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Pancake Breakfast with St. Nick

Breakfast with St Nick has been a council mainstay for many years, and a favorite among our Parish Families, especially the Children. It has been run and supported by many of our Brother Knights who give their time, talent and treasure to make sure the children have something to enjoy and look forward to.

This past year 2020 has been one of the most challenging for many of us because of the restrictions we have all had to go through. As a council we have had to cancel many family gatherings and events. Pasta Dinners, Easter Egg Hunt, The Spring Training at Ed Smith Ball Park, memorial Day Parades, Christmas Party. Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Breakfast, and others.

So as the year was winding to a close we wanted to make sure our yearly events weren't all gone. We still had Breakfast with St Nick that we could still arrange if we came up with a way to keep everyone safe and follow all required restrictions. We wanted this event for the children and their Families.

Breakfast with St Nicholas would bring joy, fun and cheer to our parish children and their families and a good way to end a sad year.

So!! Our council officers and brother knights came up with a plan on how to hold this event and make it safe and secure. We presented it to Father Sebastian, and he approved it.





We had work to do, we had the help of approximately 21 Brother Knights, 6 of their wives and two teen youth group helpers, along with the support of our Church Administrators.

Keeping Covid in mind, we held meetings to decide on what would be the best menu to serve keeping in mind the least amount of contact with each other and our Parish family, and what would be the best way to hold the event. We wanted to take the temperature of everyone attending the event right at the door while keeping socially distanced, We setup tables to be 8 feet apart and seating would be by family this seemed the best idea, we would all be wearing masks unless eating and keeping social distance for everyone even during the setup and cleanup the rules would apply to all.

The day before we had 11 brothers & 2 wives help decorate our Parish Center where the main event would be. We had 22 tables based on 22 families who pre-registered. We set up the hall so that we could check in everyone who signed in at two reception & registration tables prior to entering the Parish Center. This allowed us to take temperatures. The two elves then brought families to their tables We were now ready.

The morning of the event we started by having two Brothers wives & two elves take temperatures and register the families. Every family was assigned to a numbered table and we took their drink and menu choices, at the same time we told them to stay at their assigned tables because their food would be brought to their table number. Also each child was given a musical instrument one Egg Maraca's twirling scarves plus a jingle bell wrist bracelet to play along with the music and songs while waiting for their meals. We put crayons and coloring books on the tables for the children which kept them busy until the food arrived.

We had runners who brought the food orders to the kitchen in Sacred Heart Hall where we had 10 Brothers set up to cook, box and deliver the food back to the Parish Center. We had 3 cooks in the kitchen, 4 preparers in the Hall filling out orders and putting them in clamshell containers with table numbers on the box so our 3 runners knew where to deliver the food. The Kitchen operation ran very smooth and efficient, and no one had to stand in line.

Back at the Parish Center we had a beverage table setup with 2 brothers who received the drink choices and brought individual containers of milk, OJ, water and coffee to the tables.



For the festivities, we had a Brother Knight who is a DJ play Christmas Carols throughout the morning and explained to the families what activities would take place and what to expect. After the families had their breakfast we had everyone sing along with the music.

Then at 10:15 am Our DJ announced that St Nicholas was just seen flying to Our Lady of The Angels Parish Center.

Soon after St Nick entered through the side door. When he came in all the children's faces lit up and St Nicholas gave his famous "Ho Ho Ho!!! Merry Christmas Everyone" as he entered. He went to all the tables giving out Candy canes and waving to all, after seeing everyone he went up three steps to where his chair was setup between three Christmas trees, one 12 ft tree with lights and ribbons and two other Balloon Christmas trees in different colors. There were four chairs covered with Red Velvet where the children came and received their gifts and had pictures taken on a lower level. There was a fireplace behind St Nicholas and to the side Baby Jesus in a Stable. The Elves helped St Nick give out the gifts





which consisted of a plush toy and a \$10 dollar gift card to Chick-Fil-A, and some even received a toy.

St Nicholas took letters to Santa from the children and then waived goodbye saying he had a lot of stops to make and left with a Ho Ho Ho!!

This year's Breakfast with St Nicholas while different from all the others the lower attendance (37 Children) compared to the previous year (71). However, it was a great success for our Parish Families of Our Lady of The Angels Church under despite the pandemic.

I would like to thank Father Sebastian, our church staff, and all our Brothers and their wives and teen elves for their great care and attention to detail from planning to setup, execution of reception/registration, and music. To our kitchen staff of Brother cooks and those who packaged the food for delivery, our runners and beverage servers and to those who cleaned up our Parish Center and Sacred Heart Hall kitchen for the next day's overflow Sunday Mass. And, especially to the Families who brought their Children and trusted us to keep them all safe and have a good time.

With everyone's efforts of giving their time, talent & treasure this event was possible.

Thank You All, and be well and stay safe.

