



KNIGHTLIFE



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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

March 2012

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF JAMES C. FLETCHER, JR. COUNCIL NO. 11422
HOME OF FORMER DISTRICT DEPUTY VERNON HAWKINS, JR. & CARLTON WILLIAMS

www.council11422.org



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ANNUAL MARDI GRAS FESTIVAL AT ST. JOSEPH



James C. Fletcher Council 11422 of the Knight of Columbus hosted its annual Mardi Gras Party at 2020 St. Joseph Drive Largo, Maryland on February 18, 2012. It was an evening of fun and bringing New Orleans' tradition to the east coast. The Sensational live band "The Exclusive" entertained the sold out crowd.

The guests started arriving around 7:00pm all dressed to impress. Mardi Gras masks were on hand in case of those who forget their masks at home. The bar was busy as usual. The food was awesome and the music was the best.

The Knights also honored one of their own, SK Kenneth P. Hinton (PGK) and his lovely lady, Sheila as the Family of the Year.



Also, raffle was drawn to raise fund in support of the annual college bound scholarship fund, that the council supports yearly. It was all night of fun until Midnight. Do not miss next year Mardi Gras!

For more pictures of the festivity, see the back page.

Grand Knight's Chronicle



Charles Okpah We had a great busy month in February. From our council's Mardi Gras Party, to Black History Month, to the academic tutoring, to the Knight Sunday, to our first fish fry and other activities in between.

All these could not have been accomplished without the support of our council members. I thank everyone for the supports.

As we have entered into the month of March, I am extending my hands to all brothers for their supports to make this March a successful month too. Our second fish fry will be on March 9, starting at 12noon to 6:00pm. I am expecting good turn

out just as like our first fish fry in February.

Also, please look out for the Cat Fly for the kids that the council will be organizing this March.

Please also, don't forget to pay your council dues for this fraternal year if you have not done so.

Vivat Jesus!

CHAPLAIN'S THOUGHTS



"This is my beloved Son."

We know the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus in Mark's Gospel. Yet, how does the Transfiguration tie into the story of Abraham preparing to sacrifice his son, Isaac?

Abraham is our father in faith, who lived about 2,000 years before Christ. Abraham was seventy-five years old, married but childless, when he heard God call him and he listened to Him. Isaac was his only son with his wife Sarah, so you can imagine what a dotting father Abraham must have been. It was through his son Isaac that God tested Abraham's faith.

Abraham's faith was so strong that he did not hesitate to sacrifice his "own beloved son" when called by God to do so. Isaac in this story, prefigures Jesus Christ in His Passion, Death and Resurrection, with the major difference being that God would not let Abraham harm

his son. Isaac carried the wood on which he was to be offered as a holocaust. When Abraham was told not to harm Isaac, the boy rose up to help his father offer a ram as holocaust.

Jesus carried His cross to Calvary. He was the lamb that was sacrificed and He rose from the dead. God the Father would not allow Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, but He did allow His "own beloved Son" to be sacri-

"Jesus carried His cross to Calvary. He was the lamb that was sacrificed and He rose from the dead."

ficed. Because of His unwavering faith in His heavenly Father, Jesus rose from the dead, glorified by God for eternity.

In the Transfiguration, Jesus is re-

vealed in the glory that will be His in the Resurrection. Jesus' Transfiguration strengthens His disciples, so that knowing the glory to which they have been called, will go out and proclaim the Gospel with complete faith, without any reservation or hesitation. Peter, James and John were being prepared for the sacrifices they would undergo, as would the other Apostles, knowing the glory God would give them for their faith.

St. Paul tells us, "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?" God calls us to share in that same glory of His "own beloved Son," that through faith, we prepare to accept and follow during this Lenten season.

— Fr. Roy Campbell

“Only morality rooted in love can adequately address the world’s economic and political challenges”

This year will mark the fourth year of a global financial crisis. Government officials and financial leaders continue to propose technical and legal “fixes” with varying degrees of success, but public confidence remains low, and there remains widespread lack of trust in both government and business.

Obviously, technical and legal action is necessary. But people intuitively sense that a more fundamental change is necessary to achieve long-term economic sustainability. Americans believe that the nation’s moral compass is pointed in the wrong direction but can still turn in a way consistent with their deeply held moral values. What has been missing from the public discourse of the economic crisis these past few years has been a candid discussion of the importance of these values. It is here that Catholics have a very important role to play under the leadership of Pope Benedict XVI.

