



The Accolade



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Sacred Heart Council 2577

And

St. John N. Neumann Assembly 1763

Bowie, Maryland

Volume XCIII, Issue 4 In the Spirit of God's Beloved Angels, We are Men for Others April 2019



**Chaplain
Father Paul Sparklin**

The women] found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus . . . “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised.” Luke 24: 1-12

Numbers surround him. He is enclosed by screens that flash numbers and graphs at him all day long. When to buy, when to sell, the trends to watch for. He lives for those numbers — but he can't see beyond them. He is blind to the lives that those numbers represent, and the hopes and dreams of those lives. He only cares about the numbers to the extent that they add or subtract from his portfolio.

Why do you seek the living among numbers? the angel will ask him on that day when the screens finally go dark.

Things in her life just haven't turned out the way she had hoped. Her own career stalled early on. She and her husband haven't been able to live the Architectural Digest lifestyle she always imagined for herself. Her kids — good kids — have disappointed her in so many ways, from their careers to their spouses. She has become cynical and angry — and alone.

Why do you seek the living in a tomb of disappointment you dug for yourself? the angel asks — but there are no such angels in her world.

“Don't answer that just yet,” the campaign manager advises. “Let's test it — see where your constituency is with this.” The candidate knows the stand that he or she should take, but that's not the question. The question is

always: What response keeps me in office? What position wins the next election?

Why do you seek the living among polls? the angel will ask after the last vote is tallied.

You've heard it before: Be afraid of them. They're out to get us and our jobs and our country. We've got to put a stop to them before it's too late. They're different. They don't share our values — they don't even speak our language. Look, I'm not a racist or bigot, but we gotta protect our own. You've heard it all. But you've gotten to know some of “them” and you know otherwise. They're your neighbors and friends and they love their families and community as much as you love yours.

You hear the angel: Why do you seek the living in the midst killing fear and deadening hate?

The question asked by the angel of the women on Easter morning is asked of us every morning of our lives: Why do we seek the living among the dead? Why do we expect meaning from what is doomed to nothing? Why do we center our days on things of limited value when God's love and grace abounds in our lives? Easter is God's never-ending invitation to freedom, his raising us up from “tombs” of selfishness and fear and anger and hatred. In the light of Easter's empty tomb, every moment of forgiveness, every triumph of justice over persecution, every insistence of goodness in the face of horrendous evil, every act of compassion (no matter how simple or small) proclaims the good news that Christ is risen. On this Easter Sunday, may we seek to bring such resurrection to the darkness and shadows around us; may we “bury” our own self-interests and wants for the sake of the greater good; may we allow ourselves to “die” in order that God may restore us to life in the wellspring of compassion and mercy that is the Risen Christ.

A blessed Easter to you and yours! Fr. Paul



**THANK YOU LORD FOR ALL YOUR GRACES
AND BLESSING**



Grand Knight's Report Bill Sapero

In the opening lines of *Evangelii Gaudium* (The joy of the Gospel), His Holiness Pope Francis invites “Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ.” Our new Faith in Action program extends that same invitation to Knights of Columbus members and their families. It is a renewed personal invitation to live out the calling of their faith. The call to service of their neighbor, and to answer the age-old question, “Am I my brother’s Keeper.” (Gn-4:9)

In today’s world a man’s work can follow him home through his smartphone. At the same time, he is picking up a larger share of household responsibilities and striving to meet more intense demands of fatherhood as the pace of kid’s activities has accelerated. Despite this, many men are drawn to opportunities to be hands-on and to express their faith by working alongside peers in service to others. They want to spend precious free time involved with their families while also building bonds of friendship and fraternity that will last for a lifetime.

As Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said, “if we can’t meet young Catholic men where they are, they will go somewhere else.” In this day and era, it is too easy to go somewhere else when we need them to be home. Home in the Catholic Church, home in their parishes and home with their families.” As leaders and brother Knights who care about the long-term sustainability

of the Order, we are excited about men’s desire to serve and the opportunity to consistently adapt to meet the demand of a changing world and the needs of future members. We know that the chance to roll up our sleeves and demonstrate our faith through service is as powerful as it is rewarding. The calling is a fundamental part of the Order’s history and genesis for our new program model, Faith in Action. This mission-driven platform is an excellent way to express our service program, as it speaks to our own efforts and to the interests of prospective Knights.

The Faith in Action model is a realization of the changing needs of men in the twenty-first century. It seeks to balance all of our key priorities with theirs – Faith, Family, Community and Life – and present them in a way that is clear to our leaders, members and prospective Knights. The simplicity of Faith in Action is that it fully integrates Building the Domestic Church programs as a foundational part of the model, limits the number of required programs to earn the Columbian Award and, most importantly, allows councils to concentrate on implementing quality faith-filled family programs. Our goal is for men to lead their family in service – not leave their family for service. The focus of this program is quality, not quantity.

