

# Knights Life



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

*Holy Spirit Catholic Church - Duncanville, Tx,*

## We Will Miss Him

Benny Sikorski, a beloved husband, loving father and grandfather passed away on November 14, 2015. Bennie retired from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel after 23 years of service. His military career started in Texas and took him to many military bases including France Vietnam, and Korea. He began his second career with General Dynamics and Computer Science Corporation. Bennie was predeceased by his wife of 54 years, Virginia. He is survived by his daughter, Belinda; son, Michael, and wife Mikke and grandson Sean; sister Mary Grace Pavik; brothers Stanley Sikorski and Father Louis Sikorski; sister-in law, Euncie L. Balke; cousins, nieces, nephews, caring friends and extended family.

What the Knights of Columbus remember most about Bennie was his commitment to service. Although never one to garner attention for himself, he helped many a neighbor or friend with whatever they needed – he was a precursor of Knight Hands. And as his daughter said “he could do anything”. And so he was the go to guy in the neighborhood. It was also common knowledge that he could diagnose a troubled car engine and recommend the solution over the phone. Quite a guy

We will, for sure, think of Bennie at every fish fry for years to come. He was the official inspector of the newly purchased catfish and the man who got them ready for the frying pan – and he took that job very seriously. Often he could be heard saying “these catfish from Cambodia are no good; we need to buy American grown fish”. Well, eventually that’s exactly what happen – we now serve only American farm fed catfish at our Lenten fish fries. He was there for every fish fry early so as to be able to thaw out the fish before the Knights arrived to fry them. And it wasn’t so much the work he did as the attitude he carried with him about the work. This was

work done for others and he was serious about getting it right. And that smile – we’ll always remember that eye twinkling smile where you weren’t exactly sure if he was putting you on or just glad to see you.

Bennie was 84 years old when he died and much of his time was spent in foreign parts of the world. For the time he spent here with the Knights of Columbus, he will be remembered and missed.



## ABOUT OUR COUNCIL 8157

The Duncanville Knights of Columbus Council #8157 is a fraternal organization which assists in charitable outreach to meet the needs of the church universal and Holy Spirit Church in particular. In June 1972, a group of 41 men of Holy Spirit formed Council #8157, Knights of Columbus. They had visions of forming an organization that would be vital to our parish. Since that time Council #8157 has been one of the cornerstones of the parish. The Council and its members are truly in the structure of all activities within the parish; from cooking, ushering, lecturing, maintenance, to what our priests and other parishioners need – they are there to help and provide guidance.

## 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

Knights of Columbus  
1111 W. Danieldale Rd Room #221  
Duncanville, Tx. 75137 USA  
(972) 298-4971

**KC District 86 – Assembly 2799**

## Council 8157 Officers

The Council Officer's listed below were officially installed for their second term in office on Saturday June 14, 2015. Their term runs through June 2016.

<b>Grand Knight</b>	Nick Kleinhaus
<b>Deputy Grand Knight</b>	Jim Richardson
<b>Chancellor</b>	Tom Greco
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Jeff Miller
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mike Fitzgerald
<b>Warden</b>	John Espree
<b>Inside Guard</b>	La'Don Wright
<b>Outside Guard</b>	Al Alonzo
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Peter Perta
<b>Advocate</b>	Russell Gully
<b>Lecturer</b>	Jim Russell
<b>District Deputy</b>	Bill Dover
<b>Chaplain</b>	Fr. Joe Lee
<b>Trustees</b>	Frank Salazar, 3-year Andy Goza, 2-year Jack Ramsden, 1-year

## Service Program Directors

Awareness Committee	Jorge Ruiz
Baseball Committee	Allen Reitmeier
Church Activities	Jim Staninoha
Community Activities	Dan Murphy
Council Activities	Andy Goza
	Chris Edwards
Family Activities	Jim Richardson
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** Jorge Ruiz  
**Newsletter & Website Writers**  
Jeff Miller, Allen Reitmeier, Michael Moloughney,  
Jim Kowalski, Jorge Ruiz

**Newsletter and Website Photographer**  
Al Alonzo, Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz, Andy Goza

## 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

## **Knight of the Month Oct 2015**



### **Dan Murphy**

Dan has been very active lately both within and beyond his duties as our director of community activities. He is organizing the next semi-annual cookout at St. Joseph's Nursing Home in Oak Cliff,

which will take place on Saturday, Oct. 10. That comes on the heels of 8157's annual cookout for the seminarians at Holy Trinity in Irving. Also, Dan and fellow brother Chris Kubin teamed to oversee the acquisition, preparation and distribution of the various cooked foods during Holy Spirit's recent Fall Festival. Dan was also right in the middle of the festival set-up and take-down operations. He grew up in Irving and graduated from Jesuit High. From there, it was on to the Naval Academy and 20 years in the U.S. Navy before teaching Navy Junior R.O.T.C. at multiple high schools in our area before recent retirement. Dan joined the Knights in 1998 and served as our Grand Knight for the 2002-03 and '03-04 fraternal years. He and wife Pat, married in 1975, live in Dallas.

