INAUGURAL WORDS
Survey Finds That, 50 Years Later, Majority Still See President Kennedy’s Speech as Relevant

A new Knights of Columbus-Marist poll, released on the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's inauguration, finds that Americans overwhelmingly believe that key themes from President Kennedy's inaugural speech are still important in America today.

“Fifty years after President John F. Kennedy stirred a nation with these important words, Americans continue to recognize the importance of what he said, of his definition of what it means to be an American,” said Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson. “President Kennedy reminded us then that we must be at the service of God and country, and that message — as Americans clearly understand — is still very important to our nation today.”

John F. Kennedy was the first Catholic elected to the presidency, and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. In 2010, the Knights funded the restoration of the

SEE KENNEDY, PAGE 7

A Promise Kept ‘Healing Haiti’s Children’

W hen a devastating earthquake struck Haiti more than a year ago on Jan. 12, children who lost limbs in the collapsing buildings were left with little hope for their future.

Thanks to the more than $1 million commitment from the Knights of Columbus and the tireless work of Project Medishare, the “Healing Haiti’s Children” program is successfully providing free prosthetic limbs and a minimum of two years of rehab to every child who suffered an amputation as a result of the calamity. Since the initiative began, more than $803,000 in contributions have been received for the fund.

“We are honored to be able to give the important gift of hope to the children of Haiti,” announced Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson. “It is rare to be able to give a gift that changes a life forever. Providing mobility does just that, for few things can change a child’s life

SEE HEALING, PAGE 7

Vatican Announces Beatification of Pope John Paul II

P ope Benedict XVI announced on Jan. 14 that Pope John Paul II would be beatified on May 1 after issuing a decree that a French nun’s recovery from Parkinson’s disease was miraculous. According to Church officials, the miracle ascribed to Pope John Paul II’s intercession with God concerned a 49-year-old-nun who had suffered from Parkinson’s disease — a condition with which the pope had also suffered.

The beatification ceremony is slated to take place in St. Peter’s Square. A second miracle must be approved before Pope John Paul II can be canonized.

Upon hearing the announcement, Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said, “There is no doubt that Pope John Paul

SEE BEATIFICATION, PAGE 4
Supreme Knight Remembers Sargent Shriver

Sargent Shriver, who died Jan. 18 at the age of 95, was “a man who personified the ideal of Catholic public service,” Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said. “Most people know him as the founder of the Peace Corps, which has provided an avenue through which tens of thousands of Americans have served people in need in poor countries throughout the world over the past five decades. That project, undertaken at the behest of his brother-in-law, President John Kennedy, asked people to accept risks and make sacrifices in order to serve others. It was emblematic of Sargent Shriver’s entire life.”

“He served his community in Chicago in many ways — as president of the Chicago Board of Education before coming to Washington, and later, as co-founder with his wife, Eunice, of the Special Olympics, which has benefited countless numbers of intellectually handicapped people in America and around the world,” Anderson continued. “The Knights of Columbus were proud to help him launch the very first Special Olympics event in Chicago in 1968, and we continue this work with his son Tim Shriver, who guides the organization today.

Like President Kennedy, Sargent Shriver was a long-time member of the Knights of Columbus, and we have always been proud to call him a brother Knight,” Anderson said. “He embodied the values of Catholic social teaching: a love for the innate dignity of every human person, and a determination to help improve the lot of those who suffered. Sargent Shriver was a genuine Catholic gentleman, filled with faith, and a dedicated, loving husband and father to his five children. He lived a long and exceptionally productive life, and set an example for Knights everywhere.

“Sargent Shriver has gone to his eternal reward just two days before the 50th anniversary of his brother-in-law’s memorable inaugural address, in which he invited Americans to ask what they could do for their country: a call to public service, a plea that we join together to ‘assure a more fruitful life for all mankind,’ and to banish ‘the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war.’ And he urged that we do so ‘asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God’s work must truly be our own.’ Sargent Shriver and John Kennedy both deeply believed those words, and so do we. And we will seek to accomplish those goals in their honor,” Anderson said.

100 Years of Faith and Fraternalism in Puerto Rico

Since Christopher Columbus’ arrival in 1493 during his second voyage, Puerto Rico has been a stronghold of the Catholic faith in the Caribbean. When Columbus landed upon the island of Boriquén in November 1493 during his second voyage, he christened it San Juan, in honor of St. John the Baptist.

