

Knights Life



www.kofc8157.org

Holy Spirit Catholic Church – Duncanville, Tx,



SK Leslie McKean Alt, a longtime deacon at Holy Spirit and a brother Knight since 1987, died on Tuesday, Jan. 17 at age 87.

Les was ordained on June 6, 1987 — wife Fran was one of the readers at the ordination ceremony at St. Pius X — and joined our order the following December. He took his major degree in January 1988 and entered the Fourth Degree in September 2006. He was later honored as a Life Member. Les served as a deacon until August 2005.

Les was born in Dallas, and his family moved to Duncanville while he was in high school. That's where he met Fran, and they were married on May 24, 1947. That fall, he enlisted in what was then called the U.S. Army Air Corps. He was stationed across Europe and in Hawaii. Les rose to the rank of Chief Master Sergeant and retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1968.

He went on to work for the government's Civil Service Commission, which became the Office of Personnel Management, and then as an administrative officer at LTV in Grand Prairie as a civilian member of the U.S. Navy before retiring in 1986.

The Alts had five children: Andrea "Andi" Griffith, Denise McClung (who died of breast cancer in 2003), Phylis Hildreth, Maria Hines and David Alt. There are 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren — with a 12th due in July.

During the vigil at Holy Spirit on Sunday, Jan. 29, Deacon Al Evans noted that Deacon Les "let go of himself and lived for others." In closing his remarks before conducting the Rosary, Deacon Al encouraged all in attendance to give a hug to those around them in memory of Deacon Les' signature greeting.

"He loved people, and he loved to give hugs," said Andi Griffith, who lives in Duncanville. "It

didn't matter how old you were or what gender. He had a genuine affection for people. Some people are even hard to like, but he loved everybody."

Les and Fran converted to Catholicism, and most of their children didn't follow them into the faith. One of the brothers-in-law is Craig Hines, who operates an online ministry and teaches adult education at the non-denominational Christ Church in Irving. Craig recalls his trepidation in asking to marry Maria since he wasn't Catholic. Instead, he said Les' response was: "As long as you can make her happy, I don't care if you're Zen Buddhist."

"Les always treated all of the son-in-law's like they were one of his sons," Craig said. "I love my father a lot, but to be quite honest, as far as relating to me as an adult, Les was just fantastic. He was a great listener and always provided fantastic counsel – for all of us guys. We would talk about our personal walks with Christ.

"The thing about Les – he wouldn't just give you unsolicited advice. He would wait for you to come to him. He might say something to the effect, 'Are you OK? Do you need to talk?' He would never say, 'If I were you, I'd do this.' Unless you asked him."

Les was inspirational in our own Al Evans deciding to become a deacon.

"He was very informative about the diaconate and what was involved in forming to the diaconate," Al said. "I was encouraged all the more to pursue it. It felt like the right thing to do." So much so that Al asked Les 5 1/2 years later to be the honored person to first place the vestments on him. As was also the case with Paul Wood.

"I was deeply, deeply moved by his ministry," Al said. "Les had a spirituality that was really, really

appealing to me and to other people. He had intense love and compassion for others."

When Al learned that Les didn't have long to live, he visited him as soon as he could, his dear friend no longer conscious.

"I tried to be as loving and caring to him as he would have been," Al said.

At the vigil service, the family made available the transcript of one of Deacon Les' favorite homilies. It expounded on the Parable of the 10 Virgins from the Book of Matthew. He implored us to be vigilant and passionate about our faith long before we seek the Lord's mercy:

*"Consider all that the Lord has done for you and then look at all you need to be doing for the Lord. If you heed his Word and obey his Will, then you'll be filled with His Grace and His Spirit. Why not let the Lord fill your lamps with his oil of salvation, and with his saving power that will get you all the way home. The time is now to us to get ready, be ready and stay ready for the Lord's return. **Whatever you do from this day forth, don't get caught without any oil in your vessel!"***



Council Monthly Meetings

General Meeting Every 1st Tuesday 7:30pm
Officer's & Directors Every 3rd Tuesday 7:30pm

Postal address and meeting location

Knights of Columbus
1111 W. Danieldale Rd Room #221
Duncanville, Tx. 75137 USA
(972) 298-4971

KC District 86 – Assembly 2799

Council 8157 Officers

The Council Officer's listed below were officially installed for their first term in office on July 14, 2016. Their term runs through June 2017.