## **Knight of the Month Nov 2015**



### **Ed O'Brien**

Ed is one of many past Grand Knights of 8157 who continue to be active in council activities. Before you know it, it will time for Lenten fish fries and Ed will be taking his shopping

list to stock up each week. He has previously filled a similar role in advance of parish breakfasts and frequently helped at the council's youth baseball concession stands in Cedar Hill. Ed joined our council in 2000 – strong armed by members like Ron Suriano and Jesse Gonzalez – and was soon knee deep in council business. He served as our Grand Knight during the

2004-05 and '05-06 fraternal years. Ed is from upstate New York. He and wife Betty moved to the Dallas area in 1978 after he heard it was a fertile space in which to start a new business; he began an industrial uniform cleaning service. They're active not only in other parish ministries but in other community volunteer organizations. The O'Briens have five children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

## **Knight of the Month Dec 2015**



### **Larry Balagna**

Larry is a tireless contributor to council activities. It seems like we don't scramble an egg or set up and take down a room without him pitching in. Larry is part of the regular "posse" that makes

Allen Reitmeier's Knight Hands initiative so successful. His dedication was recently on display before, during and after Assembly 2279's clergy appreciation dinner that was held at Holy Spirit. Larry joined the order in February 1996, a few months after he and wife Sheila moved from Illinois to Duncanville, and took his major degrees only two months later. Larry retired in October 2013 after years as the event coordinator at Northwood University in Cedar Hill. Sheila also retired in 2013, working most recently as credit manager for Gibraltar Industries. They will celebrate their 43rd wedding anniversary in late January. Two of their sons are Knights, and the Balagnas' have six grandchildren

**The first fish fry of the Lenten season will be on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Jim Stavinoha promises a good time for all and a few changes as well. Come join your brother Knights for this annual rite during the Lenten season**

## Busy times for Knight Hands

October 2015 turned out to be a very busy time for Knight Hands; we completed 11 projects during the month. Most memorable was replacing a fence at Gabriele Hardin's home; memorable because while drilling new holes for the fence posts we (actually Allen) ruptured the main gas line. What with the fire department on scene and Atmos Energy surveying the damage, it was quite an exciting event. We hope all will be well in the end.



Juan Hernandez was involved in the first job of the month which was repairing a ceiling fan and re-energizing an exterior receptacle (he's an electrician, you know). We did two moving type jobs during the month and went to the home of Evangeline Armstead 4 times – to reinstall her shower door, to repair her sprinkler system (David Dybala changed the master control board), to repair her garage door (again David Dybala was Knight on the spot), and finally Jim Russell drove Evangeline's daughter to and from a doctor appointment in downtown Dallas.

Four Knights (Ken Rarick, John Espree, Ray Rivera and Allen Reitmeier) worked approximately 12 man/hours to repair a broken threshold and resize a backyard gate.

David Dybala was the main character in stopping a leaking roof at the home of a fellow brother Knight – Tony Almanza. And the final project completed on October 29th was building a ramp for Mildred VanWinkle in Dallas.

These jobs cost the Knights of Columbus \$362; but we received contributions for our work of \$350.00. Knight Hands has now completed 149 separate projects since we began 5 1/2 years ago. Many thanks to all the Knights who take part in these projects as we fulfill our mission to relieve stress from those in need in our parish community.

## Fall Baseball Season Ends

The fall little league baseball season concluded this past Sunday with the "Strike out for Hunger" tournament benefiting the Cedar Hill food pantry held on November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at Valley Ridge Park. Fourteen Knights gave of their time and effort to work 4.5 hour shifts at this tournament – the last event of the year.

For the entire fall baseball season 40 Knights work at various times at 154 games and generated a record amount of gross sales. Combined with the receipts during the spring season, Knights again generated enough money to fund all the Councils' activities for the year.

The baseball committee (James Smith, Mike Rumsey, Greg Warr, Andy Goza and Allen Reitmeier) wishes to thank all those who contributed to the success of the fall baseball season.



It goes without saying that these Knights deserve your thanks for a job well done. We received only positive comments about the quantity and quality of our food and service.



