



# THE MARINER

The Knights of Columbus  
Monsignor Dominic Blasco Council 3298  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
January, 2017

## News and Information

- ✿ We would like to wish you and your family a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!
- ✿ The **January Business Meeting** is Jan. 2nd.
- ✿ On February 11th, Sacred Heart will be hosting **Men of the Immaculata**. This will be a Day of Prayer starting at 7:30 a.m. and ending with the 4:00 pm Vigil Mass. The Knights have been asked to help out during the day with whatever is needed, from help directing people where to go, to helping with serving food, etc. If you would like to join in the Day of Prayer, the Council will pay your entry fee of \$50.00. For more info, go to [www.menoftheimmaculata.com](http://www.menoftheimmaculata.com) (It is also open to high school seniors.)
- ✿ We are looking for someone to cook for the **January Meeting**. Please call Raymond if you are able to!
- ✿ We will **NOT** be serving **Coffee and Donuts** for the Parish on Sunday, January 1st after the 9:00 am Mass.
- ✿ **Bingo dates** are January 12th, and 26th.

### “Vatican Clarifies...” (CONTINUED FROM OTHER SIDE)

Beyond respect for the deceased, the document notes that burial in a cemetery “encourages family members and the whole Christian community to pray for and remember the dead, while at the same time fostering the veneration of martyrs and saints.”

Burial prevents the forgetting of the loved one, as well as “unfitting or superstitious practices,” the document states.

For that reason, the Vatican said that cremation urns should not be kept at home, save for “grave and exceptional cases dependent on cultural conditions of a localized nature.”

But as Cardinal Müller acknowledged, the increasing use of cremations seems inexorable, and parish priests have been struggling with issues like the handling of ashes on a regular basis.

“I tell my parishioners that it’s not opportune to do so,” said the Rev. Roberto Salsa, a parish priest in the Piedmont town of Verbania in Italy, when asked about the practice of scattering ashes.

A deceased loved one, said Father Salsa, should be in a place “accessible to everyone, where they can be venerated,” so a cemetery is preferable to a home. And scattering ashes can be “misunderstood as a sort of religion of nature, while we believe in resurrection,” he said. Laws on cremation and the preservation of ashes vary. In Italy, it is legal to spread ashes, according to the will of the deceased, with authorization and in areas that local authorities have approved for the purpose.

Cremation has become increasingly popular in Italy, where 21 percent of the deceased in 2015 had opted for it. Rules vary by region and sometimes from town to town. Survivors may be allowed to bury urns inside cemeteries, keep them at home or scatter the ashes at sea or in private areas. Other European countries are also rather liberal with the preservation of ashes. In France, relatives are allowed to spread ashes, but not keep them at home. In Switzerland, human ashes can be transformed into diamonds, as in some parts of the United States. State laws regarding the disposition of ashes vary; many allow the scattering of ashes in parks or at sea, with various restrictions.

The Vatican document encourages the faithful to recall the significance of death and resurrection within the Christian tradition.

*The Next Business Meeting is....*

**Monday,  
Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**

Food—6:30 p.m.  
Rosary—6:45 p.m.

*BINGO DATES:*

**January 12<sup>th</sup>  
and  
January 26<sup>th</sup>**



*To these members  
born in January:*

Mario Marretta – 6th  
Michael DiVincenti – 9th  
Fred Weimer, Jr. – 10th  
Brian Harrell – 11th  
Keith Rodney – 19th  
David Currier – 21st  
Nicholas Courville – 23rd  
Jessie Joseph, Sr. – 24th

**Jackpots!**

The Large Jackpot Winner was present at the December Meeting, and received his cash prize!! Want to have a chance to win? Attend the monthly meetings! You also get a great free meal!

# The Mariner

Knights of Columbus # 3298  
Monsignor Dominic Blasco Council  
2250 Main Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-3198

Place  
Stamp  
Here

## Good of the Order

By Davis Hotard, P. G. K.

### Vatican clarifies rules on cremation

VATICAN CITY — Ashes to ashes is fine, the Vatican says, as long as you don't spread them around.

On Tuesday, the Vatican responded to what it called an "unstoppable increase" in cremation and issued guidelines barring the scattering of ashes "in the air, on land, at sea or in some other way."

