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Noel Aucoin

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Daniel 'Danny' Lechner, Biloxi

State Chaplain

Father Al Camp, Madison

Send Council, Assembly and Circle news and announcements by the 10th of each month to:

Fred Middleton
4322 Bloombury St.
Southaven, MS 38672
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901-218-2393

Coming Events

Saturday, Nov. 13, 4th Degree Exemplification, Cleveland William F. LaForge Assembly 1503, Fr. Rotondo Council Hall, 3401 Hwy. 8 West. Registration 12:30 - 2 p.m. Exemplification begins at 2:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 5:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Victories Church, Reception at 6:30 p.m., Banquet at 7 p.m. for Members, Candidates, Spouses and Guests.

Running of the Rose Masses Sunday, Oct. 14 - Sacred Heart, Hattiesburg, 1:30 p.m. Hispanic Mass.

Monday, Oct. 25 - Our Lady of Fatima, Biloxi, 6 p.m. Hispanic Mass.

Wednesday, Oct. 27 - St. Mary, Gautier, 7 p.m. English Mass.

Sunday Oct. 31 - St. Charles Borromeo, Picayune, 1 p.m. Hispanic Mass.

Saturday, Dec. 11, 9 a.m., Mid-Year Meeting of Jurisdiction Officers, District Deputies and Program Chairs, St. Francis Church, Madison

The Magnolia Knight

Vol. 10, No. 9



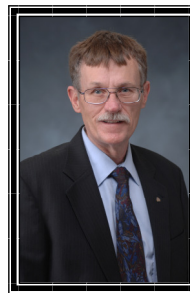
October 2010

From the State Deputy

To Know Our Religion is to Exhibit Leadership

By Peter J. Sukanek

The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life recently conducted a survey of "religious knowledge" in the United States. This was not a survey of what Catholics believed, what Lutherans believed, etc., but a general knowledge survey of the beliefs of and significant people in different religions. One of the questions, for example, is "Which Bible figure (Job, Elijah, Moses, Abraham) is most closely associated with remaining obedient to God despite suffering?" The average score on the survey was 50 percent. Atheists and Agnostics scored the highest, at 65.3 percent. White Catholics scored 50 percent. Mormons knew the most about the Bible and Christianity (at 65.8 percent), Catholics scored 45 percent in that area.



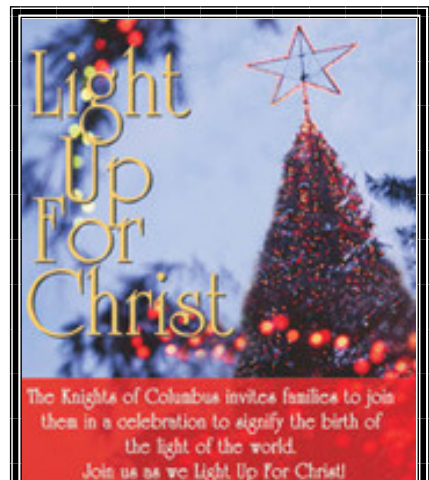
According to the results, more than 45 percent of the Catholics in the United States do not know that our Church teaches that the bread and wine used in Communion do not merely symbolize but actually become the body and blood of Christ. About half of Protestants (53 percent) cannot correctly identify Martin Luther as the person whose writings and actions inspired the Protestant Reformation, which made their religion a separate branch of Christianity. Roughly four-in-ten Jews (43 percent) do not recognize that Maimonides, one of the most venerated rabbis in history, was Jewish. On the bright side, however, 85 percent of those surveyed did know that an atheist is someone who does not believe in God.

These results seem pretty pitiful to me. It did not make much difference if someone graduated from college, or did not graduate from high school. The knowledge (or lack of it) was essentially unchanged.

As Knights, we can, I hope, do better than the "average" Catholic on these questions, at least in the areas of the Bible and Christianity. As Knights, we are all "practical Catholics," but we should be more than that. We should be the leaders in our parishes and in our Church. We should know about our religion. One good way to learn more is to ask a man to be a Knight. Go with him to his First, Second and Third Degrees. Pay attention to what's said. You will learn a little more about what it means to be a Catholic. I always do.

If you are interested, you can take an on-line quiz yourself at: <http://features.pewforum.org/quiz/us-religious-knowledge/index.php> (However, I have already given you some of the answers.)

Vivat Jesus!



Tuesday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m.

4 Gulf Coast Parishes Host Silver Rose

By Robert Barr
District Deputy 12

As part of the East Coast Running of the Silver Rose, the Mississippi Gulf Coast will play host to the rose through Oct. 31.

Gulf Coast District Deputies have arranged to present the rose, which is in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, claimed as the patroness of the pro-life cause, at four locations and Masses in the Diocese of Biloxi to highlight the K of C's commitment to pro-life causes.

