

The closeness of the Lak family to the church provided opportunities for both service and leadership, setting an example for their children. At St. Augustine Parish in Thomasville, Georgia, Les was elected president of the parish council and in 1979 was one of the founding members of the Knights of Columbus Pope John Paul I Council 7366. He and Carol were Eucharistic ministers, and founded a parish prayer group. Additionally, Les was the Saturday evening altar server, Lector and Eucharistic minister. After relocating to Holden, Massachusetts, Les taught Faith Formation, started a bible study and was active in a prayer group at St. Mary's parish. Moving to East Greenbush NY and Holy Spirit Parish, working with the local Bishop, Les and Carol took on the challenge of recruiting students from 5 local parishes in order to save their own parish school.

In 2008, a visit to Medjugorje had a profound influence on Les' life. At the shrine, he witnessed miracles and was given the gift of tears. For many years, Les has said the rosary during his lunchtime walks, praying for an hour or more in the early morning, and attending morning Mass when possible - a practice he continues. Les has given away over a thousand rosaries blessed by Mary from the shrine and has felt the overwhelming presence of God in his life ever since.

In 2014, Les was working for a company that employed immigrant workers. He worked closely with the Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County in teaching English to the immigrant workers. They taught English during lunch on all three shifts twice a week. Over ten employees went on to become US Citizens. Les worked diligently to help secure funding. Unknown to Les, the Literacy Volunteers nominated him, along with eight other individuals from across the country, for the Presidential Champion of Change for Strengthening the Economy through Citizenship. He received the award from President Barack Obama in October 2014 at the White House, to which he returned on two additional occasions – another recognition of his values as a father and Catholic gentleman.

Wherever Les and Carol have lived, they have always found time to participate in church and community activities. They were members of their children's Catholic School Board (Les was President), initiated day care and nursery school programs, ran Bingo to raise money, and many other programs. Their children were altar servers and received the sacraments as part of their own faith formation. Today, two of their children, Allison and Kristen, reside in Delaware and are members of St Edmond's Parish where their children are active in the Family Life programs, continuing the example and commitment shown by Les and Carol.

Since moving to Lewes, Les has immersed himself in Star of the Sea Council 7297. He volunteers at Sunday Breakfasts, Themed Dinners, 40 cans for Lent Food Drive, our Lenten soup ministry, and the Tootsie Roll Drive. He attends Business Meetings, Monthly Socials and has become a faithful contributor of time and talent to the Knights.