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Scripture of the Month

"May the peoples praise you, O God: may all the peoples praise you!."

(Psalm 67:6)

MESSAGE FROM OUR STATE PRESIDENT

Thanks and Happy New Year

It is already January 10 as I write this, so we are well on the way into 2024. I would like to wish all of you a Happy New Year and a "thanks" from the KJT Home Office for your membership in KJT. If you are a society or district officer, an insurance representative, home office staff, or a state director or officer, I certainly appreciate all that you do! Below I will give a recap of some items from 2023 and touch on some of the benefits of being a member of KJT. If you know of someone that you think would enjoy being a part of our organization and take advantage of the many member benefits and opportunities to volunteer, please pass on your issue of the KJT News when you are done reading it to show them what all we do. Online versions of our news editions, both current and past, are also viewable from

our website, for anybody. You can also point them in the direction of your local officers or insurance representative and they can assist them on becoming a member.

Member Portal

Our member portal went live in 2023 and we have had over 200 members sign up for access. The member portal gives you access to your policies that you have with KJT. You can check your insurance amounts, balances in annuities, and who you have listed as beneficiary on your policies. The owner of the policy is who must register for access. You will need to provide your full name, date of birth, email address, an active policy number, and the last four digits of your social security number. Once you submit this information, someone at the KJT Home Office will verify your information and then send you a temporary password to use to finish setting up your account. To register, all you need to do is go to *kjt.qlad-min.com* (do not put www. In front of it) to begin the registration process. I just wanted to make mention of this once again, so all are aware that we have this available to our members.

Catholic School Tuition Grants/College Scholarships/Youth Camp

I included the following in last year's January article, but I want to reiterate the value of being a KJT member. The catholic school tuition grants can really be helpful to a family sending their children to a catholic school. We offer 100 grants of \$150 per year for students from grades K – 11. If a student attends all 12 of those years, that is a \$1,800 value alone. Add in



January 2024

CHRISTOPHER L. URBAN KJT State President

the 7 years of youth camp that they can attend which KJT pays approximately \$600 per camper, which is another \$4,200. Lastly, KJT offers up to \$30,000 in college scholarships with the highest amount being \$1,500. If the student is attending a catholic college or university, the amount they receive is double. So, just from these three benefits, assuming

See Urban, page 3

KJT NEWS

ATH ANNUAL NORTH TEXAS KJT CHARITY GOLF SCRAMBLE

WHEN

Friday April 19th 1pm Shotgun Start

WHERE

Old Brickyard Golf Course

605 North Interstate 45: Ferris, Texas 75125

TEAMS

\$80 per person/\$320 per team

Fees include: Golf, Dinner (at KJT Auditorium), Cart Fees, Range Balls and Mulligans.

Longest Putt Contest Longest Drive Contest Closest To The Pin Contest And more!

PREREGISTER & PAY ONLINE AT

www.kjtnet.org/kjt-golf or RSVP by calling the KJT Home Office at 800-245-8182



SPONSORSHIPS NEEDED

PLATINUM SPONSOR -\$850

- 2-four person teams
- Advertising at registration & awards presentation
- Two hole sponsorships
- Opportunity to add business information in player goodie bag. (Koozies, caps, etc.)
- Social Media Recognition

GOLD SPONSOR-\$450

- 1-four person team
- Advertising at registration & awards presentation
- Two hole sponsorships
- Opportunity to add business information in player goodie bag. (Koozies, caps, etc.)
- Social Media Recognition

SILVER SPONSOR-\$200

- Advertising at registration & awards presentation
- One hole sponsorship

HOLE SPONSOR-\$150 OR 4 FOR \$500

· Company sign at hole

Net proceeds of the tournament will be matched by the KJT Home Office and donated to Camp Hope.

GROWYGUR NESTEGGWITH KJT Catholic Union of Texas EARN UP TO 5.25%

Effective January 1, 2024: New Interest Rates on All NEW Kapital Account Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity (FPDA), IRA and Roth IRA Accounts.

Deposit Balance	Kapital Account 6 ^{*+,} FPDA 7 ^{*+} , IRA 6 ^{*+} , & Roth IRA 6 ^{*+}
\$250*** - \$9,999	4.50%
\$10,000 - \$99,999	4.75%
\$100,000 - \$249,999	5.00%
\$250,000 - Up	5.25%

*Includes .50% First Year Only Additional Interest
***Requires Additional Deposits

*Accounts have a 3.00% Guaranteed Rate
Interest Rates are subject to change without notice.



800.245.8182 | 214 E. Colorado St. • La Grange, Tx | insurance@kjtnet.org | kjtnet.org

MESSAGE FROM OUR STATE PRESIDENT - CONTINUED

Continued from page 1

each is taken advantage of for the maximum number of years, a KJT membership can be worth up to \$9,000 with just these three benefits alone.

If your children or grandchildren are already members and are taking advantage of these programs, please pass the word on to other family members or friends who may not be aware of what we offer!

Donations

It was another "job well done" on donations to our statewide charities in 2023. Individuals, societies, and districts contributed to our three statewide charities for 2023, the Priest and Religious Retirement Fund, the Seminarian Education Fund and Camp Hope. Between the Priest and Religious Retirement Fund and the Seminarian Education Fund, KJT will be able to present just over \$30,500 for these causes. Additionally, we raised over \$16,000 for Camp Hope through donations from our societies and our two golf tournaments.

2024 Programs

The programs for 2024 include the following. Please refer to www.kjtnet.org and the KJT News for additional details on the various program events as the dates draw near. You can find information,

deadlines, and dates for important events at the bottom of this page. We still encourage our local societies to hold Matching Grant Fundraisers for the charity of your society's choice. This program is a great way to get your KJT society involved in various projects in your parish or community so be sure to ask your officers how you can be a part of this program. The KJT Home Office matched over \$11,470 in 2023. Twenty societies held charitable events that took advantage of the matching grant from the home office in 2023. The minimum matching grant per society is \$500 so if you have an idea for your society to hold a matching grant for, please contact your local officers to discuss.

Join Hands Day is a National Day of Volunteering that societies can engage in a project to be "helpful" to some individual or entity. Flag Day is a day to honor the American Flag. We ask our societies to have some type of event honoring the American Flag, either on this day or other patriotic day such as July 4th or Veteran's Day. These events are great ways to show your support for our nation or for your community.

KJT State Family Day

KJT State Family Day will be on July 21, 2024, which is the first day of Youth

Camp. If you are dropping off your camper, come out and join us for Mass, music, and a meal for lunch. Family Day will again be held at Fr. Bob's home parish of Sts. Peter and Paul in Frelsburg, Texas.

KJT Youth and Teen Camps

Youth and Teen Camp will be held from July 21 – July 25 this year. We will hold both camps again simultaneously so if you have campers in both camps, drop-off and pick-up will be way more convenient for you this year. More details will be forthcoming in the KJT News and on our website as camp gets closer.

As always, if your child has friends that are not KJT

members and may be interested in joining us for camp, please give us a call to see if we can assist them in becoming a member.

KJT Scholarships

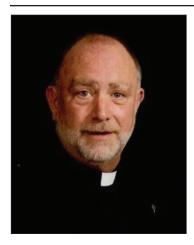
Graduating high school seniors who have been members for at least one year as of March 1, 2024, are eligible to apply for scholarships. An amount of \$30,000 has been allocated toward the scholarship program. We had 30 applicants for scholarships last year. While not guaranteed, all members who applied received a scholarship, so I highly encourage your high school graduates to apply for a scholarship. The deadline to submit your application for the state scholarship is March 1, 2024.

Additional scholarships (the number to be determined at the annual meeting in March) will be available through the KJT Memorial Foundation for students who will continue their education at a vocational or technical college. The deadline for scholarship applications is March 1, 2024.

I would once again like to wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year. May God's blessings be bestowed upon you and your family throughout 2024 and beyond! We look forward to seeing you throughout the state at various events during the year!

Month	Day	Event
January	31	Annual Society Report due
March	1	KJT College Scholarship Forms due
April	19	4th Annual KJT North Texas Golf Tournament
April	30	IRS Form 990-N due
May4	Join Hands Day	
May31	Catholic School Tuition Grant entry forms due	
June 14	Flag Day	
June 15	KJT Youth & Teen Camp applications due	
June 28	Officer Member Recruitment application deadline – 1st Period	
July 1	Seminarian Scholarship applications due	
July 21	KJT State Family Day	
July 21	KJT Youth/Teen Combined Camp starts – ends July 25th	
September	30	KJT Discounted Splashway Season Pass Deadline
October	5	15th Annual KJT Central Texas Golf Tournament
October	19	KJT Annual Tarock Tournament at TCHCC
December	6	Deadline for Statewide Charity Project donation
December	30	Officer Member Recruitment application deadline – 2nd Period

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



REVEREND ROBERT E. (BOB) KNIPPENBERG KJT State Spiritual Director

"Father in heaven, You see everything. Convert my heart so that I may constantly remember Your hidden gaze and learn to delight in pleasing You, even when no one else sees what I do."

