

# Knights Life



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

Holy Spirit Catholic Church – Duncanville, Tx,

## Sanctuary Preparation

The remodeling of the church's main building has begun and Knight Hands was there to help with the preparations before the contractors come in. The carpeted floors will be replaced with a polished concrete smooth marble-like finish. It's gonna look beautiful. But before any of this work could start, Knight Hands have been there to empty out the rooms and protect all the items that will remain in place in the sanctuary, the altar, the tapestry, the Stations of the Cross, etc. Perhaps the single biggest part of the prep work was started with the removal of the nuts and bolts that anchor the church pews to the concrete floor. The final part, the actual removal of the pews, took place On Saturday June 5th



**Pictured above from left are:** Dan Murphy, David Ybarra, Allen Reitmeier, John Espree, Deacon Al Evans, John Balasa, Larry Balagna, David Dybala and Dan Sheridan. Jorge Ruiz took the picture.

There was no shortage of energy or willingness or Knights on the morning of May 19, 2021 as 15 Knights assembled to begin the process of moving furniture from the church building into the Community Center. This work was necessary in preparation of the renovation of all the floors in the church building – including the sanctuary, the chapel, all the classrooms, the kitchen, Narthex, even storage areas. On this particular day the emphasis was on moving the table and chairs and miscellaneous items from the classroom in the church building into the classrooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Community Center. Everybody pitched in with 2 wheelers and furniture dollies and the parade began. The biggest impediment was the elevator. There was always a line waiting at the elevator. Since so many Knights volunteered to work this day, we also moved all the chairs from the chapel as well as all the temporary pews in the church hallway and any other stuff we



could get our hands on, including the chapel altar (which later needed some repairs).



chapel. All this work had to be done before the pews could be moved into the Narthex.

There was a flurry of activity on the morning of June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as twenty-five Knights of Columbus arrived to remove the pews from the sanctuary. It was like an ant farm with pews and Knight Hands on the move everywhere. I should mention that prior to all the work to move the pews began, Deacon Al Evans led us in a prayer for safety, success and most of all for thanksgiving that fine men such as those in attendance have charity in their hearts. Then after a brief instruction session by David Dybala, Knight Hands began lifting the pews onto dollies designed and constructed by David Dybala and wheeled the pews out of the sanctuary and into the Narthex. With 25 Knights in motion it only took about an hour to move all the pews and the organ into the Narthex.

## Pews in Motion

I would be remiss if I didn't mention all the work that was performed before pew moving day. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, 15 Knights moved the tables and chairs and other miscellaneous items from the church classrooms and the Narthex to the Community Center, so that demolition work could begin in these areas to make room for the pews. On May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, seven Knight Hands worked to remove all the items from the Music Director's office (filing cabinets, large bookcase, desk etc.). Knight Hands also shortened a wall in the prep room closet. On May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, nine Knights arrived at 9am to cover the Stations of the Cross, the stained glass windows (2 were completely removed) the altar and anything else that would be damaged by dust. Knight Hands also removed all the fasteners holding the pews in place – that involved removing all the hold down nuts. And finally on June 1, 2021, eight Knight arrived at 9am to move all the final loose ends from the chapel and the sanctuary including taking down the drapes in the



**Pictured above standing from left are:** Doug Karpan, Dan Murphy, James Smith, Manuel Urias, Jim Ouimet, Roy Cormier, Deacon Al Evans, Russell Gully, Mike Moloughney, Keith Archer, Larry Balagna, Bill Neilon, Cesar Villareal .  
**Kneeling from left are:** Mario Mejia, David Ybarra, Jose Montoya, Russell LeRoy, Jack Ramsden, Roberto Nieto, Arthur Rodriguez, Mike Fitzgerald, David Dybala and Paul Ryan. Not pictured are Allen Reitmeier and Jorge Ruiz

## 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 2nd term in office on July 6, 2021.

Their term runs through June 2022

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

### Service Program Directors

<b>Awareness Committee</b>	<b>Jorge Ruiz</b>
<b>Concessions</b>	<b>Allen Reitmeier</b>
<b>Church Activities</b>	<b>James Smith</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>David Dybala</b>
<b>Faith</b>	<b>Al Evans</b>
<b>Life</b>	<b>Mike Moloughney</b>
<b>Youth Activities</b>	<b>Mike Moloughney</b>
<b>Knight Hands</b>	<b>Allen Reitmeier</b>
<b>Retention</b>	<b>Allen Reitmeier</b>

<b>Membership</b>	<b>Jim Kowalski</b>
<b>Council Activities</b>	<b>Jorge Ruiz</b>
<b>Disaster Preparedness</b>	<b>Wendell Jeanpierre</b>
<b>Degree Team</b>	<b>Tom Greco</b>
<b>Sacramental Gifts</b>	<b>Keith Archer</b>
<b>Safe Environment</b>	<b>Jorge Ruiz</b>
<b>Health Activities</b>	<b>Robert Nieto</b>

