

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ALL SAINTS COUNCIL 9709 NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2023

## CONTENTS



First Responders



Francisfest



Pancake Breakfast



Harvest Moon Fest



Veterans Breakfast



KofC Christmas Party



The Living Nativity



Duke Hospital

## FIRST RESPONDERS' DINNER



# FIRST RESPONDERS' CONT.



Our 8th annual First Responders' Tribute Dinner was held on Tuesday, October 17th. The reception turned out to be a success for a number of reasons. Most importantly, the first responders attended in large groups to include Wake County Sheriff Rowe with two lieutenants, a battalion chief, captains from three fire stations and their crews and several officers from the Police Department NW Division. Enhancing the affair was an excellent selection of potluck food prepared by our council's families. The main course, appetizers, salads, side dishes, bread and desserts were spread out on tables measuring 32 feet long. A feast! To kick off the First Responders' Tribute a few welcoming comments from Tony Rivezzo and Grand Knight Shawn Bayle were delivered, expressing appreciation and gratitude for their service. This was followed by a standing ovation to fully acknowledge their importance to our community. Father James led us in prayer giving thanks for the food and asking our Lord to protect the First Responders.



# FRANCISFEST

## FRANCISFEST

The event, which is a celebration of our patron saint, St. Francis of Assisi, is a parish wide gala. This annual production is planned by Ashley Watson, Coordinator of Community Life, with support from a volunteer staff and our council. The weather was perfect on Sunday, October 1st as parishioners enjoyed a host of activities especially the children who ventured on the inflatables, posed for face painting, challenged by Legos, and many more games. While the children were occupied, parents indulged in the wine and beer tasting. A new addition to the Fest was our Knights of Columbus Food Tent, offering a food selection to go along with the five food trucks. Our menu of good old American favorites of hamburgers and hot dogs, teamed with sides and a drink, were a big hit at very competitive prices. Results, our offering dominated the entire Fest food purchasing with sales of over 300 meals. Deputy Grand Knight, Troy Chaput and his wife Tanya, planned and organized our participation. Fifteen council brothers helped set up tents, chairs and tables for the Fest, then put on aprons to work in our food tent, and many remained to help clean up. The net proceeds generated by our food sales will be donated to charity.



# PANCAKE BREAKFAST



## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

On Sunday, October 8th, our council hosted a Christopher Columbus Pancake Breakfast Celebration after the 9:00 am Mass. A team of 10 brothers met at 8:30 am in Fellowship Hall to start the cooking. By 10:15 the breakfast was ready for serving. The menu offering included 3 pancakes, 3 sausage patties, donut, fruit, orange juice or coffee at a cost of \$6.00 per single and \$20.00 for a family of 4 or more. Although the turnout was less than expected at 102 meals, the event created a net profit of \$135, which will be donated to a charity.



# OUR LADY OF ROSARY FOOD DRIVE



## 2023 Fall Food Drive for Our Lady of the Rosary

For many years, the generous community of St Francis of Assisi has conducted Food 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.

This year was an exceptionally generous drive producing 8,000# of food and dry goods along with \$4,600 in cash and checks! The Knights also donated 16 brand new winter youth size coats as part of our annual Coats for Kids campaign. Our Worthy Treasurer, Mark Baumgartner and his wife Theresa organize the weekend volunteers assigned to collecting and sorting the food into the truck bins. Then on the following Monday, Mark 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.



This year, the drive was so successful that we overloaded their pantry shelves with food having to be stored on the ground and surrounding tables. The dry goods had to be stored in a separate spare room. This truly was a special, rewarding experience for Mark and Dave, who has been driving these trucks up to OLR for the past 7 years. Roseanne Anderer, OLR Food Pantry Director said this will keep them going until February or March, just shy of our next SFA food Drive. Thank you St Francis for making this Thanksgiving special for many families in Louisburg, NC!



