



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

OCTOBER 2022

TFS DESK ASSEMBLY

300 NEW DESKS FOR THE FRANCISCAN SCHOOL



Our council was asked to help assemble new desks for TFS. Mike Watson, who was the principal of TFS, took advantage of a grant offered by the State of North Carolina to acquire the desks. Fortunately, his application was accepted, and the desks were delivered. Now comes the assembly. PGK Steve Becker put together a volunteer team to meet in the Cupertino room for the work involved. After a few several hour work sessions with Allen wrenches in hand while correctly positioning the legs in place with set screws, the 300 desks were assembled and ready to be installed for the upcoming school year. The help allowed Joe Leone and his maintenance crew to concentrate on some other pressing issues on the campus.



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BLESSING OF THE ULTRASOUND MACHINE



ULTRASOUND MACHINE

Thursday, July 14, 2022, Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama blessed an ultrasound machine donated by the Knights of Columbus councils from St. Francis and Our Lady of Lourdes to Birthchoice, a nonprofit, pro-life, crisis pregnancy clinic that has been supporting pregnant women in the Triangle area since 1971.

Since 2009, the Knights of Columbus have been helping to save the lives of the unborn with their Ultrasound Initiative, which provides ultrasound machines to qualified, pro-life pregnancy centers. According to the Knights of Columbus, ultrasound technology has proven to be one of the most effective tools to empower women with crisis pregnancies to choose life. Calling it a “window to the womb,” when a woman considering abortion can see her unborn child and hear the heartbeat, her perspective often changes. Because of this initiative, thousands of mothers nationwide have decided to have their babies.

The team at Birthchoice has seen firsthand the impact that ultrasound technology can have in the lives of pregnant women who are thinking about having an abortion or don't have the resources to continue with their pregnancy.

“The numbers of women seeking help has increased 16%, and this new machine represents the opportunity to bring our costs down, plus we'll be able to obtain better image quality,” said Mona Saul, Birthchoice executive director. “Our goal is to help as many abortion-minded and vulnerable women to choose life,” said Saul.

Bishop Luis blessed the new ultrasound machine upon its arrival. After the blessing, Raymond Malouf, chairman of the board of directors for Birthchoice of Wake County, thanked the Knights of Columbus councils for their generous donation and Bishop Luis for his continued support to promote life in Eastern North Carolina.

Bishop Luis said that the new ultrasound machine was going to be a great gift for all the women who were going to have the possibility to see their babies. He gave thanks to everyone who contributed. Following his blessing of the ultrasound machine, he offered a prayer for all unborn children.

“More than 1500 ultrasound machines have been placed in pregnancy centers around the country that share the Knights' values,” said Kent Siefkes, Culture of Life Director for the Saint Francis Knights of Columbus Council 9709. “Our Council, along with Council of Our Lady of Lourdes, raised money to obtain a match that made it possible to purchase the ultrasound machine.”

Upon qualification of a pregnancy center's eligibility by the local Knights council and approval by the local diocese, US Ultrasound works with the center's administration to discuss the best ultrasound equipment options within an established budget range to help meet the needs of expectant mothers and their babies.

Article taken from:
Diocesan Newsletter
Deacon Joshua Klickman



CONG LE'S FAREWELL



Cong Le takes one last photo with his brother Knights! It was a real joy having him as part of our Council.



After the 9:00 am Mass on July 24th St. Francis of Assisi parishioners were given the opportunity to say goodbye to Cong Le where over 100 well-wishers gathered in Fellowship Hall for the event. Cong Le, a seminarian from the Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans and supported by our council's RSVP program, has been assigned to St. Francis for the past several years. He joined our council and participated in many programs. He will return to Notre Dame to continue his studies on the path to becoming a priest for the diocese of Raleigh. We said goodbye but expect to see Cong Le again.

VESTMENTS FOR FR. JAIRO



FAREWELL GIFT FOR FR. JAIRO

Personal donations from members of our Council provided the funds necessary to purchase a set of four new vestments for Fr. Jairo. PGK Steve Becker wanted to present a gift to Fr. Jairo to show our appreciation for his support of the Knights, and as our council's Chaplain, for providing us with spiritual guidance. Unsure of the type of gift for Fr. Jairo, Steve sought advice from Monsignor Clay who suggested the vestments. The intention was to present the gift to Fr. Jairo during his farewell celebration at St. Francis, but because the vestments are made in Rome delivery arrived too late. So, on July 19th, WGK David Payne with his wife Kathy and PGK Steve Becker with his wife Cecy, presented the gift to Fr. Jairo at his newly assigned church, St. Anne's, in Edenton, NC.