A reminder that our Council has an agreement with the Cedar Hill baseball Association to handle all the concession stands in Cedar Hill through the 2017 season. With continued stellar service we should

expect that agreement to be extended.

## Family of the Month Oct 2015



### Jack and Juanita Ramsden

The Ramsdens again played a quiet-but-substantial role in the success of the parish's recent Fall Festival. They coordinated pickups of furniture and other large and heavy items for sale during the festival's rummage sale for months before the actual two-day event. Jack was also literally picking up many of the items along with fellow council member Billy Callender. This required duty early on many a weekday morning and some weekends. The Ramsdens have been doing this for years. Jack joined the Knights in September 2012 and took his major degrees in May 2013. He is one of 8157's three Trustees. He and Juanita, married for 22 years, went through RCIA together in 2008-09 and jumped into parish life. They co-chair Holy Spirit's Adult and Family Ministry Commission, belong to the Zone Shepherds and Social Committee and added to that involvement during the parish's portion of the recent diocesan capital campaign.

## Family of the Month Nov 2015



### Andy, Susan and Madison Goza

If you didn't notice Andy, Susan or Madison hard at work at some point during the parish's recent fall festival, you weren't looking hard enough. Andy served as one of the co-

chairmen of the festival, from the planning stages months earlier to the post-teardown get-together out in the parking lot on Sunday evening when the revelers had long gone home. The three of them all worked the rummage sale, which accounted for a huge percentage of the festival's revenue, and the rummage pre-sale back in August. Andy's schedule this past month included his regular participation on the degree team and purchaser for the baseball committee as well as helping at the catechist breakfast and the fall cookout at St. Joseph's nursing home in Oak Cliff. Andy joined the council in August 2008. He served as Grand Knight during the 2010-11 and '11-12 fraternal years. He now serves as one of our trustees. Susan is in her 29<sup>th</sup> year as a flight attendant for American Airlines. Madison is 11 and in the seventh grade at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic School in Oak Cliff. The Gozas live in Cedar Hill and typically attend the 5:30 Saturday Mass, during which Andy oversees the hospitality ministers, Susan often is a Eucharistic Minister and Madison is an altar server.

## Family of the Month Dec 2015

### The Daniel Rosales family



For the sake of clarity, we'll refer to the father-son council members here as Daniel and Junior. No matter the names, they are valued contributors to 8157 activities. Daniel joined the order in October 2013 and took his major degrees in February 2015. The latter occurred only weeks after Junior became a member. Then, Junior added his major degrees in June '15.

Daniel and wife Norma live in Dallas. Junior is in his freshman year at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash. (If you're curious, that's 1,972.8 miles from Duncanville.) The Rosales participated in November's Hike for Life. Daniel helped out at the Cedar Hill youth baseball concession stand. He also joined the Fourth Degree in October.

## Remembering our Veterans

The Knights of Council 8157 demonstrated our respect and appreciation for the Veterans' military service at the VA Hospital in Dallas once again this past Saturday November 14. We served a burger and hot dog lunch to about 45 Veterans, most of whom continue to struggle with chemical dependency or are in recovery in the aftermath of their service to our country.

We are thankful for the 15 Knights who made this cookout happen, and they are: Jim Richardson, Jack Ramsden, Andy Goza, Matthew Sipriano, Roy Cormier, Gerry Jacobs, Doug Karpan, Bart Sipriano, Grand Knight Nick Kleinhaus, Arthur Rodriguez, Tom Greco, Jim Russell, Bill Dover, Mike Fitzgerald and Jorge Ruiz.



## Hike for Life

The Hike for Life 2015 managed to get off the ground thanks in large part to the efforts of Andy Goza and Jim Russell. Although the weather did not cooperate (it rained pretty hard that morning) a few brave hikers, about 16 in total, did get out there and get a little hiking done before the rains came back again. Thanks to all you gave of their time and money to help the pregnancy crisis centers in Dallas

## Breakfast with St Nick

What a colossal effort by the Knights of Columbus during the “Breakfast with St. Nick” celebration this past Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center. Among the 33 Knights that helped cook, serve, and clean-up for 435 guests at this year’s celebration were 7 past Grand Knights of this Council – Russell Gully, Ed O’Brien, Dan Murphy, Chris Kubin, Chris Edwards, Andy Goza, and Frank Salazar. While these guys provided the experience, there were plenty newcomers to round out the cadre of men (and women) needed to serve this many guests. Foremost among these newcomers was Jim Stavinoha, who has taken on the responsibility of Director of Church activities, and as luck would have it had a tire blowout early Sunday morning. He arrived, though, none the less for wear and was delighted to see that the old timers were getting thing done just fine.



