



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ALL SAINTS COUNCIL 9709 NEWSLETTER

April-June 2025



THIS ISSUE'S HIGHLIGHTS WITH MUCH MORE INSIDE!



OLR Food Drive



Star Council



Welcome New Knights



Philanthropy



Altar Servers Recognition



State Winner!



Good Friday Stations



Mother's Day Breakfast



Memorial Day Mass



Appreciation Dinner

BUCKLE UP FOR A BUSY QUARTER!



What is the Jubilee?

The Jubilee, also known as the Holy Year, is an extraordinary and solemn event of the Catholic Church that occurs every 25 years. This special year is dedicated to reconciliation, conversion, and spiritual renewal, offering the faithful the opportunity to receive the plenary indulgence. It is a celebration that not only involves Catholics but also draws respect and interest from other religious communities and people of goodwill.

The Jubilee of 2025 will last from December 24, 2024, to January 6, 2026 and represents a moment of great significance for millions of faithful from around the world. It will be the second ordinary Jubilee presided over by Pope Francis, following the extraordinary Jubilee of 2015 dedicated to mercy.

May our Grand Knight's closing message from 2024 be the guiding beacon for our Council throughout 2025!

Gentlemen, as we enter this Jubilee year, a year of hope, may we make our hearts a safe haven for this infant Jesus. May we continue to be a beacon of God's radiance within us to our families, our church and the least that dwell among us. Let our values of charity, unity and fraternity continue to wash away doubt and fear but rather build a refuge of peace that can only be found in a perfect relationship with Jesus.

WELCOME POPE LEO XVI



It was on the afternoon of May 8 that I'd given a ride to an elderly gentleman, who's both a Knight and a Secular Franciscan, from his retirement community to a bank. The bank manager had been going back and forth, between the counter and the lobby where he was seated, giving him papers to sign, explaining this and that to him, while I sat next to him. It was in the midst of this that he'd received an alert, on his phone, that white smoke had been spotted in the Vatican.

He tapped away at his phone so that he and I could watch the live video feed. We remained seated there at the edge of our seats in the bank lobby, probably for about 15 minutes after his dealings with the manager had been wrapped, to see who would emerge.

We didn't recognize the man whom the College of Cardinals had elected as Holy Father when he'd stepped onto the balcony. When the newly-elected pope spoke, in perfect Italian, we figured that he was probably Italian. That was when I received a text message from a Protestant friend of mine reading: "So, what do you think?"

"Trying to find out which cardinal it is," I texted back. "He's not one of those guys considered 'front runner.' It never is."

"First ever American, Prevost," she replied back. "He took the name Leo XIV."

"An American?" was my immediate thought. "I wonder what she meant by that?"

I also assumed that by "Prevost" she'd meant to type "provost." It was moments afterward that I realized that, yes, an American citizen is indeed been elected as pope.

I'd learned from the conclaves in 2005 (which happened when I was still a Muslim) and 2013 (which happened one year after I'd been confirmed in the Church) that one mustn't give much weight to any list of "front-runners" which the media provides. I knew that the Holy Father was most likely going to be someone whom hardly any of us suspected. But I didn't even consider imagining that I would live to see a pope who happened to be among our fellow countrymen.

That an American was elected as the pope came as a surprise to most all of us. Catholics only make up about 20-25% of our country's population (though we do have the fourth largest Catholic population in the world). A listing of the total number of canonized American saints is quite minuscule compared to some other countries such as Italy, Spain and France. It can be tempting to assume that our own country isn't "Catholic enough" for a man who'll go on to sit on St. Peter's throne to have been born on her soil. It can be even more tempting to assume that the Holy See would apply modern, and secular, political leanings to their own decisions, that an American wouldn't become the pope just as an American will never become General Secretary of the U.N.

But the Holy Spirit guided the College of Cardinals to elect Cardinal Robert Prevost, regardless of previous assumptions we may have had. My first impression was: a fellow American is now the Holy Father! Our own country, which we Knights are proud of, has added a very visible contribution to the rich history of our Church, which we are likewise very proud of!

It was in the days that followed that many of us learned more about Cardinal Robert Prevost. He was born in Chicago, happens to be a White Sox fan, and an Augustinian who'd attended Villanova University. Many of his years as a priest were spent in Peru, where he'd served as a bishop. His credentials are excellent.

He has been Pope Leo XIV for less than two months, as of the publication of this article. We'll see in the coming years in what ways his tenure as the Holy Father will be similar to, and how it will differ from, that of his predecessor, the late Pope Francis. We'll see how a fellow American, having grown up with so many of the notions which we ourselves hold dear, will apply his own lifetime of experience to lead a flock of more than a billion souls spanning all across the world.

