

# Knights Life



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

Holy Spirit Catholic Church – Duncanville, Tx,

## Council 8157 voted Dallas Diocese Chapter Council of the Year!

The Knights of Columbus Council 8157 was awarded the high honor of “DDC Council of the Year” (out of 60 councils in the Diocese) at the [Dallas Diocese Chapter](#) Year End Meeting and Awards Banquet. The sold out event took place at Council 799 Hall in Dallas on Thursday, May 31, 2018. Special guest speaker for the evening was [Auxiliary Bishop Most Reverend Gregory Kelly](#) who delivered an inspiring speech about the importance of the Knights of Columbus to the Dallas Diocese, Parishes, and community at large. Immediately after the award was picked up by Deputy Grand Knight Tom Greco, a video presentation was shown to the audience.

Tom Greco, Council 8157 Deputy Grand Knight receives award for DDC Council of the Year from the President of the Dallas Diocese Chapter Gary Labac, while Bishop Kelly standing in back looks on.

Those in attendance at the banquet from our council were **Jim & Lillian Kowalski, Jeff & Frances Miller, James & Judy Smith, Jim Russell, Tom Greco, Andy Goza and Jorge Ruiz.**



From left: Tom Greco, Dallas Diocese Auxiliary Bishop Most Reverend Gregory Kelly, Jorge Ruiz, Jeff Miller, Jim Russell and Andy Goza.

## About our Council

### Council Monthly Meetings

General Meeting every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 7:30pm  
Officer's & Directors every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 7:30pm

### Postal address and meeting location

1111 W Danieldale Rd. Room 221  
Duncanville Tx, 75116 USA  
972-298-4971

### KC District 86 - Assembly 2799

The council Officers listed below were officially installed for their 2<sup>nd</sup> term in office on July 8, 2017. Their term runs through June 2018

<b>Grand Knight</b>	Tom Greco
<b>Deputy Grand Knight</b>	Jeff Miller
<b>Chancellor</b>	Jorge Ruiz
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Jim Russell
<b>Treasurer</b>	James Smith
<b>Warden</b>	Art Senato
<b>Inside Guard</b>	Tony Gonzalez
<b>Outside Guard</b>	Jeff Traub
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Peter Perta
<b>Advocate</b>	Russell Gully
<b>Lecturer</b>	Jim Russell
<b>District Deputy</b>	Andy Goza
<b>Chaplain</b>	Fr. Joe Lee
<b>Trustees</b>	Dan Murphy, 3-year Mike Fitzgerald, 2-year Jim Richardson, 1-year

### Service Program Directors

Awareness Committee	Jorge Ruiz
Football Committee	Jim Richardson
Church Activities	James Smith
Community Activities	Dan Murphy
Council Activities	Andy Goza

Family Activities	Jorge Ruiz
Health Activities	Pat Stepniewski
Pro-Like Activities	Mike Moloughney
Youth Activities	Art Senato
	Mike Moloughney
Knight Hands	Allen Reitmeier
Membership	Keith Archer

### 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, Jorge Ruiz

**Newsletter and Website Photographer**  
Allen Reitmeier, Jorge Ruiz,

### 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 your junk/span folder.

**Email address:** [admin@kofc8157.org](mailto: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  
Apr 2018**

**Elvis Fajardo**

First-year brother Elvis was one of the constants of the council's recent run of Lenten fish fries. He not only took charge of preparing the po' boys in the kitchen each Friday but also came by on Thursdays to get a head start on the casseroles. Elvis joined the council in September, responding to an invitation from Jim Kowalski, and immediately became a regular attendee of our monthly general membership meetings. The Fajardos came to our area from New Orleans in 2003. Elvis and wife Thelma will celebrate their 17th anniversary on April 20. They are proud parents to two daughters, 14-year-old Ana-Isabel and 10-year-old Vanessa.



**Knight of the Month  
May 2018**

**Jorge Barragan**

Eight years ago, Jorge was a regular member of the Saturday morning men's group at Holy Spirit that was organized by Dan Keough. Another attendee was Andy Goza, who happened to mention that Jorge, who was active in parish activities such as setting up for the fall festival, was a natural to join the Knights since he was already doing so many "KC things."