Four centuries later, with help from the New York State council degree team, the Knights of Columbus officially expanded to Puerto Rico on Jan. 13, 1911. Council 1543 in San Juan was named after St. John the Baptist — an homage to the legacy of Christopher Columbus. Today, the Knights’ presence there consists of 77 councils and approximately 3,700 members. All of Puerto Rico’s bishops are Knights, and Archbishop Roberto Gonzalez Nieves, O.F.M., of San Juan began his membership with the Order as a Columbian Squire.

“The Knights in Puerto Rico are strong and active today,” said Past State Deputy (1987-90) Manuel Rivera-Santiago, noting that the Knights have rekindled in the Puerto Rican Catholic Church the faith brought there by Columbus. “The Catholic faith from Spain entered into our people very strongly.” According to Rivera-Santiago, this faith is strengthened today through “our example as practicing Catholics, dedicated in our daily lives to our families, to brotherhood, to Columbian principles. We stand together and back the Church, our clergy — and the needs of the people, which are often many.”

These experiences have fashioned a strong emphasis on service projects in the field. And of the Order’s 75 worldwide jurisdictions, Puerto Rico was one of only 15 to donate more than $100 per member in charitable giving, according to the 2009 Survey of Fraternal Activity.

For more on the rich history of the Knights of Columbus in Puerto Rico, see the February 2011 issue of Columbia magazine.
Knights Join 38th March for Life

On Jan. 24, Knights and their families were among more than 200,000 participants who braved frigid temperatures to join the 38th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., observing the anniversary of the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court ruling Roe v. Wade.

Numerous flags and banners of Knights of Columbus councils were just one indication of the Order’s presence. The Supreme Council, which financially supports the March for Life, worked with the D.C. State Council to distribute “Defend Life” signs, which featured the emblem of the Order. Prior to the march’s start, Supreme Advocate John A. Marrella offered brief remarks and led the Pledge of Allegiance during a rally on the National Mall. College Knights from the surrounding area also joined the march.

On Jan. 23, the day before the march, Supreme Chaplain Bishop William E. Lori addressed hundreds of young people at Georgetown University’s Gaston Hall. He spoke on the legacy of Cardinal John O’Connor for whom the conference at Georgetown is named.

Also speaking on the panel were Archbishop Edwin O’Brien of Baltimore, Father Joseph W. Koterski, Associate Professor of philosophy at Fordham University, Mother Agnes Mary Donovan of the Sisters of Life, and Professor Helen Alvare of George Mason University Law School.

On Jan. 22, Knights also participated in the 7th annual Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco, attracting more than 45,000 participants. Councils also sponsored and participated in numerous pro-life prayer services and processions in their local communities.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE UNBORN CHILD

With the Knights of Columbus Day of the Unborn Child soon approaching on March 25, Knights have the opportunity to stand up and speak out against the evil of abortion.

All members of our Order are encouraged to hold a special prayer service in council homes, meeting places or local parishes. When celebrating the Day of the Unborn Child, councils are encouraged to conduct a pro-life Mass or rosary service. Remember to invite all members of the community, including public officials and health care workers. Strength in numbers gives others the courage to speak up and also lets the community know there is a group willing to help women in crisis pregnancies. To plan a service, councils should:

- Consult with your chaplain or the pastor of the local parish to establish a time and the kind of service (i.e. rosary, Mass, etc);
- Ask the pastor to make a pulpit or bulletin announcement regarding the program at all Masses the weekend prior to the event;
- Send a notice to the local diocesan newspaper and local secular media;
- Distribute Prayer for Life cards (#4665), available in reasonable quantities from the Supply Department.

The Knights of Columbus Day of the Unborn Child was instituted as an addition to the Order’s commitment to build a culture that respects and protects every human life, from conception to natural death. For more information on the Knights of Columbus Day of the Unborn Child see the “community” section of kofc.org/service.

In addition, to further assist your pro-life activities, the Supreme Council offers the following materials (all of which are free of charge when ordered in reasonable quantities; there is only a shipping charge):

- The brand new four-page, full-color “Winning Words of Life” flyer (#2275) offers thoughtful responses to common abortion arguments.
- The brochure “A People of Life — And for Life” (#4795) outlines the Order’s commitment to reversing the trend toward a culture of death and building a culture that values human life at every stage. The beautifully designed, full-color brochure clearly explains the common sense and common law basis for the protection of life, and also offers five practical action items to help members, their families and all concerned individuals get involved in building a culture of life. A poster (#4804) with a similar design is also available.
- “Pray the Rosary to End Abortion” poster (#2073) and prayer card (#2072).
- “Gospel of Life” poster (#4238) and prayer card (#4237E, F, or S) in English, French or Spanish.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS is open to men 18 years of age or older who are practical (that is, practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See. This means that an applicant or member accepts the teaching authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, aspires to live in accord with the precepts of the Catholic Church, and is in good standing in the Catholic Church.
Earn Star Council Status

What Makes a Star? Excellence

Is your council a star? Do you think your efforts and those of your fellow council members are award-worthy? Is your council having a great year in membership, insurance promotion and service programming?

