

## Chaplain's Corner



By  
Chaplain's  
Assistant  
Deacon  
Chuck

We continue our journey this February, with The Hail Mary, traditionally known as the Ave Maria.

“Holy Mary, Mother of God.”

The second half of the prayer is a prayer of the Body of Christ, His Church. “Holy Mary,” we pray. When we call anyone or anything holy, it is because of its relationship to God, who is “Holy, holy, holy” (Isaiah 6:3, Rev. 4:8). Vessels for the temple were considered holy because they were set aside for sacred use. We call the Bible the “Holy Bible,” because it is the word of God. People become holy when they become **close** to God. Mary listened to the angel’s message, and she answered humbly, “Let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). She carried Jesus in her womb and gave birth to Him, she nursed Him and lived side by side with Him. Her holiness comes from her **relationship** to God. She responded freely and with total faith, giving herself completely to God. “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord” (Luke 1:38). Her obedience of faith made her holy. Her nearness to her Son made her holy. Our nearness and obedience to Her Son is to make us holy. “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct, since it is written ‘You shall be holy because I am holy’” (1 Peter 1:14-16).

Mary can rightly be called holy, but what about addressing a prayer to her? As members of the communion of saints, we often ask fellow believers here on earth to pray for us. Catholic faith sees that those who have gone before us are nonetheless truly alive in Christ, “... who died for us, so that whether we wake



or sleep, we might live with Him” (1 Th. 5:10). So it is appropriate to ask for their prayers. When we ask the Saints in heaven to pray for us, we are not offering them worship. “Praying to” the Saints means asking **them** to pray for us, not **us** worshipping them as divine.

So we pray, “Holy Mary, Mother of God.” Mary’s title, Mother of God, does not mean she existed before God and brought Him into existence; it does not mean He is dependent upon her. The title grew out of the Church’s struggle against the Arian heresy in the fourth century. The Arians denied that Jesus was God. The Council of Ephesus in A.D. 431 declared that Mary was the “God-bearer” (Theotokos) as a way of teaching that Jesus was truly God. They intended to teach about Jesus, but they **also** taught about Mary. Jesus is truly God. If Mary is the mother of Jesus, and if Jesus is God, then she is the mother of God. He is one person, and she is His mother, and so she is the mother of God. In this way, Jesus is recognized as both Son of God and Son of Man.

Next month we will dig into why we ask Mary to “Pray for us” and why it’s important as many other religions are not accustomed to addressing anyone but **God** in prayer. I hope to unravel why, at first, praying to saints may seem idolatrous to them, even when a Catholic explains that we are really just **asking**—to pray means to ask—we are **asking** the saints to pray **FOR** us.

*“Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.”*

Vivat Jesus

Grand  
Knight's  
Message



Hello Brother Knights,

Have you been to our hall lately? It is being spruced up and is looking pretty good. Dave Hudoba, PGK, took on the project and put together a group of volunteers to patch holes and paint the walls upstairs. Because of the energetic, hardworking crew, the upper portion of the walls was completed in just two days. It made a tremendous difference. The main hall now looks much brighter and larger. The walls in the entry room were also painted, along with the lower carpeting on the walls being professionally cleaned. This too made a big difference in the room, and makes it look very presentable.

Roger Renner, FS, with the help of a few volunteers, took on a very large project as well. All the photos of past Grand Knights were taken down, and copies were made of each one. The copies are stored in a separate safe place, should anything happen to the originals. They are also stored electronically as a backup. Through much investigative work, he even was able to come up with a missing photo from years ago. New hangers were made to display the new framed photos, with room to add additional Grand Knights to carry it into the future. It all looks much more modern and truly is a show piece.

Thanks go out to Dave and Roger, and of course the other volunteers. Job Well Done!

On January 22, the 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Roe v. Wade, our Council supplied a bus to bring St. Stephen parishioners to the cathedral and capital, to demonstrate in a march for life to overturn the decision that legalized abortion throughout all nine months of a pregnancy in the United States. This year’s theme was, “Every Life is a Gift”. Joe Soler, GK

## History 2018 - 1919

I have some extra interest in the news of this year, because it's the year my mother was born. So, we'll start with something she didn't really care for: football. The Rose Bowl on January 1<sup>st</sup> featured a couple of teams I never heard of, with Great Lakes Navy defeating Mare Island 17-0.

Here's more news from January: Edsel Ford became the president of the Ford Motor Co., succeeding his father (Search those memory banks folks. Remember the Ford Edsel from the 1950s? This must be the guy that gave it the name.); The former Rough Rider and President, Theodore Roosevelt, died on the 6<sup>th</sup> at the age of 60; and the constitutional amendment for prohibition of liquor was ratified by the required number of states on January 29<sup>th</sup>, but not scheduled to take effect until January 16, 1920. In a related item, beer drinkers were faced with early prohibition due to a shortage of the fixins'. Supplies were expected to be exhausted in March. It was probably a big conspiracy by the whiskey distillers so they had a larger customer base to help get rid of their legal inventories before the hammer fell.

United Parcel Service (UPS) became a corporation on February 14<sup>th</sup>, the same month that Oregon laid on the first gas tax for road construction of 1 cent.

The American Legion took root in March, 1919, in Paris, France, when members of the American Expeditionary Force convened a caucus; the official name came from another caucus held in St. Louis, Missouri, in May; congress granted the charter as a patriotic Veterans Organization in September; and the first convention was held right here in Minneapolis in November.

Physics professor Robert Goddard spoke about the possibility of space travel to the moon way back then. He was ridiculed and labeled 'moon man' by some. I hope those naysayers lived to see it happen!

