



# The Accolade

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



**Sacred Heart Council 2577**

**And**

**St. John N. Neumann Assembly 1763**

**Bowie, Maryland**

**Volume XCIV, Issue 2 In the Spirit of God's Beloved Angels, We are Men for Others AUGUST 2019**



**Chaplain  
Father Paul Sparklin**

In the Roman Catholic culture within which I grew up, we were taught to pray for a happy death. For many Catholics at the time, this was a standard petition within their daily prayer: "I pray for a happy death."

But how can one die happy? Isn't the death-process itself excruciating? What about the pain involved in dying, in letting go of this life, in saying our last goodbyes? Can one die happy?

But the vision here, of course, was religious. A happy death meant that one died in good moral and religious circumstances. That meant that you didn't die in some morally-compromised situation, you didn't die alienated from your church, you didn't die bitter or angry at your family, and, not least, you didn't die from suicide, drug or alcohol overdose, or engaged in some criminal activity.

The catechetical picture of a happy death most often was an anecdotal story of some person who grows up in a good Christian family, is an honest, faith-filled, chaste, church-going person, but for a period of time drifts from God, from church-going, and from observance of the commandments so that, at a point, he no longer thinks much about God, no

longer goes to church, and no longer takes Christian morality seriously. But, shortly before his death, some chance circumstance becomes for him a moment of grace, and he repents of his laxity, his immorality, and his negligence of church practice, returns to church, makes a sincere confession, goes to communion, and, shortly after, is struck down by a heart attack or an accident. But grace has done its work: After years of moral and religious drifting, he has returned to the fold and dies a happy death.

Indeed we all know stories that fit that description; but, sadly, we also all know stories where this is not the case, where the opposite happens, where good people die in very unfortunate, sad, and tragic situations. We have all lost loved ones to suicide, alcoholism, and other ways of dying that are far from ideal. We also all know of people, good people, who have died in morally-compromised situations or who died in bitterness, not able to let their hearts soften in forgiveness. Did they die unhappy deaths?

Admittedly they died in an unfortunate way, but a happy or unhappy death is not judged by whether death catches us on an up-bounce or a down-bounce. For every person that fits the picture of a happy death, as described above, where death catches us on an up-bounce, there are others whose lives were marked by honesty, goodness, and love, but who then had the misfortune of being struck down in moment of anger, in a moment of weakness, in a moment of depression, or who ended up dying from an addiction or suicide. Death caught them on a down-bounce. Did they die an unhappy death? Who is to judge?

What is a happy death? I like Ruth Burrows' description: Burrows, a Carmelite nun, shares the story of a fellow-nun with whom she once lived. This sister, Burrows tells us, was a good-hearted, but weak, woman. She had entered a contemplative convent to pray, but she could never quite muster the discipline for the task. And so she lived for years in that state: good-hearted, but mediocre. Later in life, she was diagnosed with a terminal disease which frightened her enough so that she began to make new efforts at becoming what she was supposed to be her whole life, a woman of prayer. But a half century of bad habits are not so easily changed. Despite new resolutions, the woman never succeeded in turning her life around. She died in her weakness. But, Burrows asserts, she died a happy death. She died the death of a weak person, asking God to forgive her for a lifetime of weakness.

To die a happy death is to die in honesty, irrespective of whether the particular circumstances of our death look good religiously or not. Dying in right circumstances is, of course, a wonderful consolation to our families and loved ones, just as dying in sad circumstances can be heartbreaking for them. But dying in circumstances which don't look good, humanly or religiously, doesn't necessarily equate with an unhappy death. We die a happy death when we die in honesty, irrespective of circumstance or weakness.

And this truth offers another challenge: The circumstances of someone's death, when those circumstances are sad or tragic, should not become a prism through which we then see that person's whole life. What this means is that if someone dies in a morally-compromised situation, in a moment or season of weakness, away from his or her church, in bitterness, by suicide, or by an addiction, the goodness of that life and heart should not be judged by the circumstances that death. Death caught that person on a down-bounce, which can make for a more guarded obituary, but not for a true judgment as to the goodness of his or her heart.

—Fr . Paul

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



## Grand Knight's Report Matt Warehime

I wanted to take some time and talk about an important celebration that occurs during the month of August. No its not National Beer day or National Ice Cream day. It is the feast of the Assumption. Catholics around the world mark the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, commemorating the end of her earthly life and assumption into Heaven. But, while the feast day is a relatively new one, the history of the holiday – and the mystery behind it – has its roots in the earliest centuries of Christian belief.

