

# Knights Life



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

Holy Spirit Catholic Church – Duncanville, Tx,

## Breakfast with St. Nick 2018



It was our own Chris Edwards who, as Grand Knight, got together with Deborah Pearson about a dozen years ago to replace Holy Spirit's Children's Faith Formation Christmas luncheon with a Breakfast with St. Nick. And Chris began playing the role of St. Nick "full time" last year after brother Leo Mattingly was ready to finally pass the baton, or mitre.



Elves abounded when this year's iteration was held on Sunday, Dec. 9. More than 500 guests were served with dozens of toys donated for

the Brighter Tomorrows shelter in Cedar Hill along with monetary donations of more than \$1,100.

Dozens of brothers under the direction of James Smith, director of church activities prepared a delicious breakfast of scrambled eggs, pancakes, hash browns, casserole, bacon, sausage patties, biscuits and gravy.



The roll call of helpers: Keith and Mary Archer (plus Mary's niece, Holly Patterson, who's going through Holy Spirit's RCIA program with them), John Balasa, Francisco Bernal, John Espree, Andy Goza (and wife Susan), Tom Greco, Gerald Jacob, Jeff Miller, Dan Murphy, Efrain Ochoa, Agustin Perez (plus wife Flora and daughter Joanne), Jesse Radillo, Jack Ramsden, Ken Rarick, Allen Reitmeier, Jim Richardson, Jim Russell (wife Mary directed the entertaining children's choir once again), Frank Salazar, Dan Schneider, James Smith (and granddaughter Caroline) and Jim Stavinoha.

Chris learned early on not to be surprised at anything that the eager children might ask of St. Nick. His first "customer" this year began tugging on his cape before the festivities had begun, when Chris was talking to Andy Goza at the check-in table. The young man quietly asked, "Could I talk to you ... over at the big chair?" Later on, another little boy asked for a Ferrari.



Then there was the young lady whose request couldn't be wrapped with ribbon and left under the tree. "She said, 'I want a family,'" Chris recalled. He looked over at her mother, who confided that the girl's father had recently walked out on them. Chris asked the youngster, "Would a hug help you?" And that's what he did. Before the event ended, Chris was also able to pass along this episode along to Deborah and Father Eugene to follow up and assist the mother and child for Christmas.



"It's always neat to interact with the kids," Chris noted. "I get a lot out of it."

Our 8157 St. Nicks present and past shared a moment during one of the council's Lenten fish fries this year. Leo embraced his successor and told Chris: "Whatever you do, son, don't shave."

## The Show Must Go On!



Despite the inclement weather all day Saturday, nine knights and Lady Mary Archer braved the heavy rains and loaded our equipment and supplies heading for the St. Joseph's Residence Fall cookout. Fifty two of its residents, their visiting family members and residence staff were expecting the knights to serve them lunch so as the Hollywood saying goes, the show must go on. Seeing the knights come through, the residents were extremely appreciative and many expressed their gratitude to us with the kindest of words as they patiently sat in the hallway watching us hurriedly setting up the serving tables.

Two of our bravest grill masters, Doug Karpan and James Smith, took over the duties of grilling burgers and hot dogs out in the rain but even under the cover of a tent the rain sprayed water at them from all angles and they went home soaking wet. The grill itself could only be half as cooperative with this weather, with only half its burners working properly. But this not being their first rodeo, the two pros managed to get it all done by serving time at noon.

Our sincere thanks to all the knights who came out to help put on a great show:

- Jim Richardson
- James Smith
- Tom Greco
- Doug Karpan
- Ed O'Brien
- Keith Archer
- Lady Mary Archer
- Wendell Jean Pierre
- Mike Fitzgerald
- Jorge Ruiz

## 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>	Art Senato
<b>Inside Guard</b>	Tony Gonzalez
<b>Outside Guard</b>	Jeff Traub
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Peter Perta
<b>Advocate</b>	Russell Gully
<b>District Deputy</b>	Andy Goza
<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
Council Activities	Andy Goza
Family Activities	Jeff Miller

Health Activities	Lou Lemons
Pro-Life Activities	Mike Moloughney
Youth Activities	Art Senato and Mike Moloughney
Pro-Life Activities	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

**Website address** kofc8157.org  
**Website Editor** Jorge Ruiz  
**Website Admins** 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 your 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 Oct 2018**



**Keith  
Archer**

Definition of a Knights of Columbus fast track: Keith joined our council in May, took his major degrees shortly thereafter,

became an 8157 director in July (membership) and joined the Fourth Degree in September. He's also active in other parish and diocesan endeavors. "I try to give back as much as I can," says a man who sees God and Jesus Christ as being instrumental in him being a four-time cancer survivor. Keith is a project manager for Weldon Tools and is originally from Oklahoma City. He and wife Mary have been married 29 years, their wedding taking place soon after they met during a singles activity at Holy Spirit (playing volleyball). They displayed teamwork multiple times this summer helping at our Valley Ridge baseball concession stand, including during the World Series. Mary works for AT&T in downtown Dallas.

