



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
GALVESTON-HOUSTON CHAPTER**



CHAPTER PRESIDENT JD GUTIERREZ
Meets at the Northside Columbus Club
607 E Whitney St
Houston, TX 77022

MinOutes of the Regular Business Meeting: February 13, 2024

Monthly Pro-Life Rosary - 6:30pm: Fr. Paul Chovanec led the Rosary for Life before the Chapter meeting.

Meeting: Called to order by Chapter President JD Gutierrez at 7:30pm.

Opening Prayer: Rev. Paul Chovanec Chapter Chaplain lead all in prayer

Pledge of Allegiance: led by the Master of the 1st District of Texas, SK James Hatcher

Opening Ode sung by all.

Memoriam for Deceased Brothers

A moment of silence was held for our Brother Knights: Sam Camero Council 12385, Jim Murtagh Council 10861, James Colligan Council 5027, Leo Landry Council 2917 and any Brother Knight that has passed on to their eternal rest during the period from the previous meeting until today. Chapter president called for a moment of silence. Robert Alcala, Chapter Vice President moved the memorial chair to its place of honor at the head table.

Chaplain's Report: Fr. Paul Chovanec

Recognizes, Worthy Officers and Brothers all. A couple of simple items to start with:

1. A huge THANK YOU for Clergy Night. It was really touching and impressive and I for one together with the clergy and sisters appreciated it very very much.
2. Keep the National Eucharistic Revival in mind. I hope we are all generating Eucharistic events either within your Councils and your Parishes.
3. The St. Joseph Icon is coming to my home council 8293. We are going to pray the Rosary tonight and reflect on meditation from the booklet about St. Joseph. We will display the Icon there in the Chapple, We have planned various things to celebrate St. Joseph, That Man Is You on Saturday, Our Italian dinner on Saturday night after mass and again during Sunday Mass.
4. I want to talk briefly but solemnly about tomorrow, Ash Wednesday and about Lent, in general. There are volumes written and said about it, but the pertinent feature of Lent is that it is really tied up with the motions of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharistic. If you want to give up items like cholate or such that is fine. But the real thrust of Lent is to get back to our Baptism, our Confirmation and the Holy Eucharistic. Those are the sacraments of initiation, those are the sacraments that officially make us part of Christ's Body, The Church. Lent is the time when we turn away from the sins that have separated us from the Church and we focus on the Gospel which is intended to be our way of life. So, when you think about Lent, really think about it in terms of our Baptism, our Confirmation and the Eucharistic. The Triple strategy of Lent as we all know is Fasting, Pray and Alms Giving. Those three always go together. one alone limps, but those three Fasting, Pray and Alms Giving always go together. Probably the most popular Lenten devotion is the "Way of the Cross." Typically on Friday nights, most Churches have the "Station of The Cross" This is the most important Lenten devotion, so important that you can gain a Plenary Indulgence by praying the station of the cross, You can get a soul out of Purgatory or clean up all the temporal punishments that you or I may owe for our sins. After praying the Stations, go to confession and mass and receive communion within a few days after praying the stations.
5. But by all means get to confession this Lent. Parishes something have a penitent service with many priests hearing confession of extended hours for confession. I ask you get to confessions at least once during the Lenten season,
6. I often thought, but never discussed with the Officers, but thinking out loud, maybe at once holding confessions during Chapter meetings during Lent. Maybe a better way to spend my time after my report, is to find a quiet space and hearing confessions. If that will one day meet with approval of the officers and members. Just a thought?



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7. I believe later in the meeting we will hear about that “Ghastly” statue being placed on the U of H campus. I have always has a special place in my heart for the UofH even though my alma mater is the University of St. Thomas. I would not want to see that “monstrosity” positioned there or anywhere in a reparable society, So, maybe we will hear something about this in the course of the meeting.

So may God Bless you with a good Lenten season and let us get ready to celebrate the Lord’s resurrection and the renewal of our eternal salvation. Especially during Holy Week.

Secretary’s Report: Chapter Secretary - Vincent Stasio

Fr. Paul, State Dignitaries, Diocesan Deputy, Chapter officers, Brother Knights and distinguished visitors.

- Report on tonight’s attendance: 12 State, Archdiocesan and Chapter Dignitaries, 21 District Deputies, 39 Council Delegates and 3 visitors have signed in this evening.
- As the Chapter website is undergoing maintenance, we were unable to post January Chapter meeting minutes. I have placed about a dozen copies on the information table, but certainly not enough for everyone here this evening. The minutes will be posted when the website is back up and running. Hopefully before the next meeting.
- President JD noted at this time we normally approve previous meeting minutes but will table until next meeting. When posted we will send out e-mail to everyone and defer to next month’s meeting to approve.

Treasurer’s Report: Chapter Treasurer - Charles Cantrell

Recognizing Fr. Paul, State Offices, Diocesan Deputy and dignitaries to my left, Officers to my right and Brothers Knights.

