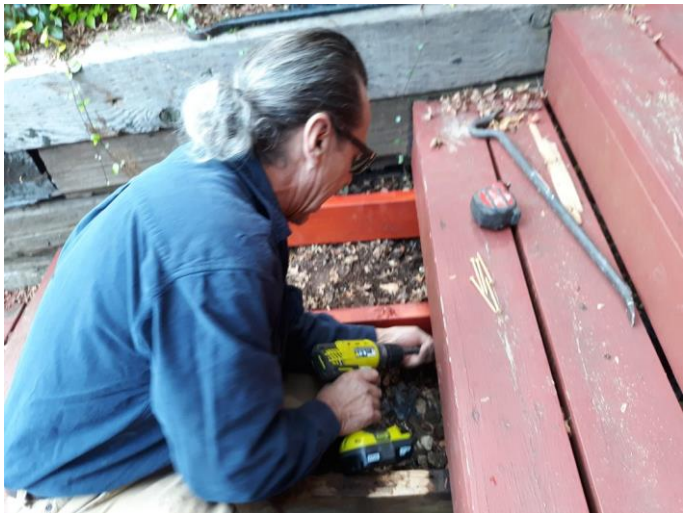
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS **Council 8157** EDITION 40 Jan. 2020

# Knights Life

www.kofc8157.org *Holy Spirit Catholic Church – Duncanville, Tx,*

## Knight Hands Project #332 and #333

Knight Hands continues its community work by completing two fairly difficult projects this past month. On November 14th, 2019, David Dybala, Steve Zehnder, Ken Rarick, Hector Rubio, Mike Fitzgerald, Dan Murphy and I completed a project at the home of Cora Mancenido located in DeSoto Tx. The main objective of this project was to eliminate 1/4" to 3/8" gaps in Cora's wooden flooring in several rooms and the hall. David Dybala (ever an engineer) discovered by heating the delinquent pieces they could be forced back together; so that's what he and Ken Rarick and Steve Zehnder did. The significance of this work was that it saved Cora about $20,000.00 - the amount she had been quoted by a contractor to replace the flooring. While that was going on the rest of us replaced the rotted wood on the rear steps leading to the swimming pool; plus building and installing a hand rail on those same steps. We completed all these tasks in about 28 man/hrs. Cora was most pleased.



On December 14th, Efrain Ochoa, John Espree, Larry Balagna, Jorge Ruiz, Hector Rubio, David Ybarra and I replaced the rotten siding on Hector Rubios' home in Duncanville. We started at 9am. We tore off the old rotted siding and discovered that the bottom sill plate on the home had also rotted. After much maneuvering the guys replaced the bottom sill plate, re-enforced the floor joists, replaced torn and damaged tar paper and then installed new siding.

While this was going on, three of us installed a new personal door on the garage. That sounds like no big deal except the opening for the door was concrete which required us to drill into the concrete to secure the wood on both sides of the opening. Again after much maneuvering we got the door to fit just right - including a trip back to my garage to plane a 2" x 8" plank down to 1- 3/16". Just another walk in the park for John and Efrain

After installing the window trim and corner trim and transition trim, the job was done. Hector said he would paint the whole thing at a later date. So in about 31 man/hrs. we completed this job to Hector's delight. These two projects were # 332 and #333 since the inception of Knight Hands.

## Lunch for our Veterans

Council 8157 showed our appreciation for our Veterans on Saturday November 9th, 2019 by cooking a lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs for the Vets at the VA Medical Center in Dallas. The event was attended by many of our council's own vets and was headed by retired **Naval Commander Dan Murphy**. Among the knights who participated were SK Dan Schneider who brought his 93 year old mother in law, Kathy Dour (her husband was a WWII veteran) with him, because she wanted to show her appreciation by visiting and chatting with the resident veterans. SK Keith Archer attended with his wife Mary, both of whom are strong veterans' supporters. A contingent of Knights from St Elizabeth Council 17111 were also in attendance including Father Russ Mower, Clifford Thompson, A C De Leon, Patrick Jancovic, SK Charles Hickman, and Deputy Grand Knight SK Victor Ndifornyen, led by their Grand Knight SK Joe Villegas.

