

# Knights Life



[www.kofc8157.org](http://www.kofc8157.org) Holy Spirit Catholic Church – Duncanville, Tx,

## Farewell To Father Joe

We bid farewell to Father Joseph Lee on Saturday June 27th, 2020 as he departed from our parish after 11 years as our spiritual leader and priest of Holy Spirit Catholic Church.



Father Joe presided over mass at 8:30 AM and afterwards was escorted by the Knights of Columbus "Color Corps" to a stage under the bell tower where he would address the congregation parked in their cars in the east parking lot.

Before Father Joe's emotion filled final address, the crowd heard from other speakers including Father Eugene Okoli, Deacon Paul Wood, RCIA Director Lindee Greer, and BK Steve Zehnder.

Lindee Greer presented Father Joe a framed photo of himself taken during the final moments of the installation of the new corpus in the sanctuary, which Father Joe was instrumental in making a reality.

Finally came a parade of over 150 cars honking their horns and bearing signs of love, good wishes and gratitude for Father Joe's devotion to our community. Parishioners had waited patiently in line in their cars for over an hour to drive in the parade past the tent in front of the community center building to bid their last farewell to Fr. Joe.

Our thanks to all the knights for participating in Father Joe's Farewell event on Saturday and over the last few days. It was a lot of work but we got it all set up, and torn down and put away by noon on Saturday.



For a video salute to Fr. Joe, log onto [www.kofc8157.org](http://www.kofc8157.org) and click on the video to Fr. Joe

## 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 7, 2020. Their term runs through June 2021

<b>Chaplain</b>	Fr. Steve
<b>Grand Knight</b>	Jorge Ruiz
<b>Deputy Grand Knight</b>	Eric Conner
<b>Chancellor</b>	Jim Russell
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Mike Fitzgerald
<b>Treasurer</b>	James Smith
<b>Warden</b>	John Espree
<b>Inside Guard</b>	
<b>Outside Guard</b>	Steve Reid
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Peter Perta
<b>Advocate</b>	Russell Gully
<b>Chaplin</b>	Fr. Steve
<b>Trustees</b>	Tom Greco Jim Richardson Allen Reitmeier

### 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
Disaster Preparedness	Wendell Jeanpierre
Degree Team	Tom Greco
Sacramental Gifts	Keith Archer
Safe Environment	Jorge Ruiz

### 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](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

# A message from the Grand Knight



**Brother Knights,**

The year 2020 will be an unforgettable year, we're barely halfway through it and so much that has transpired has had worldwide impact. The new year got off to a rocky

start as the political battle that had been brewing in Washington DC for years spilled into January. Then we heard rumblings of a killer virus outbreak in the distant city of Wuhan, China; which most of us probably ignored since the stories were not quite front-page news yet at the time. But then came the infections, the illness and even death.

Fast forward to mid-July, and I'm not sure if it feels like time has flown by, or is it standing still? A new reality appears to be taking shape. The fear of infections has prompted quarantines, lockdowns, social distancing and the wearing of masks, indoors and out; and many fear the "old normal" may not return.

Throughout this pandemic, many knights from our council sought ways to help out where we were needed most, in the community providing meals for our first responders, and helping those in need of home repairs, food or funds due to loss of work. We are deeply grateful for their efforts during this risky time. We know many more knights could not be physically present but were there in spirit, and we salute you all.

Our council enters its 39<sup>th</sup> fraternal year as I take the gavel in my new role of Grand Knight. We may be in uncharted territory running a council during a pandemic, but we're not alone and I believe I have the technical expertise to keep us meeting, communicating and functioning as a virtual council, at the very least. We have a solid electronic communication system in place, an amazing website, a great newsletter, and when combined with timely email campaigns we can keep our membership informed and mobilize it when needed. There's no doubt we may face other challenges as a council

during the next 12 months, but I believe we have a great team in place to help us meet any challenge.

During the next few months I plan to examine how our council's current service programs align with the supreme council's **Faith in Action** program model. I would like to see us develop new programs that will also serve to attract new members.

