

## DID WE MENTION WE ARE PRO-LIFE?

### Maryland Marches for Life

Washington, D.C. – January 24, 2011

The air was brisk and sometimes had a bite to it, but the skies were clear and the sun shone down on tens of thousands as we gathered for the 38<sup>th</sup> annual March for Life. Even a break in a major water main in Capitol Heights didn't keep folks from joining up to continue to remind our legislators that abortion is the wrong an-



swer. L.L. Bean hand warmers were in demand as we tried to shake off the chill while patiently waiting for the last of the speakers to get off the stage and for the chorus to lead us all in the song, *God Bless America*. We all knew that with the last notes of that song, the march would finally get underway. Thankfully, that occurred around 2:30 and the crowd slowly started moving down the street and up Capitol Hill heading toward their final destination – the Supreme Court Building.

Even after attending these marches for many years, one still marvels at seeing all of the teens and young adults in attendance – most of them coming after a long bus ride to get here, spending the night in sleeping bags on hard floors, and worshipping at a morning mass at the Verizon Center. Their numbers by themselves were encouraging, but when you saw all of the priests and seminarians also there – espe-

cially an extremely large contingent from Father Zylla Council No. 1965 and Mt. St. Mary's Seminary and University in Emmitsburg; they show us there is hope for our future.

The Maryland Knights of Columbus family was well represented with many state officers, District Deputies, chairmen and their wives and friends along with



(Continued on page 4)

### Rosensteel Again Hosts Pro-Life Kickoff Rally

Silver Spring - January 9, 2011

For over two decades now, Fr. Rosensteel Council, #2169 has served as a staunch supporter of the pro-life movement. Integral to their support has been their untiring efforts in the planning, coordinating, and funding of the annual pro-life kickoff rally hosted at their council home in Silver Spring. The program has been the gathering place for political celebrities such as Maryland State Senator Frank Shore and U.S. Ambassador/media commentator and talk show personality, Alan Keyes



On Sunday the 9th, Council 2169 again hosted the kickoff rally under the chairmanship of PGK Mike Koon. In every past year Brother Knight Charles Suraci has chaired this event, but due to an ailment, Mike was asked to step in.

Guests included Archdiocese of Washington Auxiliary Bishop Olivier, Father Andrew Heintz - PGK of Mt. St. Mary's Seminary Council and Parochial Vicar at Queen of the Apostles Church in Alexandria, State Senator Frank Shore, Maryland State Deputy Peter Davio and wife Francine, State Warden Dale Trott and wife Linda, State Pro-Life Activities Director Dan Ward, and District Deputy Yen Le.

A brief program was held after a pleasant dinner put on by Grand Knight Mike Miller and his team. Besides State Deputy Davio, other guest speakers included, Austin Ruse – President of the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute, Tom Grenchik – Executive Director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities at

the USCCB, and Christa Lopiccolo – Executive Director of the Life Issues Office of the Archdiocese of Washington.

Also recognized by Mike Koon for their faithful and continued support at each of these rallies, were the Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly Color Corps and Mr. Vincent and Carolyn Mae Peticone who shared their musical talents.

At the close of the event, Rosensteel Council's own Pro-Life Activities Director, SK Col. Charles X. Suraci, Jr., was presented with a special award during the evening's activities for his dedication and many years of service to the pro-life movement.



## State Deputy's Remarks



For our Knights of Columbus family, when we look back on January, we see it's all about life!

We've prayed at the mid term meeting mass for those lives lost and those lives damaged by the abortion experience. We attended the pro-life kickoff at Rosensteel Council; we sang at the pro-life celebration at Michaels 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Glen Bernie; we listened as Rock Creek Council hosted newly

*State Deputy Peter Davio*

elected U.S. Congressman Andy Harris who shared his pro-life experiences as a doctor and his pro-life plans as a Congressman; Rosensteel hosted busloads of young pro-life marchers from Rhode Island that needed a place to sleep overnight before the mass downtown; and we gathered on the mall to march, to pray, to be counted, and finally to help in the cleanup on the mall after the march. We are off to a good start for 2011.



Chuck Suraci, Senator Frank Shore, Father Andrew Heintz PGK, Congressman Andy Harris

Perhaps this year more than any other, Maryland may be poised to finally act to make abortion something other than just another part of the state's major commerce. We saw and read of the horrors that an abortionist from New Jersey committed in Elkton and we saw and read of the plans of a Nebraska abortionist

for his new clinic in Germantown. Both of these late term abortionists see Maryland as an easy place for them to do business – and certainly to our shame, our state has some of the most lax laws on the books when it comes to this heinous act against a human life.

Shortly you will see the rest of our pro-life calendar begin to unfold as soon as our new Pro-Life Activities Director comes onboard. We thank outgoing Director Dan Ward and his wife Beth for their efforts in getting us this far.

