



# The Blue Mantle



**Knights Of Columbus**  
Mater Dei Council #9774  
<http://www.kofc9774.org>

**December 2015**

## GK's Report

Worthy Brother Knights:

This month's Blue Mantel requires extensive coverage of recent Christmas festivities. PGK Dick Jasinski is in overdrive this Fall leading TMIY, Mother Theresa's Breakfast on 12/1 and all that went with Breakfast w Santa on 12/5. The Trumpet room was packed with kids and parents thanks to Knights prepared pancakes and endless sausage along with the efforts of Meet the Santa Hans Shierling and PGK Santa Joe Doane. The Christmas spirit continued with PGK, Matt Hoyle's Cocktail Party themed Christmas Party bringing out all generations of Knights totaling 90 attendees including the Charities and our new Seminarians. The new Seminarians from St. Paul's are Sean Skahen, Peter Mlynarczyk and Thomas Robertson. Yes, he is part of the Robertson clan that grew up in St Raphael's.

Many of our Charities attended and received their donations throughout the night. The rest of the checks were just mailed. In the coming months we need to identify the current Mater Dei Knight sponsor for each Charity ensuring that their submission is made each year. This past year we received worthy submissions from Chuck Covell, Dick Retta, Al Ferzacca, and State Director Jim Seidleck.

So back to the party. Don Titzman, again, rose to Matt's challenge and provided an endless supply of meatballs, shrimp, baby hotdogs and so on. If you are not aware, he goes to a restaurant supply place warehouse in the bowels of Alexandria to ensure that we have quality but affordable food, plates, and utensils. Pat and Joe Doane

were chopping some kind of squash for hours into a delicious Ratatouille that even a finicky eater would devour. There was an Antonio Dubravcic sighting as our Warden helped in the kitchen in between his family event and his out of town job in Houston. My wife Cindy made sure that temporary bar (made by yours truly) was finished on time, did not collapse and was decorated with a glorious red table cloth and covering. Her other decorations served as center pieces for the buffet.

So back to Matt. All the beverages, décor, mirrors with mini candles and the sparkly stuff around them were all due to him. The team had their marching orders and delivered a great time. His leadership made this event a success. Many thanks to Eric Gregrich and John Frey as they upheld Dick Bianchi's standards behind the bar making sure everyone's throats were quenched while stroking checks for the charities. PGK, Pete Zaudtke was the cameraman on the scene recording the celebration, providing digital evidence of our donations and driving up Seminarian donations. Next time we will choreograph the photos better so that I am NOT the center piece of the pictures. My apologies to Aleta Phillips for breaking her streak as the dessert provider, it will not happen again. Saving the best for last is my heartfelt thanks to Marty Piper for volunteering to manage the front desk and look out for the charities guests.

There were many Knights who we don't often see who came and made it a fun Knight to remember. You are always welcome.

Tom, GK

[tom.baughan@monster.com](mailto:tom.baughan@monster.com)

## Lecturer's Corner

### Membership Report

#### Congratulate our New Members

— We had a decent showing at our last 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, held on December 10, 2015, welcoming three new members to our Council. Please join me in congratulating John Gracyalny, Greg Mathews, and Eric Rathgeber. They are all St. Raphael parishioners. These guys are terrific men who will undoubtedly bring their own energy and new ideas to our Council. They share our common vision of men who strive to come together to support the Church and our community.

#### Membership / Recruitment Update

— We continue to make strides adding new mem-

bers and we must keep the momentum going as we have several months before our **next 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, which is March 10, 2016**. I want to see at least six (6) candidates attend our next initiation! Please do your part to bring someone you know into our proud brotherhood.

**Retention Update** — If you have been reading this column for the last few months you will know I have been reporting on a planned membership survey. Yes, I still have every intention to get this initiative off the ground but, at this point, don't look for it to launch until after the Christmas and New Year's holidays. I would like to encourage all members to advance at least one level this year. A valuable part of being an active member of the Knights of Columbus is advanc-

ing to become a full Knight in the 3<sup>rd</sup> section, and ultimately a Sir Knight in the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree. Each exemplification imparts a meaningful lesson in Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

#### Upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Degrees:

- January 14, 2016 - Rock Creek Council, Bethesda, MD
- March 24, 2016 - St. Joseph Manyanet Council, Silver Spring, MD
- April 28, 2016 – Mater Dei Council, Rockville, MD

#### Upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> Degrees:

- January 15, 2016 - Rock Creek Council, Bethesda, MD
- April 29, 2016 – Fr. Horrace B. McKenna Council, Germantown, MD

## Council Social Activities

### Breakfast at Normandie Farm

#### – December 19 –

Join us for breakfast at Normandie Farm Restaurant (10710 Falls Road) at **8AM, Saturday, December 19, 2015**. The cost is \$10 per person. (Not including tip.) This is an open invitation call for breakfast and fellowship. **Bring your family, spouse, or friend!** This is a perfect opportunity to better get to know others within the Council.

We are intentionally inviting all men & their families attending TMIY to breakfast.



### Texas Hold 'Em Poker & Pizza and Wings Night – January 28

Join us for an exciting night of cards, pizza, and buffalo wings on **January 28 at 7:00 PM**. Come early and learn how to play. **Doors open at 6:30 PM**. We will run three (3) rounds of timed Texas Hold 'em at 7:10pm, 7:45 pm, and 8:30 pm. We will run raffles and have prizes for chip leaders at the end of each round and for the night.