### Knights Life Newsletter

Our Newsletter is published quarterly. The Newsletter is delivered electronically to your email address and is post 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**  
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 member ship roster is available in paper form to all Knights in good standing at the general meeting

## **Knight of the Month Apr 2021**



**Jose  
Montoya**

Jose wasn't chosen as our Knight of the Month for April because he celebrated a birthday in the middle of the month, but that's a nice coincidence. He joined the order in January 1997 in

Louisiana and added his major degrees the following month. After moving to our area, he unsurprisingly was invited to join 8157 by Andy Goza. Jose is a frequent contributor to council activities such as the lenten fish fry operation and Knight Hands. He's technically retired but, being a licensed HVAC technician, seems like he's always busy with some kind of project at his shop in Ovilla; he also owns a second shop at the same location and rents that to a plumbing company. Jose grew up in El Paso, as did wife Isabel, and he spent 24 years in the U.S. Navy. The Montoyas have four daughters (Pilar Zelda, Toni Zephra, Zoie Anne and Zara Rose) and one grandchild (6-year-old Xavier Emmanuel

## **Knight of the Month May 2021**



**Alex Sabo**

Alex is scheduled to make a training video for selling raffle tickets to the annual Bishop's Pro-Life Dinner that might include: "I sold the

grand-prize winner! This year it could be you!"

Alex's devotion to the pro-life movement came out of a visit years ago to the abortion clinic on Record Crossing in Dallas. "For \$285, you could get an abortion," he said. "To this day, it saddens me that for \$285 you could end a life."

Alex was born in West Virginia two months premature at 4 pounds, 13 ounces: "My mother was told all through her pregnancy I would not walk, talk or learn." Alex first walked at age 4. "God blessed me with almost an endless supply of relentless determination," he said.

Hence, he's done about \$30,000 of raffle-ticket sales over eight years, including the \$10,000 big winner this winter to one of his Duncanville neighbors, a "repeat customer."

After graduating from high school in Youngstown, Ohio, Alex earned an accounting degree from his hometown university, and he followed an older sister to Dallas-Fort Worth in summer 1978 to escape Ohio winters. Alex and wife Therese met in 1980 at a Catholic singles function in north Dallas, were married in 1982 and moved to Duncanville. They have two grown children and three grandchildren. He got his CPA license after earning a master's from UTA and retired in 2013 following 26 years with the IRS. Soon after, he joined Council 8157 in March 2014 and took his major degrees the following March.

## **Knight of the Month June 2021**



**Robert Nieto**

Robert, who joined our council in June 2018, recently became director of 8157's health activities. No surprise there – he's been a neurologist since 1995. But he's also handy with a power drill and hand tools, as demonstrated when he pitched in

when our group removed the pews from the sanctuary to allow the replacement of the flooring to be done. Alas, he confessed: "I'm not a very good cook." But he's happy to help at the Valley Ridge concession stand. He goes by Robert, Roberto. "Bobby even," he said. Robert is from Corpus Christi. He and wife Gloria have lived in Cedar Hill for 20 years, and he moved his practice to Mansfield about seven years ago. Robert has stepped up as one of the hospitality ministers who took on special duties in recent months. The Nietos have three daughters – Maria is a graduate of Oklahoma State (did we hear Jim Russell and Rod Kinard cheering?) and is now a graphic designer in Dallas. Marisa is a senior at SMU majoring in civil engineering. Monica is a sophomore at TCU majoring in public relations/strategic communications. "None of them wanted to be a doctor," Robert said, "but I didn't take it personally." Let's see what they can do with a reversible screwdriver.

## Annual Storage Shed Cleanout

Knights took time out between events to do a little housekeeping duty in the Holy Spirit Church storage sheds. First on Monday morning May 10<sup>th</sup>, James Smith and Jack Ramsden did quite a bit of work on their own and then on Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, a few more Knights joined in to do some major organizing of the church festival gear and council equipment. Just take look at the pictures below and I think you will agree that the roughly 50 man hours it took to move, sweep, wash, hang, store and organize all our stuff was time well spent.

A huge thanks to brothers Jack Ramsden, SK James Smith, SK Dan Murphy, SK Deacon Al Evans, Jose Montoya and SK Jorge Ruiz, GK, for giving up some mid-week work hours to this endeavor.



## District 109 Exemplification

District 109 held its first ever Exemplification ceremony not only since the pandemic was declared, but one that was held district-wide for the first time ever. Our District includes four councils, they are: Holy Spirit Council 8157, Holy Cross Council 7017, St Francis of Assisi Council 12484 and St Elizabeth of Hungary Council 17111. Our District Deputy, SK Kebran Alexander coordinated the effort a few weeks ago and made sure to enlist the support and participation of all the council Grand Knights.

