

Knights Life



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

Council Sponsors Church Picnic

For the first time since our council was formed, the Knights sponsored the Holy Spirit Annual Parish Picnic in full. On Sunday June 4, under the leadership of our Church Activities Director **Jim Stavinoha** (and at his request), the Knights of council 8157 provided all the food for the picnic and prepared it as well. The tremendous turnout of parishioners who came for the complimentary lunchtime meal was greater than we expected and at times the line of people went all the way out the door. But nonetheless we were well prepared for any eventuality and as a result hundreds of happy parishioners and their families were served a full meal of delicious hamburgers, (marinated in Jim Stavinoha’s special sauce) and hot dogs with all the trimmings.

Thankfully there were plenty of Knights in attendance to do the heavy-lifting:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Larry Balagna | Michael Clark |
| David Dybala | John Espree |
| Fr Eugene | Mike Fitzgerald |
| Andy Goza | Frank Hernandez |
| Tony Herrera | Gerald Jacob |
| Carlos Limones | Lou Lemons |
| Dan Murphy | Peter Perta |
| Jim Richardson | Arthur Rodriguez |
| Jorge Ruiz | Frank Salazar |
| James Smith | Jim Stavinoha |

While the Knights were busy preparing lunch, our Grand Knight Jim Richardson took time to make a special presentation to Fr. Joe during the 11:30 am mass service in which the council gifted \$1,000 to our Holy Spirit parish.



The picnic also included lots of fun activities for everyone such as Bingo, inflatable jump houses and slides, face painting and more. It is safe to say that this was the most successful church picnic our council has participated in, thanks to all who generously gave their time and effort to help make it so.



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 8, 2017. Their term runs through June 2018

Grand Knight	Jim Richardson
Deputy Grand Knight	Tom Greco
Chancellor	Jeff Miller
Recording Secretary	Jim Stavinoha
Treasurer	James Smith
Warden	La'Don Wright
Inside Guard	Sanka Jayasinghe
Outside Guard	Tony Gonzalez
Financial Secretary	Peter Perta
Advocate	Russell Gully
Lecturer	Jim Russell
District Deputy	Andy Goza
Chaplain	Fr. Joe Lee
Trustees	Nick Kleinhaus, 3-year Frank Salazar, 2-year Mike Fitzgerald, 1-year

Service Program Directors

Awareness Committee	Jorge Ruiz
Baseball Committee	Allen Reitmeier
Football Committee	James Smith
Church Activities	Jim Stavinoha
Community Activities	Dan Murphy

Council Activities	Andy Goza
Family Activities	Jeff Miller
Health Activities	Pat Stepniewski
Knight Hands	Allen Reitmeier
Pro-Like Activities	Mike Moloughney
Youth Activities	Larry Dumais
	Art Senato

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, Jim Kowalski, Jorge Ruiz

Newsletter and Website Photographer

Tony Gonzalez, Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz, Andy Goza

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 your junk/span folder.

Email address: admin@kofc8157.org

Membership Rosters

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

Knight of the Month Apr 2017



**Hector
Rubio**

Hector has found his niche in our Valley Ridge baseball concession stand: fries and popcorn, though he also helps elsewhere, especially toward the end of a shift. “I guess I’m appreciated,” he notes. He certainly is. Hector joined the council in January 2016, taking his First Degree, and added his major degree at Holy Spirit during the first Saturday in April as one of nine from our council and 15 across the diocese that day. He and wife Cynthia have lived in Duncanville since 1992. He describes himself as “semi-retired” from bring a licensed electrician, and he has used those skills and others in our Knight Hands efforts. Hector was born in El Paso, moved to this area when he was youngster and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School. He was invited to join the council by Jorge Ruiz. He and Cynthia have been married for 11 years and both have children from previous marriages