In the Magnificat Lenten Companion 2024, Father Philip Nolan, O.P. reflects on a little girl who had just learned to do a handspring. "Delighting in her new skill, she gathered her parents and siblings and friends. 'Come watch!' She tumbled across the grass, going head over heels like a circus performer. When she stuck the landing, she turned grinning to those who were watching, with a question: "Did you see?"

"Our Lord knows that everyone wants to be seen. We want our acts of love to be seen by our families. We want our work to be seen and valued by our employers. On February 14, on this odd overlap of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day, many will hope to be seen by the

one they love.

"We could spend our lives trying to be noticed by others. But Jesus is clear: only one set of eyes matters in the end—the eyes of the Father. He sees in secret. He sees what is hidden. More than our performance, He sees our hearts.

"At the beginning of Lent, Jesus invites us to live under the gaze of His Father who is hidden. Christ calls us to dedicate to our loving Father, the secrets of our lives: our thoughts, our desires, our sacrifices, our prayers. And He assures us, in the Father's gaze, we will find the one reward that truly satisfies."

Father Bob Knippenberg State Spiritual Director

In Memoriam



DANIEL LEV

Daniel Anton Lev passed away on November 22, 2023, at the age of ninety-two (92). He was an active member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church, a member of The Knights of Columbus Council 2801 for 65 years, and a member and officer of KJT Society #90, Rosenberg, for over 60 years. He served in the Army during the Korean War and was a member of the American Legion Post #271. Daniel and his wife Margaret made their home in Rosenberg where he ran a barber shop and later worked for WKM/Cooper as a specialty machinist. During their marriage they produced six (6) sons and two (2) daughters, all attending Holy Rosary Catholic School.

Daniel was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Rosie Lev of Flatonia, his wife Margaret, son Michael and daughter Veronica, along with two (2) sisters, Irene Lev, Bernice Darilek and five (5) brothers, Lewis, Johnny, Alvin, Joe, and Bernard.

Daniel did more for Rosenber KJT Society #90 than words can express. He told me once that his last name translated to "Lion" in Czech. Although not really "Lion-Hearted", he was aggressive in sales and living a life fulfilled. He taught me not to measure your life by goals, but by what you are actually doing to achieve them.

In closing, I think it fitting to share what his children said about Daniel's life... those words following here.

"Our Father showed us how to love by the way he lived. He taught us the value of hard work and family, always leading by example. His faith was his foundation which guided us through life. He leaves behind thirty-two (32) grandchildren, twenty-seven (27) great-grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, and friends. We were abundantly blessed to have him in our lives, and we will live our lives to honor him and cherish each and every memory we have. We will miss you, Dad. --- Paul, Pat, Joe, Teresa, Thomas, and John.

KJT Society #117 to Hold Business Meeting in March

The first KJT Society #117 business meeting for 2024 will be Sunday March 24, 2024, at 12 noon at the KC Hall, 5515 Sanger Ave. in Waco, Texas. This will be our Easter meeting, a rotisserie chicken entree will be provided by #117 Society; members and guests are asked to bring salads, sides, or desserts. This meeting will also include our annual "cake walk" for members and guests to participate in the fun. Some suggestions (not just limited to cake) for items to be in the cake walk are a dessert of choice, a snack item, or a beverage. Wishing all a Happy and Healthy New Year 2024!

KJT SOCIETY #121 MEETING SCHEDULE

Jan. 18, 2024, at 2 P.M. at the Sedlar's Home.

April 18, 2024 At the Red Balloon 1800 W Sam Houston PKWY N Houston, Texas 77043, from 2-3 p.m.

October 19 & 20, 2024, Bake sale at St. Jerome Catholic Church 8825 Kempwood Dr., Houston, Texas 77080 – Starting after 5 p.m. Mass on Oct. 19 and after 3 p.m. of the Sunday morning masses.

August 17/18 Meeting 4 p.m. followed by Mass and Bake sale at St. Jerome Church. December 8, 2024 Christmas party and meeting at St. Jerome in the Parish Activity center. from 2-5 p.m.; Address: 2947 Hollister Rd. Houston, Texas 77080.



KJT 40 & KJZT 30 Join for Christmas Party

East Bernard KJT St. Wenceslaus Society #40 and KJZT St. Anne Society #30 held their annual Christmas party on Tuesday, December 12, 2023. Members and guests brought non-perishable items that were donated to the Giving Tree, sponsored by CDA Court #1108 and the Holy Cross Church



Pictured here are KJZT #30 Sec. Julia Kubes, KJZT 30 Pres. Angenline Grigar, KJT #40 Treas. Kim Tielke, KJT #40 VP Sandy Hogan, KJT #40 Sec. Mark Dujka, KJT #40 Pres. Edwin C Marik, State KJT Director Michael Reznicek.

KJT Society 121, 56 and KJZT Society 114 Hold Joint Christmas Party

The KJT Societies #121 and #56 along with KJZT Society 114 held a joint Christmas Party on December 3, 2023. Below are some photos from the event.









Damon KJT Society#92 Christmas Meal

Damon KJT #92 met Saturday, December 2 for a meeting with their State Director and enjoyed a great Christmas meal and social with St. Nicholas.



Pictured here are President Andrew Sykowski, Secretary Eileen Medwedeff, St. Nicholas, State Director Cynthia Nemec, Chaplain Eugene Pavlicek and Treasurer Timmy Buchta. (Absent Vice President Daniel Pavlicek.)



St. Nicholas (KJT member Chayton Herbst) and Iris Alvear.

Hostyn KJT #3 Donates to Deputy Santa

Hostyn KJT Society #3 presented a donation to the Fayette County Deputy Santa Program. This program brings the joy of Christmas to children and their families across the County.



Pictured in the presentation were from L to R: KJT Reporter Dianna Kallus, KJT Vice President Benedict Kallus, Deputy David Smith, Sheriff Keith Korenek, KJT Treasurer Brenda Fietsam, KJT Secretary Joyce Muras, Lt. David Beyer and Chief Deputy Randy Noviskie.

Austin KJT #112 and KJZT #93 Hold Joint Christmas Party

Austin KJT #112 and KJZT #93 held their annual Christmas party at St Louis King of France Catholic Church. State Director Shirley Pokorney attended our Christmas party. Pictured with Santa is Julia Lynch and Thomas Klanika and members enjoying the party.





Hostyn KJT #3 Hosts Christmas Social

The Hostyn KJT members enjoyed spending time together during the Christmas Season at the Hostyn Dining Hall on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023. A pizza lunch followed by playing bingo was enjoyed by the families.



The Society Officers presented campers Faith Vavra, Annabelle Kokes and Lexie Noska with reimbursements to their families for their attendance and participation at the KJT Summer Camp.



Society Officers presented Society Chaplain Fr. Felix Twumasi with a Christmas gift.



Society Children received Christmas Bags of goodies



Family Bingo was enjoyed by all, led by Dianna Kallus and Chase Fietsam.

KJT #79 Hungerford Places Wreath



KJT #79 Hungerford society members Zera and Jaxton Ivy lay a wreath on Army Veteran and past KJT member Frank Miculka, Sr. , their Great Grandfather during Wreaths Across America ceremonies held at St. John Catholic cemetery in Hungerford.

KJT #134 Round Rock, Present Appreciation Plaque



KJT State President Chris Urban and Tina Risinger, President KJT #134 Round Rock, presented Leon Barton with an Appreciation Plague for his 35 years of dedicated service to St. William KJT #134. Leon Barton was instrumental in Chartering Society #134 in Round Rock on November 13, 1988

St. William KJT #134 Round Rock Officers



St. William KJT #134 Round Rock Officers elected for 2024. L-R: Janie Zbranek Treasurer, Tina Risinger President, Msgr Louis Pavlicek Chaplain, Leon Barton Vice-President, Chris Urban State President, Felix Leonardi.

DONATIONS

Hostyn KJT Society #3 Wish Fr. Richard Barfield Farewell



Fr. Richard Barfield first came to the Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish to study under Msgr. Daniel Kahlich to become a priest in the Victoria Diocese. He continued on and was then ordained on Jan. 8, 2022. He was assigned to Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church in Port Lavaca. Recently, members of the Hostyn KJT Society #3 learned of Fr. Barfield's next assignment as Chaplain and Counselor in the Airforce. The Hostyn KJT Society #3 members wanted to wish him well on this journey and wanted to give him a monetary gift to assist him as needed. Members that went up to visit with Fr. Barfield on Dec. 12 at his parish in Port Lavaca were (L-R) Dianna Kallus (Reporter), Benedict Kallus (Vice President), Helen Faldyn, and Clarence Faldyn.

Hostyn KJT Society #3 Gives to St. Michael Catholic School, Weimar



The Hostyn KJT Society #3 presented a donation to St. Michael Catholic School in Weimar. The Society qualified for a 2023 Religious Education Grant they received from the KJT Home Office and increased it with a match. The funds will be used toward Religious materials for the students. Hostyn Society members that attend St. Michael are Faith Vavra, and James and Hannah Conners. Faith's parents are John & Brenda (Muras) Vavra. James' and Hannah's parents are Pat and Theresa (Muras) Conners.

