



# The Christopher Columbus Navigator



## VIVAT JESUS

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- EDITION THEME -  
"REMEMBER OUR MILITARY"

Georgia State Council  
Knights of Columbus Newsletter  
November-December, 2010

## Page One News...!

This is a message from Fr. Kevin Peek, a priest of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, and a Brother Knight, who is serving as an Army Chaplain in Afghanistan. His request speaks for itself. I am asking that this be disseminated through all the councils and assemblies in Georgia. Let's get all 14,585 Knights in Georgia praying daily for the members of our Armed Forces, especially those in Afghanistan. Please contact Fr. Peek with your prayer.

*"Blessed friends, Some I have had the opportunity of talking with directly, others are hearing this for the first time: I have been deployed to Afghanistan in an emergency status to fill in for a Chaplain that was killed here recently. I will be here for ten months, in a region that is highly dangerous and hazardous in many ways to my Soldiers and the local populace. We are here to make life better for the locals, and we have our work cut out for us. My men and I are greatly in need of your prayers: prayers for protection, for perseverance, and for hope and courage in the face of the challenges we face. I am asking that each of you commit to some time of prayer, either daily or weekly, with some specific prayer or scripture verse you will pray and reflect on, in our behalf. If you so accept, I ask that you send those verses/prayers so that we can know them and join in as well."*

Here is the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel, the Patron Saint of Soldiers that you can say to yourself while you are working, playing, or whatever. It will help our fighting brethren:

*Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host - by the Divine Power of God - cast into hell, Satan and all the evil spirits, who roam throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*

You can contact Fr Peek at this address: [frkpeek@gmail.com](mailto:frkpeek@gmail.com)

Jim St. John



St Michael the Archangel, Pray for those who serve.



# From The State Deputy

By Jim St. John - State Deputy



I spend most of the Fall and early Winter, traveling around the state, attending major degrees and presenting Star and Double Star Council Awards. As I do this, I cannot help but be impressed (and humbled) by the tremendous things you are all accomplishing. Right now we have several major programs underway. Councils are out raising funds for the intellectually disabled, most by handing out Tootsie Rolls in front of stores or intersections. (Council 13808 in Greensboro took Tootsie Rolls to a HS football game and cleaned up!). The State Charity Raffle is under way, and this is a very easy way for councils to raise money for a local charity. (Remember that 60% of the ID drive funds and 50% of Charity Raffle funds go to local charities).

Many Councils are gathering Christmas Cards and letters to send to Fr. (Chaplain) David McGuire at Ramstein AB to give to the troops passing to and from the Mid-

East over the Holidays. There is a prayer chain in response to Fr. (Chaplain) Kevin Peek in Afghanistan. I passed this on only a couple of weeks ago and it has already gone past Georgia and is at the Office of the Chief of Army Chaplains.

We have submitted the paperwork to place the third and fourth Ultrasound Machines in Georgia. The soccer challenge program is well underway and will conclude with the State Competition in Griffin on November 13. Unfortunately I will have to be at the State Deputy meeting in Baltimore that weekend.

We are trying to get the "Coats for Kids" program up and running in Georgia and I would ask that councils get involved in this terrific program. It might be a good idea for all the councils in a district to go in together on this. And we need to document what we do to feed families during the holiday season for the Food for Families program.

The October Blitz is underway and we have several new councils under development.

And everywhere I go, I am impressed with the local unique projects that councils conduct in their parishes and communities. In my last column, I confessed that when I think of all you do in Georgia, I am guilty of the cardinal sin of pride. I guess I will just have to go to confession, because my pride is only growing.



## Directory Corrections:

- **Directory page 15** Handicap Member Director: Mike Frost 711 Trickum Valley Dr. Woodstock, GA. 30188
- **Directory page 81** Assembly 173 Faithful Navigator: Eugene G. Martinez 344 Teal Lake Drive Richmond Hill, GA. 31324 912-756-8478
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# Why Do We Need Roundtables?

**By Herb Broughton, State Roundtable Chairman**

I recently attended a social event, and while talking to a Grand Knight, I asked him if his Council sponsored a Roundtable. His reply surprised me. He said, "We don't have one, there's no need for it." I quickly asked him the question I always ask, "do you have a Mass in another language besides English every week-end, or does your Parish have a Mission Parish?" He answered yes to both questions.

