

Knights Life



www.kofc8157.org

Holy Spirit Catholic Church – Duncanville, Tx,

Statue of St. Joseph in the Courtyard



Saint Joseph, our spiritual father, guides us in our mission of supporting the family and supporting the Church. We are soon to have a beautiful statue of St Joseph holding the Christ child in the Holy Spirit Catholic Church courtyard.

The statue has arrived and on March 21st and 22nd, 2022 David Dybala and his fellow brothers Al Evans, David Ybarra, Dan Murphy, Larry Balagna, Jose Montoya, Jack Ramsden, and Allen Reitmeier built the base and pedestal upon which St. Joseph will stand. David Dybala did all the engineering and design of both the base and pedestal.



After the concrete pedestal was poured (concrete mixed by hand in a wheelbarrow using white cement), David smoothed out the sides and top to match the pedestal upon which Mary stands.



The final job was to lift the 800 pound statue up onto the pedestal. With the “spilling of many brains” and the use of a forklift, the job went on without a hitch. And so St. Joseph now has a permanent home in the courtyard.



The Knights of Columbus once again demonstrated their commitment to be the “right arm of the church”. It goes without saying that this project was made possible by the expertise of David Dybala and the men of the Knights of Columbus who gave in total approximately 62 man hours of their time to complete this project. Well done men!!

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 Danieldale Rd. Dining Room

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 Jan 2022



Keith Archer

Keith's already extensive involvement in 8157 activities recently added a new chapter. During Holy Spirit's Christmas market in early December, he became the latest council member to serve in the role

of St. Nicholas during a parish holiday event. (Hats off to Leo Mattingly and Chris Edwards in recent years.) Keith even provided his own costume for the celebration. He posed for photos with about 60 people of all ages, handed out goody bags to the kids (with the help of David Dybala) and gave out St. Nicholas prayer cards to the adults. Keith had proved to be resourceful since joining the Knights in April 2018, later adding his major degree and a Fourth Degree membership. Keith has been a regular participant at the Valley Ridge youth baseball concession stand, helping with snow-cone Fridays during the summer, fish fries, pancake breakfasts and many other doings. He initiated and still oversees the council's sacramental gifts program. Keith came to Dallas in his 20s from Oklahoma City. He and wife Mary, who often joins him for KC activities, met right here in the parish gym playing volleyball. They live in Dallas.

Knight of the Month Feb 2022



Mike Moloughney

Mike has been quite busy in parish and diocesan activities in recent months, and that's nothing new. He was among the driving forces behind Holy Spirit's successful

Christmas Market. A bout with COVID-19 kept him on the sidelines for much of January, but he then was back working diligently with the parish's outreach ministry to help at pregnancy centers since abortions in Texas were down 60 percent. Mike has been our point person for Pro Life efforts and the parish youth ministry for years. He joined the Knights in March 2005, took his major degrees a month later, and is

also a member of the Fourth Degree. Mike and wife Karen have been parishioners for about 25 years, and he was recognized as one of Holy Spirit's two 2015 recipients of the Bishop's Award for Service to the Church. Mike has also been involved in ACTS, children's faith formation classes and participates in the Saturday morning Rosaries (rain, shine, whatever) outside the abortion clinic near Charlton Methodist hospital. among his other parish doings. The Moloughneys moved here from their native New Jersey in 1997; Mike's parents were Catholic missionaries who regularly went into the roughest neighborhoods of New York City with their children to spread the Good News. They have four children: Meghan, Jennifer, Kaitlyn and Sean (is he almost taller than Mike now?)

Knight of the Month Mar 2022



Ramon Presas

When Grand Knight Jorge Ruiz first approached Ramon about becoming the council's recording secretary for the current fraternal year, his first reaction akin to: You're asking the wrong guy.

But the more Ramon pondered the opportunity, the more he decided God had a plan for him that included stepping up to answer the call. Ramon has long been involved in the council (Valley Ridge concessions, the degree team) and the parish (a lector and a hospitality minister). Ramon joined the order in August 2003 and took his major degrees the following February. Being a Knight has always been special to him. He has adjusted the phrase "these men they call Knights" into "these Knights they call men." "You've got to have a feel for it," he said, and he's always gotten a warm feeling from his KC brothers at Holy Spirit. He grew up in Oak Cliff, went to Bishop Dunne and West Texas A&M, and lives with wife Melinda in Waxahachie. Ramon is a loan support analyst with PNC Bank and is a near empty-nester, with the youngest of four children being a junior in high school. Only months into being a council officer, Ramon calls it a wonderful experience. The feeling is mutual.

