



# The Encyclical



See us on the web: [www.kofca730.org](http://www.kofca730.org) e-mail articles to : [Powellcouncil@koc3488.com](mailto:Powellcouncil@koc3488.com) June 2007

## FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR'S MESSAGE

My Brother Sir Knights:

This is my last column as Faithful Navigator and it gives me great pleasure to have led a stalwart group of men who never hesitated to step up and offer encouragement and support.

To my fellow officers and council chairmen, thank you for attending meetings and helping our Assembly run smooth thru out the year.

To the finest Commander James Cunningham P.F.N. and his guardsmen, the Honor Guard/Color Corps is the visible face of our Assembly and the Knights of Columbus. I thank you for your unselfish donation of time and effort.

I wish our new Faithful Navigator and his officers well and pledge them my full support.



Fraternally Yours In Christ,  
*S.K. Charles L. DiPrima*

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

I would like to congratulate the two winners of the 2007 Pope John XXIII Assembly Scholarship Essay Contest. First place winner of \$500.00 goes to David Michael Colombo grandson of Robert Klouda of Sign of The Cross Council. Second place winner of \$250.00 goes to Allison E. Bohman granddaughter of Bob Coyne, PGK, FDD, PFN of Msgr. Delaney Council. Both winners were invited to the June Assembly meeting.

*Ed Mc Kee, PGK*  
Faithful Captain  
Faithful Navigator - Elect

## Nominations 2007

The following Sir Knights have been elected for the following offices for the coming Columbian year:

Faithful Navigator: SK Ed McKee PGK  
Faithful Captain: SK Kevin Finnegan PGK  
Faithful Pilot: SK Tom Liddy  
Faithful Admiral SK Charlie DiPrima DGK  
Faithful Comptroller: Norbert Wengler PGK  
Faithful Purser: SK Wayne Sturges PFN PGK  
Faithful Scribe: SK Winston Delpesh PGK  
Faithful Inner Sentinel: SK Richard Fox GK  
Faithful Outer Sentinel: SK Jim Morrongello  
Faithful 3-year Trustee: SK Ron Brindle PFN GK

Congratulations to our new officers, and best wishes for the coming Columbian year, from Pope John XXIII Assembly!



This photo taken by Kathleen Lyons at Uniondale Memorial Day Parade The Pope John XXIII Assembly Honor Guard is available for wakes, masses, and parades. To request the Guard for parades and masses, kindly contact Commander PFN Jim Cunningham or (effective July 1st) Faithful Navigator Ed McKee in writing 30 days before your event. In case of wakes, both may be contacted immediately.

We could also use more Guardsmen. The skills required are very easy to learn, and PFN Jim Cunningham and the guys love to teach and support new Guardsmen. We'll even loan you the equipment (but you'll have to buy your own tuxedo). Contact the Commander.



## RESPECT LIFE

*(Respectfully Submitted Ed Mc Kee, Faithful Navigator, Pro-Life Chairman)*

There is room for everyone in the pro-life movement. No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.

### GOVERNOR SUBMITS EXTREME ABORTION PROPOSAL;

### SENATE RULES COMMITTEE INTRODUCES THE RADICAL BILL.

On April 25, 2007, Governor Eliot Spitzer submitted Governor's Program Bill #16 called the "Reproductive Health and Privacy Protection Act." His stated intent is to "enshrine the protections of Roe v Wade into the New York State law." The Governor believes that the Gonzales v. Carhart decision of the U.S. Supreme Court (April 18, 2007), which upheld a ban on partial-birth abortion, threatens the future of a "woman's right to choose and her right to privacy." His bill would go far beyond Roe v. Wade.

- Force all hospitals to allow abortions, including religious hospitals and others whose mission statements oppose it;
- Force all insurance plans, including those of Catholic employers, to cover abortion;
- Legalize abortion through all nine months of pregnancy, for virtually any reason;
- Make abortion immune from any reasonable state regulation such as parental notification or informed consent;
- Repeal current law that requires doctors to perform abortions and allow any "health care practitioner" to provide it;
- Allow late-term abortions to be performed in clinics that do not offer the full complement of support facilities necessary to assist women and any child born alive during an abortion.