In his first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict set forth the fundamental Christian vision of how we are to act. If we say, “God is love,” we are saying something much more than God sometimes acts in a loving way or acts “out of love.” If he himself is love, then every expression, every manifestation, every revelation of himself is an expression, a manifestation, a revelation of love.

Thus, if the Christian life is a call to conform one’s life to God, then



Supreme Knight
Carl A. Anderson

love becomes the context of not just some, but of every human action. We see this in the commandment to “love one’s neighbor as one’s self” and in the scriptural admonition that states, “If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen” (1 Jn 4:20).

In his most recent encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate*, Pope Benedict writes, “The development of peoples depends, above all, upon a recognition that the human race is a single family” (53). The pope reminds us that the fundamental Christian attitude toward our neighbor is “brotherhood” and “family.” The family is the place where we are first called to love one another, where we learn to make a sincere gift of our selves rather than cheat one another and “look out for number one.” In the family, we experience “deep personal sharing” and learn that “I must give to others not only something that is my own, but my very self” (*Deus Caritas Est*, 34).

Yet, this attitude of “fraternal” charity cannot be limited to family life. It is, Pope Benedict insists, fundamental to economic development and civil society. Some might dismiss this as unrealistic idealism or sentimentality. But in our efforts to achieve economic justice, we might remember the lessons we learned in the struggle for racial justice. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “Justice is

really love in calculation. Justice is love correcting that which revolts against love.” When he said this, King was not being sentimental — he was preparing to go to jail.

King knew, and Pope Benedict continues to remind us, that love is intrinsic to justice. If we love someone, we insist that he or she be treated fairly — not only within our family, but also within society. Love is the necessary condition of justice. This realization is at the very heart of our moral witness as Catholics.

In January, Pope Benedict said, “It is imperative that the entire Catholic community in the United States comes to realize the grave threats to the Church’s public moral witness presented by a radical secularism which finds increasing expression in the political and cultural spheres.” This radical secularism can erect government barriers to the Church’s public moral witness, but it also seeks other ways to exclude this witness from the nation’s public discourse.

In the face of these challenges, the 1.8 million Catholic men of the Knights of Columbus — men known for their determined public moral witness — have an important role to play: We must continue to be in the forefront, demonstrating in word and in deed that truly “God is love.” This can make all the difference.

Vivat Jesus!

STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE



“Welcome Home”. That was the message we got after the State Council’s Valentine’s cruise to the Caribbean. Only it came from the four suitcases of dirty laundry staring back at us, the huge USPS basket of mail I picked up from the post office, and the large number of phone messages waiting for us on the home phone.

Besides the laundry, much of the communications centered around the pending Same Sex Marriage legislation here in Maryland; and the fact that it was quickly coming up for a vote. Quicker than the time it takes to get a third load of laundry in the washer, the vote on the bill was history and our Catholic Governor was vowing to sign into law, legislation that violates the sacrament of marriage.

Running close behind it was the pronouncement that the President of the United States was issuing a compromise to the Catholic Church on his health care mandate; but that the Catholic Church saw it as no compromise at all but instead a violation of Catholic conscience.

What a rude awakening - from a beautiful cruise in the Caribbean, to a smack in the face to the Catholic Church by our President and our Governor. Yet sadly that’s where we are. But the good news is that in a time like this, the Knights of Columbus is where we need to be.

Imagine you, by yourself, wanting to take on either the National Health Care Law or the State mandated Same Sex Marriage legislation. What could you possibly do? What impact could your one vote - your single voice, have against powers such as the Governor of the state of Maryland or bigger yet, the President of the United States?

But, as a member of an organization of over 27,000 strong here in the state; as a member of an international organization of over 1,800,000; your voice becomes much stronger, your vote becomes much more powerful.

Our leaders in the Catholic Church and the Order are making plans for us to stand up and proudly and loudly say, we are Catholic and the actions of our Governor and our President are contrary to teachings of the Catholic Church. Moreover, we are American citizens and we want our values to be represented as well by the both of you.

