

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 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Planning meetings the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

<http://www.stfranciscouncil.org>



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.

After a full September, the council is continuing at breakneck pace in activities to serve church and community. Raffle tickets, voter registration, and the installation of officers of our council and our ladies auxiliary have all passed by – what in planning seemed daunting is already a memory.

A great round of applause is due to **Carl Petchik, Eric Paul, Jack Evans**, and all the others who sat in front of the church selling raffle tickets. We exceeded last year's sales, and that was an exceptionally good year too. Thanks too to **Rich Tucci, Mark Metzler**, and the **Warner** family, who helped us get a Pontiac G6 to exhibit on our installation weekend – that really boosted interest in the tickets. The combined effort really gives our council budget a boost in the arm and helps us to perform the acts of charity that are the real reason we're Knights of Columbus.

Thanks to PGK **Bob Quarles**, DGK **Jack Evans**, and all the others who staffed our nonpartisan Voter Registration Drive, registering voters and passing out absentee ballot applications. The Archdiocese, the Maryland Catholic Conference, and the Order all thank you for helping the democratic process work!

Our first weekend of Tootsie Rolls for the Mentally Handicapped also went very well. I look forward to wider participation by the

brothers, and great results for the benefit of developmentally disabled individuals here in our community. Last year we did a great job collecting donations for the CHI Center in honor of our late brother **Ted Geppert**. I know that we can do even better this year to support God's special children in our community.

Christmas card sales begin this month – so Christmas itself can't be that far off! We honor our clergy at a special dinner on October 25. We also will help with church maintenance and community activities during this month and next.

The frenzy of these months is a challenge for every involved Knight and his family. Take a moment to thank your family for allowing you the time to do something as a Knight for church and community. Even if that moment has to come between running off to soccer, ballet, swimming, or another of the thousand-and-one activities our families are also involved in. And as I suggested in the last issue, in the midst of all these activities, 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, for everything!"

Safe trick-or-treating for the young ones at the end of this month, and happy Thanksgiving at the end of the next!

Peace and all good,

Bob Smith
Grand Knight



DISTRICT DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

The Councils in the District 10 are off to a busy start this fraternal year. We kicked off the first quarter with the installation of Officers, and we are currently working on the car raffle and the mentally handicapped program.

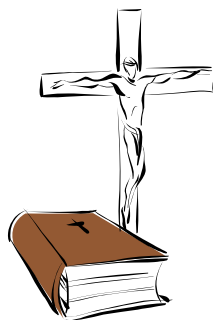
The Columbus Day Ball will be on October 7th at La Fontaine Bleu in Glen Burnie. This is a great event with a sit down dinner and live band where you can celebrate being part of the Knights of Columbus family in Maryland. Thank you for supporting the Ball this year.

November is the month we take time to remember our departed. The Maryland State Memorial Mass and Reception will be held on November 26th at Rosensteel Council 2169. We encourage each Council to invite their widows to this affair.

Don't forget that the quarterly activity reports are due on October 15th.

The District 10 Team, Tom Aylward, Jim Brown, and I, would like to extend our appreciation for to all the councils for making us feel welcomed, and for all of the great work you all do as Knights of Columbus.

Rick Askins
District Deputy, District 10



THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Pope Benedict XVI's first encyclical entitled *Deus Caritas Est* instructs us "to love one another as I have loved you." Remember, Christ's love for us

brought Him to the Cross.

Do we really want a Christianity that is comprised of good things only? When we listen to Christ's words, remember life has some difficult times. Humility does not come easy for any one of us. We must not lose sight of our goal: eternal salvation. Humble yourself. Empower our brothers and sisters through our words, actions and prayers. Give to the less fortunate. Deprive yourself to enrich others' lives.

Remember Christ's love for us as He humbled Himself to death, yes death on the Cross.