## Some of my plans include:

- Develop and maintain a strong relationship with our priests and our parish.
- Assist the church with pandemic reopening activities.
- Make sure Supreme Safe Environment training is available for all knights, encourage all officers and directors to become trained.
- Align our service programs with the Supreme Faith in Action (FIA) program model.
- Appoint 4 main FIA directors for Faith, Family, Community and Life to oversee the development of new service programs and committees.
- Develop new service programs especially in the areas of Faith, Family and Life.
- Develop a plan to meet or exceed our council membership quotas.
- Closely manage budget expenditures, as we have lost revenue this year without baseball concessions work.

Finally, with your help and support I believe we can keep our council's participation in the community strong, our membership growing and striving for excellence, so we remain worthy of having been selected the Dallas Diocese Council of the Year 2017-18.

May God bless you and your families.

Jorge Ruiz, Grand Knight  
Knights of Columbus Council 8157  
(214) 215-8451

## Knights Engaging 3.0

“Some of them said WOW,” was part of the text that Dudley Wilcoxson, EMS liaison at Methodist Charlton Hospital, sent to our Dan Murphy, director of community activities, following the third 8157 meal delivery to the hospital staff in as many weeks on Thursday, April 23. This time, the council prepared about 150 cookout lunches that featured a hamburger, hot dog, bag of chips and Mike Fitzgerald’s signature ginger snaps for a host of Charlton personnel: emergency department staff, respiratory techs, radiology staffers, environmental services staff, plant operations technicians and education department staff.



Dan Murphy and James Smith, our director of church activities, again spearheaded the effort with Jack Ramsden arriving early to set up the grilling area behind Holy Spirit’s community center. They were joined by Efrain Ochoa, David Ybarra and Jeff Miller with Arthur Rodriguez pitching in following Father Eugene’s virtual Mass in the dining room. Mr. Wilcoxson was helped make the pickup by Kim Uebner, the hospital’s education coordinator, and Suzanne Hunt, a nurse in the emergency department. This followed a fish fry two weeks earlier and a delivery of breakfast tacos a week earlier.

### Wilcoxson’s text also included:

*“Thx for everything y’all hv done for us. It is greatly appreciated. The staffs eye got big when (you) showed up.”*



## Keeping the Tradition

It has long been a tradition that the Knight of Columbus of this Council cook a meal for the staff, residents and their family or visitors on Mothers’ Day at the St Joseph’s Assisted Living Center in Oak Cliff. With the current pandemic running its’ course, no outsider is allowed to enter the St, Joseph’s assisted living center. They are quite pleased to say they have not had one single case of COVID-19 thus far and they aim to keep it that way.



Once the hamburgers and hot dogs were finished and the fixings were assembled and everything cleaned up and put away for use later all was loaded onto Dan’s truck. Dan and David then took the meal to St. Joseph’s and dropped the meals onto the loading dock where it was retrieved by the staff at St. Joseph’s. Normally we serve the meal to the resident and have lively conversations – the coronavirus prevented us from doing that; but our effort did show the residents we were thinking about them and honoring the many Mothers in residence. We cooked for about 80 staff and residents. Thanks to all who helped keep the tradition alive.

## **Knight of the Month Apr 2020**



### **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 – Deputy Grand Knight, 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.

## **Knight of the Month May 2020**



### **David Ybarra**

These atypical months during the current pandemic have still been busy ones for David as our council has pulled out the grills and served

meals to staffers at Methodist Charlton and at the St. Joseph’s Home in Oak Cliff. The man can wield a mean spatula and looks like he’s working on a NASCAR pit crew placing burgers in buns by the dozens. David joined the council in

2008 and served as our Chancellor during the 2010-12 fraternal years but stepped back from being an officer when his elderly in-laws moved in from El Paso and became the daily center of the lives of he and wife Veronica. (Amelia Ybarra passed away in September 2019 at the age of 109; Juan Ybarra passed away a month later at age 108.) David and Veronica met in El Paso, where Veronica was born and where David moved to as a child from Chicago. He retired five years from his most recent position as a warehouse manager. The Ybarras live in Waxahachie and have been Holy Spirit parishioners since 2003. Even through the painter’s mask worn during the pandemic, it was easy to see David works with a smile on his face.