CHARITABLE DONATION



PGK Steve Becker and DGK Shawn Bayle representing a check for \$750 to Heidi Hobler and Sam Straight benefitting the Arlene Straight Endowment for the St. Francis Preschool.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Following the 9:00 am Mass on Sunday, August 14th, our council hosted a **Pancake Breakfast in Clare Hall** for the parishioners. Promoted in the bulletin and announced from the altar several weeks prior as a fund raiser for charity, a breakfast was offered for \$5.00 (\$15.00 for family) consisting of 3 pancakes, 2 sausage links, a fruit choice of a banana or slice of watermelon, a donut and orange juice or coffee. Not quite sure what to expect, the planning committee headed by Deputy Grand Knight, Shawn Bayle, and assisted by his wife MaryBeth, planned and purchased the food/drinks to satisfy over 200 guests, which equates to at least 600 pancakes and 400 sausage links. The next step, the preparation: 22 volunteers (Knights and family) convened at 7:30 am to receive their assignments in order to be ready to serve breakfast by 10:00 am. The final results: 210 guests enjoyed a full breakfast, which resulted in sales of over \$900 producing net proceeds of about \$190 to be donated to charity. The feedback was very positive especially from Monsignor Clay who was pleased to see many parishioners socially gathered in Clare Hall.

CONFIRMATION GATHERING



CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION

On Saturday, September 10, 116 teenagers received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Francis administered by Monsignor Clay. Following the ceremony, the newly anointed with their sponsors and family members were invited to Clare Hall for refreshments. Our council was asked to assist by setting up tables, chairs and to prepare drinks to go along with the snacks.



HIGHWAY CLEANUP



Brother Knights and Brother Wagner's Family, Thank you for spending part of your Saturday volunteering on the Adopt A Highway litter pick up. Great turn out, 13 volunteers. Super weather and more importantly great fellowship. We picked up 4 bags of recycling and 9 bags of trash. Hope to see you in December!

Kind Regards,
Brother John Dziadul

SOCCER CHALLENGE

SOCCER CHALLENGE

As part of our Faith in Action Program, we were pleased to once again hold our Soccer Challenge at the TFS athletic field on Sunday September 11, 2022. Since we can only get the field on Sundays, we only had about 2 weeks to advertise the event but still had a small, but enthusiastic group of boys and girls ages 9 and 10. Also, the weather was not our friend that day with off and on showers, but we managed through with no lightning or wind.

We had 12 kids sign up with 9 of them braving the elements with their parents. The format calls for each competitor to kick 15 Penalty shots from a designated distance to the goal. The goal itself is sectioned off into 5 zones giving the competitors the opportunity to score 5, 10, or 20 points based on the zone their kick entered. It was a great time with the kids and parents cheering each other on during the competition.

The winners were as follows: Girls age 9, Evelyn Riddle (90 pts). Boys age 9 Marceau Carroll (120 pts). Boys age 10 Andrew Lee (115 pts). Every player received an official Knights of Columbus Participation plaque, and the Winners received the KofC Winners plaque and a KofC soccer ball.

The parents were very appreciative of our efforts and looking forward to us holding this, and other events for the youth in the future. Our next event will be the Free Throw competition this coming January/February. The GK closed the event by thanking the players and parents for braving the elements and inviting the fathers to consider becoming members of the Knights of Columbus Council 9709.

Written by: Grand Knight David Payne



FAMILY NIGHT



SPAGHETTI DINNER

The Spaghetti Dinner, held Friday night September 16th, hosted by our council was a huge success!! In support of Monsignor Clay's goal to have more family events on campus, the council responded by offering a spaghetti dinner for \$8.00 which included a salad, bread, dessert and drink (restaurant cost at least \$25.00). Advertised in the bulletin as a "Family Fun Event" the result fulfilled its purpose as 185 guests, mostly families, enjoyed the evening in Jacoba Hall. Its objective as a family event can also be applied to the council because many brothers with their wives volunteered to prepare, cook and serve the delicious meal. Much of the credit goes to Brother Scott Rees, a professional chef, who was in charge of the kitchen, the leadership of DGK Shawn Bayle, and Brother Dino Pinelli for supplying the cannoli. The guests offered very positive comments ranging from "best sauce ever" to "can you do this every Friday?"



FAMILY NIGHT. CONT.



