



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

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DECEMBER 2022

FIRST RESPONDERS' DINNER

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GK David Payne presenting certificates of appreciation.



7TH ANNUAL FIRST RESPONDERS' DINNER

Due to covid restrictions our Council was able to conduct, for the first time in three years, First Responders' Tribute Dinner in Fellowship/Clare Hall. The dinner was planned as a potluck affair to honor fire fighters, police and sheriff deputies serving in our community. Council members with their families, numbering about 55, contributed a selection of dishes ranging from appetizers, salads, vegetables and desserts. The main course was prepared by Brother Scott Rees whose meatloaf and roasted potatoes were a big hit. Also contributing to the main course was Brother Will Carmon's special BBQ. After the dinner many of the invited 28 Responders remained to thank our brothers for taking the time to recognize their service to our community.



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HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL



Brothers,

Thank you for giving so generously of your time to volunteer at the Harvest Moon Festival. I enjoyed working with you in support of the St. Francis Preschool. I am always impressed with my Brother Knights and how willingly you step up when you are called to serve. I am very proud to be your Brother.

I spoke with Heidi Hobler, Director of the St. Francis Preschool and she was very appreciative of our support, and our financial contribution of paying for the supplies for the chili and hotdogs. She mentioned how well we ran the kitchen and provided excellent support.

The All Saints Council has supported the Harvest Moon Festival since 2008, and I believe we are playing a small part in helping the families with young children to grow their Catholic faith and Catholic identity.

Peace and Blessings.

Mike Wrzesien

VETERANS' DAY BREAKFAST



Thank you for volunteering on Saturday, November 12th at the Veterans' Breakfast. I really appreciate your dedication and willingness to get up early to come to church and set up for the breakfast. As a team, we were ready when the first guest arrived at 8:45. We served well over 75 Veterans and their families a full breakfast. The menu included: eggs, sausage, Canadian bacon, hash browns (donated by McDonalds), pancakes, bagels (Brueggers Bagels in Brier Creek and Stonehenge), fruit, coffee, juice etc. Our guest speakers were Father Alex Gonzales (invocation and reflection--outstanding) and Rear Admiral Doug Morton, civil engineer corps, USN (retired). After the



breakfast, many of our guest made a point to express their gratitude and thanks for the recognition the Knights of Columbus gave them to FC Jim Rispoli and to Tom DuPree, VAVS Representative.

Again, a special thanks to all the volunteers who stayed to clean up and pack away the supplies. Special thanks to SK Bill Quirk for bringing his personal generator to keep our power source functional and to SK Tony Rivezzo who made phone calls to the Brothers requesting grills. Finally, I need to personally thank Brother SK Scott Rees and his wife Laura for bringing the eggs and pancake mix, cooking on the outside BBQ grill.

Message from: Tom DuPree



FRANCIS FESTIVAL



FRANCIS FEST, OCTOBER 2ND THE CELEBRATION OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

A great success even though the threat of rain forced the event to be held indoors. The inclement weather did not dampen parishioners' enthusiasm who attended in near record number to participate in the many fun and games offered to celebrate our patron saint. Brother Knights helped with setting up tents, hanging signs, providing information, and after the event the necessary clean up. Although the council provided the help, the primary planning and execution were directed by Ashley Watson and the volunteers. When you consider the different aspects of the Fest, the music and entertainment, inflatable zone, wine tasting, food trucks, various games, it is no wonder that families, especially the children, look forward to this annual affair.

CHRISTMAS PARTY



COUNCIL'S CHRISTMAS PARTY, DECEMBER 4TH

A fun, festive evening to help start the Christmas season in this, the second week of Advent. Brotherhood exemplified as 45 Knights and spouses gathered to share each other's company while enjoying a savory Italian dinner at Casa Carbone Ristorante. The council was honored and pleased to have our pastor, Monsignor Clay, in attendance who thanked the council for its charitable work and the support given to many parish activities. His words and blessings were deeply appreciated, and we are thankful for the support he has given the council. Also, recognition directed to Mike Rock for planning the event and Kathy Payne for crafting unique decorative gifts for the ladies.

HIGHWAY CLEANUP



Brothers and the Wagner Family, Thank you for spending part of your Saturday volunteering on the Adopt A Highway litter pick up. Great turn out, 10 volunteers. A little chilly but great fellowship. We picked up 2 bags of recycling and 11 bags of trash. Hope to see you in March!