## **Knight of the Month June 2020**



### **Steve Reid**

This past March marked the 40th anniversary of Steve’s entry into the Knights of Columbus. That took place in Council 4118 in his native Kansas. Steve was

convinced to join the KC’s by those around him at Bishop Carroll High in Wichita, where he was a math teacher. Steve graduated from what’s now Emporia State University in December 1974, weeks after he and Linda were married over Thanksgiving weekend. The Reids came to north Texas (and specifically Duncanville) in the final days of 1985 just before Steve, who’d left teaching to do aerospace analysis, was hired by LTV in Grand Prairie. The Reids have three grown sons – for years we saw Steve in his Boy Scout troop leader uniform – three granddaughters and two grandsons. With retirement last September, Steve has more time for service; we saw him happily greeting diners on the serving line for the Lenten fish fries and he has helped since January at Holy Spirit’s food pantry twice a week. He notes that demand at the latter has nearly doubled during the current pandemic. Beginning in July, Steve will be our Outside Guard.

## Showing Support for Duncanville Police

This week the Knights of Council 8157 demonstrated our support for the men and women who work at the Duncanville Police Department with a small token of appreciation, we served them lunch and dinner over two consecutive days. After making our offer known to Officer Doug Sisk, a Crime Prevention Specialist for the Duncanville PD, he happily accepted on behalf of the department and we worked out the date of Tuesday-Wednesday, June 23-24 as the most convenient for all.



In order for us to serve a meal to all the members of the Duncanville Police Department while they are on duty in different shifts and rotations, we had to serve lunch for some of the staff at midday and then serve dinner later that evening for other staff members on Tuesday; and then repeat the process the following day.



We made four deliveries and a total of 90 individually packed meals consisting of a hamburger; a hot dog; a bag of chips; a bag of cookies; a bag with fresh lettuce, tomatoes, onions and pickles; and all the condiments and napkins. A few cases of bottled water were also donated. On the second, day Officer Sisk reported our meals had been very well received by the staff of the DPD.

Making all this happen were some of our A-Team brother knights: James Smith, Dan Murphy, Jack Ramsden, Efrain Ochoa, David Ybarra, Arthur Rodriguez and Jorge Ruiz. Thank you brother knights, it was the least we could do to show support for the men and women who put their lives on the line every day to keep our community safe from crime. Thank you Duncanville Police.



## “Sprucing Up”

In order to give our new incoming Parochial Vicar a proper welcome, Leonardo Zapata, asked Knight Hands to “spruce up” the living quarters for Fr. Esteban Antes who will be arriving sometime during the last week of June, 2020. More specifically, Leonardo asked us to repair all the drywall cracks, repair the water damaged areas, replace the bath exhaust fan and then paint the bedroom and sitting room where Fr. Esteban will reside.

So on Thursday June 18, 2020 Steve Zehnder, Dan Murphy, Mike Fitzgerald, Jorge Ruiz and I arrived at the Rectory and began the process of preparing the two room for painting.

Steve Zehnder took charge due to his professional experience with these type of projects.



He proclaimed early on that the biggest job would be preparing the rooms for painting, rather than the actual painting. And he was right. First of all the furnishings had to move out of the rooms or covered with plastic. Then Steve and Dan repaired the drywall cracks – there were about 11 such cracks which had to be re-taped and mudded and then textured. While this was going on the rest of us covered the floor with plastic, taped off all the cabinets and floor molding, removed all the electrical covers, took down the drapery and blinds, removed pictures and hardware, and covered the ceiling fans with plastic. By the time this was complete it was time to call it a day – besides the drywalls repairs had to dry before painting.



On Friday morning, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Dan Murphy, Jack Ramsden, Steve Zehnder, David Ybarra and I arrived at 8am to finish the job. Painting went quite quickly with Jack painting the bathroom, David painting the closet and Steve, Dan, and I painting and cutting in the ceiling and

walls. Then everything had to be put back the way it was when we began which took a couple more hours. After a final clean, we proclaimed the project complete. In all Knights worked about 40 hours to complete this job with about \$220.00 in material expense. It is now ready for the arrival of Fr. Steve. Thanks men for a job well done.

