

# KNIGHTLINE

December, 2009

Archbishop Neale Council No. 2279

Volume 24, No. 1



## Council Officers 2009 - 2010

**Rev. Jaroslaw Gamrot**  
Chaplain

**Rev. Edward P. O'Connell, S.J.**  
Associate Chaplain

**Ryan P. Mudd**  
Grand Knight

**George J. Grooms II**  
Deputy Grand Knight

**Marcelino C. Santos**  
Chancellor

**Randall D. Roberts**  
Warden

**Mark S. Shutters**  
Recorder

**Gerry D. Brosco, PGK, FDD**  
Financial Secretary  
Editor

**Brad Howard**  
Treasurer

**Christopher W. Hume**  
Advocate

**Curtis L. Birley, Jr.**  
Inside Guard

**Anthony Perino**  
Outside Guard

**Matthew C. Laidley, PGK**  
Trustee - One year

**Joseph P. Haggerty, PGK**  
Trustee - Two years

**Keith P. Vogel, PGK**  
Trustee - Three years



## Chaplain's Message

—Rev. Jaroslaw Gamrot —



The entrance to the Nativity Basilica in Bethlehem is about 4 feet high. It is said that the opening was made this way in medieval times so the horseman could not ride in disrespectfully into a church. What ever the reason, in the past, today pilgrims have to bow before entering. Next, steps on the tour of the Basilica of Nativity lead into a crypt of Nativity through yet another narrow and low doorway while descending on a winding stone staircase.

It could make you think that one can't enter the mystery of the Nativity with unbowed heart. This could be something to keep in mind as we celebrate Advent season. This is a special time of reflection on the coming of Christ not only in the past at Bethlehem, or in the end of time but also in the present in our personal lives.

Advent is a time for a renewal of our relationship with God when we bow our hearts before the mystery of the Son of God becoming a man. A bow is a sign of respect. It could also signify a gesture of a humble submission. In this gesture Christians reflect humbleness of the Lord for Advent reminds us that Jesus "humbled himself to come among us as a man, . . . to open for us the way of salvation." The eighth century Evening Hymn for Advent reads:

*At your great Name, O Jesus now  
All knees must bend, all hearts  
must bow;*

*All things on earth, with one accord,  
Like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.*

Advent can be a truly valuable time preparing us for Christmas celebration of God's boundless love with contrite hearts. After Advent spent on renewal of our relationship with God we will be blessed with a solemn blessing at the end of the Christmas Mass. We will hear a deacon giving the invitation: "Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing." Then the priest will extend his hands and the threefold prayer of blessing will fill our minds and hearts:

(Chaplain page 2)

## Grand Knight's Message

— Ryan P. Mudd —



My worthy brothers,  
It is hard to believe that half the current Columbian year is almost completed. Where has the time gone?

I would be remiss to start without acknowledging all of my officers and thank them for all their hard work and dedication thus far. And to the rest of the Council, thank you for always being there to lend a hand and further not only the cause of Council No. 2279, but that of the Knights of Columbus in general.

The last 6 months certainly have been quite busy. In fact, I was recently asked by a member of the parish when the Knights were going to slow down and take a break. To me, that is a sign that our efforts are being noticed and appreciated by all. Why slow down when there is still so much work to be done?

Because of our work in the community and parishes, and with the aid of Brother Matt Laidley and his recruitment efforts, we have already met our membership quota for the year, with more candidates continuing to express an interest in joining our Order. The continued success of our Order depends on the sum of all of its parts. I encourage all members to get involved in some fashion or another. Try returning to a meeting and partake in the excitement yourself.

As the holiday season nears, and the hustle and bustle ensues, please continue to remember those less fortunate or in need of assistance. If you know of a Brother Knight or family member in need of help, please alert me or someone in the Council so that we can lend them a helping hand.

I pray that you all have a safe, healthy and happy Christmas and a joyous New Year.

God Bless and Vivat Jesus.

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## District Deputy's Thoughts



We are now hard into the holiday season. In a time when all things religious are being discouraged and swept away, it's refreshing to know that the Order sponsors the "Keep Christ in Christmas" campaign to remind people that Christmas is above all a holy day celebrating the birth of Christ.

I hope the council has made plans for "Keep Christ in Christmas" events to help spread the joyful tidings of the Christmas season and keep the very heart and meaning of the Christmas celebration alive.

Let the light of the newborn Christchild carry your council successfully into the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Columbian year.

I hope the Christmas season is filled with every blessing for you and your family. On behalf of my wife, Patsy, and District Warden Joe Hayden and wife Linda, I wish you a very Holy Christmas and Happy New Year.