1. Chapter Audit: yesterday we conducted the Chapter Audit. I’ll say I received an A- so that’s pretty good. Does that mean I get to keep the job got the next few months.
2. Chapter records: we started out with a balance of \$178,770, collected \$53,665 with expenditures of \$14,023. So the ending balance is \$218,412.00. Total assets when you add in the bank accounts, plus outstanding member dues and the Checks-in-Transit that have yet to clear, we have a remaining balance of \$210,453.00. That’s the Audit.
3. Thank you the audit team of ADD Sam Gonzalez, Jerry “G” Giegerich and Douglas, council member with St. Martha’s Council12320, for their outstanding efforts in helping to get this done,.
4. Pre-Capita: we are doing really good; we have 58 councils that have paid in full and 31 member councils that have not paid. we have two councils that have made partial payment as they did not pay dues in full and/or the hospitality fund.
5. I will be sending out third notices for dues and following up with councils that have yet to pay. As well as sending invitations to the 24 councils in the Archdiocese that have not yet joined Chapter asking if they want to join.
6. Clergy Night: As previously mentioned, Clergy Night was a success, both socially and financially. Knight for Life Raffel netted \$4,715 that will be deposited in that account. Personally, the biggest success of the whole night was that I had a Deacon from one of my councils show up. He was one that told me he would not join the Knights, as he felt the Knights were nothing but beer drinkers and bingo players. After attend Clergy Night, for the first time, he told me he is going to join the Knights and will become a member this coming Tuesday along with twelve other candidates.
7. Clergy Night Income: we had income of \$63,310.00, had expenses of \$40,110.00 which netted out to be \$22,200.00. This will be put into the Chapter Saving account and eventually into a high yield CD.

GH Chapter Checking Account

- Checking: Starting Balance of \$139,909.89, had Deposits of \$37,625.33 less Debits of \$18,214.91. Leaving an ending balance of \$159,320.36. We have yet to pay Carrabba’s, which is about \$23.000 and a few other small bills, so that will impact the account. We will soon be finish with Clergy Nights and report at next month meeting.
- Checks in Transit: two check in transit; totaling \$5,610.53.

GH Chapter Savings Account

- Savings: beginning balance of \$10,586.00 plus interest of \$4.93 resulting in an ending balance \$10,590.93

Total Chapter Funds balance of \$164,300.76

Chapter Earmarked Funds

- **Emergency Relief Fund:** Balance remains at \$5,072.12.



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- **Knights for Life Account:** Beginning balance of \$20,051.22, less transfer to Gabriel funds, plus interest of \$5.84, Ending balance \$19,557.06
- **Galveston-Houston Convention Committee:**
Checking account: Beginning balance of \$28,336.03, with 2 deposits and 7 debits, and netted out to 2,601.33 and leaving balance of \$30,937.36.
Savings Account: Beginning balance of \$6,380.83 plus interest of \$0.18. Equaling \$6,381.01
Combined balance = \$37,318.87

Total of Chapter Earmarked Funds of \$61,947.55

Thank you

Chapter President asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report as presented. Motion was made and seconded. Then asked if there is any discussion, discussion, discussion. Hearing none, Vote to accept the treasurer’s report was approved.

President’s Report: Chapter President, JD Gutierrez

Recognize: Fr. Paul, Worthy State Officers, Diocesan Deputy, Chapter Officers, and Brothers Knights

- Chapter Meal: Let’s thank and give a round of applause to St. Michael the Archangel Council 14700 for providing tonight’s meal. Thank you Brothers. Next month’s Chapter meal will be provided by St. Frances Cabrini Council 15321.
- Chapter Elections: For the upcoming Officer elections, I have appointed a nomination committee to establish a slate of officers to invite and take names of those wishing to run for Chapter officer. The nominating committing members are ADD Tony Scarpa, ADD John Williams and DD Joaquin Perez. We will start the process next month, so if you wish to run for Chapter office please contact one of them.
- Clergy Night: I want to thank each and every one of you for your efforts in helping to make Clergy Night a success. We had 115 tables, which many had full seating. On each table we had placed a QR code to survey attendees to evaluate the evening, We had about 86 responses. Scoring was on a scale of 0 to 7, where 7 was the highest score. The survey questions dealing with Food, Facility, Program and Overall opinion. I am pleased to announce the Food score was 6.4 out of 7, Facility scored 6.2 out of 7, Program scored 6.4 out of 7, and Overall score 6.4 out of 7. We got high, high marks on the work that you guys did. So again I want to you for a very successful Clergy Night. If you were on the Clergy Night Committee, please stand, you all did an outstanding job. If anyone is interested in being on next year’s committee, it is a lot of work but also lots of fun, so please contact me and I will make it known to the committee.
- Also, for those who brought volunteers, please convey our thanks to them and your council. Their efforts were so important in making Clergy Night a success. My sincere thanks and appreciation for their efforts.
- To our State Officers, I regret that you were unable to attend and look forward to your participation at next year’s event.

Chapter/Diocesan Committee Reports

George Brooks – Culture of Life (transcript as published by Dr. Brooks)

Recognize: Fr. Paul, Worthy State Officers, Diocesan Deputy, District Deputies, Chapter Officers, and Brothers Knights.

I published and sent my report out rather late in the day, as I was researching information on the Satanic Golden Medusa, which I will report on later in my presentation. I send my monthly report out to the DD’s and GK’s. So, if you would like to receive a copy please let me know by providing your contact information if you would like to be on the mailing list.

First wish everyone a spiritually rewarding Lenten season ! Lent and Easter and then Mother’s Day, not to mention the State Convention, surely will make the next few months busy and exciting.

Getting down to business:

1. The Texas Rally for Life

Looking back...what an exciting day ! The Knights in AGH sent more people that in the last four years, but not as many as pre-pandemic. There were about 20,000 people in Austin for the March for Life this year, up from about 17,000 last year.