Knight of the Month May 2017



**AL
Evans**

AL notes that one of the great gifts of being a deacon is to both serve as a member of the clergy while also being a parishioner. Deacon AL was a frequent participant during the recent series of Lenten fish

fries, literally frying the fish — and also doing some breading when the need arose. He and wife Jackie have been parishioners since the early 1990s, and they live in Grand Prairie. AL became a deacon in June 2002; if you attended Mass at Holy Spirit before then, you probably became acquainted with his distinctive speaking voice when he served as a lector. That service began back when he was a junior in high school and the pastor chose him to read at the funeral of a family friend. Deacon AL grew up near Chicago. His father and an uncle were Fourth Degree Knights. He served in the U.S. Navy, retiring as a Petty Officer 2nd Class after four years, and retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs at the National Cemetery Administration in January 2014. The same caring, thoughtful approach that he takes toward parishioners was evident to families of deceased veterans whose final resting details were dealt with dignity and respect.

Knight of the Month Jun 2017



**Larry
Balagna**

Larry is a tireless, versatile worker who seemingly arrives at any Knights activity with the proper tool and a smile. He most recently was part of the workforce that made the parish’s annual Pentecost picnic (and anniversary celebration) the best ever in the opinion of multiple parish employees. Larry often appears in the starting lineup for a Knights Hands assignment. Such practices carry over from his work life, where he was most recently the event coordinator at Cedar Hill’s Northwood University until retiring in October 2013. Larry and wife Sheila moved to Texas from Illinois in 1995. He joined our council shortly after that, two of their three sons having actually preceding him in Knighthood. Larry joined the Fourth Degree early in 2016. Sheila also retired in 2013, her last position being credit manager for Gibraltar Industries. They will celebrate their 44th anniversary in late June.

Spring Baseball Concludes

At 7:36pm on June 25th, the final pitch was thrown at this year's little league World Series which concluded the spring baseball season. This year's World Series had its' ups and downs. The tournament was meant to run from Wednesday June 21st through Sunday June 25th. Mother-nature intervened and all the games on Saturday were rained out and the tournament went from a double elimination tournament to a single elimination tournament. On the other hand the largest gross sales day ever at Valley Ridge was recorded on Sunday June 25th. 72 teams participated in this years' World Series with 103 games being played at Valley Ridge and a few (6) at Dot Thomas.

Some of special hero's at this year's event were:

The baseball Committee – Andy Goza, James Smith, Mike Rumsey, and Greg Warr.

Eric Conner took three days off work to work at the ballpark

Tony Almanza took off half days at work to work at the ballpark

Greg Warr took three days of vacation to work at the World Series

Gerry Jacob brought his wife Toni and two grandchildren (Tyler and Jaylan) on Sunday

Tony Gonzalez brought his two son (Isaiah and Nathan) on Sunday

Agustin Perez brought his whole family on Sunday.

That in no way lessens the tremendous effort put forth by 74 Knights (many who worked two shifts) and helpers who worked the 334 hours to make the World Series a success for this Council. The baseball committee salutes and thanks all who worked during this event.

Starting on February 25th and ending on June 25th, 2017, the spring baseball season took in more money than any other year since this council has been involved with the Cedar Hill Baseball Association. In total this council served concessions at 586 games this spring season and if you want to know the exact amount of money generated you must come to a Council meeting.

Once again the baseball committee thanks those who worked all those tournaments and hours.



Family of the Month Apr2017



The Pertas will celebrate their seventh anniversary on Sunday, April 9. Pete has been our Financial Secretary for four years. That calls for him to keep track of 8157's membership records and our dues current, submitting required forms throughout the year on time and keeping our council in good standing, all to maintain a high standard of excellence among councils. He and "Bimbo" are regulars at the Saturday 5:30 Mass. They often work together at the Valley Ridge concession stand, and she provided the macaroni casserole during our first fish fry of the current Lenten season. Pete works for Nestle Health Care Nutrition in a position that also requires a fair amount of number crunching (regional account manager). As for his previous experience in collecting dues, he did that when he ran a golf league back in his native New York state. That also involved figuring handicaps and dealing with various golfing statistics for the 24-member league that played every Thursday night for 18 weeks. He arrived in north Texas in 2008, joined our council in 2011 and took his major degree six months later. Pete serves as a hospitality minister and is also a member of 8157's Degree Team.

