

**GALVESTON-HOUSTON CHAPTER
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**P.O. Box 722003
Houston, TX 77272**



Date: August 24, 2023
To: Grand Knights
District Deputies
Faithful Navigators

From: Robert Alcala, Clergy Appreciation Night Co-Chairman
Vincent Stasio, Clergy Appreciation Night Co-Chairman

Re: 2025 Clergy Appreciation Night

The Galveston-Houston Chapter of the Knights of Columbus will host the Fortieth Annual Clergy Appreciation Night on Friday, January 24, 2025, at the **Stafford Centre, located at 10505 Cash Road, Stafford, TX 77477**. This elegant venue has a long-standing history with the chapter. The Stafford Centre staff is elated to have the Galveston-Houston Knights of Columbus return to the Stafford Centre. Please check the address and plan to check-in between 5:00-6:00 pm. Program and dinner starts at 6:30 pm. Once again, dinner seating is limited to 1,300 seats. First come, first serve.

Once a year, we welcome the opportunity to express our appreciation, respect, and solidarity with our cardinal, bishop, priests, deacons, and religious. Clergy Appreciation Night provides your council an opportunity to honor your clergy, along with all other religious order and diocesan priests, deacons, brothers, and nuns in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Please extend a special invitation to your pastor, parochial vicars, deacons, brothers and nuns closely associated with you personally and with your council. While this is a chapter sponsored event, we extend a personal invitation to all councils and all clergy in the Archdiocese. **Councils do not have to be a member of the chapter to participate in this important event.**

This event will include a social mixer, dinner, silent auction, raffle, and award program for Outstanding Clergy of the Year. Open bars will serve alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Remind your guests to plan accordingly and drink responsibly.

Place this event on your council's calendar and plan to attend along with your spouse or guest(s). Ask your clergy and religious to put it on their calendars now before other events are scheduled. This letter will explain important information regarding seat/table reservations (early bird and standard price), table sponsorships, nominations for outstanding clergy, silent auction, and program sponsorship.

SEAT / TABLE RESERVATIONS

All reservations and payments must be received on or before Tuesday, January 7, 2025. Reservations are required to attend this event. Councils are strongly encouraged to send your seat reservations early. Seats will not be sold the night of the event. A registration form is included in this packet. Please read the form carefully and complete the form with a list of who is attending (if unsure, please cite them as 'Guest'). Please remember to list your clergy that will be in attendance on the registration form, and make sure you inform them of your designated table assignment(s), especially if you want them sitting at your table. If there are special needs or dignitaries attending who require recognition, please note on the registration form. If guests are unable to attend, the council may find a replacement, but the reservation must be paid. The number of replacement guests, however, may not exceed the original number of paid reservations (example: two replacement guests for two original paid seats). There will be no will-calls for seats. Based on the information on this form, seats will be assigned to the council, or individual. The completed form can be attached to an email, mailed to the chapter P.O. Box, or given to the treasurer at the chapter meeting. All payments must be settled and paid prior to **January 7th, 2025**. Unpaid reservations will be voided after January 7th. Checks need to be made payable to: **Galveston-Houston Chapter**.

TABLE ASSIGNMENTS

Table assignments will be emailed to the Grand Knight or designated representative of the council listed on the registration form beginning Sunday, January 12th. The Grand Knight or designated representative is responsible for disseminating the seating information to their respective attendees and guests. Check in tables will be setup in the lobby to help clergy and guests find their respective table assignments and location of the tables.

WE ANTICIPATE A SELL OUT. NO SEATS WILL BE SOLD ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT.

EARLY BIRD AND STANDARD REGISTRATION

This year our event will be on a very tight schedule. Timely planning will be crucial to keep costs and schedule under control. As a result, we need councils to act early to reserve tables so that ALL table reservations can be allocated before the event. To incentivize councils to act early, we are offering a \$5.00 discount per seat for both clergy and council seat reservations. This is a limited time offer that will be available from August 30th to October 8th, 2024 (cutoff by end of Chapter Meeting). Standard registration rates will apply starting October 9th and continuing to January 7th, 2025.

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION	STANDARD REGISTRATION
August 30, 2024 to October 8, 2024	October 9, 2024 to January 7, 2025
<u>Seat Reservations</u>	<u>Seat Reservations</u>
Guest : \$45 per seat	Guest : \$50 per seat
Clergy : \$20 per seat	Clergy : \$25 per seat

To help offset the cost of the meal, councils are asked to help sponsor the seat reservation for their pastor, parochial vicars, and deacons (and spouses if applicable). This rule also applies to any sponsored seminarian(s) or postulate(s). For those priests that are unsponsored or not affiliated with a council (i.e., diocesan priest), the clergy night committee will seek a council sponsor.

