

# Knights Life



[www.kofc8157.org](http://www.kofc8157.org)

*Holy Spirit Catholic Church – Duncanville, Tx,*



## Good Bye Wendell

Wendell JeanPierre was born in California; but he never claimed it. He was raised and educated in New Orleans, and without hurricane Katrina, would have finished his life there. However, it was here in Texas that Wendall passed away on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 with his wife Connie at his side, from a massive stroke a few days before. Wendell has always been an intellectual man having graduated from Saint Augustine High – a famous Catholic High School in New Orleans. Even today, through the St. Augustine Alumni Association, he and his classmates continue to inspire young men to be men of the world through scholarships and counsel. After high school Wendell entered the military where he was an Ammo

Tech. That's a fancy term to describe defusing bombs. He served in Viet Nam and landed in country on his birthday – Wendell thought that was a good omen. While he survived his tour and received numerous medals and an honorable discharge, he was granted 100% disability. After his military career he was educated at Dillard College and then SUNO – Southern University New Orleans. He spent nearly his entire working career as a Duty Board Supervisor for the United States Coast Guard. He retired in 2005 just about 3 months before hurricane Katrina arrived and deposited 10 feet of water in their home. They decided, for safety reasons, to seek a home in Texas. . Wendell was an avid reader and writer. He knew the bible forward and backward and was well versed in scripture and all the books of the bible. He utilized this knowledge to teach others about “the way, the light, and the truth”. He was chaplain of the St. Augustine Alumni Association and Lecturer for the Knights of Columbus. Wendell was a startling surprise to the Knight of Columbus because of his knowledge of church history and scripture. He was a perfect fit to be the Lecturer for Council 8157, a post he held until his death. Our Council had the privilege of his knowledge and counsel during his years as a member of our Council. He was inducted into the 4th degree of the Knights of Columbus and participated in ceremonial duties. We never got to hear Wendell play his clarinet but he was a musician and able to play a variety of instruments – the best being the clarinet. Wendell and Connie have been blessed with three children – Kelly, Maceo, and Malcolm. Around the house everyone called him Chef JeanPierre and no one was allowed in his kitchen. During his short time with the Knights of

Columbus, it was obvious that Wendell was not feeling well and yet he always had a happy disposition. You just couldn't meet a nicer guy. We'll miss him a lot.

The last chapter of this story occurred on Tuesday evening December 6, 2022, when Connie JeanPierre presented Council #8157 a three layer cake with our logo on front in recognition of the Knights support, love and honor the council displayed during Wendell's funeral.

Thanks you Connie for your thoughtfulness.

## Adios Les



Marian Marian Lechoslaw "Les" Migala, born in Zyrardow, Poland on July 27, 1928, passed away peacefully on November 8, 2022, surrounded by his children. As a youth, he served in the Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego (Polish Scouting Association) supporting the Resistance during WWII. He escaped Soviet Poland to Paris, France without papers where

a cousin could confirm his identity, learned French, and attended the University of Paris-Sorbonne and the École Spéciale d'Architecture. He immigrated to the United States in 1964, learned English, and began his architectural career at the Lit Brothers Department Store in Philadelphia, PA. Anne (his wife) and he assisted in establishing what would become the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA during which they met and worked with the future Pope and Saint, John Paul II. He then began his 33-year career with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), moving his family to Baltimore, MD, Bangkok, Thailand, Duncanville, Texas, and Munich Germany, before returning to settle in Duncanville. Les and his family became charter members of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, where he assisted in the architectural design of the new church. He remained active in the Holy Spirit community throughout his life, as an Usher, a Cursillisto, and a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus. He bravely and with unflinching humor fought the disease that ultimately claimed his life, spending the last years traveling with his children to places he had never had a chance to visit and returning to those most important to him. His children took him to Tahiti to visit his niece, to visit Rome, the Holy Land, and Fatima, Portugal. Six years ago, they took him to visit the Parthenon in Athens, Greece-a lifelong dream and the foundation of his architectural studies-and to Zyrardow, to introduce his family to his ancestral home. "Les," as he was known during his professional career, was blessed to have lived a full life and the legacy of his devotion to his family will always be evident through their faith and accomplishments. By way of example, the influence of his bravery, sense of humor, spirit of adventure, and character of goodwill lives on in his five children – Therese, Witold, Henri, Arthur, and Alexander. For sure, the Knights of Columbus will always have fond memories of Les. Rest in Peace old friend.

