

Knights Life



www.kofc8157.org

Holy Spirit Catholic Church – Duncanville, Tx,



Final “Good Bye” for Bill

On August 5th, 2021, family, relatives, friends and Knights of Columbus gathered at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Arlington to bid farewell to Bill Chalko for the last time. William “Bill” John Chalko Jr., son of William J. and Josie Chalko passed away on July 27th 2021 after an extended illness. Bill is survived by his wife of 44 years, Sandy, and sons William and Donald and daughter Paula. Bill had a larger than life personality and will always be remembered for always trying to get people to smile. Bill was born on July 16, 1945 and raised in Corpus Christi. He initially attended a local junior college after graduating from Ray High School before joining the Marine Corp in December 1966. He spent 22 ½ years in service to his country including two tours of duty in Vietnam where he was awarded a Purple Heart. It was during Bill’s time in the Marines that he met Sandy, one day before he was scheduled to end a stay in South Korea in autumn of 1976. He

returned in 1977 and asked her father for her hand in marriage. Bill’s final assignment with the Marines was at NAS Grand Prairie. He spent the rest of his working life at Solar Turbines in DeSoto Texas as a material planner analyst where he retired in 2011.

Bill was gladly following in his father’s footsteps when he eagerly joined the Knights of Columbus as a teenager in Corpus Christi in autumn 1964. His contributions to the Knights of Columbus in general and to our Council in particular were recognized when Bill was awarded an honorary lifetime membership by Supreme. “I thought it was a thrill to be joining an organization that my father was in,” Bill said. Bill was a past Council 8157 Grand Knight (the 1997-98 and ’98-99 fraternal years), his term including the purchase of the original barbeque trailer. He previously served as Dick Bates’ Deputy Grand Knight and Chancellor before that. A year after being Grand Knight, Bill became District Deputy, supervised the establishment of a council in Ferris and saw his territory awarded Star District. Like his farther he rose to fourth Degree. In his introductory address as Grand Knight in the July-September newsletter, Bill stated his desire that our council be “the best council in Texas and across the nation.” When he handed the reins over to Ron Soriano in July 1999, he assured the council was headed to greater heights. Bill’s enjoyment throughout his years of service to the Knights? “The people,” he said. “The desire to help people”. That sentiment has been adhered to since his departure. And even though his presence now can only be felt in our hearts, his influence will last forever. We shall sorely miss Mr. Bill Chalko

About our Council

Council Monthly Meetings

General Meeting every 1st Tuesday 7:00pm

Officer's & Directors every 3rd Tuesday 7:00pm

Postal address and meeting location

1111 W Daniieldale Rd. Room 221

Duncanville Tx, 75116 USA

972-298-4971

KC District 86 - Assembly 2799

The council Officers listed below were officially installed for their 2nd term in office on July 6, 2021. Their term runs through June 2022

Chaplain	Fr. Steve
Grand Knight	Jorge Ruiz
Deputy Grand Knight	Jim Russell
Chancellor	Mike Fitzgerald
Recording Secretary	Ramon Presas
Treasurer	James Smith
Warden	John Espree
Inside Guard	Efrain Ochoa
Outside Guard	Steve Reid
Financial Secretary	Peter Perta
Advocate	Russell Gully
Trustees	Tom Greco
	David Dybala
	Allen Reitmeier

Service Program Directors

Awareness Committee	Jorge Ruiz
Concessions	Allen Reitmeier
Church Activities	James Smith
Family	David Dybala
Faith	Al Evans
Life	Mike Moloughney
Youth Activities	Mike Moloughney
Knight Hands	Allen Reitmeier

Retention	Allen Reitmeier
Membership	Jim Kowalski
Council Activities	Jorge Ruiz
Disaster Preparedness	Wendell Jeanpierre
Degree Team	Tom Greco
Sacramental Gifts	Keith Archer
Safe Environment	Jorge Ruiz
Health Activities	Robert Nieto

Knights Life Newsletter

Our Newsletter is published quarterly. 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 are available at the general meeting.

