

2010 KOVAR Fund Drive: APRIL 15–18

The council needs your help for this worthy cause. The goal this year for the drive statewide is \$625,000. We at St. Mary's of Sorrows have been exceeding our expectations each year. This worthy cause, supporting fellow Virginians with intellectual disabilities, has been a key Knights' effort for many years.

We are looking for Knights to volunteer to be site captains and deputy site captains for this year's drive. If you feel the need to contribute and to enjoy the feeling of giving your time, please contact me, Scott Leitch, council KOVAR chairman, at samaleitch@verizon.net or 703-503-5260.

Our site captains will be calling you. When they call, please be generous with your time – you'll feel good about this. KOVAR turnout is always exceptional, and we hope to carry on this charitable tradition.

The 2010 annual charity drive for Knights of Columbus of Virginia Assisting Citizens with Intellectual Dis-

abilities (KOVAR) is scheduled for April 15 – 18. KOVAR funds such projects as:

- **Home Loans.** Interest free loan program to assist in the purchase of group homes.
- **Transportation.** 20 percent funding to assist in

(Continued on Page 2.)

Grand Knight's Message



Dear Brothers,

It is hard to believe that we are three quarters of the way through this fraternal year—how time flies. The nomination committee is starting its search for the next slate of officers for your council. If you are interested in an office, please let Al Obuchowski, Gerry Hovan or Dick Lee know.

I want to take a moment to tell you about a **FREE** subscription that I urge you all to take part in, the *McGivney Guild*. The *McGivney Guild* is more than a way to stay informed about the progress of Fr. McGivney's cause for canonization. It is a way to help our brothers through the power of prayer. There is a flier in this newsletter with more information on the guild. Please consider becoming a member—did I say it was **FREE???**

(Continued on Page 2.)

Brothers:

Are you at least a Third Degree Knight? Do you want to be a part of the Leadership Team for the St. Mary of Sorrows Council? Are you interested in serving as an officer of Council 8600 for the 2010-2011 Fraternal Year? If so, please make your intentions known to a member of the Council Nominating Committee, which consists of Al Obuchowski, PGK; Dick Lee, PGK/PFN; and Gerry Hovan, PGK. They will be interviewing prospective candidates for office at the next business meeting on April 6. All offices are potentially open and available to be filled. The committee will choose the best candidate for each office to submit names for the Recommended Slate of Officers to be elected at a meeting between May 15 and June 15, 2010.

Improve-A-Home

(Continued from page 1.)

purchasing vehicles needed to transport persons with intellectual disabilities.

- **Group Home Furnishings**, including living room, bedroom, dining room, kitchen, common area and recreational center furniture for clients.

- **Training Programs**. Necessary funding for organizations to train person with intellectual disabilities to enhance their quality of community living.

- **Startup Programs**. Grants to establish new and innovative programs designed to assist individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families.

- **Special Olympics**. KOVAR is a sponsor of the Virginia Special Olympics, donating over \$25,000 each year.

Thanks to all Brother Knights that stepped up to lead this year's KOVAR Charity Drive. What we also need is some new blood to step up and either run a site or to assist the existing site manager in his duties. It's a great cause and a great way to increase your involvement and contribution to the Knights and KOVAR

SITE captains will coordinate team efforts at each of the sites and will call Brother Knights for assignment date, time and site.

The site captains are the true heroes of the KOVAR campaign and can use assistance in the way of a deputy. If you are so inclined, please contact Scott at 703-503-5260 or samaleitch@verizon.net).

You may also sign up your family or other St. Mary's or council-affiliated groups to assist in the KOVAR drive.



Reminder: Brothers, remember to consider KOVAR if contributing to this year's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) or the United Way of the Greater D.C. Area at your place of employment. Council 8600 will receive credit toward our 2010 goal of \$13,000 if you provide us with a copy of your pledge designating KOVAR as a recipient. You may omit your identifica-

tion and the donor does not need to be a council member. Payroll deductions are "The gift that keeps on giving". This is an easy way to help Council 8600 to meet our KOVAR goals for 2009. Use CFC CODE 42569 or United Way of Greater D.C. Code of 8838. Be sure to retain a copy of your donor pledge and provide me with a copy for Council 8600 credit.

