

# KNIGHTLINE

March, 2008

Archbishop Neale Council No. 2279

Volume 23, No. 1



## Council Officers 2007 - 2008

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Rev. Edward P. O'Connell, S.J.  
Rev. Salvadore R. Jordan, S.J.  
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Trustee - Two years

Matthew C. Laidley, PGK  
Trustee - Three years

## Chaplain's Message

—Rev. Jaroslaw Gamrot—



My Brother Knights,  
The tradition of the Catholic Church offers many practices to strengthen faith, morality and piety among the people of God. The well established Catholic devotional practice

is a pilgrimage. It is a special religious journey, to honor God in the sacred places of a long Christian history. Over centuries thousands of pilgrims navigated the roads leading to great pilgrimage sites of Christianity including The Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, the Tomb of St. Peter in Rome, and Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

As Holy Father Benedict XVI is planning his apostolic pilgrimage to the U.S.A. we all may take time to reflect on our own role as pilgrims. We can view the spiritual life as a pilgrimage. The pilgrimage symbolizes the pilgrim's inner journey. The author Jim Forest wrote in his book "The Road to Emmaus, Pilgrimage as a Way of Life", that the pilgrimage is a conscious act of seeking a more vital awareness of God's living presence. We all struggle to find God's presence in our daily life. One way to experience God is to become a pilgrim. Before some of us will go to meet the Pope in the nations capital in April, I would like to suggest you make your own pilgrimage first to one or more sacred places in Washington, DC as a way of a spiritual renewal.

I invite you to consider three holy sites. Each one of these sites has a special role in life of faith within the Archdiocese of Washington. They also have a special significance in gathering Catholics from around the country. If you have been there, consider going again for the sake of your faith. If you have not been there, do not tell anyone but go quickly and make your pilgrimage the best ever.

Before you go find out about times of Mass and confessions. Make it a special

## Grand Knight's Message

— Joseph Haggerty—



My Brothers,  
Can you believe that we are already two months into 2008? Spring is just three weeks from now, followed closely by the Easter Triduum and then the visit by our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI in April!

First, I would like to again express my congratulations to our newest brothers who received their 1<sup>st</sup> Degree in February; welcome to our Council and please take an opportunity soon to bring your skills to bear in helping improve our council and our parish. **One means to do this is to participate in our Annual Mulch Sale. Past Grand Knight Matt Laidley is taking orders from our members now and from members of the parish and community; he also will need volunteers to help deliver the product when it arrives, so please volunteer some time and your truck, if you have one.**

My thanks to brother **Keith Vogel** for organizing our **Annual Basketball Freethrow Contest** to close out February and to everyone else that was able to help out. It is so important that we continue to reach out to the youth of our parish and provide fun and safe events that give them an opportunity to compete in sports. I encourage each of you to continue to remain involved with our youth and bring more ideas for our council to support.

Finally, later this Spring, Deputy Grand Knight Adam Wuenschel, one of our newest 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Sir Knights (as of 2 March 2008) and I will represent our council at the annual meeting of the Maryland State Convention of the Knights of Columbus (May 16 - 18, 2008) in Ocean City, MD. Hopefully, our council will again be awarded Star Council. This meeting is the culmination of the fraternal year, which ends for your current officers 30 June 2008. This means that it is time again for some of the current officers to consider moving into another role as an officer and more importantly for the re-

By Your  
Holy Cross,  
You have  
redeemed  
the  
World.



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holy time for yourself or your family. Strengthen your good resolve with an ardent prayer. Make a compelling intention you want to take with you on the pilgrimage. May the effort you put in your pilgrimage conquer any obstacles. You will receive back more than your give!

**1. The historic St. Matthews Cathedral** as the mother church of all churches in the Archdiocese is a main house of God, reserved in a special way for the liturgy presided by the archbishop and his auxiliaries. The patron of the place, St. Matthew, evangelist is not only a great personal patron of so many men carrying his name but also a patron of all those who choose the gospel as the rule of life. In recent years the cathedral has undergone thorough renovations and is open to all who go there to express their unity with the bishops and all Catholics of our archdiocese. This year of the papal visit to the USA and the presidential elections is a special time to consider this great destination. The pilgrimage undertaken for the sake of strengthening the Word of God and the unity among Christians in this country seems to be the most appropriate choice.