Brothers, here is a prime example of why we need Roundtables. This Council has two great opportunities to serve communities that they are not serving now. Yes, they may have Members from both communities in their Council, but maybe not. They should immediately ask their Pastor if he has anything that they can do at the Mission Church. They should contact the priest that says the non-English Mass and ask him the same question about his community.

We need to spread the dream and the vision of Fr. McGivney as far and wide as we can, and one way to do this is through Roundtables. It is also a proven fact that the establishment of a Roundtable will bring you an average of three new members each year you sponsor it. If you will examine closely your area and situation, I'm sure that you can come up with a location that needs a Roundtable. I will be glad to help you, or answer any questions you may have, if you will call me at 770-381-5871, or e-mail me at [broughton10@comcast.net](mailto:broughton10@comcast.net).

Let's get going and establish at least 30 more Roundtables this year.

# Coats For Kids- Be Your "Brother's Keeper"

**By Anthony Riviere - State Program Chairman**



Winter will soon be here along with the cold weather; unfortunately many children will not have a warm coat to protect them from the cold. As Knights we can help needy children keep warm this winter.

"Coats for Kids" is one program that addresses this situation. The Department of Fraternal Services will once again provide new winter coats for \$15.00 ea plus shipping.

As an option, your District/ Council can collect coats locally using the resources of your parish rather than raising money and sending it to Supreme. Please make sure that the coats are in new condition as we do not want to hand out coats that are torn, stained, worn, etc.

I ask that all of the Councils within a district - pool resources so we may make the greatest impact on the largest number of kids. At \$150 per council we can provide more than 1000 Coats for Kids this winter

here in Georgia.

For more information on ordering coats, identifying recipients or structuring a program, please contact Anthony Riviere, State programs director at [ajriviere@aol.com](mailto:ajriviere@aol.com) or 770-895-0873. See the state website at [www.gakofc.org](http://www.gakofc.org) for Supreme coat order forms and additional info.

# Service Programs - Its Never Too Early to START!

**By Anthony Riviere - State Program Chairman**

Now is the time to begin planning, documenting and writing up your service programs. Some of the best church events, council activities and community festivals happen in the Fall and the Knights are always a big part of the successes. This is a great opportunity to highlight your Council's Service Program activities as they are a source of pride for you, your parish and your fellow Knights.

Each year the state honors the best programs in the areas Church, community, council, family, pro-life, and youth, let this be the year your council is recognized for all your hard work. - **Remember to:**

- *Involve as many Knights as possible*
- *Advertise and Publicize your Programs*
- *Recognize all those that make you successful*
- *Take photos*
- *And SHARE your success with us*

State Council Service Program Awards Entry Form (#STSP) is located in the Council Report Forms Booklet (#1436) or at [www.kofc.org/forms](http://www.kofc.org/forms). A separate form should be used for each program.

# Respect Life Month

By David Canale - State Pro-Life Chairman



Last month, October, was designated as “Respect Life Month” by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. Every year, during this month, we are reminded of our role as Knights and our duty to spread the message that all human life—from conception to natural death—is a gift from God and worthy of defending. We are witnesses to a continuing effort to degrade the human dignity of life on many fronts. Abortion on demand, euthanasia, and embryonic stem cell research are the most common of these. And most recently, we have seen an assault on marriage and an effort to change an institution that has served mankind so well through the ages. We must not let our fear of offending some prevent us from standing firm on this most important issue.

Support of traditional marriage is not intolerance. Through marriage between one man and one woman, God created a union which has as its primary role the creation and nurturing of human life. Within that institution, the children brought forth by the couple are raised to adulthood. This framework affirms the importance of marriage itself as an institution that supports the dignity of human life, since the love of a husband and wife leads to the creation of new life through them. As Catholics, we believe that husbands and wives have a special share in the creative work of God. In our experience as husbands and fathers, our eyes become opened to this beautiful gift that our Heavenly Father has invited us to share. And this confirms our dedication to the cause of human life, because we experience its beauty and dignity so intimately. For Catholics, and especially Knights, our dedication to marriage mirrors our dedication to human life, because both are so closely intertwined.

Not just in October, but throughout the entire year, let us re-dedicate ourselves to the preservation of innocent human life and to the institutions, like marriage, that nurture and sustain it.

