



The Explorer



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

Overlea/Rosedale, MD

Knights of Columbus

September 2017

Grand Knight's Message

Brothers,

Let me start by saying the next several months are very busy for fund raising activities. We have the annual Car Raffle sponsored by The Maryland State Council to be drawn on Oct. 7, 2017, chaired by Walt Wankowski, and the "Friends Helping Friends" 25% off Shopping Pass through Boscov's which will happen on Oct. 17, 2017, chaired by Harold Payne.



Adam Kolb will again chair the Intellectual Disabilities Program (Tootsie Roll Drive). He has run this program in the past with great success, and good managerial skills. He needs our help to make this work.

John Gallup will start selling tickets for our Bull & Oyster Roast being held on Nov 12, 2017. John & his wife Constance have handled the planning, seating and greeting duties at the roast for the last 2 years. This is a BIG responsibility.

The above items are big things we try to do for the parish. The next several items are small, but important to our K of C presence. Wayne Ciampaglia and Jason Karolkowski are finalizing the Altar Server Appreciation Program.

I have completed the Widow Program paperwork to be submitted to Supreme.

Fr. Julio is making great strides with the formation of the soccer team for the parish.

(Continued on Page 2)

**IMPORTANT MEETING
NOTICE ON PAGE 2**

Assistant Chaplain's Message

Brothers,

Ours is a God of surprises! In the reading last month from the 1 Book of Kings, Elijah stood on the mountain and expected the Lord to pass by in the mighty wind, the earthquake or the fire. But no. Only when Elijah heard the tiny whispering sound did he feel compelled to hide his face as he realized it was the Lord.



And then there was the little boy in the story on the Internet who, one Saturday morning, proudly announced to his mom that he was off to the park to find God. He packed his lunch of Twinkies and apple juice, kissed his mom goodbye and set off on his quest to find God. When he got to the park, he sat down on a bench with a homeless woman who looked a bit sad. He opened his Twinkies, but before he took a bite, it occurred to him to share.

He offered his second Twinkie and juice to the woman, who smiled and said, "Thank you!" Soon they were chatting and laughing together like old pals. Before leaving to get home for dinner, he gave the woman a hug, which left her beaming. Back home, he surprised his mom with the news that he did find God, but she is a woman "with the most beautiful smile." The woman, for her part, met up with a friend and explained that she had Twinkies in the park with God, but he was "much younger than she had expected."

The little boy and the homeless woman reached out to each other and both found God in each other. Do we reach out to others with a simple smile or some kindness that presents them with the opportunity to do likewise? If all of us did, I believe that we would find God in many unexpected places and there would be more happy people and less violence.

God bless you,

Deacon Frank

Grand Knight's Message

(Continued from Page 1)

I am pursuing the details on the Family of the Month program.

Gerry Dirscherl, from the Social Concerns Committee, and I attended a fund raising seminar with Texas Roadhouse, very promising.

All of the above programs are chaired by different Knights. We need the continued help from our membership to make things happen.

Emrick Spacek

Grand Knight

Upcoming Meetings

Officer's Meeting – Due to the Labor Day holiday, the September Officer's meeting was held on Monday, August 28th.

General Meetings – As we get back to our regular schedule, the General Membership Meetings will be held on Mondays, September 11th & 25th, at 7:00 pm in the Annunciation Parish Hall.

IMPORTANT Meeting schedule change!

At the August 14th General Meeting a motion was put forth to start Hospitality refreshments BEFORE the start of the meeting, rather than after the meeting. The rationale included the facts that many members come to the meeting directly from work and have not had any supper, eating late is not healthy, hot food tends to get cold while waiting for the meeting to finish, and having food after the meeting means cleaning up and locking up late. The motion passed. Therefore, commencing with the September 11th General Meeting, on an experimental basis, Hospitality (dinner) will be served starting at 6:15 pm. The meeting will continue to begin at 7:00 pm, and those arriving late may continue to eat and drink during the course of the meeting.