Pictured here are Principal Judy Roeder, Faith (4th grade), James (2nd grade), Hannah (3rd grade), and KJT Secretary Joyce Muras.

Hostyn KJT Society #3 gives to St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, Schulenburg



The Hostyn KJT Society #3 qualified for a 2023 Religious Education Grant from the KJT Home Office. They presented it along with a match to St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg. The funds will be used to purchase curriculum in their new series for Religion this year. Hostyn Society members that attend St. Rose are Luke and Brielle Goedrich. Their parents are Neal and Laurie (Kallus) Goedrich.

Pictured here are KJT Reporter Dianna Kallus, Luke (5th grade), Brielle (4th grade), Principal Rosanne Gallia and KJT Vice President Benedict Kallus.

Sacred Heart Catholic School, La Grange Receives KJT Religious Education Grant & Match



The Hostyn KJT Society #3 presented a donation to Sacred Heart Catholic School in La Grange. The Society received funds from the 2023 Religious Education Grant and increased it with a match. The funds will be used to purchase items in the Vocation Ministry backpacks. Students take these backpacks home to learn together with their families about the different vocations.

Back (L-R): KJT Secretary Joyce Muras, KJT Treasurer Brenda Fietsam, Sacred Heart Principal LaDonna Voelkel, KJT Vice-President Benedict Kallus, and KJT Reporter Dianna Kallus.

Front (L-R) Kirtley Kallus (5th grade) and Krislee Kallus (4th grade). The sisters are students of Sacred Heart School and are members of the Hostyn KJT. Their parents are Steven and Lori Ann Kallus, also members of the Hostyn KJT.

DONATIONS

Hostyn Society #3 Donates to Local Volunteer Fire Department



Hostyn KJT Society #3 presented a Christmas donation to the La Grange Volunteer Fire Department. Present for the picture are KJT Treasurer Brenda Fietsam, La Grange Fire Chief Frank Menefee, and KJT Secretary Joyce Muras.

KJT Society #115 Victoria Give to Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament



KJT Society #115 Victoria, contributed to Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament for their good deeds. Pictured here are Society Treasurer Joe Pustka; Sr. Kathleen Goike, OVISS; Society President/Agent Donald B. Dusek

Granger KJT Society #28 Benefit for Food Pantry



On November 5, 2023, the Granger KJT Soc. #28 sponsored a hamburger, fries and desserts benefit for the Granger Community Food Pantry which netted \$1,165. A presentation was made to Food Pantry chair, Judy Gotcher by KJT members Bernard Hyzak, Tim Pavelka and John Pavelka.

KJT Society #13 Presents Check



KJT Society #13 President Anthony Harper presents a \$1,200 check to KJT State Vice President David M. Wagner for the Priest, Religious and-Seminarian funds at their Christmas party/meeting. Funds were generated from the annual bake sale.

KJT #122 Freeport Presents Memorial Foundation Grant



KJT #122 Freeport presents the KJT Memorial Foundation Grant from the Home Office to St. Jerome's Alicia Ortiz Center in Clute. Pictured here are Martha Carsantino Ryan, Society President James Mikes.

Fayetteville KJT Society #9 Presents Check



Fayetteville KJT Society #9 President Paul Kovar presents Director of Religious Education Lexxus Zika a donation from their raffle fundraiser, along with the KJT Home Office Matching Grant funds.

TOP PRODUCERS

Holik Claims #1 in 2023!



Margaret Holik Society #48 Hillje

With another year in the books, it is time that we congratulate our 2023 Star Award winners and look forward to honoring them at our upcoming 2024 SDOR meetings.

On behalf of the KJT, we extend our warmest congratulations to Margaret Holik. Margaret earned the number one Star Award spot for 2023. She finished the year with 5 new insurance members, 6 issued applications and 2,072.96 Star Award Tracker points. This is her fifth time on the KJT Stars Award board and FIRST TIME to claim the #1 spot. In addition to finishing first in the Star Award standings, Margaret also qualified for our Heavy Hitter Award, 3000 Club Incentive and multiple other incentives throughout the year. Margaret has done other extraordinary year. an excellent job representing the local KJT Society #48, Hillie and overall, the KJT. We look forward to what Margaret and Society #48 will accomplish in 2024 and beyond. Congratulations to Mrs. Holik for being the best of the best.

Earning the second place Star Award in 2023 was Cynthia Nemec, Society #139 of Bay City. This is Cynthia's fourth trip to the Stars Award list. In 2023 Cynthia accounted for 5 new members, 7 issued applications and 529.49 Star Award Tracker points. Once again, we congratulate Mrs. Nemec on an-

Completing our top three Star Award recipients, coming in third place on our Star Awards list is Shirley Pokorney, Society #132, Pflugerville. This is Shirley's second year to be a Star. She accounted for 11.5 new members, 14 issued insurance applications and 519.20 Star Award Tracker points. Congratulations to Shirley on another a great year!

Rounding out the Star Award winners list is fourth place, Ellen Zdansky, Society #72, Corpus Christi, eleventh time winner; fifth place, Deborah Currey, Society #130, Elgin, sixth time winner;

sixth place, Tanner Schlottman, Society #35, Ennis, sixth time winner; seventh place, Ted Vitek, Society #112, Austin, ninth time winner and eighth place, Brenda Fietsam, Society #3, Hostyn, fifth time winner.

We are very proud of the efforts that all our Stars put forth in 2023. This year, our Stars recorded another record Star Tracker Points total. Without their dedication and efforts, our goals would have greatly suffered. Congratulations to all the Award winners and we look forward to seeing which one of you will take the top honor in 2024!

2023 Life Premium Challenge Agents

At the beginning of the year, each KJT agent was challenged to write \$3,000 in Life premium for 2023. Several agents answered this call to action and achieved the goal. The KJT Home Office would like to recognize the following agents who rose to the challenge and submitted at least \$3,000 in Life Premium:

Deborah Currey, Margaret Holik, Tanner Schlottman. Ted Vitek and Ellen Zdansky

We congratulate the eight agents who achieved this goal, Thank you. In 2024, we will once again challenge our agents to reach the \$3,000 Life Premium mark

Three Claim Heavy Hitter Awards in 2023

The Heavy Hitter Award is an incentive that measures the sales representative's production based on adjusted annualized premium and the number of applications. It rewards those representatives that not only submit a lot of premium but those that also submit a fair number of applications throughout the year. The four designations are Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

We are happy to announce that Margaret Holik, Cynthia Nemec and Deborah Currey all qualified for the Bronze Level Award in 2023. A huge thank you to each of our qualifiers.

Congratulations to our Heavy Hitter winners and we look forward to a successful 2024.

St. Joseph Society, K.J.T. #31 West, TX 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE CHURCH PARISH CENTER EXCEPT CHRISTMAS MEETING AND PARTY

Sunday, January 14 - Meeting after 8 a.m. Mass; with Coffee & Kolaches

Sunday, February 11 - Meeting after 8 a.m. Mass; with Coffee & Kolaches

Friday, February 16 - First Friday of Lent. Fried Fish Dinner to Benefit the Priest & Religious Retirement Fund, at the St. Mary's Parish Center

Sunday, March 10 - Breakfast served & Meeting after 8 a.m. Mass

Sunday, April 14 - Meeting after 8 a.m. Mass; with coffee and Kolaches

Sunday, April (TBD) - Youth Zoo Trip (Date & Time TBD) - District Family Day - -Hosted by West Society #31

Saturday, May 11 - Society Hamburger & Bake Sale Fundraiser

Sunday, May 12 - No Meeting (Mother's Day)

Sunday, June 9 - Meeting after 8 a.m. Mass; with coffee & kolaches July - No meeting

Sunday, August 11 - Parish Feast Day Festival - KJT in charge of Auction

Sunday, September 8 - Meeting after 8 a.m. Mass; with coffee and kolaches

Sunday, October 13 - Breakfast Served & Meeting after 8:00 a.m. Mass - Youth Pumpkin Carving Party(date & time TBD)

Sunday, November 10 - Meeting after 8 a.m. Mass; with Coffee & Kolaches

Sunday, December 8 - Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at Tours Hall followed by Meal & Christmas Program & Santa & Elf visit

MEMBERSHIP

25-Year Membership

January/February 2024

Society #13, Yoakum Casie Ann Zimmerman Keith Allen Zimmerman Mary L. Holik

Society #19, Cameron Cole Rhett Campbell

Society #31, West Amber Renee Pavelka Crystal Ann Pavelka

Society #35, Ennis Alanis Nicole Nash Society #38, Moulton Slayton Hrncir Sterling Hrncir Stratton Hrncir

Society #39, Marak Zachary Kyle Hrozek

Society #40, East BernardMichael S. Rosen
Ty Keller Jalowy

Society #43, Wied Alyse Janak Fishbeck Society #55, Corn Hill Kierstin Anezka Rosipal

Society #72, Corpus Christi Casey Paul Kapa Mary Sue Kaspar Tyler K. Neslony

Society #87, Jourdanton Anthony Marcus Worley Jay Bryan Mower Society #111, Dallas Lindsay Merdith Juricek Jamie C. Macik Tyler James Millsap