But as my team's been saying all along - members beget programs and programs beget members. Each of these activities on our calendars is an opportunity to let others see first hand who and what we Knights are all about. The church needs to grow her army, so we ask you to continue with your blitzes and other forms of membership drives and recruitment endeavors to help grow our Order. Our Order is her army! But we also encourage you to invite others to join you in your activities and don't forget to be proud to wear our emblem when you work, pray, or play as part of our Order. Let others see how we live our lives for our church, our families, and our communities – because like I said at the beginning, it's all about life!

*Pete*

**Marian Title for February**

## Our Lady of Lourdes



Our Lady of Lourdes is the name used to refer to the Marian apparition that appeared before various individuals in separate occasions around Lourdes, France.

The apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes began on 11 February 1858, when Saint Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old peasant girl from Lourdes admitted, when questioned by her mother, that she had seen a "lady" in the cave of Massabielle, about a mile from the town, while she was gathering firewood with her sister and a friend.

Similar appearances of the "lady" took place on seventeen further occasions that year. Bernadette Soubirous was canonized as a saint, and many Christians believe her apparitions to have been of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pope Pius IX authorized the local bishop to permit the veneration of the Virgin Mary in Lourdes in 1862.

The verity of the apparitions of Lourdes is not an article of faith for Catholics. Nevertheless all recent Popes visited the Marian shrine. Benedict XV, Pius XI, and John XXIII went there as bishops, Pius XII as papal delegate. He also issued with *Le Pelerinage de Lourdes* a Lourdes encyclical on the hundredth anniversary of the apparitions in 1958.

John Paul II visited Lourdes three times and Pope Benedict XVI completed a visit there on 15 September 2008 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the apparitions in 1858.



## Voices of the Bishops

### Cardinal: Support Celibacy to Fight Secularization

ARS, France, JAN. 27, 2011 (Zenit.org).- The prefect of the Congregation for Clergy is proposing that the support of priestly celibacy may be one of the most effective means to combat modern secularization. Cardinal Mauro Piacenza stated this in an address Monday at a colloquium in Ars that centered on the theme of "Priestly Celibacy: Foundations, Joys and Challenges." The three-day conference, organized by the Society of John Mary Vianney and the Ars Shrine, ended Wednesday.

"In a world which is gravely secularized, it is ever more difficult to understand the reasons for celibacy," the cardinal acknowledged.

The prelate asserted, "I hold, according to that meaning, that the reasoned support of celibacy and adequately evaluating its worth in the life of the Church and the world might represent some of the most effective means to overcome this secularization."

He added, "What else could the Holy Father Benedict XVI mean when he says that celibacy shows that 'God enters into the reality of our time?'"

### Bishop Vasa to Lead Santa Rosa Diocese

SANTA ROSA, California, JAN. 27, 2011 (Zenit.org).- Pope Benedict XVI named Bishop Robert Vasa of Baker, Oregon, as coadjutor bishop of the Diocese of Santa Rosa in Northern California.

Bishop Vasa, 59, will eventually succeed Bishop Daniel Walsh, 73, of Santa Rosa in California, upon the latter's retirement. As of yet, a successor has not been named for the Baker Diocese.

Robert Vasa was born in Lincoln, Nebraska. He studied at Holy Trinity Seminary in Dallas, Texas. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Lincoln in 1976. In 1979, he was sent to further his studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

He was named bishop of the Diocese of Baker in 2000.

The Diocese of Santa Rosa has a population of 898,000, of which 167,945 are Catholic. The diocese counts with 101 priests, 35 permanent deacons, and 87 religious.

### Series Highlights Marriage as Way to Holiness

ROME, JAN. 27, 2011 (Zenit.org).- A new conference series sponsored by the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family is highlighting examples of conjugal holiness such as Jacques and Raïssa Maritain.

This series on "Profiles of Conjugal Holiness" aims to address topics such as the strength that comes from love, faithfulness to love and demonstrations of love, focusing on specific testimonies of married couples. Jacques and Raïssa were two young intellectual converts who married in 1904, and set out to discover together the way of faith with the sole objective of sanctifying their marriage.

## Know your K of C Fraternal Benefits

At the writing of this, we just got back from our annual General Agents meeting. While it was pretty cold, we did get some great information. In April, we will be getting TWO new products. The first is a Whole Life plan called 10 Pay Life. Yes, you only have to pay premiums for 10 years, and then you have a paid up policy. The second is Disability Insurance. Many that are still working have a shortfall in this area of their financial plan. Please allow your Field Agent to show you these new plans!!

**ON A FIELD AGENT RECRUITING NOTE, I am currently looking for a Field Agent in Charles County. Please contact me to learn more information about the career.**

## State Chaplain's Message



Fr. Donald Grzymiski, OFM Conv.  
State Chaplain

For all who receive email from the State Council, as well as by old-fashioned methods like word-of-mouth and phone calls, there seems to be a constant flow of prayer requests for those who are ill, facing surgeries, and going through various stages of recovery. While it's daunting to visit all of those who are ailing, and sometimes even frustrating to try to get out cards and calls, it remains easy and possible to include these people in prayer.

