



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ALL SAINTS COUNCIL 9709 NEWSLETTER



October-December 2025

THIS ISSUE'S HIGHLIGHTS WITH MUCH MORE INSIDE!



FRANCIS FEST



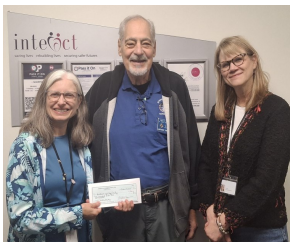
FIRST RESPONDERS



HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL



RSVP



PHILANTHROPY



VETERAN'S DAY BREAKFAST



OLR FOOD DRIVE



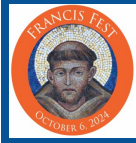
MERRY CHRISTMAS

FRANCIS FEST 2025



Once again, our Council outdid itself with an excellent showing at Francis Fest 2025. Mike Austin's barbecue pork shoulder was the hit of the event! A big draw for us was the fact that all of the proceeds support local charities. The generosity of our St Francis Parish never disappoints! In addition to the long lines to purchase food, A big, heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to our cause. And a big shout out to the Knights who made this a huge success for us!





FRANCIS FEST 2025



Al and Phyllis guarding the door



Mike working his magic



Mike and Nick filling orders



Mike and Troy displaying the Magic



Dave and Tony spreading the word



Ashley admires Fr Jim's face paint



Brother Jerry working Staff today



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



2025 FIRST RESPONDERS DINNER



Ten Years! What a special evening to celebrate a decade of recognizing our local heroes representing Fire, Police, Sheriff and EMT locations from our local area. As always, Brother Tony Rivezzo began working on this weeks in advance of the celebration and honored us as the MC of the evening's festivities. Appreciation Certificates were presented to our grateful hero guests by our Worthy Grand Knight, Tommy Dalton.

Dinner was another five star meal headlined by Brother David Payette's signature smoked ham and enhanced by the talents of Brothers and their wives who contributed their own specialties prepared with skilled and loving care. And then topped off with desserts fit for a King!

A special thank you to the kitchen crew who prepared the food and maintained the serving lines to ensure that all in attendance were promptly well served. Great job, Brothers!

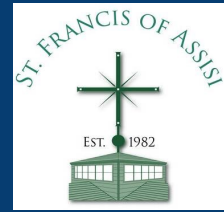
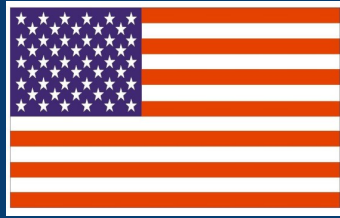
Our Scouts from Troop 352 were a vital part of the evening by being greeters/ambassadors and quietly tidying up the room following the evening events behind the scenes. Thank you, Scouts and your Leaders, Knights Brothers John Martin, Josh Riley and James Davisson! You all truly lived up to your vows.

Our honored guests included:

- * Wake County Sheriff's Department (total 1)
Lt. Charlie Twitty
- * Police Department Northwest Division (total 7)
Major J. Manukas
Captain Joseph Mercer, Commander
- * Raleigh Fire Station #29 (total 4)
Captain Nelson Massey
- * Raleigh Fire Station Engine #23 (total 3)
Captain Chaz Moore
- * Raleigh Fire Station Ladder #23 (total 4)
Jorge Leiva
- * Durham Highway Fire Department (total 3)
Captain Cody Dail



2025 FIRST RESPONDERS AWARDS



HONORING OUR LOCAL HEROES!
THANK YOU FIRE, POLICE, EMS AND SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENTS!!



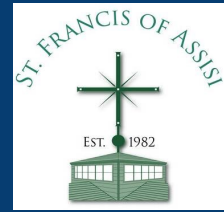
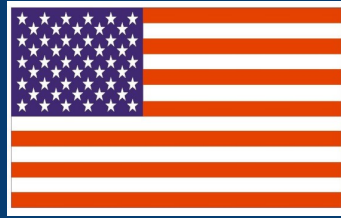
MC, Brother Tony Rivezzo kicks off the evening followed by our Worthy Grand Knight, Tommy recognizing our Hero guests.



As the celebration continued, Tommy presented more Appreciation Certificates to our grateful guests



2025 FIRST RESPONDERS AWARDS



HONORING OUR LOCAL HEROES!
THANK YOU FIRE, POLICE, EMS AND SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENTS!!



Based on the smiles and the food piles on the plates, our guests enjoyed a Five Star dinner prepared by our smiling kitchen crew



Tony and Grand Knight, Tommy wrap up the evening once again thanking our heroes for their service!



We love our Scouts and their Leaders for their amazing job and support they provide the Knights!



