

# Knights Life



[www.kofc8157.org](http://www.kofc8157.org)

Holy Spirit Catholic Church – Duncanville, Tx,

## A Life Well Lived



Father Eugene Okoli's wonderful eulogy during the April 5th funeral Mass for our brother, SK Andy Goza, noted that some people wondered if Andy had a twin brother given that he often seemed to be in two places at once when it came to activities involving the Knights of Columbus, Holy Spirit parish and St.

Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic School. Indeed, Andy was tireless in his devotion to the KC's, to the parish in which he grew up and to his family.

"When he takes on something, it's full force," said Susan, his wife of almost 30 years. She said of his involvement in the KC's, "For him, it was everything."

Andy joined the Knights back before our council had a degree team, taking his first degree in August 2008 at Council 12484 in Lancaster and taking his major degrees that fall. He soon after added the title of Sir Knight with his entry into the Fourth Degree.

His ascent within the ranks of 8157 is almost council lore, an incredible resume in the space of fewer than 11 years. Andy began attending officer-director meetings though he wasn't an officer because he simply wanted to see what was going on within the council. It wasn't long before he became an officer – Outside Guard, then Chancellor, then Grand Knight for the two-year term beginning in July 2010. Almost before he'd handed the gavel over to SK Frank Salazar, Andy became the Faithful Navigator of Assembly 2799. And he was far from done after those two years ended, succeeding our own SK Bill Dover as District Deputy.

Bill was a counselor for Holy Spirit's youth group during the 1980s when he first met young Andy, then a sixth-grader. "He had a strong faith even back then," said Bill, who's now the Grand Knight of the new council at St. Elizabeth that Andy worked hard to form.

Andy was first exposed to the Knights of Columbus through his paternal grandfather in Sherman. Here at Holy Spirit, faith was a shared experience for Andy, sisters Karen and Elizabeth and parents Tom and

Pat. Andy became an altar server while in grade school and, when altar servers were sometimes in short supply years later, he served while attending Duncanville High.

After being a football-playing Panther, Andy's academic career took him to Texas Tech, Mountain View College (where his father, with a Ph.D., was chair of the business department) and finally UT-Arlington. It was at Mountain View that Andy met Susan, who'd graduated from South Grand Prairie High. They met while taking a gymnastics class. Yes, gymnastics. "He could actually do an iron cross," Susan recalled. "I was spotting him on back handsprings."



They were married June 17, 1989 at Holy Spirit. (Coincidentally, that was the seventh anniversary of the founding of Council 8157.) Daughter Madison was born April 30, 2004. With Susan being a flight attendant for American Airlines, the coordination of KC and parish activities years later while establishing a strong faith and family foundation at home in Cedar Hill required diligent, dedicated coordination. The

three of them became regulars at the Saturday 5:30 Mass with Andy overseeing the hospitality ministers (calling them ushers was fine with Andy), Susan serving as a Eucharistic Minister and Madison being an altar server.

As a Knight, Andy was seemingly omnipresent and tireless. He was a voracious recruiter, helping the council win multiple Star Council awards. Given that Andy was a manufacturer's sales representative, maybe we shouldn't have been surprised. Our current Grand Knight, SK Tom Greco, noted, "Andy was the quintessential salesman. He said, 'I can sell anything to anybody.'"

And we know Andy wasn't shy about speaking his mind. "And that's probably the thing that I loved most about him," Susan said. "You always knew where you stood with him." That sometimes wasn't a polite exchange. Susan recalled Andy offending a parent at St. Elizabeth school, where Madison attended before moving on to Ursuline Academy, to the point of tears. Susan told him, "You can't do that, honey." Andy and that mother ended up becoming close friends "once she figured him out," Susan said. "He would butt heads with people all the time, but at the end of the day it was like family."

Andy didn't have to seemingly always arrive early and stay late at a KC function. He didn't have to provide parish clergy a ride to visit an ailing council member. He didn't have to bake cookies for each Lenten fish fry dinner. He didn't have to continue volunteering at St. Elizabeth years after Madison graduated. He didn't have to plant the seed for the formation of our own degree team after previous attempts had failed and ask Tom to spearhead that effort. But he did.

"It wasn't only what he did but also the spirit that he put forth doing it," Bill Dover said.

As Father Eugene mentioned of Andy's passing on the morning of April 1 at age 54, it was a life well lived.

"He loved being around you guys," Susan said. "He loved being around his brothers."

We loved being around Andy and are the better for it. God rest his soul.