During WWI, 500,000 people died from the Spanish flu in the Belgian Congo alone. I'm sure that created as much hysteria then as ebola has today.

The Chicago Tribune was found guilty of libeling Henry Ford by calling him an anarchist. Damages were set at court cost plus 6 cents. (There's a windfall!) Speaking of anarchists, police raided the Union of Russian Workers in New York and found TNT and chemicals used to make explosives. Were anarchists of those days what we call terrorists today?

Check this out! **DAILY** (emphasis mine) air mail service was established from New York to Chicago. I'll bet they didn't have snide remarks about snail mail when that happened. As a retired letter carrier I'm always looking for good things about the USPS. Sorry, no time for rebuttal, 'cuz my time is up! See ya' next month.

Mike Petschl, historian

## 2015 Forecast: Keep a CLOSE Eye On Your Retirement Funds!

Many financial analysts are quite worried about what they see as an "overvalued" stock market. The rise in stock values over the past several years was due in large part to the US government's program of "*quantitative easing*" and the Fed's holding *interest rates* at "emergency lows." The purpose of this, of course, was to shore up a struggling economy and help the US recover from the Great Recession. Quantitative Easing has now ended.

What does all of this mean for you? You're retirement money is in the crosshairs of factors beyond your control and it is important that you know it! Not only will US government and Federal Reserve policies impact your money, but so might other factors:

- Interest rate hikes: slows housing and borrowing, but will help conservative investors
- Oil prices: don't expect them to stay low forever
- The EPA war on coal production: Energy cost increases may mean a slower economy
- Keystone pipeline: Continued delays may mean higher oil prices and political infighting
- ObamaCare: Yup! This is going to be in front of the Supreme Court again in 2015
- Potential Supreme Court vacancy and protracted nomination battle
- Increase in terrorist attacks or civil unrest at home and abroad
- Vladimir Putin's continued dictatorial crackdown in Crimea and Ukraine

Any of the above factors will have at least some effect on your money. Many analysts are recommending that 2015 might be the time to "play it safe" by putting your money in a non-volatile place.

If you have any questions about the safety of the Knights of Columbus annuity, IRA, and Roth IRA programs please contact me right away. You will be in good hands. As always, you will *never* be pressured into buying anything. I give you my word.

Happy New Year and God bless,  
Dale Robinson, FIC  
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Knights of Columbus Field Agent  
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# The SHIELD



Planning Meeting every 1st Tuesday

Council Meeting every 2nd Tuesday

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb. 3 Planning Meeting, 7PM  
KC Hall
- Feb. 10 Business Meeting, 7PM  
KC Hall
- Feb. 14 Valentines Day
- Feb. 16 Presidents Day
- Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
**16950 Tulip St. N.W.**  
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Shown presenting a ceremonial check to the Church of St. Stephen are from left to right Al Kempf-Past Grand Knight, Katie Gebhard-Faith Formation Director, Pastor Father Jack Long, and Joe Soler-KC Grand Knight. Last fall the Anoka Knights of Columbus donated \$1,000.00 toward the purchase of YouCat Catechisms for the High School Faith Formation classes with an additional \$1,000.00 to be provided later. In December the second portion of the \$2,000.00 commitment was given to St. Stephen's Church represented by the check above. Al was instrumental in applying for and receiving a matching grant of the above \$1,000.00 from the Minnesota Knights Foundation. Grants are provided for charitable projects by Knights of Columbus councils that benefit the Catholic Church, school, or community needs.

## St. Polycarp

As a disciple of St. John the Evangelist, he heard stories about the life of Jesus from the apostles. Being in the second generation of church leaders, he had to find a way to carry forward the teachings of Christ after the apostles were gone. He felt the best way to do that was to imitate, as best he could, the life of Christ. Heresies and controversies developed over how to celebrate the liturgy, since Jesus had laid down no rules. When a leader of the heretics demanded he recognize them he told him, in so many words, that he did recognize the son of Satan.

A favorite entertainment of the time was to put Christians in the arena to be attacked by wild animals. On one occasion the crowd wanted more blood and wanted Polycarp thrown into the arena. By this time he was an old man of 86. He was willing to die, but others persuaded him to hide on a farm outside the city. While there, he prayed and received a vision of his pillow on fire. He took this to mean that he would be burned alive.

The searchers closed in, so he moved to another farm, but they tortured two young boys to find his whereabouts. At that point he decided to await God's will. He made his captors a meal and asked for an hour to pray. Finally, he was led away and sent into the arena where his executioner told him to swear by Caesar. He refused, saying he was a Christian. Since he showed no fear, they threatened to burn him

alive. He accepted his fate, was tied up and the fire lit, but instead of burning him, the flames surrounded him and he glowed like gold melting in a furnace. When his captors saw he wasn't burning, they stabbed him. The blood flowing from his body extinguished the flames, but he was dead. His feast day is February 23<sup>rd</sup>.



## Prayer List

Please pray for all those on our prayer list:

Jim & Ruth Lovsted; Patrick O'Gorman; Blake Wahlberg; Michael Lehn; John Governatz; PGK John Johanson; Brian Hoffman; Wayne Blue; Bill Ayers; Mathias Schaut; Jim Meyer; Michael Abbott; Vern Lieser; Florian Backowski; Dan Ross; Theresa Filkins (wife of Bob); Bob Belousek; Steve Waterman; Ed Melnarik; PGK Steve Seman.

If you wish to add a name to the list, please contact Shield Editor Mike Petschl at 763-421-7926 or mickeyp1543@gmail.com.