Sick & Shut-In

Please remember Brothers Frederick Hogarth, Robert Priller, John Vaeth, Ed Yeager, and sisters Joan Gresdo, Charlotte Schaum and Margaret Wyatt in your prayers.

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 July 10th meeting would have been **John Vaeth**. Our Attendance Prize winner for the August 14th meeting was **Greg Fischer**, 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.

In Memoriam



For those of you who did not already hear, one of our longtime members, SK Robert Rogers, passed onto his Eternal Reward on Saturday, July 29th at the age of 90. Sadly, we were not formally notified and only indirectly learned of his passing on the one day of viewing, August 1st. His funeral was held on August 2nd. Because of the lack of notification, there was no Rosary Call or Honor Guard; and Bob certainly deserved an Honor Guard. Bob was the perennial volunteer and always made himself available whenever he was needed. May he rest in peace.

The Explorer
 Published monthly by the
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
5212 McCormick Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21206

Grand Knight: Emrick Spacek 410-687-0529
elspacek@comcast.net

Editor: Walt Wankowski 410-866-6546
 Email: wwanko@comcast.net

Chaplain:
Assistant Chaplain: Rev. Mr. Frank Zeiler

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.

Upcoming Ceremonials

Admissions (1st) Degree

Sept. 18th – Bishop Sebastian Council, Parkville

Sept. 20th – Fr. Burgraff Council, Perry Hall

Sept. 26th – Patapsco Council, Catonsville

Formation (2nd) Degree

Sept. 20th – Patapsco Council, Catonsville

Knighthood (3rd) Degree

Sept. 23rd – Cardinal Gibbons Council, Fullerton

Patriotic (4th) Degree – a special Fall

Exemplification of the 4th/Patriotic Degree will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2017 at St. Peter the Apostle Church in Liberty Town, near Frederick. This will be a one-day event with Registration beginning at 8:30 am, the Exemplification starting at 10:00 am, and a luncheon to follow. There will be no Hospitality on Friday and no carry-over to Sunday. Anyone wishing to take the Patriotic Degree on September 30th should contact Walt Wankowski by September 9th.

After September 30th, the next Exemplification of the Patriotic Degree (4th) will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at the Princess Royale Hotel in Ocean City, MD.

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

1st Degree Team

We are looking for alternate team members for our 1st Degree team. People who can fill in for someone when they are ill or cannot attend because of other commitments. 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. Since the State Council is requesting that every Council host regular Exemplifications of the 1st Degree, I recommend that all members frequently rehearse their lines.

Happy Times

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

- 1- Maximillian Avila & Richard A. Yienger
- 6 - Jonathan P Saladini
- 7 - Henry F. Boltralik
- 11 - Michele Miklewski
- 17 - Brian Stone
- 18 - Paul D. Schneider
- 19 - Michael H. Brocato
- 21 - Robert F. Priller
- 24 - Michael G. Witemore, Jr.
- 25 - Debra Cieslak
- 27 - Stella Boltralik
- 29 - Mary F. Stone

Anniversaries

- 8 - James & Kristen Johns
- 11 - Gregory & Kathy Brotzman
- 13 - David & Lucille Fabiszak
& Rick & Andrea Spacek
- 15 - Francis & Clementine (Tina) Halecki
- 29 - Walter & Marlene Wankowski

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

Car Raffle - Win a 2017 Mustang!



A reminder that all Car Raffle tickets need to be in by September 30th. You could win a 2018 Ford Mustang or a Cash Option of \$18,000! Second prize is an iPad Air 2. Third prize is a \$200 Gift Card. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

This is an opportunity for our council to make some easy money. Our council gets to keep 60¢ of every dollar. If you would like more tickets to sell, just let us know and we can send you more. We encourage all members to participate. You can sell them to your family members, your friends, your neighbors, your co-workers, etc. If you lose the return envelope use any envelope and address it to Walt Wankowski, 5211 McFaul Road, Baltimore, MD 21206.

BINGO

Our next Monthly Cash Bingo will be held on **Saturday, September 2nd at 6:00 pm** in the Annunciation parish hall. The \$500 Jackpot will be played for 51 numbers or less. As always, we could use additional help both in the Kitchen and on the floor, especially now during the vacation season. No experience is necessary.

