

Knights Life



www.kofc8157.org

Holy Spirit Catholic Church – Duncanville, Tx,

Knights of the Year – 2023-2024

David Ybarra



Congratulations to David on his selection as the Knight of the Year for fraternal year 2023-2024. When announced as this Year's Knight of the Year by Efrain

Ochoa, last year's selection, David received a thunderous round of applause. During my talk with David, I soon surmised that the central core of David involved giving. While David wasn't exactly sure where this desire to give to others came from; but he thinks it probably came from his humble beginnings while being raised along with 6 siblings by his mother in El Paso. David gives generously to his family members, to Holy Spirit Church and equally important random people that he and his wife Veronica feel need help. They oftentimes buy groceries or random items for strangers when it appears someone has difficulty paying. So it naturally followed that when I asked him why he joined the Knights he said: "to help others". So for all the years of giving it is only appropriate that he be selected Knight of the Year. David spent the first 10 years of his life in Chicago, came to El Paso with his family and lived there until he entered the Army in 1975. This is also where he met his future wife, Veronica, at the tender



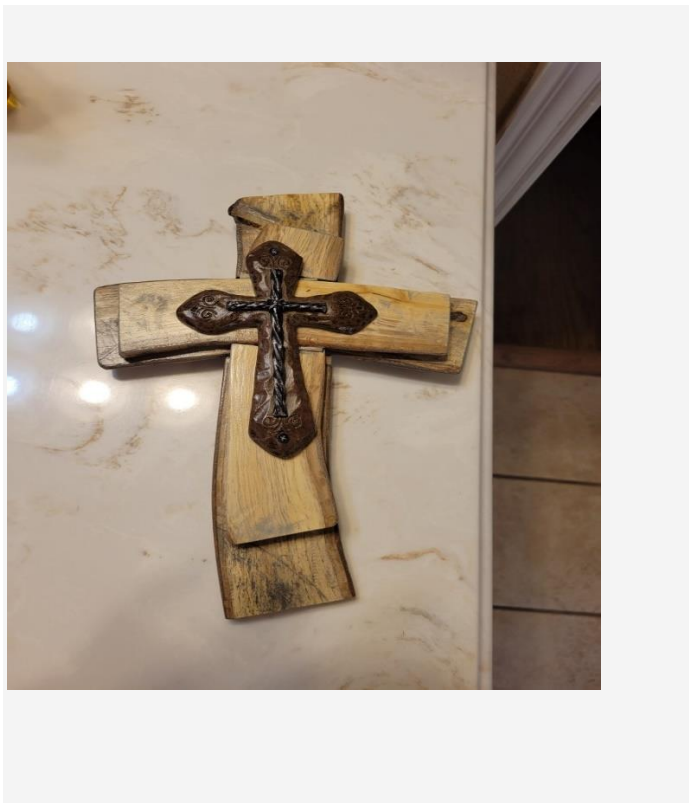
age of 15. During his 10 year military career, much of it spent at Fort Hood, he married Veronica at Fort Bliss in 1978.

His post military life was in warehouse management at Sweepstakes Clearing House in Dallas. He retired in 2015 after 30 years on the job. David joined the Knights in 2006 at the urging of a longtime late friend of the Knights – David Briggs, and served as our Chancellor during the 2010- 2012 fraternal year but stepped back from being an officer when his elderly in-laws moved in from El Paso and became the daily center of their lives. (Ameli Rojjs and Juan Rojjs both passed away in 2019 at the ages of 109 and 108 respectively). Since his retirement David has stepped up his participation in Knight and church activities. Have we ever had a fish fry without David – I don't think so. Could we cook for the residents of St. Joseph's Assisted Living center without David – we could but we never have. David has been on countless Knight Hands projects – most recently during spring P.I.P Days. He is currently director of church activities and a Hospitality Minister at the