As her earthly life comes to an end, the Assumption helps us to understand more fully not just her life, but it helps us to always focus our gaze to Eternity.

The dogma of the Assumption of Mary – also called the “Dormition of Mary” in the Eastern Churches – has its roots in the early centuries of the Church. The Catholic Church teaches that when Mary ended her earthly life, God assumed her, body and soul into heaven.

We can look at this holy day of obligation and realize that it is important to honor Mary our Queen of the Knights. For without her, there would not have been Jesus, the gates of heaven would not have been opened up for our souls to ascend to and receive our seat next to God.

So take a few moments and reflect on how we can honor Mary on Thursday August 15th. if you cannot make it to mass please take some time for prayer and reflect on the importance of Mary. Vivat Jesus  
Tempest Fugit, Memento Mori

Sacred Heart Council #2577		
2019-2020 Budget		
Budget Summary		
Budget	Income	Expenses
State Events	\$5,500.00	\$2,695.00
Council Events	\$117,775.00	\$49,405.00
Membership	\$23,145.00	\$3,750.00
Faith/Life Activities	\$3,750.00	\$13,955.00
Family Activities	\$0.00	\$4,250.00
Community Activities	\$20,000.00	\$21,300.00
Administrative Exp.	\$1,500.00	\$60,915.00
Grand Knight Exp.	\$0.00	\$15,400.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$171,670.00</b>	<b>\$171,670.00</b>



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

Having experienced reasonable play in the MabuHai! Golf Tournament, I waited with great expectation for the arrival of the Dave Grabowski Classic: the showcase for Gabriel Project golfers everywhere. This third week in June tournament is a major fund raiser for the project and for this year owns the “accolade” of best attended event. Over 65 pro-life golfers met under sunny skies and fair winds. However, the tournament had an ominous preamble with gale force winds, and soaking rains. Thus, the assembled party was very pleasantly surprised that the Bowie course was in fairly good shape. Those golfers who managed to play in the fairways got a good run for their money—spent in the best of ways for mother’s in crisis. At the Hall, it was time to tally up the scores and await the announcement detailing the day’s winners. The Winner’s Circle has traditionally been peopled by the same foursomes—but not this year. Having a solid 4-under 66 for the day, the foursome of District Deputy George Riddle, Grand Knight-elect Matt Warehime, Past Grand Knight Rob Van Rite and PGK Jimmy Cardono received second place honors. Tournament Director Steve Dobrosielski’s team, had also scored a round of 66 but lost out on the sudden death tie breaker. Regardless, “Dobro” was overjoyed that the Classic had its best year ever with higher participation and profit for the pro-life cause. As always, 82-year-old PGK Paul Mullenhoff handled ticket sales, mulligan’s, and dabbled in stock tips along with Brother Knight Joe Bobby. A tasty hotdog snack was served up courtesy of PGK PFN FDD PCP Joe Massimini. Overall, the Gabriel Network came up huge with proceeds from the event exceeding \$10,000. Congratulations to Stephen Wallace, Executive Director of the Gabriel Network, and all the people who benefit from their hard work.

Vivat Jesus!

**Deputy Grand Knight’s Report  
Chris Keplinger**

Welcome brothers to a new fraternal year!

I would like to start off by thanking Bill Sapero for a wonderful year and putting the council in a position to offer such a high level of programming going forward. I will be working closely with our newly elected Grand Knight, Matt Warehime, to ensure strong programs that are well advertised and involve as many new and old members alike. As we kick off July with the Installation of Officers and the multitude of 4th of July celebrations I am excited and honored to represent the council as the program chairman. We have so many events planned already. As a father of five (soon to be six) I know how busy life can get, but I am challenging every member to find that 'one afternoon', that 'one weekend', that one event to get involved this year.

Throughout the year we will be reaching out by email, phone, and in person. A major effort early on in the year will be modernizing the diversity of our communications. To facilitate planning I will be building out the entire calendar of events within Google so you can easily subscribe on your phone or laptop. In an effort to facilitate volunteer opportunities we are also going to look into online signup programs such as Signup Genius. For larger council events we will be advertising events much earlier than in the past and are considering online ticket sales. More information on these initiatives will be in future communications.

