September 28, 2026

Minutes for the Greater Austin Chapter Meeting

Location: St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, Austin, TX

Opening

- **Call to Order**: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Ramiro Balli.
- **Opening Prayer** was offered by Deacon Phuc Phan.
- **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by President Ramiro Balli.
- **Recognition of Host Council:** President Ramiro Balli thanked Council 8156 for hosting the meeting and preparing the meal.
- **Guest Speaker:** James Caffry, National K of C Territorial Growth Director, reviewed the new Culture of Invitation Church Drive. Follow the formula and it will work. Councils should hold two church drives each year, one in the fall and one in the spring. Don't sit behind a table waiting for people to come to you; go out and engage with the men and families of the parish. Order the kit, organize a Church Drive team, and be sure to get the pastor's permission. Each prospect on the Prospect tab should be either accepted or rejected. The three reasons for rejection are Council Incompatibility, Eligibility Concerns, and Does Not Want to Join a Council.
- **Roll of Officers**: The roll of officers was called and noted as follows (P=Present, A=Absent, E=Excused):

President (WCP)	Ramiro Balli	P
Vice President (WCVP)	Michael D'Antonio	P
Treasurer (WCT)	Mike Hyzak	P
Secretary (WCS)	Lee Fracker	P

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the August 24, 2026 meeting, posted on the Chapter website at https://kofcaustin.org/home/about/meeting-minutes, were approved.

Officer Reports

Chaplain's Report: WCC Fr. Charlie Garza encouraged everyone to support our seminarians with more than money; personal contact makes a big difference in helping them through the challenges of

seminary life. He encouraged us to pray the St. Michael the Archangel prayer and discussed its benefits. He also spoke about St. Gabriel the Archangel, who plays an important role in the Gospel of Luke, and St. Raphael, whose name means “God heals.”

Vice President’s Report: WCVP Michael D’Antonio reported no new memberships.

Treasurer’s Report: WCT Mike Hyzak distributed his report online via the kofcaustin.org website. The report was discussed and approved. A summary appears below.

Beginning balance:	9,399.38
Income:	200.00
Expenses:	1,500.00
End balance:	8,099.38

President’s Report:

- The Baby Gala is coming up on Saturday, October 10, at the Renaissance Hotel. We have a table reserved; nine people have signed up, so there is room for just one more.
- Our next meeting, on October 26, will be at the JPII Life Center.

Diocesan Deputy’s Report

Worthy Diocesan Deputy (WDioD) Michael D’Antonio reported the following:

- There will be at least one more CUF this month.
- The Texas A&M council was this month’s growth winner.
- Wheelchairs for Texas are distributed at the discretion of the Bishop.
- More than 160 prospects have been on the Prospect tab since last FY.
- He has more charity pins available for sale.
- Two new councils have started up.

Program Director’s Report

Worthy Program Director Mike Hyzak reported that Boxes of Joy will be offered again this year, starting now.

Chapter Committee Reports

Membership: Worthy Team Lead **(**WTL) Mike McLaughlin reported that two CUFs are currently scheduled in September. We need to focus on clearing our Prospect tabs.

Clergy & Religious Appreciation Dinner: WTL Mike McLaughlin reported that this FY's Clergy & Religious Appreciation Dinner (CRAD) is scheduled for February 11, 2027.

RSVP Report: WTL Ramiro Balli reported that the seminarians are back in school and that he now has a complete list of them.

Special Olympics and Wheelchair Reports: WTL Bill Boiko reviewed his current Special Olympics and Wheelchair reports.

Sacred Heart Icon Report: Mike Hyzak and Mike Rush reported on behalf of WTL Ricardo Renteria. The icon is going to the Men's ACTS retreat this weekend.

Silver Rose: WTL Blake Krass reported that two parishes have already participated and four more have signed up.

Safe Environment Coordinator: No report.

Emergency Response Coordinator: No report.

State Charities and Star Councils: WTL Kevin Martinez reported that 55% of councils have made no charity contributions, while eleven councils are at 100%. We need to keep motivating councils to make their charity contributions.

Free Throws: WTL Mike Hyzak reported that the Diocesan Free Throw Competition is scheduled for February 21 at 1:30 p.m. at San Juan Diego. The State Free Throw Competition will follow on the first Saturday in March.

Culture of Life: WTL Michael Rush reported that October is Life Month. He discussed the dignity of life and assisted suicide, noting that "Death with Dignity" and "Medically Assisted Dying" are euphemisms for "assisted suicide."

Ceremonial Team: Lee Fracker reported that he has assumed responsibility for the Ceremonial Team. More information will follow.

Spanish Council Coordinator: WDioD Mike D'Antonio reported for Cristo Rey.

Spiritual Director's Report: Deacon Phuc discussed COR and Patrick Kelly's report at the Supreme Council on evangelization that meets the needs of young men seeking meaning in their lives.

COR: State Evangelization and Faith Formation (EFF) Director Ed Tydings followed up on Deacon Phuc's report with a discussion of COR at the council level. He is expecting reports from the councils so that the State can begin tracking COR progress.

Communication/Newsletter/Website: No report.

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- Mike D'Antonio announced his resignation as Chapter Vice President, effective immediately. A new Vice President will be elected at the October meeting.

State Committee Reports

Coats for Kids: Leo Saenz reported that six councils purchased boxes of coats under the BOGO offer, which has now concluded, and that over 100 cases were sold. Councils can still purchase boxes.

Financial Secretary Training: Pete Donahoe is retiring from his role as Diocesan Financial Secretary Trainer, and a replacement is being sought.

State Office: SK Carlos had no report.

District Deputies' Reports

DD Darryl Vinklarek reported that his council is holding a Fall Festival.

DD Gary Reed reported that his council held a membership drive at all Masses.

Patriotic Order Report

Worthy District Master Blake Krass's report is available online in the District 6 Newsletter. The next 4th Degree Exemplification will be on October 17 at St. Paul Catholic Church in Austin, TX.

Good of the Order

- The Closing Prayer was led by Deacon Phuc.
- The Closing Blessing was given by Deacon Phuc.
- The meeting was adjourned by WCP Ramiro Balli at 9:25 p.m.

Attest:

Secretary: **Lee Fracker**