

Volume 2, Issue 5

NOVEMBER, 2009



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

**ST. ANGELA MERICI COUNCIL NO. 14617
MISSOURI CITY, TEXAS**

THE KNIGHT RIDER
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

www.kofc14617.org

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT



My Brothers

Welcome to Winter and the beginning of the holiday season. May you all enjoy a very blessed and Happy Thanksgiving and really enjoy that Council smoked turkey! Okay that's a plug for our turkeys but what can I say, they're delicious and it gets your wife out of the kitchen much faster so she can enjoy the day as well.

We had a great day on Columbus Day at Sienna Plantation Golf Course when 62 players participated in our District Golf Tournament. The day started out a little wet but the sun came out and we got all 18 holes in just before the rains started again. I want to thank our Worthy District Deputy Brother Gary Blanchette for putting this tournament together to raise funds for our District 75 councils to pay their State Charity goals. The funds will allow our council to pay 100% of our goal and we even have few dollars left over for some of our other charity goals. So great job to all who played and helped and we look forward to the tournament being even bigger and better next year.

On Sunday November 1, our council hosted the First Annual St. Angela Merici Family Picnic at Camp Sienna. Brothers I'm positive that there has never been a GK who was more proud of his Brothers than I was that day. As I wasn't able to help much that day I was stuck sitting and observing. And while that's not what I like to do, I have to say it gave me a different perspective on the day that I wouldn't have had if I was working. It allowed me to see you all work together as a team to serve the people of our parish. It allowed me to see the excitement of the people and the smiles and laughter that was everywhere on the picnic grounds. I was able to see the children getting their faces painted and jumping at the winning chair to win a cake. But mainly I saw people getting to know one another and enjoying each others company. Their children playing together and eating hotdogs together. In short I saw a group of people who attend mass at a gym becoming a parish. It was a remarkable day. I want to thank Brother Matt Sasso for all of his hard work in putting this together and putting together such a great team to pull it off. You guys were awesome. I could run down the list of Knights but I may leave someone out so I just want to say thank you to all who helped. You should take a lot of pride in the fact that you were a part of the first parish wide event for St. Angela Merici Parish. And thanks to the Ladies of the Vine that ran all of the children's activities. You were a big reason this was such a success. This was a very important day in the life of our young parish. I can't tell you how proud I am, and all of you should be, that it happened because of Council 14617. **Continued on Page 11**

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Supreme & State News | 2 |
| Insurance News | 2 |
| Council News | 3 |
| Fr, John's Corner | 4 |
| Program Director's Report | 5 |
| DD's Report | 5,6 |
| Listing of Officers | 6 |
| Prayer Requests, Birthdays | 6 |
| Council Calendar | 7 |
| Council Photos | 8-10 |
| UPCOMING ACTIVITIES | 11 |
| Grand Knight's Report | 11 |

Points of Interest to all Council Members:

WEBSITE: If you have not already done so, please go to our website at www.kofc14617.org and login using the password your were sent. You may change your password and also update your member profile to be sure we have your information correct. If you don't have a password, login and check the don't remember box and one will be emailed to you.



NEWS FROM SUPREME

Knights of Columbus Insurance: once again highest ratings, stable outlook

Two top financial research and analysis companies recently reaffirmed their highest ratings for the Knights of Columbus insurance program. Both A.M. Best and Standard & Poor's concluded that the 127-year-old Catholic fraternal order's financial strength and stability remains strong despite a weak economy.

This marks the 34th consecutive year in which the Knights of Columbus has earned A.M. Best's A++ (Superior) rating, and the 17th successive year the Order has earned the AAA (Extremely Strong) rating from S&P.

Over the past decade, the amount of Knights of Columbus insurance in force has more than doubled, to \$72 billion. The Knights of Columbus is also certified by the Insurance Marketplace Standards Association (IMSA) for ethical and honest business practices. It is one of only four U.S. insurers with both IMSA certification and top ratings from S&P and A.M. Best, and the only insurance company in Canada to do so.

