

Knights Life



www.kofc8157.org

Holy Spirit Catholic Church – Duncanville, Tx,

Knight of the Year

At our Council's Annual Awards Banquet on Saturday July 16, 2016, the highlight of the evening was the announcement of the Knight of the Year. In his first official act as our Council's new Grand Knight, Sir Knight Jim Richardson introduced and bestowed the honor of Knight of the Year to **Sir Knight Jeff Miller**.

Jeff joined the Knights and our council in 1998 at the invitation of then-Grand Knight Bill Chalko. Jeff is one of the most active Knights in our council. You will find him at nearly event held by the Knights of Columbus; like fish fries, baseball concessions, cook-outs, Hike for Life, and helps wherever and whenever needed. He has served as Council Recorder twice and started the tradition of publishing these minutes to the entire Council. He has recently been elected to the office of Chancellor. Jeff Co-Chaired the church's 2015 Fall Festival. Jeff is a lector at weekend Masses, is an Eucharist Minister and an Eucharist Minister at Charlton Methodist hospital



Jeff has been a sports journalist for 25 years, including 21 years with the *Dallas Morning News*. Jeff has authored several books; *Down to the wire*; *Sunshine Shootouts*; *Going Long, Dallas Cowboys*; and his latest, *Grown at*

Glen Garden. Jeff has also worked as Holy Spirit's director of Community Life for several years.

Jeff is married to Frances whom he met at Auburn University in Alabama in the mid- 1970's and together they have four adult children (Kimberly, Jason, Kevin and Joseph, who were born from 1979 through '85). Jeff and Frances are also very active members of Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Frances works as the administrator of an outpatient surgery center in north Dallas.

The engraved silver plated bowl is our council's token of appreciation and congratulations for his continued commitment to excellence in service above self to Sir Knight Jeff Miller.



Jeff Miller expresses his gratitude after receiving the award for Knight of the Year

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 st Tuesday 7:30pm
Officer's & Directors	Every 3 rd 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 first term in office on July 14, 2016. Their term runs through June 2017.

Grand Knight	Jim Richardson
Deputy Grand Knight	Tom Greco
Chancellor	Jeff Miller
Recording Secretary	Jim Stavinoha
Treasurer	Mike Fitzgerald
Warden	La'Don Wright
Inside Guard	James Smith
Outside Guard	Tony Gonzalez
Financial Secretary	Peter Perta
Advocate	Russell Gully
Lecturer	Jim Russell
District Deputy	Andy Goza
Chaplain	Fr. Joe Lee
Trustees	Nick Kleinhaus, 3-year Frank Salazar, 2-year Bill Dover, 1-year

Service Program Directors

Awareness Committee	Jorge Ruiz
Baseball Committee	Allen Reitmeier
Football Committee	James Smith
Church Activities	Jim Stavinoha
Community Activities	Dan Murphy
Council Activities	Andy Goza
Family Activities	Jeff Miller
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 Allen Reitmeier

Newsletter & Website Writers

Jeff Miller, Allen Reitmeier, , Jorge Ruiz

Newsletter and Website Photographer

Tony Gonzalez, Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz, Andy Goza

Council Website

Website address	kofc8157.org
Website Editor	Jorge Ruiz
Website Admins	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

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 Jul 2016



Nick Kleinhaus

Nick takes the traditional council journey from Grand Knight to becoming one of our three Trustees for the 2016-17 fraternal

year. Nick is from Cincinnati, Ohio and has been a member of the Order since 2002, a year after he graduated from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He joined while attending Holy Family parish in Irving as a way to meet people and took his major degree only a month afterward. He's also a member of the Fourth Degree. Nick worked for two years as a KC insurance field agent, dealing with six councils. That gave him a wide exposure to different Knights activities and practices. Nick's first experience as a council officer in 8157 was as our Chancellor, followed by the Recording Secretary and then three terms as our Deputy Grand Knight. Nick is closing in on his 10th year working for the IRS; he's in planning and special projects. He and wife Katie (daughter of our own Bill Dover) have been married since 2002 and live in Duncanville with their 6-year-old son, Will.

