

Knights Life



www.kofc8157.org

Holy Spirit Catholic Church – Duncanville, Tx,

Knight Hands Cleaning up



David Dybala and Mike Fitzgerald

Armed with 2 extendable pole chain saws and 5 standard chain saws, seven Knight Hands tackled the



Adan Luna hard at it

job of cleaning up the back and front yard of Wanda Hixon who lives in Cedar Hill. We arrived at the job site about 8am on September 8th 2022, and commenced to cut, trim and generally clear out dead trees and branches as well as trimming those trees and bushes that need trimming in the back and front yard. The sponsor of this project was Adan Luna who lives next door to Mrs. Hixon. Adam told this reporter that “this was my first activity as a Knight of Columbus”. And what a worthy activity it turned out to be. Adam just recently joined our council (June 2022) and we are so glad to see him helping his neighbor. Adan took time off from his work to help with this project



Jose Montoya and his pole saw

Jose Montoya and Mike Fitzgerald did most of the cutting with the extended pole chain saws while David Dybala and Efrain Ochoa used the standard chain saws to cut and trim where needed. Allen Reitmeier, David Ybarra and Adan Luna dragged all the cut limbs from the back and front yard to a road

side stack waiting to be picked up by the City of Cedar Hill.

As usual David Ybarra arrived with water and Gatorade and donuts for the crew which was most appreciated as everyone was soak and wet from sweating in the heat of the day



David Ybarra isn't hiding - he's working



Efrain Ochoa cleaning up

Of course, David Dybala, Director of Knight Hands was in charge overall and made sure we did everything that Wanda Hixon asked for. David concluded that “it looks gooder than when we got here”. We completed the job around 10am; so in total we expended about 14 man hours of labor to complete this project. It goes without saying that this group effort is typical of the commitment of the

Knights of Columbus to help those in need – way to go guys.



The whole Gang plus Wanda Hixon

Knight hands have been busy on other projects this past three months as well, including the just completed P.I.P (Property Improvement Program) project at the home of Louise Uttley in Duncanville Five Knight Hands worked about 25 man hours to complete this project which included:

1. Cleaning cutters and sump drain
2. Straightening numerous fence posts
3. Mowed lawn
4. Installed weather stripping
5. Repaired deadbolts
6. Paint fascia
7. Installed hose rack
8. General cleanup of brush and trash
9. Repaired two gates

Sounds pretty simple when you put it to paper; but these were difficult tasks; particularly straightening the many fence posted. These had to be dug out and re-cemented. Thanks You

1. David Dybala
2. Art Rodriguez
3. Larry Balagna
4. Mike Fitzgerald
5. Russell LeRoy

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 elected for their 1st term in office on June 7, 2022. Their term runs through June 2023

Chaplain	Fr. Steve
Grand Knight	Jim Russell
Deputy Grand Knight	Mike Fitzgerald
Chancellor	Paul Ryan
Recording Secretary	Ramon Presas
Treasurer	James Smith
Warden	Efrain Ochoa
Inside Guard	Steve Reid
Outside Guard	Russell LeRoy
Financial Secretary	Peter Perta
Advocate	Russell Gully
Trustees	Tom Greco
	David Dybala
	Dan Schneider

Service Program Directors

Awareness Committee	Jorge Ruiz
Concessions	James Smith
Church Activities	Open
Family	Open
Faith	Al Evans
Life	Mike Moloughney
Youth Activities	Mike Moloughney
Knight Hands	David Dybala
Retention	Paul Ryan

Membership	Jim Kowalski
Council Activities	Open
Disaster Preparedness	Wendell Jeanpierre
Degree Team	Tom Greco
Sacramental Gifts	Keith Archer
Safe Environment	Open
Health Activities	Robert Nieto
Lecturer	Wendell Jeanpierre

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, Wendell Jeanpierre

Newsletter and Website Photographer
Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz, Leon Cornute, Arthur Rodriguez.

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 2022



Marc Evans

Marc joined our Council in October 2021 and soon made his presence felt by participating in nearly every Knight activity including sponsoring and participating in a Knight Hands project. His major focus, however has been on contributing to the success of the ACTS retreat. He has been a “Core Member” of the ACTS Team and has also been a co-director a number of times. He is passionate about the ACTS Retreat and its benefits to everyone and his words of encouragement at our regular Knight meetings has recruited a number of Knights to participate in the Retreat. Before becoming a Knight, Marc had been busy in the parish community including helping those in need of food and comfort. Before he retired, he was a system’s designer for GateGourmet – an airline food service company. Marc likes to cook outside – a “hangover from Boy Scouts” he says. Marc and his wife Gilda have been married for 42 years and have a son (Gabe) and a daughter (Marcela).

