



From the Grand Knight Brian Tooley

Brothers,

It has been a while since we have communicated via the newsletter, but that is not to say that our Council has not been active. Over the past few months, we have:

- Supported Life
- Raised funds for the Sisters of St Joseph
- Enjoyed 2 social events
- Served the parish during Fall Festival
- Performed our regular monthly service(s)
- Kicked off a new program and new orientation, and
- Conducted another CUF Exemplification welcoming **Brothers Antonio Mata** and **Mike Serafin** to our Council

Our Membership Meetings have been well attended averaging over 50 Knights, with the exception of our November meeting which was abbreviated since it followed All Souls Mass. Meetings have been lively with much information, prayer and Fraternity.

Thanks to **DGK Milton Catalina** for cooking burgers & dogs out on the Terrace before our October meeting, as well as his generous donation.

October was 'Respect Life' month and our Council participated in the Hike for Life, Crosses for Life, many Rosary Prayers and another Pancake Breakfast.

I am truly encouraged and inspired by the selfless acts of service I have been witnessing. During my GK Report at the October Membership Meeting, I asked everyone there to listen during the meeting reports of Programs and activities for real examples of service.

The 1st example that was highlighted came during the Community Program report. After **SK Art Perez** reported the outstanding donation results of the Sisters of St Joseph campaign, he commended **SK Jason Clark** for his efforts during the Bucket Brigade. **Brother Jason** earned Knight of the Month for September for his work on this initiative.

Council Calendar

Thanksgiving Social

Thursday, Nov 16 7:00 pm Dining Hall

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, Nov 23

Rosary Program Weekend

Saturday, Nov 25 All Masses
Sunday, Nov 26 Sanctuary

Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity

Thursday, Nov 30 7:00 pm Dining Hall

1st Saturday Mass & Rosary

Saturday, Dec 2 8:00 am Sanctuary

1st Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec 3

Leadership Meeting

Tuesday, Dec 5 6:30 pm Upper Rm

Membership Meeting

Thursday, Dec 7 7:30 pm St Joe Rm
Food at 7 pm & Social after meeting

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Friday, Dec 8

Santa's Breakfast

Saturday, Dec 9 8:00 am Dining Hall

Nativity Scenes Setup

Saturday, Dec 9 9:00 am Courtyard

Christmas Social

Thursday, Dec 16 6:30 pm Dining Hall

Christmas Day

Monday, Dec 25

New Years Day

Monday, Jan 1



From the Grand Knight - cont'd

- This is when I noted how these two Knights are both past recipients of the **SK Isaac Sandoval** Knight of the Year award. And they are still serving, and leading in this project. They also led the inaugural **Knight Cap** back in June.

The next example(s) of selfless service was noted after the Family Program report where **Brother Paul Jarvis** was awarded Knight of the Month (for August) and **Brother Anthony Rubio** was presented with the Family of the Month award.

- These men have volunteered seemingly from start to finish at every event we've had since they became Knights in May. **Brother Anthony** was Knight of the Month (for June). And they are doing it with humility and joy...

Thanks for all you do, brothers!

Currently, nearly 70 Knights have recorded over 1400 hours of volunteer service. I know the hours currently reported are not near the actual number of hours served. Contact **Brother Curt Landry** to update your volunteer hours before the end of the year.

As we enter into the holiday season, there will be many opportunities to serve, to fraternize and to worship our Lord Jesus Christ.

I hope to see many Knights and their families at our annual **Thanksgiving Social next Thursday**. This is always a wonderful event with lots of Thanksgiving food, desserts, spirits and fellowship.

Then, I'll look forward to welcoming several new Knights at our next Exemplification on **Thursday 30th**. Please attend this great new ceremony and reception afterward. Families are welcome to this event.

The **next Thursday** will be our December Membership Meeting with our annual Christmas Social the **following Thursday 16th**.

As always, I look forward to seeing and serving with you all soon, and a lot in November and December!

Vivat Jesus!