Knight of the Month Aug 2016



Efrain Ochoa

Efrain quietly goes about his work as a weekly volunteer during our Cedar Hill baseball concession stand operations as a member of the Monday night shift. He went above

and beyond during this summer's multiple location World Series, not only stepping up to work multiple shifts on short/no notice but also preparing 47

pounds of brisket. "I like the camaraderie and helping out people," he said. Efrain joined the council in November 2001 and took his major degrees in January 2002. He and wife Lisa have been married 21½ years and live in Ovilla. They have two sons, Carlos (20) and Nicholas (16). Efrain is from the Rio Grande Valley town of Pharr and graduated from the University of Texas-Pan American. He was looking to leave the Valley in 1979, moved to the Dallas area where his sister was and applied for various jobs. Efrain landed a job with the City of Dallas and stayed there for 37 years, retiring recently from his position in water engineering. Instead of a gold watch, he received a gold clock – and a street sign with his name on it! Lisa works at the front desk at The Home Depot in Waxahachie.

Knight of the Month Sep 2016



Pete Perta

Peter is in his fourth year as our Financial Secretary, having taken the baton from his long-time predecessor, Ernie Coy, in April 2013. Pete moved to the Dallas area in 2010.

He joined our council in June 2011 and took his major degrees only a few months later. Pete is a charter member of Tom Greco's degree team, which began its monthly missions in August 2012. Pete coincidentally serves as the Financial Secretary on the degree team, too. He and wife Bimbo (pronounced BEEM-bo) regularly attend the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturdays during which Pete is one of the hospitality ministers. They're both from upstate New York and big Syracuse University fans. Peter works for Nestle Health Care Nutrition.

Football Concession Running Steady

Our new football concession operation at Valley Ridge Park in Cedar Hill may have been off to a slow start due to weather delays and a slightly lower than expected team participation but it is now running steady. Come take a look at the new shiny stainless steel equipment we installed inside and out of the facility. Our council decided in previous meetings to invest in new equipment to outfit the concession stand properly for ease of operation and efficiency in service, and it is clear we have done just that. From the new double door upright freezer to the stainless steel food prep tables, two deep fryers with 50 gallon propane tanks, hot dog warmers and nacho cheese equipment this is a real professional operation folks, and one we can be very proud to call our own.



The large facility has been well designed to accommodate staff traffic moving around a divider wall, courtesy of Allen Reitmeier and Larry Balagna that effectively separates the food prep area from the service windows while maximizing the main room area. The rear storage room offers ample space for the additional refrigeration and freezer units and for storing all other non-perishable items. A set of double doors located at the back side of the building create easy access to and from the adjacent parking lot for quick loading and unloading of supplies. There are several fans that create a wonderful breeze through the building that serve to keep the place well ventilated and the staff cool.

Out in front of the facility two football fields are covered with a swarm of youngsters in colorful uniforms frantically running and passing the football around toward the end zones while their family members and friends watch and cheer their performance from the sidelines. Many of them working up a thirst from all the yelling and cheering no doubt, and after a couple of hours of football perhaps an appetite as well, we hope.

The excitement of the new operation has brought a steady flow of Knights along with their family members who are volunteering to help staff it, including Bill and Cindy Dover, Gerald and Antoinette Jacob with their lovely granddaughters. Among the regular staff are Eric Conner, Ray Rivera, Jim Ouimet, James Smith, Jim Stavinoha, Grand Knight Jim Richardson, Jeff Miller, Pete Perta, and Andy Goza. Many other knights have helped as well.

The football season runs through the middle of November and takes place on **Saturdays**, there are two shifts you can volunteer for: **8AM-Noon** and **Noon-4 PM**. If you haven't worked at this concession stand yet come on out for a few hours the next Saturday you can spare and check it out, we think you will be pleasantly surprised.



