



Chaplain's Corner
Reverend Milton E. Jordan

Brother Knights,

The following is a reflection for Lent produced by the On Line Ministries at Creighton University, the Jesuit higher education site in Omaha, NE. Since Marriage is a major issue in any family, during the Year of the Family, I suggest that you take the time to ponder some of the important thoughts in this reflection.

Looking at Marriage During Lent : An Ideal Time for the Renewal of Our Marriages

Lent seems to be the ideal time to look at marriage. How does our Lent journey shape what we are called to do in marriage?

A few decades ago, the word "obey" was removed from wedding vows. Instead we promised to love, honor and cherish each other. Many years later, Jesuit philosopher John Kavanaugh, S.J. lamented how much we had lost by dropping the word "obey" from wedding vows. He said that the root of the word "obey" simply means to put the needs of another ahead of our own.

Obedience in this context has nothing about one dominating another - only two people pledging to put the needs of the other ahead of their own. What a wonderful idea. It seems that this is exactly what we are called to in a gospel-based marriage.

Called by Jesus to be Unselfish

Now during these weeks of Lent we can take some time to examine our marriage. Do we love as deeply as we had originally intended when we first made our vows? As unselfishly? Whether we've been married 3 years or 30, this sacred season could be the start of a renewed relationship with our spouse, shaped by our experience of Lent.

We are invited by Jesus to put the needs of another ahead of our own. We can deepen our commitments in marriage and even change the dynamics within our relationships through unconditional love. In loving this way, we transform not only our spouses but more importantly, ourselves.

For those of us who are parents, we have probably always put the needs of our children first – but our spouse? Yes, we care for each other, but do we put the other's needs ahead of our own? And yet how profoundly would our marriages change if we simply lived that vow for a while?

During Lent, we can make "obey-ing" the special focus of our lives. Instead of giving up chocolate, what if each day during Lent, we asked for the grace to be more unselfish in our marriage? As a first step, what if tomorrow, before we got out of bed, we asked God to help us love our spouse more? To put the needs of this life partner of ours ahead of our own?

Silencing our Disappointments

This Lenten journey begins with prayer and moves into silence. We hold off on the sarcastic comment aimed at our spouse. We silence a cutting remark. We drop the correction before it comes out of our mouths. Neglect the pouting. Stop the stony silence when we are displeased. These behaviors can be long standing and not easy to change. Also, it might take a while before our spouse really trusts these efforts. We will be the ones doing the "giving" for a while.



Seton notes



We are born selfish creatures crying out for someone to take care of our needs. The process of growing in this life seems to be learning how to become less selfish, less self-absorbed. On our good days we can do that, by loving, giving and caring for others before thinking of ourselves. But on our bad days, we look at our spouses and others and grumble about the unfairness: “Why is it always ME who has to do the giving? Why doesn’t my spouse have to care about ME first? Am I always the one who has to apologize first? Ask about the other’s day first? When is it MY turn to be taken care of?”

We are called to love in marriage the way we are loved by Jesus – without figuring out what we will get out of it. “Love one another as I have loved you.” *As I have loved you.* In the same way Jesus loves us – without limits. And so we love our spouse who is crabby and barking. Instead of snapping a response we can ask ourselves, “What does my spouse need right now?” It’s not about giving up my dignity or rolling over to a bully. It’s about loving someone who might not be very lovable right now.

We can wallow in our own self-pity and self-absorption, but it is in that moment that we are being called more deeply into Jesus’ love. We must die to our own needs and our own longing in order to find a new life in Jesus. In a profound way, we are being called to the simplest task: to care about other people before we take care of ourselves. What kind of people would we be if we got everything we wanted? If we never had to move outside of our own needs and desires? Jesus asks us: What good is it for us to get everything we wanted, if in the process we lose our very selves?

Cherishing Each Other

We’ve stopped snapping back, held our complaints. What if we add a small goal for ourselves every day? What if we added one positive, loving thing each day of Lent? We might hang up his clothes without complaining about it. Put the cap back on her toothpaste – with a smile. Lay out the crossword puzzle with a fresh pencil for him. Have a pot of coffee ready for her in the morning. Do some of the tiny, thoughtful things we might have done years ago, before we slipped out of the habit.

