

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ALL SAINTS COUNCIL 9709 NEWSLETTER



July-September 2024

THIS ISSUE'S HIGHLIGHTS AND MUCH MORE!



Officer Installation



Appreciation Dinner



Durham Bulls Wraps up



Spaghetti Dinner



Philanthropy



Welcome Fr Chris



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive



Soccer Challenge



Adopt-a-Hiway

YOUR OFFICERS FOR THE COMING 2024-25 FRATERNAL YEAR!



On Sunday, June 30th, North Carolina State Officers assisted in the Council 9709 Officer Installation for the coming Fraternal Year 2024-2025. Our new Grand Knight, PGK Bryan Kozak outlined his goals for the new year that includes, but not limited to, "Casting the Net" to build partnerships with other local councils. He also is renewing/rebuilding our programs for wives and widows along with restoring and updating our "Best Practice" repository for programs. This last initiative will cover the "how to's" for everything from Special Olympics to the First Responders Dinner and all those in between.

Buckle up, Brothers! We are in for another exciting year of contributing to our Parish, our Community and all those we serve!

A LOOK AT OUR NEW LEADERSHIP



The solemn Installation Ceremony was conducted by our Worthy District Deputy, George Beserock. Also in attendance and part of the celebration was our Council Brother and Worthy State Treasurer, Joe McCarthy along with Council Brother and State Financial and Procedures Trainer, James Davisson.

YOUR 2024-2025 OFFICERS

Grand Knight—PGK Bryan Kozak	Advocate—David Payette
Deputy GK—Tommy Dalton	Lecter—Mike Wrzesien
Chancellor—Troy Chaput	Inside Guard—Akuro Adoki
Treasurer—Mark Baumgartner	Outside Guard—Mike Rock
Financial Secretary—Sean Flanagan	Trustee 3 Year—Shawn Bayle
Warden—Scott Rees	Trustee 2 Year—David Payne
Recorder—Marty Schmidt	Trustee 1 Year—Brian Dennison



2024 APPRECIATION DINNER/PICNIC

This year, we extended our Council show of appreciation for all of our success to include members of the SFA and TFS staff. We had a great turnout that proved to be a model for years to come.

Our Worthy recent PGK Shawn outdid himself by smoking 32# of pork for 16 hours! And it was the highlight of the meal that included fried chicken, hot dogs and all the fixin's. Shawn was also the MC of the evening's award ceremony to recognize the "Of the Year" winners for FY 2023-24.

And then our current Worthy GK, Bryan Kozak, took over to recognize Shawn and his wife, Mary Beth, for their many contributions during the year. There were many "firsts" to celebrate that included our first Membership Drive ever conducted at SFA, first Father/Son Retreat and first time any Council has won the NC State Knight of the Year four years in a row! Other "Firsts" included the first time three of our Directors were Knights for a year and a half or less and the first time we had seven new members at a single Exemplification. Shawn also gave recognition to the Council for a record breaking year of 5,700 service hours and \$57,000 raised for our charities!

Not present were Monsignor Clay, Priest of the Year, and Will Austin, Rookie of the Year. Monsignor Clay played a key role in supporting the Knights' efforts on campus. The Father/Son retreat was one of his early goals that we were able to execute in April under John Price's leadership. In the past we have not had the opportunity to conduct a Membership Drive on Campus. Monsignor paved the way for our "Paint the Campus Blue" weekend campaign that allowed our Council to exceed our new members goal for the year!

In his relatively short time, Will Austin has energized our Soccer Challenge and Free Throw Youth programs taking them to new levels of participation even generating State Champions in each. He brought back the Essay Contest at TFS after years of silence. All these successes and more made Will the easy choice for NC State Rookie of the Year.



Father McBriar Award
Tony Anello



Steve Andrews
Deacon of the Year



Bob Caron
Golden Knight of the year



Tony Rivezzo
Knight of the Year



Father Chris
Blesses the Evening



The Payne's
Family of the Year



Mary Beth Bayle
Thank you!!



Bryan and Shawn
Passing the Gavel

2023/2024 STAR COUNCIL AWARD!

Our Council 9709 has earned the Distinguished 2023-2024 Star Council Award, recognizing excellence in program activity, membership growth (106% of quota), insurance promotion, fraternal reporting, sponsorship of Faith Formation projects and Safe Environment compliance.

Congratulations to the Dynamic Leadership of our Worthy Grand Knight during that run, Shawn D. Bayle. This is the second year in a row our Council has received this prestigious recognition meaning that we are hitting all the key indicators on all eight cylinders. Or in PGK Shawn's case, all 12 or 16 cylinders!



CARDINAL GIBBONS BACK TO SCHOOL



Our Council, along with other Raleigh Diocese Councils, had the honor and privilege of serving the back to school mass at Cardinal Gibbons High School. The energetic group of Knights and spouses assisted in setting up 1,000 chairs, organizing and breaking down the seating for this well-attended event. This took place over two days, August 19th and 20th.