But all that we can do, at this point, is wait and see.

I, for one, am rather excited to see what the future holds.

~ Featured Article Courtesy of Brother Zubair Simonson





STAR COUNCIL AWARD!



The Star Council Award recognizes outstanding achievement in membership, insurance and programming. In order to achieve the Star Council Award, a council must earn the Father McGivney, Founders', and Columbian Awards. Additionally, the council must submit both the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728) and Service Program Personnel Report (#365). In the United States and Canada councils must also be fully compliant with applicable safe environment requirements.

On Sunday, April 6th, Father Chris invited NC State officials to honor and award Council 9709 the Star Council Award for 2023/2024 under the leadership of our PGK, Shawn Bayle. Our Council has a rich legacy of performance having received this award five times in the past. PGK Michael Darrow took the award in 2007/2008 and more recently under PGK's Bob Weisenberger and David Payne. David Vogel-pohl took Double Star Council in 2006/2007.



Father Chris introduces
State Secretary, Sergio Miranda



Secretary Miranda Awards
PGK Shawn with Star Council

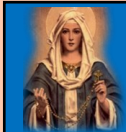


PGK Shawn acknowledges
the efforts and good works
Performed by all Council Brothers

WELCOME NEW KNIGHTS!



Also taking place on Sunday April 6th, our Council proudly welcomed in three new Knights awarding them with their Third Degree of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. Joining our Council as new Third Degree members were John Agori, Brody Crafts, and Christopher Wilkinson. Transferring into our Council was Luong Do, who introduced himself at the April Members meeting. Officiating were Tony Anello, joined by Brothers Sandy Gayle, Tommy Dalton, and David Payette with Brother Ralph Guenther as our Ceremonial Warden. Our Presiding Priest was Father Chris. Also present were dignitaries Worthy State Secretary Sergio Miranda, Worthy State Treasurer Joe McCarthy, District Deputy George Beserock and Regional Deputy Denis Carter. A special reception followed with a gourmet presentation by MaryBeth Bayle.



OLR SPRING FOOD DRIVE



"Hello Ashley, first I would like to start off with a big thank you to all the parishioners of Saint Francis, who continuously support our Food Pantry and for Mark for driving and getting to us safely and on time. Yes, the rain held out for us. Nothing like bringing in soggy bags-what a mess that would've been! Blessings, Roseann"

~Roseann Anderer, Our Lady of the Rosary Food Pantry Director message to Ashley Watson and Mark Baumgartner

Over the weekend of April 5th and 6th our very generous St Francis Parish family donated over 4,000# of food and goods along with \$3,524 in cash and checks. Lily Redder headed up the list of volunteers and organized the donations as they arrived. A very appreciative group of Our Lady of the Rosary parish members met our Worthy Treasurer, Mark Baumgartner and Brother Marty Schmidt to unload and store the donations that will serve those in need for months to come.

Going into its 13th year (25 Food Drives), the generous community of St Francis of Assisi has conducted these Food Drives for our sister Parish, Our Lady of the Rosary in Louisburg, NC. Over 20% of the population of that area live below the poverty level so this is a critical campaign to ensure food security for that region. A conservative estimate says that St Francis has delivered some 60 Tons of food and goods along with nearly \$100,000 in cash over that period! What a generous Parish community we enjoy!



STATE FREE THROW CONTEST WINNER!



Grayson accepting the Council Award
From Brother Will Austin in February



Grayson and dad Tim accepting the State Award from our own
Joe McCarthy, Worthy State Treasurer

Council 9709 held the annual Basketball Free Throw Challenge on Saturday, February 22 at the Assisi Community Center Gym. A total of 17 participants competed in two age groups, 9-11 and 12-14. Grayson Reis won in the younger age group with 13 out of 15 baskets! Then Grayson moves on to the State Level Competition and wins his age group! Congratulations, Grayson—St Francis Community is Proud of you!

EASTER PARKING AMBASSADORS

Easter Sunday



Those of us who worship at Christmas and Easter morning masses realize how hectic the campus parking lots can be during those times of the year. Families and friends visiting, kids home from college and others who find the Easter and Christmas masses comforting for their spirits make their way to St Francis to celebrate these special occasions.

