

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ALL SAINTS COUNCIL 9709 NEWSLETTER



October-December 2024

THIS ISSUE'S HIGHLIGHTS WITH MUCH MORE INSIDE!









FRANCIS FEST

NC FOURTH DEGREE

FIRST RESPONDERS

HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL









PHILANTHROPY

VETERAN'S DAY BREAKFAST

OLR FOOD DRIVE

MERRY CHRISTMAS

FRANCIS FEST 2024



Once again, our Council out did themselves with an excellent showing at Francis Fest 2024. Mike Austin's barbecue pork shoulder was the hit of the event! A big draw for us was the fact that all of the proceeds were sent to the victims of Hurricane Helene. The generosity of our St Francis Parish never disappoints! In addition to the long lines to purchase food, the kettle we set out was full of cash donations. A big, heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to our cause. And a big shout out to the Knights who made this a huge success for us!







FRANCIS FEST 2024









Wes with Master Smoker Mike

David Payette taking care of business

Mike working his magic



All Saints Council 9709
Raleigh, NC - Est. 1988
Columbus
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO HELENE VICTIMS!!

And Andreading as Charle, Dairy, Francisco, and Patriolism

Brother Tom at work

All hands on deck! Open for business and a great day!



Our WGK and Tony taking care of our Clergy!



Brother Jim finds a face paint model

HELPING HELENE HEAL



When Helene struck North Carolina on September 27th, no one imagined the devastation that it would bring to the mountain communities in the western part of the state. As of this writing, over 90 people have lost their lives and over 100 locals still missing. Entire families have been killed in this massive storm.

Those who were completely cut off have been getting food and supplies either air dropped or brought in by ATV's and even a mule train in the more remote parts of the state. Roads and bridges are gone and the Blue Ridge Parkway is due to open in early 2025. Interstate 40 will not open until September 2025.

As the waters recede, the stories of personal loss will linger for months and even years. Federal and State support will not likely cover costs to rebuild homes and property that have been completely obliterated. And since this has been declared a 1,000 year event, no one carries flood insurance except for those few who built on the side of a river.





The amount of support has been inspiring from agencies, churches and everyday folks wanting to help. As always our Council has inspired by sharing their talents and generosity to make a difference in the lives of those who felt this impact head-on. Thank you to all those brothers who have stepped up to help support "Healing After Helene."

I know you will join me in continued prayers as the Diocese of Charlotte works to assist in restoring the spirit of those affected by Hurricane Helene. The devastation to the western part of our state is heartbreaking and yet inspiring to see the human spirit rally for the betterment of God's people. Individual Cash Donations \$6,475 Council Philanthropy \$2,000

Francis Fest Barbecue \$1,542

Francis Fest Donations \$ 540

Total \$10,557

-Dawn Stark

Raleigh Diocese Executive Director



HELPING HELENE HEAL

I was in the parking lot of Walmart, with St Joseph's Primary Care, giving away free hot dogs and chips. I was there from 11:00 am - 2:30 pm.

Here are some observations from the trip this week:

- 1. The Walmart was, for the most part, operational with a lot of vans, buses and tents set in the parking lot.
- 2. I was working next to a small bus (St Joseph's Primary Care).
- 3. FEMA had two tents set up.
- 4. There was another tent (besides St Joseph's) offering medical care.
- 5. There was a vehicle setup to provide food to FEMA and other agencies.
- 6. There were other vehicles, I'm not sure what they were there for.
- 7. There were 5 FEMA bathrooms set up. None of the bathrooms inside Walmart were operational.
- 8. The doctor who was there for St Joseph's saw two different cars, he believed, people were living in.
- 9. There were still people without water and power, after four weeks.
- 10. One man told me he just got his power back this week.
- 11. There were "so many" dump trucks driving in Spruce Pine hauling things away.
- 12. I "heard" the Walmart in Boone was still closed.
- 13. I was told if you drive from Spruce Pine to Boone you could really see devastation.
- 14. ALL of the people I met were extremely nice.

St Joseph's plan was to be there for four weeks. This is week one. That may change after this week and they may go to an area that needs more help.

