

# Knights Life



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

Holy Spirit Catholic Church – Duncanville, Tx,

## Howard Bohlin

Though we are saddened by the sudden loss of our spiritual Brother, we are content in knowing he has arrived at his reward in Heaven. Howard left an inspiring legacy of faith and service, providing a lifelong example to family and friends. From his early years he was athletic and strong, a member of his high school and college gymnastics teams. That strength followed him through his education and into his first career as a



pilot with the United States Air Force. He flew the T-38 and was a flight instructor for the T-37 before settling into an exciting role flying the largest aircraft the USAF offered during his time – The C5 Galaxy. As a pilot, he was known for his instinctual style and the occasional surprise aerobatic maneuver or fly-by. “He was really one with the plane,” Elaine said. She should know. He taught her to fly in Arlington in the 1990s; that’s how they met. He took a short break from flying to serve in Air Force Intelligence but gladly returned to the C5 where he flew Special Operations and taught aerial refueling. It wouldn’t be unusual to hear him singing “Nice and Easy Does It” by Frank Sinatra to keep the aircraft steady for the boom operator. He flew missions around the world, many of which he wasn’t permitted to share about until long after their completion, if at all. He had an adventurous spirit, always willing to go where he was needed or travel somewhere new or dangerous. After 22 years in the Air Force, Howie continued to fly, becoming a private flight instructor for small aircraft. He also went on to fly routes for Chicago Express, Vanguard (where he became a check airman) and Frontier Airlines before settling down as a flight simulator instructor for Southwest Airlines in Dallas. It was his joy to share the instruction duties with

his wife, Elaine who is a Ground Instructor for Pilot Security and Emergency Procedures. During all these years, Howie raised a family. His two sons fondly recall their early years when Dad would spend hours in his garage workshop tuning up motorcycles, building intricate wooden toys and constructing sturdy furniture. He had a sharp mind for math, was a master of many tools and enjoyed teaching his sons to have the confidence and patience to fix just about anything. If he wasn’t jetting through the skies or tinkering in the garage, his nose was most likely buried in a book. He pored through literature of all kinds, and especially enjoyed learning and studying. Howie was always learning and trying something new, and was known for preparing surprising and delicious recipes for Elaine, family and friends. He recently started pursuing wood carving, creating artful and realistic likenesses of animals and nature. He was also a talented voice actor, lending his unique tone as a volunteer, recording audio books for the blind and occasionally taking on professional voice assignments. You will hear his unmistakable voice in “A Soldier Surrenders, the Conversion of Saint Camillus de Lellis” by Susan Peek. Howie instilled in his family an appreciation for all kinds of music, but especially classical music. He was a Stradivarius supporter of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. He was a kind and confident man of infinite talents. When the microphone was off, he was known as a man of few words, reminding us all that we learn more by listening than speaking. Elaine said of his service to our council: “He loved being a Knight. He was like a kid going off to camp when he helped with a Knights activity.” His stoicism was his trademark. He is remembered for his quick dry wit, his awful “dad jokes”, his enduring kindness to others and his belief that we each have a responsibility and unique capability to serve and help people. He had an unwavering faith in God and a true passion for service. In addition to Elaine, Howard is survived by sons Chris and Andrew and five grandchildren. Chris and wife Andee have 14-year-old twin daughters Chole and Camee, living in Fort Worth. Andrew and wife Emily have three children – 12-year-old Stephen and 5-year-old twins

## 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 8, 2018. Their term runs through June 2020

<b>Grand Knight</b>	Tom Greco
<b>Deputy Grand Knight</b>	Jeff Miller
<b>Chancellor</b>	Jorge Ruiz
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Jim Russell
<b>Treasurer</b>	James Smith
<b>Warden</b>	Art Senato
<b>Inside Guard</b>	Tony Gonzalez
<b>Outside Guard</b>	Jeff Traub
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Peter Perta
<b>Advocate</b>	Russell Gully
<b>District Deputy</b>	Andy Goza
<b>Chaplain</b>	Fr. Joe Lee
<b>Trustees</b>	Dan Murphy, 3-year Mike Fitzgerald, 2-year Jim Richardson, 1-year

### Service Program Directors

Awareness Committee	Jorge Ruiz
Football Committee	Jim Richardson
Church Activities	James Smith
Community Activities	Dan Murphy
Council Activities	Andy Goza
Family Activities	Jeff Miller

Health Activities	Lou Lemons
Pro-Like Activities	Mike Moloughney
Youth Activities	Art Senato
	Mike Moloughney
Knight Hands	Allen Reitmeier
Membership	Keith Archer
Retention Director	Wendell Jean Pierre

### 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,

### Council Website

<b>Website address</b>	kofc8157.org
<b>Website Editor</b>	Jorge Ruiz
<b>Website Admins</b>	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

## Fr. Eugene Okoli – Priest for 25 Years



We're familiar with the Old Testament story of Samuel and Eli, how Samuel didn't initially recognize that he was being called by God multiple times until he was informed of that by Eli.