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



Our Lady of the Rosary



PHILANTHROPY

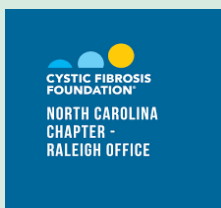
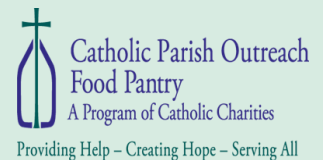
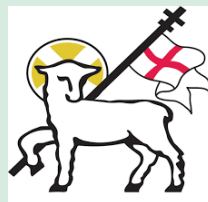
REACHING OUT TO THOSE MOST IN NEED

Philanthropy Committee FY 2025/26 – Distribution Plan/Phase 1

- \$500 ALS Association NC – Patient & family services, support research for cure
- \$500 Arlene Straight Endowment - Supports disadvantaged preschoolers at St. Francis of Assisi
- \$500 Bair Foundation—Christian-based foster care & adoption
- \$500 Camp Royall - Camp for people with autism located near Pittsboro, NC (Autism Society of NC)
- \$1000 Catholic Parish Outreach* – Food pantry; innovative solutions to address food insecurity
- \$500 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation NC Chapter - Patient & family services, support research for cure
- \$500 Note in the Pocket* – addresses clothing insecurity for local children
- \$500 InterAct of Wake County – Addresses domestic and sexual violence; emergency shelter and advocacy
- \$1000 LAMB Foundation of NC - Assists people who have intellectual disabilities
- \$1000 St. Joseph Primary Care of Raleigh – Primary Healthcare for the uninsured, the under-insured (Catholic)
- \$500 Tammy Lynn Center – Home, community and residential support services for individuals with Intellectual and developmental disabilities
- \$500 Healing Transitions—recovery from substance abuse, emergency shelter, and family services
- \$500 Centro Para Familia Hispanas*—emergency services for rent and utilities
- \$400 St Vincent de Paul—helping local citizens with essentials like rent, utilities and connecting with other agencies for assistance
- \$400 Urban Ministries– assisting locals with food, medicine and shelter since 1981

\$8,800 TOTAL DONATIONS!

*** ALSO RECEIVED COATS FOR KIDS DONATIONS**



PHILANTHROPY



923 CLOTHING REQUESTS RECEIVED LAST MONTH
8,144 PEOPLE CLOTHED SO FAR THIS YEAR
LBS OF CLOTHES DONATED THIS YEAR


“DAVID, MARK AND ANTHONY & ALL OUR WONDERFUL KNIGHTS!!!!!!”
“THANK YOU!!!! WE LOVE YOU SO MUCH!!!!”

~Response from fellow Parishioner and Director of 'Note in the Pocket', Dallas Bonavita upon receiving Coats for Kids and \$500 donation.



CPO volunteer and Brother Knight, John, joins DGK Mark in presenting a \$1,000 check and two cases of Coats for Kids to Kelly Rappi, CPO Program Director. Mark also delivered two cases of Coats for Kids to Maty Ferrer at Centro para Familias Hispanas, part of Catholic Parish Outreach.



 **Catholic Parish Outreach Food Pantry**
A Program of Catholic Charities
Providing Help – Creating Hope – Serving All


Centro para Familias Hispanas
A Program of Catholic Charities


The Bair Foundation
Child & Family Ministries



“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, we have provided hope and stability to more than 250,000 children and families in crisis.”

Brother Tony delivers \$500 checks to Ashlei Walser, Administrator of the Bair Foundation

PHILANTHROPY

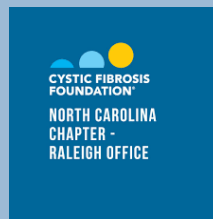


ALS United North Carolina shares the hopes of people everywhere that Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis will one day be a disease of the past, conquered by the dedication of thousands who have worked ceaselessly to understand and eradicate this perplexing killer.

Until that day comes, our organization relentlessly pursues the mission to help people living with ALS and to leave no stone unturned in the search for a cure for this progressive neurodegenerative disease.

The North Carolina Chapter - Raleigh Office of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation covers Central and Eastern North Carolina from Winston-Salem to the North Carolina Coast.

"Volunteers are the key to our success and the lifeblood of our organization. We have many opportunities for you to get involved. Your participation in any way will help us achieve our mission – finding a cure for all people with CF."



Brother Mike delivers \$500 Checks to Amy Lynn Clark, Development Director of ALS North Carolina and Valerie Padilla, Sr Development Manager at Cystic Fibrosis North Carolina and \$1,000 to Peter Le, Executive Director of St Joseph Primary Care



ST JOSEPH PRIMARY CARE

Our Mission:

Our mission is to imitate the "love of God and to love our neighbors as ourselves" by providing them with exceptional and accessible health care and various affordable options, including low or no cost options.

Our Values:

In accordance with the tradition of Christian healthcare, we uphold the life affirming teachings of our Christian faith. Our focus is on whole person wellness; we neither provide nor refer for contraception, abortion, or sterilization, and we encourage the use of natural family planning.



