



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
GALVESTON-HOUSTON CHAPTER**



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

Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting: January 9, 2024

Monthly Pro-Life Rosary - 6:30pm: Fr. Paul 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: Joe Catrone Council 8482, Robert Flores Council 3077, Dcn. Rudy Venegas Council 5077, Mike Liriano Council 2293, Leo Landry Council 2917, Bill Smith Council 11343, Ed Moreno Council 2293 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 State Officers, diligent Chapter Officers and Brothers all. I will keep it short tonight as we have much to do.

1. I missed the last meeting as it fell on the solemnity of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and I was at the parish, as many of my brother Priests, celebrating that great Feast with mass. I did offer the mass for yourselves and your intentions.
2. An update on the Mercy Festival at St. Justin Martyr. For the last meeting I sent a letter requesting postage stamps for the Archdiocese Ministry of the Incarcerated. Due to scheduling problems and staffing issues, we were not able to have the Mercy Festival. So thank you to Brothers Reggie and "G" for the stamps and I will see that they do get to the Ministry Office. If you have stamps with you tonight and/or would still like to donate stamps, I will get them to the Archdiocese Ministry Office. I have asked our "ACTS" Men and Women to put on the Mercy Festival in the near future. As with most Parishes, we do a lot for Charity, maybe the easier ones, But the stamp collection is what we do for "I was in prison and you came to me." The Prison business is very selective and you have to be credentialed, as not anyone can enter the facilities. The collection of stamps helps with the correspondence expenses of the Office. I thank you for participating.
3. You have heard a lot by now, a lot about the National Eucharistic Revival. It is in full-swing and seems to be attracting more and more prayers and attention. I hope within you Councils and Parishes you are all doing something with the revival, small or large. The mission of the Eucharist Revival is, "to renew the church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist." If you look around and see problems or disagreements or shadows or some kind of unhappiness in the life of the church, we need **less** carping and moaning, but we need a great Revival. A great internal revival of the Catholic Spirit in the Church of the United States. I propose that this National Eucharist Revival has the potential to do and be exactly that, to renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. We can all do that. No matter how many ceremonies we produce or don't produce.
4. Please let us all get excited about the Statue of Blessed Michael McGivney at St. Mary's Seminary. That is the perfect place for that exact symbol of Catholic Priesthood. Fr. Michael McGivney is really a saint and an example to the seminarians and priests-to-be and a good example to us. We need to get excited about placing this statue at the seminary.

Thank You!!!



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Secretary's Report: Chapter Secretary - Vincent Stasio

Good evening gentlemen, I welcome all Dignitaries, State Officers, Diocesan Deputy, Brothers and distinguished visitors, especially our Worthy State Secretary Brother Ron Alonzo. Thank you all for attending.,

- Tonight's attendance: 11 Dignitaries, 21 District Deputies, 49 Council Delegates and 10 Visitors have signed in.
- Our next big event is the 2024 Clergy Appreciate Night. I see many have brought in gifts for the Silent Auction, We need many more, so if you or the council has an item to donate, please arrange delivery with one of the Chapter Officers or you can bring the morning of the event on January 26, at 10:00am. Do not bring them with you at 5:00pm as we will not be able to incorporate them into the program. We will be at the Stafford Center that morning to accept donations. Our worthy Chapter President J.D. will provide additional information and I now turn the meeting back to him.
- Chapter President JD noted the December meeting minutes were posted on the Chapter website, asking if there are any correction to the minutes as posted. Hearing none, he asked for discussion, discussion, discussion. None ensued. Then asked for a motion to approve minutes as posted. Motion made, seconded, and minutes posted were accepted.
- Chapter President noted there are no communications to report and received concurrence by the Chapter Secretary.
- Clergy Night activities and program events will be reported within the Presidents Report.

Treasurer's Report: Chapter Treasurer - Charles Cantrell

Recognizing Worthy State Offices, Diocesan Deputy and dignitaries to my left, Chapter Leaders to my right and Brothers Knights. Today is a good night, I want to speak about Clergy Night:

1. Clergy night is SOLD OUT. We have no tables remaining for the event. Any other requests will be on the waiting list.
2. Chapter dues: we are off to a good start, even have some handed in tonight. To date we have collected \$3,213.00 and twenty-two (22) councils out of 122 councils have paid dues. Second billings will be coming out later this month.

Treasurers Report:

GH Chapter Checking Account

- Checking: Starting Balance of \$133,411.35, with Debits of \$5,391.46 and Deposits of \$11,890.00. Leaving an ending balance of \$139,909.89.
- Checks in Transit: two check in transit; Sacred Heart Gabriel Project of \$400 and the November Chapter Meal of \$204.57. Totaling \$604.57. Leaving a checking balance of \$139,305.32

GH Chapter Savings Account

- Savings: beginning balance of \$10,581.06 plus interest of \$4.94 resulting in an ending balance \$10,586.00

Total Chapter Funds balance of \$149,981.32.

Chapter Earmarked Funds

- **Emergency Relief Fund:** Balance remains at \$5,072.12.
- **Knights for Life Account:** Beginning balance of \$20,045.26 plus interest of \$5.96, Ending balance \$20,051.22.
- **Galveston-Houston Convention Committee:**
Checking account: Beginning balance of \$28,397.53 and 1 debit of \$61.50. leaving balance of \$28,336.03
Savings Account: Beginning balance of \$6380.02 plus interest of \$0.81. Equaling \$6,380.83

Combined balance = \$34,716.86

Total of Chapter Earmarked Funds of \$59,840.20

Thank you very much....