Knowing Holy Spirit would be out of commission, so to speak, due to the floor remodeling project underway, our DD secured the use of the sanctuary at St Elizabeth of Hungary and the participation of Fr Russ Mower in the Chaplain role. Our Degree team had been practicing for our first upcoming ceremony which we are planning to hold at the end of June, all details are yet to be determined, but we are ready to go.



At the ceremony our council welcomed two new brother Knights, Edgar Cervantes and Jerry Smith Jr. They were both accompanied by their wives to the ceremony. We also had two 1st degree Knights attend the ceremony so they could advance to 3rd degree, as it is now required by Supreme, if you entered the Order via the old style ceremony. Our new 3rd degree Knights are Gamaliel Hernandez and Dennis Hudson. There were five candidates from the other councils in attendance as well. Congratulations to all brother Knights!

The Exemplification Team, assembled just prior to the start of the ceremony by DD Kebran, included Field Agent James Speelman (Waxahachie), whom assisted by his son, took charge of the Prepared table with the rosaries and pins and provided copies of the scripts, and he also played the Presiding Officer role. The Chaplain was Fr Russ Mower, pastor of St Elizabeth. The Presenter on Charity was SK Jorge Ruiz, the Presenter on Unity was SK Bill Dover, the

Presenter on Fraternity was SK Mike Fitzgerald and SK Russell Gully had the part of the Warden. Our Worthy Dallas Diocesan Deputy Mike Courtney was present to do the honors as the presenter of the rosaries and pins for the candidates.

## Spring Baseball concludes

Little league baseball was adversely affected by COVID-19 in that very few teams signed on to play ball this spring. Where in some past years we attended as many as 700+ games, this year we attended only 80 total games. And while our per game gross sales were higher than other years, we simply had fewer games. Plus lots of games were rained out and never replayed because it just got too far into the summer. That does not, however, lessen the effort of the Knights who gave of their time to serve food and drink to those folks who approached the window at Valley Ridge Park.

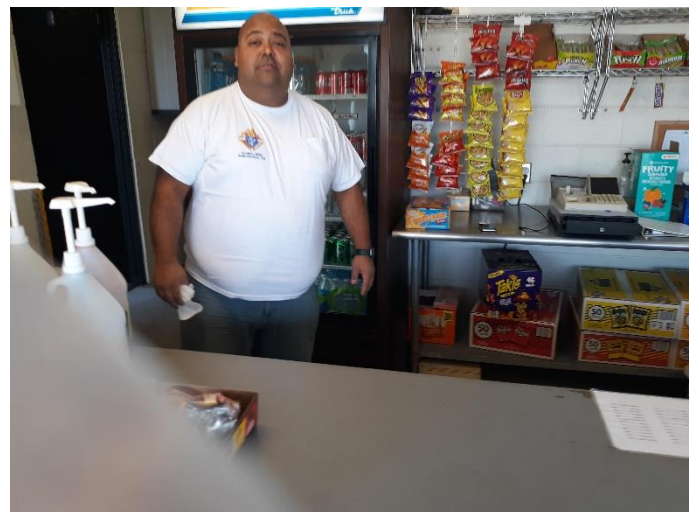


Also in attendance were our own Financial Secretary Pete Perta, our Exemplification team presenter Ramon Presas and our Membership Director and Assistant Diocesan Deputy, SK Jim Kowalski. We wish to express our sincere gratitude to host Council 17111 and Grand Knight SK Joseph Villegas and his Financial Secretary SK Mike Luna for their hospitality before and after the ceremony. They also very graciously provided the rosaries for our candidates.



Eric Conner, Larry Balagna & Rod Kinard

The Supreme literature says this ceremony was designed for a church setting with a large audience and the team should pay particular attention to how the performance is perceived by, and its impact upon, candidates and all in attendance. The literature also suggests presenting from memory is ideal but team members may read the script, as long as they are comfortable and can do so skillfully. It also recommends that the ceremony be conducted with some theatrical flair and passion. Based on the outpouring of support and positive feedback we received from several audience members, I would say our mission was accomplished.



Miguel Hernandez



Mike Fitzgerald, Paul Ryan, Mona Ryan, Larry Balagna & Joe Cuellar



Roy Seltenrich and his son

Thank you **Dan Murphy, David Ybarra, Efrain Ochoa, Eric Conner, Hector Rubio, James Smith, Jim Kurowski, Jim Russell, Joe Cuellar, John Espree, Juan Hernandez, Keith Archer, Ken Rarick, Larry Balagna, Mary Archer, Miguel Hernandez, Mike Fitzgerald, Mona Ryan, Nydia Mijangos, Paul Ryan, Peter Perta, Robert Nieto, Rod Kinard, Roy Seltenrich, Russell Gully, Russell LeRoy, Steve Zehnder, Tony Gonzalez, Trevor Edwards.** Thanks also to the baseball committee consisting of Greg Warr (accounting), James Smith (Purchasing) and Jeff Miller (advisor). Fall baseball will be coming soon and all looks well for the fall season.