So the wakeup call is here. Be ready to act when the Catholic Church or the Knights of Columbus give the signal. We will be responding to the same sex marriage legislation with a petition drive to bring it to referendum; and Cardinal Timothy Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will advise us on the approach we will take with regard to the decisions made by the Department of Health and Human Services and the President of the United States.

Start talking up the campaign with your Brother Knights and fellow Catholics – we are Catholic Americans and we expect our elected officials to honor the Constitution especially when it comes to the First Amendment – *“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...”!*

Welcome home.

The State Deputy’s message comes from the Maryland State Council’s Newsletter, *The Beacon*. The *Beacon* and other State Council’s information can be accessed at the State Council’s website at www.kofc-md.org

DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

Spring is just around the corner and we should all be making plans for Easter. We all know that with Ash Wednesday preparation for Easter has begun. Easter is a time to reflect on what has been done for us. It is a time to celebrate our many gifts. Remember as good Catholics we have special obligations during Lent.

The Maryland State Council Founder's Day Mass and Reception is Sunday March 25th at St Alphonsus Rodriguez Church, Woodstock. If you have submitted nominations for Citizen, Catholic teacher, firefighter, EMT, Police Officer they will receive their awards there so please attend.

You should also be making plans for the Maryland State Convention May 4th – 6th in Ocean City at the Princess Royal. Remember any resolution you want to present at the convention has to be voted on and approved by your

council and be submitted to the State by March 10th.

Please continue to offer opportunities to other Catholic men to join the Knights of Columbus. Our district is doing fairly well in general in recruitment thanks largely to Mother Seton Council with ten new knights and more on the way. The Knights of Columbus offers so much to help men become better Catholics. Membership is important to everyone without new members organizations will die. Also now is time to make nominations for your officers for next year please encourage many to volunteer to serve.

I want to thank your council for continuing to submit your reports timely. I was impressed with the second quarter reports that showed a great deal



Robert Worthington
District Deputy

of effort. We are over halfway through the fraternal year it is not a time to slow down. Please keep up the good work.

Vivat Jesus!

Robert Worthington

MASTER'S LOG

Tuxedo's for a Good Price!!!

Worthy Sir Knights:

I know you all are working on getting new candidates to become 4th Degree Knights of Columbus. I just know we will have that class of 200 this year as we almost made it last year. Now it most important that we tell our new candidatures what the dress will be for the Exemplification.

For Priests and Deacons—the dress for them is their priestly clothing with their collar. Priest and Deacons will not be asked to wear tuxedos.

For lay persons—the uniform is the black tuxedo, white tuxedo shirts (Lay down collar . . . NO WING TIP COLLARS), black bow tie, black cummerbund, black socks and shines shoes.

To assist the new candidates to get their tuxedos as a reasonable cost, please send them to the website listed below. The prices are very reasonable and the turnaround time to receive the clothing is very quick.

www.uniformalwearhouse.com

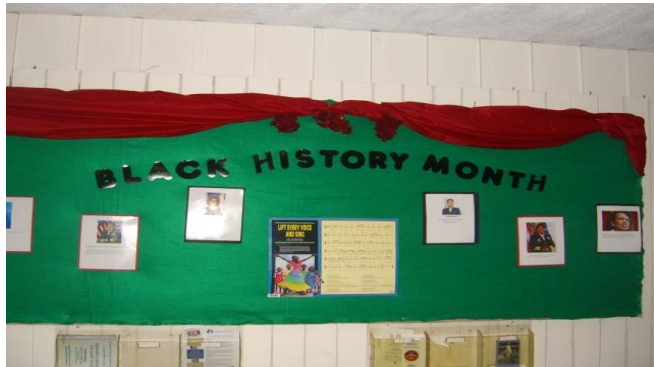


**MASTER ARCHDIOCESE OF
WASHINGTON DISTRICT**

SK. Charles H. Smallwood

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

St. Joseph Church community celebrated black history month on February 19, 2012 at the Rosemont room immediately after the 11:00am mass. The theme of this year celebration focused on Black Women in America, Culture and History. The Guest Speaker was one of the parishioners at



St. Joseph, Captain Beverly A. Dandridge of the United States Public Health Service.

Attendants started trooping into the Rosemont at around 1:00pm after the mass celebrated by Fr.



