

# Knights Life



## KNIGHT HANDS COMPLETES ITS 500TH PROJECT

Congratulations to the entire Council for all the work done in completing 500 Knight Hands projects. It is a rewarding and humbling experience to be part of a group of men who feel compelled to help those in need. To commemorate this accomplishment, Jeff Miller has penned the following story for your enjoyment.



**Allen Reitmeier** was chatting with one of his Meals on Wheels recipients in Duncanville a few months ago when the gentleman lamented his fence being in need of repair for months, work that would cost more than he could afford.

Before long, Reitmeier and three of his brothers in the Knights of Columbus council at Holy Spirit parish in Duncanville – Mario Luna, Hector Rubio and Jesse Radillo – had the work done at no cost. And that was the 500th project benefitting the southwest Dallas County community and other parts of the diocese since Reitmeier, who retired from the home construction business in 1999, initiated the service program through his council in May 2010. “This idea’s always been in me, to help people in the community,” said Reitmeier, a Minnesota native who came to Texas and Holy Spirit with wife Linda in 1983. “Particularly with home repair, home maintenance. Because that’s what I did; I was a home builder. I thought there would be a need. I thought we could give back to the community. It’s been with me for years and years, starting in 2000. “It took me 10 years to get it going.” And going it has. Reitmeier relates the following from the extensive records that he’s kept over the years: the 500 projects have

required more than 7,000 total man hours donated by more than 100 members of Holy Spirit’s KC council. Some jobs are completed in a matter of hours. Some require weeks or even months. Knight Hands became an official arm of Council 8157 when Chris Edwards served as the council’s Grand Knight. “Allen has always been, from the day I met him, one of these guys who wants to help people,” Edwards said. And did Edwards ever envision Knight Hands completing 500 projects? “No, but knowing Allen, the sky’s the limit.” It’s one thing to have the will, it’s another to have the way. Knight Hands volunteers bring a variety of skills to each job, whether it’s repairing plumbing, trimming trees or building a ramp for someone newly confined to a wheelchair. David Dybala has participated in more than 100 projects, among a few who have responded to Reitmeier’s invitations that frequently. “We do it because God’s given us the skills and abilities, and what he has given us is to be shared,” said Dybala, a retired engineer. “There’s no job too small or too big.”



The first project was completing some home repairs that parishioners Judy and James Smith had started on their home but were interrupted by James’ hip replacement. “That hip threw a wrench into everything,” James said. Reitmeier – joined by Ed O’Brien, his late wife Betty, and two deceased Knights (Dick Bates and David Briggs) – arrived to do painting and some minor home repair. Minor to everyone except the Smiths. Gabrielle Hardin, 90 years old and widowed since 2003, is among those who’ve been helped by Knight Hands on multiple occasions during the past 14 years. “It’s just amazing

what they have done,” Hardin said. “It’s such a good feeling to know they’re there for me.”

Since Jeff wrote this story Knight Hands have completed a number of additional projects; among those are: loaned three wheelchairs to needy persons; installed dishwasher and garbage disposal for Cynthia Poole; replaced the power steering pump and alternator for Ida Medrano; made arrangement to pick up Rita Collier for Mass on Saturday nights; replaced ruptured radiator reservoir; trimmed tree on and around Jose Hernandez’s home; installed two smoke detectors; replaced rotted window trim around windows for Elvira Ortiz; cut down trees and cut up fallen trees for Herene Carter; repaired the ceiling for Endelia Serna; built and install a new tabernacle for Fr. Uche. Changed out two dishwashers; replaced ceiling in bathroom for Lovis Miller. We are now up 516 completed projects





## About Your 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 109 - Assembly 2799

The council Officers are officially elected for a one year term each June. Their term in office follows the fraternal year, from July 1 through June the following year

<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Fr. Uche</b>
<b>Grand Knight</b>	<b>Mike Fitzgerald</b>
<b>Deputy Grand Knight</b>	<b>Marc Evans</b>
<b>Chancellor</b>	<b>Paul Ryan</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Roberto Nieto</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>James Smith</b>
<b>Warden</b>	<b>Adan Luna</b>
<b>Inside Guard</b>	<b>Gamaliel Hernandez</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>Jim Russell</b>
	<b>Jorge Ruiz</b>
	<b>Dan Murphy</b>