It’s not spending money; it’s a change of attention. Send him an e-mail of gratitude during the day. Tuck a note into her suitcase as she departs on a trip. A call just to say how grateful I am for you in my life. Each day we ask God for the grace to love as God loves us – without limits.

One final thing is patience. We have to learn to trust that eventually, with our constant loving and God's grace, our spouse will notice the difference. Under the barrage of love, our spouse will begin to soften, bark less, say Thank You more. It takes time to change the patterns and it takes time for our spouse to trust in the changes. It may take months beyond Lent, but if we believe in this, pray about it and trust in God, the changes that happen in our marriages and ourselves can be dramatic.

This isn’t something for women to do for their husbands. Or husbands to do for their wives. It is what each of us as married people are called to do for each other. This is the way of life Jesus calls us to: “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me.”

Re-focusing our marriage invites us to be more giving, to fight our human nature that has us focused on our own needs. We are asked to stop keeping score with the ones we love and to put their needs ahead of our own. It is then, Jesus promises, that by losing our lives for his sake, we will find real life.

The daily postings can be located at <http://mdknightsinlent.blogspot.com>.
(I have not been able to put items on the blog as mentioned in February’s report. However, there is work being done on the blog site and hopefully it will be operational in a week or two.)

Vivat Jesus.



Seton notes



Grand Knight Report

Don Aitcheson

240-481-0622 or aitcheson@hotmail.com

Lent is here! I pray that we use this period to strengthen our faith and recommit to our spiritual mission. There are upcoming retreats and Lenten reflections that we can try to participate in or take advantage of.

Administratively, we are starting to wind down the fraternal year. Third quarter reports are due the first week of March and the registration process for the 117th Annual State Convention in Ocean City is in full swing.

Nomination of officers for the new year will start to take place in late March. Members interested in holding office should become familiar with the position and its responsibilities. Only members who have advanced to the 3rd degree are eligible to hold office.

Attendance at our recent monthly Masses have been disappointing, we will take a break for March and get some feedback on this event and hopefully restart in April.

The 27th Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Dinner was cancelled due to weather. I apologize for this inconvenience.

Please continue to focus on our membership goals. March is the month where the order celebrates our founding by Father McGivney. We have 1st and 2nd degrees scheduled. I encourage qualified members to move to the 2nd and 3rd degrees and to participate in the 4th degree exemplification scheduled for April 10 - 12.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. May God continue to bless you and your family!

Vivat Jesus



District Deputy Report

Romeo Paternoster, PGK

301-509-0236 or romeopaternoster@yahoo.com

The District held its Basketball Shootout competition in February as a joint event with District 3. Reports due in March will be the final installments used to judge activities for the fraternal year and determine awards at the State Convention.

March is Founder's Month with encouragement for all Councils to host membership drives and degrees. Continue to recruit new members and take advantage of the many fraternal benefits.

God's continued blessings to you and your families.

Vivat Jesus!



Seton notes



2014-2015 Officers

Chaplain

Reverend Milton E. Jordan
milt.jordan@gmail.com

District Deputy

Romeo Paternoster, PGK
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Grand Knight

Don Aitcheson
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240-481-0622

Deputy Grand Knight

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Warden

Aneurin M'Carthy
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Recorder

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301-577-6537

Treasurer

Joseph Corson, FDD, PGK
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Advocate

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Al Craig, PGK
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George Edet
301-806-6899
GBrown7744@gmail.com

Guards Outside

Ephraim Eke
Paul Kamara

Trustees

Christopher Agboli, PGK
Emmanuel Madagu, DW, PGK
Ferdinand Ibebuchi

Family Activities

Sylvester Ikpi, PGK
301-552-5601 or sylvester.ikpi@gmail.com

Family of the Month



The Family of the Month for January 2015 is John and Joy Murray. The Murrays are very active longtime parishioners at Saint Matthias Church. Both Joy and John are Lectors and John is also a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion. John is the Council's Financial Secretary and chairman of the First degree team.

Thank you both for all you do for the Council and Church.

Church Activities

James Agboli, PGK
240-602-1612 or jammo72000@yahoo.com

First Friday Mass (dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus) is each month at 8:30 am. Stations of the Cross are held on Fridays during Lent starting at 7:30 pm. Holy Week begins this year on March 29th (Palm Sunday).

