

**GALVESTON-HOUSTON CHAPTER  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
P.O. Box 132406  
Spring, TX 77393**

Date: October 9, 2022  
To: Grand Knights  
District Deputies  
Faithful Navigators

From: JD Gutierrez, Clergy Appreciation Night Co-Chairman  
Tony Scarpa, Clergy Appreciation Night Co-Chairman

Re: **2023 Clergy Appreciation Night**

The Galveston-Houston Chapter of the Knights of Columbus will host the Thirty-ninth Annual Clergy Appreciation Night on Friday, February 3, 2023, at the Bayou City Event Center, located at 9401 Knight Road, Houston, TX, 77045. This large, beautiful, and centralized location has been so well received by the guests of the past four Clergy Appreciation Nights that we will be utilizing this venue for the fifth year. Please check the map and address and plan to check-in between 5:30-6:30pm. Program and dinner starts at 7:00pm. This year dinner seating will be limited to accommodate for appropriate distancing.

Once each year, we Brother Knights welcome the opportunity to express our thanks, respect, and solidarity with our Cardinal, Archbishop, Bishops, Priests, Deacons, and Religious. Clergy Appreciation Night provides you and your Councils an opportunity to honor your clergy, along with all the other Priests, Deacons, brothers, and nuns in the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese. Please extend a special invitation to those Priests, Deacons, brothers and nuns closely associated with you personally and with your Council. While this is a Chapter sponsored event, we extend a personal invitation to all Councils and all Clergy in the Archdiocese. **Councils do not have to be members of the Galveston-Houston Chapter to participate in this important event.**

We ask you to place this event on your Council's "Calendar of Events" and hope you plan to attend along with your spouse or guest(s). Ask your Clergy and Religious to put it on their calendars now before other events are scheduled. Where else can you enjoy cocktails, an excellent dinner and fellowship with Brother Knights, Bishops, Priests, Deacons, brothers and nuns of our Archdiocese in one evening? The following items are explained in this letter: Table/Ticket Reservations; Table Sponsorships; Nominations for Outstanding Clergy; Silent Auction and Program Sponsorship.

Though there are no costs to Priests and Deacons (including spouses) and religious (brothers/nuns), Councils who make reservations for their Clergy are asked to pay a \$25.00 **non-refundable** deposit per seat for clergy to: **Galveston-Houston Chapter**. This \$25.00 per seat for clergy (and spouses if applicable) simply goes to offset the cost of the meal. We would also ask that Councils who are supporting a seminarian, or more than one seminarian, also pay the \$25.00 deposit for their sponsored seminarian. Though all clergy are not covered by K of C Councils, the Clergy Night committee will seek out Council sponsorship for those clergy not currently affiliated with a Council.

## **TABLE RESERVATIONS**

Reservations are required. **Seats are \$50.00 per person** (except as noted above for clergy). All reservations and payments must be received on or before January 13, 2023. Seats will not be sold the night of the event. Every Council must fill out a **Reservation/Purchase Form** and a list of those attending (if unsure of who is attending, list them as guest of Council #....). Based on the information on this form, *table reservations and an appropriate number of seats* will be assigned and designated. The form can be sent in by mail or e-mailed as an attachment. Any Council that does not pay for their tickets prior to January 13th will have their reservation voided. Table assignments will be emailed to the GK of the Council, or the Council representative, as designated on the **Reservation/Purchase Form**, beginning January 16th. This new change will minimize long lines at the registration table on the evening of the event. It will be the responsibility of the Council GK or the designated representative to distribute the event seating information to their respective attendees at a time that is appropriate for them. Please make the checks for the payment of reserved seats and Table Sponsorship payable to: **Galveston-Houston Chapter.**

As participants enter the Bayou City Event Center, there will be registration tables for Clergy and all Council representatives that may have not received their Council seating/table designation. We will also have information available as to where councils are sitting. Please remember to list your Clergy that will be in attendance on the Reservation/Purchase Form, and make sure you inform them of your designated table assignment(s), especially if you want them sitting with your Council members. All clergy in the Archdiocese will receive a separate invitation and many do not know what your Council name is, or what your Council number is. We will do our best to match Clergy to Council based on the records and information we have, but with new assignments of Clergy each year there is often some confusion on where to seat some of the Clergy.

There will be a cash bar. Prices are: \$5 for beer, \$8 for wine, \$9 for mixed drinks, and \$3 for soda or waters. So, plan accordingly please and as always drink responsibly.

*Table listings with council specific seating arrangements will be available at the registration tables. If there are special needs or dignitaries attending who require recognition please note on the registration form. Any council may designate replacements for people who are unable to attend that evening but have a paid up reservation. The number of attendees, however, may not exceed the original number of paid reservations. We must reiterate, **WE ANTICIPATE A SELL OUT AND NO SEATS WILL BE SOLD ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT.***

## **TABLE SPONSORSHIP**

Each year Table Sponsorships are requested for a donation of \$100.00 per ten-person table. The proceeds of these donations will go to help fund our diocesan priests. Table Sponsorships do not have any effect on seat prices and are an additional cost. Those tables that are sponsored will be given priority placement and be closest to the head table. Tables will be reserved for Outstanding Clergy recipients and members of their Council, all other tables can be sponsored. For example: If a Council has forty members and guests, and they all want to sit in the same immediate area, sponsorship of tables will facilitate that. If tables are not sponsored, seating will be prioritized by receipt of payment for seats. Essentially, we are asking Councils to continue sponsoring tables with the difference being that we will use the proceeds to help fund our own diocesan ministry to priests and thereby exemplify true clergy appreciation. Checks for Table Sponsorship should be made out to: **Galveston-Houston Chapter.**