The menu consisted of scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, pancakes, hash brown casserole, and the drink of their choice. We expected about 350 guest; but the extra 85 guests were served without a hitch. These 435 guest brought hundreds of toys and a considerable amount of cash donations; all of which will be forwarded to “Brighter Tomorrows” – one of Dallas County’s largest women’s shelter. The cooking started at 6:30am and guys were still cleaning the kitchen well after noon. Got to mention that Bart Sipriano repaired the ice machine “lickety split”.

Thanks to Jim Russell, Bart Sipriano, Jorge Ruiz, La’Don Wright, Ray Rivera, Ken Rarick, Bill Dover, Allen Reitmeier, Daniel Rosales, Dan Keough, Agustin Perez Sr., Agustin Perez Jr., Joemann Perez, Freddy Veracruz, Milly Veracruz, Jesse Radillo, Jerry Jacob, John Espree, Bob Motta, James Smith, Jim Richardson, Billy Callender, Jack Ramsden, Madison Goza, Art Senato, Lou Lemons, Frank Hernandez, Noe Saenz, and Art Rodriguez for your contribution to the success of this year’s celebration.



Of course, the main attraction was St Nick, portrayed by our own Leo Mattingly. Leo looks the part even without his St Nick costume and again, as in the past decades, entertained the little one. Other activities included construction of gingerbread houses, face painting and the beautiful voices of the youth choir orchestrated by Mary Russell. And not to be outdone, Debra Garrison had the gym decorated to the “nines” and thus the spirit of Christmas was everywhere to be found on this Sunday morning.



## New Knights

### Dan Keough October 2015



At the conclusion of the 1st degree induction ceremony on October 27, Dan Keough said “you guys have been chasing me for 10 years”. And with the recruiting efforts of Jack Anderson, Tom Greco, Jim Russell, and Andy Goza, we are happy to welcome Dan into the ranks of the Knights of

Columbus. Although born and raised and educated in Indiana, Dan has been in the parish for 38 years; in fact, his first Mass here was the very first Mass at Holy Spirit church. Dan, along with his wife who passed away about 3 years ago, have been active in many parish activities; like aide to sacramental preparation, companion to hospital ministry, advocate for family life and annulment process, and recycling for parish office. In the past Dan served 3 years in the Army security agency with an 18 month stint in Okinawa as a Morse code interpreter. Dan met his wife Anne in a Catholic Youth Organization and had been married 43 years. Dan’s 4 children were all raised in the parish and his next grandchild (due soon) will be the fifth. Dan’s work career was in transportation/ logistics with AAFES in New Jersey/Thailand/Japan/and Dallas and with Fedex in customer service. Dan enjoys reading and music and collects each of those

### Edmund Cordova October 2015



Edmund Cordova III and his family have been a member of this parish for the past 7 years and have lived in Grand Prairie for the last 4 years. Edmund heard about and was convinced to join the Knights of Columbus during the recent

Eucharistic breakfast. Both he and his wife (Dwana) are part of the Faith Formation Commission. You can probably find Edmond and his family at the 9:30 Mass Sunday mornings. Edmond met his wife while working together at Southern University in New Orleans – Edmond was born and raised in New Orleans and is a Saints fan. He received a business degree from Southern University and is currently a banker with Bank of America and has been for the past 12 years. Zoe, 12 years old and a cheerleader, and Myles, 10 years old and a baseball player are their two children. Edmond is also a baseball coach so you will probably find him at some point at the concession stand in Cedar Hill. We are glad to have Edmond on board. He said “I’ll see you guys at the next meeting”.

### Luis “Tony” Gonzalez Nov. 2015



Luis “Tony” Gonzalez was encouraged by his brother Elio Gonzalez to join the Knights of Columbus. And so it was on Tuesday November 24th that Tony was inducted into the Knights of

Columbus by the 1<sup>st</sup> degree team of Council 8157. Tony and his wife Rosalinda have attended both Holy Spirit and Holy Cross over the years; mostly Holy Cross for the past 5 years now that they have moved from Duncanville to the Oak Cliff area. Both have also worked at the fall festival again at both churches – so they are no strangers to volunteering. Tony works with his dad and brother at MEXSNAX – which manufactures and distributes chips and snacks in the surrounding area. Tony buys the raw materials for this manufacturing facility. Rosalinda and Tony have two boys that, according to Tony, “keep me on the right road to God and to be the best I can be”. It was pretty obvious that Tony wants to help others and said “it is a great honor to be a Knight”. There will be plenty for Tony to do with the Knights and we all look forward to those times. Welcome aboard, Tony

# Welcoming Fr. Eugene



An early start of the general business meeting brought many Knights of Columbus to room 212 in the Community Center this past Tuesday December 1st. They were there to show their respect and support for the clergy of Holy Spirit parish by presenting welcoming gifts to Fr. Eugene – our parochial vicar. The gifts “are tools of my trade” as Fr Eugene stated and consisted of a ciborium, chalice, patten and cruets, plus a carrying case for these items. By these gifts the Knights of Columbus demonstrated their appreciation of Fr. Eugene’s dedication to his calling.

