

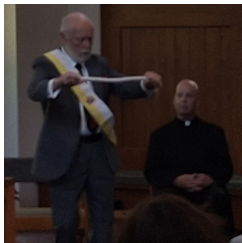


KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ALL SAINTS COUNCIL 9709 NEWSLETTER



July-September 2025

THIS ISSUE'S HIGHLIGHTS WITH MUCH MORE INSIDE!



Welcome New Knights



Knight's Morning Mass



Ministry Fair



Adopt A Hiway



Spaghetti Dinner



Fraternal Benefits Night



Soccer Challenge



Blood Drive

JUBILEE YEAR 2025



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.

May our Past Grand Knight, Bryan'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."***



JUBILEE PRAYER



Father in Heaven, may the faith You have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken In us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of Heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you, our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise forever.



AMEN

~NC Catholic, September, 2025



PEOPLE ARE OFTEN UNREASONABLE, ILLOGICAL AND SELF-CENTERED

FORGIVE THEM ANYWAY

IF YOU ARE KIND, PEOPLE MAY ACCUSE YOU OF SELFISH, ULTERIOR MOTIVES

BE KIND ANYWAY

IF YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL, YOU WILL WIN SOME FALSE FRIENDS AND SOME
TRUE ENEMIES

SUCCEED ANYWAY

IF YOU ARE HONEST AND FRANK, PEOPLE MAY CHEAT YOU

BE HONEST AND FRANK ANYWAY

WHAT YOU SPEND YEARS BUILDING, SOMEONE COULD DESTROY OVERNIGHT

BUILD ANYWAY

IF YOU FIND SERENITY AND HAPPINESS, THEY MAY BE JEALOUS

BE HAPPY ANYWAY

THE GOOD YOU DO TODAY, PEOPLE WILL OFTEN FORGET TOMORROW

DO GOOD ANYWAY

GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU HAVE, AND IT MAY NOT BE ENOUGH

GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU HAVE ANYWAY

**IT WAS NEVER BETWEEN
YOU AND THEM ANYWAY**

-Author unknown

ASSEMBLY NEWS



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

St. Francis of Assisi Assembly Installs Officers, Pledges Continued Support for Military Families by PFN, PGK Mike Wrzesien

Raleigh, NC – The St. Francis of Assisi Assembly of the Knights of Columbus held its annual Installation of Officers ceremony on Thursday, July 10, 2025, in the Founders Room at St. Francis of Assisi Church. These dedicated men, part of the Assembly's approximately 110 members, will serve for one year, committing their efforts to support military personnel and their families.

The ceremony was presided over by **Installing Officer Ed Rogosich**, who formally inducted the new slate of leaders. The newly installed Faithful Navigator, the highest elected officer of the Assembly, expressed the profound dedication of the Knights to their mission. "We are called to serve the men and women who defend our freedom," encapsulating the patriotic spirit and charitable focus that defines the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus.

The St. Francis of Assisi Assembly has a proud history of supporting those who serve our nation. Their initiatives often include providing financial assistance, organizing food drives, hosting "welcome home" events for returning service



members, and offering spiritual support through prayer. They actively work with local veterans' hospitals and participate in programs like "Coats for Vets," demonstrating their tangible commitment to the well-being of military families. This installation marks another year of unwavering commitment from the St. Francis of Assisi Assembly. The newly installed officers will lead their fellow Sir Knights in continuing to uphold the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism, ensuring that military members and their families receive the support and recognition they deserve.

Here is the slate of officers for the 2025/2026 fraternal year:

- Faithful Navigator - Michael Darrow
- Faithful Captain - David Payette
- Faithful Pilot - Bill Horne
- Faithful Scribe – James Davisson
- Faithful Inside Sentinel- Dave Van Nett
- Faithful Outside Sentinel - Scott Rees
- Faithful Purser- Bill Quirk
- Faithful Comptroller - Jerry Cucurullo
- Faithful Admiral- Jim Rispoli
- Faithful Trustee 3 - Mike Wrzesien
- Faithful Trustee 2 - Tom DuPree
- Faithful Trustee 1 Dick Kozacko





KNIGHT OF THE MONTH



JULY 2025



Congratulations, Brother Al Terzella as our Knight of the Month for July! Since joining our Council in June, Al has been all in supporting our Council activities. He is contributing at multiple Bulls games in support of our largest fundraiser and provided the Members Meeting meal for the August meeting. Al was one of the first to sign up to staff our table at the Ministry Fair. The future of our Council leadership appears to be in good hands with the energy and commitment on display by Brother Al!