BINGO				
7	25	44	57	62
15	22	40	50	70
11	30	<small>FREE SPACE</small>	46	74
2	28	37	55	68
10	27	39	59	75

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.

Membership

A hearty welcome to the newest member of our Council – L. Clark Hutson ! Clark transferred in from Cardinal Gibbons Council. Clark is a regular at Annunciation Church and he just figured he could be more active over here. We welcome Clark and his family to our family.

And now it’s September. It’s not going to be easy, but we need to try to bring more members into the

Council. This is not going to happen by itself. We have to work at it. We each need to ask ONE guy to join the Knights. Talk to guys in church, at work, in your community, talk to their wives! If we can grow this council, 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.

So become familiar with who we are and what we do. 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.

If you need a Form100, contact Walt Wankowski at 410-866-6546.

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.

Community Programs

Bull & Oyster Roast

Our annual Bull & Oyster Roast to benefit Annunciation Church will take place on **Sunday, November 12, 2017** from 1 to 5 pm in the Annunciation Parish Hall.



Menu: Pit Beef, Pit Ham, Pit Turkey, Oysters on the Half Shell, Oyster Stew, Maryland Crab Soup,



Baked Ziti, Swedish Meatballs, Bar-B-Que Chicken, Country Green Beans, Seasoned Red Potatoes. Sweet Italian Sausage w/green peppers & onions, Homemade Potato Salad, Pasta Salad & Cole Slaw, Assorted Cheese display with crackers & dip, Assorted Vegetable Display w/dip, Tomatoes & Onions, Assorted Condiments, Breads & Rolls, Chips & Pretzels, Sheet Cake, Beer, Soft Drinks, Iced Tea, Coffee & Hot Tea.

Tickets are \$40 each and will be available for purchase starting Sept. 2nd. Tickets must be purchased by Oct. 29th. **NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!**

We will need volunteers and we will need patrons. This is the BYE week for the Ravens, so you won't be missing the game by attending.

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends

We are once again participating in Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Program. The coupons are \$5 and are worth up to 25% off at Boscov's on Tuesday, October 17th.



Chairman Harry Payne needs help selling the coupons outside Boscov's in White Marsh Mall on

Tuesday, September 19th from 2 to 6 pm, and on Tuesday, October 3rd from 2 to 6 pm. This is FREE money. The council gets the \$5. Boscov's get nothing. We would also like you to consider selling some of these coupons to your family & friends. If anyone can help with this let Harry know at 410-663-8141 (H) 410-404-0540. All proceeds will go into the Charity Fund.

Tootsie Rolls

It's almost time for our annual "Tootsie Roll" drive to benefit the intellectually disabled. PGK Adam Kolb will again be chairing this activity and as of right now, he has lined up the Rosedale GIANT for October 7th & 8th, and the Church of the Annunciation for October 14th. He is also trying to obtain permission to work other locations as well. We need volunteers to stand a one or two hour shift at the business locations and 15 minutes after mass at the church. If you can make the time, contact Adam at 443-642-1751.



Kolb will again be chairing this activity and as of right now, he has lined up the Rosedale GIANT for October 7th & 8th, and the Church of the Annunciation for October 14th. He is also trying to obtain permission to work other locations as well.

We need volunteers to stand a one or two hour shift at the business locations and 15 minutes after mass at the church. If you can make the time, contact Adam at 443-642-1751.

Youth Programs

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. Clement's & St. Michael's School.

Altar Servers Rewards

It has been decided that we will give the Altar Servers at Annunciation parish a gift card for Texas Roadhouse. (St. Patrick's Council will be taking care of the Altar Servers at St. Clements.) More details and presentation date and time will be forthcoming.

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 9:00 am 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, September 16th. We hope that we will have good weather and we hope that more of you will consider joining in.



4th Degree News

The next meeting of the Archbishop Francis P. Keough Assembly will held on Tuesday, September 12th at 7:00 pm at Columbus Gardens.