## **Knight of the Month Nov 2018**



**Mike  
Moloughney**

Mike has been the council's director for Pro Life activities since when? One of the annual responsibilities is coordinating 8157's Hike for Life, held at Duncanville's

Armstrong Park. This fall's hike took place on the morning of Saturday, Oct. 13. You might recall that happened to one particularly rainy morning during a

stretch of rainy weeks. Mike pressed on. Mike is a New Jersey native, brought his family to Texas in 1997, joined our council in 2005 and is a member of the Fourth Degree. He doubles up as our co-director of youth activities along with Art Senato. Mike was recognized in 2015 as one of Holy Spirit's two annual one-time recipients of the Bishop's Award for Service to the Church. In addition to being a Knight, Mike is active in the parish's ACTS group, has been a faith formation teachers for decades, has overseen the children's games at Holy Spirit's fall festival for years, and is a lector and Eucharistic Minister at Masses. He and wife Karen have three daughters (Meghan 25, Jennifer 23 and Kaitlyn 18), one son (Sean 11) plus one grandson (Lorenzo 1 1/2).

## **Knight of the Month Dec 2018**



**Hector  
Rubio**

Hector is one of those 8157 members who's rarely seen at the monthly meetings but makes his

presence greatly felt "out in the field." He enjoys contributing his handyman skills to our valuable Knights Hands initiative and is a regular at our Valley Ridge baseball concession stand on Saturday mornings (he's typically the fry guy, stationed in that front left corner). Hector and his wife of 15 years, Cynthia, live in Duncanville. He has been a Holy Spirit parishioner since 1992, joined the council in January 2016 (accepting an invitation from Jorge Ruiz) and then took his major degrees in April 2017. Hector is a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School in Dallas, built a career in the electrical trade (part of the skills that he brings to Knight Hands) and retired four years ago. When "on the job" for the council, he often builds a relationship with those who are helped. "Ask and ye shall receive," Hector said, "and I like to be on the giving end."

## Knights of Columbus and P.I.P.

For the past two years Council 8157 has participated in the Property Improvement Program (P.I.P). P.I.P is sponsored by the Neighborhood Vitality Commission of the City of Duncanville and the First United Methodist Church of Duncanville. Each spring and fall residents of Duncanville are invited to submit applications to the Neighborhood Vitality Commission in which they state their case asking for assistance in repairs to their home site. The purpose of P.I.P is: "to repair the exterior of homes and yards of Duncanville homeowners who cannot make these repairs themselves because of life's circumstances". According to Betty Dunn, coordinator of P.I.P for the United Methodist Church during the last weekend of September and the first weekend of October of 2018, 60 volunteers signed on to help with home repairs at 4 locations. Volunteer groups included: First United Methodist Church, Trinity Methodist Church, First Christian Church Phoenix Lodge #648, City of Duncanville employees and Knight Hands.



Our council's task this year was to replace the fence at Pinkie Cotton's home located at 2102 Blueridge Dr. in Duncanville.

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, Jorge Ruiz and Allen Reitmeier bought, loaded, delivered, and unloaded the necessary materials to replace the rails and pickets on approximately 184 ft. of fencing. That was 480 5" pickets and 70 – 2" X 3"s. On Friday morning at 9:30 a group of 7 Knights (Mike Fitzgerald, Jack Ramsden, Jorge Barragan, John Balasa, Allen Reitmeier, Hector Rubio, and David Dybala) demolished the existing fence, straighten and reinforced several steel posts,

straightened a number of posts, installed rails clamps, installed the fence rails and installed pickets (one piece at a time). Time ran out on Friday before we were finished; so on Saturday morning Ray Rivera, Mike Fitzgerald and Allen Reitmeier finished to job. Including making and installing a new gate.