-Brother Mike Rock



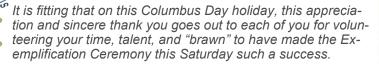






STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA 4TH DEGREE

Good afternoon, Sir Knights of St Francis of Assisi





Several of you and others have gotten word to me that the event was well received, and that those participating enjoyed the experience. While I know there was much planning that went into this beforehand, the reality is that your time, talent, and "muscle" that made this a success. All the planning in the world would be a failure, were it not for the execution of the things that had to be done. And it was all done very well.

On behalf of all of our guests who had the opportunity to see our Parish, our facilities, and experience this event, please accept a huge "thank you" for all you did. And I am aware that at least several wives also contributed to this event. Please pass along our appreciation to them as well.

I thought you might like to have the attached "class photo" of the newly Exemplified Fourth Degree Knights. They have now returned home with nice memories of the day they spent with us at St Francis.

Best Regards and Vivat Jesus

Jim Rispoli Faithful Navigator St Francis of Assisi Assembly





WELCOME NEW SIR KNIGHTS!



What a great day 101 out 50.1 miles which the Statewide sembly 3552. We were able to host the Statewide Fourth Degree Ceremony right here at St Francis to the many favorable reviews from those in attendance. Congratulations to our newest Sir Knights in our Assembly—David Payette, Michael Donohue, William Horne, and John Sauter.



















2024 FIRST RESPONDERS DINNER



On Wednesday evening, October 16th, our Council hosted our annual First Responders Appreciation Dinner in Fellowship Hall with Brother Tony Rivezzo returning once again as our Emcee. We had a good attendance in spite of many local agencies being called to the western part of NC to support recovery efforts from Helene. All reports were favorable following a five course meal headlined by Brother Payette's award winning ham main course. As always our brothers were on site to ensure a military like event from set up to clean up. Father Chris and Father Joseph were also on hand to bring a spiritual tone to the evening.

Present for the event were as follows:

- * Fire Station Engine Co. 29 (Leesville Rd)
- * Fire Station Engine Co. 23 (Pinecrest Rd)
- * Fire Station Ladder Co. 23 (Pinecrest Rd)
- * Battalion Chief 4
- * Durham Highway Fire Station (Norwood Rd)
- * Raleigh Police NW Division
- * Wake County Sheriff's Department

Captain Dwayne Whitaker Captain Andrew Meier Captain Chaz Moore Jason Patterson Captain Mike Webb Sgt. J.S. Varnell

Lt. Charlie Twitty and Sheriff Willie Rowe

Total Responders' Attendance--26

We were proud to have our Scout Troop 352 on hand to escort our First Responders into the Hall led by Troop Leaders and Brother Knights, Josh Riley and John Martin with six of their finest Scouts.













2024 FIRST RESPONDERS AWARDS







HONORING OUR LOCAL HEROES!

THANK YOU FIRE, POLICE, EMS AND SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENTS!!















PHILANTHROPY

Our Philanthropy Committee is hard at work to allocate budgeted funds to our key charities. The needs are even greater this year given the devastating conditions in Western North Carolina from back to back hurricanes.







Dave and Tony deliver 48 new winter coats to Carole Trone, Volunteer Program Manager at A Note in the Pocket Our Council Raised nearly \$15,000 for Disaster Relief in Western North Carolina









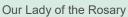




birth choice









OF WAKE COUNTY













HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL 2024!



The annual TFS Pre-school Fundraiser has become a much anticipated event thanks to "Mike's Chili!" For the past 17 years, Brother Wrzesien has been cooking up his savory, culinary delight that has become part of this time-honored tradition. The hot dogs, mac-n-cheese and friendly service all ensured that those in attendance thoroughly enjoyed themselves. With the games and kids, parents and raffles, the atmosphere was electric. Heidi and her staff could not thank us enough for making this day special and bringing in new revenue for the Pre-school. A big thanks to Mike Rock, Sam Straight, Nick Renga, Frank McNally, Tony Rivezzo, Tommy Dalton,

Jim Parrino, Dave Payne and Paul Geisen for their support as kitchen staff, servers, bus boys and clean up. And perhaps performing best in their key roles as All Saints Council Ambassadors. Can't believe we have to wait a whole year for this to happen again! Great job, Knights!





