Bringing the K of C Mission to College Men

Young Catholic men are vital for our parishes, our communities, our families. They are the next wave of the Knights of Columbus — young professionals, working men, men with families — building a bridge back to faith.

They are men like those in the College Councils Program featured in this issue. They are our future leaders — dedicated to their families, their faith and to the principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

There’s much work to be done. But when we add the years of experience of long-time Knights to the enthusiasm and energy of our young members, it’s a winning combination.

There are nearly 400 Knights of Columbus college councils around the world, with thousands of committed college Knights. For information, visit kofc.org/college or email college@kofc.org.

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Knights Helping Dorian Victims
In the wake of Hurricane Dorian, Knights have sprung into action. Those closest to the disaster have devoted hours to coordinating aid and supplies, while thousands have helped raise more than $670,000 for disaster relief efforts.

This outpouring of generosity and prayer is wonderful, but more help is needed. Visit kofc.org/disaster.
This State Deputy Is Under 40 — Here’s What He Has to Say

By State Deputy Paul Lee

At age 34, Paul Lee — state deputy of Iowa and a member of St. Stephen the Witness Council 14987 at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa — is the youngest and the first African American state deputy in his jurisdiction’s history. Lee and his wife, Amanda, have a special place in their heart for the K of C’s pro-life efforts:

In 2013, the Lees, who have three children, also lost a son at birth. Paul and Amanda have said that helping raise funds for the Ultrasound Initiative was a special response during their grieving process.

But Lee almost didn’t stay in the Knights. Here’s his story.

Joining the Knights

I joined the Order in Normandy, Mo., in 2006 at the age of 19, out of a request from my father. I transferred to a new council in 2007 when I moved to Cedar Falls, Iowa, as a result of a job change and the ability to pursue graduate studies. I thought the Knights would allow me to meet others and get settled in a new town quicker.

But no one reached out. Thus my K of C journey ended — so I thought.

Not over yet

Three years later, in 2010, a young college student asked me to help him start a local council on his university campus. I joked, asking “Can the Knights even have members under 40 years old?”

We then established St. Stephen the Witness Council 14987 to serve the University of Northern Iowa, and I served as the charter grand knight. We had fun doing things we were passionate about: faith-sharing groups, bible study, helping students with children, eating contests and going to events on campus.

Helping young Knights within our ranks

I have walked with college students throughout Iowa and across the United States, and helped other councils become more welcoming to the next group of dedicated servants. Since being part of the state leadership, one of my roles has been to ensure the young Knights within our ranks are being properly supported.

The next wave of dedicated servants

Within Iowa, we have continued our intentional evangelization to the next wave of dedicated servants. I don’t like using the term “next generation,” as it already comes with a connotation that “you can have an active role in a while, but not now, so just hang out and do what you are told.” We are making sure that all high school seniors know the value in being part of a faith-based organization.

When a young man becomes a brother Knight, they are asked, “How can we help you grow in your faith?”

When we select our Knight of the Month and Family of the Month, we strive to find a young Knight to validate his service in the Order. At our state events and state convention, we ensure there are many activities for our wives and our kids of all ages to be engaged with. We also ensure that the costs associated with these activities are reasonable for a young family, even if that means discounts are provided without having to be requested.

As we say, charity begins at home.

Find Your Focus

Keep your council focused on serving God, your parish, and your local community. Ensure you are asking your new brother Knights how can we help them grow in the faith.

Empower a young Knight to be like Lee. Invite young Knights to council events and ask them to lend a hand.

“There are few more significant programs in which you can be a member and lead as a college student. ... College Knights embody the values of chivalry often absent from our campuses and communities, executing amazing charity projects and programs of brotherhood together. In my professional life I reflect often on the lessons of stewardship I learned in these service and fraternal activities.”