NEWS FROM STATE

International Silver Rose Pilgrimage - Our Lady of Guadalupe

Tuesday, October 27, 2009 (13:39:34)

For those of you interested in attending the transfer of the Silver Rose from Oklahoma to Texas, it will take place at St. Mary's Church in Gainesville, TX at the 4:00pm Saturday Vigil Mass on November 28. The officers of the Oklahoma State Council have scheduled the running of the Rose from Marietta, OK to Gainesville for that Saturday morning, with completion in time to dress and prepare for Mass. Please consider joining us for this final portion of the Rose's journey in Oklahoma.

The route will follow Hwy 77, south from Marietta to the state line.

Attached is information concerning the 50th running of "La Rosa Plata", the Silver Rose of Our Lady of Guadalupe, transfer of the Rose from the United States to Mexico at the International Bridge in Laredo, TX on December 10, 2009 and Mass at the Basilica in Monterrey, Mexico on December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This was started by the Squires of Mexico in 1960, when the Rose came from Canada, through the United States to Monterrey and has continued every year since. This year, 3 Roses started in Ontario, Canada and are traveling throughout the United States, where they will arrive in Texas at El Paso, Beaumont and Gainesville and make their way to Laredo for transfer to Mexico. From Laredo, the Squires of Mexico will run them to the Basilica in Monterrey for the opening procession at the 5:00pm Mass on December 12, offered by Cardinal Ortega.

We are planning for transportation from Oklahoma City to Laredo and more info about this will be forthcoming. You may also fly into Laredo and participate in both the Laredo activities and the trip to Monterrey or just the Laredo activities.

Hope you can take part in this most moving and religious experience. Please pass this along to others who might be interested in attending.

INSURANCE NEWS

A SMALL SACRIFICE TODAY

What is a widow?

She is the same woman who was a wife. She used to be a mother, and now she is a dad and a mother. She used to be a homemaker, and now she is that and a handyman too.

She used to have an income to count on; it was enough money to pay bills with some left over for family treats and, occasionally, a luxury. Now she has to make do with one-third enough money to manage the household.

What has she done to deserve all this? Not a thing. She is really a great person; her only fault was marrying a man who died too soon. And all her money troubles could have been avoided by listening to the life insurance philosophy of "a small sacrifice today to avoid a tremendous sacrifice tomorrow."

Somebody always pays the premiums on life insurance. Either the husband father pay for them while he was alive or his widow and children pay for them later. How much of your income can you set aside today to care for your family tomorrow?.

Call me today. I want to hear from you. Leo Lowdermilk at (832) 338-6269 or (800) 460-2706



COUNCIL NEWS

- At our November 4th regular business meeting, our council welcomed our newest Brother to our Order. Brother Thomas Blackburn received his First Degree Certificate and was introduced to the council. Welcome Brother Thomas. [See picture below.](#)
- On October 12, Columbus Day, our council hosted the District 75 Golf Tournament at Sienna Plantation Golf Club. There were 62 golfers and it was a great day. We were able to raise enough funds so that each council in the District received money towards their State Charity goal. Our funds are enough to pay our goal and we will qualify for the Quick Start Award again this year. [See pictures on Page 8](#)
- On November 1, our council had the privilege of organizing and hosting the First Annual St. Angela Merici Parish Picnic at Camp Sienna. It was a beautiful day and we served over 600 parishioners. A great day for the parish. [See pictures on Pages 9 & 10](#)



The St. Angela Merici Church banner hangs at Camp Sienna for the First Annual Parish Family Picnic



The council welcomes our newest Knight Brother Thomas Blackburn at our November meeting.



FATHER JOHN'S CORNER



“OPEN WIDE.....”

The phrase “**open wide...**” is probably one that we most fear. It is what the doctor says to us when he or she exams our throat. It is what the dentist says to us when he or she gets ready to work on our teeth. When I hear the words “open wide....”, immediately the palms of my hands begin to sweat.

But there is another meaning for the phrase “open wide...”. It is the invitation to “**Open Wide.... The Doors to Christ!**” As we soon will embark on the new Church year no one’s palms should sweat. On the contrary, you and I need to be excited and filled with awe as we enter this new beginning. Unlike the many doors we have passed through over the years this door is unique. It is the door that leads to life, life to the full, found only in Jesus Christ.