For more information on the Faith in Action program, please feel to contact me or any of the officers. Better still, attend a meeting and you can see for yourself. Peace and Blessings.





Deputy Grand Knight's Report Matt Warehime

Ask your average heathen youngster what Easter is all about and they will tell you about the Easter bunny, and finding Easter baskets filled with that annoying grass that seems to stick to household furnishings long after Easter is past. And those pastel foil-covered, football things that are barely chocolate. And, of course, there are Easter eggs to dye and jelly beans, you've got to have jelly beans. pink beans are best! How sad! Most children today don't know beans about what Easter really means. Why don't you tell the story of Jesus to your children or grandchildren this Easter? Tell them about the man who is God's Son, who came to show people the love God has for them. Tell them how evil people murdered him by nailing him to a cross. Tell them how Jesus was buried in a rock sealed tomb. Let them hear how the Roman soldiers were powerless the morning of that third day when the stone rolled away and Jesus walked forth alive. Tell your children that because of Jesus, even though people may die, they will not stay dead. That they can live forever with Jesus, and even their bodies will be raised from the dead just like Jesus' body was. Now I'm sure that Jesus loves bunnies and probably chocolate too. But don't you think he gets a little impatient with parents and grandparents who exalt a rabbit over the Savior? After all, those same children are trying day by day to make sense of the death and life they see around them. They have real hopes and real fears and a destiny unfolding. They deserve a real "Jesus Easter" this year

And to quote Pope John Paul II: Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.

Tempest Fugit, Memento Mori

Sick or Recovering Brothers

Roger Jamison
Bruno "Rocky" Seppi
Bill Sheehan, HLM, PGK
Robert Simpson

Sick or Recovering Relatives

Joyce Edgington, Wife of Dennis Edgington
Karen Tallmadge, Wife of Don Tallmadge, HLM
Regina Smigielski, Widow of Frank Smigielski
Mary McEligott, Wife of Ron McEligott, PGK
Sean Mihaly, Son of Steve Mihaly, HLM
Martha Seppi, Wife of Bruno Seppi, HLM and
Mother of Bruno "Rocky" Seppi
Valerie Sedwick, Daughter of Bruno Seppi, HLM
Lorraine Sotack, Wife of Steve Sotack
Marlene Rocca, Wife of Al Rocca, HLM
Kitty Vaughan, Widow of Dudley Vaughan

**We ask that these Brothers and Relatives be kept
in your prayers.**

**If you know of a Brother Knight or his family
who is sick or recently deceased,**

Please e-mail [Webmaster kofc 2577](mailto:webmaster@kofc2577.org)

so that we may include them in our prayers.

Also, we need your help managing the sick and recovering list.

So when someone has recovered or you wish to remove his or her name, please give George Vincent a call at (301) 249-6399 or e-mail [webmaster@ kofc 2577](mailto:webmaster@kofc2577.org)

Calendar of Sacred Heart Council Activities

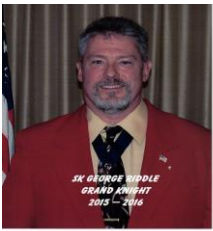
And

Upcoming Events

www.kofc2577.org

Mass Times for Local Catholic Churches in Sacred Heart Council

www.kofc2577.org/masses.htm



District Deputy Report George T. Riddle, PGK, DD

I would like to say THANK YOU to all the Knights in the District. In a Fraternal year where we have seen our Church rocked by scandal, our Knights have stood tall. We are braving the storm and we remain, as St. John Paul II has called us, “the strong right arm of the Church”. We have continued to do the work of our Founder the Venerable Michael J. McGivney started with our principals of Charity, Faith, Unity, and Patriotism. Worthy Brothers I urge you in this Lenten season to seek out those who may doubt, those who may need their faith restored and ask them to join us. Challenge them to let us show them that the Catholic Church and its people are good. Happy Easter, HE is Risen!
Vivat Jesus