Grand Knight, Nick Kleinhaus, made the presentation by noting “the Council has never acted so quickly to approve an expenditure once we knew of the need”. Deputy Grand Knight, Jim Richardson, who orchestrated the selection and purchase of these gifts pointed out to Fr. Eugene that these gifts were engraved with his name and his benefactor – the Knights of Columbus.



Fr. Eugene responded with heartfelt thanks as he held up his new “tools” for all to see. “I will use these right away” said he. “I will bless them tomorrow morning and use them all my days as a priest”. He went on to say “If you guys need anything from me just ask. I am a Knight, too – that’s who I am”. This Council appreciates the support of the clergy of Holy Spirit and wishes Fr. Eugene only the best.

## The baseball season just ended; but spring ball will begin the last week of March; so be ready

### Knights Help Local Resident

Every Knight Hand project is unique and special to both those doing the job and those receiving the benefits of the labor of the Knights of Columbus. And so it was on Thursday December 17<sup>th</sup> that 7 men of Council #8157 embarked on a singularly unique project for a resident of Duncanville. Hector Rubio asked Knight Hands to help with replacing the porch roof over the front door of his home which had been blown down by high winds. David Dybala, Al Evans, Ray Rivera, Jorge Ruiz, James Smith, Larry Balagna and Allen Reitmeier answered the call and spent the entire day removing the old porch and constructing a new porch to Hector’s specifications. We arrived at the job site at 9:00am armed with tools (lots of tools), roof decking, rolled roofing, 2 x 6 rafters, tar (yuck) and the will and desire to help. David Dybala and Ray Rivera led the charge in demolishing the old porch.



Al Evans, Jorge Ruiz and David Dybala prepared the home for the new porch while James Smith and Ray Rivera drilled and secured the wrought iron support posts. Larry Balagna and Allen Reitmeier did the cutting for rafters and James Smith, Al Evans and Jorge Ruiz installed them. Seemed like everyone helped install the roof and the end trim and by 5:00pm we headed home feeling tired but knowing we had done a good days work. There was a lot of work; but also a lot of time to just talk to one another and build not just a porch but long lasting memories of helping someone in need. Not once was a discouraging word spoken and that was difficult because this was indeed a difficult project. Many thanks to those who gave their day to help



## Coming Events

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>January 16</b>               | <b>Roe Memorial Events</b>                           |
| <b>January 19</b>               | <b>Officer &amp; Directors Meeting</b>               |
| <b>January 23</b>               | <b>Corporate Communion &amp; Appreciation Dinner</b> |
| <b>January 26</b>               | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Degree Ceremony</b>                |
| <b>February 2</b>               | <b>Regular Business Meeting</b>                      |
| <b>February 10</b>              | <b>Ash Wednesday</b>                                 |
| <b>February 12<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>First Lenten Fish Fry</b>                         |
| <b>February 16</b>              | <b>Officer &amp; Directors Meeting</b>               |
| <b>February 19</b>              | <b>Lenten Fish Fry</b>                               |
| <b>February 23</b>              | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Degree Ceemony</b>                 |
| <b>March 1</b>                  | <b>Regular Business Meeting</b>                      |
| <b>March 4</b>                  | <b>Lenten Fish Fry</b>                               |
| <b>March 5</b>                  | <b>Major Degree Ceremony</b>                         |
| <b>March 11</b>                 | <b>Lenten Fish Fry</b>                               |
| <b>March 15</b>                 | <b>Officer &amp; Directors Meeting</b>               |
| <b>March 18</b>                 | <b>Last Lenten Fish Fry</b>                          |
| <b>March 19</b>                 | <b>Opening Day – Little League Baseball</b>          |
| <b>March 20</b>                 | <b>Palm Sunday</b>                                   |
| <b>March 22</b>                 | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Degree Ceremony</b>                |
| <b>March 25</b>                 | <b>Holy Thursday</b>                                 |
| <b>March 26</b>                 | <b>Good Friday</b>                                   |
| <b>March 27</b>                 | <b>Holy Saturday</b>                                 |
| <b>March 28</b>                 | <b>Easter Sunday</b>                                 |
| <b>April 5</b>                  | <b>Regular Business Meeting</b>                      |