

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ALL SAINTS COUNCIL 9709 NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2024

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## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, February 18th, was a special day for several reasons. To begin with, Fr. Jairo came back to St. Francis for a quick visit. He presided over several Masses and blessed us with a memorable homily. It was obvious that there was an increase in the Mass attendance, probably due to Fr. Jairo's presence. Fortunately for our council, the pancake breakfast we had planned for this Sunday, after the 9:00 am Mass, benefitted from a larger than usual crowd as over 175 meals were served as well as Fr. Jim's special order of chocolate chip pancakes with a side of bacon. Also benefitting from this success will be local charities who will receive the net proceeds of over \$550.



# INTERACT'S PHONE COLLECTION



Although, this year's collection did not match previous years, InterAct's Director Allison Atkinson, sends a grateful thank you to the Knights of Columbus. InterAct is a provider of crisis lines, shelters, advocacy and prevention services for individuals and families affected by domestic violence and sexual assault in Wake County. The purpose of the phone collection is to provide funds to help InterAct achieve its goals. Brother Joe Azzopardi heads up this event by advertising in the church bulletin asking parishioners to deposit their old, used cell phones in collection boxes situated in the church's Stewardship Center. The collection spanned two weekends, the end of December into the first of January. Two years ago, the collected phones were recycled and produced \$523 for InterAct.



# A GIFT OF FAITH FOR THE SIXTH GRADERS



## A GIFT OF FAITH FOR THE SIXTH GRADERS

The sixth graders received a special gift from the Knights of Columbus All Saints Council here at St Francis. The St. Francis Holy Water Fonts are part of a great of our commitment to Faith Formation. A collaboration between Principal Dawn Smith and Brother John Price led to the choice of the St Francis Fonts. The fonts were blessed by Father Jim during community mass and distributed to all 90 sixth-grade students for their personal use. The students were extremely excited and surprised according to the responses from a number of parents.

From one parent:

"Thank you SO much. This was the most excited I have seen Chloe after school. She couldn't wait to show us. It's beautiful and such a wonderful thoughtful gift for these 6th graders."



# LENTEN SUPPER



## LENTEN SUPPER

As part of our Faith Formation initiative, our Council has reinstated Friday Stations of the Cross Lenten suppers by serving meatless pizza on Friday March 1st. It's been over four years since the Parish offered this supper. The Church scheduled a family Stations of the Cross at 5:30pm along with the normally scheduled 7:00PM Stations that take place during Lent. We served close to 100 plates between the two Stations of the Cross that include two slices of pizza, dessert and a drink for \$5.00. The supper was well received with comments like "will you be here again next week?" The event received a great deal of support from Church staff in advance of the supper with emails and bulletin announcements. Troy Chaput, Tony Rivezzo and Dave Payne for making this supper special. Thank you, Joe Noonan, John and Serena Sauter, Jim Parrino, Wes Evans.



# BASKETBALL FREE THROW CONTEST



**COUNCIL WNNER, WILL MILLER**

On February 24th, Council 9709 hosted the annual Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw Contest in collaboration with St. Francis of Assisi Parish and The Franciscan School. The event was a great success, which included a record 24 participants. Competitors were given three practice free throws followed by 15 consecutive attempts that were scored. Winners were determined among boys and girls in two age groups, 9-11 and 12-14. This year's winners are: Will Miller (Boys, Age 9-11); Elia Ward (Girls, Age 9-11); Perry Cato (Boys, Age 9-11); Ulyana O'Connell (Girls, Age 12-14). Winners have the opportunity to compete at the Knights of Columbus state-level competition, which will take place March 16 in Burlington, NC. We congratulate all winners and participants and look forward to cheering on our competitors on March 16. A special thanks to all Knights who volunteered for this event and made it such a great success.

Written by Will Austin



**STATE WINNER, PERRY CATO**



**STATE CONTESTANT, ELIA WARD**



**STATE COMPETITORS**

# THE FRANCISCAN SCHOOL SPELLING BEE



2024 TFS Spelling Bee Champion Cameron Elliott, 7th Grader, on the right. On the left is the runner-up, Luca Raminetz, 5th grader.



TFS Principal Dawn Smith, with the winner of the 2024 TFS Spelling Bee, Cameron Elliott and his father.