If the answer to these questions is yes, then now is the time to make sure your council has met all the requirements for the Star Council Award by qualifying for the Father McGivney, Founder’s and Columbian awards.

The eligibility requirements for these awards are: conducting and reporting at least four major programs in each of the Service Program categories (using the Columbian Award Application found in the Council Report Forms Booklet (#1436) or on the Order’s website by June 30), achieving new associate member quota, and achieving new insurance member quota.

For more detailed information on achieving these awards refer to the Surge ... with Service program manual (#962) or the Grand Knight’s Handbook (#915). To ensure timely processing, all Form 100s must be received, processed and recorded at the Supreme Council before 4:30 p.m. EST on June 30 to be counted toward 2010-11 fraternal year quotas. All insurance policies must be issued and released by June 30 in order to count for the 2010-11 fraternal year quotas.

Beatification, from Page One

will enter into the history books as one of the greatest popes who ever lived. His legacy — from his theological contributions, to the work he did that helped end Communism and brought freedom and unity to Europe, to his tremendous ability to connect with people anywhere in the world, combined with a willingness to travel to them — is full of tremendous accomplishments.

“But in the end, the beatification of Pope John Paul means that Catholics, and indeed all people, have a model for the heroic virtue each of us should strive to embody,” the Supreme Knight continued. “A love of neighbor and defense of human dignity, a willingness to break down barriers and to dialogue with people of other faiths, a willingness to forgive even the man who shot him, and the sincerity to ask for forgiveness for himself and the Church. This was a man who taught us how to live, and in the twilight of his years taught us how to die. He was in his life, and remains now a man for all people, and an example to us all.”

Supreme Knight Anderson was contacted by multiple news services, from The Associated Press to the Wall Street Journal, soliciting his commentary and expertise based on his experiences with Pope John Paul II.

For more on Pope John Paul II and the Knights of Columbus visit kofc.org.

Honor Our Founder on March 29

The Knights of Columbus began in the basement of St. Mary’s Church in New Haven, in 1882, when Father Michael J. McGivney called together a small group of pioneering Catholic laymen, and founded a society designed to provide financial assistance for widows and orphans of members.

March 29 marks the anniversary of the Order receiving its charter from the state of Connecticut. The anniversary of the realization of Father McGivney’s dream is a cause for celebration. Here are just a few Founder’s Day events your council can sponsor to celebrate the founding of our Order as well as the institution of your council:

• Hold a Founder’s Day reception for your parish and community.
• Conduct an open house and give out information on the Order.
• Show The Life and Legacy of Father McGivney to members, families and guests. This production documents the life of our Order’s founder. Also show the Experience of a Lifetime production, which illustrates the dynamic organization the Order has grown into since its founding.
• Prepare a council history display featuring old photos and written records.
• Publish and distribute a council history to all council members and post it on your website.
• Ask your local government to issue a proclamation declaring March 29 as Knights of Columbus Founder’s Day.
• Send press releases on your celebration to the local media. Invite them to cover the event.
• Recognize your council’s founders — your charter members — by presenting them with Charter Member Certificates (#1456, E,F,S). These vertical certificates are 8.5 by 11 inches and can be purchased from the Supreme Council Supply Department for 25 cents each.
• Founder’s Day activities are the perfect forum for asking eligible Catholic men to join the Knights of Columbus. Tie in your anniversary celebrations with membership activities.

For more ideas on celebrating Founder’s Day visit the “Council” section of kofc.org/service.
‘Food for Families’

Councils throughout the Order continue to provide the basic necessity of putting meals on the table through the “Food for Families” initiative. Members of St. Luke Council 9793 in Slidell, La., worked with other volunteers to collect food items, and assemble and deliver 160 food baskets to families facing financial or other difficulties in the community. Meanwhile, Knights from Clason Point Council 6218 in the Bronx, N.Y., collected food at Holy Cross Church where they held an emergency drive to sustain the parish food pantry after its normal delivery of food was delayed for weeks. The council collected enough food to keep the pantry open for an entire month. Jurisdictions can qualify for a proportional share of $250,000 approved by the Supreme Council in support of the “Food for Families” initiative, by having 35 percent or more of their council’s report qualifying programs conducted between Jan. 1 and March 31, 2011. Councils that participate in the “Food for Families” initiative and complete the reporting form, found at kofc.org/forms, will also receive full credit for the “Community” section of the Columbian Award Application (#SP-7). For more information on food drives visit the “Community” section at kofc.org/service.

