



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

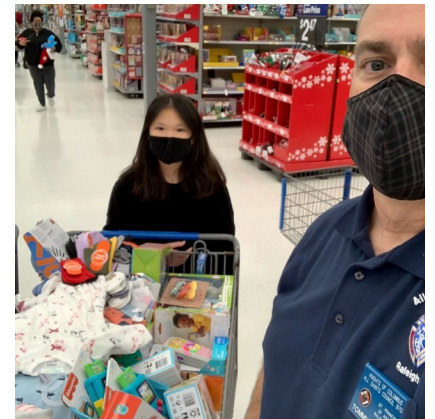
The official Publication of the Knights of Columbus All Saints Council 9709

JANUARY 2022

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOPPING

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Brother Tommy Dalton shopping with his daughter Kelcy shopping for gifts for Duke Children's Hospital.

- 233 separate gifts purchased
- ages 0-12 mos and 12 yr old and up
- handed out during Christmas week
- about 130 patients who have to stay over the holidays
- \$2400 total was collected



DUKE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL DONATION



Grand Knight Steve Becker and the Daltons delivering the gifts.

The Knights of Columbus Council #9709 annually request its members to donate a gift card for Duke Children's Hospital and Health Center. Those gift cards were provided to the St. Francis Duke Children's ministry to be handed out to the children and parents during Santa's visit. However, as pandemic restrictions prevented our gift card giving for a second year, the Council shifted to an online donation collection. Whereby the funds raised go directly to purchase gifts to be delivered to the hospital and the staff distribute to the patients. Last year the Council raised over \$800 and the gifts ordered filled an entire Amazon delivery truck. This year, we are pleased to announce the Council has tripled the online donations with over \$2,400 raised.

And, this year I have the pleasure to work with my teenage daughter as a Santa gift selector to help fill two trucks and provide even more assistance. All the gifts are ordered from an Amazon wish list below and is open to anyone who would like to help.

Our Knights of Columbus Council continually surprise, even us members, with our generosity and self-less service to others.

Tripling our collection this year, even with our current economic and continuing pandemic concerns is heart warming.

It is truly an honor to be called a Gentleman Knight with these men at St. Francis.

By| Tommy Dalton

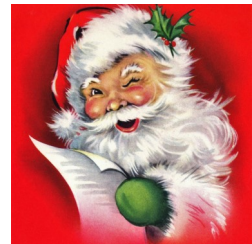


COUNCIL CHRISTMAS PARTY



CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY

Trying to secure a restaurant this December proved to be a challenge since several choices were not able to handle a large group due to their lack of staff. Another result of the pandemic. However, we were fortunate to secure a reservation at Casa Carbone, located on Glenwood Avenue, where not only did we get a private room, but also had a wide menu selection of pasta dishes. Of all the Council's socials during the year, December's gathering seems to be filled with a little extra joy, a little extra brotherhood. With the holiday just a few days away, and the Christmas spirit in full display, most of the night's conversations were focused on the Christmas season. The evening provided the guests, brothers and their wives, the opportunity to share **in-person** greetings and well wishing, a rare experience during the pandemic. This explains the extra joy.



CHURCH TREE DECORATING



Another beautiful Christmas tree was delivered to St. Francis, an annual gift from Shepherd's Way Farms. This year, as in many past years, a group of volunteered Council brothers would team-up to decorate the tree with over 4,000 lights to make ready for Christmas Day. With the help of a cherry-picker, a few step ladders and several extension poles, the Knights complete the task in about three hours. To finalize the rest of the church's seasonal setting, Christmas trees were also placed along the side altars of St. Joseph and Our Blessed Mother, garland strung around the entrance doors and colorful poinsettias positioned on the main altar. In the gathering area a creche is set to remind the parishioners that Christmas Day is the Birthday of our Savior.

Our Lady of the Rosary Food Drive



A message sent to Monsignor Clay,

Monsignor, Father Marlee asked us to extend his most heartfelt gratitude to you and our Parish Family. Steve Becker and I had the privilege of delivering over 6,000# of food and other goods. Included in the delivery were hats and scarves from our Prayer Shawl Ministry, new children's coats from the Knights and cash.

Special thanks to Ashley and Becky for arranging for the truck and handmade gifts along with scheduling all the Parish volunteers who load the truck over the weekend. Father Marlee went on to say how the generosity of St Francis changes so many lives for the better.

Deputy Grand Knight, David Payne

DAYLIGHT DONUTS APPRECIATION



Above image: Daylight Donuts, one of Raleigh's best Donut shops. Also, a generous supporter of the Raleigh community.