Newsletter Editor and Publisher Allen Reitmeier

Newsletter & Website Writers
Jeff Miller, Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz

Newsletter and Website Photographer
Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz, Leon Cornute

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 member ship roster is available in paper form to all Knights in good standing at the general meeting

Knight of the Month July 2021



Paul Ryan

Answering the call to service appears to be at the heart of Paul's life. He served 26 1/2 years in the Marine Corps following his graduation from the Naval Academy in 1989,

as a pilot and infantry officer and retiring as a Colonel. He joined the KC's in 2011 in Brandywine, Md., and also took his major degrees that year. Paul and his family came to north Texas when he went to work for Bell Textron as a pilot and transferred into 8157 in November 2018 from Council 7736 in Mansfield. He recently joined our retention committee and has pitched in on Knight Hands missions and helped out at the Valley Ridge concession stand. "I like the whole charitable aspect" of the KC's," he said. Paul and wife Colleen have been married for almost 17 years and have two children, Justin (16) and Maura (14). They've lived in Cedar Hill for about five and a half years.

Knight of the Month Aug 2021



Dan Sheridan

Efforts to help Holy Spirit Parish above and beyond were required for 8157 to select an honoree who isn't a member of the Order. Dan has provided such efforts in recent months by

spearheading the renovation of the parish sanctuary at the request of Holy Spirit business manager Leonardo Zapata (at the urging of Deacon Al Evans). It began with the 2016 retiree with a degree in construction from then-Northeast Louisiana (now Louisiana Monroe) agreeing to involvement in everything from writing the contracts to finding subcontractors to doing painting and woodwork

and other labor himself while the pros were at work. "I cannot sit around and watch," he said. Obviously. "And it was a good committee." He referred to the parish flooring committee; that included David Dybala, our own resident construction engineer. Dan and his wife of 38 years, Sharon, have been parishioners since 1987 and live in Midlothian. They have three grown sons and two grandchildren. His work background includes working for a commercial general contractor and serving in roles like a field engineer, a project engineer, a superintendent and a project manager. Our own Father Eugene Okoli said, "I applaud the Knights for recognizing Dan for his terrific commitment to the sanctuary floor project. He has exhibited tremendous selflessness and brought exemplary team spirit, sterling leadership and unmatched service to our parish family. Words are not enough to convey my gratitude to Dan and Sharon."

Knight of the Month Sep 2021



David Dybala

The strong right arm of the church has been holding a ratchet or a power drill in recent months. David was not only one of the most important

parishioners in providing guidance and input during the renovation of Holy Spirit's sanctuary this summer but also rolled up his sleeves and contributed to the very labor that completed the spectacular job. That happens when you have an engineering degree from Texas A&M and a work ethic like his established early on. David grew up near Houston and joined the Knights in 1978. Before coming to Holy Spirit in 1985, he was the Grand Knight of Council 1358 in Waco (St. Mary of Assumption). He's our director of family activities and has been a member of the parish's music ministry for years. David and Clara celebrated their 50th anniversary on June 27 with a trip to Santa Fe that included a stop at the famed **Loretto Chapel** with its miraculous staircase. The Dybalas live in Dallas and enjoy two grown children and four grandchildren.

Farwell to John



This story started out as a welcome article to a new Knight – John Monturo. John spent the first 26 years of his life in Poughkeepsie New York. John said the city was “mostly Italian and 99% Catholic”. He earned a Bachelor’s Degree and a Master’s degree and used them for a short time teaching college history courses at Paris Junior College – Greenville branch. Sometime in the 1990’s John decided he wanted to learn to speak Spanish, and so was introduced to Juanita – his new Spanish teacher. A few years later in 1998 they were married. Juanita now works at Cook’s Children’s Hospital in Ft. Worth as a transition specialist. John was now reluctantly retired because of surgery to remove a brain tumor. During this difficult time John said “I turned everything over to God. I was told I probably wouldn’t be able to walk, talk, or see after the operation, but everything worked out just fine” John was brushing up on his guitar skills as well as setting puzzles with Juanita. He was also exercising regularly as he teaches Juanita how to swim. John was currently writing three books all at the same time. John joined the Knights because he “wants to give back”. He said he was “willing to help wherever needed”.