Brian Tooley
Grand Knight

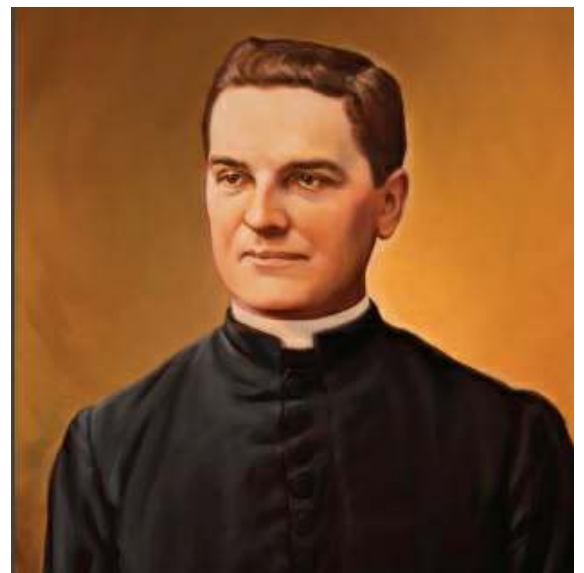


Pray for the Sick and Distressed



Joe Horan	Rick Bentine
Doug Murdoch	Chad Daigle
Randall Smith	Phil Lazano
Bill Thelen	Art Perez
Randall Tooley	Beth Perez
Dan Smith	Carlo Perez
Charles Smith	Judy Grace
Tony Forrest	Neal Kauffman
Mary Grace Anasco	Lilian Bradley
Gloria Molina	Shane Turner
Casey Snow	Joey Diaz
Nona Brown	Gene Schaefers
Jerry Holmgren	Chris Mote
Charlotte Maldonado	Bob Bobo
Ashley Thomas	Sarah Kane
Steve Snyder	Randy Davis
Lissie Ducote	Sam Bert
Steve Ducote	Loretta Storey
Chris Ducote	Anna Osong
Alice Ducote	Mary Lou Placino
Sharon Ducote	Mariela Rivero
Kathy Skinner	

Please remember them in your prayers





Community
Program Director
Art Perez

FALL FESTIVAL RECAP

Thanks to all those Knights who volunteered to serve at the Fall Festival on October 21 - 22! It was a great success.

Brother Tom Nicolosi prepared a wonderful Ziti dinner that was enjoyed by all. **SK Ken Ducote** called another night of riveting Bingo with a new, trusted sidekick, **Brother Paul Jarvis** working the board. There was much excitement during games and the last 50/50 game paid out \$202 to the winner!

Then, on Sunday, the Knights served up burgers, brats and beer all day long. It was awesome!

At least 25 Knights volunteered over 140 hours during the festival.



CCD FOOD TRUCK

Every second Saturday of the month the parish distributes food to those in need. We are looking for additional Knight participation to help hand out food.

For more info or questions, contact:
Brother **Matthew Bartula** at 713-557-3252
matthew.bartula@gmail.com



Sisters of St Joseph



Home Repairs

Many Thanks and Congratulations to all of the Knights who planned, created, spoke and volunteered to serve on the Bucket Brigade for the Sisters of St Joseph Fundraiser.

After creating a video and drafting a script and bulletin insert, Knights from our Council then gave pulpit talks and donned the red vests after all masses on September 16 & 17.

Thanks to the our brothers, the Parish community and all of this through our Lord Jesus Christ, over **\$26,500** was raised for the Sisters' Home Repairs!

SK Art Perez is coordinating repairs and our Financial Secretary **SK Jason Clark** is managing the funds in an escrow account held by our Council.

Work has already begun! Keep an eye out for future volunteer Sign Ups.

Thanks also to **Worthy Advocate, Dylan Hedrick** who submitted the Sisters' case to the City of Garland's home renovation program. After interviews and inspection, the Sisters qualified for a new roof, to be paid for by the City! This will allow for approximately \$10K planned for the roof to be utilized for other needed work.

God is great!



Sisters of St Joseph Fundraiser
Sat, Sept 16 & Sun, Sept 17



Brothers Will Quintanilla, Douglas Hicks, Brent Morris, Paul Jarvis, Johnny Tejada, Michael Hicks and Brian Tooley collecting donations in the courtyard as the Bucket Brigade.