### Service Program Directors

<b>Concessions</b>	<b>James Smith</b>
<b>Church Activities</b>	<b>David Ybarra</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>Jose Montoya</b>
<b>Faith</b>	<b>Charles Ruelas</b>
<b>Life</b>	<b>Mike Moloughney</b>
<b>Youth Activities</b>	<b>Mike Moloughney</b>
<b>Knight Hands</b>	<b>Allen Reitmeier</b>
<b>Retention</b>	<b>Paul Ryan</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Jim Kowalski</b>
<b>Community</b>	<b>Dan Murphy</b>

**Degree Team**  
**Sacramental Gifts**  
**Safe Environment**  
**Health Activities**  
**Lecturer**

**Tom Greco**  
**Keith Archer**  
**Russell LeRoy**  
**Robert Nieto**  
**Jim Russell**

### 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

Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz, Robby Zablan, Dan Murphy, Jim Russell, Efrain Ochoa, Joel Lopez

### Newsletter and Website Photographer

Allen Reitmeier, Leon Cornute, Arthur Rodriguez.

### Council Website

**Website address** kofc8157.org  
**Website Editor** Allen Reitmeier  
**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** sglmreid@swbell.net

### Membership Rosters

A full membership roster is available in paper form to all Knights in good standing at the general meeting

## **Knight of the Month Oct. 2024**



### **Jim Ouimet**

Congratulations to Jim Ouimet for being selected Knight of the Month for October 2024. Jim lives in Red Oak, TX and has lived in Dallas since 1989. He was born in

Spokane, WA and has been a Knight since 2013. Jim is a retired Petroleum Engineer which he did for 45 years. . He considers Amarillo his hometown after having graduated high school there as well as moving all over due to his time in the military serving in the Air Force. They even spent time in Great Britain from 1957-60. Jim graduated from West Texas State, which is now West Texas A&M, in 1979. His job in the military was as a ground radio repairman. Jim wasn't baptized as a Catholic until the age of 10 where he was baptized, received first communion and confirmation. He says he thankfully doesn't know anything else but Catholicism. His goals as a Catholic are to maintain his safe environment status and reach the 4th degree as a Knight. He collaborates with Allen Reitmeier to do baseball concessions and attributes his membership to Frank Salazar and Andy Goza whom he acknowledges as a good personality and that people were drawn to him.

## **Knight of the Month Nov. 2024**



### **Moises Martinez**

Moises Martinez is 37 years old and has been attending Holy Spirit Catholic Church for the past 3 or 4

years now. He has been a Knight since June of 2024. Adan Luna was responsible for recruiting him into the Knights of Columbus, although he says Allen Reitmeier has a lot of influence on him as a Knight. His mother and Father are still alive, they are Miguel and Maria Martinez. Moises was born in Mexico. He is married to Marila and they have 4 children. Moises is a CDL truck driver and he has been doing so since 2016. His hobbies when he is not working is to be with and spend time with his family. As a Catholic, his goals are to follow the sacraments and help people along the way. Moises has demonstrated this numerous times by helping with Knight Hands projects. Congratulations Moises on a job well done!

## **Knight of the Month Dec. 2024**



### **Jesus Medina**

When Jesus joined the Knights of Columbus, he hit the ground running and he hasn't stopped since. He has attended meetings, he has worked at the concession stand, he has even volunteered for Knight Hand projects, has helped at breakfasts, and helped at the rummage teardown. That the kind of spirit that earned him the honor of Knight of the Month. And watching him work is like watching a whirlwind – he goes non-stop. Jesus and his wife Beatiz and their two daughters live in Duncanville and have attended Holy Spirit for 10+ years. Both he and his wife are members of the Gualupanos here at Holy Spirit. Jesus is also a hospitality Minister at the 1PM Spanish Mass on Sundays. He a soccer nut and can't wait for the 2026 World Cup games here Dallas. Certainly a well-deserved honor to be recognized as the Knight of the Month for December 2024.