Scott Leitch

Grand Knight's Message

(Continued from page 1.)

In honor of the Year of the Priests, there will be a Mass celebrated by Bishop Loverde held at All Saints Parish in Manassas, VA on April 20th starting at 6:30 PM. We would like to have as many Knights there as possible to honor our priests. I realize that this is also a Council meeting night, so you will have options for the night.

For your planning purposes, the State Annual Meeting (formerly known as the State Convention) will be held at the Koger Center in Richmond from May 14 – 16. Complete details for the weekend's events along with registration forms are available for download at www.vakofc.org.

We also have a rare opportunity coming this summer. The 2010 Supreme Convention will be held in Washington DC this year, July 30 – August 5, 2010—right in your backyard! Information concerning the Convention is on the Convention WEBSITE which is <http://2010.DCKnights.org>. I understand that there are many "don't miss" events that you will want to avail yourself of.

Well we are in the home stretch for this fraternal year. But we still have time for you to encourage a Catholic gentleman to become a Knight. This is "the premier" Catholic men's fraternal organization; don't you know someone that you would like to see in our ranks? Just get that someone to fill in a form 100 and hand it to Jerry Hovan or Pete Marzluff. They will do the rest.



Vivat Jesus,
Dan Turgeon

The Chaplain's Corner

A PRAYER TO EMPLORE THE GRACE OF DEVOTION

Written by Thomas a' Kempis



Thomas of Kempis was born at the Lower Rhine region in Kempen, County of Cleves, Germany, in 1380. He became a monk in the Order of Saint Augustine, and for 66 years until he died he lived a virtuous life in the monastery of Zwoll.

Over the years his reputation for piety and virtue spread far and wide. He was sought out for spiritual direction and for his edifying and pious counsel. He was not very tall. He had a well proportioned body, and was said to have a piercing eye. Thomas of Kempis died at the age of 90 in 1471.

He wrote the *Imitation of Christ* primarily for those in religious orders, but its contents are also helpful for laity seeking to get closer to God and are valid for us today. The book talks about imitating Christ in all things, having a humble opinion of oneself, prudence in what we do, resisting temptation, avoiding rash judgment, bearing the defects of others, the interior life, being at peace with oneself, the joy of a good conscience, gratitude for God's graces, listening to God without the noise of words, the wonderful effects of divine love, patience with carnal desires, supporting injuries with patience, four things which bring much peace, obtaining freedom of heart, desire of eternal life, imitating Christ on the cross, the love

of God, exercises before Holy Communion, the desire to receive Christ, and other topics that will help us to become imitations of Christ.

The following is a prayer written by Thomas of Kempis that can be said to be asking God for a deeper devotion to Him:

God bless you all,

Father James S. Barkett

0 Lord my God, You are all my good; and who am I, that I should presume to speak to You? I am Your least, Your poorest servant, and a pitiable little worm, poorer far and more contemptible than I know or dare express. Yet know, 0 Lord, that I am nothing, I have nothing, and can do nothing. You alone are good, just, and holy; You can do all things; You give all things; You fill all things, leaving only the sinner empty and fruitless.

Remember Your mercies and fill my heart with Your grace, You Who rule that Your works should not be in vain. How can I bear myself in this comfortless life, unless You give me strength by Your mercy and grace? Do not turn Your face from me, delay not Your visitation, withdraw not Your comfort; lest to You my soul becomes as earth without water. 0 Lord, teach me to do Your will, teach me to walk worthily and humbly before You; for You are my wisdom, Who knows me in truth, and Who knew me before the world was made, and before I was born in the world.



Process for Sainthood

Father Michael J. McGivney was given the title "Venerable Servant of God" by the Holy See in March 2008.