Julian Gluck
Captain, USAF
U.S. Air Force Academy
Class of 2012
Past Grand Knight
Knights Support College-Bound Men

By Mark Luchetti

For three years, Monsignor Henry Schuyler Council 1333 in West Chester, Pa., has offered high school seniors help to pay for college through essay scholarship contests on faith and service. Mark Luchetti, trustee and past grand knight of the council, explains.

Proud to make a difference
We are very proud to be able to offer this opportunity to our members and their families, in addition to the various events we host to raise money for these scholarships.

The steps it takes
Our council distributes scholarship information with dues notices — this gives members the ability to support our program with an optional donation. We form an initial planning committee to discuss how the program should be run. Then three chairmen are selected to act as the main leaders moving the program forward and overseeing the results. An additional 5-7 members judge and vote on the entries each year.

What makes a winner
Our council’s unofficial motto is “Faith in Service.” Just like we encourage our members and families to live this motto, we asked the candidates to describe what the motto means to them, how they have demonstrated it in their lives so far, and how they plan to build upon their experiences as they continue their education. We open this scholarship opportunity up to all members of the council and their families. This year’s recipients were Chris Carlin, who will be going to University of Pittsburgh and will major in political science, and Luke Wierman, who will be attending University of Maryland and will major in communications.

Sharing the Knights’ message
We took the time to get this announcement out to many avenues locally to generate interest in our local council and grow our membership.

Scholarships are a longstanding Knights of Columbus tradition: For the 2018-2019 academic year, the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council awarded scholarships totaling more than $900,000 to 510 students, including $256,250 in awards given to 114 seminarians in the U.S. and Canada. Learn more in this month’s Columbia and at kofc.org/scholarships.
Knights of Columbus: Unapologetically Catholic at Notre Dame

By Rose Wagner, K of C Publications Editor

Here's how the Knights at Notre Dame Council 1477 — our oldest College Council — are putting Catholic values into action.

It isn’t a Notre Dame football game without a Knights of Columbus steak sandwich. Every home football weekend, Council 1477 sells thousands of grilled steak sandwiches with the proceeds going to various charities. Since its start in the 1970s, the program has donated more than $1.5 million to charity.

But for Notre Dame Knights, membership is about much more. It’s about building a culture of “everyday Knighthood” in which men can grow spiritually and find community through service, fellowship and faith, especially in supporting Catholic life on Notre Dame’s campus.

Past Grand Knight Henry Dickman says that the Catholic faith is the university’s “greatest asset.”

“The council is an example of what an unapologetically Catholic organization can accomplish at a Catholic university,” Grand Knight David Bender said. The Knights show “the best of what Catholic students can be.”

“Our council seeks to develop college men who serve as Christ served, to devote themselves to God as best they can, and to love their neighbor and brother Knights as themselves,” he said.

Because of this, the council is trying to be a “voice of support for university action that allowed for the flourishing of Christian life,” Dickman said.

Alongside the faith-based work council members undertake, they partner with on-campus organizations that promote the university’s Catholic mission. One project was establishing the Catholic Identity Association, now run by Notre Dame’s campus ministry, which connects Catholic clubs throughout the year.

All of these are noteworthy because they put Catholic values — Knights of Columbus values — into action.

As Kevin Angell, a former deputy grand knight of the council, shares, “College men are hungry for a mission and a purpose, and we try to show members how working to be a Catholic gentleman provides that purpose.”

The Knights serve as an umbrella group, Angell explained, saying, “Regardless of what else you are involved in, you can and should be a Knight.”

Council 1477’s noteworthy work

Pro-life prayer vigils, supporting people with developmental disabilities, fundraising for Christians in the Middle East, student body debates on Catholic issues, White Ribbon Against Pornography Week, and an annual prayer service in remembrance of Sept. 11, 2001.

“It works this way: Any Catholic man who is dedicated to charity and faith is working towards the ideals of the Knights and upholding tradition.

“It’s all about tradition — Notre Dame tradition, football tradition, Knights tradition,” Dickman explained. “And Notre Dame students love tradition. That’s why they came to the school in the first place.”