And Jorge did just that. His entry predated the creation of the council's degree team, so Andy and Tom Greco took him to a ceremony in Waxahachie. That's where Jorge grew up, going from Waxahachie High to Cedar Valley College in Lancaster to UT-Arlington, where he earned an engineering degree. After working for a few firms, he and two partners started their own company that's based in Grand Prairie. Work took him to Victoria for the past five years, but the Barragans returned this way about a year and resettled in Waxahachie. Jorge and wife Eva have been married for 14 years. They met in Laredo when Jorge was visiting family there. The Barragans have five children: Galilea (13), Jimena (10), Jorge Jr. (6), Lucia (5) and little Mariana, who was born this year on Holy Thursday.



**Knight of the Month  
June 2018**

**Ray Rivera**

The Knights of Columbus are often referred to collectively as "the strong right arm" of the Catholic Church. Ray is one of the members of our council who embody that literally, often with a spatula, a hammer or a power tool in his right hand. Rare is the 8157 cookout in which he isn't on hand to help with the cooking and everything that makes such events such a success. He likewise often makes himself available for Knight Hands projects no matter the complexity of the job. Ray is from Oak Cliff and has been a Holy Spirit parishioner since 1985. He joined the Order in October 2011 and earned his major degrees right here at Holy Spirit in February 2014. Ray has been retired since 2009 following a long career in the trucking business that took him from coast to coast and border to border.

## St Joseph's Residence Cookout May 2018

What a beautiful scene it was on Saturday morning/afternoon May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018, as the Knights of Columbus and some of their mates and grandchildren gathered at the St Joseph assisted living home in Oak Cliff for the semi-annual cook-out for the 55 residents who live there and their families. On this day before Mother's day a strong contingency of Knights provided not only food for the residents and their families; but emotional support for all. In spite of difficult circumstance for many of the residents; everyone seemed to be happy and certainly enthusiastic – they were definitely looking forward to a meal of hamburgers, hot dogs, beans, chips, and cookies with all the fixings. Mike Fitzgerald provided the beans and cookies as usual.



David Dybala and Renaldo Estrellas manned the grill with able assistance from Billy Callender and Doug Karpan. The burgers were soooo good. Everyone else just pitched and did whatever was needed; whether it was on the serving line or helping some of the residents fill their plates. Not a harsh word was ever spoken.

Sheila Balagna regaled us with a melody of tune on the piano while the residents and their families made their way through the serving line. The dining room was truly a happy place. Since there were many Knights in attendance, there was ample time for conversation between the Knights and with the residents as well. Those in attendance were: Larry Balagna, Sheila Balagna, Jim Russell. Allen Reitmeier, Al Evans, Jackie Evans, Keith Archer, John Balasa, Riley Via (granddaughter of Dan Murphy), Jorge Ruiz, Elvis Fajardo, Jack Ramsden, Roy Cormier, Ray Rivera, Ed O'Brien, Billy Callender, Reynaldo Estrellas, David Dybala, and Doug Karpan. Of course, the Knight who puts this all together, Dan Murphy, was also in attendance to assure that all went well – and it sure did. The residents received a tasty meal; but the

Knights got a lot out of this event as well. It's just a humbling experience to see so many dedicated men and women give of their time to bring smiles to the faces of the residents knowing that the love the Knights showed fell on open hearts. Larry Balagna summed up his feelings about the event by saying "I look forward to this every time. I enjoy talking to the residents and they are so appreciative". First time attendee, Elvis Fajardo said "My first impression at St. Joseph's was a great one; everyone is happy, talkative and enthusiastic. I definitely will be back and bring the family". Ed O'Brien, who has been to many, many of these events said "It's good to get with the guys and do something honorable as well".



Sister Carolina Sanchez Botero, the Director of St. Joseph's was also grateful for the time and effort of the Knights. She was also busy during the meals assuring that everyone in her care was properly taken care of; which included her carrying multiple trays of food to individual rooms to those residents who were not mobile enough to attend on their own.



Dan Murphy, Director of Community Activities summed up the day by saying: "The Knights of Columbus have been cooking for St. Joseph's for at least 15 years. This is a great opportunity to both feed the residents and also to meet them and socialize. Since many of the residents have little contact with the outside world, this gives them a chance to talk to a caring individual who is willing to listen. St Joseph's home is a great asset to the local community and we feel honored to help out in a small way".

