



The Columbian Gazette

Of Ashburn

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ASHBURN, VA

A Message from Deacon Paul

Question: Where and when do we look for God? When we increase our awareness of God in our daily life, we open up great opportunities for help, healing, and spiritual growth. However, we live busy lives, and many of us don't think we can fit another activity into our overcrowded schedule.

So, here is a metaphor to help us visualize a solution. Imagine a bicycle wheel with many spokes radiating from the hub. If we see ourselves as the hub and we see the spokes being the demands of our life radiating outward, then the task of working on our spirituality becomes just one more spoke on an already crowded wheel. But if we put God at the hub, as the core of our life, we're not adding another spoke. Instead, God flows outward through every spoke, through everything we do each day. There are three things we can do to help make this happen.

1. **Start our day by offering it all to God.** There is a prayer called the Morning Offering. It can be found on the website of the U.S Conference of Catholic Bishops – usccb.org under the Prayer and Worship tab. It takes about 15 seconds to say and is a great way to start the day. If memorizing the prayer is not an option, make one up from the heart. Take a moment to think about the activities (spokes) of upcoming day and envision them illuminated by God emanating from the hub.
2. **During the day, help God flow outward through all the spokes.** When we say the "Our Father," we pray "thy Kingdom come, thy will be done." We commit ourselves to using our talents, our strengths, our imagination, our skills to bring —everything we have—to serve the Kingdom of God. It's our job to help God flow from the hub outward through the spokes.
3. **At the end of the day, ask for God's help with all the spokes of our life.** Take a moment to reflect on the day and look to find the flow of God in the spokes of the day. Listen for what God might be asking to improve the flow. Try to see God's action and God's

Deacon Paul (Continued on page 2)

From our Grand Knight

Let your light shine

Brothers: as this is my first Quarterly Newsletter column, I wanted to convey to you all what an honor it is to serve as your Grand Knight, and to 'bring to light' a Bible verse that sums up our actions as a Council. From Matthew 5:16, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." While today's news headlines may appear 'dark' or bleak, as Brother Knights we shine this light that our Lord speaks of throughout our communities in every action we take - from visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, or simply praying for our brothers and sisters. These actions 'bring the light' to those in need, bringing the Lord to those who need it.

During this Fraternal Year, I humbly ask you to look inward and ask yourselves what are we doing for our Lord every day with the time, talent, and treasure we've been blessed with?? If you've never volunteered before, or don't think you have the time, I ask you to find one hour a month to serve in some small way whether it's with a food drive, a pancake breakfast, KOVAR collections, or simply spending time with our Lord in adoration. Aside from volunteering, you can spiritually help our Council and our Parish by devoting time into our rich Catholic faith. I can assure you, with increased visits to adoration, praying the Rosary daily, adding an additional Mass each week, or reconciling with the Lord in the confessional booth, our Council will continue to grow in faith and service in the months ahead. As we set out on this path, we'll continue to invoke the help, protection, and intercession of our Blessed Mother in everything we do.

Our Council's programs are firmly in place, with the right leadership teams at the helm, to help our brothers and sisters in need across our county. It's going to be an impactful year for the Council in the service of our Lord.

Vivat Jesus!

John Hegarty, Grand Knight

will in every commitment, interest, and responsibility.

With God at the hub of our life (wheel), we have the power of the Holy Spirit working for us in everything we are called upon to do (spokes), and we have direction and guidance for the many decisions we face each day. With God at the hub of our life, we find God in all things all the time.

- Deacon Paul Konold

Book Review:

***Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather**

Review By ROBERT N. BORGHESE

Willa Cather’s novel *Death Comes for the Archbishop* is based on the true story of two French priests: Jean-Baptiste Lamy who served as the first Archbishop of Santa Fe, New Mexico and Joseph Machebeuf, a priest who assisted him. In the novel Jean-Baptiste Lamy is renamed Bishop Jean Marie Latour and Joseph Machebeuf is renamed Joseph Vaillant. They go to Santa Fe in 1851 to reinvigorate the diocese, recently added to U.S. territory at the end of the Mexican-American War (1846-1848).