For the past 14-15 years, Brother Steve Burdett has provided the leadership for this vital ministry. This Easter, Steve had help from Jim Hoose, Mike Rock, Michael Hoover and Bob Bagin to manage traffic safely on campus. We refer to them as Parking Ambassadors since they are more than "Brothers with Wands". They assist visitors with directions, especially important when Masses are being held in multiple locations. There are those with handicap

stickers who missed out on those precious few spots. That is when the Ambassador escorts that party to a drop off location for their loved one and then back to a secure spot in the lot. The job is usually easy, almost fun, with most folks showing gratitude for the assistance and guidance provided by the Knights. But there can also be a few who might not be having a good day so that is where diplomacy and grace play an important role in bringing calm to the occasion.

Thank you and Bless you, Brother Steve, for your many years of service and may you be our Leader for many, many more!



GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS



Our Council has been conducting the Good Friday Stations of the Cross for the past 8 years as part of the St Francis Lenten tradition. The Outdoor Procession starts at the TFS Courtyard and concludes in the SFA Memorial Garden.

Attendance has grown from 25-30 to over 200 people celebrating Jesus Christ's journey from condemnation to Crucifixion and ultimately His resurrection offering hope of eternal life and the forgiveness of sins.



Brother Knights and family members performed the readings at each Station with our Worthy Grand Knight, Bryan Kozak, once again returning as Presider over all Stations including opening and closing prayers. John Sauter was our cross-bearer and his wife, Serena, displayed the Station posters provided by TFS Fourth Graders. Jim Wahl provided the music to set the mood of this sacred event. Our lectors included Marty Schmidt, Akuro Adoki, Jason and Evelyn Riddle, The John Price Family, Joe and Rosemary Czejkowski, The Chris Bagin Family, Mike Wrzesien, and Shawn Bayle.



Photos Courtesy
of Kathy Payne



PHILANTHROPY



During our April Council meeting, our Grand Knight, Bryan, presented a \$1,000 check to the Doggett Center at NC State. On hand was Brother David Payette who is donating his time and talent to assist with redesign and permitting of the house.

The good works of the Council extended on when our Worthy Treasurer, Mark Baumgartner delivered a \$1,000 Check to Maty Ferrer-Hoppman, rector of **Centro para Familias Hispanis** part of Catholic Parish Outreach. Centro Para Familias Hispanas (CPFH) began in 1997 with emergency services to the Hispanic community after Hurricane Fran.

In 1998 Centro Para Familias Hispanas officially became a part of the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh to provide information, referral and counseling services to low-income Hispanic families.



Di-
aid

Raleigh, NC – May 1, 2025 – Women Veterans Support Services, Inc. (WVSS) proudly welcomed a generous \$1,000 donation from the Knights of Columbus, All Saints Council 9709, presented by SK Tommy E. Dalton, Deputy Grand Knight. The heartfelt presentation took place at the WVSS Raleigh office, where Founder and Executive Director (In-Kind) Patricia A. Harris and Program Secretary Julia Budjan were present to accept the gift on behalf of the organization. This contribution reflects the continued support and commitment of the Knights of Columbus to serve those who have sacrificed for our country. With gratitude and humility, WVSS acknowledges this donation as a financial boost and a reaffirmation of shared values—faith, service, and compassion toward those in need. “On behalf of the women veterans we serve, we sincerely thank Deputy Grand Knight Dalton and the members of All Saints Council 9709 for their generosity,” said Executive Director Patricia A. Harris. “This donation helps us continue to provide crisis services, emergency housing, and advocacy support to military-affiliated women and their families across North Carolina WVSS remains deeply appreciative of community partners like the Knights of Columbus who stand beside our mission to heal, empower, and uplift our women in arms. ~ Executive Director, Patricia Harris



Can you say Christmas in April? Brother Mike Rock is like Santa without Rudolph delivering funds to our charities so that they may perform much needed good work in our community. On the left, he presents a \$500 check to Caroline Yermal, Development Coordinator for Healing Transitions.

In the center, Mike presents a \$480 check to Manager, Paula Zembla of Alzheimer’s Association.



On the right, Peter Le, Executive Director of St Joseph Primary Care gratefully accepts a \$1,000 Check from Mike.

Well Done, Brother Mike and Council 9709!

PHILANTHROPY



BROTHER TONY DELIVERS!

For more than 50 years, *The Bair Foundation* has remained steadfast and responsive in its work to bring about meaningful change in the lives of America's most vulnerable. As a Christian foster care agency, they have provided hope and stability to more than 250,000 children and families in crisis. Christian principles of love, compassion, generosity and hope have been incorporated into their training, philosophy and services. As God so loved us and adopted us into His family, they do the same for abused and neglected children who are in need of a temporary or permanent home. Tony delivers a \$1,000 check to a grateful Renay Crouse, Director (left) and one of her key assistants.

