

Knights Life



www.kofc8157.org

Holy Spirit Catholic Church – Duncanville, Tx,



The Knights of Columbus Council #8157's charter was approved and signed by 41 Knights on June 17, 1982. And so it was fitting that a large contingent of Knights arrived at Holy Spirit Catholic Church on June 18, 2022 for Saturday evening Corporate Communion Mass to begin the celebration of this milestone. Led by the 4th degree Color Guard, the Knights and their mates entered the sanctuary as a group; dignified and well turned out. Fr. Tom Cloherty celebrated the Mass with Deacon Al Evans assisting. After Mass everyone migrated to the gymnasium where seats were assigned and social time began. Before dinner was served, adult beverages and soft drinks were available and we were regaled by the amazing sounds of Felipe Ramirez's piano and the voice of Jacqueline Estrada singing inspiring classical music.

Around 7pm, following a prayer from Fr, Steve, dinner was served. Food was catered by Roma's

Italian Bistro and our sisters from Catholic Daughters of America graciously served the food. When the meal was nearly finished we again heard music from Felipe and Jacqueline. What a delightful sound.

At 8:00pm the evenings' program began with Grand Knight Jorge Ruiz acting as emcee. He began by thanking those involved in getting the gymnasium ready for this celebration – those who set up the tables and chairs, made the table center pieces, displayed the pictures of past Grand Knights). He thanked the Catholic Daughters for their help in serving and thanked those who would be cleaning the gymnasium after the celebration was complete. He then got into the heart of the celebration by recognizing all the past priests and deacons who have helped the Knights of Columbus on this 40 year journey. He particularly mentioned those in attendance – Rev. Eugene Okoli, Rev. Tom Cloherty, Rev. Steve Antes, Deacon Gene Freeman, and Deacon Al Evans. His narrative about

all the priests and deacons since 1972 was most interesting and informative. Fr. Eugene was given the floor next and he gave a heartfelt “thank you” to the past and current Knights for all they do to support the clergy and the church.

Dan Murphy then manned the podium as he introduced all the past Grand Knights and a little about each one and their accomplishments. So, of course, he started with Joe Delatte, who along with his wife Mary was in attendance from Rockwall.



Joe Delatte

Joe was the very first Grand Knight and his joy was “watching the council grow in membership, community service and service to God and the church

As Dan recited the names and accomplishments of each Grand Knight, it was easy to see why this Council has thrived for the past 40 years. Dan named each Grand Knight in succession – **Joe Delatte**, Jim Kowalski, **John Sinks**, Steven Mitchell, **Richard Doucette**, Ernie Coy, **Ron Pinkston**, Russell Gully, **Richard Bates**, Bill Chalko, **Ron Suriano**, Marce Tebbe, **Dan Murphy**, Ed O’Brien, **Chris Kubin**, Andy Goza, **Frank Salazar**, Jim Richardson, **Tom Greco**, Jorge Ruiz.

Along the way Dan pointed out some highlights from the past 40 years. He talked about the Knights instituting the pancake breakfasts noting that the first pancake breakfast was cooked in the Narthex kitchen. In the early 90’s the Men’s Club was disbanded and its’ active members joined the Knights of Columbus. In the mid 90’ the council was awarded the prestigious Star Council award for the first time. He mentioned the Council has received this award many times since then. In the late 90’s the Knights worked at the concession stand in Duncanville raising money for charitable activities. In early 2000, the council became heavily involved in the Fall Festival. In 2008 the council was once again became involved in

baseball concession; this time with Cedar Hill. In late 2010 the Knights began honoring firemen and police officer with a BBQ cook out in Duncanville, Cedar Hill, and DeSoto. In early 2010 Knight Hands was established and has received national attention for their work. And somewhere in there, the Knights started the annual Lenten fish fry. Cooking for the Veterans, the seminarians, and residents of St. Joseph has been a staple activity for many years. Providing financial support for the church and seminarians has also been long running as well as college scholarships for Knight family members

Dan also talked about those who have passed away – Ernie Coy, Bill Chalko (his wife Sandy was in attendance), John Sinks, Ron Suriano, and Andy Goza (his wife Susan was in attendance).

It was inspiring to hear all the “good things” that have happened in the past 40 years that were a direct result of efforts by the Knights of Columbus.

The next part of the evenings’ program, again emceed by Jorge Ruiz, was the roll call of the Knights of the Year for the past 40 Years. As each name was recited, those in attendance stood and at the end received a rousing round of applause. These Knights stood out among their peers for the year they received the award

And the final event was the presentation of the Knight of the year for 2022. The Knight of the year was selected by secret ballot from previous Knights of the Year recipients. This year’s award went to David Dybala



David’s many feats were recited and Larry Balagna, last year’s Knight of the Year presented David an engraved bowl signifying the award.