## About our Council

### Council Monthly Meetings

General Meeting every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 7:30pm  
Officer's & Directors every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 7:30pm

### Postal address and meeting location

1111 W Danieldale Rd. Room 221  
Duncanville Tx, 75116 USA  
972-298-4971

### KC District 86 - Assembly 2799

The council Officers listed below were officially installed for their 1<sup>nd</sup> term in office on July 8, 2018. Their term runs through June 2020

<b>Grand Knight</b>	Tom Greco
<b>Deputy Grand Knight</b>	Jeff Miller
<b>Chancellor</b>	Jorge Ruiz
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Jim Russell
<b>Treasurer</b>	James Smith
<b>Warden</b>	Doug Maddox
<b>Inside Guard</b>	Tony Gonzalez
<b>Outside Guard</b>	Jeff Traub
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Peter Perta
<b>Advocate</b>	Russell Gully
<b>Chaplain</b>	Fr. Joe Lee
<b>Trustees</b>	Dan Murphy, 3-year Mike Fitzgerald, 2-year Jim Richardson, 1-year

### Service Program Directors

Awareness Committee	Jorge Ruiz
Football Committee	Jim Richardson
Church Activities	James Smith
Community Activities	Dan Murphy
Family Activities	Jeff Miller
Health Activities	Lou Lemons
Pro-Like Activities	Mike Moloughney

Youth Activities	Art Senato and Mike Moloughney
Knight Hands	Allen Reitmeier
Membership	Keith Archer
Retention Director	Wendell Jean Pierre

### Knights Life Newsletter

Our Newsletter is published quarterly at the end of the following months: March, June, September, and December. The Newsletter is delivered electronically to your email address and is posted on our website. If you would like to receive a paper copy, they will be available at the general meeting.

**Newsletter Editor and Publisher** Allen Reitmeier

**Newsletter & Website Writers**  
Jeff Miller, Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz

**Newsletter and Website Photographer**  
Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz,

### Council Website

<b>Website address</b>	kofc8157.org
<b>Website Editor</b>	Jorge Ruiz
<b>Website Admins</b>	Jorge Ruiz

### Email Communications

Emails are sent to our members on a regular basis. Make sure you add the email address below to your contact list so our emails do not go to you junk/span folder.

**Email address:** [admin@kofc8157.org](mailto:admin@kofc8157.org)

### Membership Rosters

A full membership roster is available in paper form to all Knights in good stand at the general meeting

## **Knight of the Month Jan 2019**



### **John Balasa**

Twenty-two years in the U.S. Army made John well acquainted with the upside of male camaraderie, John notes. So after years of helping at Holy Spirit's 5:30 Saturday Mass, and

Andy Goza and Pete Perta "convincing" him of the merits of KC membership, he went willingly. He took his first degree four years ago this month, adding his major degrees in April 17. John left the service as a Sergeant First Class, having been stationed at Fort Campbell, Fort Polk, Fort Leavenworth and Fort Knox, seeing service in Korea, Germany and Vietnam. He's from Chicago and came along with wife Marge to north Texas in 2006 for a position with Dallas County. He worked for the county for 10 years, retiring two years ago. Marge is also retired, having worked for AAFES. The Balasas, married 42 years, live in DeSoto. In recent months, you've seen him at the fall blood drive, the VA cookout and the Breakfast with St. Nick and our Cedar Hill concession stands (John admits that watching the kids play reminds him of his own little-league days). His volunteer work extends beyond our council. Every Saturday, he helps at the food pantry in DeSoto. His other recurring "appointment" is bowling every Tuesday and Thursday night. He claims an average of 140, and we'll take his word for that.

## **Knight of the Month Feb 2019**



### **Greg Warr**

Greg admits that he enjoys working with "spread sheets and numbers." So it wasn't a stretch when Allen Reitmeier approached him years ago to handle the financials

of our baseball concessions operations. And Greg continues to handle those duties now for both baseball and football with our concessions committee. Greg is in his second tour with the Knights of Columbus. A graduate of Hot Springs High in Arkansas, he initially joined during his college days at Arkansas State. Greg re-upped here at Holy Spirit in 2012. He and wife Debbie will celebrate their 20th anniversary this fall. She has two children from a previous marriage, and there are three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Greg is an area manager for AT&T, his employer for 37 years. It was sort of the family business; his father worked for the phone company.

## **Knight of the Month Mar 2019**



### **Jorge Ruiz**

You might not know that Jorge often wore a cycling helmet years ago. He was a serious rider, traversing hundreds of miles on

weekends. These days, we know him as a brother Knight who gladly wears many hats – Chancellor, director of our awareness committee, overseeing the council's safe environment program and disaster preparedness. No wonder he was honored as 8157's Knight of the Year last summer. Jorge joined the council in July 2012, took his major degrees the following May and later added membership in the Fourth Degree. Jorge is a native of Ecuador. He and wife Kathie will celebrate their 41st anniversary in April. They were married in New York, where Jorge attended the New York School of Printing, made their way to Texas in 1981 and live in Duncanville. They have three grown children. Jorge operates his own graphic design business and oversees the diocesan website.