Dedicated to ending the cycle of domestic and sexual violence in Wake County, North Carolina, *InterAct* saves lives, rebuilds lives, and secures safer futures for victims and survivors and their families. Each year *InterAct* serves more than 60,000 individuals and community members – more than 9,500 of whom are direct victims of domestic and sexual violence. For more than 40 years, *InterAct* has served as the only provider of comprehensive services for victims of domestic and sexual violence and their families in Wake County. Brother Tony was on hand to extend our Council's check for \$1,000 to Rhonda Raney so that they may continue their vital work in Wake County.



At Habitat for Humanity, we build. We build because we believe that everyone, everywhere should have a healthy, affordable place to call home. When a family helps build or improve a place they can call home, they are also building a better community, a better life for themselves.

Your donation will help families in need of a decent place to build long-term financial security. With an affordable, stable home, families have more to spend on food, medicine, child care, education and other essentials. Your support can help us do more in all the many ways that Habitat builds.

Thanks to you, Habitat is transforming lives around the world.

Locally, our own Brother Will Connelly is the St Francis Parish coordinator for Habitat for Humanity with projects in various neighborhoods throughout North Carolina. Contact Will today to see how you might

get involved. Grand Knight Bryan Kozak awards Will with \$500 check for Habitat for Humanity to continue his good work.

Founded in Kimberly Idaho in 2012, Sleep in Heavenly Peace is the ONLY charity providing hand made bunk beds to children who do not have beds of their own. Not only do they deliver these beds to kiddos in need but they partner with organizations, churches, businesses and individuals to build them at events called "Build Days."

With so many great charities providing clothing, meals and toys little help goes to something as permanent as providing suitable beds and bedding. SHP is a group of volunteers dedicated to finding those young children living without the luxury of sleeping on a bed or even laying their heads on a pillow. Through the wonderful efforts of volunteers and generous donations, bunk beds are built and delivered to those children who are otherwise sleeping on couches or even floors. At SHP they have a mission!!



Grand Knight Bryan Kozak delivers a \$1,000 check to Brother John Von Achen to support Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Brother John is also the deserving recipient of the North Carolina "Knight of the Year" awarded at the State Convention in May recognizing his good works with the community and SHP..

PHILANTHROPY

At Habitat for Humanity, we build. We build because we believe that everyone, everywhere should have a healthy, affordable place to call home. When a family helps build or improve a place they can call home, they are also building a better community, a better life for themselves. Your donation will help families in need of a decent place to build long-term financial security. With an affordable, stable home, families have more to spend on food, medicine, child care, education and other essentials. Your support can help us do more in all the many ways that Habitat builds. Thanks to you, Habitat is transforming lives around the world.



Brother Will Connelly is the St Francis Parish Coordinator for Wake County Habitat for Humanity that serves Wake and Johnston Counties.. A grateful Rebecca Hix and Rick Beech from the local Chapter stopped by the Parish recently to pick up the \$500 check from our Council that was presented to

Will at the June Members Meeting. There are many projects Council Brothers and their families can participate in by staying tuned to the Parish bulletin and Knights in the Know.



NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!



THE NEW 2025 SEASON BEGINS!



Let's Play Ball! The Knights of Columbus are preparing to take the field to serve the Durham Bulls fans for the 2025 baseball season.

- Time to warm up your arms (in order to pour draft beers)
- Time to practice eating hotdogs (to prepare for \$1.00 hotdog nights)
- Time to put on the "customer service smile" (as we serve food and beverages to the best fans in baseball)

Teamwork requires all the players to focus on a common goal, sharing their time and talents, while working together to achieve remarkable results. The Brother Knights of the All Saints Council have volunteered their time at the Durham Bulls Ballpark for the past 15 years to raise funds for our charitable giving program. Each Brother Knight who has donated his time to work at the ballpark is part of the team that makes a significant impact in our local community. We need more members of the Council to spend a few hours at the ballpark to raise much needed funds for individuals and organizations that need our financial support.

By donating your time, you are ensuring a local non-profit organization will receive must-needed dollars for their mission. Your efforts make a true impact for those in need in our community. Representatives from CPO, Interact, Birth Choice, Habitat for Humanity, The Joel Fund, Hope Reins, Urban Ministries, The Bair Foundation, and Women's Veterans Support Services (to name a few organizations) appreciate the financial support we provide on an annual basis. By giving so generously of your time you are helping our brothers and sisters in Christ. Please consider signing up for at least one Durham Bulls game per month. Also, your wife, or your adult children (age 18 or older) are welcome to help as well. Sign up below: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45A4AF22ABFCCE9-54970002-durham#/>

Thank you in advance for your continued support of this fundraiser. The Brothers of the All Saints Council have risen to the occasion year-after-year in support of the Durham Bulls fundraiser. We extend my appreciation for your commitment of time for this important work.