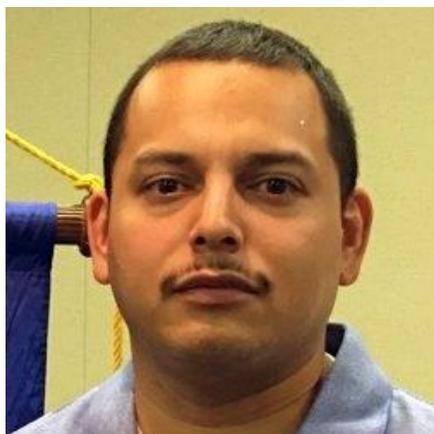
## Family of the Month – April 2018



Tom  
Greco  
and  
Helen  
Beggane

Tom can tell you the date that he joined the Knights — Nov. 13, 2007 (back us up on this, Tom), and he took his major degree two months later. Tom and Helen have been parishioners since they arrived in Texas from Omaha in 1982. Their devotion to the parish is probably best explained by the following anecdote. In 1984, Tom was unemployed for two months. After hearing the doorbell one day, he discovered on the front porch an envelope of money that unidentified parishioners left. “Holy Spirit was a haven for us in a new town and part of the country,” he said. “We found a family here.” They soon after were invited to join the choir for the 5:30 Saturday Mass and have singing and strumming then ever since. Tom is in his second fraternal year as our Deputy Grand Knight and also serves as the Faithful Scribe of Assembly 2799. He spearheaded the creation of 8157’s degree team in 2012 and was recognized as the council’s Knight of the Year in 2014. Tom and Helen will celebrate their 43rd anniversary on April 19.

## Family of the Month – May 2018



Victor Jr.  
and  
Valerie  
Zaragoza

The Zaragozas just finished another year of youth Faith Formation teaching, providing instruction to a class of fifth graders. “It’s fun to teach the kids our faith,” Victor said, “but it also serves as a refresher for yourself.” Victor and Valerie have been married for 10 years. They met when they were eighth graders, both involved in the youth ministry at St. James parish in Oak Cliff. Victor joined our council in July 2016, taking the plunge after talking to some Knights at one of the Friday summer snow-cone sessions. They live in Cedar Hill with their three children: Natalie (8), Victor III (4) and Vincent (3). Victor graduated from Townview High, Mountain View College and the University of Phoenix online program. He’s employed by a law firm in Plano.

## Family of the Month June 2018



Larry and  
Sheila  
Balagna

The Balagnas were again here, there and everywhere among council activities during the past three months. They were part of the 8157 contingent that drove up to the St. Joseph’s Catholic residence home in Oak Cliff to provide a wonderful cookout lunch on the Saturday before Mothers’ Day. Sheila was part of the bonus entertainment that day, playing the piano in the dining room to everyone’s delight. They also staffed our concession stand at the Dot Thomas recreation complex solo for multiple shifts during the youth baseball season. Larry is also one of the “go-to” guys for our Knights Hands efforts. The Balagnas came to Texas from Illinois in 1995 and are enjoying retirement, which has included travel with Holy Spirit groups. Larry was most recently the event coordinator at Northwood University in Cedar Hill, retiring in October 2013. Sheila was credit manager for Gibraltar Industries before leaving that same year. They have been married for 45 years and are involved in multiple aspects of Holy Spirit ministry.

# A Message from Grand Knight Jim Richardson



## To All My Council 8157 Brothers:

As I complete my second year as your Grand Knight of our Council on June 30th, I wanted to let everyone of you know what a pleasure and honor it has been for me to have had the opportunity to serve our parish community working by your side on the many projects that we have successfully undertaken. None of the accomplishments we have achieved would have been possible without your many contributions of hard work, time away from families, and the many other sacrifices that you have made to make our Council the most outstanding Council of the Dallas Diocese.

I know that we can all agree that we have implemented our principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism to the highest degree possible and that we will continue to do so in the future under our new leadership.

For those brother Knights who have not been able to assume a more active role in our Council, I would urge you to realize that this is your opportunity to contribute your time, talents, and willingness to promote Knighthood in our Parish Community. There is a place for everyone in our Council and I know that everyone can play a role in the advancement of our Principles.