## Farwell Pat



Patrick Joseph May passed away on December 16, 2022. He was born in Chicago, Illinois on May 24, 1929. Pat enlisted in the Air Force while attending his first year of college at St. Mary's in Minnesota where he served from 1948 – 1952. He married his wife of 69 years – Betty- in 1950 and settled at Wichita Falls at Sheppard AFB. While in the Air Force, Pat specialized as an aircraft mechanic and instructor. His trade and passion for aircraft took him to Vought Aircraft Corp. in Dallas where he had the opportunity to work on some of the most famous fighter planes of that period, including his favorite, the F8 Crusader. With a growing family at home, Pat decided to continue his education and took a position at Texas Instruments while attending night school at Arlington State College where he graduated in 1967 with a degree in mathematics. He spent the remainder of his career at TI's Central Research laboratory

where he contributed to the infrared technology development that was deployed on projects such as Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 deep space exploration probes, as well as the Hubble telescope. After retirement he volunteered as an aircraft mechanic at the Cavanaugh Flight Museum in Addison where he maintained vintage WWII aircraft and was a member of a restoration team that rebuilt and conducted a cross country flight of a vintage PT-19 Cornell "Rosalie" that remains on display at the museum. He was an avid reader, enjoying science, history, and technical fiction. In spite of his success, he was a very humble and kind man with a big heart and a caking to serve. His priorities were his family and his Catholic faith. He enjoyed family trips to Chicago, weekend camping, and any other outing that brought family together. His time with the Knight of Columbus will be remember by his big smile and his quick wit. He could deliver a "zinger" with the best of them. He was Director of Church Activities for many years keeping the Council abreast of upcoming event involving the Church. He served as an Assistant Scoutmaster in Boy Scouts, and served as the equipment manager and president of his dive club. Pat was the head usher (as they were called back then), at Holy Spirit Church making sure there were an adequate number at each Mass and directing their actions. Pat is preceded in death by his beloved wife Betty, his first born son, Patrick III, his parents, sister, and brother. He is survived by his remaining children, Mary Hayes (husband Steve), Teresa Barnard (husband Jody), Tim May (wife Kathy), and Susan May, as well as 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Rest in Peace old Friend.



## 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

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

### Service Program Directors

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

|                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Membership</b>            | <b>Jim Kowalski</b>  |
| <b>Council Activities</b>    | <b>Open</b>          |
| <b>Disaster Preparedness</b> | <b>Open</b>          |
| <b>Degree Team</b>           | <b>Tom Greco</b>     |
| <b>Sacramental Gifts</b>     | <b>Keith Archer</b>  |
| <b>Safe Environment</b>      | <b>Russell LeRoy</b> |
| <b>Health Activities</b>     | <b>Robert Nieto</b>  |
| <b>Lecturer</b>              | <b>Open</b>          |

### 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

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Website address</b> | kofc8157.org |
| <b>Website Editor</b>  | Jorge Ruiz   |
| <b>Website Admins</b>  | 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](mailto: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 Oct 2022



### Adan Luna

Adan Luna is relatively new to our council and to our parish community. Adan and his wife (Norma) have been members of Holy Spirit for 3 years and Adan joined the council in June of 2021 and already he is being

recognized as the Knight of the Month for October 2022. Adan is an efflorescent person and his ready smile welcomes everyone he meets. Recently Adan found it in his heart to help his elderly neighbor by soliciting help from Knight Hands to “clean-up” the broken down trees and bushes in her front and back yard. He also participated in this Knight Hands project by helping with the clean -up. Adan took off from his job to help this elderly lady. We haven’t known Adan very long yet, but this outlay of kind heartedness is what makes Knights special. When he is working Adan is a sales representative for the Power Energy Company that installs solar energy panels. If you interested in a solar system for your home, he’s your man. Adan likes to cook, exercise and do carpentry work. Adan and his wife recently joined the Guadalupano Society (Our Lady of Guadalupe at Holy Spirit. They have 5 children ranging from 7 to 26 years old. Adan may be new to the council but he made a very good first impression.