About our 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 86 - Assembly 2799

The council Officers listed below were officially elected for their 1st term in office on June 7, 2022. Their term runs through June 2023

Chaplain	Fr. Steve
Grand Knight	Jim Russell
Deputy Grand Knight	Mike Fitzgerald
Chancellor	Paul Ryan
Recording Secretary	Ramon Presas
Treasurer	James Smith
Warden	Efrain Ochoa
Inside Guard	Steve Reid
Outside Guard	Russell LeRoy
Financial Secretary	Peter Perta
Advocate	Russell Gully
Trustees	Tom Greco
	David Dybala
	Dan Schneider

Service Program Directors

Awareness Committee	Jorge Ruiz
Concessions	James Smith
Church Activities	Open
Family	Open
Faith	Al Evans
Life	Mike Moloughney
Youth Activities	Mike Moloughney
Knight Hands	David Dybala
Retention	Paul Ryan

Membership	Jim Kowalski
Council Activities	Open
Disaster Preparedness	Wendell Jeanpierre
Degree Team	Tom Greco
Sacramental Gifts	Keith Archer
Safe Environment	Open
Health Activities	Robert Nieto
Lecturer	Wendell Jeanpierre

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
Jeff Miller, Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz, Wendell Jeanpierre

Newsletter and Website Photographer
Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz, Leon Cornute, Arthur Rodriguez.

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 member ship roster is available in paper form to all Knights in good standing at the general meeting

Knight of the Month Apr 2022



Russell LeRoy

First, the pronunciation of the last name is “le-ROY.” Russell is from the Lake Champlain region of upstate New York, almost in Vermont, and said he’s French and Indian. The name means “from the

king.” Young Russell thought that meant he was a prince; an aunt explained otherwise, much to his disappointment. His family was advised to move south as his mother dealt with asthma, and the LeRoys relocated to Stephenville, Texas in 1957. They later came to Irving, where Russell had a paper route with The Dallas Morning News. Russell was involved in the production, distribution and retail of off-road, heavy-duty components for construction equipment from soon after his departure from the University of North Texas to his retirement this past January. Russell was president of the Independent Distributors Association, one of the most enjoyable aspects of his career. Russell has been an active brother since coming aboard two years ago and is now a Fourth Degree. He and wife Therese met while attending St. Luke’s Catholic School in Irving. They were married after leaving Bishop Dunne Catholic School and have lived in Duncanville for about 20 years.

Knight of the Month May 2022



Jesse Zuniga

The kids at school years ago in Oak Cliff began calling him “Jesse,” and that’s what he’s gone by ever since. Jesse joined our council last October after

helping out at Holy Spirit’s fall festival and running across some 8157 members. He graduated from Sunset High and is a building engineer who oversees three high-rise buildings. Jesse has rolled up his sleeves to pitch in during the Lenten fish fries and the Valley Ridge concession stand and has been called upon during Masses to assist with the collection. Jesse and wife Leticia have been married for 27 years, and they have three children. Christian, 26, is a barber in Oak Cliff. Alyssa, 21, attends Dallas County College, and Alexa, 18, attends Texas Tech. The Zuñigas have lived in Duncanville for 25 years and have been Holy Spirit parishioners for 16.

Knight of the Month June 2022



Allen Reitmeier

Accounting for Allen’s *curriculum vitae* as a member of the Knights of Columbus risks leaving out

something, but here goes. We’ll begin with him joining the Order in November 2007 and honored as our council’s Knight of the Year for the 2009-10 fraternal year. That’s pretty close to being a rookie and named Most Valuable Player. He both founded and nurtured the Knight Hands program that gained **national attention** (what’s faith without good works?), developed the online newsletter into what it is today as a member of the awareness committee and overseen our youth baseball concessions operation for years with an acute eye for detail. He is the director of 8157’s retention committee and just completed a term as one of the council’s three trustees. Allen and wife Linda were married in their native Minnesota, initially came to Texas in 1983 and returned ’93. They live in Duncanville and have four grown children and nine grandchildren.

Oh and...he’s an avid fisherman.

Knight Hands Support Community



What is in the heart of these dedicated, kind, generous men who are willing to give up a day or two of their lives to help a lady they have never met and one they will probably never see again? On April 28th and 29th of April, 2022, twelve Knights of Columbus did that very thing. In conjunction with the City of Duncanville and P.I.P. (Property Improvement Program), these men met at the home of Barbara Collins and performed -dare I say – a miracle on her home in Duncanville. The first task was repairing a large area of her roof that had been damaged by swaying tree branches. The second task was to repair a large hole in the roof. Larry Balagna, David Dybala, and Jack Ramsden found that place in their heart that said “let’s do this”. This job required ingenuity, resourcefulness, and just plain hard work to



complete. This work was completed on Thursday April 28th in about 24 total man hours.