## Baseball ends on a high note

The baseball season came to an end on a high note. During the 2 tournaments on the weekend of Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 56 games were played and the Knights of Columbus were serving concession food and drinks for every one of them. The little league end of the year tournament was played on fields #1 and field #2 – they played 13 games on Saturday and 10 on Sunday. The second tournament was a “stamp out cancer” benefit tournament, organized by Rosemary Villereal – they played 18 games on Saturday and 15 games on Sunday on Fields #3, 4, and 5. Most of the time there was a line at the concession stand. We had 6 Knights working on the opening shifts, 7-8 Knights on the middle shift and 2-4 on the closing shifts. The most inspiring comment (and there were a number of them) was “man, this is fun”. Well, it may have been fun, but it was hard work as orders for hamburgers and hot dogs and nachos were often heard in the concession stand the entire weekend. For example, John Espree, Russell Leroy, Mario Luna, and Peter Perta cooked 326 hamburger patties those two days. We also served 320 hot dogs along with 108 Earl Campbell Hot Links. There were approximately 150 nachos served as well. We also cooked about 180 servings of French fries. Plus all the other foods we serve, like chicken nuggets, chicken patties, frito pies, various flavors of chips and candies and pickles and so on. For sure we can’t forget all the snow cones that were served those two days. And lastly, we pretty much sold out all the drink we had on hand. We didn’t run out but at closing time on Sunday we had some bottles of water left, a few diet drinks and 6 Gatorades total – that’s it. This whole thing started on Friday night when the “stamp out cancer” group held a home run derby – it was for the kids as well as the moms. Ray Rivera was kind enough to join me at the concession stand and we were extremely busy.



But the real rush was Saturday morning about 9:30 or so when everyone seems to be hungry at the same time. Keith and Mary Archer were manning the counter taking orders, John Espree was working feverishly trying to keep up with hamburger orders, Barry Barksdale was doing the cooking (assembling the cheeseburgers, hot dogs, Earl Campbells, making nachos), while Frank Salazar was manning the fryers – you know, French fries, chicken nuggets and chicken patties. Same deal the second shift with different Knights. Moises Martinez got baptized on frying stuff, Jesse Zuniga and Robert Tovar manned the counter, Steve Zehnder, along with Juan Gomez and Damien Gomez assembled the orders. Luckily Russell LeRoy just came out without being asked and grilled hamburgers the whole time. Robert Tovar’s wife, Vicki, also helped extensively by making snow cones – I’m thinking at least 75 of them. Russell LeRoy stayed for the final shift as well where Larry Balagna and Dr. Nieto and I closed out the day. Same kind of busy setting on Sunday.

During the first shift, Trevor Edwards and Paul Ryan manned the counter, Tony Almanza did the frying and Marc Evan and Peter Perta did the assembling of food (Peter also grilled burgers in between orders). When the shift changed at 12:30pm, Tony Almanza stayed because one person couldn’t make it and he stayed the entire second shift. Larry Balagna returned a second day because another person was unable to work this shift. Russell Gully, as per usual, manned the counter along with myself, Larry and





Miguel Hernandez did the cooking (and they did a terrific job assembling the burgers, making nachos and so on), Mario Luna did the grilling and Benjamin Hernandez made a bunch of snow cones. Nearly all the games were finished by the end of the second shift but, John Owen and I closed out the day.

## Parish Breakfasts

We would be remiss if we didn't recognize David Ybarra, Director of Church Activities, for all the time and effort he expended in organizing and supervising the fall parish breakfasts. Although the dates for the parish breakfast were selected by James Smith – the prior Director of Church Activities, David sat in motion all the details for success. The breakfasts were held August 25th, September 29th, October 20th, and December 1. The menu varied a bit; but for the most part Knights cooked pancakes, bacon, scrambled eggs, hash browns, and biscuits /gravy. Included was fruit, and drinks.