As we may marvel at how our circle of friends and acquaintances has grown through the Knights of Columbus, that means there will be new names for our prayer list on a very consistent basis. It gives us a wonderful opportunity to live out the principle of charity and to practice a spiritual work of mercy in praying for them. When we can visit the sick, we also add a corporal work of mercy.

February 11 is the World Day of the Sick, a day designated by the late Pope John Paul II to coincide with the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Even if we have not personally experienced being seriously ill, those who are sick often say that they are comforted and strengthened by those who pray for them. Praying for one another is truly an experience of sharing in the communion of saints. Having the privilege of administering the Sacrament of the Sick, it is not unusual to see greater peace in the one anointed, sometimes almost instantly.

Shrines like Lourdes in France are wonderful places of healing, both physical and spiritual, but the goodness and mercy of God extends those benefits to us in our own homes and communities. I remember reading an article on prayer by the late Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York in which he said that when he is finding it hard to pray he starts thinking of all those who asked for a prayer, or needed a prayer, and praying becomes much easier.

So if you don't keep a little prayer list perhaps start one, and remember our Knights and Ladies, their family members and all for whom you are asked to pray. In so doing I believe you'll find a desire to pray, and know that commending someone to God's mercy is a tremendous act of faith.

# WANTED



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a.k.a. Catholic Goodman

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For more information, please contact:

**Martin Luchansky, Sheriff, at 301-829-0269**

# YOUTH ACTIVITIES

## State Catholic Scouting Liaison

This year, on February 8<sup>th</sup> the Boy Scouts of America will be celebrating their 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary. The Girl Scouts of the United States will be celebrating their 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Many Cub Scout Packs will be holding their Blue and Gold dinners. Also, many Scouting units will celebrate a Scout Sunday at their local church. As the Knights of Columbus, consider a small recognition for the Cubmaster, Scoutmaster and/or Advisor of the Scouting programs in your parish. A simple certificate of thanks and public recognition could be a great boost for the adult Scout leaders in your parish. Contact the Charter Organizational Representative for the Scouting programs in your parish. Show that the Knights of Columbus supports the youth programs in your parish or community.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore will be holding its Archdiocesan Scout Mass on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 2:30 P.M. The Mass will be at St. Ursula Church, 8801 Harford Road, Parkville, Maryland 21234-4199. For more information, contact **Vicki DeRuggiero** at 410-687-1675 or at [vickideru@comcast.net](mailto:vickideru@comcast.net).



The annual Scout retreat for the Baltimore Area Council will be held on April 29<sup>th</sup> thru May 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 at the Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation in Whiteford, Maryland. For more information contact **Victor Torres** at 301-928-5197 or at [vic-tor\\_torres@verizon.net](mailto:vic-tor_torres@verizon.net). The Archdiocese of Washington will be holding its Scout retreat on the same weekend at the Our Lady of Mattaponi Youth Retreat Center in Bowie, Maryland. For more information contact **Santa Bigony** at 301-262-8645 or at [msbrn@aol.com](mailto:msbrn@aol.com).

Further information on the Catholic Scouting Religious Committees activities and programs can be found on each of the (Arch)Diocesan Scouting Web pages: Baltimore <http://www.archbalt.org/scouting/>, Washington [http://www.adw.org/youth/yth\\_scout.asp](http://www.adw.org/youth/yth_scout.asp) and Wilmington <http://www.cdow.org/scouting.html>.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 410-760-8484 or [KB3CPV@ARRL.NET](mailto:KB3CPV@ARRL.NET).

Mike Conlon  
[KB3CPV@ARRL.NET](mailto:KB3CPV@ARRL.NET)  
State Catholic Scouting Liaison

## PRO-LIFE, CONTINUED...

### Maryland Marches for Life

*(Continued from page 1)*



many councils. We marched with the Maryland State Council banner and the Maryland flag provided thanks to the generosity of Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree and carried by state director Dan Ward. Maryland councils in attendance (at least the ones we could find) included 1393, 1965, 2002, 2065, 2169, 2203, 2293, 2797, 2942, 4714, 6901, 9053, 9302, 10525, 11248, 11618, 12128, 13982, 14189, and 14297.

The day ended with a walk by the Supreme Court, pictures, handshakes, and hugs around as folks headed back to their buses or the subway.

**Now on to Annapolis and Lobby Night on February 21<sup>st</sup> !**

### Pro-Life Pilgrims at Rock Creek Council

For the tenth consecutive year, Rock Creek Council, No. 2797 hosted out-of-state Right to Life Pilgrims. These are high-school and college-age students, who slept over in our hall for four consecutive nights. The group consisted of ten young people from San Felipe Neri Youth, Albuquerque, Archdiocese of Santa Fe, NM., accompanied by Father Dennis Garcia. There were five folks from St. Thomas Aquinas Youth, Pilot Point, Ft. Worth Diocese, Texas; led by Bobby Reynosa, Director of Coalition for Life in College Station. And there were ten pilgrims from Vanderbilt Catholic Student Center, Nashville Diocese, Tennessee; Father Vandy Baker, who is chaplain at Vanderbilt University, accompanied this group. The pilgrims from New Mexico and Texas arrived early Friday evening and were able to attend the March for Life Kickoff Lecture in Cantrel Hall, featuring guest speaker U.S. Congressman Dr. Andy Harris, who spoke about "Taking Back America - Now or Never".