AGH Chapter Meeting Minutes February 2024



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It may seem odd, but now is the time to talk about next year. In preparation for this year's event, I asked that each DD identify their strongest council and ask that council to sponsor a bus to Austin. That council would then reach out to the other councils in the district and invite Knights/wives/kids and parishioners to join them. It should be easy to fill a bus of 55. My parish Respect Life Ministry joined with my KC council to fill 2 buses...110 people... and we did not even really try... we had only 2 people from another KC council. We are discussing strategy to fill 3 buses next year. Part of the success must be attributed to our fund-raising activities, which subsidized the cost per seat, getting it down to \$20. That is why I suggest starting to discuss the strategy now. Plan to raise the money to subsidize the cost, put it in the budget, and establish contact with the other councils in each district now. Note that the 2025 event is January 25, in next fiscal year, so consider that fact in order to establish continuity in planning.

2. The ACE Wings Program

I will say little about the ACE Wings program at this time, but please emphasize that every officer and director should complete the requirements ASAP and wear the pin at meetings. They must be examples of the membership. Hint: enroll every new council member in the ACE Wings program immediately after the CUF. This is a duty of the Life Director who should then explain the program, provide notification of qualifying events, log them for the candidates, and then apply for the pin when the qualifications are met. Our State Pro-Life Chairman Tom Clark has also asked me to remind you that the Texas ACE Wings program is now 20 years old. The 20th Anniversary Commemorative ACE Wings pin is available to Knights already qualified. The form to apply for this pin is on the State website:

<https://www.tkofc.org/assets/uploads/docs/20th-Anniversary-ProLife-ACE-Wings-Form.pdf>

Tom Clark, the State Pro-Life Director, asks us to wear the commemorative pin throughout fiscal 2023-2024 to honor those Knights who have earned the ACE Wings pin during the last 20 years, those of us who have made a difference and helped create the pro-life sentiment that exists in Texas today, sparing the lives of countless babies that could have been lost to abortion. Encourage your council leaders to get the pin and wear it proudly. If any council needs help starting or explaining the ACE Wings program, please contact me.

3. Satanic Golden Medusa

After citing the above, I follow with this reminder that we are not done. The pro-abortion faction is very busy trying to change the hearts and minds of voters so that our pro-life legislature can be eroded and flipped to a "pro-choice" posture. They are pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into political ads to get their protagonists elected. Likely you have seen the ads about "women's reproductive rights" and rhetoric about "selecting people for prosecution" under current laws. This misinformation is designed to confuse the public and instill fear in women by alleging that current laws will keep them from getting care if there is a complication of pregnancy. Likewise, they are confusing doctors who are ignorant of the law by alleging theme thing. This has made doctors afraid to act quickly when such complications arise that require actions to save the life of the mother. The Texas Alliance for Life (which sponsors the Texas Rally for Life) is fighting back for us, and they need our financial support. Back to the topic at hand, I sent a separate email about the referenced statue. Please feel free to share. Also, share the link:

https://buildingacultureoflife.org/?page_id=45

People who wish to receive my periodic posts on current events in the pro-life arena, should go to the page on the web site and "subscribe" to get automatic emails.

4. 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign

February 14–March 24. Please encourage councils to sponsor at least one prayer vigil at a Planned Parenthood clinic.

<https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/>

5. Upcoming Pro-Life Events

I post events of importance on the "Upcoming Pro-Life Activities" page on my web site.

https://buildingacultureoflife.org/?page_id=46

Please note the events on February 17, especially for those living on the north side. Also look ahead at events in March and April for which you may want to start planning now.

6. Baby Bottle Boomerang (BBB)

A BBB is a great way to engage parishioners in pro-life activism donations when they feel powerless to do anything to make a difference. My council does a BBB for Mother's Day and collects baby items on the same day. The funds raised are

AGH Chapter Meeting Minutes February 2024



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donated to the pregnancy centers and maternity homes that we through support, and the baby items are donated to our local pregnancy help center. For those who want more information, I can supply information about a suggested vendor and relate how we carry out the marketing and the logistics. It is a fun thing to do and provides those extra funds that we can use for donations at the end of the fiscal year.

7. For Your Reading Pleasure

Melissa Oden, founder of Abortion Survivors Network <https://abortionsurvivors.org> and herself an abortion survivor told her story in "You Carried Me." It is an extraordinary book and a must read for those who wonder what is like to grow up adopted, only to find out that your mother tried to kill you then threw you away like trash when you were born alive. The story of how she recovered from that feeling of being worthless to found ASN and become a national leader in the pro-life movement is something you must read. Her new book "Abortion Survivors Break Their Silence" tells the stories of a cross-section of experiences by other abortion survivors. Therein, you will read about others who survived abortion attempts in different ways, but of equal importance, are the stories of why these young mothers chose abortion. The narratives engage you in the awful circumstances these women faced, beyond the comprehension of most of us. If we are going to advocate for the unborn, we must understand why women seek an abortion, and we must strive to change what we can so women are aware of viable options. I address the demographics and the reasons cited by women who chose abortion in my book "Building a Culture of Life." Melissa brought these women to life in the context that their babies actually survived. These tiny developing babies are real people, just as real as you and I are real. The fact that they were born and lived to be adults with their own productive lives and families shouts to the world that what is growing in the mother's womb is a real person who deserves life.

