



Knights of Columbus All Saints Council 9709 St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community

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Ist Responders' Luncheons

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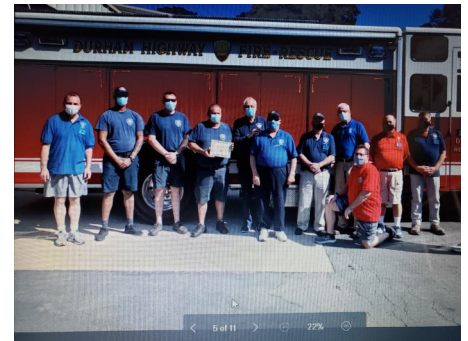
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Sheriff Baker receiving our Certificate



All Saints Council 9709 completed its fifth annual show of recognition and support for the First Responders serving in our community. For the previous four years the Council invited the First Responders for a tribute in St. Francis of Assisi Church's Fellowship Hall for a potluck dinner prepared and attended by the Knights and their families. However, this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, a change of venue was necessary. Instead of having the affair on Church grounds a group of Council members delivered lunches to several locations which included three fire stations, Police and Sheriff's Departments. In total, 110 lunches were served. The Knights' show of respect for the work done by the First Responders was welcomed with appreciation and gratitude. Each location was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for their bravery and dedication to the community.



Message from Deputy Grand Knight Steve Becker
shown with Cecy

As we bring 2020 to a close this year, I think everyone around the world would agree that this has been about the most difficult year the world has seen in more than 50 years, dealing with Coronavirus. So, I think we're all looking forward to 2021 – and the positive impact of a vaccine that will hopefully put this pandemic in the rearview mirror by this time next year (only time will tell).

In the meantime, for us Knights, there were a number of great things that happened from a positive perspective, and I think it's worth remembering here. At the beginning of the year, our council coordinated a parish cellphone drive, where 71 cellphones were collected to benefit Interact, helping victims of abuse. Also, we had our annual TFS spelling bee, where we saw Diana Canter-Melo win her fifth of the last six bees – amazing! She has graduated, so we'll be crowning a new champion in a few weeks. Our brothers also assembled 75 desks for the 5th grade at TFS – getting the entire job done in 2 hours! We had our annual military appreciation day with the Hurricanes, recognizing over 20 beloved Vets, who were treated to Justin Williams first game back from retirement, where he hit the game winning goal. As usual, we had a tremendous tailgate before and after the game and a great time had by all. We were joined for the third year by our fellow brothers from Winston Salem, a wonderful multi-council event. We had our March for Life activities in Raleigh and had 8 brothers make the trip to DC for the National March for Life – a memorable experience. In February, there was a nice Valentine's dinner at Casa Carbone, for brothers to celebrate the special blessed relationships they have with their spouses. We also once again volunteered at A Place at the Table, a pay "what you can" restaurant that we have supported for the past few years. We also provided support for the weekly parish Lenten suppers, which had over 50 parishioners in attendance, on average. We responded to the pandemic, by having our monthly business meetings held through Zoom, allowing over 40 brothers a month to participate live with each other and keep up with council activities. Also, held seven Red Cross Blood Drives this year, which thanks to our WGK Bryan Kozak, who organized these drives, there were over 750 pints collected during the year!! As part of our RSVP program, we supported 4 religious brothers/sisters in preparation for priesthood or in prayerful service. In fact, in June, one of those who we've supported for several years, Brother Abraham Joseph was ordained into the priesthood. So, this support does really matter to those that receive it!

Our council also supported parish food drives by driving the

CPO truck the back and forth to both CPO and Our Lady of the Rosary (Louisburg). The thousands of pounds of food and dollars collected to serve the needy is staggering! We had another successful Memorial Day mass (this year, celebrated virtually by Fr. Jim), where 690 deceased veterans names who have been collected over the past 16 years were honored. We celebrated our 20th year of Adopt a Highway cleanup with four drives during the year, the last of which had a record 18 brothers/family members support! Our founder Rev. Michael J. McGivney was beatified – in a moving ceremony. We closed out the first half of the year saying thanks to outgoing WGK Bob Weisenberger, who helped lead the council to a Gold Star award, the highest council award given out at the annual state convention. We had the induction of our new officers including our new WGK, Bryan Kozak.

The Summer "flew by" and at the end of August, we said goodbye to our Franciscan Priests and welcomed new leadership to our Parish, Monsignor Michael Clay and newly ordained priest Fr. Jairo Maldonado. We were happy to find out that Fr. Jairo was also transferring into our council as a 2nd degree Knight. By all accounts, we're off to a great start with our new leadership! In September and October, we held First Responder appreciation lunches for local EMS/Firemen, police, and capped by the event downtown at the Wake County Sheriff's Headquarters where some 80 people were served, including Sheriff Gerald Baker. He was very grateful to our council for providing the moral support and the food/drinks at the luncheon. Finally, some of our brother Knights helped 321 Coffee, which is a coffee house staffed largely by kids with intellectual and developmental disabilities, build a 12x12' wall with windows to doors, that would allow for an additional place to serve customers. Another worthwhile effort for a deserving place! We also supported the parish with the annual Francis Fest, but this year it was a drive through "Bless" event, with 210 cars coming through to greet our new priests. Finally, we closed the year by supporting another drive through event to celebrate the third Sunday of Advent, where 150 cars passed through to receive gifts to help celebrate the season from the parish. The last event of the year was to decorate the church and the huge tree for Christmas!