## Knight of the Month Nov. 2022



### Miguel Hernandez

Miguel is a 3rd Degree Knight. In 2021 he accepted the responsibility of scheduling Knights to work at the

concession stand in Cedar Hill. Often times Miguel receives notice of a tournament only a few days before the tournament begins; yet he manages to schedule the correct amount of man-power to work the various shifts at Cedar Hill. He was originally from California but came to Texas in 2007, bought a house in Duncanville in 2013 and became a parishioner at Holy Spirit in 2017. Miguel and his wife Darlene, have two young boys, David and Benjamin (who also enjoy helping at the baseball concession stand). Remember. Remember to say “yes” when Miguel calls for help!

## Knight of the Month Dec. 2022



### Arthur Rodriguez

Art is a 4th Degree Knight. Art lives in Duncanville with his ever-smiling wife,

Olga. When there is a Knight Hands project, you’ll usually find Art there...painting the Parish Food Pantry or cutting up tree branches in the Courtyard. He has served as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist for homebound and hospitalized for about 7 years. Olga is originally from Costa Rica and Art served in the Air Force as a mechanic in Vietnam. He still loves to tinker with and repair small engines Art also sings in the Choir during Mass, make sure to singalong with him!

## Caring Hearts at St. Joseph's

On a cool misty Saturday morning on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October, 2022 a large contingent of Knights gathered near the storage facilities behind the Community Center of Holy Spirit Catholic church. Their mission was to gather and load all the necessary paraphilia and all the perishable goods needed to cook and serve the residents, staff, and guests at St. Joseph's Assisted Living facility located at 330 West Pembroke Ave in Dallas. It was pretty obvious that this was not the first time these Knight had prepared for this event – in fact this is a bi-annual affair. So in no time at all the large grill was loaded along with tables, a tent and all the food stuffs including hot dogs, hamburgers, lettuce, onions, tomatoes, potato chip, and a whole lot of other essential items to make the cook-out a success.



Around 9:45am everyone made their way over to the St. Joseph's Assisted Living facility and began preparation for the noon meals. The grill was set up and fired up, the tent was erected, the tomatoes were sliced, the onions were peeled and sliced, the lettuce was washed and sized, the serving area was set up, the condiments were set out, the tea was brewed, and well you get the idea.

The impressive thing about all this preparation was how everybody seems to know exactly what to do and how best to do the tasks. It just seemed so routine for so many of the Knights and their mates.

Quite some time before the dinner bell rang at exactly noon, many residents had already gathered in anticipation of this lunch being provided by their Knights of Columbus. Deacon Al Evan led the group in a prayer of thanksgiving and then the meal was on. The procedure was a bit different this year in that the staff and nuns and some of the Knights served the residence as they were seated in the dining room. The trays and plates were filled by the serving Knights and wives. All in all a very efficient and organized affair. The fare was grilled Angus beef hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, chips, drinks, and cookies. Of course the hamburgers and hot dogs could be accompanied by tomatoes, lettuce, onions pickles and other condiments. The baked beans and cookies were prepared and delivered by Mike Fitzgerald whom I understand makes a habit of doing for these events.





One of our own long time Knights who is now a resident (Leo Mattingly) was most grateful and quite impressed by the loving care the Knights and wives showed in providing this meal.



This writer, too, was very impressed by the respect and care, and love these Knights and their wives displayed during this event. Sheila Balagna provided

entertainment with traditional piano tunes and it sounded like she was accompanied by singing voices, especially Mary Russell. Throughout this entire event there was the constant sound of happy chatter among the Knights and the residents and the staff – a most enjoyable event by all measures.

This was all made possible by the kind hearts and willing hands of the following Knights or Knight wives:

Larry Balagna, Sheila Balagna, Billy Callender, Deacon Al Evans, Jackie Evans Mike Fitzgerald, Eduardo Florentes, Cindy Florentes, Lou Lemons, Diane Lemons Mario Mejia, Jose Montoya, Dan Murphy, Efrain Ochoa, Jack Ramsden Jim Russell, Mary Russell, Frank Salazar, Lourdes Salazar, Rolando Sobalvarro, David Ybarra



A Special “thank you” to Dan Murphy, our Director of Community Activities, for organizing

and supervising the entire event. Although the work went on smoothly without much direction from Dan, “someone has to drive the train”. Thanks also to Sister Carolina, the “top nun” of the St. Joseph facility, for allowing the Knights to display their caring attitude and loving hearts to the residents and guests and for organizing the staff to make this event memorable to the residents.