Both fence gates needed rebuilds. One had no bottom rail at all and dug the ground and the other had a large gap which allowed Mrs. Collins dog to escape from time to time. Jose Montoya and Efrain Ochoa used many of their brain cells to figure out how to make these repairs.

One dead tree (the one causing damage to the fore mentioned roof) was cut down and several other trees were trimmed by the lumberjack of the Council – Mike Fitzgerald who was ably assisted by Ken Rarick and Antonio Razo. Amazing is the only word I can think of to describe their work



There were many rotted sections of fascia and some soffit areas that had to be replaced. Not an easy task by any means. This did not hinder Larry Balagna, David Ybarra, Dan Murphy and Jesse Radillo from

the task. It is always challenging to repair rotted sections of an older home, but that did not deter these men in the least bit.



There were a few other minor repairs as well. The trim around the garage door had to be replaced. There was Jack Ramsden and his ever “can do it” attitude to handle this little project.



In the end we all agreed it was time well spent. But it didn't answer the question of why these men are prompted to give of their time and talent. My guess that answer lies in each man's heart. In the end we spent 96 man hours of work to make Barbara Collins place just a bit nicer. Each of went home on Friday afternoon knowing we are part of an amazing group of men that really care for their fellow man. We have been given the gift and talent to help one another and we should share that gift. The past two day we did.

Knight Hands New Director

On Tuesday morning June 14, 2022 (a very hot day indeed), five brave Knights began the work of tearing down dilapidated fencing and a rotted gate and building a new gate and installing three new sections of fence. This was David Dybala's first project as Director of Knight Hands and he had all the materials and tools on hand to complete the mission – he thought of everything.



First off, Jose Montoya, and Allen Reitmeier and Art Rodriguez removed fencing and posts from a section of fence and installed new 4" X 4" posts to support the new fence. Getting the old post out of the ground was no easy task, but Jose Montoya figured out a block-and-tackle system and like magic the posts were removed.



While this was going, David Dybala and Dan Murphy demolished two more sections of fence and removed and discarded the old and rotted gates.



Once the old fencing and gates were removed and trash carried to the street for removal, David and Dan installed new stringers and then new cedar fence slats. Jose and Allen framed out the new gates and Art helped wherever needed.

When all the new slates were installed the gates were install along with hardware and after a bit of clean-up the job was done. In total it took about 24 man hours to complete this project. Cynthia Poole, for whom we did this work, purchased all the raw materials and was most pleased with the final result. Now she can safely get her car in and out of her garage. Congratulations, David and crew on a job well done.



St Joseph's Residence Cook-Out

On Saturday, May 21, our Knights prepared and served an excellent fish fry dinner to the residents of St. Joseph Assisted Living Home. This was the first time in almost three years that we are able to serve food in person to the residents who were very excited to see us. Prior to the covid-19 lockdowns, this was a bi-annual event that was enjoyed by both the Knights and the residents.

The day started with the defrosting and then cooking of the fish and hush puppies at the church led by David Ybarra and assisted by Jose Montoya, Jim Russell, Jack Ramsden, and Billy Callender. The crew did not let a sudden rain shower deter them from completing their task. Meanwhile, James Smith led the kitchen crew of Barry Clauss, Jim Kowalski, Jim Ouimet, Art Rodriguez, and Mike Fitzgerald, who also provided his award-winning homemade cookies for the luncheon, in preparing coleslaw, defrosting the fish, and cleaning up the kitchen.

After completing the cooking phase of the operation a crew of Jorge Ruiz, Al Evans, Ed O'Brien, Jim Kowalski, David Ybarra, Jose Montoya, Dan Murphy, Russell Gully, Art and Olga Rodriguez, Ed and Cindy Florentes, and Mike Fitzgerald then proceeded to St. Joseph's Homes to serve approximately 80 residences and staff. Overall a perfect day for our Knights once again serving our community.