# Our Annual Appreciation Dinner

Once a year our council gathers to show our appreciation to our member knights and their spouses for all the hard work they contribute throughout the year. This past Saturday evening, on January 12, 2019 we attended our Corporate Communion Mass which was followed by our annual appreciation event. The event is always free of charge for our members and their spouses of course and includes dinner and dancing, beer and wine, special recognitions and door prizes. It's always a great way to kick off the new year.

Our Council Activities Director and MC for the evening, SK Andy Goza did his usual outstanding job coordinating and making all the necessary purchases and preparations for the amazing dinner, the open bar and the DJ dance music entertainment. Andy even went as far as setting up a TV screen broadcasting the football playoffs game live between the Cowboys and the LA Rams.



The Tex-Mex dinner was a big hit again this year, consisting of beef and chicken fajitas (which John Espree and Andy spent hours grilling Friday night), grilled tri-color peppers with onions, Mexican style yellow rice and refried beans and of course the delightful guacamole dip.

The open bar was again professionally handled by our trusted bartender Ms. Leah Gomez whom we can always count on to keep our beer cold and our wine glasses full.

Andy also recruited the evening's dining service and clean up help from our neighboring Lancaster council of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. A huge thank you to Grand Knight Oliver Dacey Jr. and Financial Secretary Julius Semien and company from council #12484 for doing all the hard work, which allowed the rest of us to be free to just have fun tonight.

The January 2019 Knight of the Month award was presented to John Balasa by Grand Knight Tom Greco.

There were two special awards that were earned by two of our most worthy and distinguished knights. SK **Larry Balagna** and **Jack Ramsden** were both recognized for their help with the Fourth Degree Clergy Appreciation Dinner with certificates of appreciation for their selfless devotion and loyalty to the council. Larry and Jack are highly motivated self-starters who are always steps ahead of everyone else, no matter what the project may be.



The musical entertainment that was provided by high tech DJ Daniel Arce proved to be the big hit of the night as the dance music spanned genres, generations and cultures and kept the dancers on the floor late into the night despite the fact that there was a football game being shown on screen on the other end of the dance floor. Wine bottles were later awarded as the prizes to the dance contest winners in several different categories.



SK Keith Archer surprised all of us when he asked Deacon Al Evans to bless several bags containing Pope Francis statuettes which he had purchased and paid for himself. Keith then presented them as gifts to all the knights present. Keith, on behalf of the council we want to thank you very much for that amazing gesture of generosity and appreciation.

We also had a special guest this evening as [Francisco Cisneros](#) and his wife accepted Allen Reitmeier's invitation to attend the dinner/dance after he assisted with a Knight Hands job where he provided his services pro-bono. And dance they did, and they did it so well in fact that it earned them a vintage wine bottle from Andy's cellar.



We wish to thank all 88 guests for attending and breaking bread with us but most of all we thank you for your loyalty, dedication, generosity and everything you do to contribute to help our council remain worthy of having been named the Council of the Year of the Dallas

Diocese Chapter last year. Until next year then.

A rare situation has come up where the football playoffs game between the Dallas Cowboys and the Los Angeles Rams is happening at the same time as our Appreciation Dinner. As a result, we had no choice but to set up a TV screen at the gym so the game could be enjoyed during the dinner by all.



## Family of the Month –Jan 2019



### Chris, Cecilia & Sophie Edwards

Some 30 years ago, Chris Edwards asked Cecilia Leigh

Hookings out for a first date on a Wednesday, took her to Campisi's on Mockingbird Lane on Friday and decided on Saturday that she was the woman whom he wanted to spend the rest of his life with. And she felt the same way. Chris explains the mercurial courtship: "When you know, you know." They were married five years later, moved into their new home on Davis Street in Duncanville and have been there ever since.

Cecilia is a cradle Catholic; Chris is not. She wanted their children to be raised in the Catholic faith. Chris elected to go through Holy Spirit's RCIA program under the former long-time parish director, Anne Keough.

Chris learned about the Knights of Columbus from brothers like Dan Murphy and joined 8157 in 2005. Three years later, he was our Grand Knight. In recent years, he has entertained the parish children at the annual Breakfast with St. Nick. Chris is the owner/operator of Beacon Signs in Duncanville. They have two children. Trevor, 23 and Sophie, 18. Cecilia is a member of Holy Spirit's Catholic Daughters of the Americas court.

