

## **COLLECTION FOR SHADY GROVE PREGNANCY CENTER**

The Council has provided much support for pro-life issues this past year, such as letter writing, collecting email addresses, attending the March for Life, raising funds for the Maryland State Council ultrasound program, and participating in the tootsie roll campaign, to name some of the initiatives of the Council. But perhaps the one of the most important ways the Council supports pro-life activities also happens to be the main attraction of the Council Christmas party; raising funds and providing material support for those in need at Shady Grove Pregnancy Center.

The Council Christmas party was held on Saturday afternoon from 12:30 to 4:30, December 11, 2010. The Council luncheon at Father Cuddy Hall was hosted by Brother Wingo (Worthy Lecturer of Montgomery Council #2323), assisted by his wife Claire and sons Jimmy and Joey, Wilber prepared turkey and ham and asked all attendees to bring a side dish (A-M) or desert (L-Z). All attendees were asked to bring either a cash donation or an item for the pregnancy center. The Sullivan Brothers Assembly was also invited and collected socks for our wounded military.

One aspect of the luncheon, critical to raising funds but also just fun, was Brother Wilber providing more than his usual "The Good of the Order". As everyone was finishing eating and in the best of spirits, conversing with friends, having desert with coffee, Wilber pulled out 15 or so lottery tickets and began asking questions. Tom Reilly, PGK, assisted Wilber (pictured on the next page). A wrong answer cost \$1, a silly answer cost even more, and answering out of turn still even more. For example, to the question of who invented champagne, the answer "Miller" (as in Miller High Life, the champagne of bottled beer, cost \$3; the right answer was the English). However, knowing the goal of the event was to raise funds to support the pregnancy center, all participated in the game with gusto. This year the Council raised \$425 in direct support, with \$100 coming from the trivia game, and a carload of diapers, blankets, outfits, etc, for the newborn.

The Council Christmas party is an annual event that is clearly enjoyed by all. Brother Dave Ball provided beautiful Christmas music on his concertina (a type of squeeze box) to end the very enjoyable afternoon. For the event, approximately 25 volunteer hours were donated. Wilber and Claire Wingo provided the turkey and ham.



Jill and Nancy Durbin enjoying appetizers.



Larry and Marilyn enjoying lunch and conversation.



Gary Palmer checking out the deserts!



I can hear Wilber now: “Ah, c’mon now, this is easy! You gotta know this one! Wrong! Going to cost you \$1, please!”



Brothers Wilber and Reilly counting the winnings – for the pregnancy center. Some participants simply held up \$2 or \$3 in advance in order to provide a silly answer to support the pregnancy center.