Vivat Jesus

Johnny Norman

DD#12

Attitude quote for December:

*"A man is but the product of his thoughts – what he thinks, he becomes."*

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(Chaplain from page 1)

*May the God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness of sin and brighten your hearts with holiness.*

*May he fill you with joy and make you heralds of his gospel.*

*May he give you his peace and good will and fellowship with all the heavenly host.*

## Photos I took in Bethlehem



*A painting from the Basilica.*

*A silver star on the floor in the Crypt of the Basilica of the Nativity marking the spot where Jesus Christ was born.*



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## Program Director's Report

- *George Grooms* -

There's an old cliché that reads, "To be successful you should surround yourself with great people." I am honored to be associated with such a fine group of officers, committee directors, and fellow brother knights. Grand Knight Ryan Mudd and I are thankful to each of you who *always* answer the call for help. **Thank you!**

To say we've been busy is an understatement. We look forward to continuing these and other works of Charity, Unity and Fraternity in this year dedicated to "We Are Called To Serve" by our State Deputy, Richard V. Siejack. Vivat Jesus!

## Family Activities Director

- *Brandon Rosier & John Bruculeiri* -

The **Family of the Month** program continues to be a high priority to our Council. Our initial effort for families was held in August at Archbishop Neale School with the selection of the Bowling family and their continued support of the local charities. In September, the Schreyer family was selected for their involvement with the children's church and choir along with the Pope John Paul Academy. October was awarded to the Santos family and their commitment serving as altar servers and responding to priest's needs. We are still accepting nominations for November so please forward your suggestions.

A **charity basketball game** between our council and the DC Hood was held on 19 August in the Archbishop Neale School gymnasium. The DC Hood team consists of priests and deacons who travel the Washington, DC area to promote vocations to the priesthood.

**Cardinal McCarrick** spoke at halftime and praised the community's efforts supporting the priesthood.

Attendance exceeded 190 and approximately \$1,000 was raised in support of local charities. After the game, GK Mudd and DGK Grooms presented a check for \$200 to the Volunteer Rescue Squad in anticipation of medical services to players and attendees. After the game players and families shared pizza, refreshments, and fellowship in the school cafeteria.

Our council attended the last performance of the **La Plata Town Hall Concert** of the season in October. It was a great opportunity to raise awareness of the Knights support within the community. Council families participated in the festivities; local community businesses, dancing, moon bounce, snacks and beverages, and enjoyed the live music.

On September 13th the Knights manned the **Right to Life Booth** at the Charles County Fairgrounds. Our goal was to bring awareness to the public regarding Pro Life Activities by showing the stages of the fetal development and growth throughout the birth cycle and linking support programs to concerned mothers.

## Membership

The council has been very active in its recruiting efforts. Since January 2009 membership increased by 16 members.

PGK Matt Laidley and current membership director recruited 7, GK Ryan Mudd and Joe Bowling recruited 2 each, and Steve Clements, Al Teeney, DGK George Grooms, Brad Howard and Al Ribeiro have recruited 1 each.

Three First Degree Ceremonies were conducted by the council's First Degree Team. Two Second Degree Ceremonies were conducted advancing 6 members to second degree status.

If you know of any Catholic man who is interested in joining the Knights please contact Matt Laidley at [laidleymc@yahoo.com](mailto:laidleymc@yahoo.com).



Front row left Alex Teeney, Glen Taylor, Travis Howard, Donald Kinsey, Joseph Scatina, and Patrick Scott.  
Back row left Al Teeney, father of Alex, GK Ryan Mudd, DD#12, Johnny Norman and Chaplain Fr. Jerry Gamrot.

## First Degrees



At Archbishop Neale School - Front row left Sean Kelly from Dr. Griffin Council #2293 and Dominic Anastasi, Neale Council.  
Back row left Stephen Spadafora, Chaplain Fr. Jerry Gamrot, PGK Matt Laidley, GK Ryan Mudd, and DD#12 Johnny Norman.

## Second Degrees



New 2<sup>nd</sup> degree members from Archbishop Neale Council at center with striped shirt Dominic Anastasi.  
Back row left DD#12 Johnny Norman, 3<sup>rd</sup> from right Frank Lancaster, 2<sup>nd</sup> degree team member, GK Ryan Mudd and DGK George Grooms.



At Friendship Room, SHC - Front row left new members Michael Vasquez, Gary Vaughan, Christopher Coughlan, Nathan Murphy and GK Ryan Mudd.  
Back row left PGK Matt Laidley, Chaplain Fr. Jerry Gamrot, DD #12 Johnny Norman and DW#12 Joseph Hayden.



At Archbishop Neale School  
Front row 2<sup>nd</sup> from left Neale Council new 2<sup>nd</sup> degree members Eugene and Joshua Portner and Glen Taylor.  
Back row left DGK George Grooms, new 2<sup>nd</sup> degree members Patrick Malherek and far right Joseph Scatina.

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## Council Activities Director

- Al Ribeiro -

Our new officers were installed on August 15, 2009 after the 5 P.M. Mass at Sacred Heart Church. Immediately following the ceremony, State Deputy, Richard Siejack, new officers and their families, as well as numerous brothers, shared a great meal and fellowship in the Friendship Room. Our emcee for the evening was PGK Matt Laidley.

Our **Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities**, better known as the Tootsie Roll Drive, began the first week in September and ended on the 14th of November. For 11 Saturdays, 16 brother knights, from 8 AM to 2 PM, offered Tootsie Rolls and in return received donations from customers at outside collection areas at Walmart, Safeway and Ledo Pizza located on Rt. 301 in La Plata.