Sadly this story has an unhappy ending. It is with utmost sadness that we announce the passing of our brother Knight John Mario Monturo. John passed away Tuesday September 7th, one day before his 61st birthday and a just 5 days from his 23rd wedding anniversary to Juanita. John had suffered some serious illnesses in the last few years and was in a more fragile state than his steady demeanor indicated. John joined the Knights this past July and was very excited to become a member of the Knights of Columbus and helped with the sanctuary restoration. Juanita said he had checked out the Cedar Hill concession stand because he thought we might be calling for help. John and Juanita were very happy to have attended our Awards Ceremony in August. They have an adult daughter, Laura, who lives in Keller. While we knew John for only a short, we will miss his happy demeanor and his helpful attitude.

Returning the Pews

Knight Hands were once again called upon by the church; this time to return the pews from the Narthex to the sanctuary at the Church. You may recall that on June 5th, Knight Hands unbolted and moved all the pews from the sanctuary to the Narthex to make room for the contractor to grind, sand, stain, and polish the floor in the sanctuary. Moving the pews to the Narthex took about an hour with 26 Knight Hands participating. Moving the pews back into the sanctuary was a much more complicated process because all the bolts in the floor had to lined-up with the holes in the pews.



But on Sunday afternoon July 11th 2021, 21 Knight Hands gathered and after a prayer for thanksgiving and safety, they proceeded to move the pews back into their original positions.



John Espree, Manuel Urias, Carlos and Profi Limones, John Monturo, and Jim Ouimet, loaded the pews in the Narthex on dollies and rolled them into a staging area in the sanctuary. Russell Gully, Mike Fitzgerald, Keith Archer, Allen Reitmeier, Art Rodriguez and Jorge Ruiz did the heavy lifting as the pews were lined up into position. David Ybarra and Efrain Ochoa guided the pews onto the bolts. Dan Keough, Paul Ryan, Robert Nieto, Frank Salazar, James Smith and Jack Ramsden then secured the pews to the floor by installing the nuts on the hold down bolts. David Dybala supervised the whole affair. To our delight Father Eugene appeared and

pitched right in and helped with the heavy lifting for at least 2 hours. We were most impressed. A number of anchor bolts had to be replaced and epoxied into place (David Dybala also did this with an assist from Dan Sheridan). Re-installing the pews took a total of about 76 man hours.

Knights make ‘return trip’ for parish

The theme song for the day on Saturday, Aug. 14 could well have been Louis Armstrong’s “Hello, Dolly.” (Only members of a certain age will recall that hit from 1964.) Dollies and work gloves were in abundance as a couple dozen Knights under the direction of Deputy Grand Knight SK Jim Russell moved furniture and other items big and small back from the community center into the newly refurbished sanctuary, chapel, narthex and classrooms. Melisa Limones, Deborah Pearson, Cathy Ordemann and Cynthia Poole were there to provide instructions and directions along the way. The efforts began at 8 a.m. Melisa provided doughnuts before the work began and ordered pizza with delivery scheduled for 11:30. Turns out the group was pretty much done just before 11, and a dozen or so members were still there to partake of the generous lunch (plus chips and drinks).

Russell’s helpers included:

1. Keith Archer and wife Mary,
2. Larry Balagna,
3. David Dybala,
4. Rey Estrellas and son Patrick,
5. Miguel Hernandez,
6. Gamaliel Hernandez and son Joe,
7. Deacon Al Evans,
8. Mike Fitzgerald,
9. Russell LeRoy,
10. Carlos Limones and son Porfi,
11. Mario Mejia,
12. Jeff Miller,
13. Jose Montoya,
14. John Monturo,
15. Bill Neilon,
16. Robert Nieto,

17. Ken Rarick,
18. Arthur Rodriguez,
19. Paul Ryan,
20. Frank Salazar,
21. Robby Zablan and
22. Erasmo Zapata.

It's also worth noting one other 8157 member helped lug the bulky welcome desk across the drive and up the walk into the narthex – Father Eugene Okoli.

In all labor there is profit.



Awards Dinner August 2021

The Council 8157 Awards Dinner which took place in August was a most welcome post-COVID social event to the 85 people in attendance from our council. The chosen venue this year was the Duncanville Fieldhouse due to our church being remodeled at the time. The spacious event room on the second floor had easy access via an elevator as well as a grand staircase, very convenient.