Society #112, Austin Alexander Michael Cage Jeremy Jason Macik Rachel Michele Cage Tessy Mary Dorantes **Society #114, Temple** Joshua Edward Brenek Charles Kenneth Franklin

Society #120, Beaumont Barbara A. Kunetka

Society #141, Georgetown Taylor Elizabeth Page

50-Year Membership

January/February 2024

Society #2, Cistern Scott A. Vinklarek

Society #14, Bryan Charles Zemanek, Jr. Darren V. Zemanek

Society #16, Wallis Rudy W. Matula, Jr. Society #28, Granger Bernard D. Strmiska Jason L. Kubicek Troy A. Kubicek

Society #35, Ennis Jordan J. Mastroianni Joseph R. Matous, Sr. Ronnie Charles Honza Society #55, Corn Hill Jerry W. Danek

Society #68Eugene E. Slubar
John E. Slubar

Society #72, Corpus Christi Eric J. Kaspar Society #95, Kaufman Brian A. Bedrick

Society #107, Abbott Kevin R. Nors

Albert J. Sulak Ronald J. Janek Stephen M. Janek **Society #115, Victoria** Mark A. Yanta

Society #117, Waco David A. Skopik Dennis B. Sykora Larry Wayne Skopik

75-Year Membership

January/February 2024

Society #13, Yoakum Douglas C. Ressler

Society #16, Wallis Most Rev. Patrick Zurek

Society #23, Plum Fred C. Bertsch

Society #28, Granger Dominic F. Polasek

Society #31, West Lawrence Joseph Mynarcik Henry C. Urban **Society #35, Ennis** David A. Krippner George G. Galetka

Society #43, Wied Edmund J. Koerth

Society #46, La Grange Michael R. Kaspar Dennis J. Goerig

> Society #48, Hillje Patrick Hlavaty

Society #50, Penelope James H. Svacina

Society #54, Fort Worth August J. Podsednik

Society #59, Seymour Benjamin F. Grill, Jr. Darrel R. Tomsu Jonnie C. Kajs Paschall F. Tomsu Raymond S. Tomsu

Society #71, Ganado Michael James Raabe Society #72, Corpus Christi Mark B. Spicak

Society #73, Witchita Falls Louis F. Kajs

> Society #81, Poth Donald L. Mueller

Society #84, El Campo Leonard Goerig

Society #87, Jourdanton John D. Jasik Society #102, San Antonio Lawrence J. Stryk

Society #109, Hillsboro Harry A, Kocurek William J. Nors

Society #115, Victoria Edward G. Nevlud

Society #139, Bay City John F. Kubecka

IN MEMORIAM

NOTICES OF NOVEMBER 2023

Bernard A. Mokry, 85 Taylor, #27 5/8/23

Annette M. Elster, 61 Damon, #92 10/7/23

Edmund R. Vacek, Jr., 88 El Campo, 84 9/29/23

Daniel F. Vaculin, 74 El Campo, #84 8/28/23 Henry R. Pesek, 82 Wied, #43 10/14/23

Joseph J. Vyvlecka, 94 Jourdanton, #87 5/26/23

James A. Mahdak, 82 Dallas, #111 8/14/23

Carl D. Kudelka, 69 Ganado, #71 10/22/23 William M. Kozlovsky, 83 Hillsboro, #109 10/19/23

Johnnie J. Naizer, 69 Granger, #28 10/23/23

Robert S. Hajovsky, 88 Eastgate, #82 10/15/23

Leonard F. Moy, 96 Poth, #81 10/12/23 Joe Kostak, 91 Ennis, #35 10/11/23

Henry R. Hermis, Jr., 67 Ammannsville, #4 9/2/20

> Gary A. Neal, 62 Austin, #112 7/28/23

Thomas Kutscherousky, 75 West, #31 9/1/23

NOTICES OF DECEMBER 2023

Willie Mae Podsednik, 94 Tours, #60 11/4/23

Victor A. Chovanec, 91 Hillje, #48 11/9/23

> Vaclav J. Jasek, 89 Praha, #1 11/18/23

Joseph T. Havelka, 86 Temple, #114 10/25/23 Alfred B. Kovar, 88 Plum, #23 11/12/23

L A Zdansky, 79 Corpus Christi, #72 8/12/23

> V.T. Richter, 84 Hostyn, #3 11/15/23

Larry G. Santos, 75 Ennis, #35 9/13/23 Terry L. Simonton, Sr., 74 Temple, #114 11/15/23

Donald R. Mihatsch, 69 Cyclone, #57 11/10/23

Ronald W. Novy, 51 Ennis, #35 11/25/23

Jonathan Reznik, 44 Dallas, #111 11/1/16 Sandra Behr, 77 Pflugerville, #132 10/7/23

Johnnie W. Marek, 90 Fayetteville, #9 12/4/20

Stanislav J. Liska, 87 Ennis, #35 9/16/22

Zepherin J. Kucera, 86 Ganado, #71 11/29/23 John Kyle Janosek, 33 Corpus Christi, #72 9/26/23

> Paul Rosipal, 88 Granger, #28 11/2/23

Rev. Thomas Hanus, III, 83 Cameron, #19 7/9/23

Steven G. Marek, 67 Cameron, #19 11/28/23

The members of the Catholic Union of Texas, The KJT, wish to express their sincere, and heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of the dearly departed who are listed above.

May their souls rest in peace.

MEETING MINUTES

KJT 134 Christmas of Dec. 9 **Meeting Summary**

The KJT meeting took place at St. William parish hall (Round Rock) on Dec. 9, 2023. Registration begins at 6 p.m.

This is a catered meal from Pok-e-Jo's BBQ. Monsignor Louis Pavlicek presided the blessings for the meal at 6:30 p.m.

At 7:33 p.m., Tina Risinger presided the opening of the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

- Meeting minutes from Oct. 14 was read by Tina. Motion was approved by Chris Lively and second it by Erin Risinger.
- Treasury report was read by Janie. Motion was approved by Chris Lively and second it by Emily Risinger.
- Santa (Jim Unruh) with his Elf (Ann Moeller) arrived at 7:40 p.m. to start the Christmas holiday. Thank you to Jim and Ann for the Christmas cheer.

Leon Barton's note:

marks the 35th year of St. William KJT Society 134 in Round Rock, Texas.

- 2. Tina graduated from Concordia University with Masters Degree. Congratulations.
- 3 We are also honored to have Chris Urban, KJT State President/CEO, with his wife Kelly Urban.
- 4. Nomination of KJT 134 officer for 2024: Leon Barton as VP for the 35th year, Tina Risinger as President, Janie Zbranek as Treasurer, and Felix Leonardi as Secretary. Motion approved by Chris Lively and second it by Bernadette Moczygemba.
- 5. We are 35 year old KJT without the need to do fund
- 6. Leon and Margaret Barton will be celebrating 60th Anniversary on Feb. 8, 2024
- 7. Next meeting will be in March, 2024. No date yet.

Chris Urban's note:

1. Extend Congratulation 1. November of 2023 to Tina Risinger for academic achievements

- 2. KJT is doing great. We have reached \$100 million in asset 2 years ago
- 3. Opportunity for high rate and short term CD
- 4. New rates are coming up in January 2024 (up to 5%)
- 5. Membership is down from 18,500 to 14,500.
- 6. Family who are not yet KJT member, please contact Leon Barton.
- Chris Urban presented a plague and \$30 gift to Leon Barton for 35th year anniversary (Nov. 13, 1988).
- Tina presented priest retirement fund check of \$350 to Chris Urban.
- Tina also presented Christmas gift to Monsignor Louis.

Priest retirement and door prize were drawn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Felix Leonardi, Secretary KJT 134 St. William Catholic Church. Round Rock, TX

Report of Society #31, West November 12, 2023

West Society #31 held a meeting on Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023, after the 8 a.m. Mass.

President Michael Kraemer welcomed everyone and led the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Sandy Kidwell then read the minutes from the October meeting. Mike Kidwell made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Don Urbanovsky seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Marvin Cepak and Mike Kidwell won the attendance prizes.

Robert Nors gave his treasurer's report.

Sherry Paylas reported she sent a Get Well card to Libbie Veselka.

There were no Officers reports.

Under old business: President Kraemet reported on the Youth Function held at Louis and Sherry Pavlas' home. There the youths decorated nice pumpkins and had fun games for youths and adults. He thanked Louis and Sherry for hosting the event. A pot luck meal was served. President Kraemer stated that two Youth Functions were needed per year and this was held, with the other was a trip to the zoo which was held in June.

Next the Christmas meeting and party was discussed. President Kraemer asked the members to bring either a Salad or Dessert. Also raffle prizes for kids and adults would be appreciated. The KJT will get the oranges and apples, and the KJZT will get the candy and will bag the goodies to get ready for Santa and his elf's visit. Meetings will be held at 11 a.m. with the meal afterwards.

Sherry Pavlas stated there will be a memorial for the deceased KJT and KJZT members who died in 2023, after the meal. Also the members who have received their 25, 50, and 75 year pins this year will be named and presented a rose, if present. After this program, Santa and his Elf will visit and give out goodie bags. The meal will consist of pork loin, mashed potatoes, green beans, gravy and bread. Canned beer will also be available.