~ Brothers Frank McNally and Mike Wrzesien



~We held our Celebration of the Arts on Thursday, May 1 from 4-6 pm, and this year was better than ever as we celebrate 25 years of the Arts at TFS. In addition to the beautiful art, we had performances by the Junior Thespian troupe, a professional puppeteer, and Mr. White's Music Ensemble I capped off the afternoon with a performance in the courtyard.

We appreciate the support of the Knights!

~Principal Dawn Smith

Brother Sandy Gayle was approached months ago by a TFS faculty member asking if the Knights would provide a fun food event for this year's TFS Art Fair. Of course the immediate answer was YES! Now all

we had to do was figure out how we would fill the request. After hours of planning and consulting with Council members the solution ended up being a simple, yet popular, Hot Dog and Chili with Mac and Cheese. Genius!

Joining Brother Sandy's crew were Joe Mesiano, Joe Noonan, Marty Schmidt, Wes Evans, Jim Hoose, David Payette and Dave Bole. As always all of our Council Brothers worked closely together to make this a successful event run like a well-oiled machine. David Payette, Marty and Joe ran the kitchen strategy to ensure the food was hot and five star. The outdoor crew ran the event to ensure that the Knights delivered our usual high quality service with a smile.

It must have been a success based on the request for us to return next year. This is a good report based on the fact we were competing with food trucks and still ran out of food! Great job, Brothers, creating a model for upcoming events!





ALTAR SERVER RECOGNITION



Council Brothers supported Altar Server Ministry Director, Karina Miranda and her husband, Brother Knight Chris, with an evening of fun and recognition for our dedicated Parish Altar Servers. Brother Sandy's wife, Denise, was also deeply involved with planning the evening.

Our Council provided and served Pizza and Ice Cream as well as helping with the games and Awards. The photos make it apparent that this is a fun and well received event for our Parish Community. Making Crosses, Cup Stacking as an art form, and fellowship made this a special evening!





MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST



Our Council hosted a Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, May 11th following 9AM Mass.

It was well attended and, by all indications, a big success for all those in attendance. Pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit and of course, donuts! Juice, coffee and Lemonade rounded off the drink menu. And Tony made sure all the Moms left with a Carnation.

Battalion Chief, Nick Renga was there early and stayed late to ensure that all aspects of the event were well organized and operated like a finely tuned instrument.



Flowers by Tony



Fr Chris running QA



Council's Happy Chefs



Why yes, we will take your \$\$



Hungry families being served!



Marty and Judy with Cindy enjoying the day





WARRIORS TO LOURDES



Since 2013, the Knights of Columbus has partnered with the *Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA*, to sponsor the annual Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage.

Each year, wounded, ill and injured U.S. warriors (as well as non-wounded) are accepted to participate in a five-day retreat in Lourdes culminating with the events of the International Military Pilgrimage. Selected pilgrims spend this time of prayer and reflection taking meaningful steps in their journey toward healing from moral injury and finding inner peace.



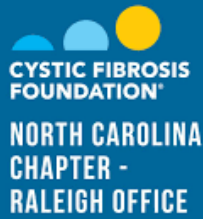
Knights of Columbus
**FOURTH
DEGREE**
Patriotic degree of the Order.

This year, on May 13th, local Sir Knights and their families from Assembly 3552 met with 15 warriors and four priests at RDU for lunch and fellowship ahead of their pilgrimage. In attendance were Scott and Laura Rees, Bill Quirk, Ralph Guenther, Tom and Elaine Dupree, Wes Evans, Jeff Rohman, with Patrick and Charlotte Segnere. Scott Rees provided lunch for all to enjoy.





CYSTIC FIBROSIS 5K



On behalf of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and all participants of the 2025 Great Strides Walk in Raleigh, I extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication. Thanks to the collective efforts of volunteers, donors, and participants, the Raleigh Walk raised an impressive **\$104,683** towards our \$300,000 goal. Our team, Angelica's Angels, named after Mike Rock's daughter, was honored to be recognized as the **Top Fundraising Team**, contributing **\$15,331** to this cause.

It was great to have Sandy, Denise and Seth Gayle, Chuck Hennesen and Jim Hoose along with our friend, Cathy Stender, volunteer to

assist with the distribution of food and drinks, ensured that every participant was fed and hydrated!

