



# The Patriot *Newsletter*

**MOTHER TERESA**  
St. Teresa of Calcutta

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MAY 2024

MOTHER TERESA ASSEMBLY 2506 (GARLAND, TEXAS)

## OUR MEETINGS

Our Assembly meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of most months in the Upper Room located at St. Joseph's Catholic Church - Richardson, TX starting at 7:30 PM. Dinner served 7:00 PM.

Months with social events may have no business meeting.

## ASSEMBLY COUNCILS

**Council # 6402**  
Good Shepherd Catholic Church

**Council # 8954**  
St. Joseph's Catholic Church

**Council # 9337**  
Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church

**Council # 10646**  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church

**Council # 12300**  
St. Anthony's Catholic Church

**Council # 16546**  
Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic Parish

## FLAG RETIREMENT AT ST. ANTHONY PARISH

*By Faithful Navigator, S.K. Felix Ogbeide*

Retirement of US and Texas flags is a routine, frequently embarked upon by Mother Teresa Assembly (2506) of the Knights of Columbus along with Veterans, Wylie Fire Department, the Junior ROTC of Wylie East High School and Wylie Boy Scouts. Flag Retirement connotes "proper, dignified way of destroying United States Flags that are no longer fit to serve the nation." These Flags are old, thorn and no longer worthy or fit to be displayed. This year's Flag Retirement Ceremony was carried out by Mother Teresa Assembly(2506), Richardson on April 20th, 2024. This Flag Retirement ceremony was held at St. Anthony Catholic Church, Wylie, Texas, and was a huge success despite the torrential rain. The Flag Retirement was organized



*Faithful Navigator*  
**SK Felix Ogbeide**



and performed by Sir Knights of Mother Teresa in a very inclement weather. Sir Knight George Ledbetter put the package of Flag Retirement together for execution. PFN, Trustee and Color Corps Commander SK Bob Fries & Lady Colleen closely assisted in this endeavor, as well as these officers: Worthy Faithful Navigator SK Felix Ogbeide, Worthy Faithful Captain SK Bryan A. Finley, Worthy Faithful Scribe, SK Robert A. Finley as well as many others whose names are not mentioned here.



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## ***Flag Retirement at St. Anthony Parish, Continued***

About 400 + Flags were destroyed in a dignified way by burning.

Lastly, I wish to thank all the participants in this aforementioned venture of Flag Retirement for its success.

We look forward to seeing everyone again in another ceremony of flag retirements scheduled for November, 2024.

## **CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

***By Faithful Captain, Bryan A. Finley***

Jesus summoned them and said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:42-45)



This is the time of year that the Knights of Columbus units elect and appoint men to fulfill roles of responsibility and function so that the programs of the order, from the Supreme Office programs that are defined and supported order-wide, to those of State Councils, Districts, Diocesan Chapters, Assemblies and local Councils are planned, organized, and executed to make a positive impact. All are important and part of our Catholic mission to spread the Gospel.

No matter how high in an organization a Knight goes or how great a responsibility he is granted, he knows he is to follow the model of Christ as the Servant-Leader. A good leader of the clergy or laity of our order gets his hands dirty and scarred with the tough work of serving the downtrodden, the weary and the outcast. He spends time demonstrating and teaching, not making orders, to those around him so that we all carry the weight, lives are helped, and souls are fed. He sacrifices nights and weekends so that he can learn and serve men and their families at his home parish and across the area, state or country to build a spirit of charity, fraternity, unity and patriotism in the order, emphasizing our service of Christ and his Church. To the extent you know such men, support and pray for them. If a door opens for you to serve.... be that man.



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## FAITHFUL PILOT'S REPORT—by SK Ricky Brown

As we approach Memorial Day, let us pause to honor and remember the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation. Their courage, valor, and selflessness serve as a testament to the ideals of freedom and democracy that we hold dear. As Knights of Columbus, we stand united in gratitude for the sacrifices of our fallen heroes. Let us pay tribute to their memory by upholding the values for which they fought and by ensuring that their legacy lives on in our hearts and in our actions.



On this solemn occasion, let us also extend our deepest sympathy and support to the families of the fallen. May they find comfort in knowing that their loved ones will never be forgotten and that their sacrifices will always be remembered. Wishing you all a meaningful and reflective Memorial Day.

### ***Faithful Friar S.K. Dcn. Randy Wilson***

*Sir Knights, we have been praying for our Faithful Friar who has been recovering from shoulder surgery. He told us it's a long process. Now he has told us that he has had a knee replacement. Please keep him in your prayers for the completion of a full and complete recovery. He plans to return to this column very soon. In fact, we think he is at least capable of carefully typing a short message. Perhaps a short, very-well thought out column to share? Oh, wait! Here it is:*

Hi, my knee replacement went very well and I am recovering nicely.





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## FAITHFUL ADMIRAL'S REPORT

*By Faithful Admiral S. K. Rick Guzman*

Worthy Sir Knights, it is often said when it comes to recruiting, if we are not growing, we are dying. Therefore, it is imperative that we recruit new members. That being said, it is important to know that our fastest growing population and most underserved by the Knights of Columbus here in Texas and in other states, are our Hispanic Communities.