TFS Teacher and Spelling Bee Coordinator Iris Lacson, the participants of the TFS Spelling Bee, and TFS Principal Dawn Smith

## An Impressive Performance by TFS Students

The Knights of Columbus, in partnership with The Franciscan School, sponsored a spelling bee on Tuesday, January 30, 2024. The event was hosted in Fellowship Hall at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. The Knights are honored to host this annual event, with direction from the TFS Administration and Teachers, and we appreciate the many hours spent by the teachers and students in preparation for the spelling bee. Special recognition to teacher Iris Lacson for her leadership in preparing for the Spelling Bee. Ms. Lacson is a true joy to work with and her love of teaching is evident in her commitment to her students and the energy she displays on a daily basis.

After winning the intense classroom competition, twelve students earned the right to participate in the finals of the TFS Spelling Bee. The twelve TFS students, from 3rd grade through 8th grade, displayed courage and grace throughout the competition. The students were very supportive of their classmates. Each student displayed an amazing ability to spell very challenging words.

After 20 rounds of competition, 7th grader Cameron Elliott was declared the 2024 TFS Spelling Bee Champion. The final round word was "inscrutable" and championship word was: "sacred". Runner-up was 5th grader Lucas Ramirez. Cameron and Lucas were awarded Amazon gift cards from the Knights of Columbus for their achievement. Each participant received a certificate of appreciation from the Knights.

Thank you to the following Brother Knights for their support and participation:

- Will Austin for leading the Knights' support
- Paul Scaini for serving as the Pronouncer
- Ralph Guenther and Mike Rock for serving as Judges
- Tony Rivezzo, Marty Schmidt, and David Payne for helping with logistics

Mike Wrzesien for serving as the Record Keeper

The Knights of Columbus are very proud of the students who won their classroom competitions and participated in the TFS Spelling Bee Final. These young women and men represented TFS in a very favorable light, which is also a tribute to the excellent work of the teachers and administrators of The Franciscan School.

Written by, Mike Wrzesien

# THE FRANCISCAN SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST



During the month of February, Council 9709 sponsored an Essay Contest in collaboration with The Franciscan School 8th Grade. In 500-700 words, students were asked to respond to the question - "How can the Church evangelize in the digital age?". TFS was an incredible partner, working with us to coordinate a timeline that supported the school academic calendar and academic objectives. TFS reviewed and down-selected five essays for our consideration. A panel of three Knights, including our Worthy Grand Knight, reviewed and scored each essay to down-select the winner, 8th grader Gabriel Dimanlig. We will recognize Gabriel during TFS Morning Prayer on March 11 and again on May 7 during our monthly meeting. Congratulations to Gabriel and all students who participated in the contest! We plan to sponsor this event again this fall in collaboration with TFS.

Written by Will Austin



# RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

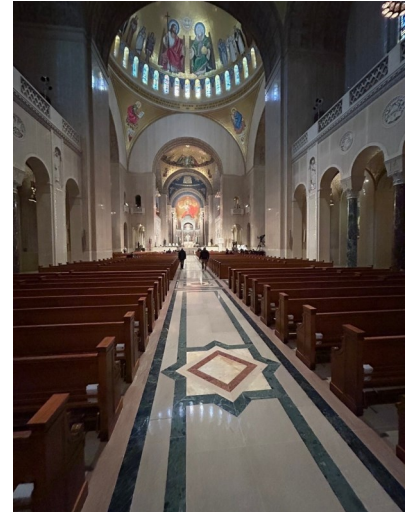


All Saints Council strongly supports the process in which participants, by way of the studying the gospel and receiving the sacraments, become members of the Catholic Church. The council has had the opportunity, before RCIA study sessions to order a light supper and discuss the workings of the Knights of Columbus with the hope of encouraging the male catechumens to strengthen their new faith by becoming a member of our council. Several of our most active brother Knights have joined the council immediately after their initiation to our Catholic faith.





# MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON DC



## MARCH FOR LIFE

PGK Brian Denison, representing our council, attended the one-day March for Life, January 19, held in Washington DC. He traveled with Kent Siefkes, a former Grand Knight of our council, who because of his relocation, became a member of a new council. He is missed. Brian and Kent joined over 100,000 Pro-Life Americans who marched to show support for women and children. Over 6,000 people filled the Basilica to pray for life. Since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned by the Supreme Court, 140 abortion businesses have closed. Progress has been made in support of Pro-Life, but much more needs to be done.



# ALL SAINTS COUNCIL EXEMPLIFICATION



## ALL SAINTS COUNCIL EXEMPLIFICATION



On January 21, 2024, our All Saints Council Exemplification team with lead Tony Anello accompanied by Bryan Kozak, Bob Caron and Tommy Dalton, voted the best in the state, conducted the ceremony to initiate three new members. We welcome our new brothers Dan Conti, Zach Karczewski and Jim Regan and Chris Bagin graduated to Third Degree.