Respectfully: George A. Brooks, MD, PhD Culture of Life Director Knights of Columbus, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
drgabrooks@comcast.net 832-814-2718 <https://buildingacultureoflife.org>.

Larry Massey - Seminarian Vocation / RSVP Report

Recognizes Fr. Paul, worthy Knights all. You will find a copy of my report on the information table.

1. Clergy Night was Great. For the first time we had all the Houston Seminarians there with us. They all had a great time and said they want to come again next year.
2. In true Houston fashion, we are now at \$71,592.00 in Seminarian support and only \$17,5000 away from our goal of \$90,000.00. I have gotten a lot of calls from many councils ready to provide financial support to the Seminarians. Some even mention profits from their Lenten Fish Fry's
3. A note to all, your donation checks have to be made payable to the Seminarian and mailed to the Office of Vocations. There has been some concern about how to do it properly. Choose your seminarian and the check has to be made out to the name of that Seminarian.
4. The latest report is on the information table. I noticed see staff only listed the Seminarians that have received donations and **Did Not** list those that are yet received support. I will get this corrected and forward to JD so he can e-mail it out to the Councils.
5. If you have yet to donate, please contact me and I can provide the names of those still awaiting donations and are in need of financial support.

Anyway, thank you all for the great work. It is great to be in Houston. Amen...

Chris Perales - VA Visitation Coordinator

Recognized Fr. Paul, Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Officers, Diocesan Deputy, Chapter Officers and Brothers All.

1. This past January at the VA Hospital was pretty awesome. If you remember, on January 21st, we held the "moch" wheelchair distribution. We had a lot of Brother Knights and Sir Knights participate. I want to thank everybody that participated in that event.
2. As of today, the number of councils attending total 323 and our total hours equates to 1,293 hours of member participation. I have the attendance board displayed by the information table. If you want to know how your council or Assembly is doing, it is listed on the Board. I can help you read/review the information. Come see me after the meeting.

AGH Chapter Meeting Minutes February 2024



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3. Tonight, I have one award to present to a very special council, Council 2917 as they had eleven (11) patriots attend in the month of January, and will present the "Award of Appreciation" for dedicated service.
4. I would also like to recognize the seven councils that sent patriots in the month of January. Council 3910, 4204, 6878, 7382, 9708, 12818 and 16103. Thank you all for participation in VA Visitation, I hope to see all of you at the VA soon. End of Report. God Bless. Vivat Jesus!!!

Manny Cruz – Special Olympics

Recognized Fr. Paul and Brothers All.

As the website is down, I have been unable to post upcoming events. Two special events coming up soon:

1. Area 4 Cypress Basketball Teams competition on Saturday, February 24 from 8:00am–5:00pm. There are several schools in Cypress hosting this event and we need many, many volunteers to cover all the locations. To access the sign-up page, go to sotx.org/area 4. Click on that link and it will take you to all the information, locations and volunteer opportunities. Whether to be a referee, work the event, pressurize the basketballs or just watch. It is on the website
2. East and North Region Pearland Basketball Tournament on Saturday, March 8 and 9, at several schools in the Pearland area. Again, to access the sign-up page, go to sotx.org/area 4. Click on that link and it will take you to all the information and locations and assignments for volunteering.

Please take a look and see where you and your councils can help. Thank You

John Williams – American Wheelchair Mission

Recognized Fr. Paul, Worthy State Deputy/Officers, Diocesan Deputy, Chapter President, Chapter Officers, and Brothers Knights.

1. I bring you greetings and thanks from the providences of Da Nang, Vietnam and Manila, Philippines for distributing 350 wheelchairs in Da Nang and 600 wheelchairs in Manila. I just returned from these two cities and it was a "life-changing" experience. I have never seen so much poverty in my lifetime. Trust me when I say the wheelchairs were well received and the people were very grateful for the donation of wheelchairs.
2. In the Philippines, I was joined by members of the American Wheelchair Mission, Dan Wahlberg, Director of Public Donations and his team. Took a lot of photos and videos, which should be available in a week or so.
3. In Vietnam, I was accompanied by "Veritas Vietnam." We also took photos and videos.
4. I want to thank all the Councils that have donated to the American Wheelchair Mission, especially my council, St. Edwards Council 14512, which sponsored the mission and allowed me to go on this trip.

Again, we ask if you will, please donate the American Wheelchair Mission. No amount is too big or too small. Thank you for your support.

Duke Marasigan - St. Joseph Icon.

Recognize: Fr. Paul, Worthy State Officers, Diocesan Deputy, Chapter Officers, and Brothers All

1. St. Joseph Icon Pilgram program is alive and well. We are hoping it catches on and gets a little more traction this year. I ask you take a booklet and pass it on to your Pastor and Council to figure out how you can bring this program to your Parish. It is a 30 to 40-minute prayer program, and it is very well accepted within most parishes.
2. You heard Fr. Paul, talk about on the westside, where St. Justin Myrta is holding their program this weekend. Beyond that there are three other programs location, on Saturday March 16 at St. Edwards in Spring, where they will do the program after the 8:00am Mass. Then on the same day, on the southside in Needville, the Parish will have the program after the 5:30pm Mass. Then on May 1st, which is the feast of St. Joseph the Laborer, St. Thomas Aquinas in Sugar Land, is holding their program at 6:00pm that evening.
3. So please get with me and I will get you the booklets and literature needed to put the program on in your parish. So please give it some thought on how to bring this program to your Parish and Council. Thank you

Chapter President - Communications

I have received an e-mail from Reed Fontenot, State Charity and Steve Raba, State Membership to attend the March Meeting,

AGH Chapter Meeting Minutes February 2024



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I wanted to convey that information to you as I have already accepted their attendance and they will come and speak to us at the March Meeting.