This legacy of tradition is deeply rooted at Notre Dame — and Knights ensure the K of C legacy is rooted as well. It starts as soon as a student steps foot on campus, according to Dickman.

“On the second day of formation, your group is off and running,” he said. “Once they make a choice, it’s hard to get them to commit seriously to anything else. So our goal was to immediately get freshmen to commit to the Knights, before their schedules would get swallowed up by other clubs.”

story continued on next page
They do this by ensuring that freshman and new Knights have a personal stake in high-profile events. They encourage freshmen to share project ideas and provide mentoring to underclassman as way to carry on the Knights tradition. This way, no one has to learn the job on his own.

The officers also have discussed helping members transition to a new council after graduation, which, according to Dickman, is difficult even for the most active college Knights.

Dickman suggests forming a “pipeline” for graduating Knights, starting with an appointment of a director of young alumni engagement at each college council. This person could meet with graduating seniors to discuss moving plans and make sure they are personally connected to leaders in a parish council.

“It’s a way of putting the Knight at ease before he moves to a new community,” Dickman said. “There is somebody expecting him who will help the new place feel like home.”

For the Knights still at Notre Dame, their council is truly a second home on campus, allowing them to deepen their faith and serve their neighbor. This makes the council a hub for spiritual development, service projects and fraternal activities.

“Our council helps our members see how the cultivation of faith and service to others are critically and necessarily linked,” Bender said.

Proud of the extraordinary traditions that come with a 109-year legacy of Council 1477, the Knights want to continue the tradition for the next 109 years. After all, it’s part of the Catholic future at Notre Dame.

“We want to be the student face of all that is extraordinary about the University of Notre Dame,” says Dickman. “That’s a tall order, but I think we do it well.”

Share your councils’ story with rose.wagner@kofc.org or knightline@kofc.org.

Future of our Church

“It is a tremendous blessing to be able to help our Knights grow as Christian gentleman by inviting them to explore their faith more deeply and use their talents charitably. ... The time I get to spend with our college Knights assures me that the future of our Church is in good hands.”

Father Brian Ching, C.S.C.
Chaplain, Council 1477

Leaders for Life

Recent college grads might feel transient, but they need community too.

By offering faith, fraternity and service to those remaining in the area after graduation, you not only can recruit excellent leaders — you can make men feel at home and keep the faith.

Calls to action build strong bonds

Both Notre Dame Council 1477 and St. John Paul II Council 14188 at Harvard University regularly attend the College Council Conference.

One year, the Harvard Knights spoke about fundraising for Christian refugees in the Middle East. Inspired, Notre Dame Knights returned to their campus and held their own fundraising dinner.

As Henry Dickman says, “These weren’t just inspiring stories; they were calls to action.”

Members of Notre Dame Council 1477 set up shop to sell the council’s famed steak sandwiches — a tradition at all home Notre Dame football games. (Photo by Jacque Photo)
Register Now for 2019-2020 Fraternal Training

Online webcast training now takes place quarterly, on four Tuesdays per year.

Webcast content is geared toward current and aspiring Knights of Columbus leaders including state officers, district deputies, grand knights, council officers, directors and appointees. To view the entire 2019-2020 webcast schedule and register for future trainings, click here.

Update Your Contact Information

Have you moved? Did you recently graduate? Visit kofc.org/myinfo to stay in touch with news and information.

What do you want to see in Knightline?

Share your questions, feedback and advice. Email us at knightline@kofc.org.

TryiNg to Avoid the Cross?

A Challenge and Message from Supreme Chaplain Archbishop Lori

“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion?”

— Lk. 14:27-28

In my over four decades as a priest and more recently a bishop, I’ve been involved with a number of building committees for a new church or school construction. One of the first things we would often do is “dream big.” Then, reality hits with one simple question: What are we willing to spend? Jesus is asking each of us a similar question about our faith lives. In our lifelong journey to become saints, are we making a habit of “sitting down” daily, being aware of the cost, and fully preparing ourselves to pay it? My brothers, in our lives, above all other things, may we always prepare to carry our crosses and give our entire lives to Christ.