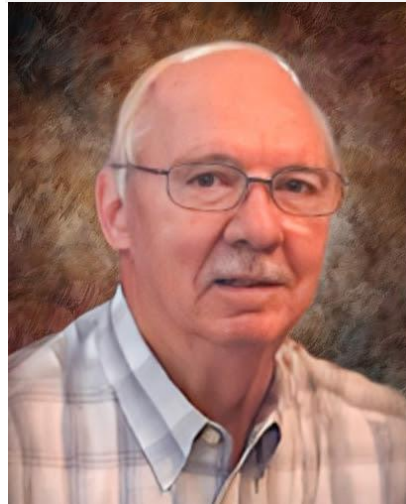
7:30am Sunday Mass. Wherever there is work to be done, you will find David. He not only brings his extensive knowledge of carpentry and common sense, but also brings joy to the event. His happiness rubs off on others and so he is an inspiring member of this council. David and Veronica have recently taken up a bit of traveling – one excursion to Italy, another to the Holy Lands and still another to Greece and Turkey. They will soon be returning to Italy with Fr. Uche.

One of the David’ interesting hobbies is making crosses out of tree branches. It’s more than a hobby, though, because he gives them away to children and grownups alike as gifts. Another example of David’s passion for giving.

When I asked David what he had learned from being a Knight he replied “I found more ways to help others” and “the look on people’s faces when we help them is so rewarding”, also “I have learned to care for others even more”, and “I enjoy the physicality of working for others”. David’s favorite words are “hello” and “always be joyful”. It easy to see why David was the Knight of the Year.



In Memory



Ernest “Ernie” Divin passed away surrounded by love and family on Saturday April 6, 2024. Born on September 10, 1941 in Itasca, Texas, Ernie’s life was one of warmth, generosity and enduring kindness. He leaves behind his

beloved wife of 56 years, Sheila, who stood by him through every chapter of their shared story. Together they built a legacy of love that will continue to flourish through their children and grandchildren. Ernie’s spirit lives on through his son Jason and his wife Tiffanie; his daughter Vanessa, and her partner Aaron Martin; and his son-in-law Robert. He is preceded in death by his daughter Valeria. Ernie’s grandchildren – Drew, McKenzie, Reagan, Elizabeth, Ella, Jake, and Olivia- were the joy of his life. An Aggie through and through, Ernie graduated from Texas A&M where the values of respect, loyalty, and leadership were ingrained in him. Ernie’s love for baseball was a joyous chapter in his life, one that he shared with son Jason. The bond between father and son was strengthened with every catch and game they played together. To those who knew him, Ernie was a man who never met a stranger. His open heart and ready smile made every encounter a moment of connection. He lived his life with a generosity of spirit that drew people to him, and his legacy is one of unwavering love and friendship. He was an avid hunter – ” I’ve hunted with him for 30-40 years”, says Jim Kowalski. While many current Knights were not familiar with Ernest, with respect it should be noted that he was a Knight for 48 years

In Memory



Louie Olsovsky (Oly) died peacefully at home on May 25, 2024 at the age of 96. He was born in Elm Mott, Texas on January 27, 1928. At the

age of 20 Louie enlisted in the Air Force and served 4 years as a Radio Operator, three of which were during the Korean War. Upon returning home, he bought a brand new Mercury and soon after drove that Mercury to the Rose Dance Hall where he met the love of his life, Evelyn. They were married on July 18, 1953 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Bellmead, Texas. They recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. Shortly before marriage, Louie started working at Ling, Vought (LTV) where he worked as an aircraft electrician, and retired after 38 years. He was an avid baseball/softball player and coach. He played on several senior softball teams (local and traveling) up until the age of 82. He also coached many of his children's baseball and softball teams. He was a huge fan and mentor to his grandchildren in their sports endeavors. He worked on just about everything that was electrical or motorized especially lawn equipment, and would spend hours in "the Red Barn" tinkering on anything family, friends, neighbors needed repaired. His other passion was farming, gardening and dancing and listening to polka music and watching Molly B and Polka Joe. Louie and Evelyn had 10 children – Louis, Carol, Sharon, Delores, Robert, Leslie, Mary, James, Angela, and Paul – 15 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Louie joined the first degree of the Knights of Columbus on July 1, 1955 – that's right, he's been a Knight for nearly 70 years.