AUGUST 2025



Our Worthy Grand Knight, Tommy, Proudly awards Paul Geison with Knight of the Month with wife, Sue, present. Paul has really jumped on board using his leadership skills to support the Knights and is working closely with our Program Director, Wes Evans, to lead of many community programs including the Soccer Challenge and upcoming Francis Fest. Recently Paul was an active volunteer at the St Francis Ministry Fair spreading the good word about our Council and what it is like to be a proud Knight of Columbus.

SEPTEMBER 2025



Our Worthy Grand Knight, Tommy, proudly awards our own professional chef, Scott Rees with Knight of the Month. Scott prepares amazing meals for everything from our Members Meetings to the ever-popular Spaghetti Dinner closely anticipated by our Parish Community. Scott's personal recipes are what differentiates the Knight's events with attendees even asking for his recipes! He does all of this while managing a restaurant and opening a new location in the coming months. Scott uses his sales skills to have much of the ingredients donated increasing our proceeds for local charities.



FAMILY OF THE MONTH



JULY 2025



Our July Family of the Month was an easy choice. Congratulations, Wes and Pat Evans! As Wes gains confidence in his assignment as our Program Director, he has worked tirelessly on all levels reaching out to Parish Ministries and TFS building bridges all along the way. Wes achieved his third and fourth degrees in 2023 and hasn't let his foot off the pedal since. And right there at his side supporting him is his lovely wife, Pat as she has been for the past 51 years! The Evans family extends to their three daughters and four grandchildren. Wes gives Pat all the credit for his service to our Council, Assembly and Parish.

AUGUST 2025



Joe and Rosemary Czejkowski are well known names in our Parish and community. Both are lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. They are also deeply involved in Special Olympics with their daughter, Megan, as a Special Ambassador with Special Olympics. Right after this picture was taken, Megan was heading out of town for a public speaking event. They are also proud parents of another daughter and son, both who live locally.

With help from Joe, Rosemary also sets up the annual St Francis Women's Retreat, a weekend-long event bringing ladies together from throughout the community for spiritual and self reflection. Joe has been a member of the Knights of Columbus since 2009.

SEPTEMBER 2025



It doesn't seem possible that it's only been a little over a year since Frank McNally joined our Council. He has been an active volunteer for nearly every event held since he joined in June, 2024. He spends the entire day at our Blood Drives ensuring that donors and volunteers are well fed and taken care of during their donation experience. This year, Frank shadowed Brother Mike Wrzesien so that he can take over our premier fundraiser, Durham Bulls concessions, next year. This past season, Frank and his wife, Debbie, who was not present for the photo, were also active volunteers at the Bulls home games.



COUNCIL HAPPENINGS



UNDER THE RADAR,,,,

Brother Jim Parrino's sister-in-law, Judy, has been contributing brand new kids' clothing and shoes to Helene recovery victims in Western North Carolina from her clothing store in New Orleans. It seems that children were most overlooked for needed items like clothing so this is a true blessing. To date, I have received 8 cases (think large moving boxes) from Judy shipped to my home. In turn we have been delivering them to a church in my old neighborhood in Zebulon that makes a run up there about every two weeks working with local churches and programs around Asheville. This seemed the best method for items like clothing and shoes. Kathy and I have also sent cookware, dishes, utensils and school supplies up there ourselves. I have been hoping to receive photos but have yet to get any. As of this writing, Judy informed me that she has more! So this next load we may take up ourselves so that we can meet these angels and snap a picture or two. The impact of Jim and Cindy's influence further underscores the power of Charity as a pillar of our Order.

~David Payne



On Wednesday, August 13th, Father Chris recognized our Council and their good work at the daily mass. He also used this mass to recognize the Feast Day for our Founder, Blessed Fr McGivney. Father Chris told the story of how Fr McGivney was moved to create the Knights to protect the families and widows of Catholic immigrant men who died working in perilous conditions in the late 1800's.