Right image: Michelle Cash, an active member of St. Francis and ardent supporter of the Knights, works part-time at Daylight donuts.

Each day of the week, except Monday, a brother Knight volunteers for a Donut Run. Rather than disposing each day's leftover donuts, Brian Van Norman, owner of Daylight Donuts, allows our Council to pick-up these sweet morsels and put them to good use. For several years the Council delivered the donuts to the USO at RDU airport for the soldiers to enjoy while waiting for their flight. But, since the USO has been closed during the pandemic, alternate destinations were established to include the Salvation Army, The Church of the Good Shepherd and Oak City. Six days a week a brother Knight arrives at Daylight by noon, loads bin or two of donuts in his car for delivery to that day's prescribed location.



RSVP PROGRAM



Cong Le receives his check from Richard White and GK Steve Becker.

Year after year our Council continues to support seminarians and postulants with financial aid. Although the aid is important, probably more important are the prayers and contact we can offer for these future priests and religious to help them on their journey to serve God. Listed below is the current list of candidates:

Sr Susanna Boylston, susanna@poorclairesc.com
Monastery of St. Clare, Travelers Rest, SC

Bairon Guerrero-Reyes, baironguerreroreyes@nds.edu
Notre Dame Seminary, Graduate School of Theology, seminarian of the Diocese of Raleigh

Jesus Julio-Tovar jesusjuliotovar@nds.edu
Notre Dame Seminary, Graduate School of Theology, seminarian of the Diocese of Raleigh

Cong Le, congle@nds.edu
Notre Dame Seminary, Graduate School of Theology, seminarian of the Diocese of Raleigh currently spending his pastoral year at St. Francis

SIR KNIGHT TOM DUPREE

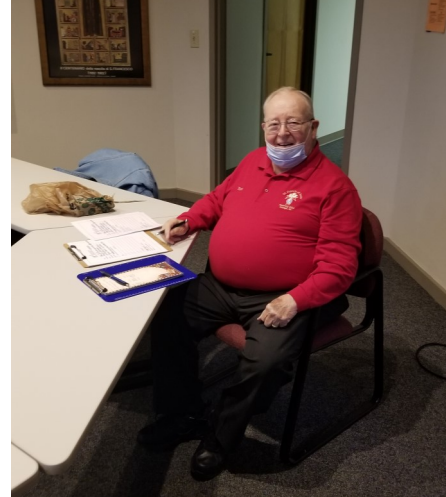


In 2010, Tom was asked to head up the VAVS Program in North Carolina by the District Master, Bob Grabowski. He was to set up and create a program that was cohesive for the Knights in their support of the VA Medical Centers. He was to work with all four Chiefs of Voluntarily Services. The first thing Tom did was to meet with each Chief and discussed their needs. He also checked to see if the Knights were involved and what they were doing. Needless to say, this was an eye-opening experience! It was obvious that he had to set up a program for the Knights. He needed one representative and up to three deputy representatives for each Medical Center. He educated both the reps and depts as to what their role would be at each Medical Center. This was the time that Tom introduced “Coats for Vets”. When he asked each Chief if they would like some new winter coats for their Medical Center, the answer was “yes”. Tom then had to educate the Knights as to the needs that Veterans have. Many people have the misconception that Veterans receive many things from the VA. This is not true—only their medical needs are met. He then attended every Fourth Degree in the State talking to the new Sir Knights about the needs of our Veterans. During the State meetings, Tom set up a table educating Knights as to what support the Knights give. He also attended any Council or Assembly meeting throughout the State that he was invited to share about the Veterans and their needs. Tom writes an article every month about programs Councils and Assemblies can support. Have you read them? As word got out, Councils began sending in money to support the Veterans Programs, one of which is “Coats for Vets”.

Since this program began, the Knights of Columbus have personally given over 2000+ coats to all four VA Medical Centers. Just think of all the Veterans you have helped! Now, the Chiefs contact Tom and request coats when they are in need. Tom and other VA Representatives personally has gone to purchase the coats to many stores and delivered them personally to each VA Medical Center without any compensation! Remember—you “are your Brothers’ keeper”! Now the question is...How much have you done?