WELCOME, FATHER CHRIS!



On the weekend of August 17-18th, following the Saturday Evening and Sunday 9AM Masses, receptions organized by Stacey Shine were held to welcome Father Chris Koehn, our new Pastor. Parishioners provided 5-Star quality food that included creative hors-d'oeuvres, main courses and delectable desserts that filled eight 8' tables both days! Father Chris spent much of his time meeting and greeting parishioners as he continues to make his mark on the St Francis community. A big thank you to our Council Knights who kept the food trays and drinks full during both events along with cleaning up afterwards.

PHILANTHROPY

As our new Fraternal Year kicks off, our Philanthropy Committee is already making plans to allocate budgeted funds to our key charities. Our parishioner, Dallas Bonavita, sent out this plea following damage to their Wake County Note in the Pocket facility from Hurricane Debby. Always on the ready, our Council acted immediately by donating \$1,000 to an appreciative Dallas and her staff.

Dallas Bonavita wrote:

It is with a heavy heart that I share some recent struggles we are facing at Note in the Pocket. This could not have happened at a worse time with children beginning a new school year.

Hurricane Debby caused a leak in the roof at our Wake location on Thursday, August 8th, resulting in a damaged transformer. We have been without consistent power since. Today, Monday, August 26, is the

16th day we have been unable to consistently process clothing donations and build wardrobes for our children headed back to school. August is the beginning of Note in the Pocket's heaviest clothing request time. Last August we received 1557 clothing requests and numbers will remain high through the end of the year. We have suffered the loss of hundreds of hours of volunteer support and have had to cancel hundreds of volunteers needed to process clothing donations to continuously restock our shelves with clothes for the children.

*Our team is brilliant in a crisis, and believe me when I tell you – **we are in a crisis**. While without power, our staff and a very small team of volunteers have accepted clothing donations in the dark, processed clothing outside in tents, and our amazing fulfillment team has built wardrobes as quickly as they can under the most dire circumstances imaginable. We are unsure when the power will be completely restored and allow us to get back to work full-time.*

Many of our students will not have the first day of school experience we had hoped – but we can still give them an amazing “first comfortable and confident day of school” as soon as we can get these clothes to them, regardless of the month.

We need YOUR help! This is not a short-term problem.

We have created a NITP Recovery Fund that will be used to accelerate our ability to catch up on clothing requests in whatever ways that may be. This strategy includes being able to offer extra volunteer shifts, and purchasing clothes and shoes in bulk to increase needed stock on the shelves, and all the supplies and people needed to make this happen over the next 4 months.

Please consider making a one-time gift to our NITP Recovery Fund TODAY to help us do what needs to be done to overcome this immediate crisis.



WELCOME BACK SPAGHETTI DINNER!



We need to get our professional chef, Scott Rees, one these hats! Once again he and his squad knocked it out of the park with a feast fit for kings and queens alike! Scott also managed to get the large portion of the dinner donated from US Foods. Thank you to David Payette and family for donating the garlic bread. Fr Chris, Fr James and Fr Joseph were also in attendance and agreed that the food and service were par excellence!

A big shout out to all the Brothers, wives, daughters and granddaughters who helped with everything from set up, cooking, serving and clean up. It was a well oiled machine for sure.

Final tallies showed 201 plates served and a net profit of \$1,682 for our charities. Unprecedented success! And a big thanks to Marissa for bringing her First Eucharist class and their families. AND we had just enough leftovers to provide a feast to our Firefighters at the Pinecrest Fire Department! Well done, Brothers!



THE SEASON IS A WRAP!



Another baseball season has come to a wrap!

A fair number of those highly-rated prospects who'd played during the last few seasons for our Durham Bulls, the Tampa Bay Rays' AAA affiliate, have received the call to play in the Show. Unfortunately for those of us in the Triangle, that means that the Bulls' roster has been somewhat depleted, that they've lollygagged out of a playoff spot this year. It has become a tradition for the Tampa Bay Rays, since their inaugural season in 1998, to not pay the big bucks when a star player's team-friendly rookie contract expires. The result of that is typically that their star player will go on to a team very willing to open their wallets, such as the Yankees, Dodgers or Red Sox. And, after a few good seasons, the suddenly starless Rays become mediocre again, and receive high draft picks over the next few seasons to build their farm...which means it shouldn't be too long until our Bulls start kicking some butt again!

Our Bulls may have had a so-so season. Our All Saints Council, on the other hand, has had a stellar season! Volunteers from our council have poured a lot of beers, and handed out a lot of chicken tenders, this summer. As of the date of this writing, there remain two more ball games which we're signed up to volunteer. It's projected that by the end of this season, after those final two games, that our volunteers will have raised funds for our council in the ballpark of \$21,000! That will obviously go a long way toward the financial support our council provides for the many great local charities in our community.

