

# Knights of Columbus

## Saint Francis of Assisi Council 12524

# *Knights to Knight*

### Meetings

*Saint Francis of Assisi Parish*

*8300 Old Columbia Road, Fulton, MD 20759*

*Regular meetings the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m.*

*Planning meetings the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.*



### *Our Council Executives:*

***Grand Knight: Bob Smith***

***Chaplain: Father Dennis Diehl***

***Associate Chaplain: Deacon Joe McKenna***

***Deputy Grand Knight: Jack Evans***

***Chancellor: Bob Houston***

***Warden: Rich Tucci***

***Advocate: Jim Wholey***

***Recorder: Bob Kita***

***Financial Secretary: Glenn Rolph***

***Treasurer: Bob Burnett, PGK***

***Lecturer: John Murphy***

***Inside Guard: Larry Vincent***

***Outside Guard: Mark Metzler***

***Trustee: Anthony Gigioli, PGK***

***Trustee: Tim Morris, PGK***

***Trustee: Charlie Blandford, PGK***



## GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

*Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility.*

Welcome, my brothers and members of the Saint Francis Columbian family to the first newsletter of this new fraternal year. This prayer, the refrain of the Cantic of the Creatures of our patron Saint Francis, expresses the joyous task of every follower of Christ – here in our parish, in our council, in our workplaces, and in our community. Let it be our own council motto for this fraternal year. This prayer is also consistent with the motto of our new State Deputy, Edgar Haynes, KCHS – “*Living Our Faith*”.

Our council is known for many program activities in our parish. While I intend to continue many of these valuable programs, as this council's steward I feel that it is important to emphasize the spiritual aspects of Columbianism. We are hosting a retreat at the parish, a Day of Prayer with Father Noel Danielewicz, on September 9. In honor of our Blessed Mother, we will be giving rosaries to all who receive the sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation this year. We will expand rosary prayer sessions after Masses.

I encourage each of our council members prayerfully to consider whether you are called to be a Eucharistic minister. Not only to serve at Mass, but also to assist the parish health ministry as a pastoral visitor, bringing the gift of our Lord's body to the homebound and to assisted-living facilities. Over time, this ministry can only become

more valuable, as our expanding county ages and facilities for them increase.

Let's give a round of thanks to Eric, Carl, Charlie, and all our brothers who have been selling incentive raffle tickets since July. This provides a real benefit to the council, and funds many of our fraternal activities. Let's also prepare for passing out Tootsie Rolls to benefit the developmentally disabled. Last year we did a great job collecting donations for the CHI Center in honor of our late brother Ted Geppert. I hope that we can do even better this year to support God's special children in our community. And soon enough, we'll be selling Christmas cards.

In the midst of all the activities of the coming fall, take a moment to pray – thank the Lord for our church, our families and friends, our blessings, and the chances we have to be His hands for one another. Even if you can't find time for formal prayer, just say “Thanks, Lord!”

Happy Labor Day, and be glad the kids are safely back in school!

Peace and all good,

**Bob Smith**  
**Grand Knight**



## DISTRICT DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

September is a month full of activities. Now is the time for your council to schedule a Soccer Shoot Out. This is a great youth activity to hold if your council needs youth activities for the month of September. Your council can also get a good start on the Membership Blitz this month by having

candidates for the 1st degree, which is scheduled for September 18th at Bishop Lyons Council in Burtonsville, Maryland. On September 22nd we will have our first 3rd Degree of the fraternal year. Another important activity in September for the Maryland councils is helping with voter registration at their parishes.

In October, we have the Columbus Day Ball, which is our annual celebration of being a part of the great works of the Knights of Columbus in Maryland. This is a great value for a night out at \$37.50 per ticket, which includes a sit down dinner, dancing, and open bar. It's also not too early to think about Christmas cards sales. Each case of cards consists of a variety of religious cards at a fair price that will also help to keep Christ in Christmas. An important cause to remember at any time is to promote the Maryland State Charity Fund, which has helped many people in Maryland over the years. Each council has received envelopes to distribute for donations. For upcoming Maryland K of C tours please check the State Web site. These tours support the Maryland State Scholarship fund.

I want to congratulate Tom Aylward and Jim Brown on their installation as Wardens of District 10 at Bishop Lyons Council on August 26th. It is an honor to have them both on District 10's team. We had a great turn out at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree on August 29th – Congratulations to all the 20 candidates who received their 2<sup>nd</sup> degree that evening.