Knight of the Month Aug. 2022



Peter Perta

Peter Perta is a vital rock for the foundation of our council. He is untiring in his efforts to keep the council “up to speed”. As our Financial Secretary since 2013, he has kept up with all the reporting requirement imposed by the Supreme council. “I take

great pride in keeping our council in good standing” says Peter. Everybody know Peter because he’s the guy who reminds us to pay our yearly dues – but he does it in a very tactful way. There are numerous documents he submits to the Supreme council monthly and yearly and he keeps track of all of them. He also updates and keeps the roster of our council. Peter misses an occasional monthly meeting because he travels a good bit for the company he works for – Nestles Health Care Nutrition. Peter moved here from upstate New York in 2008 and now resides with his wife – Bimbo- in Cedar Hill. Peter does a lot of work inside and outside of their – particularly the landscaping in the yard.

Knight of the Month Sept. 2022



Antonio Liska

Antonio Liska, one of our newest members, has generously volunteered his talents with our council. He is a computer whiz and a technology buff. Antonio’s role is to keep our website updated with top stories, upcoming events, fundraising opportunities, and new member highlights. He felt like this role was a perfect fit for him, he said, “it’s a great way to participate while building on my web skills and knowledge.” Antonio has his own business, creating drones and other GPS products for customers all over the world. His computer skills and skill set are very transferable in his new volunteer role.

Antonio recently joined the Knights for male fellowship, Community building, and an opportunity to serve the parish. Joining the Knights of Columbus was a good way for him to get out of the house and serve others besides his three young kids and wife. He has a 5-year-old son and a 3 and 1-year-old daughter who keep him young at heart and in shape:) You may see his family around the parish at 9 or 11 am Mass or various activities!

Fall Baseball begins



Frank Salazar, James Smith, John Espree and Eric Conner on opening day

It was good and encouraging to hear the sounds of baseball on Saturday September 10 during the “kick-off” of the fall little league baseball season. It would appear that lots of people are excited about the upcoming fall baseball season. Currently there are 33 league games scheduled for the fall season plus an end of the year tournament. In addition, according to Keith Farrell, president of the Cedar Hill Baseball Association, there may be additional Sunday tournament games during the season. Good news – we’ll see.



The sights and sounds of Baseball

The usual soldiers were in attendance for the opening Saturday of the season – John Espree, who has been working the opening shift on Saturdays for many, many years. Of course, the shift wouldn’t be complete without Eric Conner who has been a stalwart at the ballpark for many years. Miguel Hernandez, the Knight who schedules men to work at the ballpark, talked Frank Salazar into helping on opening day this year. And to complete the roster James Smith was in attendance as well. James is now the Director of concessions and said, “I’m happy to be the Director of Concessions; I’ve done the job before so there aren’t too many new things”.



The full Menu

The concession stand offered a complete menu of items that’s been typical for the past years. Hamburgers are always a big hit as well as snow cones during the hot days. It was encouraging to hear that the ice machine, thanks to the repair efforts of Jose Montoya, is working and providing all the ice needed to cool drinks and make snow cones. During the coming weeks there are quite a few games scheduled during the week so be ready when Miguel calls for help.

Since this original story there has already been a tournament (Oct 1 – 2, 2022) of 25 games as mentioned above. The baseball committee is ever grateful to see Knights step up to volunteer their time to generate money for the council. Thank You.

Family of the Month July 2022



Efrain and Lisa Ochoa

Efrain joined this Council in Nov 2001 and has become very active since his retirement

from the City of Dallas – the water department, where he worked for 37 years. It seems like Efrain helps at nearly every activity of the Council – he’s a frequent participant in Knight Hands projects; he often works at the baseball concession stand, is a vital cog at fish fries and other cook-outs and has moved up the ranks as an Officer of the Council and is now the Warden. As Warden, he sets up the meeting room, assures that Guards under his command check membership cards, and obtains and serves food snacks for our regular business meetings. Efrain and his wife Lisa were married by Fr. Joe at Holy Spirit in 1995. They are blessed with two boys - Carlos and Nicholas. Lisa is a Manager at the Home Depot in Waxahachie but also finds time to help at parish activities. Efrain and Lisa live in Red Oak where Efrain spends a lot of time in the back yard cooking – he’s a master smoker. Although their two boys are grown and gone from home, Efrain still volunteers at Boy Scouts events; oftentimes cooking.