These young people not only come for the March for Life in Washington; they also attend a variety of services, Masses, and rallies; they visit several sites, both religious and secular. Their daily schedule is very busy indeed; from early in the morning, culminating in a very moving prayer service at our Hall late at night, just before lights out... only to start it all again in the morning!

As usual, the Council provided them with a daily hot Continental breakfast, some munchies for the evenings, some transportation to and from Metro, and shower facilities at the local YMCA. The youthful exuberance and deep faith of these pilgrims bring every year a source of inspiration to those brother knights who volunteer to serve as chaperones... and to the council in general.

The Pro-Life movement is alive and well. We can attest to that.

## FAMILY OF THE MONTH

Ralph J. Close, Family of the Month Chairman

### The Ruben Calico Family

Ruben Calico is a member of Fr. Michael C. Kidd Council #14455 in Mitchellville, MD. Ruben joined the Council recently after having participated in several K of C events.

The one thing that stands out with our Family of the Month is how wholly committed to serving the parish it is. Ruben and Vicky are very active in their parish: Holy Family Church as members of the Heritage Choir. Their daughter, Ruvy Anne Calico, is an Altar Server and a member of the Children's Choir.

Vicky is a prime mover of the Filipino-American Mass taking place at the parish every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. Vicky and several parishioners coordinated the Simbang Gabi (Midnight Mass) which was celebrated from December 15 to December 23. The family is actively involved in Mabuhay, Inc., where Vicky has been newly elected President and also an ardent supporter of Fr. Fernando Suarez-Mary Mother of the Poor Foundation.



## Kids Get their Kicks at the State Council's Soccer Shootout

On Saturday, November 13, 2010, under perfect skies ordered by Our Lady, the Maryland State Council held its annual State Soccer Shoot-out at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Church in Middle River.

Thirteen Brother Knights assisted State Youth Activity Director Joseph Murtha and State Soccer co-chairmen Jimmy Klein and Modesto Carbon as the 53 young ladies and men, representing all areas of the State participated in the activities. All have now received certificates of participation. Trophies for the winners will be presented at a council function at an agreed time in the future.

Our thanks to all who participated as they and their families are all winners for taking time out of their busy schedules to come to the shoot-out. Also thanks to the 13 Brother Knights who assisted. Unity and Fraternity win again!

**Participants, sponsoring councils, winners' names and more photographs are available on the State website and Yahoo-groups. Visit them!**



## A Note from the Diocese of Wilmington

### Reconciliation: An Encounter with Christ

A recent study suggests that 70 percent of Americans say they have at some point taken actions to avoid going to the doctor, including using outdated prescriptions or asking a friend for medical advice. This may seem foolish to those of us who enjoy a fruitful doctor-patient relationship but let's face it, a visit to the doctor's office can be a humbling experience, especially if you haven't been leading the healthiest of lifestyles. All of those late night snacks and hours spent in front of the television finally come to bear when the doctor wants to have a conversation about high blood pressure and obesity. Confrontation is never easy particularly when it involves an evaluation of behavior.

Like a trip to the doctor's office, the Sacrament of Reconciliation can also be a humbling experience. Reconciliation is humbling because it forces us to be honest with ourselves about the choices that we've made and the lifestyles we've adopted. The Sacrament is a confrontation with our sinfulness and that is always a sobering experience. But con-

fronting sin is only part of the Sacrament. Reconciliation is first and foremost an encounter with Christ. The Gospels clearly show us that Jesus' ministry was oriented toward sinners. This is the same Jesus that we encounter in the Sacrament of Reconciliation through the priest who sits in *persona Christi* - in the person of Christ. Priests are called to embody the mercy and understanding that Jesus Himself engendered throughout His ministry. Much like a physician who encourages his patients to adopt healthier lifestyles, the priest is a source of encouragement for the penitent to engage a life of conversion.

The priest also sits in *persona ecclesiae* - in the person of the Church. This means that the priest represents the Church, the Body of Christ. When an individual sins, the entire body suffers because even a minor sin diminishes the overall holiness of the body. Therefore when we sin we are in need of reconciliation from both God and the Church. The priest represents Christ and through the sacramental formula of absolution offers us God's forgiveness and grace. He also represents the Church and offers us pardon and prayers for continuing conversion on behalf of our brothers and sisters

in Christ.

Confession may be awkward and embarrassing at times but the end result is reconciliation with God and the Church, with a hopeful desire for conversion. Just like our visits to the doctor's office, we know that after we leave the hard work begins as we do our best to implement lifestyle changes that will bring about greater health. The same is true for the Sacrament of Reconciliation; it is not a quick fix. Once we leave the confessional, the hard work begins. We use the grace of the Sacrament to strengthen and assist us to lead a life worthy of the name Christian so that our words and deeds lead us closer to God. This is the essence of conversion and it is a lifelong process.