Brother Fermin Cristan and wife Adella with Sister Demetria

Brother Daniel White and son Logan serving on the Bucket Brigade.



DGK Milton Catalina serving with humility and joy!



Brothers Milton Catalina, Rob Mauga, Jason Clark, Harold Hansen, along with Brother Dylan Hedrick and daughters Kara and Elissa battling the sun.



FALL FESTIVAL

October 21, 2023



Brothers Tom Nicolosi and Brian Roeten preparing Ziti



Brothers Brian Roeten, Kevin Quinn, Mike Serafin, Derek Storey, Paul Jarvis, Robbie Placino and Will Quintanilla preparing garlic bread for Fall Festival dinner.



Brothers Ojas Inamdar, Bob Procsal and Paul Jarvis prep the bingo board.



SK Art Perez serving with humility and joy.

FALL FESTIVAL

October 22, 2023



Brothers Fermin Cristan and Alfredo Ramirez cook burgers and brats as **Brothers Paul Jarvis and Victor Villareal** chat.



Brother Urban Heitmeyer mans the bar.



Brothers Fermin Cristan, Javion Mackey, Paul Jarvis, Douglas Hicks and Harold Hansen serving parishioners at the Fall Festival.



Brother Douglas Hicks and grandson, Thomas - a future Knight for sure.

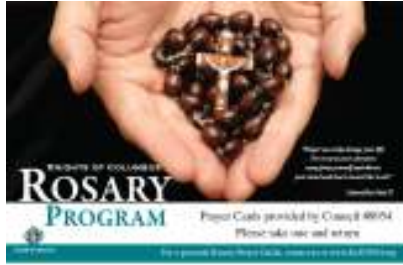


Faith

**Program Director
Jon Wagner**

Rosary Program

To help bring parishioners together in a spiritual activity and promote devotion to Mary, our Knights lead the Rosary before the Vigil and at all Sunday masses on the last weekend of every month.



If you would like to join the Rosary Program team, please contact: **Brother Jon Wagner** at 469-503-7806 or jwagner528491@gmail.com

Please come to Mass 25 minutes early to pray the Rosary.



Monday Morning Rosary



Bring your intentions and join your brothers every Monday morning at 6:30 am to pray the Rosary.

“What a great way to start the week; praying the Rosary with my brothers!”

(716) 427-1337
PIN 422450#

(Note: this is a toll free call)



Living Rosary



The annual Living Rosary was celebrated on Saturday, October 7 after the Vigil Mass. Knights forming the cross included **Brothers Don Delorenz, Steve Snyder, Sean Hsu, Ken Ducote, Harold Hansen, Mike Wagner, Paul Jarvis, Anthony Rubio and Mike Serafin.**



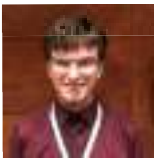
SK Ken Ducote praying the Living Rosary with parishioners.



Knights forming the cross and praying the Rosary, led by **Brother Mike Wagner.**



Mary, Mother of God and Queen of Heaven, pray for us.



Holy Hour Meditation
By Faith Director
Jon Wagner

Saints Paul Nguyen Nagan Giuse Nguyen Dinh Nghi and Martin Ta Duc Thinh

Good evening, Brothers and Sisters. I want to thank you all for coming out here tonight to worship in adoration. I especially want to thank all the knights of Columbus members for making it out here tonight. I would like to spend a moment to give a prayerful reflection on Saints Paul Nguyen Nagan Giuse Nguyen Dinh Nghi and Martin Ta Duc Thinh whose feast day is celebrated today, and the Vietnamese Christian Martyrs whose feast day is celebrated November 24.

In the 1700s Vietnam suffered a power struggle, and uprising. The government, concerned with foreign influence, persecuted those of the Catholic faith. The persecution lasted over a century and there was a minimum of 130,000 martyrs to the faith. A representative sample of 117 martyrs — including 96 Vietnamese, 11 Spanish Dominicans, and 10 French members of the Paris Foreign Missions Society were beatified on four separate occasions. Of these 117 saints, three of their feast days are celebrated today. Paul Nguyen Ngan, Giuse Nguyen Dinh Nghi, and Martin Ta Duc Thinh.