## SOCCER CHALLENGE

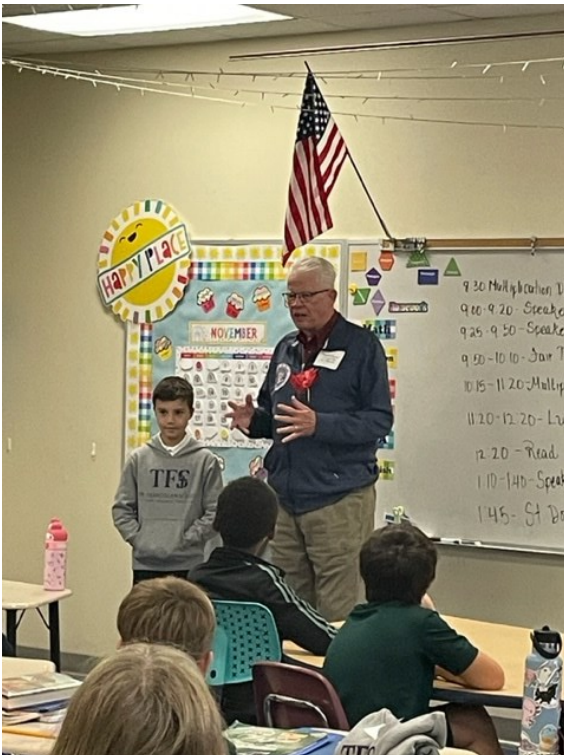


Henry Adams receiving the trophy with his father and Worthy State Advocate Joe McCarthy

### SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

Henry Adams, age 10, who won the Soccer Challenge at St. Francis on September 10th, qualified to compete in the State Championship. The competition was held on November 11th at St Bernadette in Fuquay-Varina. His excellent athletic skills enabled him to win the State Championship in his age group. Thanks go to Youth Director, Will Austin, for organizing the Soccer Challenge and representing our council at the State Championship Finals.

## TFS VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION



Every year, TFS celebrates Veteran's Day by inviting vets who are family members of students to a special celebration. Fourth Degree Knight, PGK David Payne, has a grandson in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade and has been attending these events for the past four years. The celebration begins at the 8AM morning prayer, followed by special music and acknowledgements ending with a reception in Jacoba Hall.

This year, TFS took it to a new level by inviting volunteer veterans to speak to the classes about their service experience. Topics included what inspired the veteran to join the military, what they did during their service and what it means to them today. For this inaugural event, David spoke to his grandson's class and another 4<sup>th</sup> grade class about his experience as a machinist on the SR-71 spy plane project in the 1960's. He included photos to pass around and his uniform. Sharing their experiences in the military is something that allows veterans to realize what impact their service has made in the freedoms we enjoy today.

# HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL



# HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL CONT.



## HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL FUND RAISER

This important annual affair is a fundraiser for the St. Francis Preschool. Our council provides financial support by offering a lunch in which the proceeds are added to the fund. Director Heidi Hobler appreciates our contribution and especially PGK Mike Wrzesien who prepares a homemade chili, which is really a misnomer because many refer to Mike's chili as "out of this world." To round off the lunch, council members prepare hot dogs and mac & cheese. The financial results of the lunch, silent auctions, games and private donations tallied over \$18,000, a new record.





# VETERANS BREAKFAST



## Veterans Breakfast

### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI ASSEMBLY - VETERANS APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Saturday, November 11, 2023

Veterans Day, a holiday to recognize the veterans among us, is an opportunity to show our appreciation for the men and women who served in the military to defend our freedom. On Saturday, November 11, 2023, veterans and spouses from local parishes celebrated a full breakfast, prepared by members of the St. Luke's Knights of Columbus Council, and hosted by the St. Francis of Assisi Assembly. The meal included eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon, danish, donuts, coffee, tea, and milk. Each table in the beautiful hall at St. Lukes was decorated with America flags and flowers. Our invited guests, numbering over 80, were greeted with enthusiasm by the members of the Knights of Columbus, who proudly served the veterans and their family members. There were 20 Sir Knights from the Assembly in attendance to help set-up, cook, serve, clean-up, and break-down the room. These men proudly gave of their time to honor the veterans.

The appreciation event was planned by members of the Assembly who represent five parishes in North Raleigh — St. Francis of Assisi, St. Luke the Evangelist, St. Bernadettes, St. Raphaels, and St. Sharbels. The event was advertised in the local church bulletins and all members of the congrega-

# VETERANS BREAKFAST CONT.



tions were invited to attend. The wider participation from other parishes further demonstrated that we succeeded in getting the word out through parish bulletins, and Knights of Columbus Council email notices, for this celebration of service for our patriotic Armed Forces Veterans!

In addition to serving the hot breakfast, the veterans and their families were honored with an invocation from Monsignor Jeffrey Ingham, Pastor at St. Luke the Evangelist, and a reflection from Fr. Robert Farah, Pastor at St. Sharbels. Our program immediately followed with a medley of the Armed Forces service anthems sung by the West Point Cadet Chorus. As each service's song was rendered in music and singing, those from that service were invited to stand and be recognized. And they were, with a round of applause following each service's anthem. A custom revered by those in the Armed Forces, such recognition is not often seen outside the active duty events on military bases and ships, and feedback indicated that our Veterans were greatly appreciative of the honors rendered to them.

