



The Columbian Gazette

Of Ashburn

VOL. 3 ISSUE 2 - JUNE, 2023

ASHBURN, VA

A Message from Deacon Renzette

Mirrors of the Face of God

In his novel, *Till We Have Faces*, Christian author C.S. Lewis provides a retelling of the Greek myth of Cupid and Psyche. In his version, Psyche is spirited away by the winds to live in an incredible palace on the Grey Mountain as the wife of an unseen god. Her sister, Orual, ventures to find her to bring her home.

Upon Orual's arrival, Psyche relates the story of her journey and life on the Grey Mountain. She tells Orual of the great palace she lives in, the wonderful feasts that appear each day, and of her husband, a god, who visits with her nightly but who remains hidden and forbids Psyche from seeing his face when he visits each evening.

But Orual can see no palace, no grand feasts, and certainly no god. Orual cannot believe that Psyche is actually the spouse of this unseen and unnamed god. For Orual, highly educated and guided by common sense, Psyche's faith in her husband is ridiculous. It must be untrue. This "god" must be either a terrifying brute or a conniving liar.

The truth is clear: Psyche's god-husband is a myth; a fable and Psyche is at best crazed or delusional. After all anyone with common sense would agree that there can be no such god, invisible and hidden and yet good and lovely. Surely, if he were pleasing and good, he would reveal himself plainly?

To a disciple of Christ living in our modern era, it often seems as if we are surrounded by our own collection of Oruals. To them the life of discipleship makes little sense; easily dismissed as myth or delusion. But when we open ourselves fully to our unseen God, we realize that the disciple's life is a deep and intimate relationship that produces a greater and deeper love, not only for God, but for everyone around us.

The world around us says that our love is fake or illusory, but it only seems as such to someone who has not

Deacon Renzette (Continued on page 2)

From our Grand Knight



"Serving God By Serving Others"

The title above is our State Council's motto for this fraternal year. It promotes the choice each of us makes to sacrifice our time and treasure to support the good of others. Our worthy Chaplain would describe our choice to serve as demonstrating true love to our neighbors. In addition to direct service, our council enables our fellow parishioners to serve others through our Food Drives and other charity collections. We promote faith and community through hosting retreats, online rosary, and social events. We work to make a difference through many little deeds.

Our council had another successful fraternal year. Here is a summary of our accomplishments:

- The Food Drives have delivered over 48,088 pounds of food to date and June's Food Drive will make the yearly total around 52,000 pounds.
- Our eight Parish Pancake Breakfasts have raised over \$11,670 while providing social events for our fellow parishioners and opportunities for our members to get to know each other better.
- Through Tootsie Roll drives and Shredding events, over \$10,971.50 was raised to support people with intellectual disabilities. We also supported Virginia Special Olympics through a Pancake Breakfast and the Golden Helmet Softball Tournament.

◇ I learned two things about Special Olympics this year. The Virginia Knights of Columbus is the biggest supporter of the Virginia Special Olympics. The Special Olympic movement was started by members of the Knights of

GK (Continued on page 2)

opened themselves to encounter the Living God, He Who is Love.

And this opens us to the task set before us as disciples of Christ. It is not enough for us to press the case – to present the argument for the truths of our Faith – we must live them in such a way that they become evident to even the most stalwart of the Oruals in our world.

The life of discipleship necessitates a deep relationship with God by which He reveals Himself to us and us to ourselves. This is because through this intimacy of Faith, we become mirrors of our loving God to those who cannot yet see Him.

This was the solution in Lewis’ novel for Orual’s skepticism and it holds true in our world as well. Only by drawing closer to God, experiencing His loving presence in our lives can we be the true “ambassadors for Christ” that we are all called to be.

KOVAR Update

For the fraternal year 22/23; the St. Louis Martin Knights Council collected a total of \$14,200 for KOVAR. We collected after Masses throughout the year and briefly at an area grocery store. (This does not include money donated through the dues collection process for KOVAR nor does this include the money collected for Polar Plunge). Last fraternal year we collected a similar amount.