"We love the parish people. We love being a part of this church. Things couldn't be any better," Chris says.

## Family of the Month –Feb 2019



### Doug and Diana Maddox

At our February meeting, Doug joined our officers group when he was voted in as the new warden.

Doug and his family moved to Cedar Hill last July from Florida when he became an assistant director of the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery just up the road from Duncanville on Mountain Creek Parkway. He joined

the Knights in 2014 in Lake Worth, Fla. He retired from the U.S. Army as a lieutenant colonel in 2009 after 28 years. Doug was reared in a military family; at the Christmas parade at Fort Benning, Ga., Santa tossed candy to the children from a tank turret. He graduated from high school in Tallahassee, Fla., and then attended New Mexico Military Institute (Roger Staubach went there before going to the Naval Academy) and received his commission. His current line of work was an outgrowth of military duty serving as a casualty assistance officer. While doing that, he participated in a documentary that's contained on the DVD for the movie "The Messenger." Doug sees membership in the Knights as "an opportunity to serve and to give back to others. That's pretty much been my life, in the military and even in the job that I do now with the cemetery." Doug and wife Diana have been married for five years. Doug has two daughters (Crystal, 27, and Bryce, 18), one stepson (Xavier, 15) and one son (D.J., 5).

## Family of the Month –Mar 2019



### Gerald and Toni Jacob

The Jacobs have lived in DeSoto for 14

years and are enjoying semi-retirement. Gerald, who retired from the U.S. Navy in 2007 following 22 years, splits his time between Ubering and working some for Penske trucking. Toni runs a CPR business five minutes from their home. They will celebrate their 15th anniversary in September; Gerald's first wife died 17 years ago, after they'd been married 32 years. Gerald left his native Pakistan in 1977 (Memorial Day weekend) to make a new life in the United States. He headed to New Hampshire, the home of an aunt; living with a blood relative was required for making such a move. Life with the Navy took him to Japan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore and through Asia. He left as a Petty Officer Second Class. Gerald and Toni moved in 1981 to Texas, which offered a more reasonable cost of living. "Texas has always been good to me," Gerald said. Asked what he enjoys about being a member of the KC's, Gerald cites the three principles of council membership: charity, unity and fraternity. And they collectively enjoy helping out at our concession stands, too.

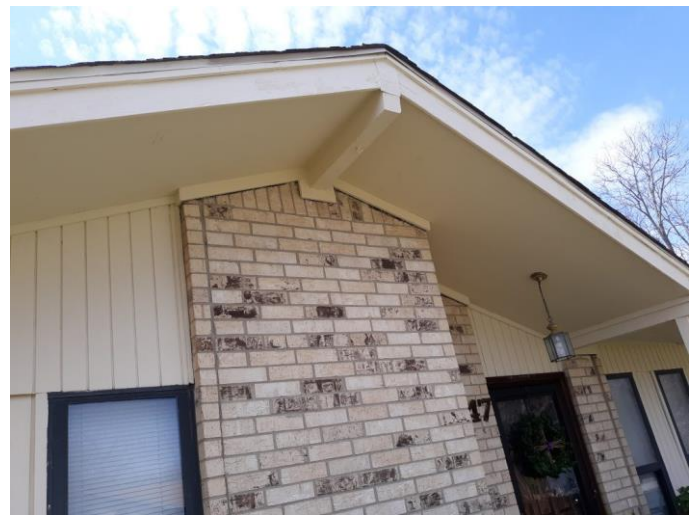
## Knight Hands Getting After It

On the morning of March 18, 2019 at 8am, David Dybala, Mike Fitzgerald, Dan Murphy, Ray Rivera, Efrain Ochoa, Art Rodriguez, Jim Russell, Ken Rarick, Larry Balagna, Jack Ramsden, and I (Allen Reitmeier) gathered at the home of Norma Ortiz to begin the job of painting the exterior of her home located at 1847 Whitecliff Dr. in Duncanville.



After a short prayer of thanksgiving and petition for safety, everyone started working on preparing the fascia and soffit and gables for new paint. David Dybala and Mike Fitzgerald took on the task of replacing the rotted fascia and soffit and top trim – a very precise and tedious undertaking. While this was happening Dan Murphy cranked up the power washer and proceeded to wash off much of the old chipped and peeling paint as well as lots of dirt. Jim Russell, Ken Rarick, and Art Rodriguez followed this up by applying a cleaning solution and then scrubbing and rinsing the fascia and soffit and gables. Ray Rivera, Jack Ramsden, and Efrain Ochoa assembled a safety scaffold on uneven ground on the west side of the home and then began the slow job of scraping off old paint from all the surfaces. Larry Balagna straightened the bowed fascia on the west side of the home and also scrapped paint. Jack and Jim and Dan also took on the task of caulking all gaps in preparation for painting. Art Rodriguez even found the time to mow the grass in the front and back yard. Ken Rarick cooked a delicious lunch of hamburgers and brats accompanied by pizza purchased by Ray Rivera. We left the job site about 3 pm.