We are truly grateful for your commitment to our mission. Thank you for standing with us in the fight against cystic fibrosis. Together, we are making strides towards a cure.

Sincerely,

Mike and Mary Beth Rock



THE WARRIORS RETURN!



BROTHERS AND WIVES ON HAND TO WELCOME WARRIORS HOME FROM LOURDES





NC STATE CONVENTION



NC STATE CONVENTION

Hickory, NC
May 16-18, 2025

The 105th North Carolina Knights of Columbus State Convention was held at the Hickory Metro Convention Center on the weekend of May 16-18, 2025. Once again, our Council 9709 was well represented and recognized for its leadership.

Not shown in photos, our Council was awarded the Unity Award, the 2nd highest council recognition in the State for our activities and donations across the areas of Faith, Community, Family and Life.

After four years running, we had to pass the Knight of the Year pin over to John Von Achen. Brother Tony was on hand to “re-pin” Brother John. Let’s take it back in 2026!

However, there was really good news for us. Brother Tom Dupree was awarded “Golden Knight of the Year” for the State. He was an easy choice based on this criteria. *“A candidate for this award must be a member in good standing and must have been a Knight of Columbus member for at least fifteen (15) years. The Brother Knight so honored should exemplify Columbianism in the truest sense of the word. He should be a true source of inspiration to his Brother Knights. Someone deserving of the title of “Golden Knight” should be a man involved in the works of The Order, His Church and His Community.”*



Brother Tony “passing the pin”



Judy, Shirley and George enjoying the Evening



Father Chris blessing the banquet meal



A very emotional Elaine and Tom as Tom’s many accomplishments are read aloud



Joe and Ann Marie



SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2025



**Special
Olympics**

Our Council has proudly served Special Olympics North Carolina since 2002 managing the Swimming Awards for athletes from all over the State. This year under our Director of Life, Paul Scaini, Council Brothers and their families once again upheld our proud tradition of celebrating and awarding the competitors in multiple swimming events.

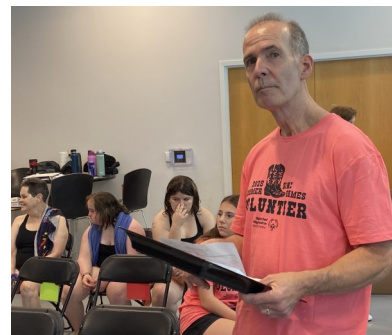
"We received Kudos not only from the SONC Staff but several of the parents and coaches mentioned the awards went the smoothest it has ever been" ~ Brother Paul Scaini



Sandy and Denise



Awards Mgr Brother Paul, Joe and Patrick



Mike ready to escort winners



The Boles, 12 year SONC Veterans!



And the winners are!!!!



The ever popular First Responders!
on hand to present the Winners' Medals



Brothers Wes, Patrick and James announcing



MEMORIAL DAY MASS 2025



"For all of those who have served our country, many blessings to you and your families. To all of us, let us remember on this day, that our life belongs to God. And in that, we belong to goodness, love and truth, which will light the world. Amen." - Fr. Chris



Knights of Columbus
**FOURTH
DEGREE**
Patriotic degree of the Order.



Following Mass, the names of our fallen heroes were read aloud and blessed by Father Chris



The American flag was awarded to Brother Sir Knight, Bill Horne, in honor of his father's service to our country.



Photos and script courtesy of Diogenes Ruiz, St Francis of Assisi Parish

“HEADIN’ DOWN THE HIGHWAY,,,,,”



,,,,,Lookin’ for adventure.” Okay so maybe not adventure—just good fellowship in concert with community service. Our June Adopt-a-Highway was a success with 7 Brother Knights and family members joining in on the fun. Early AAH pioneer, Brian Denison, confirmed this is our 22nd year conducting this Community Service. We are getting close to 90 events with an estimated 15Tons of trash and recycle removed from our neighborhood! Under the current leadership of Bob Bagin, the crews clean up between the Durham County line and the Union 76 Station on Leesville Rd.

We laughed about the variety of items found over the years from cash to dirty diapers to a pillow case full of solid silver serving dishes. Perhaps the most intriguing was Brother Wrzesien finding a full jar of pickles on one of his missions! Stay tuned for more crazy findings or, better yet, [join us next time](#) to seek your own treasure while enjoying the fellowship of Brothers and their families!