Cather’s masterful description of the Southwest with the red hills, canyons, deserts, and vast territory perfectly evokes the scene. The character of Bishop Latour is well-rounded, believable, sometimes lonely, depicted with human foibles along with his many accomplishments.

Bishop Latour has to navigate 1,000 of miles in his Santa Fe diocese on horseback dealing with the very diverse cultures of poor Mexican families, indigenous people, cowboys, white settlers, mining town inhabitants, and wild west ruffians.

Kit Carson is in the novel, depicted as an honorable man but also as a government agent who forced the Navajos from their lands, an act which Cather saw as evil.

Archbishop Latour builds a cathedral, teaches new priests, and grows the Catholic faith in his vast diocese. He has seen the buffalo replaced by the railroad, the emancipation of slaves, and the Navajos restored to their land. At the end of his life, he contemplates his decision to come to the New World and stay there until death comes for him rather than retire in Old Europe.

Quote from the book: “Men travel faster now, but I do not know if they go to better things.”

- Robert Borghese

Upcoming KOVAR Collections

Brother Knights, for this upcoming fraternal year 2023 and 24; the St. Louis Martin Knights Council will collect multiple times for KOVAR. We are approved to collect after Masses in September, November and March (Palm Sunday) weekends and we will be collecting at local Ashburn grocery stores as well. Our 1st collection will be the September 16 and 17 weekend after all Masses and volunteers are very much needed. Brother council members please make this a priority for spreading the word as well as volunteering. As I always state in my emails, family members, especially youth of all ages, are very much welcome. There is nothing like donning an orange KOVAR vest and handing out tootsie rolls. Finally, our goal for this fraternal year is to collect upwards of \$15,000 if not more, as we did last fraternal year. The KOVAR organization has been very busy recently and you can catch up on recent news at <http://kovarva.org>.

- Don Smaltz

Pancake Breakfasts in 2023-2024

We have approval and confirmation for the following pancake breakfasts dates for the 2023 –2024 Fraternal year. We will be using the profits to support many of the same charities we supported last year:

- Sept. 10 - Military Archdiocese
- October 8 - Local Pregnancy Support Centers
- November 12 - VA Special Olympics
- December 3 - Divine Mercy
- January 7 - Knights of Virginia Wheelchair Mission
- February 11 - Diocesan Work Camp
- March 10 - St. Theresa School
- May 19 - Haiti Mission

As always, we will need the support of our brother knights as volunteers to make these events successful. Please look out for sign-up emails in the coming weeks. Bon appétit!

- Rudy Flores



Respect Life Activities

2023 - 2024

“You are called to stand up for life! To respect and defend the mystery of life always and everywhere, including the lives of unborn babies, giving real help and encouragement to mothers in difficult situations. You are called to work and pray against abortion.”

- Pope John Paul II

Brothers – our Fraternal Year 2023-2024 Respect Life activities can be summed up with the quote above from Saint Pope John Paul II: we stand up for life everywhere, we provide real help and encouragement to future mothers, and are called to work & pray against abortion. We are up against powerful media outlets, politicians, and others who promote abortion as ‘women’s healthcare’ or a ‘given right.’ These are powerful forces we face as Brothers, but through our actions, in alignment with the help of our Blessed Mother and the power of the Holy Spirit, we’ll continue the fight forward to protect pre-born lives. How are we going to put to action St Pope John Paul II’s message above? Here’s a sampling of what our Council will be supporting this Fraternal Year:

1. Provide real help & encouragement to future mothers: we will pick-up where we left off last Fraternal Year in supporting local pregnancy resource centers. Last year, we raised \$4000 through a pancake breakfast to support both Birthright of Loudoun and Tepeyac here in Loudoun County. We’ll block off another pancake breakfast to support these critical centers and will also support the Mosaic pregnancy resource center in Lansdowne. More to come on these activities in the weeks ahead.