**2. The Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land** is located at Quincy St. in the heart of the historic Brooklyn district. The seasons of Lent and Easter make this church the preferred pilgrimage destination. It is a small replica of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. The interior of the church invites its pilgrims to pray through the inspiration coming from the passion and resurrection of the Lord. A faithful copy of the aedicule, a place of Christ burial makes a powerful impression, especially if venerated in silence and one on one with the religious mystery it recalls. Walking into a burial chamber in faith gives you a better understand of what it means to be buried and raised with Christ

The visit to the catacombs takes pilgrims into the early Christian times and inspires them to appreciate the historical aspects of our faith. This is a great destination for the quiet individual pilgrimages or with a small group. God's presence is overwhelming in this holy site.

**3. The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception** is the greatest Marin Shrine of the United States with a 329 ft. tall Knights of Columbus Tower. Located on the grounds of the Catholic University of America, this is the America's Patronal Church. With the upper and lower levels surrounded with numerous chapels, the shrine provides a unique space for experiencing God's presence through the liturgy or a personal prayer. Distinctive architecture, music, art and above all thousands of pilgrims make this place a sacred dwelling of God honored through the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is the blessed destination for any pilgrimage, individual or with one's family. The Holy Father, Benedict XVI will visit this place during his upcoming visit. Why not go there before him to pray for his intentions and the intention of his papal pilgrimage to the USA .  
Father Jerry



## **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS INSURANCE**

### **Annuities**

#### **New VANTAGE Annuity Offers Guarantees, Flexibility Your Portfolio's "Sure Thing"**



Take control of your retirement—establish a retirement plan of your own. Here at the Knights of Columbus, you can open a retirement annuity for as little as \$300. Consistent and disciplined savings placed into that annuity over time can guarantee you at retirement an income that you cannot outlive. That's right — guarantee you an income you cannot outlive. That guarantee—and the fact that no one has ever lost money in a Knights of Columbus annuity—really will provide you with peace of mind.

To help you better understand and plan for the risks you will be exposed to in retirement—from the risk of living "too long" to the risk of needing costly long-term care services, to the risk of inflation eroding the value of your income stream—we suggest reading the booklet "Retirement Risk Matcher" published by the Life Insurance Market Research Association (LIMRA). To obtain your own free copy, e-mail robert.ennis@kofc.org and we'll send one along.

As you ponder all the things that may not work out as you proceed toward retirement, think about one thing you can do to help yourself—a Knights of Columbus annuity. It's reasonably priced (\$300 to start), guaranteed, and controlled by someone you trust—you!

What works better for you?

- Through our Single Premium Annuity, you make one payment and select the age you begin receiving benefits.
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**Your principal is safe**, and you're guaranteed never to earn less than 3.0% on your money. **Current rates are 4.00% in the US**. This rate is guaranteed through December 31, 2008. Call me to talk about securing a comfortable and worry free retirement.

**Daniel J. Quagliarello, FICF, LUTCF**  
301-505-0951—quagsr@aol.com

#### **(Grand Knights's message from page 1)**

maining brothers of the council to step up and take a leadership role in the 2008 - 2009 fraternal year that begins 1 July 2008. Please prayerfully consider what role you could play in the council and contact DGK Adam Wuenschel or myself if you can serve; elections will occur at the April 2008 meeting.

That's all for now. Please read the entire newsletter for other information about our council's activities and as always, please contact me, or any of the officers if you have any ideas for our council to make a reality.

Vivat Jesus! Joe

## HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARD



Photo by Gerry Brosco

At a recent council meeting, Andy Havrilla and Randy Clark, holding Honorary membership cards, were congratulated by Grand Knight Joseph Haggerty and Deputy Grand Knight Adam Wuenschel on their new status in the Knights of Columbus.

Also receiving the honorary status, but not shown, are Richard J. Clark, Timothy G Moore and Herman L. Yates.

This award is given by the Supreme Board of Directors to members who are 65 years old and have 25 consecutive years of service.