With all in readiness, 9 Knight Hands commenced applying paint at 9am on Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup>. Ken Rarick and Dan Murphy teamed up with one rolling and the other brushing. Same for Jim Russell and Art Rodriguez. David Dybala spent most of his day repairing numerous holes in the hail damaged shingles on Norma's roof. Larry Balagna painted trim and the bottom edges and Efrain Ochoa took on the job of painting the soffit and fascia on high side – which he did to perfection. Mike Fitzgerald also painted the very difficult fascia on the high side and painted wherever needed. After painting was complete, everyone joined in to install and paint the rain gutters. We were gone by 4 pm.



Norma came home just as we finished and was awed by what we had done – she was so grateful. She had trouble putting into words how much this meant to her. The house really did look good. As the director of Knight Hands, I was proud of all the men who worked for two days to complete this mission. The spirit of giving is deeply imbedded in this group of men – these are men who get after it and never waver in their commitment to help those in need. This was a big job for older Knights; but never a harsh word was spoken. I suppose there are some big-time preachers who could write praiseful prose about what these men did; but all they really wanted was a simple thank you from Norma and a smile – both of which they got in spades. The men who worked these two days should be in the Knights of Columbus Hall of Fame. Good work guys.

See all the pictures on our website [www.kofc8157.org](http://www.kofc8157.org)

## Little League Baseball is off and Running

The Cedar Hill Little League baseball season began on March 28<sup>th</sup> with 4 Southwest Classic games played at Valley Ridge Park. Opening day for Best Southwest Baseball began the following Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup> with 10 games played – also at Valley Ridge Park. Opening day ceremonies on Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup> included introduction of each team and all its members as well as the ceremonial first pitch and the National Anthem and an opening prayer. There are currently 159 games scheduled during the season for both Southwest Classic and Best Southwest Baseball. It goes without saying that it takes a lot of manpower to handle all the games for the regular season games. Many of the games this year have been scheduled during the week instead of Saturdays so that tournaments can be played at both Valley Ridge and Dot Thomas. Already this year, two tournaments have been scheduled for both of these parks.



We can expect more Saturday/Sunday tournaments as the year goes on – we can especially look forward to the annual end of season tournaments for both Southwest Classic and Best Southwest Baseball and most importantly the annual Class A Little League World Series. So far during this season the

“heavy lifter” have been Eric Conner, James Smith, Andy Goza, Jeff Miller, Jim Richardson, and Allen Reitmeier. We thank these guys for sure and all those Knights who have work any shift thus far. But understand to properly operate the concession stands during the World Series we will need lots more Knights to step up and answer the call. The call (s) will come from Eric Conner who has taken on the task of scheduling Knights to work the various shifts. The baseball committee made up of Greg Warr, James Smith, and Eric Conner thank everyone for your efforts thus far and look forward to another successful year at the ballpark.

### Council 8157 Presents Annual Donation to Holy Spirit Church

On Tuesday December 12, 2018, Council 8157 Grand Knight Tom Greco, accompanied by Membership Director Keith Archer and Chancellor Jorge Ruiz presented a check for \$3,500 to Leonardo Zapata, the newly appointed Business Administrator for Holy Spirit Catholic Church. The annual donation is given in support of the various church ministries at Holy Spirit.



## Welcome New Knights



### **Paul Ryan 2018 transfer**

Paul made the relatively “short trip,” in terms of transfer distance, from Council 7736 over at St. Jude in

Mansfield. He joined the Knights eight years ago while in Maryland during his 26 1/2 years with the U.S. Marine Corps. He retired as a Colonel, having served as a pilot and an infantry officer. Paul grew up in the Arizona city of Prescott, north of Phoenix. After high school, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating in 1989. Upon retirement from the Marines, Paul came to north Texas to work for Bell (formerly Bell Helicopter) in Arlington as a pilot. He and wife Colleen have been married for 15 years. They have a son (Justin, 14), a daughter (Maura, 11) and have lived in Cedar Hill for three years. In his spare time, Paul likes to enjoy outdoor activities like dirt biking, jet skiing and snowboarding.