The bestowal of the title "Venerable" on Father McGivney marks another important step on the journey to beatification and canonization. It signals that the Congregation for the Causes of Saints has carefully considered the *positio* on Father McGivney's life and virtue, and after consulting with historical experts and theologians, has judged it to be valid and convincing.

Once the members of the congregation made a positive judgment on the *positio*, the matter was referred to the Holy Father for his approval. His positive response made possible the issuance of a "decree of heroic virtue" and the bestowal of the title "Venerable"

What comes next?

The *positio* on the reported miracle has been submitted to the Holy See and is currently under consideration. Medical and theological experts must carefully examine the evidence in order to pass judgment on the case. If judged positively by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, that judgment will be passed to Pope Benedict XVI, who alone makes the decision about beatifications and canonizations.



The technical aspects of a cause for canonization are fascinating but can sometimes distract us from the essential focus: the glory of God made manifest in the holiness of one of his servants. Father McGivney's cause, in particular, is a summons to ordinary Catholics to embrace the mystery of Christ in it's fullness so each of us will see where we are called to heroic virtue. Father McGivney was an apostle of lay spirituality, and his message is intensified each time the Church recognizes his outstanding life and virtue.

Join The Guild
Get Involved!

www.fathermcgivney.org

Please consider the following prayer intentions left on the McGivney Guild webpage:

Gresham, OR—Please pray for my wife Gloria who has been battling cancer for 6 years. She is only 51 and losing hope.

Laurel, Md—Fr. McGivney, I ask your intercession for my brother who is suffering terribly from leukemia. He has 4 children. The doctors have recommended he discontinue treatment.

Dundee, MI—That my husband, Allen, in applying for a job, will obtain one that will support our family to financial freedom so that we will be able to visit our children and grandchildren regularly.



2010 CALENDAR YEAR

MARCH

- 2 Council Meeting, 8-10:30 p.m.
OSMH
- 5 First Friday Adoration, 7 p.m. to 8
a.m.
Worship Center
- 5 Soup Supper, Farrel Hall
- 6, 7 KofC Membership Blitz
- 12 Soup Supper, Farrel Hall
- 13 St. Patrick's Day Dance, Farrel Hall
(AOH sponsored)
- 14 Pancake Breakfast, 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Farrel Hall (Team Barone)
- 19 Soup Supper, Farrel Hall
- 26 Soup Supper, Farrel Hall
- 27 Route 123 Cleanup, 8:30 a.m.
OSMH
- TBD Easter Basket Food Collection
8-10 a.m., Farrel Hall

APRIL

- 1 Holy Thursday, Knights Needed
for Foot Washing Ceremony & Fourth
Degree Honor Guard
- 2 Good Friday
- 3 Holy Saturday
- 4 Easter Sunday - He is Risen, Alleluia,
Alleluia!
- 6 Council Meeting, 8-10:30 p.m.
OSMH
- 10 Spaghetti Dinner, 4-8 p.m.
Farrel Hall
- 11 Pancake Breakfast, 6 a.m. -1 pm,

- Farrel Hall (Team Ciatti)
- 15-18 KOVAR Collection, 8 a.m.- 6 p.m.
OSMH
- 20 Council Meeting, 8-10:30 p.m.
OSMH
- 24 Improve-A-Home

MAY

- 1 Special Olympics (Tentative)
- 1, 2 State Convention
- 7 First Friday Adoration, 7 p.m.-8 a.m.
Worship Center
- 4 Council Meeting, 8-9:30 p.m.
OSMH
- 8 Improve-A-Home Follow Up 7-9 a.m.
Farrel Hall
- 8 Tex-Mex Dinner, 4-8 pm Farrel Hall
- 9 Mother's Day
- 15 Arthritis Walk
- 16 Pancake Breakfast, 6 a.m.-1 p.m.
Farrel Hall - (Marotta Team)
- 22 Fourth Degree Exemplification
- 29 Rt. 123 Cleanup 8:30 a.m., OSMH

*NOTE: Mistakes were probably
maybe accidently made in this
issue of the Mariner. If you can
find one you are entitled to a
free cup of coffee at the next
council meeting.*

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