These Catholic Hispanic families are from Mexico and other countries in South America. Unfortunately, these Hispanic brothers and sisters are experiencing the same type of discrimination and racism as did our Irish brothers and sisters of yester year. If our Honored Order is to continue to grow, we must make a concerted effort to recruit Hispanics and other minorities into our Order. Vivat Jesus!

## COLOR CORPS COMMANDER'S REPORT

*By Faithful Trustee and Color Corps Commander S. K. Bob Fries*

No report.





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## COMPTROLLER'S COMMUNICATION

*By Faithful Comptroller S.K. Ed Lopez*

Sir Knights: May 20, 2024 has been 2 years since my wife Oralia has passed away into God's kingdom. We were married 52 years and met in college. We have a daughter, Alissa and son, Matthew and 4 grandchildren. I submit this report in Honor and in Memorial of All our Sir Knights that have lost their spouses! I know how it feels when events center on Ladies night or family events and we are widowed. I hereby request all Sir Knights to pray for our Widowed Sir Knights and The Ladies who have lost their Sir Knights. VIVAT JESUS!



## SCRIBE'S NOTES

*By Faithful Scribe S.K. Robert A. Finley*

Do you have the Minutes to Win It? This month's question is from the 4th Degree Bylaws. Refer to the Knights website and Assembly bylaws if you don't know the answer!

According to Supreme, how many members are the minimum required for an Assembly to establish in its bylaws that a quorum is present? What is the minimum number of Sir Knights required for a quorum of Mother Teresa Assembly per our bylaws?

Per Supreme by-laws a minimum quorum is nine. Our Assembly bylaws indicate thirteen.  
The answer to last month's Minutes to Win It! C - the roads were frozen.

## AROUND THE ASSEMBLY - EVENTS, NEWS, COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

**ASSEMBLY WEBSITE— [MTASSEMBLY2506.ORG](http://MTASSEMBLY2506.ORG)**—If you have an event scheduled in your council or parish, it can be listed there as well. Please email the webmaster to include your Council's event on the home page calendar.



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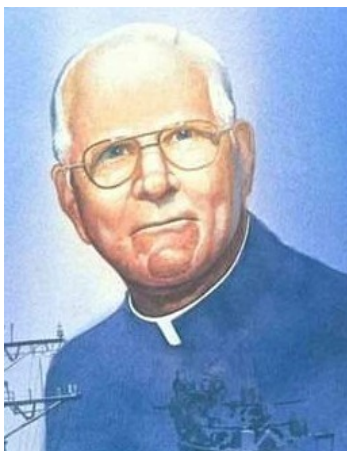
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## **PATRIOT OF THE MONTH: Father John Francis Laboon**

*By Faithful Pilot S.K. Ricky Brown*



John Francis "Jake" Laboon, Jr., a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, native, born April 11, 1921, was a member of the Class of 1944 at the U.S. Naval Academy and a distinguished athlete. In World War II, Ensign Laboon was awarded the Silver Star for bravery for diving from his submarine, the USS PETO, to rescue a downed aviator while under heavy fire. Lieutenant Laboon left the Navy after the war to enter the Jesuits. With the Navy never far from his thoughts, he returned to his beloved "blue and gold" as a chaplain in 1958.

For the next twenty-one years, he served the Navy-Marine Corps team in virtually every community and location including tours in Alaska, Hawaii, Japan, and Vietnam, where he received the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" for his fearless action as battlefield chaplain. He was the first chaplain assigned to a Polaris Submarine Squadron and Senior Catholic Chaplain at the Naval Academy. Captain Laboon retired in 1979 as Fleet Chaplain, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

When he passed away in 1988, Father Jake left behind countless service members and their families whose lives he had touched with his compassion and understanding. His courage and genuine concern for all his shipmates was then, is now, and will forever remain an extraordinary example for young sailors and marines everywhere.

The USS LABOON, commissioned in 1995, honors the distinguished career of Captain John Francis "Jake" Laboon, Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy. Known to most simply as "Father Jake", he devoted his life to service to God, Country and the Navy.



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## REPORT OF THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE 2024-25 FRATERNAL YEAR

Officer Position	
Faithful Friar	Dcn. Randy Wilson
Faithful Navigator	Felix Ogbeide
Faithful Admiral	Adrian Rodriguez
Faithful Captain	Bryan Finley
Faithful Pilot	Wisdom Anyagwa
F. Comptroller	Robert Finley
Faithful Purser	Ed Lopez
Faithful Scribe	Mike Serafin
Trustee – 1 year	Billy Kornegay
Trustee – 2 year	Manny Ojeda
Trustee – 3 year	Bob Fries
Inner Sentinel	Patrick Okoye
Inner Sentinel	James Hazelton
Outer Sentinel	Joe Vulk
Outer Sentinel	Marty Martinez