Among the other Knights in attendance from Council 8157 were: Jose Montoya; John Espree with his grandson Jeremiah; District Deputy Bill Dover; Gerald Jacob; David Ybarra; Efrain Ochoa; Deacon Al Evans; Grand Knight Tom Greco; Jack Ramsden; Doug Karpan; Ed O'Brien; Wendell JeanPierre; Frank Salazar; and Arthur Rodriguez (photographer).

# About our Council

## Council Monthly Meetings

General Meeting every 1st Tuesday 7:30pm
Officer's & Directors every 3rd 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 1nd term in office on July 2, 2019. Their term runs through June 2020

| | |
|---|---|
| **Grand Knight** | Tom Greco |
| **Deputy Grand Knight** | Jorge Ruiz |
| **Chancellor** | Eric Conner |
| **Recording Secretary** | Mike Fitzgerald |
| **Treasurer** | James Smith |
| **Warden** | Doug Maddox |
| **Inside Guard** | John Espree |
| **Outside Guard** | |
| **Financial Secretary** | Peter Perta |
| **Advocate** | Russell Gully |
| **Chaplin** | Fr. Joe Lee |
| **Trustees** | Chris Kubin, 3-year |
| | Jim Richardson,2-year |
| | Chris Edwards,1-year |

## Service Program Directors

| | |
|---|---|
| Awareness Committee | Jorge Ruiz |
| Concessions | Allen Reitmeier |
| Church Activities | James Smith |
| Community Activities | Dan Murphy |
| Family Activities | Jeff Miller |
| Health Activities | Lou Lemons |
| Pro-Like Activities | Mike Moloughney |
| Youth Activities | Mike Moloughney |
| Knight Hands | Allen Reitmeier |
| Retention | Jorge Ruiz |
| Membership | Open |
| Council Activities | Open |

## 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, Leon Cornute

## 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 you junk/span folder.

**Email address:** 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 2019

## Doug Maddox

So there were Doug and Paul Ryan – a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army and a retired Colonel in the U.S. Marines, respectively – holding down the fort by themselves, the fort in this instance being the council's Valley Ridge football concession stand for the day's final shift. "It took me back," Doug said. Our concessions director, Allen Reitmeier, appreciatively noted that the stand passed inspection. Doug has long devoted his life to service, including 28 years in the military before his retirement in 2009. His vocational service now is serving as assistant director of the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery. He continued to serve when he joined the Knights in 2014 in Lake Worth, Fla. Doug and his family moved to Cedar Hill in July 2018, and he transferred into 8157 soon after. He's now our Warden and, since the relocation to Texas, became a member of the Fourth Degree. Doug and wife Diana have been married for six years. He has two older daughters (Crystal 27, Bryce 19), a stepson (Xavier 15) and they have a son (D.J. 6).

# Knight of the Month Nov 2019

## Chris Kubin

Chris can now look into the rear-view mirror at a rare achievement among Holy Spirit parishioners – having served as chairman of the fall festival for three straight years. And that was solo for a job that's typically been filled by co-chairs. "It's been very satisfying for a couple of different reasons," Chris said. Primarily, "seeing the people's faces and them having fun." He went on to mention the acceptance of changes that were instituted to assure the event's continued success. And don't forget that Chris was part of fall festival operations during the previous 10 years before that, often living in the community center kitchen for days. Chris joined our council in 1997, was chosen as Knight of the Year in 2003 and served as our Grand Knight for the fraternal years 2006-08 (when we got back in the concession stand business). He's now one of 8157's trustees. Daughter Jagger, who often helps around the parish, is an eighth grader at Ovilla Christian.