Saint Paul Nguyen Nagan was born in 1790. He studied with Saint Giuse Nguyen Dinh Nghi also served as a priest. When Saint Martin Ta Duc Thinh was 18 years old, he turned down is arranged marriage to become a monk in 1778. By 1840, all three of these priests had come serve at the village Ke Bang. During the time of heavy Christian persecution, they served in secret, living in parishioners homes. In April 1840, 1000 troops surrounded Ka Bang village and searched every home. Paul Nguyen, Giuse Kim, and Martin Ta Duc Thinh were discovered. They were tortured and executed on November 8th, 1840.

During the persecution Many Christians left their villages. They fled to the rain forest of La Vang in Quang Tri Province Vietnam, here, many of them became ill. While hiding in jungle, the community gathered every night at the foot of a tree to pray the rosary. One night, an apparition of The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared before them, holding the baby child Jesus. They said that Our Lady comforted them and told them to boil leaves from the trees for medicine to cure their illness. She added, "From this day on, prayers said on this spot will be heard – and answered." This happened in 1798. The witnesses returned to their villages to tell of the miracles. Buddhist believed in the apparition and built a shine that spot that became the first Church of Our Lady of La vang in 1820. During the Marian Congress of 1961, a new basilica of Our Lady of La Vang was dedicated by Archbishop Peter Ngo-Dinh Thue of Hue. The feast day for Our Lady of La Vang is celebrated on November 22.

Legend states that the term "La Vang" was a derivative of the Vietnamese word meaning "crying out". Modern scholars believe it comes from the ancient practice of naming a location for a genus of a tree or plant native to the area, La meaning "leaf" and "Vang "herbal seeds", that healed the Christians who came there.

The martyrs are champions of the faith who teach us the incredible capacity we have from the Holy Spirit to love God and our neighbor in a heroic manner. Their witness inspires us. They give very tangible testimony to the strength of the human spirit, the power of the Holy Spirit acting in human souls.

Lord, so great is our love for you. That even though we walk in a world where speaking your name can mean certain death. Your faithful still speak it and speak it all the louder. Help us work for a world where all may speak their creeds and pray their prayers without fear of violence. Hear the prayers of those who abide with you in dangerous times and in dark valleys, and who die with your name on their lips. Draw them quickly to your side where they might know eternal peace.

O Vietnamese Martyrs, with the Grace of God, you had victoriously implanted the mustard seed of Faith that grew into the Church of Vietnam. Your courageous sacrifice had reserved your Heavenly rest. United with you, we offer our gratitude and thanks to God and the Holy Mother, for all of your martyrs and their lives that we now celebrate.

According to **Supreme Grand Knight Patrick Kelly,**

"Councils that have encouraged eucharistic devotion in their brother Knights have seen it energize their charitable work."



Holy Hour

Join your brother Knights and parishioners at 8 pm
on the **2nd WEDNESDAY** each month for
Eucharistic Adoration,
singing hymns and worshiping the Lord.

St Joseph Catholic Church



**Evangelization
and
Faith Formation**
Program Director, Jamie Kauffman



Family
Program Director
Will Quintanilla

Cor

**Latin for heart and
the root of the word courage.**



The Cor meeting is intended to form and strengthen Catholic men in faith and virtue as missionary disciples by drawing them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, formation, and fraternity.

The 1st Cor meeting at St Joseph was held on Monday, October 23 with 13 men attending. The meeting focused on making Christ the center of men's lives.

Cor meetings will be held on the 4th Monday each month beginning at 7 pm and is open to all men of the parish.

The next Cor meeting is **Monday, November 27** in the Upper Room.



Brother Javion Mackey receives Knight of the Month award for his efforts at multiple events, including the Fall Festival.

Brother Javion is a home grown Knight who grew through the St Joseph Faith Formation program as a youth and has recently returned to St Joseph.

Welcome back, brother!