**Rick Askins**  
**District Deputy, District 10**

## **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

### ***SEPTEMBER***

**Council Day of Prayer** – Please join the Council for a day of reflection conducted by Fr. Noel Danielewicz, O.F.M. Conv., of the

Franciscan Friary. The topic is “Going out into the Deep”, the vision of our late Pope John Paul II for the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The date is Saturday, September 9, from 9:00 till 2:00 in our parish worship space. All are welcome! A free-will offering will be collected. More details may be found on the “Activities” page at <http://www.stfranciscouncil.org>, or by calling GK Bob Smith at 410-730-4225.

**Installation of Officers** – The formal installation of officers for both the council and our auxiliary, the Ladies of Hope, will take place Saturday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m. Officers will be in business attire. A pot-luck and a short program will follow the installation ceremony. Please contact Chancellor Bob Houston to let him know how many will be attending and what you can bring to the dinner. 410-880-1968 or [bhouston129@yahoo.com](mailto:bhouston129@yahoo.com).

**NFL Secrets** – Acclaimed NFL referee Terry McAuley will give a talk on football and refereeing on Tuesday, September 26 at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center at 7:30 p.m. Terry is a fantastic speaker, and will entertain and astound all who attend. This event is a joint effort with Columbia and St. Louis the King Councils. Either a 50/50 or a small charge will be collected to cover Terry's speaking fee. Joe Burkert is coordinating this effort.

**Voter Registration** – The Archdioceses of Baltimore, Washington, and Wilmington have asked the Knights to conduct voter registration drives on the weekend of September 30 and October 1. We will do so in conjunction with raffle ticket sales. A coordinator is still needed to attend one training session and oversee the drive.

**Membership Blitz** – As part of the State's recruitment efforts, our council will conduct a membership blitz at the parish before and after each Mass on September 23 and 24. Get ready to talk to the other men of the parish, ask them to join the Knights, and explain what we do for the parish and for

our community. Feel free to talk with our membership director, Carl Petchik, GK Bob Smith, or other senior council members about recruiting help.

## ***OCTOBER***

**Columbus Day Ball** – The premier social event of the Columbian year is the Columbus Day Ball held at La Fontaine Bleu in Glen Burnie. Five hours of dinner, dancing to live music, and an open bar promise a fantastic time for all who attend. The cost is only \$37.50 per person. Contact GK Bob Smith at 410-730-4225 or [bushranger.bob@gmail.com](mailto:bushranger.bob@gmail.com) to reserve your place at the council's 10-seat table. Reservations must be made and paid for by September 24, so we will be trying to get all takers identified at the business meeting on September 13.

**Clergy Appreciation Dinner** – The council will treat our chaplains, Father Dennis and Deacon Joe, to a Clergy Appreciation Dinner. The date is October 25, in lieu of our social meeting that night. Chancellor Bob Houston hasn't yet selected the location, but assures us that it will be very close to the parish, and will feature suitable comestibles and potables.

## **BENEFITS CORNER**

Buying life insurance is something that's easy to put off until tomorrow. And if your life is as busy as mine, tomorrow can easily become next week, next month, or even next year. I'd like to make a personal plea that you not make that mistake. Before the summer is over, make an appointment to visit with me, your professional Knights of Columbus agent. I'll work with you to put a plan in place that will help your family when that help is most needed.

We all know someone whose health, instantly and seemingly out-of-the-blue, changes. You may think this can't happen

to you. Think again. And keep in mind that no one will ring a bell warning you that your health is about to change. Medical technology has turned many diseases previously termed "death sentences" into very treatable conditions. What medical advances haven't changed, however, is that being diagnosed with one of these diseases will dramatically affect your ability to purchase life insurance coverage. Don't wait until it's too late. Call me today.

Your Knights of Columbus insurance program is second to none. Knights of Columbus life insurance represents a safety net for Catholic families that's unsurpassed, and we're proud of that. We're also concerned. Why? Because there are more than 1 million Knights of Columbus members who have no life insurance with us. I suspect that, for many of those 1 million members, tomorrow has become next week, next month or next year. Don't be one of them. Don't wait for the bell to ring. It isn't going to.