Family of the Month Aug. 2022



Al and Jackie Evans

Deacon Al Evans has served as one of our parish clergy since his ordination in

2002. But the story goes deeper than that. In his youth, especially during high school, Deacon Al was inspired by participating in the Mass as a Lector. Then along came Deacon Les Alt whom Deacon Al admired and so he applied to become a Deacon. After 5 ½ years of intense study, he was ordained in 2002 and has served our parish

ever since. In between these time, he served as an airborne SONAR operator aboard Orio P3 aircraft. He also earned a degree in engineering from the University of Tennessee and worked as TVA as an energy conservationist. He also spent time with LTV where he met his wife Jackie. Jackie can often be seen at church events supporting her husband. Deacon Al has served as Faith Director of our council and often fills in for our Chapin. Deacon Al is also dedicated to the ACT organization in our parish. Al’s son, Matthew, along with grandchildren Haley and Colby live in Lewisville. Dedication to his ministry is always apparent and he says: “it’s always a complete joy and privilege to stand beside Father and assist as Mass; when I hold the Chalice I silent pray – Lord, how did I deserve this”. A dedicated man indeed.

Family of the Month Sept 2022



Larry and Sheila Balagna

It’s rare to catch Larry and/or Sheila when they are not “on the go”. Larry attends nearly every Knight function and is constantly grooming the grounds at Northwood College –

pro bono I might add. Sheila busies herself with various church activities as well as entertaining the folks at the St. Joseph Assisted Living Center with her piano skills. Larry and Sheila have big hearts and are always willing to help whenever needed. It’s this type of charity from the heart that makes them so special and worthy recipients of the Family of the Month award for September 2022. While they constantly busy themselves in our parish community, they spend a large chunk of their time visiting their children who live in various parts of the country. Their trip to Toulosbo, Washington to visit their oldest son Kurt and his family (including 4 grandchildren) is lengthy to say the least. Their visit with their son Matt and family (including 2 grandchildren) in Tekin Illinois, while drivable, is certainly time consuming. Their longest son, Greg, live in Colorado so you can see they spend a good amount of time on the road to be with their family. Hopefully all their family will be here in Texas as Larry and Sheila celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in January, 2023.

Scholarships Awarded – Aug 2022

As many of you know, our council awards college scholarships for children and grandchildren of Knights in good standing in the council. The process begins in the March each year and candidates are encouraged to apply for a scholarship on-line. While the application is comprehensive, it certainly causes a student to pause and evaluate where he or she is in their pursuit of a higher education. The student may be a graduating high school senior or someone who is already attending a college or university.

Three scholarships were awarded in August of this year – 2022. Our congratulations go to the students and their families. The Knights of Columbus wish you all the best as you prepare to leave home for the college of your choice



Joseph Caloca, son of Knight Martin Caloca, received his scholarship. Joseph is attending UT Arlington



Justin Ryan, son of Knight Paul Ryan, received his scholarship. Justin is attending Dallas College



Larry and Shelia Balagna accepting for their granddaughter Kelsie Balagna who lives in Illinois. Kelsie is attending Western Illinois University.

Results from Blood Drive June 26

We received great feedback on our efforts during the last blood drive. Here is the response from Carter Blood Care:

Thank you for your ensuring we have the blood needed for our community! You guys are absolutely AMAZING!!!

*Your 31 units have already been processed and made available to those in need in hospitals. These units have the potential to save up to **93 Lives** right here at home! It's an amazing feeling to know you had a hand in that lifesaving provision. Please thank everyone who made it happen; the **IMPACT** will be felt for years!!!*

Another huge success was you bringing 33 donors to the drive! Of which 10 were a first-time donor. YAY!!! Thank you for your commitment and passion!

Will see you guys again on Sunday, October 23rd!

Thank you for being a part of something GREAT,

Carter Blood Care



Welcome New Knights



**Blake
Rodriguez**

Aug 2022

Blake Rodriguez and his lovely wife, Mirabel, reside in Midlothian. They have two teenage sons, Fabian and Blake Jr., with a third boy on the way. Gizmo is their family dog. Blake came to Texas from Mississippi about five years ago and has been a member of the Holy Spirit family ever since. He, along with his brother, owns and runs a gutter installation business and spends most of his free time with family activities. He's looking forward to becoming active in the council