We are Saddened



Allen Joseph Pineda Alonzo (Allen), 54, passed away peacefully at Methodist Charlton Medical Center, Dallas, TX on March 15, 2022, after a rare, brief, and uncontrollable serious illness. He never gave up hope and never stopped fighting, even until the very end.

He was born at the University of Sto. Tomas Hospital, Manila, the Philippines on April 22, 1967, the second child of Bayani and Salvacion Pineda Alonzo.

He moved to Illinois USA with his family in 1970 ultimately settling in Duncanville, Texas in 1973.

Allen grew up attending Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Duncanville where his family was founding members.

He spent his youth around very many close Filipino family friends who had settled in Duncanville, as well as visiting cousins and relatives during summers and holidays.

Allen graduated from Duncanville High School in 1986 where he was a member of the spirit

organization, the Duffers, as well as the Drafting Club where he received numerous UIL awards.

After high school, Allen moved to Munich, Germany with his family as a result of his father's job assignment there. He resided in Germany from 1987 through 1992 where he enjoyed seeing as much of Europe as he could. Upon returning to the United States Allen returned to Duncanville.

He completed his studies in Interior Design at the Art Institute of Dallas then started working for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) in 2001 and retired in 2021.

Allen was very active at Holy Spirit Catholic Church serving as a fourth-degree Knight of Columbus with the church's Knights of Columbus Council 8157.

He met the love of his life, Arlene Geng Alonzo, in May 2014 and they married on February 2, 2015 at the Santuario de San Jose Parish (St. Joseph being his patron saint) in Mandaluyong City, Philippines.

Allen and Arlene welcomed their son and their life's greatest joy, Aaren Gerard, on June 9, 2016.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Salvacion P. Alonzo. He is survived by his wife Arlene, 5-yr old son Aaren; father Bayani Alonzo and stepmother Elvira; brother Vincent Alonzo and sister-in-law Carol, his Uncle Verne Pineda, M.D., Aunt Heidi Pineda, Aunt Lany Samonte, father-in-law Alex Geng and several cousins, relatives and many life long friends both in the US and in the Philippines.



Allen led a good and faithful life serving the Lord and he will be missed forever by so many

RECTORY REMODEL

When the plumbing pipes froze in the rectory at Holy Spirit Church during a very cold winter storm early this year, the floor of the ground level unit was heavily damaged and had to be replaced. Although insurance took care of replacing the floor, the Knights were called in to help remodel the rectory suite on the first floor so our Parochial Vicar, Fr Steve Antes could move into it from the suite above. This two-day Knight Hands project consisted of painting the walls and ceilings in two rooms, a bathroom and closet, and moving some furniture from upstairs to downstairs. Our plumbing skills were put into action as we replaced two old toilets with brand new ones.



The project started early on Tuesday morning February 8th, 2022 and was headed by our Worthy Family program director, David Dybala, a veteran of remodeling projects at the church—just look at what he did recently with the sanctuary. Our parish continues to benefit from his organizational and leadership skills, some of it acquired no doubt from David's twenty years serving as the City of Dallas Public Works Director. Of course, David didn't do it alone, he did have a little help from his friends and brother Knights, Jack Ramsden, Jose Montoya, David Ybarra, Dan Murphy, Russell LeRoy, Larry Balagna, Mike Fitzgerald, Deacon Al Evans, and Jorge Ruiz, GK.

At the start of the project, Grand Knight Jorge Ruiz took the opportunity to present Pastor Fr Eugene Okoli a donation check in the amount of \$3,500.00, in support of all the church programs at Holy Spirit.



As Knights, we are called to put our faith into action and to stand in solidarity with our priests, as Knight Hands, we walk that walk on every project.

Family of the Month Jan 2022



**Paul and
Colleen
Ryan**

The Ryans have lived in Cedar Hill for five years, and

Paul transferred to our council in November 2018 after previously serving over in St. Jude parish in Mansfield. He joined the Knights in 2011 while living in Maryland during his 26 1/2 years with the U.S. Marine Corps and added his major degrees and a membership in the Fourth Degree. The Ryans met in Maryland through mutual friends and came to north Texas soon after Paul's retirement from the Marines, when he went to work for Bell. Paul, an Arizona native, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1989. The Ryans have a son (Justin, 17), a daughter (Maura, 13)

Family of the Month Feb 2022



**Ken and
Patsey
Rarick**

They're Flashes – really. Ken and Patty met

during the mid-1960s in Ohio while attending Kent State, whose athletic nickname is the Golden Flashes. Ken is from Cleveland, Patty's from Youngstown. Work brought them to north Texas in 1975, and they've lived in Ovilla since 2000. Ken is retired from the manufactured housing industry, in which he was involved with – Allen Reitmeier! – back in Ohio. Maybe they were planning Knight Hands years ago far from Duncanville. Ken joined the Knights of Columbus in September 2008 (at Allen's invitation,

of course) and took his major degrees in February 2014. They have four grown children and four grandchildren. While much time is spent watching the youngsters elsewhere in their various games and activities, the Raricks still devote many hours to Holy Spirit. Whether it's helping at a funeral luncheon or serving on a committee – most recently, Ken was an at-large member of the group that organized the Come Follow Me efforts that began last spring – not to mention being a go-to guy in Knight Hands.