FROM PREVIOUS CLEANUPS



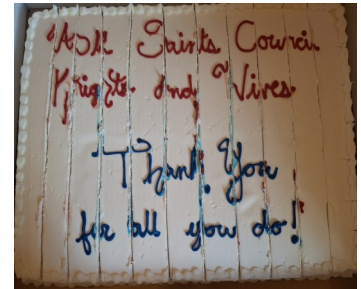


APPRECIATION DINNER 2025



A night of celebration and fellowship in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, June 17th! Our incoming Grand Knight, Tommy Dalton did an amazing job of hosting as our Emcee in the absence of GK Bryan. Highlights included a wonderful meal to kick off the evening featuring smoked pulled pork as only Brother PGK Shawn Bayle can produce. While Shawn could not make it, he still provided this excellent dish presented by Mary Beth who was front and center serving. Program Director Wes Evans also made it special with Fried Chicken and all the fixin's.

The purpose of the evening is to celebrate and recognize those Knights who have performed in an outstanding manner throughout the previous Fraternal Year. Categories include Family of the Year, Golden Knight of the Year, Rookie of the Year, and Knight of the Year. In addition to the traditional awards, our Council started another award in 2021—The Father David McBriar award. Winners are shown below receiving their plaques from Tommy. Not present but will receive their award for "Family" at our next Members Meeting are Jerry and Irene Cucurullo for their selfless devotion to the Latorre Family this past year.



Also highlighted were the many overall achievements of the Council this past year. A few of those included amassing over 5,000 hours of Service and donations in excess of \$40,000! There is truly so much to celebrate and carry us into this new Fraternal Year!

Brothers Wes Evans and Chuck Hennesen delivered leftovers to a grateful USO at RDU!



Rookie of the Year, Frank McNally



Golden Knight of the Year, Tom Dupree



Knight of the Year, David Payne



A very deserving Brother Tony Rivezzo accepts the Father David McBriar Award from previous winners, Tom Dupree, Tony Anello and Ralph Guenther. Tony chose "Little Sisters of Mercy" as his charity.



CHARITY, UNITY, FRATERNITY!



AND FAMILY!



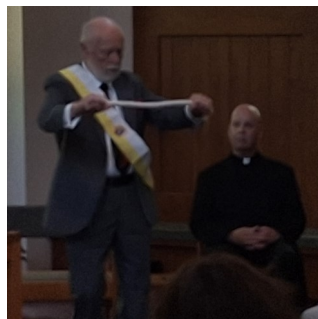
What a special day this was for our Council on Sunday, June 22nd, but especially for our Worthy Grand Knight, Bryan Kozak to have two of his sons become Third Degree Knights of Columbus. Joining Conor and Sean Kozak as new members of 9709 was Joshua Argate. Seth Davis of the NC State Council also took his vows as a new Knight today.



Once again, our Exemplification Team performed the Ceremony in an exemplary manner. Led by Presiding Officer, Tony Anello, our presenters were well prepared and delivered their messages on Charity, Unity and Fraternity in an inspiring, spiritual tone to our candidates. Grand Knight, Bryan, presented Charity, Brother Sandy Gayle presented Unity and Brother David Payette delivered the message of Fraternity. Father Chris was present to bless the new candidates. Brother Ralph Guenther always delivers as our Ceremony Warden.



We also welcomed honored guests from our State Council. Worthy State Secretary, Rick Lewis and Worthy State Treasurer, our own Joe McCarthy, joined us for the day. Other honored guests included, Regional District Deputy, Denis Carter and District Deputy #9, our own George Beserock. The ceremony was immediately followed by the Installation of Officers for the upcoming Fraternal Year.



Brother Ralph demonstrates Unity and assists Grand Knight Bryan deliver Order Pins and Rosaries followed by a blessing by Father Chris and a welcome address from District Deputy George Beserock.





YOUR NEW LEADERS!



On June 22nd, immediately following our Exemplification Ceremony, we conducted the installation of Council Officers for the coming Fraternal Year, 2025-2026. Worthy State Treasurer, Joe McCarthy and District Deputy, George Beserock conducted the Installation Ceremony with support from Worthy State Secretary Rick Lewis and Father Chris.

The new officers took their oath to conduct themselves in the best interest of the Council and the Order as outlined originally by Blessed Father McGivney. The day was made even more special by the attendance of many family and friends, Brothers and wives.



Once the medals had been awarded, District Deputy George invited our new Grand Knight, Tommy Dalton to address the Council with his plans for the coming year.

Following all of the day's events and ceremonies, we were treated to a reception held in the Community Center hosted by Shawn and Mary Beth Bayle. It is a sure bet that anything Mrs. Bayle prepares is sure to delight and today was no exception!. From her main dishes to dessert trays provided by Theresa Baumgartner, it was a grand spread for sure. A big thank you goes out to Tony and Judy Rivezzo, Wes and Pat Evans and Chuck Hennesen for set up and clean up.