KOVAR is a Virginia Knights of Columbus 501(c) (3) tax exempt charity established in 1971 to provide financial assistance through grants and home loans to tax exempt organizations providing training and opportunities to persons with intellectual disabilities.



Columbus.

◇ I also witnessed presentations by some athletes at State Meetings. These young adults expressed how the competitions and events gave them an opportunity for achievement.

- We support faith activities to include the Advent and Lenten Retreats as well as initiated an online rosary. Hosting the Lenten Retreat in the Zelle 1/2/3 room demonstrated the large attendance. The room was packed. The audience was looking forward to the next retreat.
- We promote a culture of life through Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) and March for Life programs.
- Our council hosted social events for the parish to include the Parish Picnic and Fish Fry.
- We ran activities and supported our parish youth through Soccer Challenge, Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest, Free Throw Contests, Pancake Breakfast crafts table, 8th Grade Sunrise Breakfast, as well as involving the Upper Room Squad in the Parish Food Drives.
- We supported our parish and community through Handy Man Crew, Meals for the Priests, Sweets for Vets, Consignment Sale parking, Arlington Camino, October Parish Count, Christmas Eve parking, and other activities.

I am looking forward to the upcoming fraternal year. We have a good lineup of leaders, officers, program leads as well as an active membership. Our membership and retention efforts continue to exceed replenishment goals. We have a solid program schedule and opportunities to introduce new ideas. I look forward to supporting incoming Grand Knight John Hagerty and working with each of you.

Rob McNamee
Grand Knight

Council Awards Dinner Held on June 5

Our Council held its annual Awards Dinner on June 5, presided by outgoing Grand Knight Rob McNamee. The following brother knights and family members received this year's awards:

Knight of the Year: Jack Hayes

We honor Jack Hayes as both our council's and the Virginia State Council's Knight of the Year. This state recognition is an honor for both Jack and our council. He received these awards for the many ways he improves our council, parish, and community. When Jack sees a need, he steps forward to take the lead.

Jack inaugurated the on-boarding committee a couple of years ago. It filled a need for our council to welcome new members and get them involved in our programs. This group has been very successful. Earlier in the year, I joked with Jack asking how many new brothers have been through his program and gone on to be an officer or Knight of the Month or Family of the Month recipient.

Jack also led our Retention Committee this year. We started the fraternal year with over 50 brothers (out of an over 350 person membership) that had not paid their dues. The committee worked to personally contact each overdue Brother and the vast majority paid their dues. Jack also led our affiliate member initiative activity. Our council transferred only 9 brothers to the affiliate program.

Jack led a successful ASAP (Aid and Support After Pregnancy) program this year that raised \$4,000 (including Supreme's contribution) that was split between two pregnancy support organizations. Funds were raised at pancake breakfast and some individual contributions.

He also leads the Life Committee for our Council. Jack has done a great job coordinating with other groups in the parish. They have collectively worked as a parish Life Committee. Jack played a significant role getting a permanent pregnancy support sign installed on Broadlands Boulevard in front of our church ("Are you pregnant and need support" <contact information> and image of Mary). Jack worked with the county government and a lawyer to gain approval for the sign.

Jack also organized a Gender Ideology presentation last year titled "Gender Ideology, The Cultural Challenge and the Catholic Response". The Parish Life Committee had Mary Hanson JD (the Kate O'Beirne Fellow at Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, DC), Frank Moncher PhD, and Father Jerry Pokorsky provided a balanced presentation on this controversial topic. This event was well attended. He is also involved with That Man is You (TMIY) as both a participant and group leader. Jack and his wife continue to participate in bible/faith study courses at the parish and on-line. I first met the nominee and his wife at a bible study at the parish.

Jack is our Knight of the Year for the sum total of his contributions to our council, church, and community. Congratulations Jack!

Family of the Year: The Beauchesne Family

We honor John and Jeanne Beauchesne as our council's Family of the Year. They are chosen for their commitment to faith, community, and growing parish ministries (to include our council). Their leadership in our parish has had a positive impact.