A big thank you goes out to all of those who volunteered at the beer and food stands this year, and to our brother Mike Wrzesien for coordinating all of it. For those of you who didn't have an opportunity to volunteer this season, opportunities to do so in 2025 will approach soon enough. I would highly recommend it! It's very easy to feel lost in the crowd while in a council as large as ours is. Volunteering at an event such as this, with slots for just six brothers per game, is a great chance to get to know those brothers you're volunteering with much better. Also, the more total volunteers that we have in a given season, the more relief we can give to those who sign themselves up for a lot of games. And, who doesn't want to be a part of the ballgame experience?

Hope to see you next season!

-Zubair Simonson

MORE CELEBRATIONS!



MINISTRY FAIR 2024

Once again, our Council was invited to join the over ninety ministries currently serving St Francis Parish in so many ways. A big thank you to all the Brothers who served at our display over the weekend to share our good works with others AND invite those Catholic gentlemen interested in stepping up their service by becoming a Knight. Over 100 brochures were distributed with 3 Form 100's and 11 gentlemen who expressed their interest in taking the next step. By count, there were approximately 20 ministries on display at the Fair supported by our Council through hours or donations.

CONGRATULATIONS MONSIGNOR!



Welcome back, Monsignor Clay, who was up to support his RCIA class. Monsignor joined the Ministry Fair during his visit allowing PGK Shawn the opportunity to award him with his Priest of the Year plaque in person. Monsignor did so much for our Council during his four years here making this an easy decision. Looking on are Father Chris and our new priest, Father Joseph, both of whom are proud Knights themselves.

WELCOME NEW KNIGHTS!



In November, 2019, then Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson introduced the revised Exemplification Ceremony that would remove the past secrecy and invite families and friends to attend the new, open ceremony. Here are his opening statements of the changes:

A new generation of Knights

"We must forge a new generation of Knights — men who see in our principles of charity, unity and fraternity a path to leading a Catholic way of life that can strengthen their families, their parishes and their communities. We must reach a new generation of men by the witness of our charity, our brotherhood and our ceremonials."

Inspire the men of our day

"Just as our forefathers rallied to meet the challenges of their day, we must inspire the men of our day. We must reach out to meet these men where they are. And when we do, we must show them that they are called to be men of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. Because of this we are acting to make our Order more inviting and more accessible."

Why the change

"In recent decades, we have found it harder to bring men, especially young fathers, into the Order. When we ask them why, they tell us three ceremonies are too time-consuming and too difficult to attend. They tell us that secrecy is unnecessary."

-Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight

All Exemplification Ceremonies are special but none of us can recall bringing in a class of eight new Brothers at one time! Those of us who have proudly served as Knights for many years are brought back to that special occasion when we, ourselves, became Knights of Columbus. So this is a renewal of sorts, getting to repeat our vows alongside our new Brother Knights.

We have said it before but it bears repeating. All Saints Council #9709 proudly carries the most well-prepared and professional Exemplification Team in the State and maybe even the entire country! They are:

Master of Ceremonies - Tony Anello, Charity - Bryan Kozak, Unity - Sandy Gayle, Fraternity - George Beserock, Warden - Ralph Guenther and Financial Secretary - Sean Flanagan.

This ceremony conducted on September 15th in the St Mary of the Angels Chapel followed by a reception held in the Padua Room. Many thanks to Mary Beth and Shawn Bayle for the excellent spread! Our new Knights are Dan Aiello, Charlie Arana, Will Connelly, Paul Geisen, Edward Gilmartin, Victor Lee, Christopher Miranda and Lannon Pias. Congratulations, gentlemen! We look forward to enjoying your many years of service to the Knights! And congratulations to our Membership Director, Three year Trustee and PGK, Shawn Bayle for assembling an outstanding new class of Knights! Additionally, it was extremely gratifying to see a packed house of family, friends and current brothers in attendance to share this special occasion.

Our Chaplain was Father Joseph. Also present were District Deputies George Beserock and Dennis Carter.

DD Dennis awarded DD George with his certificate for four more years as our District #9 Deputy.

FALL BLOOD DRIVE



American Red Cross

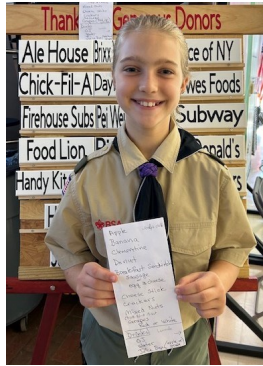
On September 21st, we held our 58th Semi-annual Blood Drive in Jacoba Hall where we collected 78 units of blood, slightly below our average but still critical in saving lives. Our Worthy Grand Knight, Bryan Kozak once again organized this event that began under Brother Tom Dupree back in 1996. It is estimated that we have collected over 5,000 units of blood since its inception!



