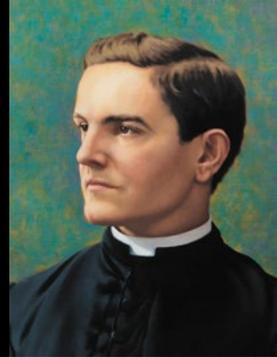




December 2017

Patuxent Ripple

Patuxent Council 2203 Knights of Columbus • Laurel, MD



Grand Knight's Report by Stephen Sawyer



Since the last newsletter we had our Memorial Mass at the Pal-lotti Chapel on November 21, 2017. The Mass was celebrated by our Chaplin Msgr. Michael Mellone, assisted by Deacons Bob Gignilliat and Jim Munno.

On December 2, we had our Christmas Party with about 35 party goers.

Brother Gary Hall headed the SHARE Christmas Col-lections outside of all Masses on December 2/3 and 9/10. And in November led the SHARE Thanksgiving Distribu-tion along with Brothers Rick Rekus and John McLeod

I thank all of you who help with all our activities. With-out you we would not have been successful.

On 9 December, we kicked off the 2017-2018 UMD Men's Basketball Concessions season with a good turnout despite the weather. It's always great when the Terps win to go along with the money we raise for our charitable activities.

Don't forget SHARE Christmas Distribution this Sat-urday, December 16th, at 9 a.m., Curley Assembly/Bishop Lyons Council Christmas Party on the 19th at 6:30 p.m., Men Basketball Concessions on the 29th at 5 p.m. and our service for Winterhaven from the 30th into the 31st.

And We will be leading a 5th Sunday Rosary on the 31st after the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

I wish all of you a Very Merry And Holy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

May we be as successful next year as during this past year.

Vivat Jesus!

Deputy Knight's Report by Jimmy Williams



We've had a very successful first six months of the Frater-nal Year from a programming standpoint and are well on our way to once again earn-ing the Columbian Award for our excellence in Council programming again this year! Thanks to all of you for your involvement in everything we

do as a Council. We do still have plenty of opportunities to help our Parish and our Community over the next several weeks. Please see the Grand Knight's article above and our calendar of events at the end of the newsletter.

Earlier this week, the Grand Knight and I submitted our Council's State Activity Reports for the second reporting period of the year, spanning from September 1st to Novem-

ber 30th. These activity reports are judged by the State's Programming team for awards to be given out at the State Convention in May. Look for a special edition of the Coun-cil newsletter in the next few weeks highlighting the six activities we reported to the state, including the Silver Rose Ceremony (Culture of Life), the Columbus Day Pot Luck (Council), UMD Concessions (Community), Christmas Bazaar Concessions (Church), Box of Joy (Family) and the St. Mary's Youth Group Dinner (Youth).

Lastly, I am pleased to announce, thanks to the gener-osity of our members and the parishioners of St. Mary of the Mills, the Council's charitable corporation raised more than \$1,800 for Coats for Kids this year, allowing us to purchase 8 cases of coats, 96 coats total, for needy children in Laurel. The Council plans to donate half the coats to LARS and will work with the Laurel Police Department to distribute the other half of the coats.

Financial Secretary's Report by Gary Patishnock, PGK, PFN, FS

This Christmas season, think about ways that we all can use postage stamps better. It takes \$.98 per member to mail dues notices and membership cards, plus an additional \$.49 (or more) to mail late notices. Please pay your dues on time! Second, the first class postcard rate is \$.34 - that means any card between 3.5 x 5 to 4.25 x 6 inches can be mailed at that rate. (You can also buy "Postal Cards" from USPS

if you wish) Consider trimming those older, thicker Christmas and other cards and mailing them out that way. Some folks won't use stamps at all and will email or online post their Christmas greetings. Best of all is to make your presence a present. "Postage stamp greetings" and "email" cannot compare to a long-distance phone call or personal visit.

Concessions by Stan Potter, Ways and Means

I wish extend my gratitude to the many Knights, Scouts, and other volunteers who helped make the football concessions season successful. We rang up over \$65,000 in sales from our concessions stand, \$37,000 in sales from our beer cart, and over \$1500 in tips. We expect to have nearly \$10,800 to share with Councils, the Assembly, Scout Troops, the American Heritage Girls, other youth groups, and the SHARE program, which stocks pantries in Laurel, such as St. Mary's, Resurrection, and LARS, with food for

the needy. Our basketball season has already begun. I hope to see many of you out and supporting our concessions stands and our beer carts. We plan to staff 6 of the 8 games the University plans to serve draft beer from carts. We really need support from our TIPS-certified volunteers. Please make a point to set aside at least 2 games this season to help us staff these carts. They are much less trouble than the stand to maintain, and sales end earlier, getting you home earlier.