None of our successes would have been possible without the contributions of our families who make it possible for us to take an active role in our Council. To them I personally want to express my most sincere appreciation for their patience and understanding. May God bless all of them in a most special way.

And to you, my brothers, I thank you so sincerely for all the help you have been to me and to our Council.

Vivat Jesus!

**Jim Richardson,**  
Grand Knight  
K of C Council 8157

## Spring Concession Report

Our council recently finished the spring baseball concessions season, the first following the handoff from longtime baseball concessions director Allen Reitmeier to the newly-merged concessions committee for both baseball and football that included Andy Goza, Jim Richardson, Mike Rumsey, James Smith and Jim Stavinoha plus late-addition Jeff Miller for scheduling.

The regular season was reasonably free of rainouts, far different from a 2017 season that saw many of the Monday schedules washed out with games primarily on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. We also worked a handful of additional Saturday-Sunday tournaments plus the concluding event, the Class A World Series that ran from Thursday, June 21 through Sunday, June 24 and was preceded by the event's full day of registration, team photos and skills competition for the players.

Thanks to all of the Knights who played a role in another successful spring concessions season. We even had one weekend of adult flag football on top of baseball. All of the members of the concessions committee devoted extensive time and effort. Beyond time spent at the stands, that included the

periodic early-morning shopping runs to Sam's Club to keep the stands adequately stocked.

There also was a new look to the primary Valley Ridge stand, one that benefitted both volunteers and customers. The Cedar Hill Baseball Association bought a new freezer, a new refrigerator and a new ice-shaving machine for making snow cones.

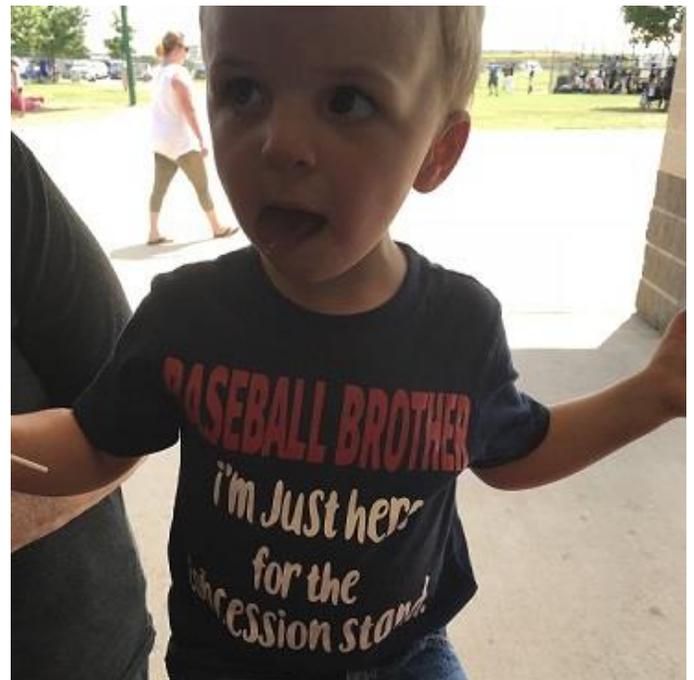
Our spring captains were Efrain Ochoa and Dan Murphy on weeknights and John Espree and Russell Gully for the first two of three Saturday shifts. Regular volunteers on weeknights and/or weekends who helped the committee members were Allen, Tom Greco, Ray Rivera, Dan Keough, Deacon Al Evans, Arthur Migala, Hector Rubio, Eric Connor, Wendell Jean Pierre, Aaron Rohmer, Tony Gonzalez (plus sons Nathan, Isaiah and Kristopher), Steve Zehnder, Mario Ramos, Pete Perta, Steve Castillo, Howard Bohlin, Larry Balagna (and wife Sheila) and Keith Archer (and wife Mary).



The World Series was something of a different animal this year because it was held only at the Valley Ridge complex instead of extending into other facilities, such as the Dot Thomas fields. Hence, there were “only” 127 games this year – plus the busy Wednesday, during which many of the teams spent

much of the day. Jim Stavinoha was our “wake-up man,” present to open the stand each morning. Andy Goza and James Smith, in addition to working most days throughout the day and keeping the stand stocked, handled additional “unseen” duties such as making hundreds of pickle pops (they sure are popular!) plus preparing brisket and turkey legs. A number of Knights worked shifts on multiple days: Eric Connor (despite an uncooperative water pump in his car), Jim Russell, Mike Fitzgerald, Jorge Barragan, Wendell Jean Pierre, the Archers, John Balasa, Ken Rarick, Pete Perta, David Dybala, Hector Rubio and Roy Cormier. In addition to families who have already been mentioned, World Series staffing was done by Dan Kurtenbach and sons T.J. and Josh, Ben Burns and son Tim, Jay Trapp and wife Karen plus Jeff Miller and wife Frances.