In Memory



Six Sir Knights and two Sir Knight Honor Guards escorted and accompanied Art Senato to his final resting place at Memorial Garden in Arlington this past Monday July 1, 2024. The Air

Force Honor Guard was also present at the grave site with reverence. Art's impact in our Council was manifested by the number of Knights that traveled to St. Jude Catholic Church in Mansfield for the funeral Mass officiated by Fr. Eugene. Art was a New Yorker (born in Staten Island on May 31, 1933) by birth and a North Texan since the Air Force sent him to Carswell Air Force Base in 1955. Art served in both the Air Force (1952-56) and the Army (1958-77) as a helicopter and airplane mechanic. He retired as a sergeant E-7 and decided to continue to make his home in North Texas. He spent much of his working life at Grumman and retired from LTV/Vaught. He had a passion for all types of aircraft, especially helicopters. He has lived in Arlington since 2001 and became a member of our council in 2005; though he joined the Knights of Columbus in 1974. Art will long be remembered for his work with our council as co-director of youth activities, organizing the free throw contests, attending many fish fries, helping at the pancake breakfasts, being a charter member of the degree team, and his numerous spaghetti dinners to support Holy Spirit Youth. All will also remember his generosity to not only the parish community but also to the council (remember the convection oven). Art was often heard saying, "The Knights of Columbus are very important to me because of the work they do around the world and in the community. Like the military, we're a band of brothers'. Art received numerous awards during his tenure with our council; none more significant then Knight of the Year in 2018

About Your Council

Council Monthly Meetings

General Meeting every 1st Tuesday 7:00pm

Officer's & Directors every 3rd Tuesday 7:00pm

Postal address and meeting location

1111 W Danieldale Rd. Dining Room

Duncanville Tx, 75116 USA

972-298-4971

KC District 109 - Assembly 2799

The council Officers are officially elected for a one year term each June. Their term in office follows the fraternal year, from July 1 through June the following year

Chaplain	Fr. Uche
Grand Knight	Mike Fitzgerald
Deputy Grand Knight	Marc Evans
Chancellor	Paul Ryan
Recording Secretary	Roberto Nieto
Treasurer	James Smith
Warden	Adan Luna
Inside Guard	Gamaliel Hernandez
Outside Guard	Russell LeRoy
Financial Secretary	Peter Perta
Advocate	Russell Gully
Trustees	Jim Russell
	Jorge Ruiz
	Dan Murphy

Service Program Directors

Awareness Committee	Open
Concessions	James Smith
Church Activities	David Ybarra
Family	Jose Montoya
Faith	Charles Ruelas
Life	Mike Moloughney
Youth Activities	Mike Moloughney
Knight Hands	David Dybala
Retention	Paul Ryan
Membership	Jim Kowalski

Council Activities
Community
Degree Team
Sacramental Gifts
Safe Environment
Health Activities
Lecturer

Open
Dan Murphy
Tom Greco
Keith Archer
Russell LeRoy
Robert Nieto
Jim Russell

Knights Life Newsletter

Our Newsletter is published quarterly. 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 are available at the general meeting.

Newsletter Editor and Publisher Allen Reitmeier

Newsletter & Website Writers

Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz, Robby Zablan, Dan Murphy, Jim Russell, Efrain Ochoa, Joel Lopez

Newsletter and Website Photographer

Allen Reitmeier, Leon Cornute, Arthur Rodriguez.

Council Website

Website address kofc8157.org
Website Editor Allen Reitmeier
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 sglmreid@swbell.net

Membership Rosters

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

Knight of the Month Apr. 2024



Roy Cormier

The April, 2024 Knight of the Month is Roy Cormier. Roy was born Catholic and grew up in Louisiana in a farm community where he attended church at St. John's Chapel. He was the eldest of seven

children. Roy joined the Air Force in 1955 where he met his wife, Frances, in 1961 while on assignment in British Guyana. He became a flight navigator and traveled all over the world. He and Frances were married by Bishop Gilley and they moved on to have four children, three boys and one girl. All of their children live in Texas and they have seven grandchildren as well. Roy retired from the Air Force in 1985. He says most Cajuns are Catholic and that when he was a freshman in high school, he spent time in the seminary and considered being a priest. He and Frances moved to Holy Spirit in 1981, but was not a Knight until later when he was recruited by Andy Goza. He volunteered as a companion to his wife, Frances, who is a Eucharistic minister to the homebound.