*Jim Ouimet and Lou Lemons preparing pancakes*

On the afore mentioned Sunday mornings a number of Knights gathered early – between 6 – 7am – to begin the cooking process as well as setting up the dining room tables and chairs, brewing coffee and the like.



*Frank Salazar, John Owen, John Espree, and David Ybarra*



As an add-on to this story, we had one more surprise tournament on the 16th and 17th of November in which we served concession food and drinks for 11 games. For sure, now the season is ended and will be until sometime around the end of March. Thanks to all who participated in making the season a success in 2024. See you next season.

Other Knights came a bit later to help with serving the meal. David estimated that Knights served approximately 1,000 folks during these 4 Sundays.



*iBarry Barksdale*

Two of the Sunday breakfasts coincided with faith formation classes being held in the gymnasium. The most difficult aspect of these breakfasts was knowing how many parishioners would come by and eat breakfast; either we had too much food cooked or not enough food depending upon how many people came for breakfast. There was no charge for these Sunday breakfast, but Knights accepted donations. In the end we actually netted a few dollars.



*Jesus Medina and Jose Montoya*

When I asked David his best memory of these breakfasts he said “the dedication of the guys working together and having fun – there was never a harsh word spoken. It was rewarding, also, to talk to the parishioners during the breakfast”. While we

thank David for his work at the breakfasts, David wishes to thank everyone who contributed some time in helping with these four breakfasts. In no particular order following are the Knights who worked:

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Jose Luis Ramariz  | Allen Reitmeier   |
| Miguel Huizar      | Juan Gomez        |
| John Espree        | Jim Ouimet        |
| John Owen          | Pedro Zuniga      |
| Gamaliel Hernandez | Billy Callender   |
| Mike Fitzgerald    | Lou Lemons        |
| Marc Evans         | Eduardo Florentes |
| Cindy Florentes    | Mario Luna        |
| Efrain Ochoa       | Barry Barksdale   |
| Jim Kowalski       | Jack Ramsden      |
| Larry Balagna      | Jesus Medina      |
| Frank Salazar      | Jose Montoya      |
| Michael Clark      | Hector Lopez      |
| Russell LeRoy      | Jesse Zuniga      |
| James Smith        |                   |



## Family of the Month – Oct 2024



**Rolando  
and Daysi  
Sobalvarro**

You might not see Rolando at all the meetings; but you will surely see him if you attend Mass during the week. He is always in attendance and most often acts as a Hospitality Minister. And then you can find him emptying the food donation box and taking the contents to the outreach food storage room. Pretty sure he has been at every fish fry for the past many years. He is always willing to give of his time to help during church activities. Obviously, based on this picture, Rolando and Daysi are family orientated; as Daysi is feeding their new grandbaby. Rolando hails from Nicaragua; but arrived to New Orleans and joined The Knights of Columbus in 1979. He and Daysi moved to Duncanville and became parishioner of Holy Spirit in 1997. Often times, Knights work behind the scenes and receive little or no recognition; so what a super choice by our Family Director, Jose Montoya on choosing Rolando and Daysi as Family of the Month for October 2024

## Family of the Month – Nov. 2024



**John  
and  
Mary  
Anne  
Rizzo**

## Family of the Month – Dec. 2024



**Joe and  
Angela  
Eubank**

Joe Eubank is from Pensacola, Florida. His wife, Angie, is from Lancaster, Texas. They met at St. Francis in Lancaster and were married in 1987 at the chapel of Mount St. Michael's. Together, they have been blessed with five children: Catherine, Beatrice, Joseph, Cecilia, and Marianna. They live in DeSoto off of Pleasant Run and Cockrell Hill. Joe joined the Knights of Columbus three years ago. He was influenced to join by Paul Fehmel and Jorge Ruiz. Joe and Angie own a small business called CPR + more, which provides IT support for small and medium businesses in the Dallas area. He went to school at the University of W. Florida and received a Bachelor's of Science degree in systems science. His wife, Angie, went to school at the University of Texas at Arlington and received a Finance degree. Joe's goal as a Catholic is, as we are all called, is to become a saint. He says that there are lots of incredible role models from the Church as inspirations, and prayer of the Church. Among his role models are his parents and a dear friend and priest Msg. James Tucek who have passed away, and many of our brother Knights who give of themselves so selflessly.