A special Fall Exemplification of the 4th Degree will be held on Saturday, September 30th, at St. Peter the Apostle Church in Liberty Town. This will be a one-day event with Registration beginning at 8:30 am, the Exemplification starting at 10:00 am, and a luncheon to follow. There will be no Hospitality on Friday and no carry-over to Sunday.

Additionally, anyone wishing to take the Degree on this day NEED NOT purchase or rent a Tuxedo. You may take the degree in a dark or gray suit, white shirt, black socks and shoes, and a respectable tie, as long as the suit jacket and pants match. Anyone wishing to take the Patriotic Degree on September 30th should contact Walt Wankowski by September 9th.

After that, 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.

Pizza John's

The Archbishop Francis P. Keough Assembly is sponsoring a Fundraising Night on Wednesday, September 20th from 5 to 8 pm at Pizza John's, 113 Back River Neck Road in Essex. A flyer must accompany your purchase and the flyer is included with this newsletter. The Knights will get 15% of whatever you spend. Please join us for the evening meal and help raise some money for the Assembly.

New Color Corps Uniforms

You may have heard that the Board of Directors of the Supreme Council have decided to change the uniform of the 4th Degree Color Corps. Instead of a Tuxedo, Cape, and Chapeaux, the new uniform will consist of a Blazer with the 4th degree emblem and slacks, white shirt, K of C tie and a Beret with the 4th Degree emblem on it. As of right now, the new uniform can only be purchased from Supreme and will cost a little over \$500.



A reminder that you do NOT have to join the Color Corps to take the 4th Degree. Color Corps is optional.

District Message

It is nearly September (well, it is September) and it's hard to believe that the first quarter of the Fraternal year is just about behind us. Hopefully, the council's existing charitable activities was kept up to fulfil the Star Council requirements. You made it last year, so I see no reason not to go for two in a row.

Your Grand Knight was able to attend the Program Seminar held at the Columbus Gardens. I think he has a few ideas for the upcoming year to expand the work of the council. That's never a bad thing!

I'm going to spend a little time here talking up the coming events surrounding the Columbus Day Holiday. First is the Columbus Day Ball on Oct 7th. I know this is not an event for everyone, but ads in the Program are a good way to begin. If you can sell a few outside of the council, all the better. Oct 8th will begin with a mass at St Leo's church on Exeter St (9:30) and then a wreath laying ceremony at the monument at the Columbus Piazza, followed by a parade from Key Hwy to Little Italy. Please try to include some activity in conjunction with holiday.

With the "where will it ever stop" assault on all things historical not appreciated by the PC left, we need to stronger than ever in the support of our history and heritage. Not all of our history is considered good, but we must accept it and deal with in a way that is both just and beneficial to all. Tearing it all down will do nothing to improve the human condition. I am still amazed that the Knights of Columbus has not yet come under attack

To all, I look forward to another successful year and expect it to be a fruitful one.

Worthy Brother Knights – 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.

Vivat Jesus,

Ron Koellbel DD28

Chapter News

The next meeting of the Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights will be held on Thursday, September 14th, 2017 at Holy Trinity Council, 335 N. Ritchie Hwy. in Severna Park.

Insurance News

Our Guarantees Set Us Apart

Knights of Columbus life insurance offers something precious few other financial products can – guarantees. As long as you pay your premiums, the policy proceeds will be there for your beneficiaries should something happen to you. That's peace of mind, and that's what we offer with every product in our portfolio.

We guarantee the cash value in your whole life policies will be there.

We guarantee the rates on your term insurance.

We guarantee the rate and your principal in our retirement annuities.

On top of those product guarantees, I guarantee that I will offer professional, high-quality service that you would expect from our organization.

Our Order is among the highest rated life insurers in North America. AM Best has rated the Knights of Columbus "A++, Superior" for 41 consecutive years. It's a testament to our track record for excellence and security.

I would suggest that a principal reason that we were able to achieve those accolades is because we remain steadfastly committed to the vision of Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney by providing life insurance by brother Knights for brother Knights.