Family of the Month May 2017

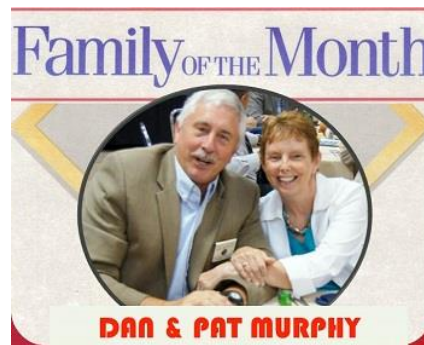


The Tony Gonzalez family

Tony and his wife and children were a major part of the council's

fish fry dinners during Lent. Simply put, preparing and serving his fish tacos "is the highlight of my year," he said. Hats off to Tony, wife Rosalinda and the kids: Kristopher, Nathan, Isaiah and Alyssa. Tony's preparations begin days before a Lenten Friday, when he begins making his "cutido." That's something like cabbage or sauerkraut but with a little more kick. The Gonzalez family lives in Oak Cliff and usually splits its Mass attendance between Holy Spirit and St. Elizabeth. Tony joined the council in November 2015, shortly after his brother, Elio. "Being a Knight has changed my life," Tony said. "I like serving God."

Family of the Month Jun 2017



Dan and Pat Murphy

The Murphys wonderfully exhibited the Knights' belief that charity begins at home with their devotion to Pat's father, Robert Moore, during his final months before passing away in April in New Jersey. They dedicated themselves to taking care of Mr. Moore in a loving way that is an example to us all. Dan joined the council in 1998, served as our Grand Knight during the fraternal years of 2002-03 and '03-04 and is a Fourth Degree member. Most recently, he has been our director of community activities. One of the recurring events under his charge has been the cookouts at St. Joseph's Residence in Oak Cliff, which have expanded into semi-annual occurrences. He also oversees similar activities at Charlton, the V.A. hospital in Dallas and at the seminary in Irving among other things. Dan is a graduate of Jesuit College Prep and the U.S. Naval Academy and was active military 1975-95 and supervised ROTC programs at multiple Dallas-area high schools. He and Pat have been married since 1975. They have been active in the parish's Eucharistic Minister program for years, and Pat has also long served as one of the parish Zone Shepherds.

245 and Counting

That's the number of projects Knight Hands has completed during the first 7 years of operating. As the Director of Knight Hands, I am always humbled to be able to organize and complete almost any project that is brought to my attention. I must admit, though, that without the technical advice of David Dybala, and Ray Rivera, and Hector Rubio, and Jose Montoya, many times I would be "lost". These guys have a wealth of knowledge and are willing to give of their time and talent to help those in need in our community and beyond.

We would also be "lost" if Ken Rarick, Jack Ramsden, Larry Balagna, Rod Kinard, Mike Fitzgerald, John Espree, Dan Murphy, Efrain Ochoa, Carlos Favela, Arthur Rodriguez, and Jorge Ruiz wouldn't be willing to contribute their time and effort when called upon to do the heavy lifting on these projects.



Knights on Bikes Seeks State District Recognition

A rapidly growing motorcycle group of Knights of Columbus members known as "Knights on Bikes" is seeking statewide recognition from our Texas Council. At our May 2017 meeting, SK Michael Luna, himself a member of this group, introduced a motion for our council to offer support for this recognition. As a first step towards recognition, many councils across Texas are giving their support to the group and in the near future it will be formally brought up in front of the Texas State Council for inclusion.