Read the full story with lots of pictures on our website
www.kofc8157.org

Family of the Month July 2016



**Frank and
Lourdes
Salazar**

Our thoughts and prayers are with Frank and Lourdes, who have each dealt with the recent death of a parent. Frank's father died recently while in Venezuela. Lourdes' father passed away in early July in Miami. Frank served as our Grand Knight for the 2012-13 and '13-14 fraternal years and was chosen as 8157's Knight of the Year in 2012. Frank and Lourdes both came to the United States from their native Cuba. Frank came to the U.S. in 1962 as part of the Catholic Church's "Operation Peter Pan," which was organized by Msgr. Bryan Walsh of Miami. That united thousands of Cuban children with their parents in America. The Salazars met in Dallas in 1971 at a party when he'd asked for the night off from his job at the Fairmont Hotel. They were married at St. Cecilia in Oak Cliff and live in Grand Prairie.

a member of the Duncanville Police Department, and peace officers and first responders surely deserve our respect and appreciation now more than ever. You might recall that Ben was honored early last year after calmly defusing what could have been a tense situation in which a young man was walking the city streets with a BB gun that resembled a pistol. Ben joined the council in April 2014, soon after Renee and he came through the parish's RCIA program. We salute Officer Luna, his wife and family.

Family of the Month Sept 2016



David and Clara Dybala

David and Clara have been married since June 1971, not long after they met at a wedding dance themselves. They grew up in the small Czech community of Fairchild southwest of Houston. David joined the Knights in June 1978 and took his major degrees a few months later. He's an engineering graduate of Texas A&M and was the Grand Knight of his council in Waco before the Dybalas came this far north. He's a long-time member of the 9:30 Mass choir. David is active with Knight Hands and is a member of our degree team. He recently came upon a Celtic prayer called "Anam Cara" that has been adopted as part of the team's exemplification ceremony. They have two grown children and four grandchildren. Now both retired (David for the second time), the Dybalas travels included the parish group that went to Italy last year.

Family of the Month Aug 2016



**Ben and
Renee
Luna**

Ben and Renee met back at Mesquite High and have been married 21 years. They have a daughter, Sayla, who graduated from Red Oak High in 2014. Ben is

Knight Hands reaches out to those in Need

I was very impressed with the latest edition of *Columbia* in which the charitable efforts of the Knights of Columbus were highlighted and presented as the “A Light to the Nations”. I couldn’t help but consider what Knight Hands has done since the last Newsletter and that perhaps our time and energy were part of “A light to the Nations”.

In more specific terms since the last publication of Knights Life, Knight Hands has completed 16 projects. Among them were: 1. Installed televisions in all the classrooms in the community center – thanks Arthur Rodriguez, Ray Rivera, Ken Rarick, and David Dybala. 2. Moved a power chair to the home of Peggy Dover – thanks Carlos Favela and Ken Rarick. 3. Replaced the control board of the sprinkler system for Tom and Amy Price – thanks David Dybala and John Espree. 4. Repaired burned hole in wall for Arnold Rodriguez – thanks Arthur Rodriguez and David Dybala. 5. Cleaned out attic and garage storage for Barbara Cieben – thanks Ray Rivera, Ken Rarick, Jack Ramsden, Larry Balagna, David Dybala and Jose Montoya. 6. Repaired steering on lawn tractor for Jim Russell – thanks Jose Montoya. 7. Mowed yard for Donna Greenlee – thanks Larry Balagna. 8. Mowed yard for Marion Walkner- thanks Ray Rivera. 9. Mowed yard and cut down tree for Sherry and Harry Biccum – thanks Ray Rivera, Larry Balagna and Ken Rarick. 10. Installed two motion detector exterior lights for Peggy Marunich. 11. Take out old microwave and install new one for Aurelia Molina. 12. Cut up and remove fallen tree branch on church grounds – thanks Efrain Ochoa. 13. Pick up and delivered sofa-bed for Fr. Eugene – thanks Efrain Ochoa, Carlos Favela, and Jose Montoya. 14. Trimmed tree in front yard for Nancy Amorella – thanks Ken Rarick. 15. Moved household goods for Linda Wentsch – thanks Jorge Ruiz, Hector Rubio, Steve Castillo, Tony Almanza, Greg Warr, and Elio Gonzalez. 16. Mowed yard for Marion Walkner – thanks Ray Rivera.

I am for sure proud to have coordinated these projects and been part of the efforts of this Council to take some of the stress out of peoples’ lives and letting them know that someone cares.

We have had 15 inquiries about Knight Hands from councils across the United States and one from Canada because of the article in the June issue of *Columbia*. Perhaps Knight Hands can become an even bigger part of “A Light to the Nations”.



