Knights in Action,
Fr. Finley Council 4374, Oakdale Minnesota

Sweet Corn Picking and Distribution: 21,770 LBS in 2023.

Fr. Finley Council 4374, Oakdale, Minnesota

This year, a small group of Knights of Columbus picked Sweet corn to deliver to small Food Shelves on the east side of St. Paul. We picked 4329 LBS on
August 7, and 4235 LBS on August 16. August 28, we picked 4619 LBS and September 7 we picked **5,770** LBS. for a total of **18,953** LBS for the year.

SO CLOSE to 20,000, yet far enough away that a recount would not suffice. Ron Warner, pictured on the right, lead this Sweet Corn picking project, since the death of Bob Spangenberg on August 7th. Ron stepped up to the task admirably and lead this small group of Knights to surpass last years record picking of 18,235 LBS of sweet corn. Even though he was not present for two of the 5 trips, he organized the five trips ensuring we had a place to deliver corn to.

So we decided to pick one more time to surpass that 20,000 threshold.
On Monday, Sept 11 Seven (7) knights picked an additional 2817 LBS putting us at **21,770 LBS** for the year.

The Knights volunteered for 227 hours, and non Knights for another 28 hours, for a total volunteer hours of 255 hours. This year was the most corn of the last 10 years, and our total sweet corn picked and delivered to food shelves in the last 10 years is now, **126,275 LBS.**

Twenty Knights , 3 Grandsons of Ron Warner, and Patti Fahey helped with the picking of sweet corn.
Seven Knights used their vehicles to haul the corn to various food Shelves. These include:
Bob Altman, Todd Lindley, James Lingner, Dave Piehowski, John Salls, Mike Schilling, and Ron Warner
Each event required for each driver a distance from 75-100 miles, depending on where the corn was delivered to.
Sept 7. we had 6 vehicles delivering corn.

A special thank you to the Knights who helped put us over the 20,000 threshold.
Drivers: Dave Piehowski, Bob Altman, and Mike Schilling.
Others: John Treichel, Dave Rankin, Lee Martin, and Mike Peisert.

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Transfiguration Rectory Deck repair:

The Parish Rectory Deck was slated for repair last fall, but we could not get the necessary lumber when we planned to do it in October. So we decided to do it in the Spring of 2023. This spring of 2023 was a short 2-3 days, and before we knew it, it was coming to the end of May. The deck size is 20 by 24, a big deck.

After getting the 'Go Ahead' from Fr. Erickson and Fr.Lynch and getting a crew together, we were ready to "{GET R DONE).

From the Left John Girgen, John Treichel, and Tom Stella

Wednesday, May 24, a small crew got together, and started to remove some of the 1700+screws (20 screws per board) on this 20x24 foot deck. We removed about 700 screws that evening.

Tuesday, May 30, three Knights made 2 trips to Menards in Maplewood and one trip to Menards in Stillwater to get the needed lumber. It would have cost a lot to rent their trick for the time needed. Mike Schilling used his truck with a 5.5 foot box and a load extender.

The wood stuck out the back of the truck and tail gate by four feet. Each board weighs about 23 LBS. That was about 700 LBS, and more than half of it was behind the bed of the truck.

While we were returning from Stillwater, some other knights had started removing the wood from the north half of the deck. Nine Knights worked that evening and we succeeded in removing all old lumber form the north half of the deck, and we installed the new lumber on the northeast quarter of the deck, 22, 12 foot boards and had all the wood cut for the northwest quarter except for one board. Because of rusted joist hangers, two Joists fell to the ground when the deck boards were unscrewed.

Shawn Willy and Walter soler deep in though about how to repair a Joist.

We installed 23 of the 86, 12 foot boards, using 20 screws for each board.

We cut the 21 boards for the northwest quarter, and laid them in place so the Priests had use of their east door and the north steps to the garage.

Wednesday, May 31, two Knights came in early and removed all the old lumber from the south half of the deck.. Some screw heads had to be ground off, and once the board was removed, the screws had to be cut off. The old lumber was going to be used by someone, who would haul the old lumber away for us. Therefore we needed to try to save the wood, rather than just break it off.

Transfiguration Rectory Deck repair:

That evening, we finished installing the northwest quarter and completed the entire south half. This time 3 floor joists on the southwest quarter fell off when the deck boards were removed. The west side of the deck was soft like a wooden trampoline, with no support for 4 feet between two joists..

Thursday, June 1, we fixed the railing posts that were loose. We also raised the two set of steps, as they had sunk into the ground over time. We started on the top of the railings, but we got rained out.