Here is Fr McGivney's story,,,,,

Son of Irish immigrants he studied at the Saint-Hyacinthe's Seminary in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada beginning in 1868; finished his studies at Saint Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1873. Before he could be or-

dained, however, his father died, and Michael returned home to support the family. Ordained on 22 December, 1877 by Archbishop Joseph Gibbons at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Assistant pastor at Saint Mary's Church, New Haven, archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut. With a small group of parishioners, he founded the Knights of Columbus on 2 February, 1882. Today the organization has nearly two million members and contributes tens of millions of dollars to charity each year.

Photo Courtesy of Diogenes Ruiz



MINISTRY FAIR 2025



DO ONE THING,,,,,

Find Your Purpose at the SFA Ministry Fair

On the weekend of August 23rd and 24th, St Francis held a Ministry Fair after each mass in Fellowship Hall where all of the Parish ministries were on full display to allow parishioners the opportunity to learn more about how they might serve the Parish and Community. It was well attended and by all accounts, many parishioners found new purpose by signing up to serve.

For our Council it was a successful weekend to educate the men of our Parish on how extensively the Knights serve our community through Charity and service. We had a couple of dozen men provide information of their interest in becoming new members.



ANOTHER ONE IN THE BOOKS



Good fellowship in concert with community service. Our September Adopt-a-Highway was a success with 9 Brother Knights joining in on the fun. Early AAH pioneer, Brian Denison, confirmed this is our 22nd year conducting this Community Service. We have held over 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! Today was no disappointment when we found a bamboo table along with about 2 dozen golf balls. 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! Not shown here today are Jim Hoose, Alan Fonseca, Jim Glonek and David Payne (photographer).





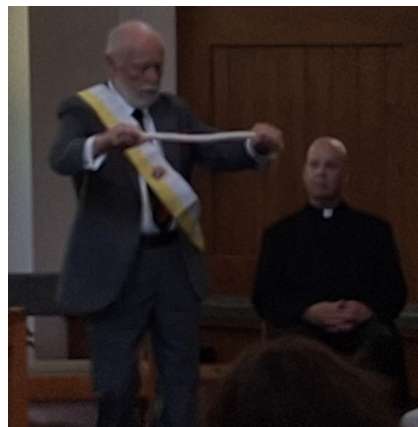
CHARITY, UNITY, FRATERNITY!



From left to right: Sean Bales receiving his 3rd degree. Mike Babuin, Pablo Cantu and James Flanagan, WFS-Sean Flanagan's son. The State Council, represented by Joe McCarthy welcomes the new Knights. DGK Mark Baumgartner welcomes the new Knights to our council and encourages them to get involved as much as possible with the many opportunities to serve. 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. Worthy District Deputy and PGK, 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 and deliver the opening prayer. Brother Ralph Guenther always delivers as our Ceremony Warden.



FRATERNAL BENEFITS NIGHT

Our Council 9709 was honored to host Brother Thom Duffy from Supreme for a visit to our parish to offer his vast experience with this Seminar held on September 8th in Fellowship Hall. The in-person turnout along with the Zoom audience from throughout the State of North Carolina included about 100 Knights and family members. The presentation was well done with many thoughtful and helpful solutions offered by Brother Duffy. Thank you for sharing your experience for a successful and educational evening!

Invest with Integrity Pursue Growth Without Compromising Returns or Your Faith

Presented by Thom Duffy, Vice President, Head of Investment Advisory Services, Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors

Free Financial Seminar No purchase was necessary.

Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors

Brother Duffy enjoyed a great turnout where brothers and families were able learn more about investment solutions that align with our Catholic values.





SPAGHETTI DINNER 2025



Kitchen Master and Community Director, Nick Renga, pulled off yet another successful Spaghetti Dinner Night! The reviews from patrons were unanimously Bravo, Great Job!! Nick had a lot of help including from our own professional chef, Scott Rees, who never fails to amaze us with his skills. Knights and their families pitched in to ensure no one left hungry. 134 plates were served by 24 volunteers and at first blush it appears that our charities will



benefit from over \$1,200 in net proceeds! Another amazing job highlighting the Knights in service to our community! Tony and Judy Rivezzo delivered leftovers to a very grateful Pine Crest Fire Station!



Why yes, we'll take your money



Service with a smile



Chef Scott doing his thing



Everyone loves Sam!