PHILANTHROPY



“Our services and programs are tailored to the unique needs of individuals with autism. We enable them to have healthy, safe, and fulfilling lives in their own communities. Our expertise helps individuals – many of whom have significant lifelong needs – be as independent as possible and achieve their goals and dreams”

Brother Mike Delivers \$500 to Chaun McNeely at Healing Transitions.

*“We believe **all** people struggling with addiction (especially the homeless, uninsured, and underserved) deserve services on demand. That’s why we offer both a **men’s campus** and a **women’s campus** tailored to serve their unique needs.”*

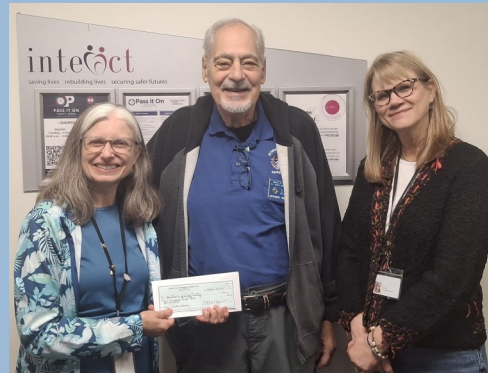
BECAUSE recovery can’t wait.



Brother Tony delivers \$500 checks to Judy Goergen, Development Coordinator of Interact

InterAct was originally founded on February 24, 1978, as Wake County Child Abuse Prevention Services. In 2009, InterAct realized its vision of creating a highly effective model of one-stop, wraparound services for victims and survivors of domestic/intimate partner violence and sexual assault in Wake County’s twelve municipalities.

GlaxoSmithKline and Mutual of America have both recognized InterAct with national awards as a best practice, and they have been called upon by state-wide, regional, national, and even international organizations to share the success of their model.





PHILANTHROPY



LAMB

“LAMB, “Least Among My Brethren”, was a program started by PSD Bill Scott which was adopted as a statewide program by the State Council in 1974. The sole purpose of LAMB is to support those with intellectual disabilities. These individuals have needs that most of us cannot imagine. The funds that our Councils provide, through various means of fundraising, help to meet some of those needs.”

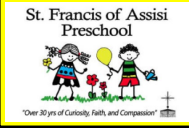
“By its very nature LAMB touches just about every program we as Knights support; community, family, right to life, youth, church, you name it.”

~Richard White, North Carolina LAMB Director



LAMB Donations to date:

Philanthropy—\$1,000 October 2025



HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL 2025!



The annual TFS Pre-school Fundraiser has become a much anticipated event thanks to “Mike’s Chili!” For the past 17 years, Brother Wrzesien has been cooking up his savory, culinary delight that has become part of this time-honored tradition. The hot dogs, mac-n-cheese and friendly service all ensured that those in attendance thoroughly enjoyed themselves. With the games and kids, parents and raffles, the atmosphere was electric. Principal Heidi Hobler and her staff could not thank us enough for making this day special and bringing in new revenue for our TFS Pre-school. A big thank you to Tony Rivezzo, Chuck Hennesen, Nick Renga, Sam Straight, Warren Persak, Jim Hoose, Pat Sauter, David Payne, Sandy Gayle, Dick Kozacko, and Paul Geisen for their support as kitchen staff, servers, bus boys and clean up. And perhaps performing best in their key roles as All Saints Council Ambassadors. Can’t believe we have to wait a whole year for this to happen again! Great job, Knights!



HEIDI LOVES HER MEN IN BLUE!

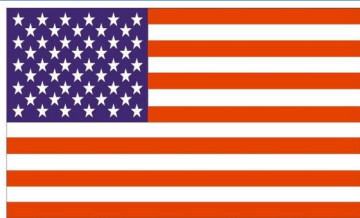


FATHER CHRIS AND FATHER JIM MAKING THE ROUNDS!





VETERAN'S DAY BREAKFAST 2025



Another wonderful morning with plenty of servings of great food and fellowship. Our Faithful Navigator, Mike Darrow, performed well, as always, as our MC for the event. The Invocation was performed by Fourth Degree Knight and Pastor of St Luke Parish, Father Roger Malonda Nyimi.



Then it came time to dig in to some tasty grub of eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes and donuts washed down by hot coffee and orange juice. Breakfast fit for a king all served up by familiar faces! We were entertained by our own talented Parishioner, Grace Lucia, whose beautiful voice made the National Anthem and God Bless America extremely moving.



As always, the Anthem for each branch of our US Armed Forces was played arousing a chorus from those Veterans in attendance. And of course, some good hearted competitive ribbing along with it.



Sir Knight and Past Faithful Navigator Jim Rispoli did a wonderful job telling the significance of the Missing Soldier Table.

A white tablecloth, single red rose, yellow ribbon, slice of lemon, grains of salt, inverted glass, white candle, empty chair and Bible all help to symbolize the everlasting concern for missing service members.