Grand Knight	Jim Richardson
Deputy Grand Knight	Tom Greco
Chancellor	Jeff Miller
Recording Secretary	Jim Stavinoha
Treasurer	Mike Fitzgerald
Warden	La'Don Wright
Inside Guard	James Smith
Outside Guard	Tony Gonzalez
Financial Secretary	Peter Perta
Advocate	Russell Gully
Lecturer	Jim Russell
District Deputy	Andy Goza
Chaplain	Fr. Joe Lee
Trustees	Nick Kleinhaus, 3-year Frank Salazar, 2-year Bill Dover, 1-year

Service Program Directors

Awareness Committee	Jorge Ruiz
Baseball Committee	Allen Reitmeier
Football Committee	James Smith
Church Activities	Jim Stavinoha
Community Activities	Dan Murphy
Council Activities	Andy Goza
Family Activities	Jeff Miller
Health Activities	Pat Stepniewski
Knight Hands	Allen Reitmeier
Pro-Like Activities	Mike Moloughney

Youth Activities

Larry Dumais
Art Senato

Knights Life Newsletter

Our Newsletter is published quarterly at the end of the following months: March, June, September, and December. 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 will be available at the general meeting.

Newsletter Editor and Publisher Allen Reitmeier
Newsletter & Website Writers

Jeff Miller, Allen Reitmeier, Jim Kowalski, Jorge Ruiz

Newsletter and Website Photographer

Tony Gonzalez, Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz, Andy Goza

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 membership roster is available in paper form to all Knights in good stand at the general meeting

Knight of the Month Jan 2017



Dan Keough

Dan has been a valued influence on parish life at Holy Spirit for decades and has brought that same energy and commitment to KC business since joining the council in October

2015 – about 10 years after he was first pursued, as he recalls it. Dan is a proud Hoosier who came to Texas with wife Anne and their four children in the earliest days of the parish after Dan’s work with the Army security agency and AAFES had taken the Keoughs to various stops across Asia and New Jersey. Dan and Anne began doing Catholic marriage encounters in the Far East, and they worked together in the Holy Spirit’s office of adult and family ministry. They’d been married 43 years when Anne passed away in February 2013. Dan’s faith life was established early on as the oldest of five boys and increased from there when he became active in the CYO. That included a trip to New York in the early 1960s, when he got to hear a talk given by President John Kennedy. His KC “family tree” includes his father, an uncle and three brothers-in-law. Dan quietly goes about volunteering for the council, the parish and the diocese. A big sports fan overall, he likely knows more about soccer than you do. The grown Keough kids have provided him with five grandchildren across the Dallas area.

Knight of the Month Feb 2017



Greg Warr

Greg has been a member of our council since late in 2012 and has become a valuable contributor to the committee that oversees our baseball concessions

operations in Cedar Hill. Greg is responsible for all the accounting for the Council in regard to baseball receipts and expenditures and year end summaries. Greg is a native Arkansan and originally joined the Order in 1980. He came to Texas to follow his father in the telecommunications business and is an area manager for AT&T. Greg took his major degrees in May 2013. He and wife Debbie have been married for 17 1/2 years and live in Duncanville; she’s semi-retired. They have two grown sons — Chad in Mansfield and Ryan in Dallas — plus three grandchildren

Knight of the Month Mar 2017



Jeffrey Traub

Special Olympics has long been an emphasis of the Order, and, Jeffrey has been involved in that as both a participant and coach. He joined our council

last May and added his major degrees the following month. Jeffrey lives in Duncanville and often walks to Mass. He most often attends the 5:30 Saturday Mass, which prompted SK Tom Greco, a long-time member of that Mass’ music ministry, to invite Jeffrey to join 8157. Jeffrey was born in Chicago but moved to North Texas at a young age with his family. He joined the council soon after his mother, Burma Wodek, and his stepfather, Ken Wodek, passed away. Jeffrey was among the council members who rolled up their sleeves and donated at the KC-sponsored parish blood drive in mid-March. You can always count on Jeffrey to have a smile on his face.

