



# Knights *focus*

**St. Jude COUNCIL #7736**

**St. Jude Catholic Church, Mansfield, TX**

Greetings to all

*By Grand Knight Speedy Gonzales*

**September 2014**

My Brother Knights

August has passed and a busy month it was. Thanks to all who helped and participated in all our events and activities. My hope is for God's blessings for each of you and your loved ones

Now a little something from the Heart:

Twenty years ago, I drove a cab for a living. It was a cowboy's life, a life for someone who wanted no boss. What I didn't realize was that it was also a ministry. Because I drove the night shift, my cab became a moving confessional. Passengers climbed in, sat behind me in total anonymity, and told me about their lives. I encountered people whose lives amazed me, ennobled me, and made me laugh and weep.

But none touched me more than a woman I picked up late one August night.

I was responding to a call from a small brick fourplex in a quiet part of town. I assumed I was being sent to pick up some partiers, or someone who had just had a fight with a lover, or a worker heading to an early shift at some factory for the industrial part of town.

When I arrived at 2:30 a.m., the building was dark except for a single light in a ground floor window. Under these circumstances, many drivers would just honk once or twice, wait a minute, then drive away. But I had seen too many impoverished people who depended on taxis as their only means of transportation. Unless a situation smelled of danger, I always went to the door. This passenger might be someone who needs my assistance, I reasoned to myself. So I walked to the door and knocked.

"Just a minute," answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor. After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 80s stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940s movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

"Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she said. I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness. "It's nothing", I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated". "Oh, you're such a good boy", she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address, then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?" "It's not the shortest way," I answered quickly. "Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice".

I looked in the rearview mirror. Her eyes were glistening. "I don't have any family left," she continued. "The doctor says I don't have very long."

I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. "What route would you like me to take?" I asked.

For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing.

As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, "I'm tired. Let's go now."

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her.

I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair. "How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching into her purse. "Nothing," I said. "You have to make a living," she answered. "There are other passengers," I responded. Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. "You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. "Thank you." I squeezed her hand, and then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life.

I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly, lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away? On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware--beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

PEOPLE MAY NOT REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID, OR WHAT YOU SAID, BUT THEY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL.

**Viva Cristo Rey  
Speedy Gonzales  
Grand Knight**

## Upcoming Events

- **September 1 - Labor Day**
- **September 9 - Monthly Business Meeting**
- **September 10- Prolife Rosary**
- **September 11- Patriots Day**
- **September 13- Bingo**
- **September 20- Parish Festival**
- **September 21- Pancake Breakfast**
- **September 23 - Monthly Planning Meeting**
- **September 24 - Forty Days for Life Kickoff Event**
- **September 27 - 4th Degree Exemplification**
- **September 27 – KNIGHTS CAN Weekend**

## Bingo!!!

Monthly Bingo is in September 13<sup>th</sup> ! Come out and help or just bring the whole family and play! Food prep starts around 4:00 P.M. – gaming at 6:30 P.M



## Parish Festival

Mark your calendars now! St. Jude will once again host our annual festival on SEPTEMBER 20, 2014 from 1-10pm. Come on out and enjoy the Greatest Show in Mansfield, all the great food, plus our Knights of Columbus staples of burgers, sausage on a stick and turkey legs. All day long event - multiple events throughout the day. Sign up for a shift, Mark Von Plinsky is the Event Chairman.



## BISHOPS 10TH ANNUAL PRO-LIFE GALA

Please make plans to join us on Saturday, September 27, 2014 for the Bishop's Annual Catholic Pro-Life Dinner which will be held at the Omni Fort Worth Hotel in downtown Fort Worth. The evening begins with Check-in at 5:30 PM, followed by the Silent Auction at 6:00 p.m., Dinner at 7:30 p.m., and a Live Auction/Raffle from 8:30 to 9:00 p.m. Come support and celebrate this worthy cause.

## Knights Can Weekend

Our next KNIGHTS CAN Weekend is September 27<sup>th</sup>. On this weekend, the Knights all make an effort to remember to bring in canned goods for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

7/26/2014 - Deaconate Ordination at St.Jude



**Ask a good Catholic man  
to join the Knights today!  
It'll make him a better  
Catholic – just like it did  
to you!!!**

### First Degrees

(all at 7:00 P.M. unless noted)

8/6 – Council 759  
Keller 9:00 AM  
8/17 – Council 14549  
Arlington  
8/22 – Council 7099  
Grapevine  
8/23 – Council 8157  
Duncanville  
8/26 – Council 11423  
Fort Worth

Contact Mark Von Plinsky at  
404-695-0097

MVONPLINSKY@COMCAST.NET  
if you have a lead on a new

## Monthly Awards

Knight of the Month – Cliff Vittorio

Thank you Cliff for being there for us at our events and for answering the call when clean ups are needed, bingo food needs to be prepared, and for the many other things that you have done for our council!!

Family of the Month – Tom and Cynthia Pailliotet

Tom is a great asset to our council, he is at many events and is always willing to pitch in and help when he sees something that needs to be done. Tom also helps the parish as the Eucharistic Minister coordinator. Cynthia, is also very active in the Parish and the Lady Knights.



Find out everything going on with Council 7736 at  
[www.kofc7736.org](http://www.kofc7736.org)

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