Our guest speaker, Joe Angell, gave a stirring talk regarding his background and work he is doing today still serving his country after retirement from the military. His time in the



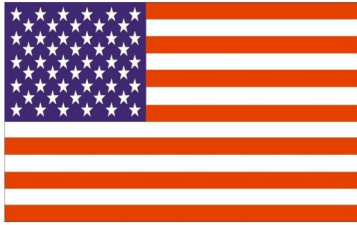
military found him either in construction on various installations around the world or consulting on military base construction projects. For the past 15 years, Joe has led high school students in STEM camps to introduce the next generations to engineering and construction and how it relates to military support.

The morning was concluded with Benediction by Fr. Nyimi and America the Beautiful performed by Grace Lucia.





VETERAN'S DAY 2025



On November 11th, Veteran's Day, The Franciscan School honored all veterans with a special Morning Prayer followed by singing of the National Anthem. Closing the ceremony, the 3rd Grade sang America The Beautiful.



Principal Dawn Smith recognized the Knights for placing the flags on the stage for the ceremony. Veterans were invited into Jacoba Hall for a reception following the Morning Prayer in the Courtyard.



Veterans were also invited to speak to classrooms to share their military experiences during their time in the service. Council Brothers James Davisson, John LaTorre, Scott Larabee, and David Payne all spoke to designated classes about their personal experiences during their time serving in the United States Armed Forces.



Wrapping up Veteran's Day, our Boy Scout Troop 352 conducted a Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Creekside Community Center that evening. Assisting David Payne in organizing this event was



Community Director, Josette Chmiel, who was extremely pleased after last year's ceremony conducted by the Scouts so



she wanted them back again for this Veteran's Day. Our own James Davisson was also on scene to participate in the ceremony. Retired Flags are prepared to provide Red Stripes, White Stripes and Blue Fields to be placed into the fire following readings and prayers specific to the retirement ceremony. Local residents, Scouts and their Leaders all participated in placing prepared flags into the fire. It was indeed a chilly, but somber event capping off a day of proudly celebrating our Veterans.



James and Josette proudly saluting their retired flags



KNIGHT OF THE MONTH



OCTOBER 2025 SCOTT REES



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.

NOVEMBER 2025 SAM STRAIGHT



Sam is a familiar face as a volunteer at every Knights of Columbus event from Decorating at Christmas to working the kitchen at our Parish events like the Pancake Breakfasts and Spaghetti Dinners. Always greeting you with a smile, Sam founded the Arlene Straight Endowment that supports the TFS Preschool to provide families with Scholarships who otherwise may not have had the opportunity to attend. Sam is truly a shining example of Knights values.

DECEMBER 2025 MIKE ZIMMERS



As our Trustees set about to determine our Council Officer Corps at the end of the last Fraternal Year, some key decisions needed to be considered. Perhaps the most critical was to appoint a new Council Treasurer as Brother Mark Baumgartner prepared for his new role as Deputy Grand Knight. Mark has been our stalwart Treasurer for the past 4 years. An obviously critical role managing Council funds, the choices had to be seriously vetted. Once the dust settled Brother Mike Zimmers stood out as the candidate best suited to take the reins. And he has gone above and beyond managing this new role while juggling a full time job, family and other volunteer work. Welcome, Mike!



FAMILY OF THE MONTH



OCTOBER 2025

FRANK AND DEBBIE MCNALLY



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.

NOVEMBER 2025

PATRICK AND KAREN SAUTER



The Sauter Family sets a high bar in terms of Servant Leadership. Patrick and Karen (who was unable to be present for photo) are inspirations in terms of how often they serve the Council and Parish whether it's helping in the kitchen or working the Bulls games, they are there with smiles and seemingly boundless energy. Pat and Karen are also giving Foster Parents for kids of all ages. Even injured with his arm in a cast, Patrick showed up with his famous Green Bean Casserole at the First Responders Dinner. That's dedication!

DECEMBER 2025

DAVID AND KATHY PAYNE



The Payne Family has been members of St Francis for the past 9 years getting involved in many Parish activities. PGK David has also been a member of committees that include Philanthropy, Father/Son planning, and has been taking care of Faith in Action reporting for the past few years along with leading the Good Friday procession. He also enjoys helping to drive trucks for the CPO and OLR drives. Kathy is involved in the SFA Music Ministry serving in three choirs including the Resurrection Choir that serves all funerals. Daughter Erin also sings in two of those choirs along with cantoring at 9AM mass. Grandson Charley is thriving as a 6th Grader at TFS and is an altar server.

MEET YOUR SEMINARIANS 2025!



Anthony May—Pastoral Year

Saint Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary,

Birth Date: April 14

Home Parish: St. Christopher, Radcliff, KY

Hobbies: Board Games, Military History, Latin

Who influenced / inspired you to the priesthood? I was most inspired by my family and my uncle: Fr. Chrysostem Baer.