Jeanne is very involved at St Theresa. She is currently the president and longtime member of the Legion of Mary ministry. She has been a substitute CCD teacher at our parish for multiple years. Jeanne is a Eucharistic Minister to the homebound. She is anchor (leader) for Seven Sisters Prayer group (prayers for parish priests) as well as a Sacristan (set the altar) at daily Mass. Jeanne is also a regular attendee of the Adoration Chapel.

John has been a leader in our council since joining seven years ago. For many of those years, John led our council's youth programs. He ran our Soccer Challenge, Free Throw Contest, Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest, and was instrumental with getting the high school students involved with the Parish Food Drives. This year, he successfully handed over leadership to a new Knight. He continues to help with these successful programs. For the last two years, John has been our council's Membership Director. We have exceeded our recruitment goals each year.

John and Jeanne support our community. John has been a Diocesan Work Camp contractor (lead groups of teens performing home improvement) for two years. He is also has been the president of his Home Owners Association (HOA) for multiple years. John and Jeanne have assisted at multiple Youth Ministry retreats.

We thank the Beauchesne Family for their service to our council, church, and community. You have made a difference in people's lives. Congratulations!

Young Woman of the Year: Maria Stalcup

Young Man of the Year: Morgan Vannell

See additional photos on page 7.



Our Council receives the State Outstanding Website award from Bob Jones (on the right) of the State Council. Accepting the award on behalf of our Council (from left) are PGKs Miguel Rodriguez, Bill Lehner, and Manny Galvan.

Our Support for *Mission to the Beloved* in Haiti

From the proceeds we collected at the May 7 pancake breakfast, our Council recently donated \$1500 to **Mission to the Beloved**, a Catholic Non-profit relief organization based in Haiti and led by Father Louis Merosne. The Mission is dedicated to the feeding of hungry children, supporting educational efforts, operating the Cathedral of Saint Anne's in Anse-à-Veau, and preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, among many others. The following article was authored by Daniel Sacino, a brother Knight in our Council who lived and worked in Haiti as a missionary from 2006-2010, and again in 2018-2019. Learn more about **Mission to the Beloved** here: <https://www.missiontothebeloved.com/>

Haiti due to its lush forests and strategic location as a gateway to the Caribbean was once known as the "La Perle des Antilles", by such as the Knights of Columbus' name sake explorer Christopher Columbus. What was once a vast paradise is now just a shadow of its pre-colonial self due to years of occupation, political instability, and natural disasters.

On January 1, 1804, Haiti was declared the first free black republic in the world, showcasing the resolve of the Haitian people as they overthrew their French colonial government and inspired the hopes of revolution and liberation from tyranny. But the revolution had a darker side; the African slaves brought over in bondage from countries in Western and Central Africa had also brought with them their ancestral home religion, Vodou (Voodoo in the popular American spelling). On August 14, 1791, at the start of the Haitian revolution, nearby slaves attended a ceremony presided over by a Vodou Priest Named Dutty Boukman, where they sacrificed a pig to ask for protection and victory from their French foes. In the years since that fateful night, Haiti has gone from approximately 80 percent Catholic to now approximately 55 percent Protestant, but as a local saying would indicate, "Haiti is 55 percent protestant but 100 percent Vodou."

What has followed in the proceeding 219 years has been one heartbreak after another for the country. French reparations over a period of 70 years equaled the amount of 10 Louisiana Purchases, valued at over \$560 million dollars today. What followed were occupations, dictatorships, and one corrupt government after the other. Following the devastating 2010 and 2021 earthquakes, cholera outbreaks and numerous tropical sys-

tems have also ravaged the country. During all the chaos, President Jovenel Moïse was assassinated in 2021. Haiti is currently leading the world in kidnappings and the prevalence of gangs armed with heavy weapons. They are terrorizing local communities that are already vulnerable and in need of life-saving food, electricity, clean water, and healthcare.