HEIDI LOVES HER MEN IN BLUE







THANK YOU, KNIGHTS!



FR CHRIS CHECKING IN







FUN FOR ALL!!

GEORGE AND FR JAMES HELPING RAISNG \$\$ FOR THE PRE-SCHOOL!



VETERAN'S DAY BREAKFAST 2024





On Saturday, November 9th, almost 80 people enjoyed a 5-Star breakfast prepared and served by the St Francis of Assist Assembly and the St Luke the Evangelist Council at the St Luke's hall. Eggs, sausage, bacon, pancakes and pastries were accompanied by coffee, juice, milk and water. Veterans, families, guests and clergy enjoyed a morning of good food, fellowship, and inspirational music and messages.



ASSEMBLY BROTHERS SERVING



OUR ST LUKE CHEFS!



WFN JIM RISPOLI IS THE MC



BEAUTIFUL MUSIC BY GRACE LEE



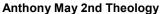
INSPIRED BY FR TOM SIMISKY, SJ





VETERANS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS ENJOYED GREAT FOOD ALONG WITH INSPIRING WORDS AND MUSIC

MEET YOUR SEMINARIANS 2024!



Saint Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary,

Birth Date: April 14

Home Parish: St. Christopher, Radcliff, KY Hobbies: Board Games, Military History, Latin

Who influenced / inspired you to the priesthood? I was most inspired by my family and my un-

cle: Fr. Chrysostem Baer.

Favorite Scripture Passage: Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three are gathered in my name,

there am I in the midst of them."

Favorite Saint: St. Martin de Porres

Drew Navarro 3rd Year

Saint Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary,

Birth Date: January 11

Home Parish: St. Luke the Evangelist, Raleigh

Hobbies: swimming, running, reading, writing, hiking, soccer, ultimate frisbee, spending

time outdoors with friends and family

Who influenced / inspired you to priesthood? Several priests who live out their vocation

with joy and love; key friendships over the years; and time spent with Scripture. **Favorite Scripture Passage:** 1 John 4:19: We love because He loved us first.

Favorite Saint: Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Gianna Molla



Anthony Pham

Saint Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary,

Birth Date: February 19

Home Parish: Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Greensboro, NC

Hobbies: cooking, fishing, raising pets, going on walks, reading spiritual books

Who influenced / inspired you to priesthood?

The Holy Spirit through my parents and the example of good priests and consecrated men and women. **Favorite Scripture passage:** My favorite excerpt is prayed by the Church daily during Evening Prayer, in which we proclaim "the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his Name" (Luke 1:49). Mary reminds us to recognize all good comes from God; therefore, we should always give praise! **Favorite saint:** After the Blessed Mother, St. Faustina. Her example of obedience and humility reflects the message of Christ's Eucharistic love and mercy so needed today.

Thomas Rees 3rd Year

Saint Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary,

Birth date: 5/4/1998

Home parish: Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, Raleigh

Hobbies: weightlifting, rowing, video games, coding, reading, walking, pickleball, and biking

Who influenced / inspired you to priesthood: Monsignor Brockman, my Cathedral young

adult groups, Father Joshua, and many others

Favorite scripture passage: "But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart." -

Luke 2:19 (RSV)

Favorite saint: St. Thérèse of Lisieux





As a boy living in the Atlanta area, I began to feel drawn to the priesthood and Altar Serving. I moved to the Charlotte area when I was about 10 years old and attended Catholic middle school and high school, where my draw to a priestly vocation continued to persist. At that point, I wanted to truly take it seriously and I began to meet with my Pastor at the parish that I went to during my adolescence. From then on it was a very natural and seamless progression to get to where I am now, almost finished with my first semester of seminary.

James Sides

A Big Thank You to Paul Scaini for Providing these Profiles!





Paul and Sandy with Brother Rees!