Family Fully Alive

The latest Family Fully Alive report can be found on the next page. I suggest reading them aloud with your family and hope that you find them useful. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to visit.

Blessings,

Brother Will Quintanilla
Family Program Director



Thanksgiving Social

Thursday, Nov 16

7 - 9 pm

St Joseph CC
Dining Hall



Brothers, bring your families and join us for this wonderful annual event to kick off the holiday season. Let's fill up the Dining Hall!

KofC 8954 will be providing all of the meats. **PLEASE** use the SignUp Genius ((check your email or text messages) to RSVP and sign up for a dish, if you'd like to bring one.

For questions or to volunteer to assist, please contact **SK Will Quintanilla** 214-458-0894 or will.quintanilla@gmail.com .





FAMILY FULLY ALIVE

November 2023 - The Communion of Saints

By virtue of baptism and the sacramental graces of marriage, the Christian family is built into a communion of saints. Holiness is a gift given to every baptized Christian that becomes a joyful task for the whole of life.

Breaking Open the Theme

Like the Church herself, the domestic church is called to be a communion of saints. Our response to the call to holiness is important if we are to become the family God wants us to be. We may think of saints as people who lived long ago or are far removed from our everyday experiences. But the saints are close at hand, and God wants to make each of us a saint. Each member of the family has the task of helping the others to grow in holiness through faith, hope and love. There are many examples of canonized saints and beatified blessed who can inspire families today. One example of a modern-day saint is Blessed Chiara Luce Badano, who was born in 1971. At the age of 17, she was diagnosed with a serious and painful illness. Faced with this cross, Chiara prayed and found the courage to accept this as part of God's loving plan for her. During the whole time of her illness, she turned everything into an opportunity to love. As she lay dying at the age of 18, she said to her mother, "oh Mamma. ... You see I can't run anymore, but how I would like to pass on to them [young people] the torch [of faith], like in the Olympics! Young people have only one life and it's worthwhile to spend it well." Becoming a saint is like running a race. The family is the training ground for this race, where the virtues are taught and character is formed. Through the family, God provides what we need to run it well. To become a saint is simply to cooperate with God and allow him to mold us into the person that he had in mind when he created us. It is his plan to bring us fully to life.

Meditation

From Pope Benedict XVI's General Audience, April 13, 2011

Holiness, the fullness of Christian life, does not consist in carrying out extraordinary enterprises but in being united with Christ, in living his mysteries, in making our own his example, his thoughts, his behavior. The measure of holiness stems from the stature that Christ achieves in us, in as much as with the power of the Holy Spirit, we model our whole life on his. ...

What is the soul of holiness? ... What is the essential? The essential means never leaving a Sunday without an encounter with the Risen Christ in the Eucharist; this is not an additional burden but is light for the whole week. It means never beginning and never ending a day without at least a brief contact with God. And, on the path of our life it means following the "signposts" that God has communicated to us in the Ten Commandments, interpreted with Christ, which are merely the explanation of what love is in specific situations. ...

We might ask ourselves: can we, with our limitations, with our weaknesses, aim so high? During the liturgical Year, the Church invites us to commemorate a host of saints, the ones, that is, who lived charity to the full, who knew how to love and follow Christ in their daily lives. They tell us that it is possible for everyone to take this road. ...

I would like to ask all to open themselves to the action of the Holy Spirit, who transforms our life, to be, we too, as small pieces in the great mosaic of holiness that God continues to create in history, so that the face of Christ may shine out in the fullness of its splendor. Let us not be afraid to aim high, for God's heights.

1. What is holiness?
2. How can we live holiness in the family? How do we love God in the ordinary circumstances of life?
3. How do the saints help us live out holiness?

Scripture Reading — Psalm 98:1-6

A prayer to welcome God's rule over the earth

Sing a new song to the Lord,
 for he has done marvelous deeds.
 His right hand and holy arm
 have won the victory.
 The Lord has made his victory known;
 he has revealed his triumph in the sight of the nations,
 He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness
 toward the house of Israel.
 All the ends of the earth have seen
 the victory of our God.
 Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth;
 break into song; sing praise.
 Sing praise to the Lord with the lyre,
 with the lyre and melodious son.