That commitment is an essential core value of the Knights of Columbus, and our core values permeate all levels of our organization. We pledge to serve our brother Knights, and their families, according to our Golden Rule: "In all my professional relationships, I pledge myself to the following rule of conduct: I shall, in light of all conditions surrounding those I serve, render that service which,

under the same circumstances, I would apply to myself."

Let's talk soon to discuss how our products can bring that peace of mind to you and your family.

Thomas A. Strassner, FICF
410-258-0308
thomas.strassner@kofc.org

Chuck Teal, FICF, LUTCF
443-676-3892
norman.teal@kofc.org

State Council News

Maryland State Council Knights of Columbus Sponsored Bus Trip To **Lancaster, Pennsylvania** **Friday, December 1, 2017**

Price includes bus, snacks on the bus, Miracle of Christmas Play at Sight & Sound, dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord* and a donation to the scholarship fund. **Payment due by October 1, 2017.** Make checks payable to MD State Council K of C and mail to: E. Paul Jones, Sr., 1253 Swede Hill Rd., Greensburg PA 15601 or call 443.253.8262
Adults: \$130.00 ---- Children: \$ 70.00

Itinerary: Depart: Cardinal Gibbons Council / Columbus Gardens at 9:30am 4301 Klosterman Ave, Nottingham, MD 21236
Arrive at Tanger Outlets around 11:00am Lunch on your own
Board bus for Sight & Sound 2:15pm
Show time at 3:00pm (about 2.5 hours long)
Board bus for dinner immediately following show
Depart Lancaster 7:30pm Return to Cardinal Gibbons Council around 9:30pm Restaurant subject to change if overbooked.

Key West **Fairfield Inn & Suites Key West at** **The Keys Collection** **Travel Dates: Feb 22-26, 2018**

Land only: \$913.26 per person (single or double occupancy)
Round-trip Air: \$577.73 per person

Key West, the southernmost location in the continental United States, offers a tropical blend of azure waters, exotic foliage and four-star restaurants. Visitors are drawn to the southern charm and Caribbean flavor of this laid-back island nation called the Conch Republic.

Home-away-from home for 5 days | 4 nights in this newly built in May 2015; hotel sets the stage for a remarkable visit to Key West. 133 spacious rooms, free Wi-Fi access, flat-screen TV, pillow top mattress. The location of the hotel makes it easy to explore Key West and is close to the excitement of Duval Street and much more. Access to shuttle service to Old Town is available.

Trip Includes:

- 4 nights accommodations
- Complimentary Full American breakfast daily
- Round-trip air BWI-Key West
- Poolside Bar
- Heated outdoor pool
- Fitness Center
- Downtown shuttle transportation daily
- In-room Mini Refrigerator & Microwave
- Complimentary High-speed Internet access in all Guestrooms
- Round-trip transfers in Key West
- All taxes

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL 410.224.0101

Or email:

Nita Kreuzburg: cig.nita@verizon.net

Michelle Corpuz: cig.michelle@verizon.net

Creative Travel

177 Defense Highway, Suite 7

Annapolis, MD 21401

Confirm reservation with \$200.00 per person

Deposit before November 1, 2017

Final payment due before January 12, 2018.

Supreme Council News

Prayers for Peace & Reconciliation

Members of the Knights of Columbus and their families around the world are encouraged to pray for peace and reconciliation in their respective countries.

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson called for prayers for peace and reconciliation in his Annual Report to the 135th Supreme Convention, August 1 in St. Louis. Citing the recent increase in political violence, including the shooting of members of Congress last June on a baseball field outside of Washington, D.C., he said:

“Violence and the rhetoric of violence have no place as a style of politics in America or any other country. ... I call upon all my brother Knights and their families to again seek the intercession of Mary, Queen of Peace.”

Quoting from the Holy Father’s message for the 50th World Day of Peace, Anderson said, “Pope Francis urged people everywhere to adopt nonviolence as a style of politics — a style based on the recognition, ‘that the image and likeness of God in each person will enable us to acknowledge one another as sacred gifts endowed with immense dignity.’”