International Service Program Winner: Family

The members of All Saints Council 11402 in Dunwoody, Ga., accepted the challenge to “Embrace the Adventure of Fatherhood,” by sponsoring an eight-week seminar, during which they discussed and learned about such topics as “Loving Our Wives All Our Lives,” “Turning Our Hearts Toward Our Children,” and “Protecting Our Families.” Information from the Order’s Fathers for Good website helped guide the choices of books and videos to use in the program. The council publicized the seminar series in its parish bulletin and adult education course curriculum booklet. A conclusion ceremony was held in which each participant was presented with a portrait of Jesus, built. Because of the importance that the family holds for the Knights of Columbus, councils regularly participate in the “Family of the Month” and “Family of the Year” program.

Family of the Month/Year

Each month your council should choose an exemplary K of C family to honor as the “Family of the Month.” Select a “Family of the Year” from your “Family of the Month” recipients. The “Family of the Year” for each council is eligible for entry into the state council’s “Family of the Year” competition. Each member of the “Family of the Year” is assigned to the state council’s “Family of the Year” competition. Entry forms are in the Family of the Month booklet (#1993) and at kofc.org/forms. These forms should be submitted to your state deputy, program director or family activities director by the deadline set for each state council competition. Contact your district deputy or state program director for your state’s entry deadline and where to send entries. Note: Local councils should not send their “Family of the Year” forms to the Supreme Council. Each council should submit their “Family of the Year” entries to the Supreme Council.

Parish Round Tables

Our Order’s goal is a Knights of Columbus presence in every parish. Our round table program can assist in accomplishing that. If your council serves more than one parish, consider establishing a round table in each. The round table works with the pastor to help meet the needs to that parish. See the Parish Round Table booklet (#2632) for details.

Special Olympics Report

The Knights of Columbus has always had a close relationship with Special Olympics. To further track local councils’ involvement, make sure that your council completes the Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics (#4584) and submits it to the Supreme Council Office, with copies to the state deputy, district deputy and the council’s files. This form is available at kofc.org/forms.

Six Jurisdictions Achieve 50 Percent by Mid-Year

Congratulations to the six jurisdictions that achieved 50 percent of their membership quota by Dec. 31. These jurisdictions — District of Columbia, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Guam, Dominican Republic and Poland — will each receive $2,000 from the Supreme Council for their Christopher Funds or similar charitable fund as part of a special incentive that ran from July 1 to Dec. 31.

The Knights of Columbus Book Club

Discusses: The End and The Beginning: Pope John Paul II — The Victory of Freedom, the Last Years, the Legacy

In The End and The Beginning: Pope John Paul II — The Victory of Freedom, the Last Years, the Legacy (Doubleday, 2010), author George Weigel provides a sequel to his bestselling biography of Pope John Paul II, Witness to Hope. Weigel relies on declassified Cold War-era documents to reveal the pope’s struggle against the evils of communism and offers an assessment of the pontificate that definitively shaped history and the Catholic Church. Please join us on Monday, Feb. 28 at 5 p.m. EST, for a live discussion of The End and The Beginning at kofc.org/bookclub.

Knights of Columbus mourn death of Judge John M. Roll, other victims in Tucson

Knights throughout the Order joined Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson in expressing “profound sadness” at the shooting deaths of U.S. District Court Judge John M. Roll and five others in Tucson on Jan. 8, and to pray for Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and 12 other people who were seriously injured in the attack, and for the repose of the souls of those who died.

Judge Roll, who was the chief judge for the District of Arizona, was a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus, a charter member of Deacon Raphael Ray Longpre Council 10441, and a member of Msgr. Don H. Hughes Assembly 2392, both in Tucson. He had been a member of the Knights of Columbus for 24 years. Fourth Degree Knights provided an honor guard at his funeral.

“The senseless carnage in Tucson is a terrible tragedy for the victims, their families, the people of Arizona and people of good will everywhere,” Anderson said. “We feel a tremendous sense of loss at Judge Roll’s death, and for all — young and old — who lost their lives in this attack. We pray for God’s mercy on all who have been touched by this tragedy.”