The Church’s invitation to “**Open Wide the Doors to Christ**” concerns not just the doors of our churches. It is an invitation to shift our focus from ourselves and focus on what God desires to do with and for each of us. God wants to open all the doors that are locked or barred closed. It is God who is knocking. We have the doorknob on our side of the door. It is up to you and me to say yes and allow the locked doors of our lives to be open by God.

I remember reading a flyer that describes the Blessing of Jubilee Doors in Rome. I found it very helpful for my own reflection and prayer. I want to quote a short piece from it. *“Christ stands at our hearts and knocks. He calls tenderly to us, and as in the upper room where the disciples huddled in fear, he calls out to us: ‘Do not fear! It is I!’*

And so the first jubilee door I am called to prepare is the door to my heart. I am called to open my heart to Christ. Like Mary, who bore him deep within her body, Christ gives us the grace to open our hearts to the conversion, unity and justice of the Kingdom of God.”

When you hear Christ inviting you to “**Open Wide....**” remember it is about the door of your heart that he is asking to enter. Do not be afraid. As Knights we must never fear! As Knights we are to give witness to the truth and power of Jesus Christ by our lives. And remember the Lord is inviting each of us to, “**Open Wide The Doors to Christ!**”

Peace, Father John



PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Brothers hat a way to begin the month of November! After two rained out tries, we managed to have our First St. Angela Merici church picnic this past Sunday and the feedback from many who attended was "it was great and lots of fun!". Thanks to Brother Matt Sasso for organizing this event and more importantly picking a beautiful weekend...finally! I'm sure he will be the first to agree that it could not have been pulled off like it did without help from the Women of the Vine, the Youth Group and his own Brother Knights. Great job!!!

From our Church Council Activities Group, Brother Randy has begun to sell Christmas cards and anticipates having them all to be sold in the next couple of weekends but he could use some help. If you are not signed up to sell the cards after one of our three masses each weekend, please get with Randy and sign up.

November also begins the month of selling smoked turkeys which we kicked off at our church picnic. As with the Christmas cards, we will also have a table set up after mass to sell turkeys. Time has crept up on us that we only have two (2) more weekends to sell them so please sign up to help man the table. If not selling the turkeys, we will also need to have volunteers to help bag the turkeys and help cleaning up. For those Knights who helped last year, it was fun and I hope we can count on you again.

During the weekend of November 6th we will be having our quarterly diaper drive for the Foundation For Life. On Saturday the 7th, several of your brother Knights will be attending and representing our council at the FFL Gala at the Sugar Land Town Center Marriott. This fundraiser event will also include a KC 4th degree color guard and our very own Fr. John giving the invocation. The weekend will end with our council's Corporate Communion at the 11:00 am mass on the 7th. This is a very powerful weekend expressing our belief and support of Pro-Life.

In closing I want to say, I'm sure you will agree being a member of the Knights of Columbus is very special. It's not about raising your "I'm a do gooder flag". It's about making a difference in our church and in the community. If we wait to volunteer for only the things we want to volunteer on, then we joined the KC's for the wrong reason. There are a lot of things to help with and there are many good and fun things coming in the future. If you would like to help in any way whether it is an upcoming event or something else, then do not hesitate to let us know.

Have a great Thanksgiving!

Vivat Jesu!

Jerry

DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT



Worthy Brothers,

Can you believe this calendar year is almost over? Can you believe you survived a busy September and October? I know I can't. We had many great functions the past few months and I want to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication to our order. The good news is that we brought in 14 new brothers including one priest at our last First Degree at Council 4204, the bad news is that we still have a lot of work to do to make each council's membership goal. I know that all of you are working hard to bring in new members but let's not forget about those members that we currently have, we need to keep them involved too! Retention is key to keeping our new Knights in the order and the key to retention is programs. I want to congratulate each council for all the Corporate Communion, membership drives, breakfasts, dinners, Pro-Life events and other activities that you have been involved in over the last few months. It is these very programs that keep a council strong and growing. Way to go District 75!