## “Sprucing-Up”

When Holy Spirit administrators – especially Tammie Marceleno, Outreach Coordinator for Holy Spirit asked Knight Hands to “spruce up” the food pantry room, David Dybala, Director of Knight Hands said “sure”.



And so on Saturday morning November 19<sup>th</sup> around 7:30am eleven (11) Knights gathered to do the job. The job entailed dismantling the present shelving, adding new and improved lighting, added more electrical outlets, move one storage rack and after painting reinstall it, clean up the four walls and then paint the room. With wrenches and screw guns the old shelving was taken down and disassembled and discarded. Bolts end protruding from the cement wall were cut off and the walls were scrapped and caulked in preparation for painting.



While this was going Hector Rubio, our resident electrician was installing new ceiling lights and adding electrical outlets. After taping off the room around the door casings and other objects the painting began with a couple guys using rollers and even more guys using brushes to ‘cut-in’ at the ceiling line and around the floor molding and the door casings.



All went swimmingly and by 11:30 the bulk of the work was complete – just a few electrical tasks on Monday. In total Knight Hands worked about 54 hours to complete this task. A huge “thank you” goes out to: **Jose Montoya Deacon Al Evans Larry Balagna David Dybala Hector Rubio Efrain Ochoa Marc Evans Arthur Rodriguez Dan Murphy Jack Ramsden and Russell LeRoy.**

**You men did a terrific job**



## The Courtyard

Around 8am on December 10, 2022, several chain saws fired up as work began on trimming the trees in and around the courtyard at Holy Spirit Catholic Church. This job had been requested by Pastor Eugene – he wanted more sunlight in the courtyard and he wanted the trees branches that were overhanging the roof to be removed. And so it was that 14 Knight Hands tackled this job on this Saturday morning. David Dybala, Director of Knight Hands, gave everyone initial instructions on what to do and then everyone got to work. David operated the Hy-Lift cutting the highest branches with a pole saw while others cut the lower branches.



firewood then had to be hauled out of the courtyard by hand or wheelbarrow. The branches were piled just off the parking lot near the children's playground (to be disposed of later) while the firewood was stacked in the west parking lot of the church near the dumpster. On paper it sounds pretty simple and easy; but in reality there were lots and lots of branches that were cut down – some of them with large diameters. Many Knight Hands (Adan Luna, John Espree, Russell LeRoy, David Ybarra, Allen Reitmeier, Larry Balagna, Dan Murphy) were kept busy removing branches and firewood while David Dybala, Mike Fitzgerald, Jack Ramsden, Jose Montoya, Marc Evans, and Efrain Ochoa) did all the cutting. Of course the whole area had to be cleaned up after the trees were all trimmed and everybody pitched in to get this done – including Fr. Eugene.



Many Knights then cut firewood from these fallen branches. Both the smaller branches and the







By 11:30am everyone was hanging around eating pizza and enjoying liquid refreshments. David Dybala, who did all the high cutting, said

“I feel like a monkey”. Marc Evan commented that “is was an honor and a pleasure to help Fr. Eugene” and Fr. Eugene said “this was like a Christmas present too me”. All in all everyone was most pleased with the job and it fact the courtyard looks very trim and neat. Way to go guys.