While this bill has not yet been formally introduced in the Assembly, on May 14 the Senate Rules Committee introduced this radical bill (S.5829) and referred it to the Senate Health committee. For the sake of pregnant women and their unborn children, this legislation must be strongly opposed! Please take a few minutes to communicate your strong opposition to this proposal. Write to Senator Joseph Bruno, the Senate Majority Leader, Senator Kemp Hannon, the Senate Health Committee Chairman, and your own elected State Senator.

Hon. Joseph Bruno	Hon. Kemp Hannon	Hon. (name)
NYS Senate	NYS Senate	NYS Senate
909 Legislative Bldg.	501 State Capitol Bldg.	Legislative Office Bldg.
Albany NY 122247	Albany NY 12247	Albany NY 12247
518-455-3191	518-455-2200	518-455-2800
bruno@senate.state.ny.us	hannon@senate.state.ny.us	www.senate.state.ny.us

You can also communicate with your elected officials through the New York State Catholic Conference web site at [www.nycatholic.org](http://www.nycatholic.org). Click the "Take Action" button to bring you to an Action Alert already prepared on the vital issue.

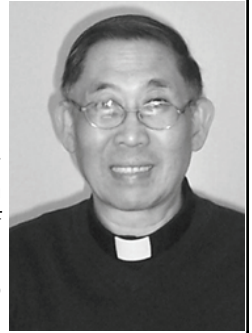
**Next Encyclical deadline is the last week in July. The Summer issue will go out at the end of July.**

## The Encyclical June 2007 Page Three

*(the following article is reprinted with permission from the May 9, 2007 Long Island Catholic)*

### Jubilarian recalls that three very different people impacted his vocation

By Pete Sheehan, The Long Island Catholic



Garden City — While growing up in the Philippines, recalls Father Rudyferio Pesongco, three very different people affected his vocation — his mother, President Ferdinand Marcos, and Pope John Paul II. In different ways, said Father Pesongco, now associate pastor at St. Anne's Church in Garden City, each of those played a role in how he saw his faith and the decisions that he made. He was one of five children in his family, Father Pesongco said. His father was a laborer and his mother was a catechist, dedicated to the church and to passing on the faith. Their family was also active in the Legion of Mary.

He attended public schools. One day at a gathering sponsored by the Legion of Mary, he met several students from his diocesan preparatory seminary. "They were playing ball, and they were very nice," Father Pesongco said. So he decided to go there. He enjoyed the school, his teachers, and his fellow students. He was still not seriously thinking about the priesthood when he completed the preparatory seminary, but he decided to attend the college level seminary because he enjoyed the education he was receiving. In his second year, Father Pesongco said, he began to think more seriously. "This was the time of President Marcos," the dictator who had declared martial law. His regime was criticized for human rights abuses and for his lavish lifestyle. Many church leaders spoke out against the Marcos regime. During this time of tumult, Father Pesongco said, he started thinking seriously about the priesthood. "Maybe the priesthood was a way to help my people." Father Pesongco entered the major seminary but was still uncertain.

During the later years of Father Pesongco's seminary studies, Pope John Paul II visited the Philippines. Father Pesongco was impressed by how the pope sought to connect with the people. "He spoke to the people's concerns," and he visited the shrine in the Diocese of Jaro. "That is in my diocese," Father Pesongco said. The pope's visit "made a powerful impression on me."

On May 10, 1982, he was ordained a priest of the Jaro Diocese. Father Pesongco will celebrate the 25th anniversary of his ordination as a priest June 3 at the 11:45 a.m. Mass at St. Anne's. An informal reception will follow.

His first assignment was at a small parish in a rural area. "I enjoyed it," he said. The people were supportive and appreciative. "People would send me fresh fish." After his first year, his bishop sent him for further studies in catechetics at the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome and later for doctoral studies in pastoral theology at the Lateran University in Rome. There, he met Pope John Paul several times. "He told me to be a faithful priest." During summer breaks, Father Pesongco came to minister in the Rockville Centre Diocese, serving in different parishes. After completing his studies, he returned to the Philippines and was assigned as a seminary professor and later headed a catechetical program for his diocese. "There were 3,700 catechists. I enjoyed working with them. "Many of them were simple in their understanding of the faith, but they have experience of life and faith that they could share," Father Pesongco said. He focused on bolstering their understanding to enhance their ability to relate their experiences to the truths of the faith.