Jeff helping Kitchen Master, Nick



Nina with the Sweets





The sign of excellent Leadership is when the event goes perfectly even if the Leader is not able to attend! Director Paul Geisen just pulled that off with the 2025 Soccer Challenge. Paul's advance planning along with help from Jim Hoose, former Director Will Austin, Paul Scaini and Chuck Hennesen, the contestants and their families experienced another enjoyable Soccer Challenge. We had no female participants this year but the winners were brothers. Parker Karam who took the 9-11 age bracket and his



brother, Lucas, who took the 12-14 age bracket. The Karam family has been great supporters of both the Soccer Challenge and the winter Basketball Free Throw Contests. We wish them well as they prepare State Finals to be held on November 1st in Fuquay-Varina. The district Challenge scheduled at Our Lady of the Lourdes was rained out leaving the State Final as only remaining contest.



~ PHOTOS COURTESY OF KAREN SAUTER

PHILANTHROPY

Goals for Council Philanthropy Committee

Philanthropy Committee Established in FY 2021 with goals below

Monetary Support provided via approved council budget for:

Organizations aligned with the principles of the Knights of Columbus

Organizations aligned with the themes of Catholic Social teaching

Organizations that can achieve a sustainable impact for those most in need

Prioritize local organizations (Ministries of solidarity identified by parish Tithe/Stewardship Committee receive special consideration)

Prioritize organizations that resonate with younger Catholic men to facilitate membership

Stay tuned for upcoming results and check deliveries as a result of the Committee's efforts to prioritize and distribute our budgeted funds!



NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!





DURHAM BULLS—IT'S A WRAP!



\$25,488.79 = The final tally from this season, not including cash tips!!! It's a new record thanks to the tireless efforts of those Brothers and their family members showing up to staff the concessions. A special shout out to these Brothers and family members!

"I am very proud of the total funds raised from the Durham Bulls season. Supporting a long season of baseball at the Durham Bulls Ballpark takes a tremendous amount of manpower. I am very pleased so many Brother Knights stepped to the plate and helped to make this fundraiser a success."

~Mike Wrzesien

- Jim Hoose - 16 games
- Frank McNally - 13 games
- Chuck Hennesen - 12 games
- Mike Wrzesien - 12 games
- Mike Rock - 11 games
- Sandy Gayle - 8 games
- Paul Geisen - 7 games
- Chris Miranda - 6 games
- Jim Glonek - 5 games
- Charlie and Rosemary Arana
- Mark and Theresa Baumgartner
- Tommy and Leanna Boggs
- John and Amy Brien
- Wes and Pat Evans
- Jeff Huckel and his daughter Olivia
- John and Ann Martin
- Frank and Debbie McNally



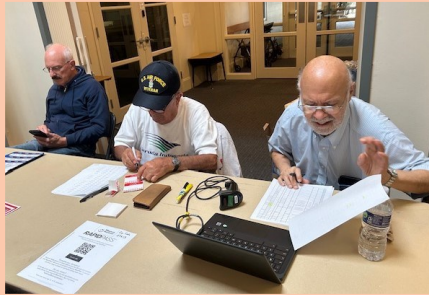


2025 FALL BLOOD DRIVE



American Red Cross

On Saturday, September 27th, our Council once again sponsored the Red Cross Blood Drive held at Fellowship Hall. Started in 1996 by SK Tom Dupree, we have collected over 5,000 units of life-saving blood over that period! Our donations of 70 units were slightly down based on past years but spirits ran high for those in attendance to save the lives of many. Under the leadership of PGK, Bryan Kozak, the event was a well-oiled machine. A huge thank you to all the Brothers and wives who hosted and served an assortment of meals. A big shout out to the "Food Runners" who ran down the donations of food that included Asian, pizza, wings, hot dogs and so much more. As always, Steve and Maria Nicolas made certain that donors and volunteers never left hungry. And that wasn't enough so they delivered leftovers to the USO after the Drive!



Morning check in Crew



Happy Kitchen Crew!



Fr Jim donating and entertaining!



Dispatcher Tom with help from Laura



Jim on donut QA



Knights making it happen!



Our Generous Donors!