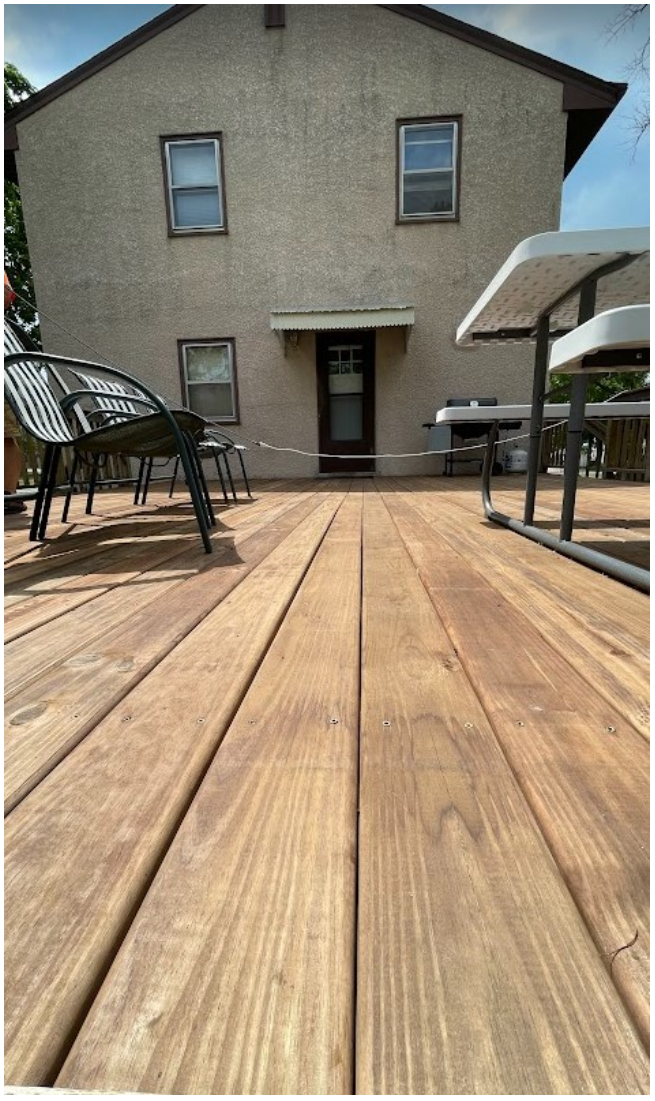
Friday, June 2nd, we completed the railings, and readjusted the south steps.

Walter Soler, Dave Resch and Dave Piehowski working on the north steps railings

The conditions of the Deck floor and the Joist hangers was an accident waiting to happen. Thankfully we succeeded in getting it repaired before someone got hurt.

June 7, two Knights with two Power washers cleaned the Railings and other old lumber. There was a lot of Crud built up on those boards.

At the right is what it looks like from the east side of the Rectory. Photo by Dave Piehowski. I am not sure what his camera setting was, but I could not get a picture of this quality.



In total, 10 Knights worked on the deck, some only 1 evening, some 2 and some 5 evenings, (we got rained out one evening.

Over 150 volunteer hours on this project.
Cost of the deck Project was about $1,475.

THANK YOU:

To the Knights that helped with the Deck:
Walter Soler, Dave Piehowski, Lee Martin, Shawn Willy,
Tom Stella, John Girgen, Paul Prior, Dave Resch,
John Treichel, and Mike Schilling

Deck work including power washing, sanding, and sealing the Deck took 175 volunteers Hours.

Removing the Transfiguration Parking Lot Trees: October 11.

October 11 continued for some Knights: Some Knights, sealed the deck before cutting trees.

Sometime before school started, Michael Cleveland, the Maintenance Director at Transfiguration, wanted to have the dead and dying trees in the parking lot removed, to improve the appearance of the Transfiguration facilities, making it more attractive. Several attempts to get it scheduled failed for one reason or another. Jay Hruby was trying to get this done. Mike Schilling was in contact with Jay, and it was planned for the 13th of October, but that turned out to be the Oktober Fest at Transfiguration. Lucky for us as well, as it rained all day Friday. We scheduled it for October 11, at 5:00 PM, which turned out to be a great evening.

Five Knights responded to the request for help, three others verbally committed and 12 showed up. The plan was to cut the trees down, drag them to the south east corner of the parking lot and cut them up there. The branches were piled along the south end, and the trunks were cut and stacked on the southeast island. This way, all the mess was in one place.

Above is Jay Hruby cutting down a tree.

Above is Shawn Willy driving the John Deer tractor dragging the trees to the Southeast corner for cutting up.

At the Left, cutting up the trees and stacking the brush and trunks are From the left, Jim Lingner, Ralph Pierre and Paul Osborne

The Following Knights helped with this project:
Mike Cleveland, Mike Esch, John Girgen, Jim Jansen James Lingner, Leroy Martin, Joseph Meade, Paul Osborne, Ralph Pierre, Dave Resch, Mike Schilling, Walter Soler, and Shawn Willy. Jay and Henry Hruby.
(Jay Hruby plans to join the Knights in December.)

The cut up tree trunks were removed Thursday October 12. Hopefully the brush finds a way to get removed before winter. Forty Five 45 hours of volunteer time to cut up the trees and clean up the mess.