## Consider These Pro-Life Activities For Your Council . . .

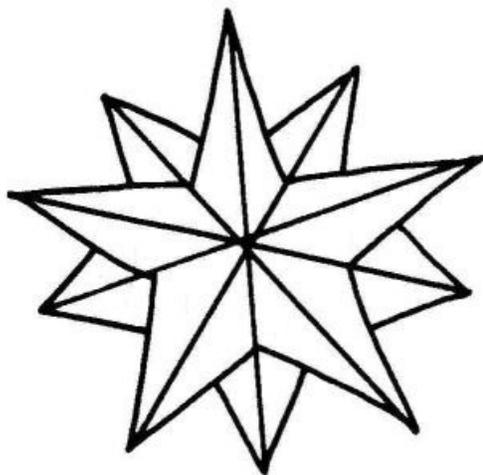
- Organize a council pro-life program under the direction of the pro-life chair couple.
- Send letters or personally contact your chaplain, pastor and members of the clergy offering whatever assistance they request in the fight against abortion.
- Promote and support the Order’s pro-life efforts by displaying materials featuring the theme, “Defend Life” or “A People for Life.”
- Distribute the Church’s teachings on the sanctity of life as outlined in the Study Guide to *Evangelium Vitae* (#2914). The guide has been prepared by the Knights of Columbus for groups and individuals who wish to become more familiar with the Church’s teaching on the respect due human life as presented by Pope John Paul II in his 11th encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life). Copies can be obtained for 25 cents per copy from the Supply Department.
- Contact right-to-life committees or other pro-life organizations in your area. Work to coordinate your programs with those already in existence. Volunteer support, manpower, and finances.
- Create a public display of pro-life support. Place small white crosses in the lawn of your council home or parish, representing the number of lives lost to abortion locally each year.
- Promote letter-writing campaigns to the state and provincial legislatures. Bring stationery to council meetings and have members write letters on the spot. Letters should express your views clearly, firmly and courteously, ask questions and demand answers.
- Carry the pro-life message to youth through the religious education programs, high schools, colleges, Squires, Scouts, etc. Deliver speeches, distribute literature and sponsor pro-life essay and poster contests. Arrange for a showing of pro-life films at council meetings, family events, community meetings.
- Criticize any and all pro-abortion programs sponsored by radio and television stations and ask for equal time dedicated to pro-life arguments.
- Arrange petition-signing campaigns. Set a goal for signatures and keep working until that goal is attained.
- Give gifts of thanks and congratulations to women who have “chosen life” by carrying their babies to term. On behalf of your council present new mothers with something as simple as the Knights of Columbus Congratulations Card (#2087, E, F, S, available at 25¢ each from the Supply department), or provide other practical gifts like diapers, food, blankets or clothing.
- Consider donating Christmas gifts to newborns and their single mothers temporarily housed in shelters. Work with local social service



*(See “Pro Life Activities” Continued on page 8)*

# Remember That First Christmas Night

By The Most Reverend William E. Lori, Bishop of Bridgeport, Supreme Chaplain



As Christmas approaches, we should remember that the first Christmas night was a scene of worship. Mary and Joseph worshipped the child given to them by God the Father through the Holy Spirit. The angels sang “Glory to God!” and the shepherds came filled with wonder and awe.

Thanks to the sacramental and liturgical life of the Church, the truth and beauty of that first Christmas night is not a dim memory but a present reality. As St. Leo the Great taught in the 5th century: “What was visible in our Savior has passed over into his mysteries.” We have a living contact with Christ through the seven sacraments, which Christ instituted and entrusted to the Church. The Church celebrates these sacraments and is built up by them.

The sacraments are efficacious signs through which God wishes to touch and transform our lives. For now, let us remember that three sacraments — baptism, confirmation and holy orders — impart a sacramental character or spiritual “seal.” Each of these three sacraments can be received only once because they permanently transform the recipient and “configure” him or her to Christ. This means that the Holy Spirit brings about in the depth of one’s soul a spiritual image of Christ coupled with a participation in his life. In baptism and confirmation, this indelible seal marks out the recipient as an adopted son or daughter

in Christ, a person both prepared and obligated to take part in the Church’s worship. Holy orders imparts a further sacramental character, enabling the ordained to act in the person of Christ in the celebration of the liturgy.