2. Work & Pray Against Abortion: we need to step-up and voice our support to our federal, state, and local officials in support of life or in opposition to laws / initiatives that support abortion (watch for communications on specific life issues in the months ahead). We’ll also participate again in the **Virginia March for Life** which takes place on February 21, 2024 in Richmond, Virginia (Mark Your Calendars now!). We’re also

strengthening our relationships with other respect life efforts in Councils across the county to build a larger, more vocal pro-life community.

3. We stand up for life everywhere: this could be supporting life in a conversation with friends or family members, praying the Rosary in support of life, or offering up an additional Daily Mass for life. As Knights, we stand strong for life, everywhere, with the power of the Holy Spirit behind us and the intercession of our Blessed Mother to sustain us.

- Eric Ciliberti

Construction Crew Update

Our Construction and Handyman crew has been having a busy summer. They completed a number of projects, and have recruited a new and skilled member on the team, Dale Stucke.

Dale recently completed a project that involved installing front porch rails (below) for a parishioner. She could not have been happier with the outcome.

Kudos to Dale and the team!

- Jim Sinnott



Insurance and Investments Corner

According to Allianz, 61% of Americans are more afraid of running out of money than they are of death. The most important financial time in a person’s life is the 5 years before retirement and the 5 years after retirement. The rules of how to think about money in retirement are totally different than those that you have while working. The professional who helped you accumulate a lot of money may or may not be the right person to help you with tax mitigation and retirement distribution. If your nearing retirement or have just retired, ask yourself and your spouse the following questions:

1. Do you have a guaranteed income that covers your expenses for the rest of your life?
2. Do you have a strategy that will allow you to respond to a difficult situation, like the market dropping 25% for 2 years, a long-term illness, or the death of a spouse?
3. Do you have a tax mitigation plan in place?
4. Do you have a strategy that allows you to spend down your assets in such a way that you’re not afraid of running out of money?
5. Do your investments align with your faith?

If you answered no to any of these questions, or you want a sounding board for the approaches you and your financial professional created regarding these questions, please reach out to me at Benny.perez@kofc.org, or call/text to 571-677-1076.

- Benny Perez

Community Outreach 2023-2024

For our community outreach efforts this coming fraternal year, the Council will continue to support the Meals for Priests initiative, and will also sponsor a shredding exercise to raise funds for Marian Homes. Look out for announcement emails with dates and volunteer sign up information in the coming weeks and throughout the year!

- Steve McLaughlin



CURRENT COUNCIL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS (2023-2024)

Chaplain
 District Deputy
 Grand Knight
 Deputy Grand Knight
 Chancellor
 Financial Secretary
 Warden
 Recorder
 Treasurer
 Advocate
 Trustees

Primary Alt. Sate Del.
 Secondary Alt. State Del.
 Programs Director
 Lecturer
 Inside Guard
 Outside Guard
 Faith Director
 Vocations Chairman
 Community Director
 Life Director
 Public Relations

Family Director
 Membership Director
 Recruitment Committee
 Retention Chairman
 Construction Team Lead
 KOVAR Team Lead
 Fraternal Benefits Field Agent
 Technology Team
 Parish Picnic

Father Hudgins
 Steve Rogers
 John Hegarty
 Mike Boyle
 John Beauchesne
 Jim Bonfils
 Eric Ciliberti
 Stephen McLaughlin
 Stephen Shields
 Tony Gizzi
 3 Yr. Rob McNamee
 2 Yr. Miguel Rodriguez
 1 Yr. William Lehner
 Miguel Rodriguez
 William Lehner
 Mike Boyle
 Vince Tranchitella
 Miguel Sian
 Vince Tranchitella
 Jack Hayes
 Vince Tranchitella
 Stephen McLaughlin
 Eric Ciliberti
 Rudy Flores
 Dave Schreder
 Eric Ciliberti
 Robert Borghese
 Erich I. Stefanyszyn
 John Beauchesne
 Jack Hayes
 Jack Hayes
 James Sinnott
 Donald J. Smaltz
 Benny Perez
 Anthony Gizzi
 William Lehner