But amid one of the most remote communities in Haiti, Anse-à-Veau, where the Cathedral of Saint Anne was destroyed in the 2021 earthquake, and where gangs have infiltrated the countryside, with Haitian Vodou flourishing, something special is happening. Father Louis Merosne and his organization **Mission to the Beloved** are bringing the love and peace of our Lord Jesus and the authentic Catholic Faith to an area which desperately needs food and housing and a place to celebrate Mass, along with spiritual healing from years of oppression and spiritual darkness.

Through the generous donations of our Parish, the St. Louis Martin KofC Council 15256 was able to send much needed financial assistance which will be utilized to help rebuild the cathedral, feed hungry children, help those with medical needs, and to sponsor outdoor missions.

- Dan Sacino

Who Do We Serve?

By Doug Smith

Knights are always called to serve. "We are Men on a Mission -- A Catholic Brotherhood Changing the World" is what the Knights website splash page tells everyone who visits the site. "Knights are called to serve others." "Our role is to be Catholic gentlemen who live our faith at home, in our parish, at work, and in our community." That's a pretty tall order for one man to accomplish. Matter of fact, it can be rather daunting to some men. Add to that challenge, the call for some men to join the ranks of first responders, the medical profession, the political world, or the military. These and other careers are opportunities to serve other in the community and/or our country. "No matter what stage you are in with your life, we are all on a journey together. Join us as role models in a world that needs men who lead, **serve**, protect and defend." **

Serve -- There's that word again. It shows up all over the place and, by tradition, Knights are always serving.

Who do we Serve? (Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4) Who do we Serve?

We are there to serve our parish and its priests. Perhaps it is just serving food at a pancake breakfast or at the Parish picnic. Perhaps it is serving a person who needs their house repaired or to assist someone with a disability as needed. There are many opportunities in our parish and community that present themselves each week. We just have to decide when and what opportunity in which to participate.

When we do decide to serve others, we have another decision to make. What service opportunity comes first? Service starts at home. You certainly don't want to neglect your spouse and children while running all over the place helping others as you try to change the world. Serving your family should come first. But if you have good balance and fulfillment in that aspect of your life, then it is time to search outward. As you sense that you've got more time/talent/resources to give, look to areas of need that you can feel passionate about committing to. Small acts of kindness done by you can be very rewarding and lead to bigger things. As you understand the issues and circumstances of your service area, you can apply your brainpower to help on a bigger or wider scale.

Service starts with time, commitment, and, sometimes, muscle power. Service continues when we begin to embody the belief that we are one another's keeper. The experience of helping our fellow beings is very satisfying, and sometimes, a spiritual lift to one's self. This satisfaction of service reminds us all that the true strength of our nation comes from strong, healthy communities.

"America is never wholly herself unless she is engaged in high moral principle. We as a people have such a purpose today. It is to make kinder the face of the Nation and gentler the face of the world. My friends, we have work to do. There are the homeless, lost and roaming. There are the children who have nothing, no love or normalcy. There are those who cannot free themselves of enslavement to whatever addition – drugs, welfare, and the demoralization – that rules the slums. There is crime to be conquered, the rough crime of the streets. There are young women to be helped who are about to become mothers of children they can't care for and might not love. They need our care, our guidance, and our education,

though we bless them for choosing life. ... The old ideas are new again because they're not old, they are timeless: duty, sacrifice, commitment, and a patriotism that finds its expression in taking part and pitching in." -George H.W. Bush, *Inaugural Address, January 20, 1989.*

President Bush's words emphasize the importance of servant-leadership. Imagine the effectiveness and sustainable progress that might be accomplished in our nation if our leaders were all driven by integrity, humility, and compassion instead of ego and party loyalty. President Bush was committed to improving the wellbeing of our nation by encouraging each citizen to shoulder some of that responsibility through service to others.