Family Project

Select a few saints and learn about their time period and culture and why they are invoked for specific causes or intentions. Include a dish from their culture during one of your meals. Also, consider making a pilgrimage to a sacred place dedicated to a saint.



Hot Dog & Ice Cream Social
September 23, 2023



Top: Ice Cream Social was well attended and enjoyed by all

Middle Left: **Brother Anthony Rubio** serves **Brother Brent Morris** and family

Middle Right: **PGK Will Quintanilla** serves **Brother Don Eagle** a heaping helping of good ol' ice cream.

Bottom Left: **Brothers Johnny Tejada** and **Paul Jarvis** cuttin' up and serving with humility and joy.

Fall Family Cookout
September 23, 2023



Brothers Curt Landry and Victor Villareal creating efficiencies and having fun setting up for the Fall Family Cookout on Sat, September 23.



PGK and Family Program Director Will Quintanilla with Lady Christy and daughters Teya and Shya with photo bomb by **SK Don O'Bryan** and Lady Cathy.

Fall Family Cookout
September 23, 2023



Brothers Fermin Cristan, Jorge Castro and Anthony Rubio manage the flames...



PGK Adrian Rodriguez with wife Jay On and daughter Kathryn.



Brother Elkin Rivera with wife Mariana and daughter Gabriella.

It was a majestic evening for the Fall Family Cookout.



**MEMORIAL MASS
KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS
COUNCIL #8954
ESTABLISHED APRIL 11, 1985**

Raymond G Wagner	Raymond A Maciel	Ethan L Smith	Victor R. Eagle
Carl T Abrams	Gordon W Riter	Tracy L. Smith	Richard D. Dumais
Edward J Baker	Mark O Kanu	Francis T. Farrell	Don R. Bordelon
Eugene A Brennan	Joseph M Ferreri	Tom B Schaffner	Douglas A. Torda
Louis D Smith	James E Smith	John W. Small	Francis S. Gill
David R Sepulvado	Samuel G Thompson	Loren L. Nichols	John A. Jagielski
Gilmore T Callier	Jerry A Nauyokas	Raymond F. Caffrey	Eugene L. Horn
Jack C Rouse	Douglas M Shaw	John M. Aust	Albert V. DiNicola
Steve L Becker	John Downey Mohrle	Roland A. Belanger	Joseph B. Cuevas
James J Mc Mullan	James A Cavanaugh	James M. Layden	William L. McKinney
Robert L Patrick	John S Kolich	David J. Endres	William J. Rumenapp*
Ernest L Ferdinand	Randall J Bodin	Thomas R Holland	Isaac Sandoval
John J Schlebach	Millard J Underwood	Paul L. Sine	Emil G. Bolcik
Francis A Scott	Charles R Boutell	William P. Miller	Aidan B. Pierce
Zolton M Balogh	David M Peay	Elmer M. Resko	Max H. Leibold
Amando B Isip	Joseph P. Nalley	Richard V. Petershack	John R. James
Albert J Hanish	Richard A Stanford	Jerome A. Elisha	William L. Button
Matthew J Deltuva	Henry H Horton	Anthony S. Pascarelli	Carl Kocorek
William V Valva	John B Bartolo	Fernando M. Labrada	Richard J. Dale
Ronald S Donie	Edward G Biewer	Tom D. Westendarp	Jack Albert Eichman
Adam A Kuzniewski	John E McClung	Larry N. Bruce	Charles R. Caskey
Murdoch J Buchanan	Fred A Long	Friday G. Nasamu	Paul J. Hernandez
Ludwig C Kummer	Charles J Maltese	Mark A. Barnett	David J. Roddy
Francis A Heines	John M Stubbs	Richard C. Kaschmitter	Gerald C. Finaldi
H C Budjenska	Jason M Crane	Robert Shortall	Roger L. Flesch
William H Fulkerson	Clement E. Renaud	William B. Mozley	Gary Lee Olson

* Charter Grand Knight

104 DECEASED - NOVEMBER 4, 2023

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD.