## District Deputy No. 12 Message

—Patrick A. Hall—

My Brothers,

We are closing in on another great year for your council. It could be another Double Star Award.

You should not slow up on recruitment or membership.

I want to thank you all for your prayers and friendship during my recovery from surgery and rehab. I want especially to thank you all for the way you have respected and worked with my District Warden Andy Pilkerton. Andy has done a great job and you all as usual have done such a great job in living up to the standards of the Knight of Columbus and all we strive to do for our church, family, community and the youth of our district.

Thanks for being brother and friend and may God always shine upon you and yours.

Vivat Jesus!

Patrick A. Hall



## First Degree



Photo by Gerry Brosco

On 13 February, Joseph Haggerty, GK, center, front row and Adam Wuenschel, DGK, left back row, congratulate new 1<sup>st</sup> degree members Albert Ribeiro and John Brucceleiri on the left and right of Joe and back row from left Paul Ribeiro, Robert Barnas, Christopher Fawls and Michael Easter.

## Annual Men's Retreat

Jim Anderson, Retreat Coordinator

Once again, the Knights of Columbus members of Sacred Heart Parish swelled the ranks of the Catholic men that made this year's Men of Charles County Retreat. Father Matt must be smiling. It was a wonderful experience for all, as evident from the faces recorded in this year's picture.

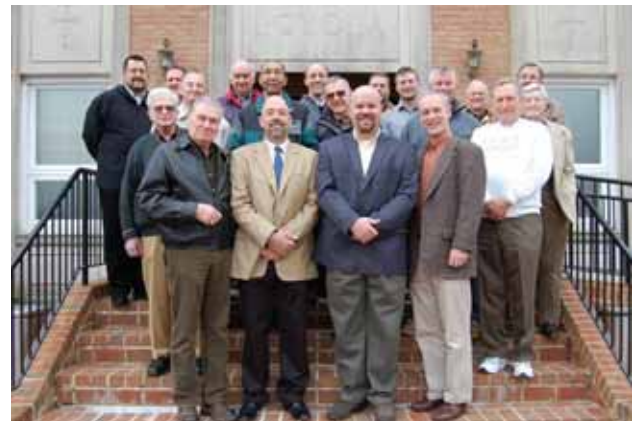


Photo by Joe Haggerty

Front row from left Jim Anderson, Marc Lavery, Joe Bowling, and Rick Szock.

Middle row from left Huphrey Ridgely, Joe Norris and Bob Seith.

Back row from left, Steve Spadafora, Ricky Dyer, Frank Hughes, Pete Czupryna, Bob Johnson, Michael Schreyer, Chip Jowett, Adam Wuenschel, Joe Haggerty, Dick Robertson, Pat McGarry, and Paul Schlereth.

## The Knights of Columbus Refund Support Vocations Program

*Through this program, councils "adopt" one or more seminarians or postulants and provide them with financial assistance (\$500.00 a year) and moral support. The money is used by them for tuition and books, car insurance and maintenance, travel during vacations, emergency expenditures and other living expenses. Knights provide more than financial support, though. Members write letter to students, sponsor dinners for them, invite them to join the Order and, most importantly, pray for vocations.*



**Scott Holmer**— *First Pre-Theology, Theological College. Home parish St. Jerome, Hyattsville. Taught and worked in Campus Ministry at DeMatha Catholic High School and enjoys water and snow skiing. Graduated from Georgetown University.*

My decision to enter the seminary was a result of association with holy friends, wanting to be like priests I admire, meditation and prayer. I grew up in a good Catholic family and had a joyful childhood. I was a practicing Catholic but my heart was really not in my faith until I got to college. After high school, I went to Georgetown University and had my first experience with Catholic education. For the first time, I was in an environment where we were learning about God in the classroom.

One of my Jesuit theology professors had a profound impact on me. Because of my admiration of him in the classroom, I decided to attend the Mass he presided over every weeknight at 11:15 PM. His love for the Eucharist was contagious. As I attended daily Mass, took theology classes and participated in the Knights of Columbus, my love and understanding of God grew deeper and deeper. This priest I admired so much asked whether I wanted to become a priest myself. I thought about it briefly but was dating a wonderful girl at the time and was not willing to consider a call to the priesthood. However, I still had a deep love for God and decided to become a religious teacher.