In 2002, Father Pesongco said, he received permission to minister in the Rockville Centre Diocese. His first assignment was to St. Anthony of Padua Church, East Northport. In 2005, he was assigned to St. Anne's here as associate pastor. "It is a very good parish, and I have gotten to be very involved," Father Pesongco said. In addition to his sacramental duties, he works with the parish Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program and the parish Nocturnal Adoration Society.

He is also chaplain for the local council of the Knights of Columbus. Father Pesongco praised the Knights not only for their service to the church and for people in need, such as the unborn and people with mental retardation, but also for engaging men in church activities.

"I also like to go to the parish school," he said, "and say 'hi, hello' to the students."

Editor's Note: In addition to being Chaplain for Msgr. John Seidenschwang council, Fr. Rudy, as he's known among the Knights, is also one of the Chaplains for the Nassau Chapter, and Chaplain for the Nassau Board of District Deputies. He became a Sir Knight for Pope John XXIII Assembly in October, 2005. Congratulations Fr. Rudy on your 25th anniversary from Pope John XXIII Assembly!

## The Encyclical June 2007 Page Four

The following is courtesy of Dr. Anthony Battista, SK, Msgr. Seidenschwang Council.

### A look at The Star Spangled Banner

Unless you know all four stanzas of the Star Spangled Banner you may find this most interesting. Perhaps most of you didn't realize what Francis Scott Key's profession was or what he was doing on a ship. This is a good brush-up on your history. Near the end of his life, the great science fiction author Isaac Asimov wrote a short story about the four stanzas of our national anthem. However brief, this well-circulated piece is an eye opener from the dearly departed doctor.

"I have a weakness -- I am crazy, absolutely nuts, about our national anthem. The words are difficult and the tune is almost impossible, but frequently when I'm taking a shower I sing it with as much power and emotion as I can. It shakes me up every time."

### NO REFUGE COULD SAVE : BY DR. ISAAC ASIMOV

I was once asked to speak at a luncheon. Taking my life in my hands, I announced I was going to sing our national anthem -- all four stanzas. This was greeted with loud groans. One man closed the door to the kitchen, where the noise of dishes and cutlery was loud and distracting. "Thanks, Herb," I said. "That's all right," he said. "It was at the request of the kitchen staff."

I explained the background of the anthem and then sang all four stanzas. Let me tell you, those people had never heard it before -- or had never really listened. I got a standing ovation. But it was not me; it was the anthem.

More recently, while conducting a seminar, I told my students the story of the anthem and sang all four stanzas. Again there was a wild ovation and prolonged applause. And again, it was the anthem and not me. So now let me tell you how it came to be written.

In 1812, the United States went to war with Great Britain, primarily over freedom of the seas. We were in the right. For two years, we held off the British, even though we were still a rather weak country. Great Britain was in a life and death struggle with Napoleon. In fact, just as the United States declared war, Napoleon marched off to invade Russia. If he won, as everyone expected, he would control Europe, and Great Britain would be isolated. It was no time for her to be involved in an American war.

At first, our seamen proved better than the British. After we won a battle on Lake Erie in 1813, the American commander, Oliver Hazard Perry, sent the message, "We have met the enemy and they are ours." However, the weight of the British navy beat down our ships eventually. New England, hard-hit by a tightening blockade, threatened secession.

Meanwhile, Napoleon was beaten in Russia and in 1814 was forced to abdicate. Great Britain now turned its attention to the United States, launching a three-pronged attack. The northern prong was to come down Lake Champlain toward New York and seize parts of New England. The southern prong was to go up the Mississippi, take New Orleans and paralyze the west. The central prong was to head for the mid-Atlantic states and then attack Baltimore, the greatest port south of New York. If Baltimore was taken, the nation, which still hugged the Atlantic coast, could be split in two. The fate of the United States, then, rested to a large extent on the success or failure of the central prong.