Knight of the Month May. 2024



Daniel Kendall

Daniel Kendall was born on January 23rd, 1979 at Dallas Methodist Central Hospital. His Mother had moved from Connecticut and passed away when Daniel was 7 years old. She had Daniel immediately baptized

at Holy Spirit following suit after his elder sisters. Daniel's eldest sister passed away and there are now the two older sisters and Daniel. Daniel never attended church after his Mother's passing and only has recently been through RCIA at Holy Spirit. By the way, congratulations! He says it had been a long time coming. Holy Spirit Catholic Church has a special place in his heart as he is an usher on Sundays and has been part of the ACTS team as well. "It is good to be part of something greater than yourself" he says and he of course would like to advance in further church endeavors, but that

it takes time and is a slow moving process. He likes it because it is an escape from the day to day and that it is better than playing video games all day. He says "it makes his Mom happy and proud to see him participate so much with church". On top of everything else, Daniel lectures and does quite a bit of reading of the lector manual. Daniel lives in Cedar Hill and is a high level mechanic at Frazier's Automotive here in Duncanville. Thanks Daniel for sharing all of what you have thus far.

Knight of the Month June. 2024

Tom Greco



Tom Greco became a member of Holy Spirit in 1982 He is originally from Baltimore, MD but grew up in Omaha NE. He is a cradle Catholic with four sisters and one brother. Tom loves the railroad. It is his main hobby. He

worked as a railroad trainmaster at the Dallas terminal for 2 years. He and his wife Helen have lived in Duncanville since 1995. They have been married for 49 years. They met in October of 1974 at the LaSalle Catholic Singles Club. Tom and Helen are both retired. He is a jack of all trades with a BSBA in Economics from Creighton University, he did one year of graduate school, one year of Architecture school, and went to culinary school at El Centro as well. He has written a book called Dining on the B and O which is about train dining car recipes published by Johns Hopkins University. Helen is a retired mechanical engineer and she and Tom have one daughter named Katherine who lives in the San Francisco Bay area. Tom became a Knight on November 13th, 2007, served as Grand Knight 2018-19, and has been captain of the degree team since 2012. He says he really admired the ceremony and took on the challenge of doing so and has brought in over 350 men in 12 years. His love for the railroad is what takes up most of his time; he has a train model at home, studies the history and has written a book. He has logged over 90,000 miles in train travel whether it be by freight or passenger, mostly in the United States. He has kept a log book since 1962 and had his first railroad job in 1963 for 16 years.

A Busy Saturday



Saturday April 27, was an unusually busy day for the Knights of Council 8157. The first event Knights participated in was Special

Olympics. From a backyard summer camp for people with intellectual disabilities in 1962 to a global movement, Special Olympics has been changing lives and attitudes. Envisioned by Eunice Kennedy Shriver and officially founded in 1968, the first Special Olympics was held in Soldiers Field in Chicago. This past Saturday's Special Olympics Track and Field event was held at Cedar Hill High School. Knights participate in Special Olympics by presenting medals and ribbons to the athletes upon completion of their event. Jim Kowalski, who is always involved in Special Olympics, along with Lilian Kowalski, Jeff Miller, John Espree, and Mike Moloughney helped with the presentations. "It is always an emotionally rewarding experience to see the smiles on the athletes as they receive their medal or ribbon" says Jim. The presentation lasted about 6 ½ hours. Thanks everyone, for giving of your time to support Special Olympics.



While Special Olympics was happening, seven Knight Hands with strong hands and warm hearts were participating in the semi-annual

Property Improvement Program (P.I.P) in Duncanville. Each spring and fall, residents of Duncanville may submit an application for assistance to improve the appearance of their home. The work generally involves fence repair/replacement, exterior siding repairs, some tree trimming, roof edge repair and lots of painting. This spring P.I.P completed repairs to 5 homes. Knights Hands did the repair to one of these houses located at 1326 San Miguel drive.

David Dybala, the Director of Knight Hands, organized the whole affair, but he'll be the first one to tell you that it was the expertise and energy of the guys that helped with this project that contributed to its success. Dan Murphy, David Ybarra, Jack Ramsden, Jorge Ruiz, Mike Fitzgerald, and Larry Balagna all pitched in and rebuild a section of fence in the back yard, replaced rotten and warped fence pickets and most importantly, constructed a new fence with a gate to satisfy the Code Enforcement people from the City of Duncanville.