FAREWELL SOCIAL DINNER



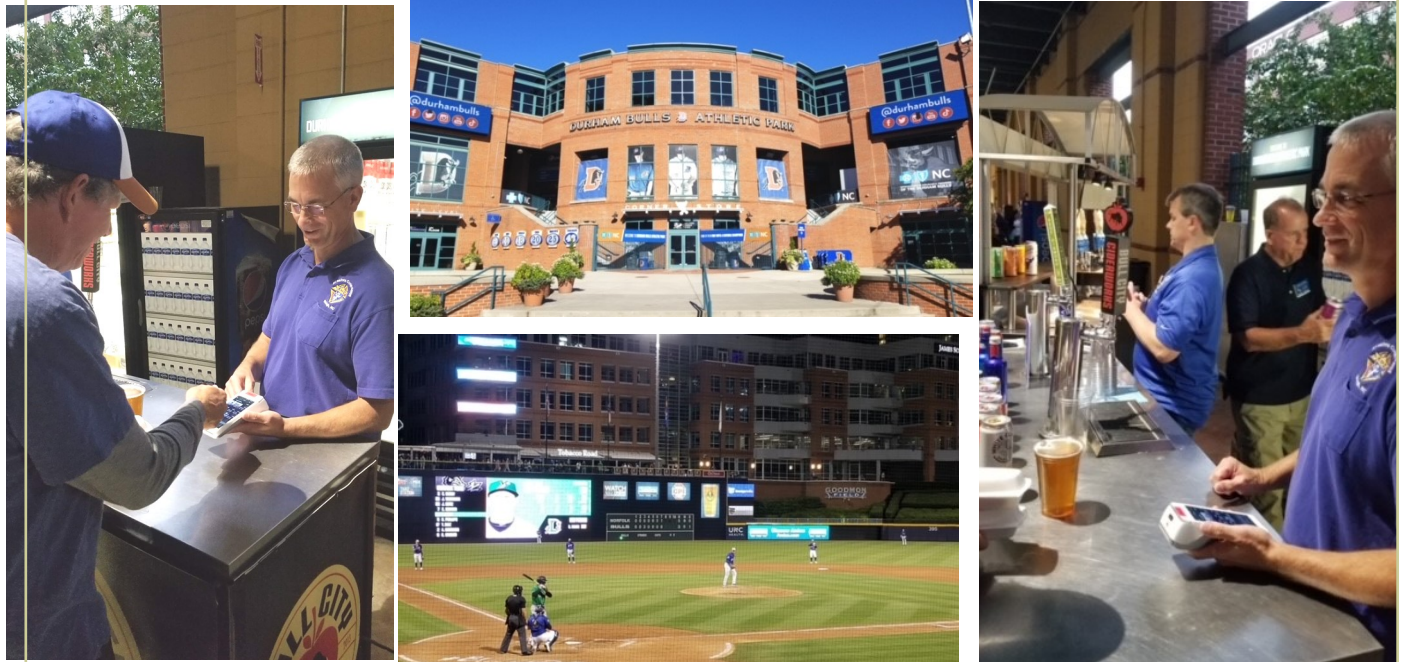
SEPTEMBER'S SOCIAL FILLED WITH EMOTION

The September social was originally planned as a routine dinner with Knights and their wives, but it quickly changed into an event that was anything but ordinary. When it was announced that this social dinner was the council's opportunity to say goodbye to PGK Steve Becker and Cecy the signups nearly doubled overnight going from 27 to over 56, one of the largest for a social. No surprise because our members did not want to pass up the opportunity to thank the Beckers for all they have accomplished for the council, church and community. The council's achievements during Steve's reign as Grand Knight are too numerous to list here but were recognized by the State Council and Supreme evidenced by the numerous awards presented to Steve and our council due to his leadership. So, we wished the best for Steve and Cecy as they will leave our community to begin the next phase of their lives.

A note from Steve:

Brothers, Cecy and I just want to take this opportunity to thank you for coming out and wishing us well tonight. Your gift is something that will always be spiritually treasured in our new house. Quite honestly, I'm so humbled that anybody would come out like that for us - much more by the fact that there were 50 people. Thankfully I made it through a small speech without losing it.

DURHAM BULLS GAME



DURHAM BULLS BASEBALL GAMES

The Council has concluded another great year of volunteering and earning funds by working several concessions stands at the Bulls baseball games. The funds raised this year will exceed \$11,000, not as much as last year but still very significant. The income will help the council continue to maintain our philanthropy donations, which provide financial support for many local charities. This would not have been possible without the leadership of PGK Mike Wrzesien and the dedication of many council members (6 per game) who gave their time, up to 6 hours for each of the 22 evening games, to work at the Bulls ballpark. A special thanks goes to the many brothers who signed up for multiple games, in some cases on consecutive days, a tiresome task. All the volunteers should take solace in knowing that many people in need will benefit from their hard work.

