



SOUTHWEST HOUSTON NEWS

“Growing like a Teenager into Middle-Age...” Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910

Shining Armor Recipients Victor Sonnier, Nick Lopez, and Adam Crick are why

Houston, TX – Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910 - March 14, 2012

Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910, now in its 58th year, is Southwest Houston’s oldest Knights of Columbus Council and is growing remarkably like a teenager well into middle age. It has recently surpassed the 300 member mark



David Hughey, Adam Crick, Tien Do, Irvin Schueler, Adolpho Morales, Victor Sonnier, Nick Lopez—Photo Courtesy Chris Moras

by consistently growing at a 5% rate in each of the past five years.

Members Victor Sonnier, Nick Lopez, and Adam Crick, recipients of the Knights of Columbus “Shining

Armor” award for their accomplishments in recruiting and

charity fundraising are examples of why the growth rate has been so consistent: Members recruit other members, their friends, to help them experience the same pleasure of giving that they have experienced while serving their church and community. In addition, the Knights make available to all members unique insurance products that support their families in the event of death, disability, illness, or even retirement. According to Ben Warner, president of Council 3910, “...These are the singular reasons Father Michael McGivney founded the order in 1882, 130 years ago...” David Hughey, recruited by Adam Crick, is a 27 year St. Thomas More Catholic Church parishioner and father of Matthew Hughey the parish’s youth director. Membership Director Irvin Schueler recently recruited Tien Do, a parishioner for only a few months who has become very active in council activities, and Adolpho Morales, a 34-year parishioner newly selected as the council's golf tournament director and an ACTS Retreat leader, a retreat patterned after the description of the early Church by the Acts of the Apostles. For more information on Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910, contact Chris Moras, (713) 305-4099.

PRESS RELEASE



Friday Fish Frys at St. Thomas More Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910

Chef Sal Fontana Serves Up Award-Winning Fried and Baked Fish

Houston, TX – Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910 - March 14, 2012



Happy Customers L-R Pam Johnson, Margaret and Irvin Schueler, David Johnson (seated) Ben Warner, Joseph and Isabella Lay, Dottie Hayes, and Maryanne Fontana/Photo Courtesy Chris Moras (713) 305-4099

fried, or baked, catfish, thick-cut french fries, cole slaw, loaf bread, and ice tea. Sal Fontana, the council's award winning chef, indicated that nearly 200 parishioners were served. The fish is a fresh-water, fried catfish with a slightly new recipe from last year; Fontana wouldn't exactly share that recipe with anyone at the dinner table. Just suffice it to say that 200 parishioners left happy, but even more so because they were able to fulfill their Lenten obligation of abstaining from meat on this day. Last year Fontana's recipe won Knights of Columbus city-wide People's Choice Award for best fried and baked catfish. It's hard to believe that he's improved the recipe from last year, but it looks like he has. This year the council has added a second fryer to increase capacity: minimize customer wait-time and maximize product freshness. So don't expect to stand in line too long for a great dinner. For dessert, parish Girl Scouts set up a table filled with fresh-baked cookies, brownies and pies. These were on sale for an extra nominal cost. Two raffles were in place for the evening as well, with products donated by Home Depot: a gas grill and home-garden products.

On February Friday, February 24th, 2012, from 5PM until 8PM, Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910 had their first of six Friday fish fry fundraisers of the 2012 Lenten Season to benefit St. Thomas More Church and School and other Knights' charities in the greater Southwest Houston area. Over 130 pounds of fish were served in Prinster Parish Center, located at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 10330 Hillcroft St., Houston, TX. 77096. Meals cost \$8 for adults, \$4 for children, and

the event is open to the public. The meal is generous: two large pieces of fresh,



Award Winning Chef Sal Fontana

PRESS RELEASE



Vesting Our Clergy Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910

St. Thomas More Catholic Church-Beneficiary of Council Fundraising

Houston, TX – Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910 - March 14, 2012

On Sunday, February 26th Monsignor William Oliver, Pastor, St. Thomas More Catholic Church, encouraged



Left to Right Bart Antle, Adam Crick, Chuck Iwunze, Monsignor Bill Oliver, Jack Ferguson, Ben Warner, Sal Fontana, and Victor Sonnier / Photo Courtesy Chris Moras

parishioners at each of the masses to “Thank the Knights for these great new vestments that you see us wearing...” The parish was able to purchase new vestments from council fundraiser donations developed during the past year. Grand

Knight Ben Warner remarked that Lenten Fish Frys, Sunday Barbecue’s, Spaghetti Suppers, and the Spring Golf Tournament proceeds all helped contribute to this worthy cause. “...We as knights are truly humbled by the gratitude expressed by Father Bill. St. Thomas More not only provides us with a venue to undertake these charitable efforts, but the clergy here inspire us to do so as well. They make it a joy to give and that is as it should be,” Warner said. This is actually the second round of vestment purchases made by the parish from council donations. The first was about a year ago and the recognition delivered by Father Bill was just as warm, just as genuine. Southwest Council 3910 holds fundraisers that they believe will be well-attended by the parish and the community in general. Ideas for these come many times from simple trial and error, but once one is found to be popular, the council tries not to “over-do” it by holding too many in a short time period. Of the three hundred or so council members, approximately 10-15% provides the manpower for the event and much of the balance of the membership attend and support the council event with their families. Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910 is in the 58th year of its charter, December 19, 1954.