Kind Regards,
John Dziadul



Sticker added to ADOPT A HIGHWAY sign signifying our 20 year commitment to our community roadside cleanup.



John Dziadul displays our latest's vest that signifies the 20 years our Knights have committed to the roadside cleanup.

RSVP VOCATION SUPPORT

Part of our Faith Program is the financial and moral support our council gives each year to religious during their formation. This fraternal year we sent \$500 to each of three seminarians, Cong Le, Bairon Guerrero-Reyes, Jesus Julio Tovar and two postulants, Sr. Susanna Boylston and Sr. Mary Gibson.

TOM DUPREE AWARD



GOVERNOR'S AWARD

Congratulations to **SK Tom Dupree**, recipient of the Governor's Award of North Carolina, **The 2022 Volunteer of the Year**. The selection organization, The Triangle Nonprofit and Volunteer Leadership Center, prepares a list of accomplishments for each nominated candidate which enables a committee to vote for their choice. Here's the write up prepared for Tom Dupree: *"Thomas Dupree has been unwavering in his dedication to serving the Durham VA Medical Center and its Veterans. The National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) is an annual wheelchair sports event for military veter-*

ans. When Thomas learned that the NVWG fostered teamwork, camaraderie, self-esteem, self-determination, and physical fitness, he believed that it was his duty to ensure each Veteran live and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Through his efforts, his Knights of Columbus council has sponsored two Veterans for the past three years, providing travel and lodging funds. He also sponsored Bingo events, collected Christmas gifts for nursing home patients, and collected over 100 coats through his Knights of Columbus council. Thomas has had a tremendous impact on the Veterans served by the Durham VA Medical Center." We, members of All Saints Council #9709 and members of St. Francis of Assisi Assembly #3552 are extremely proud of SK Tom Dupree's accomplishments and will continue to support his determination to help the Veterans.



FOOD DRIVE FOR OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY



Once again, the generosity of St. Francis of Assisi parishioners surpasses expectations. On Saturday and Sunday, November 19 and 20, a food donation drive took place on campus to help replenish the pantry at OLR. Over 100 families from the Louisburg area visit the pantry each day. The two-day food drive collected over 6,000 pounds and a cash donation of \$2,700. Our Grand Knight David Payne and Treasurer Mark Baumgartner, drove the truck to OLR and were greeted by a gratified group of pantry workers to help our brothers unload the delivery.



CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING

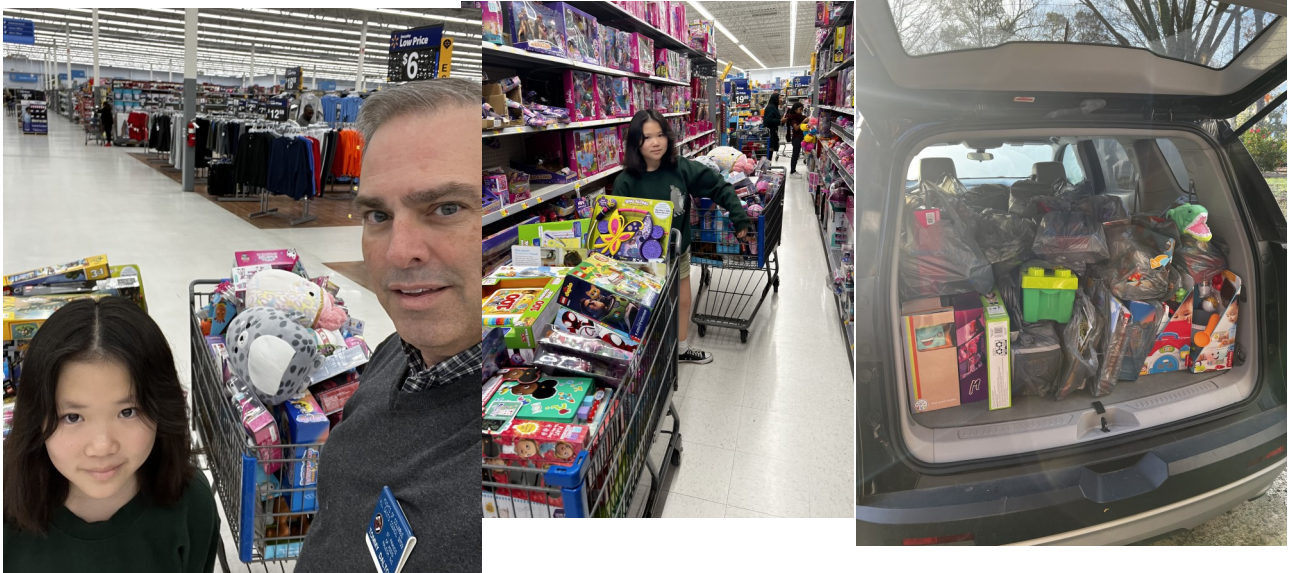


CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING

Each year, a few days before Christmas Day, our brothers meet to decorate the church. Garland is hung around the doors, poinsettia plants are placed on the altar along with a beautiful evergreen tree which is transformed into a Christmas Tree by trimming it with thousands of lights, all this adornment to remind us of the meaning of Christmas: ***Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Savior is born to the world.***



DUKE CHILDRENS HOSPITAL DONATION



Our brothers accepted a challenge then exceeded the donation goal of \$2,500 by contributing \$3,250 to buy gifts for the children at Duke Children's Hospital. Sad to think of children being sick but to spend Christmas in the hospital makes the concern even greater. Yet, hopefully presenting them with gifts from the Knights of Columbus would brighten their days just a bit. Raising the funds, although a key component, was only the beginning of the process. Next came the buying and delivery, and for that we thank Brother Tommy Dalton and his daughter Kelcy who selected a variety of gifts to satisfy both boys and girls at different age levels. This carefully selected group of gifts consisting of toys, books, games, puzzles and Legos were happily received at the Children's Hospital and distributed to the children.. The attached photos tell the story.





GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE



December 2022

From the desk of the Grand Knight,,,,

For as long as I can remember, this has been a season of anticipation. As a child, anticipating the magic of Santa Claus and wondering how he would get into our house since we did not have a fireplace. Flying reindeer! More magic. I looked forward to setting out the cookies and milk for Santa AND the celery for Rudy and his gang. And the thank you note Santa left for me for the snacks! He knows me! Later on in life, I was blessed with children of my own giving me that anticipation of seeing their faces on Christmas morning. And now, grandchildren. Anticipation turned into blessings.

My parents also made sure that the Christmas Story was about the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. It seemed difficult to me how someone who would change the world was born in a barn. The real Christmas story remains humbling to me to this day. We also lit the advent candles – another event of anticipation.

Four years in the military found me somewhere other than home for Christmas. In 1968 I was deployed on December 23rd! Hearing Christmas music played over the chow hall speakers in Okinawa was a nice touch but not quite the same as being home. Still, I enjoyed my “turkey loaf” and powdered mashed potatoes realizing I was much better off than many of my classmates who spent Christmas in a damp, cold trench somewhere in Southeast Asia. So my anticipation shifted to getting home while hoping classmates and friends also made it back from those trenches.

December of 1972, fifty years ago, Kathy said yes to my proposal. Joy and anticipation of building a life together. No crystal ball at that time to let me know of all the blessings and adventures that our marriage would deliver.

In the spirit of anticipation, we look forward to a new year and the wonders it may bring in our lives. As Grand Knight, I can't believe I'm half way through my term and look forward to the good work we will perform in 2023. We have some exciting plans for our community and parish AND a wave of momentum going into the new year. Buckle up, Brothers! Should be a fun ride!

Shifting gears this is also the time of year for reflection and appreciation for the many blessings in our lives. What gifts this year, and the years before it, have been delivered to us? Kathy and I experienced losses of loved ones this year that really shook us hard. We have prayed and prayed and shared stories to help us realize how the time we had with them enhanced our lives. Their memories are precious gifts that we choose to keep alive in our hearts.

I want you all to know what a gift this Council is to me. You continue to amaze and inspire me every day. About the time I think you have reached the pinnacle of sharing your gifts of talent, time and treasure, you blow it out of the water by performing something even more incredible! I am truly blessed to be part of this vibrant Brotherhood and thank you from all of my heart for your many contributions.

Here's wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Blessings for good health and spiritual growth in 2023!

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” – John 3:16