Lent is the perfect time to avail ourselves of this powerful sacrament as we seek a deeper understanding into our own commitment to a life of conversion. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not about how bad we are, it's about how good God is.

Very Rev. Steven P. Hurley, S.T.L.

Chancellor

Diocese of Wilmington

Chaplain - Monsignor Dewson Council,  
Wilmington, DE

# MORE! PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES

## SKIFF AND AJ'S FANTASTIC VOYAGE

**Help is on the way!**

January 9, 2011, Silver Spring

At the Pro-Life Kickoff Rally, State Deputy Peter Davio reported on a project, thanks to a "heads up" from fellow pro-lifers Kevin and Shirley Jeffords from Rosensteel Council. Peter has been following and personally supporting it for over a year and a half now. The project entails the production and distribution of a pro-life DVD intended for children K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

The producer of the DVD is Lumen Entertainment, a 501(c) 3 company located in Jacksonville, FL, founded in 2003 by Brian Shields, a former Hollywood actor and producer of the movie "Therese". Lumen's mission is "To Enlighten and Nourish with Truth through the Arts". They are currently in the process of developing a series of High Quality 3D animated movies to distribute in Catholic schools (K-12) to teach our children the **Truth**.

The company is made up of animators who have worked on projects with DreamWorks, Pixar-Disney, and Veggie Tales. Lumen has produced and sold over 30,000 audio CD's of the Altar Gang characters to the retail market since 2006. *Skiff and AJ's Fantastic Voyage* is the first animated movie in the Value of Life Series, and is scheduled for release April 2011, targeted at grades K-3.

The story is a 28 minute animated cartoon



with Skiff and AJ, the main characters who are an incense boat and aspergillum ([look it up](#)). The material is presented in an "age appropriate" way so that children learn that a real human person is in the womb and that life begins with the "Breath of God". There's no reference made to abortion, sex education, etc. and a moral theologian and expert pediatrician are on staff for guidance so that all efforts are faithful to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. A fifteen minute video follows the cartoon with pediatrician Dr. Tom Stanley giving his "Value of Life" presentation to a live audience of children to reinforce the messages of the movie.

The plan is to provide a DVD to each child in K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade for free; in the hopes that the movie will be brought home to evangelize their parents! In order to do this for "free" to the students, Lumen is looking for sponsors in each parish. Archbishop Gomez of the Diocese of Los Angeles has already blessed the project and the L.A. Knights of Columbus have committed to provide 100% of the funds necessary for distribution in their locale.

State Deputy Davio told the audience that the 3 year project is nearly complete, and he plans to promote it in the Maryland jurisdiction as soon as the DVD becomes available. Cost and details will follow when the DVD release is imminent. Those interested in making a donation to help finish the project should contact State Deputy Peter Davio at (301) 466-5379 or e-mail at [daviop@verizon.net](mailto:daviop@verizon.net).

### I couldn't have said it better myself!

State Deputy Peter Davio

Worthy Grand Knight Michael Miller,

On behalf of Catholics for Life Rhode Island, I am very grateful for the warm reception and generous assistance we received at Fr. Rosensteel Council on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. All of the pro-life pilgrims on our bus for the March for Life in Washington were impressed by the ample accommodations and excellent food that were provided. A special thanks to Pro-life Chairman Mike Koon, who made careful planning arrangements for our arrival, coordinating meals, sleeping quarters and Masses, so that our stay was comfortable and orderly. State Pro-life Chairman Dan Ward's friendly collaboration, including his stay with us overnight for security, was much appreciated. Fr. Perkins' Mass in the nearby St. John church, where we also learned of the special history of the Carroll family, made for an intimate and blessed liturgy. The morning Mass at the larger St. John the Evangelist church was bright and uplifting.

It was an additional pleasure to meet Deputy Grand Knight Tom Kelly and his effervescent wife, as we enjoyed the later football playoff game downstairs. And we were happy to meet with Bob Arvedlund, the clubhouse president, during our delicious breakfast. Many thanks to the cooks, bartenders and all the Knights and friends who made our visit so enjoyable.

The March for Life this year brought more people together onto Constitution Avenue than I have seen in any of my years coming there since 1985. Let's hope that, by God's grace and the Faithful efforts of more and more pro-lifers, the tide may soon turn in favor of an America that will show real love and grant total justice for all the unborn children of our nation.

We will keep you in our prayers at the Mother of Life Center chapel in Providence, and ask that you do the same for us. May Our Lord Jesus bless you one-hundred-fold for your charitable kindness

toward your brothers and sisters in His Name.

Vivat Jesus!

*David O'Connell*

President, Catholics for Life RI and 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knight  
East Providence Council #1528

Worthy State Deputy and Dear Brother Peter;

I would like to thank you, Grand Knight Michael Miller, Council Pro-Life Chairman Mike Koon, State Pro-Life Chairman Dan Ward and the members of Father Rosensteel Council for turning a potential problem, David O'Connell Pro-Life marchers inability to find accommodations, into a beautiful and memorable solution at Rosensteel Council.