The Luke E. Hart Series

Now in French

Printed and online pdf versions of the Knights of Columbus Catholic Information’s Luke E. Hart Series are now available in French. The series, based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, answers the questions: What does a Catholic believe? How does a Catholic worship? How does a Catholic live? The series is also available in English and Spanish, with podcast versions of the English and Spanish booklets.
Parish priests are our spiritual leaders and our Order has always sought to support and share a close relationship with them. As part of your council’s recruitment strategy, meet with your pastor about the possibility of conducting a “Father Invites You to Join” membership campaign in your parish.

Here are some steps to follow:

- Get your pastor’s approval for a “Father (fill in his name) Invites You to Join” campaign. Also, get his input on the invitation letter to use in the campaign (see sample to right).
- Obtain a head and shoulders photograph of your priest to include on the invitation letter.
- Acquire a parish membership roster.
- Build a team of five or six members from the council. These Knights should be very active in the parish and know many parishioners.
- Set up a meeting and ask each team member to review the parish roster and to highlight those men that he knows and would recommend for membership.
- Using the parishioner list, make a new list of prospects. Include the prospect’s name, address, phone number, e-mail, and wife’s name.
- Take the completed list to your priest and ask him to review it and validate each prospect as a practical Catholic. Also, ask him if there are any parishioners he would like to add to the list.
- Schedule an open house and ask your pastor, the recruitment team, council officers, your field agent, other members, and the prospects and their wives to attend.
- Send out the invitation letters (with a list of other Knights in the parish). In a few days follow up with a phone call to encourage the prospect to attend. If he cannot attend the open house due to another commitment, ask if a member of the council can visit his home.
- Conduct the open house.
- Provide snacks and beverages for the guests.
- Choose a master of ceremonies (such as the field agent, grand knight, or membership director).
- Start with an opening prayer.
- After the greeting the grand knight should explain the purpose of the meeting.
- Make a presentation on the council’s activities.
- Have the financial secretary or the treasurer explain the initiation fee and dues structure.
- Talk about the history of the Order and show a Knights of Columbus production such as Experience of a Lifetime.
- The field agent should describe the Order’s top-rated insurance program and other fraternal benefits.
- Ask your pastor to invite each prospect to join the Order. For example: “I would consider it a personal favor if each of you would take the time today to sign up to become a member of the Knights of Columbus.”

**Sample Invitation Letter**

FATHER (fill in his name) INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Dear (parishioner’s name):

I am recommending you for membership in our honored Order, the Knights of Columbus. I believe that you have all the qualifications to be a good member of this most impressive Catholic family fraternal organization. The Knights of Columbus is the main source of volunteers for our parish.

In the next week or two you will receive a phone call from one of my brother Knights to personally invite you and (wife’s name, if appropriate) to an open house. I would consider it a personal favor if both of you would attend the event scheduled for (time and date). The open house will be held at (location, address, and directions if needed).

I am also enclosing a list of all the Knights of Columbus members here at (parish name). Through this list you will see the quality of men and their families that you will be associated with in the Knights of Columbus.

God Bless.

Sincerely Yours,
(Pastor’s Name)
HEALING, FROM PAGE ONE

as completely as the ability to regain freedom of movement.”

To date, more than 100 children have been fitted with prostheses. Some of the newly fitted youths have gone on to become members of Team Zaryen, Port-Au-Prince’s own amputee soccer team, which was formed in the wake of the tragedy. Each team member receives treatment, athletic training and prosthetic limbs from the Healing Haiti’s Children program.

Zaryen was named after the Haitian Creole word for “tarantula” because of the way the spider keeps on going even after it loses an appendage. In the midst of the country’s growing sense of pessimism and despair, Team Zaryen has become a symbol of the city’s hope and resilience, its players showing the world that disability does not crush the human spirit.

“Sport is a universal vehicle that brings us all together across the world, whether it be the World Cup, the Super Bowl, or the World Series,” said Dr. Robert Gailey, Project Medishare’s rehabilitation coordinator. “We all love to rally around athletes and we all use athletes as role models. Haiti is no different. We have folks that receive their prosthesis, they’ve learned how to walk, and within hours they are out on the soccer field seeing and testing whether or not they could kick the soccer ball. Our hope is that through the program with the Knights of Columbus, we’re going to use sport in the same way.”

Amputees have many prejudices to overcome in Haiti.