Gregory Wiherle, CSA, FICF  
Fraternal Benefits Advisor  
Office: 410-494-1498  
Email: [kc.wiherle@verizon.net](mailto:kc.wiherle@verizon.net)

## **SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT TOURS**

For the 2006-2007 fraternal year, we have several tours already on the books to provide entertainment for you and support for K of C scholarships. Here they are:

Maritimes Bus Tour  
September 28 – October 6, 2006

Nine-day, eight-night tour of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. \$1,381/person (double occupancy)

Caribbean Cruise  
February 2 - 12, 2007

Ten-day Southern Caribbean Cruise aboard Celebrity's "Galaxy". Prices from \$1,516 to

\$2,596/person including air (double occupancy).

Bus Trip to Supreme Council  
March 2 – 4, 2007

Supreme Council Museum Tour Celebrating 125 years of History – \$725.00 per couple, \$435.00 (single occupancy)

For further information check out <http://www.kofc-md.org/state/tours.htm>.

## PRAYER CORNER



**With you, O Mother of the Redeemer,  
may the hymn of the humble and  
the poor rise to almighty God:  
may he, the merciful one,  
bring peace to earth,  
reconcile brothers at enmity,  
confound Cain,  
make Abel rise again;  
may he bring all of creation  
to the design he had at the beginning  
in the love of the Son,  
in the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*- Pope John Paul II*

**World Day of Prayer for Peace** – The Supreme Council has designated September 11 as the World Day of Prayer for Peace. All councils are encouraged to distribute and use prayer cards with the prayer above, available at [the Supreme Council website](http://www.kofc-md.org/state/tours.htm).

## FOR THE GOOD OF THE BROTHERS

### Things you need to know!

There is a need right here and right now!!! Would you like to be the editor of this news letter? If no one wants the job as editor, how about some participation?!?! We're all in this council together. It would be nice to see some articles by our membership that could express thoughts on what we want our Council to do. This newsletter is a good forum for our brothers, and the real purpose of having it is to make our council more efficient. If you want to send something, please transport your thoughts electronically to me at (Insert email of the person who will write this column). **KEEP THOSE E-MAILS COMING!** Especially for the October issue – all articles are due by September 25 to GK Bob Smith, 410-730-4225 or [bushranger.bob@gmail.com](mailto:bushranger.bob@gmail.com).



## FRATERNAL REPORT

Please let Chancellor Bob Houston know of any individuals for whom the council should pray on the "Sick and Deceased" list. The current list will be published in the September-October newsletter. Also, let Bob know if you earlier requested a prayer petition and now feel that your request should go on "senior status". Contact him at 410-880-1968 or [bhouston129@yahoo.com](mailto:bhouston129@yahoo.com). Don't include any attachments – they'll be destroyed on receipt!

## *Reflections*

Lawrence P. Grayson

### AMERICA'S CREED

Throughout American history, it has been a belief in God and an adherence to the moral and ethical principles derived from that belief that have provided the country's binding force. They have been, and continue to be, central to the concept and practice of American democracy.

G.K. Chesterton wrote that "America is the only nation in the world that is founded on creed. That creed is set forth with dogmatic and even theological lucidity in the Declaration of Independence." He further suggests that as America is populated by people from diverse cultural and historical backgrounds, fidelity to that dogma defines who Americans are and keeps our nation intact. The old nations of Europe, in contrast, did not need a creed. Their identities were established by national traditions that had evolved over centuries.

Belief in a Divine Being and the exercise of religion underlie our national view of the rights we have, our relationship to the state, our purpose in the world, and how we react to various injustices. The Declaration of Independence proclaimed and justified the end of British rule over America on the basis that "all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights." From its very beginning, the nation recognized the existence of a Supreme Being and that every person has innate prerogatives as a result of being created in God's image and likeness.

The Constitution established a government based on those beliefs in order to secure the unalienable rights. The Bill of Rights, that is, the first ten Amendments to the Constitution, specifies the most basic endowments of the American people. The first of the Amendments states that the government shall not interfere with the right of the people to practice religion by either

supporting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. In this manner, the political and religious spheres are meant to be distinct. The state is not to interfere in the activities of the church, and the church is not to dictate policy to the state. The First Amendment does not mean that any mention of God or the expression of religious beliefs cannot be made in the public sphere, but rather that the state is to remain neutral toward religion, neither promoting a given set of religious beliefs nor interfering in their practice.