Peace!
Deacon Joe McKenna
Associate Chaplain

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER

Tootsie Rolls – From now through October 29, the council is distributing Tootsie Rolls at Savage Mill in order to solicit donations for the support of those with developmental disabilities in Howard County. Our first weekend, September 30-October 1, was quite successful. I know that we can raise over \$1,000, all of which will benefit God's special children here in our home community. Sign up at the next council meeting, contact Warden **Rich Tucci** or PGK **Bob Quarles**, or just show up at the Savage Mill entrance by the Ram's

Head Tavern on Saturdays between 10 and 4, and Sundays starting by 11. Bring your kids – they’re likely to get more contributions than we are!

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** is arranging for the dinner at Copeland’s in Columbia. Appetizers and hors d’oeuvres will be served at 7:00 p.m., the main dinner at 7:30 p.m. For the menu, cost, and other details, listen up at our October 11 meeting, check the “Activities” page of the council website, <http://www.stfranciscouncil.org>, or contact **Bob** (Houston) at 410-880-1968 or bhouston129@yahoo.com. He’ll be calling you to sign you up, so call him first!

Christmas Cards – Can it be that time already? PGK **Tim Morris** assures me that it’s never too early to sell Christmas cards. We’ll start selling cards at the parish later this month, and every weekend thereafter till the holy day itself. Of course, Tim wouldn’t want to keep all the pleasure of selling to himself, so please contact him to volunteer for some table time! He can be reached at 301-725-3720 or tjm3720@comcast.net.

NOVEMBER

State Memorial Mass – The State Council’s annual Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, November 26 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Silver Spring, with a reception to follow at Father Rosensteel Council 2169, also in Silver Spring. At this Mass the names of our brother Knights who have died are read aloud and the assembled members and families pray for them. It is important to offer the opportunity to bring our council’s widows to this celebration of life and the hereafter. Please contact GK **Bob Smith**, DGK **Jack Evans**, or PGK **Charlie Blandford** if you plan to attend..

Habitat for Humanity – Warden **Rich Tucci** and the heroic Franciscan contingent will once again travel to Pigtown in Baltimore to fix up houses in our quarterly Habitat for Humanity activity. The date is November 18, and **Rich** has all the details as to when and where to meet that morning for the trek to Charm City.

Highway Cleanup – Now that Treasurer **Bob Burnett** has renewed our contract with the State Highway Administration, we will soon be walking the road from the West 216 loop-de-loops over to beautiful downtown Fulton, picking up trash along the way. Listen up at meetings, or watch for **Rich Tucci**’s e-mails, to find out when this socially acceptable golf alternative will be taking place.

Pond Maintenance – PGK **Tim Morris** will once again ride the bucking bushhog this fall at the Pond Maintenance Rodeo. This and the open weed-whacker competition are the main events in our neverending efforts to keep the parish’s stormwater drainage pond free from debris. Take a couple of hours on a Saturday morning (not scheduled as of yet) to vent your frustrations on brush and grass. Bring your yard tools of choice. This is one of the few times opportunities of the year to become one with mud in a Knights activity!

PROGRAM CORNER



Sorry, I am too busy! This is often the response to many requests for Knights to volunteer for any number of events, projects, or gatherings. First, thank you to those of you who have stepped forward and made some many of our efforts a success! It is your spirit of faithful service and friendship that exemplifies our order.

Yes, we live in a busy world and our families are foremost in the time we have available. That is one reason that we need to rely on all of our members to contribute in some way so that our programs don't over tax just a few. Just like the call for volunteers during mass, I am looking for each of you to look out over the next 9 months and agree to help with one or more programs. I believe our variety of programs offer the flexibility for each of us to give something of ourselves to the Knights, our church, and our community. At the beginning of each month, our worthy Warden **Rich Tucci** e-mails out the list of activities for the month. We also cover programs and new ideas at our Wednesday meetings. Generally, we just need to give a few hours at a time to accomplish a lot.

To overview some of our programs, the month of October we are handing out Tootsie Rolls at Savage Mill on weekends to collect for the Mentally Handicapped. The Priest Appreciation Dinner is October 25. Then we have Habitat for Humanity in November and the Christmas "push" with our children's program to "Keep Christ in Christmas", sponsoring a family for Christmas, helping with the Christmas Bazaar in November, our annual Christmas party pot luck, and then the important traffic control for the Christmas Eve services. Another youth activity will be the Free Throw contest in the winter.