Watch this Council’s website for an upcoming tool sale. More details as the tentative date of November 12th get closer

Knights host successful blood drive – August 2016

It's time again for a tip of the hat for **Pat**. That would be **Patrick Stepniewski**, who has been organizing our council blood drives for years. Even before that, when Holy Spirit had a men's club instead of a KC entity.

The drive that was held in the community center dining room on Aug. 21 accommodated about 60 donations. That exceeded the 50 at the winter drive that we were quite pleased with. Patrick did an excellent job of getting the word out weeks in advance with multiple notices in the parish bulletin, making use of the big marquee sign by Daniieldale Road beginning the weekend before the drive and overseeing pre-signups in the narthex for weeks.



Patrick was assisted by **Andy Goza, Art Senato, James Smith and Dan Keough**. Thanks, gentlemen, for helping donors sign in, leading them to the check-in area and making sure they were well taken care of in the canteen area after donating.



The donors included James Smith (when he wasn't assisting), Deacon Al Evans, Tony Gonzalez, Bob Motta, Albert Torreblanca, Carlos Favela, council newcomers Jeff Traub and Sanka Jayasinghe and John Espree's wife Bonnie.

Patrick is the chairman of the council's health committee. His interest in the blood drive extends back beyond his 30-plus years doing it at Holy Spirit. He first got involved when he was a college freshman at St. Norbert College in his native Wisconsin.

Baseball Concessions

While the football concession stand garnered headlines the past month, let's not forget the Knights who have worked at the baseball concession stand. John Espree, Bob Motta, Mike Rumsey and Carlos Favela have worked nearly every Saturday of the fall baseball season which began on September 10th. In addition Hector Rubio, Tony Almanza, Jan Araki, Steve Castillo, Mike Fitzgerald, Agustin Perez, Efrain Ochoa, Russell Gully and Arthur Migala have worked on an as needed basis.

The fall baseball season continues with the year-end league tournament on the 15-16th of October and then will conclude on the 22-23rd of October with a benefit tournament for the Cedar Hill Food Bank. The baseball committee would like to thank all those who participated in working at the concession stands during the spring and fall baseball seasons making this year the most successful ever in the 9 years we have operated the concession stands for Cedar Hill Baseball.



Allen Reitmeier at Dot Thomas Park



Bob Motta working his magic at Valley Ridge Park

The Awards Banquet 2016

Council 8157 kicked off its new fraternal year on Saturday, July 16, 2016 with a most eventful evening. First the Knights gathered to attend Corporate Communion Mass at Holy Spirit with celebrant Fr. Eugene, a Fourth Degree Sir Knight himself. Following the mass the Knights gathered at the church's dining hall for the Installation of Officers ceremony.

The first order of business was recognizing our two new Scholarship recipients who each earned a \$500 Scholarships towards the start of their first year in college this coming school semester, they were:



Dominique D. Wright,
daughter of
Warden
La'Don
Wright



Zachary Thomas Presas,
son of First
Degree
Team
member
Ray
Presas.

Conducting his last Installation of Officers ceremony in his role as District Deputy was Sir Knight Bill Dover. Below are our new council officers:

- Grand Knight : Jim Richardson
- Deputy Grand Knight : Tom Greco
- Chancellor : Jeff Miller
- Recording Secretary : Jim Stavinoha
- Treasurer : Mike Fitzgerald
- Warden : La'Don Wright
- Inside Guard : James Smith

- Outside Guard : Tony Gonzalez
- Financial Secretary : Peter Perta
- Advocate : Russell Gully
- Lecturer : Jim Russell

- Trustees:
 - Nick Kleinhaus, 3-year Trustee
 - Frank Salazar, 2-year Trustee
 - Bill Dover, 1-year Trustee



Following the announcement that Sir Knight Bill Dover would be stepping down from his post as District Deputy, a post which he has held for the past six years, Sir Knight Andy Goza was introduced as his successor. Under his jurisdiction, Andy will be overseeing the six area councils in our district.