Old Business:

At this time I ask if there is any Old Business to come before the Chapter members. Seeing none, I move to New Business

New Business:

Chapter President ask if there is any New business to come before the Chapter members. President acknowledged Bob Chaya.

Bob Chaya - Priest vs, Seminarian Basketball Game.

1. I spoke at the December Chapter meeting about the Priest vs Seminarian basketball game, being moved to Rice University, Didn't have much information then, just planted the seed about the basketball game. It is going to be held at Rice University, on April 19, 2024. Game time is 7:00pm. There will be tailgating before the game from 5:00 to 6:30pm,
2. If you think your council would like to be involved, please come and see me after the meeting. I know there are Councils whose Priest will play in that game and Councils here who support Seminararians that will play in the game. My council did it two years ago and had a blast.
3. They are looking for sponsorships to support the event. I have placed flyers on the information table, so please take one and bring it to you Parish and Council. If you know someone or business that may be able to provide a sponsorship to help defray the cost please pass this along to them.
4. They are looking for people to help at the game. If you or your council can provide volunteers, please contact me as that will be a great help. We need people to help with parking, help in the arena to usher people to their seats, and most everything else involved with the event.
5. The Seminary is going to allow the Seminararians to attend the tailgate. So, they will be able to mill around and meet with people beforehand. This will give them an opportunity to get a free(?) meal before the game.
6. Ticket Prices: This year ticket price will be \$4.00/person, much lower than in the past, mainly due to sponsorships and to encourage families with kids to attend, and see that Priest are normal people just having fun. Push for your Altar Servers to come to the game. Maybe your council can lead in this effort.

Chapter President ask if there is any other New business. Hearing none, he asked the Worthy Diocesan Deputy for his report,

Diocesan Deputy Report – Ron Frerich

Recognized Fr. Paul, Worthy State Officers, Chapter Officers and Brother Knights

1. Texas State Rally for Life: I don't know how many of you went to Austin, I did see a lot of you there. It was a great event, By attending you got three Credits towards ACE Wings. I road on the bus with St. Laurence Council 11343, They showed the movie which accounted for one credit and we did a Rosary for Life and received one credit. So we got all five credits completed in one day and made it really easy to qualify for your ACE Wings, I highly encourage you to do it next year. There are many councils with buses which made it easy to get there and back.
2. Programs: I will report on Youth Programs.
 - o Soccer Challenge, we won several trophies at the State level. I hope to get them by March for distribution.
 - o Essay Contest, we have submitted our winners, and hope to soon get announcement on State winners.
 - o Poster Contest we had many kids submit posters. There were five levels going from Kindergarten to 8th grade, so, judging was not easy as we have some talented artists. I have Award Certificates, courtesy of Robert Alcalá who designed and printed them out and they look fabulous, I have 1st through 6th place certificates and laid them on the front table, so please look at them after the meeting. The 1st place winners of each level were forwarded to State for Judging. Hopefully, State will announce winners and I will let you know as soon as I know.
 - o I have the certificates for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners from the Dioceses. Winners came from District 70, 71, 75, 78, 79, 82, 90, 92, 96 and 101. I ask the DDs please come pick up the certificates and give them to the kids,

AGH Chapter Meeting Minutes February 2024



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- Basketball Free Throw is this Sunday, February 18 at St. Pius X. Set up will begin at 11:00am. Registration and sign in begins at 12noon. Free Throw competition begins at 1:00pm, I need help with set up, and volunteers to help with sign in. I will need a scorer a judge and two rebounders at each court. We need about 50 or so volunteers to make this work. So, all the DDs, GKs and Council members are invited to come out and help.,
- 3. Form 1728 were due on January 31, 2024. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the councils got them in on time. The other twenty-five percent (25%) did not. If you are in the 25% it is critical to get them in This is probable the most important form to do all year and submit to Supreme. This is what allow us to maintain our tax-free status. **You got to get it in.** Don't hold it up, just for accuracy. Fill it out as best you can and submit, It doesn't have to be absolutely perfect.
- 4. Form 10784 Fraternal Programs Report: The 10784 for Special Olympics needs to be turned in. As a reminder, even if you did nothing on Special Olympics, if you paid your Texas State Charities in 2023, you can list 2.5% of you State Charities donation as the State gives 2.5% of your contribution to Special Olympics.
- 5. Council Audits: Due February 15, 2024. I have received and viewed some of the council audits that have come in and see all kinds of mistakes, Some simple mistakes, some illegible, some unbelievable. I am asking you to submit the Council Audits and all KC Forms to you DD, and ask the DDs to proofread them and correct the mistakes before submitting to Supreme,
- 6. Council 990 tax forms. I need all of the GKs or FSs, either one, to send the front page that shows the date on it and sent to the District Deputies. I have found a number of councils that have not turned them in to the IRS in three (3) years and are no longer (have lost) their tax-exempt status. That means all the income collected and purchases made has to be recorded and taxes paid. You will have to pay "back taxes" and any penalties and fines. before being reinstated as tax exempt. I am asking that the DD receive and know you at least filed the 2023 - 990 tax form. If your council has not filed in last three years, and need to seek reinstatement, there is a form on the "Officers Desk Reference" that list a step-by-step process to get reinstated. Do not go out and hire a tax attorney or someone to get you reinstated. just follow the Officers Desk Reference found on the kofc.org website.
- 7. Recruiting: Fish Frys are coming up and can be a great recruiting tool. Please have your Membership Director and Council Brother Knights serve as recruiting teams. Preferable two teams milling through all the tables in the hall. It is important to schedule a Recruiting Drive. Get you Pastor on board and get the "Dream Team" to help. Please send me an e-mail to let me know if you are holding an exemplification. I will send it out to the DDs and GKs so we can increase the number of candidates and bring in more recruits.
- 8. Spanish Language Exemplification. There is an "in-person" Spanish CUF scheduled on Sunday, February 25, 2024, at St. Paul's in the Nassau Bay. They have a Degree Team and are expecting +/- 20 candidates from their council.
- 9. State Convention Planning: The Committee is doing very well and things are falling into place. The Friday Night event is dinner, dancing and live entertainment. Buses are lined up to run people from the Hotel to the Chancery. We will need volunteers to help, greeters at the bus stop, ticket takers, work the photo booth and such. The "Ladies Event" is coming together really well, we need wives to help. When making reservation to attend, register your wives to attend the events. You certainly do not want her to find that there is a Ladies Event and you did not registering her to be there. Our next meeting is February 27, in the Pearland KC Hall at 2320 Hatfield Road. We begin at 6:30pm with a light meal, meeting starts at 7:00pm and we are usually out of there by 8:00 - 8:15pm.
- 10. State Convention Advertisement: we have Forms on the information table. Please DDs and GKs pick one up and take it to your councils to choose the size. Please get you ads in early as to be printed in the Convention Brochure Literature.