This Month’s Challenge

This month I challenge you to learn more about the life of one of the martyrs and how they were prepared to pay any price to follow Christ. Secondly, I challenge you to participate in the Into the Breach program. Or, read Into the Breach on your own with a particular eye toward how we can best prepare to carry our crosses.

Questions for Reflection:

What cross is Christ asking you to carry in your life? Are you willingly taking up the cross and seeking to follow Christ or trying to avoid the cross? By reflecting on the lives of the martyrs, in what concrete ways can we grow to imitate their total commitment to Christ?

Recruit Members at No Cost

A tip shared by Cornelius Kennedy, inside guard of Waterford (N.Y.) Council 237

“Have you moved? Five? Ten? Maybe 15? What are you planning to do with them?

I suggest we put them at various venues we visit weekly, such as the doctor’s or dentist office, the library or your church. Simply attach your K of C contact card — who knows? You just might get an inquiry.”

Have your own recruiting tip to share in Knightline?

Email knightline@kofc.org
Want to be welcomed, heard and challenged?

Young men want to be welcomed, to be heard, and to be challenged.
Andrew Weiss — a field agent in South Bend, Ind., and at the University of Notre Dame — shares why this is important when inviting young men to join the Knights.

As a field agent, I get a wide perspective: I serve several councils and I am familiar with their struggles, strengths, leaders, etc. I also meet with 10-15 Catholic families each week to discuss the Knights of Columbus and our financial programs. I help them achieve their financial goals, and I listen to their thoughts about the Knights of Columbus. I’ve learned that different generations join the Knights for different reasons.

What kind of army are you building at your council?
Is it one that a young Catholic man wants to join?

To feel welcomed into the Order, a young man needs to know that he was invited because he is a worthy recruit for the army of soldiers battling to defend Christ and his Church.

For a young man’s ideas to be heard, we must be implementing the Faith In Action initiatives. There are plenty of service organizations out there, but ours is distinguished by our Catholic faith. This is important to those of us in my generation who have persevered in our faith.

Are you prepared to invite a young man into your council to help transform it?
Do you recognize the power of your council to transform your parish?

Despite popular belief, young men want to be challenged. Even if your council isn’t what you hope for it to be, you can invite young men to help change it. Be honest about the challenges ahead, but most importantly, be optimistic. I will leave you with a final challenge (and a practical tip to achieve it). Young men typically want to join a council that has other young men too. Find two to four young men who are friends and invite them to join as a group. Plug them all into the same committee or give them one event to organize together. You’ll find your ideal guys at events and programs like Theology on Tap, Cursillo, Alpha Series, That Man Is You or a parish bible study. You can also work with your local field agent. He can help connect you.

Weiss is a graduate of Holy Cross College at Notre Dame, Ind., and a member of Santa Maria Council 553 in South Bend. He is the author of “I’m a Member of the Knights of Columbus and I’m Not Old” published by the Grotto Network.

Live in the South Bend area and have a question about K of C insurance? Call 574-274-6929 or email andrew.weiss@kofc.org. To find an agent in a different area, visit kofc.org/findagent.

Grand Knight’s Checklist

**Deadlines and Updates**
- Confirm that your council’s July assessments have been paid. Note: The incentive credit for Star Councils is listed on your Sept. 1 statement. Please refer to this statement to determine the amount due or credited.
- Remain compliant with updated Safe Environment requirements (see kofc.org/safe for details).

**Things to Consider**
- Meet with your pastor to ensure your council is supporting the parish.
- Welcome your council’s field agent to upcoming meetings, giving him opportunities to speak about insurance benefits.
- Keep track of your council’s activities to include on the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728)
- Order a new council banner, available at Supplies Online.
- Invite men of all ages to join, using a Form 100 or kofc.org/joinus.
Take the first step to insure her future.