Favorite Scripture Passage: Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Favorite Saint: St. Martin de Porres

Deacon Drew Navarro - 4th Year

Saint Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary,

Birth Date: January 11

Home Parish: St. Luke the Evangelist, Raleigh

Hobbies: swimming, running, reading, writing, hiking, soccer, ultimate frisbee, spending time outdoors with friends and family

Who influenced / inspired you to priesthood? Several priests who live out their vocation with joy and love; key friendships over the years; and time spent with Scripture.

Favorite Scripture Passage: 1 John 4:19: We love because He loved us first.

Favorite Saint: Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Gianna Molla



Anthony Pham - 2nd Discipleship

Saint Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary,

Birth Date: February 19

Home Parish: Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Greensboro, NC

Hobbies: cooking, fishing, raising pets, going on walks, reading spiritual books

Who influenced / inspired you to priesthood?

The Holy Spirit through my parents and the example of good priests and consecrated men and women.

Favorite Scripture passage: My favorite excerpt is prayed by the Church daily during Evening Prayer, in which we proclaim "the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his Name" (Luke 1:49).

Mary reminds us to recognize all good comes from God; therefore, we should always give praise!

Favorite saint: After the Blessed Mother, St. Faustina. Her example of obedience and humility reflects the message of Christ's Eucharistic love and mercy so needed today.

Thomas Rees—1st Discipleship

Saint Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary,

Birth date: 5/4/1998

Home parish: Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, Raleigh

Hobbies: weightlifting, rowing, video games, coding, reading, walking, pickleball, and biking

Who influenced / inspired you to priesthood: Monsignor Brockman, my Cathedral young adult groups, Father Joshua, and many others

Favorite scripture passage: "But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart." - Luke 2:19 (RSV)

Favorite saint: St. Thérèse of Lisieux



James Sides India Class

St. Joseph College Seminary

1 of 9 men who entered the program for the Diocese of Charlotte in 2024.

His home parish is St. Mark Parish in Huntersville, North Carolina.



A Big Thank You to Paul Scaini for Providing these Profiles!



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
REGIONAL SEMINARY

Paul and Sandy with Brother Rees!

OUR LADY OF ROSARY FALL FOOD DRIVE 2025



For close to 20 years (40 Food Drives), the generous community of St Francis of Assisi has conducted Food and Diaper 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. The Knights also provided 24 new winter coats from our Coats for Kids campaign. 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!



This fall was once again an exceptionally generous drive producing 6-7,000# of food and dry goods along with almost \$5,000 in cash and checks! SFA Volunteers headed by Tess Ferrer collected donations throughout the weekend sorting them by category of food/diapers/etc. Then on Monday November 24th, Worthy Deputy Grand Knight, Mark Baumgartner and PGK David Payne delivered the bounty to the OLR food pantry in Louisburg where they assist the OLR volunteers in offloading the collection and sorting it for future distribution to the community. Even Father Edward was running loads and sorting with the gang. It should also be noted that seven of these volunteers are OLR Knights!



Once again, the drive was so successful that we overloaded their pantry shelves with extras having to be stored on the floor and their spare room. Roseanne Anderer, OLR Food Pantry Director, said this will keep them going until February, just shy of our next SFA food Drive. Thank you St Francis for making this upcoming Holiday and winter season special for many families in Louisburg, NC!





2025 TFS ESSAY AWARDS AND NATIVITY



In partnership with The Franciscan School, our Council conducts annual Essay Contests for our Eighth Grade class. Students submit their entries to their teachers who in turn, evaluate them before sending them over to our Council judges for evaluation and to announce a winner.

THE FRANCISCAN SCHOOL
— FAITH - ACADEMICS - SERVICE —

This contest encourages today's youth to be more connected to their community and their faith. The goal of this program is to involve young Catholics in civic discourse and instill in them religious and life-affirming values. The essay should be 500-750 words on a specific topic (see page 20), that changes every other year. Entrants are judged on grammar, style, and how clearly they present the theme in a way that showcases creativity, imagination and overall development of the topic. The winners may go on the local, State and National competitions. Photos courtesy of Program Director, Wes Evans.



Father Jim Welcomes Students and Friends



Father Chris Blesses the Living Nativity



WGK Tommy Awards Winner and Runners Up



Our Worthy 2025 Team of Judges



It was a Great Day for Students, Faculty and Families to Congratulate our Winners!



2025 ESSAY CONTEST



TFS

THE FRANCISCAN SCHOOL
— FAITH — ACADEMICS — SERVICE —

This year's winner is Kate Sullivan from Mrs. Dellasega's First Period Class. The Theme for this year's essay is "The Three Popes I Admire the Most." Her original work is posted below.

Joining Grand Knight Tommy Dalton on December 17th to congratulate Kate were Father Chris, Brothers Sandy Gayle, Scott Larabee, Paul Geisen, DGK, Mark Baumgartner and Program Director, Wes Evans. The Knights also recognized and congratulated runners-up Katelyn Nystrom and Danielle Lagoniger.