Family of the Month Apr 2022



Robert and Gloria Nieto

It was a singles activity at St. Rita parish in the early 1990s, speed dating of sorts, meant to allow about 200 young people to meet each other. “It worked,” Robert said with a laugh. One of the results was Gloria and he getting married, in November 1996. Robert joined our order in June 2018 at the invitation of the late Andy Goza. He’s from Corpus Christi and graduated from the University of Texas Medical School in Houston in 1989. Robert headed up our way to do training at UT Southwestern. The Nietos have lived in Cedar Hill for 20 years and have been Holy Spirit parishioners for about 10. They have three daughters in their 20s – Maria, Marisa (graduating from SMU in May) and Monica (who will be a junior at TCU this fall) – who all attended Bishop Dunne Catholic School. Gloria is an accountant with ExxonMobil, working from home these days. Robert is finishing his second year as our director of health activities and recently succeeded in holding the first blood drive at the parish in a few years, since before the pandemic began. He’s already planning what can be done at this year’s parish Fall Festival.

Family of the Month May 2022



Allen and Linda Reitmeier

Allen was a senior at Albany (Min.) High School, from the town of Richmond. Linda Lauer was a freshman, from the town of Albany. At a school dance, he approached her while

she was dancing with someone else, which she politely pointed out. At the next dance, she came unattached. Fast forward to May 24, 1969, when Allen and Linda became husband and wife. They first came to Texas in 1983 and returned in '93. Allen joined our council in November 2007, added his major degrees in January 2008, and displayed his Swiss army knife skills and accompanying energy so quickly that he was named our Knight of the Year for 2009-10. And Linda has been there every step of the way, not to mention her involvement in multiple aspects of parish activity. The Reitmeiers have four grown children (Sarah in Nashville, Paul in Huntsville, Ala., Leanne in Baltimore and Sherry in Lubbock) and nine grandchildren.

Family of the Month Dec 2021



Eduardo and Cindy Florentes

Eduardo’s personal history with the Knights of Columbus is a familiar one. He initially joined the Order in 1992 while living in his native Philippines, where his work as a high school teacher often took him to different locales and made it difficult for him to feel active in his council. He came to the United States in April 2021, married Cindy the following month (he being a widower, she a widow) and settled in Cedar Hill. Eduardo being retired, he re-entered KC membership last December with 8157 and wasted little time diving into council activities – along with Cindy. They were mainstays during the Lenten fish fries – he becoming an expert in the preparation of coleslaw in the kitchen under the watchful eye of Greg Warr, she helping with the efficient assembly line operation that boxed the orders in The Upper Room and got them ready for distribution on the drive-through line. They also participated together in the council’s luncheon at the St. Joseph residence home in Oak Cliff in May. Eduardo has six grown children and “almost more than a dozen” grandchildren. Cindy has two grown children.

Knight of the Year 2021-2022



The strong right arm of the church has been holding a ratchet or a power drill this past year at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Duncanville. David Dybala, a member of Holy Spirit's Knights of Columbus Council 8157 since 1985, was not only one of the most important parishioners in providing guidance and input during the design phase of the renovation of Holy Spirit's sanctuary, narthex and classroom floors this past year but also rolled up his sleeves and contributed to the very labor that completed this spectacular job. That happens when you have an engineering degree from Texas A&M and a work ethic like his established early on.



David organized and supervised the working Knights who removed all furnishing from the church, narthex and the nearby classrooms. That included removing

all the church pews and storing them so the sanctuary floor could be resurfaced. David's innovative dolly system design made the moving of the pews a piece of cake. Equally impressive was the task of replacing all the pews after the floor had been resurfaced. Each pew had to be positioned exactly where it had previously been located so that all the tie-down bolts aligned. In total, David organized and supervised approximately 312 man-hours of labor from brothers who through the years have participated in the council's Knights Hands initiative, which provides volunteer labor to those in need throughout the community.

While David assisted on multiple Knight Hands projects after the church renovation, his next major project was designing and constructing a pedestal for a statue of St. Joseph to be erected in the church's courtyard. After a concrete base was laid down, the pedestal was constructed using the framework designed and built by David. Then, the 800-pound statue was hoisted up onto the pedestal. And lastly, to complete the scenery around the newly installed statue, David supervised the planting of 13 holly bushes around the courtyard. Without his engineering knowhow, this project would have had to be contracted to an outsider. David was present during all these activities, supervising the 202 man-hours of Knight Hands labor.



Concession Report

The spring little league baseball season is complete. Knights worked at 221 games this spring with the majority coming on Saturdays and Sundays thanks to tournaments from Tim Campbell (Tournaments-R-Us). The baseball committee wishes to thank all who participated in these tournaments by working at Valley Ridge Park in Cedar Hill.



Eric Conner, Dan Schneider, and Robert Tovar



Chris Kubin, Leon Cornute, Joe Cuellar, and Jim Russell

It goes without saying that without the effort of many, many Knights we could not possibly have served all our customers. This year hamburgers with fixings was the big ticket item and those took lots of preparatory time.

