

## Knights of Columbus

St. Ignatius of Loyola Council – Council #12853  
Holy Family Catholic Church, San Jose, CA

### “Leave No Neighbor Behind Program”

We would like to share to our Brother Knights the activities we worked on for the program during the pandemic.

Below is Grand Knight Eric Bateman’s Report to California State Council.

Here is a list of what the St. Ignatius of Loyola Council did for **Leave No Neighbor Behind** for the program year 2020 - 2021:

- ★ 4 Knights volunteered to call all the Knights in the council. We have gone through the list 3 times during the Covid-19 Pandemic. One Knight was found to be in need of PPE due to high-risk children and the council gave money to this Knight so he could get the proper PPE for his children.
- ★ 2 Knights volunteered to call at-risk parishioners after the lock down happen to find out if they needed anything. Two parishioners were helped with moving items and getting a hold of needed services.
- ★ Knights offered to help our Parish Pastor with anything during the Covid-19 Pandemic. A list of activities our Pastor has asked for:
  1. When outdoor Masses were allowed in July 2020, Knights pup up canopies to keep parishioners out of the sun and then put the canopies away at the end of the day. Knights also helped with Mass setup of heavy items and also set up heaters during the second lockdown during the winter and put them away at the end of the day also. This happened just for Sunday Masses at first, but then was expanded to funeral Masses also. Brother David Gomez organized the teams for this and each Mass had about 2 to 5 Knights helping. The Knights enlisted the help of the Boy Scouts to put up canopies when parish was allowed more parishioners outside and the Boy Scouts helped for several months. The Knights were also asked to help with the setup of canopies for special Masses that happened during the pandemic such as Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Fr. Joseph’s 1<sup>st</sup> Mass after ordination, November 7, 2020 –Fr. Celso’s 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ordination Mass, August/September 2020 – 1<sup>st</sup> communion/confirmation Masses on Saturday morning
  2. Traffic control for drive-thru confessions on Saturday afternoons starting in June 2020. 1 or 2 Knights needed to assure safety of drivers and privacy for penitents and priests. Drive thru confessions started last summer and have continued every week and still continues. Brother David Gomez has volunteered to do this every week with help from other Knights.
  3. Traffic control for drive-thru communion on Sundays starting in June 2020. People who watch a livestream Mass can drive thru the church parking lot

to receive communion from one of our priests. 1 or 2 knights needed to assure safety of drivers and the communion ministers. Our parish started this last summer and still does it now because some are still unsure of in-person Mass. Brother David Gomez has volunteered to do this every week with help from other Knights.

4. Due to budget constraints, the parish maintenance man's hours were reduced. A retired Knight has volunteered to do minor yard work and parking curb painting at the parish for free and is there 2 to 3 times a week doing stuff especially now that the parish school is open and the maintenance man is busy doing work for the school.
  5. When indoor Masses were allowed (November 2020 and mid-February 2021), church disinfecting teams were needed to use disinfecting machine to spray the pews. Half of the team members doing this work are Knights who volunteered after a Knight email was sent out looking for volunteers. A total of 6 Knights are on the teams.
  6. Parking control from the Knights was needed when half the parking lot was being used for 1<sup>st</sup> reconciliations by 5 priests on March 13, 2021, so 6 Knights directed parents and sponsors to parking lot locations that were to be used for parking and away from the area where the priests were to hear confessions. Brother David Gomez organized the team and gave direction to the Knights.
  7. Knights helped out with livestream Masses by running the systems to put out the video on Facebook and also by helping with sacristan duties setting up the church for Mass.
  8. Knights donated several items to the virtual Silent Auction that took place instead of at our Festival in September 2020 (that had to be cancelled). The council donated, as usual, a BBQ loaded with items for the barbecue and then also donated tickets for future Knights breakfasts and Knights St. Patrick dinner that have been cancelled so far due to the pandemic.
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- ★ The council donated money to the parish church at the beginning of the pandemic when collections were very low due to lockdown. The council also donated money to the parish's St. Vincent de Paul group last summer so they could buy grocery cards to allow for purchase of perishable food for those in need.
  - ★ Knights helped out the community in these ways:
    1. Our council held a new/used coat drive (which we have done for numerous years) in November for 3 weeks (Nov. 8, 15, 22). 247 coats were donated and Knights, led by program organizer David Gomez, WDGK, delivered them to Home First, an organization that runs homeless shelters in the San Jose area. 5 to 7 knights were present after each Mass for 3 weekends collecting the coats with 10 Knights in total helping in this drive. The coat drive was publicized thru the bulletin, pulpit

- announcements, parish E-news blast and Knights emails and meeting announcements.
2. On Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> and Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, our council held a 2 weekend Food and winter clothing drive after each Mass. The council collected 80 bags of food and 40 bags of winter clothing items that we gave to our parish's St. Vincent de Paul group to distribute to those in need. The drive was coordinated with the St. Vincent de Paul group and was publicized thru the bulletin, pulpit announcements, parish E-news blast and Knights emails and meeting announcements. Brother David Gomez was present after almost all the Masses and was there to set up and put away collection boxes for these items (along with other items that Knights were collecting such as PWID donated money and baby items for Diocesan Layette event).
  3. Knights giving blood. One knight even gives blood and platelets whenever he can – he is on a regular schedule with a local hospital.
  4. Knights helped several widows that were in need of help such as tree trimming and giving away of husband's clothing and coats. One knight in particular helped both these widows and that was Brother David Gomez.

#### APPENDIX:

Here is the excerpt of the email that St. Vincent de Paul Society from our parish sent to the Knights (our council) and to the parish church bulletin because of the food and winter clothes drive we did:

*Thank you, Knights, for doing this food & homeless drive for us. It's so wonderful to see our pantry overflowing! With the monetary donations, we will buy more food cards to supplement the bag of food we give monthly to many families & individuals. We also made up 20 bags to give to the homeless. Each bag has gloves, socks, hand warmers, toiletries, hats, scarfs & snacks. We have lots of extra items so we can keep on making bags as needed. There were also bags of clothing donated. Since we don't have room for a clothes closet, we donated some items to St. Julie's parish & another organization, Opening Doors, will accept jackets, pants & shirts for homeless & low-income families.*

*Thank you, Eric, for organizing this drive for us, Jeff, for being our go-between, & Judy Schaub & Sue Peters for helping me sort & put away all the food & clothes. A special thank you to the Holy Family community for your generous donations, our families really appreciate it in this difficult financial time.*

*God bless you!*

*Marlene Perez  
St. Vincent de Paul Society  
Holy Family Catholic Church*