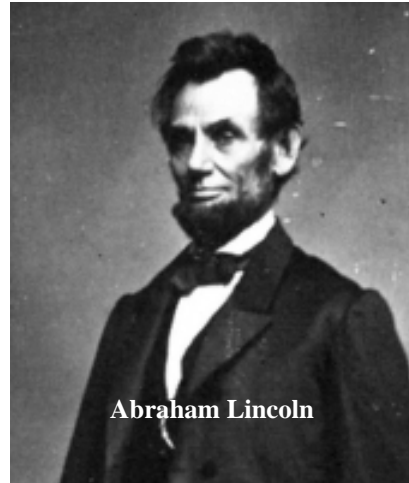
Religion has had a role in virtually every social movement in America, and continues to shape public policy. When the Civil War and the issue of slavery confronted the nation in the mid-1800s, Abraham Lincoln declared that "this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom," as it is "dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." This was a reaffirmation of the God-given dignity of man, a recognition that gave rise to several Constitutional Amendments to delineate the rights of Americans. The strong religious sentiments of the abolitionist movement led to the Thirteenth Amendment, which ended slavery and involuntary servitude. A few years later, the Fifteenth Amendment was passed guaranteeing that the right to vote "shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

Religion played a role in women's suffrage activities, which led to the Nineteenth Amendment extending the right to vote to women. It was a prominent factor in labor reform to abolish child labor, regulate the hours of work by mothers, and eliminate the 12-hour day for men, as well as in the social movements of the early 20th century to help the poor and immigrants improve their lives through better housing, education, health care, and the eradication of slums. In the 1960s, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his clerical colleagues relied on religious belief and rhetoric to advance the civil rights

movement. Currently, religion is very much a part of the societal debates on abortion and the definition of marriage.

Religion and public discussion of major issues have been intertwined throughout American history by religious leaders illuminating the moral implications of social conditions, political decisions and legislative actions. Churches not only have a right, but an obligation to speak out on issues of war, injustice, violence, freedom, the dignity of the individual, the protection of human life, and other social issues, in order to assure that conditions of justice and peace exist in which individuals and communities can flourish.

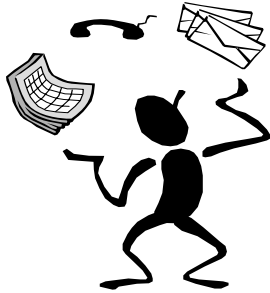
Today, with changing European demographics and the large influx of guest workers and immigrants possessing very different cultures, ideologies and religions, it can be argued that those traditions are becoming so diluted that they can no longer satisfactorily define a European, or even an Englishman, Frenchman, or German. Can a united Europe, or its individual nations, continue to exist without the binding force of a common creed? Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI have decried this change as the loss of Europe's Christian "soul." If America is not to suffer a similar fate, we must remain "one Nation under God."



*The "Reflections" column appears courtesy of the Maryland State Council, Knights of Columbus*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



*All events are at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Fulton unless otherwise indicated.*

### September 2006

- September 6 Program Meeting, 7:30
- September 9 Council Day of Prayer, 9:00 till 2:00
- September 9 Installation of Officers of Council and Ladies Auxiliary, 6:30
- September 11 World Day of Prayer for Peace
- September 13 Business Meeting, 7:30
- September 20 Ladies Auxiliary, 7:00 at Michael's Pub, Kings Contrivance Village Center
- September 22 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree at Patuxent Council 2203, Laurel, 7:30
- September 23 & 24 Membership Blitz at Masses
- September 24 Ladies Doughnut Sale after Sunday Masses
- September 25 Deadline for Sept-Oct newsletter submissions
- September 26 Talk by Terry McAuley, acclaimed NFL ref, 7:30 at Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, Columbia, joint event with Columbia and St. Louis the King Councils
- September 27 Business/social meeting, 7:30
- September 30 Voter registration drive at Mass

### October 2006

- October 1 Voter registration drive at Masses
- October 4 Program Meeting, 7:30
- October 7 Columbus Day Ball, 7:00 till midnight, La Fontaine Bleu, Glen Burnie
- October 8 Columbus Day Parade, Baltimore
- October 11 Business Meeting, 7:30
- October 18 Ladies Auxiliary, 7:00 at Michael's Pub, Kings Contrivance Village Center
- October 22 Ladies Doughnut Sale after Sunday Masses
- October 25 Clergy Appreciation Dinner, 7:30, location TBA

#### *Also keep in mind:*

- 1) Incentive raffle ticket sales at each Mass through September 30.
- 2) Tootsie Rolls to support the developmentally disabled at Savage Mill on weekends September 30 through October 29