The Incoming Leadership Team for the New Fraternal Year:

- Tommy Dalton, Grand Knight
- Mark Baumgartner, Deputy Grand Knight
- David Payette, Chancellor
- Michael Zimmer, Treasurer
- Sean Flanagan, Financial Secretary
- James Davisson, Advocate
- Scott Rees, Warden
- Marty Schmidt, Recorder
- Bryan Kozak, 3 Year Trustee
- Shawn Bayle, 2 Year Trustee
- David Payne, 1 Year Trustee





OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE!



As humble Knights of Columbus, we are called to serve. We are united through our service to many charitable organizations as well as supporting our active and retired military.

Our Council continues to be recognized by Supreme and State officials for our call to serve. So many opportunities exist as outlined in our quarterly newsletters. And the opportunities fit Knights and family members of all levels of ability. Certainly Adopt-A-Hiway and the Durham Bulls require a level of physical ability but many others aren't as demanding.

Whether it is volunteering at the VA as shown in the photo of SK Tom DuPree with his wife, Elaine along with Laura Rees or serving a cold beverage at the Bulls game like Brothers Wrzesien, Rock and Hoose all service is equally vital!



Brother Steve Burdett has been organizing Easter and Christmas parking ambassadors for years! This has become something anticipated and appreciated by parishioners and visitors alike.

Our Philanthropy Committee is always looking for new members to assist in allocating funds and delivering checks to our worthy charities in the Raleigh and surrounding communities.



Semiannual Blood Drives offer the gift of life itself! If you are unable to donate, we still need ambassadors to check in donors and keep the canteen fresh. Brother Sandy is all smiles as he does his part!



Special Olympics is high on our list for support each and every year since 2003! Brothers Scaini, Azzopardi and Sauter share their enthusiastic support of the weekend event.



MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BY GETTING INVOLVED—SIGN UP TODAY!

ASK ANY OFFICER OR DIRECTOR HOW YOU CAN BECOME PART OF THIS REWARDING OPPORTUNITY!

GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Farewell Message from the Grand Knight
All Saints Council 9709
June 2025

Brothers,

As I conclude my term as Grand Knight of All Saints Council, I want to express my deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve alongside each of you. This past year has been filled with many blessings. I am proud of the good work we have accomplished together to perpetuate the vision of Blessed Michael McGivney in the name of charity, unity and fraternity.

We have stayed true to our mission as Catholic gentlemen—serving our parish, supporting our community, and building strong fraternal bonds. Whether it was through food drives, a faith formative tour of our magnificent cathedral, funds and relief to the western part of our state after a devastating hurricane, or praying the rosary before our meetings, your dedication and commitment have been inspiring. Thank you for giving your time, talent, and heart to our Council's mission.

This year is especially significant as we continue to celebrate the Jubilee Year of the Catholic Church. This time for hope allows for spiritual renewal, forgiveness, and returning to the heart of our faith. I encourage you to take full advantage of this Holy Year—consider a pilgrimage, receive the Sacraments more often, and invite others to deepen their relationship with Christ.

Let us keep that spirit of mercy and renewal alive in everything we do. We also welcome a new chapter in the Church's leadership with the election of Pope Leo XIV, the first pope to come from the United States. Please continue to pray for him as he begins his papacy. May the Holy Spirit guide him with wisdom, strength, and compassion. As Knights of Columbus, we stand in support of our Holy Father, as well as all our bishops, priests and deacons as they shepherd the universal Church.

As I pass on the responsibilities of Grand Knight to brother Tommy Dalton, I am confident in the strong future of our Council. We are blessed with faithful leaders and committed members. I know you will continue to grow in faith and provide him the same dedication and loyalty I have received in the coming fraternal year. Work together, support one another, and look for new and innovative ways to serve both our parish and the greater Raleigh community. Looking ahead, I encourage all of you to stay active, stay involved, and stay rooted in prayer. Make time for each other—not just in meetings, but in genuine fellowship. Reach out to new members and younger men in the parish. Show them by your example what it means to be a Catholic gentleman: a man of faith, charity, integrity, and courage.

To my brother officers and all our dedicated members: thank you. Your support made this past year a joy and a privilege. While I may be stepping away from this leadership role, I remain committed to our Council's mission and will continue to support our work however I can.

May God bless you, may Our Lady under her title Our Lady of Guadalupe protect us, and may we all continue to grow as faithful servants of Christ.

Vivat Jesus!

Fraternally,

Bryan Kozak
Grand Knight