

# Newsletter

Knights of Columbus  
Council 12833  
*Mater Ecclesiae*

Meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday of every month.



## OFFICERS 2007-2008

Grand Knight: ..... James J Delaney	Deputy G. K.: ..... Henry Verrecchia	Chancellor: ..... Richard Werkley
Treasurer: ..... Donald Marion	Advocate: ..... Sam DiStefano	Recorder: ..... William Gedgard
Warden: ..... Martin Howlett	Inside Guard: ..... William Roscioli	Outside Guard: ..... Dominick Schuster
Trustee (1 <sup>st</sup> Year): Carmen De Giacomo	Trustee (2 <sup>nd</sup> Year): ... David O'Kane	Trustee (3 <sup>rd</sup> Year):.. Benedict Paratore
	Lecturer: ..... Ronald Capolla	

February a.D. 2008

## ANNOUNCING A MARIAN PRAYER PROGRAM

Each year the Knights of Columbus provide an icon which is passed from council to council for devotional use. This year it is an icon of Our Lady of Charity (*Nuestra Señora del la Caridad del Cobre*).

*Mater Ecclesiae* Council 12833 will be utilizing the icon for a Marian Prayer Program on 11th February at 7:30 p.m. in the church. All members are encouraged to attend and to bring their wife, children, or other guests. Other parishioners are invited to attend; there will be an announcement of this event in the Bulletin.

In addition to the recitation of the rosary, the program will consist of other devotional prayers to Our Lady under the title *Nuestra Señora del la Caridad del Cobre* along with the singing of Marian hymns. The Holy Father and his intentions will be remembered, also.

To read more about devotion to *La Virgen de la Caridad* go to:

<http://www.kofc.org/un/publications/columbia/detail.cfm?id=458998> .

Vivat Jesus!

## **COLOUR CORPS**

The next Colour Corps event will be as follows:

6th February  
Wednesday  
7:30 pm  
Mass for the Feast of Ash Wednesday

We have two extra sets of Regalia, so if you have taken the Fourth Degree and own a tuxedo, you are welcome to participate. Contact our Colour Corps commander, GK Jim Delaney, on +1 856 693 1143 for details.

## **HOAGIE SALE**

There are no Hoagie Sales scheduled at this time.

## **NOCTURNAL ADORATION**

Due to the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Candlemas), and the preparations for it, there will be no Nocturnal Adoration in February. Also, there will be no Nocturnal Adoration in March as First Saturday will precede First Friday in that month. All are welcome to participate in future months. Contact our Nocturnal Adoration coordinator, PGK Danny Fean, on +1 856 981 3258 for details.

## **BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN**

The Council's Baby Bottle Campaign to raise funds for the pro-life cause will commence with the distribution of the baby bottles after Mass beginning on Ash Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February. All bottles would be returned to the Council by Low Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> March. Funds raised in the campaign will be given to National Life Center (First Way). Please help with the campaign.

## **SAINT PATRICK'S PARTY**

The Saint Patrick's Party will be held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Please buy your tickets soon.

## SCRIPTURAL ROSARY

By Brother Dave O’Kane

The Mater Ecclesiae Knights of Columbus Council No. 12833 begins each Monday night meeting by reciting the Scriptural Rosary. The meetings are held on Mondays so the Joyful Mysteries are usually said. Because we are a Traditional Latin Mass Church, the Council has adopted the verses of Scripture as recorded in the Rheims New Testament. These verses can be traced back to St. Jerome, and his classic work, the Latin Vulgate Bible.

By the early 4<sup>th</sup> century a confusing variety of Scriptures in Latin, and other languages, were in circulation throughout the young church. Pope Damasus commissioned his secretary, Jerome, a biblical scholar, to produce a new Latin revision of the New Testament. He corrected the Old Latin versions by referring to the earlier Greek texts; these ancient Greek texts have been lost to us. He completed the work around 382 A.D.

He began work on translating the Old Testament into Latin, again correcting the existing Old Latin versions, but comparing them with the early Greek translation of the Hebrew texts known as the Septuagint, which dates back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C. Because he became a scholar of Hebrew during this time, he soon set aside the Greek texts and referred to the Hebrew texts available to him to continue his translations into Latin. These ancient texts are also lost to us.

Probably because of the influence of the rabbinical scholars that were assisting him in this effort, he favoured the Palestinian canon, which left out the 7 deuterocanonical books (Tobit, Judith, 1 & 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, and Baruch). Persuaded by St. Augustine to comply with the Magisterium, he did include these 7 books in his Latin Vulgate, but 1 & 2 Maccabees, Wisdom Sirach & Baruch he lifted directly from the Old Latin. He completed this work around 404 A.D.

Because St. Jerome had available to him ancient texts that are no longer available to us, his translations into Latin may be the best example of the original readings of the Greek and Hebrew texts.

In 1565, a college for the training of priests was founded at Douai, Flanders. In 1578 the college moved to Rheims, France, where the Latin Vulgate New Testament was translated into English. Eventually the college returned to Douai, where the Vulgate Old Testament was translated into English, and published in 1609-10. In 1635 the Douai-Rheims Old and New Testaments were published together. Around 1750 Bishop Challoner thoroughly revised the work and modernized archaic language.

## LECTURER'S CORNER

By Brother Ron Capolla

Is the star of Bethlehem myth, mystery, accepted on faith, or fact? A non-profit organization called the "Star Project" has combined historical scholarship, astronomical fact, and biblical writings, including St. Matthew's account of Jesus' birth, to find out.