# Knight of the Month Dec 2019

## Peter Perta

Seems like just yesterday that Pete took over as our Financial Secretary. Actually, it was April 2013. And what a job he's done. "I take great pride in keeping our council in good standing," he said. We see him "in action" this time of the year when annual dues come due, but he's busy year-round making sure our various forms are filed on time with Supreme, among other things. Pete moved to north Texas from New York State in 2008 and became interested in the KC's from the example that he saw set by Andy Goza, joining the council in 2011 and soon after taking his major degrees. He's a "charter member" of the 8157 degree team that Tom Greco has shepherded since 2012. Pete, who works for Nestle Health Care Nutrition, and wife Bimbo live in Cedar Hill.

# Concession Stands Are Quiet For Now

On December 8th of 2019, James Smith and Eric Conner opened and closed the football concession stand for the last time this season. John Espree and Miguel Hernandez had already closed the baseball concession stand for 2019 on October 20th 2019. And so ends another year of countless hours of work by many Knights serving food and snacks and drinks to our baseball and football customers. More than 70 Knights contributed to the success of the 2019 fall season.

Special thanks to John Espree and Miguel Hernandez who worked every 1st shift Saturday during fall baseball. Peter Perta and Eric Conner worked every Saturday/Sunday during fall football. But everyone's effort was a testament to the virtue of teamwork to accomplish a goal. Thank you all so much for your time and effort. It was easy scheduling Knights to work – the spirit of unity and fraternity was always very evident.

We also certainly want to thank the baseball committee for all the behind the scenes work to make the season a success. James Smith and Jeff Miller did the buying from Sam's and stocking of raw materials at both concession stands. Greg Warr did all the accounting work – always keeping the two operations separate. As you probably know, we pay both the Cedar Hill Baseball Association and Youth Football Cedar Hill a commission based on net profit – but at different percentages. Mike Rumsey did the required maintenance work on the stands and Eric Conner was an adviser.

## Family of the Month Oct 2019

### Tom Greco and Helen Beggane

Tom and Helen were married on April 19, 1975 in Omaha, Neb., and have been Holy Spirit parishioners since 1982. “It’s been our spiritual home and a haven for both of us,” Tom said. They previously were active at St. John’s parish in Omaha on the campus of Creighton University, where Tom’s father was a faculty member. Tom and Helen both participate in Holy Spirit’s music ministry, specifically in the 5:30 p.m. Saturday choir – Helen with her voice, Tom with his guitar. “It’s one way we can relate to God,” he said. Tom joined the Knights in 2007, is now a Fourth Degree member, was honored as the council’s Knight of the Year in summer 2014 and is in his second fraternal year as our Grand Knight. He was the driving force behind the establishment of 8157’s degree team, on which Tom as serves as the Chancellor. Tom and Helen live in Duncanville, just down the street from Holy Spirit.

## Family of the Month Nov 2019

### Jim and Lilian Kowalski

The Catholic faith has been at the center of the Kowalskis’ relationship since the very beginning. Jim Kowalski and Lillian Skotak met in 1960 at a get-together of a Catholic singles group called the Dallas Vincentian Club. They were married two years later, and Jim joined the Knights in 1963 at the urging of his then-new father-in-law when they were parishioners at St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Oak Cliff. Lillian was among the founding members of St. E’s Mothers Club, and Jim was a co-founder of the Dallas Parochial Soccer League. Jim helped start Council 8157 in 1982, served as Grand Knight in 1983-84 and ’88-89. In between, he was honored as our Knight of the Year in 1983. He’s an Assistant Diocesan Deputy, which means he’s often attending another council’s meeting when we’re in session in Duncanville. He and Lillian usually attend Holy Spirit’s 9 a.m. Mass, with Jim overseeing the hospitality ministers. They have four grown children and six grandchildren.