STM MINISTRY NEWS



Smokin' for Charity Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910

Knights Rios, Salazar, Camarillo Lead a 16 Hour Event

Houston, TX – Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910 - March 14, 2012

On Saturday evening February 11th and into the early morning hours of Sunday, February 12th Knights of



**Eduardo Salazar, Edward Rios, and Ben Warner, council president /
Photo Courtesy Chris Moras**

Columbus Southwest Council 3910, led by Edward Rios, Eduardo Salazar, and J.D. Camarillo prepared hundreds of pounds of smoked chicken for a fundraiser benefitting St. Thomas More Church and School and other Southwest Houston charities. St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 10330 Hillcroft St. Houston, Texas, itself in the midst of its 50th "Jubilee Year," was the staging ground for the event. Sixteen hours in total were required to prepare the food and deliver it to parishioners. The event was sold-out due both to a pre-sale effort and planned extras being snapped up by a long "waiting list" that started to develop early Sunday morning. The chickens were difficult to resist once smoke began to waft through the parking lot and every neighborhood surrounding St. Thomas More. The hard-wood used to smoke the chickens was a combination of oak and mesquite. The chickens were marinated first in a lemon and pepper "secret" recipe and then smoked for hours until they were just ready to come off the pit. The event was the sixth in the council's "fraternal" year, which began in July. Council 3910 was chartered by the Knights of Columbus on December 19th, 1954 and has been growing steadily ever since, now with well over 300 members. Ben Warner, president of the council, commented that, "Efforts like these are what Knights of Columbus founder Father Michael J. McGivney had in mind when he founded the Knights 130 years ago, on March 29th, 1882." Now with over 1.5 million members, the Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Roman Catholic fraternal service organization.

Columbus Southwest Council 3910, led by Edward Rios, Eduardo Salazar, and J.D. Camarillo prepared hundreds of pounds of smoked chicken for a fundraiser benefitting St. Thomas More Church and School and other Southwest Houston charities. St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 10330 Hillcroft St. Houston, Texas, itself in the midst of its 50th "Jubilee Year," was the staging ground for the event. Sixteen

hours in total were required to prepare the food and deliver it to parishioners. The



J.D. Camarillo, lighting the fire on a very cold Saturday evening/Photo Courtesy Eduardo Salazar

STM MINISTRY NEWS



Lee Fontenot Earns Lifetime Achievement Award from Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910

“...Setting an Example of Service for Future Generations of Men...”



Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910 President Ben Warner, and Past President and retiring Golf Tournament Chairman Leland Fontenot / Photo Courtesy Chris Moras

Houston, TX – Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910 - March 14, 2012

On Wednesday evening February 22nd Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910, led by council president Ben Warner, honored Leland Fontenot with lifetime achievement for his 12 year contribution to charity fund-raising through the Knights of Columbus sponsored **His Hands of Hope Foundation Charity Golf Tournament**.

Fontenot, through his countless hours of hard work, helped to raise tens of thousands of dollars for St. Thomas More Catholic Church and School and for the myriad Knights of Columbus causes worldwide. Warner commented that “...Lee’s dedication to a single cause has in my memory never been matched by a single individual within the council...Of course he didn’t accomplish this feat on his own, but he led the way....and that is what we’re honoring him for here tonight...” Fontenot’s remarks have always been delivered with his trademark brand of humility, “...Keep it up guys...ya’ll are doing great work...you’re the ones who deserve a pat on the

back...And we know why we’re doing what we do...for charity...Christ...because I believe this is what he wants all of us to do...” Fontenot, an avid golfer himself knows his way around the golf course and was able in the early days of the tournament to encourage fellow golfers to become sponsors of the tournament and of course to play in it. From this start came others, including many knights, willing to play for charity and enjoy the game with others who share a common belief. The camaraderie is what Fontenot was able to develop that acted to motivate players to come out in the middle of their busy day, the tournament is always held on a Monday, and enjoy a great round of golf for a great cause. Fontenot is also the past president of Council 3910 and knows how important a high-visibility event is to a service organization so that the organization can remain viable. His advice is to have the event for the right reason, “charity.”

STM MINISTRY NEWS



St. Thomas More 2012 Ecuador Gala Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910

“...Helping Educate the Poor in Ecuador...”



