



# THE MARINER

The Knights of Columbus  
Monsignor Dominic Blasco Council 3298  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
November, 2016

## News and Information

✘ At the October Business Meeting, we voted and approved the **budget** for this fiscal year. One of the items added was funds for helping Sacred Heart Church in completing the Parish Activity Center, formerly known as the CYO Building.

✘ Thank you to all of our Brother Knights for their **support and help for flood victims**. Please also let us know if we left anyone out in our support!

✘ On Sunday, October 30th, the one-woman play, **"Faustina, Messenger of Divine Mercy"** will be presented in the new Parish Activity Center. Tickets are \$10. You can find out more about this wonderful play at <http://www.stlukeproductions.com/dramas/faustina>. We encourage everyone to attend if possible.

✘ October 30th is **Divine Mercy Sunday**.

✘ We will be serving **Coffee and Donuts** for the Parish on Sunday, November 6th after the 9:00 am Mass. Please come out and help and enjoy the fellowship!

✘ **Bingo date is November 17th**. We can always use the help!! Note: There is no Bingo on November 4th as the Hall is being used by another club for a Super Bingo.

*The Next Business Meeting is....*

**Monday,  
Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Food—6:30 p.m.  
Rosary—6:45 p.m.**

*BINGO DATES:*

**November 17<sup>th</sup>**



*To these members  
born in November:*

Wayne Stabiler — 6th  
Aaron Cherry — 7th  
Rev. Donald Blanchard — 10th  
Michael Divincenti, Jr. — 10th  
Danny Miller — 16th  
Jeffrey Hotard — 21st  
Anthony Politz, Jr. — 21st  
Nolan Graham — 22nd  
Brian Dykes — 29th

**Jackpots!**

The November Large Jackpot Winner was absent. Want to have a chance to win? Attend the monthly meetings! You also get a great free meal!



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# 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.*

## McDonald’s at the Vatican?

McDonald’s, the fast food restaurant chain, is planning to open a branch on the small square next to the colonnade of Saint Peter’s in Rome. This small square once was the site of a bus terminus, and the restaurant would be on the ground floor of a building owned by the Vatican, which houses the flats of several Cardinals. Their Eminences are not happy.

The Vatican owns numerous properties in Rome, many of which are rented out for peppercorn rents. One assumes this is one of the things the ongoing financial reforms will address: that is, getting a proper return on these properties, which may involve dealing with squatters, or evicting those who have not paid their rent for years, or negotiating with sitting tenants. After all, the Vatican needs the money. Hence, when McDonald’s comes calling, offering a very good rent for a prime property, well, it must be an answer to the prayers of APSA, the agency that deals with the Vatican’s holdings. The site is a good one, perfect for catching the numerous tourists who mill around the area all day; the rent, accordingly, will be handsome.

Italians, however, are far from enamoured of McDonald’s or indeed foreign food in general. Italy is the home of the “slow food” movement which aims to protect local culinary customs, and which arose out of the original protests against McDonald’s first opening in Rome in 1986.

There is a perception in Italy that Italian cuisine, so dear to Italian hearts, is under threat from foreign imports like McDonald’s. This perception may not be wrong. So one can see why people may very well object to having something so unItalian so close to Saint Peter’s Square. It strikes a discordant and dissonant note. It represents a new barbarian invasion.

Perhaps in the end the objection to McDonald’s is simply that as something unItalian and thus, one suspects, vulgar, it has no place just outside the walls of the Vatican. But the truth is that there is a need for some sort of cheap and fast food outlet near the Vatican, as anyone who has ever been into one of the overpriced cafés on the Via della Conciliazione will testify. And as for vulgarity, McDonald’s is a great deal less of an eyesore than all the traders selling cheap tat to tourists, whose stalls are just outside the perimeter of Saint Peter’s Square.

In the end this is another argument about globalisation. Is Rome destined to be host to all the other great chains? Will Starbucks drive out the numerous small bars and coffee shops? What will happen to the pizza al taglio places, which sell slices of pizza to take away? Or the rosticceria, that sell ready cooked chickens? Come to think of it, are the tavole calde, the canteen style restaurants, doomed? But can we really hold back the tide of global trends? Contrary to what was said back in the 1980’s, Italians have got to like McDonald’s hamburgers as much as most other people do. And as for McDonald’s being anti-Catholic, it has in fact shown, historically, an ability to adapt to different cultural settings.

The unhappy Cardinals may be annoyed that they will soon be living above a hamburger joint, but unless APSA undertakes to open a typically Italian food outlet at a heavily subsidized rent, their Eminences will, like the rest of us, have to adapt to changing times.

Please keep in your prayers all in need who have experienced losses in the recent floods. 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 Fertita	405-4400
Insurance Agent	Dustin Dean	247-8442