Knights Helped Transform Kraków Into a City of Mercy

Thirty years ago, Pope John Paul II invited young Catholics to gather in a celebration of their faith at the first international World Youth Day (WYD). This year, at WYD 2016, held July 25-31, the Knights of Columbus proudly contributed once more to the saint's enduring love of the youth of the world.

Assisted by several other organizations, including the Sisters of Life and Salt + Light Media, the Order set up the K of C Mercy Centre, an international English-language catechetical and youth festival site. There, millions of English-speaking pilgrims were offered the opportunity to come together in a single location to attend concerts, learn more about their faith and contemporary issues, and pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

All pilgrims were welcome to participate at the Mercy Centre's events from July 26 through July 30. Pilgrims had the opportunity to venerate the relics of several Polish saints and hear witnesses of speakers from FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students), the Sisters of Life, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and many others.

Mercy Centre pilgrims also learned models of sanctity through exhibitions on the Divine Mercy, the history of Christianity in Poland, Pope John Paul II and Solidarity, Auschwitz and more. Also available was a vocations café and exhibit on the diocesan priesthood.

Partnering with the Knights in arranging these speakers and events were the Sisters of Life, a religious community founded in 1991 by Cardinal John J. O’Connor of New York, who collaborated with the Order to sponsor centers for English-speaking youth during World Youth Day Sydney 2008 and World Youth Day Madrid 2011. Also joining the Knights were Holy Cross Family Ministries, Salt + Light Television, FOCUS and the Dominican Liturgical Institute.

The 134th Supreme Convention: Be on the Inside

If you were unable to attend this year’s Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention, you can still look to kofc.org to experience what made it one of the highlights of our fraternal year.

Each year, information on the convention’s preparation, the Chaplains Meeting, the States Dinner and the Supreme Knight’s Address are posted daily on kofc.org. Featuring news briefs, photos and links to both live and archived video, the webpage is your premier source for inside coverage — both during and after the event.

St. Michael’s Cathedral, the cathedral church of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto and one of the oldest churches in the city. It is located in Toronto’s Garden District, just blocks away from where the 134th convention was held.

Grand Knight Checklist – August & September

✓ Remember these dates:
  • Aug. 1 — Service Program Personnel Report (#365), Columbian Squires Officers and Counselors Report (#468) and Notice of Appointment of Round Table Coordinator (#2629) due
  • Aug. 8-14 — Knights of Columbus Family Week Celebration
  • Aug. 15 — Semiannual Council Audit Report (#1295) due
  • Aug 15-21 — Orderwide First Degree Week
✓ Confirm your council’s July assessments have been paid. Failure to pay the assessments prior to Oct. 10 will result in suspension of the council. A suspended council may not be seated at their state convention, nor are its members eligible to be delegates to the Supreme Convention. Please note: The incentive credit for Star Councils will be listed on the Sept. 1 statement. Please wait for this statement to determine the amount due or credited.
✓ Plan how your council will participate in the International World Day of Prayer for Peace (Sept. 11).
✓ Review how your council will participate in the annual Coats for Kids and Food for Families initiatives.
✓ Make sure your council is on the path to earning the Star Council Award for the 2016-17 fraternal year.
World Day of Prayer for Peace

This year we mark the 15th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

As we remember the tragic events and honor the thousands who lost their lives that day, all Knights are urged to observe the Knights of Columbus World Day of Prayer for Peace. We ask prayers not only for the United States but for all nations, especially those where war or turmoil persist.

If you have not yet planned how your council will commemorate the day, consider inviting members of your local community to a prayer service. The service could be held in a church or other public place, such as a war memorial, park or local community building. Prayer cards (#9484) are available for use during these services. Also available is a poster (#9483) that can be used to advertise your event.

For more information, please visit kofc.org/prayerforpeace.

Share Your News!