OUR LADY OF ROSARY FOOD DRIVE FALL 2024



For the past 12 years (24 Food Drives), 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. The Knights also provided 24 new winter coats from our Coats for Kids campaign. A conservative estimate says that St Francis has delivered some 60 Tons of food and goods along with nearly \$100,000 in cash over that period! What a generous Parish community!

This fall was once again an exceptionally generous drive producing 8,000# of food and dry goods along with over \$5,000 in cash and checks! SFA Volunteers headed by Tess Ferrer collected donations throughout the weekend sorting them by category of food/diapers/etc. Then on Monday November 18th, PGK David Payne and Worthy Treasurer Mark Baumgartner 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.





EST. 1982

Once again, the drive was so successful that we overloaded their pantry shelves with extras having to be stored on the floor and their spare room. Roseanne Anderer, OLR Food Pantry Director, said this will keep them going until February, just shy of our next SFA food Drive. Thank you St Francis for making this upcoming Holiday and winter season special for many families in Louisburg, NC!



2024 ESSAY CONTEST









On November 19, WGK Kozak and Brothers Rivezzo and Austin participated in TFS's Morning Prayer to announce the finalists and winner of this fall's Essay Contest. In an essay of 500-750 words, all 8th grade students were asked to respond to the following questions: "What are the two most important virtues for an elected leader to possess, and why? How can you determine if the leader has these virtues?" The essays were evaluated for content, grammar and style, and scored accordingly. TFS students delivered impressive essays on this complex topic. The top three finalists included Emma Bagin, Liesel Grambill, and Eva Kappus. The first place award and a \$50 gift certificate was presented to AnnaBlake Wallace, who will advance to the next level of competition. And yes, Emma is the daughter of Brother Chris Bagin and the granddaughter of Brother Bob Bagin. Proud family!

Elected leaders' virtues

There are many different opinions on what virtues a leader must possess, but I believe that the two virtues the soon-to-be elected leader must possess are diligence and charity. These two virtues not only strengthen the leader's ability to uphold their responsibilities as the leader of the free world, but they also influence their decision-making process and interactions with other world leaders, allies, and even what some might consider enemies.

The Catholic Church considers diligence an attitude exhibiting constant and earnest effort to accomplish what has been undertaken, regardless of the circumstances surrounding a person. For an elected leader, this virtue is essential for the navigation of their governance and for addressing the needs of the constituents. A diligent leader shows an abiding dedication to his or her position, making sure that they are knowledgeable and prepared to take down all challenges that arise throughout their term.

The most diligent leaders are proactive in their approach, actively seeking solutions to problems that arise, especially those concerning their people. Diligent people and diligent leaders do what's right no matter what. They are constantly working past the adversity of people telling them that they are wrong and are not fit to lead. This is why those who are diligent must also be charitable, always looking out for and taking care of those who are weak, underprivileged, and struggling whether mentally, physically, or emotionally. Charitable leaders are diligent in supporting their people.

The Catholic Church considers charity the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God. When leaders contain a certain level of charity, they go beyond just acts of kindness; it is a deep commitment to social justice and the personal welfare of others. Leaders that are charitable are able to inspire others and encourage them to practice the common good by showing them a culture of collaboration and support within the community.

You can determine if a leader has these virtues through their actions, behavior, demeanor, their decision-making, and the way they handle their successes and, more importantly, their failures. Leaders that show these virtues should be consistent in their beliefs and actions. They should also align their values and standards throughout their personal and professional lives.

Leaders that follow these virtues should make ethical decisions that align with their values and consistently work towards the greater good for all people. All virtuous leaders should handle their failures with calmness, humility, and acceptance. It is through failure that we can begin to learn where the weaknesses lie and where we need to make changes in our efforts. When a leader is able to accept failure, they are then able to grow and learn, and that is how they are best able to provide leadership to their community and their families.

In conclusion, I believe that an elected leader must possess the virtues of diligence and charity in order to be a communicative, resilient, positive, and overall effective leader. ~AnnaBlake Wallace

MORE GOOD NEWS!

Brother and Sir Knight Tony Evans turned 90 years old on November 26th.