## Knight Hands active in Duncanville

What a beautiful fall day it was on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 as 8 Knight Hands gathered at the home of Bill Sheets located in Duncanville. Our mission this day was to trim trees and cut down many small trees and branches in the side and back yard of Bill Sheet's home. Hector Rubio was the sponsor of this project – he lives just across the street and helps Bill on numerous occasions. We had four chain saw roaring and one pole saw cutting; we were definitely making a lot of noise.



Hector guided us as to which trees and branches should be cut.



Rod Kinard brought his large chain saw and went directly to work as did Hector Rubio. Larry Balagna brought his saw as well and cut branches into 4' sections that Ken Rarick, myself, John Espree, and Tony Almanza carried to the edge of the street to be picked up by the City of Duncanville – and it was a huge stack of limbs and tree sections.

We started this project at 9am and were finished about 11:30am for a total of approximately 20 man/hours of work. There wasn't much standing around as everyone just pitched in and worked the whole time. It was most gratifying and humbling to work with such a willing and competent group of Knights of Columbus. Mr. Sheets said "thank you" many times as he signed the Knight Hands Assistance Application.



The cooperative effort of this group is another example of how much can be accomplished when we work together. Nice job guys and thanks again.



Mike and John even tried out my new battery powered chain saw from time to time. Mike Fitzgerald manned the pole saw and trimmed the large tree in the back yard – he shouted "timber" a number of times. As time went on my wife brought water and Gatorade – it really was quite a warm day. Thankfully with all the commotion and work there were no injury incidents at all – well maybe a few thorn pricks. I'd guess we cut down 35-40 small trees (one was probably 10" in diameter) and trimmed a very large tree as well.



## Family of the Month –Oct 2018



### James and Judy Smith

For the Smiths, the faith journey can sometimes be a literal one. A few years ago, they were part of a Holy Spirit group that

followed Fr. Eugene through the Holy Land and Italy. This October, they're off with a similar parish gathering to visit religious sites in Portugal, Spain and France. James has embraced the roles of council treasurer (which he took on last year), director of church activities and director of concessions (which he took on this past July). It makes for a busy schedule, and Judy often rolls up her figurative sleeves and works with James side by side (elbow to elbow when they team to clean our concessions stands on a weekday morning following a busy weekend. Their devotion to Holy Spirit can also be found in the time and energy that they devote to funeral luncheons, which are often scheduled in a short amount of time to be added to the Smiths' schedule. They were married in 1981 and live in Duncanville (with their dog, Jake, who resembles a small horse). Daughter Jamie and granddaughter Caroline live close by and often pitch in during council activities. James joined our council in 2013, took his major degrees a year later and soon after joined the Fourth Degree.

## Family of the Month –Nov 2018



### John and Bonnie Espree

Running into a member of the Espree family at

a Holy Spirit get-together or function is likely. They've

been parishioners since 2000 and jumped right in soon after arriving. John joined our council in March 2012, taking his first degree and major degrees back to back on the same Saturday. He has served as the council Warden, is active in Knight Hands, can spout out pancakes during breakfasts or fry fish during Lent with the best of them. John is a mainstay of 8157's baseball concessions, most often overseeing the opening shift on Saturdays at our Valley Ridge baseball stand both in the spring and the fall. Bonnie is a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, takes Holy Communion to patients at Charlton hospital each Tuesday and often works in the parish's community center. They were married in February 2001 and have three grown children and one grandchild (Jeremiah, 11, who is an altar server at Holy Spirit's 5:30 Saturday Mass, during which John is a hospitality minister). John has worked for Kenworth Trucking for 30 years while Bonnie now works from home in data management.

## Family of the Month –Dec 2018



### David and Veronica Ybarra

The Knights of Columbus tenet of devotion to family is rarely more evident than in the Ybarra home in Waxahachie. For the past seven years, David and Veronica have been tending to her elderly parents, who previously were living in El Paso. Veronica's father is now 107, her mother 109. It's a labor of love that requires a huge time commitment from David and Veronica. "It feels really good," David said. He and Veronica have been married 40 years. They met in El Paso, where she grew up and where he moved to from Chicago when he was a youngster. David retired three years ago from a career that finished with time as a warehouse manager. Veronica is also retired; she worked at the V.A. hospital in Dallas in the dental department. They became Holy Spirit parishioners in 2003. David joined the council in 2008, soon after added his major degrees and Fourth Degree and was serving as our chancellor when he stepped away to help care for his in-laws.

## Clergy Appreciation Dinner 2018

A very successful evening celebrating our clergy for their selfless work in our parishes and our communities took place on Thursday, November 8th, 2018 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Duncanville, Texas. The event has been held annually and is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Assembly 2799. Sir Knight Jim Russell, Faithful Navigator of the Assembly was assisted with Master of Ceremony duties by Sir Knight Andy Goza, who himself is a past Faithful Navigator and currently serves as Dallas Diocese District 109 Deputy.