*So [Eli] said to Samuel: "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'"*

And that is essentially how our Fr. Eugene Okoli frames his first steps toward priesthood, which reached 25 years this past August and was celebrated at Holy Spirit with a special Mass on Saturday, Oct. 6 followed by a reception in the community center that included multiple presentations by Council 8157.

"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening," Fr. Eugene said, repeating the Biblical verse of 1 Samuel 3:9. "It wasn't anything dramatic. It was a gradual nurturing of faith, even though at the time I couldn't put words to describe it. At my age and experience now, I know what was happening.

"Your servant is listening. That's kind of the way that I can describe my vocation. That's how I want to live my life."

The story of Fr. Eugene's journey to priesthood and to Holy Spirit, where he arrived in July 2015, is compelling and inspirational for its scope in multiple ways. One obvious one is geographical given that he grew up in Nigeria and was ordained there, in his hometown of Ufuma. What isn't as obvious is that he wasn't initially Catholic. His mother, Janet, grew up Catholic while his father, Reuben, was of African traditional religion. The latter was practiced in their home, of which Eugene was the fifth of eight children. An uncle named Lazarus was Protestant and had the Okoli children baptized.

It was soon after Eugene went as a pre-teen to live with a Catholic uncle, Dennis Achugbu, that he began pursuing that faith and even attended catechism classes.

Eugene was ordained on Aug. 21, 1993 and remained in Nigeria until 2000, when his bishop encouraged him to continue his Catholic education. Next stop, the United States, specifically Ohio and Franciscan University in the town of Steubenville. That was where he joined the Knights of Columbus.

"I saw what they were doing. It really got my attention what these guys could do selflessly," he said.

Following graduation, Fr. Eugene left for Michigan and St. Peter and Paul Church in Grand Rapids, where Fr. Dennis Morrow became another important influence in his faith journey. One of Fr. Eugene's KC activities there was chopping firewood. "I loved to do it!"

He arrived in Texas and the Dallas area in 2011 at St. Jude in Allen, where he spent three years, and then was at Divine Mercy in Mesquite for one year before coming to Duncanville.

It was during that first Sunday Mass in the summer of 2015 that we learned Fr. Eugene didn't like the cold in Michigan. And we experienced first-hand his talent for delivery a homily without the use of a written script or notes of any kind, coming down and walking among the pews.

Fr. Eugene doesn't recall exactly when he began that routine while in Michigan. He can identify his Uncle Dennis back home as the most likely influence in his oratory style.

"He was a teacher; he taught me," Fr. Eugene said. "He was gifted. He used so many ways to communicate his lesson to the class."

Fr. Eugene said he doesn't write his homilies ahead of time. He tried that, though.

"I don't feel it [that way]," he said. "At some time, I said, 'Just throw this away and go with the flow. Go with the spirit.' It's just second nature to me. I prepare. I read. I research. I reflect. I pray about it."

"Now, I can recreate what I said. But not before."

Of his time at Holy Spirit, Fr. Eugene said, "I see a deep sense of spirituality. It's also a very welcoming community. And very selfless in terms of sharing with people their talents.

## Ira Stroughter

Ira Anthony Stroughter, who first joined the Knights of Columbus when he turned 18 years old, died on July 31 at the age of 71. Ira was a Dallas native, first attending St. Anthony Catholic Church near Fair Park, and moved to DeSoto and was a Holy Spirit parishioner beginning in 1999. He graduated from Jesuit College Prep in 1965, an African-American whose race wouldn't be allowed to attend Dallas' public schools until 1971. Ira then earned a degree in math and economics from the University of Dallas, in Irving, next door to Holy Trinity Seminary. Ira and wife Sheila Brown were married in 1989, and he was

responsible for Sheila going through the parish's RCIA program. Ira owned several businesses throughout his career, including a catering service called "The Cajun Gourmet," and operated a booth at the State Fair of Texas for years. Ira took his major degrees in 1967, left the order some years later, and reentered here at Holy Spirit in 2000. Ira began as a lector at Mass at St. Anthony and was a long-time reader at Holy Spirit, most recently for the 11:30 a.m. Sunday Mass that was moved to 11 this spring. When serving as a reader, Ira reflected his respect for the privilege by dressing in a nice suit. He was also one of the "regulars" scheduled by Carol Lemmon to deliver one of the eight readings during the Easter Vigil Mass on the Saturday night before Easter. Ira specifically did the sixth reading, from the book of Baruch (chapter 3, verses 9-15 and 32-44). During Ira's funeral Mass at Holy Spirit on Aug. 16, the first of the two readings — done by Karen Zachary, a fellow parish lector — consisted of those verses from Baruch. During the service, Fr. Joe Lee noted that Ira often "volunteered" to serve as a greeter in the narthex in addition to whichever parishioner was assigned to the welcome table for that Mass. Ira Stroughter will be missed by many at Holy Spirit.