Common saints and feast days we commemorate in the month of March are: Katharine Drexel (3), Perpetua and Felicity (7), Patrick (17), Joseph (19), Annunciation (25).

Ladies Auxiliary Corner

Pat Makowski, President
301-937-1443 or jpmakowski@comcast.net



2014-2015 Officers

President: Pat Makowski
Vice President: Melba Adams
Secretary: Stephanie Corson
Treasurer: Ann Florimbio
Historian: Ann Degraff

Meets the 1st Monday of each month in the Father Hughes Center at 9:30 am.



History of our Council

Charter Officers – January 1963

Chaplain	Rev. E. Albert Hughes
Grand Knight	Bernard Green
Deputy Grand Knight	William J. Wolf
Chancellor	John J. Wood
Warden	James D. Paveso
Recorder	Thomas L. Cryer, Jr.
Treasurer	Joseph A. Pecar
Advocate	John W. Anderson
Financial Secretary	Francis J. Nowlan
Lecturer	James J. Sweeney
Inside Guard	John J. Magruder
Alternate Inside Guard	Daniel J. Hanly, Jr.
Outside Guard	N. H. Szymanowski
Alternate Outside Guard	Joseph F. Cain
Trustee (1 year)	Robert J. Madden
(2 year)	Frank S. Klapac
(3 year)	Bernard F. Morris, Jr.
General Program Chair	John J. Wood
Membership	Peter J. Aquilino
Fraternal Activities	Edward A. Conroy
Council Activities	Robert L. Colgan
Public Relations	N. H. Szymanowski
Catholic Activities	William W. Anderson
Youth Activities	John J. Humphreys

Council Fact: Charter membership in January 1963 - 213

Council membership in January 2015 - 192



Council Activities

Dominic Forka

dominic.imac@yahoo.com

Members who are interested in becoming a part of the degree teams (both 1st and 2nd) should contact Don Aitcheson or John Murray.

We are in the process of acquiring bids to purchase jackets in the Council colors. Please let Dominic Forka know your interest and size.

The 27th Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner was cancelled due to weather. This event will not be rescheduled.

Community Activities

George Edet

301-806-6899 or GBrown7744@gmail.com

Bob Worthington has delivered the proceeds check to the treasurer for our 2014 FedEx activity. It was a successful effort and we encourage more and new participants for the new season. New volunteer training session information will be shared as soon as it is made available.

Volunteers are needed for a special soccer match to be held on Friday, March 27th.

Youth Activities

James Kalshoven, PGK

301-577-6537 or kalshoven@gmail.com

Cash prizes for the winners of the Keep Christ In Christmas Poster Contest were distributed during a recent school awards assembly.

The annual essay contest for The Academy of Saint Matthias 8th grade students will get underway shortly. The winner will receive a \$500 scholarship towards high school tuition/fees.

Prolife Activities

Emmanuel Amanyaiwe

301-499-4211 or d_amans@yahoo.com

The 40 Days For Life campaign continues through Sunday, March 29th. For more information, visit www.40dayslife.com.

Membership Corner

Sylvester Ikpi, PGK

301-552-5601 or sylvester.ikpi@gmail.com

Congratulations to our new member who did his First Degree in February: **Joseph Oratokhai, Jr.**

Knight of the Month

Lucas Gepert

*This award is for the month of **February 2015.***

Lucas is the recipient of the February 2015 Knight of the Month Award.

Lucas is one of the youngest members of the Council. He can be seen doing many projects around the parish, helping build the outside nativity scene or other projects in collaboration with Father Milt. His actions are reminiscent of the involvement of his deceased grandfather and Knight Joe Scabis. He had a good role model and carries on the family tradition of service to others.

Thank you for all your efforts in support of your Council, Church and Community. Congratulations on a job well done. You are an exemplary Mother Seton Knight!

May God continue to bless you and your family in all you do!

Grand Knight
Don Aitcheson

Fraternal Benefits Corner

Stephen Clites

stephen.clites@kofc.org



Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE



STEPHEN M. CLITES, FICF
FIELD AGENT
SUPREME KNIGHTS SALES CLUB QUALIFIER
PHONE: (240) 375-1372
FAX: (301) 210-0743



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March is Founders month. Take time to ask at least one Catholic gentleman to join our order.