The Memorial Mass for deceased Brothers of Council #8954 was held on November 4 (1st Saturday). **Brother Derek Storey** served as Lector, **Brother Brian Roeten** served as Extraordinary Minister and **Brothers Ken Ducote** and **Brian Tooley** processed with two vases of roses that were laid upon the altar in remembrance of our departed Brothers.

After Mass, **Brothers Derek Storey, Ken Ducote** and **Harold Hansen** led the the Rosary prayers and recited the names of each of our departed brothers.

AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.

AMEN





LIFE

Program Director
Sean Hsu

18th ANNUAL
**CHRIST CHILD
MARKET & LUNCHEON**

(CCML)
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

RENAISSANCE DALLAS HOTEL
15201 DALLAS PKWY, ADDISON, TX 75001

Benefiting the Catholic Pro-Life Community

For More Info, Contact:

Patty Sherrod
Bella House Volunteer Coordinator
214-364-4549

patty.sherrod@bellahouse.org



Hike for Life is Texas' oldest Pro-Life event and has been "Helping Moms and Saving Babies" since 1973.

SK Sean Hsu and family again hiked representing St Joseph Council 8954 in this **50th anniversary Hike For Life.**

The Garland Hike met 100% of its \$25K goal and over \$137K was raised among the 4 North Texas hikes.

The North Texas March for Life will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2024. Please plan on participating in this memorable and vital event. More info coming soon.'



Crosses for Life



Parishioners pray the Rosary after an evening Mass.



40 Days for Life concluded on Sunday, Nov 5. Thanks to **Brothers Anthony Rubio, Sean Hsu, Milton Catalina, Randy Engel, Mike Serafin, Bob Taggart** and **Larry Monaco** packed up and stored the crosses until next year.



**KofC 8954
Pancake Breakfast
October 8, 2023
Dedicated to Life**



SK Jason Clark and Brother Don Eagle await the crowd.

Miscellaneous News & Info

50/50 Drawing:

- | | |
|------|-------------------------------|
| Sept | Brother Curt Landry |
| Oct | Brother Deacon Richard |
| Nov | Brother Joe Unger |

\$100 Member Drawing:

(must be present to win)

- | | |
|------|--|
| Sept | Brother Armondo Parrish
(not in attendance) * |
| Oct | Brother Armondo Parrish
(not in attendance)
<i>(can you believe it?!)</i> |
| Nov | Brother Ed Sine
(not in attendance) |

* The council voted to send **Brother Armondo** the \$100 since he has just left for college.

- Meeting Minutes are posted at www.kofc8954.org under Council Meeting Minutes Library and the Members Only Section.



Brothers Manny Villela and David Guerrero cooking breakfast.



Brothers Tom Nicolosi and Jorge Castro fixin' biscuits & gravy.



For the Good of the Order

Lecturer
Jamie Kauffman

September 7, 2023 Reflection

The Mysterious Mass

How many of you like a good mystery? I do. When I hear that word, I usually think about a ‘who dunnit’ story or something you can’t fully understand. However, the Church talks about the Mass as a mystery. In the introductory rites, the priest calls on us to “prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.” Tonight, I’m going to offer an explanation of the Church’s use of the word mystery and why we should care.

First, Vatican II called for our full, active, and conscious participation at Mass. Simply showing up or going through the motions isn’t sufficient. Also, we don’t gain the graces that Christ’s wants to give us if we don’t fully, actively, and consciously participate in the Mass. But that level of participation requires that we understand what’s happening at Mass. Part of our problem is a scientism world view. Scientism is the belief that whatever cannot be experienced by the senses, simply doesn’t exist. You’ve heard the expression, “what we see is what we get.” But let me propose that at Mass, what we get is much more than what we see. To fully, actively, and consciously participate in the Mass, we must follow St. Paul’s instruction to walk by faith and not by sight.

Second, Father Jeremy Driscoll, in his wonderful book, **What Happens at the Mass**, helps us to appreciate the Mass as a mystery. Father Jeremy defines a mystery as “a concrete something that when you bump into it, it puts you into contact with a divine reality.” God is hidden in the concrete things of the Mass. The most obvious example in the Mass is the bread and wine and their transubstantiation into the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ.