Tony grew up in the Buffalo NY suburbs along with Marjorie Amell who he married in 1957. While raising 6 kids, Tony and Marge moved to Fairport NY in 1968 when Tony changed jobs from Western Electric to Stromberg Carlson. The family was on the move again and settled in Raleigh in 1980 when Tony went to work for Northern Telecom (Nortel). They would later move to the Atlanta area but came back to Raleigh in 2001. Tony originally joined the Father Thomas Price Council in the early 80s and transferred to the All Saints Council after moving back to Raleigh.

The extended family grew when Tony and Marge's six kids grew up, got married and started having kids of their own. And as those grandkids grew up and got married, several great grand-children were added to the family. In all, there are 6 kids with

spouses, 10 grandkids (5 with spouses) and 6 great grandkids with a 7th on the way later in December!

On Saturday, Nov 23rd, family and friends gathered to wish Tony a happy 90th birthday! Joining Tony for the celebration was his wife Marge, his brother Bob and his wife Jean, all 6 of his kids (including Brother Dave and Brother Mike) and most of their spouses, 6 grandkids/grandkids-in-law, and all 6 great grandchildren. There were also a number of friends present.

2024 KNIGHTS COUNCIL 9709 CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Father Chris and Father James joined us for a wonderful meal enhanced by fellowship and blessings. We enjoyed a full house sell out this year! Ashley Watson, our staff supporter extraordinaire also joined us for the evening. Worthy Grand Knight, Bryan, opened and closed the evening with inspiring words reminding us to "Keep Christ in Christmas." Fr Chris blessed the food and the evening celebration with words of praise and seasonal inspiration. Special thanks to Mark and Theresa Baumgartner for organizing the spreadsheets for food orders and seating charts!





6TH GRADE FONTS



Our Council purchased St Francis Holy Water Fonts as gifts for the 6th Grade class for the second year in a row. Last year, Brother John Price reached out to Principal Dawn Smith about how we could use available grant money. Principal Smith came up with this idea to gift these fonts to the TFS 6th Graders and now it will become a tradition under Brother Sandy Gayle's leadership.

This year, on December 18th, following the blessing of the 84 fonts and holy water by Father Jim, Principal Smith introduced the gifts as recognizing that entering Jr High School as a "pivotal moment" in these students' lives. They are transitioning from the lower grades of Elementary School to being young adults and these fonts would be a symbol of how they may always remain in touch with their faith, even if there are those moments when they might wander away.

Brothers Tony Rivezzo, Bill Horne, John Price, David Payne, Sandy Gayle and Paul Scaini represented our Council as part of the ceremony.















2024 CHRISTMAS TREE!



For the 18th year, the Moser family of Shepherd Hill Farms has graciously donated a beautiful, fresh Christmas tree to St Francis. Our Council once again jumped into action with ladders and a lift to decorate the tree with over 4,000 lights! Our Knights also added seasonal wreaths and garland over the doors into the church. This year, we also installed solar lights to five outdoor trees in the Columbarium and community garden. Wives and family members decorated the altar with fresh poinsettias and wreaths including Fellowship Hall and the Gym where Christmas Eve masses were held in addition to the Church. A HUGE thank you to Mark and Theresa Baumgartner for their tireless leadership, creativity and dedication to make this happen every year!

























SPREADING JOY TO DUKE HOSPITAL!



Each year, Knights of Columbus Council 9709 collects monetary donations at our Christmas Party to purchase toys for patients at Duke Children's Hospital. In 2024, thanks to your generosity, we raised \$1600 and provided 130 toys to children spending the holidays in the hospital.

With help from my daughter, a monthly patient at Duke Children's, we carefully selected toys for all age groups, guided by a list from the hospital's "Elves" (Social Workers). From baby toys, to coloring books, art projects, Lego's, dolls, action figures, toy cars, to electronics, we ensured each child would have a special gift during their stay. This year, we were honored to help meet the needs of a full census of 180 patients.

This annual tradition has been a heartwarming way to give back since 2020, creating lasting memories for my daughter and me while supporting this incredible cause. Thank you all for making it possible!