We were then treated to a fantastic speech by Major General Allen Boyette, North Carolina National Guard, who shared his personal story of serving in the United States Army. General Boyette also shared the history of the United States National Guard and their importance to our nation's defense, as well as responding to national disasters.

In addition to the event itself, each Veteran and family member honored at our event, was able to bring home a brochure of the program, clearly stating that this Veterans Appreciation Breakfast was hosted by the St. Francis of Assisi Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly, "The Patriotic Degree."

Written by: Mike Wrzesien

# CHRISTMAS PARTY

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

: A festive evening at Casa Carbone Restaurant. Fifty-six Knights and family attended our annual Christmas Party, an all-time high, plus special guests Fr. James, Ashley Watson and Knights' widows Dottie Pribish and Barbara Mohn. The party began early at 5:00 pm, and just as well because the next hour was filled with socializing, an aspect that is important to our fraternity. DGK Troy Chaput gave a short welcoming speech followed by Fr. James' blessing. Afterwards, when the dinners were served, the room became a little quieter as everyone was enjoying their Italian dinner selection.



# THE LIVING NATIVITY

## LIVING STATIONS OF THE CRECHE

A special gathering, numbering over 500 parishioners, celebrated the 800th anniversary of the Nativity at Greccio where St. Francis, our patron saint, created a live enactment of the Nativity. The church's **Living Stations of the Creche** mimicked St. Francis' production as volunteers were dressed in costumes to represent the Nativity. Brother Knight, Jesse Woods with his wife, Maddie and their infant son, George, imitated Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus. The stations' procession weaved through the church campus, terminating in the sanctuary. Here, the parishioners were treated to several hymns sung by the Church Choir and the Children's Choir interspersed with the reading of several gospels. Afterwards, the gathering was invited to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and to view the display of over 50 creches owned by Fr. Jim Sabak. Parishioners were not only in awe of their beauty but also amazed with the amount of creches. Fr. Jim's collection began with a gift of a creche from his grandmother years ago which now has grown to over 130 creches generated from many different countries. No doubt, the evening set in motion the true meaning of the season, reminding all to keep Christ in Christmas.



# CRECHE DISPLAY



# JOE McCARTHY

## STATE OFFICER NOMINATION

Council 9709 is proud to nominate our very own member for the State Treasurer position for this coming year. Joe McCarthy has faithfully served our council and Assembly, as Faithful Navigator. He has also served as District Deputy. Joe is currently serving in the role as State Advocate and is looking forward to moving up to the next step on road to being our State Chairman.



All Saints Council #9709

Raleigh, NC

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**WHEREAS:** Brother Joseph (Joe) M. McCarthy has faithfully served the Knights of Columbus since November 2000 when he joined Valencia Council 80 in Milford, Massachusetts and was elected Grand Knight for Fraternal Years 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, and

**WHEREAS:** Brother Joe McCarthy served the great State of Massachusetts for 4 years as a District Deputy from 2007 thru 2011, and

**WHEREAS:** Brother Joe McCarthy moved to North Carolina transferred St. Raphael's Council #9580, Raleigh, serving as a Trustee for the council for two years from 2012 to 2014, and transferred to All Saints Council #9709, Raleigh in 2014 and was subsequently elected Grand Knight for Fraternal Year 2016-2017, and

**WHEREAS:** Brother Joe McCarthy served the great State of North Carolina as DD9 for Fraternal Year 2014-2015 and Country Store Chairman from 2016 until 2017 and Regional District Deputy 2 from 2017 to 2021, and

**WHEREAS:** Brother Joe McCarthy has managed his time and efforts, with the support of his loving wife of 25-years Anne-Marie, raising their four children while being very active in the Knights of Columbus, and

**WHEREAS:** Brother Joe McCarthy has faithfully and honorably served the North Carolina State Council as State Warden for one year, and State Advocate for two years and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that the All Saints Council #9709 does hereby enthusiastically endorse Brother and Sir Knight Joseph (Joe) M. McCarthy for the election to the office of State Treasurer and will place his name in nomination at the 2024 State Convention May 3 to 5, 2024 in Durham, NC, and request that all Councils in this great state also give Brother and Sir Knight Joe McCarthy their vote of confidence at the convention.