Every day, Knights make a difference — whether through community service, fundraisers or prayer. To showcase Knights’ efforts to building a better world, Columbia features a selection of reports on council activities, both in print and online. To read reports and learn more about submitting news on your council’s charitable and fraternal activities, please visit kofc.org/knightsinaction.

Honor Our Founder and Join the Guild

The Knights of Columbus will commemorate the anniversaries of Father Michael McGivney’s birth (Aug. 12) and death (Aug. 14).

A great way to mark these anniversaries is to join the Father Michael J. McGivney Guild, which serves as a source of information about Father McGivney’s life, works and spirituality. Guild members receive regular updates on the progress of the cause for the canonization of Father McGivney, who was declared Venerable in 2008, through The Father Michael J. McGivney Guild Newsletter.

Members of the Knights of Columbus are not automatically guild members and must elect to join. To join, visit fathermcgivney.org or write to The Father McGivney Guild, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326.

Social Media 101: What Great Content Looks Like

In the last few Social 101 columns, we’ve spent a lot of time talking about posting good content to your council’s Facebook page. But what exactly does good content look like? And where can you find it?

It’s easy to understand what makes good content when you remember that your Facebook page is a representation and extension of your council. Let the founding principles of unity, charity and fraternity be your guide when looking for content appropriate to share with your audience.

Unity: Your content should promote your council’s unity with your parish, the Knights of Columbus mission and, of course, the Catholic Church. Share articles that feature upcoming parish events, new Order-wide initiatives, faith formation resources from your local conference of bishops, or the latest Angelus address from the Holy Father.

Charity: One of the best ways you can encourage potential members to join your council is by promoting the Order’s mission of active charity. Show your audience what it means to be a Knight by posting stories from your local newspaper about your council’s charitable work and creating photo albums chronicling such events.

Fraternity: Look to the Knights in Action section of each month’s Columbia magazine (available online at kofc.org/columbia and kofc.org/knightsinaction) for great stories about your brother Knights around the world. Sharing these stories on your council’s Facebook page shows how immense the Order’s impact truly is!

Remember, many reliable and trusted Catholic resources can be utilized for content. You can either post content from their websites or share the content they post to their own social media profiles. Look to Catholic News Agency, EWTN, Salt + Light Media, Crux, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Vatican Radio, Fathers for Good and the Knights of Columbus for your Facebook content needs.

Transform, from Page 1

Programs and events at the Mercy Centre highlighted various aspects of living out Divine Mercy, in keeping with Pope Francis’ call to be instruments of God’s mercy and the WYD 2016 theme, “Blessed Are the Merciful, for They Will Receive Mercy.”

The Mercy Centre was located at Tauron Arena Kraków in Polish Aviators Park, just under 2.5 miles from Kraków’s Main Square. It is the largest entertainment and sports venue in Poland, having seating for more than 22,000 people on its three levels. The center was not far from Blonia Park, a large meadow adjacent to Kraków’s historic city center, where the primary events of WYD were held. This park has been the site of several Masses celebrated by Pope John Paul II and by Pope Benedict XVI.

For more information, visit krakow2016.com.
Councils Recognized for Their Stellar Work

The Supreme Council office has announced the winners of the 2015-16 Star Council, Columbian, Father McGivney and Founders' awards.

As of June 30, 2016, councils winning the Star Council Award numbered 2,178. Luzon North led with 133 councils, Florida with 120 councils and Visayas with 115 councils. The totals for the other awards were: 5,425 Columbian Award winners; 3,605 Father McGivney Award winners; and 2,824 Founders' Award winners.

Awards are now being engraved and will be forwarded to the district deputies of record and, if requested, to the state deputy. If a council wins only a Founders' Award, it will be sent to the general agent of record.

A complete listing of award winners is listed below. The listing is in alphabetical order by jurisdiction and contains the council number followed by one or more of the following letters: C (Columbian Award), M (McGivney Award), F (Founders' Award) and S (Star Councils, including only a Founders' Award, it will be sent to the general agent of record).