## In Support of our Priests & Parish

The virus pandemic that shut down our country this year has impacted many businesses, entire industries and our economy in general; the true measure of which remains unclear. For this reason we decided to offer our council's annual donation to Holy Spirit Church in July, at the very start of our new fraternal year, rather than wait until January as had been customary in years past. This morning knights from Council 8157 met with clergy and church staff, and made the presentation. Our parish Priest Fr Eugene Okoli and Fr Steve Antes, new Parochial Vicar were present along with church Business Administrator Leonardo Zapata, a brother knight himself, and Community Life Coordinator Melisa Limones. Our council was represented by Grand Knight Jorge Ruiz, Chancellor Jim Russell, and brother knights David Dybala and David Ybarra. The presentation included packets with a brief introduction of our council, handouts listing our new officers and directors and copies of the Faith in Action, and Safe Environment guidebooks; as well as the Chaplain's Handbook.



Needless to say all social distancing measures had to be followed and masks were worn by all. The traditional handshake that would otherwise usually follow in a photo op gave way to a somewhat awkward elbow bump instead. But you can bet that behind the masks there were big smiles. We wish to welcome and express our gratitude to Father Steve Antes for joining our council today and for accepting the role of **Council Chaplain**.

## Family of the Month Apr 2020



### James and Judy Smith

James and Judy take care of their family. When their daughter was ill and

had nowhere to turn, James and Judy drove her to Rochester Minnesota for treatment and stayed a number of weeks until she was well enough to be on her own. James and Judy have supported this parish in various roles over the years. James takes on more and more responsibilities with the Council as time passes. He is currently the Treasurer of the Council as well as director of church activities. He is a member of the baseball committee and supplies the concession stands with raw materials. He can be found at almost every Knight function. James and Judy were married in 1981 and are now both retired. They live in Duncanville along with their dog, Jake – if you have ever met Jake you won't forget him. James joined the Council in 2013, took his major degree a year later and soon after joined the 4<sup>th</sup> degree. James and Judy have hearts of gold and being around them makes you want to be a better person.

## Family of the Month May 2020



### Dan and Pat Murphy

Dan remains extremely active within Council 8157 almost two decades after he served as our Grand Knight (2002-04). He has been our director of community activities for years and made sure that remained a high priority even while many aspects of council and parish life were restricted in recent months. Soon after our schedule of Lenten fish fries was suspended, Dan called together Knights to fry up our remaining filets and present them to the EMTs at Methodist Charlton in early April. A week later, KC's

under his direction prepared fish tacos for the overall Charlton staff. Then there were lunches of burgers and hot dogs for the EMTs again in mid-May and for the residents of St. Joseph Residence in Oak Cliff, which we typically do at least once a year, a short time later. Dan and Patty have been married since 1975, meeting in Philadelphia during his days at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. Dan grew up in Irving and graduated from Jesuit College Prep, where he was inducted into the school's athletic hall of fame in 2008 for his track exploits. Today, Dan could probably sprint over to Holy Spirit from their Duncanville home. They have two grown daughters, Kimberly and Erin, and five grandchildren.

## Family of the Month June 2020



### Wendell and Connie JeanPierre

It all began in the produce aisle of a National Foods store in New Orleans on June 5,

1982. Wendell spotted a woman up ahead from the waist down and was, well, intrigued. After getting close and seeing all of Connie Stampley, he apparently became interested enough to, according to Connie, keep an eye on her throughout the store. Coincidence, maybe, that he was right ahead of her in the checkout line. "You look like a woman who needs insurance," was his opening line, handing her his business card. She replied he might like a free gym pass and produced her card as executive director at the YMCA. She predicted he'd call her within 40 minutes and it took only 30. They were married the following March and have been together for 37 years. The JeanPierres have lived in DeSoto following Hurricane Katrina and have three grown children living in Cedar Hill, Orlando and Albuquerque and six grandchildren. Wendell wasted no time in getting involved with the Knights; he took his first degree in April 2018, his major degree that June and joined the fourth degree that fall. He serves as our lecturer.