Baseball is Underway

Little League baseball began with a “bang” this past weekend of February 25th and 26th as Cedar Hill Baseball hosted 50 teams out of a 171 team Metroplex NIT tournament. Those 50 teams played 61 games at Valley Ridge Park on Saturday and Sunday and 31 games were played at Dot Thomas Park as well on Saturday and Sunday. Since the weather was cool, few drinks were sold; but the hot cooked food was a real hit. The two locations served about 700 hot dogs, 350 Nachos, at least 100 servings of chicken nuggets, countless French fries – well you get the idea how busy everyone was who volunteered during the tournament.

Frank Salazar and Jim Russell kicked off the activities at 7:00am at Dot Thomas; Jim Kowalski and Dick Bates worked the middle shift and Mike Rumsey and Jim Stavinoha work the very late (until 10pm) last shift. On Sunday at Dot Thomas, Mario Ramos and Jesse Radillo begin the day at 7:00am and were relieved by Peter and Bimbo Perta who worked the middle shift. The final shift was very late again, but Chris Kubin and Dan Keough stuck it out until the end (again about 10pm).

While Dot Thomas was operating, John Espree, Arthur Migala, Hector Rubio, Dan Kurtenback and his two sons B.J and Josh worked the first shift at Valley Ridge starting at 7am. Eric Conner, Russell Gully, Steve Castillo, Hector Lopez, and Ray Rivera handled the very busy middle shift. Games were being played on all 5 fields. Jorge Ruiz, Cathy Ruiz, and Jose Montoya worked the closing shift (also concluding around 10pm). On Sunday Mike Fitzgerald, Chris Edwards, Trevor Edwards, and Tom Greco handled the early shift again starting at 7am. David Dybala, Jerry Jacob, Toni Jacob, Jan Araki, Tony Almanza and Eric Conner worked the middle shift and Roy Cormier, Rod Kinard, and Dan Murphy closed out the tournament late Sunday night. A very special thank you to Eric Conner who worked extra-long on Saturday afternoon and then helped again for nearly 5 hours on Sunday. Special thanks to Jose Montoya who worked with only 30 minutes notice.

In total these Knights worked approximately 192 hours for which they generated about \$3800 in income; so for each hour worked these Knights and Knightettes generated nearly \$20 per hour. What a wonderful way to start out 2017. To those who decided to work during this tournament, the baseball committee (James Smith and Andy Goza – buyers; Greg Warr – accountant; Mike Rumsey – maintenance) thanks you so much for your time and effort. This will probably be the only “thank you” you will receive so know that your work was much appreciated.



Dick Bates and Jim Kowalski



Peter and Bimbo Perta at Dot Thomas



Hector Lopez, Eric Conner and Ray Rivera

The baseball season has extended beyond the initial tournament. In fact, since the opening tournament depicted on page 4, Knights have participated in an additional 120 games and have generated a large sum of income. The regular season league began on March 25th and will continue until the end of May. In addition Southwest Classic has also scheduled numerous games usually on Monday and Thursday evenings. All league games are scheduled on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings and all day Saturdays. Thus far Knights have been involved in 4 tournaments and these are held on Saturday and Sunday.

Two additional tournaments are scheduled in the near future and those dates are April 22 – 23rd and 29 – 30th. These tournaments will be held on Saturday and Sunday at both Valley Ridge and Dot Thomas. Please be ready to help when called upon to man the concession stands during these two weekends. These tournaments require a minimum of 36 Knights for each weekend. More tournaments will be scheduled in last May and early June.

And please remember our biggest event of the year – the annual Class A little league World Series which runs from June 21st through June 25th. For this 5 day event we will need 120 Knights working 4.5 hour shifts. Again please be prepared help at this tournament as well. More detail as the World Series approaches.

Thanks to all those who have worked this unusually successful year thus far; especially the weekday and Saturday Captains. And they are Tony Almanza – Monday evenings; Allen Reitmeier – Tuesday evenings; Jim Russell – Thursday evenings and John Espree – Saturday mornings. Thanks also to those who work on a regular basis – Ernie Coy, Efrain Ochoa, Ray Rivera, Mike Rumsey, Dan Murphy, Carlos Favela, Frank Hernandez, Hector Rubio, Arthur Migala, Eric Conner, Russell Gully, Steve Castillo, and Roy Cormier.