# KNIGHTS DONATIONS



**HOPE REINS DONATION**

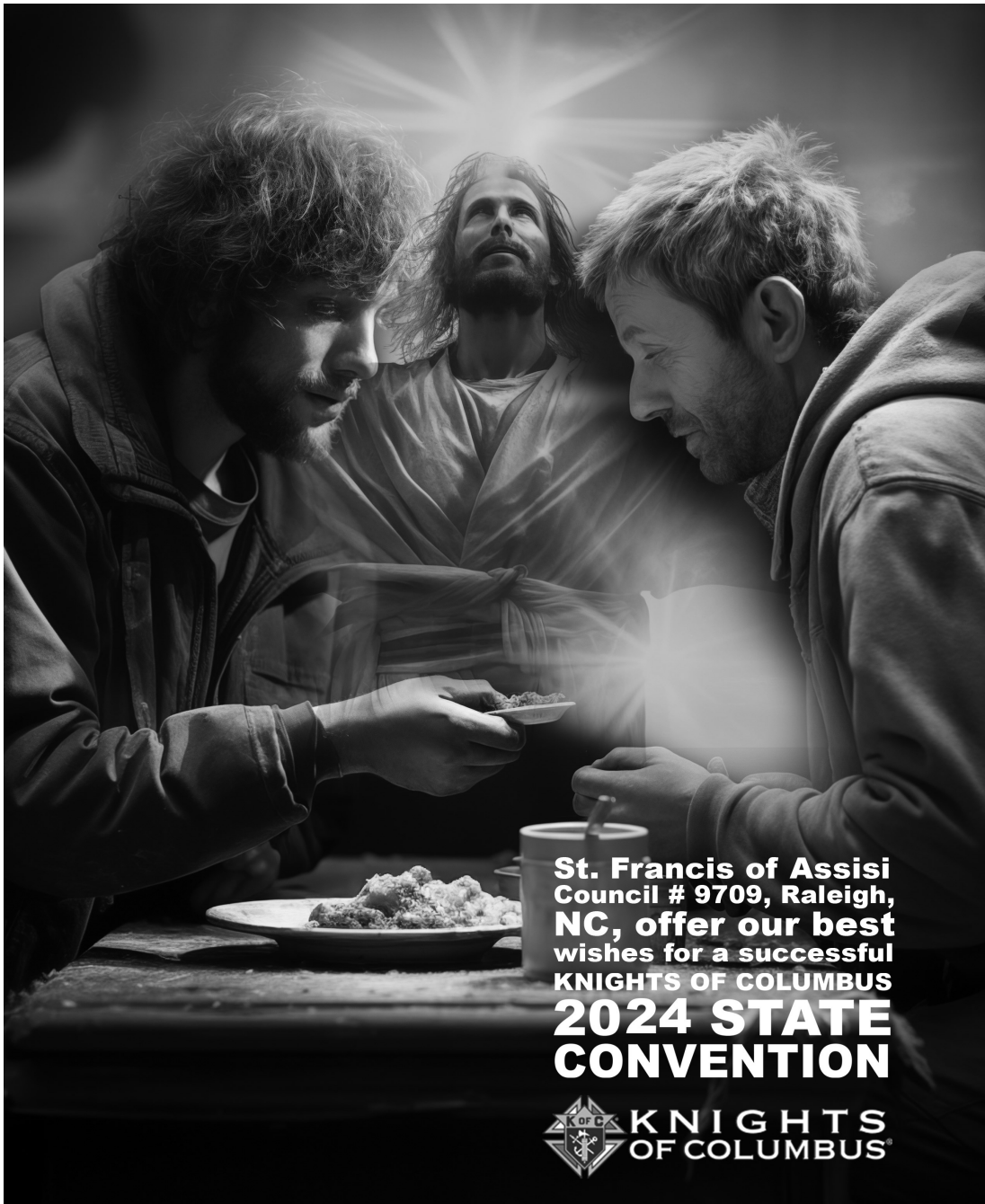


## HOPE REINS

Hope Reins helps heal children (ages 5-18) who are suffering from physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse by teaming them up with a person of faith and a rescued horse. This combination of a caring, loving person and a gentle horse have remarkable results. Since 2010, Hope Reins has mended over 2,000 kids in life crises.. Our own Brother Ray Martin volunteers 3 to 4 days a week helping with the many tasks required on this large 38-acre ranch. He is pictured with Kim Tschirret, Founder and CEO, delivering a \$500 check from our council.

# 2024 STATE CONVENTION PROGRAM

Every year our council purchases a full page ad in the State Convention program booklet. This year, Brother Shaun Bales designed the ad, which is nothing less than spectacular. It caught the attention of several state officers who remarked of its unique and artistic conception. Thank you, Brother Shaun!!