My brother knights you have certainly exemplified the Charity, Unity and Fraternity of our order. I am most grateful to you for your assistance.

Vivat Jesus!

*John Marcello*

State Deputy  
Rhode Island



## Montgomery Council collects 'pull tabs' for charity

Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011; [www.Gazette.net](http://www.Gazette.net)

Montgomery Council #2323 in Derwood collected 151 pounds of aluminum pull tabs from cans in 2010 to benefit charities helping to fight and promote awareness of cancer.

The group presented the pull tabs to Rovi Faber, executive director of the Bethesda-based nonprofit **Pull Tabs for Charity**, at a Dec. 18 ceremony in the council's Father Cuddy Hall. The pull tabs were stored into over a dozen kitty litter bins and plastic bags.

Committee chair Mike Thomas said this was the first year Council #2323 was part of Pull Tabs for Charity. "It was great," Thomas said. "We were getting so many people involved in collecting. That was very beneficial for our council."

**Pull Tabs for Charity** collects and weighs aluminum pull tabs, then takes them to one of 680 authorized processing centers in the nation. In return, the centers reimburse the organization with a check.

The proceeds are donated to the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health and the Ronald McDonald House Charities' "Home-Away-from-Home" programs.

Pull Tabs for Charity received a total of 648 pounds of pull tabs in December alone, Faber said, and was able to donate the proceeds in time for the holidays.

Thomas said he hopes next year his council will double their collection of pull tabs.

For information about Pull Tabs for Charity or the Knights of Columbus, visit [www.kofc2323.com](http://www.kofc2323.com) or [www.pulltabsforcharity.org](http://www.pulltabsforcharity.org)



## Lobby Night 2011

LEARN. PRAY. ACT.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD  
MARYLAND CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Make Your Voice Heard in Annapolis at Catholic Lobby Night on February 21 from 3:00 to 8:00 pm

Join Maryland's bishops and hundreds of fellow Catholics on Presidents' Day – Monday, February 21 – for the 27th annual Catholic Lobby Night in Annapolis and *make your voice heard*.

Tell legislators that we all have a duty to serve the poor and vulnerable, build up the common good and respect human life and dignity.

Lobby Night is an advocacy event that gives Catholic voters the opportunity to speak in person with their elected officials about issues including abortion clinic regulations, support for pregnant women, poverty, immigration, Catholic schools, the death penalty and marriage.

[Registration is required.](#)

Materials in Spanish will be posted shortly, as will an agenda.

Share our [Lobby Night flyer](#) with family, friends, parishioners and colleagues.

Call 410-269-1155 or 301-261-1979 for more information.

## A SAMPLE of what Councils do around the State...

### CHURCH ACTIVITIES

#### Pope John-Paul The Great Council, No. 13859, Middle River Thank you to Altar Servers

Date: January 21, 2011

Council #13859 organized a Pizza, Movie, Popcorn and Ice Cream evening at Our Lady Queen of Peace in thanks for the time and effort the children and families give to the parish when they serve as Altar Servers. Fr. Kevin Mueller presented each with a Knights of Columbus Length of Service award certificate.

Pizza was followed by a movie and popcorn. Family friendly games of chess, backgammon, trivial pursuit and playing cards were also enjoyed by everyone. The evening finished with ice cream and chocolate sauce.



### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

#### Sacred Heart Council, No. 2577, Bowie Breakfast to benefit Sisters and Novices

Date: December 2010

Sacred Heart Council #2577 holds a monthly breakfast to support various charitable causes in the Bowie area. December's Breakfast was to support an upcoming dinner for the Sisters and Novices of the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin Matara. Some of the Sisters

and Novices came to the breakfast and met with the people supporting them. Everyone was treated to a hearty breakfast of eggs, sausage, bacon, pancakes, hash brown, sausage gravy and biscuits.



If your Council, Assembly or District sponsors an **outstanding** activity which should be publicized here, please send us ([eribanez@verizon.net](mailto:eribanez@verizon.net)) a description, AND a photo or two of the event. Your submission will be considered with others in the same activity category for inclusion in the next issue.

## Pro-Life Mass offered to honor Bud Peroutka

Glen Burnie - January 19, 2011

Michael's 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue was the scene for a Pro-Life mass offered by noted Pro-Life advocate and Founder of National Pro-Life Radio, Father Paul Schenck.

The event was facilitated by Steve Peroutka in honor of his recently deceased father Bud Peroutka. Bud had always been a staunch pro-lifer and was in recent years, the Maryland State Council Retreats Chairman. Steve wanted to pay tribute to his father in a way that brought together the Maryland Knights of Columbus family and the many other pro-life organizations



and individuals in the area that Bud had networked with.

Father Schenck was assisted during the mass by Deacons Gramling, Mills, and Montey. Others in attendance included State Deputy Peter Davio, State Membership Director Martin Luchansky, State Program Director Joe Feakes, State Activities Director Brian O'Connor and his wife Ann, and Master of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Steve Thomas and his wife Debbie.