For our sick

We pray for the healing, comfort and consolation of our sick, and their caretakers:

Brother David Hall

Brother Gary Patishnock, PGK, PFN

Denise Gager, Sister of Jerry Gager,
back surgery)

Brother Bill McMahon,
gall bladder surgery

For our deceased

*We offer prayers for the repose of their souls.
May they rest in peace:*

Brother Scott Kuchmas, Son of PSD Bill Kuchmas

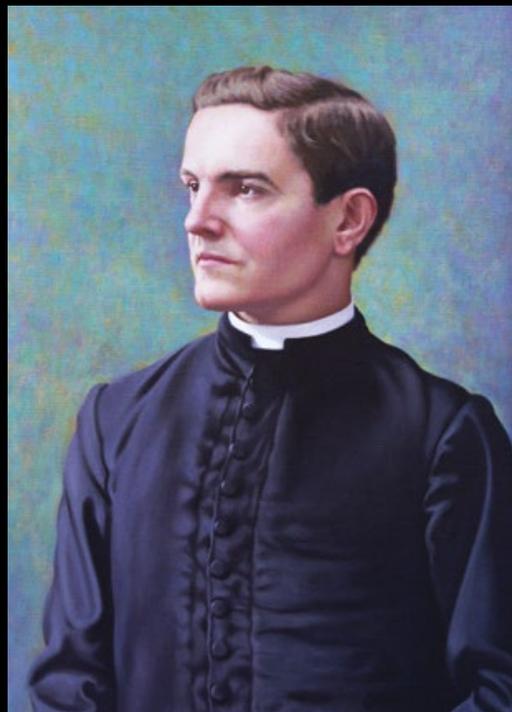
Walter Chimiak, Father of Msgr. Karl Chimiak

Bernadita Ong, Aunt of PGK Raoul Paez

Jenny Patrazzo, Friend of Jim Gordon

Bernie Haas, Uncle of Mark O'Dea

Mildred Towle, Aunt of PGK Pete Monti



Venerable Michael J. McGivney
1852-1890
Founder of the Knights of Columbus

The Good of the Order: A Charlie Brown Christmas Sir Knight Jimmy Williams, PFN

adapted from and expanding on a 2015 Good of the Order by Sir Knight Gary Patishnock, PGK, PFN

As Knights of Columbus, our first and foremost mission is charity. However, every year, the stress, secularism, commercialism, and materialism of the Christmas season can distract us from charity and the true meaning of Christmas. To me, the perfect reminder of the true meaning of Christmas and the continued struggle against the secularization and commercialization of the holiday is the Charlie Brown Christmas Special, which premiered 52 years ago this month on December 9, 1965.

In the beginning of the special, Charlie Brown is witness to several examples of commercialism and materialism among his family, friends and even his dog, Snoopy. In one instance, his sister, Sally, asks Charlie Brown to help write her letter to Santa. Sally implies she is asking for a long list of gifts and says she will instead accept money, “tens and twenties,” if getting every item on the list proves to be too complicated for Santa. Today, requesting “tens and twenties” as a gift may not sound like a lot but, in 1965, when a postage stamp cost 5 cents and a gallon of gas averaged 31 cents, Sally’s request for tens and twenties is enormous.

Things reach a boiling point when Charlie Brown, ridiculed and laughed at by his friends and Snoopy for his choice in Christmas tree, loudly demands, “Isn’t there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?” Linus then takes the stage and recites the following:

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

“And that’s what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown.”



We all know Linus recites the annunciation to the shepherds from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2, verses 8 through 14. But what you may not know is how close this part of the special came to not happening. Producers Lee Mendelson and Bill Melendez pressured Peanuts creator Charles Schulz to avoid religion because it was a controversial topic. Schulz responded by saying, “If we don’t do it, who will?” And the rest is history. Linus helps Charlie Brown to realize the true meaning of Christmas, Charlie Brown heads for home determined not to let commercialism ruin his Christmas, and “A Charlie Brown Christmas” went on to become a hit that is still aired at least twice a year.