Hopefully you will all find some time this month to recharge, hobby, get some sun, maybe do a little travelling, and most importantly spend time with your family and friends. Thank you all again in advance for responding to my request to embrace this community of men serving those less fortunate while building lasting relationships together and throughout the community.





**Calendar of Sacred Heart Council Activities  
And  
Upcoming Events**  
[www.kofc2577.org](http://www.kofc2577.org)

**Mass Times for Local Catholic Churches in  
Sacred Heart Council**  
[www.kofc2577.org/masses.htm](http://www.kofc2577.org/masses.htm)

**Sick or Recovering Brothers**

Roger Jamison  
Bruno "Rocky" Seppi  
Bill Sheehan, HLM, PGK  
George Vincent

**Sick or Recovering Relatives**

Joyce Edgington, Wife of Dennis Edgington  
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  
Lorraine Sotack, Wife of Steve Sotack  
Marlene Rocca, Wife of Al Rocca, HLM  
Kitty Vaughan, Widow of Dudley Vaughn

**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)  
so that we may include them in our prayers.**

**Council Officers  
2019-2020**

GRAND KNIGHT MATT WAREHIME 443-506-9877  
DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT CHRIS KEPLINGER 301-466-6917  
CHAPLAIN FATHER PAUL SPARKLIN (410) 721-5770  
ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN DEACON DAVID BARNES (443) 292-8400  
CHANCELLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL (293) 628-1291  
WARDEN LEE (BUD) DUMAS (240) 687-6920  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY DON TALLMADGE, PGK, PFN, PCP, FDD (301) 218-4623  
RECORDER JOE MASSIMINI, PGK, PFN, PCP, FDD (301) 464-4656  
TREASURER BOB HEVERLY, PGK, FDD (301) 464-4656  
ADVOCATE JIM SIMPSON (202) 360-7960  
LECTURER ROB VAN RITE, PGK, PFN  
INSIDE GUARD CALVIN BLAKE (240) 770-7704  
OUTSIDE GUARD:  
RAY DeVOUS, PFN (301) 641-8054  
JONATHAN TALLMADGE (301) 218-4623  
TRUSTEE(s):  
First Year ROMEO PATERNOSTER, PGK, FDD (301) 509-0236  
Second Year RALPH BONUCCELLI, PGK (301) 464-3630  
Third Year BILL SAPERO, PGK (410) 721-9163  
DISTRICT DEPUTY GEORGE T. RIDDLE, PGK, DD (410) 972-5285  
INSURANCE AGENT(s):  
JOHN CANTER (301) 261-3231  
STEVE CLITES (240) 375-1372  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
FAITH ACTIVITIES JEFF MCMULLEN (301) 809-0260  
SEMINARIAN DOUG SAHER (301) 262-9497  
WEBMASTER and ACCOLADE EDITOR  
GEORGE VINCENT (301) 249-6399

**Bingo**

**Joe Massimini, PGK, PFN, PCP, FDD**  
**240-997-0402** [joemassi@comcast.net](mailto:joemassi@comcast.net)

After many years of having five teams of Bingo workers the lack of workers for Bingo has forced us to contract two teams. July 2 will be the last time Bruno Seppi will lead Team 4 for Bingo. He will be combining with Team 1 to help bolster that team and make it work. Team 5, led by Kevin Carroll, will become Team 4.

This consolidation of teams does not solve all of our problems, but it does make things a little easier. We need people to work Bingo. We have had quite a few new people show up, but we can still use more volunteers. If you would like to be part of Bingo, come to the Hall any Tuesday evening. We will put you to work.

If you would like to help at Bingo, the schedule for August is as follows:

- August 6: Team 4, Kevin Carroll
- August 13: Team 1, Bill Cartney
- August 20: Team 2, Jack O'Malley
- August 27: Team 3, Mike Mitchell
- September 3: Team 4, Kevin Carroll

If you want to help, just show up on a Tuesday evening. Or if you would rather contact someone, you can reach me at 240-997-0402 or [joemassi@comcast.net](mailto:joemassi@comcast.net).



**Fourth Degree News**  
**St. John Neumann Assembly #1763**  
**Bill Sapero FN, PGK**

My first message as Faithful Navigator is a letter from our Worthy Master. Some of you may have already seen this message. My goal is to have everyone see the message.

Worthy Sir Knights and Color Corps members,

The past few months have been a difficult time as we transition from one uniform standard to another. I am well aware that many of you, whether you have been color corps in the past or not, for personal reasons, have decided not to purchase the new uniform. I respect your reasons, and I encourage those who have not yet decided to make the purchase, to carefully consider your choice and continue your active participation in the Fourth Degree Color Corps.