Father's homily focused on the fact that we are all that God intended - from conception to the day we die. That although we may look different, our value today is as it was at conception and has never and will never change. That any rationale to the contrary which argues that there is no value while in the womb, is a false argument in the eyes of God.

After mass, a brief reception was offered by Steve, a few remarks by the State Deputy, and then entertainment was provided by the incredibly talented Tony Melendez, an accomplished singer and guitarist who was born without arms.

Tony frequently remarks that his mother was urged to terminate the pregnancy because of the impact Thalidomide was having on the fetus, but she would have none of it. As a result this evening the room was filled with music and singing that had even the many children in attendance glued to their seats.

Attendees were reminded of Father Schenck's "Defend Life" lecture tour as well as Tony's other playing engagements in the Washington metro area. Steve plans on repeating this event next year and State Deputy Davio assured him that the Maryland Knights of Columbus would be willing to collaborate in its planning and execution.



## Mid-Term Course Correction

By: Steve Ransdell

During the Mid-Term meeting with the current Grand Knights and District Deputies, we had an opportunity to discuss our progress and the importance of mid-term corrections. The day began with a half-time locker room talk and words of wisdom from a special Hall of Fame NFL coach.

Tom Landry faced half-time with a positive attitude and he would say, "We have a plan, but we aren't working the plan. We can and we will make adjustments to the plan, and we will win!" Landry knew where he wanted to go and he offered concrete strategies to reach his goals. The overall message of the day was IT IS NOT TOO LATE! It is not too late to reach YOUR goals, not too late to make STAR Council, and not too late to make the necessary half-time corrections.

While in another room, the Deputy Grand Knights were making a new plan for the upcoming year. The DGKs heard a special presentation by our State Deputy who went into detail about the "Flywheel," our Order, and the interaction with the State and Supreme Councils. The four State Directors and other presenters then presented detailed information on protocol, installations, budgets, and how to conduct a meeting. All of these presentations can be found on the Maryland State Council Yahoo group.

During the day we discussed where we are, where we need to be, and how we can get there. The only question remaining was - "Will you do it?"

## Pro-Life Pancake Breakfast



Msgr Dick Murphy has breakfast with parishioners

On Sunday, December 12, 2010, Bishop McNamara Council, No. 1622 held a Pro-Life Pancake Breakfast to benefit the Birthright Center on W. Patrick Street in Frederick, Maryland,

Although we did not reach our goal, we did raise \$372.00 for the Birthright Center. Considering the foul weather we humbly think we did terrific.

Among many, our parishioners were served by John Nalley, a new member who took his First Degree in October. The prize for the newest member, however, goes to Jimbo Cooper who took his First degree the Monday before the breakfast. Thank you both for getting involved.

## Wreaths Across America

On 11 December 2010, Sirs Knights from several Assemblies in the Maryland District had the honor of participating in what Steve Thomas, the Worthy Master of the Maryland District of the Fourth Degree, hopes will become an annual event – the laying of wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery as part of the Wreaths Across America Program. This year some 24,000 wreaths were laid at four sections in Arlington National Cemetery by volunteers from across the region and the Nation. We met Knights from Florida, Georgia, and Texas, in addition to those from Maryland, DC, and Virginia. Over 219,000 wreaths were laid at more than 500 cemeteries across the United States and in 24 national veteran's cemeteries on foreign soil. Our Knights were an honored part of that effort. 2010 included the first annual wreath displays at historic locations such as *Pearl Harbor, Bunker Hill, and Valley Forge Park*, in addition to the wreath displays in *NYC, The Pentagon, and Shanksville, PA* to remember the victims of 9/11.

Next year, the Master hopes that more Sir Knights from other Assemblies in the Maryland District will participate in laying wreaths at Arlington and perhaps at other veteran's cemeteries in Maryland. The Worcester Wreath Company who started supporting the Arlington Project nineteen years ago has set a goal of 300,000 wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery alone in 2011.

Fourth Degree Knights, members of the Patriotic Degree, will find the principles of our Order and the mission of Wreaths Across America to be in sync – to Remember, Honor, and Teach. Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve including their families who sacrifice, and Teach our children the cost of the freedoms we enjoy each day. It is our shared belief that...

'The nation which forgets its defenders will soon be forgotten.' Calvin Coolidge

***We couldn't agree more!!!***

Please note: many people have expressed a desire to donate to this cause. Worcester Wreath Company is committed to continue their Arlington Wreath Project, now expanded by the Wreaths Across America campaign. Worcester Wreath cannot and will not accept any donations. Those who are interested however, may support by sending donations to: [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org)

Submitted by S/K Fritz Leach



## Doing the Lord's Work

By Fred Dickens

As Knights we are all called to do the Lord's work and various roles. Some of us prefer to do it behind the scenes and some elect to take a leadership role, but regardless it is the desire to do the Lord's work that is the issue. Then, there are those special individuals with obvious disabilities that go far and beyond who deserve our special consideration.