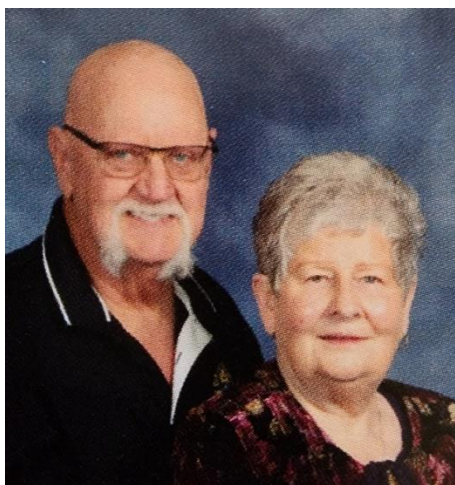
## Family of the Month Oct 2022



**Keith and  
Mary  
Archer**

Keith Archer joined our council in 2018 and has already earned a number of awards from our council. And where you find Keith working at a council activity you'll probably find Mary as well. They both help at the baseball concession stand, they both help at the fish fries, both help at cooks out and serving snow cones, and generally help wherever needed. Not that don't have individual activities as well. Keith is still employed at Weldon Parts as a product manager (he's worked for this company for about 37 years) He is also part of the diocesan prison ministry where he spends many Saturday mornings. In addition, Keith is also an Archangel attached to Catholic Charities Dallas. Keith is a member of the ACT Team and both he and Mary are active in RCIA. They never stop giving back. Mary is retired now, but worked at AT&T for many years and now spend some of her free time helping at the Holy Spirit food pantry. And to top it all off, Keith and Mary teamed up to establish our council's sacramental gifts program where each person who receives the sacrament of Holy Communion or Confirmation receives a memento gift from the Knights of Columbus.

## Family of the Month Nov. 2022



**James  
and Judy  
Smith**

James is a 4th Degree Knight. He is our Council 8157 Treasurer and also Church Activities Director. James lives in

Duncanville with his wife, Judy, and their granddaughter Caroline. James can be seen all around the Parish doing service, like buying supplies for the Fall Festival or other community events. Weekends he serves as a Hospitality Minister at the Saturday evening Mass. Being he Director of Concessions you will also oftentimes find James at the baseball concession stand. Watch for Judy, she'll usually be in the truck as they bring in a load of supplies for an event, or as they prepare some food for the Fish Fry, or as she prays for James to behave! Watch out for James' big smile emerging from amongst that handlebar mustache he sports!

## Family of the Month Dec 2022



**Billy and  
Davida  
Callender**

Billy is a 3rd Degree Knight. He lives in Duncanville with his wife, Davida. Billy and Davida serve on the Parish Adult and Family Ministry Commission (AFM) and together anchor adult religious education classes (usually those held on a Wednesday evening). Sometimes they show a movie related to their class subject and extend an invitation to anyone to join in the watching and discussion check in with Billy to see what the upcoming adult faith formation class is about. Billy is retired these days and now has more opportunity and time to participate in Knight events - which he has been doing. He has even began to deliver Meals on Wheels - a nice addition to his volunteer events.

## Helping at Christmas



her mother. Lettie brought her children out of an abusive situation. Lettie's mother took them in where they shared two beds in two bedrooms. Lettie worked to get government lodging and any other type of financial assistance possible to take care of her children. Lettie was doing her part as a mother, but she really needed immediate help for Christmas, so she reached out to her mother's NextDoor community.

Lettie said she did not think anyone would help, but God has opened doors for her family and she has renewed hope that she can build a better life for her family. Knights of Columbus Council 8157 acted out of hearts full of love for our community and made Christmas 2022 just a little happier. Blessed Father McGivney, founder of the Knights, said we need to care for widows and orphans. St. Paul the Apostle in 1 Corinthians 13:13 said "Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love." Subsequent to the Knights of Columbus gift, other individuals and the Holy Spirit Junior Catholic Daughters have also gifted funds and clothing to this family. Thanks be to God for love!

The opportunity to help others is one of the most beautiful graces God places in our path. We need to overcome our hesitance to act because there are so many examples in our secular world to not act. We as an organization have a foundational pillar of being communal, we act out of our heart with love for our community. The primary principle of the Knights is charity.

During our December general meeting, Sir Knight James Smith read an email from NextDoor about a mother in need of help with Christmas presents for her five children. During the meeting a motion was made to provide an amount of support, then we talked more and decided to double the amount of support because, well, there were five kids and Christmas presents and food are important. We voted to help but only if the situation could be somewhat verified. James contacted the family and there was a moving story and validation of need.

Lettie is the mother of six. One daughter is grown and living on her own. Five children ranging in age from 1 to 14 were with her when she moved in with