The Knight of the Year recipient was our brother Knight Larry Balagna.



Academic Scholarships were awarded to Ms. Madison Goza (St. Mary's in San Antonio), Ms. Elizabeth Meyer (University of Texas at Austin), Ms. Zara Montoya (Baylor University) and Ms. Abigail Trapp (Texas Tech University).



Thanks to our brother Knight Leon Cornute and his son Kenneth, who were our photographers and produced the high quality and high resolutions photos

Family of the Month July 2021



**Keith and
Mary Archer**

The Archers have displayed varied service skills in recent months. When Holy Spirit followed strict pandemic protocols, they were busy checking temperatures and pre-registrations at the Saturday vigil Masses and continue as Hospitality Ministers. And with the return of the council providing free snow cones to any and all on Fridays in July, they helped make that possible. Keith and Mary live in Dallas and have been married 32 years after meeting at a Holy Spirit function. They team up for the council's sacramental gift distribution that Keith started a few years ago. Mary also participates in Holy Spirit's food pantry. Keith is part of the diocesan prison ministry and is an Archangel attached to Catholic Charities Dallas. He joined our council in April 2018, took his major degrees that June and entered the Fourth Degree that September. Keith is in his 35th year with Weldon Parts, where he's a product manager. Mary is retired, most recently working for AT&T.

30,000 people spread out over villages in the jungle. You get to see a priest maybe once a year." His appreciation of his parish grows. He was ordained in February 2013, four months after taking his First Degree and a year before taking his Major Degrees. Charlie and Kathy met when Kathy and Charlie's younger sister, Sonja, were friends at Sunset High in Oak Cliff. They crossed paths again years later when Charlie's work took him to Kathy's office. In June, they celebrated their 33rd anniversary. They have three grown children and six grandchildren. Take a moment the next time you see Deacon Charlie and/or Kathy at Mass and thank them for their contribution to our parish.

Family of the Month Aug 2021



**Carlos and
Melisa
Limones**

If you haven't run across a member of the Limones family at Holy Spirit, then you haven't been trying hard

enough. Carlos joined the Knights in June 2014, Melisa became the parish's director of adult and family ministry in June 2017, and they've taught in children's faith formation in recent years. All five of their children (Bibiana, Luis, Laila, Paula and Porfirio) have been altar servers for years, most of them also ascending to altar server captains and thurifers. They've all been catechist aides and Vacation Bible School volunteers, too, and we've seen Luis behind the desk in the community center as a night monitor. Carlos and Melisa met in 1996 through a friend, started dating a year later and were married in July 2000. Melisa calls being hired at Holy Spirit a blessing: "It brought more patience, love and peace. Every job has its challenges, but at what job do you feel more of Christ's presence than in your home, our home."

Family of the Month Aug 2021



**Kathy and
Deacon Charlie
Ruelas**

The diocese's ceasing of weekly Mass dispensation in mid-August moves us to another chapter of Catholic life during the pandemic. The Ruelas family has experienced it in a way different from most of us. Deacon Charlie said ministering to the Holy Spirit community under the various protocols has "definitely been a challenge ... as a deacon, I've been able to see a wide range of emotions." He said many Catholics in the United States have gained a new appreciation for what we have here. "I've been to Honduras, where you have two 70-year-old Jesuit priests trying to take care of

Welcoming our new Knights



Antonio Razo

July 2021

Antonio and his wife (Maria Lucila) have been members of Holy Spirit for 4 years. They have resided in Cedar

Hill for the past 25 years and previously lived in Oak cliff for 12 years. Antonio is originally from Guanajuato, Mexico and they have two sons ages 40 & 30 yrs. and one 35 yr. old daughter. Antonio is retired and his hobbies are working on his yard, walking on his treadmill, tending to "Honey Do" lists and likes to watch boxing, baseball and volleyball. Antonio worked 15 years as an 18 wheel truck driver, 20 years with a plastic manufacturing company and 10 yrs. with Borden's Milk co. When asked area/interests he would like to be involved with in our Council and he replied "Wherever I am needed at". He also stated that he would like to get involved and learn more about plumbing, electrical, carpentry & A/C work. He has extensive experience driving forklifts & doing mechanic maintenance on them.