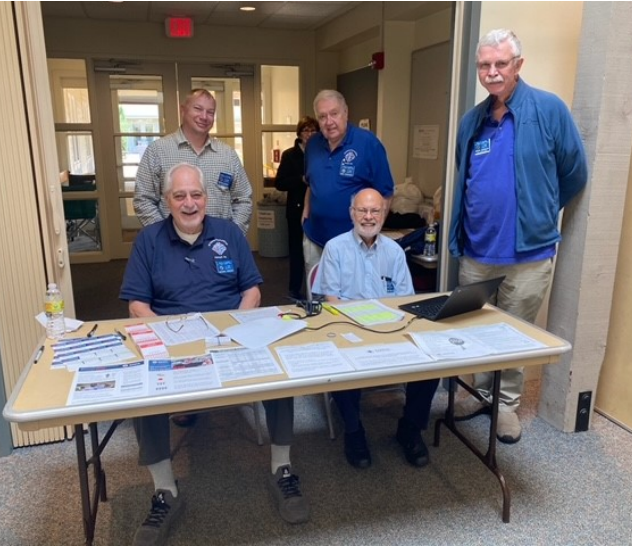


BLOOD DRIVE



ST. FRANCIS BLOOD DRIVE

The 2nd Red Cross Blood Drive of the year at St. Francis was completed on Saturday, September 24th. PGK Bryan Kozak managed the process by first scheduling the drive with the Red Cross, then during the drive assigning several brother Knights to individual tasks; help with setup and takedown, greet and sign in donors while providing snacks and drinks. Ninety-two units were collected. The next drive on campus will be in March 2023.



American Red Cross



GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE



A Knight's Journey

So as Catholics we are all about confession, right? So I guess part of my story is confessing that my early years as a Knight of Columbus were significantly less than remarkable.

I came into the church in the year 2000 as part of the RCIA program at St Luke's in Rancho San Diego, CA at the tender age of 53. Kathy is a cradle Catholic and we raised our girls in Catholic Schools, attending Mass at Blessed Sacrament, the same church as their school. I saw them thrive as part of this community, being impressed with the education and spiritual growth they enjoyed.

So back to my part in this story, I just thought I was finally ready to go beyond attending mass and crossing my arms at Communion. I was ready to learn more. I made as many of the Monday night classes that I could while still traveling for work covering three states. I think it was vocations night at RCIA when a Knight came in to tell the class about the KofC and hand the men in the class an application. It was implied that once we completed RCIA we would become members of the Knights. One other man in the class "Jim" was also along for the ride. I was invited to attend the First Degree a few weeks after Easter and so it was. I became a Knight.

In the following years, I was reminded that I was a Knight when I received my dues notice. I recall questioning if I should even continue given my absence from Council activities but something said "go ahead, maybe there really is something to this." Maybe subconsciously it was the fact that I was recruited rather than invited that kept me from being active.

In 2003 my company began the relocation process for Kathy and I to move to Northern California – the company was restructuring. By early 2004 I was there full time while Kathy wrapped things up at home. She arrived in early 2005 and we began attending mass at St Patrick's where at some point I introduced myself to Dan, the Grand Knight. He had made a pulpit announcement and was standing outside at the end of mass. It was like an instant connection and as time went on I was introduced to other Knights and invited to meetings and events. My transfer was completed and these gentlemen were like my new best friends and I remain in touch with them even after being gone for almost 6 years. I had not felt that from my previous Council experience.

My new job as General Manager of the California operation was not just demanding – it was foreign to me. I wasn't the only person questioning why this sales guy was taking over production facility. It ended up working out okay but it was nearly impossible for me to make meetings during the week. Many Saturdays found me at the Plant during that first year or so just finding my way.

Then things started to smooth out. I would run into Dan and Mark and others at mass all asking "when are we going to see you at our meetings?" At some point I was able to help out at weekend dinners and other events where it just seemed like I belonged. Our town's population was about 4,000 in a county of just 38,000 in the foothills of the Sierras. We fell in love with the small town feel that seemed light years away from what most know as,....."California!"

As I became more active I identified as a true Knight of Columbus. I was a proud, card-carrying member and let everyone who would listen know my story. The good works, the Fraternity, and carrying out of Fr McGivney's vision. I became Council Treasurer (don't get any ideas, Mark!) after achieving my 2nd and 3rd Degrees and held that spot up until we moved here to North Carolina.

Brian Denison and I had met while he and Peggy were visiting CA a few years earlier so once we moved I reached out to him and he invited me to a meeting where I met Brother Flanagan to begin my transfer process. The more I attended and became familiar with Council 9709, the more I became impressed with the depth of faith and commitment to both principals of Catholicism and Knights of Columbus. This was all I had realized at Council 1849 and so much more! Not that my Brothers in Jackson, CA were not deeply committed, it's they just held that small town sense of relaxed and easy ways including meetings, etc.

I consider my journey as a Catholic and a Knight to be a continuing education. My Brothers here at All Saints are my teachers and my mentors. The more I learn the more I realize how much I have yet to learn. Today, I am humbled to serve as your Grand Knight, a role and a title that was completely foreign to me 22 years ago.

Today, I find that the more I participate and give of my time, the more I learn especially through spending time with my Brothers. Your commitment is my inspiration. This journey has no final destination.

Blessings,
GK Dave