Please be courteous when called upon to help at the concession stand and respond with a “yes” or “no” as soon as you can. Not responding only makes the scheduling job nearly impossible. Thanks for your consideration.



Arthur Migala and John Espree (and grandson)



Dan Murphy, Roy Cormier, and Rod Kinard



Hector Rubio

Family of the Month Jan 2017



Larry
and
Sheila
Balagna

The Balagnas are enjoying retirement,

thank you, and the parish and our KC council are the beneficiaries of their increased opportunity to give their time and talent so lovingly. Larry was most recently the event coordinator at Northwood University in Cedar Hill until October 2013. Sheila was credit manager for Gibraltar Industries before retiring that same year. They came to Texas in 1995 from Illinois. Larry joined the council in 1995 after two of their three sons were already Knights and completed his Fourth Degree almost a year ago. Larry is often ready to lend a hand, whether it's a KC breakfast, set-up and take-down for the fall festival or helping at the baseball concession stand. (Larry and Allen Reitmeier built the divider wall in the football stand that we took over last fall.) Sheila is often organizing the festival's rummage clothing for months, and her parish volunteering includes the funeral ministry. They live in Duncanville, have six grandchildren and will celebrate their 44th anniversary in late January. Look for the Balagnas to be among the first couples to hit the dance floor during our upcoming council appreciation dinner.

Family of the Month Feb 2017



Andy,
Susan &
Madison
Goza

The ever-active Goza family celebrated another milestone in their faith life when Madison was confirmed by Auxiliary Bishop Greg Kelly at Madison's school, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, on Feb. 25. Andy has packed a great deal into his time with the Knights, which began during the summer of 2008. He served as the council's Grand Knight for the fraternal years of 2010-11 and '11-12. His current KC duties include serving on the council level as our director of council activities, a member of 8157's degree team and as District Deputy as well as on the Fourth Degree level as Assembly 2799's Faithful Navigator. Susan is a flight attendant for American Airlines. All three are typically involved in the 5:30 p.m. Saturday Mass — Andy as a hospitality minister, Susan as a Eucharistic Minister and Madison as an altar server.

Family of the Month Mar 2017



Mike and
Susan
Fitzgerald

Mike recently joined Susan in retirement, and

the long-time Ovilla residents are ready to see more of the world. They'll spend nine days in late March on a cruise through central Europe. Next fall, they plan to cross the Atlantic again with some fellow parishioners to see Ireland. Mike took his first and major degrees early in 1999, was our Knight of the Year in 2011 and has served as council treasurer since the previous century. He and Susan celebrated their 36th anniversary in November. Mike recently retired from Allianz Insurance after almost 17 years, most recently as a senior underwriter for ocean cargo. Susan retired two years ago following a career in education, her last position being librarian at DeSoto West Middle School. They have three grown children spread from the HEB area of Tarrant County to Lewisville to Midland and 11 grandchildren. Mike and Susan have been involved in multiple parish ministries for years. "It's a great group of guys in the council and a lot of fine folks in the parish," Mike said.

Free-throw contest – January 2017

The council's annual free-throw contest was held in the gym at St. Elizabeth School in Oak Cliff on Tuesday evening, Jan. 10, with nine boys participating. Since the council event doubled as the District 109 competition, the five age-group winners all advanced directly to the state contest. That will be held at nearby Bishop Dunne Catholic School on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 19. All five winners are also St. Elizabeth students.

The winners were: Jeremiah Navarro in the 9-year-old division. Jeremiah lives in DeSoto. If his name is familiar, he's the grandson of our own John Espree and Bonnie; Kamo Davis in the 10-year-old division. Kamo lives in Dallas; Donald Smith in the 11-year-old division. Donald also lives in DeSoto; Ricky Hernandez in the 12-year-old division. Ricky lives in Cedar Hill and is the latest of the Hernandez brothers to excel in this event; Stephen Guerrero in the 13-year-old division. Stephen lives in Midlothian and is the son of Bishop Dunne assistant principal Steve Guerrero, who is a member of KC Council 12484 based out of St. Francis of Assisi in Lancaster. Stephen has been competing from the 9-year-old division on and has been a multiple winner and previously reached the state contest.