And not to be outdone, James Smith as Director of Concession, worked nearly all day at Valley Ridge Park during league and tournament games on Saturday. Sunday's tournament games were rained out. Lots of other Knights worked on Saturday as well, specifically: Miguel Hernandez David Hernandez, Benjamin Hernandez Jorge Caraveo, Marc Evans, Larry Balagna (he worked 2 shifts) Sheila Balagna, Mario Luna,



Mike Fitzgerald (also worked 2 shifts), Hector Rubio, Jesse Zuniga, and Steve Zehnder. From preliminary reports, it was a very busy time with 27 games played on Saturday – some well into the night. Larry Balagna and Mike Fitzgerald and James Smith worked multiple shifts because there just simply were not enough Knights that volunteered to help this particular Saturday. To those who worked the various shifts this past Saturday a huge **thank you** to one and all. Without monies generated from your work, this Council would not be able to fund all our charitable activities.

Spring Baseball Ends with World Series

The spring little league baseball season came to an end on Tuesday June 25th with the conclusion of the World Series. Over 50 Knights agreed to work during this event which began on Friday June 21st. As always there were many heroes during the World Series; non greater than James Smith, Efrain Ochoa and Billy Callander. James, the Director of Concessions did most of the supply shopping, brewed the tea and prepared smoked turkey legs – he also work a couple 4 ½ hour shifts. Efrain Ochoa was our main man on the hamburger grill and he did this job on three different shifts – the third shift completely unasked for. Billy Callander worked three shifts in the sweltering heat – he was always wet from sweat. Many other Knights worked two shifts including Jim Ouimet, David Dybala, David Ybarra, John Owen, Marc Evans, Jan Araki, and Russell Gully. While the World Series was the final event of the season, let’s remember to thank all those who worked during the regular season and weekend tournaments and the World Series, namely: Keith and Mary Archer, Larry Balagna, Arturo Benal, Jorge Caraveo, Steve Castillo, Alex Carlson, Fred Ciarochi, Michael Clark, Joe Cuellar, Trevor Edwards, John Espree, Joe Eubank, Mike Fitzgerald, Eduardo and Cindy Florentes, Tony Gonzalez, Gamaliel Hernandez, Miguel, David and Benjamin Hernandez, Daniel Kendall, Rod Kinard, Chris Kubin, Lou Lemons, Russell LeRoy, Hector Lopez, Joel Lopez, Adan Luna, Mario Luna, Paul Maldonado, Jeff Miller, Jose Montoya, Dan Murphy, Dr. Robert Nieto, Leobardo Ortiz, Agustin Perez, Peter Perta, Jesse Radillo, Jack Ramsden (shopping), Antonio Razo, Hector Rubio, Jorge Ruiz, Jim Russell, Paul Ryan, Frank Salazar, Otto Santiago, Dan Schneider, Juan Torres, Robert Tovar, and Steve Zehnder. (Please forgive me if I omitted anyone). What a magnificent effort from a large group of Knights, The response for assistance has been outstanding and because of that cooperative effort the council once again has money to fund all our charitable

efforts. As many of you noticed, we have increased prices on a number of food and drink items which adds even more to the profit margin. Chris Edwards was kind enough to print new menu prices. The principle of Unity was on high display as we saw Knights with different backgrounds and different skills work together for the benefit of the entire Council.



Family of the Month April 2024



Miguel and Darlene Hernandez

Miguel and Darlene, have been married since November 16th, 2013. They have two boys, David (13yrs old) and

Benjamin (12 yrs. old). Miguel himself is 44 years old and hails from Los Angeles, CA. He is the son of Miguel and Maria Navares Moore. His parents divorced when he was young. His mother resides in California and his father in Guadalajara, Mexico. He also has a half-brother named Jonathan who resides in Utah. Born Catholic, Miguel grew up in California and had the help of his Uncle Gustavo Hernandez, taking him to church, teaching him work ethic, and religion which meant praying and instilling values. Miguel is now a Juvenile probation officer for Dallas County and has been since 2007. He worked with special education children before that. Miguel claims St. Michael is his favorite saint and he has been with Holy Spirit Catholic Church since 2014. He was recruited by Jorge Ruiz. He also schedules Knights to work at the little league baseball concession stand at Valley Ridge Park.