The supreme knight noted that words of Pope Benedict XVI, repeated by Pope Francis in his World Day of Peace message, struck him as especially appropriate for today’s political climate: “For Christians, nonviolence is not merely tactical behavior but a person’s way of being — the attitude of one who is so convinced of God’s love and power that he or she is not afraid to tackle evil with the weapons of love and truth alone.”

“Convinced of God’s Love and Power” was the theme of this year’s Supreme Convention.

In his report, Supreme Knight Anderson noted that “Pope Francis signed his message of peace on the feast of the Immaculate Conception” and asked “Can it simply be a coincidence that the Immaculate Conception is named patroness of the United States?” The prayer cards feature a mosaic depiction of the Immaculate Conception from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

A printable card of traditional Marian prayers is available online for use by Knights, their families and others. The texts are as follows:

PRAYERS FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
our life, our sweetness and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.
To thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us
and after this our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

Repeat three times:

We fly to your protection, O holy Mother of God;
despise not our petitions in our necessities,
but deliver us from all dangers,
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.
*Mary Immaculate, Queen of Peace,
pray for us and our country!*

Knights to Save Destroyed Town

In a move that will give many Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq hope for the future, the Knights of Columbus will raise and donate \$2 million to save Karamdes, a predominantly Christian town on the Nineveh Plain which was liberated from ISIS late last year.

The Knights' action will move hundreds of families from minority religious communities in Iraq – especially Christians – back to the homes from which they were evicted by ISIS in summer, 2014. The Knights' action matches a similar donation by the government of Hungary, which recently donated \$2 million to save another predominantly Christian town, Teleskov. About 1,000 families have now moved back to that town, providing proof that such actions can actually work in returning Christian populations to pre-ISIS levels in the region.

Like the government of Hungary, the Knights will partner in this resettlement and rebuilding effort with the Archdiocese of Erbil, which is currently housing the largest population of Christian refugees in Iraq, including many of the residents of Karamdes.

“The terrorists desecrated churches and graves and looted and destroyed homes,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson during his annual report at the

Knights of Columbus 135th Supreme Convention. “Now we will ensure that hundreds of Christian families driven from their homes can return to these two locations and help to ensure a pluralistic future for Iraq.”

The Knights are urging K of C councils, parishes or other Church groups, and individuals to help by donating \$2,000 – the approximate cost of resettling one family. Just a thousand such donations would be sufficient to reach the \$2 million goal. The rebuilding work will begin this week and money will begin flowing to the project immediately. Urging the Knights to get behind this historic new initiative, Anderson paraphrased the words invoked by Winston Churchill in 1940: “Put your confidence in us ... We shall not fail or falter, we shall not weaken or tire. We will give you the tools and together we will finish the job.”

Since 2014, the Knights' Christian Refugee Relief Fund has donated more than \$13 million for humanitarian assistance primarily in Iraq, Syria and the surrounding region. The Knights' documentation of ISIS' atrocities and advocacy on behalf of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East were decisive in the 2016 decision of former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry to declare as genocide the treatment of Christians and other religious minorities in the region. This designation was reaffirmed by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson last week.

One hundred percent of the money raised will be used for this project. Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc. is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations can be made at www.christiansatrisk.org or by calling 1-800-694-5713. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Articles for the October edition of *The Explorer* must be received by Saturday, September 23rd. Send all inputs to:

Walt Wankowski
5211 McFaul Road
Baltimore, MD 21206

Or by email to: wwanko@comcast.net



Fr. A. Leo Abendschoen Council 11615
Knights of Columbus
5212 McCormick Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21206

Calendar Reminders

- September 2 - Monthly Cash Bingo – 6:00 pm – Annunciation Parish Hall
- September 11 - Council General Business Meeting – 7:00 pm – Annunciation Parish Hall
- September 12 –4th Degree Assembly Meeting - 7:00 pm – Columbus Gardens
- September 14 - Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights – 7:00 pm – Holy Trinity Council
- September 16 - Pro-Life Rosary – 9:00 am – Beltway Plaza Shopping Center, Fullerton
- September 25 - Council General Business Meeting – 7:00 pm – Annunciation Parish Hall