For previous Color Corps members who have decided not to make the transition, I know that I can speak for our order that the Knights of Columbus, its members, and the countless men, women, children, churches, communities, and families will be forever grateful for your prayerful dedication and active participation as members of the Color Corps.

The opportunities to "step up and step out " as Fourth Degree Knights are unique to the Archdiocese of Washington District. The National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Saint Matthew's Cathedral, The Saint John Paul II Shrine, Columbus Day at Union Station, Red Mass, White Mass, ordinations are but a few, and the list goes on.

Our order was founded on service. We, as Knights of Columbus, especially as Fourth Degree, are charged with fulfilling the obligations we have taken. We are the most visible element of our order. Please do not allow the issues with the uniform transition to in any way disrupt continued conduct of the many patriotic programs already in place. I strongly encourage you to maintain and expand these events. I ask that every Fourth Degree member remain as active as possible in the many

activities we sponsor, and seriously consider the Fourth Degree Color Corps as another opportunity to outwardly express our commitment to Patriotism. My commitment is, as I hope it is also one you share, to remain the "Strong right arm of the Church"  
 Thank you for your service,



**Assembly Officers**  
**2018-2019**

**Faithful Navigator # 1763:** SK William D Sapero, 1664 Albermarle Drive, Crofton, Maryland, 21114, (410) 721-9163, [bsapero1@verizon.net](mailto:bsapero1@verizon.net) Maureen

**Faithful Captain # 1763:** SK Mike Mitchell, 16104 Allenglen CT, Bowie, MD 20716-3841, (703) 628-1291 (R), [MMITCH0323@aol.com](mailto:MMITCH0323@aol.com)

**Faithful Admiral # 1763:** SK Robert R. "Rob" Van Rite, PFN, 4005 Yarmouth Ln, Bowie, MD 20715-1443, (301) 805-0091(H), (301) 910-4524(C), [JTCoulton@gmail.com](mailto:JTCoulton@gmail.com) Amy

**Faithful Pilot # 1763:** SK Ralph Bonuccelli, 13203 Idlewild Dr, Bowie, MD 20715-1407, (301) 464-3630 (H), [RBonuccelli@wmata.com](mailto:RBonuccelli@wmata.com) Dee

**Faithful Comptroller # 1763:** SK Lee "Bud" Dumais, 3538 Madonna Ln, Bowie, MD 20715-2907 (240) 687-6920(C) [LEDBUD@aol.com](mailto:LEDBUD@aol.com)

**Faithful Scribe # 1763:** SK Paul Mullenhoff, 3026 Traymore Ln, Bowie, MD 20715-2057, (301) 262-3963, [pmullenhoff@verizon.net](mailto:pmullenhoff@verizon.net)

**Faithful Purser # 1763:** SK Amancio P. Pascaran, 13311 Forest Dr., Bowie, MD 20715-4394, (301) 805-1472, [appascaran@gmail.com](mailto:appascaran@gmail.com) Marilen

**Color Corps Commander # 1763:** SK Del Billings, PGK, PFN, FDD, 3610 Mabank Lane, Bowie, MD 20715, 240-381-8530, [delb3610@aol.com](mailto:delb3610@aol.com) Rose

**Vice Commander # 1763:** SK Jeff McMullen, 8003 Oat Ridge Ct, Bowie MD 20715-4620, (301)809-0260, [jeffmcm@live.com](mailto:jeffmcm@live.com) Lorna

**Vice Commander # 1763:** SK David H Willett, 3112 Teal Lane, Bowie, MD, 20715-3140, (301) 476-2049, (240) 476-2049, [tnirishdhw@yahoo.com](mailto:tnirishdhw@yahoo.com) Lisa

**Contact for Candidates:** SK Robert R. "Rob" Van Rite, PFN 4005 Yarmouth Ln, Bowie, MD 20715-1443, (301) 805-0091(H), (301) 910-4524(C), [JTCoulton@gmail.com](mailto:JTCoulton@gmail.com)



## 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  
Stationed in Oahu, Hawaii

*“The Nation Which Forgets Its Defenders Will Be Itself Forgotten.” - Calvin Coolidge*

## Michael McGivney PRAYER FOR CANONIZATION

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Father Micael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your venerable servant Father Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request).

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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202-281-2410

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