For the next five years after college, I taught English and Religion at DeMatha Catholic High School in Hyattsville, MD and was happy. However, my life changed when my friend and fellow teacher told me that he was in the process of discerning priesthood. He invited me to participate in his bible study group and his rosary prayer group. By developing a constant habit of prayer, I was becoming more open to hearing God's call to enter seminary.

One night, over dinner, a young priest challenged me to consider the priesthood for myself. At first, I was defiant. I had a job I really liked and was happy where I was. However, I could not get out of my head his simple question: "Why not become a priest?" To my surprise, as I imagined myself be-

coming a priest, I actually became enthusiastic about the idea. With the help of a wonderful spiritual director and counsel from my vocations director, I came to the conclusion that I needed to apply to seminary. After a lengthy application process, I was sponsored as a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Washington and sent to the Theological College Seminary in Washington, DC to study philosophy for two years. After fulfilling my philosophy requirement, I will study theology for four years. However, intellectual formation is only one part of becoming a good priest. For my pastoral formation this semester, I am working three hours a week at a place called Living Wages in southeast DC near St. Thomas More parish. At their location, I tutor adult students in GED preparation and computer skills so that they may compete successfully in the job market and become competent parents and family members. I get a tremendous amount of satisfaction of being able to serve God in this way.

In addition to my intellectual and pastoral formation, I meet with a spiritual director once every two weeks to develop a deep and sustaining prayer life to meet the future challenges of priestly ministry as well as to discern if I am indeed being called to the priesthood. As a seminary, we celebrate the Eucharist daily, pray the Liturgy of the Hours in common, and have Eucharistic Adoration. We also have evenings and meals in silence on occasion to better hear God's voice.

However, life is not only about studying and prayer in the seminary. For instance, last weekend we just had our "Iron Seminarian" tournament where we compete against each other in ping-pong, pool and darts. Some of my most memorable experiences in seminary have just been enjoying the company of my fellow seminarians. After attending seminary, I have become immensely proud to be Catholic. I am also humbled by the support I have received from so many Catholics around the Archdiocese of Washington. No vocation to the priesthood happens in a void and **I am tremendously appreciative of your support and prayers.**



**Mario Majano**— *Fourth College St. John Neumann Residence. Home parish, St. Martin of Tours, Gaithersburg, MD. Played rugby and soccer. His family is from El Salvador.*

Dear Knights of the Archbishop Neale Council,

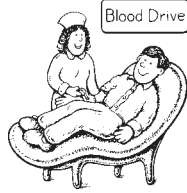
I wish to thank you all for the support and prayers you all have provided me with. Let me assure you of the great help both have been to me. Know of my prayers for you also. I pray that God may bless you all and your families. Please know that any special intentions you may have can be e-mailed to me at [mmajano@adwparish.org](mailto:mmajano@adwparish.org).

In Christ,  
Mario Majano

## Red Cross Blood Drive

—by Pete Czupryna—

Our council sponsored a blood drive with the American Red Cross at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, 9 November 2007. Sixty-one people signed up for the blood drive and 47 producible units of blood were donated. Thanks to everyone who signed up, donated blood, or helped with the blood drive.



Knights and family members who participated were James Albrittain, Gene Ambrogio, Joseph Bowling, Debbie & Peter Czupryna, Patrick Devine, Noel Edelen, Paul Filardi, Hugh Gardiner, IV, Phyllis Hayden, Tony Holson, Brad Howard, Matt Laidley, Don Larsen, Mary, Timothy and David Portner, Kristina and Mike Raymond, Paul Schlereth, Robert Seith, Mark Shuttters, Patrick Simpson, Troy Stemen and James Wilt.

**Our next blood drive is scheduled for May 4, 2008. Please mark you calendars. Donating blood is a "gift of Life".**

## 2007 Tootsie Roll Drive

—by Brad Howard—

A great effort by council knights netted \$4,734.59 which was donated to 3 local mentally handicapped nonprofit organizations and Archbishop Neale School, Special Needs Program.