Speaking of accolades, I was recently informed of two very important results from our prior year and our current year. District 75 was recently recognized in the latest edition of Finishline at being a Star District for the state of Texas. We were only 1 of 21 in the state and 1 of 6 in the diocese. Congratulations to all councils in District 75 and thanks for your dedication and effort in the last fraternal year.

Continued on Page 6



DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT—CONTINUED



The other news I received was this morning and it had to do with the results of the World Series of Membership. If you remember at the beginning of the fraternal year I told you that the State of Texas was participating in the World Series of Membership and that each week we would have a different opponent. Well we made it to the very end, beat every team and ended up battling California for the title. The results came in on Monday night and Texas was declared the winner of the World Series of Membership. Thanks to all for your efforts in recruiting new members this first quarter. I will be presenting a new program called the Bowl Membership Series at upcoming meetings so stay tuned!

I know it has been a couple weeks but I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to all the councils in District 75 for making our inaugural golf tournament such a big success. All those that played had a great time in spite of the weather changes we had to deal with. We want to thank all of our sponsors for the event as well as Ms. Juliette Bentz at Sienna Plantation for helping us to make this event so special. I hope to see all of you out there next year at this same time.

A reminder of some upcoming District and Diocesan events:

KC Free Throw Contest Kits should be ordered

Special Olympics needs volunteers on Nov. 14th for their area volleyball tournament in Willobrook and their annual bowling event on Dec. 5th at Copperfield Lanes.

First Degree at Council 7382 on Monday November 16th.

Sunday, January 10th is Knights of Columbus Night with the Aeros hockey team

Friday January 29th is Clergy Appreciation Night at the Stafford Center

Pray the Rosary,

Gary Blanchette

District Deputy #75

Council Officers Information

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Grand Knight - Gary Bentz | gsbent@flash.net | 281 778-9632 |
| Deputy GK Jerry Tomasello | jtomasello@rectorseal.com | 281 778-7022 |
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| Advocate Tim Alcorn | tpalcorn@yahoo.com | |
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| Treasurer Mark Dixon | markdixon12@hotmail.com | 281 778-3433 |
| Financial Sec Ron Frerich | rjfrerich@earthlink.net | |
| Membership Dir Colin Kiernan | cmkiernan44@comcast.net | 281 499-4067 |
| Insurance Agent Leo Lowdermilk | leo.lowdermilk@kofc.org | 800 460-2706 |

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nov 6—Terry Saenz, Nov 9—Ron Frerich, Nov 10—Steve Viro, and No 19—Joe Scranton

Our Prayers Are With You



Please remember the following in your prayers:

The following family and friends who are fighting some form of cancer: Jared Goolsby, GK Gary Bentz, Janet Frerich (Ron's sister), Raymond Tabor (Chris Agostinelli's Uncle), Bill Copenhaver, Marty Adrian, Sam Tramonte, Bill Lackey, David Harris, Phil Adamczak (Colin Kiernan's Brother in Law), Jeanette Hottman, Dale Strasser and Elvin Bethea.

Sue Bishop (Jerry Bishop's sister in law) who is battling severe GI problems.. Bro. John Janik recovering from a severe viral infection.

Our Men and Women in Uniform both living and deceased especially Gabriel Machado deployed in Afghanistan and Corp. Casey Owens

Our Holy Father and all of the clergy especially Fr. Roy for his back procedure

The innocent unborn. St. Angela Merici Parish



- Nov 1—First Annual parish picnic at Camp Sienna.
- Nov 4—Regular business meeting at the church office after 7 PM mass.
- Nov 7—Foundation For Life Gala at Sugar Land Marriot Hotel. Set up at 10 AM and the gala is at 6 PM. At all masses FFL Diaper Drive and Corporate Communion at 11 AM mass
- Nov 10—AGH Chapter meeting at Council 3077 at 7 PM.
- Nov 15—VA Hospital visit. Meet at the church office at 7:30 AM
- Nov 17—4th Degree meeting at Council 4204 at 7 PM
- Nov 18—Officers' meeting at the church office after 7 PM mass.
- Nov 23, 24 & 25—Thanksgiving Turkey cooking at St. Laurence and distribution at church office.