Family of the Month Dec 2021



**John
and
Marge
Balasa**

Some relationships begin with a moment

described as knocking someone off their feet. As John recalls it, Margie Ostrowski nearly ran him down while crossing a busy street. It was July 1974 in Chicago just before John headed off for two years' military service in West Germany. They actually knew each other before then, living across from each other on Archer Avenue and attending high school together. But the near calamitous encounter provided a good reason for John to ask her to out the next night; they went to see "The Sting." The relationship continued on both sides of the Atlantic, and the couple was wed in October 1976 at St. Bridget's Catholic Church right there on Archer Avenue. They came to north Texas in 2006 when he took a position with Dallas County. The Balasas are regulars at Holy Spirit's Saturday evening Mass, where John serves as a hospitality minister. He joined 8157 in January 2013 and took his major degrees in April 2017. They're both retired now, Marge from AAFES, and are scheduled to relocate this summer from DeSoto to back to central Kentucky, where John spent time at Fort Knox. Kentucky's also where the younger of their two children lives – John Jr. The older, Michelle, is in Chicago.

Concession Report

The spring little league baseball season is under way and that means the Knights of Columbus are once again manning the concession stands in Cedar Hill during all games. While there are more games than last year, we are still a long way off from the olden days. We have about 70 scheduled league games this season plus a mid-year league tournament. We have already had a surprise Sunday only tournament on March 27th where we served food and drinks and snacks at 20 games – a very nice surprise indeed. The regular league season is scheduled to end on May 21st. 2022. The Cedar Hill Baseball Association is indicating they are planning on a World Series event starting on June 16th – we'll see.



While many of you have not yet been invited to work a shift at the ball park, be not discouraged – Miguel Hernandez has your name and number. So please respond to his request for help when called upon as soon as you can. For sure a big “shout out” goes to those Knights that have worked a shift and in some cases multiple shifts. Thank you Miguel Hernandez and his two sons David and Benjamin, Larry Balagna, Mike Fitzgerald, Greg Warr, John Espree, Jerry Jacob, Russell Gully, Hector Rubio, Jeff Miller, Frances Miller, Jessie Zuniga, Ken Rarick, Chris Edwards, and James Smith.



A big “shout out” to the baseball committee for their behinds the scenes work to make the concession business a success. Thank you James Smith (he does the buying of goods), Greg Warr (he does the accounting), Jeff Miller (although recently retired from the committee assisted where needed), and Miguel Hernandez (he does the scheduling)

100 Wheelchairs + 13



100 is the number of wheelchairs our council will provide for disabled children at the [CRIT Center in La Paz, Mexico](#) as a result of our fundraising drive for the [American Wheelchair Mission](#). The official number was 99, I received a phone call from brother SK Art Senato, pledging to donate 1 more chair.

UPDATE 4/4/22. This drive has now yielded an additional 13 wheelchairs and a total of over \$17,000.00 in donations.

As a council we deserve congratulations for a job well done. All our donors deserve our respect and gratitude for their overwhelming support and generosity. We had many single wheelchair donors and 10 Lithograph Recipients.

A special thanks to our Pastor Fr. Eugene Okoli and to all the church staff for their support of this drive during this busy time in Lent, and for supporting the Knights at Holy Spirit.

Again, thanks to all my brother Knights who helped make this a successful fundraising drive.

Vivat Jesus.

Jorge Ruiz, Grand Knight
Knights of Columbus Council 8157



K of C Fish-Fil-A

The Holy Spirit Knights of Columbus kicked off the 2022 Lent season Fish Fry's on Friday, March 4th with another drive-through operation and online sales. Last year's drive-through Fish Fry's went off very well despite the COVID-19 restrictions imposed worldwide. The key to our operation's success is the effectiveness of the order-taking process, as the car line begins to grow longer, and longer, and longer. Luckily we don't have to reinvent the wheel since a certain fast-food chicken chain has already set the bar, albeit too high for us, but it is worth trying to emulate it.