Collections were also made at Sacred Heart Church, St. Ignatius, Chapel Point, St. Ignatius, Hilltop and St. Catherine of Alexandria, McConchie.

As usual, this was a very successful campaign and a high level of participation was shown by the brothers in the council. Even with the economic downturn, donations surpassed last year's donations. **\$5,512.27** was raised and this amount (less expenses) will be given to local qualifying charity organizations. Well done!



From left Gus Tolson and Curtis Birley offering Tootsie Rolls and receiving donations.

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, the **Council Picnic** was held at Gilbert Run Park and families enjoyed a variety of food, playing games, fishing, kayaking, and fellowship. The council took time out to recognize their supporting families and their sacrifices so Knights can be at work within the community.

Our council held a **Seminarian Picnic** for the Archdiocese of Washington seminarians at brother Mike Raymond's house which gives the seminarians an opportunity to take a break from their studies and enjoy fellowship within the community.

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, the council held its first **Annual Charity Golf Tournament**. What a great success! It was held at the Swan Point Yacht and Country Club on a beautiful Charles County afternoon, taking a line from Father Fred. We had 89 golfers, numerous sponsors, and help from the council that exceeded expectations. GK Ryan Mudd presented Anne Hedian, principal of Archbishop Neale School and Judy Melvin, Development Director with a check for \$6,829 in support of the school's maintenance and facilities fund.



Grand Knight Ryan Mudd presents Anne Hedian, principal of Archbishop Neale School and Judy Melvin, development director, with a check for \$6,829.

Our council worked the concession stands for the **Southern Maryland Blue Crabs** baseball team. Brothers are encouraged to bring their wives and eligible children to help promote our council and raise funds. Over \$2,500 was raised which will be given to charity organizations in the community.

## Church Activities Director

- Matt Laidley-

Our sponsorship of the **Elijah Cup** continues where a family volunteers to take home a chalice used during a Sunday Mass, puts it in a prominent place and prays for vocations to the priesthood for one week and then returns it to the church where the process is repeated throughout the year.

Our council provided the cleaning and painting of the outdoor stations of the cross, and shrine to the Blessed Mother at St. Ignatius Chapel Point as well as the spring cleanup and mulching at Sacred Heart.

Because this year is designated as the "**Year of the Priest**", our council, on October 22<sup>nd</sup> held a "**Clergy Appreciation Dinner**" to say thanks to the priests in our community. The dinner was well attended by priests, deacons, along with brother knights and their families.

Brother knights attending from Sacred Heart Church: Rev. Ronald Potts, Pastor, Rev. Frederick MacIntyre, Chaplain Rev. Jerry Gamrot and Rev. Mr. Albert Graham.

Brother knight Rev. Msgr. Oliver McGready, Pastor, St. Mary's Church, Newport  
 .Brother knight Rev. Robert Golas, Pastor, St. Mary Star of the Sea, Indian Head, and  
 Rev. Edward Dougherty, S. J., Pastor, St. Ignatius Chapel Point.

The dinner was held at Cindy's Restaurant at the Hawthorne Country Club.

## Youth Activities Director

- Mark Shutters -

Our council hosted a **Pancake Breakfast** for the Archbishop Neale School graduating class on 2 June. We served pancakes, sausages, fruit cocktail and juice for the teachers and students in recognition of their dedication and commitment. We also used the time to recognize students who have worked hard in their schooling as they enter the next step in their educational lives.



Neale Council members who worked the pancake breakfast. Front row left Alan, Leslie and Calvin Bowie; PGK Pete Czupryna; Stephen Spadafora and Sean Kelley. Back row left Anthony Perino, Pat Simpson, DGK Ryan Mudd, Charles Eisele, Jim O'Neill and Colleen Spadafora.



Archbishop Neale School staff and students pose during pancake breakfast hosted by Neale Council.

## Community Activities Director

- Butch Birley -

On 13 September, in the Friendship Room of Sacred Heart Church, the council coordinated the **Annual Blood Drive** in support of the American Red Cross. One hundred four people signed up to donate blood. A total of 82 productive pints of blood were collected at the two collection sessions. We thanked everyone for donating "a gift of life" and encouraged them to continue to donate blood in the future.



Thanks to PGK **Pete Czupryna** and **Tony Holson** who have been coordinating this very important activity the past several years for our council.

The next blood drive is scheduled for **25 April 2010**.

Our annual **Pancake Breakfast with Santa** was held on Sunday, 29 November. Brother Joe Bowling played Santa Claus and breakfast was served from 7AM to 12:00 noon. 180 breakfasts were served. The food was delicious and the atmosphere was cheery. Thanks to **Pete Czupryna** and his helpers for a job well done.



Santa Claus (Joe Bowling) and his helpers Debbie Czupryna and at left with pads Jennifer and Gloria Rosier.



Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest at Archbishop Neale School. First place winners: 4th grade - Joey Groenwoltdt; 6th grade - Jessica Beamer.