We saw some concessions first-timers during the World Series among both council newcomers and 8157 veterans: Mike Lewis and Craig Reves. If you go back and read about past baseball seasons/World Series, you’ll recognize names of first-timers who this season were among our regular volunteers.



Every shift during a World Series is important. It's often the only time that a particular Knight can make it out to the stand. Thanks to: Lou Lemons, Patrick Stepniewski, Hendrik Mason, Jorge Ruiz, Efrain Ochoa, Dan Keough, Craig Reves, Tony Almanza, Dan Murphy, Deacon Al Evans, Rod Constant, John Espree, Arthur Migala, Jesse Radillo, Russell Gully, Victor Zaragoza, Juan Hernandez, Rod Kinard, Miguel Hernandez, Mike Lewis, Mike Moloughney and Rey Estrellas,

Apologies if anyone who should have been recognized among those categories wasn't.

Allen and Linda Reitmeier were in their native Minnesota during the World Series tending to Linda's father, Ralph Lauer. Mr. Lauer passed away that Wednesday following a long illness with his funeral Mass held the following Monday. The Reitmeiers were in our thoughts and prayers throughout that time and continue to be.

To paraphrase a familiar Knights saying, the concessions operation is the strong right arm of Council 8157, which happened to be recognized by the diocese as its Council of the Year for the 2017-18 fraternal year. Thanks to the many brothers who make it possible. And if you haven't participated in this council activity, please consider pitching in. (Fall baseball and youth football will be here before you know it.)

## Welcome New Knights

### Roberto Diaz – June 2018 transfer

Roberto recently reactivated at the urging of Frank Salazar and Tom Greco. He retired as a master sergeant following 24 years in the U.S. Army in 1997 and most recently was a member of the council that serves Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He retired from his most recent civilian line of work, teaching Junior ROTC at Molina High School in Dallas, in

2016. Roberto and his wife of 44 years, Juanita, have been Holy Spirit parishioners since 1999. They're both from San Antonio. Roberto is a hospitality minister at our 11 a.m. Sunday Mass and is also active around Holy Spirit as an ACTS team member. The Diazes have two grown children; their daughter (living in Trophy Club) has two boys, and their son (living in Plano) has two girls.

### Francisco "Frank" Bernal – May 2018

Frank has lived in Duncanville for most of his life. But during his high school years, his family apparently lived in a sliver of the city that sent its children to Cedar Hill schools. Hence, he's a graduate of Cedar Hill High. Frank then went on to Mountain View College and UT-Arlington. He has worked for the City of Dallas, in water utilities, for the past six years. Frank and wife Priscilla have two children, Joseph (14) and Isabella (9). Priscilla is a manager at Children's Place. Frank helps his mother, Juanita, teach children's Faith Formation at Holy Spirit (first-graders). He likes to hunt and fish in his spare time, and Priscilla will often join him doing the latter. Frank saw Knights all around him doing things to help the parish and, given how much the parish has meant to him and his family through the years, decided he wanted to be of an organization that gave back.

### Kavin Stuckly – June 2018 transfer

First of all, the first name is pronounced with a short "a" sound, like former SMU football coach Mike Cavan. Kavin and his family have lived in Duncanville since 2009, and he recently decided to transfer his KC membership over from the council in North Richland Hills, just northeast of Fort Worth. Kavin grew up in the town of West, just north of Waco, and headed down there to attend both McLennan Community College and Baylor University (graduating with a degree in computer information systems). Kavin and wife Kathleen have been married 20 years. She works from home for United Health Care. They have two sons; Nathan (19) and Zachary (17) both have Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism, and live at home. Kavin has been a Knight for more than 10 years, said he wasn't terribly active in the North Richland Hills council, and is looking forward to figuratively rolling up his sleeves with us.