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



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- Chapter Meal: Let's thank St. Angela Merici Council 14617 for providing tonight's meal.. Great meal. Thank you Brothers. Next month's Chapter meal will be provided by St. Michael the Archangel Council 14700.
- Here we are in January, getting closer to Clergy Night, but first we are coming into the Chapter election cycle. As per the Bi-Laws, in February I will announce the election committee, and will talk about the "next-steps" in the election process.
- We will be talking about the Chapter Audit, which was tentatively scheduled for February 8, but there is a potential conflict with another event, so it will be reschedule. More to come on that, hopefully we will have another date or report on the completed audit.
- This evening we will report on the Chapter funds. The Chapter Treasures will talk about what he is proposing, essentially to move a portion of the money into a CD (Certificate of Deposit) since interest rates are more attractive now. We have formed an internal committee to review and he will report on this during the New Business portion of the meeting
- Clergy Night will be covered under Old Business. One of the things I need to impress on you is the importance of volunteers. I have put a small flier on the back table which has the QR code for sign-in, accessing and volunteering at Clergy Night. Please pick up a copy and take the QR code back to your council and ask for volunteers. We need help in the morning to dress the tables (with table coverings, flatware and accessories), At 4:00pm to help to prepare the meal and afterwards to help clear the trash from out tables and pack our wares into the van to haul back to the Chapter storage room, As noted before, we are on a tight time schedule and must be cleaned up and move out of the Stafford Centre by 10:00pm, or be charged extra for the time spent on site. We will finalize scheduled events to be out on time.

Chapter/Diocesan Committee Reports

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

Recognize: Fr. Paul, Worthy State Officers, Diocesan Deputy, District Deputies, Chapter Officers, and Brothers Knights. If you are not getting my monthly newsletter or my reports want to get these, please take my business card and contact me.

1. First, I extend my hopes that everyone had a rewarding Christmas season, both spiritually and with family. Let us hope and pray for a New Year in which our troubled world and we ourselves find peace and happiness.
 2. At the same time, we face challenges in our advocacy for respect of life and human dignity. There are strong political forces that are well funded, which advocate against the things we hold dear to our most fundamental Christian values.
 3. At this time, I focus on those events before us in January in which we can participate in order to stand for those beliefs.
- First is the Texas Rally for Life in Austin, Texas on January 27, 2024. <https://www.texasrallyforlife.org>
The Texas Rally for Life is worth three (3) ACE Wing events.
See a partial list below of parishes and contact information where buses are going to Austin. Call to schedule a ride.
Christ the Good Sheppard – 281-376-6831
Prince of Peace - Fran Schaeffer 281-627-0340
St. Anthony of Padua - John Wood 832-764-2794
St. Clare of Assisi in Clear Lake - Melvyn Hizon 281460-7118
St. Lawrence in Sugar Land, Knights of Columbus - Edward Young 832-310-4190
St. Mary Magdelene in Humble - Brenda 713-277-5093 | Melida 832-352-4535 | Dr. George Brooks 832-814-27182
Sts. Simon and Jude - The Woodlands – Ron 713-252-9681 | Regina 713-248-8170.
 - USCCB Novena for Life (English and Spanish) Jan 16-24 <https://www.usccb.org/resources/9-days-life-novena>
One can get the whole novena in one document or have it delivered to an email account day by day. In my council, the GK will send it out day by day. This is worth one (1) ACE Wings event.
 - The Diocesan Eucharistic Vigil for Life: <https://archgh.swoogo.com/holy.hour2024>.
Sign up for one only:7-8 pm or 8-9 pm. This is worth one (1) ACE Wings event.
 - The National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection for the Unborn, January 22. This is a Knights of Columbus event I suggest that councils do a communal Rosary for the Unborn. Since Jan 22 is on Monday. Saturday is also a good day of observance. My council will place small white crosses around the church in observance of the day. Those placing and removing the crosses earn one(1) ACE Wing. Those doing the communal Rosary for the Unborn earn one (1) ACE Wing, If the Council wants an ACE Wings program, January is a good time to start. You can earn all 5 credits in January,



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4. There are other opportunities to earn your ACE Wings. Participation in the Silver Rose ceremony later in the year will earn one (1) credit. VA Visitation, participation in one event will earn one (1) credit, The American Wheelchair Mission, one event will earn one (1) credit. But 4 of the 5 events must deal with respect for lives of the most vulnerable unborn children.

In February and beyond, we will promote the ACE Wings program as a part of our new Knights' formation process and I will elaborate on opportunities to score a pro-life event. All officers and directors should be wearing the ACE Wings pin and be an example to our new members. Throughout the year, we will also support our Pregnancy Help Centers (PHC) and Gabriel Projects (GP). Providing significant help to raise money for a PHC or GP is also (1) ACE Wings event. Please forward the contents of this email to your GK's and Life Directors.

Anyone needing more information or help with any of the pro-life related topics should contact me at any time.

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

Larry Massey - Seminarian Vocation / RSVP Report

Now for Vocation, recognizes all worthy Knights and great Knights. You will find a copy of my report on the information table.