“Historically, the amputees have been viewed as second-class citizens, unable to contribute and therefore a drain on the society. We’re hoping to change that stigma for the people of Haiti,” explained prosthetist Adam Finnieston.

To commemorate the anniversary of the quake, Team Zaryen (shown above) played a friendly match against Haiti’s national amputee soccer team on Jan. 9. Both teams were tied 0-0 at the end of regulation play (two 25-minute periods). While international rules for amputee soccer allow no extra time, the teams were given another 35 minutes to play during which the national team scored 2 goals, one at the 32-minute mark and one at the 35.

“Our guys played their hearts out and are very proud of their accomplishments,” said Dr. Gailey.

As part of the Order’s continuing efforts to aid victims of the earthquake in Haiti, people are encouraged to contribute to the Healing Haiti’s Children program. Donations (in the United States) are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law to Knights of Columbus Canada Charities, Inc., a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. In Canada, donations are tax creditable to the extent allowed by law to Knights of Columbus Canada Charities, Inc., a registered charity with the CRA. Please write “Healing Haiti’s Children” on the memo line of the check. Checks should be sent and made payable to: Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc., a registered charity with the CRA. Please write “Healing Haiti’s Children” on the memo line of the check. Checks should be sent and made payable to: Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc., a registered charity with the CRA.

86 percent: “Here on earth God’s work must truly be our own.”

85 percent: “The rights of man come not from the generosity of the state, but from the hand of God.”

In addition, approximately three-quarters of Americans see the first two quotes as “very important,” while about six in 10 say the same for the latter two quotes.

The poll also found that two-thirds of Americans think President Kennedy was “one of the best presidents in U.S. history.” That number jumps to nearly three in four (72 percent) with the addition of those who think he was “the best president.”

The survey of 1,018 adults conducted Jan. 6 — 10 has a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points. Detailed results are available at kofc.org/moralcompass.

2010, FROM PAGE 8

hope this trend continues and that more members understand the value of owning our products.

Please understand my purpose in sharing these statistics with you. First, take pride in the success your organization is having in fulfilling the vision of Father Michael J. McGivney by caring for the financial security of our members and their families.

Second, I want to remind you that today is a great day to become an insured member or review the policies you might already have with us. Start a discussion with your agent.

If you don’t know who he is, please visit kofc.org and click on “Find an Agent.” You’ll be glad you did.

KENNEDY, FROM PAGE ONE

inscriptions from President Kennedy’s inaugural speech located at his grave at Arlington National Cemetery.

The survey focused on several memorable passages dealing with the importance of freedom, of service to the country, and the role of God in our national life. The results show that 85 percent or more of Americans still consider each of these ideas important for the United States.

The following are the percentages by which Americans say each quote surveyed is still either very or somewhat important:

96 percent: “We shall pay any price, bear any burden, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty.”

95 percent: “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”
This year was the tenth consecutive year of growth for the Knights of Columbus Insurance program, which grew in every category. This is a pretty remarkable feat, especially considering the economic conditions of this past decade. Let me share a few of the Order’s accomplishments with you.

- During 2010, the Order issued more life insurance than ever before in our history: $7.77 billion.
- Our total insurance in force reached a new high of $78.9 billion. To put this remarkable number in perspective, consider that at the end of 2000, we stood at $40.4 billion.
- Our field force continues to grow, and we finished the year with a net gain of new agents. We are continually looking for new agent candidates to serve our growing membership in the U.S. and Canada. The ultimate goal is to have all of our members served by a dedicated, full-time agent.
- In July, we held our second Field Agent Sales Conference in Dallas, an event that gathered a record number of field agents under one roof to learn from the best agents in the Order how to better serve Knights and their families.
- During 2010, we celebrated an extraordinary seven months that were in the “best ever” category. Records were set in January, February, March, April, May, September and November.
- Our annuity business continued to grow from its record numbers in 2009. More than 20,000 new annuities were issued to our members and their families in 2010.
- Our AAA (Extremely Strong) rating from Standard and Poor’s was reaffirmed for the 18th consecutive year and our A++ (Superior) rating from A.M. Best was reaffirmed for the 35th consecutive year.
- Members and their wives also accepted more long-term care policies in 2010 than they did in 2009. As the costs of care continue to rise, we expect that more and more clients will take advantage of our K of C Care product, which was designed with their needs in mind.
- Our number of associate members becoming insured members continued to grow, showing more of our brothers availed themselves of our products. In fact, the number of members moving from associate to insured status in 2010 was the highest in the past five years.

See 2010, Page 7