The schedule and location for these Masses are:

Sunday, Oct. 14 - Sacred Heart, Hattiesburg, 1:30 p.m. Hispanic Mass;

Monday, Oct. 25 - Our Lady of Fatima, Biloxi, 6 p.m. Hispanic Mass;

Wednesday, Oct. 27 - St. Mary, Gautier, 7 p.m. English Mass; and

Sunday Oct. 31 - St. Charles Borromeo, Picayune, 1 p.m. Hispanic Mass.

The Running of the Silver Rose is a tradition that began in 1960, when Knights of Columbus Squires carried a live rose from Canada to the Basilica of Monterrey in honor of the day Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego.

The silver rose is meant to symbolize both the roses that appear as part of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on a mantle that Diego carried to a Bishop of the Basilica as proof of his story and of the Knights of Columbus' commitment to the pro-life cause.

Each year, the Running of the Silver Rose sees three Silver Roses traverse the US by western, central and eastern routes. The eastern route starts in London, Ontario, then travels to New York and through the Eastern states to Laredo, TX.

Following the activities in Mississippi, the rose will be passed to the Louisiana Jurisdiction.

All three Roses come together in



Laredo and travel over the International Bridge for presentation to Knights from Monterey, Mexico, for delivery to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City in honor of this legendary event.

Bishop R.O. Gerow Program **By Don Cox, Chair**

We are six months away from convention, when donations are due to support our presentations to the Bishops. By now, program plans for fundraisers should be in place. If not, I encourage you to discuss it at your next business meeting.

We know the economy plays a major part in your fundraisers, but, with proper planning, a reasonable donation is possible. As you have heard me say: **"100 percent participation is our Jurisdiction goal."**

My congratulations go to Larry Gardner, our newly appointed Master of the 4th Degree. Our state Assemblies will be hearing from him soon, and I anticipate that they will make donations to exceed the 2009 banner year.

The Ladies Auxiliaries made several donations last year and I expect that they will exceed last year.

I look forward to seeing you at the mid-year meetings.

Central Mississippi Councils Host Grillin' for Life

The 6th Annual Grillin' for Life barbecue contest, hosted by K of C Councils of Central Mississippi to raise funds and awareness for the sanctity of life, is scheduled Oct. 22-23 at North Park Mall in Ridgeland.



The City of Ridgeland, Ridgeland Tourism and North Park Mall are among supporters of the event, which will offer \$7,500 in prize money along with food, music, arts and crafts and family fun.

Competition will be in four categories: chicken; pork ribs (loin or spare); pork butt, picnic and whole shoulder; and beef brisket. Teams may compete in one, two, three, or all four categories, but to compete for Grand Champion a team must be entered in all categories. There will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category and a Grand Champion. Entry fees are \$125 for one category, \$175 for two categories, \$225 for three categories and \$250 to enter all categories.

Grillin' for Life is sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbecue Society.

Proceeds fund benefit organizations that support the sanctity of life. Almost \$25,000 has been distributed to these groups in the five years the event has been held.

To enter a team or to become a vendor or sponsor, call (601) 214-9463 or email

gerry.clark@yahoo.com or visit www.grillinforlife.com

Mark Your Calendars!
2011 State Convention
Tupelo, April 29 - May 1
Hosted by District 1

Buddy Walk Attracts 3,000 for Down Syndrome Fundraiser



Sir Knight Derek Medjesky of Pascagoula Msgr. P.J. Carey Assembly 0561 leads the way as 3,000 lime-green-clad participants strike out on the 10th annual Buddy Walk to benefit the Gulf Coast Down Syndrome Society and its programs in education, research and advocacy. The event was staged at Greyhound Stadium in Ocean Springs.

Down Syndrome occurs in one of every 800 to 1,000 births. It affects people of all ages, races and economic levels and is the most frequently occurring chromosomal abnormality. More than 350,000 people have Down Syndrome in the US alone.

Most people with Down syndrome have some degree of mental retardation. However, it usually falls into the mild to moderate range and is not indicative of the many strengths and talents each individual possesses. Just like their peers, they attend school, develop friendships, maintain jobs, participate in important personal decisions and make positive contributions to the community. People with Down Syndrome are more like their non-disabled peers than they are different, and they deserve the same opportunities.

Friends Kelsi Dungan and Patrick McIlwain (standing in right photo) were among the walkers who participated with Derek. (Submitted by Deacon Mike Gilly.)



'LIFE in Art'

Picayune Oscar J. Gelphi Council 6872 hosted an art show as a pro-life fund raiser with the theme of "LIFE in Art." Forty-five artists entered 170 works. The show raised more the \$800, which was donated to St. Charles Catholic Pro-Life Ministry. Pictured with the painting judged Best of Show, "The Glory of God," are Council 6872 Grand Knight Richert Mahony, Best of Show artist Raven Hughes and show coordinator Eve Mahony. (Submitted by Richert Mahony.)