The much anticipated World Series games, which are being played as this report is being written, were moved to the fields at Red Oak. Maybe next year.



Miguel Hernandez, David Hernandez, Jesse Zuniga, and Benjamin Hernandez



Greg Warr, Mario Luna, and John Espree

James Smith has taken over the duties as Director of Concessions effective July 13, 2022. Thanks so much for all the cooperation and hard work and kind words for the previous Director. Baseball concessions remain our primary source of income for the council; so it is imperative that you continue to support James Smith and the entire baseball committee in the future.

Blood Drive Sunday, June 26

The need for blood is nonstop. Blood is needed 24/7 for emergencies, surgeries, cancer treatments, and so many other procedures. Blood centers must have a readily available blood supply on our shelves in the event of emergencies. On Wednesday morning, May 25, Carter BloodCare and nine other U.S. blood centers sent several units of O negative blood to South Texas.

Donating blood is a powerful, positive way to help others and support our greater community. Organized and orchestrated by our own Brother Knight Robert Nieto, 31 pints were collected on Sunday June 26 in the Upper Room in the Community Center.



Special Olympics THANK YOU

Thank you so much for all your work on Friday and Saturday helping with the Special Olympics Track and Field event. You were great servants of our Lord and made this a very successful, memorable event for so many athletes and their families. This was very important for most of them, since because of Covid, it is the first event in which they could participate in over two years. For many of them this is one of the most important things in their lives. We had a great team of our experienced veterans and enthusiastic new volunteers. I hope that you all had an enjoyable experience and will join us for our next event, Bowling, in early November.

Bowling is the largest Special Olympics event of the year. I am attaching our 2022 schedule so that you can mark these dates on your calendar if you wish. You can always help on one day or as many as fit your schedule.

I am so humbled to work with all of you in serving these special people. The Knights of Columbus was one of the founders of the Special Olympics movement and our support both financially and with our great volunteers is stronger than ever.

Thank you again for giving of your time and for your great work.

Best regards,

Phil Coup,
Knights of Columbus coordinator of Special Olympics for the Diocese of Dallas



Welcome New Members



Joe Eubank
Jan 2022

Joe joined the Knights and our council on October 12, 2021, just one day after the Columbus Day holiday. Joe jumped right in and got involved as soon as he could. Recently, it was his idea for our council to rent a theatre for a private screening of the movie *“Father Stu”*, which he set up and coordinated himself. He negotiated the senior ticket price for all moviegoers and the successful outing sold out quickly. I think it’s fair to say that there may be more movie nights like this in our future. Joseph “Joe” Eubank and wife Angela run an IT business they started in 1991, focusing on small to medium size firms and providing them with expert guidance on all their technological needs. He’s the techie one and she’s good at math, so Angie keeps the books straight.



Mario Luna
Apr. 2022

Mario originally hails from Corpus Christi, but has lived in the DFW area, currently in Glenn Heights, since 1975. He regularly attends our 11am mass on Sundays and spends most of his free time ministering to his large family. He has four grown children, 11 grand kids and four great grannies. He makes his worldly living as a Maintenance carpenter working for Tarrant Community College mostly out of the Hurst/Richland Hills area. He’s got all the talents we need for our Knights Hands program.



Martin Caloca
Apr. 2022

We welcomed new Brother Knight Martin Caloca, on Tuesday, April 26, 2022. Accompanied by his wife Rosie, they attended the ceremony at our Exemplification Director Tom Greco’s house. . Martin and Rosie recently celebrated their 19th anniversary and they have 3 children ages, 18, 15, and 11. They moved here from the vicinity of Anaheim, California to Cedar Hill, Texas, fifteen years ago. Martin is an electrician by profession. They attend Holy Spirit Catholic Church, where Rosie is a very active member of the Guadalupano group (Our Lady of Guadalupe).



Adan Luna
June 2022

We welcomed new Brother Knight Adan Luna, on Tuesday, June 14, 2022. Adan and his wife Norma have been members of Holy Spirit for 3 years. They have resided in Cedar Hill for the past 7 years and previously lived in Grand Prairie and were members of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church for 7 years. Adan is originally from Durango, Mexico and they have five Children (4 daughters ages 26, 24, 20 & 18 yrs. old. and a 7 yr. old son). Adan is currently a sales representative for the Power Energy Company that installs solar energy panels. His hobbies include traveling with family, cooking, carpentry work & exercising. Adan previously worked for 15 years with the Royal Prestige Company as a sales rep. Adan is anxious to get involved with the Knights in helping Holy Spirit and the people in the surrounding community.