If you read the Columbia magazine, you are witness to numerous stories of Knights serving others. Our Council has its own stories of serving others. Being a Third Degree Knight provides endless opportunities to serve others. So how does this "call to serve others" translate into being a Knight, especially a Fourth Degree Knight? "There is more to being a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus than a uniform. They are the men who have chosen to embrace the Order's fourth principle of patriotism, the men who lead the efforts to reach out to veterans and active military and to embody the fact that one can be a faithful Catholic and also be a faithful citizen."

The point of this article is to prod you into thinking about your role as a Knight and the call to serve others. Take a little while to reflect on your station in life. Perhaps there is room in your routine to widen and deepen your ability to assist others. You don't have to drive cross-country to help with recovery efforts after a disaster. Start small. Take baby steps to find a project you can care deeply about. Gradually you will feel your self-worth grow as you experience the satisfaction of being able to make someone else's life better. Serving others can indeed bring you joy as you invest in people or projects that you deeply care about. Share this experience with your family by bringing them along. Your individual efforts serving others might just blossom into a rewarding family activity which strengthens all of you.

** Most quotations in this article are from the Knights of Columbus website except for the George H.W. Bush quote. Some modifications were made to fit the theme of this article.

- Doug Smith



Book Review:

The Power and the Glory by Graham Greene

By ROBERT N. BORGHESE

The Power and the Glory by British Catholic author Graham Greene was published in 1940. It is a masterpiece novel that takes place in the Mexican state of Tabasco in the 1930s, a time when the Mexican government was attempting to suppress the Catholic Church. The persecution of the Catholic Church was especially severe in Tabasco where all of the churches in the state were closed and priests were forced to marry (break celibacy) and give up their cassocks. Prohibition was declared so it became easier to identify priests because there needs to be actual wine for the eucharist. Anyone caught with wine would be suspected of being a priest or hiding a priest.

The protagonist in the novel is who Greene calls a “whisky priest.” He is the last priest in Tabasco. He is sinful: he has a child out of wedlock, is an alcoholic, and broods over his shortcomings as a priest. Since he is a nameless sinful person, he is EVERY-MAN; and we are invited to insert our names.

The protagonist priest is a paradox and complex character. On one hand he has lived in the direst conditions for years as a fugitive in Mexico — traversing mountains and swamps, half-starved, afflicted by fever — simply to carry out God's will by administering mostly to the poor peasants — all while being pursued by a police lieutenant reminiscent of Inspector Javert pursuing Jean Valjean in Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*. On the other hand, he could be viewed as a drunk, a lecher, and a public sinner.

At the end of the book his death was caused by a sense of priestly duty to administer Last Rites (Viaticum) to a dying outlaw. Although he sensed that the message summoning him was almost assuredly a police trick and that he could ignore it, remain in hiding, and live, he ended up performing his priestly duties and being martyred for the Faith. Since he was the last priest, we would suppose that the Church was defeated; but at the very end another priest is seen, demonstrating that the Church is

not dependent on one person and that “the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (MT 16:18). Our martyred “whisky priest” is now considered a saint by the local faithful.

“He knew now that at the end there was only one thing that counted - to be a saint.”

- Robert Borghese

New Slate of Officers for 2023-2024

The following slate of officers and committee leads will serve our Council in the upcoming fraternal year:

Chaplain	Father Hudgins
District Deputy	Steve Rogers
Grand Knight	John Hegarty
Deputy Grand Knight	Mike Boyle
Chancellor	John Beauchesne
Financial Secretary	Jim Bonfils
Warden	Eric Ciliberti
Recorder	Stephen McLaughlin
Treasurer	Stephen Shields
Advocate	Cole Slattery
Trustees	3 Yr. Rob McNamee
	2 Yr. Miguel Rodriguez
	1 Yr. William Lehner
Primary Alt. Sate Del.	Miguel Rodriguez
Secondary Alt. State Del.	William Lehner
Programs Director	Mike Boyle
Lecturer	TBD
Faith Director	Dana Stalcup
Vocations Chairman	Vince Tranchitella
Community Director	Stephen McLaughlin
Life Director	Eric Ciliberti
Public Relations	Rudy Flores
	Dave Schreder
	Eric Ciliberti
	Robert Borghese
	TBD
Family Director	John Beauchesne
Membership Director	Jack Hayes
Recruitment Committee	Jack Hayes
Retention Chairman	James Sinnott
Construction Team Lead	Donald J. Smaltz
KOVAR Team Lead	Anthony Gizzi
Technology Team	William Lehner
Parish Picnic	

Pancake Breakfasts in 2023

Our last pancake breakfast of the fraternal year was held on May 7. We collected over \$1500 in donations, which enabled us to make a generous donation to the Mission to the Beloved in Haiti (see article by Daniel Sacino, page 4).