## New Members



### Antonio Verduzco

We welcomed new Brother Knight Antonio Verduzco, on Sunday, August 08, 2024. Antonio and his wife Sandra have been

members of Holy Spirit for the past two (2) years. They previously attended mass at Santa Clara of Assisi Catholic Church for 15 yrs. in Dallas. They have resided in their current address in Cedar Hill for 8 years. Antonio and Sandra have been married for 13 yrs. and they have two sons ages 12 & 9 yrs. old. Antonio was born in Dallas and raised in the Oak Cliff area. He has been an educator for 24 years and has served as Principal for 14 Yrs. at the Raul Quintanilla Sr. Middle School in the Dallas ISD. Antonio's Hobbies include watching sports, reading, working around their house and gardening. When asked why he joined the Knights, Antonio replied "to learn more about our service organization and wants to participate and get involved in our Church and Knights of Columbus activities".



### Fr. Cristian Casado

Fr. Cristian recently transferred into Council 8157 from Council 5656. Fr. Cristian

was also recently born in Dilar, Spain, in 1985. For a young priest, ordained on April 10<sup>th</sup> 2021, he has traveled extensively and didn't arrive into the United

States until 2017. The following is an excerpt from his Bio on the Church's website.

"I have lived in different countries before arriving to the United States, and I feel very blessed because of that. For about 4 years I lived in Israel, studying and working as a tour guide for pilgrimages. I loved that time so much because it allowed me to constantly teach -I love teaching- about the History of Salvation and the infinite love of God for every one of us, and how many things He has done to gain us for Himself. Then, I moved to Rome, where I studied Theology and Canon Law: living in the heart of Catholicism, increased in me the desire to serve God more exclusively, and confirmed the priestly vocation that I received as a child.

In January of 2017, I moved to the United States and was sent to Notre Dame Seminary for two years of formation. Then, I continued my formation to the priesthood in Dallas. I was ordained Deacon April 10, 2021, and a Priest June 4, 2022.

In the Diocese of Dallas, I serve as a Judge at the Tribunal of the Diocese, and for the last two years I was parochial vicar at St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Community in McKinney.

I like skiing, hiking, cooking and enjoy a lot spending time with friends. Something else that I enjoy is traveling and road tripping. But above all, I like serving God's people: I can say that the gospel is fulfilled in me when it says: "*You have not chosen me, I have chosen you*". I want to be God's instrument to announce and teach His Love, which is the priest's main mission: to make present in the world the Love of God, his Mercy. Love and Mercy that He has given me since I was a child through my family, many blessings, and the priests I have found in my life.

I am looking forward to walking with you, and to serve and love you, the beloved Spouse of Christ who pilgrims at Holy Spirit in Duncanville". Thanks for being here Fr. Cristian



## **Morris Curlee and Alicia**

Morris currently lives in Fort Worth, but is a parishioner with us at Holy Spirit. Although he spent some of his early years in Louisiana, he has essentially spent his whole life living in the DFW metroplex area. He has a lovely girlfriend of five years, Alicia, and a 34 year old daughter, Christina who lives in Burbank, CA. He recently sold and retired from his Insurance business, and now he dabbles with commercial building. When not dabbling, he enjoys physical fitness activities and spending time with Alicia. He's looking forward to helping out at the council and growing in his Catholic faith.



## **Jesus Suarez**

We welcomed new Brother Knight, Jesus Suarez, on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Jesus is single and has

been a member of Holy Spirit for three (3) months. He currently resides in Dallas with nine members of his family. Jesus is originally from Venezuela (City of Valera, State of Trujillo). Jesus is currently working at a car wash in Waxahachie. Jesus enjoys playing video games on his phone as well as playing basketball. When asked why he joined the Knights, Jesus said he “wants to meet new people and get involved in our Church and Knight activities. Let’s welcome Jesus and introduce yourself next time you see him.