Under new business: is the election of officers in the December meeting, and also the financial auditors will needed and selected in the December meeting. Don Urbanovsky stated he will be the nominating committee.

Members were reminded that KJT needs more new members.

Raffle prize winner was Kaitlin Vesellka who won the 50-50 prize. Members were reminded that next month the meeting will be held at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10 at Tours Hall, followed by the meal, Memorial program, Santa's visit, and door prize drawing.

A motion was made to adiourn the meeting by Sandy Kidwell, seconded by Georgie Nors.Don Urbanovsky led the closing prayer.

Important Reminder For Members

The KJT asks members to always check their certificates to note if they have the:

- proper beneficiaries designated
 - current mailing address
 - current phone number
 - current email address

St. Augustine Society #129 Youth Group



The St. Augustine Society #129 Youth Group held their annual youth party on November 4, 2023 at Tenth Frame Bowling Alley in Schulenburg. Attending youth enjoyed bowling, arcade games and pizza.

Pictured here are Sophia Prihoda, Sean Rogers, Paul Rogers, Brayson Prihoda, Van Prihoda, Barrett Redman, Koi Prihoda and Rebekah Prihoda.

Society #29 Officers for 2024



The officer for Society #29 for the 2024 year are Justin Eschenburg, Secretary; Laura Eschenburg, Vice President; Doris Sodolak, Correspondence Secretary; Emily Eschenburg, Youth Director; Val Eschenburg, Treasurer; Shane Eschenburg, President.

KJT Society #40 and KJZT #30 Memorial Service

KJT St. Wenceslaus Society #40 and KJZT St. Anne Society #30 of East Bernard held their 20th annual Memorial Service on Tuesday, Nov. 14, with Chaplain Very Rev. Charles E. Otsiwah, E.V. presiding. Prior to the service, Christopher J. Vacek led the rosary. Society members served as greeters, altar servers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and music ministry.

A special table with candles representing each deceased member for the past five years and two larger candles representing all deceased members from the two societies were set up for the service.

KJT Society President Edwin C Marik and KJZT Society Secretary Julia Kubes read the names of each deceased member at which time a family member or the candle lighter assistant, lit a candle in honor of the deceased members.

Following the service, a social was held at Riverside Hall. A meal of hamburger steaks with trimmings, along with homemade desserts were served.

Special guests were KJT State Director Michael Reznicek and KJZT State Director Kathy Wishert. Door prizes completed the evening.

Below is a list of all members who were remembered from each society.



David Kopecky lights a candle for his mother, Bernice Kopecky; his brother Edward, Jr. and sister Debbie Gurecky look on.



Remembering KJT and KJZT members for the past five (5) years.

KJT Members

Raymond A. Dusek, Benedict "Bennie" Beran, LeeRoy A. Janik, Daniel C. King, Bernice Kopecky, Mark A. Hlavinka, Gloria Buxkemper, James E. Ryza, Vernon W. Sulak, Charlie C. Borak, Margaret Smaistrla, Lee Hillmann, Jr., Bennie Kubicek, Jerome Kucera, Larry Minks, Agnes Minks, John B. Vanek, Patricia Kolafa, Eugene "Gene" Bartosh, Sylvester "Syl" Hlavinka, Albert Smaistrla, Joseph S. Kramr, Jack Hlavinka, John H. Viktorin, Stanley

Dusek, Theresa Polasek, Elizabeth Macha, Joshua Austin, Edward Kopecky

Rev. Donald Ruppert, John J. Kramr, Alphonse David, Jr., Vaclav J. Novak, Cynthia L. Kubicek, Leo C. Kolafa, Delbert Sliva, Paul T. Hlavinkam, Marvin E. Adamek, Frank Charles Prazak, Charles P. Muras, Ann M. Kramr, Sylvester F. Dusek, Frank L. Buxkemper.

KJZT Members

Jon Karasek, Helen Matula, Georgie Sliva, Elizabeth Macha, Bernadette Dobias, Rosalie Millsap, Rev Donald Ruppert, Josie Barta Mican, Elizabeth Pavlovsky Brod, Gladys Dusek, Agnes Jochec, Marietta Macha, Christine Jochec, Ann M. Kramr.

KJT SOCIETIES GIVING BACK

Society #56 Celebrates Christmas and Toy Drive



Society #56 held its meeting and annual Christmas Party on Dec. 3. It was held along with Society #121 as well. We had a nice small membership crowd showed up. Turned out to be a nice afternoon of social gathering and meal. We had a meal of ham and trimmings along with plenty of snacks and deserts. Unfortunately Santa was not able to make an appearance this year, but everyone had a nice social along with come singing of Christmas Carols. Door prizes were handed out, everyone got at least one prize, if not two for some lucky attendees.

We held our first Toy Drive this year to bring some more joy to kids in the area this year. The toys were then donated to the St. Vincent De Paul Panty, to hand out for Christmas. They were appreciative of the toys as they were looking for more donations. Looking forward to a great New Year. Society meetings are the around the first weekend of February, May, August, November and December.

KJT Society #129 Meeting Dates 2024

Sunday, January 21, 2 p.m. Sunday, May 19, 2 p.m.

Sunday, October 20, 2 p.m.

Sunday, December 15, Christmas Social at 12 noon with meeting to follow.

All meetings at the home of Carolyn Prihoda.

KJT #133 Missouri City Gives Scholarship



Margaret Slanina presented Georgianna Slanina-Wertz with a \$500 scholarship that she received from KJT #133 Missouri City. Georgianna attends the University of Gloucestershire in Gloucester, England. She is pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Adult Nursing, and she plays soccer for Gloucester City AFC.

Sealy KJT Society #80 Joined Hands with Parishioners at Immaculate Conception



Sealy KJT Society #80 joined hands with other parishioners at Immaculate Conception Catholic church on the Sunday after Thanksgiving to host the hospitality, after the 9 a.m. Mass. The room was all a buzz with who cooked the turkey, where did you go and who had the most fun. Assisting other parishioners were KJT members, Louis and Barbara Hajdik and Angie and Edward Klecka.

Society #40 Charity Donations



KJT St. Wenceslaus Society #40 presented State Director Michael Reznicek a check for the three (3) state charities in the amount of \$450.00.

Pictured here are Society #40 Officers, Treasurer Kim Tielke, Vice-President Sandy Logan, State Director Michael Reznicek, President Edwin C Marik, Secretary Mark Dujka.

Wicke Receives 75-Year KJT Membership Pin



Mr. John R. Wicke was presented his 75-year KJT membership pin by State Director Michael Reznicek at the Society #40 meeting held at Riverside Hall on October 10, 2023.



Ennis KJT Society#35 Staying Busy

Hello to all of you. Since our last article we have had many events at the KJT. Trivia Nights bring in a full house and everyone is having fun and enjoying their evening with a little bit of friendly competition. We have also hosted a CASI chili cook off at the hall including a raffle for our youth group. We were excited to have had many Cowboy football and Texas Ranger baseball games watch parties. It was very exciting to see the Rangers win it all. On Oct.29 we had a Halloween Trunk or Treat party in the hall. We had a good turnout with many kids enjoying themselves in costume. In December we are joining hands with the KJZT Ennis to collect winter items for the homeless in our area. Our next members meeting will be Dec. 10 with our election of officers and our annual Christmas party afterwards.

We all hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a great New Year. We look forward to seeing you soon if you're ever in the neighborhood drop by and see us.

Please visit our Facebook page to see how much fun we are having at K. J.T. Society #35 in Ennis. It will also keep you informed of our next event and members meetings. Until next time, have a good day and stay safe. Also remember to contact Tanner Schlottman to get those grandkids or great grandkids added to be a new member of the KJT!

Dallas KJT #111 Youth Christmas Activities





After visiting with Santa, the children from Dallas KJT Society #111 enjoyed decorating cookies.

Hillje Society #48 Christmas Party





Hillje Society #48 held their Christmas Party and meeting on Dec 9, 2023 at Louise Parish Hall.



CASI Chili Cook Off Donation to the Youth Group and KJT



Ennis Halloween Trunk or Treat Party



Ennis Texas Ranger Watch Party Group

Society #119 Quarterly Meeting

Society #119 will be having our quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 10, 2024, at Queen of Peace parish life center conference room in La Marque at 1 p.m.

KJT SOCIETIES GIVING BACK

St. Benedict Society #100



St. Benedict KJT Society 100 (Caldwell) Officers presenting their 2023, \$1,000 Priest Retirement check to Linda Gaas, President of KJT District 8 at the District 8 Fall Meeting/Social held November 12, 2023, at Frenstat Hall. Pictured here are Linda Gaas, Dist. 8 Pres.; Anthony Moloch, VP; Louemma Polansky, Sec/Treas; Joe Rychlik, Pres.; Hubert Polansky, Dist. 8 Sec/Treas.