1. We are off to a great start in 2024. My December report noted seminarian support was around \$14,000.00. So from early December until now it totals \$55,650.00. So we jumped over 40,000.00 in one month. Way to go guys,
2. As of now, almost all of the seminarians, except about five (5) have some level of support.
3. We have 5 Seminarians needing support, so if we can fill these that would be great. I am meeting with Fr. McNeillie this week to give him the great report.
4. As promised, he has given me a few matrix for support. This year we are on track to have more High School applicants to the seminary than ever before. We already have six (6) young men applying and it is only January. Applicants means they are signing and going through the process, not a discerner, not looking around. This is a big deal.
5. Andrew Dinners, This is where the Pastor's identify young men and invite them and their parents to a dinner where the **young man meets with priest and discuss the Priesthood**. Our KC Council cook food for the applicants and parents. It is a process to Priesthood. In 2022 we have 48 attend, 2023 we had 72 attend (33% increase) and for the school year of 2024 it looks like 150 will attend an Andrew Dinner. This is a great way to get young men involved and fill-the-pipeline.
6. The Explorer Program, for high schoolers: Last year 2022 we have 34 attend, in 2023 - 50 attended (47% increase).
7. Men's Discernment Retreats: in 2022 we had 19 attend in 2023 - 37 attended (73% increase). We now have thirteen (13) Parishes that have signed an agreement with the office of vocations to go "all in" on helping with vocations.

Anything you can do to promote vocations, whether it be through prayer, with a Rosary for vocations, hours in prayer in Adorations for vocations,

The quote from Fr. McNeillie, "your prayers and support is working." Thank you and God Bless...

Jerry "G" Giegerich - Emergency Awareness Coordinator

Good to see a large turnout. Thanks everyone for coming.

Financial Secretary Training:

1. February 10, we will hold an FS training class, at Council 3700. Located at 3418 Preston Road, Pasadena, 9:00 am to 1:00pm. We'll cover more than Member Management, by going into "Best Practices" for reporting on Forms 185 and 365. Electronic form 100's, Council Audits and filing of Tax Form 990. For new FSs we can schedule individual training.

Emergency Awareness:

1. We had an easy 2023, relating to natural disasters. Hopefully, 2024 will be as kind and we ask FR. Paul for his prayers.
2. Council Emergency Response Coordinator: At this time of year I would like the CERC's to report on their intent to remain or change from the position of CERC. I will send out an e-mail to all the CERC's inquiring as to their status. If they want to change, I prefer they do it now rather than on July 1, With the changing of Council Officers, and possible transition to a New Grand Knight, it is difficult to wait on the next assigned CERC, especially as we enter the hurricane season. Please pass that information on to your current CERC. Thank You ...



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Bob Schmidt - Youth Program

Recognized State Officers, Diocesan Deputy, Chapter Officers, and Brothers Knights.

1. Keep Christ In Christmas Poster Contest: Tonight we are to report District winners. I noticed that many turned in the old form, which does not tract with the new form that reports by grades. So please make sure your Council number, the District number and a telephone contact number is on each of the posters.
2. Basketball Free Throw Contest: Complete Council Free Throw Contests by end of January. District Contest to be completed before the Diocesan Contest which is scheduled for February 18 at St. Pius X High School, with sign-in beginning at 12:00 noon. We need many volunteers, so I will have a volunteer sign-up sheet at the next Chapter Meeting. State Championship on March 2nd in San Antonio.

That's all I have on Youth Programs. Thank you...

John Williams – American Wheelchair Mission

Recognized State Officers, Diocesan Deputy, Chapter President, Chapter Officers, and Brothers Knights.

1. Thank you to all the Councils that have contributed to the American Wheelchair Mission during the first half of the fraternal year. We are about \$3,000 behind where we were last year at this time. Again, thank you those who donated.
2. I get request for Wheelchairs all the time. I have has several requests over the past few months and several councils have contributed to this effort, and others have yet to contribute. We try to honor every request, but the wheelchairs are not free. That is way I ask each and every council to budget and donate \$500.00 which is the cost of one wheelchair to the American Wheelchair Mission. The cost for one shipping container is \$42,000.00.
3. At the end of January, we are journeying to Vietnam to distribute one container of wheelchairs in the Da Nang area. From there we go onto the Philippines and distribute two containers of wheelchairs, which is about a 10 to 12-day trip.

I ask that you keep me and the mission in your prayers. Thank you....

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 still available to all Councils and Parishes in the Archdiocese. We have 172 days left in the fraternal year and I have just two dates secured for the program presentation. So please give it some thought to bring this program to your Parish and Council.
2. Come see me and get a book on the program that you can forward to your Pastor and Deacons. This will help them understand the flow of the program, and let them make the decision, whether to use this very important devotion to your brothers and parishioners.

Come see me. I'll be at the information table after the meeting, please come see me. Thank you ...

Chris Perales - VA Visitation

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

The Holidays are over and it is time to come visit the veterans in the VA Hospital.

1. This past Sunday, we had four Brothers come to visit, and the week before there were three Brothers visiting. Not exactly zero, but the numbers on attendance can go up higher and we can do better.
2. Worthy District Deputies, please continue to do your job and carry the message to your councils. We have many out there that may not know we can again visit the veterans,.
3. I want to recognize and thank Council 12818 and Council 10861. The VA Staff and I would like to express our thanks for your persistent support to our VA Veterans by sharing your constant participation and your great leadership.
4. For the rest of my Brother Knights, please continue to plan and show your leadership in visiting the VA Hospital.