Catholic Daughters of America at Holy Spirit assisted Assembly 2799.

Also assisting this evening were several Fourth Degree assembly members from KofC Council 8157 as well as other councils in the surrounding areas. A total of 34 turkeys were cooked for the evening, 26 were baked and 8 smoked turkeys. On the serving line and new this year, were the amazingly helpful ladies from Catholic Daughters of America, led by their Regent, Rose Mary Garcia-Myers.

## Priests

- Fr Joseph Lee, Holy Spirit
- Fr Eugene Okoli, Holy Spirit
- Fr Emmet Hall, Saint Elizabeth of Hungary
- Fr Russ Mower, Saint Elizabeth of Hungary
- Fr Manuel Sabando, Saint Francis of Assisi
- Fr Reterz Chinnappan, Holy Family
- Fr Alberto Becher, Holy Family

## Deacons

- Randy Megse, Blessed Sacrament
- Lawrence Seidemann, Saint Francis of Assisi
- Roberto Alvarez, Cathedral
- Roberto Loera, Holy Trinity
- Denis Corbin, Saint Anthony's
- Gene Freeman, Holy Spirit
- Chris Volkner, Cathedral

The staff and the Sisters of the Bethlehemite Order from St. Joseph's Residence in Dallas were also in attendance this evening.

There was live entertainment and wine and beer were served. And despite having served a full Thanksgiving dinner to close to 200 people, several turkeys were still donated by the assembly to St. Joseph's Residence the following day.



## The Church Will Prevail!



In every historical period the Church has demonstrated her power to preach divine truths to the world. But the consequences of mistakes and the reality of sin gives testimony to man's weakness. The Church therefore, could have collapsed at least four different times in her long history if not for divine grace watching over her.

1. At the very beginning, Rome tried to destroy the nascent Church with unspeakable tortures and hundreds of years of persecutions. In spite of this the Church grew stronger and eventually Rome herself was converted.
2. Approximately 500 years later, the barbarians sacked Rome and the early Church faced grave danger and complete destruction. Danger became opportunity and the various barbarian tribes converted to Christianity as well.
3. 500 years later, the great schism between the Church and the Eastern Orthodox (1054 a.d) took place creating a serious blow to the world-wide Church. Again, the Church survived and continued to expand.
4. 500 years later, the Protestant revolt took place and the Church faced its most serious crisis in its 1,500 year history. The effects of this split is still with us. Again, however, the Church continued to expand especially in the new world.
5. Today, approximately 500 years after the Protestant reformation, the dragon attacks the Church once more in the present scandals.

## Do Not Despair!

### Jesus himself told Peter:

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

*Matthew 16:18*

The Holy Spirit protects the Church from fatal flaws and after correcting her mistakes, good and rebirth emerge from evil and temporary decline.

Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit! **Wendell Jean Pierre**

## Hike for Life

One thing you can always count on during the “Hike for Life” in Duncanville is rain. And this Saturday October 13th was no exception. During the opening ceremonies spearheaded by Mike Moloughney, he hurried things along so that the Hike could be finished before the rains came. Not to be. Soon after the beginning of the second trip around the track (the Hike was designed to be three trips around the track) the rain begin. And I don't mean a drizzle – it was a semi-downpour. Most of the hardy Hikers finished two trips around the track and then gathered under the pavilion to eat hot dogs – cooked by the Knights of Columbus; more specifically Kieth Archer. The only person I noticed who actually walked the three trips around the track was our own Jim Orderman – and he looked like a drowned rat; but still smiling. The purpose of these Hikes for Life is to bring awareness to the terrible curse of abortion and to raise money to continue the fight for the unborn and the aged. Mike Moloughney should be congratulated for his commitment to this cause and the enthusiasm with which he presents the case for Life.



## VA Medical Center Cookout 2018

On a rare bright sunny morning this fall, sixteen knights gathered for the annual cookout at the VA Medical Center on Lancaster Road in a council show of support for our veterans. Since the center's unit we normally use for our activity was occupied we were relocated to the east wing Spinal Cord Injury unit and had to carry our equipment and supplies a bit farther from the parking lot this time, but fortunately we had enough manpower to handle it.

Approximately 50-60 vets came to enjoy our lunch consisting of hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, chips, cookies and a delicious cake courtesy of the fourth degree Assembly 2799.