The Three Popes I Admire Most Pope Francis was inspired to take his name after St. Francis of Assisi to honor him as "the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation." (Watson). There are so many popes that have taken into account the responsibility of treating others with Christ-filled relationships and to everything created by God in his image. They have helped so many throughout their lives and made others priorities before themselves, spread the word and the truth of God, and showed thoughtfulness and righteousness to everyone they meet. So many popes have all of these characteristics and traits that have changed the world for the better, but there are three that stand out the most. The three popes that have truly altered my perspective from the goodness they have shown are St. Pope Pius I, St. Pope Cornelius, and Pope Innocent III.

First, one of the popes who inspired me the most is St. Pope Pius I. He served as the Bishop of Rome and his papacy took place from 140-155 A.D. He was known for defending the church and christian teachings against groups that were distorting God's truth. There were some people who were practicing different beliefs, but they were misinterpreting God's word. St. Pope Pius I decided he was going to help the church and oppose those teachings that were going against God. St. Pope Pius I showed so much devotion and faithfulness to God and he never let others discourage him into not believing divine revelations from God. Instead of just stepping aside and following the crowd, he knew he needed to help the parish and everyone that was thriving in it. St. Pope Pius changed my thinking patterns to always never follow the majority and to be able to think for myself.

In addition, St. Pope Cornelius intensely inspires me because of his benevolence and empathy during tough times for the church. When he was pope in 251 A.D., there was a lot of persecution of Christians happening at the time. Even though Cornelius knew about the endangerment he was putting himself in, he still decided to show acceptance within the church to those who dismissed their faith out of fear. Instead of criticizing them, he reminded them that God's mercy and forgiveness is stronger than the sins that have occurred. St. Pope Cornelius showed outstanding compassion and perception, which all together summed up his true intentions of helping people dedicate themselves to God even when faced with persecution. St. Pope Cornelius has transformed me to always show mercy and care to others, even when it's effortless to stay judgemental and distant.

Lastly, the final pope out of many that has modified my perspective is Pope Innocent III. He worked to enhance the canon laws, which are the church's set of laws. He helped to explain and organize these laws so that those in the church like priests and leaders of the church could obey them correctly. He helped strengthen the church's authority by making sure the laws were benefiting the leaders of the church and religious practices. By refining the canon laws, he helped the church have more order and organization. Pope Innocent III showed me how important it is to have organization and rules and to be structured. He taught me to not only follow this for church, but to also have this take place in my daily life and that clear standards can help everybody collaborate better. ~Kate Sullivan

GOOD NEWS!



Sue and I were in Rome Oct 19-27, 2025. We wanted to be a part of the Jubilee Year at the Vatican, which happens every 25 years. The major event of the Jubilee Year is the opening of the Holy Doors in four of the major Basilicas in Rome. These Holy Doors are the focus of many pilgrimages of Catholics to Rome from all over the world. While we were not in an organized pilgrimage, we did enter all four of the doors, the principal one being St. Peter's Basilica which we entered through after visiting the Sistine Chapel.



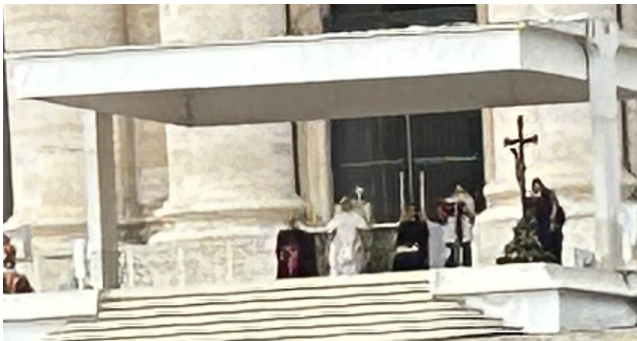
While we enjoyed the many spectacular basilicas, statues, ruins and fountains in Rome, we felt the audience with Pope Leo would be the highlight. Although we knew tens of thousands would be in St. Peter's Square on that day, we got on the grounds pretty early in the morning and were able to find a spot along one of the barricades (suggestion of Nick Renga.) As the popemobile

approached our area, it got pretty chaotic with people trying to get a good look. Although he passed us pretty quickly, the vehicle stopped about 20 yards away and Leo bent over to bless some small children. At that point we were able to get good photos of him in action. Pope Leo was very welcoming to the children and we felt he was very comfortable in his role and being admired by this flock of loving people.



Once Pope Leo was on the covered stage in front of the Basilica, he addressed the crowd on the importance of hope in our lives. He repeated this address in five languages, all fluently. There was also lots of pomp and circumstance with cardinals, archbishops, etc who he had to greet. Overall, it was comforting to see Pope Leo as a gentle man, happy in his new role and projecting himself as a worthy leader of the church.

~ Brother Paul Geisen



TFS/HSA HOLIDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

WHO YA GONNA CALL? WHY THE KNIGHTS, OF COURSE!