November 2009

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------|
| 1 Parish Picnic | 2 | 3 | 4 Regular Business meeting | 5 | 6 | 7 FFL Annual Gala |
| 8 Diaper Drive & Corp Communion | 9 | 10 AGH Chapter meeting | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 VA Hospital visit | 16 | 17 4th Degree meet- | 18 Officers' meeting | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 Thanks-giving Turkey cooking | 24 Thanks-giving Turkey cooking | 25 Turkey delivery & clean up | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

Dec 2—Regular business meeting at the church office after 7 PM mass

Dec 5—Special Olympics bowling event at Copperfield Lanes. Please go to Special Olympics website for details.

Dec 8—AGH Chapter meeting at Council 3077 at 7PM

Dec 11&12—CASA Home Tour. Volunteers needed for parking

Dec 15th—4th Degree meeting at Council 4204 at 7 PM

Dec 16—Officers meeting at the church office after 7 PM mass

Dec 25th —MERRY CHRISTMAS

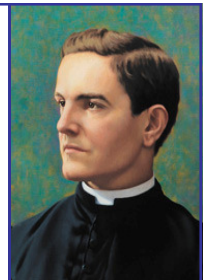
December 2009

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----|--------------------|----------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 Regular business meeting | 3 | 4 | 5 Special Olympics bowling |
| 6 | 7 | 8 AGH Chapter meeting | 9 | 10 | 11 casa Home tour | 12 CASA Home tour |
| 13 | 14 | 15 4th Degree meeting | 16 Officers' meeting | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |



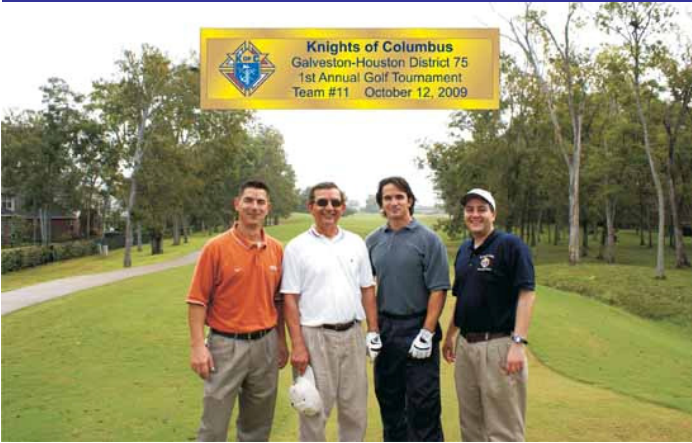
HAVE A BLESSED AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Despite these challenging times, we have so much to be thankful for. For our Parish as it grows and comes together, for our new facilities under construction, for our Council and the good works we have done, and for the many blessings we have been given.

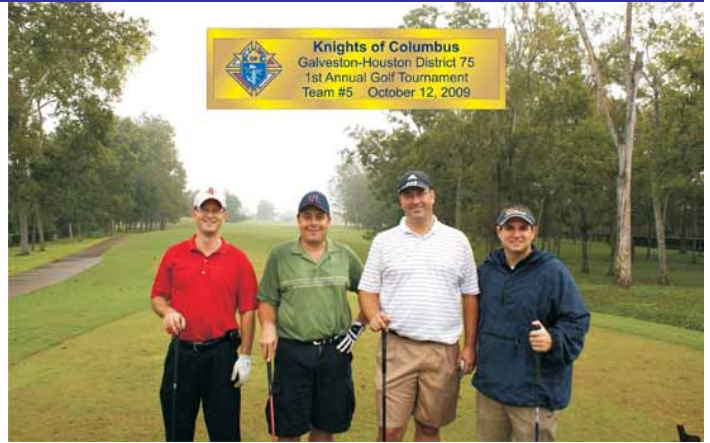




COUNCIL PHOTOS - DISTRICT GOLF TOURNAMENT



One of our council's teams



Another of 14617's teams



Our Knights play the tournament



Our DD Bro. Gary MC's the awards banquet



Bro. Leon won the putting contest



The winning team from our council.