Written by: Elaine DuPree

HELPING OUR VETERANS



HELPING OUR VETERANS

With the generous support of Assemblies and Councils across North Carolina, SK Tom DuPree, the Veteran Affairs Voluntary Services Chairman, was able to purchase over \$1,600 worth of sweatshirts and sweatpants for veterans in need. After making this large purchase, Brother Tom needed help to sort and box up the clothing to make ready for delivery to the Veterans' Hospitals in Durham, Fayetteville and Salisbury. A call for action was sent out for help. Brother Knights from Assembly 3553 and Council 9709 met in Anthony's Hall at St. Francis to separate by size, package and label the boxes. The merchandise was loaded in SK Tom's car who, with the help from his wife Elaine, plan to make the deliveries on the following days. Hundreds of veterans in North Carolina are touched by SK Tom due to his relentless devotion to address their needs. We are fortunate to have SK Tom DuPree as our Brother.

KNIGHTS HONOR FIRST RESPONDERS



FIRST RESPONDERS' RECOGNITION

Our Knights of Columbus council at St. Francis continues to recognize the importance of the First Responders in our community. Each October, for the past six years, the Knights have designated the month of October to honor our First Responders, by inviting them to a potluck dinner at Fellowship Hall. However, since the onset of Covid, we have continued this tradition with boxed lunches personally delivered to the Leesville, Pinecrest and Norwood Road fire stations, as well as the Raleigh Police Department on Glenwood Avenue. Whether the Knights invite these heroes to Fellowship Hall or carry lunches to their locations makes no difference because our message to them is always the same, **"Thank you for all you do by keeping our community safe and protected"**. This is just another example of how we support not only our Church, but the greater community at large. .



GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

As we bring 2021 to a close this year, I do so with an even more optimistic tone than I had when writing the column this time last year. Even though it has been another difficult year, overall, I can see things looking up for the world. Yes, we are dealing with the pandemic still – and yet another variant, as well as an economy that is sputtering a bit due to inflation and supply chain/labor issues, etc., but I do believe that 2022 will be a much better year for all of us!

Although we were still inhibited with a number of things we would like to have done as a Council, we still accomplished a great deal in 2021! So, let's take a look back on our accomplishments as a council. We ran the spelling bee for the 8th straight year for TFS and after some 31 rounds crowned a new champion, Rachel Setia. It's always fun for me to be apart of this competition – the kids are so bright there and work so hard in an effort to win. We participated in the March of Life activities with a smaller crowd due to the pandemic. The Novena for life was held from Jan 16-24, capped with a virtual Rosary for Life led by our council on January 24th. Our council also supported the long awaited Covid-19 vaccine distribution by helping with four vaccination dates at the parish where over 800 people were vaccinated. We submitted writeups to State for Knight of the Year (myself), Golden Knight of the Year (our own DD Joe McCarthy) and Family of the Year (our PGK Bryan Kozak and his lovely wife Kathleen). Brother Wrzesien's writeup landed me NC Knight of the Year, but honestly I think our PGK deserved it more with the 7 blood drives he led that brought in 750 donations (with this year's blood drives we brought the total over the time period since the pandemic to about 1000 donations in total – Amazing!), and leading nightly rosaries for several months for Cardinal Gibbons and our St. Francis community.

We installed a new team of officers and I'm very grateful for their leadership in helping us carry out our goals this year. We owe a great deal of gratitude to PGK Bryan Kozak, who led the council during such a difficult time because of the pandemic but allowed us to still be successful in the past fraternal year, despite being hindered with the lockdowns.

We also welcomed in a new Supreme Knight with Patrick Kelly taking over for Carl Anderson, who displayed such tremendous leadership over his 20 years leading our Order. Led by Brother John Dziadul, we had 4 successful highway cleanups, averaging nearly 20 people each time– and celebrated our 20th anniversary of cleaning up the roads leading to our great parish. We also sold over 800 raffle tickets this year, which brought in \$2,000 to our council for charitable giving, which doubled what we had raised the year before. We'll be kicking off this year's raffle in January, so stay tuned!

Our PGK Bob Weisenberger and his wife Jackie led the parish in Stations of the Cross. Several brothers and wives from our council participated by reading at many of the various stations and helping to shepherd those in attendance around. I look forward to us helping again this Easter 2022. Brother Payne and I had the honor to drive the CPO truck twice during the year where over 16,000 pounds of food and over \$8,000 was donated from the parish of Our Lady of the Rosary in Louisburg, along with driving the truck twice for the parish for the food and monetary donations to CPO.

In May, led by brother Jeff Rohman, we held another successful Memorial Day mass on May 31st, where we honored those veterans who had passed over the past year, along with a military honor guard to honor two men who served our country, including Brother Wrzesien's father, Richard S. Wrzesien. Several knights were in attendance for this heartfelt honor.

In June, we had our state convention, where our brother and DD Joe McCarthy was elected to be State Warden – what a great honor to a brother who has done so much for the Knights. We look forward to his rise up the state council ladder over the next several years!