Jerry Smith

May 2021

Jerry Smith joined our Council in May of 2021. Although Jerry hails from South

Carolina, we won't hold that against him because he is a big Cowboys fan. Although a Gamecock, he has been in Texas for the past 10 years having settled down in Midlothian where he lives with his wife Mandi and stepson Zachary. Their extended family includes three furry babies. Jerry is a welder and works at his trade at an iron shop in Alvarado. Jerry loves the beach and enjoy kayaking and swimming in

spring or summer. He also loves to travel although his favorite time is with family and friends. Welcome to the order, Jerry; we look forward to seeing at upcoming Knights of Columbus events in the coming weeks, months and years.

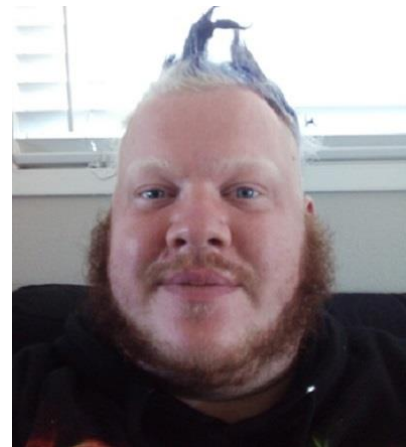


Miguel Hizar

July 2021

When Miguel introduced himself at a recent Knights of Columbus meeting he said "I am trying to get closer to God and

joining the Knights of Columbus will help me do that". For sure he has his priorities correct – God first, family second and so on. Miguel was born in Jalisco/Zacatecas, Mexico but now lives in Cedar Hill with his wife Ana Karen, daughter Abigale and son Miguel Jr. Miguel is an accountant and his wife dedicates herself to her children and takes care of them as a stay-at-home mom. The Hizar's attend the 1pm Sunday Spanish Mass as a family. David Ybarra, Miguel's mentor, has been introducing Miguel to other Knights every chance he gets. Welcome to the Knights of Columbus.



Zachary Brown

July 2021

Zachary transferred from a council in Maine in July of this years and shortly thereafter moved to California. His

mentor, John Espree, reports that he is on disability and wished to go to college and become a priest. We certainly encourage him to pursue that vocation. He does wish to continue to be a member of Council 8157.



**Edgar
Cervantes**

May 2021

Edgar Cervantes is one of our newest brother Knights. Edgar immigrated to the

United States from Mexico when he was 20 years old. He and his wife, Santa, have lived in the Dallas area for the last 21 years. The family moved into Holy Spirit parish about two years ago. He and Santa have four children. The oldest is 19 and holds a Karite black belt. The youngest is six years old. Edgar is currently spending his time assisting his father and his wife as they recover from Covid-19. He says they are getting better but that it is a slow and difficult recovery. He hopes to become more active in the Knights as they improve. When asked what motivated him to join the Knights, he expressed a desire to become more involved in parish activities. He currently serves in one of the parish ministries. Edgar became a First Degree Knight May 23, 2021 and took his 2nd and 3rd degrees on June 8TH.

Holy Spirit Festival 2021

Hamburgers, hot dogs, turkey legs, egg rolls, pulled pork sandwiches, tamales, fajita tacos, gorditas, funnel cakes, paletas, mariachis, and even the Bishop of Dallas, all contributed to making this one day festival a success. Yes, Father Eugene prayed hard for a great turnout and good weather and thankfully the good Lord gave us both.

Despite the later start than in previous years, the festival committee planning for this one day festival went into high gear just a few weeks before the event. There were a couple of other events prior to the festival which consumed a lot of volunteer resources, namely the sanctuary floor remodeling project, and the rededication mass just one week before the festival. The festival committee did a great job

putting together an event that had all the ingredients to make it feel like a day at the Fair. They even brought in the Mariachi Los Reyes de Dallas to perform as the main act, and the Grupo Guadalupano of Holy Spirit volunteered to prepare delicious fajita tacos to go with the entertainment.