A total of fifty "Certificate of Appreciation" awards were given to all the Officers, Program Directors and Committee Members of our Council in recognition of their important service in their respective roles

This year the Council also recognized the special contributions of some of our hard working, behind-the-scene Knights, who do much of the heavy lifting both figuratively and quite literally, in many of our council program events. They were:

- Sir Knight Ray Rivera – Special recognition
- Sir Knight Larry Balagna
- John Espree
- Sir Knight Tony Gonzalez
- Rod Kinard
- Jose Montoya
- Mike Rumsey
- Sir Knight James Smith

Holy Spirit Fall Festival 2016



It took more than a downpour to dampen our spirits as the Knights made their annual indispensable contribution to Holy Spirit's fall festival.



The festival was again under the guidance of a chairman from the KC's, Chris Kubin. Chris has been overseeing the festival's food preparation for years and took command of the entire operation this year. The parish is indebted to him for **\$62,000** brought in during the two-day festivities.



Knights were again present in numerous areas of festival organization and activity. Rod Kinard was in charge of logistics, which began back in July with the installation of the rummage sale's infrastructure in the gym. Dozens of brother

Knights pitched to set up and construct all the needed venues and then take them down, most in a matter of hours after the last penny had been pitched and the last hamburger eaten. Speaking of which, Jim Stavinoha had plenty of assistance feeding an estimated 1,500 hungry parishioners, relatives and friends.



Mike Moloughney again headed up the children's games. And in his position as the parish's liaison with the diocese's Pro Life initiative, Mike successfully incorporated our annual Hike for Life into the parish's 5K run/walk. With Andy Goza and Jeff Miller helping get the runners and

walkers on their way as Mike concentrated on setting up the games, about 50 participants (including our own Fr. Eugene) contributed \$3,000.



It's difficult to thank so many Knights who work behind the scenes. Like Jack Ramsden and Billy Callender. Few people see them hauling large rummage items into the gym on hot summer mornings. And how many parishioners realize that those delicious cookies

were being made by Mike Fitzgerald throughout Saturday and Sunday?

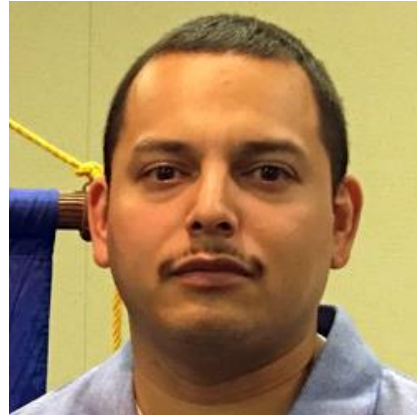
Another job well done, gentlemen.

Newest Knights



**Sanka
Jayasinghe
– July 2016**

Sanka and his family moved to Cedar Hill about a year ago. He and wife Thilini have been married eight years. They have two children, son Saren (6) and daughter Sanara (4). Sanka is a supervisor at a cement plant warehouse in Midlothian. He was invited to join the council by Bob Motta. Sanka is from Sri Lanka, when he earned a university degree in mathematics. He and his family came to the United States in 2012 after he'd applied to a national green-card lottery for about 15 years. They initially moved to Long Island. When the company that he worked for relocated to Ohio, he wasn't no longer interested in living in a cold climate. Next stop, Texas.



**Victor
Zaragoza
Jr. – July
2016**

Victor was invited to join the council by La'Don Wright at one of our recent

Friday afternoon snow-cone handouts under the church bell tower. He grew up in Dallas, graduating from Townview High, Mountain View College and getting a degree from the online University of Phoenix. Victor is employed by a law firm in Plano, working primarily with elder law. Victor and wife Valerie live in Cedar Hill with their three children, Natalie (6), Victor III (2) and Vincent (1). When Victor isn't working, he's often at the gym or serving as an assistant coach for Natalie's softball team.



**Zachary
Presas –
July 2016**

Zachary becomes the latest "legacy" member of our council. He's the son of Ramon Presas III, who joined 8157 in 2003. Zachary is a recent graduate of Midlothian High. He was involved in the school's competitive entrepreneur program; three students were selected to participate from 500 hopefuls, and Zachary was the first one chosen. He'll be enrolling at Navarro College in Corsicana with plans to continue at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, where he'll pursue a degree related to the medical field.

**For a schedule of upcoming events
visit this Council's website.**