Brother Tommy Dalton





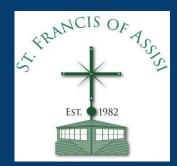






A LEGACY OF SERVICE





Still All Saints

"Why is it that we are even called the 'All Saints Council,' anyway?"

This was a question which had been raised during our council's monthly gathering on November 5. Our council is affiliated with St. Francis of Assisi Church, after all, that having a name in honor of 800 years of Franciscan spirituality, rather than one so broad as 'All Saints,' would seem rather fitting. The question of whether or not our council should indeed change its name to something more Franciscan, having been raised, indeed led to a rather interesting discussion.

All Saints Council had received its charter in January of 1988. St. Francis of Assisi Church, a Franciscan church at the time, had itself been founded in 1982. The Catholic population of Raleigh, as well as the state of North Carolina, was very miniscule compared to what it is today. Ours was, at that time, the only Knights of Columbus chapter in an area which had contained several parishes, each being named after a different saint. Our council was, therefore, given the name 'All Saints' to acknowledge all of the holy men and women that the parishes in this area had been named after.

Raleigh's Catholic population has grown considerably since 1988. The other parishes in our area, such as St. Luke the Evangelist, St. Raphael, and St. Catherine of Siena, each have K of C councils of their own. A little history lesson is necessary to learn why it is that we are the All Saints Council. So would it be a good idea to change our name to something more befitting of the Franciscan tradition?

Our banner, our blue shirts, our name tags...etc. all have the words "All Saints Council" on them. What would ultimately be the cost of rebranding? How long would this process of rebranding even take? Would it be worth it?

We can proudly say that our All Saints Council has earned a reputation over the years, throughout the state of North Carolina, as one K of C chapter which is most definitely thriving. The acclaim that our council has received, over the course of these past 36 years, had time and again been bestowed upon "All Saints Council." This name has a positive history attached to it at this point.

After much discussion, it was agreed during the meeting on November 5 to vote upon a name-change during the meeting on December 3. The vote occurred on December 3rd, and it was unanimous: we shall indeed remain the All Saints Council.

Editorial Courtesy of Zubair Simonson



GRAND KNIGHTS MESSAGE



Brothers,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! As we close out the 2024 calendar year the magnitude of our impact cannot be underestimated. Once again, our council was able to put in nearly \$50,000 and over 5,000 hours promoting our faith and exemplifying the principles of charity, unity and fraternity. Every day, I am humbled by this fine group of gentlemen and the example you are to our church and community.

The vulnerability of the human baby is a profound and humbling aspect of the human experience. From the moment of birth, an infant is entirely dependent on others for care, protection, and sustenance. This fragility and helplessness are part of the shared reality of every human life. But when we reflect on the way Jesus entered the world, it highlights something extraordinary about God's nature and His relationship with humanity.

Jesus, the Son of God, chose to come into the world not as a mighty king, but as an infant—utterly vulnerable, weak, and dependent on a mother and father to care for Him. In doing so, He fully embraced the human experience, including its limitations, fragility, and need for care. The Incarnation—the doctrine that God became flesh in Jesus—reveals the profound depth of God's love. He did not remain distant or removed from human suffering, but rather, He entered into it, experiencing the vulnerability and dependence of infancy.

This vulnerability of the infant Jesus is a striking paradox. God, all-powerful and eternal, chose to enter the world in the most vulnerable of ways, showing that His love for humanity was not just in His power, but in His willingness to enter into the most humble, fragile, and dependent of circumstances. The fact that Jesus, as the Word made flesh, began His life as a helpless baby, highlights the depth of God's empathy and His identification with us in our most vulnerable states.

Gentlemen, as we enter this Jubilee year, a year of hope, may we make our hearts a safe haven for this infant Jesus. May we continue to be a beacon of God's radiance within us to our families, our church and the least that dwell among us. Let our values of charity, unity and fraternity continue to wash away doubt and fear but rather build a refuge of peace that can only be found in a perfect relationship with Jesus.

Best wishes to your families and let us build a community of hope!

Vivat Jesus! Bryan Kozak