Our Council is honored to be considered the “Go To Guys in the Blue Shirts” whenever an event or special need comes up on the TFS or SFA campus. Once again, we were called into duty to support the TFS/HSA Holiday Pancake Breakfast. Our Leader, Brother Paul Scaini, was assisted by Brothers Paul Geisen, Frank McNally, Wes Evans, Chuck Hennesen, Chris Miranda, Bill Horne, Jim Hoose and Sandy Gayle.



On Saturday December 6th The Knights of our Council led by Paul Scaini (Liaison to the TFS HSA) supported a Pancake Breakfast in Jacoba Hall (School Cafeteria) hosted by the TFS HSA. There were about 150 people in attendance total consisting of students, their families and faculty. Special appearances were made by Dawn Smith, Father Chris and Father Jim (who requested special chocolate Chip Pancakes). The Knights helped set up the event and decorations as well as figured out how to use the updated Jacoba Kitchen to cook up Pancakes and Sausages which we served to all the guests. It was a great opportunity to show the school community that the Knights are there to support as well as planting the seeds for future recruitment. The Knights also helped clean up once the event was over. The event was a huge success according to the HSA and we look forward to supporting them next year.

~Brother Paul Scaini, TFS Liaison



ADOPT A HIGHWAY



Good fellowship in concert with community service. Our December 6th Adopt-a-Highway was a success with 8 Brother Knights joining in on the fun. Early AAH pioneer, Brian Denison, confirmed this is our 25th 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 and on the 6th collected 8 full bags of trash and recycle along with a number of cardboard boxes along the road near the Durham line.

The joke is 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 treasures while enjoying the fellowship of Brothers and their families!

Supporting Brother Bagin on this day were Jim Hoose, Tim Wagner and his daughter, Ralph Guenther, Sandy Gayle, Jeff Huckel, and Jim Glonek.



File Photos



2025 CHRISTMAS PARTY



Last summer, the Christmas Party Committee headed by Deputy Grand Knight, Mark Baumgartner, set out to find a new venue for our Annual Council Christmas Party. For many years we have enjoyed so many fun times at Casa Carbone Restaurant but the last couple of years found that particular venue having its share of issues that created a dark cloud over our annual festivities. The most prevalent was that the size of the room and number of attendees created a crowded situation with no room for fellowship—the very purpose of having us all together!

After visiting several venues with the goal of finding that perfect place, the committee found that Black Horse Run appeared to offer the best option.

This facility is the clubhouse of the community where Tony and Judy Rivezzo reside. The committee also had to consider other factors such as location, accessibility, and cost to ensure we stayed within budget parameters. And then there was the menu and suppliers to consider since we no longer would be attending a restaurant.

During the Officers Meeting in September, a vote decided that Southern Q Barbecue was selected as the caterer for the party based on its traditional holiday selections that were more down home like brisket, turkey, green beans and potatoes. Once



the menu was established our Decorating Committee headed up by Theresa Baumgartner went to work on how to make the clubhouse festive and bright. Also ideas such as appetizers, dessert, and drinks had to be sorted out to round out the occasion. Attendees were invited to bring their own wine or beverages of choice while water, tea and lemonade were provided by the Council.

Rounding out the Committee behind Mark were Tony Rivezzo, Mike Rock and Dave Payne. We have to mention too that special elves like Kathy Payne and Judy Rivezzo worked closely with Theresa to decorate

the clubhouse. Other elves who helped set up and tear down included Frank McNally, Jim Hoose, Nick Renga, along with Wes and Pat Evans. And special guest servers were Tony and Judy's daughters, Jennie and Jessie.



It appeared that everyone in attendance enjoyed the evening through fellowship, good food and lots of laughter. Father Joseph blessed the meal while Father Chris and Father James also joined in the fun. We toasted Tom and Elaine Dupree who could not be with us due to health reasons but we had them present in spirit.



Here's wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy 2026!



MORE GOOD NEWS!

WELCOME NEW KNIGHTS!

On Sunday, December 14th, at 1PM our newest Brother Knights took their vows in a solemn exemplification ceremony at Saint Mary of the Angels Chapel. Our newest members are Luis Villareal, Peter Sorge, Doug Wall and Julius Fajardo. As always our dedicated Exemplification Team, recognized for their excellent execution. 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 David Payette presented Unity as well as 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. Following the formal ceremony in the Chapel, Wes and Pat Evans provided a scrumptious reception for our new Knights and their guests.



The TIAHA, Triangle Italian American Heritage Association has been delivering Christmas gifts to the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford orphanage for over 22 years. Brothers who are also elves for TIAHA include John LaTorre, Dave Crout, Jerry Cucurullo, and Tony Rivezzo.



Wreaths Across America Day 2025 was held on Saturday, December 13, 2025, a nationwide event where volunteers placed remembrance wreaths at over 5,600 locations, including Arlington National Cemetery, to honor fallen veterans by placing wreaths on their graves, saying their names, and



teaching the next generation about service, with ongoing opportunities to sponsor wreaths or volunteer year-round. We are proud that our own Sir Knights, Patrick Sauter and Chuck Hennesen represented our Council and Assembly at the event in Salisbury, NC.