When I attended Father Joseph J. Comyns Council, #9638, I found such an example of true passion and dedication to our Order and to serve the Lord. The Grand Knight David Shawhan exemplifies everything our Order stands for and when he stood at the podium he started with, "The Lord has asked us all to do His work." When I say stood at the podium it does not do justice to the event: David was born with Cerebral Palsy and needs a cane to walk and to stand. He asked for help to do the Lord's work – together. He pledged his support to all in an exchange of sincere respect and love for one another.

David is a special case and his story is nothing short or miraculous and a shining example of what it means to be a Knight.

We say behind every great man is a woman and with David it is no different. Jean, his mother, shared with me the many issues they faced with David and how being elected Grand Knight was a dream for him. As David was growing up he had a gift of caring and wanting to help others and he always had a gift of giving and the importance of God in his life. She admitted there were challenges, but with David this only resulted in the family growing closer and it taught David to believe anything was possible.

## Casey's Helpers

Cumberland Council No. 586, Cumberland  
COMMUNITY SERVICE

Casey's Helpers is a group of Knights who have banded together to address the home maintenance and repairs needs of senior citizens, widows, physically handicapped, and those with limited resources in the Cumberland area. Retired workers themselves, these Knights meet every Thursday morning to go out into the community to amass volunteer hours helping those in need. As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, nearly 400 volunteer hours have been given by these Knights replacing gutters and downspouts, installing fences, repairing toilets, preparing furnaces for the winter, and completing yard work, to name of few of the things this group takes on. Installing smoke detectors is a priority. Retired electricians, carpenters, plumbers, and heating and air conditioning specialists have joined this wonderful group. Clients are responsible for payment for materials, if possible, but labor is always free.

Installing a safety railing, left to right are: Coordinator Kerry Kelly, Ron Welsh, Gene Helmstetter, & Bernie Lechman.



# REFLECTIONS

Lawrence P. Grayson

## Unto Caesar, Unto God

In October's *Reflection*, we discussed the consonance of two concepts of Catholic teaching -- the dignity of the human person and freedom with responsibility -- with core principles upon which America was founded. Here we will discuss the accord that exists with two other concepts: the balance between union and separateness, and the relationship of church and state.

This nation was formed as individual states united. When the American colonies gained their independence, they did so as 13 sovereign entities. With the ratification of the Constitution, the states formed themselves into a single nation. They surrendered their external sovereignty in matters of war and commerce, but maintained their internal sovereignty with regard to their individual citizens. As Americans, we are citizens of both the nation and the state in which we reside. We are subject to the laws and regulations of the federal government, which apply to all people throughout the nation; we also are subject to the laws and regulations of our home state, which may differ from those of other states.

In an analogous, but not identical manner, the Catholic Church reflects diversity within unity. Oneness is the very essence of the Church. As St. Paul said in his Epistle to the Ephesians, there is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism." While the Father made Christ "head over all the church," before His Ascension, Christ appointed Peter as its visible head. Peter's mandate and authority have been handed down to his duly appointed successors, the popes.

When the Apostles went forward to proclaim the Gospel, they encountered people of different cultures and historical understandings. As a result, although they taught a single body of faith, there evolved a variety of ecclesiastical disciplines and liturgical rites, which were proper to the local churches. Today, the local churches or diocese are governed by bishops, who are the successors of the Apostles. Their pastoral authority, operating in communion with the Pope, is definitive in their respective jurisdictions. Thus, Catholics are members of a diocese subject to the authority of the local bishop, as well as members of the universal Church subject to the supreme authority of the Pope.

American political principles and Catholic teaching also coincide on the relationship between church and state. In the ancient world, religion and the state were inseparable. The emperor was head of both. With arrival of Christianity, a doctrine of dual authority arose. The view of state and the church as distinct entities was formalized by Pope Gelasius I in 494. The Pope identified a separation of powers, with priests being subject to the emperor in secular affairs, and the emperor being subject to religious leaders in spiritual matters. This division is a fundamental principle in America's founding political philosophy.

When America declared its independence, the Founders recognized that to create a government of the people required a strong moral foundation in society, which could be maintained only through the practice of religion. In order to assure that people would be free to practice religion according to their own beliefs, in the First Amendment to the Constitution they proscribed the government from either supporting the establishment of religion or prohibiting its free exercise.

We are blessed to live in a country in which Catholicism has thrived, where we can practice our faith openly. But freedom is fragile, and once lost is rarely regained. As Knights of Columbus, our individual vigilance and organizational voice are needed to maintain that freedom.

*This is an abridgement of a longer article that can be found at the State website*

## February State Council Calendar

7 - 19 **STATE TRIP**—Valentines Cruise, Baltimore to Eastern Caribbean

11 Our Lady of Lourdes



12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday

14 St. Valentine's Day

21 Presidents' Day

21 **Maryland Catholic Conference Lobby Night, Annapolis**



22 George Washington's birthday

26 **State Free-Throw Competition**

## CATHOLIC LIGHT



Visit the newly designed Maryland State Council's website at [www.kofc-md.org](http://www.kofc-md.org)