Knight Hands and the City

On May 3rd of 2017, The Knights of Columbus, through the Knight Hands program, collaborated with the City of Duncanville and participated in P.I.P Days (Property Improvement Program). Betty Dunn, a member of the First United Methodist Church in Duncanville first introduced Knight Hands to P.I.P and encouraged Knight Hands to repair a home designated by the City of Duncanville (our own Tom Greco selected the home). And so on the 3rd of May, David Dybala, Jorge Ruiz, Larry Balagna Jack Ramsden, Ken Rarick, and this humble servant, began the process of repairing the backyard fence for the Retiz family located in the Hollywood Estates in Duncanville. While David, Jack, and Larry removed and replaced the broken fence posts, myself and Ken Rarick repaired various portions of the fence by replacing slats and 2" X 3"'s where needed. While all that was going on, Jorge constructed a new gate. We started at 8am and at noon – just as the rain came – Knight Hands had finished repairing the fence, setting the new posts and making a new gate.



The very next day, David Dybala, Ray Rivera, Ken Rarick and I finished the job by attaching the new sections of fencing to the new posts. And so while this was a big deal to the Retiz family (they had been cited numerous time for a broken down fence), with the right equipment and tools the job was completed in a total of 28 man/hours and a material cost of \$262.04. Just another example of Knight Hands in action – this time at the request of the city of Duncanville and the Retiz family.



St. Joseph's cookout – May 2017

Dan Murphy, our director of community activities, headed another enthusiastic group of Knights on Saturday, May 13 to prepare and serve a cookout lunch for those who live at St. Joseph's Residence in Oak Cliff along with their families and friends. That was the Saturday before Mother's Day, and that's never a coincidence in the timing. It's a pleasure for the KC's to watch as residence and their guests visit and enjoy a break from their routine. Dan was joined by April inductee **Eddie Dzurilla**, **Deacon Al Evans**, **Larry Balagna**, **Tony Gonzalez**, **Andy Goza**, **Doug Karpan**, **Efrain Ochoa** (and his son, **Carlos**, who's heading into his senior year at Texas A&M), **Jack Ramsden**, **Francisco Rodriguez** and **Jorge Ruiz**. **Mike Fitzgerald** again prepared his secret-recipe baked beans and baked some of the cookies.





About 100 “diners” were served hamburgers, hot dogs, fixin’s, beans, chips and the cookies that must be kept under close watch before it’s time to eat. Father Reuben Chen of St. Elizabeth of Hungary parish just down the road asked the blessing after celebrating Mass in the nearby chapel. It just isn’t a St. Joe’s cookout unless Larry informs guests that the only “price” for the full lunch is a smile. Everybody was served, and there were burgers and dogs left over to leave for future enjoyment. Thanks to assistant director **Richard Hohman** and to “the boss,” **Sister Carolina**. She’s one of four Sisters of the Bethlehemite Order who live at the home and make it feel like home to everyone. St. Joseph’s was built in 1955 and recently underwent a \$320,000 renovation and expansion that was evident during our trip. The main foyer, where the serving line was set up, was expanded by about 300 square feet out toward the courtyard. There’s more room for eating, game playing and just-plain visiting, also with more light coming into the building. Bless the completed project,



Newest Knights

Will Quezada – April 2017

Will and his wife, Maria Isabel, live in Dallas not far from Holy Spirit. They regularly attend the downtown Cathedral, which Will has done since his family moved to the area from Mexico in 1974. “It became home,” he said. They’re both Eucharistic Ministers at the 12:30 Mass, and Will is also head of the hospitality ministers at that Mass. Will is a graduate of DeSoto High. He then spent eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps, reaching the rank of corporal. He traveled the world as part of a raid company. He know works in a family business exporting cars to Mexico. Will said he joined the Knights to be part of “strong Catholic men who practice the faith and defend the faith.”



Edward Dzuvilla – April 2017

Edward is a financial adviser for Wells Fargo, coming down to our neck of the U.S. woods from Connecticut during his career in sales-related positions. Wife Rachel is the principal at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic School. His daughter, Annie, is graduating from the University of Maryland and headed for law school at SMU. Rachel has two sets of twins: Cody and Caroline plus Jake and Travis. One of Edward’s “hobbies” is playing rugby.