End of Report. Vivat Jesus!!!



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- **Antonio "Tido" Perales - State VA Visitation**

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

1. Tido asked Brother Charles Cantrell to join him at the podium. Charles began by asking GK Bill Hoff to stand. Everyone needs to know GK Bill Hoff. He started the whole thing by taking a bunch of World War II Veterans on a bus trip to the New Orleans Museum using our KC Wheelchairs to move them around the city. That started the program of 150 wheelchairs being donated to the VA Hospital. (Applause by all)
2. Bill has set up for the Chapter and Archdiocese to have Castletown Media (contracted to and works for Supreme) come to the VA on Saturday, January 20 and will film interviews the WWII veterans that went to New Orleans.
3. Sunday, January 21, Castletown Media will come back to film the "re-enactment" of the delivery and unloading of the 150 wheelchairs, with the Knights on Bikes there to help with the "Moch" delivery. I am told we will schedule a 4th degree turnout for the mass. Castletown will also film an interview with State Deputy Terry Fruge and First Lady Beth in the lobby of the VA Hospital. They will also attend the Catholic mass with the Knights and hospital patients present. Afterwards, if time permits, will interview VA Staff, Tido and the Patients who received the KC wheelchairs.
4. Mass on Sunday, January 21 at 11:00am. In anticipation of all who will attend, the Mass will be moved up to the 4th Floor Conference Room and begins at 11:00am. Our Worthy Master of the 1st District of Texas, James Hatcher has promised a 4th Degree Turnout.

- **Manny Cruz – Special Olympics** (Presented by Chapter President)

Brother Manny could not be here tonight, as there was a death in his family. Please keep them in your prayers, He wanted to remind everyone the Special Olympics Event across the city are posted on the Chapter website. There you will find Top Golf Competition, Basketball Skills, Tennis Competition, Table Tennis and Power Lifting Competitions. Please take a look and see where you and your councils can help. Thank You.

Chapter President then asked for any other Committee Reports. Hearing none, we will move on to Old Business.

Old Business

Chapter President stated there are three (3) items to be discussed during Old Business.

- Back in our August 2023 Chapter Meeting, Fr. Len Broniak, C.Ss.R., Director and Deacon Bruce Flagg, with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministry for the Archdiocese, made an appeal for financial assistance to support the National Catholic Office of the Deaf Conference that will be in Houston, on February 1 - 5, 2024. He asked for financial support for bus transportation to and from the hotel to the conference center and after Sunday Mass for the Chapter to provide the meal for 200 people after mass. To that end, I am very pleased to announce the Scanland Foundation, picked up the tab and donated \$5,000.00 to cover expenses, (Applause by all).
- Christopher Columbus Statue: Chapter Secretary Vinny Stasio provided an update:
 - I have been in contact with the sculpture Joe Incrapera, who has ownership of the statue. As the owner, his contract with the City makes him responsible for the Statue and any damage which may be caused to city property. He needs the GHKC Chapter to pay him for the statue and he will transfer ownership to the Knights to take possession.
 - My task is helping to coordinate the efforts of the Chapter, and working with Ron Frerich to line up contractors to install the concrete foundation for the statue, move the statue to the Assumption Church property and place on the foundation, Then after the statue is in place, install the brick pavers. As of now, that's the plan.
 - We will continue to provide updates to the Chapter members, as events happen.
- JD noted he will sign check and process payment to the sculpture upon membership approval of the "Resolution for the Christopher Columbus Statue Installation Project" which will take place later in the meeting. Upon approval he will be working with the State Advocate this weekend to get a contract written and transfer ownership to the Chapter.
- Robert Alcalá, Chapter Vice President will now provide a second reading of the "Resolution" for voting by the members. Robert proceeded to read the resolution as follows:



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**Resolution of the Galveston Houston Chapters Acquisition of the
Christopher Columbus Stone Statue and Installation Project.**

WHEREAS the Chapter has an opportunity to acquire the ownership of a life-sized Christopher Columbus stone statue from the owner and architect of said statue.

WHEREAS it has been the Chapters intend to preserve the integrity of the Christopher Columbus statue, since it was originally threatened over a year and a half ago.

WHEREAS the cost of acquisition of the statue has been set at \$1,000.00 and will include the transfer of ownership of this asset to the Galveston Houston Chapter.

WHEREAS the initial cost of moving said statue from the present location at the owner's place of business to the Assumption Catholic Church/Parish for a cost of \$400.00. This will cover the cost of equipment rental necessary to accomplish said move.

WHEREAS it is the intent of the Chapter to Donate the statue to Assumption Catholic Church/Parish, at no cost to the to the Church or Parish

WHEREAS it is the intent of the Chapter to assist Assumption with the project to properly install the statue on their parish grounds and a full project assessment and budget will be created and presented to the Chapter Delegates at a later date.

BE IT RESOLVED that approval from the members is sought to allow the Chapter to spend \$1,400.00 to cover the initial costs of asset acquisition and movement from the Owner to Assumption Church.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that all appropriate documentation to chronicle the disbursements made will be collected to chronicle disbursements made.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will distributed to the membership in accordance with the stated Bi-Laws and Laws and Rules as stated and to be duly voted upon by all delegates present at the duly regularly called notice to be convened on January 9, 2024. At that this resolution must be passed by a two-thirds majority vote of all delegates in attendance at said meeting and the results of the vote will be duly recorded in the Chapter minutes and be in full force and effect.