By far the biggest accomplishments we made this year came from collecting \$20,000 from the Durham Bulls, led by Brother Mike Wrzesien, and using that money to spend over \$18,000 in charitable donations which will be distributed to many local charitable organizations in January. As a part of this \$4,000 from the council along with another nearly \$17,000 donations from brothers in and outside the council and the match from Supreme will result in a total of nearly \$38,000 total to Birthchoice to buy a new ultrasound machine in early 2022 to further our commitment to Culture of Life. Brother Kent did an outstanding job leading this initiative!

We also restarted our monthly socials with great success, with several of them having over 30 brothers and family members in attendance. This was highlighted in July when we named our brother Dino Pinelli the

recipient of our first David Mc Briar Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication to the Knights and support of the council over the year. In September, we had a very successful Welcome Back BBQ, where we welcomed back many Knights we had not seen in awhile and had over 70 brothers and their family members in attendance!

The parish had a memorial mass to mark the 20th anniversary of 9/11, and the Knights were well represented with an Honor Guard, showing great respect for the flag and those who lost their life during this tragedy. Special thanks to Brother Tommy Dalton, Color Corp commander for the assembly for putting this together.

We also funded our RSVP support of religious by contributing \$2,000 to four Seminarians/Sisters this year – an important initiative that we plan to continue to grow in the coming years.

In December, thanks to brothers Mike Rock and Tony Rivezzo, we had a great Christmas party at Café Carbone with almost 40 Knights and family members attending. We had several brother Knights and family members come out to decorate the parish for Christmas. Finally, we tripled our donations to Duke Children's hospital gift card program with nearly \$2,500 used to buy presents for the kids. Special thanks to brother Tommy Dalton, wife Diane, and daughter Kelcy for doing such a great job shopping and delivering these presents to Duke Hospital in time for the kids to have for Christmas!

I'm proud of what the council accomplished in 2021 and looking forward to a busy 2022. Thanks for all of your support and Happy New Year!!

Vivat Jesus, Steve Becker

Steve

HOW WE SERVE



- We plan and manage Red Cross Blood Drives at St. Francis.
- We support Birthchoice
- We participate in the March for Life, Raleigh and Washington, DC
- We support our Veterans
- We support our First Responders
- We honor our deceased Veterans on Memorial Day
- We purchase and distribute Coats for Kids
- We help with the CPO food drives
- We help with Our Lady of the Rosary Church food drives
- We support Seminarians
- We help usher the bereaved during funerals at St. Francis
- We conduct the Spelling Bee at TFS
- We participate in Adopt-A-Highway on Leesville Road picking-up discarded debris
- We help each other during a family crisis
- We support the Special Olympic
- We support the intellectually disabled through LAMB (Least Amongst My Brothers) drives
- We gather to pray the Rosary every 5th Sunday to honor Mary, Queen of the Knights

PROJECT BIRTHCHOICE DONATION



**Kent Siefkes handing the check to Mona,
Executive Director, Birthchoice**

A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT!!

On December 28, 2021, our Grand Knight Steve Becker and Brother Kent Siefkes, Culture of Life Director, delivered a check to Birthchoice in the amount of \$20,660. This represents a part payment toward the purchase of a new ultrasound machine to replace an old one. The remaining balance of \$17,100 will come from Supreme. The total cost of this state-of-the-art ultrasound is \$37,760. It is important to know how these funds came about. Our Council's desire to acquire an ultrasound began years ago but only became possible this year because our Council finally accrued the enough funds to make it happen. But we couldn't do it alone as more funds were needed to arrive at the \$20,660. Here's how it came about: our Council approved \$4,000, plus 10 members made personal donations totaling an additional \$11,160. Remarkable!! Our Lady of Lourdes Council approved \$500 and 2 of its members added personal donations of \$5,000. Also, remarkable!! Finally, Supreme's commitment of \$17,100 will enable Birthchoice to buy the ultrasound costing \$37,760. This entire difficult process was managed by Kent Siefkes and George Beserock, District Deputy. Why do we support Birthchoice?? Birthchoice provides free pregnancy services such as free pregnancy testing, free ultrasound, counseling and advice for a pregnant woman in order to help ease any apprehensions she may have. There are women who are considering having an abortion, come to Birthchoice for answers. It has been noted that when these uncertain pregnant women experience what this new ultrasound machine shows them, very clear and highly dimensional images, many decide not to have the abortion. Hence, our desire to commit funds for the ultrasound. If this expenditure of \$37,760 can save the life of one baby, then it is worth the price.