## **Knight of the Month July 2018**



### **John Espree**

It was another successful effort in staffing the council's youth baseball concessions stands across Cedar Hill this spring. Much of the credit goes to John,

who again served as the captain of the first shift at the Valley Ridge complex and got our day off to a rousing start. He and wife Bonnie have been parishioners at Holy Spirit since 2000. John joined 8157 in March 2012, taking his First Degree and major degrees one right after the other. He is one of the regulars "out back" doing the actual fish frying during the council's Lenten fish fries. John is from Louisiana, specifically the small town of Mamou, and came to Texas at age 18. He has been working for Kenworth Trucking for 27 years. The Esprees have three grown children and one grandchild (Jeremiah, whom you have probably seen at a KC function or around the parish).

## **Knight of the Month Aug 2018**



### **Jack Ramsden**

Our council is filled with brothers who are tireless workers, and Jack is certainly among those. He's regularly involved in Knight Hand projects, is often

among those who help with breakfasts and cookouts both at the parish and offsite and offers a thoughtful and respectful opinion at many monthly general business meeting. Jack joined 8157 in September

2012 and added his major degrees in May 2013. He and wife Juanita are also very involved in parish life, serving as Zone Shepherds, members of the Adult & Family Life Ministry and participants in the marriage enrichment program. Not to mention devotion to the annual Fall Festival rummage sale. A lifelong resident of the Dallas area, Jack retired in 2012 after operating his own machine shop for 24 years. The Ramsdens came through the Holy Spirit's RCIA program together in 2009, live in Duncanville, and have four grown children and seven grandchildren. They also participate in Meals on Wheels and a related program that delivers meals to pets

## **Knight of the Month Sept 2018**



### **Wendell Jean Pierre**

Wendell joined our council in May, became the retention director in July and is

scheduled to join the Fourth Degree later in September. He was recruited to the Knights at an ACTS retreat by an 8157 member (Tony Gonzalez) and has, in turn, recruited an attendee of that same retreat. Wendell quickly learned the ins and outs of our Valley Ridge baseball stand and has recently also become acquainted with our football stand. Wendell's Catholic faith has long been important to him, going back to attending St. Augustine High in his native New Orleans and spending four months in a seminary in Mississippi. Wendell and Connie, his wife of 34 years, left New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina and chose to relocate in DeSoto because she has family in the area. They have three grown children and six grandchildren. Wendell went straight from high school to the Marine Corps in 1966 and did two tours in Vietnam. He then spent 1985-2006 in the Coast Guard and has since been retired.

## **Knight Hands “Rock”**

Nel Mancenido wondered how Knight Hands could possibly remove all the rotted lumber from his gazebo deck and replace the rotted portions with new treated 2” X 6”s in such a short period of time. Here’s how we did it. David Dybala had surveyed the damaged deck beforehand and determined the necessary materials to complete the job (we used every piece) and Allen Reitmeier bought the materials and brought



enough tools to do the job.



Mike Fitzgerald, Hector Rubio, Efrain Ochoa, and Arthur Rodriguez jumped right in and removed the old rotted sections and prepared the surfaces for the new material. Battery powered drills were “humming” in a number of places at the same time, while the cut-off saw was in constant use. We started the project about 7am and although we were not in a hurry; we certainly wanted to beat the heat of the day.



We finished the project in about 3 hours – actually at total of 18 man/hrs. Everyone stayed hydrated with coffee provided by Nel and Cora and water and Gatorade provided by Allen. Not a harsh word was heard as these 6 Knights of Columbus fulfilled one of our mission; to help those in needs in our parish community. Just as a side note, this was the 279<sup>th</sup> project completed since the advent of Knight Hands in 2010. It is a tribute to the men who give of their time and skills to help wherever and whenever Knight Hands are called upon. You guys are to be congratulated. Nel and Cora were most appreciative of the effort you guys expended while completing this project. The improved deck looks awesome.