**The cost is \$10 per person**. This covers the food, beverages, and poker chips. Any remaining funds will be used to fund the Knights of Columbus **Coats for Kids** initiative. For planning purposes, please give the number of your attendees by January 17 to **Matt Hoyle** at (301) 943-8126, [mwhoyle@yahoo.com](mailto:mwhoyle@yahoo.com).



## K of C Culture of Life Program

Worthy Brothers All,

*This Columbian year, our Grand Knight asked me to set up a measurement system to track the council's Culture of Life activities which could in turn be reported to the State Council. My clever solution to that was to start a mail group, and include our TMIY spiritual fellow travelers in the group to expand the pool of individuals committed to promoting the Culture of Life in a world that has grown cold to the the love we should have for the most vulnerable. We have almost 20 folks in the group whom I send how to get involved"information every few days or so. In turn, I simply ask them to respond with what activities they have per-*

*formed and how many hours they spend doing it. It can be any Culture of Life activity, not just the ones I suggest. The beauty is also that they can participate as little or as much as they like. Even an offered prayer counts! We all can at least pray for an end to abortion, euthanasia, and all other threats to the sanctity of life, right? So if you are feeling so moved, **please e-mail me at [corsojohn@aol.com](mailto:corsojohn@aol.com)**. No obligation for signing up - just to read and prayerfully consider! What a great and easy way for our Council to track its involvement in this extremely important work.*

*God's blessings,*

*John Corso, Director*

## Summured Approved Budget

### CHARITY ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance 7/1/2015: \$21,166  
Income / Expenses  
Garage-to-Attic/E-Bay/Book Sales: \$24,000 / (\$24,136.53)  
Seminar Support: \$1,200 / (\$1,200)  
Tootsie Roll Drive: \$4,100 / (\$4,100)  
Donations/ Other: \$260 / (\$1,700)  
Projected Ending Balance 7/1/2016: \$19,589.47

### LONG TERM SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance 7/1/2014: \$1,949.01  
Income Expenses  
General Activities \$ 155 / \$0  
Projected Ending Balance 7/1/2016: \$2,104.01

### Council Fund Programs:

Beginning Balance 7/1/2015: \$7,023.05  
Income Expenses  
Membership Dues: \$6,100  
Car Raffle: net \$2,500  
State & Supreme Assessments: \$0 / (\$2,560)  
Donations: \$0 / (\$2,200)  
General Operations: \$0 / (\$3,918.47)  
Projected Ending Balance 7/1/2016: \$6,944.58

## Mother Teresa Event Kitchen Cooking Team

St Raphael annually invites the residents of the Mother Teresa homes on Otis and Wheeler in the District to a Christmas celebration and lunch at our parish. This year 60 residents were our guests. We extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our Knights who supported the Kitchen and the cooking effort including Ray Gasper, Tom Sherman, Tom Luxner, Tony Cammarota, Joe Matelis, John Hoyle, Maurice Brice, Donald Novotny, George Videll, Dick Jasinski, Joe Doane, and Don Titzman. All are angels. The whole event is very much a team effort with the school children playing a big roll too.

Both Sandy and Bob Shamburek deserve special recognition as they make this their family project.

We heard nothing but praise, and

thank you for the nice hot meal from our guests. This annual event is something all of the guests look forward to.

None of this is possible without the support of each of the team. We thank all of them for their patience in the very busy kitchen and for adapting as things changed, jumping onto any task that needed doing.

There were approximately 15 turkeys and a similar number of hams. Don's cookers worked great for the veggies, and Sandy's stainless bowls were a great help with the stuffing and the potatoes.

We noted we do need a good can opener in the kitchen and we hear the Don T has already donated one & J Doane got it installed.

Records were set. Our guests

ate heartily. What wasn't consumed was plated or trayed, and taken back on the two buses.

We were also instructed to bag and box all the scraps.

These are turned into gravy or soup at the shelters.

So this kitchen effort continues to have another life at the shelter.

And a big big thank you to those of you who stuck with it as part of the cleanup crew.

We need to return the kitchen to the way we found it when we started.

Your willingness to hang in until the very end speaks volumes.

Your thoughtfulness is really appreciated.



## Mater Dei Officers 2015-2016

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### Birthdays in December

Joseph A. Kenny Jr.  
& Michael P. Donahue (1)

Glenn W. Wienhoff, PKG  
& Dr. Leon R. Discavage (2)

Wilsie H. Adams, PGK (6)

David S. Mason (8)

Timothy Henry (10)

Lawrence F. Sancilio (12)

Stephen M. Aguzin (13)

Patrick J. McEvoy (15)

Charles L. Covell Jr. (17)

Walter S. McKee (18)

Matthew W. Hoyle, PGK (19)

Frank J. Suraci (21)

William C. Arcieri (23)

Robert E. McGowan (26)

Andrew J. Taska (30)

John M. Burke &  
Rafael E. Aguirre-  
Sacasa (31)

If you know them, give  
them a greeting for  
their birthday

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**





Mater Dei  
Christmas Party