# COUNCIL MONTHLY AWARDS

## DECEMBER

Knight of the Month--Steve Burdett

Family of the Month--Sergio Winter Family

## JANUARY

Knight of the Month--Dino Pinelli

Family of the Month--Jim Wahl Family

## FEBRUARY

Knight of the Month--Shaun Bales

Family of the Month--Will Austin Family



## RAFFLE TICKET SALES

On March 13th, DGK Troy Chaput reported that our second largest fundraiser, Raffle Ticket Sales, hit a benchmark total sale of 1200. Raffle proceeds are shared with the State Council, which means our council will net over \$3000. Gratitude extended to all who purchased tickets to realize that the \$3000 will be donated to several local charities. Gratitude also extended to the 10 team captains who have helped make it happen, especially Brian Denison whose team sales of over **400** will guarantee that he will win the GOAT Award (Greatest of All Ticket Sellers).

# RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



Where the need is never fully satisfied, several times during the year our council teams up with Red Cross to collect blood for patients in dire need. Every two seconds, someone in the US needs blood. On March 23rd, PGK Bryan Kozak, with a group of volunteer Knights, organized and directed efforts to make this vital event possible at St. Francis in Fellowship Hall. Much credit goes to Tom and Elaine Dupree and Sandy Gayle who lined up over a dozen restaurants willing to provide food for the donors. Nick Renga and Steve and Maria Nicholas not only presented but also helped serve this wide range of food. Pictured below is Maria Nicholas delivering the left-over food to the USO at RDU airport. The successful final result, not much different from past drives, was a collection of over 105 units of blood.



# SAINT FRANCIS STATIONS OF THE CROSS



For a number of years, our Council has hosted and performed the Good Friday Outdoor Stations of the Cross procession. It begins in the TFS courtyard and processes throughout the campus ending with the final Station reading performed at the Memorial Garden Altar. TFS students provide the artwork for each Station poster. We were battling about .500 on weather and this year Mother Nature was indeed smiling down on us, which enabled a record crowd of nearly 100. This is a solemn, well-attended event nearing the end of the Lenten season. Readers included Knights, family members and parishioners.



# SAINT FRANCIS STATIONS OF THE CROSS





# GRAND KNIGHTS REPORT

## **A World Without Knights?**

Some things are unpleasant yet instructive to consider. How would our world, our community, and individual Brothers lives be different if it were not for our Order?

Times have changed a lot since 1882, but basic human needs have not. Contemplate how our Order's principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity have influenced God's world since. Over 1800 years after Jesus, Fr. McGivney saw that basic human needs, those Christ asked his followers to provide for, were not being met. Widows, orphans, a Church at the margin of society, a lack of social safety nets, discrimination against Catholics, poverty, disease all were daily struggles in 1881. They remain so today but certainly improved due to that one Priest.

Since, modern Knights have provided billions of dollars and hundreds of millions of man-hours to improving our world. Knights provide badly needed glue bonding our Church, the rock built through Christ, to its people.

More granularly, at the individual and family level, what is a Knight? At this scale Christ gave his love, and his life, as he saw every individual as worthy and every family as an essential component of society.

Consider yourself, your wife, your children (current or future). How has your Knighthood changed your life? How has it changed the lives of other Brothers and their families? How is your Church and community different?

Perhaps you are closer to God, a better father, a more compassionate citizen, a better man. Perhaps you have greater joy knowing you are following His command to serve others and love as he does. Perhaps you see Christ present in those you serve. Perhaps you are inspired to be more, do more, volunteer more, pray more. Regardless of your answers to these possibilities, imagine how being more engaged would impact yourself and those around you. It is not what you don't do, but what you do that matters.

The Order provides a proven framework for us to do good, a means to the synergy of "many candles illuminating the world". Our Order's Fraternity binds us to each other and Unifies us with God. The Order started in Fraternity, brothers supporting each other and their families. From this basic chivalry, it expanded to a true Charity serving those we don't personally know.

I have said many times that I, and likely most of you, joined the Knights to "give back". What I got in return was a group of men that I not only call Brothers, but true friends. I see the reflection of Christ and his disciples in you my Brothers - our Church as Christ, and we as his band of disciples. For this I am blessed, inspired, and grateful.

In the spirit of this Holy Easter season, pray on these matters, and give thanks to God for his many gifts, not the least of which is the honor to be a Knight and serve His kingdom together.

Your Servant in Christ,

Shawn D. Bayle

Grand Knight, Council 9709