Roy Campbell.

Books showcasing black people's achievements were on display at the entrance of the Rosemont Room.

The celebration started with a welcome remarks by Ms. Kathleen Mitchel. That was followed by poetry reading "I Am, Who I Am" by Ms. Patricia Wells. The young Jordan Gill provided the Flute Accompaniment.



Ms. Marva Boswell below provided Vocal Selection that mesmerized the atmosphere.



Ms. Althea Holland introduced the Guest Speaker, Capt. Dandridge below, whose presentation moved the crowd. She started with a soul song and then went through the presentation of Black Women in America who have contributed immensely to American culture and history.



It was a wonderful event and a way to honor black women on Black History month.

Catholic Teacher of the Year Nominee



James C Fletcher Council nominates Ms. Bernadette Crawford as the Catholic Teacher of the Year 2012. Congratulations to Ms. Crawford.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Nominee



James C Fletcher Council nominates 1st. Lt. Stephen Joy as the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year 2012. Congratulations to 1st. Lt. Joy

FAMILY OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to SK Kenneth Hinton (PGK) and his Lady Sheila

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

G. Emeka Onwezi
onwezi@gmail.com

We are getting ready for our third quarter reports and all hands on deck to make sure that the reports will be turned in on time as we have done in the past.

PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES

Bill Tollbert
treblot@yahoo.com

The pro-life mass on February 29, 2012 at Holy Family Church, had a good turn up. We are still looking for brothers to participate in other pro-life activities around our community.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

G. Emeka Onwezi

Congratulations to SK Cal Thompson and his Lady Sharon as the "Family of the Month" for the month of March. Brother Thompson is a dedicated member and the council activities chair for many years. He was instrumental to the successful Mardi Gras party in February. Lady Sharon is very supportive of her husband in support of the council and the church.

Also, congratulations to SK Kenneth Hinton (PGK) and his Lady Sheila as the "Family of the Year." They were recognized at the Mardi Gras Party.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Phil Beauboeuf
philbeau@aol.com

The council is sponsoring the free academic tutoring for youths on Mondays, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Also, the council will be organizing Cat Fly for the kids in March.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Cal Thompson
Calthompson@msn.com

Mardi Gras was successful. We also had a successful fish fry in February. Another Fish Fry will be on March 9th.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Alan Davis
davis1960@earthlinj.net

Knight Sunday will be on March 18th. Council members will cover all the ministries from lector to the hospitality ministry. The mass is 11:00am but members should arrive at the Church by 10:30am.

AROUND ST. JOSEPH**90th Anniversary Fundraising Committee**

Will be selling raffle tickets to support The 90th Anniversary Event. Tickets has been available since the weekend of February 25, 2012 and it will continue to be available until March 11, 2012 after each mass. The winner will receive 40% of the purse and does not have to be present to win. Drawing will be on Sunday, March 11, 2012 after the 11 O'clock mass at the church.

The K C Ladies

KC Ladies have initiated an Academic Incentive Program for the children and/or grandchildren of active members of Fletcher Council Knights of Columbus enrolled in grades 3 through 11 who have achieved honor roll status (3.0 and above) each quarter of the school year. Awards are based on final report card data. To qualify, you have to complete the form and turn the completed form with a copy of the student's June 2011 report card, no later than March 30, 2012. For more information, please contact the KC Ladies president Mrs. Cathy Gresham at kgres31726@aol.com

The St. Joseph Citizens Emergency Response Team

Is seeking new members to assist with the entrance, exit and parking of vehicles before and after masses or other events at the parish. Please contact the Church Office to join this ministry or for further information. Training and equipment will be provided by the parish along with the P.G. Police Department.

St. Joseph Concerned Ladies

Join St. Joseph Concerned Ladies at the Sight and Sound Theatres in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on Saturday, August 4, 2012. Cost \$130 (adults), \$95 (teens) and \$65 (children). For payment plan or reservation, please contact Nancy (301) 772-3656, Erma (301) 773-6086, Yvonee (301) 552-9341, or Margaret (301) 341-1720

James C. Fletcher jr. Council 11422 LENTEN FISH FRY



2020 St Joseph Drive, Largo, Maryland



FRIDAY, March 9
12 NOON TO 6P.M.