This Christmas season, and every Christmas season, I encourage you and your family to watch “A Charlie Brown Christmas” for a reminder of why we as Catholics and Knights of Columbus celebrate Christmas. The gift giving and receiving, the tree, the lights, and all the trappings are nice, but we must remember it is truly about celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And please also remember to do something charitable this Christmas, maybe by making a gift to your favorite Knights of Columbus charitable program. Between Coats for Kids, the Military Chaplains Fund, the Wheelchair Initiative, Christian Refugee Relief Fund, and many more, you have lots of choices.

Merry Christmas, and Vivat Jesus!

Patuxent Council 2203 Calendar (as of December 15, 2017)

December

- 16 **SHARE Christmas Distribution**
Bag and Tag 9 a.m., Pallotti HS Sr. Lucy Lobby
- 19 **All Members invited to Curley Assembly/
Bishop Lyons Council Christmas Party**
6:30 p.m., 3315 Greencastle Road,
Burtonsville, MD 20866
- 29 **Men's Basketball Concessions vs. UMBC**
Report Time 5 p.m., Xfinity Center
- 30-31 **Cook and Serve Winterhaven Dinner,
assist overnight, help move to next location**
Pallotti HS
- 31 **5th Sunday Rosary after the 10:45 a.m. Mass**

January 2018

- 2 **January Business Meeting**
7:30 p.m., Kutzera Room
- 7 **UMD Men's Basketball Concessions vs. Iowa**
Report Time 5 p.m., Xfinity Center
- 9 **January Planning Meeting**
7:30 p.m., Kutzera Room (Knights Office)
- 16 **Admissions Degree**
7:30 p.m., Kutzera Room, Candidates 6:45 p.m.
- 19 **March for Life, Washington, D.C.**
- 20 **SHARE Distribution**
Bag and Tag Report Time 9 a.m.,
Pallotti HS Sr. Lucy Lobby
- 28 **UMD Men's Basketball Concessions vs.
Michigan State** Report Time 10 a.m.,
Xfinity Center
- 31 **5th Wednesday Elizabeth House
Volunteer Shift** 4 p.m.

February

- 4 **UMD Men's Basketball Concessions vs.
Wisconsin**, Report Time 10 a.m., Xfinity Center
- 6 **February Business Meeting**
7:30 p.m., Kutzera Room
- 10 **UMD Men's Basketball Concessions vs.
Northwestern**, Report Time 9 a.m., Xfinity Center
- 12 **February Planning Meeting**
7:30 p.m., Kutzera Room (Knights Office)
- 13 **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner**
5 p.m., Breen Room
- 17 **UMD Men's Basketball Concessions vs.
Rutgers**, Report Time 5 p.m., Xfinity Center
- 20 **February Social Meeting**
7:30 p.m., Kutzera Room
- 23 **Lenten Fish Fry Friday**
Report as early as 4 p.m.,
Doors Open 5:30 p.m., Breen Room

February (continued)

- 24 **UMD MBB Concessions Beer Carts Only vs.
Michigan** Report Time 9 a.m., Xfinity Center
- 25 **UMD Women's Basketball Concessions vs.
Nebraska** Report Time 9:30 a.m., Xfinity Center

Long Term Planning

- Mar. 20th – **Patuxent Council Annual Community
Awards Ceremony** 7:30 p.m.
- April 14th – **Combined 125th Anniversary of
School/
175th Anniversary of Church Gala**
- April 20th – **Hosting Knighthood Degree
Ceremony**, Keesler Center
- April 21st-22nd – **175th Anniversary Weekend
for Church**
- April 28th – **Maryland Day Concessions** 8 a.m.
- April 29th – **5th Sunday Rosary/Re-dedication of
memorial to the unborn**

Upcoming Degrees Nearby (Council, City): Knighthood:

1/26 (Fr. Sebastien de Rose, Valley Lee)



Happy
BIRTHDAY

Edward Wassell	December 2
Kevin McMurtry	December 4
Chester Bourne	December 4
William Middleton	December 6
Conrad Janus	December 8
Paul Moran	December 14
Perry Comeau	December 14
James Poulos	December 14
Richard Higdon	December 19
Wendell Belizaire	December 20
Anthony White	December 25
Jeffrey Du Brul	December 26
Steven La Valle	December 27
Thomas Carmody	December 27
Gregory Magno	December 28