2025 CHRISTMAS TREE!



"This delivery marks the 19th straight year that Tim and Bonnie Moser, the owners of Shepherd's Way Farms, have donated the big tree to St. Francis. In addition, they have donated the poinsettias, wreaths, and garland. This tree was a finalist for selection for the White House but it comes to our house instead (Tim and Bonnie have been selected to deliver a tree to the Vice President's residence next year)."

"These generous gifts to our parish (for nearly two decades!), enrich the Christmas environment experience for members of our faith community. Just think of all the family pictures taken in front of the tree over the years by parishioners who have no

idea who makes this beautiful experience possible. The Mosers are humble and seek no accolades, but they certainly deserve them". And for about 15 years, Theresa has volunteered to lead all the decorating activities at our church. For her, Christmas and Easter are like tax season for an accountant. It's something she loves to do in the background. Yesterday, we joined her, with a large group of volunteers, to get the final preparations in place in the main church and two other "overflow" locations. Over the next two days, thousands of parishioners will enjoy the beautiful decorations. The new tradition, Theresa made the star that sits atop the 18' tree."

~ DGK Mark Baumgartner



Theresa and her elves work magic throughout the church that included decorating the Welcome Center, Fellowship Hall, and the Gym. **Man Down!!** No, just Chuck checking every detail of the garland installation.



2025 CHRISTMAS TREE!



Mark's tree and garland crew included Chuck Hennesen , Marty Schmidt, Wes Evans, Julius Fajardo, Tony Rivezzo, Jim Hoose, Dave Payne, Ken Fridey and pilot Will Connolly. Not shown are Paul Geisen and Ralph Guenther



Theresa's elves included Kathy, Tess, Barbara, Mary Beth and Theresa's daughter Allison. Not shown is Monica.





SPREADING JOY TO DUKE HOSPITAL!

Each year, Knights of Columbus Council 9709 collects monetary donations at our annual Family Christmas Dinner to purchase toys for patients at Duke Children's Hospital. In 2025, thanks to the generosity of our Brother Knights and their families, we raised **\$950** and provided **81 toys** to children spending the holidays in the hospital.

This year's effort truly became a family affair. Tommy's daughter, Kelcy, a monthly Duke Children's Hospital outpatient, along with her boyfriend, and son Conner with his girlfriend, carefully selected toys for infants and teenagers. Guided by a wish list provided by the hospital's "Elves" (Social Workers), they chose a wide variety of items including baby toys, coloring books, art supplies, LEGO® sets, dolls, action figures, toy cars, and electronics, cloths and healthcare products ensuring each child would receive a special gift during their stay.

This annual tradition has been a heartwarming way for Council 9709 and the Dalton family to give back since 2020. Thank you to Council 9709 and the Dalton family for making this meaningful outreach possible.

As the Dalton family delivered the toys, the St. Francis of Assisi Duke Children's Ministry also arrived to distribute their gifts in the lobby—a beautiful reminder of the generosity and compassion shared throughout our community during the Christmas season.



Kelcy and her boyfriend checking off their list while Conner and his girlfriend are checking theirs off as well.



The St Francis Duke Children's Ministry also makes Christmas special at DCH!





GRAND KNIGHTS MESSAGE



Worthy Brothers All,
Merry Christmas! In this holy season, we rejoice in the birth of the Christ Child and are reminded once again of our call to live our faith through service. Christmas invites us to reflect with gratitude, to find joy in serving others, and to renew our commitment to serve Him through our works. Our mission remains clear: to be missionary disciples—leading by example in our parish and community through Charity, Unity, and Fraternity.

With the conclusion of the Jubilee of Hope on Epiphany, Pope Leo closed the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, marking the end of this extraordinary year of grace. During the closing, he offered a prayer of thanksgiving and proclaimed, "This Holy Door is closed, but the door of your mercy is not closed." While the Jubilee year has ended, the call to seek God's grace and extend His mercy continues. An entire year has passed already, and it is hard to believe how quickly the time has gone. Memento mori. Tempus fugit. Life is short; live with purpose.

Our Council is certainly living with purpose. It is remarkable to reflect on the many good works accomplished throughout the year, each one building upon the last. Together, we raised more than \$50,000 for charitable causes and contributed nearly 5,000 volunteer service hours. Thank you, Brothers, for your generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure in service to our parish and community. Whether looking back over the entire year or just the past quarter, it is clear we continue to answer God's call with enthusiasm, dedication, and great success.

As we enter a new calendar year, let us continue to find joy in serving and remain faithful to the principles of our Order "Charity, Unity, and Fraternity" in all that we do. Let us continue to put our Faith into Action with renewed purpose and greater impact, strengthening our parish and communities, and forming better men, fathers, and husbands through faithful devotion to Christ our Lord and His Mother, Mary.

Fraternally yours,
Tommy E. Dalton