- End -

Chapter President then called for a motion to approve the "Resolution" as read. Motion was made and seconded. Then asked if there is any discussion, any discussion, any discussion. Hearing none, called all in favor say "yea" / opposed "nah" The yea's have it, Motion passed. "Resolution" is approved.

Chapter President announced we will moving forward with New Business

New Business

Chapter President announced, I have one piece of New Business and then I will hand it over to Charles Cantrell

- o We are getting ready to kick-off the meeting as the Houston Convention Committee. We have all the information from the State Office to be printed and sent out to the Grand Knights. There is information regarding advertisement in the convention program. In the "Forms Book" you will find an advertisement order form. I will e-mail you the order form tonight and you will be seeing it in your "in" box. Please read it, share it with your council and send in the order form.

Chapter Treasurer Charles Cantrell addressed the membership about next year's Chapter Budget and the ideas of investing a partition of the Chapter Funds into a "Premium Rate / Guaranteed Return" High Yield Money Market Certificate of Deposit.

- o Back when we opened the current accounts it was the right thing to do. We were in the early throws of COVID. There was economic uncertainty with a new President and divisive political parties. It was the right thing to do.



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- Today, if you look at our Chapter Savings Account it is earning less than 0.05% Interest. The High Yield Money Market is earning a guaranteed return of 5.50% on a 6-month CD. An major increase of what we are earning today .
 - So, now if we take that \$10,000.00 in our savings account, at the current rate for 6 months equals +/--\$30.00. If we go to the High Yield account that \$30.00 turns into \$271.00. If we keep it a full year in our current account it equals \$60, but in the High Yield account you would have earned ten times more. So what I am doing, is taking our current savings account, and turning it into a High Yield CD, to earn more money.
 - The next thing we have here is the Knights for Life account which is earning 0.035%. But before we can move any of that I will be working with the Finance Committee to see how much of that money we should move. Every Clergy Night we take the profits from the raffle and deposit it into the Knights of Life account which is good. But every so often we are asked to help with matching funds on the Gabrielle Project or are asked to buy and Ultrasound machine. We currently have a \$2,500.00 budget for the Gabrielle Project and as far as the Ultrasound, we will have to hold money for several months, before we can purchase a machine. It may be worth taking \$10,000.00 or \$15,000.00 and moving it into a High Yield account for this, but that will be up to the Finance Committee, they will have to decide what to move.
 - Moving to the regular Chapter Checking account, we currently have a balance of \$140,000.00 (with some Clergy Night expenses still to cover). This year we collected an addition \$4,000.00 in dues, some Clergy Night money, Knights for Life money. We estimate we may collect another \$13,000.00 for Clergy Night, \$9,000.00 in dues,\$15,000.00 for the Knights for Life raffle, and \$6,000.00 in miscellaneous funds for a total \$47,000.00. Current expenses for Clergy Night, \$24,000.00 to the caterer, \$10,000.00 for the Knights for Life pay outs, \$5,000 for incidentals including liquor, for a total of \$40,000.00. Which will net \$7,000.00. Our current Chapter budget is around \$93,000.00, it is a good number. So after Clergy Night, the checking account my drop to +/--\$120,000.00 remaining.
 - After Clergy Night, the Finance committee will determine what we can draw out of the checking and put into the savings account. That will be the amount we move into the High Yield CD account. We still want to retain an amount that will keep us liquid and allow for some unexpected expenses. At that time we will open one, two or more high yield accounts.
 - Any questions? **Question:** have we considered opening a Fidelity Account? You can open a Money Market account and still keep your money liquid and still have access to it. The Fidelity is currently earning 5.2% and links it to a checking account. **Answer:** we can bring that idea to the Finance Committee. **Question:** The Knights of Columbus has been developing an investment wing. Do they have products that we can put our money? **Answer:** we can bring this idea to the Finance Committee. The key thing with the High Yield CD is that you can lock in a guaranteed rate for a designated period of time.
 - The Finance Committee has two bankers on it, and all the Chapter Officers on it, plus aother distinguished long-time leaders. A broad spectrum of people and perspectives. If you have suggestions and want input, please bring it to me and I will bring it to the Finance Committee. I have spent a good amount of our meeting time on this and we will have to move on, You can find my contact information, telephone, and e-mail address on the Chapter website. Thank you
- Chapter President noted that if you have any questions, suggestion, feedback, recommendations, etc., contact Charles.

Chapter President announced at this time we will move onto our Worthy Diocesan Deputy Report.

Diocesan Deputy Report – Ron Frerich

Recognized Fr. Paul, Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Officers, District Deputies and Brother Knights

- Youth Essay Contest winners. I have gift cards for the kids and will have the DD's hand out at the Council meetings. I also have plaques coming and will hand them to the DD's at Diocesan Winter Conference so come see me.