We will also be challenged to serve during Lent. We want to repeat last year's successful Pancake Dinner on Shrove Tuesday, aid with the Soup for Stations of the Cross, and plan our first Fish Dinner for one of the Fridays in Lent.

We also have events to help the Church during the year including pond maintenance, road clean up, and small projects from the church staff. Our main program at the end of the school year is our sponsoring of the Baccalaureate Mass. Plus there are many District and State events that welcome our support. We can also focus on our faith with

rosary sessions after Masses, visitation of local senior centers, and Right to Life support.

The point is that we have programs that need volunteers which are diversified and flexible to fit our schedules – if only you commit to making a difference by honoring the values we pledged we would as Knights.

In faith,
Jack Evans
DGK and Program Director



THE BOBS

It was very hard to get started on this column with all the ideas that came to mind. My mind could only wander on the issues that affect the Knights and our Community at large. After considerable thought the idea of charity became the most compelling road to venture down for this column. Charity as defined in the dictionary means: 1) goodness, generosity, and kindness; 2) an agency that provides a service to those in need, especially the poor; 3) spiritual benevolence; Christian love. It seems to me we do this.

The road we take in our adventure in charity takes many paths with detours and obstacles along the way. Who could of thought when K of C Council 12524 was founded how many chances we would get to take on all these charitable tasks?

As a Community we have taken on so many charitable events in a selfless (doing for others without expecting anything in return) manner that we have become invisible to the church community at large.

I am not saying that we should look or even expect to be recognized for the efforts that

we put forth, but to look for avenues we can use to educate the community of our efforts. The undertakings we do could be made public to the church community and ask for their help. The invitation to others will act as an educational tool of our work. How many times when talking to people about the Knights there first question is what do you do.

Charity is most likely our largest and most significant endeavor we have as group. The need for more people to help is always our biggest need of concern. We can only do more for others with the help of others.

One last thing, I was always told and it seems to be true, if you have too much to do and you cannot find time to get it all done take on something else you have a passion for and everything gets done.

Please don't forget The Ladies of Hope — they need our support and if your wife is not a member please talk to her about them. The Ladies have in a very short time have done some remarkable things.

Let's keep on the path of Gods work.

Bob Houston
Chancellor and one of the "Bobs"

BENEFITS CORNER

"How Much are you Worth?"

Most men (and women) underestimate their "financial worth" to their families. In my experience as your council's benefits advisor, I can tell you that most of our members (not all) drastically underestimate the amount of money it would take to replace their income.

For example how much life insurance would it take to replace a \$60,000 income? At 5% interest, it would take 1.2 million.

$\$1,200,000 \times .05\% = \$60,000$ annual income

With K of C low cost term and permanent plans available to our members, there's no reason a person can't afford this amount of coverage.

\$1,000,000 isn't what it used to be! Lump sum thinking is dangerous. You can't look at the lump sum, but rather at what amount of income the lump sum could provide.

Lots of brother knights own \$1,000,000 plus of life insurance with the Order. Please think about this issue and give me a call. Join the \$1,000,000 club – you'll feel great once you do!

Gregory Wiherle, CSA, FICF
Fraternal Benefits Advisor
Office: 410-494-1498
Email: 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 are the remaining tours:

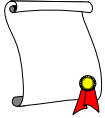
Caribbean Cruise
February 2 - 12, 2007

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>.



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 November-December 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. Don’t include any attachments – they’ll be destroyed on receipt!

FOR THE GOOD OF THE BROTHERS

Things you need to know!

(1) One thing that could really help the council is a First Degree Team. Currently, we must rely on the kindness of strangers – other councils – to exemplify this degree and admit new members to our council. This means relying on the schedules of these other councils as well, or making our candidates drive to Lower Oysterback for a timely exemplification. Of all the degrees, this is the one that should make the best first impression on new members, and should be available at any of our regular meetings when we have a signed Form 100 in hand and approved.