No one went away hungry as Brothers Tom Dupree and Sandy Gayle lined up food donations fit for a king from over a dozen local sources while Steve and Maria Nicholas, always part of our successful Blood Drives, made sure all in attendance were well served! They were an easy choice for Family of the Month! We had everything from pizza to sandwiches to lasagna to Asian specialties and all in between AND plenty left for the USO once we wrapped up the day. A special thank you to all the Knights, their wives, the donors and the Scouts for their contributions!



Fr Jim happy to donate Power Red



Scouts created a menu for donors



Brothers Bole and Anello taking care of business



Military precision lining up the next food run!



Brothers Patrick Sauter and John Martin doing their part to save lives!



Ever popular Brother Sandy Gayle



Steve and Maria—Family of the Month



Scouts did an awesome job!

2024 SOCCER CHALLENGE



Our Council re-energized the Soccer Challenge following Covid after a few years of inactivity. Now under the leadership of Youth Director, Will Austin, it is gaining new energy and recognition. Held on the TFS athletic field (this year a soggy marsh), boys and girls, ages 9-14 are eligible to compete for a chance to go on the NC Knights State Challenge held in November. This year, our four winners will be offered the opportunity to take part in the that Challenge. The rules are very specific on scoring and distance to goal for each age group.

Brothers Chuck Hennessee, Mark Wilcox, Tony Rivezzo, Paul Scaini, David Payne and our DD George Beserock joined Will to set up, officiate and tear down the event. A special thank you to Will's wife, Stephanie, for her beautiful handwriting for the Award Certificates.

This year's winners are Age Group 9-11, Henry Adams, age 11, Age Group 12-14, Lainey Andruchowitz for girls, age 13 (overall winner in this age group), and AJ Andruchowitz, age 12 for the boys. All four will advance to the State. In addition to Certificates, each player received an official Knights Soccer Challenge ball to take home.



FALL ADOPT A HIWAY



Under the faithful leadership of Brother Bob Bagin, eleven Knights assembled Saturday, September 28th, to once again clean up Leesville Rd from the 76 Station to the Durham County Line. We had one enthusiastic team take the clean up all the way to Hiway 540 so definitely above and beyond the call of duty. Brian Denison confirmed that this was our 22nd year of Adopt-a-Hiway. That means we've conducted 88 cleanups! This event led to 11 large bags of trash (50# per bag) that if calculated over 88 campaigns would equal close to 20 tons of trash. Not bad, All Saints Council 9709!



Tools for today's event



Let's do this!!



Returning from the mean streets of Raleigh



Coffee and donuts for the warriors—Thanks, Bob!

GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE



Gentlemen, welcome to a new fraternal year and yet another great newsletter that highlights the many, many activities and achievements from this Council over the last quarter. Hats off to Tony, David, and Zubair for your work and dedication to this effort.

Let me start off by saying how honored and humbled I am. This Council truly is a group of Catholic Gentlemen, doing God's work everyday and I continue to be amazed by everything we have and continue to accomplish in the name of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. This year I want our Council to focus on "Casting our Net". I would encourage you to read Luke 5:4-11 so that we can expand on the imagery presented and how it applies to the goals and objectives I would like to see accomplished this fraternal year. A few points to focus on...

The fishing net –

The essential element of any fisherman is their equipment. In the case of our council the essential element is you the brothers that make up this council. The net is very much like the lesson on unity where many individual fibers make a strong cord. Us as a unified council make a very strong net. This is interwoven with our families, our faith life and experiences, interactions within our community. Ultimately however we need to make sure dedicated efforts are made to maintain and repair the net. After meeting with Fr. Chris there are plans being developed to ensure there are times and events dedicated to invigorate our spiritual health and the health of our families. Quoting Fr. Chris, "there are times where those that serve, need to be served."

The other boat-

After the net was cast the haul was great. The haul was so great that the net almost broke and the boat almost sank. Simon relied and the aid and assistance of a neighboring boat to successfully bring in the catch. I would like us to reach out and improve our networking with our neighboring councils. The goal is to improve our call to unity and fraternity and in doing so help both councils improve the catch of new brothers and new experiences. Our first examples of this are seen in our efforts to create a "Knight Crew" that is, a conglomerate of all the area councils providing support and a physical presence to the numerous religious activities/events and Cardinal Gibbons High School.

There is certainly much more meaning that can be gleaned from this simple yet powerfully story. At the end though I encourage each and everyone of you to find that event or activity within the council that calls to you. Recognize that together this council can and will continue to do great things. I ask you to consider and meditate on this thought... How can you "cast your net" to make you, your family, our council or our Church the handpiece of Christ's work on earth?

Vivat Jesus,

Bryan Kozak

Grand Knight