The sacraments express and fulfill Christ’s promise to remain with his Church. This is the context in which we can most readily understand the Church’s teaching. The sacraments do not simply illustrate God’s grace; they are also the means through which the transforming power of grace is made available and active in our lives. Christ was so determined to remain with us in this way that the effectiveness of the sacraments does not depend on the personal worthiness of the minister performing them. Rather, “The sacraments are efficacious *ex opere operato* (by the very fact that the sacramental action is performed).

This, however, leads to two other important considerations. First, anyone who performs a sacramental action, such as baptizing or celebrating Mass, has a most serious obligation to be in a state of grace and to pursue personal holiness. Second, the sacraments need to be received with a living and active faith. When we approach the sacraments with faith, we find that they express, nourish and strengthen our adherence to the faith of the Church. In fact, there is a deep and mutual correspondence between what we believe and how we worship (228).

At this point we can readily see that the grace given to us through the sacraments, even if they are not received by all the faithful, is necessary for salvation. Through the sacraments we receive forgiveness, we become the adopted children of God, we grow in likeness to Christ and we become living members of his body, the Church. By sharing in the sacramental signs, we long to see God in heaven with all the redeemed and to rejoice in his presence forever.

The sacraments should not be understood to operate mechanistically. To the contrary, they are celebrated in the sacred rites or ceremonies known as the liturgy, the public prayer of the Church. This prayer spans heaven and earth, and is shared with Mary, the saints and the angels (234). In the liturgy, we come together in the unity of the Holy Spirit as a priestly people. The baptized offer themselves as a spiritual sacrifice, while bishops and priests act in the person of Christ, the head of the Church.

We are familiar with the use of water, bread, wine and oil as sacramental signs and symbols. We are also accustomed to gestures such as the laying on of hands. Some of these signs are drawn from nature. Others are drawn from human culture. All sacramental signs emerged in salvation history and were taken up by Christ to convey his saving truth and love. These signs are inseparable from the words that bear their meaning and power.

The liturgy by which we share in God’s saving truth and love is to be celebrated, when possible, with music and song that beautifully express the Church’s teachings and lift our minds and hearts to God. So, too, the liturgy is celebrated in the presence of holy images, above all the image of Christ. Images of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the saints and the angels remind us that they are praying with us and for us in the liturgy of heaven.

If it is fitting that the liturgy be celebrated amid beautiful music, song and images, it is also proper that it be celebrated in sacred buildings dedicated to the worship of God. When a church is consecrated, we see clearly the sacred importance of church furnishings: the altar, the pulpit, the tabernacle, the celebrant’s chair, the baptismal font and the confessional.

Indeed, the liturgy is very rich and beautiful. It has been celebrated for nearly 2,000 years in a variety of languages and cultures (247). Amid such rich diversity there is a oneness thanks to apostolic tradition — a oneness in faith and sacramental life received from the Apostles and handed down through the centuries. It is because the Church is Catholic that she can welcome into her unity “all the authentic riches of cultures” while safeguarding what God has instituted for our salvation. The Church carefully distinguishes between those things in the liturgy that are unchangeable and those that can be rightfully adapted to human cultures the world over.

May you have a blessed Christmas, filled with the peace and joy of Christ!

# District Happenings - "Didjano That. . ."

## DISTRICT 11 - (DD Frank Moran)

. . . Brother Knight Tom O'Connor of **Smyrna Council 12386** has coached a Special Olympics Softball team for over 10 years. He decided to challenge his fellow Knights to a practice game - unbelievable evening, great game and fantastic workout. Both teams swung bats and ran as hard they could and they all lived to talk about it!



. . . Three officers of the Smyrna Police force were diagnosed with cancer and funds were needed for their treatment. **St Thomas Council #12386** stepped in to lend a helping hand. Brother Knights along with their families washed cars for donations and raised over \$675 one September Saturday.



## DISTRICT 15 - (DD Joshua Gregory)



. . . Knights of Columbus **Council 4599 of Marietta, Georgia** is a Father McGivney /Columbian Awards winner for 2009-2010 Fraternal Year. The Father McGivney Award, named after the founder of the organization, is given in recognition of outstanding membership recruitment and retention efforts. The Columbian Award is presented for excellence in sponsoring programs that serve the Church, community, families and youth – as well as council members.