Family of the Month May 2024



Jim and Mary Russell

I became a knight when Jim was the Grand Knight of our council. Jim served as the leader of the 4th degree assembly two years before

he became Grand Knight. He was recruited by Andy Goza and Tom Greco. Jim and his wife, Mary attend Holy Spirit Catholic Church. They were married in 1966, after he graduated college where he received a Bachelor's degree in Business with a minor in marketing and economics. Jim was born Catholic, same as Mary, and is from Rochester, NY. He served in the Army as an officer and went to Vietnam in 1968-69. Mary is from Stillwater, OK, and she and Jim have five children: Janine, Mark, Matthew,

Christine, and Tiffany. Mary also has two sisters and one half-brother while Jim is an only child. Both of them were born Catholic. Jim says his parents were good Catholics and a strong influence on him was his Uncle William. Jim knows most of the guys that are Knights and says that many members were employed by AAFES during his beginning days. It was before then that Jim was also a member of the Sunday morning choir as well as the Saturday night choir. Mary is a music educator receiving her degree in 1993 and taught at Cedar Hill high school as well as St. Joseph's in Waxahachie. Jim and Mary are Cedar Hill residents and have attended mass at Holy Spirit since the second mass of all time given at the church. Jim and Mary have attended Holy Spirit for over fifty years! Congratulations!

Family of the Month June 2024



John and Anne Owen

The Family of the Month for June, 2024 is John and Anne Owen. John and Anne met at Holy Spirit Catholic Church during a marriage

ministry class and were married at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma 37 years ago. They have 3 kids, 2 boys and 1 girl – Katie (32), Thomas (28), and Daniel (27). Their daughter Katie married in 2019 at Holy Spirit and both of their boys were married last year. They have one grandchild belonging to their daughter, Katie. Anne is from Tulsa, Oklahoma; attended college at St. Mary's in San Antonio, and then became a veterinarian at Oklahoma State University. John is from Midland, TX and is a retired engineer working for Oncor part time within his retirement status. He has been in the DFW area for over 40 years. He attended college at Texas Tech University earning a degree in Electrical Engineering. He says his job covered a large territory inside Texas as he worked in the transmissions (high voltage) operations department for 44 years ever since it was Dallas Power and Light then TU, then TXU and then Oncor. Now that he is retired, John would like to focus more on church activities, spending time with the family, and traveling. One of the things they'd like to do is take a train ride across Canada with their family. He has been to Montreal and Toronto, but only for work he says. John has not been a Knight for too long now, but he always has been active with the church recently as the ACTS team core facilitator. He and his wife Anne also worked for the marriage ministry and Faith Formation.

Cooking at Saint Joseph's



On May 11, 2024, our council once again cooked our famous hot dog and hamburger luncheon for the 78 residences and staff of St. Joseph Residence in Dallas. The group of 15 knights and a few wives met at the Community Center to assemble our supplies before heading over to the residence. Upon arrival the well-oiled machine of Knights immediately took on the tasks of cooking burgers and dogs, preparing the condiments, and setting up the serving line. This year was a little different because we found out that morning that the kitchen at the residence was being renovated and was not available to do our prep work. Not to be deterred the team jumped right in and adapted to the available temporary kitchen. Meanwhile during the prep portion of the morning Sheila Balagna again entertained the residents.



At 11:45 the meal began with members of the Knight's team helping the staff take orders and deliver food restaurant style to the residents. Even though he was fishing in Minnesota, Grand Knight Mike Fitzgerald was still able to provide his famous homemade cookies for the event. There were many compliments and demonstrations of appreciation for our efforts from the residents. The staff was especially appreciative of the extra food that was left for their enjoyment. Members present included BBQ hauler Jack Ramsden, and Cooks David Ybarra, Jose Montoya, and Doug Karpan. The food preparation team included Efrain Ochoa, Jim Ouimet, Arthur Rodriguez, John Owen, Eduardo and Cindy Florentes, Mike Clark, Lou Lemon, Russel Leroy, and first timer Joel Lopez. Room setup and teardown was guided by Larry Balagna. Oversight of the event was provided by Community Director Dan Murphy.