Before I wrap up, I want to remember several brothers that we lost this year. They will always be in our thoughts and prayers, as we will never forget how much they meant to us. Also, I want to thank our great leadership we were fortunate to have from our past WGK, Bob, and our current one, Bryan. They had to help us endure quite a year, that I think by all accounts we as a council made the most of under such difficult circumstances. It also would not have been possible, without the support of our officers and committee chairmen, as well as the rest of our membership, and our families. Special thanks to Brothers Denison and Rivezzo for all their hard work in documenting our activities for us in these great newsletters. Finally, I want to wish all of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Here's an early toast to a better year in 2021! *Blessings, Steve Becker*

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY GOING ON 20 YEARS



Brothers and Wagner Family,

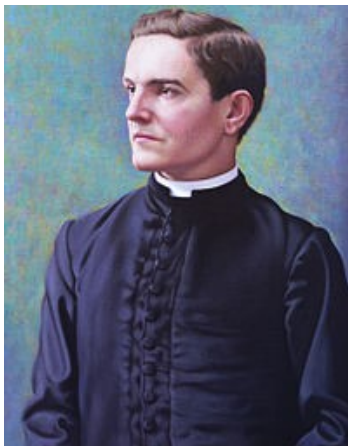
Thank you very much for spending part of your Saturday participating in the Adopt A Highway litter pick up. We were 18 strong, picked up 19 bags of trash and 8 bags of recycling. There was a little wind but No Rain! Hope to see you in March for our next pick up.

We wish you and your family a very happy and holy Christmas. Especially during this time of year I often think of our Servicemen and Women both home and away. I found this commercial from the 2005 Super Bowl. It really rings true for me during this time of year. Freedom is not free!



Message from brother John Dziadul.
AKA the Trash Man.

We were once again blessed with a strong turnout for our quarterly Leesville Rd cleanup. With a strong turnout, we minimized the walking time, with exception of the Durham side, due to some confusion on walking path. Big thanks to the Wagner family with showing up with their troops. Donuts and coffee, our normal dining affair were enjoyed again and getting together with fellow Knights to share some great fellowship. By Brian Denison



Father McGivney's Beatitude.

In May 2020, Pope Francis approved the miracle, which healed preborn Mickey Schachle of a life-threatening condition, needed for the Beatification of Father Michael McGivney. As a Connecticut priest and founder of the Knights of Columbus, McGivney is often viewed as an American phenomenon. His belief in the values of charity, unity and brotherhood is a precept of our Catholic faith. In reality his vision has spread across the world, impacting millions of lives.

FRANCIS BLESS FEST, OCTOBER 4TH



Impacted by Covid's restrictions, St. Francis's annual October Francis Fest was canceled. In its place, Ashley Watson with her committee, developed the Francis Bless Fest. This event was announced in the bulletin as an opportunity to have pets blessed by Father Jim and to meet Monsignor Michael Clay and Father Jairo Maldonado. Parishioners were directed to drive to the school parking lot, remain in their cars to receive blessings from Father Jim, and to greet our new priests. Approximately, 210 cars arrived, some waiting as long as an hour to pass through but pleased to participate. Several Council members volunteered to help by assembling tents, directing traffic and cleaning up afterwards.



LOUISBURG FOOD DRIVE, NOVEMBER 21/22



Recognizing the need, a Food Drive was announced by St. Francis to help our neighbors at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Louisburg. Necessary for the Drive, a truck was required for the collection of the food and various sundries. Our Council Brothers Steve Becker and David Payne were responsible for the truck which meant getting it from the CPO facility, parking at St. Francis, then delivering and unloading at Our Lady of the Rosary. Again, our parishioners showed their generosity by completely filling the truck with essentials weighing over 8,000 pounds along with a cash donation of \$3,500. Our Lady of the Rosary parishioners were extremely pleased with the donation as it completely filled their food pantry with plenty of leftovers.

REVEL! REJOICE! ROLL!



Creche built by Mark, Theresa,
Allison Baumgartner



The third Sunday of advent is called Gaudete Sunday when traditionally Catholics rejoice and celebrate the up-coming sacred holiday of the birth of our Savior. Thanks to the staff at St. Francis and with the help from members of our Council, the celebration was enacted with a campus drive-thru on December 13th giving the parishioners an opportunity to greet Fr. Jim, Fr. Jairo and Msgr. Clay, to view many decorated Christmas trees, to view the Creche and receive gifts. Approximately 150 cars drove through, some decorated with garland and bows with some drivers wearing Santa hats but all saying "Merry Christmas." A fun sharing day that surely ignited the Christmas spirit.

