



# The Beacon

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## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

By Jim Gambardella

### Boys 14-year old State Winner



From Left to Right:

Chairmen Walter Sebastianelli, Benjamin Reyes, Boys 14-year-old State Winner second year in a row, Mr. Gab Reyes-Ben's dad

**Congrats Ben!**

### Division Winners



From Left to Right:

Back row: Veronica Borrelli Girls 13 winner, Zachariah Grande Boys 13 winner, Ella Pierre-Louis Girls 12 winner and State runner-up, Benjamin Reyes Boys 14 winner and State Winner, Elyse Brassard Girls 11 year winner

Front row; Dillon Rubidoux Boys 12 winner, John Raftery, Boys 9 winner, Luke Donnelly Boys 10 winner and Luke Pierre-Louis Boys 11 year winner

**Way to go St Augustine Boys and Girls!**

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**Grand Knights Korner**  
By [GK Bob Chase]

The St. Augustine Knights of Columbus Council #10557 had a challenging year with change and growth. To supplement our reliance on the annual bus trip to New York City at the start of the Christmas shopping season, we reviewed the feasibility of an agreement with Savers for a used clothing and other objects bin. The arrangement would have featured a quarterly check to the council for sold items. However, a concern that the bin would develop into a dumping problem closed the door on that option. The Big Sisters offered removal of used clothing on Tuesdays. However, the question was what to do with clothing between a Sunday (presumably the drop-off day) and pick-up on a Tuesday (their designated day for this area), and who would be available to help load the clothing on a weekday. Crossroads indicated that they had a surplus of clothing.

One possibility we examined and still has potential for the coming year would be to team up with a Chelo's for a designated date. They would give us tickets to distribute which would be presented by parishioners on that date. A percentage of what was spent on dinners would be returned to us (15-20%, depending on the amount of tickets used). Angelo's restaurant had a similar concept but we are not a 502C3 corporation, which they require.

We had a membership drive on October 13-14 which featured first time use of an on-line application available on smart phones and tablets. Our success caught the attention of the State council, congratulations to Knights who participated! In addition, in keeping with the spirit of the season we sold religious Christmas cards after masses on November 17-18. One disappointment was that the bus trip to New York City had to be cancelled due to technical difficulties, we will try again later this year.

Our council adopted member Paul Caranci's proposal for "First Five Saturdays": on the first Saturday of the month January-May, confession would be followed by Eucharistic adoration, praying the Rosary and special music provided by our organist, Steve Romano. In addition, Paul agreed that if we assisted in the sale of his new book, *I am the Immaculate Conception*, after masses he would donate half the proceeds that day to our council. We are grateful to Paul for some unexpected revenue!

Other changes included a transition from the editorship of *The Beacon* from veteran Paul "Jerry" Scannell (with responsibilities as district deputy for five councils) to Fouad Faraj-Musleh. Our appreciation to both men for how smoothly this was done. An additional change, in view of the loss of income from the cancellation of the bus trip, was the decision to raise dues which had been at the same amount since our council was founded in 1991. I would be remiss if I overlooked new members John and Eric Ricci and how they recruited three new members. The Riccis also proposed a dental health fair for May but it was decided to postpone it due to competition from May breakfasts and Mother's Day. We hope to re-schedule for the fall.

To increase our visible presence, Brother Fouad designed an impressive banner for the Mt. Pleasant Little League and it occupies center stage in dead center field. Well done, Fouad!

Again, to improve recognition of our council we are sponsoring a prize for that St. Augustine School boy who best personifies our four principles of charity, unity, brotherhood and patriotism. We also for the first time worked with the Elmhurst Clean & Green organization in flower planting and beautification along Chalkstone Avenue. We hope to increase our outreach to them during the upcoming year.

We gratefully acknowledge Jim Gambardella's co-ordination of the state K of C basketball free throw competition. Also, Jim and Fouad worked in power washing the statue of the Virgin Mary and the bird bath outside the religious ed. Office.

It should be noted that Richard Luftkin was recognized as an honorary member for 25 years of membership and over the age of 65.

In conclusion, we have had a year of challenges and opportunities. To continue growing we need to make a special effort to reach out to younger men, stay tuned! I know we have an excellent core of able workers, especially our new Grand Knight, Worthy Jim Gambardella. Let's join Brother Jim and make the new Columbian year a special one!

Vivat Iesus!

Bob Chase, Grand Knight

**Note:** We obtained both goals: Membership (McGivney Award) at 150% and Insurance (Founder's Award) at 100%. Unfortunately, we will not get the Star Council Award due to one of the required officers not completing the Safe Environment course.

### Elmhurst Clean Up Work in June.



GK Bob Chase on the left and Steven Calise

This was one of GK Bob Chase's goals to be able to sport our council polos while we serve community.  
Great job guys!

### Our Council Banner Proudly Displayed @ Mount Pleasant Little League Field



We had noticed that one of our Marian Statue that was in the parking lot of St Augustine had been neglected for years. She needed a little TLC.

### Jim Gambardella cleaning Mary



### Before & After



### Mission Accomplished – Fr Brice came to inspect our work



From Left to Right:  
Jim Gambardella, Bob Chase, Fouad Faraj Musleh, Fr Joseph Brice