To this end, we are exploring forming our own team. We have the new, revised program books. Now we need about 10 men as volunteers, including several to memorize speaking roles and others as alternates. Contact GK **Bob Smith**, 410-730-4225 or bushranger.bob@gmail.com, or PGK **Carl Petchik**, 301-953-3053 or Petchik@cua.edu, if you are interested in being part of this team.

(B) Strangely enough, although his culinary exploits never fail to please the council, **Bob**

Burnett is willing to cede the privilege of providing post-meeting eats for the council to other brothers. Volunteers are welcome – contact GK **Bob Smith**, 410-730-4225 or bushranger.bob@gmail.com, **Bob Burnett**, or just raise your hand at the next meeting.

(iii) Thank you all who have sent in material for this newsletter; I hope I haven’t mangled it too badly. It would be nice to see some additional articles by our membership to express thoughts on what we as a council want to do for church and community. This newsletter can be a good forum for our brothers, and help us keep in touch with those who cannot attend our meetings regularly.

If you want to send something, please transport your thoughts electronically to me. KEEP THOSE E-MAILS COMING! Especially for the December issue – all articles are due by November 25 to GK **Bob Smith** at bushranger.bob@gmail.com. If you’ve already stepped up to write a column, I thank you, and will remind (nag) you of that fact starting November 26. And keep in mind that the editorship of the newsletter is a valuable service – one that almost anyone else in the council can do better than I – and is available to the right person. Would you like to edit this newsletter? Carry around the title of “Editor in Chief”? =:-0

Reflections

Lawrence P. Grayson

ORDERED LIBERTY

Liberty is the cornerstone of American political philosophy and the principle value of our national life. The commitment to its attendant freedoms guides societal values as disparate as legislative and judicial decision-making, foreign policy, and the struggle for individual civil rights. The Founding Fathers' drive to preserve liberty gave rise to such revolutionary concepts as governmental separation of powers; a prohibition on the state's interference with the free exercise of religious practice; the equality of all citizens under the law; and the ability to express without retribution one's opposition to elected representatives. The exercise of their freedoms has led Americans to achieve tremendous advances in science, technology, economics, and civil affairs, making this nation the world's leader in political, military and economic terms. Liberty truly has blessed America, which our nation largely has utilized with admirable intentions and for significant material results.

But nature dictates that freedom will be destroyed if not exercised responsibly. When liberty is mistaken for license, and free reign granted to passion, the evil constraints of oppression and injustice result. The very foundations of democracy are put at risk, for a people who cannot control their appetites in private life are unlikely to exercise responsible self-government in public life.

Every society requires order. In a nation based on the consent of the governed, order must flow from individuals freely obeying the imperatives of an inner set of standards, from adherence to norms that apply to all people. Freedom must be rooted for its existence in a moral culture that produces an ordered liberty, a liberty of self-mastery, self-discipline, self-governance. Lord

Acton, the 19th century, Catholic, English historian wrote: "Liberty is not the power of doing what we like, but the right of being able to do what we ought."

God created us with a purpose, defined in the Catechism of the Catholic Church as, "to seek Him, to know Him, to love Him." Liberty has been awarded us to fulfill that purpose. In the encyclical *Gaudium et Spes*, Pope Paul VI stated: "[A]uthentic freedom is an exceptional sign of the divine image within man. For God has willed that man remain 'under the control of his own decisions,' so that he can seek his Creator spontaneously, and come freely to utter and blissful perfection through loyalty to Him." Our soul seeks God through the free exercise of our will. If it were otherwise, and we lacked the ability to so willingly choose, the revelations of God, the teachings of Jesus Christ about the virtuous life, would lack meaning. We are free to choose ways to pursue good; we are not free from restraint on our passions and actions.