## Family of the Month – July 2018



### Keith and Mary Archer

How many Council 8157 members met their wives at Holy Spirit? OK, how many did so in the community center gym? While playing volleyball? The

Archers did so in 1988 and have been married for 29 years. Keith joined our council in May, and the couple came out and helped at our Valley Ridge youth baseball concession stand multiple times within weeks of his induction. Mary works at AT&T in downtown Dallas. Keith, who is from Oklahoma City, is a project manager for Weldon Tools. He eagerly participates in multiple Catholic endeavors, including prison ministry. Keith unabashedly connects his devotion to the faith to being a four-time cancer survivor. "I try to give back as much as I can," he said, "So many people have been praying for me for so many years." At the council's annual officer installation and awards dinner in early July, the Archers handed out St. Benedict crucifixes to each of the ladies in attendance.

## Family of the Month –Aug 2018



### Ken And Patty Rarick

The Raricks have long been involved in Holy Spirit activities, as was the case this past July when they were among a couple dozen parishioners who spent a Sunday afternoon helping to prepare Fall Festival raffle envelopes to be mailed to thousands of Holy Spirit families. Ken joined our council in September 2008 at the invitation of one of his former business colleagues, Allen Reitmeier, and took his major degrees in February 2014. Ken has been a member of Holy Spirit's finance committee. He and Patty met during the mid-1960s when they

both attended Kent State University in Ohio. They came to our area in the early 1970s. And though Ken's work often took him on the road, he usually managed to be back in town and serving as a hospitality minister on Sunday. The Raricks, both retired, live in Ovilla and have four grown children plus four grandchildren.

## Family of the Month –Sept 2018



### Jorge and Eva Barragan

Two generations of Barragans have figuratively rolled up their sleeves at our Valley Ridge concession stands this year, 6-year-old Jorge Jr. at the baseball stand and 10-year-old Jimena at the football location joining their father. Jorge and Eva have three other children: Galilea (13), Lucia (5) and Mariana (born this year on Holy Thursday). Jorge grew up in Waxahachie, met Eva on a trip to Laredo to visit relatives, and they've been married for 14 years. Jorge is in his second "tour" with our council, split by work that took the family south to Victoria for five years. He initially joined 8157 eight years ago, when invited by Andy Goza at a meeting of Holy Spirit's Saturday morning men's group overseen by Dan Keough. Jorge inherited our designation of the parish fall festival's logistics chief from our Rod Kinard, who inherited it from our David Dybala, who inherited it from our Martin Svatak. Jorge went from Waxahachie High to UT-Arlington, where he earned an engineering degree. He and two partners operate their own firm in Grand Prairie.

# Safe Environment Program Training

In response to the recent revelations of sexual abuse by Archbishop Theodore McCarrick and others in Pennsylvania, on August 21, 2018 Supreme Knight Carl Anderson wrote a [letter](#) addressed to all Chaplains and Knights. In the letter Carl Anderson states that the sins and crimes perpetrated by some in the clergy “*have sent the Church we love, the Church we serve and the Church that Jesus Christ established into convulsions.*” He offered a course of action for church reforms to take place but he also stated that the Knights, being part of the church equation will have an important role to play in its rebuilding.

Now, the Knights of Columbus — laymen, priests and chaplains together — will have an important role to play in rebuilding the Church. We must commit the Knights of Columbus to work for repentance, reform and rebuilding of the Church.



**Carl A. Anderson,  
Supreme Knight**

Meanwhile, in our own back yard in the Dallas Diocese we also recently found out of abuses that went on for years at St. Cecilia church in Oak Cliff. Now is the time for all brother Knights to stand steadfast in faith, as Catholics and as gentlemen. We will assist

priests, bishops and our fellow Catholics in helping the Church chart a course for the future that puts Christ at the center, so that truly we may say, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

*Carl A. Anderson, Supreme Knight*

**So what can we as Knights do in our own parish to assist our priests, bishops and our fellow Catholics?**

**We can help protect our community (and ourselves) through education.** By becoming aware of the signs and different types of abuse that victims may have suffered, we’ll be better equipped to **recognize**, properly **respond** and **report** any potential abuse situation. As the Dallas Diocese Council of the Year, it is incumbent upon us to lead in offering Safe Environment training to all our members. The **KofC Safe Environment Program** safeguards children and other vulnerable persons, assures members and their families that we maintain a safe environment, protects members from awkward situations, misunderstandings, and appearances of impropriety, builds trust with arch/dioceses and parishes, and protects the good name of the Knights of Columbus. For educational purposes, anyone can take the online training anytime. Log onto [www.kofc8157.org](http://www.kofc8157.org) for all the details on safe environment training

## Congratulations to our latest Sir Knights

This past weekend three of our finest knights went through the fourth Degree exemplification in Dallas and became **Sir Knights**. They are: Wendell Jean Pierre, Lou Lemons and Keith Archer; Our most sincere congratulations to each and every one of you.