"Make It Personal and Ask"



Know Your Faith - Catholic Corner

Sign of the Cross In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Our Father Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary Hail Mary, full of grace! The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Doxology Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

An Act of Contrition O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell; but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

Prayer in the Morning Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; He has come to His people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of His servant David. Through His holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in His sight all the days of our life. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for You will go before the Lord to prepare His way, to give His people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. (Luke 1:68-79)

Basic Catholic Prayers

An Act of Faith O my God, I firmly believe that You are one God in three divine persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I believe that Your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the holy Catholic Church teaches because You have revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

An Act of Hope O my God, trusting in Your promises and because You are faithful, powerful and merciful, I hope, through the merits of Jesus Christ, for the pardon of my sins, final perseverance and the blessed glory of heaven.

An Act of Love O my God, because You are infinite goodness and worthy of infinite love, I love You with my whole heart above all things, and for love of You I love my neighbor as myself. I forgive all who have offended me and ask pardon of all whom I have offended.

The Divine Praises

Blessed be God.
Blessed be His holy name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.
Blessed be the name of Jesus.
Blessed be His most Sacred Heart.
Blessed be His most precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in His angels and in His Saints.

Grace Before Meals Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts which we are about to receive from Thy bounty. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thanksgiving After Meals We give Thee thanks, almighty God, for all Thy gifts, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/cis/devotionals/basicprayers.pdf



Sick and Recovering

Brothers

Kevin Butler, PGK
 Al Craig, PGK, HLM
 Sylvester Ikpi
 Nicholas Kniska, HLM
 Joe Makowski
 Jude Nwoko
 Al Porrazzo
 Pat Springmann, FDD, PGK, PFN
 Pablo Rocha
 Harold Roger



Relatives/Friends

Virginia Aquillino
 Euphenia Blidi, mother of Francis Blidi
 Barbara (Carolyn) Braboy, daughter of Al Craig
 Jack Jordan, brother of Father Jordan
 Kay Kaderabek
 Francisca Onyemenem, wife of Anselm Onyemenem
 Audrey Rebello, wife of Bosco Rebello



**Lord of Heaven,
 I rest underneath your mighty wings of love.
 I dwell within your gentle heart.
 I know there is healing in your touch.
 Through the sufferings of Christ I can ask for restoration
 And trust in your goodness.
 You are my Lord, my Saviour,
 My healer and my friend.
 I dwell within your gentle embrace.
 Amen.**

(a short Christian prayer for healing from www.lords-prayer-words.com)

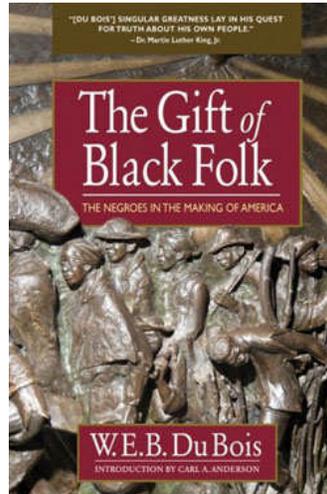


If you know a Brother Knight or a family member who is sick, recovering or recently deceased, please contact us so that we may pray for them. Your help is needed to manage this list. (Editor: aitcheson@hotmail.com.)



Supreme Council News

Celebrating Black History Month and the Pivotal Role of African Americans in the Making of America



In 1924, Jim Crow laws were still enforced in many parts of the United States and the Ku Klux Klan was experiencing resurgence. Martin Luther King Jr. had not yet been born, and the Civil Rights Act would not be enacted for another 40 years. Nonetheless, it was the year in which the Knights of Columbus commissioned and published a landmark history of black Americans: *The Gift of Black Folk: The Negroes in the Making of America*, by civil rights pioneer W.E.B. Du Bois. *The Gift of Black Folk*, which received critical acclaim, presented the contributions of black Americans from the earliest colonial settlements through World War I and the early 1920s. It was recently republished by the Knights of Columbus. The new edition features an introduction by Carl A. Anderson, who, prior to becoming Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, spent nearly a decade working on issues of racial equality as a member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. “A hundred years after W.E.B. Du Bois helped cofound the NAACP, the United States can view its civil rights achievements with pride,” Anderson wrote in the introduction. “African-Americans have served on the Supreme Court, in the Cabinet, and, finally, as President of the United States. *The Gift of Black Folk* allows us to fully appreciate these monumental achievements. It is our belief that Du Bois’ classic work will continue to inform and inspire for many generations to come.” (The book is available through [Amazon](#).)