The Vatican decreed that the ashes of loved ones have no place in the home, and certainly not in jewelry. It urged that cremated remains be preserved in cemeteries or other approved sacred places.

The instructions, which reiterate the Roman Catholic Church's preference for burial over cremation, are in line with previous teachings. But local bishops' conferences had requested doctrinal clarification because cremation has become increasingly popular and because there were "no specific canonical norms" for preserving ashes, according to Cardinal Gerhard Ludwig Müller, the prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which drafted the guidelines.

The new guidelines, which Pope Francis approved this year, were released ahead of All Souls Day, which falls on Nov. 2 for Catholics, who are called to remember and pray for those who have died.

The church banned cremation for centuries, but began to allow the practice in 1963, as long as it is not done for reasons at odds with Christian doctrine. Burials are deeply embedded in Christian tradition, and in the United States and elsewhere many dioceses still run graveyards and cemeteries, though cremation and other alternatives are on the rise.

"We are facing a new challenge for the evangelization of death," Cardinal Müller said at a news conference on Tuesday, discussing the centrality of death and resurrection for Christians. He emphasized the church's "doctrinal and pastoral reasons" for burial, which it "continues to insistently recommend." Cardinal Müller added: "We believe in the resurrection of the body, so burial is the normal form for the Christian faithful, especially Catholics, whom we are addressing with this document."

In that spirit, the document explains, the church cannot "condone attitudes or permit rites that involve erroneous ideas about death, such as considering death as the definitive annihilation of the person, or the moment of fusion with Mother Nature or the universe, or as a stage in the cycle of regeneration, or as the definitive liberation from the 'prison' of the body."

"The cadaver of a deceased person is not the private property of the family, but the deceased is the son of God, part of the body of Christ, of the people of God," Cardinal Müller said. He added that public funerals expressed the spirit of communion.

"We have to overcome the thought of being too individualistic," he said, calling the family unit "part of the great family of Christ." Joshua Slocum, the executive director of the Funeral Consumers Alliance, a nonprofit group in South Burlington, Vt., that combats exploitative practices in the funeral industry, said cremations in the United States began steadily rising in the early 1960s. By some estimates, he said, they may have surpassed traditional burials. "The traditional idea of everyone in a family being buried in one cemetery plot in a hometown really belongs to a different era," he said.

The trend is likely to continue, he said, given that more Americans are opting not to affiliate with organized religions. "Of those who choose cremation," he said, "I think we'll see more people choosing to keep ashes at home or scattering them rather than placing them in cemeteries."

(CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE)

Please keep in your prayers Sam Sylvester, Raymond Calandro, and Davis Hotard. Please pray for any Knights or members of any Knight's family that you know of that is sick or in distress. If you know of any Brother Knight or a family member who is sick or in distress, please call Davis Hotard at 387-1578.

## 2015—2016 Council Leadership

Chaplain	Rev. Miles Walsh	
Grand Knight	Raymond Calandro	927-0312
Deputy Grand Knight	Karl Robillard	751-1433
Chancellor	Patrick Graham, Jr.	751-1433
Recorder	Wallace Powelle	923-2375
Financial Secretary	Eric Miller	752-3701
Treasurer	Danny Miller	
Warden	John Lofaso	343-5268
Inner Guard	Sam Sylvester	358-1619
Outer Guard	Tim Joyce	926-2737
Advocate	Michael DiVincenti	
1 yr. Trustee	Frank Fertitta	405-4400
2 yr. Trustee	James Rodney	
3 yr. Trustee	Charles Pecquet	907-3497
Lecturer	Carroll DiBenedetto	927-2869
Program Director	Raymond Calandro	927-0312
Church Director	Charles Pecquet	907-3497
Youth Director	Davis Hotard	387-1578
Public Relations	Davis Hotard	387-1578
Community Director	To Be Appointed	
Council Director	To Be Appointed	
Retention Chair	To Be Appointed	
Vocations Chair	Jeffrey Hotard	755-1874
Membership Chair	To Be Appointed	
Recruitment Chair	Eric Miller	752-3701
Pro-Life Chair	Frank Fertitta	405-4400
Insurance Agent	Dustin Dean	247-8442