## We Met on a Tuesday



Our council's first in-person general membership meeting since the pandemic was declared, finally took place on Tuesday, May 4th, 2021 at the Duncanville Fieldhouse where we rented the Center Room and it felt like it was about two thirds the size of Holy Spirit's Upper Room (dining room). So there was plenty of space to easily accommodate the 34 members in attendance that evening, plus another 5 watching online. There were several key items on the agenda, including approval of the budget and presentation of the Slate of Officers for the next Fraternal Year. The May 2021 Family of the Month Award was presented to our Worthy Advocate SK Russell Gully and his bride, Lady Patricia. The May 2021 Knight of the Month Award went to BK Alex Sabo

### Slate of Officers for FY 2021-2022

Grand Knight	Jorge Ruiz
Deputy Grand Knight	Jim Russell
Chancellor	Mike Fitzgerald
Advocate	Russell Gully
Treasurer	James Smith
Recorder	Ramon Presas
Warden	John Espree
Inside Guard	Efrain Ochoa
Outside Guard	Steve Reid
Trustee	Tom Greco
	David Dybala
	Allen Reitmeier

## Family of the Month Apr. 2021



### Efrain and Lisa Ochoa

Customers for our first-time drive-through Lenten fish fry dinners were probably unaware that the Ochoas double-teamed many of those Fridays. Efrain was “out back” in the preparation area, helping with the cooking of hush puppies and french fries while also getting his gloved hands into the breading operation. Lisa was inside, where the completed dinners were hurriedly placed into bags for distribution in the parking lot. The Ochoas will celebrate their 27th anniversary in September, having been wed right here at Holy Spirit in 1995 by Father Joe Lee well before he became our pastor. Efrain and Lisa met in Garland, introduced by some of Lisa’s friends. Efrain joined the council in November 2001 and took his major degrees on New Year’s Day 2002. He grew up down in Pharr and followed his sister to our area. Efrain worked 37 years for the City of Dallas, most recently in water engineering, and is enjoying retirement. Lisa is in management at the Home Depot in Waxahachie. They have two grown sons, Carlos (25) and Nicholas (22). Aside from fish-fry duties, Efrain often helps out with our concessions operations, with Knight Hands and many other council activities..

## Family of the Month May 2021



### Russell and Tricia Gully

The Gullys have been constants at Holy Spirit since 1986. Of the many roles they’ve performed over the years, they’ve added another during the parish’s return to in-person Mass attendance since last August by being involved in the hospitality ministry that has helped safely admit and seat congregants.

When family activities director David Dybala introduced the Gullys as the Family of the Month at the council’s May meeting, he noted Russell has been with the law firm of

Thompson and Knight LLP for 37 years and “just can’t get away from the Knights.”

Russell grew up about 10 miles from San Angelo. After high school, he attended Angelo State for a year and then transferred to the University of Texas. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mathematics and later added a law degree.

## Family of the Month June 2021



### Frances & Jeff Miller

have been Holy Spirit parishioners since 1988. They are very active members of the parish, as lectors and as outreach ministry volunteers. They met at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama in the mid-1970’s and were married by April 1978. Together they have four adult children (Kimberly, Jason, Kevin and Joseph) and two grandchildren. Frances, along with her brother and five sisters, grew up in Jacksonville, Florida and attended Catholic schools all the way through high school. In 1988 the Millers moved their family from Jacksonville, Florida to Dallas, Texas, when Jeff went to work for the Dallas Morning News. Frances has been the administrator of an outpatient surgery center in north Dallas for several years, she is recently retired. Jeff now works as a freelance writer and contributes to The Texas Catholic newspaper. Jeff is a published author, widely known for the book, **Grown at Glen Garden: Ben Hogan, Byron Nelson, and the Little Texas Golf Course that Propelled Them to Stardom.**

Jeff Miller displaying masterful skill at catfish preparation. Jeff joined the Knights and our council in 1998 invited by then-Grand Knight Bill Chalko. Jeff is one of the most active Knights in our council, having served as Council Recorder twice, served as Chancellor and as Deputy Grand Knight, and he served as our Family Programs Director for a few years. At Holy Spirit he has been a Eucharistic Minister, a faith formation instructor, a Lector and a funeral helper.

Jeff is a member of the Scholarship Committee and a member of the Awareness Committee, where he writes stories for our council’s website, including the bios for Knight of the Month and Family of the Month.