Three years earlier, against the same backdrop of widespread bigotry, the Order established the Knights of Columbus Historical Commission to combat the revisionist history of the time, which tended to exclude minority groups from the record of historical achievement. The project was overseen by Edward McSweeney, who served as assistant U.S. Commissioner of Immigration at Ellis Island from 1893-1902.

As early as the 1890s African-Americans were members, and officers, of the Knights of Columbus. In 1895 - just 13 years after the Order's founding - the Philip Sheridan Council was formed in Southboro, MA; Samuel Williams, an African-American, was one of the four organizers of the council and became the council's first Chancellor. A year later, Williams also assumed a special role at the Massachusetts State Convention as one of the concluding speakers, along with the State Chaplain.

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Building the Domestic Church

March

Because the joy of all parents is to teach their children the art of living, as parents we want to be the primary educators of our children.

For Families



To educate is to teach the very art of life, the art of humanity. It is a new birth not simply to life, but to the personal life. A child is called to something greater than himself or herself and will realize this through his or her relationship with others. To educate means to help a child to become a good son or daughter, a good brother or sister, a good friend and student until he or she becomes a good husband or wife and a good father or mother, or a good priest or religious sister.

Parents are the primary educators of their children. We — the whole of society, the school, the parish and other families — are called to collaborate in this great mission.

“What will this child be? For surely the hand of the Lord is with him” (Lk 1:66). In Nazareth, Jesus grew and advanced “in wisdom, age and favor before God and man” (Lk 2:52).

Family Project

Invite the families of your children’s friends to join you in a pilgrimage to a religious site. A pilgrimage is a journey a person or a group makes to a sacred place for the purpose of venerating it or to ask for heavenly aid, and to ultimately come to know God better. During the journey to the destination, consider:

- Praying for the family to grow closer to God through the journey
- Discussing how the destination is important to the faith of each participant
- Exploring how any suffering experienced helps a pilgrim to know God



Bring Song Into Your Home **Jesus, Remember Me (Taize chant)**

Jesus, remember me,
When you come into your Kingdom.

Psalm of the Month (Psalm 78)

Pray the Psalm of the Month during every Sunday of the month at your family prayer space.

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth!
I will open my mouth in a parable;
things that we have heard and known,
that our fathers have told us.
We will not hide them from their children,
but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might,
and the wonders which he has wrought.
He established a testimony in Jacob,
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our fathers
to teach to their children;
that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and arise and tell them to their children,
so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments.

On the last Sunday of the month, discuss as a family which verse stood out most for each member.

Featured March Movie - “Pinocchio”





Maryland State Council News



State Deputy
Stephen K. Adamczyk



**Maryland State Council
117th
Annual Convention
May 1-3, 2015
Princess Royale Oceanfront Resort
Ocean City, Maryland**

YOU CAN BOOK HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR THE 2015 MARYLAND STATE CONVENTION ONE OF TWO WAYS

1. Call the Princess Royal Hotel Reservations at **1-800-4-ROYALE**
2. Go online to their new reservations system: <https://book.b4checkin.com/princessroyale/groups.asp>
Group ID – 3854

Once you put in the Group ID, hit enter; it will take you to a page where you may choose your room type from those rooms still available. You can follow the instructions and provide all your personal information and credit card information to guarantee the room you have selected.

OR

YOU CAN CALL THE PRINCESS BAYSIDE LOCATED ON 48TH STREET AT 410-723-2900

All reservations must be made by **APRIL 1st**. Late reservations will be charged the prevailing rates normal for that time of year.

Conference Registration Information: (Forms available online)

Make Checks payable to: **MARYLAND STATE COUNCIL CONVENTION FUND**

ALL REGISTRATIONS AFTER APRIL 1st WILL BE ASSESSED THE LATE FEE (NO REFUNDS AFTER APRIL 15th)

Mail with payment to: Bill McMahon, 16114 Kenny Road, Laurel, Maryland 20707-3216
PHONE: 301-725-4007; EMAIL: WEMcM@VERIZON.NET

For more details, go to www.kofc-md.org



Seton notes



Fourth Degree Report



Bishop James E. Walsh Assembly No. 1548

Meets on the 2nd Monday, 8:00 pm at Saint Pius X Council, Sarto Hall, 3611 Stewart Road; Forestville, MD 20747-1747 (301) 735-8855.

