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Knights of Columbus Council 13513

**St. Charles Borromeo
Jacksonville, Ala.**

**St. Joachim
Piedmont, Ala.**

Council 13513 Knights pray Crucifix icon leads parishioners to God

There is a new icon on the St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church campus – one that is more than 815 years old.

The icon that was recently installed is not literally 815 years old. But the icon does reflect a painting St. Francis of Assisi first noticed in 1205.

The first time Francis saw the San Damiano Crucifix, the young man who would eventually be known as St. Francis of Assisi, was in a ruined chapel. Francis was there only to escape the heat of the day. His examination of the crucifix that was painted on linen, and a message from God, moved Francis to pursue a religious vocation.

According to one source, the San Damiano Cross tells a well-known story through the images surrounding the Crucified Christ. “The unknown 12th-century artist portrayed Jesus as both wounded and strong, surrounded by witnesses to his death and resurrection.

“The original San Damiano Cross was restored in 1938. It is accessible for public viewing in San Giorgio’s Chapel in the Basilica of St. Clare of Assisi.” The basilica is in Assisi, Italy.

The new shrine at St. Charles, located between the church and Macey Hall, was constructed by Mike Williams and his son Jake. Mike Williams, a parishioner and a professional landscaper who owns Custom Designs LLC, is a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 13513.

Mike Williams was approached by another Knight, Ron Neal, about the project. With a little down time between other business projects, the concept became a plan, the plan was approved, and the shrine was erected.

KofC Council 13513 Grand Knight Bruce Large said, “I think it's great that our parishioners will have



The San Damiano Crucifix icon was installed as an outdoor shrine on the grounds of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church by professional landscaper and parishioner Mike Williams and his son Jake.

a nice, quiet place outdoors to view the icon. It will also function as a perfect outdoor gathering place for parish functions, allowing for the parishioners to be on concrete, not in the grass or parking areas. Eventually I believe there will be benches and a permanent covering over the area.”

Deacon A.B. King, Council 13513 Chaplain, said, “I hope that those who come and pray in front of the San Damiano crucifix will be able to hear the voice of God as St. Francis did when he prayed in front of it and was told to rebuild the church. It is a place for everyone to be closer to God.”

Knights of Columbus – Council 13513

Interested in becoming a Knight?

Interested in serving the Pastor? The Parish? The Community?

Please call KofC Council 13513 Grand Knight Bruce W. Large

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