An Eventful Evening

Saturday evening June 29th was filled with prayer, ceremony, awards and food. It all started about 4:50pm as Knights and their families gathered in the church Narthex and processed as a group into a reserved section of the church to attend the 5pm Mass as a group. This is called Corporate Communion and our Council does this quarterly. After Mass, most everyone moved to the dining room of the Community Center where friendships were renewed, new acquaintance were made and in general just a time to say "hello" to everyone and enjoy an adult beverage if it so pleased you.



Around 7pm the process of installing the new Officers for fraternal year 2024-2025 began with an invocation from our Chaplain Fr. Uche and then orchestrated by our District Deputy Keban Alexander.



Each Officer was presented –usually by their wife – with a colored lanyard ribbon and medal signifying their respective office. Grand Knight – Mike Fitzgerald (Susan). Deputy Grand Knight – Marc Evans (Gilda). Chancellor – Paul Ryan (Colleen). Treasurer – James Smith (Judy). Recorder – Dr. Robert Nieto (Gloria). Financial Secretary, Peter Perta (Bimbo). Warden – Adan Luna (Norma). Advocate- Russell Gully (Patricia). Lecturer – Jim Russell (Mary). Outside Guard – Gamaliel Hernandez (Mayra), Inside Guard – Russell LeRoy (Therese). Trustees Dan Murphy (Pat), Jorge Ruiz (Cathy) and Jim Russell (Mary).

The ceremony was very formal and well scripted and the script closely followed. Each Officer was dressed for the occasion. After the installation of Officers, Fr, Uche again led us in a prayer of thanksgiving for the dinner we were about to eat – and then the eating began. Mike Fitzgerald prepared delicious smoked chicken; James Smith prepared many of the side dishes consisting of mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, beans, salad, rolls and drinks, and, of course, a cake for dessert.

There was lots of conversation and mingling after dinner, and then Mike Fitzgerald introduced the

recipients of this years’ scholarships. Those receiving \$1,000 scholarships were: Sandra Echeveste – daughter of Jorge Echeveste, Keddie Ramsden – grandson of Jack Ramsden, Jose Hernandez – son of Gamaliel Hernandez, Jagger Kubin – daughter of Chris Kubin, and Rylee Via – granddaughter of Dan Murphy.

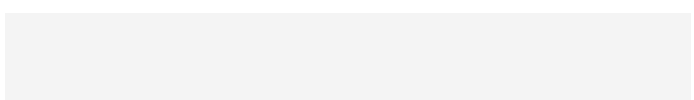


A short time later Efrain Ochoa – last years’ recipient of the Knight of the Year award – summarized this years’ recipients’

accomplishments and deeds that earned him this honor. He also congratulated the three finalist for this award – Gamaliel Hernandez, David Ybarra, and Adan Luna. There was a thunderous ovation when Efrain announced David Ybarra as this years’ Knight of the Year. Wow!! A complete evening enjoyed by all.



Please visit our website, www.kofc8157.org, for full array of pictures.



New Members



Juan Ruiz

Juan Ruiz was born in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. His wife, Silvia, was also born in Mexico but they were married in Arkansas. Together they have four children – Ari (11),

Ian (8), Gio (6), and Dai (1). These children keep Silvia busy as the homemaker while Juan is making a living driving truck. He's not just a truck driver though – he owns and operates his own tractor and trailer. He is an independent truck driver. While he owns a sleeper cab truck, he doesn't use it much because he mostly drives locally and is home most nights. In the past he owned two trucks; but his second truck was stolen and so now he just operates one. He joined the Knights at the invitation and urging of Adan Luna and now wants to learn more about the Knights and what they do. He said "I want to help as much as I can but often I am very busy". As an independent businessman that is very understandable. When he's not on the road he likes to play soccer with his kids. He is also proud to take his family to mass at Holy Spirit. Welcome aboard, Juan.