Not surprisingly the first fish fry of the year is usually well attended by both parishioners and Knights, and you could never have too many of either. On the first Friday of Lent, we sold 219 meals and most of them were preordered online, which really helps keep things moving quickly, especially when the line starts forming 30 minutes before opening time. The second Friday turned bitterly cold and windy but it did not keep the Knights from coming to work nor parishioners from coming to support us. We sold 135 meals that day despite the strong wind and icy rain. Our outdoor cooking team, led by David Ybarra and included Efrain Ochoa, David Dybala, Jose Montoya, fried the fish, the french fries, and hush puppies. During the bitter cold they managed to shelter the cooking area under a partly wrapped tent, which kept everyone warm and happy.



On the frontlines, the outside team taking the orders from hungry parishioners consists of Grand Knight Jorge Ruiz, Jesse Zuñiga, Richard Juarez, Robbie Zablan, Jim Russell, and new Knight Antonio Liska (and his 2 children). The team handled the car line very efficiently as the GK worked the laptop checking off orders and passed the info to the runners who would bring meals out to the car line. Meanwhile, the order takers greeted customers with a smile and either took an order number or a new order paid for by cash or credit card.

The drive-through service opened for business at 5:30 PM with a bright-eyed and bushy-tailed staff, but by the time the cleanup work started at 8 PM, everyone has slowed down a bit as the methodical work of cleaning, take down and put away takes us to the 9 o'clock hour.



The inside kitchen crew prepared the coleslaw, thawed out the fish, and kept the ready food warm in the ovens. Thanks to James Smith, Greg Warr, Jeff Miller, Mike Fitzgerald, Marc Evans, Larry Balagna, Eduardo Florentes, and John Espree. The food packing team consisted of Allen Reitmeier, Lady Mary Archer, Lady Cappie Wood, Lady Cindy Florentes, Hector Rubio, Steven Reid, and Russell Leroy.



Welcome New Members



**Eduardo
Florentes
Jan 2022**

Eduardo lives with his lovely wife Cindy and their Dachshund – Bambi. They have eight grown children and they're very busy despite both being retired. Can anyone relate? Eduardo has been a Knight for about 4 years and in the United States for about one year now after moving to Cedar Hill from the Philippines. He's motivated and has already pitched in – both he and Cindy have helped at multiple fish fries. Welcome to Council #8157.



**Antonio Liska
Feb 2022**

Antonio joined the Knights and our council this past February 8th, 2022, just four months before his 41st birthday, at the suggestion of his wife Diane, who comes from a family of Knights. Diane's six brothers are Knights, as is her father. One of her brothers is a priest and one a seminarian. Her uncle, is the Bishop of Helena, Montana. Antonio was born in Guatemala City, Guatemala, and his family immigrated to Houston, Texas in 1985, when he was 4 years old. His father is Czechoslovakian and his mom is Guatemalan. Antonio attended a Jesuit HS in Houston and graduated from UT Austin with a degree in Aerospace Engineering. He owns his own business designing and manufacturing drones for various industrial and entertainment applications, including light shows and such. Having his business situated in an airport hanger makes for a convenient testing ground.

Antonio has jumped right in to our council activities. At our fish fry events he brought his entire family with him. He has also graciously agreed to train to become our next website administrator. Antonio is bilingual as Spanish was his first language.

Antonio and Diane met in Dallas while attending St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church's Young Catholic Professionals group. They now have three lovely children (Antonio, Juliana, Loretta) and have been members of Holy Spirit for about four years, they live in Cedar Hill.

Knight Hands Keep Hammering

When Antonio Razo asked Knight Hand to install lap siding on a 15' section of sidewall on his home in Cedar Hill, we said sure. Turns out the siding he had purchased for this project was Hardy Board – a concrete board siding. All the tools we brought to the job (air compressor, nail gun, air hose) were for hardboard siding and none would work because of the fragile nature of concrete board. We were not discouraged nor stymied this little inconvenience, however. We simply pre-drilled holes at each stud location and nailed the siding on with a hammer. Good thing we had Marc Evans to do the drilling, Efrain Ochoa to do the hammering, Dan Murphy to set the siding in the correct location, Russell LeRoy to assist in cutting the materials to the correct size and Jose Montoya to assist everywhere.





We started at 9am and really got going about 10am after Dan Murphy returned from Home Depot with the proper nails to fasten the siding. Then all went well – it just took time to fasten the siding properly. Marc did an excellent job drilling and Efrain did a flawless job hammering the nails – we broke not a single piece of siding. A dab of caulking at all the joint and the job was done. While we were there we also added trim boards on a neighboring window. It took a total of about 25 man hours to complete this project. We were served a delicious burrito lunch and soft drinks as needed. Good job men!!!