On hand from our council were the following brother knights, most of them veterans themselves:

- Keith Archer
- John Balasa
- Bill Dover
- Rey Estrellas
- Tom Greco
- Gerald Jacob
- Wendell Jean Pierre
- Dan Murphy
- Ed O'Brien
- Ray Rivera
- Antonio Rodriguez
- Arthur Rodriguez
- Jorge Ruiz
- James Smith
- Jim Stavinoha
- David Ybarra

We are eternally grateful to our nation's veterans for their service and sacrifice to our country.

### We Never Forget!



## An Angel in the Garage

Many months ago, Mrs. Rosaura Nunez accidentally rammed her garage door with her car smashing the garage door to smithereens and damaging her car as well. After many attempts to repair the door by well-intentioned people over a long period of time her garage door was still inoperative. Mrs. Nunez is a single mom whose sole mission in life is to care for her disadvantaged son – he needs constant care and attention.



Knight Hands became involved and the situation was assessed by myself and Dan Murphy and concluded we needed outside professional help to get this “mess of a door” operating again. Ed O'Brien recommended Francisco Cisneros of Frank's Garage Door Service. Ed said “he does great work, is reasonably priced, and he'll do good by you”. We made an appointment with Francisco (Frank) to get an estimate on the repair job. I explained to Frank how Knight Hands operate and Mrs. Nunez's situation and he looked me in the eye and said “would you mind if I did this job for free”? I thought he was kidding but he proceeded to repair the door “lickety-split”. In about 1 ½ hours he had it operating like a new one. He reinstalled all the rollers, replaced bent track, aligned the tracks properly, put the cables back on the rollers, adjusted the tension on the springs, re-programmed the remote control, and lubricated everything. When I again offered to pay him for his work he said, “Allen, from time to time God allows me to help someone in need and today and now is the time”. Both Mrs. Nunez and I were sure we were standing in the garage with an angel. What an inspirational young man. His number is **214-516-4607** if you are in need of door repair.

## Welcome New Knights



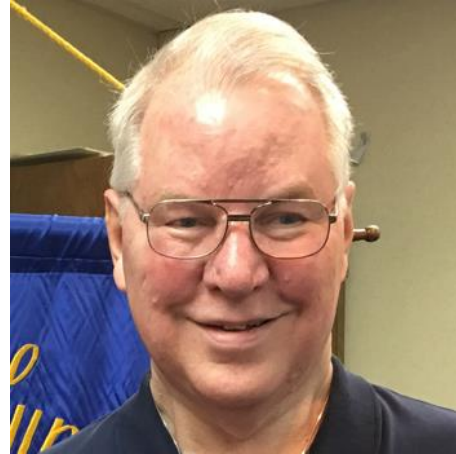
**Dan  
Schneider –  
November  
2018  
transfer**

The pullover Bears jacket is a tipoff that Dan is originally from greater Chicago. He and wife Betsey came to our area in January 2016 and live in Midlothian. He's in national food sales, and she works for AT&T.

Dan became a Knight in 1993, joining the council in the Illinois town of Algonquin west of Chicago. His father was a Knight for more than 50 years and was convinced after retiring as an accountant to become the council's financial secretary. His zeal for hitting up members who were behind on their dues led to the nickname "The Hammer," and Council 11091 now holds a memorial golf tournament in his honor called "The Hammer Open."

Dan was 11091's Grand Knight in 1997-98 and also its Knight of the Year and then served as Faithful Navigator at nearby Assembly 2381 in Elgin in 2002-03.

Dan graduated from Northern Illinois University.



**Dennis  
Hudson  
– Dec  
2018**

This past year has been a significant one in Dennis' faith

journey. He completed Holy Spirit's RCIA program early in the year and was welcomed into the Catholic faith, his route beginning with what he calls "curiosity" about Catholicism, partially because the longtime Duncanville resident has lived near Holy Spirit passed by the sanctuary regularly. He soon after was invited to join the Knights through a combination of efforts by Tom Greco and Keith Archer – recognized that he was keenly interested in joining such a service organization – and came through our final exemplification ceremony of the calendar year. Dennis is a graduate of Kimball High School and of El Centro College in Dallas. He spent most of his professional career in the pharmaceutical industry, working for the McKesson drug company and AmeriSource Bergen in Grand Prairie. Dennis most recently worked at the testing center at the El Centro West campus and is recently retired. He is single and lives with his sister, Cathie. He is an avid reader and also enjoys music.