State Officers, State Committeemen and Worthy Master Reports

Chapter President called for State Committeeman Reports. Please come up to the podium. State Committeemen,

- **David Keating – State Charities Committee**
Recognized State Deputy, State Treasurer, Diocesan Deputy, Chapter Officers, and Brothers All,



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
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1. At the end of last year, the Diocesan Deputy had a target to hit our charity goal by the end of December, and I said in the words of Maxwell Smart, “we missed it by that much” as we were \$5,000 short. At the January meeting about \$2,000.00 short. Today, I am happy to say, by January 31, Galveston-Houston reached 100.35% of its goal.
2. Council in Galveston-Houston have contributed \$168,258.46. We are just shy of \$900.00 above our goal. We still have 19 councils that still have the opportunity to join the 102 Councils that have already met or exceeded their goal. Unfortunately, 15 of those 19 councils have not contributed anything to State Charities.
3. In order for us to contribute a check to Cardinal DiNardo at next year’s Clergy Appreciation Night, that meets or exceeds this year’s donation, which was in excess of \$130,000.00. So, we cannot stop as we need to do more for the Cardinal’s Catholic Education Funds. The Sunday after clergy Night was the beginning of “Catholic Schools Week” in the Archdiocese, What greater tie to our efforts in supporting our Cardinal and Catholic Schools.
4. State-wide, we are above 94.78% of goal. at the end of January. The State is doing fantastic and Galveston-Houston is leading the way.
5. In Galveston-Houston right now, every dollar given to State Charities by a Council, dollar-for-dollar a 100% goes back to the Cardinal.

Keep up the good work Brothers. Vivat Jesus!!!

• **Antonio “Tido” Perales - State VA Visitation**

Recognized Fr. Paul, Worthy State Officers, Diocesan Deputy, Chapter Officers, and All Brothers
I am here to pass along information from the State Program Director, Brother Pat Hanson.

1. Diocesan Free Throw Contest, Essay Contest Poster Contest and Soccer have already been completed.
2. The State Free Throw contest will be held on March 2, 2024, in San Antonio. The deadline for all the State programs deadline is the end of February. February 29, 2024. All programs dealing with Faith, Community, Family and Life need to be turned into Pat Hanson by end of month. Along with Chaplain of the Year and Family of the Year which are due March 1, 2024.

End of my report. Thank you Brothers and God Bless

Chapter President then announced all to welcome the Master of the First District SK James Hatcher for his presentation.

• **SK James Hatcher – Master of the First District of Texas**

Recognized Fr. Paul, State Offices, Diocesan Deputy, Chapter dignitaries and Brothers All,
Just a quick report tonight as I just wanted to touch base with you on a couple of items.

1. Our next fourth degree exemplification is just around the corner on February 24, 2024, in Lake Jackson. Father Paul is our honoree and our State Deputy will be in attendance. If you still have paperwork outstanding, there is still time to get that paperwork in if you act fast.
2. The St. Patrick’s Day Parade will be on March 16, 2024. We are still completing all paperwork with the parade committee, and you should be receiving a flyer from me in about a day or two, about where we are to meet. The parade is for all brother knights and their families. Father Paul Felix of Annunciation Downtown marched in the parade last year with a group from his parish. The Knights on Bikes were also with us last year and will be back again this year. Come out and be with us.
3. Our Biennial Meeting will be April 13, 2024, at St. Jerome’s over on Kempwood Road. I hope to see many of you there. If you haven’t already, get you elections done so you can get you Delegates and Alternates set up for this very important meeting.
4. Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday and the start of our Lenten Season. I hope this will be a very special time in your life as you draw closer to God through fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Three little words that will bring us greater understanding of God’s love and plan in our lives. God calls us all. He calls us to KNOW, LOVE, and SERVE Him in this world and the next.