**Gateway
to the Mississippi K of C
www.kofc-ms.org**

Holly Springs Installation

District Deputy 1 Raymond Ball (center) presided over the installation of officers for Holly Springs St. Joseph Council 8760 in a September ceremony. The new leadership is comprised of (from left) Grand Knight Claude Vinson, Sr., Advocate Jabari Oliver, Chancellor James Rafor, Sr., Trustee Otha Jones, Treasurer Victor Beard and Recorder Albert Jones. Other officers (not pictured) are Deputy Grand Knight Eddie Dixon, Warden Leon Moore, Financial Secretary Claude Vinson, Jr., Inside Guard James Rafor, Jr., Outside Guard Charles Farris and Trustees Ralph Howard and Derrick Richmond. (Submitted by Raymond Ball.)



Diploma Presentation Takes 65-Year Knight from 'Dropout' to Graduate

World War II veteran and 65-year Knight Gene Orscheln of Hernando DeSoto Council 7120 of Southaven, 85, received a surprise high school graduation present that took him from dropout to graduate.

After 67 years, he was awarded his diploma from St. Peter and Paul Catholic High School in Booneville, MO. It was presented to him by Chancery Judge Percy Lynchard of Hernando, who told family and friends, "Unbeknownst to Gene, today his high school has asked that I present to him that long-awaited diploma that they agree he not only earned, but richly deserves."

In 1943, Judge Lynchard related, Orscheln heard his country's call to arms--and he answered. Though he was only 18 at the time, was Treasurer of the Student Council and had just finished the 11th grade, he was inducted into the US Navy at Fort Leavenworth, KS. He served in both the European and Pacific theatres,



Chancery Judge Percy Lynchard of Hernando presents Gene Orscheln of Hernando DeSoto Council 7120 of Southaven with his high school diploma, 67 years after he enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a rising high school senior. Bro. Gene, 85, received his First Degree in 1945 in Columbia, MO.

mainly as a gunner on a supply ship, becoming one of the few to ever cruise through both the Panama and Suez Canals. When he returned home three years later, following his discharge in St. Louis, he found him-

self for all practical purposes a high school dropout. He was too old to return to high school and the GED program, which began only a year earlier, was virtually unknown to him.

"So he has been without that high school diploma, and he never felt quite right about that," Judge Lynchard explained. "Now don't be fooled--he has been successful in life regardless. He managed a family business from his military discharge to his retirement, providing for his wife and family. He has managed to stay married to the same woman for 62 years and counting, raising three children. Today, in a small way, we are trying to right a wrong."

"It is my honor to introduce to you today the latest graduate of the St Peter and Paul Catholic High School of Booneville, MO, from Southaven, Seaman 1st Class Edward Gene Orscheln."

The Hard Facts but Reality

By Deacon Lawrence Campbell, Jackson Diocese Vocations Chair

The Diocese of Jackson covers over 37,700 square miles, comprises 65 counties and over 50,000 Catholic people and almost 21,000 Catholic families served in over 100 parishes/missions. The average size of parishes/missions is 283 people - not families, but 283 men, women and children. Geographically, the Diocese of Jackson is the largest Diocese east of the Mississippi River.

Currently, 35 of the 65 counties in the Diocese are without a resident priest. Twenty parishes cover at least TWO counties, and seven are without a church building.

The Diocese includes only 36 active Diocesan priests (5 of whom are already over the age of 70), 19 religious priests (7 of whom are part-time) and 17 retired priests. By the end of this year, 11 of these now-active Diocesan priests will reach the age of 70, which is the retirement age for the Diocese.

We now have only nine seminarians studying in the Diocese. Three of these men are from the U.S. and three are from other countries (Mexico, Guatemala and Vietnam). The last 3 men are citizens of Mexico and are studying in the seminary there.

The Diocese serves Anglo-American, Hispanic-American, African-American, Asian-American and Native-American ethnic groups as well as smaller ethnic groups.

Mississippi has the highest incidence of poverty of any state in the nation. Nearly 23 percent of all Mississippians live in poverty and over 650,000 Mississippi citizens exist on less than \$5,500 annually. Nearly 42 percent of Mississippians are not in the work force; and on any given night, more than 1,500 people are homeless.

Our diocesan Catholic Charities programs are trying to help these individuals; and last year, over 27,000 Mississippians built better lives through the assistance of Catholic Charities.

As anyone can see, the task of the Catholic Church in Mississippi is very daunting. With the hard work of the Bishop, the Bishop Emeritus, Priests, Deacons, Brothers, Sisters and Lay People, this task is a terrific challenge.

Each of us, at our Baptism, was ordained to a ministry of service. This means that each of us has a responsibility to make Christ present to one another and to accept the challenge given to us by Jesus, "to love one another".