St. Benedict KJT Society 100 (Caldwell) members making a \$200 donation at the Burleson County Food for Families Drive held Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at the St. Mary's Catholic Church Parish Hall in Caldwell. Pictured here are Joe Rychlik, Pres.; Louemma Polansky, Sec./Treas.; and member Hubert Polansky.



Society #129 Food Drive



Society 129 Secretary, Joanna Rogers, (center) presents check and canned donations to Debra Blansitt (left) and Debbie Belen (right) with the Schulenburg Area Food Pantry.

Youth Group Food Drive



The youth from Society #129 collected canned goods and other nonperishables for the Schulenburg Food Pantry. Pictured here are Rebekah Prihoda, Brayson Prihoda, Sophia Prihoda, Sean Rogers, Barrett Redman, Paul Rogers, Koi Prihoda, and Van Prihoda.

KJT Society#115, Victoria



KJT Society#115, Victoria officers presenting a donation to Our Lady of Victory Cathedral for a televised Mass. Pictured here are Joe Pustka, Treasurer; The Very Reverend Kirby F Hlavaty, Rector/Pastor Our Lady of Victory Cathedral; Robert A Stryk, Secretary; The Reverend Samuel Asantey, Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral; The Reverend Jonas Kuubeta, Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral.



St Joseph KJT Society #115 Victoria presenting their contribution to KJT for the Retired Religious Fund. Pictured here are Robert A Stryk Secretary, Margaret Holik, and KJT State Director Joe Putska Treasurer.

KJT Society #108 Brenham



KJT Society #108 Brenham presented a check to District President Linda Gaas for \$500 at the District VIII Fall Social on Nov. 12. The check will be distributed to three charities, those being the Priest Retirement \$200, Seminarian Fund \$200 and Kids Unlimited \$100.

The two officers presenting the check were Louise Hajovsky and Dan Nowak.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY PAGE



MEETING MINUTES

St. Stephen's KJT #112 Austin Meets in December

The meeting of St. Stephen's KJT #112 was held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at Ted and Sarah Vitek's home. President Michael Hyzak opened the meeting with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The secretary and treasurer's reports were presented. VP Annie Hyzak sent sympathy cards to the families of Lambert Labay and Frank Vanecek, Jr., and a get-well card to Anita Kutach. Prayers are with all the families as they go through difficult times.

Ted Vitek presented a new member for our society, Maxwell David Strauss. He is the son of Stephen and Meghan Strauss and grandson of David and Carolyn Strauss. Congratulations and we look forward to seeing all of you at one of our society functions.

Ted also mentioned the increase in interest rates that the board has approved. If anyone needs more informa-

tion, you can contact either Ted or the Home Office in La Grange. He also passed out information showing members that they can now look up their own policies online.

Several functions that our society has had are the Czech Cookie baking class by Chef Pavla VanBibber, a Remembrance Day for our deceased members and the Christmas party. Along with the KJZT #93, we had our annual Christmas party. A delicious meal with entertainment and Santa and Mrs. Claus made for a fun evening for all.

The President appointed an Audit Committee consisting of Stephanie Hyzak, Susan Zurovetz and Ted Vitek. The Budget & Finance Committee consists of Stephanie Hyzak, Darlene Vitek and Sarah Vitek. Both committees will give their report at the February meeting.

The current officers of Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer were gracious

enough to serve another term and were re-elected by acclamation. Also Sarah Vitek said she would continue as Reporter. President Michael Hyzak indicated that he wished to step down, so we are in need of a President for 2024. In order for our society to be viable, we need to have a President. Anyone interested may call Mike Hyzak or Ted Vitek. Ted thanked everyone for a job well done in the past and for stepping up to serve the membership

for another year. It seems to be a thankless job and it's sometimes hard to find members to step up to serve in an officer position. Please think about it for next year and the future of our society. Ted also indicated he is looking for a sales representative for this area. You can contact Ted for more information. Louri O'Leary thanked Ted for a job well done.

The next society meeting will be on Feb. 13, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at Pok-e-Jo's. The

rest of the meetings dates for 2024 are May 14, Sept. 10, and Dec. 10.

The meeting adjourned with a closing prayer.

The raffle drawing was then conducted, and the winners were Sarah Vitek, Gene Kutach, Kathy Watkins, Annie Hyzak and Laura Turner. Thanks to all for their generous support to the Statewide Charity, which is a very worthwhile cause.

Sarah Vitek Reporter



KJT State Scholarship applications are available online at www.kjtnet.org or by contacting the home office at 979-968-5877.

The KJT will be awarding \$30,000 in scholarships in 2023. The scholarships will range from \$800 - \$1500 each to the most qualified KJT members enrolling in an institution of higher learning or vocational trade school. If any scholarship winner enrolls in a Catholic institution, the scholarship award is doubled up to \$3,000.

The KJT Memorial Foundation, our charitable, educational, and non-profit organization, will offer two scholarships of \$800.00 each. These scholarships will be awarded to members attending a vocational or technical school regardless of his/her ranking. Applicants must be a KJT insured member for one year prior to March 1st. Deadline for all applications is March 1st, 2024.

KJT Society #112 Austin Meeting Schedule

Austin Soc. #112 will hold regular meetings at 6:30 p.m. at Pok-e-Jo's on the following dates:

February 13, 2024 May 14, 2024 Sept. 10, 2024 Dec. 10, 2024

FAMILY REUNITED

Elderly Brother And Sister Reunite In Ganado After More Than Two Years

By Patrick Sloan-Turner | pturner@vicad.com

Victoria Advocate

GANADO — As his sister entered his bedroom at the Grow in Grace senior living facility in Ganado on Monday, Alvin Svoboda had to pinch himself.

"Am I hallucinating?" the brother joked.

For the first time in more two years, Svoboda was able to visit with his sister, Charlene Svoboda Oehl, 78, on his 87th birthday.

The sister lives in Shiner, and because of medical challenges, the two have not been able to see each other for extended period due to the specialized transport required for her travel and his difficulties with moving.

The brother and sister were each overcome with emotion as they locked hands for the first time in years on Monday.

Last week, Svoboda Oehl posted

to the Grow in Grace Facebook page and remarked how she wished she could see her brother. It was then that Kim Hicks, sprung into action. With the help of various parties, especially the aid of Donna Coleman from the Jackson County Hospital District, a reunion quickly came together for Svoboda's birthday.

"Everyone did this out of the goodness of their heart," Hicks said, explaining that local residents helped donate food — including a birthday cake — to have the event come together for Svoboda's birthday.

Hicks said Svoboda's only request was that his sister could meet and take a photo with Pixie, a monkey who lives in the home who visits with the residents. Svoboda's wishes were met without a hitch and Pixie quickly jumped onto the lap of Svoboda Oehl as soon as she entered the room.

Ganado Mayor Clinton Tegeler and Edna Mayor Lance Smiga were

both in attendance to see the two reunite. Jackson County provided the wheelchair accessible bus to transport Svoboda Oehl.

Locals will likely recognize the last name Svoboda, as the brother has owned the Ganado Cinema since 1977.

The two briefly spoke to each other in Czech at the reunion, told stories of their childhood and discussed the brother's favorite classic films after exchanging gifts.

"They needed this," Hicks said. "Mr. Svoboda, he gets lonely and depressed and his (sister) is his last living family relative. So, we wanted to make sure that it happened."

Coleman said it was important for her and others to do whatever they needed in order to make the reunion happen, knowing what the Svobodas have meant to the area for decades.

"Mr. Svoboda has been an inspirational person within our community, in our county, and he has helped many families and many children," Coleman said. "I know that he gave back to the community, and today was our time to give back to him and make sure that he and his sister were reunited."

As soon as she saw them embrace, Coleman said she knew all of her, Hicks and the community's efforts were worth it.

"I saw them reach out and touch each other's hands that our mission was accomplished," Coleman said. "Today, we took care of Mr. Svoboda just as he took care of all of us for many, many years."

Story and photo credits on Alvin J Svoboda to both Patrick Sloan-Turner, reporter, and the Victoria Advocate. Alvin J Svoboda is a KJT member of Society #71, Ganado. Also, KJT member Rosalie Williams-Duplessis saw this article and reached out to the Victoria Advocate for this to be included in the KJT News.









Charlene Svoboda Oehl

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Clement James Tomek Celebrates 100 Years

Huppe, Clem's granddaughter.

Born November 1st, 1923, to Frank Tomek and Annie Chernosky - Clement James Tomek was the 8th child of 14 siblings.

Clem and Martha raised 4 children - Duane, Beatrice, Raymond and Melvin.

They worked hard and taught their children to do the same. In addition to full time farming and ranching they had over 100 laying hens, a huge garden, fruit trees, and processed their own beef and pork. On wash day, Clem would heat water in a washpot outside and carry the water to the washhouse where the laundry was done in a wringer washer.

The windmill was the way Martha communicated with Clem. If he was in the field and saw the windmill turning, he knew to head home. Sunday is the Lords Day and Clem always

Submitted and written by Alicia brought his family to Mass. He followed the tradition of his parents by always arriving early, which he still does to this day.

