



# The Accolade



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**Sacred Heart Council 2577**

**And**

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

**Bowie, Maryland**

**Volume XCIV, Issue 6 In the Spirit of God's Beloved Angels, We are Men for Others DECEMBER 2019**



**Chaplain**

**Father Paul Sparklin**

Well, here we are, in the busiest shopping days of the year.

Several years ago, I read some comments by an author named Robert Winters. He makes some observations about the shopping malls at Christmas. Winters says that in a mall these days, there is one narrowly missed collision after another. He describes two kinds of shoppers, and I think we can easily imagine them.

First, there are the darters. These people are walking along and then suddenly something catches their eye. The darters immediately change direction and dart over to look at a Keurig coffee maker or a Hollister shirt or whatever it is. They move so quickly that you have to put on the brakes real fast to avoid bumping into them.

And then there the strollers. These people walk like a bridal party slowly making their way down the aisle. The strollers are just strolling along, taking in each piece of merchandise. They are captivated by everything.

Robert Winters says that the darters and the strollers have one thing in common. Both of them are so wrapped in the things they are seeing that

they are unmindful and not heeding the other shoppers around them.

These observations about darters and strollers help us to appreciate the gospel on the First Sunday of Advent. Jesus is talking about his second coming and he refers back to the time of Noah. He says: *"In those days people were eating and drinking and marrying, up to the day Noah entered the ark. They knew nothing until the flood came and swept them away. So will it be at the coming of the Son of Man."*

Now there is nothing wrong with eating and drinking and getting married. So why were these people swept away? Jesus gives the answer. He says: *"Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal; one will be taken and one will be left."* Notice: those who are taken and ready for the Lord will not be doing anything different in terms of their occupation or activity. Everyone will be busy with the things of life. But those who are ready for the Lord will be doing these things in a different way. They will be what I will call "heeders" – spelled H-E-E-D-E-R-S. They will be heeding both God and those around them as they do their things in life.

Practically speaking, what might it mean to be a heeder rather than a darter or a stroller? Heeders reserve some time each day for prayer. They maintain some inner space for quiet, for being in touch with God. In this way, heeders remain aware of the spiritual. They see all the items and decorations as good but remain aware that only our relationship with God brings happiness and

fulfillment in the long run. Heeders also probably try to grow in their faith. They don't stay stuck in the understanding of God that they learned as children. Heeders are awake to what God is saying to them personally, today in the gospels. They are awake to new possibilities maybe about God's unconditional love or about our response of social justice, things like that. Heeders carefully reserve time for their husband or wife or children or close friend. They are not submerged in their job or self-absorbed in some way. Heeders are attentive to persons, the important persons in their lives and those they are with at any given moment. They stay attentive to persons as making up what life is really all about. And heeders care for those in need. They don't blame the poor for their plight. Heeders are alert to the pain of the sick, to the suffering of the depressed, or the desperation of the hungry or homeless. They are alert to Jesus being present in these persons.

So, the message today: don't be a darter or a stroller. Don't be just wrapped up and absorbed in the material things of the season. Instead, be a heeder. We may be doing some of the same things as everyone else, but remain aware, awake, attentive, and alert to what really matters.

A good Advent to you and yours!

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



## **Grand Knight's Report Matt Warehime**

It is hard to believe that the new church year has begun and we've entered a new Advent Season. This church season for many comes with the stress that accompanies our attempt to balance the secular demands of the Christmas season with its true spiritual reality. As we prepare for the celebration of the birth of the Christ

Child, and continue to prepare ourselves for His coming at the end of time; it is of some importance that we understand the verse from Mark's Gospel and how our individual call to service and our Order's principles guide us to accomplish our good works. The passage reminds us about the coming of the Reign of God and Jesus' teaching that we each have a part in making God's Reign happen. God calls each of us to successfully fulfill the role with which He tasked us. The role may seem small to us, but it is part of God's great plan to transform creation.

Our venerable founder, Father McGivney, provided for our continual formation through the daily living of the principles of charity, unity and fraternity. As Knights, officers and leaders in our council we are called to model the principles of charity, unity and fraternity in our everyday actions. It is these principles that are the basis of our good works and, more importantly, the very foundation of the relationships we build with our families, friends, coworkers, brother knights and especially those with whom we struggle for whatever reason. It is these same Catholic principles that are attractive to, and sought by, other Catholic men and families in our parishes. It is these same principles of faith that young men and families desire and seek. It is important for each of us to offer the opportunity of a growth in faith; an opportunity to serve God and neighbor through our council programs to every Catholic man and family in our parish. This month, I encourage every Knight to offer the gift of membership to a Catholic man and his family. I encourage all to recruit a "Knight before Christmas." Vivat Jesus





**Supreme Chaplain  
Archbishop William E. Lori**

**LOVING THE CHURCH**

**July 1, 2019**

We have to turn to the Lord in prayer as never before, both as individuals and as parish communities. And with the help of the Holy Spirit by whom Jesus lives and acts in us, we should strive to change not only programs and certain structures but indeed the culture of our dioceses, parishes, homes and ministries such that they are places of encounter with the risen Lord and one another, places filled with hope and missionary zeal.

As Knights of Columbus, we speak of ourselves as “the strong right arm of the Church.” Let us resolve, then, to believe in the Church and to love the Church so much that we contribute to its ongoing purification and reform.