Remember: If you participate in any Knights of Columbus events or activities and have pictures, please forward them to Gary Bentz at gsbent@flash.net so we can have them for our Council records and also so that they may be published in the newsletter.



COUNCIL PHOTOS - THE PARISH PICNIC



Pictures from the First Annual S. Angela Merici Parish Picnic

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COUNCIL PHOTOS - THE PARISH PICNIC



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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Foundation For Life Gala: The weekend of November 7 and 8 is Foundation For Life weekend. The Foundation will hold its Annual Gala at the Sugar Land Marriott on November 7th. If you can help show up at the Marriott that evening and help load items for people and help clean up.

FFL Diaper Drive: At all masses on Nov 7th and 8th we will collect diapers for the Foundation's Maternal Assistance Pantry. This program provides diapers and baby products for new mothers who have chosen life for their babies and now need supplies that can not be obtained through federal or State programs. The Foundation collects these products and distributes them to these needy mothers that they work with. Please be generous and bring diapers to place near the altar.

Quarterly Corporate Communion: At the 11 AM mass on November 8th we will have our quarterly Corporate Communion. I urge all of you to please attend with your family as it is a great demonstration to the parish community what our Order is all about. It is always a special day when you can attend mass with your council and our families. Please arrive a little early so that we can line up in the back of church and process in together.

VA Hospital Visit: On Sunday November 15th our council is scheduled to visit our veterans at the VA Hospital. Please contact Brother Dennis O'Driscoll if you can attend. We will meet behind the church office and leave together for the hospital. After visiting the vets in their rooms, we will attend mass at 10 am in the beautiful chapel in the hospital and return home. You will be back home before noon and it is very rewarding day.

Thanksgiving Turkeys: Sign up to help cook turkeys for Thanksgiving at St. Laurence. We need lots of help this year to cook and bag the birds. We also need help to sell turkeys after all of the masses. Please contact Brother Jerry Tomasello or Ron Frerich and sign up to help. We NEED YOUR HELP!!

Council Program Activities and Committees: Our various standing program committees are forming, meeting, and planning our upcoming events for the year ahead. If you want to be a part of the selection and planning of activities for our council in the areas of Church, Council, Community, Family, Youth, Membership or Pro-Life, contact the director listed on Page 6 of this newsletter and sign up today. They need your help.

Grand Knight's Report—Cont'd from Page 1

We have a busy November. Starting with our Foundation for Life Diaper Drive this weekend and our Quarterly Corporate Communion. Brothers, Corporate Communion is a special day. It is your chance to worship with your Brothers and their families. It is a chance to show the parish that the Knights is a family organization. To me it has always been a day where I felt a special bond with my Brothers and the Lord. If you have not attended a Corporate Communion service, I encourage you to attend the next one. Even if it's not the mass you regularly attend and it is a little inconvenient for you. I promise it will be worth it.

We have VA hospital visitation on Nov. 15th. If you can go please contact Brother Dennis at DODRISCO@houstonisd.org. He will meet behind the church office and lead you to the VA hospital leaving around 7:30 and returning before noon.

Again this Thanksgiving we will sell and cook smoked turkeys. This is a nice fundraiser for our council who could use the funds. We will sell after masses and the cooking schedule begins on Monday Nov 23rd and runs through the 25th. I encourage all of you to purchase a turkey and try to help. They will be passed out after noon at the church office on Wednesday the 25th. They are fully cooked and chilled in a browning bag. You only have to place it in the oven that morning to warm it and enjoy a delicious smoked turkey. After you have one of these you'll want one every year. They're really great.

Looking into next month we will again participate in the CASA Home Tour. It is the weekend of Dec. 11th and we will help to park cars at a home in the parish area. This is a great cause as CASA supports abused and neglected children in the Fort Bend area. We will have a sign up sheet at the next meeting for you to help. The Special Olympics Bowling tournament will be held at the Copperfield Lanes on Dec. 5th. Go to the Special Olympics website at www.sotx.org for details.

And to all of you, have a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving. In these difficult times sometimes it's hard to appreciate just how much God has blessed us. But there is so much to be thankful for. Especially St. Angela Merici Parish. God bless you. Gary