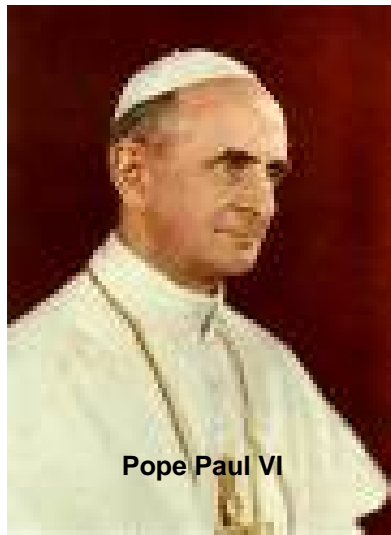
We live in a time of significant moral conflict. America is a pluralistic society founded on a unifying principle - the Judeo-Christian belief in a Supreme Being who created all men in His image and likeness, equal in dignity and endowed with certain inalienable rights. This common base has provided Americans with a consensual understanding of the nature and dignity of man. It has sustained our national belief in the transcendent worth of every individual, an orthodoxy that illuminates our civil life.

Today, this foundation is being eroded. Intolerance of Judeo-Christian beliefs has eradicated from our public sphere and discourse all mention of God, let alone humble acknowledgement of our dependence on Him. Legislative and judicial decisions prioritize human life, deeming some - often the weakest and most vulnerable in our society -- unworthy to continue. Even a substantial number of Catholic politicians are following the popular secular agenda, disregarding the teachings of their Faith when they make political decisions. Our common moral

values, that necessary precursor to a vibrant democracy, are being eliminated. Without these shared inner principles, it is not possible to assume that people will execute their public duties for the good of society. As then-Cardinal Ratzinger wrote:

"When nothing can be taken for granted, everything becomes possible, and nothing is impossible any longer. Now there is no value capable of sustaining man, and there are no inviolable norms. All that count's is man's ego and the present moment."

As Catholic Americans, blessed with unprecedented freedom and opportunity and guided by the Church's moral teachings, we have an awesome responsibility -- to keep God relevant in our public and private lives, and to build a consciousness of God's beneficent shaping of our nation's affairs. The Knights of Columbus can have a substantial catalytic effect on the nation's Catholic population and on the nation as a whole by stoutly promoting the teachings of our Church in relation to public affairs. As individuals, we can begin by leading our lives as exemplars of Christianity, fulfilling our purpose to seek Him, to know Him, to love Him, so that we can spend eternity with Him in Heaven.



Pope Paul VI

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



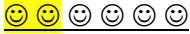
PRAYER CORNER

MY LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

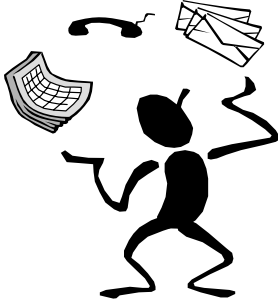
But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

- Thomas Merton, *Thoughts in Solitude*
© Abbey of Gethsemani



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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

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, Columbia
- October 21 FS and Tax Seminar, 9:00, Annapolis Council 1384, Annapolis
- October 22 Ladies Doughnut Sale after Sunday Masses
- October 25 Clergy Appreciation Dinner, 7:00, Copeland's, Columbia (in lieu of social meeting)

Also keep in mind:

- 1) Tootsie Rolls to support the developmentally disabled at Savage Mill on weekends September 30 through October 29
- 2) Christmas card sales at all masses starting late October
- 3) Route 216 Cleanup and Pond Maintenance activities will be announced at meetings and on-line at <http://www.stfranciscouncil.org>

FAMILIES OF THE MONTH

- July – Charlie & Barbara Blandford
- August – Deacon Joe & Pat McKenna
- September – Tom & Marilyn Elchynski
- October – Pete & Michele Babendrier

November 2006

- November 1 Program Meeting, 7:30
- November 8 Business Meeting, 7:30
- November 11 Christmas Bazaar, 9:00
- November 15 Ladies Auxiliary, 7:00 at Michael's Pub, Kings Contrivance Village Center, Columbia
- November 18 Habitat for Humanity, Pigtown, Baltimore
- November 22 Thanksgiving Mass and Pie Social in lieu of Business/social meeting, 7:00
- November 23 Happy Thanksgiving! Say a special prayer for those serving in the military.
- November 25 Deadline for Nov-Dec newsletter submissions
- November 26 Ladies Doughnut Sale after Sunday Masses
- November 26 State Memorial Mass & Reception, Fr. Rosensteel Council 2169, Silver Spring