## Family of the Month Dec 2019

### Jorge and Eva Barragan

The Barragans celebrated their 16th anniversary in November and are a fixture in that middle pew in Holy Spirit’s sanctuary in one of the front rows. They have five children: Galiliea 14, Jimena 12, Jorge Jr. 8, Lucia 6 and Mariana 1. You’ve also probably seen some of the older children helping out at council events. Jorge and Eva met in Laredo when he was visiting family there. Jorge is a graduate of Waxahachie High and UT-Arlington, earning an engineering degree. Jorge first joined 8157 in 2010. After work took him to south Texas, the Barragans returned two years ago and he returned to our council. His activities have included resuming his role as our go-to guy when it comes to logistics for the parish’s annual fall festival.

# Knights and Special Olympics

Would Special Olympics exist without the Knights of Columbus? Maybe yes, maybe no – you be the judge. The Knights have been one of the initial founding members of Special Olympics, and it has grown and evolved with and because of the Knights. In June 1963, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of John F. Kennedy and wife of Sargent Shriver (both men were Knights) held a camp for young people with disabilities in her backyard.

She recognized how special they were and the limited opportunities for them to participate in athletic events. The first summer Special Olympic games were held, with the help of the Knights, in Soldier Field on July 20th 1968 for about 1000 athletes. Since June of 1962 the Knights of Columbus have given in excess of $167 million to Special Olympics and 70 million volunteer hours with the athletes; encouraging them, congratulating them, supporting them, and awarding them with the medals and ribbons them won at various competitions. The Knights of Columbus in the past and the present lead the way in donating money and personal volunteer hours to the success of Special Olympics and the Olympians. The love and satisfaction gained be being involved with the athletes cannot be explained. Ask someone who has been involved. Would Special Olympics exist us?

During the recent Special Olympic bowling event, approximately 3,500 athletes with various physical and mental disabilities bowled two games in pursuit of a medal or a ribbon. Many were in wheelchairs, some were blind, many were mentally challenges and all had some disability. The spirit of these athletes was uplifting. They were happy and delighted to be active in a sporting event. And their teachers and parents were so elated to be a part of Special Olympics. And these 3,500 athletes did indeed receive a medal or a ribbon presented to them by the Knights of Columbus. The bowling event was held at two bowling center each with 58 lanes and the competition was held for a period of 8 days. What an extravaganza!!!

A big shout out goes to Jim Kowalski who not only authored this article; but also has been participating in the award ceremony at Special Olympics for the past 35 years. If you are at all interested in helping at future Special Olympic events, by all means contact Jim Kowalski at 214-663-3657. The next event will be sometime in March and it will be basketball – probably at Cedar Hill High School.

# Christmas – a time for giving

A tremendous "thank you" to all the Knights who came out and helped with the cooking and serving during the annual Breakfast with St. Nicholas this past December 15, 2019. It was a festive event and due to the generosity of the patrons who attended the event we served nearly 350 people and collected over 225 toys and $1,025 in donations for Mission Arlington and their Christmas Store. Bruce, Trey and a group of youths from Mission Arlington came and participated in this event as well. Kristi Denoy and the children from Grades 5 & 6 made the nativity scene come alive and the Confirmation/1st Communion families kept the dining room running smoothly. Mary Russell and the children's choir performed numerous Christmas carols. Of course the children came to talk to St Nicholas to let him know what they would like for Christmas. Chris Edwards, a suave veteran at this event handled them all with charm and wit. Deborah Pearson and her staff did a wonderful job as always decorating the gymnasium with Christmas magic.

The cooking and serving part of the breakfast was organized and directed by our very own Director of Church Activities – James Smith. Breakfast consisted of pancakes, bacon, sausage, hash brown scrambled eggs, biscuits with gravy, and an assortment of drinks. Thank you Jorge Ruiz, John Espree, Efrain Ochoa, Allen Reitmeier, Eric Conner Keith and Mary Archer, Polly Henderson, Ken Rarick, Tom Greco, Dan Murphy, James Russell, Larry Balagna, Jack Ramsden, Agustin Perez, Agustin Perez Jr. Joseph and Joanne Perez, Dan Schneider, Jeff Miller. Thanks everyone for your commitment to serve others.