A smiling John Sauter on the table





SERVING THROUGH THE KNIGHTS



A few words about why I joined the Knights and how it has fulfilled my desire to serve. Let me start by telling you a little about my faith journey. I was raised Methodist and enjoyed going to Sunday School and Methodist Youth Fellowship activities. The Lord planted some seeds along the way that blossomed later in life. After college I was focused on achieving professional success and the rewards it offers. I wasn't focused on growing my spirituality until I got married and we started having children. My wife is Catholic and we decided to have our children baptized Catholic. We joined a local parish and a wonderful couple helped us prepare for the baptism of our first child. I became intrigued with the Catholic teachings and sacraments and wanted to learn more so I went through RCIA, and became Catholic. The seeds the Lord planted in me long ago began to sprout. I attended a spiritual retreat with a group of men from the parish and the Lord moved me in a powerful way. I began seeing the joy these men were experiencing through serving the Lord and I wanted to join them. Before I knew it, my family and I were deeply involved and we were enjoying the fraternity of our like minded community.

As time moved on, so did we. We moved to Raleigh in 1995 and joined a small rural church called St Francis of Assisi. We continued to grow in our faith and are blessed to have had 3 daughters confirmed, 2 daughters married and 2 grandchildren baptized here. Our little church grew and many friends have come and gone over time. I became semi-retired a few years ago and decided to look for an organization that could provide the same kind of fraternity and joy of service that I experienced so many years ago. I saw a group of men from the Knights of Columbus working together at a Francis Fest event and I began talking to them. It was readily apparent they were having fun and experiencing the joy of service. I joined The Knights about a month later and attended my first council meeting in the Founders Room. Several of the men were preparing and serving a meal before the meeting and I told them I was anxious to get involved. I asked what I could do and they put me to work in the kitchen. I got to know the men personally and began coming to the meetings early to help them prepare meals. I wanted to do more so



I volunteered to chair one of their events. I couldn't get enough of the fun and joy of serving with my brother Knights so I am now a Program Director. Not everyone wants or needs to be as involved as I am and that's OK. I do however highly encourage you to find an event or program you are attracted to and volunteer and see where it leads you. I am truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful organization and to have found the joy of service that I was looking for. My only regret is I didn't get involved long before I retired.

~ Wes Evans
Program Director

Wes and Pat Evans receiving Family of the Month from GK Tommy Dalton



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 KNIGHTS MESSAGE



Worthy Brothers,

What a Blessing it is to serve alongside all of you. I am humbled each month when we put Christ at the center of our work, ordinary efforts turn into extraordinary witnesses of acts of faith. Over the past several weeks, our Council has been a shining example of what it means to live out the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. From meetings and service projects to fellowship and prayer, each of you has contributed in a way that truly makes a difference. Not only for our parish, but for the wider community as well.

I want to thank everyone who stepped forward to volunteer your time and talent. Whether it was lending a hand at an event, showing up to support a brother Knight, or offering a simple word of encouragement, your actions speak louder than any title or office ever could. Together, we are building something that strengthens both our faith and our friendships.

Already one quarter of the fraternal year has passed, and it's no wonder it snuck up on us...we've been hard at work as Knights! Just look at what we've accomplished in only few short months. We've gathered for three Member Meetings filled with the Rosary, great food, and fraternity. We hosted a Fraternal Benefits Night with a special guest speaker, welcomed three new Brothers through Exemplification, and took part in a parish-wide Ministry Fair.

Our Council also organized a community-wide Soccer Challenge, held a wonderful spaghetti dinner to raise funds for charity, cleaned up our local roads, attended a special Mass in honor of Blessed Michael McGivney, assisted with the community blood drive, and purchased winter coats for children in need and were blessed to be able to donate to BirthChoice. On top of all that, we supported the parish during Francis Fest and carried out a full season of fundraising at the Durham Bulls.

And I am sure this is just a sampling of the many hours and efforts you all have given. Brothers, stand tall and be proud. Your dedication is what keeps the Council vibrant and strong! Looking ahead, we have several opportunities this next quarter to continue that momentum. I encourage each of you to take part; whether through prayer, service, or simply being present with your brother Knights.

The more we give of ourselves, the more we receive in return: joy, fellowship, and the knowledge that we are doing God's work here and now. Brothers, let us remain steadfast in our mission, united in purpose, and joyful in our service. May Mary, our

Blessed Mother, and St. Joseph, our Order's protector, continue to guide our steps.

Vivat Jesus!