## DISTRICT 16 - (DD Vin O'Reilly)

. . . Congratulations are due to the newly elected Grand Knights Gerry Lynch of the **St Brendan Council 12942 in Cumming** and Ron Simard of the **St Monica Council 12883 in Duluth**. They join re-elected Grand Knights Steve Machek of the Good Shepherd Council 13161 in Cumming and Angelo Sampona of the **St Benedict Council 10633 in Johns Creek** who led his Council to achieve Star Council status for 2009-2010.

These leaders and their Council Officers have formulated strong program plans with a focus on effective Membership Recruiting and Retention for this Fraternal Year.

Membership recruiting and retention remain the top priority for the District this year. Their Councils recognize that recruiting and retention is a 12 month priority beginning in July. First Degree Exemplifications are scheduled at the St Benedict Council in November and at the St Monica Council in December.

Each of our Councils have conducted several successful service and fundraising programs so far this year highlighted by the dedication of the new parish hall at St Benedicts parish. Countless hours were contributed by the Council members in support of this project and Grand Knight Angelo Sampona was the parish Chairman for the entire construction process as well as the dedication event.

## DISTRICT 23 - (DD Gerald Farnell)

. . . At their Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner, **Pope John Paul II Council 13808 in Greensboro** chose the Greene County Sheriff's Department as the recipient of this year's honorarium. The Council has chosen a law enforcement organization from the local area to honor at a dinner in appreciation of the work done in service of the community. The event was attended by Sheriff Houston and 17 deputies and staff. Also in attendance were 48 members of the Council and several of their spouses.

After the spaghetti dinner, Sheriff Houston presented a video of the various functions and services provided by the Greene County Sheriff Department. He then took questions from the audience and introduced several of his officers and deputies that served in specific roles.

This is the third in the series of Appreciation dinners hosted by the council - last year the Putnam Sheriff's Department was the guest of honor.



# Soldiers on the Front Lines

Excerpted From *Columbia Magazine*

Knights of Columbus have been soldiers on the front lines in all of the major wars of the 20th and 21st centuries, and our support for them, beginning with the KC Huts of the First World War, has never wavered. We have programs aimed at both active duty personnel and for veterans, as well as the families of soldiers who died in combat.

There are 1.5 million Catholics who are on active duty with the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines, as well as the National Guard and Reserves, and their families. They are found at 220 military installations in 29 countries. VA Medical Centers have more than 29,000 Catholic patients, and all of them deserve our support.

Over the past decade, we have greatly increased our efforts on behalf of this vitally important segment of our society. Four years ago, I established the position of assistant for military and veterans affairs, and since then we have made especially robust progress.

Master Chief Petty Officer Larry Forsythe, Deputy Grand Knight of Yokosuka Council 12488, escorts Supreme Knight Carl Anderson on a tour of the aircraft carrier USS George Washington.

Today, 50 of our nearly 14,000 active councils are on U.S. military bases. Three more are being developed, in Virginia, Colorado and Germany. We have 13 overseas military councils in Europe and the Far East, and a district deputy for each region. Our European military councils are in Germany, the United Kingdom and Italy. In the Far East, the councils are all in Japan and Korea. In some areas, including Iraq and Afghanistan, we rely on Round Tables.

Earlier this year, I had an opportunity to visit our military Knights at one of our newest military councils, St. Francis Xavier Council 14853 at Camp Zama, and the men of Yokosuka Council 12488, both in Japan. The deputy grand knight at Yokosuka, Master Chief Petty Officer Larry Forsythe, gave me a personal tour of the aircraft carrier *USS George Washington*, and I had the pleasure of formally installing Roger Avery as the district deputy of Far East Overseas Military District No. 2 at the Shrine of Our Lady on Mount Fuji.

Our military and overseas councils and Round Tables fill a real need in the armed forces, because there is a serious shortage of Catholic chaplains, and we often provide the only way that Catholic soldiers, sailors and airmen can share and sustain their faith while on deployment.

We work closely with Archbishop Timothy Broglio and the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. Our support includes providing military prayer books that are printed on special stock designed to withstand the rigors of the battlefield, and sized to fit in the pockets of battlefield uniforms. Last January, we delivered a new shipment of an additional 100,000 copies of *Armed with the Faith* to the archdiocese, bringing the total number of prayer books we have provided over the past six years to half a million. We have supplied 30,000 copies of a Canadian version, *Armour of Faith*, to Catholics in the Canadian armed forces.