GUARDIAN ANGEL SPONSORSHIP

In addition to seat reservations, we invite councils to consider becoming a Guardian Angel sponsor. The proceeds from this sponsorship help underwrite banquet costs for religious order or retired priests who are not affiliated with a council or parish. Guardian Angel sponsorship donations are \$100.00 per table (ten-seat). Guardian Angel sponsorships are independent donations from council seat reservations and are an additional cost. Those councils that sponsor a table will be given priority placement for their current table assignments. For example: If a council has forty members and guests, and they all want to sit in the same immediate area, sponsorship of tables will facilitate that placement. If tables are not sponsored, seating will be prioritized by receipt of payment for seats. Checks for table sponsorship should be made payable to: **Galveston-Houston Chapter**

PRESENTATIONS TO OUTSTANDING CLERGY

The highlight of the evening's program is the presentation of Outstanding Clergy of the Year. This year, four priests and two deacons will be awarded the honor of Outstanding Clergy of the Year. There are many deserving priests and deacons that have made significant contributions in their pastoral ministries. Councils are encouraged to nominate a deserving priest or deacon. Priests and deacons that were previously nominated but not awarded can be re-nominated. The selection committee has copies of all previous submissions if councils prefer to re-submit a nomination. This year's selection committee is led by Vinnie Stasio, James Hatcher, David Keating and two other committeemen to be named later. The selection committee will examine and discern several factors such as tenure, education, ministry work, accolades, and performance within the Knights of Columbus (if applicable). Nominations must be submitted in writing to the selection committee no later than **Tuesday, December 10th, 2024 (December chapter meeting)**. Enclosed you will find the nomination form to be used.

SILENT AUCTION

A silent auction fundraiser is held to help offset incidental costs* associated with organizing the event. We ask each council to donate an item valued at \$50.00 or more for this auction fundraiser. Examples of prizes include a prepaid gift card for dinners at a local restaurant, admission to movies, health club memberships, wellness and beauty spa packages, golf games or any custom item your council wishes to donate. Cash donations are also accepted.

Last year, we saw a generous number (59) of silent auction items. Silent auction items should be delivered to the chapter meeting by **Tuesday, January 7th, 2025**, the night of the January chapter meeting. We look forward to another successful and memorable fundraiser. Due to the tight schedule of this year's event, we will not be able to accept silent auction items the night of the event. All silent auction items will need to be delivered to the chapter prior to the event.

*Incidental costs include insurance, security deposit, transport expense, bar expenses, hospitality expenses, table setting supplies, cleaning supplies, facility, and audio-visual equipment fees.

KNIGHTS FOR LIFE RAFFLE

As part of our ongoing effort to support pro-life initiatives across the archdiocese, we ask all councils to take part in this fundraising effort by selling Knights for Life raffle tickets at your council meetings, parishes, and community. Proceeds from this fundraiser have been used to purchase new ultrasounds at pregnancy resource centers, support pro-life groups such as the Catholic Organization for Life (C.O.O.L) and Project Gabriel, a chapter-sponsored initiative influenced by Auxiliary Bishop's request for assistance to pregnant mothers needing resources. Raffle tickets will be distributed to your council through your District Deputy.

The ticket donation is \$5 per ticket or \$20 for a booklet of 5 tickets. This year's prizes are three Visa gift cards valued at \$2,000, \$3,000, and \$5,000. The award drawing will be held at Clergy Appreciation Night. Councils can request additional tickets from Raffle Chairman Charles Cantrell, cantrell4us@yahoo.com. Tickets stubs and proceeds can be mailed to the chapter PO Box, returned at the chapter meetings, or the night of the event. All ticket sales need to be finalized and turned in by **Friday, January 24th, 2025**. A rendering of the ticket is below.

If you have any questions in regards to any of the information listed in this letter, please feel free to contact Robert Alcala at ralcala.js@live.com, (713) 854-4410.

**ALL RESERVATION/PURCHASE FORMS, OUTSTANDING CLERGY NOMINATION FORMS AND
TABLE SPONSORSHIP CHECKS MAY BE MAILED TO:
GALVESTON-HOUSTON CHAPTER
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
c/o Clergy Appreciation Night
P.O. Box 722003
Houston, TX 77272**

**GALVESTON-HOUSTON CHAPTER OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
41ST ANNUAL CLERGY APPRECIATION NIGHT
Friday, January 24, 2025**

Council Name: _____ Council #: _____

SEAT RESERVATIONS:

Please note: There will be no will-call for seats. Our tables hold ten people. Based on the information on this form, seats will be assigned to the Council or individual.

Please fill in info below:

GK/FS/ or other Council Designee: _____ Council #: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ E-mail: _____

Seat Type	Rate Type (pick one)		Seat Quantity	Rate Type	Total
	Early Bird	Standard			
Clergy seats (list below)	\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00			\$
Council seats	\$ 45.00	\$ 50.00			\$
Grand Total:					\$

Checks are made payable to: [Knights of Columbus Galveston-Houston Chapter](#)

CLERGY RESERVATIONS (include spouse name and mark X where applicable)

Name	Parish/Council	Is spouse going to attend?		
		N/A	Yes	No

GUARDIAN ANGEL SPONSORSHIP

Please note your sponsorship preference

Total Amount

- Number of tables _____ @ \$100.00/table _____

TABLE PLACEMENT

The decision as to the location of where your council will be seated is as follows:

1. Seat placement is based on when your reservation and payment is received; "first-come, first served" basis.
2. All table reservation/purchase forms that are received either by mail or e-mail will be considered received by the date and time stamp of the e-mail or 5:00 pm of the postage date on the envelope.
3. Any forms received that do not include payment will be given 14 calendar days to remit payment. If payment is not received by the end of the 14th day (including the date postage is cancelled) the form will be considered received once the payment arrives.
4. Any council that does not pay for tickets prior to January 7th will have their reservation voided and will be placed only when their payment is received if seats are still available.