Next scheduled meeting is March 9th.

ADW Fourth Degree Exemplification - April 10-12, 2015
(www.awddistrict.org)



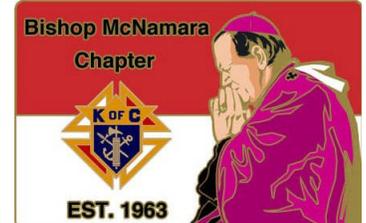
Official Flag Days in the USA



March - None

Bishop McNamara Chapter of Grand Knights Maryland State Council

Celebrating its 51st Year



Upcoming Chapter Meetings

March 18 th , 2015	Saint Mary's Council No. 1470 - Leonardtown	Chapter Recruitment Drive
April 11 th , 2015	Past Chapter President's Ball - Bowie	Recognition of Service
April 15 th , 2015	Saint Elizabeth Council No. 12796 - Rockville	

Come hear about all the exciting events and activities that are planned for the year.

The Chapter encourages not only Grand Knights to attend, but also Deputy Grand Knights and Council Program Directors. The Chapter meets the third Wednesday of each month except for December. The location varies.

<http://www.kofc-md.org/state1415/mcnamara.asp>



AFRICA/NIGERIA - "Family threatened by materialism and selfishness", say the Bishops

Abuja - The family "first school of virtue" is threatened by materialism and selfishness, say the Bishops of Nigeria in a statement issued at the end of their Plenary Assembly. In the document, sent to Agenzia Fides, it is stressed that the dominant culture, which poses more and more challenges to the family, is reinforced "by a movie industry and social media that promotes primacy of the erotic and marital infidelity; by pressure groups funded from within and without fighting to impose a redefinition of marriage".

"We cannot speak of challenges to the family without referring to the Boko Haram insurgency and the heightened tension occasioned by the coming general elections", add the Bishops. "The Boko Haram insurgency has not only led to loss of innocent lives, it has also led to separation of members of the same families. Our hearts go to children separated from their parents, especially our beloved daughters, the Chibok girls, and others who have been abducted by mindless terrorists". The Bishops condemn the use of children for suicide bombings, saying they are "saddened by the use of young and innocent minds indoctrinated by Boko Haram and used as suicide bombers". "We deplore the fact that young children are used to commit such crimes, and the fact that young Nigerians are used by politicians to intimidate and inflict violence on their political opponents is a disturbing symptom of breakdown of family values in our society", says the message.

The Bishops complain that the campaign "has to be devoid of issues of national interest, but full of threats of violence, falsehood, rumour mongering, mudslinging and suspicion". The statement concludes by calling for greater attention to the family, especially as regards to freedom of education of children.

2015-02-26 Vatican Radio



Reprinted from Vatican News Service



BIRTHDAYS FOR MARCH

Council

- 1 Edward Kin
6 Divine Attipoe
8 Kevin Butler
9 Emmanuel Amanyiwe
10 Patrick Bonsu
15 Edwin Udenkwo
20 Patrick Yohe
22 Edwin Onyeiwu
25 Joseph Trimble
26 Anthony Onuaku
30 Brian Nwadije

Ladies Auxiliary

- 24 Reba Waple
28 Nancy Matias



Editor's Pen

Please send email addresses to expand the distribution list. If there is a special request for a copy of the Seton notes by mail, let us know.

Please send all newsletter related issues to Don Aitcheson at aitcheson@hotmail.com (240-481-0622).

The deadline for article submission is the 20th of each month. The email edition will be sent on or about the 1st of each month. Please feel free to give us feedback.

Copies are available in the pamphlet rack of Saint Matthias Church and on the website at www.stmatthias.org.

Seton notes
Knights of Columbus
Mother Seton Council #5381
PO Box 21
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Upcoming Council Events Calendar

March 3	Council Meeting 8:00pm
March 17	Council Meeting/First Degree 8:00pm (Candidates arrive 7:30pm)
March 22	Founders Day – Knights of Columbus
March 29	Palm Sunday
April 3	Good Friday
April 5	Easter

Council meetings are held 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month unless otherwise posted.

Council meetings are currently held in the Father Hughes Center.