8th Grade Winner:

1st Place Nikita Dementyev Council 4204 | District 79
2nd Place Addison McDaniel Council 8771 | District 90
3rd Place Valerie Villalobos Council 12320 | District 92

10th Grade Winner:

1st Place Abigail Carlisle Council 7867 | District 75



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CHAPTER PRESIDENT JD GUTIERREZ
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12th Grade Winner:

1st Place Lila Schroer Council 4204 | District 79

I want to thank the Judges; Robert Alcala, Tony Scarpa, John Williams, Sam Gonzales, and myself (Ron Frerich)

- o Soccer Contest winners: the State just announced the winners for Galveston-Houston as follows:

<u>Boys:</u>	<u>Finish</u>	<u>Council</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Girls:</u>	<u>Finish</u>	<u>Council</u>	<u>District</u>
9-year : 1 st Place	9708	71 - Joe Kramer		9-year : 1 st Place	4550	87 - Robert Alcala	
10-year: 3 rd Place	14512	93 - John Williams		10-year: 1 st Place	14512	93 - Bob Schmidt	
11-year: 2 nd Place	4550	87 - Robert Alcala		11-year: 2 nd Place	7026	100 - Rudy Ordaz	
12-year: 1 st Place	7026	100 - Rudy Ordaz		12-year: 1 st Place	7026	100 - Rudy Ordaz	
13-year: 2 nd Place	7026	100 - Rudy Ordaz		13-year: 1 st Place	13166	93 - Bob Schmidt	
14-year: 2 nd Place	7026	100 - Rudy Ordaz		14-year: 1 st Place	13166	93 - Bob Schmidt	

The State will award trophies and I will hand-out at the next Chapter meeting.

- o State Membership: I asked the Councils to bring in one or two more new members by the end of the December. Councils and Districts answered the call and will brought in eighty-one (81) new members. One more over our quota, as we brought in 81 new members. Thank You...
- o Form 100's: I asked you to transfer the candidates from those Form 100's to E-Members. You did that and we had over 50+ registered, I do not have the final count, but it was a lot, and they all added to the State membership numbers. Which helped the State of Texas exceed the 50% goal for the first six months. That was a big help and you all did great.
- o Recruiting Drives; The holidays are behind us and we all made some good memories. Now we need to go back to work. Please get your recruiting drives scheduled. June 30 is going to come quicker than you think, so do not put them off. I know there are many recruiting dives coming up this month. March 29, 2024, is the deadline date for each council to get in six (6) new members and receive this really nice banner, with your Council name and number on it. I know a few councils have already received the award. So get your six new members in between January 1st through March 30th.
- o IRS Tax Form N990: I had a really bad response when asked this last month; so I am asking again in hopes it is better. How many GK's have personally looked at the IRS form 990 for the 2023 calendar year? There are not many hands raised. You need to go look at the Council's 990's. DD's you are required to review their books, you are required to look at the 990 forms. There were some councils that did not file last year, So you will have to go back and submit the 2022 and 2023 forms now. If you miss three (3) years in a row, you will lose your tax-exempt status, To have your tax-exempt status reinstated, you will have to go back three years, submit all sales purchases, pay back sales tax on the purchases plus penalties. This will cost your council hundreds if not thousands of dollars. Get on it and don't make it a problem.
- o I want to congratulate DD C.J Hattier District 86 and Grand Knight Russell Ondruch Council 12558 in Frydek, as they were the first one to submit Form 1728 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities that I received. They are due the end of January. Jurisdiction on the Form is always Texas, not Districts. Also remember that the Special Olympics Form 10784 is also due this month.
- o State Charities: we missed our goal of being a "Quick Start" Diocese by just a little-bit. We were at 98.18% end of December. We only needed \$3,046.00. I am hoping we can get it by end January.
- o Christmas Poster Contest: I am in need of judges. If we have any artists that can help, I need you to be a Judge. If you are willing to be a judge, even if not an artist, come see me after the meeting,
- o Winter Diocesan Conference this Saturday, fliers on back table. We'll have trainers in English and Spanish. Supreme is sending a Spanish trainer and will bring Spanish Language Leadership Resources, Guides, etc. I'll get them to you.

Thank you ...



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

State Officers, State Committeemen and Worthy Master Reports – No Reports

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, I hope everyone had a Blessed Christmas and New Year Day. I have a short report for tonight.

- January 21, 2024: We have a turnout for an honor guard for the 11:00 am mass at the V.A. Hospital (see flyer). If you are a Sir Knight come in your Uniform. This will take care of one of your VA Visitations.
- February 10, 2024, We have Sword Training and Protocol class up in Livingston, Texas. For those in that part of God's country, please come to the class. (see flyer)
- February 24, 2024, is the date of our next 4th degree exemplification in Lake Jackson. So, please get out there and help with recruitment unto the 4th degree. When our new Supreme Master, Michael McCluster was asked his thoughts about recruitment in the 4th degree, he said, "I would like to see every Brother Knight become an active part of the 4th degree." So, I ask all District Deputies and 4th Degree representatives when you make a report to the Councils, please keep our exemplification in mind. Thank you for the help. (see flyer on the back table)
- In Laredo, Texas for the transfer of the Silver Rose in December, our State Deputy, Terry Fruge' shared this notes from the Supreme Knight, Patrick Kelly. Our Supreme Knight posed the question, "Why do we grow? Why, at a time when the Catholic Church faces serious demographic challenges, is the Order expanding year after year? I believe the reason is simple, in the age of mediocrity, the Knights of Columbus invites men to greatness; to sacrifice themselves for the good of others; to commit to a higher call with a band of brothers; and to stand strong in the breach, side by side, instead of being swept away by the culture, one at a time."

I think this statement is addressed to us all, and as the District Master of the First District of Texas, I invite all Brother Knights to join us as the visible arm of the Order, doing our part to stand in the breach as true examples of our Order and our Holy Church.

God Bless!