There are three factors they state that lead to modern evidence of the star's actual existence, namely Johannes Kepler's discovery of how the solar system worked, improvements in knowledge of first century history, and computers.

The first factor in trying to find the Bethlehem star starts with astronomy. Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) was one of the greatest mathematical minds ever. He was able to calculate the exact positions of all the stars and planets in the night sky and not just for one night but for any day in history as viewed from any place on earth. And thanks to Kepler, we can locate celestial objects with great precision and therefore can calculate what the sky over Jerusalem looked like 2000 years ago.

The second factor is the historical and accurate dating of Jesus' birth. Most of the ancients contended that Jesus was born in 3 or 2 BC. However, in Kepler's time a misinterpretation of the writings of the ancient Jewish historian Flavius Josephus (37AD-95AD) concluded that Christ was born before 4 BC. Kepler had an interest in finding the star but never was able to do so due to this misinterpretation. But a recent study of the earliest manuscripts of Josephus held by the British library revealed that a copying error was the primary cause of the confusion. Josephus' writings infer that Herod died in 1 BC shortly after Jesus' birth. Therefore, Jesus was born in 3 or 2 BC. Thus, the modern search for the "star" by the Star Project was limited to the night skies of these years.

The third factor in discovering the Bethlehem star is the use of modern day computers to locate it in the night skies over Jerusalem 2000 years ago. With computer software that incorporates Kepler's equations, we can now view the sky precisely as it moved over Jerusalem then.

Based on the above and working with the biblical account of St. Matthew, a list of nine (9) "qualifications" for the Bethlehem star was compiled:

1. It signified birth.
2. It signified kingship.
3. It had a connection to the Jewish nation.
4. It rose in the east, like other stars.
5. It appeared at a precise time.
6. Herod didn't know when it appeared.
7. It endured over time.

8. It was ahead of the Magi as they went south from Jerusalem to Bethlehem.
9. It stopped over Bethlehem.

Using these qualifications to find the star in the night sky over Jerusalem the night that Jesus was born, meteors, comets and novas were eliminated since they do not meet all of the “qualifications”. So what does this leave? A reasonable hypothesis is that the star must have been something in the normal night sky which anyone could see but was striking when explained. As you can recall King Herod had to ask the Magi when the star had appeared.

What then is left to identify the Bethlehem star in that “normal night sky” 2000 years ago?

That leaves planets. The search leads to Jupiter which is the largest planet of our solar system. It was called from ancient times, the King Planet and was considered a “wandering star” as were all planets in those days. And since Jupiter was considered kingly (qualification #1), it also suggested the announcement of a kingly birth (qualification #2). But to be the star of Bethlehem [thus connected with the Jewish nation (qualification #3)], Jupiter would also need to do some peculiar things as seen from earth by the Magi and would need to satisfy all six remaining qualifications.

In September of 3 BC (qualification #5) at the time of the Jewish New Year, Rosh ha-Shanah, Jupiter began to do peculiar things. The Magi that September would have observed two objects moving so close to each other that they appeared to touch. This close approach of celestial bodies is sometimes called a “conjunction”. Thus they saw Jupiter coming into close conjunction with the star “Regulus” meaning regal or kingly. This conjunction of the “King of Planets” and the “Star of Kings” may have indicated kingship in a forceful way to the Magi. Because Jupiter glides slowly past Regulus about every 12 years, the Magi, depending on their ages, may have seen such a pass two or three times before. Jupiter moves over time and rises like other stars from the east (qualification #4) and passes through the starry sky. Jupiter also appears to reverse course and move backward. In astronomy this optical effect is called retrograde motion. And in 3 BC (qualification #5), Jupiter had such a conjunction with Regulus and then went into retrograde and then back to Regulus a second time. Finally it did this a third time which apparently is rare. Thus the Magi watching this would have seen Jupiter “dance” above the Star of Kings (Regulus). This peculiar thing would certainly have caught the Magi’s attention and they would have seen this as a “coronation” if you will.

By the following June, Jupiter had a rendezvous with Venus. **THIS CONJUNCTION WAS SO BRIGHT** that the planets could not be distinguished from each other. This is displayed today in hundreds of planetaria around the

world not because of Jesus' birth but because what Jupiter did at that time makes such a great show.

When the Magi arrived in Jerusalem presumably describing the timing of events starting in September of 3 BC and continuing through June of 2 BC (qualification #7), Herod wanted to know when the star had appeared (qualification #6)

As the Magi made their way south from Jerusalem to Bethlehem in December of 2 BC, the Magi in the wee hours of the morning would have seen the Planet of Kings, Jupiter hanging (due to its retrograde motion) over the city of the Messiah's birth (qualification #7).

And as you probably have guessed, in retrograde, Jupiter, the "wandering star", stopped over the little town of Bethlehem on December 25<sup>th</sup> in 2 BC!

### **NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION**

It is the intent of the Council that distribution of this monthly newsletter is to be by e-mail to the greatest extent possible. If you received this month's newsletter by surface mail but do have internet access, it is requested that you send an e-mail to: [wrg@snip.net](mailto:wrg@snip.net). In this way future editions of the newsletter can be sent to you by e-mail. This month **17** copies of the newsletter have to be sent by surface mail.

**Our next meeting is on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> February.**

**Join with your brother Knights in reciting Our Lady's Rosary at 7:30 pm; the meeting follows at 8:00 pm.**

**Vivat Jesus!**