**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  
Jerry Scheidhauer

**Sick or Recovering Relatives**

Joyce Edgington, Wife of Dennis Edgington  
Regina Smigielski, Widow of Frank Smigielski  
Mary McEligott, Wife of Ron McEligott, PGK  
Lorraine Sotack, Wife of Steve Sotack  
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.org)  
so that we may include them in our prayers.**

**In Memoriam**

Kitty Vaughan, Widow of Dudley Vaughn  
Claire Scalise wife of Gene Scalise

**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



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

Worthy Sir Knights and Brothers All

For those of you who missed our last meeting we had a representative from "A Wider Circle". This is an organization that not only helps homeless veterans, but they help anyone who is homeless and in need. Each year "A Wider Circle" assist 3000 adults on returning to the workforce, help furnish 4500 homes, they have served 30,000 children and adults and hosted 30,00 volunteers.

Currently "A Wider Circle" is working to completely outfit 77 apartments on the old Walter Reed property in Washington DC. This is 77 new homes for Veterans and their families.

They need furniture, dishes, sheets, towels, silverware, etc. Anything that you think will furnish a home.

St. John Neumann Assembly is partnering with "A Wider Circle". I am asking all Sir Knight to help out. If you have any of the above-mentioned items please contact me. We are hoping to have things dropped off at the Knight Hall and then arrange for a pick-up. Besides the items for the apartments they can also use toiletries and clothing. If you have any dress shirts that you no longer wear or suits, sport coats, etc. They need these items to help the veterans prepare for job interviews. In addition to helping with homelessness "A Wider Circle" trains the families in how to find jobs and how to make it through the

interview process.

I'm asking all Sir Knights to help out anyway they can to support our Veterans. To start this off St. John Neumann is giving "A Wider Circle" \$500.00. We will be using this money to purchase items through Amazon.com registry. This is also a way that you Sir Knights can help. You can go to this registry to help. Also, for those of you who shop on Amazon, there is a charity list where Amazon donates a percentage of all sales to a charity. "A Wider Circle" is one of their charities.

I look forward to hearing from you on any way you can help our Veterans. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. My email is bsapero1@verizon.net.

God Bless you and your families and have a very Merry Christmas



**District Deputy Report**  
**George T. Riddle, PGK, DD**

Welcome to December, my favorite month of the year. Being born in the beginning of December (the 8<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception) the excitement of the month started early for me as a child. My Mom was the ultimate holiday person. She just loved the holidays. Starting with Thanks giving, it wasn't a chore for her, she just loved cooking for the family and having everyone around. She would then make a big deal about my birthday, we would go to church and it was already decorated adding to the excitement.

We would then start preparing and decorating for Christmas. I just remember her humming and singing Christmas carols. Then Christmas Eve we would put the last touches on the Christmas tree, her tinsel.

We would invite the neighbors over for the "official" tree lighting even though it had been lit for weeks. We would celebrate with shrimp, snacks, and the adults having champagne. She just was aglow.

Christmas morning there was no opening presents until a glass of orange juice, a prayer, and a HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!

I love that fact that some of those traditions I have been able to pass on to my kids. The love the Christmas Holiday too. My daughter maybe too much, she wants to start decorating before Thanksgiving.

Mom and Dad have long been gone, celebrating with Jesus, and I am sure looking down at us and smiling.

From my family to All my Brother Knights and their Families, I want to wish you all a VERY Merry Christmas.



## Bingo

### Joe Massimini, PGK, PFN, PCP, FDD

Bingo is doing very well this year, offering a good variety of games and prizes for the people playing Bingo. They are talking about us and how we treat the players like family. They appreciate the good things we are doing to attract more people to our charitable games. If you would like to help make our Bingo better and raise money for the Knights Charitable giving activity you can come on Tuesday night any time after 6 PM and pitch in. We take help from anyone, Knights, their wives, and if they are over 18 the children and grandchildren of Knight.

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

December 3: Team 1, Bill Cartney

December 10: Team 2, Jack O'Malley

December 17: Team 3, Mike Mitchell

January 7: Team 4, Kevin Carroll

January 14: Team 1, Bill Cartney

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).



## Assembly Officers 2018-2019

**Faithful Navigator # 1763:** SK William D Sapero, 1664 Albermarle Drive, Crofton, Maryland, 21114, (410) 721-9163, [bsaperol@verizon.net](mailto:bsaperol@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  
Chief, Strategy Division  
European Command  
Stuttgart, Germany

**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***

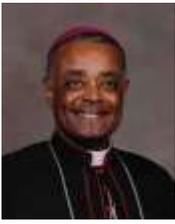


### Michael McGivney PRAYER FOR CANONIZATION

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Father Michael 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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 The Archdiocese of Washington and Your Family's  
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[www.catholicstandard.org](http://www.catholicstandard.org)  
 202-281-2410

**Archbishop Wilton Gregory**  
**Praying the Rosary and reflecting on**  
**God's gift of life**  
**Saturday, Nov 16, 2019**



ARCHDIOCESE OF  
 WASHINGTON

The Rosary is a Catholic prayer par excellence, and it is often associated with our requests for the intercession of the Blessed Mother in critically difficult situations – sickness, death, and personal tragedies of all types. We also pray the Rosary to place before the Mother of God some of the issues that only Her maternal intervention seems capable of resolving. Pope Francis has asked Catholics everywhere to pray the Rosary daily. The requests that we place before Mary may be varied indeed.

**Y.O.R.K. Club**

Young, Old, Retired Knights

Duke of YORK: Lee (Buddy) DuMais (240) 687-6920

Meet every Thursday at 10:30 AM

Lunch at 12:00 PM



“Whether at home or abroad, charity is our Order’s first principle and the basis for all we do as brother Knights. It is the tangible way that we live out that spirit of fraternity and “missionary discipleship” to which Pope Francis has called us.” -  
 Supreme Knight Carl Anderson

The Sacred Heart Council #2577 of Knights of Columbus was established on June 21, 1925. *The Accolade* is the monthly newsletter of the Council, which is distributed each month. Send any correspondence to the Grand Knight, Boswell Hall, 6111 Columbian Way, Bowie, MD 20715.

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