For seven weekends, from the last weekend in September through the week before Thanksgiving, knights distributed tootsie rolls and collected \$5,200 donations from patrons of Safeway and Wal Mart stores in La Plata and from parishioners at Sacred Heart Church, La Plata, St. Ignatius Church, Port Tobacco and St. Ignatius, Hilltop.

The council approved a \$500 donation to Archbishop Neale School and donations of \$1,411 each to Freedom Landing, the Charles County Special Olympics and Spring Dell Center.

27 knights and family members helped with this fund raiser including brothers Pete Czupryna, Marcelino Santos and son Dylan, Grand Knight Joe Haggerty, Chuck Goodrich, Anthony Perino, Bob Seith, Steve Spadafora, Ricky Dyer, Ryan Mudd, Frank Hughs, Keith Vogel with son Kip and daughter Julie, Pat Murphy, Joe B, Hugh Gardiner with daughter Elizabeth and son Charlie, Matt Laidley, Mark Shuttters and son Nicholas, Butch B, Adam Wuenschel, Calvin Bowie, Donald Hawkins, Gary Simpson, Dylan Simpson, George Grooms, Ray Rastelli, John Minichino and Chuck T.

## Annual Mulch Sale

The Annual Mulch Sale Fund-raiser is scheduled for **Saturday 22 March in the Sacred Heart Church parking lot.**

Three truckloads totaling 2,700 bags have been ordered.

This is 900 bags more than were sold the last two years. It is quality mulch and last year 1,800 bags were sold with very little advertisement outside of our council.

Unfortunately the cost per bag has gone up this year so the price per bag will be \$3.50. This should still be less than what you would pay retail and the delivery is free. If you plan to buy mulch please let me know how many bags you need.

Please make your check payable to "**Archbishop Neale Council No. 2279 Charities, Inc.**" and a portion of your purchase will be tax deductible. **Send it to Gerry Brosco, 9200 Mimosa Dr., La Plata, MD 20646-3601**

Please let me know if you have a truck and can help deliver. Call me at **301-643-1683** or e-mail **laidleymc@yahoo.com** for further information.

All proceeds of the sale will be donated to **Archbishop Neale School to help with the cost of the new athletic fields.**

Brother Matt

## Membership

Congratulations are in order for PGK and current membership director **Matt Laidley**. Because of his aggressive recruitment our council has **203** active members.

In June of 2003, when Matt became a member of our council there were **139** active members.

**His lifetime recruitment record is 102** members according to the Supreme Office of Fraternal Services. He will be recognized for this achievement soon.

A **Second Degree** is scheduled for 12 March and a **Third Degree** is scheduled for April.

For further information, please e-mail Matt at **laidleymc@yahoo.com** .

Gerry Brosco, FS

## Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

—by Ryan Mudd—



Photo by Karen and George Grooms

On Thursday, 6 March, our council conducted a Free Throw Contest at Archbishop Neale School Gymnasium. 15 students participated. The winners, holding their certificates, are:

10 year old Zach Travers; 11 year old Amanda Radcliff; 11 year old Jack Hennessy; 12 year old Austin Walter; 13 year old Jack Hennessy; 13 year old Kip Vogel and 13 year old, Sarah LeBarron.

The following brother knights helped: Ryan Mudd, Director of Youth Activities Keith Vogel, Pat Devine, George Grooms, Brandon Rosier, Sam Riley and Gus Tolson.

### Christ is Risen! Alleluia!



**If Christ be not risen,  
our faith is vain. (1 Cor. 15:14)**

Happy  
Easter  
to  
you  
and  
your  
family.

### The Dogwood

According to legend at the time of Jesus the dogwood was a large strong tree like the oak or the cedar. Because it was a strong large tree its wood was used to make the cross on which Jesus died. God in anguish for his Son's suffering decided that the dogwood would never be used again for such an awful deed.

So God made the dogwood forevermore small and crooked. God also made its blossoms in the symbol of a cross with marks for the nails in the hands, feet and the crown of thorns. Now each Spring it blooms as a reminder of Christ's death.

But because of its beauty and vibrancy it is also a reminder that Jesus rose again and lives. So through the dogwood God proclaims the truth that Jesus dies for the sins of this world and rose again to give us eternal life.