Saint Francis Christmas Decorations



DECORATING CHRISTMAS ON DECEMBER 22

Every year the owners of Shepherds Way Farms (see page 8) generously donate and deliver a massive Christmas Tree, over 100 red and white poinsettias, strings of garland and wreaths to be used to decorate the Church. Next comes the arduous task of placing these artifacts within the Church. Under the direction of the Baumgartner family, Mark, Theresa and their daughter Allison, a team of Knights complete the process by stringing over 4,000 lights on the 25' tree, positioning the poinsettias around the altar, and hanging the garland and wreaths. Finally, to complete this mission, the Creche is set-up in the sanctuary as a reminder of why we celebrate Christmas.

Saint Francis Christmas Decorations



Tim Moser picture from FB Shepard's Way Farms.

The story of the tree being delivered to St Francis

Getting the tree in place was a quite an operation last night; taking 7 guys from Shepherd's Way (including Tim) to get the tree put into place. It was unusually heavy and it took much longer than in the past. While not the tallest tree (it is tall), I believe it's the widest tree we have had in all the more than 10 years Theresa has been responsible for the church environment (and I have served as her helper). Tim said this is the 14th tree he has donated to the church; he has them identified and planned out years in advance on his farm. He goes back to the mountain and cuts it just before delivering to the church.

Written by Mark Baumgartner



Tim on his tractor

Once again, there is a magnificent tree with thousands of lights, that will enhance the celebration of Christmas mass at St. Francis of Assisi church. [In non-pandemic years], families take pictures in front of the huge Christmas tree and the brightly colored poinsettias. What most don't realize is that the Christmas tree is a gift to the parish from Shepherd's Way Farms, owned by Tim and Bonnie Moser. Tim and Bonnie's generosity to the parish also include gifts of flowers, garland and wreaths. The lilies at Easter and the mums for the feast of St. Francis are also gifts generously provided by Tim and Bonnie. Tim has been delivering the Christmas tree, along with wreaths, garland and flowers for over 10 years.

Tim and Bonnie have been growing Fraser firs for nearly 40 years in Laurel Springs, NC on their fifth-generation farm. Bonnie's family has farmed the land since before the Civil War. The farm now focuses primarily on Christmas trees and pumpkins. Shepherds Way has several seasonal lots, the nearest to St. Francis is located at the BP station located at Norwood and Creedmoor Rd. He also typically has one at North Hills. In a December 15, 2017 *North Hills Live* article about Tim Moser and how he came to grow Christmas trees, her reveals the link between what he does and faith and mentions that the best tree goes to St. Francis. When asked: What do you enjoy most about tree farming? Tim said *"My prayer is that each and every tree that goes into someone's home reminds them of God's everlasting love for us. Growing Christmas trees enables me to share the evergreen as a symbol of God's love through His gift of Jesus Christ. That's why I do it, and that's why I love it so much."*

In response to the question: What are some of the most memorable parts of the Christmas tree season for you?

Tim responded: *"My favorite Christmas tree every year is the last tree that I cut. I put it in St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, and it is always the biggest and the most beautiful."*

More on Shepherd's Way can be found on Face Book and other social media.

Written by Mark Baumgartner



Knights of Columbus
All Saints Council 9709
Saint Francis of Assisi
Catholic Church
Raleigh, North Carolina



News Briefs for our Council



& Reverend
Jairo Maldonado

Brothers

We are pleased to introduce our newest Knight Father Jairo. Father Jairo has transferred his membership from another council, making him our first Clergy member since Father David. It is a great honor that we have gained him as a brother and hope you will welcome him into our ranks.

COMMENTARY

We are coming to the end of the infamous year 2020. While it has been a tough year we are now hopeful that in 2021 we will eradicate the COVID-19 virus with new vaccines. As of this writing over 333,326 deaths in the United States were caused by the virus. Sadly, so many of life's activities drastically impacted our family, work, school, church, gatherings, and the activities of our Council. Though the Council was able to accomplish a few things what suffered the most were our charitable activities and our brotherhood. Hopefully, the new year will bring normalcy back to our lives which we have dearly missed.



*Council 9709 officially has
received the coveted Star Council
Award thanks to all the great
works and deeds we have
performed.*

Your Help is Needed, You can make a difference



RAFFLE TICKETS

The annual KofC STATE RAFFLE has begun. This year's raffle is more important than any prior year due to the bulk of our fundraisers have been shut down due to the COVID19. Our council has been dependent on these funds to support our charitable donations like Special Olympics, TFS School programs, Parish support and support of our fellow brother Knights in times of need. We have reached out to our Brother Knights via e-mail and soon will be calling and asking for your support. If you have heard from us, please give what you can and payments can be made through our website KofC9709.org, link to store front.



The drawing will be held on May 15, 2021. Brother Knights, we are asked to sell and/or buy raffle tickets to support our State Council and our own Council as a fund raiser. For each raffle ticket sold for \$5.00, our Council receives \$2.50. With a goal of selling 800 tickets, potentially we can earn \$2,000 for our charitable causes. Let's help achieve our goal by each Knight purchasing several tickets with a chance of winning the following:
FIRST PRIZE---\$5,000 CASH
SECOND PRIZE---\$4,000 CASH
THIRD TO SEVENTH---\$500 TO \$200 CASH