Juan Romo

We welcomed new Brother Knight Juan Romo on Sunday Jan. 09, 2024. Juan and his wife Angelica, have been members of Holy Spirit for 4 months. They previously attended Mass at San Lucas in Irving for the past 18 years. . They

have resided at their current address in Cedar Hill for 4+ years. Juan and Angelica have been married for 33 years and have four daughters ages 28, 24, 20, and

18. Juan is originally from Mexico City. Juan has owned a swimming pool construction business for the past 24 years. Juan's hobbies include swimming, scuba diving, horseback riding, and playing and watching soccer. When asked why he joined the Knights he said he wants to learn more about our service organization to participate and get involved in the Church and Knight activities whenever time allows him do so.



Moises Martinez

Moises is 37 years old and one of our newest members. He is married to Mariela and has four children - three boys and a daughter ages 17

to 4. He moved from Mexico in the early 2000's and still visits his extended family in Mexico, including his parents, on a regular basis. Beyond his work as a fine Catholic gentleman, husband, and father, he earns his living as a commercial truck driver. Most of the trips he drives are regional overnights in Texas and the adjoining states. The family has lived in Cedar Hill and been parishioners for about three years. Moises spends most of his free time with his family and their many activities. Let's gladly welcome him and his family to Council 8157.



Donovan Gradiz

We welcomed new Brother Knight Donovan Gradiz, on Sunday, June 09, 2024. Donovan is single and has been a member of Holy Spirit

for the past 10 years. He and his family have attended mass at several other Catholic Churches in Dallas,

Arlington and Waxahachie. Donovan served as an Altar boy for one year at St. Joseph’s Church in Arlington. He has resided in his current address in Ovilla for 8 years. Donovan has a 6 yr. old sister & a 24yr. old brother. Donovan is 18yrs. old and was born in Irving. He graduated in 2024 from Heritage High School in Midlothian and also earned an Associate Degree (Dual Credits) from Navarro College in Waxahachie. He plans to enroll at University of North Texas in Denton in the fall of 2024 and pursue a degree in Business/Accounting. He’s only 18, but is already working for the ASP Pool Company in Midlothian and Marco’s Pizza in Cedar Hill. His mentor, Efrain Ochoa, says, “he a real go getter”. When he was asked about his hobbies/extracurricular activities, he mentioned multi sports, working out, playing football & soccer. Donovan decided to join the Knights because he feels there is a great need to help out in our Church and community and wants to get involved.



Jose Valles

Jose was born and raised in Durango Mexico. Coincidentally this is also where met his wife Jessica. They have been married for 24 years and have 4 adult children – Jose – 23, Emily – 22, Alondra – 21 and

Allen – 18. They have been living in Arlington for the past 16 years. While they have only been members of Holy Spirit for three month, Adan Luna spoke to Jose about the benefits of Knighthood and he signed on. Already Jose helps at the church as a Hospitality Minister. Jose paints for a living and has done so for 17 years. Jose and Jessica attended the installation of Officers event, so already he is involved in Knights of Columbus activities. Welcome aboard, Jose



Marco Pinon

Marco Pinon is a very impressive person. He learned the building trades (foundation repairs to roofing) from his dad and uncle. And with

his life’s philosophy of “getting better every day”, he now owns, and has for the past 10 years, his own business with multiple employees. His business is called DM Roofing and Construction. Although his company can do any kind of repairs to a home or business, his calling card is painting. “That’s what I like to do best – painting”. Marco was born in Guanajuato, Mexico and lived there for 17 years, but is now a citizen of the United States. His wife – Elizabeth – of 18 years was also born in Mexico; though they were married in the U.S. They have 3 children – Morely (16), Mark (14) and Isaac (5). Marco aspires to be better every day and is passing on that philosophy to his children. Part of this “getting better every day” is helping those in need – he even does work with severe discounts when a homeowner is strapped for money. He doesn’t have a lot of free time; but what he does have he spend with his family. Marco said a number of times that “I am excited to be a Knight so I can help people”. Wow! Sounds like a super Knight to me. Welcome aboard, Marco

Don’t forget to log onto www.kofc8157.org for more details about all Knight activities. If you push the button in the lower left corner of the home page, it will convert to Spanish or Filipino