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

- **Bob Goss – State Treasurer**

Recognizing Fr. Paul, Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Secretary, Brothers All First and foremost Happy 2024. Next, Thank you for all you did in 2023 for all the hard work. I know every one of you were out there trying to bring folks into the Order.

- As our Diocesan Deputy stated, use the E-Member program. One of the great things to bring people in. As I mentioned before, when we have an active Brother and something happens to him, and he meets his demise, there is at least \$2,000.00 for the family if they have KC insurance. This is a selling point for the families as they have financial protection.
- Please, please go out there and when you go back home, talk to your councils, talk to everybody, and say, "one of the great things in the Order is you are with like-minded men, who are doing work for the Church and for our Parish. That is where it's at. So, encourage them, if you have a council that says, I do not want to pay our Charity, you do not have too. But it helps. It helps everyone in the Order.

So with that, keep pushing for membership. God bless each and every one of you. Happy 2024...

Chapter President asked all to join , with me in welcoming our State Deputy Secretary, Ron Alanzo.



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- **Ron Alonzo – Texas State Secretary**

Recognizing Worthy Father, Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Treasurer, my Brother Knights

- I want to add a bit more after listening to our worthy Diocesan, District Master and State Treasurer. I want to ask you a question, “did the Knights of Columbus make a difference in your life. All responded “Yes.” Has the Knights of Columbus make difference in your family’s life? All responded “Yes.”
- Following that thought: Yesterday I was reading an article which was a study of faith in the State of Texas, by percentage and by population of faith. The break-up of faith in the State of Texas. It was a ten-year study. Ten years ago Texas was #1 with twenty percent (20 %) of the population being Catholic. Second, was the Southern Baptist at 16%, and the last was unclaimed by any faith at 38.25% of the population. Fast forward ten years to today: Catholic’s have dropped from 20% to 18.59% of the population, Southern Baptist’s dropped from 16% to 14.88% and unclaimed by any faith rose from 38.25% up to 40%. But that wasn’t the fastest growing, the fastest growing population by percentage was the Muslim Faith which grew from 0.55% to 1.68%.
- You heard earlier the comments made by our District Master that we have to be concerned for our Faith. If you recall the two reasons Fr. McGivney started the Order was first, to bring his men of the Parish together and further their faith formation, and second, was to care and protect one another,
- You heard from the Diocesan Deputy congratulating you on the good numbers in recruiting for December, but we cannot stop there. Our Bishops and Priest need us now more than ever to bring the men back into our Faith. The number of Knights in the State of Texas is around 118,000 members. You may think that is a lot, but it is not. The total number of Catholics now at this time is 4,673,000. We haven’t yet begun to scratch the surface in bringing men into the Order. So, I ask again, have the Knights made a difference in your life? Response, Yes. So why would you not want to share that with you fellow Catholic men who are over 18 years of age and in good standing with the Catholic Church. Every one of you men here tonight have your own story of how you were recruited into the Order. You need to Ask that man to join you in the Order. If he says no, ask him again. As I shared with the men of this Council 2917 last night, one of the Past Grand Knights worked on me from January until I joined the Order in November in 1980. He would not give up, until I finally joined. So if you have a candidate keep asking him, find different way to approach him and keep asking. Evangelize him, as it will change his life and his family’s life for the better. Once you bring him into the order, you have to mentor him and keep him involved. Find the man that one day may be the next Grand Knight, Chapter President or State Deputy. Continue to bring our numbers.

Thanks and God Bless you!!!

Chapter President announced at this time I call upon our State Deputy, Terry Frugé

- **Terry Frugé - Texas State Deputy**

Recognized Rev. Fr. Paul, Worthy State Officers, District Deputies, Council Officers, and Brothers Knights

1. To reiterate what your Diocesan Deputy said at the end of December there was a lot of communication going on between the state and Galveston Houston, and you guys came through, Your membership goal for December was 80, you got 81 and we needed every one of those. We ended up achieving our 50% membership goal, the day before the deadline, with an extra 15 members at that point across the state. We relied on the E-members, as you will see in the Winter Conference, Supreme is phasing out Form 100’s. So, thank you for that.
2. The State received a 5% reduction in new membership. We started out by needing 4821 new members. Through meeting other goals it was lowered to 4473. We are now sitting at 55%, which will make meeting our membership goal a bit more tolerable in getting to the Circle of Honor.
3. Wheelchair Fund: Brother John Williams talked about the American Wheelchair Fund. Contributions are running about the same as last year. Statewide we are doing an incredible job and raised \$459,000.00 so far. Last year we finished at \$966,000.00. Chris Lewis thinks we can go \$1,000,000.00 - \$1,200,000.00. I think it will happen.