Questions concerning any of these awards should be forwarded to the Supreme Council Fraternal Mission Department. Look for a more detailed listing of Star Council winners, including the percentage of membership quota earned by each Star Council, in an upcoming issue of *Columbia* magazine.
Because the Knights of Columbus isn’t just another insurance company, you are more to us than customers, current or potential, who are valued only for the products you purchase. Father McGivney founded the Knights 134 years ago so that we could help each other, and so we offer unique products and services out of concern for the well-being of both you and your family. That’s the Knights of Columbus difference.

For starters, we extend to our members an Accidental Death benefit for free, just by virtue of their membership in the Knights of Columbus. The program — which is only available in insurance jurisdictions — provides a benefit of $1,000-$2,500 upon the accidental death of any member or his spouse (subject to certain age restrictions).

Since its launch in 1994, the program has provided nearly $15 million in benefits.

In addition to the Accidental Death benefit, the Knights of Columbus and our agents offer a number of free services to our members and their families. Our agents are committed to providing survivor assistance to widows and families left behind after the loss of a loved one.

Knights of Columbus agents will stand by you and assist you with any of the following: contacting your attorney to sort out the will, making funeral arrangements, notifying and coordinating with the council, resolving any financial matters, filing any claims (including claims with companies other than the Knights of Columbus) and filing for survivor benefits or veteran’s benefits, if necessary.

Secondarily, we offer two additional free services to help Knights’ families. The first is Profiles Forecaster, a comprehensive and complimentary industry tool that helps you evaluate your family’s financial situation and determine what insurance protection may be needed. The second, the Knights of Columbus Personal Planning Workbook, will help you record your final wishes and important information (including accounts, passwords, funeral arrangements, etc.) for your survivors. Both of these services are free through your Knights of Columbus agent.

To our insurance members we offer two more programs: the Family Fraternal Benefit Program and the Orphan Fraternal Benefit Program.

The Family Fraternal Benefit Program provides two distinct benefits. Firstly, it offers insurance eligibility to uninsurable children. Through the program, a member can purchase a $5,000 life insurance policy for an otherwise uninsurable child at standard rates before the child is 61 days old or at a rated premium if purchased before the child’s 18th birthday. At standard rates, a member can also purchase a $5,000 policy for a child between the ages of 3 and 18 years old who is mentally impaired.

The program also offers death benefit coverage to members who have lost an infant child less than 61 days after birth, or to those who have lost an unborn child in a stillbirth after the 20th week. (The Order affirms that life begins at conception. In this instance, the benefit requires a certified death certificate for the stillborn child, hence the 20-week rule.)

The second fraternal benefit program available to insured members is the Orphan Fraternal Benefit Program. This extensive program also provides two benefits. The first is an $80 monthly benefit for each eligible orphan until their 19th birthday. The second is a scholarship program that grants eligible orphans up to $1,750 per year for a four-year period.

In a letter addressing the programs, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson noted that “these benefits augment the tradition of fraternity established by Father McGivney — namely, that the Order cares for its own. It expands upon a basic reason for which he founded the Order, ‘of rendering pecuniary aid to its members, their families, and beneficiaries of members and their families.’”

These programs are part of what makes us unique.

Get to know all of our fraternal benefits and the ways in which members of your council may benefit from them. Help educate them and connect them with their field agent, who can provide them with specific details. Because, at the end of the day, we’re brothers and we’re here to help.

To find your agent, visit kofc.org/findagent or call 1-800-345-5632.

*To be eligible for both the Family Fraternal Benefit Program and the Orphan Fraternal Benefit Program, the member must be in good standing and either he or his wife must be insured under a Knights of Columbus certificate requiring an annual premium of at least $150 or providing at least $5,000 in permanent life insurance coverage. Eligibility for the Orphan Fraternal Benefit Program is also contingent on the child being covered by an individual Knights of Columbus certificate.

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Find an agent at kofc.org or 1-800-345-5632

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