God Bless!

AGH Chapter Meeting Minutes February 2024



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
GALVESTON-HOUSTON CHAPTER

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Chapter President announced, at this time, I call upon our State Treasurer Bob Goss.

- **Bob Goss – State Treasurer**

Recognizing Fr. Paul, Worthy State Deputy and Brothers All

Thank you so much for wrapping this up in the last few months; Membership, Charity, Wheelchairs. Thank all your guys.

1. Go back to your councils, I know you are the active ones, but also talk to the inactive ones and get these folks to help with the State Convention this year. My Council 14700 members were asking “Can you come.” Yes everybody can come.
2. To Clarify, there is “two-parts” to the registration for the State Convention, There is actually the registration for coming to the convention part, and the second part is to register your Wife or Girlfriend for the Ladies Programs. Again, when at the Convention website, there is a separate form to sign up and purchase tickets for your wife and girlfriend to attend the Ladies Program. It is too close to Valentine’s day to blow it now.
3. I will give you a preview of the Convention, My council has adopted a resolution supporting my candidacy for State Office as State Secretary. Every Council will receive a copy, either by US Mail or email about my running of State Secretary. I am available to speak to anyone or council member about my candidacy. See me after the meeting
Thank you and God Bless

Chapter President asked all to join him in welcoming our State Deputy, Terry Frugé

- **Terry Frugé - Texas State Deputy**

Recognized Rev. Fr. Paul, Worthy State Treasurer and Brothers Knights

1. As you heard, the State Officers were not able to make Clergy Appreciation Night as it conflicted with our State meeting. I did see many of you at the Rally in Austin. I do not know how many Buses came from Houston, but it was impressive. Appreciate all the effort to be there.
2. I could not make the Galveston-Houston Clergy Night, but in the last week and a half, I had been to the Austin Clergy Appreciation Night and the Dallas Clergy Appreciation Night. They both asked me, “how big was Houston’s” as they each had around 200–250. I responded about 5 times in size, about 1,100 - 1,200 in attendance. I know it has been that well attend for a number of years and you put on a great program, Thanks to everyone for doing that.
3. Larry Massey was mentioning earlier about RSVP and we have contributed +/- \$71,000.00 in Galveston Houston. I have some information from Supreme on how Texas did last year in the RSVP program. We had over 219 councils participate, over \$403,000.00 and about \$80,000.00 rebated back to the Councils. The USA totaled over Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000.00) supporting 632 men and 3 females. Thank you Brothers for your efforts.
4. New Members: Looking at some numbers for Galveston-Houston today, it was good news bad news. Bad news, as of today Galv-Hou is last in Division 1 in Texas. The good news, listening to the Diocesan Deputy, you have more exemplifications scheduled for the last half of February, than any other Jurisdiction
5. Semi-Annual Audits are due on February 15, 2024. As State Deputy, I do get copied on them. As I was glancing through, there were so many with errors and many that were illegible that I couldn’t correct them all and begin passing them on to the State Warden for help. The State Warden e-mailed back to the council with suggestions and changes for the next time, noting you may want to do this, this or that? As requested by the Diocesan Deputy, let your District Deputy see these and review them before submitting. The effort is made to get these in, so thank you.
6. From 1728: Still receiving copies of those. I usually copy a few and then giving them to the DD during the meeting in March. I thought it helpful for the DDs to see what you council are turning in, It is amazing to see that some councils have twelve meeting a month. there are a few that do not list any donations or contributions and others that list very few hours of service. I know that is not right, So, maybe they do not know how to capture or track the hours worked or understand how to fill-in the form. Hopefully by getting the DDs tuned-in to the problem we can correct this moving forward.

AGH Chapter Meeting Minutes February 2024



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7. Wheelchair Fund: I want to thank John Williams on his effort with the American Wheelchair Mission, First Lady Beth and I have the good fortune to go to Mexico City for a wheelchair distribution. As you know, this is Beth's feature project. She has made three trips already this year. Thank you for all your efforts, and the leadership of DD Charles Cantrell in distributing 165 wheelchairs to the VA Hospital
8. Membership across the State: We are ahead of last year's numbers to achieve "Circle of Honor." Unfortunately, we are behind four other Jurisdictions. We in Texas just have to focus on what we need to do. There are Jurisdictions in smaller states, like New Jersey, Florida and Virginia that are ahead of us percentagewise. I am glad these states are doing well. They do not have near the numbers that Texas has coming in. So, I ask you to keep up the good work on membership.
9. Build a Bed initiative: Some of you have received information on the Build-A-Bed program. This is a pilot program being investigated by Supreme to see if there is enough interest. The program is in response to child "bedliness" where 3% of the Children in the US and Canada do not have a bed to sleep in. Supreme is looking for volunteers. Which in Texas will equate to one (1) volunteer to lead the project for the entire State. The goal is to build twenty (20) beds for a total of \$250.00 and Supreme will cover the first twenty. "Build-A-Bed" will send people to work with your council. You will need a space large enough to make twenty beds and will need about twenty brother to complete the project in about half a day. So, if any council has an interest in doing this, please let it be known. We need to turn in something quickly. I do not know if our State Program Director already has a council for this project.

With that Brothers, keep up the great job you are doing. Thank you...

Chapter President called for District Deputies to give reports.