Dinner- \$8.50

Fish Sandwich- \$5.50



Soda
\$1



Soda
\$1

DINNER MENU

WHITING FILLET OR CROAKER w/bone
2 SIDES
CORN BREAD / SLICED BREAD
CAKE

SIDES

POTATO SALAD – COLE SLAW
MACARONI & CHEESE
STRING BEANS – COLLARD GREENS

PLACE YOUR ORDERS / INFORMATION

CAL THOMPSON 301-928-2157 Kenneth Hinton 301-351-8699

Reflections-Position Statements on Abortion

By Dr. Peter Methodius-Ngwodo

Part I

As you recall, the decision of the Supreme Court in 1973 on “*Roe v. Wade*” legalized abortion in America. Hence, the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, which some celebrate as victory is a cause for reflection and mourning among Christians, especially for Catholics.



It is not just our society, but also our church that has been deeply affected by this decision on abortion. As a result of this, whenever the “Sanctity of Life” service is performed at churches, people walking together as families bring roses to place in a cradle - one rose representing each one million children killed by abortion in America since 1973. Among those who bring these roses are: women who’ve had abortions; men responsible for abortions; people who helped perform abortions; people who’ve lost grandchildren and siblings to abortion; a person who survived an abortion and was carried to term; a woman conceived when her thirteen-year-old mother was raped; a woman advised by her doctor to get an abortion but didn’t; someone who had an abortion appointment scheduled and canceled it at the last moment; a woman who place flowers outside abortion clinics on the anniversary of their child’s death... and these are only a small sample of lives touched by abortion.

At this juncture, it behooves us to discuss what the bible, science, church history and Jesus say about abortion:

The Bible Says

The Bible says that all people, male and female, are created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27; James 3:9). Each individual has been personally created by God (Malachi 2:10). Personhood is never measured by age, stage of development, or mental, physical, or social skills (Exodus 4:11). Psalm 139:13–16 demonstrates the intimate involvement of God with a preborn person. God created David’s inmost being, his soul, not at birth, but before birth. David says to his Creator, “You knit me together in my mother’s womb.” Each person, regardless of his parentage or handicap, has been personally knit together by God in the womb. All the days of his life have been planned out by God before any have taken place (Psalm 139:16). Even the new testament said Mary “was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.” Jesus became a human being at the point of conception. So do all the rest of us.

(To Be Continued in the next Issue)

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

Brother Steven P. Braden 3/10

Brother Wilbur S. Graves 3/21

Brother Anthony E. Jackson 3/19

Brother Michael J. King 3/15

Brother Pablo C. Macres 3/7

Brother Ben A Mensah 3/22

Brother Michael T. Scott, Sr. 3/23

Brother Alfred M. Sibedwo 3/2

Brother Cal A. Thompson 3/8

EVENT CALENDAR

3/09/12 Fish Fry at 2020 St. Joseph Dr.

FAMILY OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to SK Cal Thompson and Lady Sharon

Grand Knight Charles Okpah and his Lady

MARDI GRAS PICTURES



February 18th
2012



EDITOR'S NOTE

As we bring to you this our Lenten Issue of KnightLife, I hope you will enjoy all our features.

Even if you were not able to attend this year Mardi Gras, I hope the pictures of the event that are in this Issue entertain you to the point that you will be looking forward to attend next year Mardi Gras.

I will like to congratulate the for-

mer KnightLife Editor, Brother Ken Hinton, who was honored at the Mardi Gras with his wife Sheila, as the Family of the Year 2012. What a great honor and thank you Sir for your services and dedications.

I also will like to thank Dr. Peter Methodius-Ngwodo for his contribution in this our Issue of KnightLife with his deep reflection on abortion.

G. Emeka Onwezi (Editor)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Knights of Columbus, James C. Fletcher Council and the KC Ladies are now accepting applications for Academic tuition scholarships for the 2012 Fall Semester. Graduating high school seniors from St. Joseph Parish are eligible to apply.

Application forms are available in the Welcome Room at St. Joseph Church. The deadline for submitting completed forms is April 30, 2012.

For further information, please contact: Dr. Peter Methodius, Scholarship Program Chair pmethodius@yahoo.com 301-728-7827 or any member of the James C Fletcher, Jr. of the Knights of Columbus.