Third, one can find Christ hidden throughout the Mass. But let’s briefly look at how he’s hidden in one aspect of the Mass--the gifts. Who brings up the gifts? Baptized members of the congregation. They represent all of the baptized in the parish and the Catholic Church. In fact, they represent all of God’s people. They bring the gifts up to the hands of the priest, who represents Christ. What do they bring? Bread and wine and money. Where does the bread come from? Is it manna from heaven? The wine? The wheat and the grape, from which the bread and wine come, ultimately go back to the land and water--God’s creation. In the offertory prayer, the priest refers to the “fruit of the earth and work of human hands.” Where does the money come from? The money comes from the congregation and represents our work. We’re giving our work, our lives, away. We are bringing the whole world to the hands of Christ, asking Him to transform it—and us. In short, at Mass, we glorify God, and God sanctifies us, enabling us to come into communion with Him.

Brothers, in closing, what we get at Mass is much more than what we can see. God is hidden in the concrete things in the Mass. To grow in holiness, to grow closer to Christ, requires us to participate fully, actively, and consciously in the Mass. I urge you to read Father Jeremy’s book to uncover the beauty and the blessings of the sacred mysteries of the Mass.





For the Good of the Order

Lecturer
Jamie Kauffman

October 5, 2023 Reflection

The Franciscan Way to Heaven

Brothers, yesterday, the Church celebrated the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. He is one of the most popular and most misunderstood saints in history. Some popular views of St. Francis depict him as a New Age hippie, a medieval Dr. Doolittle who talks to the animals and communes with nature while playing with crystals. St. Francis loved the natural world, as he loved all of God's creation. However, St. Francis was much more than this. Tonight, I will explore what we can learn from St. Francis and the Franciscan order to grow closer to Christ—which is the ultimate objective of the Knights. I will focus on suffering, service, and simplicity.

St. Francis suffered greatly during his life. He was captured in battle and forced to live in a dark, dank jail cell for a year. He had problems with his eyes and reportedly had his eyes cauterized at one point. And he bore the stigmata, the nail marks of Crucifixion in his hands and feet. But St. Francis didn't view his suffering as a sign of God's disfavor. He accepted the suffering as redemptive. We all will suffer in life. Hopefully, we can learn that God works through our suffering, teaching us to love, to trust, and to bear our burden with humility and patience.

St. Francis served the poor and the marginalized. He was a priest of the people. The order he founded, the Franciscans, dedicate their lives to direct service to people in great need. You've never heard of cloistered Franciscans. The men and women of the Franciscan order work closely with the poor in soup kitchens, half-way houses, nursing homes, inner-city schools. They also live in those poor communities. Brothers, I encourage us to review the service we individually and collectively provide and ask whether it includes directly working with the poor and marginalized, such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society or Network Ministry, here in Richardson.

St. Francis lived simply. You may recall that he came from a wealthy family. His father locked Francis in the family's basement so he that he wouldn't dedicate himself to God. Francis gave up his wealth and trappings for a simple life devoted to Christ. You recall that the Franciscans wear a simple brown robe with a rope for a belt, sandals, and a cross. Simplifying material needs makes more space in our lives, hearts, and souls for God. Brothers, learning to detach ourselves from inordinate attachments to things of this world allows us room to grow closer to Christ. This is one of our on-going challenges in growing in holiness.

In closing, as we strive to grow closer to Christ, let us take to heart the lessons of St. Francis: suffering, service, and simplicity. Adopting the Franciscan way can help us get to heaven and evangelize others. As St. Francis once said, "The deeds you do may be the only sermon some people will hear today."



Membership Meeting - November 2, 2023



Brother Paul Jarvis, Knight of the Month - Aug
Grand Knight, Brian Tooley
Brother Anthony Rubio, Family of the Month - Oct
SK, Will Quintanilla, Family Program Director

Brother Fermin Cristan - Knight of the Month - May
SK Jason Clark, Knight of the Month - Oct
District Deputy, Dan Stoffel



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