There were a couple of great donations worthy of mention this year. Our brother Knights Gilbert Zuñiga Sr and Gilbert Jr. of GilbertZ Trucking, donated at least 15 pallets full of Frito Lay products packed as sampler bags in a variety of flavors. We donated one pallet to Holy Spirit and have since donated all but one to several organizations. To add to their generosity, the Zuñigas also loaned us their 26 foot bobtail truck with built-in lift gate for use with table and chair rentals. Having the lift gate certainly helped take a load off our backs. An amazing contribution by these two worthy Knights. We are very grateful.



Gilbert Zuniga Sr.



Gilbert Zuniga Jr.

As we have done in previous years the Knights took charge of the preparations for the festival, including setting up the stage, all the tents and games, cooking stations and the large blue coolers for drink stations. And of course we also purchased all the food for the day. This year we put a greater emphasis on recruitment of new members and set up a booth in the dining room under the projector and screen. While inspirational Knights of Columbus videos was playing in the background, our Membership Director Jim Kowalski and the rest of the membership team were busy recruiting new candidates.



After spending part of Thursday setting up the stage, all day Friday setting up the Midway the Knights spent all day Saturday grilling burgers, hot dogs, turkey legs, and some sausages and ribs samplers. The Knights came back on Sunday to take it all down and store it away again until next year. Great job brothers!

Holy Trinity Seminary Cookout

It has been a couple of years since we had the privilege of preparing and serving a meal for the students, faculty and staff of Holy Trinity Seminary, due to the pandemic, and what a difference two years make. The improvement to the grounds and the building are tremendous. Gone is the olympic size outdoor swimming pool and in its place sits an outdoor basketball court. The best improvement however is indoors, in the second story dining hall, kitchen and outdoor deck that overlooks the west and some heavenly sunsets. All of the seminarians we spoke to say they are thrilled to be able to live and hang out in such a lively environment, clearly designed with young people in mind.

Among the faculty of the seminary in attendance were Very Reverend James Swift, Rector; Reverend Vincent Anyama, Vice Rector; Reverend Zachary Webb, Associate Director of Formation; and Reverend Kevin Wilwert, Associate Director of Formation.



We came out to the Seminary on Friday, October 8, 2021 to grill and serve burgers and hot dogs with all the fixings as the main evening meal at 5:30 PM for at least 60 people. The A Team from our council that attended included, James Smith, Jack Ramsden, Keith and Mary Archer, Efrain Ochoa, Robby Zablan, Mike Fitzgerald, John Balasa, and GK Jorge Ruiz. The event had been coordinated long distance by our Community Director, Dan Murphy, over a few months ago.

We came bearing gifts, and besides the meal we prepared we also brought with us a donation of 24 cases of Frito Lay products packed in variety packs and a few cases of Hint flavored water, all of which was received very well. But the highlight of our gifts had to be the 49 statuettes of Pope Francis and the ring rosaries provided by our brother SK Keith Archer, who assured everyone that if needed, more could be acquired.

I have to say we had a great time hanging out with our young friends and it's good to see the enthusiasm they have for their chosen vocation.



Council 8157 Installs New Knights

Four Catholic gentlemen became new Knights of Council 8157 this past Tuesday evening, October 12, 2021. They came to the Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity accompanied by their wives, children, sister, friends and other brother knights. The new ceremony, which allows family members to be present, takes about 30 minutes from start to finish and that in turn leaves ample time afterwards for social time to get to know each other better. It is a welcome social time to get to visit with the new Knights and their families.



Marc Evans, Jesse Zuniga, Jose Luis Ramirez, Joseph Eubank

The ceremony was held in the Upper Room of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, on this evening we welcomed Joseph Eubank, Marc Evans, Jose Luis Ramirez and Jesse Zuniga, all members of Holy Spirit parish for several years. The Degree Team assembled by Team Captain SK Tom Greco included, Peter Perta in the Unity role, Raymond Presas in the Charity role, Jorge Ruiz in the Fraternity role and in the Grand Knight role. Our Worthy Advocate Russell Gully had the Warden role and our own Membership Director Jim Kowalski, who is also a Texas State Council representative as Assistant Diocesan Deputy, presented the rosaries to the candidates.



Our council has made the commitment to again conduct monthly Exemplification ceremonies and with a newly assembled membership team to work on recruitment in between. Our membership goal this year is not just to meet our quota but to exceed it by at least four times, we want 50 new members by the end of June 2022. And with the way things are going, it looks well within our reach