The contest was masterfully run once again by Andy Goza, our church activities director. Other Knights who helped were John Espree, Larry Dumais, Jeff Miller, Pete Perta, James Smith, Jim Stavinoha and Council 12484's Rich Bollinger.



Madison and Andy Goza

Another successful blood drive – March 2017

Patrick Stepniewski is the council's go-to guy for blood drives and has been since even before there was a Council 8157 at Holy Spirit. Thanks in great measure to Pat's efforts, 48 people donated or attempted to donate at the council's annual winter drive, held in the community center gym on Sunday, March 12. That was an excellent total considering the number of parish families that were out of town for spring break. The Carter BloodCare crew that traveled from Bedford arrived early and was off and running from the start. Pat was aided at various times during the six-hour drive by SK Jim Stavinoha, SK Jim Russell, SK Andy Goza, SK Jeff Miller, John Espree and Mike Clark. Council members were included among those who donated: Russell, Miller, Espree, SK James Smith, Victor Zaragoza, Steve Castillo, Carlos Favela, Allen Reitmeier, Jeffrey Traub and Miguel Hernandez. Think of the lives across the Dallas-Fort Worth area that were aided by spending a few minutes in the Holy Spirit gym



Jeff Miller, Pat Stepniewski, and Gerry Jacob

Knight Hands Progress Report

I am once again humbled by the work that Knights are doing in the parish community to help those in need. It is not easy for someone to ask for help. Everyone wants to take care of themselves; but sometimes more is needed. And that is when Knight Hands comes into the picture. Since the publication of the January Newsletter, Knight Hands has completed 13 projects. They range from 1 hour of work to 35 hours of work. A number of these projects involved repairing or replacing yard fences. Knight Hands also replaced two sets of brake pads during this period. Knight Hands also replaced a water heater and repaired a leaking water line. It doesn't seem to matter what the problems are – Knight Hands has the talent and the desire to solve the issue.

Just to clarify a few things about Knight Hands. First of all, all Knight Hand projects must be recommended by a member of this Council. The projects should be in the parish area community. Anyone is eligible for assistance if: 1. they are unable to do the work themselves; 2. they have no friends, neighbors, or relative to do the work for them; 3 they own the home; and 4. they agree to sign a “hold harmless” agreement. All material necessary to complete a project is paid for by the Knights of Columbus – there is never a charge for work performed. All work is performed by a minimum of two Knight Hands. Liability insurance is provided by the Knights of Columbus and personal injury insurance is provided by each Knight Hands own personal insurance. All tools are provided by Knights Hands. Any Knight can be a Knight Hand.

If you want the satisfying feeling of helping someone in need in the immediate area, sign on as a Knight Hands. To do so simply call (214-850-3602) or email (alreitmeier@gmail.com) Allen Reitmeier. Many of you have already done so; but there can never be too many Knight Hands. Remember also that any Knight can recommend someone for assistance.

Thanks so much to the regular Knight Hands: Ray Rivera, Hector Rubio, David Dybala, Larry Balagna, Jack Ramsden, Jose Montoya, Efrain Ochoa, Jeff Miller, Dan Murphy and Ken Rarick.



Fish Fry - 2017

Dozens of council members again pitched in during Lent to provide a tremendous service to Holy Spirit parishioners and other guests with the six-week series of fish fry Fridays in the community center gym. Attendance was up over last year, with an estimated 185-200 patrons each week. Hats off to Jim Stavinoha, the director of church activities, for not only continuing to provide quality products and service to our guests but also for adding more food items plus more interaction with the parish. He introduced a baked potato meal and *elotes* (corn in a cup) and invited parishioners to contribute items from their own recipes. Those who took advantage of that opportunity included out own James and Judy Smith (pea salad) and Pete and “Bimbo” Perta (macaroni casserole). Tony Gonzalez’s fish tacos were again a big hit (“One guy said, ‘I don’t want the other stuff. I just want the fish tacos,’ ” Jim recalled.) Congratulations to our second-annual winner of the flat-screen TV raffle, Barbara Cadman. Jim added: “I’m very pleased with how things went. I thank everybody who helped.”



Jim Stavinoha

