at this time that the Knights of Columbus commissioned and published *The Gift of Black Folk: The Negroes in the Making of America* by famous civil rights proponent W.E.B. DuBois. *The Gift of Black Folk* presents the varied contributions of Black Americans from the earliest colonial settlements through World War I and the early 1920s. A valuable resource to all who are interested in black history, the book is filled with touching stories and anecdotes.

When *The Gift of Black Folk* was first published in 1924, many in the United States had not yet embraced the notion that people of every race helped establish and strengthen their nation. The ideal “that all men are created equal” was more a philosophical statement than a practical reality for



millions — especially those of African descent. The book was groundbreaking and was seen as an important contribution to black history and racial tolerance. The *Oakland Tribune*'s review of the book, published Aug. 31, 1924, stated: “The book is one of the most valuable contributions to American literature published in a decade, the result of which should create a better understanding among the races. It proves that Negroes (sic) have the right to be considered and treated as American citizens.” This last sentence seems obvious today, but the American social climate was very different in 1924. At the time, Alfred E. Smith, a Catholic and a Knight, met with staunch opposition when he ran for president in the Democratic primary. After Smith became the Democratic nominee four years later, he was greeted by the burning crosses of the Ku Klux Klan — who targeted Catholics, in addition to blacks, Jews and other minorities — when his train entered Oklahoma City.

Against the backdrop of widespread bigotry, the 1921 Supreme Convention had previously adopted a resolution, initially put forward by Fourth Degree Member John Reddin, to establish the Knights of Columbus Historical Commission. The purpose of the commission was to combat the revisionist history of the time, which tended to exclude minority groups from the record of historical

achievement. The project was overseen by Edward McSweeney, who served as Assistant U.S. Commissioner of Immigration at Ellis Island from 1893-1902.

In addition to *The Gift of Black Folk*, other books were published as part of the Knights' racial contribution series. Since anti-Semitism was prevalent in the United States in the early 20th century, and since German-Americans found themselves distrusted following World War I, the Order also published *The Jews in the Making of America* by George Cohen and *The Germans in the Making of America* by Frederick Schrader. Even prior to the book series, though, the Knights had long been active in developing race relations. *The History of Knights of Columbus*, published in 1897 by William O'Neill, recounted the creation of Philip Sheridan Council 119 of Southboro, Mass. Before joining the Knights and forming a council, the men of Southboro had belonged to the John Boyle O'Reilly literary society, which had elected a black man as its president. O'Neill noted this and wrote that the men of Southboro were “in this act reflecting the principles of the Catholic church, which recognizes all colors and races as the children of God.”

Two decades later, during World War I, the Knights pioneered the “Army Hut” program, a forerunner of the United Service Organizations (USO). Knights provided for the care and comfort of the troops on military bases in the United States and France, regardless of race, creed, or religion. The book *The American Negro in the Great War*, published in 1919, had special praise for the manner in which the Knights dealt with racial issues. Its author, Emmet J. Scott, was an African-American who served as special adjutant to the U.S. Secretary of War. He wrote of the Knights: “Another organization was of much service in making Negro soldiers comfortable at the front. This was the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic society, which has to its credit that, unlike the other social welfare organizations operating in the war, it never drew the color line.”

FIGHTING INJUSTICE

After World War I, the Order continued to assist the

troops by organizing job vocational classes for returning veterans, regardless of their race. And when the Knights commissioned and published *The Gift of Black Folk* five years later, the Order's work for racial equality was far from over.

Stories abound of individual councils and members, such as Father William Ryan, working in the black community. Father Ryan, an Oblate of Mary Immaculate, not only ministered to black Americans in the South, but also marched side by side with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

John W. McDevitt, who served as the Order's 11th Supreme Knight from 1964-1977, also did much to advance the cause of racial equality. When it became apparent that some local councils were hesitant to include black members, McDevitt amended the Order's bylaws to prevent any local council from restricting African Americans from membership.

In 1964, McDevitt was informed that the Supreme Convention's host hotel in New Orleans did not allow African Americans. He immediately threatened to move the event to another venue if the convention hotel did not integrate. The hotel did so, and McDevitt seated a black priest on the dais at the States Dinner as a sign of his — and the Knights' — commitment to racial equality.

As the civil rights movement advanced, Knights took justifiable pride in the Order's groundbreaking work in the area of racial tolerance. Speaking in 1970 — just six years after the Civil Rights Act was passed in the United States — Archbishop Paul F. Leibold of Cincinnati told St. Martin de Porres Council 5624 that the national organization of the Knights of Columbus “never subscribed to the evil of racism.” Citing *The Gift of Black Folk*, the archbishop pointed out that the book had been published “decades before it was so popular to jump on the [civil rights] bandwagon.”

The Order's commitment to racial equality continues today, and African Americans and other minorities hold leadership positions throughout the organization.

A Happy Day for The Irish



St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints. He was born in Roman Britain and when he was fourteen or so, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain and was reunited with his family.

A few years after returning home, Patrick saw a vision:

"I saw a man coming, as it were from Ireland. His name was Victoricus, and he carried many letters, and he gave me one of them. I read the heading: 'The Voice of the Irish.' As I began the letter, I imagined in that moment that I heard the voice of those very people who were near the wood of Foclut, which is beside the western sea-and they cried out, as with one voice: 'We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us.'"

The vision prompted his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained by St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre, whom he had studied under for years, and was later ordained a bishop and sent to take the Gospel to Ireland. Patrick arrived in Slane, Ireland on March 25, 433. He preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461.

He died at Saul, where he had built the first Irish church. He is believed to be buried in Down Cathedral, Downpatrick. His grave was marked in 1990 with a granite stone.

Articles for the April edition of *The Explorer* must be received by Sunday, March 25th. Send all inputs to:

Walt Wankowski
5211 McFaul Road
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Or by email to: wwanko@comcast.net



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Calendar Reminders

- March 3 - Monthly Cash Bingo – 6:00 pm – Annunciation Parish Hall
- March 5 – Council Officer’s Meeting – 6:30 pm – Annunciation Board Room
- March 8 - Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights – 7:00 pm – Knights of Fatima Council
- March 10 – Laetare Sunday Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt - 9:30 am – Annunciation Parish Hall
- March 12- Council General Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm – Annunciation Parish Hall
- March 13 – 4th Degree Assembly Meeting - 7:00 pm – Columbus Gardens
- March 17 - St. Patrick’s Day
 Pro-Life Rosary – 9:00 am – Beltway Plaza Shopping Center, Fullerton
- March 26 - Council General Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm – Annunciation Parish Hall