## Blood drive – August 2018

Lou Lemons jumped right in as the council's new director of health activities by overseeing the blood drive that was held in Holy Spirit's community center dining room on Sunday, Aug. 19.



The drive collected 40 donations. Hats off to Lou and those who helped: outgoing health director Patrick Stepniewski, Andy Goza, Jeff Miller, Larry Balagna, John Espree, John Balasa and recent transfer Doug Maddox. Below is Lou's assessment of the drive:

I want to thank all of my brother Knights for their support and encouragement during our recent blood drive. Many parishioners, especially Knights, offered words of encouragement and support during the two weeks of solicitation for donors at the Saturday and Sunday Masses. I had little to do except to show up in the narthex because Cindy Meyer (Holy Spirit's director of community life) had set up a nice looking space from which to work.

Thanks to Andy Goza and Jeff Miller for arriving early Sunday morning to open the dining room, for helping to



clear spaces for Carter BloodCare to set up, and for assisting parishioners to sign in for the blood draws. I'm also thankful for the "new guy," Doug Maddox, for arriving early and helping to "man" the narthex and reminding those leaving Mass that the blood drive was underway. Thank you to John Balasa for relieving Doug at the narthex post and staying to assist with resetting the dining room after the Carter personnel departed. Thank you to John Espree for also arriving early to assist with those signing up for blood draws and for staying throughout the drive and helping with resetting the dining room. Thanks to Pat Stepniewski for mentoring me before and during the blood drive and for providing fruit and pastries for the donors. Thank you to the 50 parishioners who attempted to donate blood to Carter BloodCare. We achieved 32 whole blood donations with four double red blood cell donations, which count double, for a total donation of 40 units. Carter figures that each unit could contribute to saving three people. So, Holy Spirit could help save as many as 120 people from the efforts at the 19 August blood drive.

## Welcome New Knights



### Doug Maddox

Doug and his family moved to Cedar Hill in July from Florida when he became an assistant director of the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery just up the road from Duncanville on Mountain Creek Parkway.

He joined the Knights in 2014 in Lake Worth, Fla. He retired from the U.S. Army as a lieutenant colonel in 2009 after 28 years. Doug was reared in a military family; at the Christmas parade at Fort Benning, Ga., Santa tossed candy to the children from a tank turret. He graduated from high school in Tallahassee, Fla., and then attended New Mexico Military Institute (Roger Staubach went there before going to the Naval Academy) and received his commission. His current line of work was an outgrowth of military duty serving as a casualty assistance officer. While doing that, he participated in a documentary that's contained on the DVD for the movie "[The Messenger.](#)" Doug and wife Diana have been married for five years. Doug has two daughters (Crystal, 26, and Bryce, 18), one stepson (Xavier, 14) and one son (D.J., 5).

# Fall Festival, 2018

The Knights of Columbus certainly pulled their weight during the Fall Festival from September 29<sup>th</sup> thru Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and beyond.



First of all, Jorge Barragan, operations manager for this year's Festival, had his hands full organizing Knights to get the Festival

site ready. That meant setting up the entertainment stage, assembling all the Festival protective tents, preparing the games area, providing tables and chairs for the silent auction, Bingo, the Health Fair, the vendor stations, the gymnasium, and the Festival area itself. Lot of Knights participated to make this happen. For those who participated in this labor intensive exercise we say "thank you". Certainly thanks also to Frank Salazar and Ray Rivera who once again this year picked up and delivered and returned the rental table and chairs.



Chris Edwards and Efrain Ochoa worked Saturday and Sunday preparing turkey legs and Sausage on a stick. James Smith, Director of Church Activities for this Council, made sure hot dogs and hamburgers were cooked on time and delicious. He had lot of help with this job – those of you who helped cook know who you are.



Of course, hats off to Chris Kubin, this year's Chairman of the Festival Committee, who worked tirelessly to provide an atmosphere where everyone could enjoy themselves.



Thanks also, to Mike Moloughney, who for the umpteenth year organized the children's games for the Festival. Despite the rain on Saturday, Mike provided an atmosphere where everyone had fun. Andy Goza once again organized and manned the beer garden. Of course, when all the fun and excitement of the Festival was over, the area had to be cleaned up and materials stored away for next year's Festival – again Jorge Barragan and his legion of Knights were tasked with this job and shortly after the final drawing, all was back to normal in the Festival site.