> Clem is proud of his Czech and Polish heritage. Still living on the land where he was born, some believe it is the well water he has been drinking that has contributed to his longevity, that along with his great sense of humor, and a very regimented schedule. For more than 80 years he has gotten up before sunrise and had breakfast before going out, come in mid-morning for svačiny, back out again, then in for dinner when he would take a nap afterward, mostly laying on the living room floor as to not dirty the furniture, one more round of work, ending with an evening supper. Martha, his wife of more than 65 years, was constantly cooking.

> Clem remembers the family's first tractor was a John Deere B that was purchased in 1936. It had steel wheels

and they paid 3 or 4 mules for it. It ran on kerosene that was purchased in Minerva. He has been a farmer and rancher his whole life. He was also the greens keeper at the Cameron Country Club from 1979 to 1991. This past spring, he was moving hay bales around the farm on his John Deere and more recently riding his mower to trim the grass.

Clem has attended Sts. Cyril and Methodious his entire life. Growing up, the men sat on the right, with the youngest in the front. The women and girls sat on the left. Clem's mother Annie was a member of the KJZT (Katolicka Jednota Zen Texaskych), and his father was in KJT (Katolická Jednotá Texaská). Clem shares that when he was a young boy, they used to collect the offering using a glass bowl. The children quickly learned how to tell how much a person was giving based on the sound of the coin going into the dish. During the 1930's

and 1940's the parishioners would enter the church on their knees and proceed that way for the Stations of the Cross. Father Kacer would keep Clem and the other children after mass for religious education.

He and his family attended the annual church picnic as far back as he could remember. He volunteered for several decades in various roles.

The structure of Sts. Cyril and Methodious was originally a church on a military base. When the building was brought to Marak, Clem helped set the foundation piers. He recalls about 25 piers being set, each one in a 3 foot by 3-foot square of concrete dug out by hand. He helped lay a solid foundation not only for the church. but also for his family. We are thankful to be able to celebrate his amazing life and legacy.

(Clem has been a member of KJT since 1939.)



Fr. Ranjan Cletus presented Clem Tomek with a commendation from Pope Francis.



Clem was still on tractor this past spring moving hay bales!!

KJT SOCIETIES GIVING BACK

Society #139 Donates to Holy Cross Catholic School



State Director Cynthia Nemec is shown above congratulating Linda Bradford, principal of Holy Cross Catholic School, on the donation of \$1,021 that was donated by Bay City Society #139. The money was raised with the matching grant program and a fundraiser on December 12, 2023. Also shown is Rev. Stephen Vacek, pastor of Holy Cross Catholic School. The school has earmarked the donation for media upgrades.

Society #12 Frenstat Welcomes New Member



Society #12 of Frenstat welcomed its newest member Blair Marie Meek. She is the daughter of Taylor and Brittanie Meek of Franklin and little sister to Colt Meek. Grandparents are Randy and Linda Gaas of Frenstat and Tracey and Gayle Meek of New Braunfels.

KJT Society #139 Matching Grant Award



Society #139 in Bay City held a matching grant fundraiser on December 11, 2023. A total of \$521 was raised during the sale. The society applied for the matching grant from the state KJT office in La Grange and was awarded a check for \$500. A donation was presented to Holy Cross Catholic School in Bay City for a total of \$1,021 on January 4, 2024. Larry Browning, president of Society #139 is shown presenting the check to Linda Bradford, principal of Holy Cross School. At the presentation were Rev. Stephen Vacek, pastor of Holy Cross Catholic Church; James Engbrock, society vice-president; Larry Browning, Linda Bradford, and Vincent Nemec, society secretary/treasurer. The school has earmarked the donation for media upgrades.

KJT 134 of Round Rock, Oct. 14, Meeting Summary

The KJT meeting took place at St. William parish hall (Round Rock) on Oct. 14, 2023. Registration began at 6:30 p.m.

- Meeting minutes from June 3rd was read by Felix. Motion was approved by Pat Pietrasik and second it by Gabrielle Miller.
- Treasury report was read by Janie. Motion was approved by Reva Loven and second it by Gabrielle Miller.

Leon Barton's note:

- 1. KJT Christmas will be on Dec. 9, 2023 at St. William Parish Hall. Santa Claus will be present. It will be a catered meal.
- 2. KJT took in \$275 from selling ice cream.
- 3. Our Tina Risinger is on a trip, so she will not be able to be with us this evening
- 4. Note of cancer with Gus and Ann Garibaldi. Keep them in your prayers.
 - 5. St. William KJT Society

134 will be 35-years-old in November of 2023

6. Leon is seeking for insurance agent candidate(s) for KJT 134

Bingo

Priest retirement and Door prize were drawn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Felix Leonardi, Secretary KJT 134 St. William Catholic Church, Round Rock, TX

KJT Society 132 Pflugerville

Veterans Day is an important day; a time, when veterans, members of American Legion Kerlin-Lymen and women who served in our Armed Forces are remembered for their contributions to our democracy and our freedom. KJT Society #132 celebrated Veterans Day by hosting first responders and

erly Post 154.

Post 154 was named after Corporal Alfred Kerlin who was killed in action by artillery fire in WW1 and Captain Sean Lyerly, a helicopter pilot, who

was killed in action in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Jim Krahula, KJT Society President, presented a three hundred dollar check to Post 154 for American Legion veteran programs.



Jim Krahula is shown at left, next is Manuel Reves Post 154 Commander. Veteran Ben Rios with the microphone is summarizing American Legion programs, and on right is Ron Schueller another veteran.



EMT/Firefighters from Travis County/Pflugerville ESD 2 were recognized and treated to KJT traditional pancakes prepared by Craig Romick and crew. Front left is FF Brian Ortega, second is AS Levi Winoham, third on left is Leo Brown parishioner. On the right front is Lt. Jeremy Meglasson, next is FF Nicolas Brindle, third on right is Jim Petter KJT member.



The St. Elizabeth St. Vincent de Paul Chapter was also recognized and presented with two checks. One check from the KJT Memorial Foundation for \$500 and the other was a check for \$1,000 from the KJT State Matching Grant. Left to right, Shirley Pokorney, KJT Society 132 member and State Director, Jim Krahula Society President, Sonia Garza, and Henry Garza President St. Elizabeth St. Vincent de Paul Society. This was an exciting and memorable event.

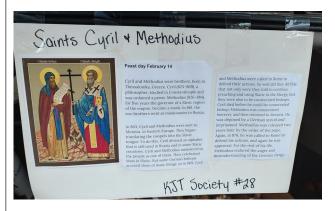


Helpers during the event were: Bridget Krahula on the left standing, W.C. Kolinek, Liz Thweatt and Alice Bosquez. In front on left is Barbara Kolinek and Denice Detzel.



Boy Scout Troop 711 from Pflugerville posted and retrieved the Colors for this event. On left is Corbin Hibbeler rendering a hand salute, Isaac Hibbeler is reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and their leader, Christopher Hibbeler, issuing orders. Their dedication was obvious to everyone present and set the tone and feeling for the morning.

KJT Soc. #28 Trunk or Treat



On October 25, 2023, Granger KJT Soc. #28 participated in the 2nd annual Sts. Cyril & Methodius Religious Education All Saints Trunk or Treat. President Tim Pavelka and wife JoAnn set up their trunk to give out goodie bags and display information on patron saints Cyril and Methodius.

KJT SOCIETIES GIVING BACK

Granger KJT Soc. #28 Join Hands



On December 4, 2023, the Granger KJT Soc. #28 joined hands with the Sts. Cyril and Methodius parish Under the Blue Mantle annual Christmas meal. A turkey and dressing meal was provided to the elderly, widows, widowers, homebound and less fortunate in the Granger, Bartlett, Holland, and Corn Hill communities. Sixteen (16) KJT members participated from Granger and Corn Hill societies.

St. Theresa Society #130 Join Hands



St. Theresa Society #130, Elgin members Join Hands with the Guadalupanas to prepare and distribute 80 giftbags to the children attending the Posada on the evening of December 20.

Pictured here are Nancy Luna, Brenda Pina, Deborah Currey, Cecilia Whitley, Olga Colmenero and Mary Ruiz.

St. Martin #43 Donations

Wied St. Martin's Society #43 held a "bakeless" bake sale in the fall of 2023. The money raised was split between the Hope livestock show Champion Drive and the DeWitt Lavaca Special Olympics.



Wied #43 member, Karen Pustka presenting a check to Susan Hermes, representing the Hope Champion Drive. The Champion Drive provides special needs youth in Lavaca country the opportunity to participate firsthand in a livestock show experience.



The Wied KJT along with the Gonzales Elks Lodge made donations to the DeWitt Lavaca Special Olympics team. Left to right, Casey Gillette, Gonzales Elks representative, Cindy Rodriguez with the Special Olympics and Diane Aschen, Vice President of Weid KJT. Also pictured are some of the Special Olympics participants.

St. William KJT #134



St. William KJT #134, Round Rock President Tina Risinger, presented Chris Urban, State President with a check for Priests Retirement at meeting on December 9, 2023.