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4. Charities: 565 Councils in the State reached "Quick Start" that's incredible. Last year we had 502 Councils. That not only proves what we did from a Charities standpoint, but also what we did for State Pre-Capita, as we needed both contributions to achieve "Quick-Start" Award. There were 113 DDs throughout the state that made Quick-Start District, Statewide we are at 93.5% of our goal by January. Great job all. Thank you guys for that.
5. Webinars: I know we have the Diocesan Winter Conference coming up this weekend, and it is so important to get your guys there. In the meantime, Supreme has a series of webinars every night that our members can plug into. All you have to do is register by e-mail when the webinar is announced, even if you cannot watch it on that day or time. Once you are registered you can watch it "on-demand" on your own anytime. Tonight there was a webinar on COR, I registered even though I was going to here. So, tonight when I get home I can watch it. Tomorrow night same thing, there is a webinar on Knights of Columbus Charity Fund, I got a conflict, I registered and will watch it later. Than on January 25, there is one on Best Practices at 7:00pm. I have a conflict and will register and watch it on-demand.
6. Special Olympics: This is such a big thing for Texas, and we do so great in Special Olympics. We will raise about \$25,000.00 in the State for Texas. But it is what we can get from Supreme, to spend here in Texas. We get about \$9,000.00 from Supreme, depending upon how many Councils turn in Form 10784. Even though your council did not participate in Special Olympics events, If your Council paid their State Charities, 2.5% of your State Charity contribution goes to Special Olympics. So, submit a Form 10784 in the amount of you contribution and that counts as your participation in Special Olympics. If all 750+ Councils in Texas does that, Supreme forwards the money.
7. Clergy Appreciation Night: The State Council has meetings in Austin that weekend and will be participating in the Texas Rally for Life the next day. So many of us here tonight will not be at Clergy Night. We will miss it but know you guys will do a great job and will be in our thoughts and prayers.
8. Finish Line: How many of you receive the Finish Line? Most do. Better yet, how many of you do not know what I am asking? It is e-mailed to you through Constant Contact. So if you are on Constant Contact you should receive the e-mail invitation to pick up the link to the Finish Line. It provides a 30|60|90-day review on what is going on in the Order and much of what I have talked about tonight. If you are not getting it, please come check with us. Could be a situation where your Constant Contact was mistakenly turned off. In using Constant Contact we can get some bounce backs, and we can see who is opening the e-mails. If a GK isn't opening the e-mail he is missing a lot of information for the Council, If a DD is not opening it, he is not doing his job and the District is missing information. We had a Diocesan Deputy that was out of the country on a business assignment and did not receive it. After he missed a few the system shut his e-mail down. When investigating, we found the problem and the State Educational Director switched his e-mail back on. Simple as that.

With that Brothers, Keep doing the great job you are doing. Thank you and Happy New Year.

Chapter President thanked the Worthy State Officers for their reports and called for District Deputies to give reports.

District Deputy Reports

- JD Gutierrez – District 79
 - January 27- Rally for Life, St. Lawrence Church has rented buses for trip to Austin. Councils are invited to join in the trip, cost is \$20/seat. Contact Edward Young 832-310-4190
- Don Kresse - District 99
 - January 27- Rally for Life, Prince of Peace Church Council 8482 rented a bus to Austin, If interested \$35/seat. Contact Fran Schaeffer 281-627-0340
 - February 3 - Council 8482 hosting Free Throw Contest followed by the District Competition,
- Jaun Perez – District 89
 - February 14 Valentines Day, St. John Newman Parish is having the nicest Valentines Dinner. All for \$25/each.



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- James DeGhelder – District 82
 - January 27- Rally for Life, St. Justin Myrta Council 2293 has buses going to Austin. Leaving at 9:00am for \$20/seat. James has tickets tonight or contact the Church Office for reservations.
- Robert Schmidt – District 92
 - January 27- Rally for Life, St. Mary's and St. Martha's in the Kingwood area is renting a bus to Austin.\$20/seat

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

Grand Knight Reports

- Davis Nation GK Council 8771 – Christ the Redeemer
Thursday, January 11 hosting a CUF beginning at 7:00pm in the Community Center followed by dinner. All welcomed
- Mark Haubert GK Council 10861 – St. Ignatius in Spring
The past weekend invited new members to join our Council.
Thursday, January 11, Invited all candidates to an open House to learn about the Knights.
Saturday, January 20 will have an Exemplification followed by a Corporate Communion at the 5:00pm Mass
Saturday January 27 our largest fund raising of the year, a Wine Tasting Dinner with 280 seats available.
- Bill Hoff GK Council 9708 St. Claire of Assisi in Clear Lake
Saturday January 27, March of Life bus to Austin for \$30/seat you can purchase from our website: stckofc.com
Saturday, February 3, Casino Night. We have a very good exchange rate. Come for the fun.
- Dale Charpentier GK Council 16512 St. Edwards in Spring
Sunday, January 21, will be hosting a CUF beginning at 1:00pm
Saturday, January 27, holding our Free Throw Contest
- Johnny Salinas GK Council 803 - Downtown Houston
Sunday, February 11, Smoking Briskets for Super Bowl Sunday. Brother Knights from Holy Rosary will be joining us.
- Alex Ogbodo GK Council 8293 – St. Justin Myrta
Having a BBQ sale and raffle tickets for large screen 75” TV and gift cards to Houston Restaurants.
Thursday, January 18 will host a Parish Renewal event on the Holy Eucharist and Sacramental Wine and how the Priest turns it into the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- Keith Labrie GK Council 4550
January 21, Having a Corporate Communion
January 24, holding our Free Throw Competition
- Bob Sunie - Council 6527 – Memorial
Donated \$1,000.00 to support the Holy Rosary and the Catholic Organization Of Life in renting a bus to Austin for the Rally of Life. Cost only \$5/seat - or - you can donate to help send the youth to Washington DC for the March for Life.
For information please contact me after the meeting,

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 #6713655. Amount \$130.00.

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 on why we are Knights, to pray for, to care for and to love our Brothers and people on our prayer list.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Council</u>	<u>Reason</u>
• Dcn. Rudy Venegas	Baytown	Rest In Peace