The British reached the American coast, and on August 24, 1814, took Washington, D.C. Then they moved up the Chesapeake Bay toward Baltimore. On September 12, they arrived and found 1,000 men in Fort McHenry, whose guns controlled the harbor. If the British wished to take Baltimore, they would have to take the fort. On one of the British ships was an aged physician, William Beanes, who had been arrested in Maryland and brought along as a prisoner. Francis Scott Key, a lawyer and friend of the physician, had come to the ship to negotiate his release.

The British captain was willing, but the two Americans would have to wait. It was now the night of September 13, and the bombardment of Fort McHenry was about to start. As twilight deepened, Key and Beanes saw the American flag flying over Fort McHenry. Through the night, they heard bombs bursting and saw the red glare of rockets. They knew the fort was resisting and the American flag was still flying. But toward morning the bombardment ceased, and a dread silence fell. Either Fort McHenry had surrendered and the British flag flew above it, or the bombardment had failed and the American flag still flew.

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As dawn began to brighten the eastern sky, Key and Beanes stared out at the fort, trying to see which flag flew over it. He and the physician must have asked each other over and over, "Can you see the flag?" After it was all finished, Key wrote a four stanza poem telling the events of the night. Called "The Defense of Fort McHenry," it was published in newspapers and swept the nation. Someone noted that the words fit an old English tune called, "To Anacreon in Heaven" – a difficult melody with an uncomfortably large vocal range.

For obvious reasons, Key's work became known as "The Star Spangled Banner," and in 1931 Congress declared it the official anthem of the United States. Now that you know the story, here are the words. Presumably, the old doctor is speaking. This is what he asks Key:

*Oh! say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.  
Oh! say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave,  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

("Ramparts," in case you don't know, are the protective walls or other elevations that surround a fort.) The first stanza asks a question. The second gives an answer:

*On the shore, dimly seen thro' the mist of the deep  
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,  
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,  
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?  
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,  
In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream  
'Tis the star-spangled banner. Oh! long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!*

"The towering steep" is again, the ramparts. The bombardment has failed, and the British can do nothing more but sail away, their mission a failure. In the third stanza I feel Key allows himself to gloat over the American triumph. In the aftermath of the bombardment, Key probably was in no mood to act otherwise. During World War I when the British were our staunchest allies, this third stanza was not sung. However, I know it, so here it is:

*And where is that band who so vauntingly swore  
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion  
A home and a country should leave us no more?  
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.  
No refuge could save the hireling and slave  
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave,  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

(The fourth stanza, a pious hope for the future, should be sung more slowly than the other three and with even deeper feeling):

*Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand  
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation,  
Blest with victory and peace, may the Heaven - rescued land  
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.  
Then conquer we must, for our cause is just,  
And this be our motto – "In God is our trust."  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

I hope you will look at the national anthem with new eyes. Listen to it, the next time you have a chance, with new ears. Pay attention to the words. And don't let them ever take it away ... not even one word of it.

# The Encyclical June 2007 Page Six

**POPE JOHN XXIII ASSEMBLY  
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**Encyclical Deadline** is now the last week  
of the month, at the Assembly meetings.  
(the sooner I get information, the sooner I  
can get out the Encyclical)  
If you're on the e-mail list, you'll get your  
Encyclical up to two weeks sooner than  
snail-mail. See my contact info below.

*Mike Dragonetti*

## 50-50 drawing

Every meeting we give away money to one lucky winner.  
The more players we get, the higher that monthly prize  
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**It's loaded with Assembly items.**

**And if you have items that can't wait until the  
next Encyclical, send them to SK Brian Ennis at  
the Assembly website!**

## Faithfully Speaking

Apologies are in order here. For some reason the PowelliteEditor e-  
mail address is misbehaving and didn't forward your articles, so use  
**Powellcouncil@koc3488.com** until I get the matter resolved.

I would also like to apologize to the Piccone and Adamo families.  
When I received e-mails on their passing from my sources, the  
names were given to me spelled incorrectly. So please keep sending  
me names of deceased Sir Knights (and of course, make sure I have  
the proper spelling)

I would also like to apologize to those birthdays I've missed along the  
way. I'm going to double-check my list make sure I get everyone in.  
I like to put them in when I get the space. If you have something  
you'd like to see in the Encyclical, send it along to:

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Uniondale, NY, 11553-2131  
(516) 481-2578  
Powellcouncil@koc3488.com