Adolpho Morales, Sal Fontana, Joe Louis and Ed Nelson, Committee Chairperson, serve donors at this year's Ecuador Gala in Servant Hall, St. Thomas More. (Photo Courtesy Chris Moras)

the Gala's founder and fellow knight, because Father Hugh knows the importance Knights of Columbus founder Father Michael McGivney placed on children's education 130 years ago in 1882. In all, over 30 knights, led by Southwest Council 3910's Chairman Ed Nelson served nearly 200 donor attendees. Both Ben Warner, council president and Nelson, commented on the fact that to them it was “no surprise” that so many knights contributed to the event. “...Helping in this small way is a principle reason the Knights of Columbus exist...” noted Warner, “Education is essential whether it be here or in Ecuador...Kids must have it...We are obliged to help...” Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910 was chartered on December 19, 1954 and has over 300 active members. Worldwide, the Knights of Columbus has over 1.5 million members and represents the world's largest Roman Catholic fraternal service organization. It was founded on March 29, 1882, by Father Michael J. McGivney in New Haven Connecticut.

Houston, TX – Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910 - March 14, 2012

On Saturday evening February 25th Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910 along with several other Knight councils in the greater Houston area, served donors at the St. Thomas More-hosted 2012 Ecuador Gala. This year's event as in years' past attempted to raise education dollars for poor children in Ecuador, where \$75 U.S. can purchase one year of quality education for a child, including teacher, supplies, and school building. The Knights were asked once again by Father Hugh Cullen,



**Ben Warner, Council President and Ed Nelson
Ecuador Committee Chairman**

STM MINISTRY NEWS



Cub Scout Blue Gold Banquet Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910

“...Setting an Example of Service for Future Generations of Boys...”

**Houston, TX – Knights of
Columbus Southwest
Council 3910 - March 14,
2012**

On Saturday evening March 3rd Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910 served dinner to St. Thomas More Boy Scouts of America Cub Scouts, their Scout leaders, and their parents at the annual Blue Gold Banquet, an annual event in St.



St. Thomas More B.S.A. Cub Scouts, Scout leaders, and Knights of Columbus -Some Scout Leaders do “double duty” as both a knight and scout leader

Thomas More’s Prinster Parish Center intended to award hard-working Scouts for their “good deeds”

throughout the past year. Not surprisingly, many Scout leaders are knights themselves, so everyone pitched in that evening to prepare and serve a great dinner to all in attendance. Perhaps most importantly, the intent of Council 3910 was to set an example of Christian service for young people to emulate



Knight Pat Frank serves a parent at this year’s Blue Gold Banquet



Knights Roger Morris, Lincoln McGuire, Sal Fontana, and Robert Lesikar

now and in years to come. Charity, service to others, particularly those left orphaned by turn of the century industrial accidents was a founding principle of the Knights of Columbus. The dinner was led by knight-chef extraordinaire Sal Fontana and Robert Lesikar, who prepared a kid-favorite spaghetti and meatball dinner with all the trimmings and had the entire meal ready for serving just after the 5:00 P.M. Vigil Mass at St. Thomas More.



STM MINISTRY NEWS

St. Thomas More Choir Presents “*In March Everyone’s Irish*”

Commemorating St. Patrick and Knights of Columbus Founder Father Michael J. McGivney

Houston, TX – Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910 - March 14, 2012

St. Thomas More Catholic Church Choir together with the Knights of Columbus will celebrate the Feast of St. Patrick and the 130th anniversary of the founding of the Knights of Columbus by Irish-born American, Fr. Michael J. McGivney. The celebration will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 10, 2012 at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Servant Hall, 10330 Hillcroft St. Houston, TX. 77096. Ticket cost is \$20



Knights of Columbus Council 3910 Grand Knight, Ben Warner, St. Thomas More Choir Director, Mary Endres, Producer, Camille Garcia, and Co-Producer, Pam Lindsay—Photo Courtesy Chris Moras, K.C. Public Relations Director

per person and open to the public; the celebration promises to be a festive evening of great food, fun, and live entertainment—from the award-winning choir of St. Thomas More. “Fish-n-Chips” is on the menu prepared by Knights of Columbus Chef, Salvatore Fontana. A silent auction and raffle will round out the event. Special guest performer, Fr. Hugh Cullen, Pastor, St.

Mark the Evangelist, will perform favorite pop hits from the 1960’s and 70’s. Proceeds will benefit the choir as they represent St. Thomas More at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., during October, 2012. Knights of Columbus is the world’s largest Roman Catholic fraternal service organization founded in 1882. Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910 was chartered in 1954. For more information on this event, contact Chris Moras, (713) 305-4099.

Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910 / Chartered 1954
10330 Hillcroft St Houston, TX 77096
Ben Warner, III Grand Knight
Chris Moras, Public Relations Director
www.kc3910.org
(713) 594-8992 or (713) 305-4099