Blessings

Matt Cangemi



White Crosses for the Innocent



The Catholic Church, and certainly the Knights of Columbus believe the Roe v Wade verdict of 1/22/73 must be overturned. On January 20, 2021, our K of C Council 13341 once again made our position on this clear by deploying 150 white crosses on the property of Our Lady of the Angels parish along SR 70 in Bradenton, FL. Roe v Wade must be repealed, and the murder of the innocent must stop. The crosses are meant to make the tens of thousands who will see them during their deployment think and ask what they stand for. To add meaning to the message, each cross represents 430,000 lives taken since the Roe V Wade verdict was handed down. Council 13341 has sent its message in this manner the past 10 Years.



Mike Pote, Bill Rempe, Bill Kopsack, Jerry Graceffo, John Joly, Rich Barnett, Sharon Pote, Rick Kuebel, Mike Dyer, Tom Rokosz, Tom Ludwig, Rich Macklin, Mark Ulrich





Tom and Gloria Rokosz

In May 1999, tragedy struck Tom and Gloria Rokosz.

The Rokoszes, who now live in Country Club, were at the pool store they owned in St. Petersburg when they received a call from their neighbors in Tierra Verde. Their home was on fire.

The married couple of 28 years at the time lost almost everything they had, including three cats — though their dog survived when neighbors heard him and broke into the house to save him.

One of the handful of objects to survive the fire was a decorative Santa Claus, dressed completely in white. His beard was turned gray by the smoke, but he was otherwise spared from the effects of the fire.

The Rokoszes now own a collection of similar Santas, but their "designated survivor" was the original.

"It brings good memories and bad memories," Gloria Rokosz said. "It was a long year for us. ... It was just a nightmare. But when I see him, it kind of brings me joy, because he survived. He survived it."



Knights of Columbus members help build home

The Knights of Columbus council based out of Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church participated in charitable events in December.

On Dec. 10, seven knights of the council worked in tandem with Habitat for Humanity to help with the construction of a new home at 1015 Sixth St. Court E., Bradenton. The project represented the fourth full year of uninterrupted monthly projects completed under Habitat for Humanity Chairman Mike Mahan, who is also a knight in the council.

On the night of Dec. 12, 10 knights and a handful of their spouses and friends distributed coats to 228 children as part of a Coats for Kids project at St. Michael Catholic Church in

Wauchula.

Mother Maria Gema, who leads family activities at St. Michael, handpicked each coat based on fit and style. She also attached the name of each kid to their coat.

The Our Lady of the Angels council was the only Knights of Columbus council in the Diocese of Venice to continue with the project this year, an annual event held since 2012.



Courtesy photos

Tom Rokosz and John Finnegan of the Knights of Columbus of Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church work on a Habitat for Humanity project.





Cardinal Timothy Dolan Issues Warning to Joe Biden About Abortion

“Actually, we’re obsessed with the dignity of the human person and the sacredness of all human life! Yes, the innocent, helpless life of the baby in the womb, but also the life of the death row prisoner, the immigrant, the fragile elderly, the poor and the sick,” he continued.

“And it’s not just ‘you Catholics’ who are very upset about the unfettered abortion-on-demand culture in which we live. Most Americans, of any religion, or none at all, report they are as well. As a matter of fact, this is not a uniquely ‘Catholic’ issue at all, but one of human rights. We didn’t learn that abortion was horrible in religion class, but in biology, and in our courses on the ‘inalienable rights’ tradition in American history.”

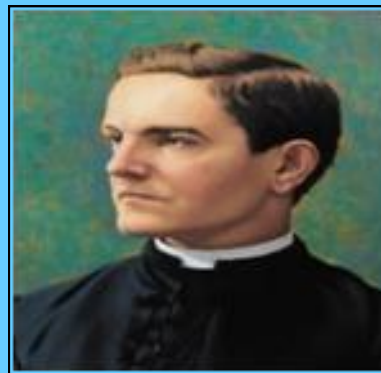
He went on to point out the connection to our current climate: “How can we sustain a culture that recoils at violence, exclusion, suicide, racism, injustice, and callousness toward those in need, if we applaud, allow, pay for, and promote the destruction of the most helpless, the baby in the womb?”



*Prayer to Saints
Cosmas and Damian,
Physicians and Martyrs*

O Physicians of souls,
Saints Cosmas and Damian,
stand before the Lord of All and ask Him
to heal me and all those dear to me
of any spiritual ills we may endure.
Drive away from us all sin and sadness
of mind, all darkness and despair.

Make us then willing
and loving servants of Christ,
following your holy example
of detachment from the things
of this world and care
for the needs of our neighbors.
On the glorious day of the Universal
Resurrection may we shine with
you in the full health of our nature
restored by the mercies of Jesus
who lives and reigns forever and ever.
Amen.



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Thank You!

Fr. Sebastian, the Knights of Columbus, and the Rosary Altar Society for their collaboration in decorating the Chapel and Church for Christmas. It looked spectacular!