Our programs for veterans rely heavily on the men of the Fourth Degree, who are the backbone of our relationship with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and its Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services program.

During the past Fraternal Year, the Knights of Columbus had representatives at 125 of the 153 VA Medical Centers around the U.S. Our 873 VAVS volunteers donated nearly 75,000 hours of their time to serve the veterans at these facilities.

One especially ambitious project to benefit veterans this past year involved Connecticut Knights, who raised money to purchase a specially equipped van for disabled veterans who are amputees. The brand new \$100,000 van was delivered in December, and District Deputy Gary Thomas, who managed the project from start to finish, was selected by the Department of Veterans Affairs as its outstanding Volunteer of the Year for the entire United States.

Each year, we report on those who have lost their lives during the war on terrorism in the Middle East. Since the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan began after 9/11, a total of 1,278 members of the Knights of Columbus have served there, or are serving there now. And a total of 36 Knights and two former Squires have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. Four Knights died in Afghanistan in the past year.

Connecticut State Deputy Scott Flood was among the Knights celebrating delivery of a new wheelchair-accessible van for amputee veterans, presented to the VA Medical Center in West Haven in December. District Deputy Gary Thomas organized the project, which raised \$100,000 to purchase the van, and was named Volunteer of the Year by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Army Captain Paul Peña, a member of Msgr. O'Keefe Council 8250 at West Point, was killed in an IED attack in January. He was an officer in the 82nd Airborne Division. Marine Corporal Matthew Lembke died last month at Bethesda Naval Hospital of injuries suffered in an explosion in Helmand Province in June. He was a member of Knights of the Resurrection Council 13851 in Tualatin, Ore., where 800 people attended his funeral Mass at the Church of the Resurrection.

The most recent casualty was Sgt. Maj. John Laborde, a member of our newly-formed Kandahar Round Table in Afghanistan. He was a member of St. Vincent de Paul Council 12191 in Berkley Springs, W. Va., which sponsors the Kandahar Round Table. He is survived by his wife, Lori, and five grown children. We also mourn the loss of former Army intelligence officer Harold Brown, who was killed in a suicide bombing attack in eastern Afghanistan. He was a member of St. Mary of Sorrows Council 8600 in Fairfax County, Va., and is survived by his wife Janet and three young children.

We honor the sacrifice that these men have made, and all those who have given the last full measure of devotion in our defense.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Georgia State Council  
Knights of Columbus Newsletter  
November-December, 2010**



**“Georgia - Living the Vision  
of the Venerable Father  
Michael J. McGivney”**

## Fourth Annual Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge

**By David Oatman - State Soccer Challenge Chairman**



The fourth annual Soccer Challenge will be held Sunday November 14, 2010 at Wyomia Tyus Park in Griffin, Ga. At 3:00 P.M. Registration will be at 2:30 P.M.

District Deputies please forward all the district winner forms to the State Chair.

They can be faxed to 717-735-2971 or mailed to 115 Rollinghill Dr., Williamson, Ga. 30292. Contestants have been known to show up without forms creating issues. Again trophies will be awarded for first, second and third place. First place winners will also receive a Knights of Columbus logo soccer ball. Any further questions can be sent to my email (doatman@hotmail.com) or call 770-227-5137.

We hope to see many of you there.

*(“Pro Life Activities” - Continued from page 4)*

- agencies or programs that counsel women to keep their babies or place them for adoption.
- Sponsor a “Tree for Life” program to collect baby items and supplies for unwed mothers and crisis pregnancy service centers.
- Demonstrate publicly your pro-life stance by presenting savings bonds or other gifts to the first child born at your local hospital on Columbus Day or New Year’s Day or the January 22nd anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.
- Consider presenting roses from the council to all mothers attending Mass on Mother’s Day.
- Pray the rosary to end abortion. This simple, yet effective act can have enormous impact. A poster urging the recitation of the rosary as a weapon against abortion (#2073) and a prayer card (#2072) are available at no charge from the Supply Department. Offer your rosaries publicly outside abortion clinics. Individuals or groups peacefully praying the rosary outside such facilities are highly visible and effective.