Unanimously adopted this 5th day of December 2023.

Shawn Bayle, Grand Knight

Shawn Bayle

Attested by:

[Signature] DGK

I hereby accept this nomination: Joseph M. McCarthy, North Carolina State Advocate

Joseph M. McCarthy

# DUKE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL DONATIONS

## DUKE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL DONATION

Merry Christmas!! I am pleased to report this year's Duke Children's Donations of \$1403.00 allowed for the purchase of 127 toys!

We filled up two shopping carts and three delivery carts at Duke.

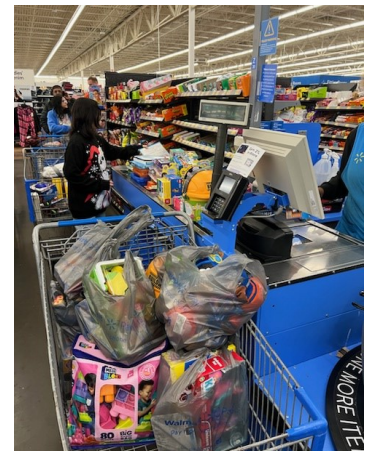
My daughter Kelcy, who is a regular patient at Duke Children's and I shopped and delivered the toys on Tuesday, 19th of December.

The Child Life Holiday Elves at Duke Children's were absolutely thrilled at the thoughtful variety of toys selected by Kelcy and mentioned they really needed these toys this year as a higher number of pediatric patients were expected to be held over the holidays.

It was again such an honor to assist the Council with this charitable event and my daughter really gets into the spirit of shopping for the kids as she imagines who might be there and what they would really want. Thank you again for allowing us to be a part of the annual Duke Children's Gift event.

Sir Knight Tommy E. Dalton

Council 9709



# CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING

Once again, a beautiful Christmas tree has been placed next to the altar in time to celebrate the birth of Jesus. For many years the trees have been donated by Shephard's Way Farms, owned by Tim and Bonnie Moser. This year's fir towers over 15 feet and ready to be decorated with a multitude of lights. Twelve council members, under the guidance of Brother Mark Baumgartner and his wife Theresa and daughter Allison, are sworn in as elves for the day to help hang over 4500 lights on the tree and drape garland around the entrance doors to the sanctuary. To complete the decor, which creates an amazing Christmas atmosphere, are dozens and dozens of poinsettias placed on and around the altar.





# FATHER JAIRO



**Brother Jim Wahl presents Fr. Jairo with a plaque naming him Priest of the Year, All Saints Council 9709, 2022-2023**

# GRAND KNIGHTS REPORT

GK Newsletter Column Dec 2023

## “Purpose”

We all search for meaning in our lives, a purpose. Life feels good when we achieve against a purpose but lacks something significant when there is no goal or if there is one that is not achieved. While times have and continue to change, the human need for purpose in life has not.

It is easy to focus on short term activities, in a whirling dervish sort of way, yet never feel “right”, even if all the “got-to-dos” get done. Many find meaning and purpose in jobs, families, or even the Holidays. These can be noble pursuits indeed, particularly when done with love and caring.

However, those with the spirituality of Knights, see something deeper, namely the purpose of serving each other and their communities in charity and fraternity. This is the meaning that binds us and leads us to fulfillment on earth, and gets us closer to an eternity with our Savior.

I know that many of you joined the Knights to serve, and I am confident that those who actively serve as Knights know the rewards of service far outweigh the energy and time put into that service. Perhaps this is God’s way of bringing his warmth and joy to his children when they “do what is right”. It is a deeper sense of accomplishment than any tactical or secular feeling for sure.

Christmas is a time to reflect on God’s call to holiness and to bring his Spirit inside our homes and hearts; to renew our commitment to service and the purpose it brings to our lives.

As you read this newsletter, you may be amazed at the number of events our Council has supported so far this fraternal year, and the rather astonishingly large group of people we have served and supported. This is what it means to act and live in communion with Jesus and in fellowship with our Brothers and their families.

I wish you God’s grace and joy in this season. I wish you a New Year with a steadfast compass pointing to your purpose. I deeply thank you for all that you have done. I challenge you to make the second half of our fraternal year a time of enrichment and purpose, striving to be more, and do more for others.

Let the stories of those who live a Knight’s life of purpose (Charity, Unity, and Fraternity) illuminate a path to all those searching for more meaning in their lives.

Merry Christmas,

Shawn D. Bayle  
Grand Knight  
Council 9709 St. Francis of Assisi Raleigh