

HONORING THE PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS

Montgomery Council #2323 is acutely aware of the need for vocations for our parishes. We had lost our chaplain early in the year due to transfer, and the parish priests of St Martin's, St Francis and St Mary's all declined to fill the roll because of parish workload. Thus, the Council is proud to pray for vocations at every meeting, support religious education at the parishes, and provide financial assistance to seminarians with funds raised through our "basket of cheer" raffle. These funds were recently disbursed by our Worthy Treasurer to the three seminarians; Martin Choi and Matt Shoemaker of Mount St Mary's and David Krupp attending a seminary in New York.

In 2009-2010, the Knights of Columbus had a program called "Year of the Priests". Montgomery Council members thought that it important to extend the program into 2011 and beyond – thus, over President's Day weekend, the Council hosted coffee and donuts after every morning mass at St Francis to once again "honor our priests" for their sacrifice and service to the parish. An announcement was read from the pulpit, and Bother Dave made sure all going into and out of the church that day knew (please see the photo!) and could reflect on their service. The priests and deacons serving St Francis (including our Council's Associate Chaplain, Deacon Jim) were grateful for the recognition. Similar events are planned for St Mary's March 27th and at St Martin's in April.

For this event, about \$140 and 25 volunteer hours were donated to this event, in planning, contacting the parish office, getting supplies, and attending to the donut stand. Special thanks go to Brothers David Ball, DGK Lewis and Cheryl Tillis, Gary Palmer (membership chair), and to all the brothers who came after the masses to provide support.



Brother Dave Ball greeting those coming into the St Francis, and inviting those leaving to coffee and donuts. Note the sign on the right on top the table, and the sign on the left at the bottom of the table.

Father Dave, pastor of St Francis, greeting parishioners at the coffee.



Knights-to-be helping with the donuts.



And remember, every event is a chance to recruit!