On June 2, our Council also hosted the annual St. Theresa School Sunrise Breakfast in honor of the graduating eighth grade class. The crew served a full breakfast to nearly 60, which included students, teachers, and parent volunteers. A big thank you to all who came out early (5am) to help out!



Fr. Barnes with the serving crew on May 7, 2023



Arlington Camino

On Saturday, May 27th, our Council sponsored a rest station for walkers participating in the Arlington Camino. The Arlington Camino is a 33-mile walk along the W&OD trail during which high school youth (and adult leaders) pray for vocations, seminarians and those preparing for the Diaconate. Our Council provided water, electrolytes, fresh fruit, power bars, shade, and chairs so that the participants could recharge along the walk.



Photos from the Council's Awards Dinner, June 5, 2023



Brother Jack Hayes receives the Council AND State Knight of the Year awards from GK Rob McNamee and State Treasurer Bob Jones



John and Jeanne Beauchesne receive the Family of the Year award from GK Rob McNamee



Brother Steve Shields receives the Knight of the Month award.



Maria Stalcup receives the Young Woman of the Year award.



Morgan Vannell receives the Young Man of the Year award.



Attilio Manzano receives recognition from GK Rob McNamee for his outstanding 3 years of service as Financial Secretary.

News From the Handyman Crew



The number of project requests has increased as we move into the Spring and Summer Season. We have hung pictures and clocks, moved or assembled furniture, repaired or connected appliances, and a few other odds and ends around homes in the parish.

As a note to our members, I have adjusted the wording in the Bulletin to remind requesters that the work should only take 1-2 hours and require no more than 1-2 men. Some of the requests like replacing windows, painting yard fences and garage floors and repairing inoperable HVAC units are beyond our scope of work.

Also, while our crew now numbers 13, we are always looking for volunteers as the requests continue to rise. As the saying goes: "many hands make light work".

- Jim Sinnott



CURRENT COUNCIL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS (2022-2023)

Chaplain	Father Hudgins
District Deputy	Steve Rogers
District Warden	Joe Potak
Grand Knight	Rob McNamee
Deputy Grand Knight	John Hegarty
Chancellor	John Beauchesne
Financial Secretary	Attilio Manzano
Warden	Mike Boyle
Recorder	Eric Ciliberti
Treasurer	Stephen Shields
Advocate	Toni Gizzi
Trustees	Manny Galvan
	William Lehner
	Miguel Rodriguez
	Vincent Tranchitella
Lecturer	Jim Sinnott
Inside Guard	Steve McLaughlin
Outside Guard	Benny Perez
Fraternal Benefits Field Agent	Dana Stalcup
Faith Director	Stephen McLaughlin
Community Director	John L. Hayes
Life Director	Eric I. Stefanyshyn
Family Director	John Beauchesne
Membership Director	Adam Yozwiak
Youth Director	Rudy Flores
Public Relations	Dave Schreder
	Eric Ciliberti
	Robert Borghese
Recruitment Committee	John L. Hayes
	Francis O'Gara
Construction Team Lead	James Sinnott
KOVAR Team Lead	Donald J. Smaltz
Technology Team	Anthony Gizzi
Parish Picnic	William Lehner

Visit our Website: <https://www.st-louismartin-kofc.org/>

CLICK OR SCAN BELOW TO SEE OUR FULL FRATERNAL CALENDAR
<https://www.st-louismartin-kofc.org/upcomingevents>

