



SAINTS COSMAS AND DAMIAN

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL # 13341

PRESS RELEASE

Event: Coats for Kids 2016

Who: Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church
Knights of Columbus Council #13341

Location: Rte. 70, Lakewood Ranch

Contact: Frank Shea – Council Director
fshea3@bc.edu (941)730-8213

Additional Event Facts:

COATS FOR KIDS HELPS CHILDREN IN NEED

With many families with young children continuing to struggle in these challenging economic times, there has never been a better time for Knights of Columbus Councils to help by providing warm winter coats to children in their communities through the Order's **Coats for Kids** program.

For the last winter season, nationally over 800 Knights of Columbus councils purchased and distributed the coats. In addition, the Supreme Council also purchased thousands of coats that were sent to several state councils for distribution, for a total of over 78,000 coats given out nationally in 1600 communities. Since the program's inception, the Knights of Columbus in the United States and Canada has given away 310,000 coats to children in need.

This winter our local Council, #13341 Saints Cosmas and Damian, was the only Council in the Venice Diocese to continue in this wonderful program, from 2012 to today. This outreach event is held in honor of late brother David Walsh and his widow Emily, who founded this event at our Council. Also, an anonymous donor gave a significant donation to make sure to have enough coats. This year close to 200 coats went to Sister Maria Gema for the youth at St. Michael's Church in Wauchula. **Coats for Kids** Coordinators, Bill Rempe and Ray Makovic expressed their gratitude for having the opportunity to orchestrate this program, in our area.

"The look on the children's faces as well as the parent's faces is priceless because they are so appreciative," said Jim Coons our Deputy Grand Knight. "This was a great feeling for the kids and the response was fantastic."

St. Michael's Church in Wauchula is one of the poorest parishes in the Diocese of Venice with Sister Maria Gema leading family activities there. Each child's coat was hand-picked by her for fit and style with their names attached. The response was wonderful with 100 people from the parish in attendance. Anyone interested in helping the religious sisters at St. Michael Parish can do so by contacting Sister Gema at: St. Michael Parish, Attn: Sister Gema, 408 Head Bridge Road, Wauchula, FL 33873.

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About Us

Knights of Columbus Council # 13341 is men from the parish of **Our Lady of the Angels**, Catholic Community in Bradenton, Florida. We started in 2003, however, being a young council by no way means we are lacking of activities. We have Fish Fries, a Tootsie Roll drive, we work at Habitat for Humanity, we have blood drives and we work at the Baltimore Orioles Spring Training games in Sarasota. If these events sound like something you would be interested in, we would love to have you as a member. The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic men's fraternal benefit society that was formed to render financial aid to members and their families. Mutual aid and assistance are offered to sick, disabled and needy members and their families. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief works.



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Sister Gemma with Co-Chairs Bill Rempe and Ray Makovic



Our Council Helpers

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The Gifting



St Michael's Parish

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