Pro-Life (Culture of Life) Committee Chairman Rob Van Rite, PGK, FN

Being a child in the womb has never been more challenging. Reflecting on the direction that “polite” society has chosen to deal with abortion and all its nuances is enough to cause all those who hold life sacred (even life yet to be born) to recoil in horror. It is enough to make them forlornly shout in anguish “Dear God, how could this happen . . . is this what we have come to?! As the face of evil that is abortion and all its permutations continues to evolve, resulting in even more heinous legislation (the Born Alive Abortion Bill) recently considered by the Maryland legislature, what is our response—beyond revulsion and disgust? Contacting our elected representatives is usually the course of action touted by conventional wisdom. Personally, I have never found this to be either satisfying or effective. Those millions of already aborted

children are in God’s hands, but the fate of women in crisis considering abortion as an option, is squarely in our court. Those souls on the frontlines of the abortion battle, those extraordinary individuals who run the Gabriel Network, need and deserve our support whether that be through donations of our time, talent, or treasure. Theirs is a palliative remedy for the women desperately seeking a way forward. Prayer is a mighty tool to buttress our resolve; but, it is also a way spur our participation on a chosen course of action. Prayerfully consider attending the Gabriel Network’s Gala on May 10th at the College Park Marriott. It promises to be an invigorating evening of fellowship sure to enlighten all those concerned with life. More detail can be found on the Gabriel Network website and in later pro-life reports. Vivat Jesus!

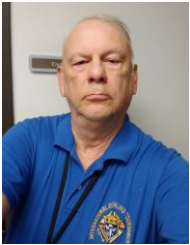
300 Club Chairman Bill Cartney

Hello everyone, the new letters have gone out and we will be begin the drawings in April. If you haven’t received your letter or would like to have numbers for the 300 Club, please contact me at billycart1@verizon.net or 301-602-5706. We still have number available, they are \$20 each.

Council Officers 2018-2019

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- STEVE CLITES (240) 375-1372
- COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
- Faith Activities Jeff McMullen, PGK (301) 809-0260
- Seminarians Doug Salsar (301) 262-9497

Assembly Officers 2018-2019



Fourth Degree News
St. John Neumann Assembly #1763
Rob Van Rite, FN, PGK
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JTCoulton@gmail.com

Worthy Sir Knights, the fate of the Assembly continuing beyond this fraternal year, is seriously in doubt. We seem to have come to the end of the line with no clear direction for continued operation. The conventional succession of chair officers acceding to the next higher level is broken. As it stands, the current Faithful Navigator will not seek a third term; the Worthy Faithful Captain and nominally the heir apparent, has chosen not to be nominated; and the list of possibilities' to assume the Faithful Navigator's responsibilities is as empty as Old Mother Hubbard's cupboard. The Assembly has maintained a proud history and through its Color Corps has truly served the Church and our neighbors through its active role in the public arena. We are not the only Assembly to have difficulty in recruiting new members, but unless we are able to bring new life to the Assembly or at least have current members recommit to a greater level of participation, we will be passing the baton only to have it fall to the ground. April is the month we will consider nominations for the next fraternal year. Much of the current leadership have stood their posts for many years, but there comes a time when moving on is dictated as a proper course of action. The Renewal of Obligations in February, appears now to have been a harbinger of what is to come. Outside of the officers in attendance, only nine Sir Knights were on hand to renew their vows to our honored Order. The listed roster for the St John Neumann Assembly contains 171 names: some are members in other states; some are infirm; some can no longer drive at night; and some with other considerations. It is not too late to avert a shutdown, but remaining on the sidelines will guarantee it. Vivat Jesus!



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Faithful Navigator SK Rob Van Rite PGK, FN (301) 805-0091
Faithful Captain SK Bill Sapero GK (410) 721-9163
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Faithful Pilot SK Gregg LaFave, PGK, PFN (301) 809-9171
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2nd Year SK Joe Massimini, PGK, PFN, FDD (301) 464-4656
3rd Year SK Ed Fox, PFN (410) 451-4382
Editor *The Neumann News* and Webmaster SK George Vincent
(301) 249-6399



**Please Pray for Those
Serving US Today**

M/SGT Robert K. Burkhardt, USAF
Son of Bob & Jeanne Burkhardt
Stationed in Washington State
SGT Scott A. Cecilio, US Army
Son of Alan & Linda Cecilio
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
CAPT Colin Green, USN Seal
Son of Leo & Alhen Green
Commander of Seals in Iraq et al.
MAJ John Marshall, US Army
Son-in-Law of Angelo Troisi
Stationed in Afghanistan
M/SGT Brian McMullen, USMC
Son of Jeff & Lorna McMullen
Stationed in Twentynine Palms, CA
CMSG Steve Poiani, USAF
Son of Claudio & Eva Poiani
Stationed in Spokane, Washington
Col Greg Scheidhauer, US Army
Son of Jerry Scheidhauer
Assigned to U.S. Capitol from Pentagon
Col Michael Sierco, USAF
Son of Mike & Mary Jo Sierco
Air Force War College, AL
LT CMDR Dawn Weaver, USN
Grandchild of Bruno & Martha Seppi
Stationed in Mediterranean
PVT Ike Anaele, US Army
Son of Festus and Olivia Anaele
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Forgotten." - Calvin Coolidge***

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Visit our website <http://www.kofc2577.org>