District Deputy Reports

- Fernando Hess – District 94
 - February 21 - St. Anthony of Padua Council 12327 is holding an Exemplification CUF, Candidate sign-in at 6:30p, CUF begins at 7:00pm in the St. Theresa Center.
- James DeGhelder – District 82
 - February 15 - St. Justin Myrta Council 2293 Exemplification CUF, Candidate sign-in at 6:30pm attending St. Joseph Icon Rosary and Prayer service, CUF begins at 7:00pm, followed by a meal.

Chapter President asked for any other DD reports. Seeing none called for Grand Knights reports.

Grand Knight Reports

- Henry Kahlich - GK Southwest Council 3910
February 28 - Exemplification CUF in Servant Hall, Candidate sign-in at 6:30p, CUF begins at 7:00pm, followed by a social and light meal.
- Rene Garza – St. Mary in League City Council 9310
February 20, in St. Mary Exposition Church, is hosting an Exemplification CUF. Candidates sign-in at 6:30pm CUF beginning at 7:00pm
- Clay Evans – GK Prince of Peace Council 8482
Fr. Ryan Stawaisz, when a seminarian at St. Mary's Seminary, he was diagnosed with cancer, and was ordained a Priest in 2019 and served at Prince of Peace. Fr. Ryan was an incredible man who often said, "Love God's Will." Upon his death in June 2021, the Seminary hired a film-crew to come in and do a five-minute documentary to capture the heart and soul of this incredible priest. After interviewing many the staff and fellow priests they expanded the project into a 55-minute movie, I urge everyone to look for this movie, titled "Love God's Will" and support it by attending when coming in local theaters in March. We are blessed to have Fr. Ryan's father Ray Stawaisz with us today. Standing ovation by all,



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- Don Hensley - GK Council 4204 St. Basil in Sugar Land
We are having a Men’s Prayer Breakfast tomorrow morning at 6:45am and will implement the “COR” prayer program. Then on Thursday we will have a Food Distribution Drive beginning at 8:30am.
Wednesday, February 21, we will begin the second half of our “Into The Breach” program
- Bill Hoff GK do Council 9708 St. Claire of Assisi in Clear Lake
I wanted to do a follow up on the wheelchair distribution in January. I received an update from the Film Crew. saying the final edits are underway and when completed will send to Supreme for approval to post on U-Tube.
- PGK Council 6557 St. James Church
 - March 18, 2024, is the 50th Anniversary celebration of our Council, and we will be selling tickets for this event at \$15/person, limited to the first 175 people. If interested in attending see me after the meeting.
 - March 29, Good Friday, we are holding a youth event called “Walk the Cross” beginning at 6:00am at the Catholic Charismatic Center. The youth take a cross or two and walk it to the Cathedral, then to Planned Parenthood and then back to the Charismatic Center, It is not an easy trip, but you are welcome to drive along to protect the group.
 - Lastly, one sad announcement, Fr. Francis Frankovich, C.C., 84 years old passed away this afternoon, He was the author of *“Forgiveness of the Heart”* and many other publications. He will be missed.

Chapter President asked of there any other GK Reports. Hearing none, we are moving on to the 50/50 drawing,

The 50 - 50 Drawing: The winning ticket #6713678. Amount \$82.00

Sick and Distressed Prayer List. I will call our Chapter Vice President, Robert Alcala, to read the sick and distressed list. Brother Knights I invite you to calm our hearts and focus your attention and pray for and care for those on our prayer list.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Council</u>	<u>Reason</u>
• Antonia Cabello Sister of Bro. Knight Lee Cabello	13151	In the Hospital
• Bill Rosenbaum	8482	Colon Cancer
• Jeanine Barber	8482	Colon Cancer
• Ed Carney	8482	Throat cancer
• Marv Albert	8482	Heart Issues
• Sheila Gutterrez	11343	Illness
• Miguel Navarro	2917	Kidney Functions
• Matt Maciejeski	8482	Health Issues
• Bob Schmidt	12320	Liver cancer / radiation treatment
• Jim Murtagh	8482	Rest In Peace
• Richard Wingfield	3217	Health Issues
• Betty Dyda Wife of GK Ron Dyda	787	Pray for Health
• Sam Camero	12382	Rest In Peace
• Patricia Heinrichs Wife of Bro. Knight Jeff Heinrichs	3910	Rest In Peace
• Steve Hicks		Liver Transplant
• J. L. Restivo	3218	Stroke
• Pauline Frerich Mother of Diocesan Deputy Ron Frerich	14617	Pancreatic Cancer
• Bennie Martinez	5077	Health Issues



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- Fr. Francis Krankovich, C.C. 6557 Rest In Peace
- David Tamio Colon Cancer Recovery
- PGK Ed LaSage 3910/SVdP Hospital / Sepsis
- Thomas Van Zuel Immune disease
- Charles Pipkins Memorial Cancer
- Lee Meister 7382 Health Issues

Closing Prayer: Fr. Paul led all in closing prayer: for those whose recovery let us pray the “Hail Mary” and for the Faithful Departed especially Fr. Frankovich, let us pray “Eternal rest grant onto them or Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them and may they rest in peace.” Let close with the prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney,

Closing Ode, all sang the Closing Ode

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm. Next Chapter meeting is Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Attested: JD Gutierrez, Knights of Columbus Galveston-Houston Chapter President
Attested: Vincent Stasio, Knights of Columbus Galveston-Houston Chapter Secretary