KJT Society # 12 Frenstat



KJT Society #12 Frenstat President Franklin Karasek presented a check for \$3,000 to District President Linda Gaas at their annual District VIII Fall Social. This donation is from the proceeds of Frenstat's 2nd dance held in May with the Dujka Brothers and Czechaholics. These funds are being donated to the Seminarian Fund. KJT #12 would like to thank everyone for coming out and supporting this event. We have our dates for the next two dances in 2024. Jan. 13 will be the Red Ravens Dance and May 11 will be the Dujka Brothers/Czechaholics dance following Mass at 4 p.m. Hope to see you there!

Caldwell KJT Society #100 Breakfast with Santa



Caldwell KJT Society #100 held their annual Breakfast With Santa fundraiser on Saturday, December 2, 2023. They had great turn out and funds were raised to support scholarships. Pictured are members who participated in this fundraising event.



Caldwell Society #100 held their Breakfast with Santa fundraiser on Saturday, December 2, 2023; funds were raised with the KJT Home Office matching \$500. Pictured here are Vice President Anthony Motloch, member and District 8 Sec./Treas. Hubert Polansky, Sec/Treas. Louemma Polansky (holding matching funds check) and President Joe Rychlik.

Waco #117 Christmas Dinner Held

Waco St. Louis KJT Society #117 celebrated their annual Christmas meeting with a delicious pork loin meal prepared by President Frankie Muehlstein. Members enjoyed fellowship, and finished out their annual Youth projects of collecting non-perishable food items for the Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry and items for Fuzzy Friends Animal Rescue.

Special guest were KJT District 5 Director Tanner Schlottman and his wife, Brandi, and Former District Director Robert Nors and wife, Georgie, plus 39 members attended our meeting. Tanner spoke of the purpose and vision goals of KJT and was very informative.



Christmas Bingo was a hit and a wonderful time to end 2023 of KJT #117 meetings.



The youth placed the non-perishable food items that were gathered under the Christmas tree.



Former KJT #117 officer and long-time member, Evelyn Skopik delivers Christmas dinner and Christmas socks to home-bound long-time KJT member Agnes Prasifka.

St. William KJT #134 Round Rock Meeting and Christmas Party



Santa came to visit the children and members at St. William KJT #134 Round Rock Meeting and Christmas Party on Saturday December 9, 2023.

ACTIVITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Are You Ready?



MICHAEL REZNICEK KJT Activity Manager

As we have just celebrated a beautiful Christmas and said goodbye to 2023, we look to 2024. In July of this year (2024) the KJT will celebrate 135 years. What a milestone. With the Super leadership of KJT President, Chris Urban and Vice President, David Wagner along with sound decisions of the Board of Directors we strive to maintain a solid and strong financial foundation. We do, however, have a great need to increase our membership. KJT is a member benefit fraternal organization. It takes sharing our KJT Mission, Vision and Value with our relatives, neighbors, friends, and church members.

KJT's Mission

The KJT is a Christian based community that provides opportunities for fellowship and various products for the protection and financial security of individuals and families.

KJT's Vision

To be a trusted and respected recognized leader in providing insurance, financial security and relevant fellowship opportunities for individuals and families.

KJT's Values

Our core values are driven by our Christian faith and our heritage.

- We believe in the highest standards of honesty and integrity.
- We believe in serving and supporting our local communities.
- We believe in the importance of family values and strive to make them stronger.
- We believe in protecting and supporting our members throughout their lives.

We can all work together to increase our membership. You can always receive help from Society Officers, Sales Representatives, State Directors, and from the Home office.

By the time this article hits the press we will have almost completed the required SDOR meetings. It is great to have them in person again. We always enjoy the information and socializing with other societies and of course a great meal.

Reflecting back a little on 2023, Hats off and a BIG

TEXAS SIZE THANK YOU to so many people dedicated to helping with all the fundraisers, festivals, church picnics and community events. I look forward to all the festivals and events in 2024 that the KJT has become part of.

This year (2024) should prove to be very interesting with the political arena getting hot and heavy.

I wish all of you a Very Happy, Blessed and Successful New Year and I look forward to visiting with many of you throughout the year (2024).

As always thank you for the opportunity to serve as State Director Pos.3 and Fraternal Activity Manager.

> Michael Reznicek KJT Activity Manager

THANK YOU

KJT Society No. 115 officers would like to express a thank you to all our St. Joseph Society No. 115 members for your donations made at our annual Victoria County Czech Heritage Festival Pastry Wheel event. These donations will help to fund our charities that support the Incarnate Word Sisters, the Our Lady of Victory Televised Mass, and the KJT Religious Retirement Fund.

Thank you again for your generous support.

Don't wait for your KJT News in the mail; be one of the first to see what is happening without delay!

Go to our website @ https://kjtnet.org/subscribe for the online version, sent straight to your email or phone!

It is a great color copy available at your fingertips, anytime, anywhere! **SUBSCRIBE NOW!**

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY



THE CZECH HERITAGE SOCIETY OF TEXAS (CHS) ANOUNCEMENT of SCHOLARSHIPS for 2024

The Czech Heritage Society of Texas is pleased to announce the award of two scholarships in 2024, the CHS Victor Peter Memorial Scholarship and the CHS Albert J. Blaha Memorial Scholarship.

Instructions for applying can be found on the CHS Website, *https://czechheritage-texas.org/*. You can also contact Richard Skopik, CHS Scholarship Chair, at (254) 640-2179 or email at *roadwac5@aol.com*.

Instructions for applying will be sent upon request.

Graduating Texas high school seniors in 2024 are eligible. It is not required that applicants be members of CHS, but it can be helpful to the applicant to be an active member.

It also important to note the CHS Albert J. Blaha Memorial Scholarship is open to both 2024 graduating Texas seniors and first-year college students with less than 30 credit hours.

See instructions for other requirements and limitations.

The CHS Victor Peter Memorial Scholarship is a \$500 award to the selected applicant with proof of registration in a program of studies in a college or university prior to receipt of award. All items required for applying must be submitted and postmarked no later than February 28, 2024.

The CHS Albert J. Blaha Memorial Scholarship is a \$1000 award. Proof of registration in a program of studies at a college, university or vocational/technical school is required of the selected applicant prior to disbursement of the award which will be made to the school, not directly to the applicant. All items required for applying must be submitted and postmarked no later than March 11, 2024.

More requirements not listed here are included in the instructions.

KJT Society #119 La Marque Celebrates 61st Anniversary

On January 7, 2024 KJT Society #119 (La Marque) celebrated our 61st anniversary as a society. Society #119 was chartered on January 6, 1963. We combined the celebration of our anniversary, Christmas, and the Epiphany. The party was held in Queen of Peace parish life center.

The society provided ham, fried chicken, rolls and tea. Members brought side dishes and desserts, and all enjoyed a delicious meal.

Attendees were entertained by magician Mike T, who did card tricks, pulled a rabbit out of his hat, and made us laugh.

Chaplain Father Paul Chovanec led everyone in the Infant Jesus of Prague prayers. Following our society tradition, a name was drawn to take home the statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague to keep at their home until next Christmas. This year the statue is going home with Tim Alexander.

Following lunch Pastor Monsignor James Anderson accepted our matching grant

donation check of \$2,000 for Oueen of Peace Church.

Galveston County Food Bank President and CEO Donnie VanAckeren attended our party and graciously accepted a check from our society plus all the food items donated by parishioners and society members during Advent. After the presentations, a fun game was played. Those who participated brought \$25 gift cards. Each gift card was placed in an envelope, the envelopes were mixed up, and then each member selected a sealed envelope. Everyone sat in a circle and Vice President Cindy Ouintela read a story about the Nativity, with envelopes being passed to the left or right when the words left or right were mentioned in the story. At the conclusion of the story, each member opened their envelope and kept the gift card.

Members enjoyed visiting with each other some more, helped with the clean-up, and then were rewarded with delicious food to take home.

Important Reminder **For Members**

The KJT asks members to always check their certificates to note if they have the:

> - proper beneficiaries designated

- current mailing address - current phone number - current email address



Pictured here are Society #119 President Mike Reznicek and Galveston County Food Bank President & CEO Donnie VanAckeren with food items donated by society members & Queen of Peace parishioners to the food bank.



Pictured here are Society #119 President Mike Reznicek presenting our society donation check to Galveston County Food Bank President & CEO Donnie VanAckeren.



Pictured here are Queen of Peace Pastor Msgr. James Anderson accepting our \$2,000 matching grant donation check. L-R: Chaplain Father Paul Chovanec, Vice President Cindy Quintela, Queen of Peace Pastor/KJT Society #119 Assistant Chaplain Msgr. James Anderson. President Mike Reznicek. Treasurer Melba Reznicek, and Secretary Janis Wright.



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SCRIPT**SAVE**

While the KJT has had the ScriptSave prescription drug discount card for many years, ScriptSave now has some additional savings opportunities for our members.

If you would like to take part in the ScriptSave program and you don't have your original card that was sent out at the inception of the program, you can contact us at info@kjtnet.org or you can call the office at 800.245.8182 to get your discount card. Additionally, you can go to www.kjtnet.org to download your card. All household members of a KJT member may take part in the program.



Moving? Got a new phone number or email? Make sure to update us with your new info.



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